

**Old Church Site,  
Fountainblue Terrace,  
Wigtown,  
Dumfries and Galloway  
Archaeological Mitigation:**

Data Structure Report



by Sarah Krischer


issued 18<sup>th</sup> April 2019

on behalf of Mr M Hall

**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 .....18<sup>th</sup> April 2019.....

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 .....18<sup>th</sup> April 2019.....

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## Quality Assurance Data

Author(s)	Sarah Krischer		
Date of Issue	18 <sup>th</sup> April 2019	Version	1.0
Commissioning Body	Mr. M. Hall		
Event Name	Old Church, Wigtown		
Event Type	Watching Brief		
Event Date(s)	March 2019		
Rathmell Archaeology Code	RA18105	OASIS Ref	rathmell1-348827
Location	United Kingdom : Scotland : Dumfries & Galloway		
NGR	NX 43012 55195	Parish	Wigtown
Designation(s)	None		
Canmore IDs	None		

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## Introduction

1. This Data Structure Report has been prepared for Mr. M. Hall in support of development work on land at the Old Church site, Fountainblue Terrace, Wigtown. The archaeological works were designed to mitigate the impact on the archaeological remains within their development area.
2. The works have been granted conditioned Planning Consent by Dumfries and Galloway Council (Planning Ref. 16/P/1/0028). The Dumfries and Galloway Council Archaeologist, who advises Dumfries and Galloway Council on archaeological matters, provided guidance on the structure of archaeological works appropriate on this site. Rathmell Archaeology Ltd has been appointed by Mr. M. Hall to undertake the development and implementation of archaeological mitigation works.
3. The Method Statement (Krischer 2019) provided the detail of the works for the mitigation pertaining to ground breaking within the development area and hence the direct physical impact on buried sediments.

## Archaeological Background

4. William Roy's Military Survey of Scotland (1747-55) depicts the development area as an area of open countryside to the north of the main road which runs in a south-westerly direction from the centre of Wigtown (Figure 1a).
5. There is no other mapping evidence which shows occupation on the site prior to the construction of a church in the 1840s. This church was initially constructed as a Relief Church, however, it was not finished and was sold to the congregation of Wigtown Free Church in 1843. It is shown on the 1<sup>st</sup> Edition Ordnance Survey of 1847-8 as a "Secession Church" (Figure 1b). It was known as the Free Church of Wigtown until 1900 when it was renamed the Wigtown United Free Church following the union of the Free Church and the United Presbyterians. In 1929 it was renamed yet again to the Wigtown West Church of Scotland after the United Free Church joined with the Church of Scotland. In 1948 Wigtown West church joined with Wigtown Laigh to become Wigtown Church of Scotland. At this point the old Wigtown West church was sold and the structure was demolished at some later date (Dawson 2011).
6. Two memorials are located at the northern side of the house plot, 12m from the development area. This highlights the possibility of burials at Wigtown Old Church. However, historical survey found no mention of any burials being carried out at the site (Dawson 2011). In addition, the establishment of separated cemeteries outside of towns became more common after the establishment of the Free Church in 1843 (ibid). It is therefore likely that the memorials found on site were simply commemorating significant individuals and not grave sites.
7. There are no known archaeological sites within the development area.

## Project Works

8. The program of works comprised the archaeological monitoring of all ground breaking works at the Old Church site, Wigtown. This consisted of five foundation trenches, a pit for the septic tank and an access track (Figure 2). All five foundation trenches were 1.1m - 1.6m wide and 0.9m- 1.5m deep. The Septic Tank Pit measured 3m by 4.4m and was 1m deep. The access track was 23m long and 4.9m wide. The works were undertaken using a 360° tracked excavator with a smooth ditching bucket and took place between the 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> March 2019.
9. In compliance with the Method Statement (Krischer 2019) any potential archaeological features were investigated and recorded. 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.



