

Auld Kirk Graveyard, Beith: Archaeological Watching Brief

Data Structure Report



by Liam McKinstry


issued 14th June 2017

on behalf of North Ayrshire Council

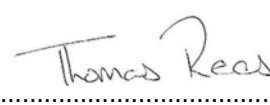
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Signed  Date ...14th June 2017.....

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

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Quality Assurance Data

Author(s)	Liam McKinstry		
Date of Issue	14 th June 2017	Version	1.0
Commissioning Body	North Ayrshire Council		
Event Name	Auld Kirk Graveyard, Beith		
Event Type	Watching Brief		
Event Date(s)	May 2017		
Rathmell Code	RA17043	OASIS Ref	rathmell1-286308
Location	United Kingdom: Scotland : Beith, North Ayrshire		
NGR	NS 34824 53990 (centred)	Parish	Beith (Cunninghame)
Designation(s)	Category C listed building		
Canmore IDs	266427, 42221 and 266433		

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Introduction

1. This Data Structure Report has been prepared on behalf of North Ayrshire Council, in support of the renewal of the boundary wall to the Auld Kirk at Beith. These archaeological works were designed to mitigate any adverse impact any archaeological remains within the development area and were carried out between 19th and 25th May 2017.
2. North Ayrshire Council has been granted Listed Building Consent for these works which has been conditioned for archaeology. This consent relates to works to be carried out within the churchyard to make safe the rear retaining wall. Further due to potential archaeological issues the West of Scotland Archaeology Service, advisors to the planning authority, have recommended that a watching brief condition be applied to the granted consent.
3. A Method Statement (Rees 2017) 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 Beith has medieval origins (WoSAS Id 51561) and appears on Roy's Military Survey of Scotland (1752-55, Figure 1a) as 'Bealk' with 'Beith Hill' immediately to the east. The town appears much smaller than its modern form, however the streets conform to the familiar shape of the modern B7049 with short streets leading off to the north and south. Beyond the limits of the town are enclosed fields and numerous small farms and structures.
5. The centre of Beith is a Conservation Area, with the Old Parish Church including its boundary wall being a Category C Listed Building (LB882). The Church, built on the site of a pre-Reformation chapel, has fabric dating from the late 16th century with mid 18th century remodelling (McClellan 1845). The Auld Kirk, as it is known, was truncated in the early 19th century when the growing congregation demanded a larger place of worship. A new kirk, the High Church, began construction in 1807 and opened in 1810, and according to the New Statistical Account with stone from this building (Coleville 1845).
6. Located at the medieval heart of the town, the burial ground provides an important area of green space at The Cross. There are a good many early 18th century tombstones in the kirk yard and some highly decorative 19th century examples including those in memory of the Spier family, carved in white marble in high Gothic style.
7. Roy's Military Survey (Figure 1a) shows that in the mid 18th century the kirkyard was predominantly edged by agricultural fields, a situation repeated in 1775 (Figure 1b). By the mid 19th century (Figure 2a) the kirkyard was surrounded by the urban form of the town, with numerous building including tanneries abutting the kirkyard wall. This pattern continued into the 20th century (see Figures 2b & c). The majority of these structures have now been removed, leaving the wall freestanding.
8. There are entries for Beith in both the Old and New Statistical Accounts which mention the Auld Kirk. The old Statistical Account entry (McClellan 1793) gives a date of 1593 for the construction of the kirk and also mentions a stone inscribed coat of arms of Robert Montgomery of Giffan (dated 1596) the younger son of the Earl of Eglington. It goes on to mention alterations made to one of the aisles of the church which was lengthened to accommodate a further 200 parishioners (see above).
9. The New Statistical Account (Colville 1845) alludes to one of Beith's more famous, earlier ministers, John Witherspoon who was minister at the Auld Kirk from 1745 to 1758. Witherspoon would go on to emigrate to America and become president of New Jersey College (later to become Princeton University) and was a signatory of the Declaration of Independence in 1776. Possibly this prominent role in the American Revolution led to his name being omitted from the earlier statistical account.



