

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

Data Structure Report

by Claire Williamson

issued 4th October 2010



Rathmell
Archaeology Ltd

Quality Assurance

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

Signed

Date

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Checked

Date

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Contents

Introduction	3
Historical Background	3
Project Works	3
Findings.....	6
Drainage works.....	6
Discussion	9
Recommendations	9
Conclusion	9
References	9
Cartographic.....	9
Appendix 1: Registers.....	10
Context Register	10
Photographic Register	10
Finds Register.....	11
Appendix 2: Discovery & Excavation in Scotland	12
Contact Details	13

Introduction

1. This Data Structure Report has been prepared in respect to the installation of new drainage at Kilwinning Old Parish Church, North Ayrshire. The archaeological works are designed to mitigate the impact on the archaeological remains within their development area to the agreement of Historic 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, conditioned for archaeological monitoring.
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 Background

4. The burgh of Kilwinning is dominated by the twelfth century Tironensian Abbey, most likely founded by Richard De Moreville, Lord of Cunninghame. Portions of the nave and the cloistral range of the abbey are in the guardianship of the state, having been excavated and consolidated in the 1960s. A larger land holding including the Abbey Church (constructed 1775) and its churchyard are protected as a Scheduled Monument under the terms of the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979.
5. However, Kilwinning is believed to have been an established community prior to the twelfth century. The kil- element of the place name suggests long standing Christian presence in this area and MacGibbon and Ross propose the abbey was built on the site of the cell of St. Winning. *Segdounne* may have been the original name of the settlement by the Garnock; whether this indicates another founder for the town is uncertain though Camerarius in 16th century attributes a well established church at Kilwinning by AD 640.
6. The first detailed post-reformation plan of Kilwinning is from 1747-55 (General Roy's Military Survey of Scotland; Figure 1a); it forms a cluster settlement forming from three locales along what is now Main Street. The central hub is located around the Abbey buildings, another is located immediately on the east side of the river Garnock near the Corsehill and the third to the west at Byres.
7. By the 1st edition Ordnance Survey (1856) Kilwinning had expanded to include a full street frontage on either side of Main Street (Figure 1b). This rigid streetscape has been progressively altered through the 19th and 20th century with the opening out of the 'square' area at the west end of the Main Street and clearance to form the entrance to the Old Parish Church (removing the original property given to the Freemasons for their Mother Lodge).

Project Works

8. The programme of works comprised the archaeological monitoring of a drainage trench at the southeast corner of the Parish Church. The drainage channel was machine dug to a maximum depth of 600mm.
9. All groundbreaking works were continuously monitored by an archaeologist with all spoil checked thoroughly for archaeological material. All sections and surfaces were hand cleaned and investigated for any archaeological features which may have survived.
10. Recording was done by Rathmell Archaeology Limited standard method. All contexts, small finds and environmental samples were given unique numbers with bulk finds collected by context. Colour transparency and colour print photographs were taken as well as digital photographs. An overall site plan was recorded at 1:500 and sample sections were noted and drawn if they were seen to show anything significant.



Figure 1a: Detail from Roy's Military Survey of Scotland 1747-55



Figure 1b: Detail from 1st edition Ordnance Survey (1856)

