



**Edston Woodland Creation Scheme,
Peebles,
Scottish Borders,
Walkover Survey
Data Structure Report**



September 2016

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Document Status: FINAL				

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Executive Summary

ARCHAS Cultural Heritage Ltd were commissioned by Tilhill Forestry to undertake an archaeological walkover survey during the planning stages of the Edston Woodland Creation Scheme near Peebles in the Scottish Borders.

The proposed development site is an area of upland heather moorland and pasture overlooking the confluence of the Lyne Water and the River Tweed. Measuring around 60ha, the site is to be planted predominantly with Sitka spruce and mixed conifers.

The walkover survey identified a total of four sites within the limits of the proposed development. These were all related to the agricultural use of the land. A Roman road had been recorded running along the eastern boundary of the proposed development area and while stretches of this road were identified, no remains were found to extend into the development area.

ARCHAS recommend that the identified sites are avoided during planting with a suitable buffer put in place to ensure these are not damaged during the planting process.

A record of the work has been deposited with the Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations (OASIS) website hosted by the Archaeological Data Service (OASIS ID archascu1-263067) and with Discovery and Excavation in Scotland (DES), the annual publication of fieldwork by Archaeology Scotland.

1 Introduction

1.1 General

- 1.1.1 ARCHAS Cultural Heritage Ltd were commissioned by Tilhill Forestry (contact Francis Guyver) to undertake a walkover survey in advance of the planting of a proposed Woodland Creation Scheme on Edston Hill near Peebles in the Scottish Borders.
- 1.1.2 Edston Hill is an area of upland heather moorland and pasture to the north of the confluence of the Lyne Water with the River Tweed. The Woodland Creation scheme proposes the planting of a number of different species of tree, with the bulk of the area covered by Sitka spruce.
- 1.1.3 During the consultation period, the proposed development area was identified as having archaeological potential by the Scottish Borders Council Archaeology Officer. This was primarily due to the presence of recorded Roman activity both to the west and east of the development site and an important prehistoric site immediately to the south east of Edston Hill at Meldon Bridge.
- 1.1.4 As a result, the Archaeology Officer requested an archaeological walkover survey of the site be completed in advance of development. This walkover had the specific aim of identifying any archaeological sites or monuments which will be impacted by the proposed development, providing recommendations to mitigate against this impact.
- 1.1.5 The walkover survey was completed by Ross Cameron Thursday 15th September 2016 in bright and sunny conditions. Due to the time of year, levels of grass and vegetation were high and not ideal for the accurate location of potentially ephemeral archaeological features.
- 1.1.6 ARCHAS Cultural Heritage Ltd conforms to the standards of professional conduct outlined in the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) Code of conduct, and relevant Standards and Guidance documents produced by the CIfA. This report has been prepared in accordance with the Requirements and Guidelines as shown in the United Kingdom Forestry Standard.

General

- 1.2.1 Edston Hill and the proposed Woodland Creation Scheme are located in the Scottish Borders, to the west of the town of Peebles. The site lies to the north of the A72 in an upland setting overlooking the confluence of the Lyne Water with the River Tweed to the south (BNG: NT 21312 40773).

Study Area

- 1.2.2 The Edston Hill Woodland Creation Scheme covers an area of 60ha and rises to a maximum height of 300m.
- 1.2.3 The western periphery of the development area is anchored on the Meldon Burn, a small tributary that runs into the Lyne Water to the south. The northern edge is formed by modern field boundaries, but follows the rough course of a westerly running burn feeding into the Meldon Burn. There is a spur of the site to the north east which extends to the southern slopes of South Hill Head, although no planting is proposed in this area. From the north east tip of this spur, the line of the proposed Woodland Creation Scheme runs in a SSW direction, respecting the recorded line of a Roman Road, before turning west on the southern slopes of Edston Hill, encompassing Edston Wood.
- 1.2.4 The landscape is divided between improved pasture along the southern part of the site around Edston Wood and unimproved heather moorland across the remainder (Plate 1). The time of year meant that vegetation was particularly high across the heather moorland.



