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Historic Building Recording

Site & Landscape Survey

Geophysical Survey

**Whitehall House Estate,
Chirnside, Duns, Scottish Borders**

**Archaeological Field Reconnaissance Survey
Report No. 1592**

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Grid Ref	NT 877 550

This document has been prepared in accordance with CFA Archaeology Ltd standard operating procedures.

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Chirnside, Duns, Scottish Borders**

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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 General

- 1.1.1 This report presents the results of an archaeological field reconnaissance survey undertaken by CFA Archaeology Ltd (CFA) in January 2009 on the site of Whitehall House Estate, Chirnside, Scottish Borders (NGR: NT 877 550 (centred); Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Pryde Homes Ltd.
- 1.1.2 A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) was produced by CFA based upon information provided by Pryde Homes Ltd and discussions with, Dr Christopher Bowles, the Archaeology Officer for Scottish Borders Council.
- 1.1.3 Following a site visit by the Scottish Borders Council Archaeological Officer, the possible remains of medieval broad rig-and-furrow cultivation had been identified within the proposed development area. As a consequence, further work by way of archaeological field reconnaissance survey was proposed to assess and record the overall archaeological potential of the site.
- 1.1.4 The planning application (08/001681/FUL) relates to the construction of six timber lodges with allocated parking areas which will be positioned on plinths of concrete and hardcore standing, plus tennis courts. Access to the lodges will be via a road constructed of hardcore and stone chippings. A number of service trenches will also be excavated to conduct services to and from the lodges.
- 1.1.5 The proposed development area (Fig. 1 & 2) is located within the grounds of Whitehall Manor, a Listed Building of 18th century construction. The site is bound to the north and west by arable fields. To the south, the site is bound by Steeple Haugh, which drops steeply in the region of 30m to the Whiteadder River below. The current land provision is one of dense, well established deciduous tree cover, in random order, with younger saplings sporadically seen.
- 1.1.6 No previous archaeological fieldwork is known to have taken place within the proposed development area prior to this survey.

1.2 Objectives

- 1.2.1 The objectives of the archaeological reconnaissance survey were as follows:
- To conduct a reconnaissance survey of the development site;
 - To provide a record of any archaeological sites within the development site;
 - To produce an illustrated data structure report outlining the results of the work.

2. METHODOLOGY

2.1 General

- 2.1.1 CFA follows Institute of Field Archaeologists Code of Conduct, Standards and Guidelines as appropriate.
- 2.1.2 Site locations were recorded accurately using tape and offset measurements. The use of GPS recording to plot archaeological features was prohibited by the dense tree cover. Archaeological features identified were plotted onto base plans. Written descriptions and photographic records were made of all archaeological features located within the study area.
- 2.1.3 Aerial photographs and historic cartographic resources were consulted prior to the commencement of the survey.

3. ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS

3.1 Archaeological Field Reconnaissance Survey

- 3.1.1 The study area can be broadly divided into three unequal areas; *Areas 1* and *2*, and the area of the proposed tennis courts (Fig. 2). *Areas 1* and *2* are divided by a clearly visible clearing in the tree cover (Feature B) which extends from residential buildings in the west, to the development boundary to the east. The tennis court area is situated at lower datum (c -27m OD), south-west of *Area 2*.

Area 1

- 3.1.2 *Area 1* was delimited at its northern extent by a boundary ditch (Feature A), approximately 1.25m deep by 2.3m in width. The ditch extended beyond the western extent of the development site; however, to the east it petered out and terminated 11m from the north-east corner of the development site. Along sections of the ditch the possible remains of a drystone wall were noted. Evidence from the north-facing elevation of the ditch suggested this stonework may have been a retaining revetment wall. Large sub-rounded cobbles and boulders were noted on the surface within *Area 1*. These stones have been interpreted as the demolished and scattered remains of the field boundary, and in general, the preservation was very poor and fragmentary. The ditch associated with Feature A still functions as a field boundary/drainage channel and is likely to be of post-medieval date.
- 3.1.3 South of Feature A, an area of possible rig-and-furrow cultivation was identified (Fig. 3). This was evidenced by a series of north-south orientated linear earthworks and depressions. Three rigs still remain visible, spaced 7m apart from crest to crest. The rig measures approximately 4.4m wide at the base and survives to a height of c. <0.5m (Fig. 4). These earthworks are bound to the south by a linear earthwork which runs perpendicular to the probable rig-and-furrow in an east-west direction. The bank is 3.5m wide at the base

and stands to a maximum height of 0.3m. Any physical relationship with this bank and the rig-and-furrow cultivation directly to the north was not discernible.

