

Bothwell Parish Church, Bothwell, South Lanarkshire

Interim Archaeological Watching Brief Report

AOC 22563

28th February 2014



Bothwell Parish Church, Bothwell, South Lanarkshire

Interim Archaeological Watching Brief Report

On Behalf of:	Tod & Taylor Architects 43 Manor Place Edinburgh EH3 7EB on behalf of their client: Bothwell Parish Church
National Grid Reference (NGR):	NS 70490 58604
AOC Project No:	22563
OASIS ID	169336
Prepared by:	Diana Sproat
Illustration	Diana Sproat
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This document has been prepared in accordance with AOC standard operating procedures.

Author: Diana Sproat

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Approved by: Martin Cook

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SUMMARY

AOC Archaeology Group was commissioned by Tod & Taylor Architects, on behalf of their client, to undertake an archaeological watching brief at Bothwell Parish Church, Bothwell, South Lanarkshire, during development works associated with the fitting of new services to the church.

A large number of exploratory excavations were undertaken around the church and within the confines of the churchyard, to identify existing drainage, some of which dates back to the 19th century, possibly earlier. As well as a number of overburden deposits related to the latest renovations of the Church, there was a large highly compacted yellow clay layer of re-deposited natural within which were a number of disarticulated bones. At least one possible coffined burial was also identified, although only a very small area of this was exposed, and it was left in situ and covered over.

An old stone drain was found to the east side of the church which was largely exposed and comprised a stone-lined drain in part lined to the sides with stone slabs.

This report is an interim report which identifies the results of the preliminary exploration excavations. There will be an additional watching brief on the excavations to install the new drains.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project Background

- 1.1.1 AOC Archaeology Group was commissioned by Tod & Taylor Architects, on behalf of their client, Bothwell Parish Church, to undertake an archaeological watching brief at the church in Bothwell, South Lanarkshire, during development works associated with the fitting of new services to the outside of the church. The work was not required as part of a planning condition on the investigations, although Bothwell Parish Church commissioned the investigations due to the sensitive nature of the location of the work and the high likelihood of uncovering human remains within the ground of the church.
- 1.1.2 This report is an interim report and identifies the results of the initial exploratory phase of the development to identify the existing services. An additional watching brief and report will be required when the new services are installed.

1.2 Site Location

- 1.2.1 Bothwell Old Parish Church and churchyard is located on the east side of Bothwell Main Street at the junction with The Glebe at NGR: NS70490 58604 (Figure 1). It is bounded to the immediate west by Main Street, to the north by buildings fronting onto The Glebe and to the east by Fairyknowe Court.

1.3 Historical Background

- 1.3.1 Bothwell St Bride's Parish Church consists of a 14th century choir and a 19th century church, now integrated as one building and is an important landmark in Bothwell.
- 1.3.2 The old Collegiate Church situated to the east of the present church is the original church at Bothwell, founded in 1398 by Archibald the Grim, Earl of Douglas. The master mason was Thomas Tron, a fact preserved by an inscription to the rear of the building. It is an example of Second Pointed Gothic architecture and it retains its original roof, one of the few such examples in Scotland. Despite its early date, it seems to have had even earlier predecessors, as it is believed that there may have been a chapel on this site since the 6th century, and fragments unearthed during the reconstruction of the church in 1933 show evidence of a 12th century Norman building on the site.
- 1.3.3 The 19th century church is a completed in the 'Late Decorated Perpendicular Gothic' church and was erected by David Hamilton in 1833, and Sir Robert Anderson restored it in 1898. The First Edition Ordnance Survey map shows the two churches together, with the former Church Manse to the north-east (Figure 2). The later 1947 Ordnance Survey map shows the extent of development around the church in the following 80 years, including the railway line to the north and more buildings at Main Street and Green Street to the south-east (Figure 3). The Manse is still shown on this map, although it has now been demolished and a new apartment complex is located in this area, encroaching upon the open ground to the east of the churchyard. In 1933, the two churches were integrated involving the complete gutting of the interior of Hamilton's church, stripping the plastered walls, removal of the gallery and ceiling and lowering the floor level to that of the choir. A massive steel structure was introduced to support the tower, beneath which a central arch was constructed to lead into the crossing.