Plate 1: Looking west across the proposed development site (Photograph 022)

Geology

- 1.2.5 Much of the superficial drift geology across the proposed development area is unrecorded. However, those areas where this has been recorded show the topsoil to comprise Till, Devensian - Diamicton, formed up to two million years ago in the Quaternary Period in an environment previously dominated by Ice Age conditions.
- 1.2.6 The underlying bedrock geology can mainly be split into two uneven sections of similar rock types, datable to different periods. The bulk of the site overlies the Shinnel Formation – Wacke, a sedimentary bedrock formed 444-461 million years ago in the Ordovician Period. In the south east of the site around the Edston Wood, the bedrock is formed by Gala Unit 2 – Wacke, a sedimentary bedrock formed 439-444 million years ago in the Silurian Period. Both of these rock types were formed in deep seas.¹

¹ www.bgs.ac.uk – 20/09/16

2 Historical Analysis

2.1 General

- 2.1.1 The National Monuments Record of Scotland (hereafter NMRS) as held by Historic Environment Scotland and the Scottish Borders Council Historic Environment Record (hereafter HER) were consulted prior to completing the walkover. A selection of historic maps as held by the National Library of Scotland were also consulted.
- 2.1.2 This information helps to paint a picture of the history of the development route and the likelihood of archaeological features surviving.
- 2.1.3 Some of the more significant sites are discussed below.

2.2 Prehistoric

- 2.2.1 A pit alignment has been recorded at Meldon Bridge to the south west of Edston Hill and is protected by the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979 as a Scheduled Monument (SM3269).
- 2.2.2 This landscape is rich in Prehistoric and Roman (see Section 2.3) activity. A Neolithic timber enclosure (CANMORE ID: 51564) and a series of Bronze Age burials (CANMORE ID: 51565) are also recorded in this area.

2.3 Roman

- 2.3.1 The Roman activity in the area of Edston Hill is extensive, although no sites have been recorded on the proposed development site itself.
- 2.3.2 A number of Roman Forts have been recorded to the west of the site, with the Roman Temporary Camp at Lyne protected as a Scheduled Monument (SM1494) under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979.
- 2.3.3 Although not listed on the NMRS or HER, the Ordnance Survey maps also record the existence of a Roman Road running around the eastern edge of Edston Hill.

2.4 Post-Roman

- 2.4.1 A series of old cultivation rigs running across the contours of the south east slopes of Edston Hill were recorded by the NMRS (CANMORE ID: 51613). These overlie the Roman Road, but cannot be accurately dated.

3 Methodology and Reporting

3.1 Proposed Development

- 3.1.1 The proposed development involves the planting of Sitka Spruce, Norway Spruce, Scots Pine and Sycamore across an area of roughly 60ha on Edston Hill.
- 3.1.2 This will involve the mechanical excavation of trenches for the planting of the trees, as well as the creation of infrastructure such as roads to facilitate the planting and management of the woodland.

3.2 Aims and Objectives

- 3.2.1 The objective of this study is to identify the presence or otherwise of archaeological features within the boundaries of the proposed woodland.
- 3.2.2 The assessment will provide recommendations of mitigation should the proposed development impact upon any identified archaeological features.

3.3 Walkover Survey

- 3.3.1 The walkover survey is designed to identify the presence or otherwise of any previously unrecorded archaeological features within the boundaries of the proposed development.
- 3.3.2 Undertaking a walkover survey during Summer is not ideal, particularly given the nature of Edston Hill. Much of the site is heavily overgrown with heather and long grasses, making progress slow and difficult, with the potential to mask ephemeral archaeological features.
- 3.3.3 The site was accessed from the north west corner around Meldon Cottage where the banks of the Meldon Burn were assessed along with the flatter lower western slopes of Edston Hill. The survey proceeded eastwards up Edston Hill, traversing across the improved pasture to ensure comprehensive coverage. From the south eastern corner of the site the survey proceeded north eastwards, visually locating the line of the Roman Road on off the eastern edge of the development area.
- 3.3.4 Much of the central area of the site proved to be difficult terrain, overgrown with heather. This was traversed in a series of south west, to north west transects as the survey worked westwards down the hill towards Meldon Cottage.
- 3.3.5 This methodology ensured that (as far as possible given the nature of the vegetation) no visible archaeological remains were unrecorded.
- 3.3.6 The results of this phase of works are used to determine the need for any further archaeological mitigation in relation to the proposed development. ARCHAS Cultural Heritage Ltd will provide recommendations as to any further work required, but the responsibility deciding appropriate mitigation measures rests with Scottish Borders Council.

