

**PHOTOGRAPHIC SURVEY OF THE WEST GABLE OF KILBRIDE CHAPEL  
AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATION OF RUBBLE ON BOTH SIDES OF  
THE WEST GABLE ENTRANCE.**

Client: Friends of Kilbride

Produced by Clare Ellis of Argyll Archaeology 25<sup>th</sup> August 2020



0. NON TECHNICAL SUMMARY

- 0.1 A photographic survey of the interior and exterior elevations of the west gable of Kilbride church was undertaken prior to and following consolidation of the wall and entrance. After the initial photographic survey two small archaeological trenches were hand excavated on either side of the entrance in order that the entire length of the doorway was revealed.
- 0.2 The trenches on the interior and exterior of the west gable proved to be highly informative. The rubble which had built up against the door concealed a drystone blocking wall which survived to over 0.70m in height. This wall represents the last phase of construction and was probably built so that the chapel could be used to house stock (presumably sheep or cattle) and therefore almost certainly occurred after the church was partially demolished in 1876. It also became clear that the west gable door was not part of the original design of the church. The lower stonework of the west gable wall had been broken through and the stone removed to create a new aperture at ground level. The upper portion of the door appears to have been part of an original window, the uppermost section of which was blocked up above the new door lintel and which was in an extremely poor state of repair. A line of mortared stone which stuck out very slightly from the original external wall face marked the base of the new doorway and these stones were at the same level as the original interior cobbled floor of the church. This west gable door is likely to have been part of the alterations which were carried out in 1744 when it is recorded that the windows of the church were enlarged and the door in the southern wall blocked up.
- 0.3 At least four grave slabs had been laid in an east/west orientation against the exterior wall of the west gable. However, these grave slabs are very unlikely to mark the position of any known burials as they sat on a thick and loose deposit comprising broken roof slate and soil and which almost certainly resulted from the partial demolition of the church in 1876.
- 0.4 Finds included an ornate coffin handle, a few iron nails and a 50p piece dating to 2003!

1. INTRODUCTION AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 1.1 Kilbride Church is located at Kilbride, just south of Oban, Argyll NGR.: NM 95698 25705. A detailed description of the history of the site has been given in Cameron (2016) and so will not be repeated here. The current extant roofless ruin was built in 1706 and replaced an earlier church dedicated to St Bridget with construction phases from the 13<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> century. The site currently comprising the church, burial aisle and churchyard (Fig. 1). The church was scheduled in 1975 and the MacDougall Burial Isle in 2019 (SM3761). Kilbride Chapel is of importance as it is a multi-period ecclesiastical centre and appears to have been of considerable importance during the medieval period. The scheduled monument description states that *‘The monument has research potential which could significantly contribute to our understanding of the past. It can help us understand much about ecclesiastical architecture and the role of the church in medieval and post-Reformation society. It has the potential to make a significant contribution to our knowledge of changing belief and religious practice and the development of places of worship over an extended time period. It can add to our understanding of the origins and development of places of worship in Scotland and the role of the church in wider medieval and post-Reformation life.’*
- 1.2 Prior to the current work the west gable of the church and the central doorway was in a poor and dangerous state of repair and required conservation. In addition to the conservation of the west gable, the details of which were outlined in the Conservation Assessment (Cameron 2016) Historic Environment Scotland (HES) suggested that the west gable was also subject to a photographic survey and the area immediately around the entrance excavated down to the original floor level in order that the full length of the entrance could be conserved and any significant pieces of masonry recovered.



## 2.0 OBJECTIVES

### 2.1 The archaeological objectives were:

- a. to undertake a historic building photographic survey of the interior and exterior elevations of the west gable both prior to and following the conservation of the entrance, re-pointing of the wall and the removal of vegetation
- b. to hand excavate two small trenches on either side of the entrance down to the original floor level (that utilised in the 1706 structure) to enable the stone masons to access to the whole height of the west gable entrance to recover any worked or dressed stone, including quoin stones found within the rubble.

## 3. METHOD

### 3.1 Photographic survey

- 3.1.1 Prior to any on site works a basic photographic and descriptive record of the interior and exterior elevations of the west gable was undertaken following the principals of RCHAMS – Level 2. The written record comprised note of: the condition; construction method; nature of materials; and other architectural features. A second photographic survey was undertaken on completion of the consolidation works but before backfilling was completed.