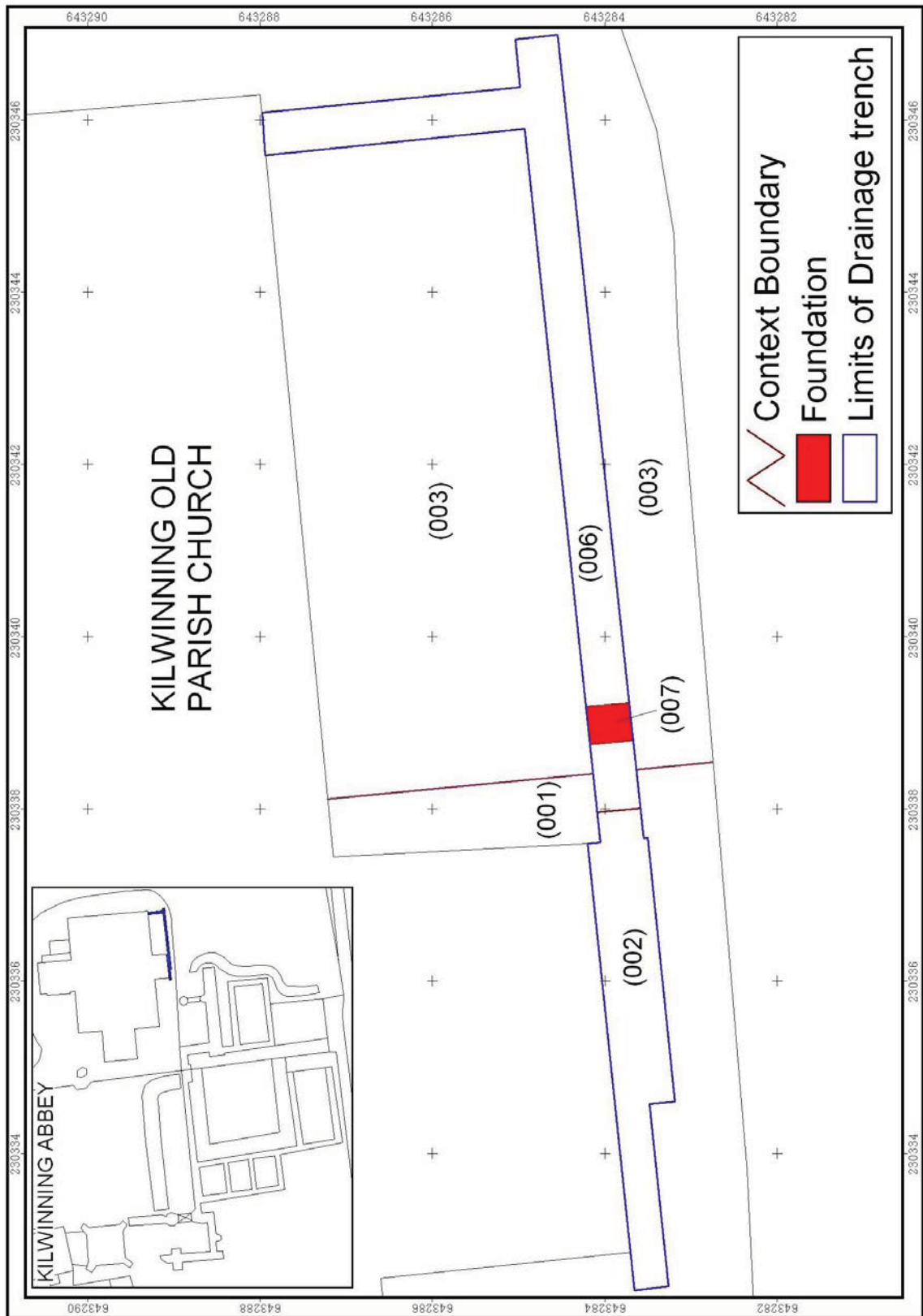


Figure 2: Plan showing location of excavated drainage trench

11. Any potential archaeological features were investigated and recorded, with the on-site works taking place from the 13th to the 14th September 2010. All works were conducted in accordance with the Institute of Field Archaeology's Standards and Policy Statements and Code of Conduct and Historic Scotland Policy Statements.

Findings

12. The development area was located to the immediate southeast of Kilwinning Old Parish Church and covered an area totalling approximately 9m². Originally the archaeological monitoring works were also to include the placement of an inspection hatch in the paved walkway to the northwest of the church, close to the war memorial, but after investigation it was later decided that this inspection hatch would not be inserted.