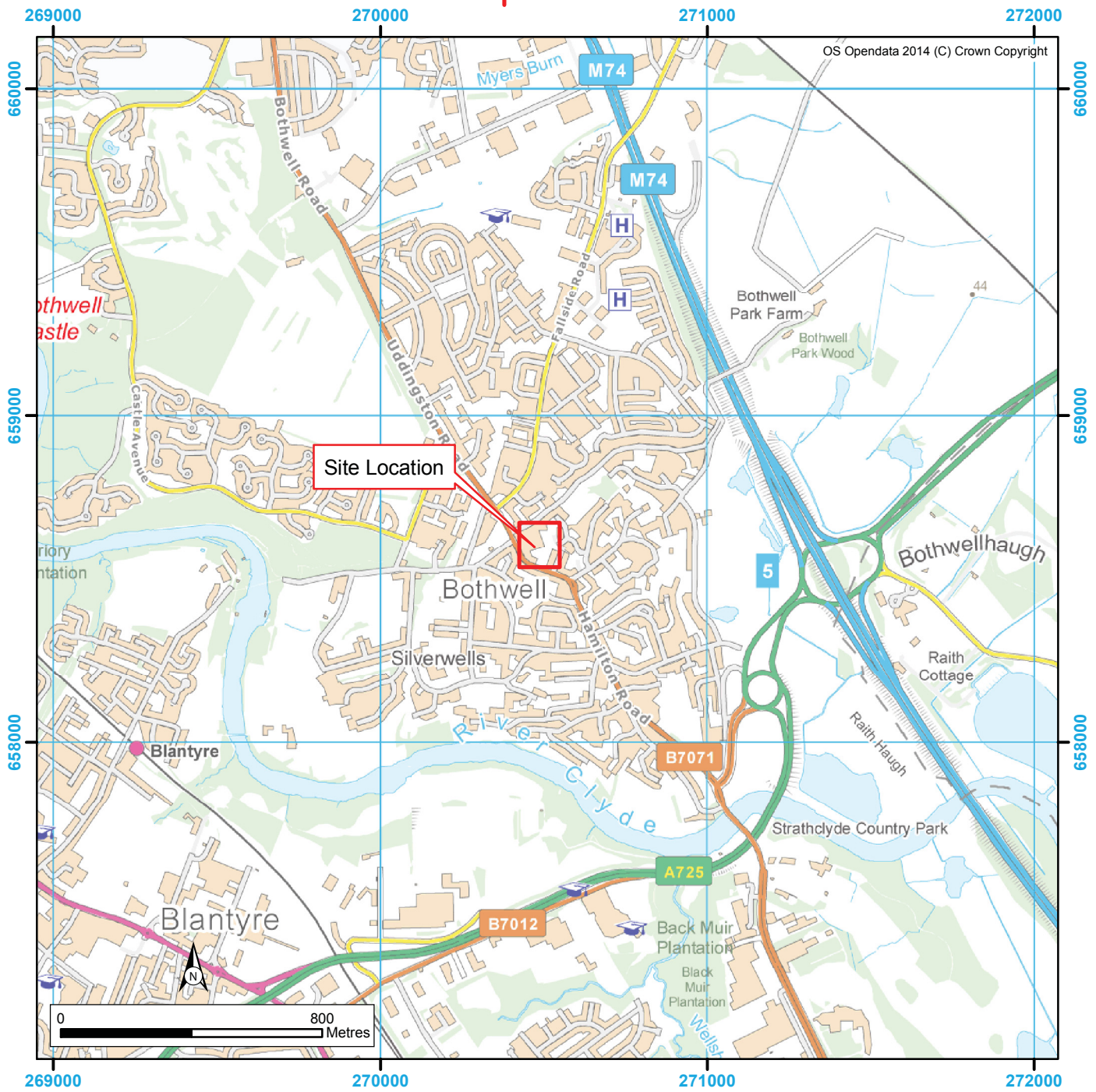
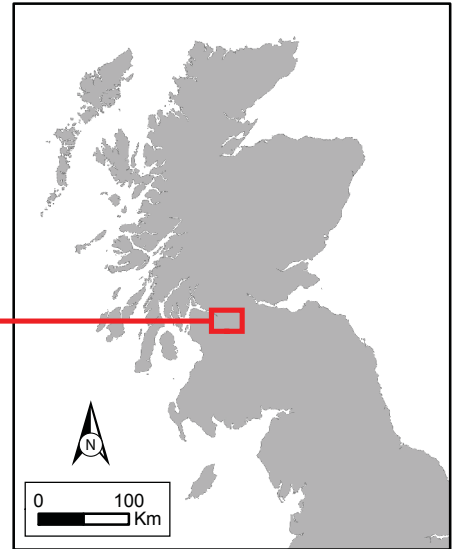
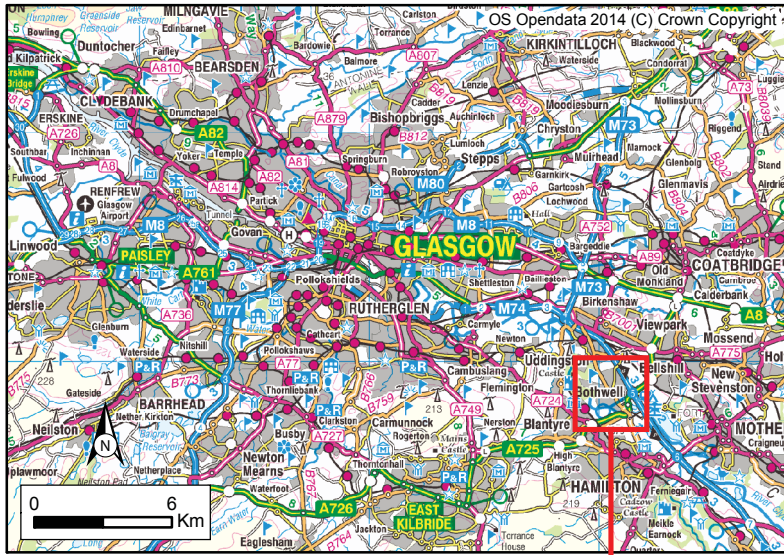


