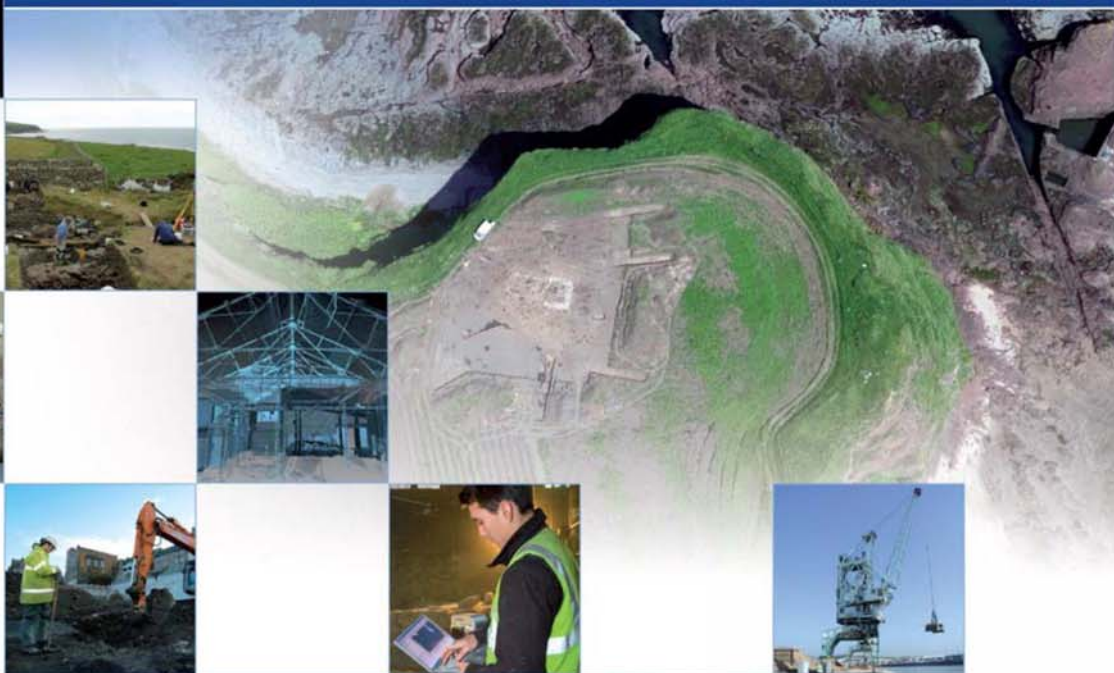


# Historic Environment Scotland Human Remains Call Off Contract , Tillicoultry Old Parish Church, Stirling: Non-intrusive Archaeological Works Data Structure Report

AOC 22470-15  
22<sup>nd</sup> June 2016



**AOC**  
Archaeology  
Group

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# Tillicoultry Old Parish Church, Stirling: Non-intrusive Archaeological Works Data Structure Report

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|                                 |                                      |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| <b>On Behalf of:</b>            | <b>Historic Environment Scotland</b> |
| <b>AOC Project No:</b>          | <b>AOC22470-15</b>                   |
| <b>OASIS Entry No:</b>          | <b>255260</b>                        |
| <b>National Grid Reference:</b> | <b>NS 92390 97579</b>                |
| <b>Prepared by:</b>             | <b>Kevin Paton</b>                   |
| <b>Date:</b>                    | <b>22<sup>nd</sup> June 2016</b>     |

This document has been prepared in accordance with AOC standard operating procedures.

**Author:** Kevin Paton **Date:** 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2016

**Approved by:** L. Dunbar **Date:** 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2016

**Draft/Final Report Stage:** Draft **Date:** 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2016

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## Non-technical Summary

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This report presents the results of non-intrusive archaeological works conducted within Tillicoultry Old Parish Church, Stirling, under the terms of the Historic Scotland Human Remains Call-off Contract.

A number of disarticulated bone fragments were identified within molehills by a student conducting a study of the site. The bone was reported to Susan Mills (Clackmannanshire Museums and Heritage Officer) who then informed Dr. Murray Cook, the Archaeologist for Stirling Council, who in turn reported it to Historic Environment Scotland requesting that the find be dealt with under the terms of the Human Remains Call-off Contract.

