

**Kilwinning Old Parish Church,
North Ayrshire:
Archaeological Mitigation**

Data Structure Report



by Liam McKinstry

issued 14th June 2016

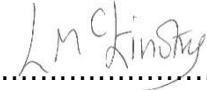
on behalf of Kilwinning Old Parish Church

RATHMELL
ARCHAEOLOGY LTD

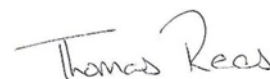


Quality Assurance

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 Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' Standards and Policy Statements and Code of Conduct.

Signed  Date ...14th June 2016.....

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

Checked  Date ...14th June 2016.....

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Quality Assurance Data

Author(s)	Liam McKinstry		
Date of Issue	14 th June 2016	Version	1.0
Commissioning Body	Kilwinning Old Parish Church		
Event Name	Kilwinning Old Parish Church		
Event Type	Watching Brief		
Event Date(s)	May 2016		
Rathmell Code	RA10048	OASIS Ref	rathmell1-255204
Location	United Kingdom : Scotland : North Ayrshire		
NGR	NS 30342 43305 (centred)	Parish	Kilwinning
Designation(s)	Scheduled Monument (90187)		
Canmore IDs	204519 Church		

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Introduction

1. This Data Structure Report has been prepared in respect to the demolition of a set of external stairs and the installation of new drainage at Kilwinning Old Parish Church, North Ayrshire (Figure 2, 3a and 3b). The archaeological works are designed to inform the mitigation of the impact on the archaeological remains within their development area to the agreement of Historic Environment Scotland.
2. Kilwinning Old Parish Church stands within the Scheduled Monument protecting the remains of Kilwinning Abbey, though the fabric of the church itself is listed rather than scheduled. Historic Scotland granted Scheduled Monument Consent for the drainage works, conditional on the works being subject to archaeological monitoring which would help inform the nature of the archaeology present within the area of the proposed drainage works. This report presents the findings of the watching brief as required under Condition 2 of the granted Scheduled Monument Consent (AMH/90187/1/1).
3. Rathmell Archaeology Limited has been appointed to undertake the development and implementation of archaeological mitigation works for the drainage works at Kilwinning Old Parish Church, North Ayrshire.

Historical and Archaeological Background

4. The historical and archaeological background are discussed more fully within the report covering the recent evaluation at Kilwinning Old Parish Church;
McKinstry, L. 2016. Kilwinning Old Parish Church, North Ayrshire: Archaeological Evaluation, Data Structure Report.

Project Works

5. The archaeological watching brief, which was undertaken on the 17th May 2016, was carried out in keeping with the methods detailed in the Risk Assessment & Method Statement (RAMS) (Rees 2013). A test pit excavated during the evaluation phase (McKinstry 2016) had demonstrated that the much of the upper strata within the working area was the result of modern deposition or had suffered from modern disturbance. However, due to the presence of disarticulated human bone within the lower deposits uncovered it was deemed necessary to monitor further works.
6. The programme of archaeological works comprised the reduction of the working area by a 1.5 ton tracked machine using a 1m wide toothless bucket. The depth of the reduction was limited to a maximum depth of 400mm of soil by the Scheduled Monument Consent (AMH/90187/1/1).
7. All of the works complied with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' Standards and Policy Statements and Code of Conduct and Historic Environment Scotland's Policy Statements.

Findings

8. The current ground surface within the watching brief area was 0.14 to 0.22m higher than the adjacent paver path (the range reflects a slight fall in the path from NW to SE) which bounded the area to the north and northeast. The highest point of the area was 0.24 to 0.32m above the paver path. The watching brief area was reduced by machine to a depth of between 0.15m to 0.29m. A gravestone pedestal, which was to have been removed along with other gravestones before the works commenced, had to be left as it was found to be set too deep into the ground.
9. The upper layers, (001) and (003), within the majority of the working area consisted of modern gravel surfaces deposited between the outside of the church walls and the pedestrian paver path. The layers consisted of moderately compacted, light to dark grey gravel and sand with occasional to moderate CBM and modern refuse (glass, tin cans and plastic) inclusions. Layer (001) had a thickness of 0.05-0.07m and layer (003) had a thickness of 0.05-0.11m. In the Northern part of the working area there was a thick surface of modern concrete, (009), which abutted the demolished staircase and paver path and

overlay the cellar wall (007). The layer measured 4m by 2.7m and had a thickness range of between 0.1m to 0.28m (being thinner towards the paver path).

