



NORTHLIGHT HERITAGE	Houston & Killellan Kirk
REPORT: 108	Kirk Road, Houston
PROJECT ID: 4350161	Renfrewshire
DATA STRUCTURE REPORT	



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Houston & Killellan Kirk, Renfrewshire

NGR: NS 41028 67074

Data Structure Report

on behalf of

Houston & Killellan Kirk

Cover Plate: Piling operation underway

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CONTENTS		
	Abstract	4
1	Introduction	5
2	Location, Geology and Topography	6
3	Archaeological and Historical Context	6
4	Aims and Objectives	7
5	Methodology	7
6	Results	9
7	Discussion and Summary	31
8	Recommendations	32
9	List of Sources	32
10	Appendices	33
	Appendix 1: Tables / Concordances	33
	Appendix 2: Project Design	42
	Appendix 3: DES	48
FIGURES		
1	Location of the site	8
2	Area of development, location of gravestones, Phases 1 and 4 evaluation trenches	9
3	Trench 1 Plan and section	10
4	Trench 2 Plan and section	12
5	Trench 3 Plan and section	13
6	Trench 4 Plan and section	14
7	Trench 5 Plan and section	16
8	Location of trench Phase 2	17
9	Location of the piles	20
10	Location of Phase 5 Test Trenches A, B & C	24
11	Test Trench A, Plan and section	26
12	Section of Test Trench B	27
13	25" to the mile 1 st edition OS map of Houston showing mill dam, revetment wall and Butts Cotton Mill Surveyed 1857 Published 1863	29
PLATES		
1	Trench 1	11
2	Trench 2	11
3	Trench 3	13
4	Trench 4	15
5	Trench 5	15
6	New stone inscribed JD, found to the east of the building footprint	18
7	Inscribed stone dated 1706, from beneath Gravestone 102	19
8	Broken inscription from beneath Gravestone 78	19
9	Grave 122 White tags show the location of coffin nails and fragmentary bone.	21
10	Base of trench over Grave 122. Possible human bones still in-situ. From the west.	22
11	Trench in the vicinity of Pile 'c' and kerbing (003). From the north	23
12	Linear feature 023 in Test Trench A	23

13	Skeletons 4 and 5 with skulls of Skeletons 3 and 2 to the right.	25
14	Test Trench B	27
15	Test Trench C, from the south-east	28
16	Test Trench C, from the east	29
17	Substantial foundation for Cuninghame memorial	30
18	Two residual sherds of late medieval pottery (top context (002), bottom (020)).	32

TABLES		
1	Project phases and dates	5
2	Summary of the results of the stone lowering operation	18
3	Skeletons in Test Trench A	26
4	Context Information	33
5	Finds	35
6	Drawings	35
7	Digital Photographs	36

Abstract

Northlight Heritage were commissioned by Houston and Killellan Kirk to undertake a series of evaluations and watching briefs associated with the construction of a new hall to the rear of the Kirk. The site was occupied by a medieval and later graveyard and so the foundations of the new hall were designed as a system of mini-piles and sleeper-beams which would avoid damage to known gravestones and burials. Relocation of some gravestones was needed to enable the construction to take place. A total of six gravestones were moved outside the development footprint, 18 were lowered and another 12 were left *in situ* beneath the new building.

Other works included the archaeological monitoring of trenches dug for the insertion of a new septic tank, drains and a man-hole. Five poorly preserved articulated burials were uncovered in a test pit in the south-east corner of the graveyard where no graves were marked. These burials ranged from adult to neonate and were accompanied by shroud pins and coffin nails. The burials were left *in situ* and the septic tank was moved outside the graveyard. A small number of skulls were revealed during the digging of the drains and these were preserved *in situ*.

An infilled mill pond and a revetment wall to the south of the graveyard were revealed in the drainage trench. Both features were depicted on the 1st edition OS map of the mid-19th century. The mill pond was associated with the nearby Butts Mill and it had become infilled by the end of the 19th century, leaving the stream and mill lade open.

There were very few finds and these belonged to the 19th and 20th centuries, apart from two residual sherds of probably late-medieval pottery.

1. Introduction

1.1 Planning Background

The congregation of the Houston and Killellan Kirk applied to build a new hall at the back of the Kirk on a site which was occupied by a graveyard containing medieval, 17th and 18th century burial stones. The relevant Planning Application is number 10/0855/PP 'Partial demolition of existing vestry and erection of extension to church to form new halls, kitchen, and toilet facilities, Houston & Killellan Kirk, 17 Kirk Road Houston, Johnston PA6 7AS'. Renfrewshire Council has approved the application with the condition that,

“No development shall take place within the development site as outlined in red on the approved plan until the developer has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological works in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which has been submitted by the applicant, agreed by the West of Scotland Archaeology Service, and approved by the Planning Authority. Thereafter the developer shall ensure that the programme of archaeological works is fully implemented and that all recording and recovery of archaeological resources within the development site is undertaken to the satisfaction of the Planning Authority in agreement with the West of Scotland Archaeology Service.”

Reason: In the interests of recovering, recording or preserving any archaeological artefacts or remains which exist under the site of the proposed extension.

Northlight Heritage was commissioned by the Kirk to provide a programme of archaeological works in order to fulfil the above planning condition. After initial consultation with the West of Scotland Archaeology Service it was agreed that an incremental approach to the project would be appropriate, in that the results of the first phase of the evaluation would inform the level of mitigation required in subsequent phases. A series of documents were therefore produced, which together constitute the Written Scheme of Investigation (see Appendix 2).

1.2 Project background

The work commenced on 21st May 2012 and consisted of five phases of work (see Table 1). The work was completed on 1st July 2014. An evaluation was also carried out on the opposite side of the road, as part of a potential new car park development (Northlight Heritage Project 4265161). The results of that evaluation were reported in a separate document (James 2012).

Phase	Description of works	Dates
1	Initial evaluation,	21 st – 22 nd May 2012.
2	Watching brief for water pipe	26 th March 2013.
3	Lowering of several gravestones within the graveyard	7 th – 9 th October 2013
4	Investigative work to inform the layout of the piling system	31 st January 2014
5	Piling and excavation of drains	16 th June – 1 st July 2014

Table 1 Project phases and dates

An initial survey of the gravestones undertaken by Houston & Killellan Kirk highlighted the fact that among the table top memorials and flat slabs, there were gravestones that had originally been vertical, but were later laid flat. The presence of the graveyard with presumably intact human remains, prompted the architects to suggest a construction design that involved vertical mini-piles and sleeper beams rather than traditional foundation trenches. It was thought that this would minimise the disturbance to any below ground human remains.

The varying orientations of the gravestones that were no longer *in-situ* suggested that while some gravestones were simply laid flat with the inscription uppermost, others may have been lifted, rotated and then laid flat. This meant that the location of the original burial associated with these stones was not certain.

It was also necessary to lower several of the flat gravestones in the northern half of the building footprint so that the floor level of the new hall could match that of the existing church.

2. Location, Geology and Topography

Houston and Killellan Kirk is located in Houston, Renfrewshire, five miles to the north-west of Paisley in the Gryffe Valley. The site for the proposed development is to the rear of the present Kirk which is occupied by an old graveyard. The site is bordered by Kirk Road to the west and is surrounded on all other sides by Houston House Estate.

The underlying bedrock geology is the Lawmuir Formation consisting of Sedimentary Rock Cycles, Strathclyde Group Type. The superficial deposits are not recorded (British Geological Survey, 2012).

3. Archaeological and Historical Context

The current church was built in 1874 and is Listed (B). This church replaced an 18th church which was in turn built on the site of a medieval church which reputedly had origins as a Christian cell dating to the 8th century AD (Herron 1993). The presence of St Fillian's well and a massive stone called St Fillian's 'chair' in the parish suggest that an early 8th century Irish saint of this name was revered here, although the parish later became known as 'Kilpeter'.

The development area lay to the rear (east) of the current church and was occupied by a graveyard which included flat slabs and table topped memorials. The inscriptions which could still be deciphered dated from the 17th to the 20th century although there was potential for there to be earlier burials. A detailed photographic and descriptive study of the gravestones has been carried out by the Kirk and will form a separate report.

4. Aims and Objectives

The aims of the archaeological project was

- to avoid disturbance of any burials and where this was not possible,
- to put forward a mitigation plan that would minimise the disturbance and
- to ensure that any archaeological artefacts or remains which exist under the site of the proposed extension were recovered, recorded or preserved.

The objectives of the evaluation and watching briefs were:

- to investigate whether there were additional graves or lairs within the development area the avoidance of which would require the pattern of mini-piles to be significantly re-designed or a new construction methodology used,
- to undertake evaluations which would inform the location of the piling system and drains,
- to monitor any ground breaking works and
- if appropriate, to prepare a scheme of post-excavation analysis in the form of a Post Excavation Research Design (PERD) which would propose a programme of work required to further analyse and disseminate the results of the monitoring work.

5. Methodology

All ground breaking work was monitored by a professional archaeologist. Where Health & Safety considerations allowed, significant archaeological deposits were recorded by scale drawings, digital photography and pro-forma recording sheets. All digging was by mini-digger, until human bones were revealed, after which any further excavation was done by hand. Any articulated human skeletons were cleaned and recorded, but not disturbed further. Disarticulated bones were collected and bagged carefully for re-burial on site.

In Phase 1 a mechanical turf cutter removed about 0.05m of the turf within the building footprint of the proposed new church hall. The surface was then cleaned by hand and any newly revealed gravestones were recorded.

In Phase 2 the gravestones were lifted with a hoist and the soil beneath them was removed by hand to the required depth and relaid. This work was monitored by a professional archaeologist. Any fragments of stones which bore inscriptions were kept to one side for later display by the Kirk. Supporting stones for the table top graves were also laid aside for later re-use. Base stones which bore no carving were removed if they prevented the flat slabs being lowered.