3.4 Site plans

3.4.1 In completing the assessment, ARCHAS Cultural Heritage Ltd are working to site plans showing the limits of the site as provided by the client and shown in Figure 1. Should the limits of the proposed development change, it may be necessary to undertake further assessment.

3.5 Standards

3.5.1 All sites encountered were recorded on ARCHAS Ltd. *pro forma* record sheets to accepted standards established by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA). Each record includes sketches of the monument, detailed notes, measurements and the location of the site.

3.5.2 A full photographic record was maintained during the survey.

3.5.3 ARCHAS Cultural Heritage Ltd adhere to the standards of professional conduct outlined in the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) Code of conduct, and relevant Standards and Guidance documents produced by the CIfA.

4 Results

4.1. General

- 4.1.1 A total of four sites were identified during the archaeological walkover survey of the proposed Edston Hill Woodland Creation Scheme.
- 4.1.2 The levels of vegetation present on Edston Hill in the summer months is not conducive to an archaeological walkover survey. Such heather, high grasses and vegetation can mask ephemeral archaeological features. Those sites recorded were those visible to the on-site archaeologist on the day.
- 4.1.3 Each site is recorded below along with their grid co-ordinates. The number in brackets following the co-ordinates relates to the location plan (Figure 2). Site numbers are written in **bold**. All the sites recorded along the route can be viewed in the Gazetteer ([Table 1](#)).