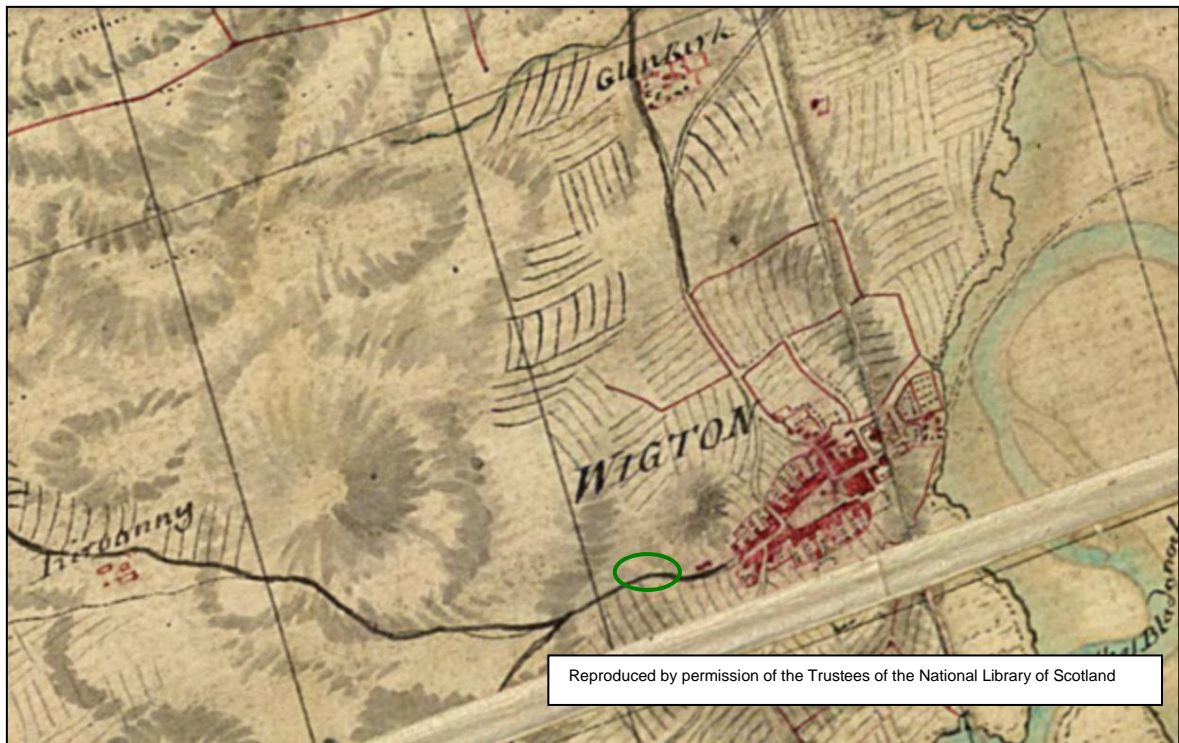


Figure 1a: Roy's Military Survey of Scotland (1747-55) The green circle denotes the development area.



Figure 1b: 1850 Ordnance Survey 1<sup>st</sup> edition map. The green circle denotes the development area.

## Findings

10. Five foundation trenches, a septic tank pit and an access track were excavated within the development area (Figure 2). Trench 1 ran north-south at the far eastern side of the development area. Trenches 2 and 5 ran perpendicular to Trench 1 at the southern and northern ends respectively. Trench 4 ran parallel to Trench 1 at the western ends of Trenches 2 and 5. Trench 3 was a c-shaped trench located on the southern side of Trench 2. The Septic Tank Pit was a rectangular trench to the west of the foundation trenches. The Access Track was a linear excavation running north-south from the main development area to the road.

