

Discovery and Excavation in Scotland

Updated on 15/06/2007

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	Dumfries and Galloway
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	Kirkmadrine Church
PROJECT CODE:	HSCO-90192-2014-01
PARISH:	Stoneykirk
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	David Murray
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	Kirkdale Archaeology
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Watching Brief
NMRS NO(S):	NX04NE 1
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	Church
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	None
NGR (2 letters, 8 or 10 figures)	NX 0800 4838
START DATE (this season)	14 January 2014
END DATE (this season)	14 January 2014
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. <i>DES</i> ref.)	
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	An archaeological watching brief was undertaken during minor excavation within the porch of the church ahead of the installation of a new floor. Nothing of archaeological significance was revealed.
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	Historic Scotland
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ARCHIVE LOCATION (intended/deposited)	Archive to be deposited in NMRS

**HISTORIC SCOTLAND PROPERTIES IN CARE
MINOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL WORKS 2014/2015**

Kirkmadrine Church • Monitoring • January 2014

HS PIC Index Number: 90192

SITE: Kirkmadrine Church, Dumfries and Galloway

N.G.R.: NX 080 484

DESCRIPTION: Watching Brief during the removal of an existing concrete floor

PROJECT CODE: HSCO-90192-2014-01

CONTENTS:

Introduction.....	1
Description.....	2
Conclusions.....	2
List of Contexts.....	3
List of Digital Photographs.....	3



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MARCH 2014

INTRODUCTION

Under the terms of its PIC call-off contract with Historic Scotland, Kirkdale Archaeology was asked to monitor some small scale work undertaken at Kirkmadrine Church on the Mull of Galloway. The site is a small late 19th century church, now used as a private burial chapel. The Church building is thought to overlie an earlier church and may incorporate some of its masonry. Evidence of the antiquity of the site's Christian usage is provided by a series of remarkable early Christian stones found during the 19th century. These are conventionally dated to the 6th or 7th century, and commemorate church officials, with the use of the *Chi Rho* symbol showing their antiquity.

The stones were housed until recently in a porch added to the W end of the church. They have been removed for conservation, and a new floor is to be installed in the porch for their return. This entailed the removal by Historic Scotland staff of the existing concrete floor, and it was this work that was monitored.

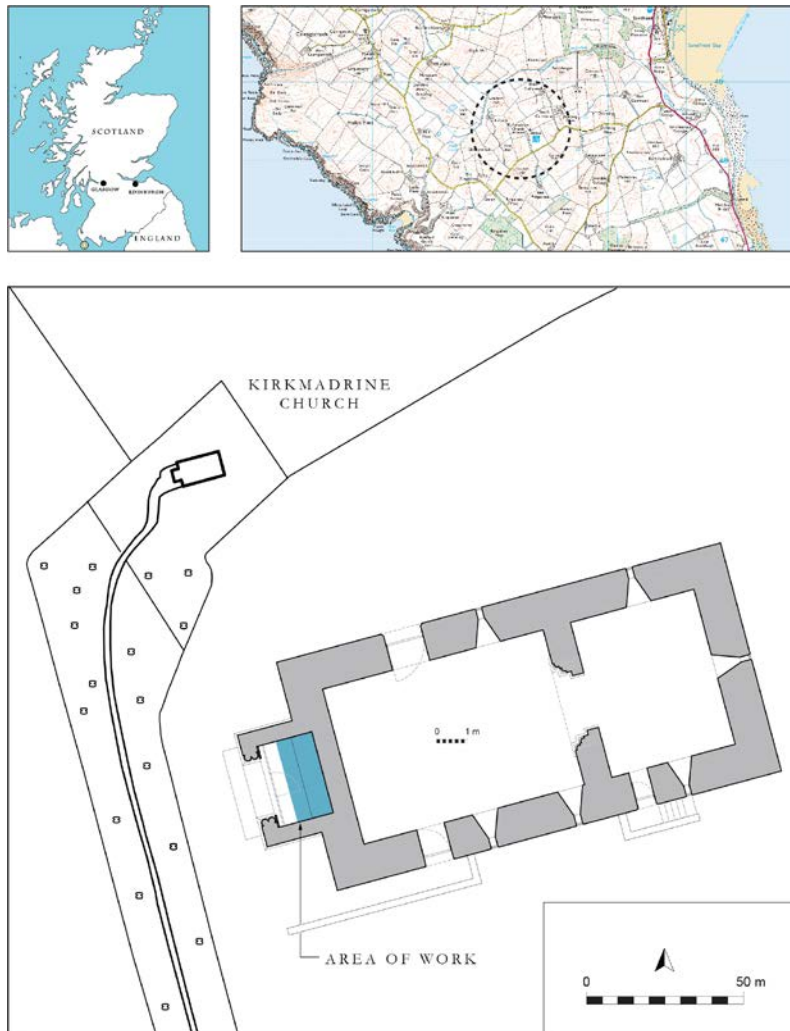


Figure 1: Plan showing the location of the present work.
Inset No. 2 © Crown copyright. All rights reserved 2014. Licence number 100036933.

The work took place on 15th January, 2014.

DESCRIPTION

Prior to arrival on site much of the floor had already been removed (in 2013). A small block remained (001) in on the W side of the porch, against the fabric of the church. This was some 20cm thick, and formed of pebble rich concrete.

The removal of this area exposed a rubble filled strip at the back (E) side of the porch (002), while to the W the concrete continued down. The rubble was not removed. Scars were visible in all three sides of the porch, relating to the display of the stones.

A large slab of red sandstone was visible on the W side of the porch, evidently a slab which faced into the church (003). Access was not possible to inspect the front face of this stone.



Plate 1: The excavation as finished, from the W

CONCLUSIONS

Nothing of archaeological significance was recorded. The rubble filled strip is unexcavated, but is likely to be simply foundations for the concrete floor. The slab visible within the church is presumably a memorial stone. It is unclear why it appears in the wall of the porch - no evidence was noted on this side to suggest it is a blocked door.

LIST OF CONTEXTS

Number	Description
001	Small block of pebble rich concrete
002	Rubble filled strip
003	Large slab of red sandstone

LIST OF DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHS

No.	Description	From	Date
1	Partially excavated porch	W	15/01/2014
2	Partially excavated porch, detail of concrete to be removed	W	15/01/2014
3	General view of church	SW	15/01/2014
4	General view of church	SW	15/01/2014
5	General view of church	SW	15/01/2014
6	General view of church and porch	W	15/01/2014
7	Excavation as finished	W	15/01/2014
8	Detail of the base of the excavation	W	15/01/2014
9	Detail of the base of the excavation	W	15/01/2014
10	Detail of the base of the S wall of the porch	N	15/01/2014
11	Detail of the base of the N wall of the porch	S	15/01/2014
12	Excavation as finished	W	15/01/2014