### 3.2 Excavation

- 3.2.1 Two trenches were hand excavated: Trench 1 was located in the interior of the church and measured roughly 3m x 1m and Trench 2 was located on the exterior of the west gable and also measured 3m x 1m (Fig. 1). All hand excavation was undertaken in accordance with the methods described in the original Project Design.
- 3.2.2 Prior to backfilling the trenches were lined with degradable sacking and then the softer soil/mortar mix originally excavated from the trenches was placed back into the trenches. A layer of flat stones, derived from the excavated rubble, was laid on top of the backfill within the entrance and within the centre of Trench 1 to create a slightly more robust surface which could be walked upon. The flat stones were then covered with a final layer of mixed soil and mortar mix; it is anticipated that this layer will rapidly become colonised with grass. The surface of two of the grave slabs located on the exterior of the wall were left exposed as these originally had only a very thin covering of turf which could not be re-laid.

## 4.0 RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

### 4.1 Building recording

#### 4.1.1 *Internal elevation of the west gable*

The west gable wall is constructed from whinstone (basalt the dominant geology of the immediate area), sub-rounded beach/glacial cobbles some of which were split prior to use, and the odd piece of slate; very few of the stones appear to have been deliberately shaped (Fig. 2). The wall is about 75cm deep. The wall was mortared, with small patches of internal plaster surviving. An upper line of 9 joist holes, some of which were lined with narrow pieces of stone were recorded just above the level of the door lintel and roughly 150cm below the top of the wall at the north end. The northernmost measured 30cm vertically and 18cm horizontally with a hole for the wood measuring 17cm x 12cm. The adjacent slot and the next in the sequence would have each held a beam some 10cm x 6cm. The spacing between the slots is not even but ranges between 37cm and 30cm.

There is a second lower line of 8 joist holes of varying dimensions, 4 located either side of the doorway. These may be the original joist holes of an internal gallery (?) which would have had to have been raised when the later entrance was created through the west gable (see below).

The wall above the door lintel was in an extremely poor state of repair and was a single stone thick in places. The bevelled nature of the wall above and either side of the door lintel demonstrates that the stone is a rubble infill of a former window about 110cm of which survives. The window widened into the interior of the church to about 150cm in width. An area of the wall above the door lintel and below the bevelled window frame has been removed and infilled with rubble, this was clearly done to allow for the later door lintel and frame to be tied into the west gable wall. Four horizontal full wall width beam slots presumably held wooden beams to which the wooden doorframe was anchored. The church was subject to significant alteration in 1744 when the windows were enlarged and the southern entrance blocked up; the creation of a western entrance was probably one part of these alterations.

The internal elevation was re-photographed following consolidation works (Fig. 3).



*Fig 2. The internal elevation prior to the start of works.*



*Fig. 3. The internal elevation following the consolidation works and prior to backfilling of Trench 1.*

4.1.2 *External elevation of the west gable*

The stone of the external elevation is similar in composition to that recorded in the internal elevation (Fig. 4). However, a small number of stones used in the northern side of the doorway are of a white/cream sandstone and this stone is potentially the same sandstone that was used in the drip courses, in the stone door and window frames and in decorated elements such as the dog-tooth mouldings of the medieval cathedral located on the Isle of Lismore. The sandstone is thought to have been source from Morvern or perhaps from Carsaig Bay on the Isle of Mull as none occurs naturally on Lismore. The identification and source of the sandstone at Kilbride would have to be confirmed by a specialist but the implication is that the cream sandstone was also used at Kilbride in the 13<sup>th</sup> century chapel to create crisp architectural details and striking door and window frames and these blocks now forming part of the 18<sup>th</sup> century chapel west door were re-used from the original medieval structure. A piece of moulded stone (geology not identified but not thought to be sandstone) has clearly been re-used in the west door and may have originated in an earlier medieval door or window frame (Fig. 5). A few dressed blocks of red sandstone were noted in the exterior elevation and these too are likely to have been reused from an earlier structure; however, red sandstone occurs locally and may have been sourced within the glen. The blocked window is clearly visible in the external elevation and is especially clear on the northern side (Fig. 4). Following the partial demolition of the church the remaining ruin was consolidated and a concrete capping placed on the top of the wall, the cracked and fragmented remains of which were removed during the consolidation of the west gable.

