

**Cumbræ Parish Church,
North Ayrshire:
Watching Brief**

Data Structure Report



by Sarah Krischer

issued 13th December 2017

on behalf of Cumbræ 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  Date13th December 2017.....

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 ...13th December 2017.....

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Introduction

1. This Data Structure Report has been prepared for Cumbrae Parish Church in support of the erection of a new church building (13/00245/PPP) on ground adjacent to Bute Terrace, Millport, North Ayrshire. These archaeological works have been designed to mitigate any adverse impact on the archaeological remains within the development area. This report presents the findings from these works.
2. North Ayrshire Council required a programme of archaeological works to be undertaken at ground adjacent to Bute Terrace, Millport, North Ayrshire as an element of the granted planning permission. West of Scotland Archaeology Service, who advise North Ayrshire Council on archaeology matters has provided guidance on the structure of archaeological works required and the mitigation of the proposed development works.
3. A Written Scheme of Investigation (Mathews 2016) 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 development area is an area of open fields to the immediate north of the town of Millport. Cumbrae Primary School stands to the immediate west of the development area, with Bute Road and the town of Millport to the south. Superseded mapping shows very little change to the development area. Roy's Military Survey of 1747-52 (Figure 1a) shows the development area as agricultural land to the south coast of the island of Cumbrae between the farms of 'Kirkton', 'Kairns' and 'Bracach'.
5. The Ordnance Survey, 1869, 1st edition map (Figure 1b) shows the development area in much the same condition to which it appears today. In this map it exists as enclosed agricultural land to the immediate north of the town of Millport. Notable differences between this map and the current state of the land include the fact Bute Road does not exist, although the line of it is marked by property boundaries, and the Primary School is absent.
6. There are no known archaeological sites within the development area. The immediately surrounding area has no Scheduled Monuments or other sites recognized to be of national importance, however several sites exist of regional or local importance. Several listed buildings exist in the town of Millport to the south. The grounds of the Garrison House (Canmore ID: 188049) to the immediate south of the development area have been shown to contain the remains of decorative and kitchen gardens. To the north and in the same field as the development area local tradition holds that a group of standing stones (Canmore ID: 40625) existed although no above ground trace currently exists.
7. Previous evaluation works on this site in 2016 (McKinstry 2016) found three potentially prehistoric features in the southwest corner of the development area. They appeared to be significantly truncated by later ploughing. A large amount of 19th century sherds and glass fragments as well as more modern material was found throughout the development area.

Project Works

8. The programme of works comprised the archaeological monitoring of the building footprint of the new Cumbrae Parish Church building. The works comprised the excavation of a large L-shaped area by machine where the building was planned to be sited (Figure 2). The area measured 34m north-south and 45m east-west. The excavated depth range of the machine strip area was between 0.3m and 0.5m.
9. Any potential archaeological features were investigated and recorded, with the on-site works taking place between the 30th of November and 4th of December 2017. All works were conducted in accordance with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' Standards and Policy Statements and Code of Conduct and Historic Environment Scotland Policy Statements.



