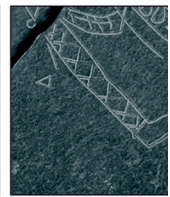
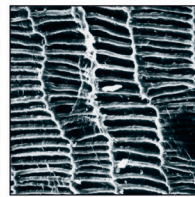
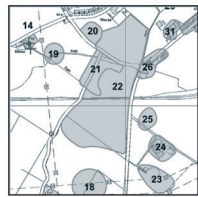


BCWK10/003



BARONY CENTRE, WEST KILBRIDE

Trial Trenching

for West Kilbride Community Initiative

July 2011



HEADLAND
ARCHAEOLOGY (UK) Ltd



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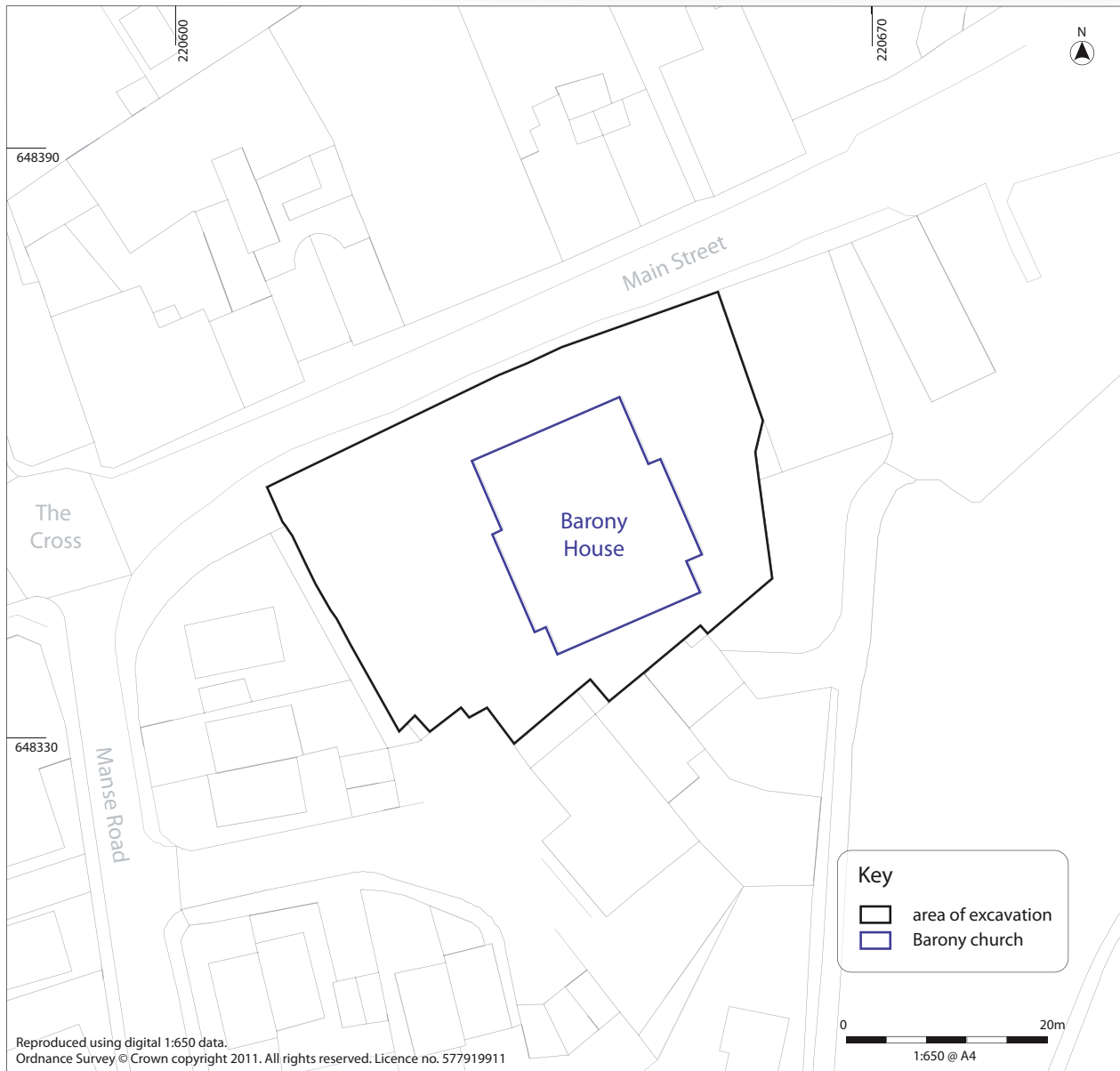
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Illus 1
Site location