10. Beneath these upper modern layers was a disturbed layer (002), possibly an old ground surface located in the eastern part of the working area. This layer consisted of grey-brown sandy silt with moderate CBM and tree root inclusions. The layer measured 6.75m by 4.55m and had a maximum excavated thickness within the working area of 0.2m. In the western part of the working area was a layer of deliberate backfill, (008), within cellar structure (006) and (007). This layer consisted of moderately compacted, mixed mid to dark grey/grey-brown sand with very frequent gravel and small stone inclusions. The layer measured 4.4m by 4m and was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.2m within the working area. In the northern part of the working area, underlying the concrete surface (009), was a layer of deliberate backfill, (010), which consisted of moderately compacted, mixed mid to dark grey/grey-brown sand with very frequent gravel and small stone inclusions. The layer measured 4.4m by 4m and was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.09m within the working area. The layer abutted brick walls (006) and (007).
11. A brick built structure was located off the east and north facing walls of the church building forming a square shaped floor plan. The structures walls, (006) and (007), were built using light orange or buff coloured bricks which measured 0.25m long, 0.11m wide and 0.08m thick. The north to south orientated wall, (006), measured 5m in length, 0.25m in width and was excavated to a depth of 0.2m (though the full depth of the wall was not exposed). The east to west orientated wall, (007), measured 4m in length, 0.25m in width and was excavated to a depth of 0.1m (though the full depth of the wall was not exposed). Where the evaluation test pit had been excavated (McKinstry 2016) a small number of different, orange-red, coloured bricks were identified within wall (006), suggesting an opening in the wall which had been sealed up. A metal cog was set into the north facing wall of the church building at the same level as the top of the wall (006).
12. During the reduction of the watching brief area a rectangular shaped sandstone block was located, close to the gravestone pedestal. The block measured 1m from north to south by 0.45m from east to west and had a height of 0.17m. It underlay the modern upper gravel layer (003) and was abutted by the disturbed layer (002). The sandstone block was left in place as it was to firmly set into the ground to be moved.
13. No artefacts or significant archaeological features were identified during the watching brief.

Discussion

14. The upper gravel layers, (001) and (003), within the watching brief area were both very recent, twentieth or twenty-first century in date as was evident from the modern refuse and CBM found mixed in with the layers.
15. In the eastern part of the watching brief area, beneath the upper gravel layers, was the disturbed layer, (002), which was possibly an old ground surface to the north of the church building and east of the brick structure. During the initial evaluation phase (McKinstry 2016) nineteenth and twentieth century material had been observed within the fill as well as small fragments of disarticulated human bone. During the machine stripping of this layer only occasional fragments of CBM were visible and no human bone was observed.
16. In the western part of the watching brief area, beneath the gravel layers, was the brick structure, (006) and (007), which was most probably a later cellar feature added to the church building in the nineteenth or early twentieth, possibly for the storage of coal. The metal cog set into the north facing wall was at the same level as the top of the north to south running wall, (006), which may suggest that it was part of a sliding or hinged cover over the cellar. The interior of the cellar was presumably backfilled deliberately to make it structurally safe after it was no longer in use. The backfill material in the interior was relatively sterile so there was no indication as to the date of this backfilling but work had been carried out on the church and its grounds in the mid twentieth century (Pers. Comm. Drew Wilson) which could account for this material. Some of the backfill material, (010), to the immediate north of the east to west running wall, (007), had been deposited more recently as the type of CBM material included within the deposit contained scraps of

newspaper which were still legible and were dated to within ten to fifteen years of the present day. This would strongly suggest that the concrete surface, (009), was also modern though the possibility that some of these modern inclusions within the backfill deposit, (010), were intrusive and had slipped under the concrete surface through cracks cannot be ruled out.