Upon arrival at the site, it was evident that the maintenance of the graveyard has subsequently flattened the majority of the molehills within the site. However, loose areas of spoil and some molehills were visible next to a number of the grave markers. All loose soil was sieved for human bone and artefacts. Eight of the molehills contained probable human bone, and an area of looser soil under a raised tombstone also contained a few fragments of human bone.

In the north-west corner of the site, a number of fragments of probable animal bone were also retrieved from the surface.

## 1 INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Background

1.1.1 AOC Archaeology Group were commissioned to undertake a programme of non-intrusive archaeological works at Tillicoultry Old Parish Church under the terms of the Historic Scotland Human Remains Call-off Contract. The work was undertaken on the 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2016. The work was commissioned following the discovery of human bone within molehills at the site. The discovery was reported to Susan Mills (Clackmannanshire Museum and Heritage Officer), who reported it to Dr. Murray Cook (Archaeologist for Stirling Council), who in turn requested assistance from Historic Scotland under the terms of the Human Remains Call-Off Contract.

### 1.2 Site Location

1.2.1 The remains of the Tillicoultry Old Parish Church is situated to the north of Tillicoultry town centre within the former grounds of Tillicoultry House (centred on NGR: NS92390 97579; Figure 1). The site is bounded by houses on Fir Park to the west, Fir Park to the north, and the back of other properties to the south and east.

### 1.3 Archaeological Background

1.2.1 The human bone derives from burials lying within a small graveyard (Canmore ID 48298; SM2328) situated behind the former Tillicoultry House, Tillicoultry, Stirling, (Canmore ID 220124). There are several interesting tombstones within the graveyard including some of 16<sup>th</sup> century date and also a fine hog-backed monument, of probable 12<sup>th</sup> century date. All of the grave markers were fully cleaned, photographed and recorded in 2014 by the Clackmannanshire Council as part of repair works to the graveyard that had previously been left in disrepair.

1.2.2 The tombstones mentioned above form part of a Scheduled Monument (SAM No.2328) along with the burial ground.

## 2 OBJECTIVES

2.1 The on-site works were conducted according to AOC Archaeology Group's standard operating procedures but also specifically included the following;

1. Upon arrival pre-survey photography will be undertaken. This will include general views of the graveyard and molehills, as well as detailed views where appropriate of molehills/findspots (if possible) in order to establish both the condition of the site prior to AOC conducting any works and the parameters of the site.
2. The graveyard will be subject to a walkover survey in an attempt to locate surface finds or other molehills.
3. The molehills will be sieved individually to recover bone. Though the site is a Scheduled Monument AOC has been instructed that the on site works proposed below will not require Scheduled Monument Consent as no ground breaking and/or excavation will be undertaken. Primarily sieving of molehills does not constitute ground breaking.
4. All finds including bone will be lifted and bagged as appropriate.

5. The position of each molehill/findspot will be accurately located by Total Station survey and tied into the National Grid.
6. Key/Relevant gravestones will also be included within the site survey.
7. A series of photographs documenting the condition of the site after the intervention will be taken on arrival and departure.
8. The bone will be analysed by our Human Bone Specialist, and an assessment report prepared, to be included in the Data Structure Report this will include identification of the best bone samples for radiocarbon dating.

### 3 METHODOLOGY

- 3.1 All of the above objectives were conducted during the archaeological works. Only the loose spoil from the top of the mole hills was sieved, with the recovered soil placed around the edges of the graveyard once any bone or significant artefacts had been removed.
- 3.2 The graveyard was also photographed and fully surveyed, by an experienced field archaeologist and all recording was carried out according to AOC Archaeology Group's standard practices.

