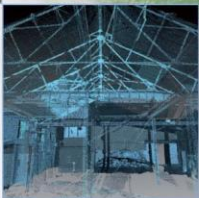
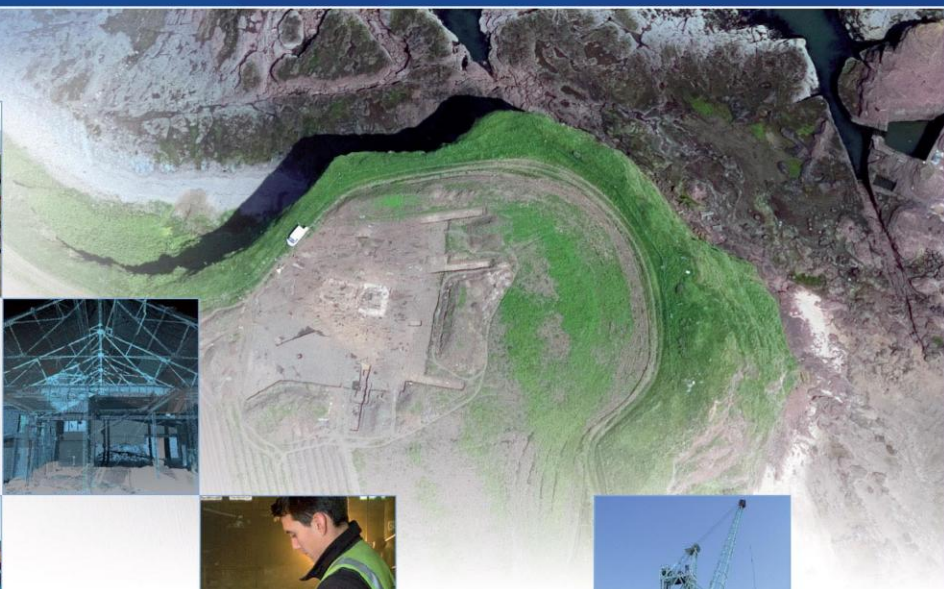
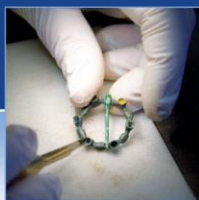


Bellfield Road, Eddleston, Scottish Borders: Evaluation Data Structure Report

AOC Project 21924
16th September 2011



Bellfield Road, Eddleston, Scottish Borders:

Evaluation Data Structure Report

On Behalf of:	Mr. Alistair Wilson c/o David & Jane Architects Bank House, Innerleithen, East Lothian EH44 6HA
National Grid Reference (NGR):	NT 24328 47238
AOC Project No:	21924
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Date of Fieldwork:	2nd September 2011
Date of Report:	16th September 2011

This document has been prepared in accordance with AOC standard operating procedures.

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Date: 16th September 2011

Approved by: John Gooder

Date: 16th September 2011

Draft/Final Report Stage: Draft

Date: 16th September 2011

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Abstract

This report represents the results of an archaeological evaluation undertaken by AOC Archaeology Group at Bellfield Road, Eddleston, Scottish Borders.

The archaeological evaluation comprised excavation of a 20% trenching sample of the c.500 m² development area, resulting in four trenches totalling 103 m².

The site was covered by a thick layer of topsoil increasing in depth towards the north and along the western edge of the development area. No features were encountered other than building remains associated with a former garage at the northern end of the site and two dog burials. No residual earlier small finds were noted within any of the mixed soft sediments.