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



Figure 1b: Armstrong's New Map of Ayrshire (1775)

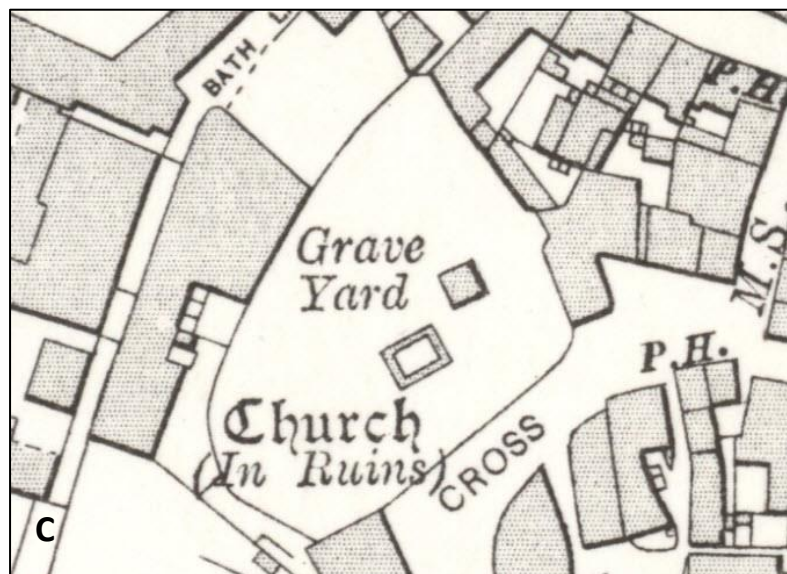


Figure 2: Ordnance Survey 25" maps from (A) 1858, (B) 1895 and (C) 1909

Project Works

10. The programme of works comprised the archaeological monitoring of excavations at the Auld Kirk Graveyard at Beith (Figures 3 and 4a). These works were for the repair and reconstruction of stone boundary wall [001] surrounding the graveyard. The works were to include the erection of wall props and buttresses in the north western and western parts of the wall (Figure 3).
11. Three trenches were monitored during the works. Trench 1 was located 0.5m to the east of the western part of the boundary wall [001] and its purpose was to accommodate the foundations of a new stretch of wall on more stable ground, the original stretch of wall having been situated on ground made unstable due to vegetation growth. The trench measured 15m by 0.5m and had a depth range of between 0.4m-0.5m. Trenches 2 and 3 were located outside the western and north western sections of the boundary wall [001] and were excavated so as to accommodate external wall props and buttresses. Trench 2 was excavated up against an earlier brick and earth buttress [007] and measured 15m by 1m and was 1m deep. Trench 3 was excavated up against the north western part of the enclosing wall [001] and measured 10m by 4m and was 1m deep. The works were carried out in compliance with the terms agreed in the method statement (Rees 2017).
12. Any potential archaeological features were investigated and recorded, with the on-site works taking place between the 19th and 25th of May 2017. All works were conducted in accordance with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' Standards and Policy Statements and Code of Conduct and Historic Scotland Policy Statements.