### *Foundation Trenches*

11. Trench 1 ran in a north-south direction to the immediate west of the eastern edge of the development area (Figure 2). It measured 11.5m long, 1.3m wide and had a maximum depth of 1.2m. The trench excavated through an existing demolition layer, (001), which consisted of a very loosely compacted, crushed grey stone rubble within a brown sand matrix. The demolition layer had a thickness of 0.7m and overlay subsoil deposit (004) which consisted of a moderate to loosely compacted, pale yellowish-white sand with small stone inclusions. Subsoil deposit (004) had a maximum excavated thickness of 0.5m within Trench 1. A linear shaped stone foundation wall of the demolished church, [006], was identified 1.2m from the northern end of Trench 1 and at a depth of 0.6m from the existing ground level. The foundation wall measured 0.6m long by 0.9m wide and had a maximum excavated thickness of 0.1m (Figure 3b). The visible section of foundation wall was constructed from a single block of angular grey stone.
12. Trench 2 ran perpendicular to Trench 1 at its southern end (Figure 2). It measured 14.5m long by 1.2m wide and had a maximum depth of 1.3m. The trench was excavated through an existing demolition layer, (001), to a depth of 0.68m at the eastern end of the trench where it overlay subsoil deposit (004) and to a depth of 0.72m in the western part of the trench where it overlay subsoil deposit (003). Subsoil deposit (003) consisted of a moderate to loosely compacted, mid-orange sand with occasional sub angular stone inclusions (Figure 3a). A linear shaped stone foundation wall, [005], was identified 5.4m from the western end of Trench 2 at a depth of 0.85m. It measured 0.4m wide and ran across the entire 1.3m of the trench. Its thickness was unknown but it was constructed in a similar fashion to foundation wall [006].
13. Trench 3 was a "C" shaped trench to the south of Trench 2 (Figure 2). The shorter sides of the trench measured between 1.7m and 2.8m in length and were both 1.7m wide. The longer side had a length of 6.5m and a width of 1.4m. The trench had a maximum depth of 1.1m and was excavated through an existing demolition layer, (001), and into the underlying subsoil, (004), to a depth of 0.75m.
14. Trench 4 was 10.3m long and ran in a north-south direction parallel to Trench 1 at the western end of Trenches 2 and 5 (Figure 2). It was 1.1m wide and had a maximum depth of 0.9m. The trench was excavated through an existing demolition layer, (001), and into the underlying subsoil, (003), to a depth of 0.68m.
15. Trench 5 ran parallel to Trench 2 at the north side of the foundation trenches between the northern ends of Trench 1 and Trench 4. It was 13.1m long and 1.4m wide, with a maximum depth of 1.5m (Figure 2). The trench was excavated through an existing demolition layer, (001), and into the underlying subsoil deposits, (003) and (004), to a depth range of between 0.75 and 0.68m.
16. No significant archaeological features or artefacts were identified within the foundation trenches.

### *Septic Tank Pit*

17. A rectangular Septic Tank Pit was excavated 2m to the west of the foundation trenches. It measured 4.4m from east-west and 3m from north-south and had a depth of 1.2m (Figure 2). The pit was excavated through a made ground layer, (002), which consisted of a moderate to loosely compacted, dark brown sand with occasional stone and root inclusions

