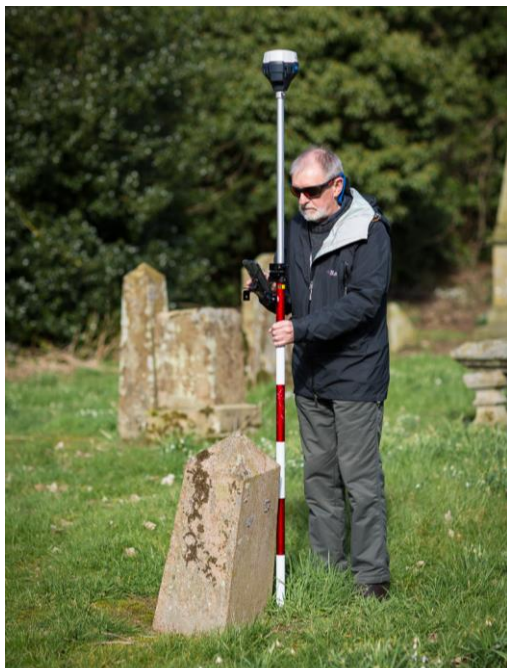




## Graveyard Recording at Kirklands Old Churchyard, Innerleithen – an update

Two members of the Peeblesshire Archaeological Society, Stephen Scott and Neil Crawford, are currently working on a project to create an archaeological record of the Kirklands Old Churchyard, Innerleithen.

Following a Health and Safety Assessment, work started in 2021 with the creation of a site plan that showed the position of all the remaining gravestones and structures lying within the perimeter wall. The survey was carried out using a “survey-grade” GPS and the plan was drawn using CAD software.



Neil recording a monument position using GPS



Unusual cast iron memorial with “draped urn” feature

Currently, the surveyors are in the process of recording details of the individual gravestones.

These records contain information about the condition of each monument, its size and type, and the materials used in its construction, together with a detailed account of the inscription and motifs present. Neil and Stephen are also working to create a comprehensive photographic record of the monuments and other graveyard features of interest.



**Gravestone showing “Tree of Life” motif**

Although the recording work is not yet complete, the survey has already uncovered a great deal about how the people of Innerleithen lived in the past.

From this study, a picture is beginning to emerge that tells of people’s health, life expectancy and their attitudes to commemorating the dead and how these attitudes changed through time.

Although there is still a great deal to do, it is hoped that the recording phase of the project will be completed by the autumn of 2022, after which, the data will be analysed and the project written up for publication. It is also planned that the story of Kirklands Churchyard will form the basis for a future public lecture, once the project has been completed.

*Peeblesshire Archaeological Society would like to thank Scottish Borders Council and The Borders’ Family History Society for their help and support with this project.*

All photos © Stephen Scott



**Table tomb showing “symbols of mortality”**