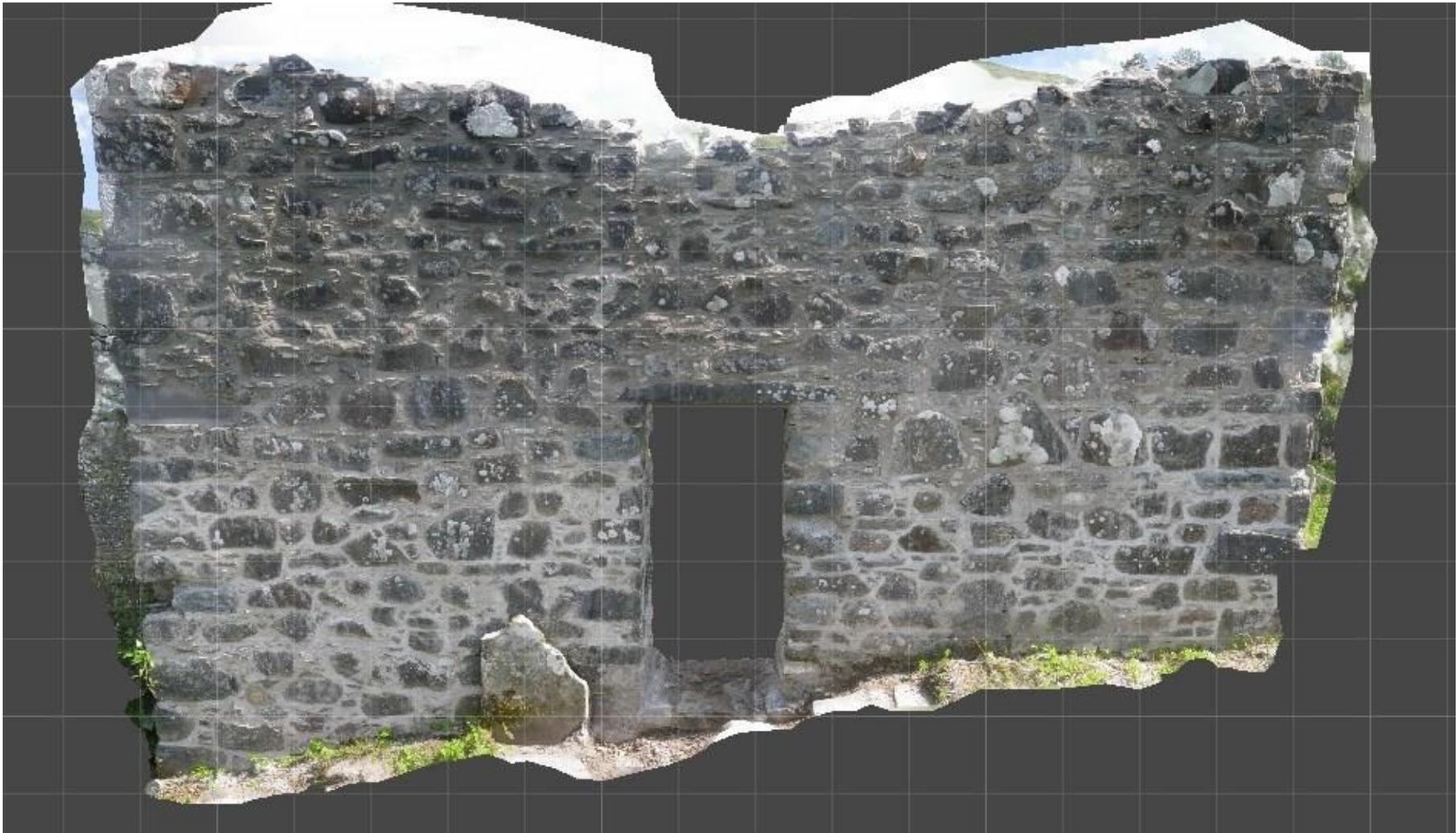


*Fig. 4. The external elevation prior to the start of works*



*Fig. 5. Moulded stone in the doorway of the west gable, this stone appears to have been re-used from an earlier structure*

The external elevation was re-photographed following the consolidation works (Fig. 6).



