

Temple Kirkyard Temple Midlothian

Archaeological Works

Report No. 1657







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CONTENTS

1.	Introduction	3
2.	Working Methods	4
3.	Archaeological Results	5
4.	Summary and Conclusions	9
5.	References	10
Appe	ndices	
1.	Context Register	11
2.	Photographic Register	12
3.	Field Drawing Register	12
4.	DES Entry	13

Illustrations (bound at rear)

Fig. 1	Location map
Fig. 2A	Plan of foundation trench
Fig. 2B	Detailed plan of foundation trench
Fig. 3	West-facing section of wall trench
Fig. 4	North-facing section of wall trench
Fig. 5A	Plan of Stone 1
Fig. 5B	Section of Stone 1
Fig. 5C	Section of Stone 1
Fig. 6A	Plan of Stone 2
Fig. 6B	Section of Stone 2
Fig. 7	Detail of Stone 1 cross head
Fig. 8	Detail of Stone 1 central part
Fig. 9	Detail of Stone 1 sword and shield
Fig. 10	Stone 2
Fig. 11	Stone 1 showing its relationship to the wall
Fig 12	General view of foundation trench

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 General

- 1.1.1 This report presents the results of a programme of archaeological fieldwork undertaken by CFA Archaeology Ltd (CFA) in July 2009 at Temple Kirkyard, Temple, Midlothian (NGR: NT 31505 58728) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Midlothian Council Frontline Services and Countryside (MCFSC).
- 1.1.2 A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) dated 09 June 2009 was produced for the project by CFA. The WSI was based upon documents provided by MCFSC and designed to fulfil the requirements of Historic Scotland as discussed at an onsite meeting on the aforementioned date. This document supported the application for Scheduled Monument Consent (SMC).

1.2 Background

- 1.2.1 Two inscribed stones were revealed during the taking down of a section of the wall that divides Temple Kirkyard (NMRS No. NT35NW 1.1) from the grounds of Temple Manse (NT35NW 64). The wall borders the scheduled area associated with Temple Old Church (SAM No. 1191; NMRS No. NT35NW 1.0), but is not included in the scheduling. One of the stones remains *in situ*, while the other has been moved from its original position. The stones have provisionally been identified as medieval grave slabs.
- 1.2.2 Any further work required in relation to the treatment of the stones is still to be agreed and will be covered by an addendum to the WSI. The terms of the addendum will be agreed in advance by the East Lothian Council Archaeology Officer and by Historic Scotland.
- 1.2.3 Previous small scale excavations have been undertaken within the grounds of the manse (Aliaga-Kelly 1985).

1.3 Objectives

- 1.3.1 The objectives of the archaeological work were:
 - To produce a photographic record of both the stones
 - To produce scaled line drawings of the stones
 - To produce written descriptions of the stones
 - To record the position of the *in situ* stone
 - To clean back and record the section and the base of the wall foundation with the aim of trying to determine if there were any grave cuts

2. WORKING METHODS

2.1 General

2.1.1 CFA Archaeology Ltd follows the Institute for Archaeologists' Code of Conduct, Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Field Work.

2.2 Archive Assessment

- 2.2.1 A brief archive assessment was carried out to gather information that would set the findings into context
- 2.2.2 All readily available mapping held in the collection of the National Map Library, the National Monuments Record of Scotland, the Historic Environment Record, Statutory List of Buildings of Special Architectural or Historic Interest and the Inventory of Gardens and Designed Landscapes were consulted. Relevant bibliographic sources were consulted.

2.3 Trench Recording

- 2.3.1 The wall foundation trench had already been excavated prior to CFA arriving on site. The tall section, which is the edge of the Scheduled Area, was cleaned and recorded but it was not cut back any further into the Scheduled Area. The base of the foundation trench was similarly cleaned back at the level the trench had been excavated to, which is the formation level of the new wall.
- 2.3.2 The trench section and base were fully recorded. All excavation and on-site recording was carried out according to standard CFA procedures, principally by drawing, by photography and by completing standard CFA record forms. The stratification was recorded even if no deposits of archaeological significance were discovered.

