

Souter Johnnie's, Kirkoswald: Archaeological Mitigation

Data Structure Report



by Claire Williamson

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on behalf of The National Trust for Scotland

RATHMELL 
ARCHAEOLOGY LTD

Quality Assurance

This report covers works which have been undertaken in keeping with the issued brief as modified by the agreed programme of works. The report has been prepared in keeping with the guidance of Rathmell Archaeology Limited on the preparation of reports. All works reported on within this document have been undertaken in keeping with the Institute for Archaeologists' Standards and Policy Statements and Code of Conduct.

Signed Claire Williamson

Date ..3rd December 2012..

In keeping with the procedure of Rathmell Archaeology Limited this document and its findings have been reviewed and agreed by an appropriate colleague:

Checked Thomas Rees

Date ..3rd December 2012..

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Introduction

1. This Data Structure Report has been prepared for the National Trust for Scotland for archaeological works required in support of the renewal of drainage at Souter Johnnie's, Kirkoswald. The archaeological works were designed to mitigate the impact on the archaeological remains within the development area.
2. The National Trust for Scotland provided guidance on the structure of archaeological works appropriate on this site. Rathmell Archaeology Limited has been appointed by the National Trust for Scotland to undertake the development and implementation of archaeological mitigation works for the renewal of drainage at Souter Johnnie's, Kirkoswald.
3. The Method Statement (Williamson 2012) provided the detail of the works (archaeological monitoring, exclusion, excavation, post-excavation analyses and publication) for the mitigation pertaining to ground breaking within the development area and hence the direct physical impact on buried sediments.

Historical and Archaeological Background

4. The town of Kirkoswald appears likely to have grown up as an informal settlement close to the medieval parish church located at the western end of the town which was dedicated to St Oswald (Oswald, king of Northumbria, slain in battle in 641). The church was recorded as being granted to Paisley Abbey by the Earl of Carrick; the grant was confirmed by Florence, Bishop-elect of Glasgow (1202-6). While the dedication to the Northumbrian saint may indicate an early medieval date for the first church on the site, no direct evidence has been found to support this and it is not known when secular settlement first began.
5. The settlement layout is of a single street, which forms part of the main north-south routeway through Ayrshire. This layout is clearly visible on Roy's Military Survey of Scotland in 1752-55 (Figure 1a) and the town can be seen to still be relatively small in size on the 1st Ordnance Survey of 1859 (Figure 1b) where the town appears to have grown more through signs of "ribbon development" rather than from a more formal settlement plan.
6. Souter Johnnie's house is located roughly at the centre of the village facing onto the main street. It currently stands as an A-listed single storey thatched cottage with a lime washed exterior, and is recorded as being constructed in 1785 by John Davidson, the village cobbler of Kirkoswald. The name given to the house comes from the character 'Souter Johnnie' from Robert Burns's poem 'Tam O'Shanter' which was based on John Davidson.
7. As well as Souter Johnnie's house, other Listed Buildings are present within the village of Kirkoswald which also date to the late eighteenth century including two cottages sitting adjacent to Souter Johnnie's, a small church and a manse on the southern side of the town and the church which now stands on the site of the original Kirk.
8. Archaeological works within the area of Kirkoswald include an evaluation to the rear of the Kirkton Jeans Hotel, another likely late eighteenth century build situated near to Souter Johnnie's at the centre of the village. The work here was carried out by GUARD in 2002 and uncovered the remains of an outside toilet/coal bunker and boiler house, presumed to post-date the construction of the original cottage.
9. The location of the development area at the centre of Kirkoswald itself suggests a high potential for medieval to nineteenth century remains to be present, and indeed, previous archaeological works within the surrounding area, supports the possibility that remains may lie sealed beneath the current ground surfaces surrounding the town's buildings.