BARONY CENTRE, WEST KILBRIDE

Trial Trenching

Headland Archaeology Ltd undertook an evaluation at the Barony Centre, West Kilbride in response to the discovery of human remains on the site. The work was commissioned by the West Kilbride Community Initiative and a specification for the work was agreed with West of Scotland Archaeology Service (WoSAS).

Five *in situ* inhumations were uncovered within the standing church and a further two were uncovered within test pits excavated outside. The inhumations uncovered within were fully recorded and removed, along with a large amount of charnel which accounted for a minimum of 24 individuals. The two inhumations uncovered outwith the church were recorded and covered up. This large number of individuals accounted for from the charnel and *in situ* burials suggests that they are from an original graveyard, and that the earlier church was set further back than the current church.

1

1. INTRODUCTION

This report presents the results of a programme of archaeological evaluation, by trial pitting, carried out in response to the discovery of human remains inside the Barony Centre, West Kilbride. The evaluation sought to identify and recover all human remains disturbed by the development and to identify any further remains on the site. This was carried out in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation prepared by Headland Archaeology (UK) Ltd based on a brief by West of Scotland Archaeology Service (WoSAS).

2. BACKGROUND

The existing Barony Church building dates from 1873, and was formerly known as the Parish Church. According to the First Edition Ordnance Survey Map (1858) an earlier church was located on this plot. The date of the previous building is unknown but it appears to be considerably smaller in size, and orientated on a more E-W alignment than the modern structure. On investigating the interior of the church two date stones were discovered. One of which appeared to be contemporary with the current building – 1872. The other dated from 1732 and may be the date stone of the church seen in the 1st Edition OS. This latter can only be speculated.

The graveyard was closed in the 1860s (Ayrshire Roots 2010), and a new public cemetery plot was opened at the northeast of the village in 1858. No further interment was allowed within the old plot, but it is possible that some later burial of special families' members may have been allowed.

3. METHOD

3.1 Objectives

The objectives of the evaluation were:

- to recover and record any human remains disturbed by the development
- to evaluate the potential of further human remains being disturbed by future groundworks
- to meet the needs for archaeological conservation and recording without unnecessary delay or disturbance to the development project.



Illus 2
Trench and test pit locations

3.2 Methodology

Pile caps

Three pile caps (Illus 2) had been machine excavated by the developers within the Barony Centre. Excavation was stopped when human remains were encountered near the base of Trenches 1 and 3. All further excavation was undertaken by hand. All human remains were removed from these trenches and all articulated human remains which had been disturbed were recorded and removed.

Test Pits

Three test pits (Illus 2) were excavated by hand over the proposed line of a drainage channel, in order to confirm the depth/ existence of any human remains. These were excavated to a maximum depth of 0.9m or until human remains were encountered. No articulated human remains were removed from the test pits.

3.3 Recording

All recording followed Headland Archaeology (UK) Ltd standard procedures and was in accordance with the codes of practice of the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA). All trenches and contexts were given unique numbers and all recording was undertaken on pro forma record cards that conform to accepted archaeological norms. All stratigraphic relationships were recorded.

A full photographic record using colour slide and colour print film, supplemented by digital photographs was taken to record archaeological contexts and to illustrate the progress of the trial trenching. A graduated metric scale was clearly visible in record photographs of contexts. All photographs were recorded by individual print number and included information on the context and direction taken.

4. RESULTS

4.1 Pile caps (Illus 2)

Three pile caps were excavated within the northeast corner of the Barony Centre. Trenches 1 and 3 both came down onto a reddish brown graveyard soil, [002] and [006] respectively, with a rubble layer [001] and [004], a maximum of 0.45m thick sealing this layer. However, Trench 2 had already been backfilled with concrete and only a 0.37m thick rubble layer [003] was visible.

