

# CFA Archaeology Ltd

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*Advice on Archaeology & Planning*

*Environmental Impact Assessment*

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*Site & Landscape Survey*

*Geophysical Survey*

**Woodville, 6 High Street,  
Coldingham, Scottish Borders**

**Archaeological Watching Brief**

**Report No. 1919**

## **CFA ARCHAEOLOGY LTD**

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

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## **CONTENTS**

1.	Introduction	3
2.	Working Methods	4
3.	Archaeological Results	4
4.	Conclusion	5

## **Appendices**

1.	Context Register	6
2.	Photographic Register	6
3.	Discovery and Excavation in Scotland Entry	7

## **Figures (bound at rear)**

1.	Location map and plan of existing building showing monitored trenches
2.	General shot of Trench 1
3.	General shot of Trench 2

## **1. INTRODUCTION**

### **1.1 General**

This report presents the results of an archaeological watching brief undertaken by CFA Archaeology Ltd (CFA) in June 2011 at 6 High Street, Coldingham, Scottish Borders (NGR: NT 9031 6600) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Mr Paul Harris.

A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) dated 24 May 2011 was produced by CFA on behalf of the client. The WSI was designed to fulfil the requirements of the Scottish Borders Council Archaeologist.

### **1.2 Background**

Consent has been granted for the construction of two extensions to the aforementioned property (11/00518/FUL). The planning permission was subject to a condition requiring an archaeological watching brief during all ground breaking operations.

The property is situated within the historic medieval precinct of Coldingham Priory. The site for development is situated to the rear of the property within a walled courtyard (Fig. 1 & 2).

### **1.3 Objectives**

The objectives of the watching brief were:

- To conduct an appropriate programme of archaeological investigation (Watching Brief) to monitor the excavation of ground breaking that is required.
- To mitigate the effects of construction on any archaeological deposits or features identified through excavation and recording and production of a report.

## 2. WORKING METHODS

### 2.1 General

CFA Archaeology Ltd follows the Institute for Archaeologists' Code of Conduct, Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Fieldwork. Recording of all elements followed established CFA methods, as detailed in the approved WSI.

The proposed development required the machine excavation of two trenches for the construction of foundations for new extensions (Fig. 2).

The stratification of all trenches was recorded whether or not significant archaeological deposits were identified.

## 3. ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS

Numbers in bold in the following text refer to contexts, a full list of which is contained in Appendix 1.

### *Trench 1*

Trench 1 was located to the rear of the walled courtyard. A 0.15m layer of modern concrete (**001**) was removed across the footprint of the new extension. Foundation trenches were then excavated to a width of 0.6m by 0.25m in depth within a dark grey, friable, sandy-silt garden soil (**002**) which lay beneath the concrete. This deposit was relatively homogenous, with occasional sub-angular to sub-rounded, small to medium sized sandstone fragments and cobbles noted (Fig. 2). A salt glazed pipe and a plastic drain were removed during groundbreaking in this area.

No archaeological features or deposits were recorded.

### *Trench 2*

Concrete (**001**) was removed to a depth of 0.1m within the footprint of Trench 1. This deposit overlay (**003**) a dark-grey, friable clayey-silt which was removed to c. 0.2m throughout the footprint. Foundation trenches measuring 0.6m in width by 0.6m deep were then excavated. The maximum depth of ground reduction was therefore 0.8m (Fig. 3)

Deposit **003** was interpreted as a topsoil layer which had been used as made ground for the modern yard surface. The deposit contained within its matrix a spread of medium sized angular to sub-rounded sandstone fragments and shattered cobbles, abraded brick fragments and very occasional fragments of ceramic tile. The spread was 0.2m in depth.

The preferred interpretation for deposit **003** is it is either a dump of material to provide hard standing and ground make-up within the courtyard, or that this is residual building material, of probable mid-late 19<sup>th</sup> century origin, dumped after a phase of building to the surrounding property. The east-facing elevation of the

existing property was exposed to a depth of 0.35m below ground and contained similar building material within its fabric, possibly reinforcing the latter interpretation.