Findings

13. The topsoil within Trench 1 (Figure 5b) and the graveyard, (002), consisted of moderately compacted, mid grey brown silty sand with frequent root and moderate to frequent irregular shaped stone inclusions. The topsoil layer had a thickness range of between 0.25m-0.38m. Beneath this was a layer of disturbed subsoil, (004) (Figure 5b), consisted of moderately compacted, mid orange brown silty sand with occasional to moderate stone and disarticulated human bone and frequent root inclusions. The layer had an excavated thickness range of 0.12m-0.25m. Beneath the subsoil layer lay mid grey (basalt) bedrock which formed a sheer cliff edge on the graveyards northern and western sides.
14. The boundary wall surrounding the graveyard, [001] (Figure 4b), was constructed with sub rounded/angular stone (mid grey basalt). The larger sub rounded stones, which formed the inner and outer faces of the wall, measured 0.4m x 0.37m x 0.28m and the smaller angular stones, which made up the core of the wall, measured 0.13m x 0.12m x 0.09m. The stones appeared to be unworked, though later stones inserted as repairs within the structure were faced. The elements of the wall were bonded with a white/light grey mortar. The wall had a maximum height of 2m (though it had collapsed in places), its width at the base was 0.6m and at the top was 0.4m. The wall enclosed an oval area which stretched 64m from north to south and 51m from east to west (approx. 2000m²).
15. A rectangular area formed by a series of kerbstones, [008] (Figure 5b) and the graveyard boundary wall [001] was located at the southern end of Trench 1. The area enclosed measured 8m by 1.5m and the individual kerbstones, [008], measured 1m by 0.2m and 0.25m high. The stones were faced on all sides though the upper, display, part of the stone was rounded. The foundation trench in which the kerbstones were set cut through the topsoil (002) and the underlying subsoil (004). At the northern end of Trench 1 there lay a group of four rectangular shaped gravestones, (009) (Figure 5a), which were orientated in an east to west direction. The slabs measured 1.5m by 0.5m and had a thickness range of between 0.1m-0.14m. The three northernmost gravestones (Figure 5a) were inscribed with 'John Kerr Born 1794', 'Matthew Kerr Born 1791' and 'James King'. Two artefacts (see Appendix 1) were recovered from the disturbed subsoil layer, (004), a corroded iron 'coffin' handle and a glazed floor tile with adhered mortar on its underside.
16. The topsoil, (003), within Trenches 2 and 3 (Figures 6a and 6b) which lay at the base of the north western and western parts of the boundary wall [001] and the sheer bedrock layer, (006), beneath, consisted of moderately compacted, mid grey brown/black silty sand