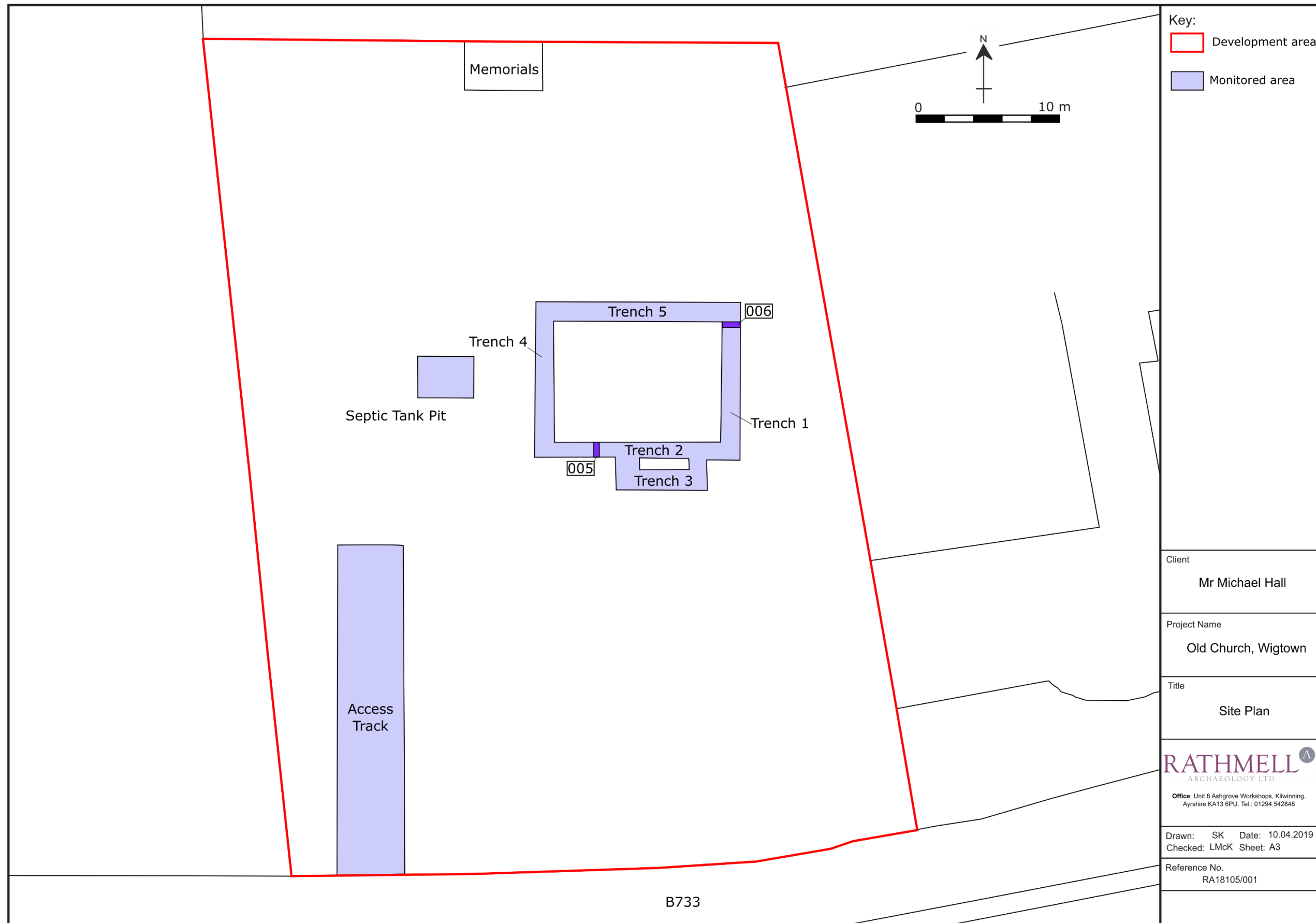


Figure 2: Plan showing monitored areas.





Figure 3a: Post-excavation shot of Trench 2 from the west.



Figure 3b: Post-excavation shot of Foundation [006] in Trench 1 from the east.





Figure 4a: Post-excavation shot of Septic Tank Pit from the south.



Figure 4b: Post-excavation shot of access track showing made ground (002) and retaining wall [007]. Photo from the southeast.

(Figure 4a). The made ground layer had a depth of 1m and overlay subsoil deposit (003). No significant archaeological features or artefacts were identified within the Septic Tank Pit.

#### *Access Track*

18. The access track had a length of 23m a width of 4.9m and ran in a north-south direction from Fountainblue Terrace to the main part of the development area (Figure 2). The track was excavated through made ground layer, (002), which consisted of a moderate to loosely compacted, dark brown sand which contained inclusions of 19<sup>th</sup> century or later glass bottle fragments and ceramic sherds (though none of these were retained). Evidence of large tree roots and other organic disturbance were also noted within the made ground layer. The made ground had a maximum thickness of 0.7m and overlay subsoil deposit, (003), a moderate to loosely compacted, mid orange sand with occasional sub angular stone inclusions. At the southernmost end of the access track it cut through the stone retaining wall, [007], which bounded the pavement running along Fountainblue Terrace. The retaining wall was of drystone construction made using rough grey stone which measured approximately 0.3m by 0.3 by 0.2m thick. The wall was badly overgrown in places and had a height of 1.4m where it was cut by the access track (Figure 4b).
19. No significant archaeological features or artefacts were identified within the access track.

#### **Discussion**

20. The northern part of the development area at the Old Church site, Wigtown consisted of a flat terraced area raised above the road by a retaining wall [007]. The majority of the site was covered in a demolition layer (001) which overlay natural subsoil deposits (003) and (004). The two sections of foundation wall, [005] and [006], identified within the newly excavated foundation trenches represented the subsurface remains of the 19<sup>th</sup> century Old Church structure.
21. The southern part of the development area was covered by an area of made ground (002). The presence of 19<sup>th</sup> century ceramics and glass within this deposit indicated that it may have been created deliberately to afford a flat level platform surface on which the church building could be sited. The retaining wall [007], which was situated at the southernmost end of the development area, was constructed so that it could contain the platform of made ground and the church building upon it.
22. The monitored area was located at least 12m from the memorials at the northernmost side of the development area. The memorials are dedicated to Rev Alex Ogilvie (b1756-d1831) and Rev Peter Hannay (b1804-d1855), who are both known to be buried elsewhere (Dawson 2011). This is in keeping with the pattern of burial at separate graveyards discussed above. No evidence of human remains was found within the monitored area.