2.4 Recording of the Position of the Stone

2.4.1 The position of Stone 1 was recorded using a Leica GS50 Global Positioning System (GPS) with an accuracy to within >0.5m.

2.5 Photographic Record

2.5.1 Both digital and colour-slide photographs (35mm SLR) were taken from a variety of viewpoints.

2.6 Scaled Drawings

2.6.1 Drawings of the stones were produced at a scale of 1:2 and reduced to 1:10 for inclusion in this report. The drawings included detail of the inscribed surfaces and profiles of both stones. Some hand cleaning was carried out around the *in situ* stone in order to facilitate its recording.

2.7 Written Record

2.7.1 A written record was produced for both stones. The record includes descriptions of the inscriptions on the stone, the physical attributes of the stone including size, colour, wear and general form, and descriptions of the contexts that the stones were found in.

3. ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS

3.1 Archive Assessment

- 3.1.1 Information obtained from the National Monuments Record of Scotland and from Historic Scotland suggests that the village first became known as Temple in 1570, having originally been called 'Balantrodoch' or 'Balintrode'. The name Temple was derived from it having been the principal seat of the Knights Templar in Scotland. Although the earliest reference to the foundation of the church is probably in a charter of 1175-99, McWilliam (1978, 446) has suggested that the style and detail of the surviving ruins suggests a late 13th or early 14th century date. After the suppression of the Templars in c. 1309, 'Temphill of Balantrodoch with the kirk' became one of the baronies held by the Hospitallers (the Knights of St John of Jerusalem). The church remained in use until Temple Parish Church (NMRS No. NT35NW 11.00) was constructed in 1832.
- 3.1.2 Information obtained from Historic Scotland indicates that Temple Manse is thought to date to the early 18th century, but the exact date of its construction is not clear. It is referred to in the Statistical Account of Scotland (1792) and the New Statistical Account of Scotland (1845) as an old building and repairs are documented to have been undertaken in 1790 and 1805. The discovery of a splayed basement course during alterations to the building in 1928 has led to the suggestion that the Manse may be on the site of the north cloister of the original 12th/13th century Templar establishment. Excavations undertaken in the 1980s (Aliaga-Kelly 1985) did find the foundations of previous buildings, but there was no conclusive evidence for the central medieval date suggested. It is possible that the perimeter wall overlying Stone 1 and Stone 2 was constructed at the same time as the manse, but the available evidence did not allow this to be proven.
- 3.1.2 Temple is depicted on Adair's 1682 map and on all the subsequent maps consulted. Roy's military map (1750) depicts a cluster of structures thought to be Temple Old Church and manse. The wall dividing the manse from the churchyard may also be shown, but the scale and quality of the mapping means that this cannot be stated with any great degree of certainty. The church and manse are clearly depicted on maps by Knox (1812) and Thomson (1821) but does not show the wall. On the First Edition Ordnance Survey map (1853, the churchyard wall is clearly depicted and the church is annotated 'ruin'.

3.2 Trench Recording (Fig. 2-4 and Fig. 11-12)

- 3.2.1 The wall foundation trench was 16.5m in length by 1m in width and had a depth of c.1m measured from the surface of the graveyard (Fig. 12). The deposits within the trench predominantly consisted of topsoil (001) with a depth of c. 0.8m, overlying a layer of mid-brown sandy silt and rubble (002). What is thought to be natural subsoil (012) was identified between c.13.5m and 15m from the northern end of the trench, but, in general, deposit 002 continued to below foundation level. Several areas of light grey compacted silt (003, 004 and 005) were identified, sealed between the topsoil (001) and deposit 002. Other features recorded within the topsoil included a deposit of charcoal rich silt (006) surrounding an undressed boulder; a dressed stone (007) sitting high within the deposit; and the base of a brick-built structure (008). Another dressed stone had previously sat within the topsoil, but this had dropped out prior to CFA arriving on site, leaving a rectangular-shaped void (009). A rough dressed stone (015), visible in section immediately to the north of Stone 1 (014), can be seen abutting Stone 2 (016) on photographs taken prior to CFA arriving on site. A few fragments of bone were identified within the section. These were left in situ and will be re-buried when the new wall is constructed.
- 3.2.2 The original wall (011) had been constructed on a foundation of compacted rubble (010), which had been cut through the topsoil onto the surface of deposit 002 (Fig. 4 and 11). Deposit 002 overlay the carved stones (014), indicating that they had already been sealed prior to the construction of the wall. Within the vicinity of the stones, the natural subsoil (012) was observed to slope downwards. The material (017) abutting and underlying the carved stones consisted of mid brown silt, which was similar in composition to the silt within deposit 002. There was no clear evidence of a grave cut underlying removed Stone 2 (016), but it may have been concealed by deposit 017.