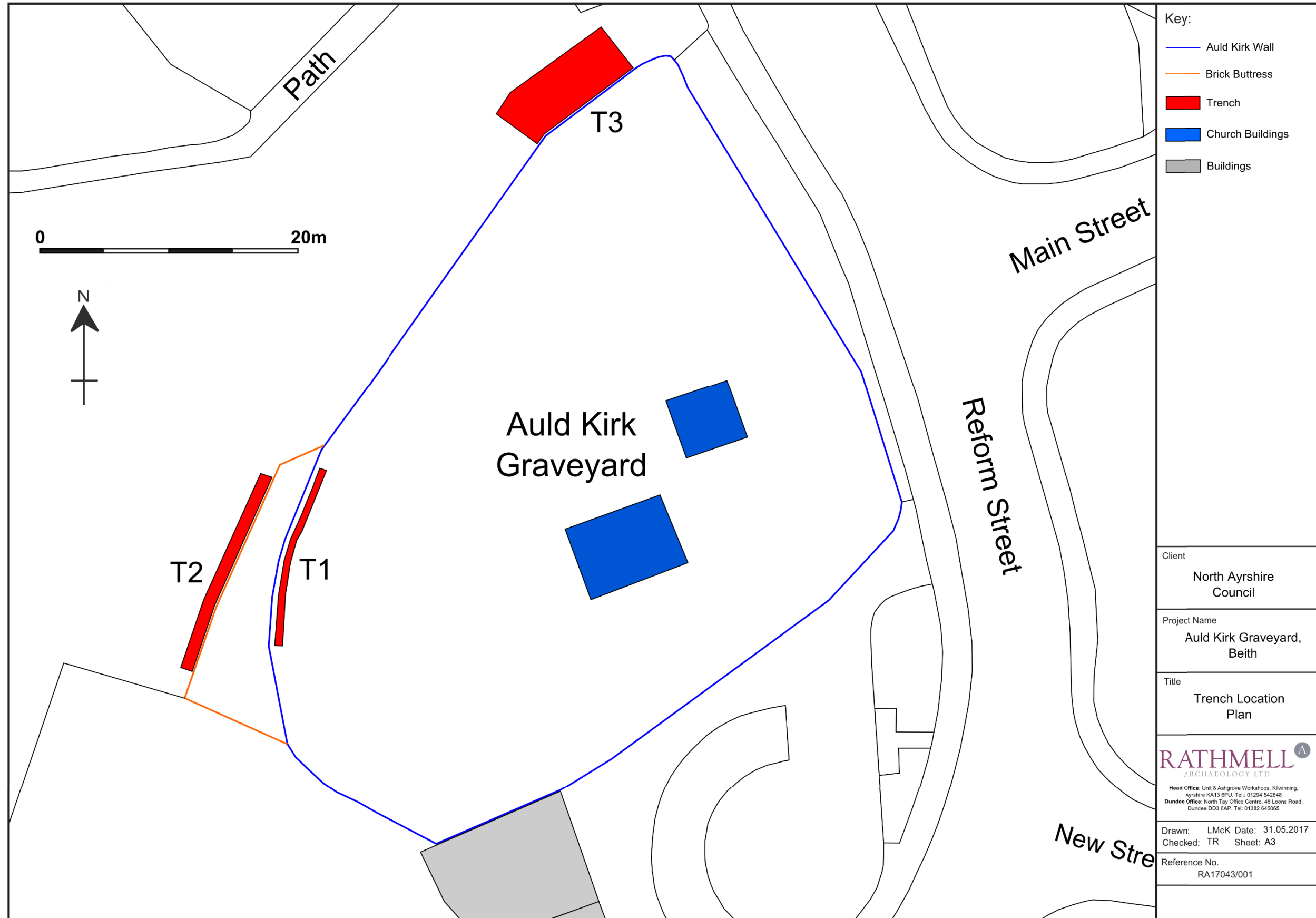


Figure 3: Trench Location Plan.



Figure 4a: View of the graveyard and church buildings. From the WSW.



Figure 4b: View of a section through the boundary wall [001]. From the S.



Figure 5a: View of the inscribed 18th century gravestones (009). From the N.



Figure 5b: Post excavation view of Trench 1 with Kerbstones in background. From the NNE.



Figure 6a: Post excavation view of Trench 2. From the N.



Figure 6b: Post excavation view of Trench 3. From the W.

with moderate to frequent stone and root inclusions. Layer had a thickness range of between 0.28m-0.33m. The underlying subsoil, (005), consisted of moderately compacted, mid to dark grey brown/black silty sand with occasional CBM and root and moderate to frequent stone inclusions. The layer had an excavated thickness range of between 0.58m to 0.68m. No significant artefacts or features were identified within Trenches 2 and 3.

Discussion

17. No *in situ* graves were identified during the excavation of Trench 1. The group of four gravestones (009), from the inscriptions on three of them, were from the late 18th century but appear to have been moved from their original location within the graveyard as there was only the disturbed subsoil, (004), beneath and no evidence of grave cuts.
18. There was inclusions of disarticulated human bone in this disturbed subsoil beneath the gravestones but most of it was identified 0.05m-0.1m beneath the topsoil layer. This could mean that some or all of the subsoil in that part of the graveyard had been redeposited and was later to suffer disturbance due to the planting of trees and other vegetation.
19. The series of stone kerbs, [008], which along with the boundary wall [001] at the southern end of Trench 1 and enclosed a small rectangular area was most likely part of later landscaping within the graveyard. The subsoil within the enclosed area contained no human bone but did contain frequent root activity suggesting the stone demarcated a garden feature.
20. No significant artefacts or features were identified within either Trenches 2 or 3. Both the subsoil, (003), and the subsoil, (005), appeared to be either disturbed or redeposited as modern CBM was identified within the subsoil.

Recommendations

21. This Data Structure Report covers archaeological works undertaken in support the renewal of the boundary wall to the Auld Kirk at Beith, North Ayrshire (Planning Ref: 17/00229/LBC). The recommendations put forward in this document will be contributory to any final recommendations made on the completion of the works.
22. The archaeological monitoring works identified disarticulated human bone and a group of four 18th century gravestones within one of the three trenches that were subject to an archaeological watching brief. Neither the bone nor the gravestones appeared to be *in situ* and seemed to have been redeposited and moved from another part of the graveyard. No other significant artefacts or features were identified within the other two trenches and as such it is recommended that no further work should be carried out.
23. The disarticulated human remains recovered from the watching brief will be reinterred in liaison with North Ayrshire Council Bereavement Services.
24. The appropriateness and acceptability of our recommendations rest with the representative of the West of Scotland Archaeological Service.