No inhumations were uncovered within Trench 1, although charnel was collected from the graveyard soil

[002] and was also visible in section. A rough stone wall [008], aligned E-W was visible located between Trenches 1 and 3. The upper half of the wall was constructed from small to medium stone cobbles with a mortar bonding. This sat on top of foundations constructed from large, sub-rounded stones, with no apparent bonding [007]. No visible cut was seen for this structure, however it lies on the alignment of a partition which had previously been demolished, and is likely to relate to this.

Within the northeast corner of Trench 3, an inhumation [020] was partially visible, truncated by wall [007], and continuing into the section to the east at the base of the trench. This was left *in situ* as it had already been disturbed and was not going to be further disturbed by the development works.

A child inhumation [010] was located, aligned east-west, at approximately 0.5m below ground level on the western side of Trench 3. The skeleton was in a supine position, with their hands on their lap and their head facing north. No grave cut or coffin was visible.

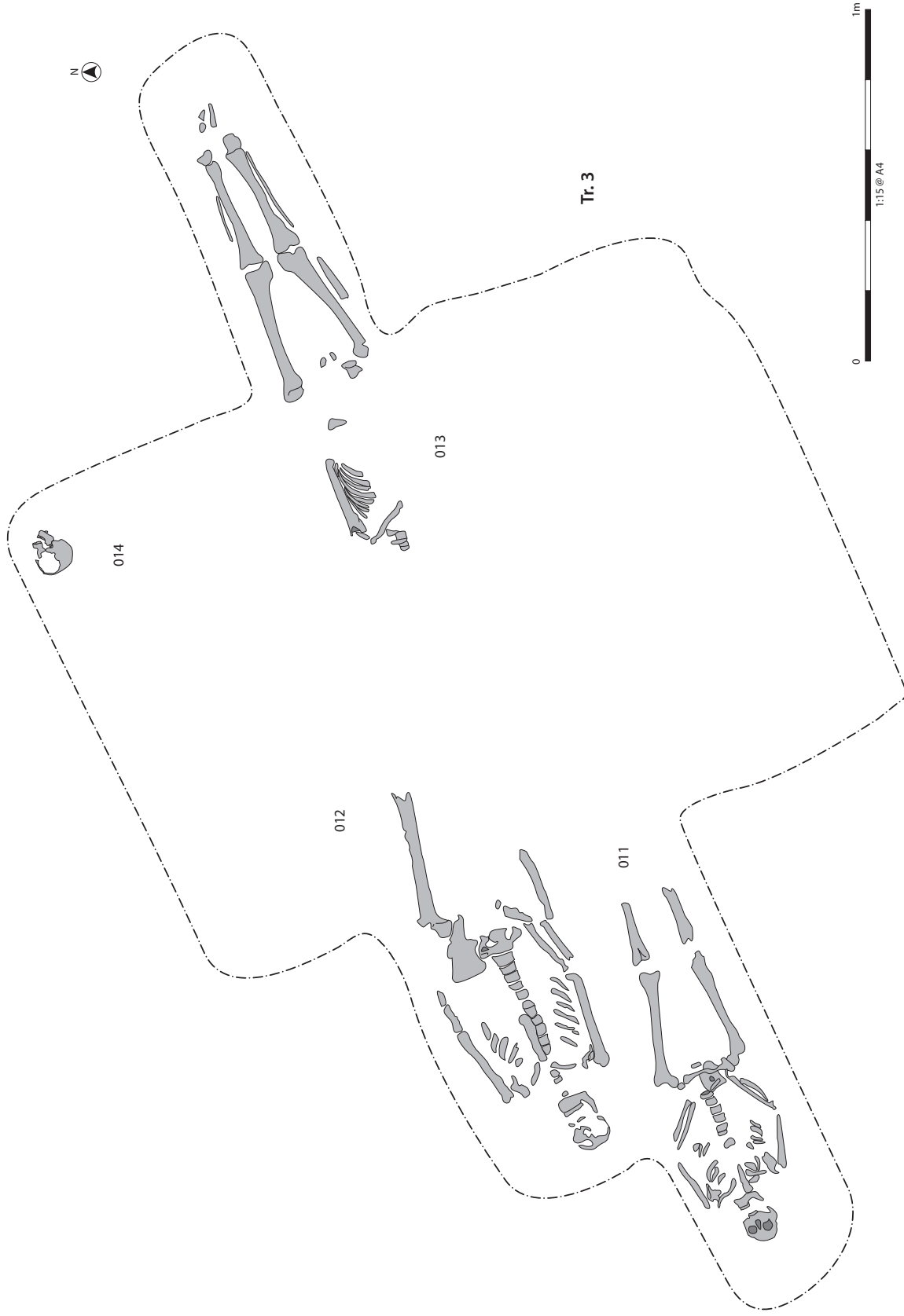
The skeleton of another child [009] (Illus 4) was located adjacent to skeleton [010] to the north, at approximately 0.55m below ground level. This skeleton was also aligned east-west and lay in a supine position with their head facing north and their hands on their lap. No grave cut or coffin was visible for this inhumation.