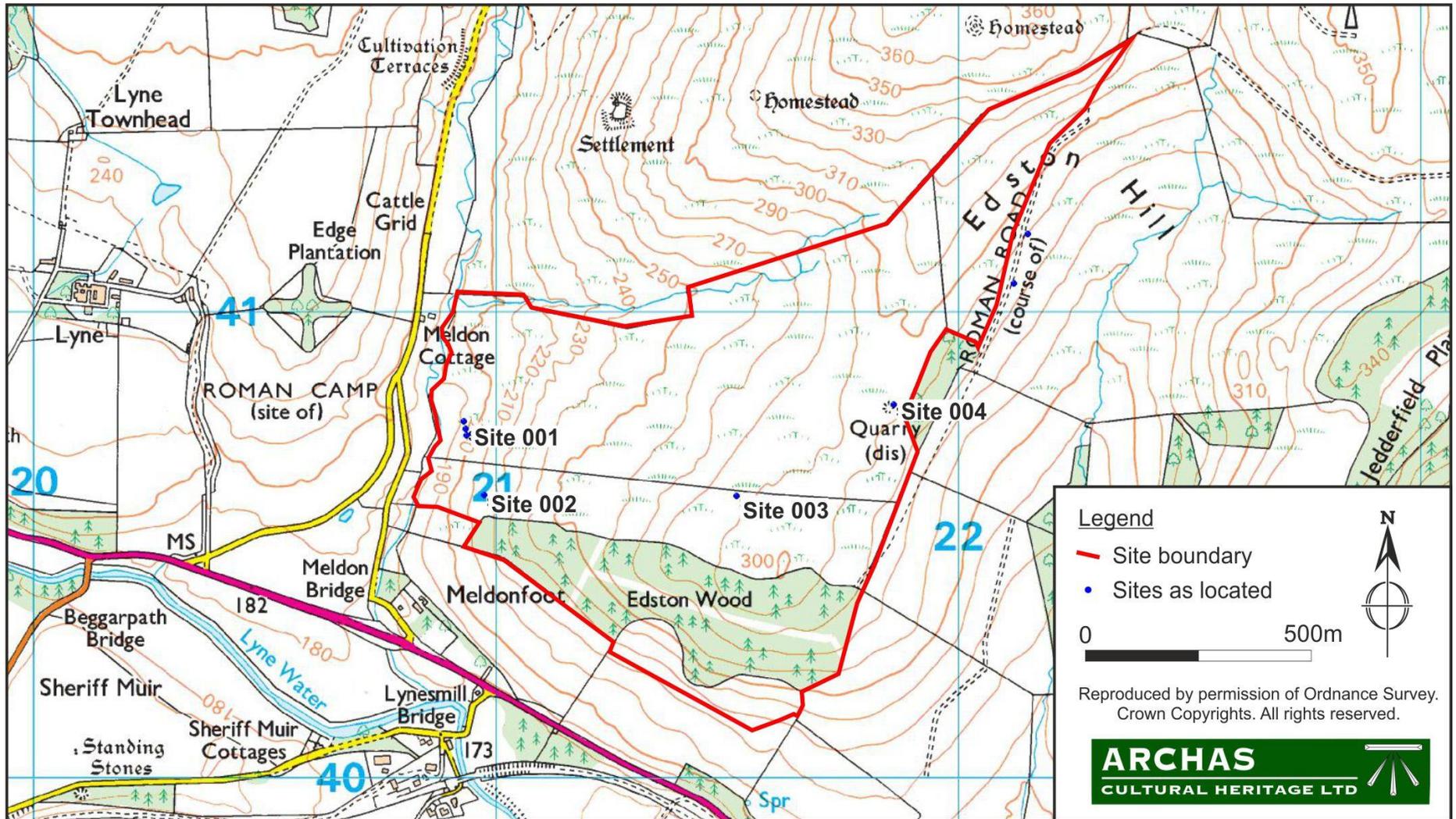


Figure 2: Map showing the sites located along the route of the proposed development

Table 1: Gazetteer of sites

Site Number	Site Name / type	Source	NGR	Description	Impacted by development?
001	Large sub rectangular enclosure, possible animal enclosure	Walkover Survey	NT 20931 40768 (NW corner) NT 20934 40752 (centre) NT 20937 40737 (SE corner)	Large sub-rectangular enclosure with earthen bank sides. Constructed on flat ground into western facing slopes of Edston Hill above the Meldon Burn. The banks forming the sides are c.0.15-1m high (exaggerated by topography) and very spread (up to 1m). There are faint traces of a possible secondary enclosure, adjoining to the north.	Yes In an area of proposed Norway spruce
002	Possible denuded clearance cairn	Walkover Survey	NT 20975 40610	Clear number of medium sized angular stones protruding from grass. No distinct pattern, but located in a natural depression forming flatter ground in the west facing slope of Edston Hill above the Meldon Burn.	Yes In an area of proposed Sycamore
003	Small quarry	Walkover Survey	NN 21521 40607	Small rocky depression representing the remnants of a small quarry. c.1m deep (internally) on the eastern side, with frequent small to large stones visible predominantly along the eastern side.	No
004	Large quarry	Walkover Survey, Cartographic	NN 21861 40804	Very substantial quarry, perhaps 6-7m deep with steep sides showing rock on the north, west and south. The east side is less steep, with a clear track entrance running south between banks on the west and east sides of the track. This is likely a quarry for the substantial drystone wall running around Edston Wood to the south.	Yes In an area of proposed Scots pine

4.2 Site 001

- 4.2.1 Site **001** lies at the base of the western edge of Edston Hill and comprises a sub rectangular enclosure, built into the slopes of the hill. As such, it appears to have no eastern side, with this formed by revetting into the steep slopes themselves.
- 4.2.2 The enclosure is constructed on a large area of flat ground (Plate 2) with the south, west and north sides formed by large earthen banks. Along the southern side the bank seems to be much more substantial, measuring up to 1m high and >1m wide although this is likely exacerbated by the gently sloping topography. The western edge is much denuded towards the north and the return of the enclosure to the east.
- 4.2.3 The enclosure measures around 17m west to east by 21m north to south, although there may be faint traces of a secondary adjoining enclosure to the north.