3.3 Position of the Stone

3.3.1 The *in situ* stone (Stone 1) was located at NGR NT 31505 58728. It was positioned on an east to west alignment, with the removed stone (Stone 2) having been placed immediately to the north. The position of Stone 2 in relation to Stone 1 has been determined from photographs taken prior to CFA being present on site and is shown as a dotted outline on Fig. 2B.

3.4 Written Description of Stones

Stone 1 (Fig. 5A-C and Fig. 7-9)

3.4.1 Stone 1 (*in situ*) is aligned east to west and has been carved out of honey-coloured sandstone. It measures 1.65m in length by 0.18m thick and is slightly trapezoidal in plan, tapering from 0.49m wide at the western end to 0.42m at the eastern end. The stone has suffered an irregular breakage c. 0.5m from the western end, but the two broken parts remain *in situ*.

- 3.4.2 The surface of the stone appears worn and pitted, indicating that it may have been exposed on the surface for a long period before being buried. A number of complex and intricate designs have been carved into the stone. The majority of the carving is simple incised carving, but the penannular rings and circles on the western end are carved in relief (Fig. 7-9).
- 3.4.3 At the foot of the stone (eastern end), there is a triangular shield design depicting three circles with a triangular notch removed from the base of each one. The shield measured 0.31m along the top and 0.515m long, with the complete long side on the north measuring 0.55m. The circles measure 0.12m in diameter externally; the inner circle measures 0.02m in diameter; and the triangular notches measure 0.05m per long side and 0.04m across the open mouth.
- 3.4.4 To the south of the shield there was a long-sword, c. 1.1m in total length; the top of the hilt lies at the break in the stone so a small portion is missing. The blade of the sword measures 0.94m long by 0.075m wide and ends in a rounded tip. The hilt measures 0.055m wide and survives to a maximum length of 0.13m. The crossguard is depicted as a simple rectangle lying perpendicular to the blade and hilt, and measures 0.17m long by 0.035m wide. On the hilt there is some cross-hatched decoration which may be a representation of the grip (covering which can be made of leather or wire that covers the hilt); there are four crosses depicted running up the centre of the hilt.
- 3.4.5 Abutting the top of the shield and part of the sword there is a cross. The cross is c. 1.2m in total length and extends across the break to the western end of the stone. The base is stepped (calvary base), from which the shaft rises to a bulbous element which only partly survives, and above which the three arms of the cross are tipped by diamond-shaped points. The stepped base measures 0.24m wide by 0.155m high, and the shaft measures 0.49m long by 0.07m wide. The bulbous element is decorated with a series of six vertical, parallel short lines measuring 0.02m in length ('pelleted'). Much of the cross head is obscured by penannular circles but the arm are running across the width of the stone measures 0.44m from tip to tip. The diamond-shaped tips of the arms measure 0.08m long by 0.05m wide.
- 3.4.6 Within the four quadrants created where the cross piece meets the upright of the cross head, four penannular rings ('bracelets') measuring 0.21m in diameter have been carved. The rings measure 0.035m wide with a border carved around the inner edge on both sides; between these are a series of linear notches inserted radially and measuring 0.03m long by 0.007m wide. The open part of each ring is 0.035m wide and faces away from the centre of the cross head. Within each of the rings there is an inner (complete) circle measuring 0.08m in diameter with a dot in the centre. The rings overlie and obscure the arms of the cross head.