Conclusion

25. Archaeological monitoring work was carried out for North Ayrshire Council, in support of the renewal of the boundary wall to the Auld Kirk at Beith, North Ayrshire (Planning Ref: 17/00229/LBC). These archaeological works are designed to mitigate any adverse impact on the archaeological remains within the development area.
26. This report covers the excavation of three trenches, one where the boundary wall was to be moved due to ground instability in the graveyard and two at the base of the wall where new wall props and buttresses were to be placed. The graveyard trench identified disarticulated human bone beneath four 18th century gravestones which seemed to have been moved from another location within the graveyard. The other two trenches contained no significant archaeological features or artefacts.

Acknowledgements

27. The author would like to thank David Watts Senior Architect with North Ayrshire Council

and also Richard Stuart and his team from Aberdeen Civil Engineering Ltd for their assistance on site. The author would also like to thank Claire Williamson senior archaeologist with Rathmell Archaeology Ltd for her kind input and editing.

28. This project has been monitored for the West of Scotland Archaeological Service by Martin O'Hare who has given guidance and direction throughout.

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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	-	Structure	Materials consisted of sub rounded/angular stone (mid grey basalt type of stone). The larger sub rounded stones measured 0.4m x 0.37m x 0.28m and the smaller angular stones measured 0.13m x 0.12m x 0.09m. Stones appeared to be unworked, though later stones inserted within the structure were faced. The structure took the form of a large sub oval shaped enclosing wall. Wall structure formed with larger stones forming the inner and outer faces with the smaller angular stones forming a rubble core. These elements of the wall were bonded with a white/light grey mortar. The wall had a maximum height of 2m (though it had collapsed in places), its width at the base was 0.6m and at the top was 0.4m. The wall enclosed an oval area which stretched 64m from north to south and 51m from east to west (c.2000m ²).	The enclosing wall around the Auld Kirk Graveyard. The northern and western parts of the wall were in poor repair and some stretches of the wall appeared to have been patched up. A number of Gravestones had been placed up against the wall or actually set into the wall, presumably from another location within the graveyard.
002	T1	Deposit	Moderately compacted, mid grey brown silty sand with frequent root and moderate to frequent irregular shaped stone inclusion. Layer had a thickness range of between 0.25m-0.38m. Overlies (004).	Topsoil within the Auld Kirk Graveyard.
003	T2 and T3	Deposit	Moderately compacted, mid grey brown/black silty sand with moderate to frequent stone and root inclusions. Layer had a thickness range of between 0.21m-0.37m. Overlies (005).	Recent topsoil layer which had built up around the base of the enclosing wall [001] and the brick buttress [007] in the north and west.
004	T1	Deposit	Moderately compacted, mid orange brown silty sand with occasional to moderate stone and human bone and frequent root inclusions. The layer had an excavated thickness range of 0.28m-0.33m.	Redeposited or highly disturbed natural subsoil within the northern and western edge of the Auld Kirk Graveyard. The layer contained frequent tree roots which disturbed the layer. There was also a small amount of disarticulated human bone recovered from