Directly below skeletons [010] and [009], two adult skeletons [011] and [012] (Illus 5) were located at a depth of 0.8m and 0.9m below ground level respectively. Both skeletons were in a supine position with their hands on their laps. The lower part of both tibia and fibulas of inhumation [011], as well as both feet had been truncated by the machine excavation of Trench 3.

Inhumation [012] had also been partly truncated from the lower femurs down. However it is unclear whether this truncation was due to the machine excavation of Trench 3 or the burial of skeleton [013] (Illus 5) located immediately to the east, although it is likely to be a mixture of both. Skeleton [013] was also in a supine position, aligned east-west, and with their hands on their lap. The skull and top right half of skeleton [013] was missing, most likely machined out during the excavation of Trench 3. No grave cut or coffin was visible for any of these inhumations, however two shroud pins were recovered from inhumation [013].

4.2 Trial Pits (Illus 2)

Three trial pits were excavated outside of the Barony Centre. Trial Pit 4 was located to the northeast of the building and measured 2.0 by 1.3m. It was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.4m, at which an inhumation was partially visible within the fill [019] of a grave cut [018].



Illus 3
Trench 3 showing location of skeletons [011], [012], [013], and [014]

The grave was cut into a reddish brown graveyard soil [016] and was sealed by thin layer of rubble [015], 0.08m thick, which was in turn sealed by a 0.15m thick layer of dark grey silt and gravel [014] which comprised the current pathway. No further work was undertaken in this trial pit and the inhumation was covered up.

Trial Pit 5 was located to the northwest of the building and measured 2.0 by 1.3m. It was excavated to a depth of approximately 0.7m, at which point a grave cut [023] was uncovered with part of an inhumation visible within its fill [024]. The grave was cut into a reddish brown graveyard soil [22] and was sealed by a 0.65m thick layer of greyish brown stony silt [021]. No further work was undertaken in this trial pit and the inhumation was covered up.

Trial Pit 6 was located immediately adjacent to the building to the east. It measured 1.2 by 0.6m and was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.9m. A reddish brown graveyard soil [034] was located at 0.48m below ground level. No inhumations were visible within this layer, however a possible linear feature [031] aligned roughly east-west was. This feature had gradually sloping sides and was filled with a brown sand and gravel deposit [032], and had a visible depth of 0.15m. It was only partially visible within the northern end of the trial pit. The graveyard soil [034] and linear feature [031] were sealed by a layer of redeposited graveyard soil [029], 0.35m thick, which was in turn overlain by modern makeup layers [027] and [028]. A service pipe was also visible within Trial Pit 6, running north-south, along the eastern edge of the pit and cutting through the redeposited graveyard soil [029].

5. HUMAN REMAINS

David Henderson

5.1 Introduction

The human bone assemblage from the Barony Centre, West Kilbride, derives from two sources; these were a series of three trenches, initially excavated without archaeological supervision, within the standing building, and three test pits excavated archaeologically outside the building to the north.

The test pits established the presence of in situ inhumations in the area covered, but the articulated in situ remains were not lifted. A small amount of non-articulated, charnel material was recovered from these pits.

Archaeological investigation was carried out in two of the three trenches within the building, and both charnel material and partially intact burials were recovered. This material has been quickly assessed to determine the potential for further study and to establish the size



Illus 4
Skeleton [009]

and basic character of the assemblage. The bones were not cleaned prior to the assessment, so only very basic information was recorded for the purposes of this preliminary report.