In summary neither significant archaeological artefacts nor features were encountered.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

- 1.1.1 AOC Archaeology Group was commissioned by David Jane Architects on behalf of their client, Mr. Wilson, to undertake a programme of archaeological works at Bellfield Road, Eddleston, Scottish Borders. The programme of archaeological works was required by Dr. Chris Bowles, Archaeology Officer at Borders Council in respect to a proposed residential development and associated works within a greenfield plot on Bellfield Road, Eddleston, near Peebles, Scottish Borders.
- 1.1.2 The work required was in response to a planning condition (Planning Reference No. 10/01505/FUL) imposed on a small residential development by the Scottish Borders Council. The required archaeological works were in accord with planning guidelines as set out in *Scottish Planning Policy* (2010) and *Planning And Archaeology 2/2011* (2011) in determining the nature, extent, condition, date and significance of any archaeological remains within the proposed development area.
- 1.1.3 A *Written Scheme of Investigation* (Dunbar 2011) was agreed with Dr. Bowles, Scottish Borders Council, in advance of the evaluation being undertaken. The evaluation was designed around a 20% trenching sample of the 500 m² development area.
- 1.1.4 The evaluation identified neither significant archaeological features nor artefacts.

1.2 Location

- 1.2.1 The site, centred on NGR NT 24328 47238, is situated on the eastern side of Eddleston. To the north lie properties fronting onto Bellfield Road, whilst to the south lies pasture. Located to the west are Eddleston Church and its associated graveyard.

1.3 Archaeological background

- 1.3.1 The development site is located to the immediate north-east of the Church of Eddleston (NMRS NT24NW 7.00) and its associated churchyard (NMRS NT24NW 7.01). The church appears in the historic record at the beginning of the 12th century and the present site has probably been in continuous occupation since that time. In 1796 it was reported that the church was "supposed to be above 200 years old" and that some of the seats bore the date 1600, this building is said to have measured 82ft by 18ft within the walls. The church was rebuilt in 1929, and was again restored after a fire in 1897, a new vestry being added at the same time. Apart from the 18th century sundial that is affixed to its south-west angle, no part of the existing structure appears to be older than the 19th century, however a number of carved details and some funerary monuments of 17th and 18th century date survive. No trace of an alleged vaulted chamber said to lie beneath the floor of the church has ever been found (RCAHMS 1967).
- 1.3.2 No known previous archaeological investigations had been undertaken within the development area.

2 OBJECTIVES

2.1 The objectives of the archaeological evaluation were:

- i) to determine and assess the character, extent, condition, quality, date and significance of any buried archaeological remains within the proposed development area;
- ii) to advise and implement an appropriate form of mitigation, such as excavation, post-excavation analyses and publication, given the infeasibility of preserving the archaeological material *in situ*, should significant archaeological remains be encountered.

3 METHODOLOGY

- 3.1 Trenching comprised the excavation of four trenches of varying size and orientation located across the site. The distribution was in close agreement with the WSI trenching plan (Dunbar 2011).
- 3.2 The evaluation was undertaken by means of a JCB 3CX wheeled excavator equipped with a toothless ditching bucket. Excavation was undertaken in shallow units/spits until the first significant archaeological horizon or natural subsoil was reached. All machine excavation was supervised by an experienced field archaeologist.
- 3.3 All trial trenching was undertaken according to AOC Archaeology Group's standard operating procedures. The trenches were backfilled on completion of the evaluation.

4 RESULTS

4.1 Introduction

- 4.1.1 The archaeological evaluation was undertaken on Friday, 2nd September 2011. Overall weather conditions were good; comprising overcast but dry conditions yielding good archaeological visibility. The following should be read in conjunction with the data presented in Appendices 1-3 and Figure 1.
- 4.1.2 Four trenches totalling 103 m² (combined basal area) were opened across the development area. The topsoil across the site was generally deep with average depth in excess of 0.50 m, with the greatest depths along the boundary with the church wall and towards the northern part of the site. The ground slopes away quite quickly immediately over the wall in the churchyard, and the topsoil build up can be seen as a leveling of the natural slope that would have previously existed across the development area. Natural subsoil comprised brown sands and gravels.



Plate 1: View of Trench 3, showing Eddleston Church

- 4.1.3 No significant archaeological features or artefacts were identified during the evaluation. The only artefacts (ceramics and glass sherds) noted during the evaluation were modern in date, the majority dating from the latter part of the 19th Century and the 20th Century. Remains associated with a former garage were noted in the northern part of the site in Trench 2. In Trenches 1 and 3 were found two similarly sized small pits each of which contained the remains of a dog. These were only decades old and represent pet burials.