Figure 1: Site location plan



Figure 2: Extract from Ordnance Survey map, 1864



Figure 3: Extract from Ordnance Survey map, 1947

2 OBJECTIVES

- 2.1 The objectives of the watching brief was to safeguard the archaeological resource that was to be disturbed by the proposed works, and to comply with the statutory requirements as defined by the Historic Scotland guidelines on the treatment of human remains in archaeology (HS 2006).

3 METHODOLOGY

3.1 Archaeological watching Brief

- 3.1.1 All ground-breaking works were mostly conducted by hand, although a small mini-digger was occasionally used. All excavation was monitored by an experienced field archaeologist and all recording was carried out according to AOC Archaeology Group's standard practices.

3.2 Archiving

- 3.2.1 The project has been recorded in the Online AccesS to the Index of Archaeological Investigations (OASIS) site (Ref: 169336). An entry will also be submitted to Discovery and Excavation in Scotland (DES) publication for inclusion in the forthcoming 2014 volume (see Appendix 3). A CD of the original photographs, together with a hard copy and a pdf digital version on CD of the report and jpgs has also been submitted to the National Archives of Scotland held at the RCAHMS building at Salisbury Place, Edinburgh.

4 RESULTS

- 4.1 The following results should be seen in conjunction with context register (Appendix 2), find register (Appendix 3) and Figure 4, which outlines the areas that were subject to the watching brief, and findspots of human remains.
- 4.2 The initial excavations were undertaken to the south side of the church, which exposed two large (ca. 19th century) drainage pipes set within a compacted yellow clay layer (004). This lay beneath a dark brown subsoil (003) and over which was set the main concrete drain [002] which lay to the exterior wall of the church (Figure 4; Plates 1 - 3). Two urns were removed from these areas prior to excavation, which have been retained by Borthwick Parish Church for safekeeping. Within clay layer (004), there were also two discrete areas containing disarticulated human bone (Finds #1 & #2), which was likely disturbed at the time of the insertion of the drainage pipes there (Plate 4). An iron nail was also found in the assemblage (Find #3).
- 4.3 The next phase of investigations took place to the main pathway to the north of the church (Figure 4). Several small investigation holes were part machine and part hand-dug to identify where the main existing service lay. In both test pits (and indeed, in this area of the church pathway) there was a general sequence of stratification which included a small gravel path (009) set on levelling layers of made ground (010), (011) & (012). This overlay the characteristic compacted yellow re-deposited clay layer (013) within which were found disarticulated human remains (Plate 5). Test Pit #1 identified a small dump of bones (Find #4) together with a small shard of white glazed pottery (Find #5). In Test Pit #2, more disarticulated bone was found in deposit (013) including a skull and neck bones (Find #6) (Plates 6 & 7). To the east side of Test Pit #2 at a depth of 1.50m, a small area containing bone associated with degraded wood was located, within context (014). It was located within a very mixed dark fill beneath the compacted clay (013), so possible pre-dated this deposit. On closer inspection, this was highly likely to form part of a much larger confined burial (018) and the decision was swiftly made to leave the remains *in situ* and abandon the test pit (Plate 8). Test Pit #3 was located to the north-east end of the church, and contained similar stratigraphy, but no human remains were found. The existing service pipe was located to the north corner.