5.2 Preservation

Much of the bone was in good or excellent condition, with hard, well preserved cortex and little surface damage. A few items were degraded, possibly (judging by the adhering mortar dust) having been disturbed by the construction of wall [008]. While most of the in situ skeletons comprised intact bones, around 70–80% of the bones in the non-articulated charnel were incomplete or fragmentary, suggesting that the graveyard soil ([002], [005], [016] *etc.*) had been extensively re-worked during the period of use of the burial ground, with bones from disturbed inhumations becoming generally distributed through these deposits. The sandy, free-draining nature of the graveyard deposit (and potentially the protection



Illus 5

Skeletons [011], [012], and [013]

from rainwater provided for burials within the footprint of the previous kirk building) will have contributed to the generally good preservation of the assemblage.

5.3 Demography

The following conclusions, based on a quick examination of the assemblage, must be considered tentative at best, and subject to correction following more exhaustive study.

The assemblage derives from an absolute minimum of 24 individuals (based on the number of right humeri recovered. Bones identifiable to both sexes were recovered, and all ages from new-born to over 50 years of age. It is likely, therefore, that the cemetery was used to inter the general population of the parish, as would be expected from the nature of the kirk (not a monastic foundation). Sex distribution was roughly equal in the whole assemblage: 5 male and 4 female pelvises, 6 male and 9 female skulls and 8 male and 10 female mandibles were identified. The in situ inhumations, excavated archaeologically, were:

SK009 A child of 4 to 6 years old, largely completely recovered.

SK010 An older juvenile (11 or 12 years old), complete to hip-level.

SK011 A young adult (25 - 35 years) female, possible fracture of a left rib, complete to mid-shin.

SK012 A middle adult (35 - 45 years) male, complete to mid-thigh.

SK013 A large adult male, comprising legs and feet, left arm and torso only.

In the charnel fraction of the assemblage, there was a preponderance of the larger limb bones and of skulls, probably as a result of the non-archaeological recovery of much of this material. In some of the bags of charnel, it was evident that matching bones from the left and right sides of the body, and occasionally articulating bones, were present (including a substantial portion of a new-born baby skeleton). It seems likely that in situ graves were disturbed during the initial ground-works on site.

5.4 Recommendations

A full examination and recording of the material, along with samples taken for radiocarbon dating is suggested.

Initially, the assemblage should be cleaned. This can almost certainly be accomplished by simply dry-brushing the bone, given the structural integrity of the material and the very sandy nature of the adhering matrix, obviating the need for the use of drying facilities.

The recording of the material would be undertaken using standard proforma sheets to record the age- and

sex-indicators and measurements, with notes of any pathology. A digital photographic record of each skeleton would be made, with detail shots of pathology and other points of interest. The charnel material would be recorded at a lesser level of detail. It would probably be of use to attempt to establish if *in situ* skeletons have been disturbed during initial groundworks at the site.

Analysis of this record would give indications of the age-profile and health- and nutrition-status of the population represented in the assemblage, and comparisons may (depending on the amount of data it is possible to gather) be made with contemporary populations in Scotland. A report suitable for publication would be produced, and the full record archived.

6. DISCUSSION

The inhumations uncovered within the Trenches 1 to 3 are all located within the existing 1873 church. Since burial within a church building of this date is highly unusual it is likely that these inhumations relate to the earlier church seen on the first edition OS map (1858). The truncation of one of the inhumations by the presumed foundation of the 1873 church would support this. The extent of the earlier graveyard or the location of the earlier church cannot be defined by these test pits.

The large number of individuals accounted for from the charnel and *in situ* burials within Trenches 1 to 3 would suggest that they are from an original graveyard, and that

therefore the earlier church was set further back from the modern road than what had been previously assumed. The construction of the 1873 church and its basement located within the southern half, is likely to have destroyed more *in situ* burials, as well as the original location of the earlier church. Evidence for the location of the earlier church may survive within the graveyard of the existing church.

The inhumations uncovered within Trial Pits 4 and 5 are located within the graveyard of the earlier church before the graveyard was disused. However, without further excavation it is impossible to be sure. Although no inhumations were located within Trial Pit 6, it is likely that inhumations exist nearby and may be effected by any proposed works in this area. The linear feature uncovered within this trial pit is likely to relate to the earlier church, however its extent and function are unknown.