### 4 RESULTS

- 4.1 Upon arrival at the site, it was noticeable that the maintenance of the graveyard had flattened the majority of the molehills within the site (Plate 1). However, loose areas of spoil and some molehills were visible next to some of the grave markers, and also around the edges of the site (Figure 2).
- 4.2 Each molehill that contained human bone or other grave related artefacts ([001], [002], [003], [005], [006], [008], [009] and [010]) were surveyed and sieved, with each one recorded as a separate context. The bones recovered from molehills [001] to [003] do not relate to grave markers, being situated at the edge of the grave yard, indicating that the cemetery would have been larger in the past. Molehill [005] may relate to Grave 19 or 20, with molehill [006] relating to Grave 21. Molehills [008] and [009] both relate to Grave 14, the hogback stone (Plate 2). Finally, molehill [010] is related to Grave 30 and appears on the western side of the grave stone.
- 4.3 Two other areas of the graveyard contained bone lying on the surface. The area of mossy soil found around the walls was recorded as context [004]. This contained a number of bone fragments lying on the surface of the sites north-western corner. Most of these fragments could be readily identified as animal bone. The other area [007], was situated underneath a raised tombstone (Grave 19) and contained probable human remains but no evident molehill existed to explain their presence in this area. However, it did look as though the underside of the raised slab had been disturbed, possibly by gardening activity as a distinct cut line was visible directly underlying the plinth.
- 4.4 The human remains retrieved from site showed excessive signs of damage most likely due to animal activity and cemetery grounds maintenance. Only fragments of bone remained with overall individual bone completion being very poor. This made specific identification of individual bones difficult, however it was still possible to differentiate between animal and human remains. The limited number of remains recovered means that an MNI count is not possible due to the limited amount of bone

recovered. The remains themselves despite showing signs of damage were relatively well preserved and did not require especially delicate handling. The only notable observation is that the remains appeared to be bleached white most likely due to exposure to the elements in the recent months since being disturbed

## 5 CONCLUSIONS

- 5.1 All of the projects objectives were met with regards to the recording and retrieval of human bone from the site. Despite the graveyard having been disturbed by regular maintenance, the number of molehills still present may indicate that further disturbance will take place within the site over time.
- 5.2 It is recommended that the analysis of the recovered human remains is conducted in accordance with an agreed Post-Excavation Research Design.