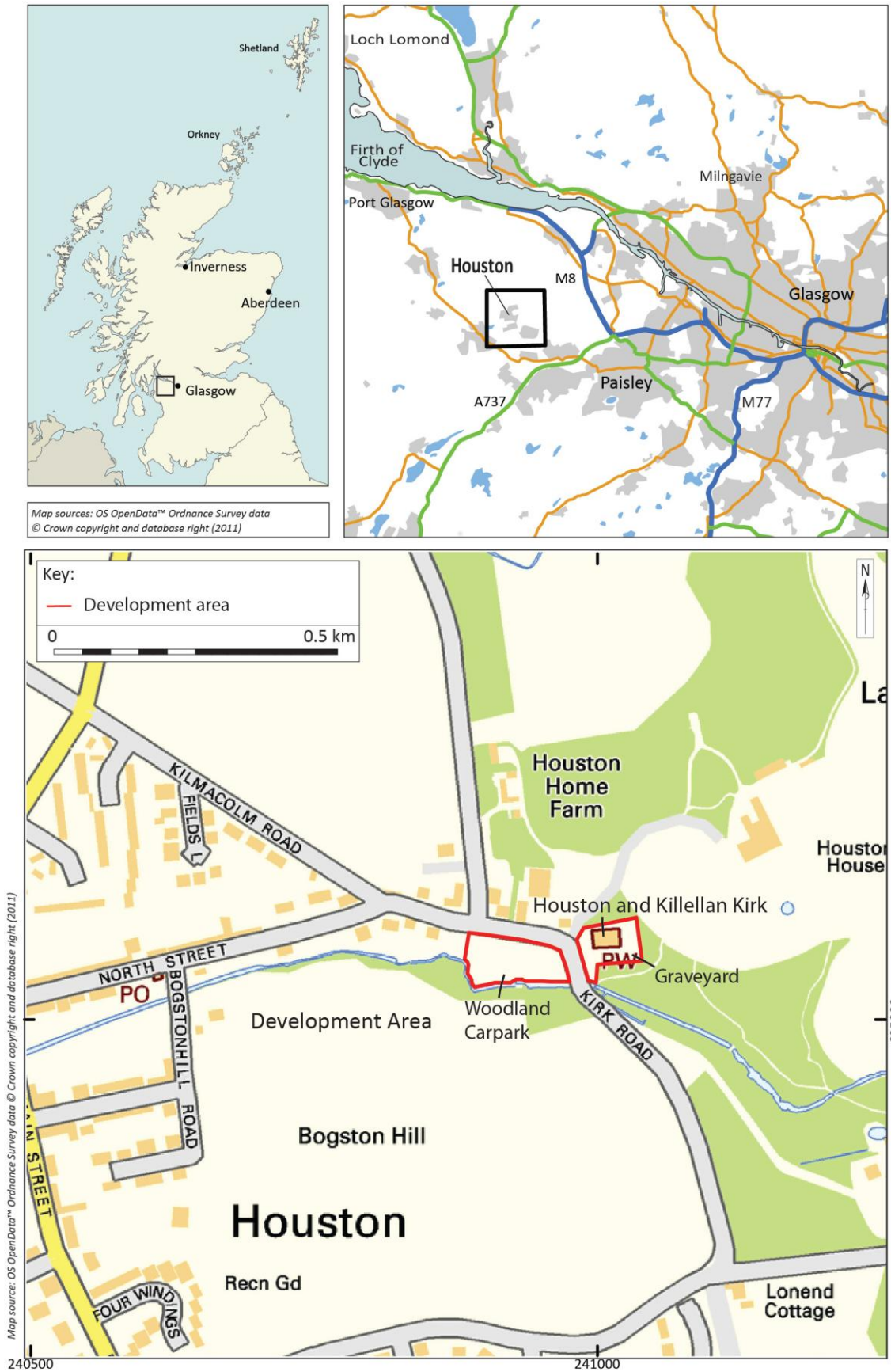


Figure 1 Location of the site

6. Results

6.1 Phase 1 Initial evaluation

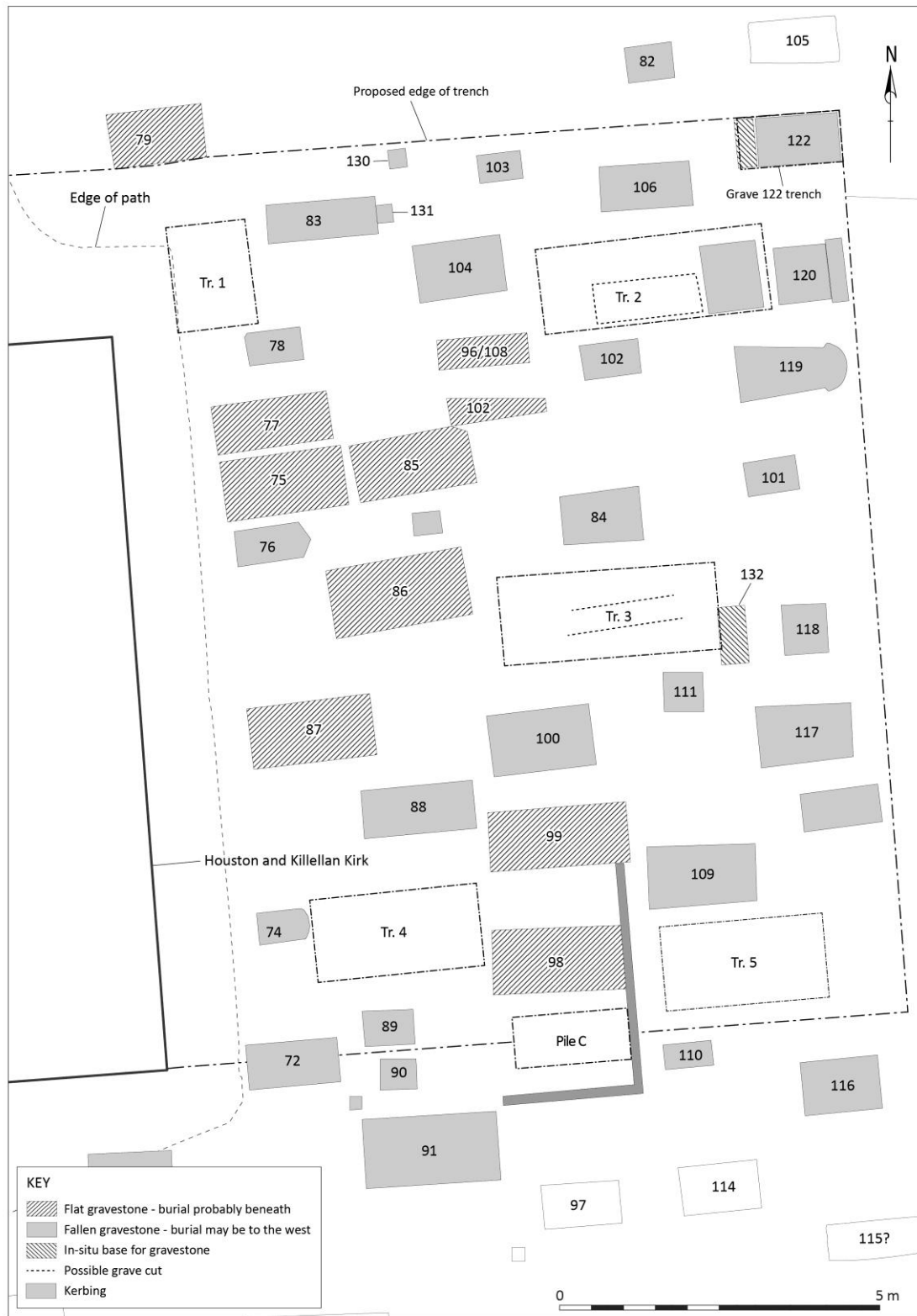


Figure 2 Area of development, location of gravestones and Phases 1 and 4 evaluation trenches

No new large gravestones were uncovered by the removal of turf within the footprint of the new building, however two small stones were revealed. One (Stone 130) was located to the north-east of Gravestone 83. Stone 130 was marked with the letters 'AP'. Another stone (Stone 131) protruded from beneath the east end of Gravestone 83. The upper surface of Stone 131 was roughly faced with no inscription and is likely to be a supporting stone. A brick-built base (132) uncovered to the W of the flat Gravestone 118, suggests that the burial associated with Gravestone 118 lay to the west rather than beneath the gravestone. A length of kerb (003) thought originally to be a burial was found to continue northwards as far as the south-east corner of Gravestone 99 (see Figure 2). The finds from topsoil (001) contained modern material including nails, glass and plastic (see Appendix 1). Five evaluation trenches were dug between the existing gravestones.

Trench 1 (see Figure 3 and Plate 1)

Trench 1 measured 1.3m by 1.7m and revealed a homogenous deposit of loose red-brown sandy silt (005). This was initially taken down to a depth of 0.3m with no visible features. The trench was then taken down to 0.5m where bone was revealed. This consisted of a single long bone seen at the edge of the trench, aligned N-S, which was in extremely poor condition. Three concreted coffin nails were retrieved from layer (005), but no grave cuts were observed. The bone is likely to be disarticulated.

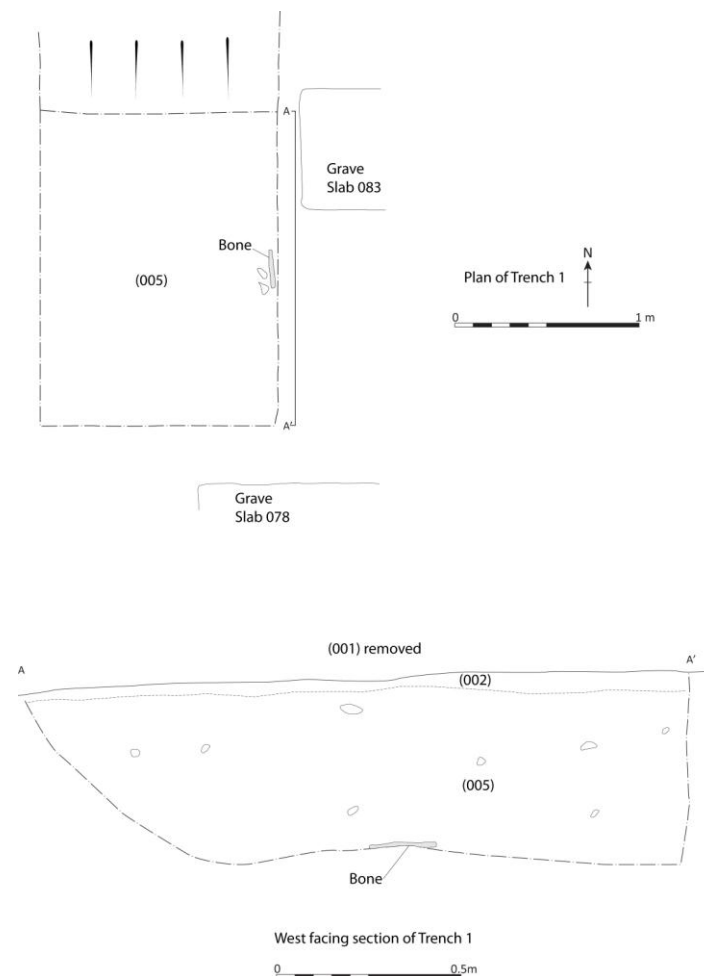


Figure 3 Trench 1 plan and section



Plate 1 Trench 1

Trench 2 (see Figure 4 and Plate 2)

Trench 2 measured 1.3m by 3.6m and revealed a homogenous deposit of red-brown sandy silt (008). The trench was initially dug to a depth of 0.30m with no visible features apart from a large slab at the east end, which sloped down from the east end towards the west. The trench was then dug to a depth of 0.5m to reveal the whole of the slab. At this depth a fragment of tooth was found within the sandy silt (renumbered as 010) and a grave cut (007) with a fill of mottled light yellow/ brown sandy silt (009) was identified. The inclined slab proved to be the lower part of Gravestone 120. This trench showed that the burial associated with Gravestone 120 lay between 1.30m to 2.90m to the west of the current location of Gravestone 120. Two coffin nails were the only other finds from this trench.



Plate 2 Trench 2 from the west

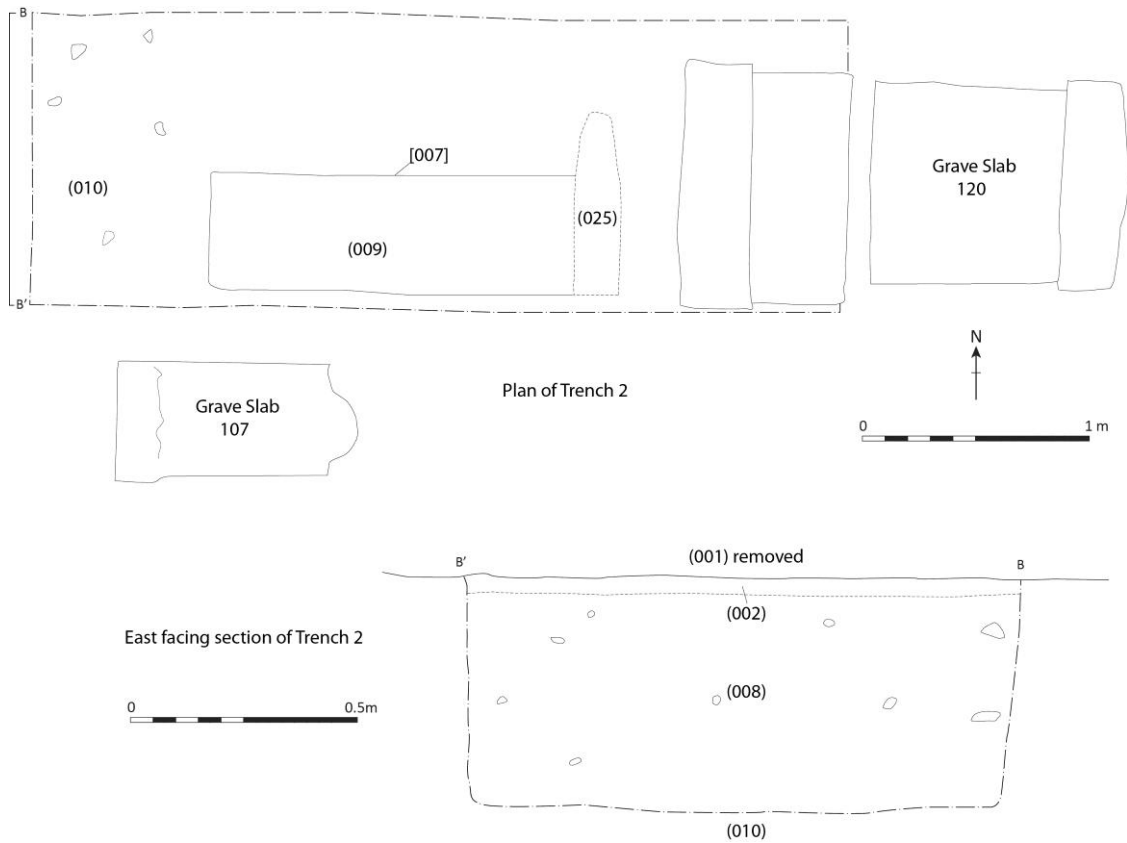


Figure 4 Trench 2 Plan and Section

Trench 3 (see Figures 5 and Plate 3)

Trench 3 measured 3.10m by 1.35m and was dug to a depth of 0.5m. On the north side of the trench there were three horizontal layers. The basal layer was mid-orange brown sandy silt (016) which was sealed by a dark band of dark grey brown silt (015) which was in turn sealed by mid-orange brown sandy silt (014). A linear feature with a V-shaped (011) profile was seen in the base of the trench aligned east-west and filled with a very similar mid-orange brown sandy silt (012). The deposit in the south side of the trench was grey brown sandy silt (013). While the sides of the feature were identifiable the ends were not clear. A single coffin nail was seen in section within layer (013). No bones were seen within this trench.

The linear feature was interpreted in the field as a possible grave cut, but its proximity to the surface and its non-vertical profile would suggest that this was a modern drainage feature.

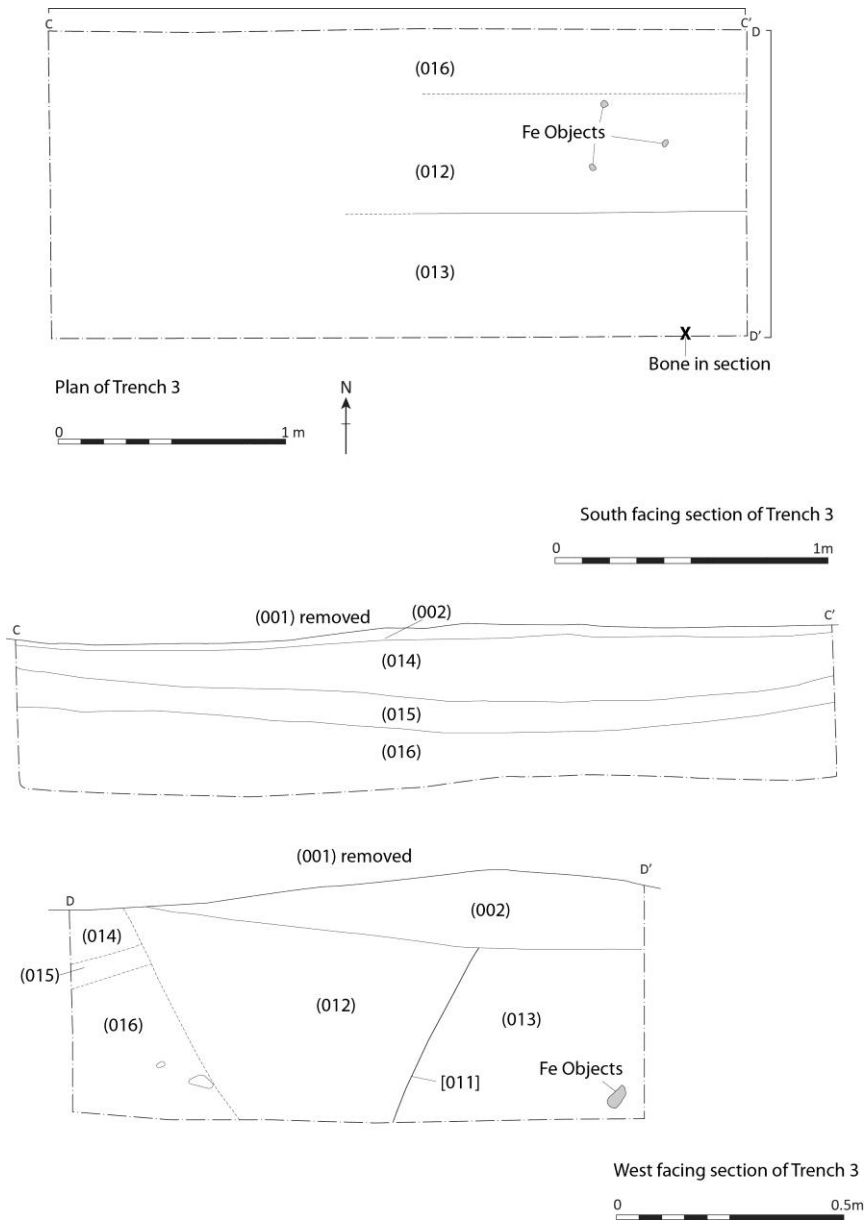


Figure 5 Trench 3 Plan and section



Plate 3 Trench 3

Trench 4 (see Figures 6 and Plate 4)

Trench 4 measured 1.3m by 2.6m and revealed homogenous stony red brown sandy silt (002) which contained, glass clay pipe and a single sherd of possibly late-Medieval pottery. At the west end of the trench, at a depth of 0.4m, a group of very fragmentary bones and two coffin nails were seen, but no grave cut was identified. It was not clear therefore whether this was disarticulated bone or a burial. The trench fill was renumbered (017) at this depth to distinguish any finds from the lower deposit, although they were the same colour and composition.