- 3.1.4 As aforementioned, *Areas 1* and 2 are separated by a clearing in the tree cover. On the ground this clearing correlates with Feature B (Fig. 5), indicated by a slight linear depression c. 5m wide, within which long, lush vegetation was noted. Feature B is orientated east-west, becoming considerably more incised to the east, where the feature narrows to 3.5m in width and meanders to the eastern boundary of the study area; in the vicinity of a steep gradient towards the Whiteadder River.
- 3.1.5 The precise interpretation of Feature B is unclear, although it presumably dates to some form of land improvement within the period between the construction of Whitehall Manor and the present day. The tree cover post-dates the rig-and-furrow cultivation and does not encroach on Feature B, therefore confirming a post-medieval date for the feature. Given the meandering nature of the feature and the pronounced ditch profile to the east, it is likely that the feature is a silted up drainage channel/ditch which headed in the direction of the Whiteadder River. This interpretation is further supported by the lush vegetation underfoot.

Area 2

- 3.1.6 An area of rig-and-furrow cultivation survives within *Area 2* (Fig. 6 & 7). The cultivation strips are spaced at approximately 7m from crest to crest, with the earthworks surviving to a maximum height of 0.3m by c. 4m in width and approximately 60m in length. Five rigs were observed. Shallow furrows were noted running between the rigs. The state of preservation was poor and the features became less visible along their lengths, eventually becoming indiscernible on the surface.

Tennis Courts

- 3.1.7 The area of the proposed tennis courts is situated on level ground at the bottom of a steep bank, 50m west of the Whiteadder River (Fig. 8). The walkover survey did not reveal any archaeological features.

5. CONCLUSION

- 5.1 An archaeological field reconnaissance survey has been carried out at the proposed development site within the grounds of Whitehall House Estate, Chirnside, Scottish Borders. The reconnaissance survey has revealed the following archaeological features:
- Two areas of probable medieval broad rig-and-furrow cultivation. The cultivation strips in *Areas 1* and *2* are orientated on different axes, although, due to their similarities they are presumed to be chronologically contemporary. Overall, the cultivation strips are in a poor state of preservation.
 - A deep, probably stone-revetted boundary ditch to the north of *Area 1*, which still provides a functioning boundary and drainage channel in this area. It is probably of post-medieval origin, and would remain unaffected by the current planning proposal.
 - A linear feature of unknown date was recorded. This feature may be a silted-up drainage channel or ditch. Due to its relationship with the established tree cover, the feature likely dates to the post-medieval period.
- 5.2 A summary statement of the results of this archaeological work will be submitted for publication in *Discovery and Excavation in Scotland*, a copy of which is attached as Appendix 5. An OASIS Scotland entry will be made.
- 5.6 The final decision on further mitigation measures lies with the Archaeology Officer for Scottish Borders Council.