5 CONCLUSION

- 5.1 The evaluation has demonstrated that the development area does not appear to contain any material associated with the adjacent Eddleston church and its graveyard. The only material encountered on site can be seen as belonging to recent use of the site as a garage and garden.

- 5.2 No significant archaeological remains or artefacts were confirmed during the evaluation. The significant balance of probability is that the site is free of significant archaeological material.

6 RECOMMENDATIONS

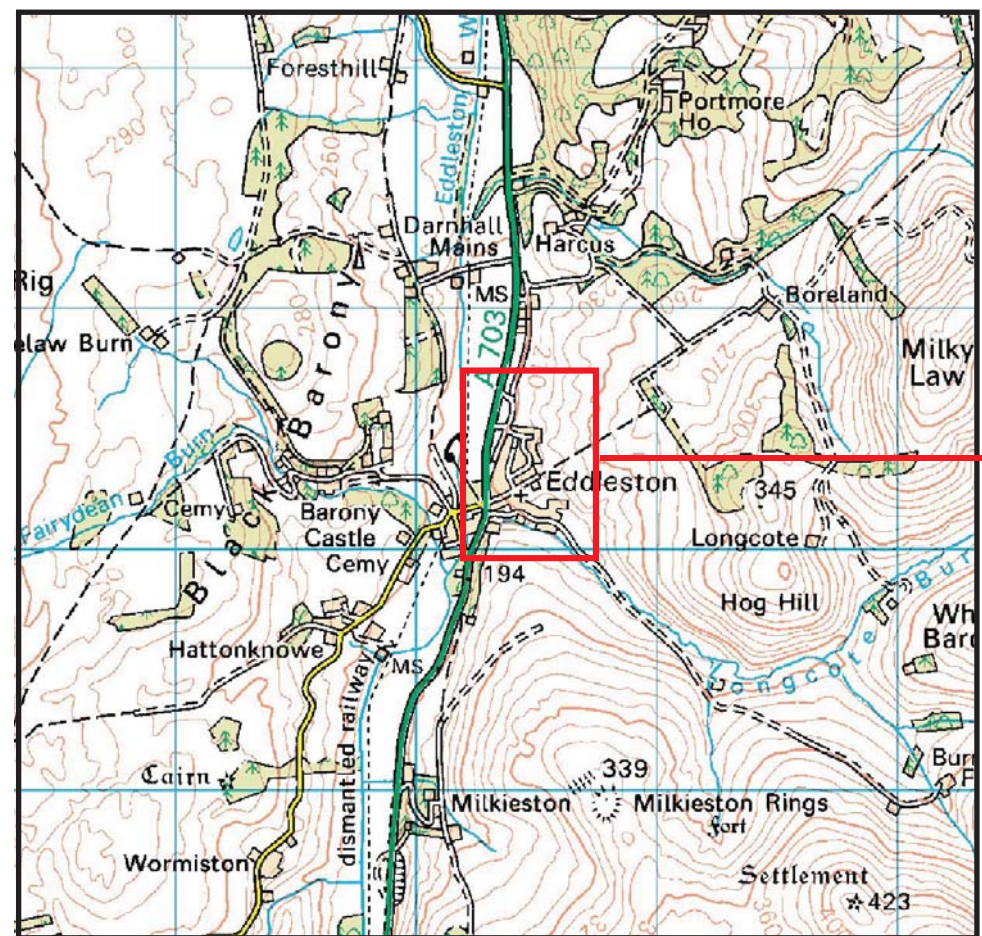
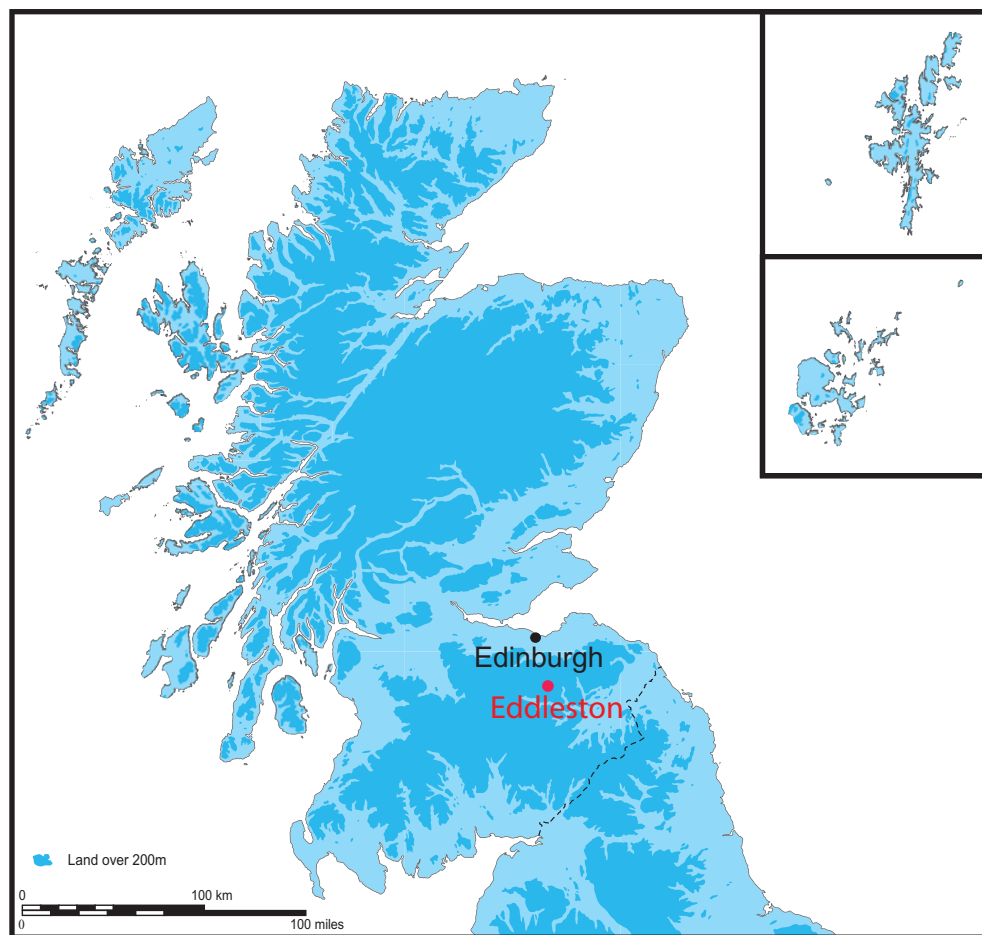
- 6.1 No further archaeological works are considered necessary. This recommendation will require confirmation by Dr. Chris Bowles on behalf of Scottish Borders Council.