17. The sandstone block, (011), located to the immediate east of brick wall (006) and south of the grave stone pedestal was most probably the base for a gravestone. Whether this was the original setting for this stone and the nearby gravestone pedestal is unclear as no corresponding grave cuts could be identified next to them. It seems more likely that the gravestones had been moved in the nineteenth or early twentieth centuries possibly at the same time as the construction of the brick cellar.

Recommendations

18. The watching brief of the works carried out at Kilwinning Old Parish Church identified a number of modern gravel and concrete layers overlaying a nineteenth or twentieth century brick cellar which had been backfilled possibly in the mid twentieth century with other more recent disturbance relating to maintenance of the churches water pipes.
19. No human remains or other significant archaeological artefacts were recovered during the reduction of the area.
20. Rathmell Archaeology recommends that no further work is required. The acceptability of these recommendations must be confirmed with Historic Environment Scotland prior to any ground breaking works on-site.

Conclusion

21. This Data Structure Report has been prepared in respect to the demolition of a set of external stairs and the installation of new drainage at Kilwinning Old Parish Church, North Ayrshire. The archaeological works were designed to mitigate the impact on the archaeological remains within their development area to the agreement of Historic Environment Scotland.
22. Kilwinning Old Parish Church stands within the Scheduled Monument protecting the remains of Kilwinning Abbey, though the fabric of the church itself is listed rather than scheduled. Historic Environment Scotland granted Scheduled Monument Consent for the drainage works was conditional on a small archaeological evaluation which would help inform the nature of the archaeology present within the area of the proposed drainage works.
23. The watching brief identified a number of modern gravel and concrete layers overlaying a nineteenth or twentieth century brick cellar which had been backfilled possibly in the mid twentieth century with other more recent disturbance relating to maintenance of the churches water pipes.
24. No other significant archaeological features or artefacts were recovered from the test pit.