*Fig. 6. The external elevation following its consolidation.*

## 4.2 Excavation

### 4.2.1 Trench 1

Trench 1 measured 2.65m N/S and 0.90m E/W and was located within the interior of the church next to the west entrance (Fig. 1). The total depth of overburden was 0.42m at the south end of the trench and 0.30m at the north end. A low pile of stone collapse mostly derived from the infill above the door lintel was removed from the surface (Fig. 7). A block of basalt was recovered which had the letter B engraved on it (Fig. 8); it is unclear where this stone originated (perhaps part of a broken up grave slab?) but it had clearly been reused within the window/door infill. The soil (001) beneath the rubble collapse comprised up to 0.18m of dark brown fine silt loam with stone rubble and fragments of mortar. Below this was up to 0.22m of a grey mortar / soil mix (002) within which were fragments of plaster which had clearly fallen from the surface of the wall. The rubble (004) within deposits (001) and (002) comprised mostly basalt with blocks up to 0.26m in size and the smaller stone averaging 0.13m in diameter. Below (002) was an irregular deposit of yellow collapsed wall plaster (003) which sealed the original cobbled floor (005). The collapsed wall plaster had been trampled and compacted immediately in front of the doorway (Fig. 9). The cobbles (0.10m to 0.30m in length) were dominated by blocks of basalt with a few blocks of red sandstone set within a red sand matrix (Fig. 10). There was no discernible pattern to the cobbling other than that they had been laid to create a relatively flat surface. Some wall plaster (006) was recorded in situ at the base of the wall and was some 0.035m thick with a smoothed outer surface (Fig. 11). A drystone blocking wall (007) had been constructed in the doorway (Fig. 12). The plaster collapse (003) had been cut into when the blocking wall (007) was built. The easterly elevation of the blocking wall survived to 0.72m high with 5 courses while only 3 courses survived on the west side. The blocking wall was 0.90m wide. Following consultation with Historic Environment Scotland the blocking wall was removed by the stonemason in order that the doorway could be consolidated and the entrance could be utilised once more.



*Fig. 6. Interior elevation of the west gable with pile of grass covered stone rubble in front of the entrance*



*Fig. 8. Carved basalt stone with the letter B in the top left-hand corner.*



*Fig. 9. Trench 1, trampled collapsed wall plaster (003) overlying the cobbled floor (005).*



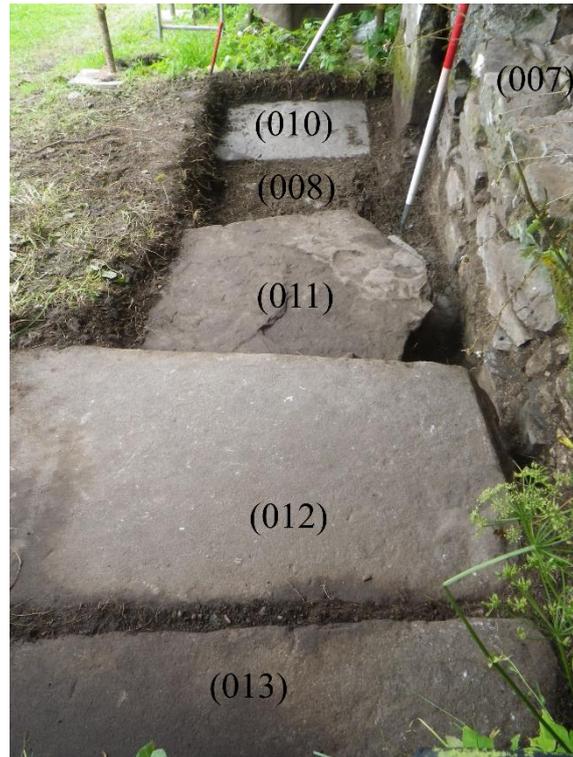
*Fig. 10. Trench 1, the cobbled floor (005), with some trampled wall plaster (003) next to the blocking wall (007).*