Figure 1a: Roy's Military Survey of 1747-52



Figure 1b: Ordnance Survey, 1869, 1st edition map

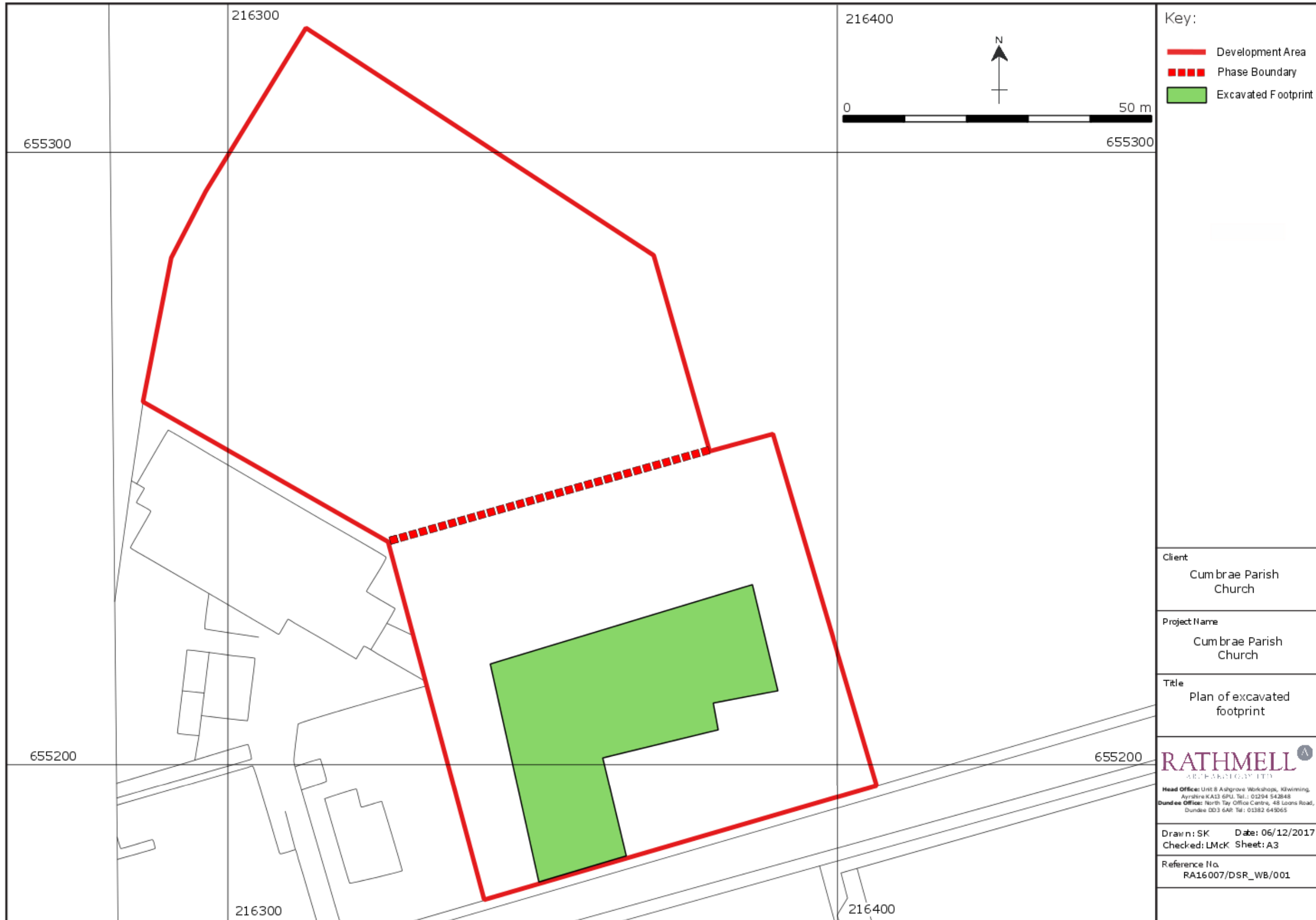


Figure 2: Plan of the development area.

