

Appendix F
(Added 21st January 2007)

The following summarises the most recent correspondence received after 10th January 2008:

11th January 2008 confirmation e-mail reply received from Historic Scotland which read:

“Thank you for your recent e-mails regarding the above. I have forwarded them onto the Area Inspector dealing with Aberdeenshire for his comments and will reply in due course”.

Sandra Archer , Historic Scotland , Inspectorate Admin Team, Longmore House, Salisbury Place, Edinburgh, EH9 1SH .

11th January 2008 e-mail received from Richard Leith at Aberdeenshire Council:

The symbol stones which are in England are not in the possession of Lady Forbes but rather in that of the person who 'uplifted' them from the North East.

Aberdeenshire's Principal Archaeologist, Ian Shepherd has earmarked money from his budget for the return of the stones and the mechanics for this are currently being discussed with him.

As noted by Stanley I contacted Lady Forbes re ownership and have now written to her formally for confirmation. By coincidence she is having a meeting with her solicitor this week and will raise the matter with him. Lady Forbes felt sure her late husband owned the site, and if so as sole beneficiary to his will the site would have passed to her.

I visited the kirkyard for the first time yesterday and despite it not being in Council ownership I am disappointed it has been allowed to dilapidate to its present condition the more especially because of its antiquity and undoubted importance to the North East.

Hopefully I will have a quick response from Lady Forbes re ownership and its possible transfer to this authority, something which would of course have to be agreed upon by elected members.

On receipt of the response [positive or negative] it would be useful to have a meeting with interested parties to agree a way forward.

With regard to the ' Homecoming' I have not been party to any of the meetings although I understand my name has been set against 'castle trail'.

11th January 2008 second e-mail received from Richard Leith at Aberdeenshire Council and it read.

“Stanley. Further to my earlier e-mail today I can now confirm that the two symbol stones currently in England will be collected within the next two months through arrangements made by Aberdeenshire Heritage [Museums Service].

These stones will be stored in the Aberdeenshire Heritage Conservation Workshops at Mintlaw until such time as agreement can be reached regarding their final resting place'.

Since you first raised the issue of St Meddan's at the beginning of this week I feel matters have moved quickly forward in a very positive way. I hope the actual matter of ownership, of the Kirkyard can be confirmed by Lady Jane Forbes at the earliest”.

11th January 2008 S. Bruce

Sent an e-mail to Richard Leith and Gavin Bell suggesting a meeting next week and days / places I'm available. I also thanked Richard for his help and requested he lets me know when the missing stones return.

11th January 2008 S. Bruce

S. Bruce's 'No Takers For My Soul -St Medden's Kirk' poem wins the poetrypoem daily poetry competition:

<http://poetrypoem.com/contests/>

Not sure whether the votes were for my poetry or simply for support for the cause.

The screenshot shows the PoetryPoem.com website interface. At the top, there is a search bar with the text "Search For A Poet" and a "Go" button. Below the search bar, there are navigation links: "Welcome", "Poets", "Search", and "Sign Up". A "Log In" button is also visible. The main content area features a "Looking For Poetry?" search bar and a "Find It!" button. Below this, there is a "Welcome New Users" section with "More Info" and "Get Started" buttons. The central focus is a table titled "Poetry Contest Winners" with the following data:

Date	Title	Poet's Name	Votes
2008-01-13	Mother's Prophecy	Brian Dotson	56
2008-01-12	I Fly	Elizabeth\\ Driscoll	16
2008-01-11	No Takers For My Soul - St Medden's Kirk	Stanley Bruce	78
2008-01-09	(Man's name)	Camilla Royle	54

11th January 2008 S. Bruce

On the 9th January 2008 Gavin Bell wrote that *"The surveys reported by RCAHMS also mention (1961) "... several other small sculptured stones in the church." The 1996 survey states: "A number of other carved fragments formerly lay along the S wall of the burial enclosure, but since a previous visit in 1991, these have been removed, and their present location is unknown."* I made a visit to St Medden's to specifically look for these stones but found nothing inside or outside of the kirk, then again it is possible that some stones may be covered with the growth of weeds, however it seems likely that these stones have been removed. This appendix will be forwarded to **Treasure-Trove** for their attention.



St Medden's Kirk 11th January 2008.

14th January 2008 S. Bruce

Spoke to Richard Leith (Aberdeenshire Council) on the phone:

I do believe now that Aberdeenshire Council will carry out work at this site but only after ownership is transferred to them, only problem is that this may take a while to actually happen.

Richard advised me today that phase 4 of the Historic Kirkyards work will happen in 2009 and 2010 and that 2 churches have already been chosen for the Heritage Lottery application, so I guess it's too late for St Medden's for this phase. The next phase would not be until 2011; however Richard did state that there are other options for funding such as Ancient Monument funding from Historic Scotland.

Regarding the missing stones - I previously stated that they were with Lady Forbes however that was incorrect, Richard has advised that a person claims to have found them in a lay-by near the church and took them south near London; however he later contacted Treasure-Trove and they allocated them to Aberdeenshire Heritage

in 2005, it appears that no-one in Aberdeenshire Council had actioned their return until now.

On the same subject both of the stones precede the date the church was last used and since one of the stones was last seen inside the church - I'm thinking that it had been moved sometime ago and we may not find its original location. However Richard also mentioned that if the church comes into the hands of the Aberdeenshire Council the Council would carry out an 'electronic ground survey' to determine any unmarked graves.

14th January 2008 – S. Bruce meeting with Alex Salmond

St Medden's sits on the eastern perimeter of Gordon and Alex Salmond is the MSP for Gordon. We discussed the Kirkyard and Alex agreed to write a 'letter of support', he also mentioned that he may contact Historic Scotland.



St Medden's Kirk 11th January 2008.

15th January 2008 received an e-mail from Martin Brann Inspector of Ancient Monuments at Historic Scotland:

Martin didn't really add anything in his e-mail except that in the heading it gave **(Scheduled Ancient Monument Index No. 5314)** so I replied with the following questions:

- 1 - Is St Medden's a listed building?*
- 2 - What is your opinion regarding the kirkyard condition?*
- 3 - Does Historic Scotland think this kirkyard is worth saving?*
- 4 - What can Historic Scotland do to help preserve St Medden's?*

18th January 2008 received an e-mail from Martin Brann Inspector of Ancient Monuments at Historic Scotland:

Martin confirmed that the kirk is a listed building:

“St Meddan’s kirkyard is both category C(S) listed and also designated as a scheduled ancient monument, which affords the monument legal protection under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979. I have not yet visited the kirkyard myself, but our local Monument Warden visited last November, as part of a rolling programme of visits to monitor the condition and management of the thousands of scheduled monuments throughout Scotland. The resultant report highlighted the principal problems, which you have also identified”.

Martin also mentioned that Historic Scotland has a funding programme and that St Medden’s could be a possible candidate for funding in the future via Aberdeenshire Council and the ‘Historic Kirkyards Project’.