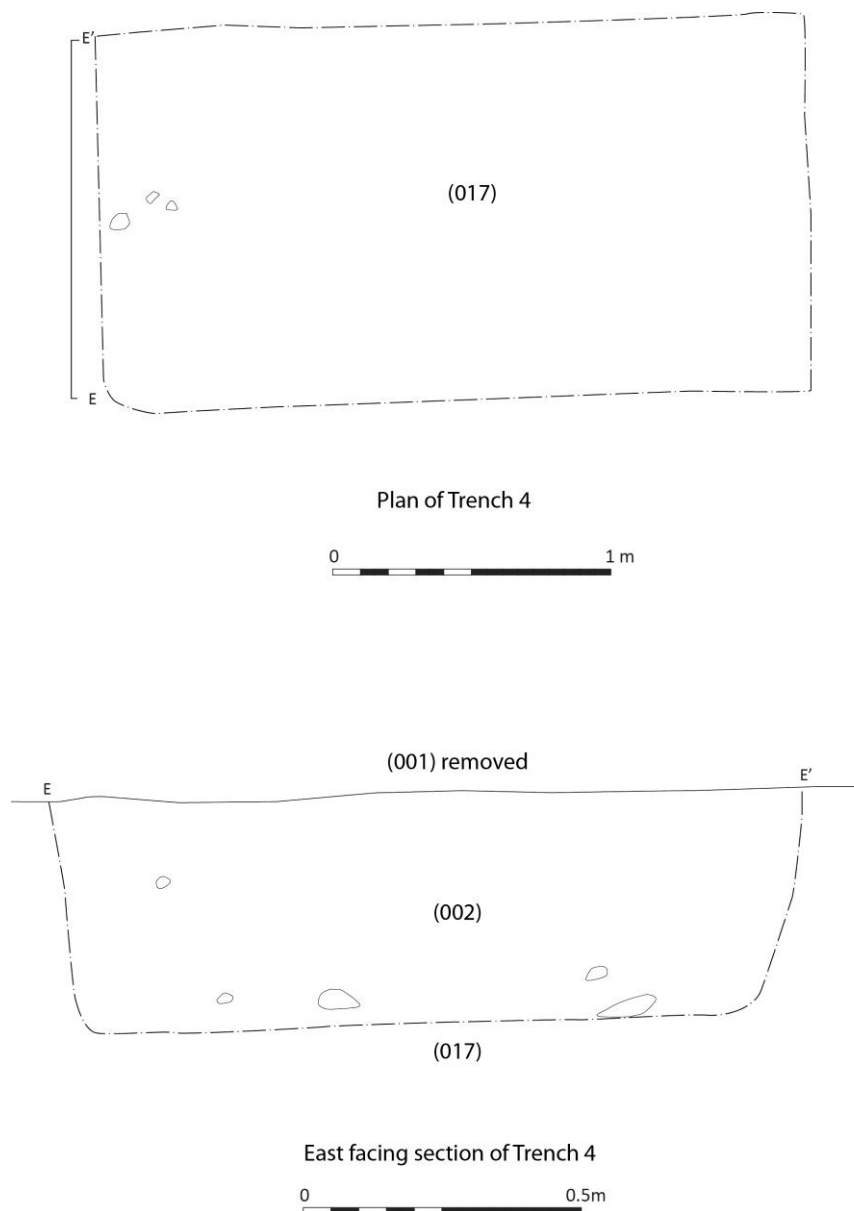


Figure 6 Trench 4 Plan and section



Plate 4 Trench 4

Trench 5 (see Figures 7 and Plate 5)

Trench 5 measured 2.5m by 1.3m and revealed homogenous stony red brown sandy silt (=002) to a depth of 0.35m. At the east end of the trench two small rectangular shaped stones were seen at a depth of 0.25m below the surface. Both stones were roughly dressed on their upper surfaces and may have been broken. A small number of rough cobble stones were piled up to the east of the square stones. This group of rectangular-shaped and rounded cobble stones may be foundation stones for a gravestone which has been moved in the past. No bones were seen and no finds were retrieved.



Plate 5 Trench 5

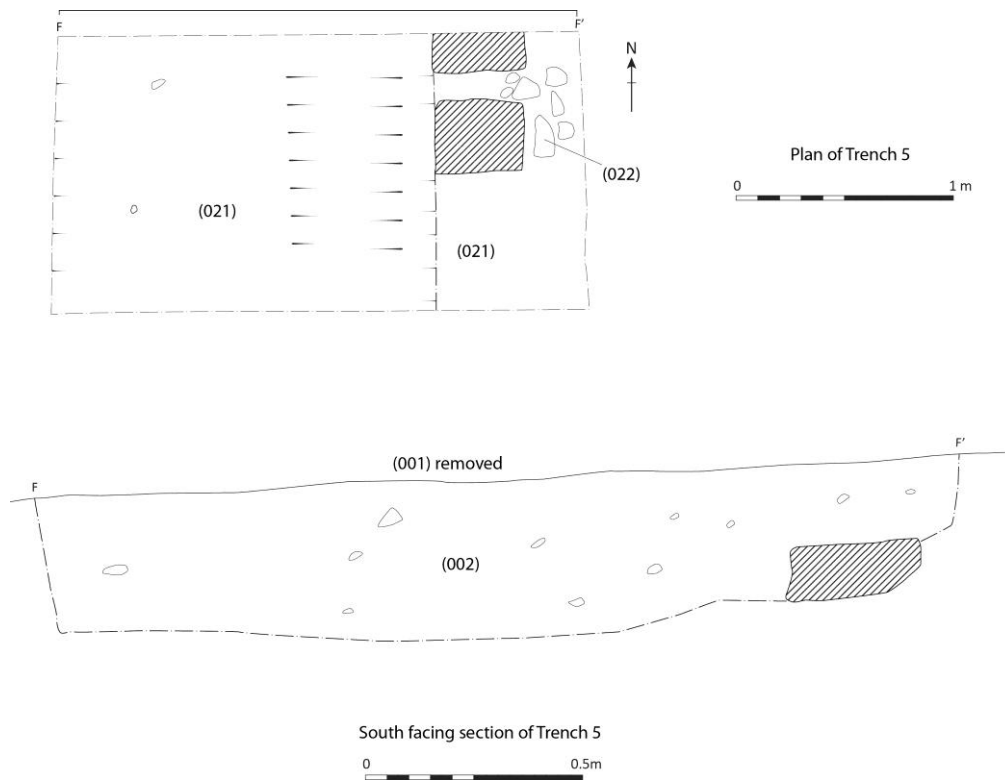


Figure 7 Trench 5 Plan and section

Conclusions of Phase 1

The topsoil strip and evaluation revealed a small grave marker (Stone 130, marked 'AP'), a supporting stone (Stone 131), a brick-built gravestone base (132) and an extension to a stone kerb (context 003).

Fragmentary bones (probably human) were found within three of the five evaluation trenches at a depth of between 0.4m and 0.5m. Probable gravecuts were visible in Trenches 2 and 3.

The condition of the bone was extremely poor and (apart from the tooth) would be very difficult to identify as human. But given their size and location this is the most likely explanation. The upper 0.5m of deposits within the graveyard can be interpreted as re-deposited material from outside the graveyard as the grave cuts were not visible until this material was removed. This probably also explains the lack of disturbed human bones within it, if the material was brought in from outside the graveyard. Where bones did survive (below 0.5m depth) they were in extremely poor condition. As a result of this evaluation the locations of several of the piles were reconsidered to avoid possible burials lying to the west of fallen grave slabs.

Once the evaluation was completed the trenches were backfilled and type 1 gravel was laid over the surface around the gravestones.

6.2 Phase 2 Watching brief for water pipe

A watching brief was carried out when a small trench which was being dug by a mini-digger to uncover the location of a water pipe inspection hole to the west of the Kirk (see Figure 8). The trench measured 1.2m by 1.4m and was up to 0.7m deep. The trench was filled with a mid-brown clay loam with numerous small sandstone fragments and some roof slate. The cut for the pipe trench was seen in the north and west facing sections. A plastic cup was retrieved from the base of the trench. The layer through which the trench had been cut was a similar mid brown clay loam to the fill, but contained less stones. In the south-east corner of the trench a thin layer of light coloured clay/silt and a few fragments of coal were seen at a depth of 0.6m. No bones were seen and no finds were retrieved.

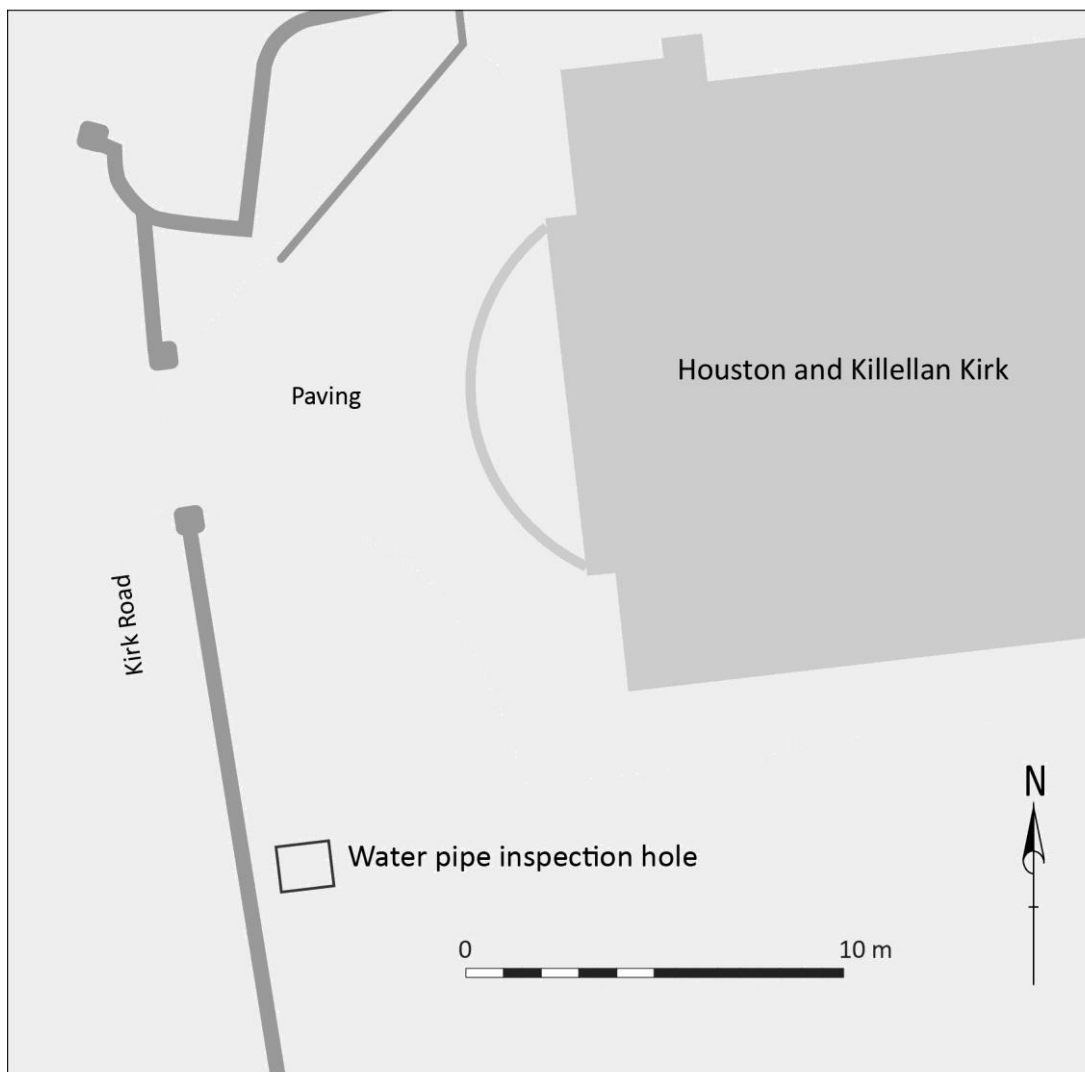


Figure 8 Location of trench Phase 2

6.3 Phase 3 Lowering of gravestones within the graveyard

In order to achieve the correct building levels for the new hall several gravestones were either moved or lowered. Five gravestones (79, 103, 119, 120 and 122, 130) were removed from their position and re-laid within the grassed area outside the building footprint. A total of 24 gravestones were lifted and lowered by

between 0.1 and 0.4m.

Gravestone No.	Depth of trench for its re-laying from current ground surface	Comments
75	0.35	Red/brown sandy clay, base slab for another stone present
76	0.2	Red/brown sandy clay.
77	0.35	Red/brown sandy clay, base slab for another stone present
78	0.3	Red/brown sandy clay. 13 small broken stones with letters
79	0.2	Red/brown sandy clay.
83	0.45	Red/brown sandy clay.
84	0.2	Dark sand & industrial blase, red/brown sandy clay
85	0.3	Red/brown sandy clay, small sandstone fragments
86	0.3	Red/brown sandy clay, table top grave with sides and rough base stones
87	0.15	Red/brown sandy clay.
88	0.2	Red/brown sandy clay, table top grave with sides and rough base stones
91	0.1	Red/brown sandy clay, roof slate used as levelling up
96/108	0.2	Red/brown sandy clay, slates & broken sandstones
101	0.3	Red/brown sandy clay.
102	0.4	Red/brown sandy clay, stone 'ED MA 1706'
103	0.25	Red/brown sandy clay. Slate fragments
104	0.2	Red/brown sandy clay.
106	0.4	Red/brown sandy clay.
107	0.3	Red/brown sandy clay.
119	0.2	Dark brown clay loam
120	0.3	Red/brown sandy clay.
120	0.3-0.4	Dark brown clay loam & red/brown sandy clay
122	0.2	Dark brown clay loam
130	0.4	Red/brown sandy clay.

Table 2 Summary of the results of the stone lowering operation

Only one new stone was uncovered during this operation and this was in the grassed area to the east of the building plot. It was small, lay flat and bore the inscription 'JD' (see Plate 6). One broken stone was found beneath gravestone 102 was dated 1706 (see Plate 7). Several broken fragments of an inscription were also found beneath Gravestone 78 (see Plate 8).