Figure 1a: Roy's Military Survey of Scotland 1752-55

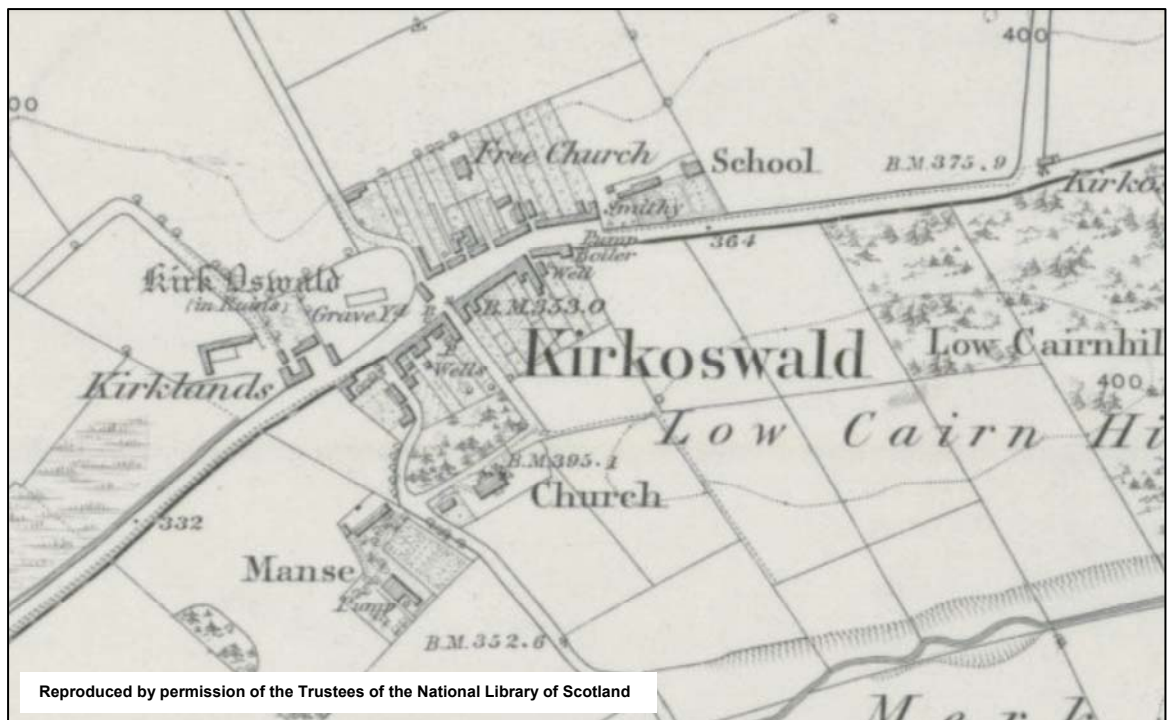


Figure 1b: First Edition Ordnance Survey 1859 (surveyed 1857)