Plate 2: Looking NW across Site 001 towards Meldon Cottage (Photograph 005)

4.3 Site 002

- 4.3.1 Site **002** is likely to be a small denuded clearance cairn. It sits in a roughly flat, natural depression in the steep slopes running westwards towards the Meldon Burn (Plate 3).
- 4.3.2 A large number of medium to large angular boulders are noted protruding from the grass. While this is not uncommon at the upper parts of the site, no naturally occurring stone was noted in this area of the site and this is likely to be as a result of human intervention.
- 4.3.3 The nature of Site **002** is unclear, but it seems likely that this represents the remnants of small clearance cairn, subsequently robbed or ploughed away.



Plate 3: Looking SW over Site 002 (Photograph 012)

4.4 Site 003

- 4.4.1 A small quarry was recorded as Site **003** at the top of Edston Hill (Plate 4). This is an area where there is no planting proposed.
- 4.4.2 The quarry measures 7m west to east by 5m north to south and has a depth of c.1m exacerbated by the natural sloping topography. As such the deepest point of the quarry is along the eastern side, where the gradual slopes of the quarry's bowl are dominated by frequent medium to large angular stones. The bowl of the quarry itself is surrounded by a low rim of upcast material.



Plate 4: View south over Site 003 (Photograph 014)

4.5 Site 004

- 4.5.1 Site **004** is a very substantial quarry first depicted on the 25 inch Ordnance Survey map Peebles-Shire 013.05 published in 1898.

4.5.2 The quarry is perhaps c.6-7m deep with steep sides showing rock faces on the north, west and south sides (Plate 5). The east side is less steep, with a clear track running southwards between mounded banks on its western and eastern sides. The quarry itself measures c.26m north to south by 23m west to east.



Plate 5: Large scale quarry Site 004 as viewed from the NE (Photograph 017)

4.5.3 A much smaller quarry pit is also visible directly adjacent to the larger one on the north eastern side.

4.6 The Roman Road

4.6.1 The density of Roman occupation in the area of the site (see Section 2.3) was notable, and of particular relevance was the recorded route of the Roman military road along the eastern perimeter of the site. While no actual planting was proposed in this area of the site adjacent to the road, this section of road was visited in order to ascertain whether it crossed into the development area.

4.6.2 Although the vegetation was very high, the route of the road was clearly visible (Plate 6). There was no indication that this extended into the proposed development area.



Plate 6: View looking south along the Roman road (Photograph 020)

4.7 Aerial Photographs

- 4.7.1 As part of the assessment a number of historic and current aerial images were consulted in order to clarify the potential for further archaeological features surviving, primarily across the central part of the site where vegetation made assessment during the walkover survey difficult.
- 4.7.2 Aerial images were consulted from the National Collection of Aerial Photography (NCAP), THE National Library of Scotland (NLS) and readily available online platforms. A list of those aerial images consulted can be viewed in Table 2.

Table 2: Aerial images consulted

Image reference	Date	Source
Frame 3327 Sortie: 106G/Scot/UK/0081	10/05/1946	NCAP
Frame 3328 Sortie: 106G/Scot/UK/0081	10/05/1946	NCAP
Frame 3329 Sortie: 106G/Scot/UK/0081	10/05/1946	NCAP
Frame 3330 Sortie: 106G/Scot/UK/0081	10/05/1946	NCAP
NT 23 N.W. (Peebleshire)	1946	NLS
Frame 0134 Sortie: MER/081/70	08/10/1970	NCAP
Frame 0135 Sortie: MER/081/70	08/10/1970	NCAP
Frame 0155 Sortie: MER/081/70	08/10/1970	NCAP
Frame 0156 Sortie: MER/081/70	08/10/1970	NCAP
N/A	01/01/2007	Google Earth
N/A	-	www.bing.com

- 4.7.3 The assessment of the aerial images failed to reveal any clear new sites across the proposed development area. However, it did reveal patterns of rig and furrow and land use not noted during the walkover survey. The failure to note these may have been the result of the vegetation levels at this time of year.
- 4.7.4 In the images from 1946, Edston Wood has not yet been planted, but the wall that currently encloses this is in place. There is clear west to east aligned rig and furrow in the field to the north of the future Edston Wood enclosure, while much more prominent areas of what may be cord rig are apparent in the north eastern corner of the site straddling the line of the Roman Road.
- 4.7.5 Land improvement is also evident across the centre of the site, with a series of parallel and perpendicular drainage ditches dug in the centre of the site along the northern boundary.