Findings

10. The excavation area was located to the immediate north of Bute Terrace (Figures 2 and 3a). The site was mostly flat and sloped gradually from the northwest to the southeast but was more steeply sloping at the southern and western parts of the site. The topsoil layer consisted of a dark brown sandy clay with frequent root inclusions and had a thickness range of between 0.1m and 0.2m. (001) was underlain by plough soil (002). (002) was a mid-orange brown, moderately compact sandy clay with small stones and frequent charcoal and root inclusions. It had a thickness of 0.3m.
11. In the southernmost part of the site (001) and (002) overlay natural subsoil layer (005) which consisted of a mid-brownish red small subrounded stones in a clayey matrix (Figure 3b). In the rest of the site the natural subsoil consisted of (003) a moderately compact mid-brownish red clayey sand (Figure 4a). In the northern part of the development area (003) was overlain by (004) a layer of disturbed or redeposited natural mixed with charcoal and 19th – 20th century pottery sherds (Figure 4b). (004) is approximately 0.3m deep.
12. Two anthropic features were identified within the development area. A linear feature (006) was visible at the northwest corner of the site and was orientated in a north-south direction. The features fill consisted of a mid-brown, moderately compact sandy clay with frequent small stone, charcoal and root and grass inclusions (Figure 5a). It measured 0.47m from east to west, 11.7m from north to south and had a depth of 0.3m. The other feature, (007), was an oval pit. Its fill consisted of a mid-brownish-grey, compact sandy clay with small stone and frequent grass inclusions (Figure 5b). It measured 2m from east to west and 1.5m from north to south.
13. A ceramic tile drain (008) ran in a northwest to southeast direction across the site. It was 25.3m long northwest-southeast. The pipe cut was 0.4m wide and the depth was unknown. Two stone field drains, (009) and (010), ran in an east to west direction across site and one field drain (011) ran in a north to south direction across the site. All the stone drains were 0.3m – 0.4m wide and their depths were unknown. (008) was 10m long, (009) was 11m long. (011) was 9m long. All drains were made of grey small to medium sub-angular stones in a matrix of (002).

Discussion

14. No significant archaeological features were found in the development area. The stone field drains (009), (010) and (011) appeared to be intact. The development area sloped slightly downhill to the southeast and the clayey nature of the soil would have meant that drainage was needed. However, the field in which the development area was sited had been used for agriculture since at least the 1740s (Figure 1a) so it is difficult to say exactly when the current drains were placed but it may have been before the formalisation of the field boundaries which were depicted first in the Ordnance Survey of 1869 (Figure 1b). The tile drain (008) may be a later phase of drainage from the later part of the 19th century or 20th century.
15. The two modern features, (006) and (007), identified both contained substantially grass and other vegetation inclusions within their fills and most likely represent recent agricultural activity. No artefacts were recovered from either of these features.
16. A large amount of 19th or 20th century ceramic and glass fragments were recovered from the disturbed or redeposited subsoil layer (004). The layer may be the result of refuse deposition over the years which was further dispersed across the development area through later ploughing.

Recommendations

17. This Data Structure Report has been prepared for Cumbrae Parish Church in support of the construction of a new church building (13/00245/PPP) on ground adjacent to Bute Terrace, Millport, North Ayrshire.
18. The archaeological monitoring works uncovered a number of 19th or 20th century ceramic and glass sherds deposited within a layer of the disturbed or redeposited subsoil along with

large amount of charcoal. Two modern features were also identified cut into the subsoil, as well as a tile drain and several stone field drains. No significant archaeological features were identified within the development area. As such, it is recommended that no further work should be carried out.

19. The appropriateness and acceptability of our recommendations rest with North Ayrshire Council and their advisors, the West of Scotland Archaeological Service.

Conclusion

20. Archaeological monitoring work was carried out for Cumbrae Parish Church, in support of construction work on land for the new Cumbrae Parish Church, North Ayrshire (Planning Ref:13/00245/PPP). These archaeological works are designed to mitigate any adverse impact on the archaeological remains within the development area.
21. This report covers the excavation of the building footprint for the construction of the new church building. The works were carried out between the 30th of November 2017 and the 4th of December 2017. A large amount of 19th or 20th century ceramic and glass sherds were recovered within a disturbed or redeposited subsoil layer (004). Two modern features were also identified cut into the subsoil, as well as a tile drain and several stone field drains. No significant archaeological features or artefacts were identified within the area.

Acknowledgements

22. The author would like to thank the client Cumbrae Parish Church and their onsite contractors, Linea Construction, for their support throughout the project. Thanks should also go to Liam McKinstry, Senior Archaeologist with Rathmell Archaeology Ltd, for his input and editing.
23. This project has been monitored for the West of Scotland Archaeological Service by Paul Robins who has given guidance and direction throughout.

References

Documentary

Historic Scotland, 2008, *Scottish Historic Environment Policy*.