#### **Recommendations**

23. This Data Structure Report covers archaeological monitoring works carried out on behalf of Mr M. Hall as a requirement of the granted planning consent (Planning Ref. 16/P/1/0028).
24. The area covered by the archaeological monitoring works identified no significant archaeological features or artefacts within the development area. Only the remains of wall foundations and demolition rubble associated with the 19<sup>th</sup> century Old Church were identified during the works. As such, it is recommended that no further archaeological works are required as a direct consequence of these works.
25. The appropriateness and acceptability of our recommendations rest with Dumfries and Galloway Council and their advisors, the Dumfries and Galloway Council Archaeologist.

#### **Conclusion**

26. Archaeological monitoring works were carried out in support of development work at the

site of Wigtown Old Church, Wigtown. The archaeological works were designed to mitigate the impact on the archaeological remains within the development area.

27. The monitoring works identified deposits of 19<sup>th</sup> century demolition material and made ground. Two foundation walls relating to the demolished 19<sup>th</sup> century Old Church were also identified. The works did not identify the presence of any significant archaeological features within the development area.

## Acknowledgements

28. We are grateful to Mr. M Hall for allowing us the chance to carry out these works and also to the Dumfries and Galloway Council Archaeologist who gave guidance throughout the project. We would also like to thank Liam McKinstry for his support throughout the project.

## References

Dawson, Michael 2011 *Written Scheme of Investigation for an Agreed Programme of Works, Watching Brief: Old Church Site, High Street, Wigtown* (Unpublished report by CgMs Consulting)

Krischer, Sarah 2019 *Old Church Site, Fountainblue Terrace, Wigtown: Archaeological Mitigation Method Statement* (Unpublished report by Rathmell Archaeology Limited)

Museum of London, 1994 *Archaeology Site Manual*

Museums and Galleries Commission, 1992, *Standards in the Museum Care of Archaeological Collections*

Scottish Government, 2008, *Treasure Trove in Scotland: A code of Practice*

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Scottish Government, 2011, *Planning Advice Note 2/2011: Planning & Archaeology*

### *Cartographic*

Roy, William	1747-55	Military Survey of Scotland
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Ordnance Survey	1850	1 <sup>st</sup> Edition 6-inch Wigtownshire Sheet XX
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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	Area/ Trench	Type	Description	Interpretation
001		Deposit	Very loose crushed grey stone rubble in a brown sand matrix. Rubble pieces measure 0.2m by 0.15m by 0.5m. Deposit is 0.7m deep and covers the entirety of site. It is underlain by subsoil (003) and (004) in addition to foundation deposits [005] and [006].	Demolition layer from removal of church structure.
002		Deposit	Moderately loose dark brown sandy topsoil with occasional stone and root inclusions. Deposit is 0.8m thick and found at the west and southwest sections of site. Also includes bottles, ceramics and large sections of trees. Overlies sandy subsoil (003).	Made ground adjacent to road at the west of the former church structure.
003		Deposit	Moderately loose mid-orange sandy subsoil with occasional sub angular stone inclusions. Underlies demolition layer (001) and made ground (002).	Orange sandy subsoil found throughout site except for eastern side.
004		Deposit	Moderately loose pale yellowish white sand with small stone inclusions underlying (001) at eastern side of site. The deposit was excavated to a depth of 0.94m, full extent was not reached.	Sandy subsoil found in Foundation Trenches 1, 2 and 5.
005		Structure	Grey stone linear foundation running north south in Foundation Trench 2. Located at a depth of 0.85m. It was 0.4m wide and ran the full width of the 1.2m trench. Depth of structure unknown.	Linear foundation of demolished church building running north-south in Foundation Trench 2.
006		Structure	Grey stone linear foundation running east-west in north end of Foundation Trench 1. Located at a depth of 0.6m, it measured 0.9m by 0.6m and had a minimum height of 0.1m.	Linear foundation of demolished church building running east-west in Foundation Trench 1.
007		Structure	Drystone wall of rough grey stones measuring approximately 0.3m by 0.3, 0.2m thick. Wall is between 1.5 and 3m high and heavily overgrown in places.	Stone retaining wall to immediate north of road.