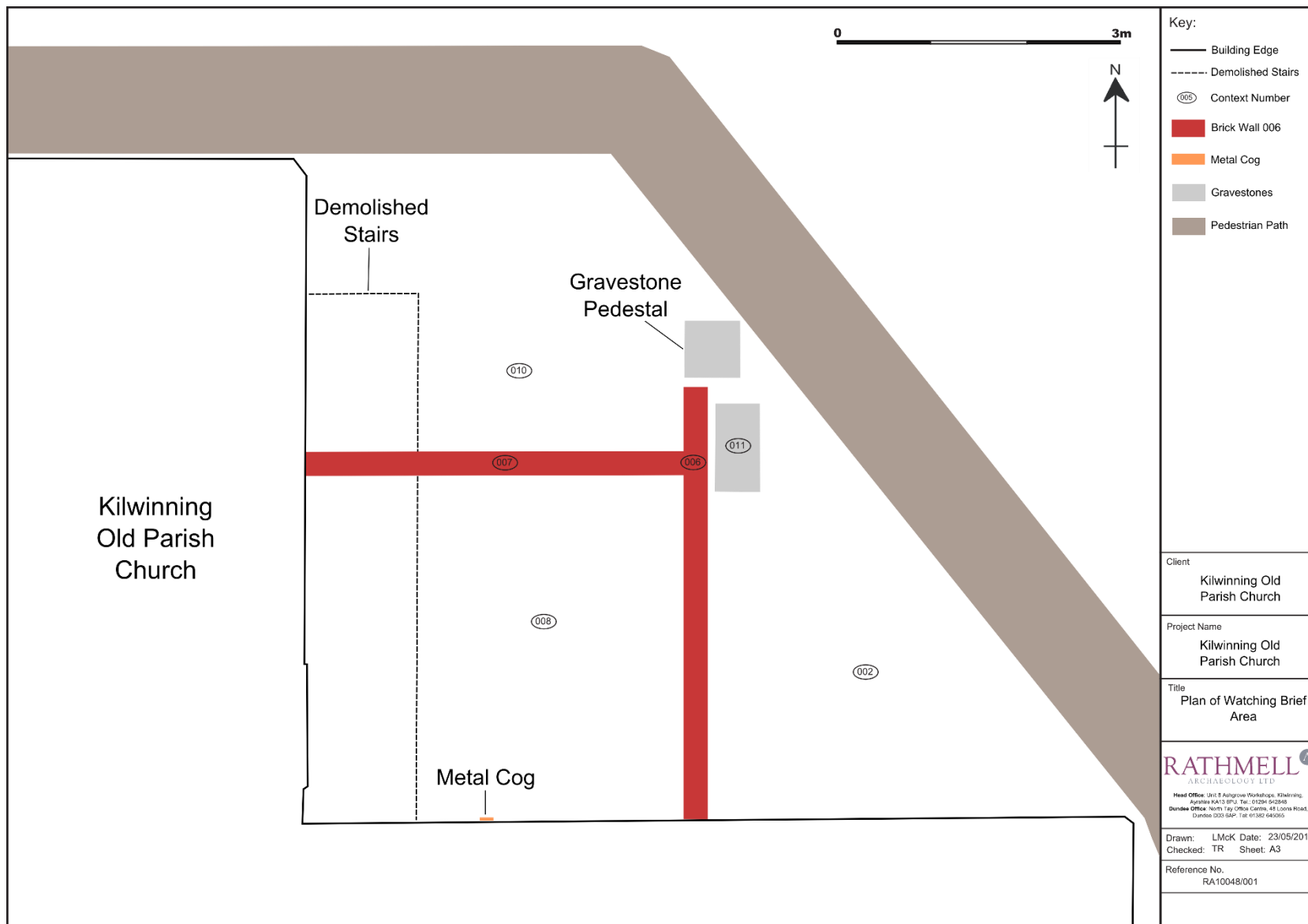


Figure 1: Plan of watching brief area.



Figure 2a: View of wall (006) and backfill material (008) from the E.



Figure 2b: Close up view of metal cog set into north face of church building.



Figure 3a: View of sandstone block (011), wall (006) and pedestal from the S.



Figure 3b: View of eastern part of area showing disturbed layer (002) from the NE.

Acknowledgements

25. The author would like to thank Kilwinning Old Parish Church, for the opportunity to carry out these works and also to McLaughlin Drainage for their assistance on site. I would also like to thank Historic Environment Scotland who gave their support and guidance throughout and Thomas Rees for his editing of this report.

References

Documentary

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Appendix 1: Registers

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

Context Register

Context No.	Area/ Trench	Type	Description	Interpretation
001	Evaluation/Watching Brief	Deposit	Moderately compacted. Light to mid grey gravel and sand with occasional to moderate CBM and modern refuse (glass, tin cans and plastic) inclusions. Thickness of 0.05-0.07m. Extent 1m by 1m.	Modern gravel surface associated with the church.
002	Evaluation/Watching Brief	Deposit	Moderately compacted, grey-brown sandy silt with moderate CBM and occasional disarticulated and fragmentary human bone inclusions. Thickness of 0.31-0.42m. Extent 1m by 0.8m. Underlies modern gravel surface (003) and abuts wall (006).	Disturbed layer, possibly an old ground surface around the church building.
003	Evaluation/Watching Brief	Deposit	Moderately compacted. Mid to dark grey-brown gravel and sand with occasional to moderate CBM and modern refuse (glass, tin cans and plastic) inclusions. Thickness of 0.05-0.11m. Extent 1m by 1m.	Modern gravel surface associated with the church.
004	Evaluation	Deposit	Moderately compacted, orange-brown/grey-brown sandy silt with occasional CBM and disarticulated and fragmentary human bone inclusions. Thickness of 0.06-0.12m. Extent 1m by 0.8m. Underlies disturbed layer (002), abuts wall (006) and surrounds pipe (005).	Redeposited and heavily disturbed subsoil around the church building.
005	Evaluation/Watching Brief	Deposit	Ceramic pipe with orange-brown/buff coloured glaze. The pipe had a diameter of 0.15m and was located at a depth of 0.39m from the surface. It was orientated in a SE to NW direction. The Pipe was surrounded by layer (002) and it entered into the brick wall of the coal cellar (006) through a hole.	19 th or 20 th century drainage pipe associated with the church building. May have led up to a vertical gutter pipe running down the N facing wall of the church.