**Plate 1 - General view of graveyard from NE corner**





**Plate 2 - General view of hogback stone with loose soil either side**

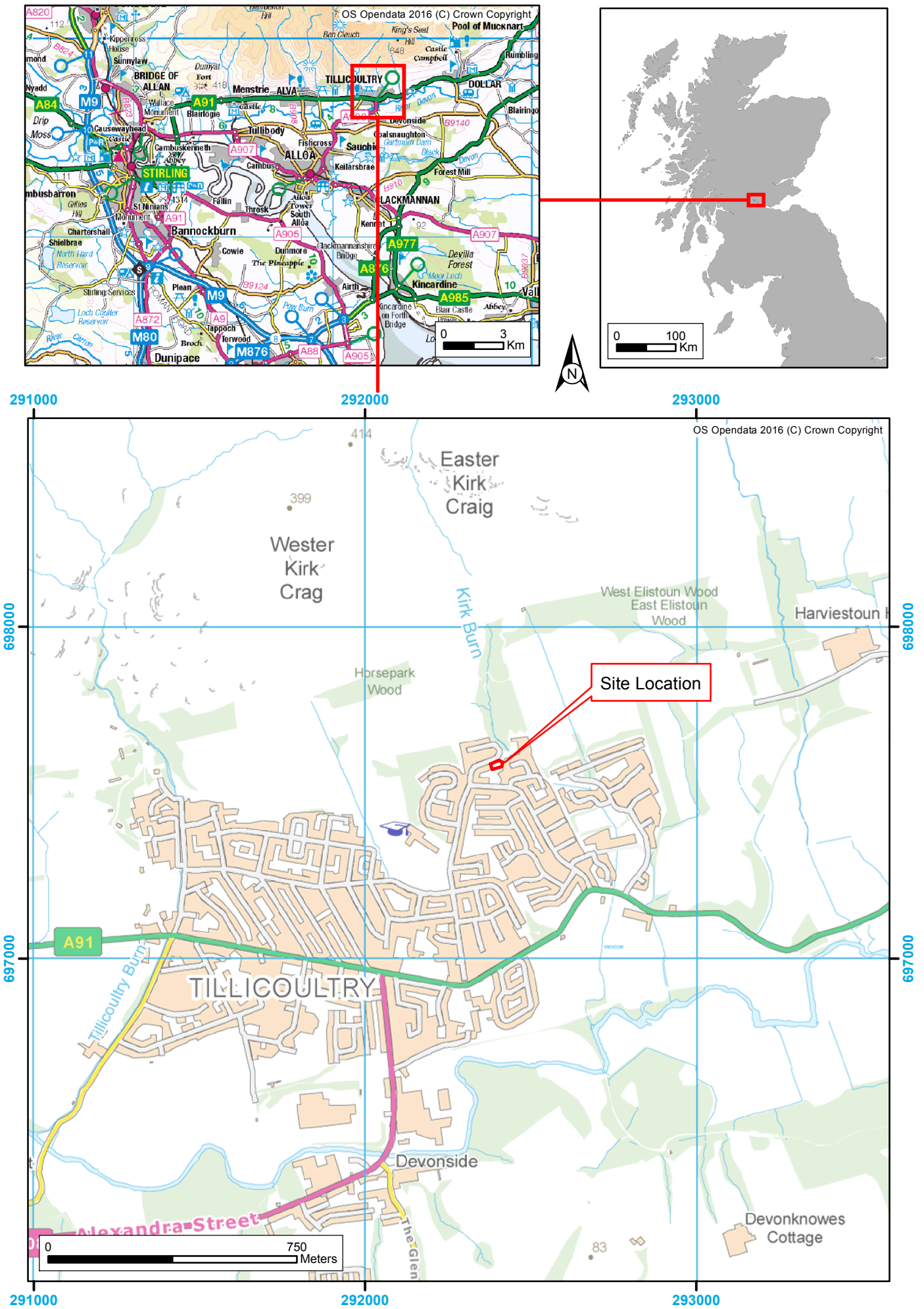


Figure 1: Site Location Plan

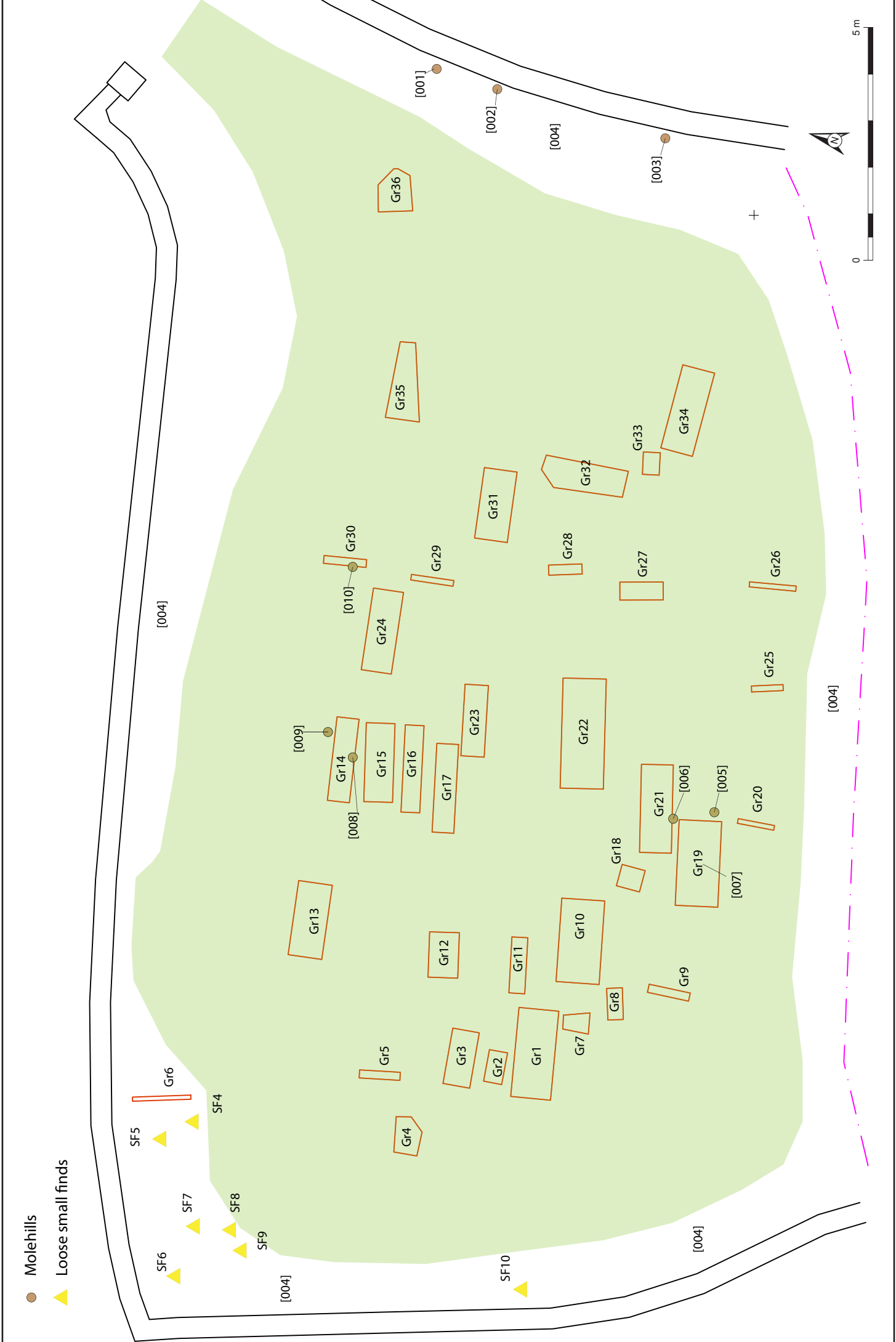


Figure 2: Plan of graveyard showing molehills and find spots

**Tillicoultry Old Parish Church, Stirling:  
Non-intrusive Archaeological Works  
Data Structure Report**

**Section 2: Appendices**

## APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT REGISTER

| Context No. | Description and Interpretation   |
|-------------|--|
| 001         | Deposit of loose, mid greyish brown sandy loam emanating from mole activity. Located next to the eastern boundary wall.<br><b>Molehill 1</b>   |
| 002         | Deposit of loose, mid greyish brown sandy loam emanating from mole activity. Located next to the eastern boundary wall.<br><b>Molehill 2</b>   |
| 003         | Deposit of loose, mid greyish brown sandy loam emanating from mole activity. Located next to the eastern boundary wall.<br><b>Molehill 3</b>   |
| 004         | Area of moss covered stone encircling the graveyard inside the boundary walls, approximately 1 m wide in places. Contains three mole hills along the eastern boundary wall and also contains animal bone fragments in the NW corner.<br><b>Edge of graveyard disturbance</b> |
| 005         | Deposit of loose, mid greyish brown sandy loam emanating from mole activity. Situated approximately 1 m S of Grave 21.<br><b>Molehill 4</b>  |
| 006         | Deposit of loose, mid greyish brown sandy loam emanating from mole activity. Situated against the S edge of Grave 21.<br><b>Molehill 5</b>   |