*Photographic Register*

Image	Digital	Description	From	Date
1	488	Pre-excavation shot of site.	SSE	25/03/2019
2	489	Pre-excavation shot of site.	S	25/03/2019
3	490	Pre-excavation shot of site.	SE	25/03/2019
4	491	Pre-excavation shot of site.	SW	25/03/2019
5	492	Post-excavation shot of Foundation Trench 1.	N	25/03/2019
6	493	Post-excavation shot of Foundation Trench 1.	W	25/03/2019
7	494	Post-excavation shot of Foundation Trench 1.	NW	25/03/2019
8	495	Mid-excavation shot of Access Track.	SE	25/03/2019
9	496	Mid-excavation shot of Access Track.	SE	25/03/2019
10	497	Mid-excavation shot of Access Track.	SE	25/03/2019
11	498	Mid-excavation shot of Access Track.	N	25/03/2019
12	499	Post-excavation shot of Foundation Trench 1.	S	25/03/2019
13	500	Post-excavation shot of Foundation Trench 1.	SE	25/03/2019
14	501	Post-excavation shot of Foundation Trench 2.	E	25/03/2019
15	502	Post-excavation shot of Foundation Trenches 2 and 3.	NE	25/03/2019
16	503	Post-excavation shot of Foundation Trench 2.	SE	25/03/2019
17	504	Post-excavation shot of Foundation Trench 2.	E	25/03/2019
18	505	Post-excavation shot of Foundation Trench 3.	S	25/03/2019
19	506	Post-excavation shot of Foundation Trench 3.	SE	25/03/2019
20	507	Post-excavation shot of Foundation Trench 3.	W	25/03/2019
21	508	Post-excavation shot of Foundation Trench 3.	W	25/03/2019
22	509	Post-excavation shot of Foundation Trench 3.	W	25/03/2019
23	510	Post-excavation shot of Foundation Trench 3.	SSW	25/03/2019

Image	Digital	Description	From	Date
24	511	Post-excavation shot of Foundation Trench 2.	W	25/03/2019
25	512	Post-excavation shot of Foundation Trench 2.	NW	25/03/2019
26	513	Post-excavation shot of Foundation Trench 2.	SW	25/03/2019
27	514	Post-excavation shot of Foundation Trench 4.	S	25/03/2019
28	515	Post-excavation shot of Foundation Trench 4.	SE	25/03/2019
29	516	Post-excavation shot of Foundation Trench 4.	SW	25/03/2019
30	517	Post-excavation shot of Foundation Trench 4.	SW	25/03/2019
31	518	Post-excavation shot of Foundation Trench 4.	SE	25/03/2019
32	519	Post-excavation shot of Foundation Trench 5.	SW	25/03/2019
33	520	Post-excavation shot of Foundation Trench 5.	NW	25/03/2019
34	521	Post-excavation shot of Foundation Trench 5.	W	25/03/2019
35	522	Post-excavation shot of Foundation Trench 4.	N	25/03/2019
36	523	Post-excavation shot of Foundation Trench 4.	NE	25/03/2019
37	524	Post-excavation shot of Foundation Trench 4.	NW	25/03/2019
38	525	Post-excavation shot of Foundation Trench 5.	E	25/03/2019
39	526	Post-excavation shot of Foundation Trench 5.	SE	25/03/2019
40	527	Post-excavation shot of Foundation Trench 5.	NE	25/03/2019
41	528	Concrete foundation with subsoil in Trench 1.	N	25/03/2019
42	529	Concrete foundation with subsoil in Trench 1.	N	25/03/2019
43	530	Concrete foundation with subsoil in Trench 1.	N	25/03/2019
44	531	Concrete foundation with subsoil in Trench 1.	-	25/03/2019
45	532	Concrete foundation with subsoil in Trench 1.	-	25/03/2019
46	533	Post-excavation shot of septic tank pit.	SE	25/03/2019
47	534	Post-excavation shot of septic tank pit.	SE	25/03/2019
48	535	Post-excavation shot of septic tank pit.	NE	25/03/2019