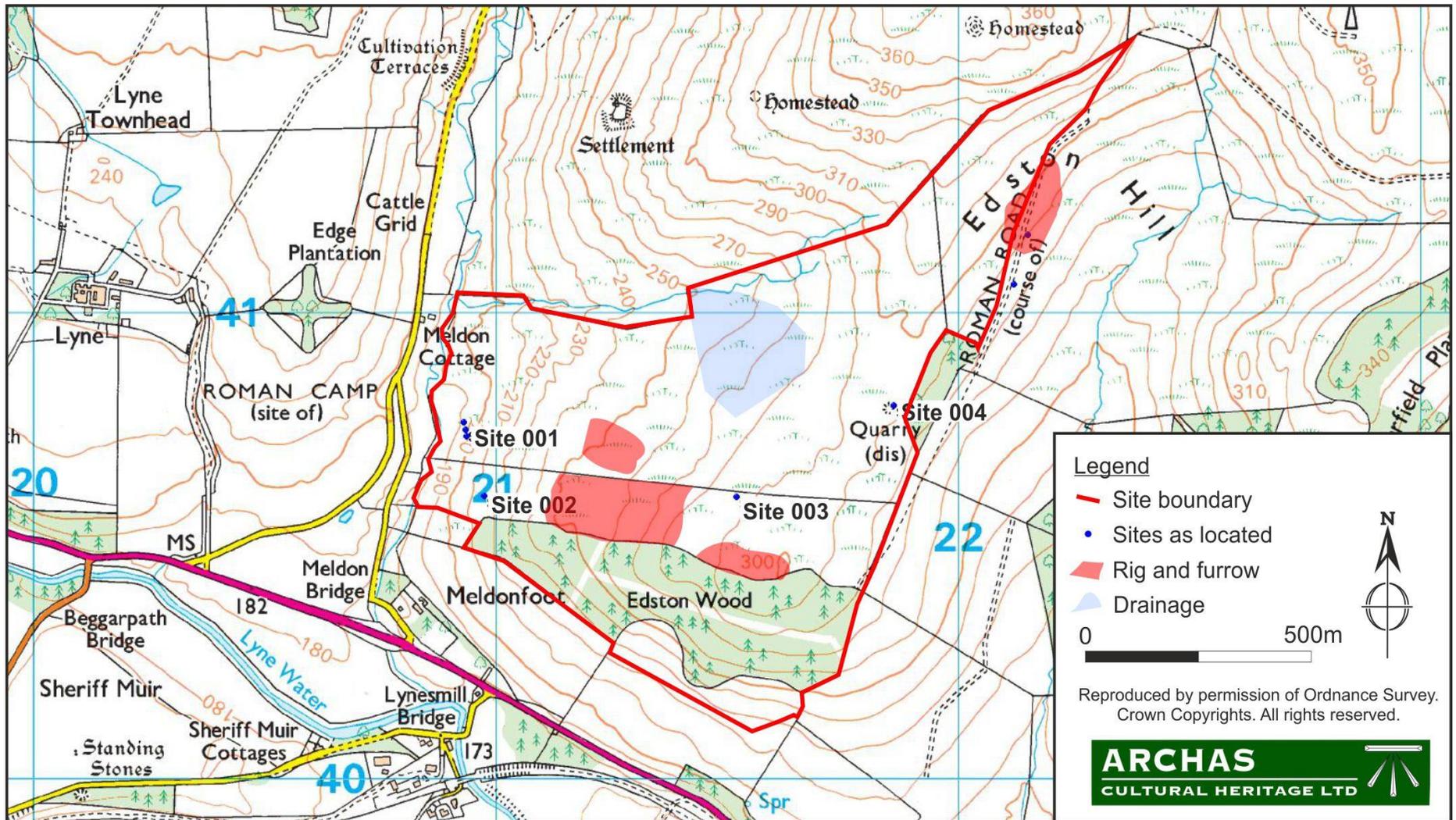


Figure 3: Map showing the rough locations of the identified land usage from the assessment of the aerial images