Context No.	Area/ Trench	Type	Description	Interpretation
006	Evaluation/Watching Brief	Structure	Brick built structure. Component bricks were 0.25m long, 0.11m wide and 0.08m thick. The majority of the bricks used in the construction of the wall were light orange or buff in colour. Within the test pit a small number of orange-red coloured bricks were identified, suggesting an opening in the wall which had been sealed up. The wall measured 5m in length, 0.25m in width and was excavated to a depth of 0.2m (though the full depth of the wall was not exposed). The wall ran in an N-S direction and with brick wall (007) formed a cellar up against the north and east facing walls of the church building. A metal cog set into the north facing wall (at the same level as the top of wall) may have been part of a sliding cover over the cellar formed by walls (006) and (007). The modern gravel layers (001) and (003) overlay the wall, the disturbed and redeposited layers (002), (004) and (008) abutted it and the ceramic pipe (005) entered it through a hole.	19 th or 20 th century brick wall. Most probably part of a coal cellar associated with the church.
007	Watching Brief	Structure	Brick built structure. Component bricks were 0.25m long, 0.11m wide and 0.08m thick. The majority of the bricks used in the construction of the wall were light orange or buff in colour. The wall measured 4m in length, 0.25m in width and was excavated to a depth of 0.1m (though the full depth of the wall was not exposed). The wall ran in an E-W direction and with brick wall (006) formed a cellar up against the north and east facing walls of the church building. The modern concrete surface (009) overlay the wall and the deliberate backfill layers (008) and (010) abutted it.	19 th or 20 th century brick wall. Most probably part of a coal cellar associated with the church.
008	Watching Brief	Deposit	Moderately compacted, mixed mid to dark grey/grey-brown sand with very frequent gravel and small stone inclusions. Layer was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.2m and had an extent of 4.4m by 4m. The layer underlay modern layer (003) and abutted brick walls (006) and (007).	Deliberate backfill material within the interior of cellar formed by brick walls (006) and (007).
009	Watching Brief	Deposit	Very firmly compacted, light grey concrete layer with moderate fine gravel/aggregate inclusions. Layer had a thickness range 0.1m to 0.28m (Thinner towards the paver path). The layer extended 4m, E-W, and 2.7m, N-S. The layer overlay backfill material (010)	Thick layer of modern concrete which abutted the demolished stairs, the gravestone pedestal and the paver path.
010	Watching Brief	Deposit	Loosely compacted, mixed mid brown/orange-brown sandy silt with very frequent modern CBM inclusions (brick, masonry and plastic piping). Maximum excavated depth was 0.09m. The layer extended 4m, E-W, and 2.7m, N-S. The layer underlay the concrete surface (009).	Modern backfill layer beneath concrete surface (009).

Context No.	Area/ Trench	Type	Description	Interpretation
011	Watching Brief	Structure	Large rectangular shaped sandstone block. Measured 1m, N-S, by 0.45m, E-W and had a height of 0.17m. Block lay to the immediate S of the in pedestal and E of wall (006). It underlay (003) and was abutted by (002)	Base of gravestone. Possibly placed there some time after the construction of the cellar formed by walls (006) and (007). No corresponding grave cut could be seen so it is possible that the block had been moved from an original setting.