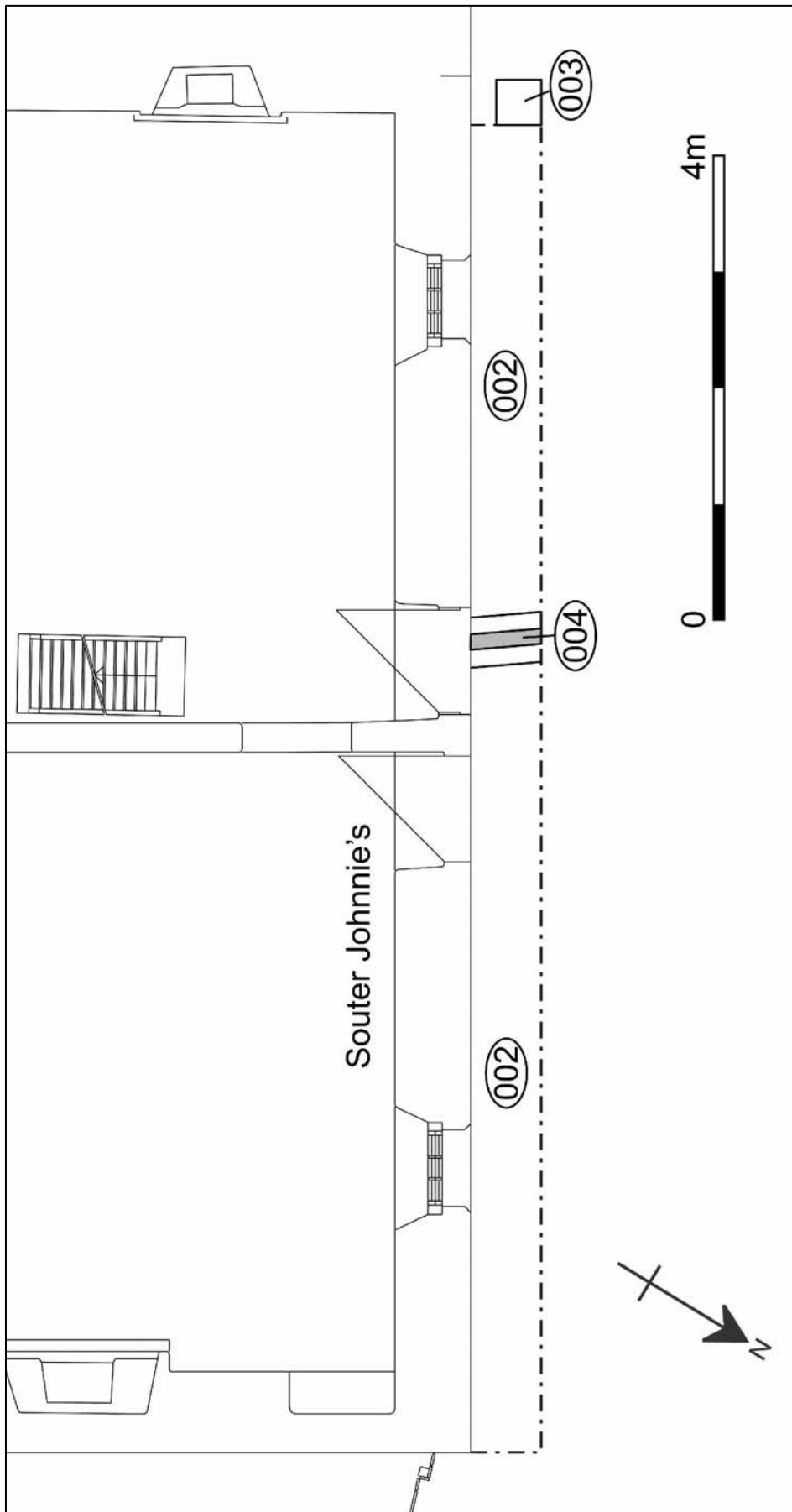


Figure 2: Plan showing location of excavated drainage trench

Project Works

10. The programme of works comprised the archaeological monitoring of a drainage trench which ran along the front of Souter Johnnie's cottage. The trench was hand dug to a depth of 500mm below ground level.
11. In compliance with the Method Statement (Williamson 2012) any potential archaeological features were investigated and recorded, with the on-site works taking place from the 15th October to 17th October 2012. All works were conducted in accordance with the Institute for Archaeologists' Standards and Policy Statements and Code of Conduct and Historic Scotland Policy Statements.

Findings

12. Souter Johnnie's cottage faces northwest, directly onto the Main Road running through Kirkoswald. A public pavement separates the front of the building from the road. The drainage trench was located along the inner edge of this pavement, covering an area measuring approximately 6.78m².

Drainage works

13. A trench was excavated for the placement of a new drainage pipe along the front of Souter Johnnie's cottage (Figure 2 and Figure 3b). The trench started at an existing drainage gully (003) at the southwestern end, and ran the full length of the cottage stopping at the northeastern corner. The trench measured 0.6m wide and 11.3m in length.
14. Prior to excavation, the entire area of the trench was covered by a cobbled surface (001). This surface was only present on the inner edge of the pavement along the front of the cottage and did not extend beyond the location of the trench. The surface comprised of two elements formed from two different types of cobbles. The southeastern side, covering an area 0.35m wide, comprised of light to dark grey/blue rounded stone cobbles which individually measured an average size of 90mm by 50mm by 90mm. Along the northwestern edge, the cobbles were placed to form a drainage track measuring 0.25m wide, which comprised of two rows of slightly larger stone cobbles which were more square in shape and individually measured an average size of 160mm by 150mm by 100mm.
15. The cobbles sat in a matrix of dark brown very clayey silt which also acted as a thin bedding layer. One fragment of ceramic pottery identified as a brown glazed white earthenware teapot fragment (Find No. 1) was uncovered from the top of the bedding layer. The total depth of the cobbles and their silt matrix measured 140mm.
16. These cobbles were lifted by hand (Figure 3a) to reveal underlying deposit (002). This comprised of a compact mid orange brown silty clay. Fragments of sandstone rubble, with an individual average size of 100mm by 80mm by 50mm, appeared frequently within the upper layers of the deposit and may have been put in as extra support for any overlying surface. The deposit also contained occasional charcoal flecks and fragments of pottery (Find No.2), red tile field drain and salt-glazed drain pipe (Find No. 3). Deposit (002) ran outwith the excavated area and its full depth was not reached.
17. The removal of deposit (002) revealed the foundations (005) for the front northwestern wall of Souter Johnnie's cottage. These comprised of a single course (below ground level) of large rounded roughly rectangular sandstone boulders (Figure 4a). These ranged in size from 260mm wide by 200mm deep to 750mm wide by 400mm deep. The depth of the foundations below ground level reached a maximum of 240mm along the southwestern half and 340mm along the northeastern half. The boulders sat in a matrix of dark brown clayey silt and any gaps between the boulders appeared to have been infilled by smaller sandstone rubble fragments.
18. The foundations sat mainly flush with the wall of the cottage. At the northeastern end, near to the outer corner of the cottage, a large sandstone boulder sat into the underlying