5 Summary and Discussion

5.1 General

- 5.1.1 An archaeological walkover survey undertaken during the Summer months can be difficult due to the high levels of vegetation. This was especially true over much of the central part of the site where deep deposits of heather and long grasses made the survey difficult.
- 5.1.2 A total of four new sites were recorded during the walkover survey. Two of these (the large enclosure Site **001** and the denuded cairn Site **002**) relate to the agricultural usage of the land, while the remainder are quarries Site **003** and **004**.
- 5.1.3 The small scale quarry Site **003** is almost certainly related to the exploitation of the land possibly for the building of the drystone walls around the Edston Wood. Site **004** is a much larger affair. It is first on record in the OS maps of 1898 and is large enough to indicate exploitation of the stone on a large, semi-industrial scale.
- 5.1.4 No significant archaeological features or deposits were recorded within the boundaries of the proposed development during the walkover survey or during the assessment of aerial images. The possible cord rig in the north eastern edge of the site will remain unaffected by the proposed development.
- 5.1.5 Although outwith the boundary of the proposed woodland creation scheme, the presence of the Roman Road along the eastern perimeter of the site must be noted. This is a site of clear archaeological significance.

6 Conclusions and Recommendations

6.1 General

6.1.1 Of the four sites recorded on the walkover survey, three sit within areas identified for planting. None of these are considered archaeologically significant and are the type of sites that would be expected in an upland, agricultural landscape.

6.2 Buffer Zones

6.2.1 All sites have been recorded and provided with co-ordinates as shown in the Gazetteer, Table 1. It is recommended that all of these are avoided during the planting process, with a buffer placed around each monument. The size of the recommended buffer for each monument can be viewed in Table 3.

Table 3: Recommended buffers around Sites during planting

Site Number	Recommended buffer
001	10m
002	5m
003	5m (if impacted)
004	5m

6.2.2 Each of the sites recorded during the walkover survey can be clearly noted on the ground. If the co-ordinates provided are used, ARCHAS believe the developer will be able to avoid these sites when planting begins.

6.2.3 The developer must clearly mark out the limits of the buffers on the ground prior to the chosen contractor beginning planting work.

6.3 Roman Road

6.3.1 The Roman Road runs along the north eastern border of the proposed development. While there is no planting proposed in this area under current plans, mitigation in relation to the Roman Road must be noted should these change.

6.3.2 A buffer of 20m must be maintained between any trees and the Roman Road.

6.3.3 Care must also be taken if machinery is operating in this area that this does not damage the road. Any tracking of machines and excavation of tracks, drainage ditches etc. will avoid the Roman road where this is visible.

6.4 Features noted during site works

6.4.1 If any previously unrecorded features or earthworks are noted during the site works, the contractor will avoid these and contact the appointed archaeological consultant (ARCHAS Cultural Heritage Ltd) for further advice and guidance.

6.5 Toolbox Talk

6.5.1 Prior to site works commencing a toolbox talk will be delivered by UPM to the appointed planting contractor. This will cover specific historical and archaeological issues identified IN this report, including the location of the buffer zones and potential for unrecorded archaeological features to survive in certain areas of the site.

- 6.5.2 The toolbox talk will also cover the need to report any potentially important historic environment or archaeological features noted during the planting process. Any archaeological objects which are noted or recovered by the contractor during site works must be reported to the appointed archaeological consultant (ARCHAS Cultural Heritage Ltd) and subsequently the Scottish Borders Council Archaeology Officer. This is in line with the UKFS Requirement 2 relating to 'Archaeological Finds'.²
- 6.5.3 This toolbox talk will ensure that those working in the proposed woodland are aware of the importance of the historic environment, encouraged to recognise archaeological features and assist in the recording and preservation of these as recommended by UKFS Guideline 6.³

² The Forestry Commission 2011, UK Forestry Standard: The Government's approach to sustainable forestry, 32

³ Ibid. 67

Acknowledgements

ARCHAS Cultural Heritage Ltd would like to thank Francis Guyver of Tilhill Forestry for commissioning us to undertake the project to on their behalf.