Photographic Register

Image No.	Digital	Description	From	Date
001	1979	Pre excavation view of the site.	N	26/04/16
002	1980	Pre excavation view of the site.	N	26/04/16
003	1981	Pre excavation view of the site.	E	26/04/16
004	1982	Close up view of gravestone.	N	26/04/16
005	1983	Close up view of gravestone.	N	26/04/16
006	1984	Close up view of gravestone.	E	26/04/16
007	1985	Close up view of gravestone.	NE	26/04/16
008	1986	Close up view of gravestone.	NE	26/04/16
009	1987	Close up view of gravestone.	E	26/04/16
010	1988	Setting out of the test pit.	N	26/04/16
011	1989	Fencing up and excavation underway.	NE	26/04/16
012	1990	Working shot.	S	26/04/16

Image No.	Digital	Description	From	Date
013	1991	Working shot.	S	26/04/16
014	1992	Working shot.	SE	26/04/16
015	1993	Working shot.	E	26/04/16
016	1994	View of test pit at 0.25m depth.	N	26/04/16
017	1995	View of test pit at 0.25m depth.	E	26/04/16
018	1996	View of test pit at 0.4m depth.	N	26/04/16
019	1997	View of test pit at 0.4m depth.	E	26/04/16
020	1998	Close up view of human bone fragment within layer (004).	NE	26/04/16
021	1999	Close up view of human bone fragment within layer (004).	NE	26/04/16
022	2001	Sieving underway.	N	26/04/16
023	2002	Working shot.	W	26/04/16
024	2003	-	-	26/04/16
025	2004	Post excavation view of test pit at 0.5m depth.	E	26/04/16
026	2005	Post excavation view of test pit at 0.5m depth.	N	26/04/16
027	2006	Post excavation view of test pit at 0.5m depth. Oblique view.	NE	26/04/16
028	2007	View of the site after backfilling.	NE	26/04/16
029	2008	View of the site after backfilling.	N	26/04/16
030	2009	View of the site after backfilling.	N	26/04/16
031	2010	View of Abbey Clock Tower.	ENE	26/04/16
032	2011	View of graveyard to the east.	NW	26/04/16
033	0001	Void and brick work beneath demolished staircase.	NE	17/05/16
034	0002	View of site after staircase demolished and gravestones removed.	ENE	17/05/16

Image No.	Digital	Description	From	Date
035	0003	View of site after staircase demolished and gravestones removed.	E	17/05/16
036	0004	View of area under stairs showing newly laid concrete.	NE	17/05/16
037	0005	View of area under stairs showing newly laid concrete.	E	17/05/16
038	0006	View of newly blocked up doorway on the eastern face of the church building.	E	17/05/16
039	0007	View of area under the staircase partially showing brick wall (007).	SSE	17/05/16
040	0008	View of sandstone blocks retained from the demolition of the staircase.	WNW	17/05/16
041	0009	View of gravestone pedestal which had been left in place.	ENE	17/05/16
042	0010	View of removed gravestones lying to the north of the paver path.	NE	17/05/16
043	0011	View of removed gravestones lying to the north of the paver path.	WNW	17/05/16
044	0012	View of upper part of layer (008), east of wall (006).	E	17/05/16
045	0013	View of upper part of layer (008), east of wall (006).	E	17/05/16
046	-	View of metal cog set into north facing wall of the church building.	N	17/05/16
047	-	View of metal cog set into north facing wall of the church building.	NW	17/05/16
048	-	View of brick wall (006), possibly part of cellar.	W	17/05/16
049	-	View of brick wall (006) and wall mounted metal cog, possibly related.	ENE	17/05/16
050	-	View of attempt to remove concrete surface (009).	S	17/05/16
051	-	Brick walls (006) and (007), covered by concrete surface (009).	S	17/05/16
052	-	Attempt to break up concrete surface by contractors.	SSE	17/05/16
053	-	Close up view showing gravestone pedestal, concrete surface (009), and brick walls (006) and (007).	S	17/05/16
054	-	Close up view showing gravestone pedestal, concrete surface (009), and brick walls (006) and (007).	SSE	17/05/16
055	-	Close up view showing gravestone pedestal, concrete surface (009), and brick walls (006) and (007).	E	17/05/16
056	-	Close up view showing gravestone pedestal, concrete surface (009), and brick walls (006) and (007).	S	17/05/16
057	-	Close up view showing gravestone pedestal, concrete surface (009), and brick walls (006) and (007).	E	17/05/16