Drainage works

13. A narrow trench was excavated for a new drain pipe which ran in an 'L' shape at the southeastern corner of the Parish Church (Figure 2). The trench started at an existing downpipe at the southwestern corner of the church's southern extension, and then ran east until it was in line with the east wall of the church where it then turned north and continued until stopping at an existing downpipe located at the southeastern corner of the church. The western half of the trench, where it ran along the length of the southern wall of the church's southern extension, measured between 400 to 700mm wide and was excavated to a depth of 600mm. The eastern half of the trench, where it ran through the red monoblock paving area located here, measured 500mm wide and was excavated to a depth of 500-550mm. The north-south section of the trench, which ran up to the southeastern corner, measured 500mm wide and was excavated to a depth of 350mm.
14. Prior to excavation, the western half of the development area was covered by a thin layer of gravel (001) which made up the modern ground surface. The trench revealed this to be 80mm thick. Underlying this was a compact dark brown silty clay (002) which measured 550mm thick although ran deeper than what was excavated. This deposit contained frequent fragments of sandstone rubble and broken ceramic drain pipe, as well as occasional fragments of white glazed pottery. It appears to have been a modern deposit possibly from backfilling the area after previous drainage work.
15. The eastern half of the development area was covered by a layer of red monoblock paving (003) which was revealed to be 80mm deep. Underlying this were two bedding layers: a pale brown sand (004) which measured 40mm deep which overlay a pale grey gravel (005) which measured 100mm deep (see Figure 4b). Underlying these deposits was a compact mid brown clayey sand (006) which contained frequent small stone inclusions and some fragments of disarticulated human bone. It measured 300mm thick but ran deeper than what was excavated. This could possibly represent redeposited natural resulting as backfill from an earlier period of disturbance.
16. One feature discovered within the drainage trench had the potential for archaeology. A line of sandstone (007) (Figure 4a) ran approximately N-S across the trench 1.14m east of the eastern wall of the church's southern extension. It measures 0.45m wide and a minimum of 0.5m long by 300mm high. The feature ran outwith the area of the trench and its full depth was not revealed. It comprised of medium sized sandstone rubble blocks bonded with concrete and appears to have been a foundation for an earlier structure. However the nature of the concrete bonding suggests it to have been 20th century in date.



Figure 3a: Drainage Trench running east-west



Figure 3b: Drainage trench running north-south



Figure 4a: Sandstone foundation (007) from the south



Figure 4b: South facing section of drainage trench through deposits (003)-(006)

Discussion

17. No significant archaeological features or deposits were uncovered during the groundbreaking works. Deposit (002) present in the western half of the development area which contained fragments of ceramic drain pipe and white glazed pottery appears to have been a modern backfill deposit possibly after the ground was disturbed during earlier drainage works. Deposit (006) did contain fragments of disarticulated human bone but the nature of the deposit suggested it may have been redeposited natural backfilled after modern disturbance in the area.
18. The feature which had the most potential for archaeology was the line of sandstone (007) which appears to have been a foundation for an earlier structure. The concrete bonding however places this as likely to have been 20th century in date which also supports a modern date for deposit (006) which sits above it.

Recommendations

19. The drainage works carried out at Kilwinning Old Parish Church will have added greatly to the maintenance of the Church's structure and should hopefully negate the need for future works to be carried out on the drainage in this area for some time to come. The investigation into the drainpipe which was located close to the war memorial for the insertion of an inspection hatch, later abandoned, did highlight however that much is still not known about the drainage system which surrounds the Church as the origin of the drains which feed into this pipe are unknown.
20. During the works, several fragments of disarticulated human bone were recovered which will need to be cleaned and inspected before being properly disposed of. It is our recommendation that this material be dealt with alongside the material being processed for the Kilwinning Community Archaeology Project, which, although a separate project, has also recovered similar disarticulated human bone from the surrounding area.

Conclusion

21. Archaeological monitoring works were carried out in respect to the insertion 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.
22. The works identified that the ground had been previously disturbed with modern backfill deposits present across the whole of the development area. The only feature discovered was the line of a sandstone foundation (007) which may represent the presence of an earlier structure, although the use of concrete to bond it suggests it to have been only 20th century in date. Several fragments of disarticulated human bone were recovered from the disturbed deposit which sat above the 20th century foundation (007).

References

Cartographic

- | | | |
|-----------|-----------------|---|
| 1747-1755 | Roy | Military Survey of Scotland |
| 1855 | Ordnance Survey | 1 st edition Ordnance Survey Town Plan, Ayrshire |