deposit appeared to directly underlay the foundations (005) and may have been put in for extra support. The deposit which underlies foundations (005) appears very similar to deposit (002), but the presence of artefacts within (002) which date to at least the 19th century (see section on *Artefacts* below) suggests that this is not the case. Deposit (002) appears likely to have been disturbed at some point after the construction of the cottage in the late 18th century, but unfortunately a cut differentiating this from what lies below (005) is not visible.

19. The removal of (002) also revealed more of the drain (003) which sat at the southwestern end of the development area and into which the new drainage pipe was to run. This was square in shape with a central opening and was constructed of yellow bricks topped by a metal grate. It measured 0.46m square in plan and three courses (approximately 240mm) deep. The drain did not have a surrounding visible cut through deposit (002).
20. The only other archaeological feature uncovered by the works was the presence of a service pipe (004) which ran out from under the building's southwest doorway, across the trench and continued outwith the northeastern edge (Figure 4b). The brown glazed ceramic pipe measured 0.13m in diameter and sat in a cut measuring 0.45m wide. The cut had vertical sides and was filled by moderately compacted dark brown sandy silt with frequent small stone inclusions. Two small fragments of glazed white earthenware pottery (Find No.4) were present within the fill. The pipe sat at a depth of 420mm from ground level and appeared to be a later insertion due to the presence of the visible cut through deposit (002).

Artefacts

21. As mentioned, a few fragments of ceramic pottery and drain pipe were discovered during the course of the works.
22. The majority of the fragments appear to date to the 19th century, or possibly even the 20th century. The fragment of brown glazed white earthenware recovered from below the cobbled surface (001) is hard to date but appears to be 19th or 20th century in date. Four of the five fragments found within deposit (002) also appear to date from the 19th, possibly 20th, century. These include three glazed white earthenware fragments (one with sponge decoration) and one brown glazed red earthenware fragment. Deposit (002) also contained fragments of red tile field drain and salt glazed drain pipe. Salt glazed drain pipe started to appear in the 1820s so must date from after this point. The two fragments of glazed white earthenware from within the cut of pipe (004) are too small to be definitively dated but are likely also to be 19th to 20th century in date.
23. The only piece of pottery which had the potential to be late 18th century to early 19th century in date appears to be a fragment of possible pearlware which was uncovered from deposit (002).

Discussion

24. The excavation works failed to identify any new significant archaeological features within the area of the drainage trench. Indeed the presence of artefacts dating to the 19th or possibly 20th century suggests that the area may have been disturbed since the construction of the cottage in the late 18th century.
25. The removal of the cobbled surface (001) revealed one main deposit (002) which was present throughout the trench. This deposit appeared very similar to the deposit which ran below the foundations (005) of the cottage, but the presence of pottery and drain pipe fragments which date to the 19th and possibly 20th century, means that deposit (002) shows signs of disturbance which are otherwise not visible. The nature of (002) is such that it is possibly redeposited natural which may also be what lies below the cottage itself. It is possible that after the later disturbance this deposit was carefully replaced with the same material originally removed for the works making any differentiation between this deposit and that which underlies (005) difficult to identify.



Figure 3a: Lifting the cobbles by hand



Figure 3b: General shot of trench after excavation works completed from the northeast



Figure 4a: Foundations (005) from the north



Figure 4b: Pipe (004) from the southwest

26. The pipe (004) running out from under the southwestern doorway does sit within a clear visible cut and as such appears to be a later insertion through (002) although how much later is difficult to determine.
27. The lack of a visible cut through the cobbled surface (001) for this pipe suggests that the cobbles may have been laid either at the same time, or after the pipe went in. Although this cannot be certain, if the cobbles had been lifted by hand and much care taken over their reinstatement, then it is possible that a cut through them might not be present.
28. The presence of 19th, possibly even 20th century, material throughout underlying deposit (002) does however suggest that the cobbles may date to the 19th century, or at least, have not lain undisturbed since the original construction of the cottage in the late 18th century. It is difficult to be certain whether they may have been an original feature which has since seen at least one phase of removal and reinstatement, or whether they are a later addition. It is likely however that even if the cobbled surface is of a later date than the cottage, that it may still date to at least the mid 18th century.