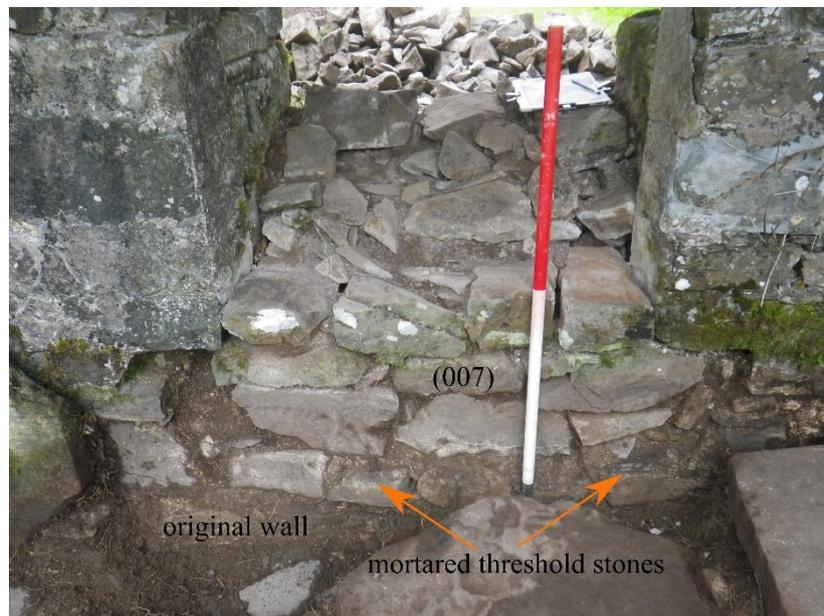
*Fig. 11. Trench 1, in situ wall plaster at the base of the wall and the blocking drystone wall (007).*

#### 4.2.2 Trench 2

Trench 2 measured 3m N/S and 1m E/W (Fig. 1). The topsoil (008) was up to 0.30m deep and comprised a mixture of soil and re-deposited mortar with small stones and fragments of slate. Below this was a mixture of soil and mortar in which there were numerous fragments of roof slates (009); the deposit was very loose and open. This deposit is thought to be the result of the removal and demolition of the roof in 1876. Grave slabs (010), (011), (012) and (013) were all laid on top of the demolition rubble (009) and as such cannot be in situ burials (Fig. 12). It is thought that these grave slabs were gathered from elsewhere in the graveyard and re-laid abutting the church wall during the Victorian partial demolition of the church and the romanticisation of the ruins. None of the visible surface of the grave slabs were marked. The excavation revealed that the aperture for the new door extended below the interior cobble floor level (Fig. 13). The new threshold comprised at least five blocks of stone laid parallel and the outer ones had been keyed into the pre-existing wall; these stones were mortared. The new threshold was constructed to be level with and merge with the pre-existing cobble floor (Fig. 14). The lower course of the drystone blocking wall had also been keyed into the pre-existing wall but was contained within the ‘slots’ created within the wall during the creation of the west entrance (Fig. 13). No external threshold stone or indeed a surface contemporary with the use of the west door was found and it is likely that it had been removed during the partial demolition of the church in 1874.



*Fig. 12. Trench 12 with turf and topsoil removed showing the surfaces of the re-laid grave slabs and the blocking wall (007).*



*Fig. 13. Mortared in threshold stones of the new west entrance keyed into the pre-existing church wall. The threshold stones are overlain by the later blocking drystone wall (007).*



*Fig. 14. The extension of the cobbled surface through the west door.*

## 6.0 SUMMARY

- 6.1 The current church was built in 1706 and comprised a rectangular structure with a south entrance. In 1744 a number of major alterations were carried out which included the blocking up of the southern entrance, the enlargement of the windows in the south wall and the partial blocking up of the window in the west gable and the creation of a western entrance. There appears to have been some form of gallery at the west end of the church and this appears to have been raised to accommodate the creation of the western entrance. The gallery may have been reserved for the use of the laird. Often internal galleries were only accessible by an external west tower or stairs, although no evidence of either type of external structure survives at Kilbride and it is more likely that there was some form of internal stair such as at documented at St Comghan's Church at Kilchoan, which interestingly contains elements of the 12<sup>th</sup>/13<sup>th</sup> century church. Following the abandonment of the church and its deconsecration the slate roof and roof timbers were removed, and the walls may have been deliberately slighted to create a 'romantic' ruin. The west entrance was later blocked with a drystone wall which indicates it may have been used to house stock. Finds were sparse but included an ornate coffin handle, a few iron nails and a 50p piece dating to 2003.