Context No.	Area/ Trench	Type	Description	Interpretation
				the layer along with an iron coffin handle (Find No. 1) and a glazed ceramic tile (Find No. 2), possibly from one of the church buildings.
005	T2 and T3	Deposit	Moderately compacted, mid to dark grey brown/black silty sand with occasional CBM and root and moderate to frequent stone inclusions. The layer had an excavated thickness range of between 0.58m to 0.68m. Underlies (003).	Redeposited or highly disturbed subsoil located around the base of the enclosing wall [001] and the brick buttress [007] in the north and west.
006	T1	Deposit	Mid grey stone layer (basalt). Underlies (004).	Naturally occurring bedrock which forms a sheer cliff edge directly beneath on the graveyards northern and western side.
007	-	Structure	Materials consisted of red brick which was frogged but had no discernible stamps on them. The bricks measured 0.23m-0.24m x 0.12m x 0.08m. The brick structure was constructed using common bond. The mortar was mid grey/white in colour. The structure was L shaped in plan measuring 26m from NNE to SSW, 12m from WNW to ESE, 0.23m-0.24m wide and 1.5m high. The structure was located at the western and south western base of the graveyards enclosing wall [001]. It abutted the sheer cliff edge (006) on which the wall was built and the cavity within the structure seemed to be filled with soil.	Brick built buttress wall at the graveyards western and south western edge. Possibly built in the late 19 th or 20 th century.
008	T1	Deposit	Group of four rectangular shaped stone slabs which were orientated in an east to west direction to the immediate north of the kerbed area [009]. The slabs measured 1.5m by 0.5m and had a thickness range of between 0.1m-0.14m. The three northernmost slabs were inscribed 'John Kerr Born 1794', 'Matthew Kerr Born 1791' and 'James King'. All three slabs were moved 0.5m to the east so as to allow trench 1 to be excavated.	Four gravestones which had to be moved to allow the excavation of Trench 1. Though human bone was encountered beneath the slabs but it was disarticulated and found within an area with frequent root activity suggesting that both the gravestones and disarticulated bone had at one time been located in another part of the graveyard.
009	T1	Structure	Rectangular area formed by a series of kerbstones and the boundary wall [001]. The area enclosed measured 8m by	Series of stone kerbs which along with the boundary wall [001] enclosed a small

Context No.	Area/ Trench	Type	Description	Interpretation
			1.5m and the individual kerbstones measured 1m by 0.2m and 0.25m high. The stones were faced on all sides though the upper, display, part of the stone was rounded. The foundation trench in which the kerbstones was set cut through the topsoil (002) and the underlying subsoil (004).	rectangular area which was presumably part of later landscaping within the graveyard. The subsoil within the enclosed area contained no human bone but did contain frequent root activity suggesting the stone demarcated a garden feature.

Photographic Register

Image No.	Digital	Description	From	Date
01	DSCN0422	View of the graveyard.	WSW	24/05/17
02	DSCN0423	View of the graveyard.	NNE	24/05/17
03	DSCN0424	View of the western edge of the boundary wall after removal.	NNE	24/05/17
04	DSCN0425	View of tracked machine working at the base of the boundary wall.	NNE	24/05/17
05	DSCN0426	View of tracked machine working at the base of the boundary wall.	NNE	24/05/17
06	DSCN0427	View of a section through the western boundary wall.	S	24/05/17
07	DSCN0428	Mid excavation view of Trench 1.	NNE	24/05/17
08	DSCN0429	View of tracked machine working at the base of the boundary wall.	ENE	24/05/17
09	DSCN0430	Mid excavation view of Trench 1.	NNE	24/05/17
10	DSCN0431	Mid excavation view of Trench 1. Close up view.	NNE	24/05/17
11	DSCN0432	Mid excavation view of Trench 1 showing kerbstones [009].	NNE	24/05/17