Recommendations

29. The drainage works carried out at Souter Johnnie's will have added greatly to the maintenance of the cottage's structure and should hopefully negate the need for future works to be carried out on the drainage in this area for some time to come.
30. As no new significant archaeological features were uncovered during the monitoring, no further archaeological works are recommended as a direct consequence of these works. It is also recommended that shallow works within this area will not require monitoring in the future. However, the high potential for archaeological features in the remainder of the area surrounding Souter Johnnie's, and at greater depths within this area, should still be taken into account whenever any future works are to be carried out.
31. The appropriateness and acceptability of our recommendations rest with the National Trust for Scotland.

Conclusion

32. Archaeological monitoring works were carried out in respect to the renewal of drainage at Souter Johnnie's, Kirkoswald. The archaeological works were designed to mitigate the impact on the archaeological remains within their development area.
33. The works failed to identify the presence of any new archaeological features within the drainage trench, although the presence of 19th, and possibly even 20th, century artefacts within the deposit underlying the current ground surface suggests the area has been disturbed at some point since the construction of the cottage in 1785.

Acknowledgements

34. We are grateful to the National Trust for Scotland who gave support and guidance for these archaeological works. We would also like to thank Dr Louise Turner for her analysis of the finds recovered from the site and Peter Klemen for his contributions to the appendices within this report.

References

Williamson, C. 2012 *Souter Johnnie's, Kirkoswald: Archaeological Mitigation, Method Statement*. Unpublished commercial report by Rathmell Archaeology Ltd.

Cartographic

1752-1755	Roy	Military Survey of Scotland
1859	Ordnance Survey	1 st edition Ordnance Survey, Ayrshire

Appendix 1: Registers

Within this appendix are all registers pertaining to works on-site during the watching brief.

Context Register

Context No.	Area/ Trench	Type	Description	Interpretation
001	-	Structural	Cobbled stone surface running along the front of the cottage in a SW-NE direction. Full extent 11.3m by 0.6m with a total depth of approximately 140mm. Cobbles are rounded and light to dark grey/blue in colour with an average size of 90mm x 50mm x 90mm. A line a larger square cobbles with an average size of 160mm x 150mm x 100mm deep forms a small drainage channel along the northern edge. Cobbles sit in a matrix of dark brown very clayey silt which also forms a thin bedding layer.	Cobbled surface
002	-	Deposit	Compact mid orange brown silty clay with frequent sandstone rubble fragments with an average size of 100mm x 80mm x 50mm. Occasional ceramic fragments and charcoal flecks. Also fragments of red tile and salt glazed drains present.	Deposit used to build up area below cobbles (001), presence of potentially 19 th to 20 th century ceramic fragments suggest it has been disturbed since the original construction of the cottage
003	-	Structural	Located at the SW end of the excavated area. Square in shape and constructed of yellow bricks. Open in middle with base of down pipe running into southern corner. Topped by a metal grate sitting at ground level. 3 courses deep (approximately 240mm) and measures 460mm square in plan with an average brick size of 230mm x 120mm x 70mm. No visible cut, (002) comes straight up to NE side.	Drain gully
004	-	Drain	Circular brown glazed ceramic drain pipe measuring 130mm in diameter. Set in a vertical sided cut measuring 450mm wide and filled with moderately compacted dark brown sandy silt with small stone inclusions. Drain sat at 420mm down from top of tarmac pavement.	Possible modern sewer pipe running under step of SW doorway. Appears to be a later insertion as cut through (002)
005	-	Structural	Basal course/foundations underlying NW wall of Souter Johnnie's cottage. Large rounded rectangular	Basal course/foundations for NW wall of cottage dating to the late 18 th century

Context No.	Area/ Trench	Type	Description	Interpretation
			boulders/stones. One course deep below ground level (maximum depth 340mm). Although mainly flush with wall itself it sticks slightly out at the SW end by c.50mm. Stones range in size from 260mm wide x 200mm deep to 700mm wide x 400mm deep. One course visible below level of current ground surface. Same areas infilled with sandstone fragments similar to that in (002). Set in matrix of compact dark brown clayey silt. One large sandstone boulder (770mm x 340mm) present underlying this course near to NE end set within underlying deposit. Possibly put in for extra support.	