It is likely that any further ground development work, deeper than 0.4m, to the north and east of the Barony Centre will uncover inhumations, and may also uncover evidence of the earlier church.

7. REFERENCES

- Ayrshire Roots, 2010, (Internet Source) <http://www.ayrshireroots.com/Genealogy/Records/Burial/Burial%20Grounds%20in%20Ayrshire%201.htm>
- Headland Archaeology, 2010, *Barony Centre, West Kilbride: Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological Evaluation.*



8. APPENDICES

8.1 Appendix 1 – Site registers

Context register

Context no.	Area	Description
001	Tr1	Upper rubble layer
002	Tr1	Lower charnel layer
003	Tr2	Rubble layer
004	Tr3	Rubble layer
005	Tr3	Lower layer
006	Tr3	Graveyard soil
007	Tr1 & Tr3	Wall foundation
008	Tr1 & Tr3	Wall foundation
009	Tr3	Child skeleton
010	Tr3	Youth Skeleton
011	Tr3	Adult Skeleton
012	Tr3	Adult Skeleton
013	Tr3	Adult Skeleton
014	TP4	Gravel layer
015	TP4	Rubble layer
016	TP4	Redeposited natural
017	TP4	Graveyard soil
018	TP4	Grave cut
019	TP4	Grave fill
020	Tr3	Adult Skeleton
021	TP5	Layer
022	TP5	Graveyard soil
023	TP5	Grave cut
024	TP5	Grave fill
025	TP4	Grave fill
026	TP4	Grave cut
027	TP6	Layer
028	TP6	Rubble layer
029	TP6	Mixed layer
030	TP6	Graveyard soil
031	TP6	Possible linear feature
032	TP6	Fill of [031]
033	TP6	Rubble layer
034	TP6	Graveyard soil

Photographic register

Photo no.	Direction facing	Description
001	–	ID Shot
002	–	Trench 1
003	SE	Trench 2
004	–	Working Shot
005	E	Pre-ex Trench 3
006	E	Pre-ex Trench 3
007	N	Skeleton [020] Trench 3
008	N	Skeleton [020] Trench 3
009	NW	Charnel against Wall [007] Trench 3
010	NW	Wall [007]
011	W	Skeleton [009] Trench 3
012	–	Skeleton [009] Trench 3
013	NW	Charnel within Trench 3
014	E	Legs of Skeleton [013] Trench 3
015	W	Skeleton [010] Trench 3
016	–	Skeleton [010] Trench 3
017	W	Skeleton [011] Trench 3
018	–	Skeleton [011] Trench 3
019	W	Skeleton [012] Trench 3
020	–	Skeleton [012] Trench 3
021	W	Skeleton [011] and [012] Trench 3
022	–	Working Shot
023	N	Skeleton [013] Trench 3
024	N	Skeleton [013] Trench 3
025	N	Skeleton [012] and [013] Trench 3
026	N	Skeleton [012] and [013] Trench 3
027	W	Skeletons [011], [012] and [013] Trench 3
028	W	Skeletons [011], [012] and [013] Trench 3
029	W	Grave [018] TP4
030	W	Grave [023] TP5
031	E	Possible linear feature [031] TP6 Pre-ex
032	W	Possible linear feature [031] TP6 Post-ex
033	W	Section of TP6

Drawing register

Drawing no.	Plan	Section	Description
001	-	Y	Foundation Wall [007]
002	-	Y	Test Pit 6 with Linear [031]

8.2 Appendix 2 – Discovery and Excavation Scotland

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	North Ayrshire Council
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	Barony Centre, West Kilbride
PROJECT CODE:	BCWK10
PARISH:	West Kilbride
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	Dave McNicol
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	Headland Archaeology Ltd
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Evaluation
NMRS NO(S):	-
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	Undated burials Undated linear feature
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	5 <i>in situ</i> skeletons (partial)
NGR (2 letters, 8 or 10 figures)	NS 220642 648351
START DATE (this season)	May 2011
END DATE (this season)	May 2011
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)	Headland Archaeology, 2010 The Barony Centre, West Kilbride, North Ayrshire: Archaeological Watching Brief and Test Pits, Headland Archaeology DSR
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	-
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	-
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	-
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	West Kilbride Community Initiative
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