Plate 6 New stone inscribed JD, found to the east of the building footprint

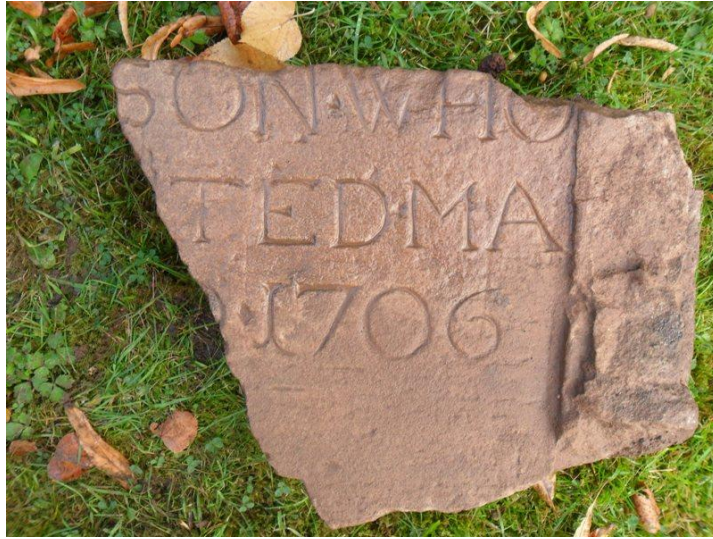


Plate 7 Inscribed stone dated 1706, from beneath Gravestone 102



Plate 8 Broken inscription from beneath Gravestone 78

The deposit into which the gravestones were lowered was the equivalent of context 002 (red/brown sandy clay) which contained a few sandstone fragments, slate fragment and very small amounts of industrial blaes. No evidence for further grave cuts or human remains was encountered. Broken vertical stones were found beneath the flat slabs 75 and 77, which indicated that there had been earlier upright stones located here which must have broken before being covered by the stones 75 and 77. The stones 75 and 77 could well have been moved to their current locations to allow for the construction of a new larger church in 1874. It was thought likely that other stones would have been moved at the same time.

6.4 Phase 4 Investigative work to inform the layout of the piling system

Phase 4 consisted of further enabling works which sought to ascertain whether there were archaeological issues associated with a redesigned piling plan (see Figures 2 and 9 and the Amendment to WSI Phase 2 dated 7/11/12, Appendix 2). Specifically this of work was to ascertain whether there were gravestones in the vicinity of the kerbing (003) in the S of the graveyard which might be affected by the insertion of pile 'c' and to ascertain whether there was a burial beneath the Gravestone 122 which would require to be disinterred prior to the insertion of two piles in the NE corner.

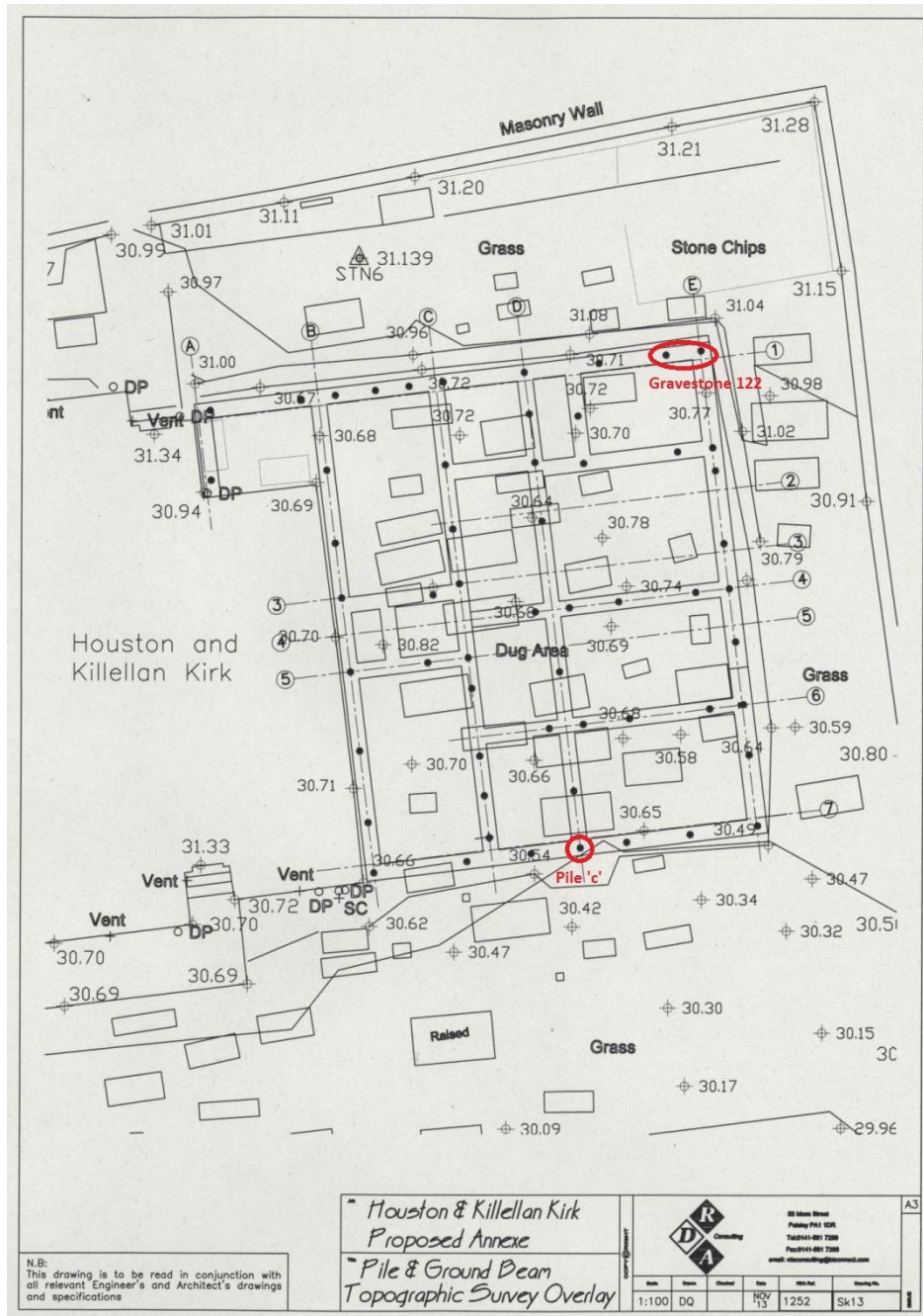


Figure 9 Location of the piles

Gravestone 122

A trench in the north-east corner (where Gravestone 122 had been located) measured 1.60m long, 0.8m wide and was dug to a depth of 0.6m deep by machine. The trench was filled with loose red-brown sandy silt (=002) as seen elsewhere in the graveyard. The sides and base of the trench were cleaned by hand and a more compact deposit was seen in the north-west and south-west corners. Further cleaning revealed a small number of coffin nails and a very small patch of extremely degraded bone (See Plate 9). The bone was soft to the touch (jelly-like) and it would not have been possible to lift. It was not possible to identify the bone, but it was probably human. The bone and nails were seen at a depth of 0.75m from the current surface. The deposits in the north-west and south-west corners of the trench remained more compact. In order to see whether more robust bones survived to the west of the visible bone the trench was further excavated by hand to a depth of 1.20m, leaving the visible bones *in situ*.



Plate 9: Grave 122 White tags show the location of coffin nails and fragmentary bone.



*Plate 10: Base of trench over Grave 122
Possible human bones still in-situ. From the west.*

At a depth of 1.2m a straight edge to the compact deposit was visible and so the trench was dug deeper by machine to see if this was a cut edge for another deeper burial. The compact deposit turned out to be a ledge of soft bedrock. The deposit immediately above the bedrock was red/brown sandy clay very similar in colour to the deposits above, but with a greater clay content. No bone was noted within this deposit. At a depth of 1.3m the soft sandstone was found across the whole trench and the base of the trench became infilled with water. It is probable that the surface of the bedrock is not uniform and has formed natural terraces.

The presence of the bones and the coffin nails at a depth of 0.75m suggests that there may originally have been a coffin burial here, but none of the coffin and very little of the bones have survived, probably because of the nature of the soil and the wet conditions. The bone was unidentifiable, although it is thought likely to have been human. The bone was left *in-situ* as it was not going to be disturbed further by the piling. The lack of an intact burial beneath Gravestone 122 meant that no licence to disinter was required before piling commenced.

Pile 'c'

A trench measuring 1.8m long and 0.8m wide was excavated by machine over the location of pile 'c' to a depth of 0.7m (see Figure 2). A uniform deposit of loose red-brown sandy silt (=002) filled the trench and there was no evidence of any burial cuts or gravestones. A single disarticulated fragment of longbone was retrieved. This bone was in poor condition, very soft and abraded. There was therefore no archaeological issue with the location of Pile 'c'.



Plate 11 Trench in the vicinity of Pile 'c' and kerbing (003). From the north.

6.5 Phase 5 Piling and excavation of drains

6.5.1 Test Trench A

The construction of the drainage system required the insertion of a septic tank 2.0m deep and initially the tank was to be located in the south-east corner of the graveyard where there were no visible gravestones. A test trench was therefore dug in this corner to see whether there was any evidence for burials which would require mitigation measures. Test Trench A measured 2m long and was 1.6m wide (see Plate 12).



Plate 12 Linear feature 023 in Test Trench A

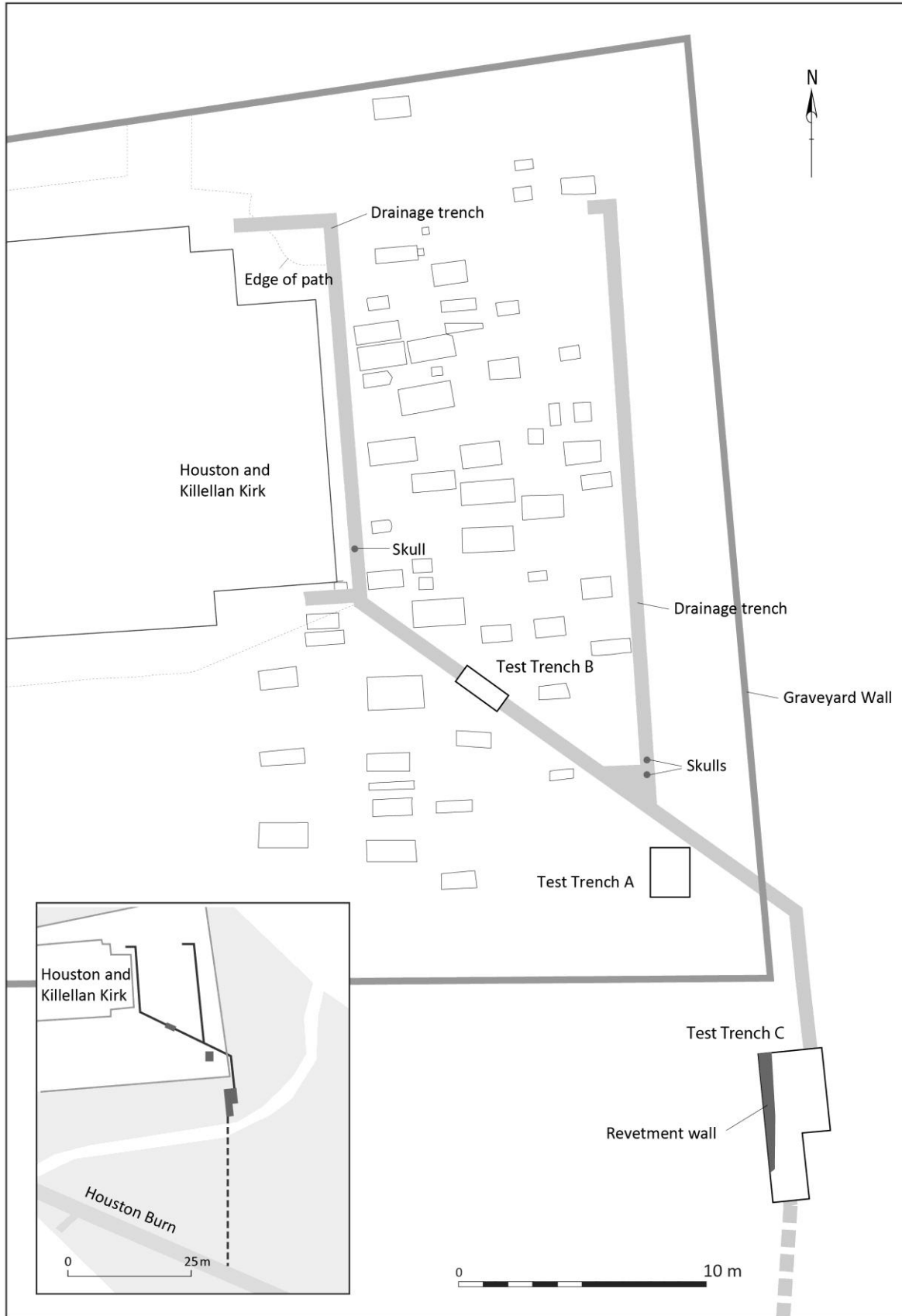


Figure 10 Location of Phase 5 Test Trenches A, B & C

A linear feature (context 023) aligned east-west was seen at a depth of 0.5m from the surface of Test Trench A (see Figure 11). The linear feature was 0.6m wide and 0.3m deep with a broad U-shaped profile and was filled with black ash and blaes. The finds retrieved from the fill included a fragment of modern stained glass, a fragment of lead came and a circular metal object. This feature was interpreted as a modern informal ash drain with some objects which may have derived from the construction of the 19th century church. Fragments of bone were seen at a depth of 0.9m and so machining stopped. Further excavation by hand revealed five partial skeletons that were aligned east-west (see Figure 11 and Plate 12). Fragments of two shroud pins and several coffin nails with fragments of wood attached were found at this horizon. These burials were cleaned and recorded by Ruth Whyte (see Table 3). The partial skeletons consisted of five individuals with a wide range of ages from neonate to adult. The sex of the skeletons could not be ascertained.



Plate 13 Skeletons 4 and 5 with skulls of Skeletons 3 and 2 to the right.