Mathews, Alan, 2016 *Cumbrae Parish Church, North Ayrshire: Archaeological Mitigation, Written Scheme of Investigation*.

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Cartographic

William Roy's Military Survey of 1747-52

Ordnance Survey, 1869, 1st edition map



Figure 3a: Pre excavation view of development area. From the southeast



Figure 3b: Post excavation shot of south end of footprint showing subsoil (005). Taken from the northwest.



Figure 4a: Post excavation view of development area. Taken from the W.



Figure 4b: Stone field drain (010) taken from the east.



Figure 5a: Section of feature (006) taken from the north



Figure 5b: Section of feature (007) taken from the east

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	-	Deposit	Moderately compact dark brown sandy clay with frequent root inclusions. Thickness range of between 0.1m and 0.2m and present throughout excavation area.	Topsoil.
002	-	Deposit	Mid brown, moderately compact sandy clay with small stones and frequent charcoal and root inclusions. 0.3m deep and present throughout excavation area.	Plough soil.
003	-	Deposit	Mid-brownish red clayey sand with frequent stone and charcoal inclusions. Compact and 0.15m thick. 35.6m east-west and 11.7m north-south.	Natural subsoil mixed with charcoal and 19 th century artefacts.
004	-	Deposit	Moderately compact mid-brownish red clayey sand. 22m long north-south, across entire area east-west.	Natural subsoil
005	-	Deposit	Mid brownish red small subrounded stones in a clayey matrix. 6m long north-south and across entire area east-west.	Natural subsoil
006	-	Deposit	Linear feature oriented north-south of mid brown, moderately compact sandy clay with small stones and frequent charcoal, root and grass inclusions. 0.47m east-west, 11.7m north-south and 0.3m deep.	Modern linear feature.
007	-	Deposit	Mid-brownish-grey, compact sandy clay with small stones and frequent grass inclusions. 2m east-west, 1.5m north south, minimum depth of 0.3m (base not reached).	Modern pit feature.
008	-	Structure	Red tile drain running northwest-southwest across site. 0.4m wide, 25.3m long, depth unknown.	Modern tile drain.
009	-	Structure	Stone field drain of subangular stones running east-west. 0.3m – 0.4m wide and 10m long. The drain was made of grey small to medium sub-angular stones in a matrix of (002).	Stone field drain.

Context No.	Area/ Trench	Type	Description	Interpretation
010	-	Structure	Stone field drain of subangular stones running east-west. 0.3m – 0.4m wide and 11m long. The drain was made of grey small to medium sub-angular stones in a matrix of (002).	Stone field drain.
011	-	Structure	Stone field drain of subangular stones running north-south. 0.3m – 0.4m wide and 9m long. The drain was made of grey small to medium sub-angular stones in a matrix of (002).	Stone field drain.

Finds Register

Find No.	Area Trench	Context no.	Material Type	Description	Excavator	Date
001	-	003	Ceramic	19 th century white glazed ceramic sherds	SK	30/11/2017
002	-	003	Ceramic	19 th century patterned ceramic sherds	SK	30/11/2017
003	-	003	Glass	Patterned clear glass	SK	30/11/2017

Photographic Register

Image No.	Digital	Description	From	Date
01	8968	Pre-excavation shot of site.	E	30/11/2017
02	8969	Pre-excavation shot of site.	SW	30/11/2017
03	8970	Post-excavation shot of west side of footprint.	N	30/11/2017
04	8971	Post-excavation shot of west side of footprint.	S	30/11/2017
05	8972	Post-excavation shot of northeast corner of footprint	E	30/11/2017