## 7.0 REFERENCES

Cameron, S 2017 *Conservation Assessment for Friends of Kilbride*. Unpublished client report.

569 West gable, Kilbride Church – Kilbride, Oban, Argyll

Appendices

Appendix 1: Context register

Trench	Context No.	Type	Description	Interpretation	Over	Under
T1	1	Layer	Dark brown fine silt loam up to 0.18m deep, contains rubble, fragments of mortar 0.02m diameter, lots of roots, diffuse boundary with 002	turf and topsoil	2	
T1	2	Layer	Grey mortar/soil mix up to 0.22m thick, moderately compact probably collapsed wall plaster mixed by worms etc. with the soil. Few small stones c 0.10m diameter and the odd roof slate.	topsoil	3	1
T1	3	Layer	Yellow collapsed wall plaster - thin irregular lumps of collapsed wall plaster - large patch in front of blocked up doorway, maximum 0.05m thick	Collapsed wall plaster	5	2
T1	4	Layer	Rubble within (001 and (002) mostly basalt blocks up to 0.26m diameter, a few dressed/shaped blocks, most naturally split. Smaller stone c 0.13m diameter	Rubble		
T1	5	Layer	Floor - cobbles, mainly basalt and reddish sandstone from 0.30 to 0.10m diameter, laid flat, no discernable pattern. 1 piece of pink granite. An area of trampled mortar at entrance not removed as so hard, probably trampled when (007) built. Cobbles have reddish brown sandy grit between them, quite well packed and laid. Total depth of overburden layer 0.42m at south end and 0.3m at north end.	Floor cobbles		3
T1	6	Layer	In situ wall plaster - yellow, 0.035m thick, smooth outer surface, in situ patch at base of wall on south side of door, 0.18m high and 0.70m long	In situ wall plaster		
T1	7	Structure	Door infill, east facade 0.72m high x 0.90m wide, 5 courses high Drystone construction - later than west entrance possibly a blocking of entrance to keep animals in? 0.92m wide - solid basalt facing stones with more rubble-like core, no mortar, some soil and angular basalt hearting. Possibly extended eastward to completely fill the entrance. (003) cut into by construction of (007) which is therefore later than (003).	Drystone blocking infill		
T2	8	Layer	Mixed soil and mortar, containing much root and small stones, c 0.30m deep with odd pieces of slate, compact.	Demolition layer	9	

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Trench	Context No.	Type	Description	Interpretation	Over	Under
T2	9	Layer	Mixed soil, mortar and broken fragments of slate, very loose, abuts lower wall of church - either collapse/rubble when the structure lost its roof or foundation/construction waste - depth unknown	Demolition layer		8
T2	10	Grave slab	Part of slate grave slab, 0.52m N/S and 0.68m E/W exposed. Possibly aligned with grave slab set up against the church wall. Below 0.10m of topsoil	Grave slab		
T2	11	Grave slab	Re-deposited grave slab - roughly hewn stone - curved top - maximum 0.67m wide, 0.04m thick and 0.76m exposed in the trench - 0.04m below the surface (turf covered only).	Grave slab		
T2	12	Grave slab	Grave slab 1.07m x 0.64m x 0.06m thick, not fully exposed, laid E/W up against west gable - not decorated on exposed side.	Grave slab		
T2	13	Grave slab	0.90m E/W x 0.25m N/S grave slab - surface exposed only	Grave slab		
T2	14	Layer	Lower original west gable wall at base. Single course of stone mortared in that formed the base of the doorway/entrance - at least 5 stones all of which set slightly out from the original wall - stone on either side removed to make way for the new door. This was partially keyed into the pre-existing west gable. During this phase sandstone and moulded stone were re-used in the door frame. The doorway was later blocked up with a drystone wall - 3 courses surviving on the west facing side - this phase did not damage the doorframe.	Lower course of stone in doorway		