3.4.7 Stone 2 had been carved out of honey coloured sandstone. It was 0.97m in length by 0.43m in width by 0.18m thick. In general, it appeared less weathered than Stone 1. This may have been as a result of it having been exposed for a shorter period of time or it may have been better quality stone. A simple cross with both members of the same length had been carved into the surface. The member running across the width of the stone measured 0.28m long by 0.07m wide; the member running up the length of the stone measured 0.27m long by 0.06m wide, and this latter member had been carved over the top of the former.

Discussion (Iain Fraser RCAHMS)

- 3.4.8 The cross slab is one of the most common forms of medieval gravemarker: of the 700 or so slabs recorded to date in the Lowlands and eastern Highlands, over half bear a cross of one form or another, and of these the great majority display the cross rising on a long shaft from a stepped or mounded calvary base. Of calvary crosses, about 40% bear one form or another of the 'bracelet' headed cross born by Stone 1. This comprises a cross-head in which the voids between the arms are occupied by rings, either complete or penannular. Conventionally, as on the Temple stone, the arms end in lozenge, or diamond shaped terminals.
- 3.4.9 Below the cross-head the shaft bears a bulbous swelling which is a fairly frequent feature: parallels can be found on a ring-headed calvary at Wauchope, Dumfriesshire, St Oswald's and the Refectory Undercroft, Durham (Ryder 1985; RCAHMS 1997, 245). The possible pellet decoration is more unusual.
- 3.4.10 One of the most important features of Stone 1 is the shield with its arms. Medieval slabs bearing shields are not particularly unusual. Parallels for the placing of the shield below the calvary base include Middleton-in-Teesdale (2), (Ryder, plate 45). In a Lowland/East coast Scottish context there are at least fifteen bearing shields, dating from the thirteenth to sixteenth centuries. The majority of these are calvary slabs. What is more unusual is that whereas in most cases the shield is blank, the heraldic charges probably having been painted on, Stone 1 bears these incised. Two other thirteenth century stones are similarly incised: an incised effigial slab of a lady of the Atholl or Moray families, of the last quarter of the thirteenth century, on which the incision was then inlaid with lead. The other, a calvary slab at Bothwell, also bears the arms of the Morays. A fourth slab, formerly at Blairquhan, said to be from Fail, Ayrshire, bore the lion rampant in low relief. However, there are difficulties over its design and provenance.
- 3.4.11 Depictions of solitary swords are known from grave slabs at sites such as Wauchope Churchyard, Langholm, Dumfries and Galloway (RCAHMS 1997). The church is on record from 1220.
- 3.4.12 At Hermitage, Scottish Borders, there is a chapel dated to the 13th or 14th century from where the upper part of a cross-slab was found which depicts a

- cross with a small sword; enough of the cross-shaft is left to show a bulbous neck a little below the cross-head, and the cross-head includes four penannular rings (RCAHMS 1956).
- 3.4.13 Due to the lack of an inscription there is no absolute date for Stone 1. However, conventional dating of calvaries (Ryder 1985), would put this stone into a late twelfth or thirteenth century bracket. The pelleted decoration on the cross-head also occurs on a calvary slab at Carruthers, Dumfries-shire, although in this case the cross-head is of a simple form, lacking the usual rings (RCAHMS 1997, 261). Both stones are likely to be of a similar date to the Kelloe cross-head, County Durham, which has been attributed to c.1200 (Cameron 1989).
- 3.4.14 This date may be supported by the relative proportions of the heater-shaped shield. Although this may be simply a schematic depiction of a shield, the relative ratio of length to the breadth points to a late twelfth/early thirteenth century date.
- 3.4.15 The only parallel identified for Stone 2 is a kite-shaped slab from Staplegordon, Dumfries-shire (RCAHMS 1997, 245). The Staplegordon stone was initially thought to be early medieval, but in light of the discovery of the Temple stone is now considered to be possibly central medieval.

4. SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

- 4.1 Following the discovery of two medieval carved stone gravemarkers during the reconstruction of the churchyard wall at Temple, a programme of archaeological recording was undertaken. The programme of works involved drawing and photographing the stones, recording their position, and recording the base and section of a foundation trench excavated for the wall reconstruction. One of the aims was to try to determine if the stone slabs overlay grave-cuts. A dip in the level of the subsoil was recorded within the vicinity of the stones, but overall, the evidence for grave-cuts was inconclusive.
- 4.2 Temple is understood to have formerly been called Balantrodoch, which was the principal seat of the Knights Templar in Scotland. The surviving church is believed to be late 13th or early 14th century in date, although the founding of the church was probably in the late 12th century.
- 4.3 Stone 1 bears a 'bracelet' headed cross slab with diamond-shaped terminals on a calvary base, all of which are common elements of medieval gravemarkers in Scotland. While it is not unusual for such gravemarkers to bear depictions of shields, Stone 1's shield is decorated with heraldic elements which is much rarer. Conventional dating of medieval grave markers bearing calvaries and the proportions of the shield place Stone 1 into the late 12th or early 13th century, which places it in the period belonging to the earliest foundation of the church at Temple rather than with the ruins surviving today. Stone 2 has a simple incised cross and appeared to be lying adjacent to Stone 1 in the foundation trench prior to its removal, suggesting that they are of similar date.
- 4.4 The design of Stone 1 and the association with the Knights Templar indicate that this find is of considerable significance. The association of Stone 2 with Stone 1, suggesting that they are of similar date, has significant implications for the redating of a comparable stone found at Staplegordon.
- 4.5 A summary statement of the results of this programme of works will be submitted for publication in *Discovery and Excavation in Scotland*.
- 4.6 The project archive, comprising all CFA record sheets, maps and reports, will be deposited with the National Monuments Record of Scotland (NMRS) and copies of reports will be lodged with the East Lothian Council Sites and Monuments Record.
- 4.7 The decision regarding any further mitigation measures lies with the East Lothian Council Archaeology Officer.

5. REFERENCES

5.1 Bibliographic

Aliaga-Kelly, C 1985 'Old Manse, Temple' *Discovery and Excavation in Scotland* 1985, 29-30.

Cameron, NM 1989 'A romanesque cross-head in St Machar's Cathedral, Aberdeen', *J Brit Arch Assoc*, vol. CXLII (1989), 63-6.

McWilliam, C 1978 *The Buildings of Scotland: Lothian Except Edinburgh.* Yale University Press.

New Statistical Account of Scotland (1845) Vol. 1 (p.54)

RCAHMS 1929 Inventory of Monuments and Constructions in the Counties of Midlothian and West Lothian (p.177-178).

RCAHMS 1956 An inventory of the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Roxburghshire.

RCAHMS 1997 Eastern Dumfries-shire: an archaeological landscape.

Ryder, P 1985 *The Medieval Cross-slab grave cover in County Durham 1985*. Architectural and Archaeological Society of Durham and Northumberland: Research report No. 1.

Statistical Account of Scotland (1792) Vol. 16 (p.503)

5.2 Cartographic

Adair, J, 1682 Map of Midlothian

Knox, J, 1812 Plan of the Shire of Edinburgh

Laurie, J, 1763 A plan of the County of Midlothian

Laurie, J, 1766 A plan of Edinburgh and the places adjacent

Laurie, J, 1786 A plan of Edinburgh and the country adjacent

Ordnance Survey First Edition 6" map (1854), Edinburgh Sheet 19

Roy, W, c.1750 Military Survey of Scotland

Thomson, J, 1821 Edinburgh-Shire

APPENDIX 1: Context Register

Context No.	Trench	Type	Description
001	Foundation	Topsoil	Dark grey silt
002	Foundation	Deposit	Mid-brown sandy silt and rubble
003	Foundation	Deposit	Light grey compact silt
004	Foundation	Deposit	Light grey compact silt
005	Foundation	Deposit	Light grey compact silt
006	Foundation	Deposit	Charcoal rich silt
007	Foundation	Stone	Dressed stone
008	Foundation	Brick	Brick structure
009	Foundation	Void	Void left by stone
010	Foundation	Rubble	Rubble foundation for wall
011	Foundation	Stone	Wall
012	Foundation	Subsoil	Orange-brown sandy gravel
013	Foundation	Cut	Cut for wall
014	Foundation	Stone 1	Carved stone slab
015	Foundation	Stone	Rough dressed stone
016	Foundation	Stone 2	Carved stone slab
017	Foundation	Deposit	Material around and below carved stones