East facing section of Test Trench A

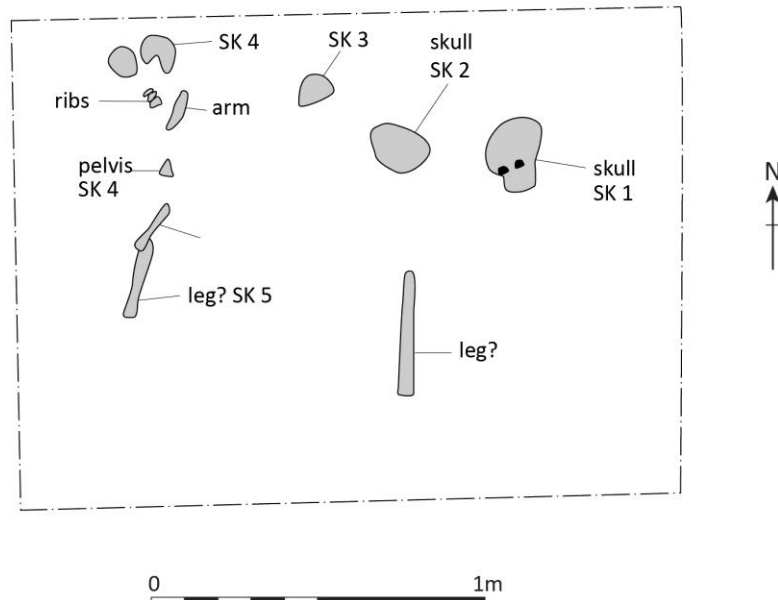
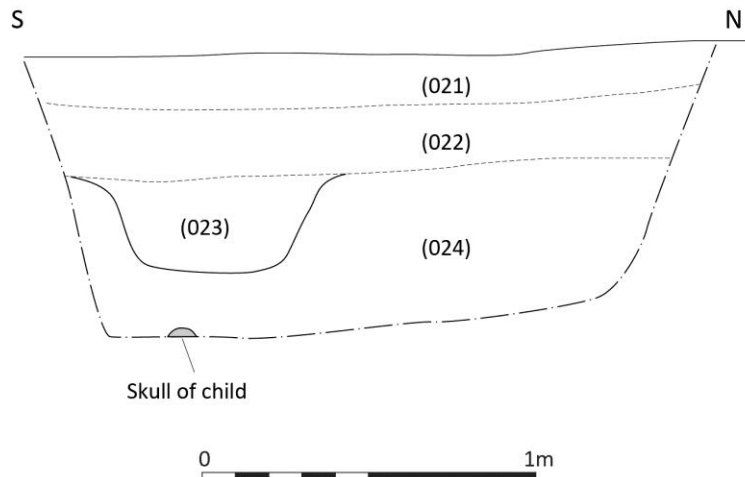


Figure 11 Plan and section of Test Trench A

No.	Description
Skeleton 1	Juvenile skull, unerrupted teeth, top of cranium not intact, small pieces of fabric around the right temple from a burial shroud.
Skeleton 2	Bowl of an adult skull and a unidentifiable long bone
Skeleton 3	Portion of a skull with teeth (too degraded to discern age). Not thought to be part of Skeleton 2.
Skeleton 4	Neonate (articulated) left had side of skull, arm, hip and top of leg, lying over Skeleton 5.
Skeleton 5	Possible adult femur seen beneath Skeleton 4.

Table 3 Skeletons in Test Trench A.

As a result of the discovery of these burials the location of the septic tank was moved outside the graveyard and so no further work was carried out in Test Trench A. The skeletons were sealed with sand and the trench was backfilled.

6.4.2 Test Trench B

The drainage layout which appeared to disturb the fewest visible burials was on a diagonal line from the south-east corner of the church and headed towards the corner of the graveyard. Before permission was granted for this route a test trench (B) was excavated in order to ascertain whether there were any archaeological deposits or burials here (see Figure 12). The drains were expected to be up to 0.8m deep.

This trench was dug to a depth of 0.9m. The layers consisted of a dark brown topsoil (=021), a mid brown clay loam with occasional stones (=022) and an orange brown clay loam (=024). At the base of the trench there were fragments of decayed wood which were interpreted as the probable remains of a coffin. No bones or other finds were seen. The depth of this potential coffin was deeper than the intended drain here so the conclusion from this trench was that there were no significant archaeological remains which would be affected by the drainage trench.



Plate 14 Test Trench B

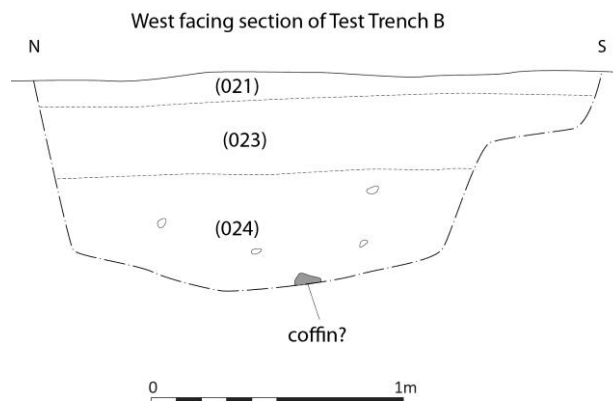


Figure 12 Section of Test Trench B

6.4.3 Test Trench C

A trench measuring 2m by 6m was excavated by machine to the south-east of the graveyard (see Figure 10). Two large tree bowls were removed from the northern half of the trench causing considerable disturbance. A roughly constructed revetment wall was revealed in the west face of the trench (see Plate 14). The walling was constructed of three or four rough courses of rounded stones and was visible for a distance of about 5m and was exposed to a height of 0.7m. The southern end of the wall was angled forwards, with the uppermost stones overhanging the lower ones. This was thought to be a result of collapse of the stones at the edge of the mill dam. The mill dam had been infilled with a series of deposits from which a sherd of late medieval pottery with a green glaze was retrieved during machining. The re-deposited material to the east of the revetment wall also contained a complete milk bottle (A&J Douglas, Kilbarchan), window glass (See Appendix 1), and a few small sherds of white ceramic (not kept). There were a few rounded stones lying at a right angle to this wall which were thought to have been a revetment for the edge of the mill pond. The bottom of the trench was very wet and so it was not safe to investigate this further. Test Trench C was eventually taken by machine down to 2.0 deep and the profile (to the east of the revetment wall) consisted of natural pink/brown gravel sealed by a series of redeposited soils up to 1.6m deep.

This walling corresponded to a line marked on the 1st edition OS map of Houston dated 1843-93 which extended from the south-east corner of the graveyard towards the edge of an extensive mill pond.

The revetment wall was considered a significant archaeological feature as it corresponded with a feature shown on the 1st edition OS map linking the graveyard wall with the, now infilled and no longer visible, mill dam. The trench was made wide enough to take the septic tank without disturbing the revetment wall which was left *in-situ*.



Plate 15 Test Trench C, from the south-east



Plate 16 Test Trench C, from the east

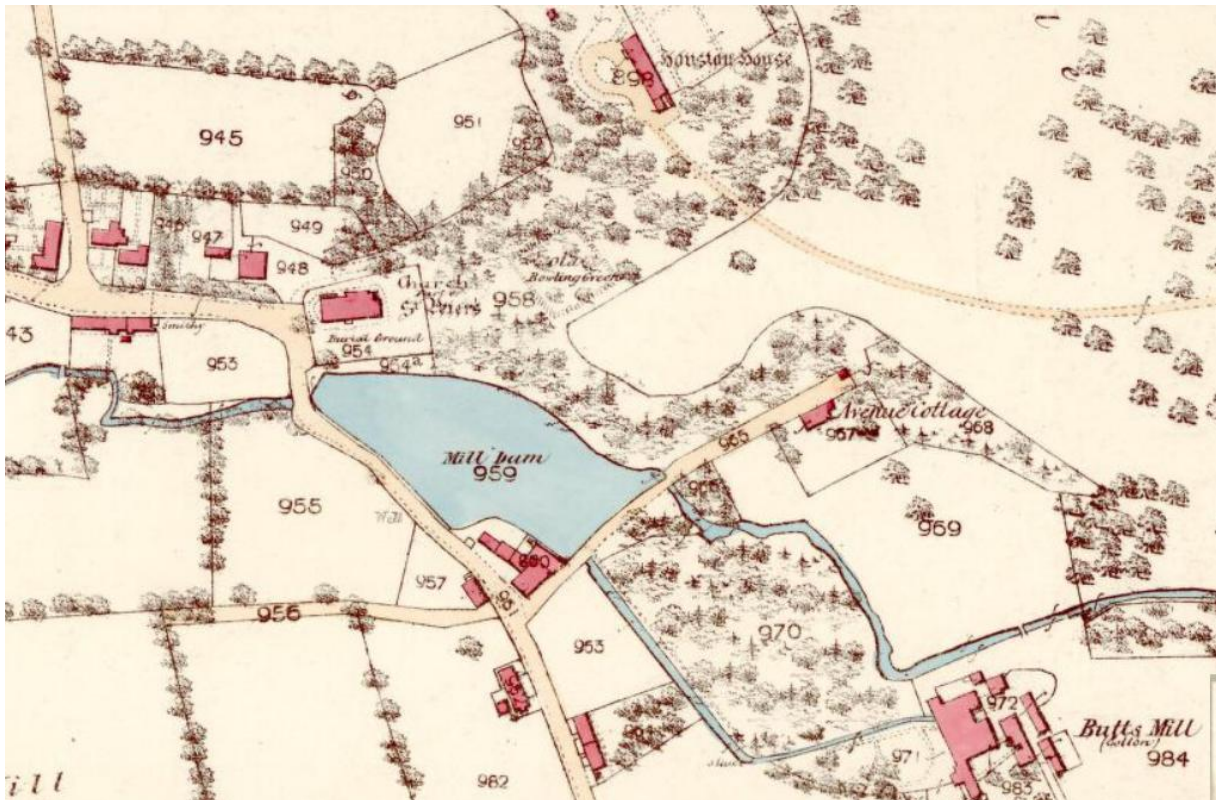


Figure 13 25" to the mile 1st edition OS map of Houston showing mill dam, revetment wall and Butts Cotton Mill Surveyed 1857 Published 1863 (© NLS)

6.4.4 Drains

A trench for the insertion of a drain and manhole was cut from the southern end of Test Trench C south towards the stream. This trench was up to 0.8m deep and was about 1m wide. The base of the trench filled with water and the sides were unstable and so the trench was unsafe to enter. Within the footprint of the old mill dam the uppermost 0.4m consists of wet and peaty vegetable matter which overlies natural subsoil. The mill dam was

therefore extensive but relatively shallow. No archaeological features were noted and no finds were retrieved. The mill dam was originally part of Butts Mill, an 18th and 19th century cotton mill (pers comm. Hugh McBride).

A hole in the graveyard enclosure wall was made to allow access for machinery. The stones were laid aside for later re-building. A single memorial stone with the letters 'JK' was found and would be re-installed within this wall. The drain trench was passed beneath the graveyard wall without disturbing it. The base of the wall consisted of large blocks. Within the graveyard there were two parallel sections and a diagonal section which connected them up with the septic tank trench.

Three skulls were uncovered by the drain trench at depths of between 0.6m and 0.8m (see Figure 9) and in each case the skull was left *in-situ* and the bottom of the drain was raised slightly to avoid damage. A small number of disarticulated bones were retrieved from the drainage trench in the vicinity of the Kirk and were re-buried on site.

A substantial stone foundation base for the George Cuninghame Monteath memorial (d 1828) was exposed in the drainage trench. The foundation base measured 2.74m (9 ft) by 3.81m (12 ft 6 inches) and was at least 0.65m (2ft) deep. The width of the drainage trench allowed for the insertion of the pipe without damage to the memorial base.



Plate 17 Substantial foundation for George Cuninghame Monteath memorial

6.4.5 Piling

A total of 57 piles were hammered into the ground to varying depths of between 2m and 3m deep into bedrock (see Figure 9). The piles were circular steel tubes open at both ends and when inserted into the ground no soil was brought up to the surface. This process was monitored to ensure that no damage to gravestones took place.

7. Discussion and Summary

One of the main aims of the project was to avoid disturbance to burials and this has been achieved by careful location of the piles and when human remains were found, the mitigation measures consisted of adjusting the drainage design and relocating the septic tank outside the graveyard.

Some movement of gravestones was needed to enable the construction to take place. A total of five gravestones were moved outside the development footprint, 18 were lowered and another 12 were left *in situ* beneath the new building.

Five evaluation trenches examined areas where there were no gravestones to see if these were really free of underlying burials and two trenches examined other specific areas of sensitivity (near the kerbing 003 and Grave 122). These evaluation trenches conclude that the uppermost 0.4 to 0.6m was devoid of human remains and was likely to have been re-deposited in the 19th century.

Human remains were generally found at a depth of between 0.4m and 0.9m. The shallowness of these burials was probably a result of the proximity of the bedrock to the surface which would have made deep graves very difficult to dig. Human skulls were the most recognisable remains and were interpreted as evidence for undisturbed burials, however their condition was extremely poor. Likewise other disarticulated bones were in very poor condition and, apart from those in Trench A, would have been difficult to identify as human.

The piles were located between the gravestones where it was thought less likely that there would be burials. The piles were hammered down into bedrock and there was no evidence for any below ground structures. The other ground breaking works included digging of drain trenches and in all cases where articulated bones were uncovered the bottom of the drain was kept above the burial to avoid damage.

The finds from the excavation were sparse and the majority of them were 19th or 20th century in date. A small number of coffin nails and shroud pins were found in association with burials in Trench A. These burials were of a mixed population both adults and infants, and from the presence of shroud pins and coffin nails indicates that both shrouds and coffins were utilised. The date of these burials is not known, but is thought to be 19th or 20th century. There were no grave markers surviving in this corner of the graveyard.

The inscription on Gravestone 122 indicated that the burials took place in 1817 and 1820. The bones associated with this gravestone and were almost completely decayed. The finds from the deposits sealing the graves included modern ceramic, window glass, stained glass, lead came, clay pipe stem, iron and metal objects and plastic toy cars. This material is thought to have derived from demolition/construction debris from the 19th century building and landscaping works with some modern debris.

Outside the graveyard the deposits consisted of predominantly made-up ground to the east of a revetting wall. The revetting wall and mill dam (which were associated with Butts Cotton Mill) were depicted on the 1st edition OS map of the mid-19th century, but by the end of the 19th century the dam had been filled in leaving a stream and a mill lade (as shown by the six-inch 2nd edition OS map, published 1898). The revetting wall was probably buried at this time and was no longer visible on the surface. The revetting wall has been left *in situ* within the trench cut for the septic tank.

It was clear that the area outside the graveyard had been used for dumping domestic rubbish (eg the milk bottle) in a similar way to the dumping of material in the area designated for a new car park over the road (James 2012).

Two fragments of medieval/late medieval pottery were the only evidence for earlier activity (see Plate 18). One was from the infill of the mill pond and so was clearly residual. The other was from layer 002 which has been interpreted as redeposited.