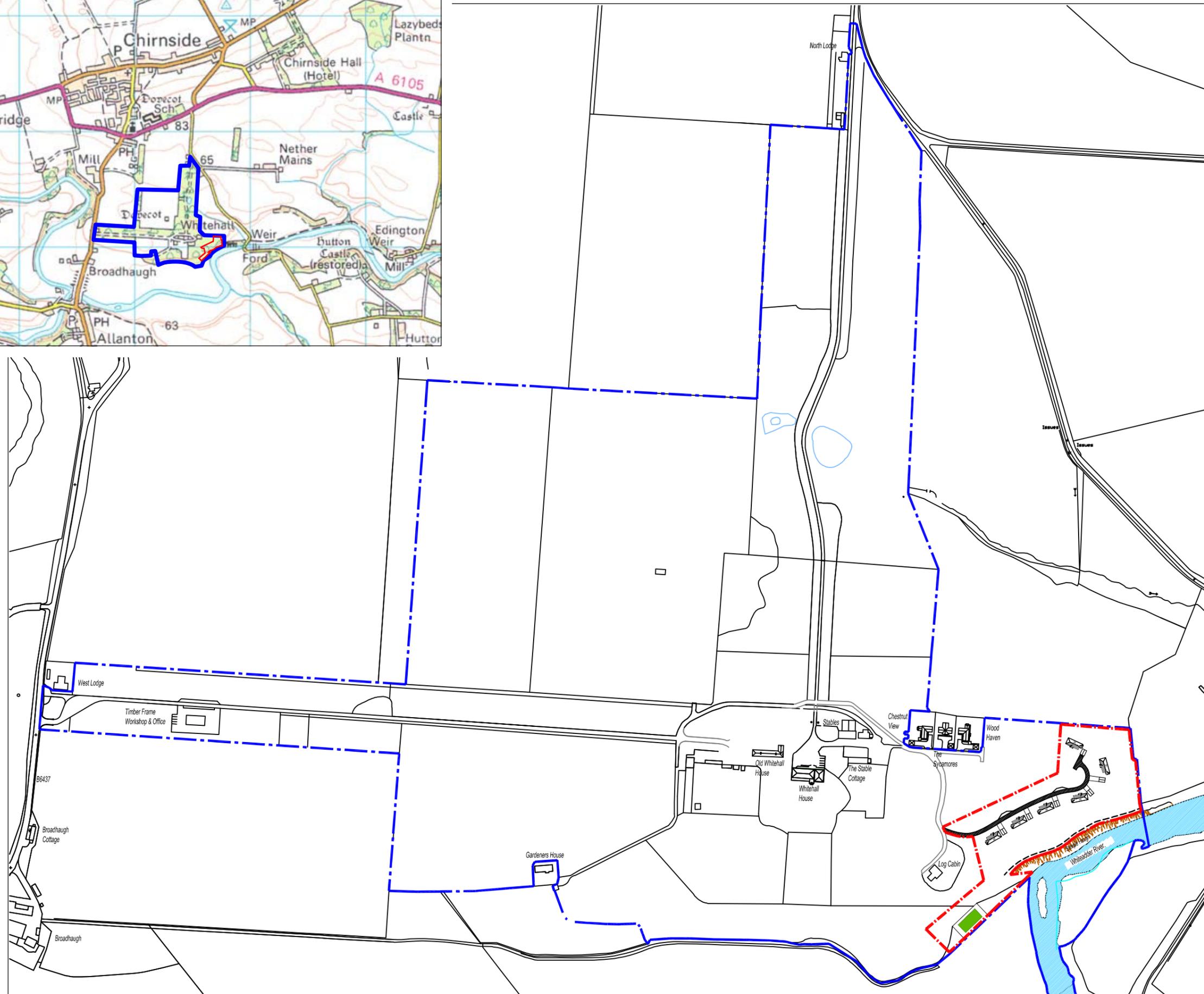
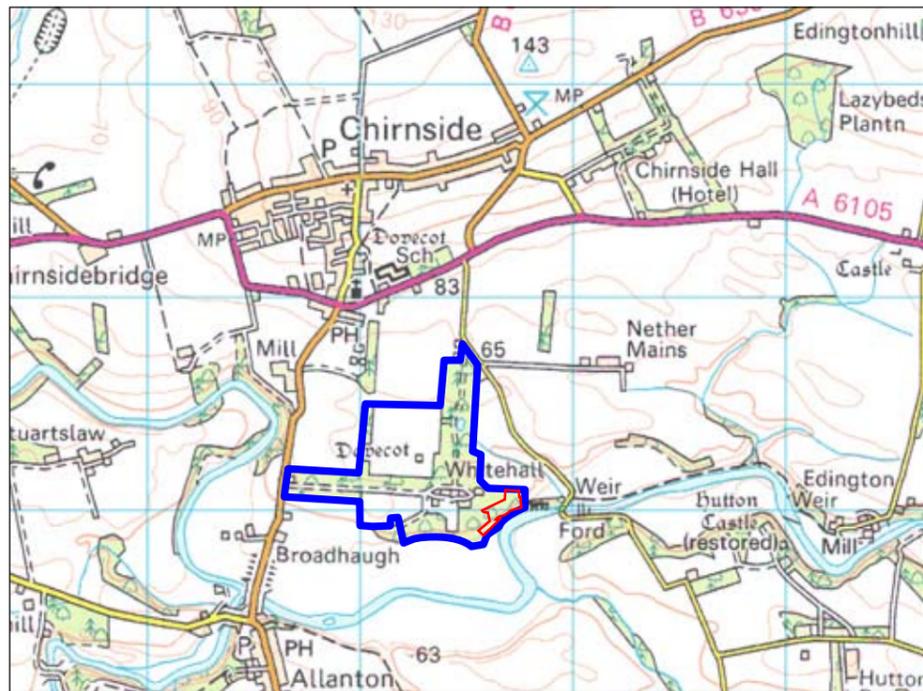
APPENDIX 1