APPENDIX 2: Photographic Register

Colour Slide (Film 1) and Digital

Shot	Description	From	Conditions
1-2	Registration Shot		
3-4	West facing section of trench (0m – 2m)	West	Overcast
5-6	West facing section of trench (2m – 4m)	West	Overcast
7-8	West facing section of trench (4m – 6m)	West	Overcast
9-14	General shots of Stone 2		
15-16	Detail of cross on Stone 2		
17-18	West facing section of trench (6m – 7.5m)	West	Overcast
19-20	West facing section of trench (7.5m – 9m)	West	Overcast
21-22	West facing section of trench (9m – 11m)	West	Overcast
23-24	West facing section of trench (11m – 13m)	West	Overcast
25-26	West facing section of trench (13m – 16.5m)	West	Overcast
27-36	General shots of Stone 1	Various	Sun

Digital Only

Shot	Description	From	Conditions
1-3	General working shots	Various	Overcast
4-9	Stone 2	Various	Overcast
10	General working shot	West	Overcast
11-13	Stone 2	Various	Overcast
14-18	General shots of foundation trench	North	Overcast
19	General shot of graveyard and church	West	Overcast
20-22	General shots of Stone 1	NW	Overcast
23-35	Detail of Stone 1	Various	Overcast
36-42	General shots of Stone 1	Various	Overcast

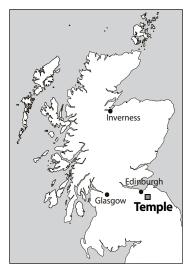
APPENDIX 3: Field Drawings Register

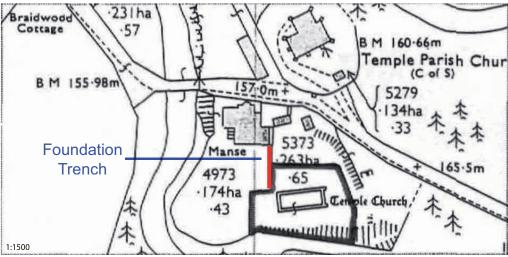
Sheet No	Drawing No	Scale	Section/Plan	Description			
1	1a – 1c	1:20	Section	West facing section of foundation trench			
1	2	1:20	Section	North facing section of foundation trench			
2	3	1:20	Plan	Plan of foundation trench			
	4	1:2	Plan	Plan of Stone 1			
	5	1:2	Section	Section of Stone 1			
	6	1:2	Section	Section of Stone 1			
	7	1:2	Plan	Plan of Stone 2			
	8	1:2	Section	Section of Stone 2			

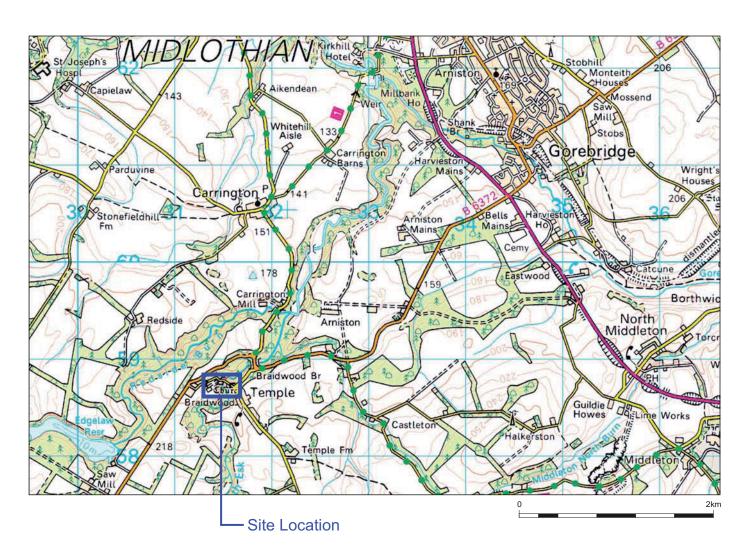
APPENDIX 4: Discovery and Excavation in Scotland Entry