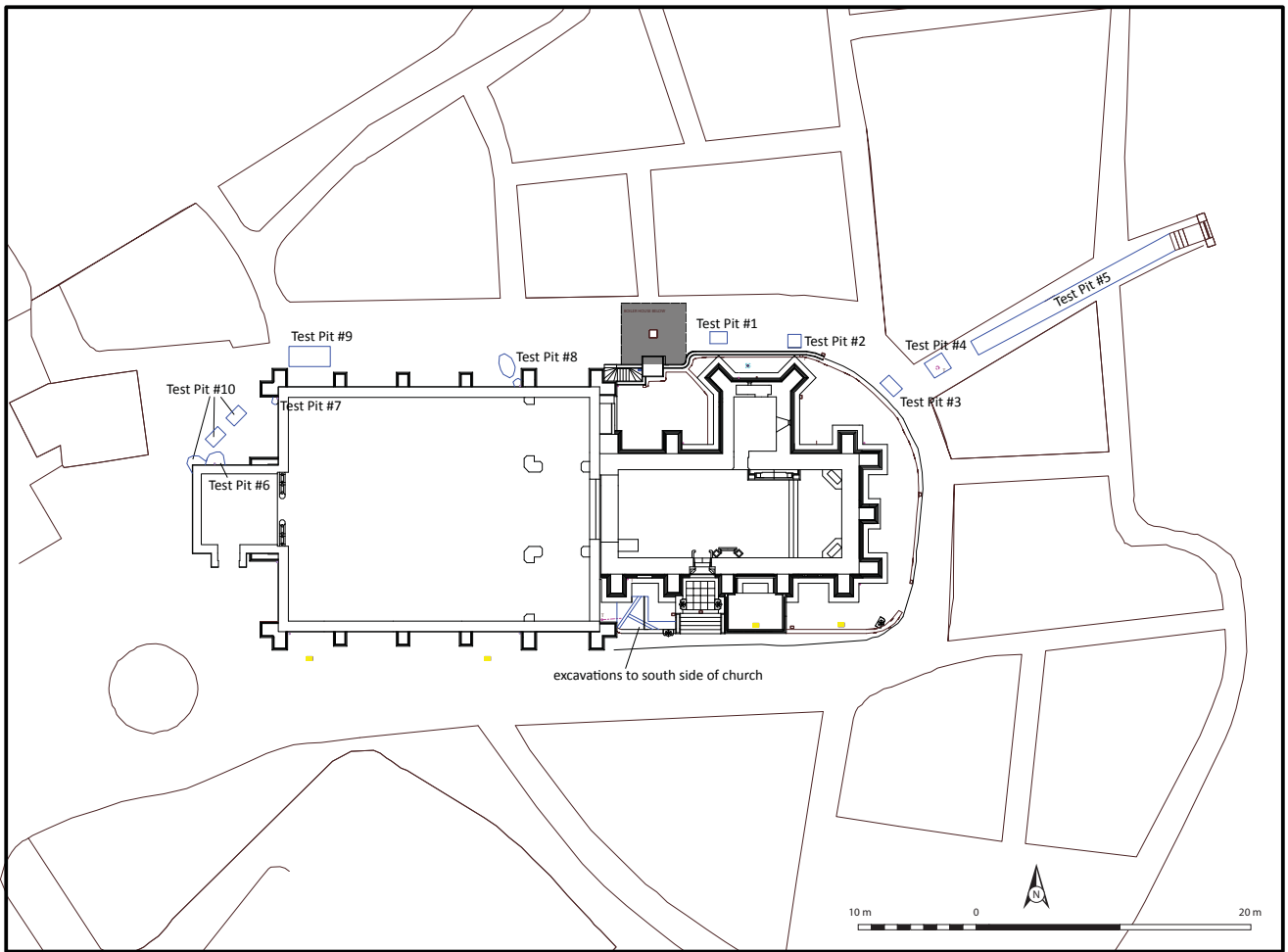


Figure 4: Site plan showing areas subject to watching brief

- 4.4 Test Pit #4 was excavated to the east side of the church at the beginning of the main path running eastwards to the outer boundary wall within the churchyard. This uncovered a series of ceramic pipes leader to the main sewer and went down approximately 2.10m. Test Pit #5 was then an extension in this area of the churchyard, which led from Test Pit #4 down to eastern side gate of the churchyard. A stone-lined drain was located here, which is possibly quite an early feature (Plates 9 & 10). The drain [026] was formed of large red sandstone blocks running roughly parallel and to the north of the main pathway. No human remains were found in the Test Pits #4 or 5. Test Pit #9 was excavated further to the west side of this to expose the culvert again (Plate 11).
- 4.5 Some smaller exploratory holes were excavated by hand to the west side of the church – Test Pit #6 & Test Pit #7 – which were excavated to a depth of 0.20m - 0.30m to identify the alignment of the pipes coming away from the drains at the corners of the church. The deposits here were very mixed and no archaeological finds, features or human remains were found. Another small trench – Test Pit #8 – was excavated by hand to identify the presence and direction of the existing drainage pipe. The stratigraphy was identical to that found in Test Pits #1 & #2 and no human remains were found. The pipe had already been investigated and cut to the top by a modern power tool, so this had already been investigated prior to this phase of works.
- 4.6 Test Pit #9 was located to the north-west side of the church to the west side of the northern pathway. It revealed a drystone culvert [028] running east/west beneath the made ground levels (010) – (012) to the modern path (009). Four stone slabs were revealed in the test pit, with side stones and at least one capstone surviving, 1.2m in depth, forming a former culvert.
- 4.7 Test Pit #10 was located 2.5m to the south-west of Test Pit #7 to locate the rest of the 19th century drainage system, which was not found, although the stratigraphy remained the same for these test pits as in others in this area: a sequence of deposits related to the made ground and surface for the gravel path over a re-deposited clay layer.
- 4.8 Together with the test pits mentioned above, there was a series of boreholes investigated around the perimeter of the church (for position, see Figure 4). Only Borehole #3 brought up some disarticulated human remains (Find #7) and, again, these looked to have been re-deposited with the natural compacted clay layer (013) and found at a depth of approximately 2m. In Borehole #4, approximately 0.40m in depth, the machinery hit a deep layer of large mixed red and whitish brick layer which rested over the natural clay.