| 007         | Deposit of loose dark greyish brown sandy loam that has been turned over or disturbed underneath Grave 19.<br><b>Area under Grave 19</b>   |
| 008         | Deposit of loose, mid greyish brown sandy loam emanating from mole activity. Situated against S edge of hog back stone (Grave 14).<br><b>Molehill 6</b>  |
| 009         | Deposit of loose, mid greyish brown sandy loam emanating from mole activity. Situated against N edge of hog back stone (Grave 14).<br><b>Molehill 7</b>  |
| 010         | Deposit of loose, mid greyish brown sandy loam emanating from mole activity. Situated against W edge of Grave 30<br><b>Molehill 8</b>  |

## APPENDIX 2: PHOTOGRAPHIC REGISTER

| Frame | Description                   | From | Date   |
|-------|-------------------------------|------|--------|
| 1     | Road leading to site          | Var  | 3/6/16 |
| 2-8   | Lead up to site               | Var  | 3/6/16 |
| 9-10  | View of grave yard looking NW | SE   | 3/6/16 |
| 11-12 | View of grave yard looking SE | NW   | 3/6/16 |
| 13    | View of grave yard looking E  | W    | 3/6/16 |
| 14-15 | View of grave yard looking N  | S    | 3/6/16 |
| 16    | Shot of Grave 36              | E    | 3/6/16 |
| 17    | Location of Grave 36          | E    | 3/6/16 |
| 18    | Shot of Grave 35              | E    | 3/6/16 |
| 19    | Location shot 35              | E    | 3/6/16 |
| 20    | Shot of Grave 34              | E    | 3/6/16 |
| 21    | Shot of Grave 34              | S    | 3/6/16 |
| 22    | Location shot 34              | SE   | 3/6/16 |
| 23    | Shot of Grave 33              | E    | 3/6/16 |
| 24    | Location shot 33              | E    | 3/6/16 |
| 25    | Shot of Grave 32              | E    | 3/6/16 |
| 26    | Shot of Grave 32              | NW   | 3/6/16 |