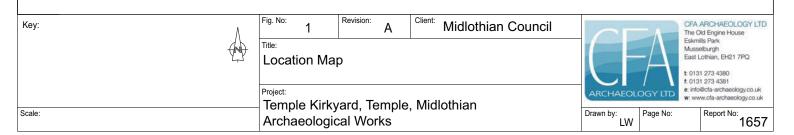
LOCAL AUTHORITY:	Midlothian
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	Temple Kirkyard, Temple, Midlothian
PROJECT CODE:	TEMP
PARISH:	Temple
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	Magnus Kirby
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	CFA Archaeology Ltd
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Archaeological Recording
NMRS NO(S):	NT35NW 1.0
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	Churchyard
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	Carved Stones
NGR (2 letters, 10 figures)	NT 3150 5872
START DATE (this season)	July 2009
END DATE (this season)	July 2009
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)	Small scale archaeological excavations DES 1985, 'Old Manse, Temple' (p.29-30)
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	Following the discovery of two carved stone slabs during the reconstruction of the churchyard wall at Temple, a programme of archaeological recording was undertaken. Temple is understood to have formerly been called Balantrodoch, which was the principal seat of the Knights Templar in Scotland. The design of the stones and the association with the Knights Templar suggests a 12 th or 13 th century date. The programme of works involved drawing and photographing the stones, recording their position, and recording the base and section of a foundation trench excavated for the wall reconstruction. One of the aims was to try to determine if the stone slabs overlay grave-cuts. A dip in the level of the subsoil was recorded within the vicinity of the stones, but overall, the evidence for a grave-cut was inconclusive.
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	Unknown
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	Fig. 1: Stone 1 Fig. 2: Stone 2
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	Midlothian Council
ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:	The Old Engine House, Eskmills Park, Musselburgh, EH21 7PQ
EMAIL ADDRESS:	cfa@cfa-archaeology.co.uk
ARCHIVE LOCATION (intended/deposited)	National Monuments Record of Scotland Midlothian Council Sites and Monuments Record













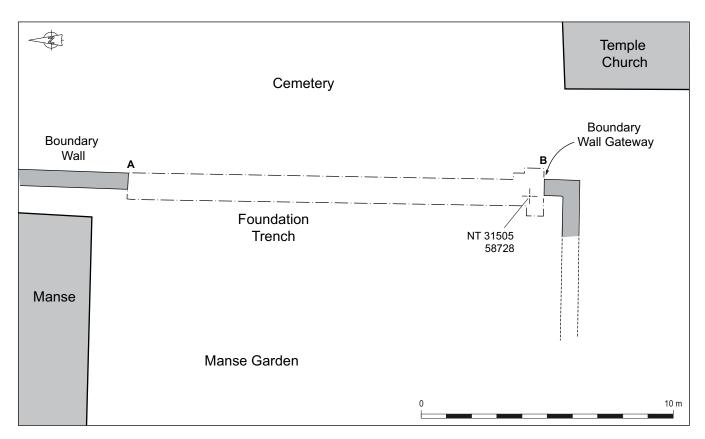


Fig. 2a - Plan of foundation trench

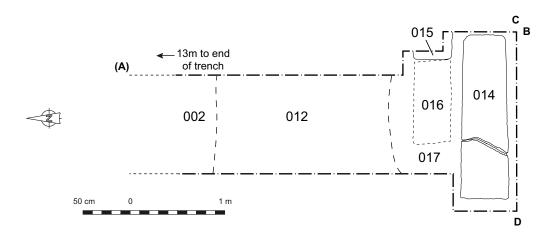
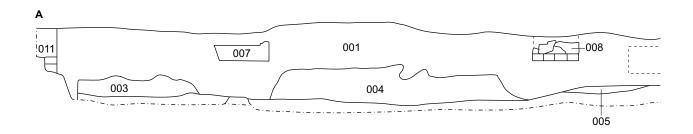
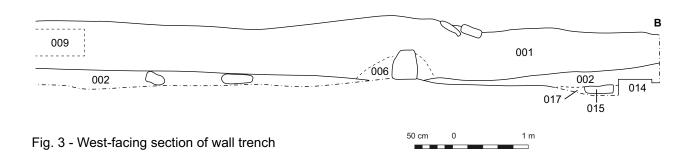