5 DISCUSSION & CONCLUSIONS

- 5.1 There were numerous small test pits excavated as part of this phase of works. This test pits and boreholes located around the church had a sequence of made ground acting as levelling layers for the main gravel pathway. These overlay a re-deposited highly compacted clay layer, in which all the human remains located were found (with the exception of possible burial [014] which was not excavated). This meant that it was highly likely that these consisted of human remains that were disturbed when the foundations and drainage for the 19th century church was excavated.
- 5.2 The stone culvert [026] at the east side of the churchyard is interesting and possibly identifies a very early drainage system for the church, possibly pre-dating the 19th century, although an exact date for this feature is uncertain. Drainage of some kind would have always been needed in this area of the church and, as such, could date from the earlier 14th century church, although, of course, drainage systems were always being updated over the centuries.

- 5.3 It is understood that more ground-breaking works are to be undertaken to install new drainage services to the church, and the results of the watching brief on these areas will be incorporated into this report to create a final report on the site.

6 REFERENCES

6.1 Bibliography and bibliographical references

Ordnance Survey 1864 *Lanarkshire Sheet 6*.

Ordnance Survey 1947 *Lanarkshire Sheet 6.SE*.

Scottish Planning Policy SPP23. *Archaeology and Planning*. Scottish Government Nov 2008.

Scottish Government 2011 *Planning and Archaeology 2/2011*.



Plate 1: General view of excavations to the south side of the church from the south-west



Plate 2: Detail of the east-facing section to excavations to the south side of the church, from the east



Plate 3: Detail of the south-facing section to excavations to the south side of the church, from the south



Plate 4: Detail of disarticulated human remains (Find #1) set into re-deposited clay layer (004) over ceramic pipe [007]



Plate 5: Detail of east-facing section of Test Pit #1, showing levelling deposits (010) - (012) to path (009) and re-deposited clay layer (013) beneath, from the east



Plate 6: Detail of skull fragments located within compact re-deposited natural clay layer (013) from the east



Plate 7: Detail of skull fragments removed from Test Pit #2, within compact re-deposited natural clay layer (013)



Plate 8: Detail of coffined burial (018) set within (014) within Test Pit #2



Plate 9: Detail of exposed stone culvert [026] from the west



Plate 10: Detail of exposed stone culvert [026] adjacent to the east gate from the west