Image No.	Digital	Description	From	Date
058	-	Brick wall (006) shown abutting gravestone pedestal.	N	17/05/16
059	-	View of concrete surface (009) being lifted and showing rubble backfill (010) beneath.	S	17/05/16
060	-	View of concrete surface (009) being lifted and showing rubble backfill (010) beneath.	E	17/05/16
061	-	View of concrete surface (009) being lifted and showing rubble backfill (010) beneath.	E	17/05/16
062	-	View of concrete surface (009) being lifted and showing rubble backfill (010) beneath.	E	17/05/16
063	-	View of western part of site reduced to correct level.	SE	17/05/16
064	-	Burst water pipe within western part of site.	ESE	17/05/16
065	-	View of western part of site reduced to correct level.	NE	17/05/16
066	-	Newspaper scrap from rubble backfill (010) showing backfill fairly recent.	-	17/05/16
067	-	Eastern part of site being reduced, working shot.	E	17/05/16
068	-	Eastern part of site being reduced, working shot.	E	17/05/16
069	-	Eastern part of site being reduced, working shot.	NE	17/05/16
070	-	Eastern part of site being reduced, working shot.	E	17/05/16
071	-	View of sandstone gravestone base (011) next to brick wall (006) and gravestone pedestal.	E	17/05/16
072	-	Eastern part of site reduced to correct level, shows brick wall (006) and gravestone base (011).	N	17/05/16
073	-	Eastern part of site reduced to correct level, shows brick wall (006) and gravestone base (011).	E	17/05/16
074	-	Close up view of gravestone base (011).	E	17/05/16
075	-	Close up view of gravestone base (011), wall (006) and pedestal.	S	17/05/16
076	-	Northern part of site reduced to correct level.	SE	17/05/16
077	-	Eastern part of site reduced to correct level.	NNE	17/05/16

Appendix 2: Discovery & Excavation in Scotland

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	North Ayrshire
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	Kilwinning Old Parish Church
PROJECT CODE:	RA10048
PARISH:	Kilwinning
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	Liam McKinstry
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	Rathmell Archaeology Limited
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Watching Brief
NMRS NO(S):	NS34SW 84.00
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	Church
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	None
NGR (2 letters, 8 or 10 figures)	NS 30342 43305 (centred)
START DATE (this season)	17 th May 2016
END DATE (this season)	17 th May 2016
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)	Yes. Evaluation carried out by Rathmell Archaeology Ltd. (small test pit excavated in 26 th April 2016)
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (may include information from other fields)	<p>A programme of works was carried out in respect to the demolition of a set of external stairs and the installation of new drainage at Kilwinning Old Parish Church, North Ayrshire. The archaeological works were designed to mitigate the impact on the archaeological remains within their development area to the agreement of Historic Environment Scotland.</p> <p>Kilwinning Old Parish Church stands within the Scheduled Monument protecting the remains of Kilwinning Abbey, though the fabric of the church itself is listed rather than scheduled. Historic Scotland granted Scheduled Monument Consent for the drainage works was conditional on a small archaeological evaluation which would help inform the nature of the archaeology present within the area of the proposed drainage works.</p> <p>The watching brief identified a number of modern gravel and concrete layers overlaying a nineteenth or twentieth century brick cellar which had been backfilled possibly in the mid twentieth century with other more recent disturbance relating to maintenance of the churches water pipes.</p> <p>No other significant archaeological features or artefacts were recovered from the test pit.</p>
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	No
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	None
SPONSOR OR FUNDING	Kilwinning Old Parish Church

BODY:	
ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:	Unit 8 Ashgrove Workshops, Kilwinning, Ayrshire KA13 6PU
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ARCHIVE LOCATION (intended/deposited)	Report to West of Scotland Archaeology Service and archive to HES Collections.

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