Fig. 2b - Detailed plan of foundation trench

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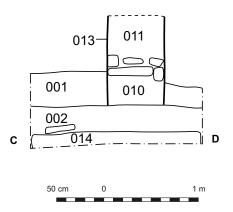


Fig. 4 - North-facing section of wall trench

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	Project:							ARCHAEOL	OGYLID	t 0131 273 4380 t 0131 273 4381 e: info@cts-archaeology.co.uk
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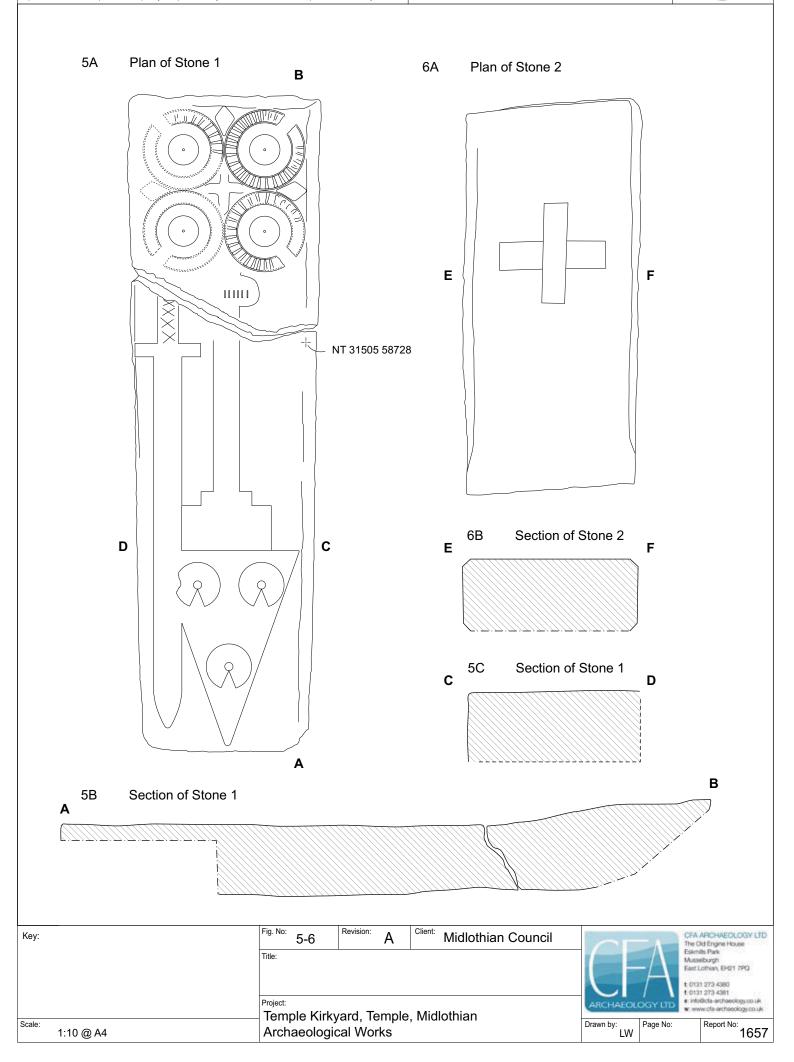






Fig. 7 - Detail of Stone 1 cross head



Fig. 8 - Detail of Stone 1 central part

Key:	Fig. No: 7-8	Revision:	Α	Midlothian Council		The	A ARCHAEOLOGY LTD Old Engine House
	Title:					Mus	mills Park selburgh Lothian, EH21 7PQ
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Fig. 9 - Detail of Stone 1 sword and shield



Fig. 10 - Stone 2

Key:	Fig. No:	9-10	Revision:	Client:	Midlothian Council		_ A _ E	CFA ARCHAEOLOGY LTD The Old Engine House
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Fig. 11 - Stone 1 showing its relationship with the wall



Fig. 12 - General view of foundation trench

Key:	Fig. No: 11-12	Revision:	Client: Midlothian Council		The	A ARCHAEOLOGY LTD Old Engine House
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