Thanks must also go to Dr Chris Bowles at Scottish Borders Council for his help and advice in planning and overseeing the project.

Bibliography

The Forestry Commission 2011, UK Forestry Standard: The Government's approach to sustainable forestry

Electronic Resources

www.bgs.ac.uk

www.historicenvironment.scot

www.pastmap.org.uk

www.rcahms.gov.uk

Appendix A: Photographic Register

<i>Image No.</i>	<i>Direction facing</i>	<i>Site Number</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Initials</i>
001	S	-	General view of site	15/09/16	RC
002	E	-	General view of site	15/09/16	RC
003	N	-	General view of site	15/09/16	RC
004	W	001	View of enclosure Site 001	15/09/16	RC
005	NW	001	View of enclosure Site 001	15/09/16	RC
006	N	001	View of enclosure Site 001	15/09/16	RC
007	S	001	View of enclosure Site 001	15/09/16	RC
008	NW	001	View of enclosure Site 001	15/09/16	RC
009	W	001	View of enclosure Site 001	15/09/16	RC
010	NW	002	Site 002	15/09/16	RC
011	W	002	Site 002	15/09/16	RC
012	SW	002	Site 002	15/09/16	RC
013	E	003	Small quarry Site 003	15/09/16	RC
014	SE	003	Small quarry Site 003	15/09/16	RC
015	NE	004	Large quarry Site 004	15/09/16	RC
016	NE	004	Large quarry Site 004	15/09/16	RC
017	S	004	Large quarry Site 004	15/09/16	RC
018	NNE	-	View along Roman road	15/09/16	RC
019	NNE	-	View along Roman road	15/09/16	RC
020	SSW	-	View along Roman road	15/09/16	RC
021	SSW	-	View along Roman road	15/09/16	RC
022	W	-	General view across site	15/09/16	RC
023	S	-	General view across the proposed development area	15/09/16	RC
024	SE	-	General view across the proposed development area	15/09/16	RC
025	S	-	General view across the proposed development area	15/09/16	RC

Appendix B: Provisional Discovery & Excavation Scotland entry

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	Scottish Borders Council
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	Edston Hill Woodland Creation Scheme
PROJECT CODE:	249
PARISH:	Peebles
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	Ross Cameron
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	ARCHAS Cultural Heritage Ltd.
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Walkover Survey
NMRS NO(S):	NT24SW 90
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	
NGR (2 letters, 8 or 10 figures)	NT 21312 40773
START DATE (this season)	15/09/16
END DATE (this season)	15/09/16
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)	N/A
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	<p>ARCHAS Cultural Heritage Ltd were commissioned by Tilhill Forestry to undertake an archaeological walkover survey during the planning stages of the Edston Woodland Creation Scheme near Peebles in the Scottish Borders.</p> <p>The proposed development site is an area of upland heather moorland and pasture overlooking the confluence of the Lyne Water and the River Tweed. Measuring around 60ha, the site is to be predominantly planted with Sitka spruce and mixed conifers.</p> <p>The walkover survey identified a total of four sites within the limits of the proposed development. These were all related to the agricultural use of the land. A Roman road had been recorded running along the eastern boundary of the proposed development area and while stretches of this road were identified, no remains were found to extend into the development area.</p> <p>ARCHAS recommend that the sites identified are avoided during planting with a suitable buffer put in place to ensure these are not damaged during the planting process.</p>
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	None
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	None
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	Tilhill Forestry
ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:	ARCHAS Cultural Heritage LTD Suite B Law s Close 339-343 High Street Kirkcaldy KY1 1JN
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ARCHIVE LOCATION	NMRS and Borders Council SMR