7 BIBLIOGRAPHIC REFERENCES

Dunbar, L. 2011 *Bellfield Road, Eddleston, Scottish Borders: Written Scheme of Investigation*. Unpubl AOC Archaeology Project Design.

Scottish Government 2010 *Scottish Planning Policy*, February 2010.

Scottish Government 2011 *Planning And Archaeology 2/2011*.



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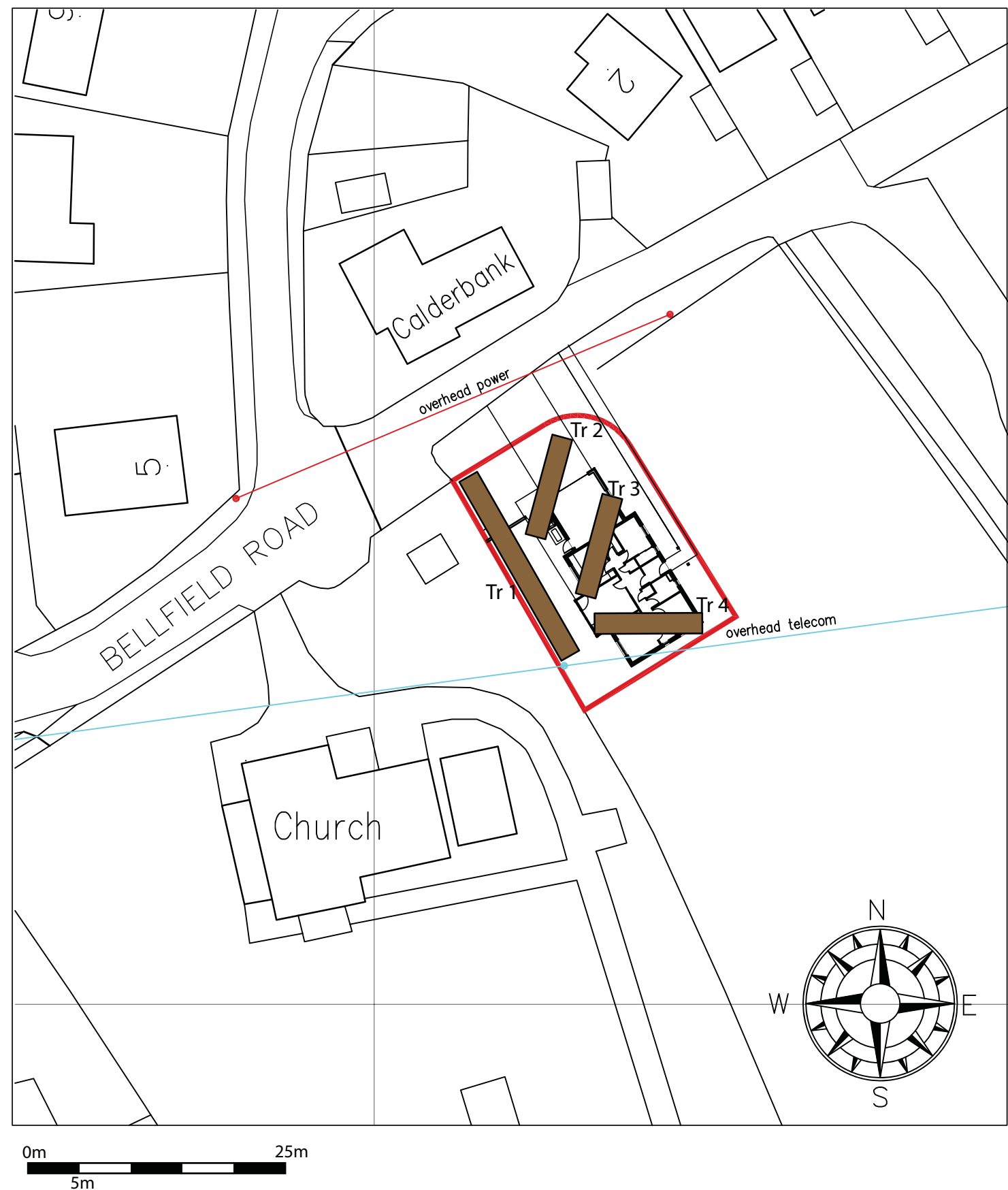


Figure 1: Site Location & Plan of Evaluation Trenches

Bellfield Road, Eddleston, Scottish Borders: Evaluation Data Structure Report

Section 2: Appendices

APPENDIX 1: Trench Descriptions

Trench 1

<i>Dimensions</i>	20.0 m by 2.0 m
<i>Orientation</i>	NW-SE
<i>Depth of Excavation</i>	Topsoil from 0.72 m at NW to 0.44 at SE
<i>Trench Stratigraphy</i>	Deep topsoil present at NW end of trench which gradually became shallower towards SE end. At NW end there was a distinct A and B horizon visible.
<i>Subsoil</i>	Orange brown sandy gravel
<i>Significant Features</i>	Concrete foundation in first 1 m to 3 m of trench relating to demolished garage. A small pit containing a dog skeleton
<i>Finds</i>	19 th /20 th Century ceramic and glass noted.