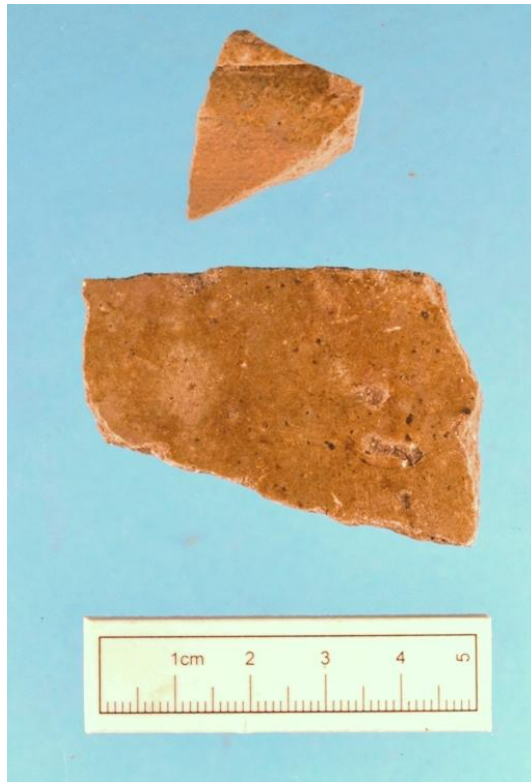


Plate 18 Two residual sherds of late medieval pottery (top context (002), bottom (020)).

8. Recommendations

No samples were taken and the majority of the finds were 19th and 20th century in date and are therefore of limited archaeological interest. There were two sherds of possible medieval/late medieval pottery found, but both of these were from re-deposited layers and so do not relate to the history of this specific site. It is not recommended that any further work is undertaken on such a small number of sherds.

A brief report will be produced for Discovery and Excavation in Scotland. A report on the burial stones is being prepared by Houston & Killellan Kirk and will be produced as a separate document. No further post-excavation work is recommended, however the final decision will be made by WoSAS.

9. List of Sources

Maps and Online Sources

<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>

Six-inch 2nd edition OS map published 1898

References

Herron, A 1994 *Houston and Killellan A Handful of Yesterdays*.

James, H F 2012 *Houston and Killellan Woodland Car Park*. Northlight Heritage Report 33.

10. Appendices

APPENDIX 1: Tables / Concordances

Table 4: Context Information

<i>Context No.</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Trench</i>	<i>Depth (m)</i>	<i>Description/Interpretation</i>	<i>Stratigraphy and/or phasing info</i>
001	deposit	all	0.05	Tospoil & turf	Over 002
002	deposit	4		Red-brown clay loam, re-deposited natural	Under 001 over 003
003	structure			Kerb, extending from Stone 98.	Under 001
004	structure	4		Brick base for stone 118, see Trench 3	Under 001
005	deposit	1	0.35	Orange brown sandy silt, re-deposited natural	Under 001 & 006
006	cut	1	0.25	Gravel & soil, path makeup	Over 005
007	deposit	2		Grave cut	Under 009, over 008
008	deposit	2		Mid orange brown sandy silt, re-deposited natural	Under 007, 001
009	deposit	2		Mottled light yellow/ brown sandy silt, grave fill	Over 007, under 010
010	deposit	2		Mid orange brown sandy silt, re-deposited natural	Over 009
011	cut	3		Grave cut	Over 013 & 016, filled with 012
012	deposit	3		Mid orange brown sandy silt. Fill of Grave cut 011	Over 011, 013 & 016. Under 002
013	deposit	3		Grey/brown sandy silt, re-deposited natural	Under 011, & 002
014	deposit	3		Mid orange brown sandy silt, re-deposited natural	Under 002, over 015
015	deposit	3		Dark grey brown silt, redeposited	Under 014, over 016
016	deposit	3		Mid orange brown sandy silt, re-deposited natural	Under 015 & 011
017	deposit	4		Red-brown clay loam, re-deposited natural	Under 002

018	Structure	TT C		Drystone revetment wall	Under 019
019	deposit	TT C		Mixed orange brown sandy silt	Over 018
020	deposit	TT C		Mixed orange brown sandy silt, to the S of drystone wall 018	Over 018, fill of mill pond
021	deposit	TT A	0.10	Topsoil & turf	Over 022
022	deposit	TT A	0.20	Orange brown clay loam, redeposited natural	Under 021, over 023 & 024
023	deposit	TT A	0.30	Black ash & industrial waste, drain?	Over 024, under 022
024	deposit	TT A		Orange brown clay loam, redeposited natural	Under 023 & 022
025	deposit	2		Brown/ orange brown sandy silt	Cut into 010

Table 5: Finds

<i>Find No.</i>	<i>Context No.</i>	<i>No. of Pieces</i>	<i>Material</i>	<i>Description</i>
	001	>20	Iron	Coffin nails
	001	4	Glass	Clear & green, window & vessel
	001	4	Iron	Large objects (agricultural)
	001	2	Plastic & metal	Toy cars
	002	1	ceramic	Reddish fabric, green glaze, medieval /late medieval
	002	1	metal	Coin (1/2d)
	002	1	Clay	Pipe stem fragment, unmarked
	002	2	glass	Clear, window
	002	1	clay	Marble
	005	3	Iron	Nail frags
	008	2	Iron	Nail frags
	017	2	Iron	Nail frags
	SK 1 / 2	5	Wood & Iron	Coffin frags and nails
	SK 1 / 2	4	Metal	Broken shroud pin
	20	1	Ceramic	Late-medieval, green glazed pot sherd
	023	1	lead	Window came, 0.10m long
	023	1	Metal	Circular handle with thin wire attached (coffin furniture?)
	Sk 1	6	Wood & Iron	Coffin frags and nails
	Sk 4	1	Metal	Broken shroud pin
	u/s	1	Iron	nail
	u/s, Tr C	1	Glass	Clear milk bottle A&J Douglas, Kilbarchan
	u/s	1	Glass	Green window glass, from stained glass window
	u/s	5	Ceramic	19 th & 20 th century sherds
	u/s	1	Glass	Green window

Table 6: Drawings

<i>Drawing No.</i>	<i>Sheet No.</i>	<i>Context</i>	<i>Subject</i>	<i>Scale</i>
1	1		Sketch plan of gravestone & trenches	
2	2	Trench 1	Plan of Trench 1	1:20
3	2	Trench 1	West facing section	1:10
4	2	Trench 1	Location sketch of Trench 1	
5	3	Trench 2	Plan of Trench 2	1:20
6	3	Trench 2	E facing section	1:10
7	3	Trench 2	Location sketch of Tr 2	
8	4	Trench 3	Plan of Trench 3	1:20
9	4	Trench 3	S facing section of Tr 3	1:10
10	4	Trench 3	W facing section of Tr 3	1:10
11	5	Trench 4	Plan of Trench 4	1:20
12	5	Trench 4	E facing section of Tr 4	1:10
13	5	Trench 4	Location sketch of Tr 4	
14	6	Trench 5	Plan of Trench 5	1:20
15	6	Trench 5	S facing section of Tr 5	1:10
16	6	Trench 5	Location sketch of Tr 5	

17	7	All	Plan of Trench locations	1:50
18	8	Test Trench A	Plan of Skeletons	1:20
19	8	Test Trench A	Section of trench	1:20
20	8	Test Trench A	Sketch of graveyard and Trench	1:100
21	9	Test Trench B	Plan of Trench & graveyard	1:20
22	9	Test Trench B	Section of trench	1:20
23	10	Test Trench C	Plan of Trench & graveyard	1:509
24			Sketch plan of gravestones (see Sheet 1)	n/a

Table 7: Digital Photographs

<i>Photo No.</i>	<i>Context No.</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>From (Compass)</i>
Phase 1			
4250_May_2012_01	001	Graveyard, pre-excavation	N
4250_May_2012_02	001	Graveyard, pre-excavation	N
4250_May_2012_03	002, 003	Turf removed, Kerb & Stone 98	W
4250_May_2012_04		Stone 89	W
4250_May_2012_05	002, 003	Kerb & stones 98 99	S
4250_May_2012_06	003	Kerb & stone 98	S
4250_May_2012_07	002, 003	Location of Trench 5, kerb & Stone 98	W
4250_May_2012_08	002, 003	Location of Trench 5, kerb & Stone 98	W
4250_May_2012_09	002 003	Location of Trench 5, kerb & Stone 98	SE
4250_May_2012_10	002 003	Location of Trench 5, kerb & Stone 98	SE
4250_May_2012_11	002	Turf removed central area	E
4250_May_2012_12		Aoife digging	
4250_May_2012_13	002	Location of Trench 3	W
4250_May_2012_14	002	Location of Trench 1	W
4250_May_2012_15	002	Location of Trench 2	E
4250_May_2012_16	002	Location of Trench 1	N
4250_May_2012_17	002	Location of Trench 1	W
4250_May_2012_18	002	Trench 4, S facing section	S
4250_May_2012_19	002	Trench 4, S facing section, W end	S
4250_May_2012_20	002	Trench 4, E facing section,	E
4250_May_2012_21	002	Trench 4. Bones & coffin nails	E
4250_May_2012_22	002	Trench 4. Bones & coffin nails	E
4250_May_2012_23	010	Trench 2, S facing section	S
4250_May_2012_24	010	Trench 2, S facing section	S
4250_May_2012_25	010	Trench 2, S facing section	S
4250_May_2012_26	010	Trench 2, S facing section	W
4250_May_2012_27	010	Trench 2, S facing section	W
4250_May_2012_28	005	Trench 1, W facing section	W
4250_May_2012_29	005	Trench 1, W facing section	W
4250_May_2012_30	005	Trench 1, bone in section	W
4250_May_2012_31	005	Trench 1, bone in section	W
4250_May_2012_32	002	Trench 5, S facing section	S
4250_May_2012_33	002	Trench 5, S facing section	S
4250_May_2012_34	002	Trench 5,	W
4250_May_2012_35	002	Trench 5,	W
4250_May_2012_36	002	Trench 5, stones at east end	N
4250_May_2012_37	007. 009, 010	Trench 2	W

4250_May_2012_38		Trench 6	
4250_May_2012_39		Trench 6	
4250_May_2012_40		Trench 6, E facing section	E
4250_May_2012_41		Trench 6, E facing section	E
Phase 2			
4250_Mar_2013_01		View of trench and graveyard	W
4250_Mar_2013_02		View of trench and graveyard	N
4250_Mar_2013_03		View of trench and graveyard	NW
4250_Mar_2013_04		View of trench and graveyard	E
4250_Mar_2013_05		water pipe visible at the base of trench	N
4250_Mar_2013_06		water pipe visible at the base of trench	N
4250_Mar_2013_07		detail of W facing section	W
4250_Mar_2013_08		W facing section towards the church	W
Phase 3			
4250_Oct_2013_01		N end of graveyard, pre-ex	W
4250_Oct_2013_02		Central area of graveyard, pre-ex	NW
4250_Oct_2013_03		Southern part of the graveyard, pre-ex	NW
4250_Oct_2013_04	G103	Pre-ex stone lifted, pre-ex	W
4250_Oct_2013_05	G103	Post-ex	W
4250_Oct_2013_06	G103	W facing section	W
4250_Oct_2013_07	G103	W facing section	W
4250_Oct_2013_08		New locations laid out in grass	W
4250_Oct_2013_09	G84	Stone lifted but not removed	N
4250_Oct_2013_10	G84	Stone lifted	W
4250_Oct_2013_11	G84	Post-ex	W
4250_Oct_2013_12	G84	W facing section	W
4250_Oct_2013_13	G119 & 120	Stones still in situ	W
4250_Oct_2013_14	G119	Headstone detail	W
4250_Oct_2013_15		New stone found 'JD'	W
4250_Oct_2013_16		New stone 'JD' detail	
4250_Oct_2013_17	G102	Lifted not moved	W
4250_Oct_2013_18	G102	Stone lifted	W
4250_Oct_2013_19	G107	Stone lifted	W
4250_Oct_2013_20	G107	Stone lifted	W
4250_Oct_2013_21	G107	Post-ex	W
4250_Oct_2013_22	G107	General view	W
4250_Oct_2013_23		New stone '1706'	W
4250_Oct_2013_24		New stone '1706'	W
4250_Oct_2013_25	G102	Post-ex	W
4250_Oct_2013_26	G102	N facing section	N
4250_Oct_2013_27	G107	Post-ex	W
4250_Oct_2013_28	G107	W facing section	W
4250_Oct_2013_29	G96/108	Lifted	W
4250_Oct_2013_30	G96/108	Stone from beneath this stone	W
4250_Oct_2013_31	G96/108	Post-ex	W
4250_Oct_2013_32	G96/108	N facing section	N
4250_Oct_2013_33	G78	Post-ex	W
4250_Oct_2013_34	G78	N facing section	N
4250_Oct_2013_35	G76	Stone lifted	W
4250_Oct_2013_36	G76	Stone detail	W
4250_Oct_2013_37	G76	Post-ex	W
4250_Oct_2013_38	G76	Bricks at E end detail	W

4250_Oct_2013_39	G75/77	Lifting stones	SW
4250_Oct_2013_40	G75	Large stone at E end	W
4250_Oct_2013_41	G75	Large stone at E end, detail	N
4250_Oct_2013_42	G75	Large stone at E end	W
4250_Oct_2013_43	G75	Large stone from E end removed	W
4250_Oct_2013_44	G75	Large stone from E end removed	W
4250_Oct_2013_45	G75	Digging by hand	W
4250_Oct_2013_46	G75	Upright stone at W end	W
4250_Oct_2013_47	G75	Stone at W end	W
4250_Oct_2013_48	G77	Lifting	W
4250_Oct_2013_49	G75/77	Post-ex see upright stone	W
4250_Oct_2013_50	G75/77	Post-ex see upright stone, detail	W
4250_Oct_2013_51	G75/77	W facing section	W
4250_Oct_2013_52	G75/77	Removing upright white stone	W
4250_Oct_2013_53	G75/77	Removing yellow sandstone	W
4250_Oct_2013_54	G83	Stone removed	W
4250_Oct_2013_55	G83	Soil lowered	W
4250_Oct_2013_56	G83	W facing section	W
4250_Oct_2013_57	G83	'EDMA 1706' stone	
4250_Oct_2013_58	G78	Inscribed fragments from below G78	
4250_Oct_2013_59	G75	Group of stones from below G75, partial reconstruction	
4250_Oct_2013_60	G75	Group of stones from below G75, partial reconstruction	
4250_Oct_2013_61	G75	Group of stones from below G75, partial reconstruction	
4250_Oct_2013_62	G87	Pre-excavation	E
4250_Oct_2013_63	G86	Pre-excavation	E
4250_Oct_2013_64	G87	Inscription & wear	E
4250_Oct_2013_65	G104	Post-ex	W
4250_Oct_2013_66	G104	W facing section	W
4250_Oct_2013_67	G85	Post-ex	W
4250_Oct_2013_68	G85	W facing section	W
4250_Oct_2013_69	G85	Replacing stone	
4250_Oct_2013_70	G106	Post-ex	W
4250_Oct_2013_71	G106	W facing section	W
4250_Oct_2013_72	G101	Post-ex	W
4250_Oct_2013_73	G101	W facing section	W
4250_Oct_2013_74	G86	Table top gravestone being lifted	SW
4250_Oct_2013_75	G86	Table top gravestone being lifted	SW
4250_Oct_2013_76	G86	Table top gravestone being lifted	SW
4250_Oct_2013_77	G86	Top removed	W
4250_Oct_2013_78	G86	Top removed	NW
4250_Oct_2013_79	G86	Side slab removed	
4250_Oct_2013_80	G86	Side slab	
4250_Oct_2013_81	G86	Base slab uncovered	
4250_Oct_2013_82	G86	Base slab being lifted	
4250_Oct_2013_83	G86	Base slab removed	
4250_Oct_2013_84		Inscription 1796	
4250_Oct_2013_85	G88	Top slab being lifted	
4250_Oct_2013_86	G88	Top slab removed	
4250_Oct_2013_87	G88	Base stones being lifted	
4250_Oct_2013_88	G88	Base stones being lifted	
4250_Oct_2013_89	G88	Base slabs removed	
4250_Oct_2013_90	G91	Table top grave	