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Appendix 2: Photographic register

No.	Trench No.	Context No.	Description	Taken from
1	1		General shot of excavation works	E
2	1		General shot of excavation works	E
3	1		General shot of excavation works	E
4	1		General shot of excavation works	E
5	1		General shot of excavation works	E
6	1		General shot of excavation works	SE
7	1		General shot of excavation works	NE
8	1		General shot of excavation works	E
9	1		Floor level inside west gable	SE
10	1		Cobbled floor	E
11	1		Cobbled floor	E
12	1		Blocked up entrance	NE
13	1		Cleaning up cobbled floor	N
14	1		Stone cleared from inside west gable	S
15	1		Marked stone in rubble of trench 1	
16			Not used	
17	1		General shot showing blocked up doorway	E
18	1		Cleaning up cobbled floor	SE
19			General shot of West doorway	W
20			Looking through doorway	W
21	1		Cobbled floor with collapsed wall plaster on top	S
22	1		Cobbled floor with collapsed wall plaster on top	S
23	1		Cobbled floor with collapsed wall plaster on top	N
24	1		Cobbled floor with collapsed wall plaster on top	N
25	1		North end of cobbled surface	E
26	1		Stones inserted in doorway sitting proud of either side of doorway	NE
27	1		Stones inserted in doorway sitting proud of either side of doorway	NE
28	1		Cobbled floor with collapsed wall plaster on top	N
29	1		Cobbled floor with collapsed wall plaster on top	N
30	1		Trench 1 with blocked up doorway	E
31	1		Wall plaster, fallen plaster on floor and blocked doorway	SE
32	1		Wall plaster, fallen plaster on floor and blocked doorway	E
33	1		Wall plaster and edge of blocked up doorway	E
34	1		Blocked up entrance	E
35	1		North end of trench 1 with edge of blocked up doorway	E
36	1		Cobbled surface	S
37	1		Cobbled surface	S
38	1		North end of cobbled surface	E
39	1		North end of cobbled surface	E

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No.	Trench No.	Context No.	Description	Taken from
40	1		South end of cobbled surface	E
41	1		Cobbled surface	N
42	1		Cobbled surface	N
43	1		Doorway with blockage	E
44	1		Doorway with blockage	E
45	1		Doorway with blockage	E
46	1		Cobbled surface and doorway	E
47	2		Showing the tied-in base of the doorway	W
48	2		Showing the tied-in base of the doorway	W
49	2		Showing the tied-in base of the doorway	W
50	2		Showing the tied-in base of the doorway	W
51	2		Showing the tied-in base of the doorway	W
52	2		Re-sited grave slabs	S
53	2		Re-sited grave slabs	S
54	2		Blocked doorway stone infill	W
55	2		Blocked doorway	W
56	2		Blocked doorway	W
57	2		Blocked doorway	W
58	2		Blocked doorway	W
59	2		Tied-in base and later blocking wall in doorway	W
60	2		Tied-in base and later blocking wall in doorway	W
61	2		Details of stones at base of the doorway	W
62	2		Details of stones at base of the doorway	W
63	2		Details of stones at base of the doorway	W
64	2		Details of stones at base of the doorway	W
65	2		Details of stones at base of the doorway	W
66	2		Details of stones at base of the doorway	W
67	2		Details of stones at base of the doorway	W
68	2		Details of stones at base of the doorway	W
69	2		Details of stones at base of the doorway	W
70	2		Detail of re-used moulded stone	S
71	1		Pale sandstone from rubble in doorway of trench 1	
72	1		Marked stone in rubble of trench 1	
73	1		Pale sandstone from rubble in doorway of trench 1	
74	1		Pale sandstone from rubble in doorway of trench 1	
75	1		General shot of trench 1 and doorway	E
76	2		General shot of trench 2 and doorway	W
77	2		General shot of trench 2 and doorway	W

*Appendix 3: Finds register*

Context.	Description
2	decorated metal fragments
2	decorated metal -coffin handle
2	2 small plaster fragments
2	1 large plaster fragment
2	2 pieces of flint from mortar
3	nails
8	50p coin from 2003
9	shell fragments

*Appendix 4: Drawing register*

No.	Sheet	Plan	Section/profile	Scale	Description
1	1	*		1:20	Plan of the upper deposits in Trench 1.
2	1	*		1:20	Plan of Trench 2.
3	1	*		1:20	Plan of the cobble floor (005) in Trench 1.