Image No.	Digital	Description	From	Date
06	8973	Post-excavation shot of northeast corner of footprint	N	30/11/2017
07	8974	Post-excavation shot of north end of site.	SE	30/11/2017
08	8975	Post-excavation shot of north end of site.	SE	30/11/2017
09	8976	Detail of (003) and subsoil (004).	NW	30/11/2017
10	8977	Post excavation shot of northwest side of site.	SE	30/11/2017
11	8978	Detail of (003) and subsoil (004).	SW	30/11/2017
12	8979	Linear (006) in subsoil (004).	N	30/11/2017
13	8980	Linear (006) in subsoil (004).	S	30/11/2017
14	8981	Linear (006) in subsoil (004).	S	30/11/2017
15	8982	Field drain (011).	N	30/11/2017
16	8983	Field drain (011).	N	30/11/2017
17	8984	Section of (006).	N	30/11/2017
18	8985	Section of (006).	N	30/11/2017
19	8986	Complete strip of northeast end of footprint.	SE	01/12/2017
20	8987	Complete strip of northeast end of footprint.	S	01/12/2017
21	8988	Tile drain (008) and subsoil (004).	E	01/12/2017
22	8989	Post-excavation shot of northwest end of footprint with field drain (010).	E	01/12/2017
23	8990	Post-excavation shot of northwest end of footprint with field drain (010).	E	01/12/2017

Image No.	Digital	Description	From	Date
24	8991	Detail of charcoal patches in (003).	N	01/12/2017
25	8992	Section of modern feature (007).	E	01/12/2017
26	8993	Detail of tile drain (008).	SW	01/12/2017
27	8994	Detail of tile drain (008).	SW	01/12/2017
28	8995	Post-excavation shot of footprint.	N	01/12/2017
29	8996	Post-excavation shot of footprint.	NW	01/12/2017
30	8997	Post-excavation shot of south end of footprint.	NW	04/12/2017
31	8998	Post-excavation shot of south end of footprint.	NW	04/12/2017
32	8999	Post-excavation shot of footprint.	W	04/12/2017
33	9000	Post-excavation shot of footprint.	W	04/12/2017
34	9001	Post-excavation shot of footprint.	W	04/12/2017
35	9002	Post-excavation shot of footprint.	SW	04/12/2017
36	9003	Post-excavation shot of footprint.	W	04/12/2017
37	9004	Post-excavation shot of footprint.	E	04/12/2017
38	9005	Working shot	SE	04/12/2017
39	9006	Post-excavation shot of footprint.	S	04/12/2017
40	9007	Post-excavation shot of footprint.	W	04/12/2017
41	9008	Post-excavation shot of footprint.	W	04/12/2017

Image No.	Digital	Description	From	Date
42	9009	Post-excavation shot of footprint.	W	04/12/2017
43	9010	Post-excavation shot of footprint.	W	04/12/2017
44	9011	Post-excavation shot of footprint.	NW	04/12/20170
45	9012	Post-excavation shot of footprint.	NW	04/12/2017
46	9013	Post-excavation shot of footprint.	N	04/12/2017
47	VOID	VOID	VOID	VOID
48	9015	South end of footprint near wall.	W	04/12/2017
49	9016	South end of footprint near wall.	W	04/12/2017
50	9017	South end of footprint near wall.	S	04/12/2017

Appendix 2: Discovery & Excavation in Scotland

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	North Ayrshire
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	Cumbrae Parish Church, North Ayrshire
PROJECT CODE:	RA16007
PARISH:	Cumbrae
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	Sarah Krischer
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	Rathmell Archaeology Limited
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Watching brief
NMRS NO(S):	None
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	None
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	None
NGR (2 letters, 8 or 10 figures)	NS 16355 55206
START DATE (this season)	30 th November 2017
END DATE (this season)	4 th December 2017
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. <i>DES</i> ref.)	Evaluation.
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (may include information from other fields)	<p>Archaeological monitoring work was carried out for Cumbrae Parish Church, in support of construction work on land for the new Cumbrae Parish Church, North Ayrshire (Planning Ref:13/00245/PPP). 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 the building footprint for the construction of the new church building. The works were carried out between the 30th of November 2017 and the 4th of December 2017. A large amount of 19th or 20th century ceramic and glass sherds were recovered within a disturbed or redeposited subsoil layer (004). Two modern features were also identified cut into the subsoil, as well as a tile drain and several stone field drains. No significant archaeological features or artefacts were identified within the area.</p>
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	None
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	None
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	Cumbrae Parish Church
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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