4250_Oct_2013_91	G91	Top removed & one side laid flat	
4250_Oct_2013_92	G91	Top removed & one side laid flat	
4250_Oct_2013_93	G91	End slab removed	
4250_Oct_2013_94	G91	Roof slate used as levelling for side slab	
4250_Oct_2013_95	G119, G120 & G122	Pre-move	
4250_Oct_2013_96	G119	Stone being lifted	NW
4250_Oct_2013_97		Sickle from digging new hole for G119	
4250_Oct_2013_98	G78	Detail of inscribed stone from below G78	
4250_Oct_2013_99	G77 & G75	Re-laid stones and brick base exposed	N
4250_Oct_2013_100	G77 & G75	Re-laid stones and brick base exposed	NW
4250_Oct_2013_101	G130	In-situ at edge of trench	E
4250_Oct_2013_102	G130	In-situ at edge of trench	S
4250_Oct_2013_103	G75	Sandstone at W end of slab	N
4250_Oct_2013_104	G75	Sandstone at W end of slab	E
4250_Oct_2013_105	Area of G1 & G2	No slabs here –misidentified. Drains	E
4250_Oct_2013_106	G120	Lower part of stone still high	NW
4250_Oct_2013_107	G79	New site prepared.	W
4250_Oct_2013_108	G79	New site prepared.	W
4250_Oct_2013_109	G79	New site prepared.	W
4250_Oct_2013_110	G79	Stone in new location	W
4250_Oct_2013_111		General view	
4250_Oct_2013_112	G122, 120	Re laid outside footprint	
4250_Oct_2013_113	G120	Bottom half lifted & relaid, no inscription	
4250_Oct_2013_114	G87	Top stone lifted	
4250_Oct_2013_115	G87	Top stone moved	
4250_Oct_2013_116	G87	Stone re-laid	
4250_Oct_2013_117	G103	Stone moved outside footprint	
4250_Oct_2013_118		Area of drains	E
4250_Oct_2013_119		Stone moved outside footprint	
4250_Oct_2013_120		Stones relaid outside footprint	
Phase 4			
4250_Jan_2014_01	Grave 122	Bone visible in base of trench	S
4250_Jan_2014_02	Grave 122	Bone visible in base of trench	S
4250_Jan_2014_03	Grave 122	Bone visible in base of trench	W
4250_Jan_2014_04	Grave 122	N facing side of trench	N
4250_Jan_2014_05	Grave 122	Bone visible in base of trench	E
4250_Jan_2014_06	Grave 122	Bone visible in base of trench (detail)	S
4250_Jan_2014_07	Grave 122	S facing side of trench	S
4250_Jan_2014_08	Grave 122	Bone visible in base of trench	S
4250_Jan_2014_09	Grave 122	Edge of bedrock visible	S
4250_Jan_2014_10	Grave 122	Trench & Church	S
4250_Jan_2014_11	Grave 122	W facing section	W
4250_Jan_2014_12	Grave 122	N facing section	N
4250_Jan_2014_13	Grave 122	Base of trench	S
4250_Jan_2014_14	Pile 'c' trench	Trench dug to 0.7m	W
4250_Jan_2014_15	Pile 'c' trench	Trench section	N
4250_Jan_2014_16	Pile 'c' trench	Trench section & Stone 98	N
4250_Jan_2014_17	Pile 'c' trench	Trench section & Stone 98	N
4250_Jan_2014_18	Pile 'c' trench	Trench section	E
4250_Jan_2014_19	Pile 'c' trench	Backfilled	W
Phase 5			
4250_June_2014_01	021, 022, 023, 024	East facing section of Test trench A	E

4250_June_2014_02		Test Trench B	SE
4250_June_2014_03		Test Trench B, detail	SE
4250_June_2014_04		Test Trench B, NE facing section	NE
4250_June_2014_05	021, 022, 023, 024	Test Trench A	SE
4250_June_2014_06	021, 022, 023, 024	Test Trench A	SE
4250_June_2014_07	SK 1, 2, 3 & 4	Test Trench A	SE
4250_June_2014_08	SK 4	Test Trench A	SE
4250_June_2014_09	SK 1 & 2	Test Trench A	SE
4250_June_2014_10	019	Test Trench C	S
4250_June_2014_11		Bridge in grounds of Houston House	
4250_June_2014_12	018	Drystone revetment wall	NE
4250_June_2014_13	018	Drystone revetment wall, N end	E
4250_June_2014_14	018	Drystone revetment wall, middle	E
4250_June_2014_15	018	Drystone revetment wall, middle	E
4250_June_2014_16	018, 20	Drystone revetment wall, S end	E
4250_June_2014_17	018, 20	Drystone revetment wall, S end	E
4250_June_2014_18	018, 20	Drystone revetment wall, whole length	NE
4250_June_2014_19	018, 20	Drystone revetment wall, whole length	E
4250_June_2014_20	018, 20	Drystone revetment wall, whole length	SE
4250_June_2014_21	018	Drystone revetment wall, whole length	S
4250_June_2014_22	018	Drystone revetment wall, whole length	S
4250_June_2014_23		Piling	S
4250_June_2014_24		Piling	SE
4250_June_2014_25		Ruth revealing skeletons	S
4250_June_2014_26		Piling	
4250_June_2014_27		Piling, detail of base	
4250_June_2014_28	SK 4	Articulated neonate	E
4250_June_2014_29	SK 4	Articulated neonate	E
4250_June_2014_30	SK 4, 3 & 2	Articulated neonate & skulls	E
4250_June_2014_31	Sk 1 & 2	Skulls	E
4250_June_2014_32	Sk 3	Skull	E
4250_June_2014_33	Sk 2	Skull	E
4250_June_2014_34	Sk 1	Skull	E
4250_June_2014_35	SK 1, 2, 3, 4 & 5	Articulated neonate & skulls	E
4250_June_2014_36		Piling	
4250_June_2014_37		Piling detail	
4250_June_2014_38	18, 19	Test Trench C	S
4250_June_2014_39	18, 19	Test Trench C	N
4250_June_2014_40		Hole through graveyard wall	NW
4250_June_2014_41		Capping stones retrieved from the graveyard wall	
4250_June_2014_42		Stone with JK carved, from the wall	
4250_June_2014_43		Capping stones retrieved from the graveyard wall	
4250_June_2014_44		Drain trench towards the stream	NW
4250_June_2014_45		Drain inserted into trench	NW
4250_June_2014_46		Piles in place along the E boundary	S
4250_June_2014_47	020	Possible revetting stones on edge of pond	E
4250_June_2014_48	020	Detail of above	
4250_June_2014_49	019	Drainage trench dug towards graveyard	
4250_June_2014_50		Skull at base of drainage trench, see June 22 nd	SE
4250_June_2014_51		Skull at base of drainage trench, see June 22 nd	S
4250_June_2014_52		Drain inside graveyard	NW
4250_June_2014_53		Piling complete	NE
4250_June_2014_54		17 th century gravestone	
4250_June_2014_55		17 th century gravestone, detail	

4250_June_2014_56		17 th century gravestone, detail	
4250_June_2014_57		Upright gravestone base uncovered near path	
4250_June_2014_58		Upright gravestone base, detail	
4250_June_2014_59		Upright gravestone base, detail	
4250_June_2014_60		Upright gravestone base, detail	
4250_June_2014_61		Skull at base of drainage trench	NW
4250_June_2014_62		Skull at base of drainage trench, detail	W
4250_June_2014_63		Skull at base of drainage trench, detail	W
4250_June_2014_64		Plinth for memorial (George Cuninghame Montearth, d 1828)	
4250_June_2014_65		Plinth for memorial, detail	

APPENDIX 2:

2.1 Stage 1 Written Scheme of Investigation

Houston & Killellan Kirk Church Hall Development

Archaeological Evaluation - Written Scheme of Investigation (Phase 1)

Northlight Heritage

1.0 Introduction

The congregation of the Houston and Killellan Kirk, Renfrew, are proposing to build a church hall at the back of the church. This area is currently occupied by the graveyard which contains both raised table gravestones and recumbent stones.

Previous works have included a topographical survey (Loys Surveys), a survey of the Monumental Inscriptions (pre-1855) and a Planning and Design Statement which includes a brief history of the site.

The current church was built in 1874 and is Listed (B). The church is on the site of an 18th church which itself was on the site of a medieval church with origins in a Christian cell perhaps dating back to the 8th century AD. The current church hall is located some distance away. The churchyard contains medieval and 17th and 18th century burial stones, of which will 16 be directly affected by this development and another 24 or so will be left *in situ* beneath the new building.

The relevant Planning Application is number 10/0855/PP 'Partial demolition of existing vestry and erection of extension to church to form new halls, kitchen, and toilet facilities, Houston & Killellan Kirk, 17 Kirk Road Houston, Johnston PA6 7AS'. Renfrewshire Council has approved the application with the condition,

"No development shall take place within the development site as outlined in red on the approved plan until the developer has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological works in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which has been submitted by the applicant, agreed by the West of Scotland Archaeology Service, and approved by the Planning Authority. Thereafter the developer shall ensure that the programme of archaeological works is fully implemented and that all recording and recovery of archaeological resources within the development site is undertaken to the satisfaction of the Planning Authority in agreement with the West of Scotland Archaeology Service."

Reason: In the interests of recovering, recording or preserving any archaeological artefacts or remains which exist under the site of the proposed extension.

This document is the first of a series of documents which will be produced as work proceeds. These documents will, in their final form, constitute the written scheme of investigation required by the above planning condition. It is the intention to apply an incremental approach to the project, in that the results of this first phase of the evaluation will inform and decide on the level of mitigation required in subsequent phases. The details of the mitigation strategy will form part of the subsequent WSI documents.

2.0 Existing Survey

A topographical survey has been carried out which indicates the outline of the existing building, the gravestones and levels. The drawing has been extracted from a full topographical survey prepared by Loy Surveys, and indicates those known grave locations which are within the outline of the proposed new development. In addition the gravestones are numbered, which numbers are the same as those contained in "Monumental Inscriptions(pre-1855) in Renfrewshire by John Fowler Mitchell C.I.E. and Sheila Mitchell , produced for the Scottish Genealogy Society 1969" and which notes the decipherable script on the visible gravestones. A checking survey has recently been carried out by the client to ensure that the numbers and inscriptions agree. Some stones were unidentifiable and, in one case, a new stone was found. In addition, a detailed survey of the three raised table stones was made. It is emphasized that the data relates only to those stones which are known and visible.

3.0 Proposed Development: Foundation and Substructure Design

The structural consultant (RDA Consultants) established that it was feasible to design a foundation support for the main superstructure which employed a mini-pile and ground beam system, overlaid on the existing pattern of gravestones but which avoided penetration of the known graves.

An additional constraint of the new building design calls for a level floor, matching the floor level of the existing church. The construction technique proposed consists of a mini-pile and ground beam system, overlaid on the existing pattern of gravestones (see plan attached). This pattern of ground beams and the level required for the floor would require the following work to the gravestones.

- a) The raised table stones No's 86, 88 and 91 to be carefully removed and reinstated in an agreed location in the south of the graveyard
- b) Gravestone 122 located in the north-east corner of the development is in an extreme loading point for the new structure. This grave would need to be disinterred and the grave re-established in the SE area of the graveyard. This gravestone records the grave of Jean Patrick (1817) and her sister Margaret (1820) (Monumental Inscriptions (pre-1855) in Renfrewshire 1969).
- c) Gravestones 1, 2, 79, 83, 103, 104, 106, 107, 119, 120, and 96 or 108 to be carefully lifted and replaced approximately 100-120mm lower.

- d) All other stones are to remain *in situ*, covered by the development.
- e) Because of the slightly sloping nature of the site, the ground level between the stones is to be lowered to between 0.15m below the current ground surface in the south and 0.30m in the north.

4.0 Aims & Objectives

The aim of the archaeological evaluation described in this document is to investigate whether there are additional graves or lairs within the development area, the avoidance of which would require the pattern of mini-piles to be significantly re-designed or a new construction methodology used.

These archaeological works will ensure that all archaeological artefacts or remains are properly preserved through avoidance, and when this is not possible recorded and recovered (preservation by record). At this site such artefacts and remains will include human remains and lairs which are likely to date from the medieval period to the 19th century.

5.0 Methodology

The archaeological works consist of at least two phases. The **first phase** only is described here. This first phase would be an evaluation of the site which would involve the removal of turf around the known gravestones within the area of the development and the excavation of five trenches to a depth of between 0.15m and 0.30m. This would enable the identification of further graves within the development area and an assessment made of the likelihood of there being further burials within the 0.15 to 0.30m horizon.

The **second phase** would likely consist of the removal of the remaining soil between the gravestones to the required level of 0.15m to 0.30m.

A **third phase** would involve the moving of the raised table stones, the dis-internment of Grave 122 and the lowering of 11 gravestones. The second and any subsequent phases will be covered by separate documents as required.

5.1 Phase 1

Methodology

1. A depth of 0.05m (50mm) of turf would be carefully uplifted and removed from the development area within the graveyard around the existing graves with the use of a turf-stripper. This work would be monitored by a professional archaeologist. The gravestones would not be moved. The surface of the ground would be cleaned by hand with a hoe, and any gravestones, grave cuts or other archaeological features would be planned, photographed and recorded using *pro-forma* record sheets. Turf would be carefully removed from over gravestones by hand. Any disarticulated human remains uncovered will be retrieved and carefully packed for re-burial. Any articulated human remains would be planned at a scale of 1:20, photographed and re-covered carefully.
2. Five shallow trenches would then be cut by mini-digger between the visible gravestones in the approximate locations shown on the attached plan. This work would be monitored by a professional archaeologist and any graves or features recorded as above. The extent and maximum depth of the trenches would be as follows.