Plate 11: Detail of exposed stone culvert [026] from the west

Appendix 1: Photographic Register

Colour Digital: 13/11/2013

Ref:	Context No/Area	Description	Taken From
1	-	Registration	-
2 – 3	Urn 1	Detail <i>in situ</i>	E
4 – 5	Urn 2	Detail <i>in situ</i>	S

Colour Digital: 14/11/2013

Ref:	Context No/Area	Description	Taken From
1	-	Registration	-
2 – 3	(004)	Detail of bone (Find #1) <i>in situ</i> within layer (004) over ceramic pipe [007]	SW
4 – 5	(004)	As shots 2 – 3, wider shot	SW
6	-	General view of excavations to S side of church	SSW
7 – 8		Detail of E-facing section showing contexts in excavations to S side of church	E
9 – 10		Detail of S-facing section showing contexts in excavations to S side of church	S
11 – 12		General view of excavations to S side of church	SE

Colour Digital: 15/11/2013

Ref:	Context No/Area	Description	Taken From
1 – 2	Test Pit #1	Detail of E-facing section	E
3 – 4	Test Pit #1	Detail of W-facing section	W
5	-	Registration	-
6 – 7	Test Pit #1	Detail of skull (Find #6) <i>in situ</i> in W side within clay (013)	E
8 – 9	Test Pit #1	Detail of small skull fragments belonging to Find #6 human remains as it was taken out	N

Colour Digital: 18/11/2013

Ref:	Context No/Area	Description	Taken From
1 – 5	Test Pit #2	Detail of coffined burial remains to E side (Find #7)	W
6 – 8	Test Pit #2	General views of back-filling	-

Colour Digital: 19/11/2013 – 28/11/2013

Ref:	Context No/Area	Description	Taken From	Date
1 – 4	Test Pit #3	General post-excavation views, including pipes	-	19/11/2013
5 – 9	Test Pit #4	General post-excavation views	-	19/11/2013
10 – 13	Test Pit #5	Working shots of excavations	-	19/11/2013
14 – 15	Test Pit #4	Looking up at test pit	E	19/11/2013
16 – 22	Test Pit #5	General shots of excavation of test pit	-	19/11/2013
23 – 30	Test Pit #5	General views of post-excavation to N side showing stone drain [026] including exposed small culvert to E side	-	19/11/2013
31 – 33	Test Pit #5	Detail of small culvert	E	19/11/2013
34	Borehole #1	General view at 1.2m	S	20/11/2013
35	Test Pit #5	Detail of S-facing section to top of culvert [026]	S	20/11/2013
36	Test Pit #5	General view of excavations showing exposure of culvert [026]	SW	20/11/2013

Ref:	Context No/Area	Description	Taken From	Date
37	Test Pit #5	Detail of culvert [026]	W	20/11/2013
38 – 40	Test Pit #5	Detail showing exposed culvert [026]	SW	21/11/2013
41 – 42	-	Root cutting to E wall	W	21/11/2013
43 – 44	-	Detail of steps to E wall	N	21/11/2013
45 -46		Detail of steps to E wall	W	21/11/2013
47 – 48	Test Pit #5	Detail of culvert [026]	W	21/11/2013
49 – 50	Borehole #2	General views of excavation and post-excavation	N & W	21/11/2013
51 – 52	Test Pit #5	Detail of culvert [026]	W	21/11/2013
53 – 54	Test Pit #6	General view	NW	26/11/2013
55 – 56	Test Pit #7	General view	SW	26/11/2013
57 – 58	Test Pit #8	General view	W	27/11/2013
59 – 60	Test Pit #8	General view with scale	NE	27/11/2013
61	Test Pit #8	General view showing position	NW	27/11/2013
62	-	General view of remains of sandstone path	N	28/11/2013
63 – 64	Test Pit #5	Detail of culvert [026]	N	28/11/2013
65	Test Pit #5	Detail of culvert [026]	W	28/11/2013

Colour Digital: 29/11/2013

Ref:	Context No/Area	Description	Taken From
1	Borehole #4	General view of excavation	-
2	Borehole #4	Post-excavation view	S