Within Trench 2, a number of services were noted. These included three ceramic drains which fed into two modern brick chambers capped by inspection covers, a copper water pipe, and two lead water pipes. The incorporation of these services within the area of Trench 2 had introduced a proportion of modern detritus and rubbish, into deposit **003**, probably when the service trenches were backfilled.

No archaeological features or deposits were recorded.

#### **4. CONCLUSION**

A watching brief was carried out during ground works for the construction of two extensions to the property at 6 High Street, Coldingham. The watching brief recorded a series of former garden soils which were covered by a modern concrete deposit. Trench 2 was heavily disturbed by modern services. A mixed deposit of stone was interpreted as a dump of building material, of probably mid to late 19<sup>th</sup> century origin, which comprised made ground in this area.

There were no features, deposits or artefacts of archaeological significance identified during the watching brief.

The project archive, comprising all CFA record sheets, maps and reports, will be deposited with the National Monuments Record of Scotland (NMRS) and copies of reports will be lodged with the Scottish Borders Council Sites and Monuments Record.

A summary statement of the results of this watching brief will be submitted for publication in *Discovery and Excavation in Scotland* (Appendix 3) and an online OASIS form will be completed.

## APPENDIX 1: Context Register

Context	Description
001	Deposit of concrete
002	Dark grey, friable, sandy silt topsoil
003	Dark grey, clay-silt topsoil/made ground

## APPENDIX 2: Photographic Register

### *Digital Images*

Shot	Description	From	Conditions
1	General shot of groundbreaking within Trench 2	South	Bright
2	General shot of groundbreaking within Trench 2	East	Bright
3	Shot of service excavation within Trench 2	South-east	Bright
4	Shot of below ground east facing elevation of existing building	East	Bright
5	Shot of services truncated during excavation of Trench 2	East	Bright
6	Shot of Trench 1 after the removal of concrete (001)	South-east	Bright
7	Shot of Trench 1 after excavation of (002)	South-east	Bright
8	Shot of services in and deposit (003) within Trench 2	West	Bright
9	Shot of Trench 2 after machine excavation	East	Bright
10	Shot of Trench 2 after machine excavation	East	Bright

### APPENDIX 3: Discovery and Excavation in Scotland Entry

<b>LOCAL AUTHORITY:</b>	Scottish Borders
<b>PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:</b>	Woodville, 6 High Street, Coldingham
<b>PROJECT CODE:</b>	WHIS
<b>PARISH:</b>	Coldingham
<b>NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:</b>	Phil Moore
<b>NAME OF ORGANISATION:</b>	CFA Archaeology Ltd
<b>TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:</b>	Watching Brief
<b>NMRS NO(S):</b>	-
<b>SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):</b>	-
<b>SIGNIFICANT FINDS:</b>	None
<b>NGR (2 letters, 10 figures)</b>	NT 9031 6600
<b>START DATE (this season)</b>	June 2011
<b>END DATE (this season)</b>	June 2011
<b>PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)</b>	N/A
<b>MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION:</b> (May include information from other fields)	A watching brief was carried out during ground works for the construction of two extensions to the property at 6 High Street, Coldingham. The watching brief recorded a series of former garden soils which were covered by a modern concrete deposit and were heavily disturbed by modern services. A mixed deposit of stone was interpreted as a dump of building material, of probably mid to late 19 <sup>th</sup> century origin, which comprised made ground in this area. There were no features, deposits or artefacts of archaeological significance identified during the watching brief.
<b>PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:</b>	None
<b>CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:</b>	N/A
<b>SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:</b>	Mr Paul Harris
<b>ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:</b>	The Old Engine House, Eskmills Park, Musselburgh, EH21 7PQ
<b>EMAIL ADDRESS:</b>	cfa@cfa-archaeology.co.uk
<b>ARCHIVE LOCATION (intended/deposited)</b>	National Monuments Record of Scotland (archive) Scottish Borders Council Sites and Monuments Record (report)








Fig. 2 General shot of Trench 1



Fig. 3 General shot of Trench 2

Key:	Fig. No:	2-3	Revision:	A	Client:	Mr Paul Harris				
	Title:									
Scale at A4:	Project:	Woodville, 6 High Street, Coldingham, Scottish Borders								
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