Photographic Register

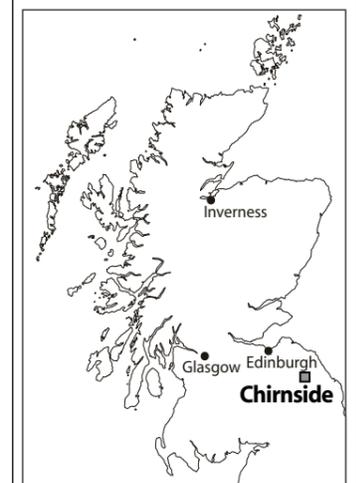
Digital image no.	Description	From	Conditions
1	Feature A, boundary ditch/drainage channel.	W	Overcast
2	Earthworks and stone boulders associated with Feature A.	S	Overcast
3	Scattered boulders and debris associated with Feature A.	SW	Overcast
4	Feature A, boundary ditch/drainage channel.	SW	Overcast
5	Feature A, boundary ditch/drainage channel and stonework.	E	Overcast
6	General view of rig-and-furrow cultivation in Area 1.	SE	Overcast
7	Rig earthwork in Area 1.	S	Overcast
8	General view of broad rig-and-furrow cultivation in Area 1.	SW	Overcast
9	Rig earthwork in Area 1	S	Overcast
10	Rig earthwork in Area 1	S	Overcast
11	E-W orientated earthwork delimiting Area 1 to the south.	E	Overcast
12	General shot of Feature B.	W	Overcast
13	General shot of Feature B.	W	Overcast
14	General shot of Feature B.	E	Overcast
15	General shot of Feature B.	E	Overcast
16	Shot of Feature B 'ditch'.	W	Overcast
17	General view of Area 2.	NE	Overcast
18	General view of broad rig-and-furrow cultivation in Area 2.	E	Overcast
19	Evidence of broad rig-and-furrow cultivation in Area 2.	E	Overcast
20	Evidence of broad rig-and-furrow cultivation in Area 2.	E	Overcast
21	General view of Area 2.	SW	Overcast
22	Oblique view from above of tennis court area.	SW	Overcast
23	Oblique view from above of tennis court area.	SW	Overcast
24	Access track to tennis court area.	NE	Overcast
25	View of tennis court area from ground level	NE	Overcast
26	Stone debris in Area 1	-	Overcast

APPENDIX 2: Discovery & Excavation in Scotland Entry

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	Scottish Borders
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	Whitehall House Estate, Chirnside, Duns, Scottish Borders
PROJECT CODE:	CHIR
PARISH:	Chirnside
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	Phil Moore
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	CFA Archaeology Ltd
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Archaeological Reconnaissance Survey
NMRS NO(S):	None
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	Medieval broad rig-and-furrow
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	None
NGR (2 letters, 8 or 10 figures)	NT 877 550
START DATE (this season)	7/01/09
END DATE (this season)	7/01/09
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)	None
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	<p>An archaeological field reconnaissance survey was conducted by CFA Archaeology Ltd in January 2009 within the grounds of the Whitehall House Estate. Observations from a previous site visit had suggested the presence of medieval broad rig-and-furrow cultivation.</p> <p>The reconnaissance survey found two areas of probable rig-and-furrow cultivation. Area 1 contained several cultivation furrows orientated north-south with accompanying earth banks. Spaced 7m from crest to crest, the banks survived to a maximum height of 0.5m by 4.4m in width. Area 2 contained 5 strips of rig-and-furrow cultivation, orientated ENE-WNW and spaced 7m crest to crest. The accompanying earthworks survived to a maximum height of 0.3m by 4m in width, and up to c. 60m in length.</p> <p>The survey also identified a post-medieval field boundary, comprising of a ditch with fragmentary stone revetting on the north side of the development site, and an east-west orientated linear feature which may represent a silted drainage channel or ditch. No other archaeological features were found.</p>
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	None
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	-
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	Pryde Homes Ltd
ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:	The Old Engine House, Eskmills Park, Musselburgh, East Lothian EH21 7PQ
EMAIL ADDRESS:	Info@cfa-archaeology.co.uk
ARCHIVE LOCATION (intended/deposited)	Archive to be deposited with NMRS; reports to be deposited with Scottish Borders SMR and NMRS



Key:
 Development Area



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Fig. No: **1** Revision: **A**

Title:
Site Location Plan

Project:
**Whitehall House Estate,
 Chirnside, Duns, Scottish
 Borders
 Archaeological Field
 Reconnaissance Survey**