Colour Digital: 02/12/2013 – 04/12/2013

Ref:	Context No/Area	Description	Taken From	Date
1	Test Pit #2	Extension to test pit	S	02/12/2013
2	Test Pit #3	General view, pre-excavation	E	02/12/2013
3	Test Pit #3	General view of extension	E	02/12/2013
4	Test Pit #10	General view	SW	03/12/2013
5	Test Pit #10 (b & c)	General view	SW	03/12/2013
6	Test Pit #8	General view	S	04/12/2013

Appendix 2: Context Register

Context No.	Type	Description and Interpretation
(001)	Deposit	Topsoil located in excavations to S side of church covering most deposits. Runs up to and abuts concrete drain [002]. Friable dark brown silty clay with occasional – small rounded pebble inclusions. Depth average 0.08m.
[002]	Drain	Wide concrete drain found running against and around the exterior walls of the church 0.11m in depth and between 0.30 – 0.45m in width depending on where around the church it runs.
(003)	Subsoil	Subsoil beneath topsoil (001) in excavations to S side of church between 0.04m – 0.07m in depth. Gritty dark brown silty clay with occasional – moderate inclusions of small stone fragments (average size 1 – 5mm).
(004)	Deposit	Deposit of compact yellow clay in excavations to S side of church below (003) subsoil. Not fully excavated (to date) but at least 0.24m in depth here. Contains occasional inclusions of stone (red sandstone) fragments, slightly larger inclusions than seen above in (003), up to 50 – 100mm in size, with some larger sub-angular fragments of stone around and to the top of exposed ceramic pipes. Bone fragments and an iron nail (Finds #1 & 2) found in this deposit. A re-deposited clay natural.
(005)	Natural	Natural compact yellow clay to excavations to S side of church, partially excavated here, below (004).
[006]	Pipe	ca. 19 th century metal pipe (possibly a redundant gas pipe) running N/S to the S die of the church and (probably, although this area was not excavated) running into the church. Possibly related to when there was gas lighting in the church. 0.05m in diameter.
[007]	Pipe	ca. 19 th century ceramic drainage pipe with knuckle running NW/SE to excavations to S side of church. Possibly cut into Pipe [008].
[008]	Pipe	ca. 19 th century ceramic drainage pipe running NNE/SSW to W side of the excavations to S side of church.
(009)	Deposit	Thin layer of red gravel (modern) forming main surface of path around the church. 0.04m in depth.
(010)	Deposit	Thin shaley reddish brown made-ground deposit to take gravel (009) 0.10m in depth. Exposed to areas to N & E side of church in pathway area.
(011)	Deposit	Dark grey shaley made-ground deposit to take gravelly layers) (009) & (010), 0.09m in depth. Exposed to areas to N & E side of church in pathway area.
(012)	Deposit	Dark pinkish compacted soil, again, another made-ground levelling layer for path (009) 0.11m in depth. Exposed to areas to N & E side of church in pathway area.
(013)	Deposit	Almost identical context to (004), but exposed to areas to N & E side of church in pathway area. Highly compacted yellow clay layer with lenses of light grey clay and occasional inclusions of red sandstone fragments. Approximately 0.30m in depth (as seen in Test Pits #1 & #2). All bone fragments & pottery fragment found in this layer (Finds #4 – 6).
(014)	Deposit	Heavily mixed compacted clay and dark brown silty clay seen in Test Pit #1 0.30m in depth below (013) with occasional – moderate inclusions of red sandstone fragments. Originally thought to indicate where there might be a ceramic pipe associated with the existing drainage system, but none was found. Exposed to areas to N & E side of church in pathway area.
(015)	Deposit	Thin deposit, 0.10m in depth, a very dark gritty lens below (014). Exposed to areas to N & E side of church in pathway area.
(016)	Deposit	Highly compacted yellow clay with moderate inclusions of red sandstone fragments (larger inclusions than, say, (013) and (004) which are similar deposits), with some very large pieces of stonework, probably off-cuts from the construction of the 19 th century phase of the church or later restorations. 0.35m in depth, although this was not fully excavated in Test Pit #1, so probably goes down much further.
[017]	Pipe	Thin metal water pipe seen in NE corner of Test Pit #2, not too far from the top of the pit , probably modern insertion.
(018)	Coffined Burial	Coffined burial (only a very small part of which was exposed) to the base of Test Pit #2 about 1.50m below top of the pathway and beneath deposit (014), which became much more disturbed above the burial, which was left <i>in situ</i> .