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Appendix 5: DES Entry

<b>LOCAL AUTHORITY:</b>	Argyll and Bute Council
<b>PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:</b>	Kilbride Church
<b>PROJECT CODE:</b>	569
<b>PARISH:</b>	Kilmore and Kilbride
<b>NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:</b>	Clare Ellis
<b>NAME OF ORGANISATION:</b>	Argyll Archaeology
<b>TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:</b>	Building recording an excavation
<b>NMRS NO(S):</b>	NM82NE36
<b>SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):</b>	Church and burial ground
<b>SIGNIFICANT FINDS:</b>	None
<b>NGR (2 letters, 8 or 10 figures)</b>	NM 95698 25705
<b>START DATE (this season)</b>	13 <sup>th</sup> July 2020
<b>END DATE (this season)</b>	14 <sup>th</sup> August 2020
<b>PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)</b>	<p><b>Irving, B.</b> (2014) <i>Kilmore and Kilbride, Kilbride Kirkyard, Survey, Discovery Excav Scot, New, vol. 14, 2013</i>. Cathedral Communications Limited, Wiltshire, England. Page(s): 53-54</p> <p><b>Irving, B.</b> (2015) <i>Argyll and Bute, Kilbride Kirkyard, Survey and evaluation, Discovery Excav Scot, New, vol. 15, 2014</i>. Cathedral Communications Limited, Wiltshire, England. Page(s): 49-50</p> <p><b>RCAHMS.</b> (1975) <i>The Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland. Argyll: an inventory of the ancient monuments: volume 2: Lorn</i>. Edinburgh. Page(s): 140-3, No. 253 plan fig. 129; fig. 130 RCAHMS Shelf Number: A.1.1.INV/19</p>
<b>MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION:</b> (May include information from other fields)	<p>A photographic survey of the interior and exterior elevations of the west gable of Kilbride church was undertaken prior to and following consolidation of the wall and entrance. After the initial photographic survey two small archaeological trenches were hand excavated on either side of the entrance in order that the entire length of the doorway was revealed.</p> <p>The trenches on the interior and exterior of the west gable proved to be highly informative. The rubble which had built up against the door concealed a drystone blocking wall which survived to over 0.70m in height. This wall represents the last phase of construction and was probably built so that the chapel could be used to house stock (presumably sheep) or cattle) and therefore almost certainly occurred after the church was partially demolished in 1876. It also became clear that the west gable door was not part of the original design of the church. The lower stonework of the west gable wall had been broken through and the stone removed to create a new aperture at ground level. The upper portion of the door appears to have been part of an original window, the uppermost section of which was blocked up above the new door lintel and which was in an extremely poor state of repair. A line of mortared stone which stuck out very slightly from the original external wall face marked the base of the new doorway and these stones were at the same level as the original interior cobbled floor of the church. This west gable door is likely to have been part of the alterations which were carried out in 1744 when it is recorded that the windows of the church were enlarged and the door in the southern wall blocked up.</p>

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	<p>At least four grave slabs had been laid in an east/west orientation against the exterior wall of the west gable. However, these grave slabs are very unlikely to mark the position of any known burials as they sat on a thick and loose deposit comprising broken roof slate and soil and which almost certainly resulted from the partial demolition of the church in 1876.</p> <p>Finds included an ornate coffin handle, a few iron nails and a 50p piece dating to 2003!</p>
<b>PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:</b>	None
<b>CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:</b>	Excavation at Kilbride
<b>SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:</b>	Friends of Kilbride
<b>ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:</b>	Davaar Cottage, Campbeltown, Argyll. PA28 6RE
<b>EMAIL ADDRESS:</b>	ellisclare@argyll-archaeology.co.uk
<b>ARCHIVE LOCATION</b> (intended/deposited)	HES (intended)