TILlicOUNTRY OLD PARISH CHURCH, STIRLING

|       |   |       |        |
|-------|---|-------|--------|
| 27    | Location shot 32                        | E     | 3/6/16 |
| 28    | Shot of Grave 31                        | E     | 3/6/16 |
| 29    | Location shot 31                        | E     | 3/6/16 |
| 30    | Shot of Grave X – possibly just a stone | E     | 3/6/16 |
| 31    | Shot of Grave 31 & X                    | N     | 3/6/16 |
| 32    | Location shot X                         | E     | 3/6/16 |
| 33    | Molehill                                | E     | 3/6/16 |
| 34    | Location shot                           | E     | 3/6/16 |
| 35    | Molehill                                | E     | 3/6/16 |
| 36    | Location shot                           | E     | 3/6/16 |
| 37    | Molehill                                | E     | 3/6/16 |
| 38    | Location shot                           | E     | 3/6/16 |
| 39    | Shot of Grave 30                        | E     | 3/6/16 |
| 40    | Location shot 30                        | E     | 3/6/16 |
| 41    | Shot of Grave 29                        | E     | 3/6/16 |
| 42    | Location shot 29                        | E     | 3/6/16 |
| 43    | Back of grave 30                        | W     | 3/6/16 |
| 44    | General shot of grave 30                | W     | 3/6/16 |
| 45    | Shot of Grave 28                        | E     | 3/6/16 |
| 46    | Detail of Grave 28                      | E     | 3/6/16 |
| 47    | Location shot 28                        | E     | 3/6/16 |
| 48    | Shot of Grave 27                        | E     | 3/6/16 |
| 49-50 | Detail of Grave 27                      | E     | 3/6/16 |
| 51    | Shot of Grave 26                        | E     | 3/6/16 |
| 52    | Location shot 26                        | E     | 3/6/16 |
| 53    | Shot of Grave 25                        | E     | 3/6/16 |
| 54    | Detail of Grave 25                      | E     | 3/6/16 |
| 55    | Location shot 25                        | E     | 3/6/16 |
| 56-58 | Shot of Grave 22                        | E,N,S | 3/6/16 |
| 59    | Location shot 22                        | SE    | 3/6/16 |
| 60    | Shot of Grave 23                        | E     | 3/6/16 |
| 61    | Location shot                           | SE    | 3/6/16 |
| 62    | Shot of Grave 17                        | E     | 3/6/16 |
| 63    | Location shot                           | SE    | 3/6/16 |
| 64    | Shot of Grave 16                        | E     | 3/6/16 |
| 65    | Location shot                           | SE    | 3/6/16 |
| 66    | Shot of Grave 15                        | E     | 3/6/16 |
| 67    | Location shot                           | SE    | 3/6/16 |
| 68    | Shot of Grave 14 – hogback              | E     | 3/6/16 |
| 69    | Location shot                           | NE    | 3/6/16 |
| 70    | Shot of Grave 24                        | E     | 3/6/16 |
| 71    | Detail of E facing slab of Grave 24     | E     | 3/6/16 |
| 72    | Shot of Grave 24                        | N     | 3/6/16 |
| 73-75 | Detail of top slab of Grave 24          | N     | 3/6/16 |
| 76    | Location shot                           | -     | 3/6/16 |
| 77    | Shot of Grave 13                        | E     | 3/6/16 |
| 78-79 | Location shot                           | NE,NW | 3/6/16 |
| 80    | Shot of Grave 6                         | E     | 3/6/16 |
| 81    | Detail of E-facing side of Grave 6      | E     | 3/6/16 |
| 82    | Shot of Grave 6                         | W     | 3/6/16 |
| 83    | Detail of W of Grave 6                  | W     | 3/6/16 |
| 84    | Location shot                           | NW    | 3/6/16 |
| 85    | Molehill                                | W     | 3/6/16 |
| 86    | Location shot                           | W     | 3/6/16 |
| 87    | Shot of Grave 12                        | E     | 3/6/16 |