Image No.	Digital	Description	From	Date
12	DSCN0433	View of the north western part of the boundary wall.	NNW	24/05/17
13	DSCN0434	View of the western part of the boundary wall showing sections which had been removed prior to rebuilding.	WNW	24/05/17
14	DSCN0435	Close up view of the western part of the boundary wall showing sections which had been removed prior to rebuilding. Also shows later brick and earth buttress beneath the wall.	W	24/05/17
15	DSCN0436	Close up view of the western part of the boundary wall showing sections which had been removed prior to rebuilding. Also shows later brick and earth buttress beneath the wall.	WNW	24/05/17
16	DSCN0437	Close up view of the western part of the boundary wall showing sections which had been removed prior to rebuilding. Also shows later brick and earth buttress beneath the wall.	WNW	24/05/17
17	DSCN0438	Close up view of the western part of the boundary wall showing sections which had been removed prior to rebuilding. Also shows later brick and earth buttress beneath the wall.	WNW	24/05/17
18	DSCN0439	View of the north western part of the boundary wall.	WSW	24/05/17
19	DSCN0440	View of the north eastern part of the boundary wall (close to Reform Street) under repair.	NE	24/05/17
20	DSCN0441	View of the north eastern part of the boundary wall (close to Reform Street) under repair.	NE	24/05/17
21	DSCN0442	Rough concrete slab covering possible services 20m SSW of the boundary wall.	N	25/05/17
22	DSCN0443	Close up view of bedrock outcrop on which the western and south western boundary wall situated.	SW	25/05/17
23	DSCN0444	View of brick and earth buttress beneath the western and south western boundary wall.	SSW	25/05/17
24	DSCN0445	View of brick and earth buttress beneath the western and south western boundary	W	25/05/17

Image No.	Digital	Description	From	Date
		wall.		
25	DSCN0446	View of brick and earth buttress beneath the western and south western boundary wall.	W	25/05/17
26	DSCN0447	Close up view of recent attempts to repair and secure the north western part of the boundary wall.	NW	25/05/17
27	DSCN0448	View of the north western part of the boundary wall prior to the excavation of Trench 3.	SSW	25/05/17
28	DSCN0449	View of the north western part of the boundary wall prior to the excavation of Trench 3.	WSW	25/05/17
29	DSCN0450	View of brick and earth buttress beneath the western and south western boundary wall.	NNE	25/05/17
30	DSCN0451	-	-	25/05/17
31	DSCN0452	View of the vegetation next to the north western and northern parts of the boundary wall.	WSW	25/05/17
32	DSCN0453	Post excavation view of Trench 2's SSW end.	WNW	25/05/17
33	DSCN0454	Post excavation view of Trench 2's SSW end.	WNW	25/05/17
34	DSCN0455	View of the field to the SW of the brick and earth buttress and boundary wall.	N	25/05/17
35	DSCN0456	Oblique post excavation view of Trench 2.	N	25/05/17
36	DSCN0457	Oblique post excavation view of Trench 2.	SSW	25/05/17
37	DSCN0458	View of the southern part of the boundary wall under repair where it joined a later building.	NNW	25/05/17
38	DSCN0459	View of the foundations of the western and south western parts of the boundary wall	S	25/05/17

Image No.	Digital	Description	From	Date
		under repair.		
39	DSCN0460	View of the foundations of the western and south western parts of the boundary wall under repair.	S	25/05/17
40	DSCN0461	View of the foundations of the western and south western parts of the boundary wall under repair.	NNE	25/05/17
41	DSCN0462	View of small church building.	ENE	25/05/17
42	DSCN0463	View of small and main church buildings.	E	25/05/17
43	DSCN0464	View of small and main church buildings.	NNW	25/05/17
44	DSCN0465	View of the eastern part of the boundary wall under construction.	SSE	25/05/17
45	DSCN0466	View of the eastern part of the boundary wall under construction.	NNW	25/05/17
46	DSCN0467	View of the main church building.	SW	25/05/17
47	DSCN0468	View of small and main church buildings.	WSW	25/05/17
48	DSCN0469	View of small and main church buildings.	WSW	25/05/17
49	DSCN0470	View of the eastern and southern parts of the boundary where the wall has been replaced by iron railings and gate.	N	25/05/17
50	DSCN0471	View of Trench 1.	NNE	25/05/17
51	DSCN0472	View of Trench 1.	NNE	25/05/17
52	DSCN0473	Gravestones at Trench 1.	N	25/05/17
53	DSCN0474	View of gravestone at Trench 1.	E	25/05/17