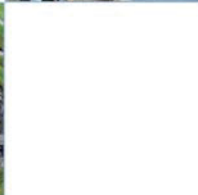
(019)	Deposit	Stony and gravelly reddish gravel, forming the highly overgrown eastern path to the E side of the church leading downwards to the E gate.
(020)	Deposit	Highly compacted re-deposited natural yellow clay layer (=003), (014)). Located beneath (019) in Test Pits #4 & #5.
(021)	Natural	(= (005), highly compacted and smooth yellow clay layer with light grey lenses located below (020) in Test Pit #4.
[022]	Pipes	Array of ca. 19 th century ceramic pipes in Test Pit #4 consisting of a large upright pipe to N side with knuckles, and an E/W ceramic pipe coming away from it to the E at a depth of about 2.10m below the present ground level of the churchyard.
[023]	Drain	Drain set in a stone surround to NE side of Test Pit #5, ca. 19 th century and set within (019).
[024]	Pipe	ca. 19 th century ceramic pipe running NE/SW into drain [023]. Located within layer (020) in Test Pit #5 0.45m below present ground level of churchyard to the E side of the church.
(025)	Deposit	Fill of soakaway/stone-lined culvert [026], a very mixed dark brown silty clay fill with generous inclusions of stone and stone fragments, sloppy to base.
[026]	Culvert	Stone-lined culvert forming main outlet drain to E side of church, running roughly parallel with the E pathway to the E gate on the N side. Comprises large red sandstone blocks, some dressed, running to the N side. It is mostly an open culvert, although does become enclosed with capstones further to the W.
(027)	Deposit	Made ground deposit consisting of a red stoney friable reddish-pink deposit over ceramic pipes to the W end of the 19 th century church. Not fully excavated and probably a modern made ground deposit.

Appendix 3: Finds Register

Find No:	Context No/Area	Description
1	(004)	Fragments of disarticulated human bone located in re-deposited natural clay layer (004)
2	(004)	Fragments of disarticulated human bone located in re-deposited natural clay layer (004)
3	(004)	Small iron nail
4	(013)	Fragments of disarticulated human bone located in re-deposited natural clay layer (013) in Test Pit #1
5	(013)	Small sherd of pottery, white and blue ceramic glazed, possibly a hand-painted pattern in Test Pit #1
6	(013)	Fragments of disarticulated human bone located in re-deposited natural clay layer (013) in Test Pit #2, including skull and neck fragments
7	(013)	Human bone fragment (?leg) found in Borehole #4.
8	(004)	Animal bone (antler) located in area to S side of the church
9	(004)	Disarticulated human bone found in (004) in extension to Test Pit #3

Appendix 3: Discovery & Excavation in Scotland (DES) Entry

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	South Lanarkshire Council
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME	Bothwell Parish Church, Bothwell
PROJECT CODE:	AOC 22563
PARISH:	Bothwell (Hamilton)
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	Jamie Humble
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	AOC Archaeology Group
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Archaeological Watching Brief
NMRS NO(S):	NS75NW 6
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	Church and Churchyard
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	None
NGR	NS 70490 58604
START DATE	13/11/2013
END DATE	04/12/2013
PREVIOUS WORK	None
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION:	AOC Archaeology Group was commissioned by Tod & Taylor Architects, on behalf of their client, to undertake an archaeological watching brief at Bothwell Parish Church, Bothwell, South Lanarkshire, during development works associated with the fitting of new services to the church. A large number of exploratory excavations were undertaken around the church and within the confined of the churchyard, to identify existing drainage, some of which dates back to the 19 th century, possibly earlier. As well as a number of overburden deposits related to the latest renovations of the Church, there was a large highly compacted yellow clay layer of re-deposited natural within which were a number of disarticulated bones. At least one possible coffined burial was also identified, although only a very small area of this was exposed, and it was left <i>in situ</i> and covered over. An old stone culvert was found to the east side of the church which was largely exposed and comprised a stone-lined drain in part lined to the sides with stone slabs.
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	Additional watching brief related to installation of new services to the church.
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	None.
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	Bothwell Parish Church
ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:	AOC Archaeology Group, Edgefield Road Industrial Estate, Edgefield Road, Loanhead, Midlothian, EH20 9SY
EMAIL ADDRESS:	edinburgh@aocarchaeology.com
ARCHIVE LOCATION:	Archive to be deposited in NMRS



AOC Archaeology Group, Edgefield Industrial Estate, Edgefield Road, Loanhead EH20 9SY
tel: 0131 440 3593 | fax: 0131 440 3422 | e-mail: admin@aocarchaeology.com

www.aocarchaeology.com