Photographic Register

Image No.	Digital	Description	From	Date
01	1	Pre-excavation shot of cobbled surface (001)	SW	15/10/12
02	2	General pre-excavation shot of Souter Johnnie's	SW	15/10/12
03	3	General pre-excavation shot of Souter Johnnie's	SW	15/10/12
04	4	Detail of cobbles (001)	NW	15/10/12
05	5	Working shot, lifting cobbles	NW	15/10/12
06	6	Working shot, lifting cobbles	SW	15/10/12
07	7	SW half after cobbles lifted	SW	15/10/12
08	8	Cobbles no longer in situ	SW	15/10/12
09	9	SW half after cobbles lifted	SW	15/10/12
10	10	Shot after cobbles removed	SW	15/10/12
11	11	Shot after cobbles removed	SW	16/10/12

Image No.	Digital	Description	From	Date
12	12	Detail of cobbles after removal	NW	16/10/12
13	13	Shot of drain (003)	NW	16/10/12
14	14	Shot of drain (003)	N	16/10/12
15	15	Working shot	SW	16/10/12
16	16	Working shot	W	16/10/12
17	17	Scratch marks on basal stones of cottage	NW	16/10/12
18	18	Scratch marks on basal stones of cottage	NW	16/10/12
19	19	Sample shot of SE facing section	S	16/10/12
20	20	Sample shot of NW facing section	NW	16/10/12
21	21	Shot of pipe (004)	SW	16/10/12
22	22	Shot of step revealed at SW doorway	W	17/10/12
23	23	Shot of foundations (005) SW end	N	17/10/12
24	24	Shot of foundations (005) SW end	NW	17/10/12
25	25	Shot of step revealed at SW doorway	NW	17/10/12
26	26	Shot of base of dressed, NE side of doorway	NW	17/10/12
27	27	Post excavation shot, excavation completed	SW	17/10/12
28	28	Post excavation shot, excavation completed	NE	17/10/12
29	29	Shot of foundations (005) NE end	NW	17/10/12
30	30	Shot of foundations (005) NE end	N	17/10/12
31	31	Shot of sandstone boulder below (005)	NW	17/10/12
32	32	General shot of Souter Johnnie's	NNW	17/10/12

Finds Register

Find No.	Area/ Trench	Context No.	Material Type	Description	Excavator	Date
1	-	001	Ceramic	1 fragment of brown glazed white earthenware teapot handle	CW	16/10/12
2	-	002	Ceramic	4 fragments of glazed white earthenware pottery (one sponge decorated; one possible pearlware); 1 fragment of brown glazed red earthenware	CW	16/10/12
3	-	002	Ceramic	3 fragments of red tile field drain; 1 fragments of salt glazed drain pipe	CW	16/10/12
4	-	004	Ceramic	2 fragments of glazed white earthenware	CW	16/10/12

Appendix 2: Discovery & Excavation in Scotland

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	South Ayrshire
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	Souter Johnnie's, Kirkoswald
PROJECT CODE:	RA12051
PARISH:	Kirkoswald
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	Claire Williamson
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	Rathmell Archaeology Limited
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Watching brief
NMRS NO(S):	NS20NW 18
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	Cottage
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	None
NGR (2 letters, 8 or 10 figures)	NS 2401 0753
START DATE (this season)	15 th October 2012
END DATE (this season)	17 th October 2012
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. <i>DES</i> ref.)	None
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (may include information from other fields)	<p>Archaeological monitoring works were carried out in respect to the renewal of drainage at Souter Johnnie's, Kirkoswald. The archaeological works were designed to mitigate the impact on the archaeological remains within their development area.</p> <p>The works failed to identify the presence of any new archaeological features within the drainage trench, although the presence of 19th, and possibly even 20th, century artefacts within the deposit underlying the current ground surface suggests the area has been disturbed at some point since the construction of the cottage in 1785.</p>
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	None
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	None
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	The National Trust for Scotland
ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:	Unit 8 Ashgrove Workshops, Kilwinning, Ayrshire KA13 6PU
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ARCHIVE LOCATION (intended/deposited)	Report to The National Trust for Scotland, West of Scotland Archaeology Service and archive to RCAHMS Collections

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