|         |                              |     |        |
|---------|------------------------------|-----|--------|
| 88      | Location shot                | N   | 3/6/16 |
| 89      | Shot of Grave 11             | E   | 3/6/16 |
| 90      | Detail of Grave 11           | E   | 3/6/16 |
| 91      | Location shot                | E   | 3/6/16 |
| 92-93   | Shot of Grave 10             | E   | 3/6/16 |
| 94      | Detail of Grave 10           | S   | 3/6/16 |
| 95      | Location shot                | E   | 3/6/16 |
| 96      | Shot of Grave 1              | E   | 3/6/16 |
| 97      | Location shot                | SW  | 3/6/16 |
| 98      | Shot of Grave 2              | E   | 3/6/16 |
| 99      | Location shot                | E   | 3/6/16 |
| 100     | Shot of Grave 3              | E   | 3/6/16 |
| 101     | Location shot                | E   | 3/6/16 |
| 102     | Shot of Grave 5              | E   | 3/6/16 |
| 103     | Detail of Grave 5            | E   | 3/6/16 |
| 104     | Location shot                | NE  | 3/6/16 |
| 105     | Shot of Grave 4              | E   | 3/6/16 |
| 106     | Location shot                | NW  | 3/6/16 |
| 107-108 | Detail of Grave 5            | W   | 3/6/16 |
| 109     | Shot of Grave 8 + 7          | E   | 3/6/16 |
| 110     | Shot of Grave 7              | E   | 3/6/16 |
| 111     | Shot of Grave 11             | E   | 3/6/16 |
| 112     | Location shot                | E   | 3/6/16 |
| 113     | Shot of Grave 9              | E   | 3/6/16 |
| 114     | Location shot                | E   | 3/6/16 |
| 115     | Shot of Grave 18             | E   | 3/6/16 |
| 116     | Shot of Grave 21             | E   | 3/6/16 |
| 117     | Location shot                | E   | 3/6/16 |
| 118     | Molehill                     | E   | 3/6/16 |
| 119     | Location shot                | E   | 3/6/16 |
| 120     | Shot of Grave 20             | E   | 3/6/16 |
| 121     | Detail of Grave 20           | E   | 3/6/16 |
| 122-123 | Shot of Grave 19             | E   | 3/6/16 |
| 124     | Detail of Grave              | E   | 3/6/16 |
| 125     | Location shot                | E   | 3/6/16 |
| 126-127 | Molehill and location        | E   | 3/6/16 |
| 128-149 | Outer perimeter              | Var | 3/6/16 |
| 150     | Molehills along E wall       | S   | 3/6/16 |
| 151     | Molehills to S of Photo 150  | N   | 3/6/16 |
| 152     | Molehills along N wall       | E   | 3/6/16 |
| 153     | Molehill [001]               | W   | 3/6/16 |
| 154     | Molehill [002]               | W   | 3/6/16 |
| 155     | Molehill [003]               | W   | 3/6/16 |
| 156     | Possible midden in NW corner | W   | 3/6/16 |
| 157     | SF 4                         | E   | 3/6/16 |
| 158     | SF 5                         | E   | 3/6/16 |
| 159     | SF 6                         | E   | 3/6/16 |
| 160     | SF 7                         | E   | 3/6/16 |
| 161     | SF 8                         | E   | 3/6/16 |
| 162     | SF 9                         | E   | 3/6/16 |
| 163     | SF 10                        | E   | 3/6/16 |
| 164     | Molehill [005]               | SE  | 3/6/16 |
| 165     | Area under Grave 19 – [007]  | E   | 3/6/16 |
| 166     | Molehill [006]               | SE  | 3/6/16 |
| 167     | Molehill with no bone        | W   | 3/6/16 |

|         |                                       |     |        |
|---------|---------------------------------------|-----|--------|
| 168     | Bone on surface of [008]              | S   | 3/6/16 |
| 169     | Bone on surface of [009]              | N   | 3/6/16 |
| 170     | Bone on surface of [010]              | W   | 3/6/16 |
| 171     | [009] post-ex                         | N   | 3/6/16 |
| 172     | [008] post-ex                         | E   | 3/6/16 |
| 173     | [010] post-ex                         | W   | 3/6/16 |
| 174-177 | Views of other molehills to N of site | Var | 3/6/16 |
| 178-183 | Views of site after work completed    | Var | 3/6/16 |

### APPENDIX 3: FINDS REGISTER

| Finds No. | Context No. | Description              |
|-----------|-------------|--------------------------|
| 1         | 001         | 2 human bone fragments   |
| 2         | 002         | 1 human tooth            |
| 3         | 003         | Animal tooth             |
| 4         | 004         | Human bone fragment      |
| 5         | 004         | 3 bone fragments         |
| 6         | 004         | 1 bone fragment          |
| 7         | 004         | 3 bone fragments         |
| 8         | 004         | Bone fragment            |
| 9         | 004         | 2 bone fragments         |
| 10        | 004         | Bone fragment            |
| 11        | 005         | Iron nail                |
| 12        | 006         | 2 bone fragments         |
| 13        | 007         | Bone fragments           |
| 14        | 008         | Bone fragments           |
| 15        | 009         | Bone fragments           |
| 16        | 010         | Tooth and bone fragments |