Trench 1 2m x 2.3m x 0.30m

Trench 2 4m x 1.5m x 0.30m

Trench 3 4m x 1.5m x 0.15m

Trench 4 2.5m x 2.5m x 0.15m

Trench 5 4m x 1.5m x 0.15m

The client will then cover the site with a water permeable membrane and 50mm of clean gravel.

5.2 Reporting

A brief report on the results of the evaluation will be prepared immediately after the end of the fieldwork. The report would describe the deposits, archaeological features and any newly discovered gravestones, grave cuts or lairs. An annotated plan would be prepared showing the location of the trenches, gravestones and any newly discovered graves. This would not be a full Data Structure report as this would be prepared at the end of the project as a whole.

6.0 Human Remains Policy

All works undertaken by Northlight Heritage will be in accordance with *The Treatment of Human Remains in Archaeology Historic Scotland Operational Policy Paper 5 1997 (2006)* and *The Conservation of Historic Graveyards Guide for Practitioners 2. Historic Scotland 2001*.

Any complete human skeletons will be recorded but not be disturbed in this phase. Disarticulated bone is likely to be from

randomly disturbed graves. All disarticulated human remains will be collected and bagged carefully for re-burial.

7.0 Phasing, scheduling,

Northlight Heritage can be on site with a minimum of 5 working days notice. It is anticipated that the Phase 1 evaluation works would take in the region of 3 days.

8.0 Staffing

The archaeological monitoring will be undertaken by a professional archaeologist, who has experience in excavation and retrieval of human remains. Their CV will be forwarded to WoSAS prior to work commencing. Specialist human remains advice is available if necessary from Dr Stuart McDonald, Senior Lecturer in Anatomy, University of Glasgow. The project will be managed by Dr Heather James.

9.0 Insurance

York Archaeological Trust (trading under the name of Northlight Heritage) has all appropriate public liability insurance.

10.0 Archiving

The archive for the project will be deposited with the National Monuments Records for Scotland within six months of completion of fieldwork if no post-excavation work is required, or at the end of the post-excavation research programme. The project archive would contain all relevant details in connection with the planning and execution of the project.

11.0 Finds Disposal

All finds will be reported to the Scottish Archaeological Finds Allocation Panel through its secretariat the Treasure Trove Unit. All artefacts would be stored temporarily until a decision has been made by the Panel regarding which museum the finds would be allocated to.

12.0 Health & Safety

All work would be carried out in compliance with current Health & Safety at Work Legislation. Risk Assessments are undertaken prior to all fieldwork. Specific issues to be considered would include the retrieval of human remains, working in confined spaces and working with machinery.

Dr Heather James 2/03/12

2.2 Houston and Killellan Kirk, Church Hall Development

Northlight Heritage Project No 4250161

Archaeological Enabling works and Foundation Design Amendment to Proposal (V2) 24/9/13

Amendment to WSI Phase 2 (v2) dated 7/11/12

Section 2c) In order to ensure that correct building levels are possible during the construction of the Church Hall at the rear of Houston & Killellan Kirk it is proposed that in addition to the agreed stones to be lowered (1, 2, 77, 78, 83, 104, 106, 107 & 96/108) stones **75, 76, 84, 85, 87 and 101** may also require lowering.

Please note that the treatment for all the other stones will follow the methodology which has previously been agreed.

H James

2.3 Houston and Killellan Kirk, Church Hall Development
Northlight Heritage Project No. 4250161
Archaeological Enabling works and Foundation Design Proposals
Written Scheme of Investigation - Phase 2 (v2) 7/11/12

1.0 Introduction

The congregation of the Houston and Killellan Kirk, Renfrew, are proposing to build a church hall at the back of the church. This area is currently occupied by the graveyard which contains both raised table gravestones and recumbent stones

A Phase 1 Evaluation WSI (v4) outlined the planning background to the project and put forward a proposed mini-pile design and a methodology for a preliminary evaluation. The aim of the archaeological evaluation was to investigate whether there were additional graves or lairs within the development area, the avoidance of which would require the pattern of mini-piles to be significantly re-designed or a new construction methodology used.

An Interim Phase 1 Report has been produced (see Appendix 1) and on the basis of this the proposed construction technique has been amended slightly and a new pile design put forward (see attached drawings).

This document describes a second phase of archaeological enabling work to be carried out in conjunction with a building contractor who would be responsible for the lifting and moving of the stones.

2.0 Proposed Development: Foundation and Substructure Design

The structural consultant (RDA Consultants) established that it was feasible to design a foundation support for the main superstructure which employed a mini-pile and ground beam system, overlaid on the existing pattern of gravestones but which avoided penetration of the known graves.

An additional constraint of the new building design calls for a level floor, matching the floor level of the existing church.

The construction technique proposed consists of a mini-pile and ground beam system, overlaid on the existing pattern of gravestones. This pattern of ground beams and the level required for the floor would require the following work to the gravestones.

- a) Raised table stones 86, 88 and 91. Relocate top slab in same lowered position.
- b) Stones 79, 103, 119, 120, 122 and 'A'. Lift and relocate outwith the building footprint.
- c) Stones 1, 2, 77, 78, 83, 102, 104, 106, 107 and 96/108. Replace stones in same approximate, lowered position.
- d) Because of the slightly sloping nature of the site, the ground level in the northern third of the site is to be lowered to between 0.0m and 0.2m below the current ground surface (see shaded area).
- e) Proposed piles excavated to a depth of up to 3m.

3.0 Aims and Objectives

The aim of the archaeological works will be to ensure that all archaeological artefacts or remains are properly preserved through avoidance, and when this is not possible recorded and recovered (preservation by record). At this site such artefacts and remains will include human remains and lairs which are likely to date from the medieval period to the 19th century. The objective is to monitor all stone moving operations and ground breaking works.

4.0 Phase 2 Methodology

This phase will involve the probable dis-internment of Grave 122 and the lowering of 18 gravestones (including the raised table stones).

- a) Raised table stones 86, 88 and 91. The top slabs will be lifted and laid aside. The support stones to be removed and relocated outwith the building footprint. The burial location to be hand excavated to a depth of 0.15m, to test for the presence of a burial. If a burial is to be affected by the development, apply to disinter and re-bury at location to be agreed. Replace the slab in the same lowered position.
- b) Stones 79, 103, 119, 120, 122 and 'A'. These slabs would be lifted and relocated permanently outwith the building footprint. The burial location to be hand excavated to a maximum depth of 0.20m to test for the presence of a burial. If a burial is to be affected by the development, apply to disinter and re bury at location to be agreed.
- c) Stones 1, 2, 77, 78, 83, 102, 104, 106, 107 and 96/108. These slabs will be lifted and laid aside. The burial location to be hand excavated to a depth of 0.15m to test for the presence of a burial. If a burial is to be affected by the development, apply to disinter and re bury at location to be agreed. Replace the stones in same lowered position.

d) Proposed pile locations a, b, c, d & f are particularly close to possible burial locations and so small hand dug trenches will be excavated in the locations of these piles in order to ascertain whether there are burials and in what condition they are in. These trenches are likely to be 0.50m by 0.50m by at least 0.6m deep. If other graves or gravestones are uncovered during the course of this work then these would be recorded and the position of the piles reconsidered.

e) Archaeological monitoring will be carried out during the insertion of all the piles. If obstructions are encountered such as gravestones, structural remains, or burials, the piles will be moved after consultation with the architect.

f) After gravestone removal and the reduction of ground level, all surfaces would be cleaned by hand with a hoe, and any further gravestones, grave cuts or other archaeological features would be planned, photographed and recorded using *pro-forma* record sheets. Any disarticulated human remains uncovered will be retrieved and carefully packed for re-burial. Any articulated human remains would be planned at a scale of 1:20, photographed and re-covered carefully, unless they could not be avoided by the development in which case they would be dis-interred as described above.

5.0 Reporting

A Data Structure Report covering all the Phases of work would be submitted within 3 weeks of the end of the fieldwork. The report would describe the deposits, archaeological features and any newly discovered gravestones, grave cuts or lairs. An annotated plan would be prepared showing the location of the trenches, gravestones and any newly discovered graves.

6.0 Human Remains Policy

All works undertaken by Northlight Heritage will be in accordance with *The Treatment of Human Remains in Archaeology Historic Scotland Operational Policy Paper 5 1997* (2006) and *The Conservation of Historic Graveyards Guide for Practitioners 2. Historic Scotland 2001*. Disarticulated bone is likely to be from randomly disturbed graves. All disarticulated human remains will be collected and bagged carefully for re-burial. Any complete skeletons will be avoided, but if this is not possible a license to disinter will be applied for.

7.0 Phasing, scheduling,

Northlight Heritage can be on site with a minimum of 5 working days notice. It is anticipated that the Phase 2 enabling works would take in the region of 3-5 days.

8.0 Staffing

The archaeological monitoring will be undertaken by a professional archaeologist, who has experience in excavation and retrieval of human remains. Their CV will be forwarded to WoSAS prior to work commencing. Specialist human remains advice is available if necessary from Dr Stuart McDonald, Senior Lecturer in Anatomy, University of Glasgow. The project will be managed by Dr Heather James.

9.0 Insurance

York Archaeological Trust (trading under the name of Northlight Heritage) has all appropriate public liability insurance.

10.0 Archiving

The archive for the project will be deposited with the National Monuments Records for Scotland within six months of completion of fieldwork if no post-excavation work is required, or at the end of the post-excavation research programme. The project archive would contain all relevant details in connection with the planning and execution of the project.

11.0 Finds Disposal

All finds will be reported to the Scottish Archaeological Finds Allocation Panel through its secretariat the Treasure Trove Unit. All artefacts would be stored temporarily until a decision has been made by the Panel regarding which museum the finds would be allocated to.

12.0 Health & Safety

All work would be carried out in compliance with current Health & Safety at Work Legislation. Risk Assessments are undertaken prior to all fieldwork. Specific issues to be considered would include the retrieval of human remains, working in confined spaces and working with machinery.

Dr Heather James 7/11/12

2.4 Houston & Killellan, Church Hall Development
Northlight Heritage Project No. 42d50161
Archaeological Enabling works and Foundation Design Proposal
Amendment to WSI Phase 2 dated WSI (7/11/12)
H James 15/1/14

The work described in Sections 4a, 4b, 4c and 4f of the WSI (7/11/12) has been completed and an interim report has been submitted (dated 10/10/13).

The next stage of the development is the insertion of the piles. It had been proposed that a number of pile locations, which were particularly close to possible burial locations, would be investigated first by hand.

It is proposed now to reduce the number of pile locations which need to be investigated and to allow for the use of a small mini-digger to assist with these investigations.

The justification for this is,

- 1) the pile locations have been re-located as far away as possible from known burials.
- 2) that the investigations so far have ascertained that several of the flat stones which were originally upright stones, have been moved rather unsystematically and laid on the ground with the writing facing different directions. We can no longer assume that the burial plots are in the locations indicated on the plan of 10/9/2012. It is now assumed that the stones have been laid directly over the burial which they were marking, rather than to the east of the burial as was earlier put forward in the plan of 10/09/2012.
- 3) The investigations so far have shown that the upper 0.4m of the graveyard is re-deposited soil and while it may contain grave stones, it does not contain disarticulated bone, or indications of burial cuts.
- 4) the upper deposit c0.10 m deep is now Type 1 gravel which can be removed by machine.

Previous sensitive piles

- a) no longer in an area where burials are assumed.
- b) no longer in an area where burials are assumed.
- c) This pile is to be investigated with a trench at least 0.6m deep as it is located within the area of kerbing noted at the S end of the site.
- d) no longer in an area where burials are assumed as there is a path here.
- e) no longer in an area where burials are assumed.
- f) no longer in an area where burials are assumed.
- g) no longer in an area where burials are assumed.
- h) no longer in an area where burials are assumed.

Burial 122 – The gravestone has been moved away from the corner and the pile location moved to a location which should be outside the grave and therefore not disturb any burials.

Therefore the works proposed here consist of investigations of Grave 122 and pile location c). The methodology for these works is as follows,

- 1) removal of the type 1 gravel by mini-digger in the vicinity of pile c) and grave 122.
- 2) Careful digging by mini-digger with a flat blade bucket to a maximum depth of 0.6m.
- 3) Constant monitoring by professional archaeologist to ensure that any burial cuts, gravestones or human remains are not disturbed.

H James
Jan 2014

APPENDIX 3: DES

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	Renfrewshire Council
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	Houston & Killellan Kirk, Church Hall development
PROJECT CODE:	4250161
PARISH:	Houston
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	Heather F James
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	Northlight Heritage
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Evaluation & watching brief
NMRS NO(S):	NS46NW 14
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	Churchyard
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	None
NGR (2 letters, 8 or 10 figures)	NS 41028 67074
START DATE (this season)	21/5/2012
END DATE (this season)	1/7/2014
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)	
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	<p>Northlight Heritage were commissioned by Houston and Killellan Kirk to undertake a series of evaluations and watching briefs associated with the construction of a new hall to the rear of the Kirk. The site was occupied by a medieval and later graveyard and so the foundations of the new hall were designed as a system of mini-piles and sleeper-beams which would avoid damage to known gravestones and burials. Relocation of some gravestones was needed to enable the construction to take place. A total of six gravestones were moved outside the development footprint, 18 were lowered and another 12 were left <i>in situ</i> beneath the new building.</p> <p>Other works included the archaeological monitoring of trenches dug for the insertion of a new septic tank, drains and a man-hole. Five poorly preserved articulated burials were uncovered in a test pit in the south-east corner of the graveyard where no graves were marked. These burials ranged from adult to neonate and were accompanied by shroud pins and coffin nails. The burials were left <i>in situ</i> and the septic tank was moved outside the graveyard. A small number of skulls were revealed during the digging of the drains and these were preserved <i>in situ</i>.</p> <p>An infilled mill pond and a revetment wall to the south of the graveyard were revealed in the drainage trench. Both features were depicted on the 1st edition OS map of the mid-19th century. The mill pond was associated with the nearby Butts Mill and it had become infilled by the end of the 19th century, leaving the stream and mill lade open. There were very few finds and these belonged to the 19th and 20th centuries, apart from two residual sherds of probably late-medieval pottery.</p>
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	None
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	Houston & Killellan Kirk
ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:	Studio 406, South Block, 64 Osborne St, Glasgow G1 5QH
EMAIL ADDRESS:	hjames@yorkat.co.uk
ARCHIVE LOCATION (intended/deposited)	NMRS (Intended)