Image No.	Digital	Description	From	Date
54	DSCN0475	View of gravestone at Trench 1.	E	25/05/17
55	DSCN0476	View of gravestone at Trench 1.	E	25/05/17
56	DSCN0477	Gravestones at Trench 1.	N	25/05/17
57	DSCN0478	View of gravestone at Trench 1.	E	25/05/17
58	DSCN0479	View of gravestone at Trench 1.	E	25/05/17
59	DSCN0480	View of gravestone at Trench 1.	E	25/05/17
60	DSCN0481	Gravestones at Trench 1.	N	25/05/17
61	DSCN0482	View of gravestone at Trench 1.	E	25/05/17
62	DSCN0483	View of the four gravestones in the process of being moved to the E of the wall.	NNE	25/05/17
63	DSCN0484	Southernmost gravestone being moved.	NNE	25/05/17
64	DSCN0485	Southernmost gravestone being moved.	NNE	25/05/17
65	DSCN0486	Close up view of Trench 1 after the moving of the southernmost gravestone and with the nearby kerbstones still in place.	NNE	25/05/17
66	DSCN0487	View of Trench 1 after the moving of the southernmost gravestone and with the nearby kerbstones still in place.	NNE	25/05/17
67	DSCN0488	View showing the frequent occurrence of roots within Trench 1 and beneath the gravestones.	NE	25/05/17
68	DSCN0489	View of the northernmost gravestones being moved.	NNE	25/05/17
69	DSCN0490	Vegetation being cleared at Trench 3.	WNW	25/05/17

Image No.	Digital	Description	From	Date
70	DSCN0491	Vegetation being cleared at Trench 3.	WSW	25/05/17
71	DSCN0492	Vegetation being cleared at Trench 3.	NE	25/05/17
72	DSCN0493	Pre excavation view at Trench 3.	WNW	25/05/17
73	DSCN0494	Pre excavation view at Trench 3.	WSW	25/05/17
74	DSCN0495	Mid excavation view of Trench 3.	W	25/05/17
75	DSCN0496	Post excavation view of Trench 3.	W	25/05/17
76	DSCN0497	Post excavation view of Trench 3.	W	25/05/17
77	DSCN0498	Post excavation view of Trench 3.	N	25/05/17

Finds Register

Find No.	Area/Trench	Context No.	Material Type	Description	Excavator	Date
1	Trench 1	004	Metal	Iron 'coffin' handle	LMcK	25/05/17
2	Trench 1	004	Ceramic	Glazed tile with mortar	LMcK	25/05/17

Appendix 2: Discovery & Excavation in Scotland

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	North Ayrshire
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	Auld Kirk Graveyard, Beith
PROJECT CODE:	RA17043
PARISH:	Beith (Cunninghame)
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	Liam McKinstry
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	Rathmell Archaeology Limited
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Watching brief
NMRS NO(S):	Category C listed building (LB882), Canmore ID's 266427, 42221 and 266433
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	Church, Mausoleum, Burial Vault, Churchyard and Burial Ground
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	Human bone, ceramic tile and iron coffin handle
NGR (2 letters, 8 or 10 figures)	NS 34824 53990 (Centred)
START DATE (this season)	19 th May 2017
END DATE (this season)	25 th May 2017
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. <i>DES</i> ref.)	None
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (may include information from other fields)	<p>Archaeological monitoring work was carried out for North Ayrshire Council, in support of the renewal of the boundary wall to the Auld Kirk at Beith, North Ayrshire (Planning Ref: 17/00229/LBC). These archaeological works are designed to mitigate any adverse impact on the archaeological remains within the development area.</p> <p>This report covers the excavation of three trenches, one where the boundary wall was to be moved due to ground instability in the graveyard and two at the base of the wall where new wall props and buttresses were to be placed. The graveyard trench identified disarticulated human bone beneath four 18th century gravestones which seemed to have been moved from another location within the graveyard. The other two trenches contained no significant archaeological features or artefacts.</p>
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	None
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	None
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	North Ayrshire Council
ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:	Unit 8 Ashgrove Workshops, Kilwinning, Ayrshire KA13 6PU
E MAIL:	contact@rathmell-arch.co.uk
ARCHIVE LOCATION (intended/deposited)	Report to West of Scotland Archaeology Service and archive to National Record of the Historic Environment

Contact Details

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