Appendix 1: Registers

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

Context Register

Context No.	Area/ Trench	Type	Description	Interpretation
001	-	Deposit	Loose gravel in sand matrix. Measures 80mm thick.	Modern gravel surface
002	-	Deposit	Compact dark brown silty clay with frequent sandstone rubble and fragments of broken ceramic drain pipe. Also contains occasional fragments of white glazed pottery. Measures 550mm deep although runs deeper than the base of the trench.	Modern deposit possibly backfill from earlier drainage works
003	-	Deposit	Red monoblock paved surface. Measures 80mm thick.	Modern paved surface
004	-	Deposit	Compact pale brown sand. Measures 40mm thick.	Bedding layer below paving (003)
005	-	Deposit	Compact pale grey gravel (Type 1). Measures 100mm thick.	Bedding layer below (004)
006	-	Deposit	Compact mid brown clayey sand with frequent small stone inclusions and frequent small fragments of sandstone rubble. Also contains occasional fragments of disarticulated bone (Find No.1). Measures 300mm thick but runs deeper than base of trench. Overlies feature (007).	Possible redeposited natural, backfill from earlier disturbance in the area.
007	-	Feature	Line of sandstone running roughly N-S. Comprised of medium sized sandstone rubble bonded with concrete. Measures 450mm wide and 500mm long by 300mm high although extends further outwith trench and wasn't revealed to its full depth. Covered by deposit (006).	Possible sandstone foundation for an earlier structure, concrete bonding suggest 20 th century in date

Photographic Register

Image No.	Print		Slide		Digital	Description	From	Date
	Film No.	Neg. No.	Film No.	Neg. No.				
1	-	-	-	-	8	Working shot – digging drainage trench (W end)	W	13/9/10
2	-	-	-	-	9	Mid ex shot of W end of trench	SW	13/9/10

Image No.	Print		Slide		Digital	Description	From	Date
	Film No.	Neg. No.	Film No.	Neg. No.				
3	-	-	-	-	10	W end of trench excavated	SE	13/9/10
4	1	1	1	1	11	Foundation (007)	S	13/9/10
5	1	2	1	2	12	Foundation (007)	E	13/9/10
6	-	-	-	-	13	Foundation (007)	E	13/9/10
7	1	3	1	3	14	Foundation (007)	S	13/9/10
8	1	4	1	4	15	Foundation (007)	E	13/9/10
9	1	5	1	5	16	S facing section of trench through monoblock paving (003)	S	13/9/10
10	1	6	1	6	17	Full length of trench E-W fully excavated	E	13/9/10
11	1	7	1	7	18	Trench N-S fully excavated	S	13/9/10
12	-	-	-	-	19	E end of trench fully excavated	SW	13/9/10
13	-	-	-	-	20	W end of trench fully excavated	E	13/9/10
14	-	-	-	-	21	Foundation (007) in section after removal	S	13/9/10
15	-	-	-	-	22	Foundation (007) in section after removal	S	13/9/10
16	-	-	-	-	23	Shot of removed monoblock paving to reveal drain to NE of war memorial	S	14/9/10

Finds Register

Find No.	Area/Trench	Context No.	Material Type	Description	Excavator	Date
1	-	006	Bone	Several fragments of disarticulated bone	CW	13/9/10

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:	Claire Williamson
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:	Fragments of disarticulated human bone
NGR (2 letters, 8 or 10 figures)	NS 30341 43284 (centred on)
START DATE (this season)	13 th September 2010
END DATE (this season)	14 th September 2010
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. <i>DES</i> ref.)	None
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (may include information from other fields)	<p>Archaeological monitoring works were carried out in respect to the insertion 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.</p> <p>The works identified that the ground had been previously disturbed with modern backfill deposits present across the whole of the development area. The only feature discovered was the line of a sandstone foundation (007) which may represent the presence of an earlier structure, although the use of concrete to bond it suggests it to have been only 20th century in date. Several fragments of disarticulated human bone were recovered from the disturbed deposit which sat above the 20th century foundation (007).</p>
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	None
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	None
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	Kilwinning Old Parish Church
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 Historic Scotland, West of Scotland Archaeology Service and archive to National Monuments Record of Scotland.

Contact Details

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

Rathmell Archaeology Ltd	www.rathmell-arch.co.uk
Unit 8 Ashgrove Workshops	
Kilwinning	t.: 01294 542848
Ayrshire	f.: 01294 542849
KA13 6PU	e.: contact@rathmell-arch.co.uk

24. Historic Scotland can be contacted at their office or through the web:

Historic Scotland	www.historic-scotland.gov.uk
Longmore House	
Salisbury Place	t.: 0131 668 8600
Edinburgh	
EH9 1SH	

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