Scale:
1:4000 @ A3

Client:
Pryde Homes Ltd

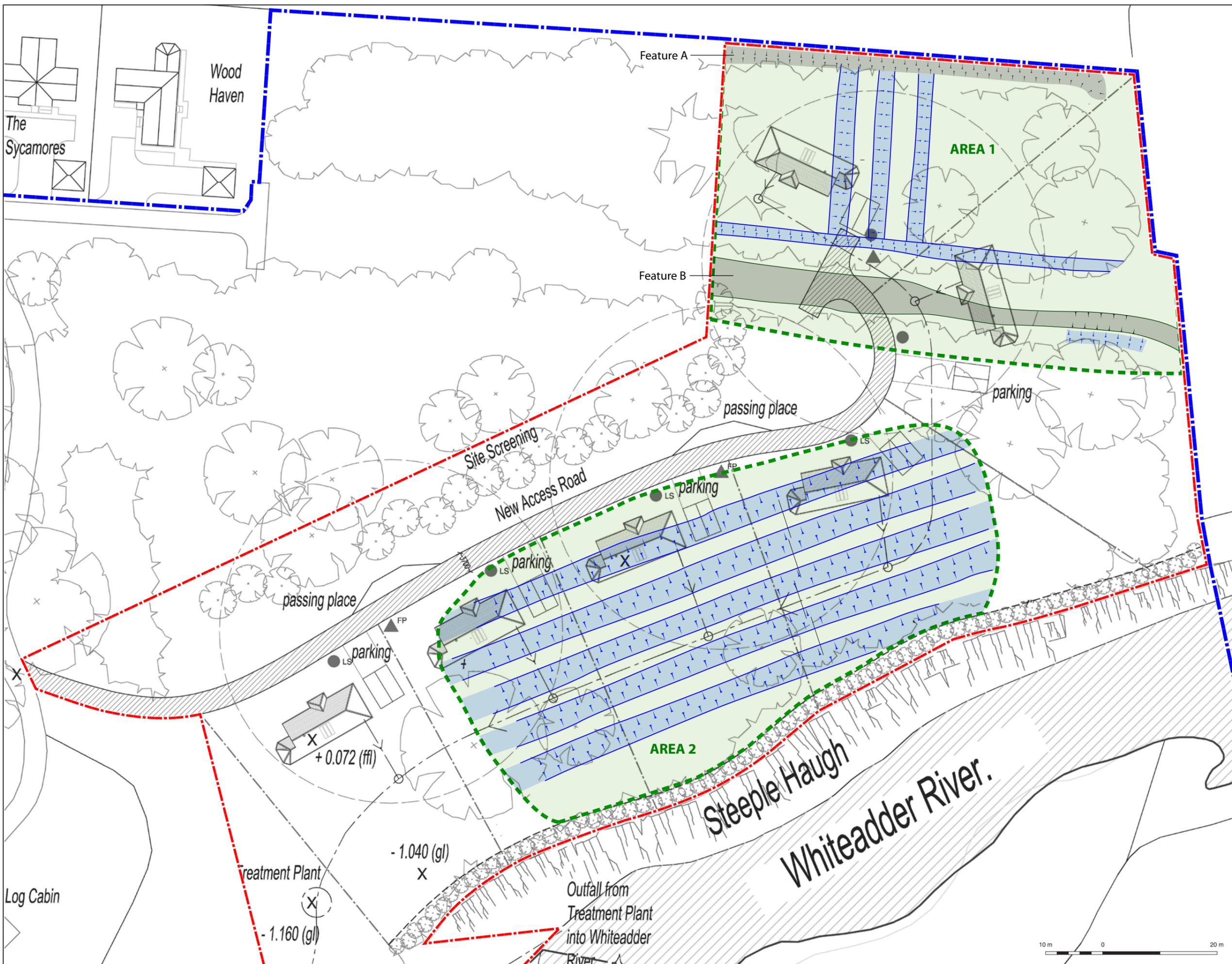
Drawn by: **LW** Page No:



IFA-registered archaeological organisation

Key:

- Development Area
- Rig-and-Furrow
- Areas containing Archaeological Features



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Fig. No:	2	Revision:	A
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Title:
Site Plan

Project:
 Whitehall House Estate,
 Chirnside, Duns, Scottish
 Borders
 Archaeological Field
 Reconnaissance Survey

Scale:
 1:600 @ A3

Client:
 Pryde Homes Ltd

Drawn by: LW
 Page No:



Fig 3 - General view of Area 1



Fig 4 - Rig within Area 1

Key:

Scale:

Fig. No: **3-4** Revision: **A** Client: Pryde Homes Ltd

Title:

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Page No:



Fig 5 - Feature B



Fig 6 - General view of Area 2

Key:

Fig. No: **5-6** Revision: **A** Client: Pryde Homes Ltd

Title:

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Fig 7 - Evidence of Rig-and-Furrow cultivation within Area 2



Fig 8 - General view of tennis court area

Key:

Fig. No: **7-8** Revision: **A** Client: Pryde Homes Ltd

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