Trench 2

<i>Dimensions</i>	10.5 m by 2.0 m
<i>Orientation</i>	N-S
<i>Depth of Excavation</i>	Topsoil from 0.52 m to 0.62 at S end of trench
<i>Trench Stratigraphy</i>	Northern end of trench contained evidence of demolished garage and concrete slab path. Topsoil deeper towards southern end of trench.
<i>Subsoil</i>	Orange brown sandy gravel
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Finds</i>	19 th /20 th Century ceramic and glass noted

Trench 3

<i>Dimensions</i>	10.0 m by 2.0 m
<i>Orientation</i>	N-S
<i>Depth of Excavation</i>	Topsoil from 0.54 m at N to 0.52 m at S
<i>Trench Stratigraphy</i>	Deep topsoil present across trench with A and B horizon visible.
<i>Subsoil</i>	Orange brown sandy gravel
<i>Significant Features</i>	Another small pit containing a dog skeleton
<i>Finds</i>	19 th /20 th Century ceramic and glass noted

Trench 4

<i>Dimensions</i>	11.0 m by 2.0 m
<i>Orientation</i>	E-W
<i>Depth of Excavation</i>	Topsoil from 0.32 m at E to 0.54 at W
<i>Trench Stratigraphy</i>	Deep topsoil present at west end of trench which gradually became shallower towards east end. At W end there was an A and B horizon visible.
<i>Subsoil</i>	Orange brown sandy gravel with more angular stone towards E - upslope
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Finds</i>	19 th /20 th Century ceramic and glass noted

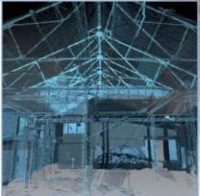
APPENDIX 2: Photographic Record

Digital Film

Frame	Trench	Description	From
1	-	Registration shot	-
2-3	Tr.1	General PX view of Trench 1 from NW	NW
4	-	General view of site from NW	NW
5-6	Tr.2	General PX view of Trench 2 from N	N
7-8	Tr.3	General PX view of Trench 3 from N	N
9-10	Tr.4	General PX view of Trench 4 from E	E
11	-	General view of site from SE	SE

APPENDIX 3: 'Discovery and Excavation in Scotland' Report

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	Scottish Borders Council
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME	Bellfield Road, Eddleston, Scottish Borders
PROJECT CODE:	AOC 21924
PARISH:	Eddleston
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	Lindsay Dunbar
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	AOC Archaeology Group
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Archaeological Evaluation
NMRS NO(S)	Adjacent church & churchyard NT24NW 7.00 & NT24NW 7.01N/A
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	N/A
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	None
NGR (2 letters, 6 figures)	NT 24328 47238
START DATE (this season)	2 nd September 2011
END DATE (this season)	2 nd September 2011
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)	N/A
MAIN DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	<p>(NARRATIVE) Prior to a residential development an archaeological evaluation was undertaken on a site lying immediately north-east of Bellfield Church, Eddleston, Scottish Borders.</p> <p>The archaeological evaluation comprised excavation of a 20% trenching sample of the 500 m² development area, resulting in four trenches totalling 103 m².</p> <p>The site was covered by a thick layer of topsoil increasing in depth towards the north and along the western edge of the development area. No features were encountered other than building remains associated with a former garage at the northern end of the site and two dog burials. In summary neither significant archaeological artefacts nor features were encountered.</p>
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	None
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	---
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	Mr. Alistair Wilson
ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:	Edgefield Road Industrial Estate, Loanhead, Midlothian, EH20 9SY
EMAIL ADDRESS:	admin@aocarchaeology.com
ARCHIVE LOCATION (intended/deposited)	Archive to be deposited in NMRS



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