Image	Digital	Description	From	Date
49	536	Post-excavation shot of septic tank pit.	N	25/03/2019
50	537	Post-excavation shot of septic tank pit.	NW	25/03/2019
51	538	Post-excavation shot of septic tank pit.	W	25/03/2019
52	539	Post-excavation shot of septic tank pit.	SW	25/03/2019
53	540	Post-excavation shot of septic tank pit.	E	25/03/2019
54	541	Post-excavation shot of septic tank pit.	E	25/03/2019
55	542	Post-excavation shot of septic tank pit.	S	25/03/2019
56	543	General shot of site.	N	25/03/2019
57	544	General shot of site.	NW	25/03/2019
58	545	General shot of site.	N	25/03/2019
59	546	General shot of site.	NE	25/03/2019
60	547	General shot of site.	W	25/03/2019
61	548	Working shot- access track.	-	26/03/2019
62	549	Pre-ex shot of revetment at side of road.	SE	26/03/2019
63	550	Pre-ex shot of revetment at side of road.	SW	26/03/2019
64	551	Working shot- access track.	SE	26/03/2019
65	552	Working shot- access track.	S	26/03/2019
66	553	Working shot- access track.	SW	26/03/2019
67	554	Post-excavation shot of access track.	S	26/03/2019
68	555	Section shot of access track.	W	26/03/2019
69	556	Post-excavation shot of access track.	SW	26/03/2019
70	557	Post-excavation shot of access track.	N	26/03/2019
71	558	Mid-excavation shot of revetment removal for access track.	SW	26/03/2019
72	559	Mid-excavation shot of revetment removal for access track.	SE	26/03/2019
73	560	Post-excavation shot of revetment removal for access track.	S	26/03/2019

Image	Digital	Description	From	Date
74	561	Post-excavation shot of revetment removal for access track.	SE	26/03/2019
75	562	Post-excavation shot of revetment removal for access track.	W	26/03/2019
76	563	Post-excavation shot of revetment removal for access track.	E	26/03/2019
77	564	Post-excavation shot of concrete foundation [005] in Trench 2.	S	26/03/2019
78	565	Post-excavation shot of concrete foundation [005] in Trench 2.	S	26/03/2019
79	566	Memorial slabs at north end of site.	S	26/03/2019
80	567	Memorial slabs at north end of site.	S	26/03/2019
81	568	Memorial slabs at north end of site.	SW	26/03/2019
82	569	Memorial slabs at north end of site.	SE	26/03/2019
83	570	General shot of site.	N	26/03/2019
84	571	Post-excavation shot of access track.	S	26/03/2019
85	572	Post-excavation shot of access track.	SW	26/03/2019
86	573	Post-excavation shot of access track.	SE	26/03/2019

## Appendix 2: Discovery & Excavation in Scotland

<b>LOCAL AUTHORITY:</b>	Dumfries and Galloway
<b>PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:</b>	Old Church Site, Fountainblue Terrace, Wigtown
<b>PROJECT CODE:</b>	RA18105
<b>PARISH:</b>	Wigtown
<b>NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:</b>	Sarah Krischer
<b>NAME OF ORGANISATION:</b>	Rathmell Archaeology Limited
<b>TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:</b>	Watching brief
<b>NMRS NO(S):</b>	None
<b>SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):</b>	None
<b>SIGNIFICANT FINDS:</b>	None
<b>NGR</b> (2 letters, 8 or 10 figures)	NX 43034 55144
<b>START DATE</b> (this season)	25 <sup>th</sup> March 2019
<b>END DATE</b> (this season)	26 <sup>th</sup> March 2019
<b>PREVIOUS WORK</b> (incl. <i>DES</i> ref.)	None
<b>MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION:</b> (may include information from other fields)	<p>Archaeological monitoring works were carried out in support of development work at the site of Wigtown Old Church, Wigtown. The archaeological works were designed to mitigate the impact on the archaeological remains within the development area.</p> <p>The monitoring works identified deposits of 19th century demolition material and made ground. Two foundation walls relating to the demolished 19th century Old Church were also identified. The works did not identify the presence of any significant archaeological features within the development area.</p>
<b>PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:</b>	None
<b>CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:</b>	None
<b>SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:</b>	Mr M. Hall
<b>ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:</b>	Unit 8 Ashgrove Workshops, Kilwinning, Ayrshire KA13 6PU
<b>E MAIL:</b>	contact@rathmell-arch.co.uk
<b>ARCHIVE LOCATION</b> (intended/deposited)	Report Dumfries and Galloway Council Archaeologist and archive to the National Record of the Historic Environment



## Contact Details

31. Rathmell Archaeology can be contacted at our Registered Office or through the web:

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