### APPENDIX 4: HUMAN REMAINS IDENTIFICATION

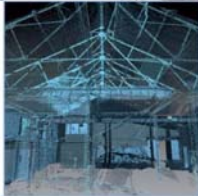
| Context No. | Find No. | Bone                        | Side       | Notes             |
|-------------|----------|-----------------------------|------------|-------------------|
| 1           | 1        | Long bone fragment          | Unknown    |                   |
| 1           | 1        | Molar                       | Unknown    | Adult             |
| 2           | 2        | Molar                       | Unknown    | Adult Molar       |
| 2           | 2        | Ulna fragment               | R          | Adult             |
| 4           | 5        | Radius                      | L (Radius) | Adult             |
| 4           | 5        | Long bone fragment          | Unknown    |                   |
| 4           | 7        | Long bone fragment          | Unknown    |                   |
| 4           | 8        | Femur fragment              | Unknown    | (Possible)        |
| 4           | 10       | Humerus fragment            | Unknown    | (Possible)        |
| 6           | 12       | 2 x Unidentifiable fragment | Unknown    | Most likely human |
| 8           | 14       | Temporal fragment           | Unknown    |                   |
| 8           | 14       | 2 x Metacarpals             | Unknown    |                   |
| 8           | 14       | 2 x Parietal Fragments      | Unknown    |                   |
| 8           | 14       | Ribs                        | Unknown    |                   |
| 9           | 15       | 3 x Cranial Fragments       | Unknown    |                   |
| 10          | 16       | Tooth Fragment              | Unknown    | Canine            |
| 10          | 16       | Cranial Fragment            | Unknown    |                   |



**APPENDIX 5: 'DISCOVERY AND EXCAVATION IN SCOTLAND' REPORT**

|   |   |
|---|---|
| <b>LOCAL AUTHORITY:</b>   | Clackmannanshire Council  |
| <b>PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:</b>   | Tillicoultry Old Parish Church  |
| <b>PROJECT CODE:</b>  | 22470-15  |
| <b>PARISH:</b>  | Tillicoultry  |
| <b>NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:</b>   | Kevin Paton   |
| <b>NAME OF ORGANISATION:</b>  | AOC Archaeology Group   |
| <b>TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:</b>  | Non-intrusive archaeological works  |
| <b>NMRS NO(S):</b>  | 48298   |
| <b>SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):</b>   | Graveyard   |
| <b>SIGNIFICANT FINDS:</b>   | Human bone  |
| <b>NGR (2 letters, 6 figures)</b>   | NS 92390 97579  |
| <b>START DATE (this season)</b>   | 3 <sup>rd</sup> June 2016   |
| <b>END DATE (this season)</b>   | 3 <sup>rd</sup> June 2016   |
| <b>PREVIOUS WORK (inc DES)</b>  | N/A   |
| <b>MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION:</b><br>(May include information from other fields) | <p>This report presents the results of non-intrusive archaeological works conducted within Tillicoultry Old Parish Church, Stirling under the terms of the Historic Scotland Human Remains Call-off Contract.</p> <p>A number of disarticulated bone fragments were identified within molehills by a student conducting a study of the site. The bone was reported to Susan Mills (Clackmannanshire Museums and Heritage Officer) who then informed Dr. Murray Cook, the Archaeologist for Stirling Council, who in turn reported it to Historic Environment Scotland requesting that the find be dealt with under the terms of the Human Remains Call-off Contract.</p> <p>Upon arrival at the site, it was evident that maintenance of the graveyard had flattened the majority of the molehills within the site. However, loose areas of spoil and some molehills were visible next to a number of the grave markers. All loose soil was sieved for human bone and artefacts. Eight of the molehills contained probable human bone, and an area of looser soil under a raised tombstone also contained a few fragments of human bone.</p> <p>In the north-west corner of the site, a number of fragments of probable animal bone were also retrieved from the surface.</p> |
| <b>PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:</b>  | None  |
| <b>CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRATIONS:</b>  | N/A   |
| <b>SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:</b>   | Historic Environment Scotland   |

|                                     |   |
|-------------------------------------|---|
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