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**Stonehouse Cottage, Sprouston, Kelso,
Scottish Borders
Archaeological Watching Brief**

**Data Structure Report
No. 1940**

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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 General

This report presents the results of an Archaeological Watching Brief undertaken by CFA Archaeology Ltd at Stonehouse Cottage, Sprouston, near Kelso, Scottish Borders (NGR: NT 7564 3537; Fig. 1) between August and October 2011. The work was commissioned by Roxburghe Estates.

Planning Permissions have been granted by Scottish Borders Council for alterations and extension to Stonehouse Cottage, including a revised access from the B6350, new boundary wall and garden improvements, erection of a detached garage/store and alterations to outbuildings to form annexe accommodation. A condition for an archaeological watching brief on ground breaking has been secured against the permissions and a Brief for this work was produced by Dr Chris Bowles of Scottish Borders Council Archaeology Service (SBCAS).

A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) was produced by CFA and agreed by Dr Bowles prior to the fieldwork

1.2 Background

Sprouston Cottage is located within the medieval core of Sprouston. Both the nearby church and the village itself are first mentioned in charters from the 12th century although the settlement is likely to be considerably older. The site of an Anglo-Saxon settlement to the north of the village may have formed the early nucleus, with the village gradually moving to its present location by the medieval period.

Recent excavations to the south of the church have confirmed an earlier medieval date for at least one phase of occupation. There is a possibility that a significant medieval house, or possibly a castle, was located at Sprouston as the residence of King William the Lion's daughter, Margaret, and his son in law, Eustace de Vescy. The whereabouts of this house are unknown.

In addition to this, there have been a number of prehistoric finds and features in the vicinity of the village over the years. Prehistoric archaeology could therefore survive within the development area.

Historical maps show a number of buildings within the development area. A single roofed structure is shown as lying between Sprouston Cottage and the Manse to the north and what may be a row of roofed buildings are shown to the east, parallel to the road but set back from it. An extract from the Ordnance Survey First Edition 25inch series map (1863) is included as Fig. 2.

1.3 Objectives

The objectives of the programme of archaeological works were

- To conduct an appropriate programme of archaeological investigation (Watching Brief) to monitor all ground breaking works within the

development area including, but not limited to, utility trenches, wall and gate pier foundation trenches, and removal of garden soils or existing surfaces.

- to mitigate the effects of construction on any archaeological deposits or features identified through excavation and recording and produce a report on them.

2. METHODS

2.1 General

CFA follows the Institute for Archaeologists' Standards and Guidance and Code of Conduct.

2.2 Watching Brief

All ground breaking work was monitored by an archaeologist down to natural subsoil. All excavation was undertaken using either a rubber tracked 360° degree mechanical excavator or with hand tools.

All discoveries including soil profiles and subsoil characteristics were recorded using standard CFA recording forms and digital photography.

3. ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS

3.1 General

In the text below, context numbers are in bold and parentheses. These are further described in Appendix 1.

Two principal areas of ground breaking were monitored during the watching brief (Figs. 1-2): the excavation of an electricity cable trench from the main road to the north-east of Stonehouse Cottage to the Manse. An extensive area of overgrown garden between Stonehouse Cottage and Bowden Cottage to the north was stripped of topsoil prior to the construction of new garage buildings.

3.2 Garage Buildings

An area measuring 11.5m by 17.5m was stripped in the proposed area for the new garages to the north of Stonehouse Cottage (Fig. 1). A number of features were recorded in this area, including possible walls and associated surfaces, floor slabs and deposits (Figs. 2a, 4).

Three linear stony features (**026**, **028**, **031**), aligned NE-SW, were exposed in the south-east of this area (Fig. 4). These may be the bases or foundations of walls and in terms of alignment may represent the wall of the south-westernmost building of the row of roofed buildings that are recorded on the 1863 Ordnance Survey First Edition 25inch map (Fig. 3).

Features **026** and **031** comprise of small-medium sized rounded unmortared stones. Wall **026** was 2.75m in length and 0.5m wide and **031** was 3m in length and 0.6m wide. There was no visible cut for foundations and it may be that these are the remains of the foundations themselves.

Features **026** and **031** overlay a brown-grey sandy gravel deposit (**041**) and are separated by a linear cobbled surface (**027**), 1.1m in width, aligned NW-SE. This area of cobble stones is slightly raised and appears to form a walkway or path into this building. It extends 4.5m south-eastwards but is less substantial towards the south-east.

Feature **028** is also aligned NE-SW, albeit on a slightly different alignment to **026** and **031**. It is similarly constructed of small-medium rounded stones and may also be the remains of foundations of the SE wall of the aforementioned building.

To the north-west of these foundation walls are a series of deposits which may relate to the interior of this building. Underlying topsoil (**043**) was a compact deposit of dark grey clay (**032**) which may represent part of an old floor surface. The remains of concrete floor slabs (**030** and **029**) appear to overlie this deposit as do two medium sized stones (**045**) situated in the centre of the exposed floor surface. This was perhaps the remains of a support or base.

Deposit **032** overlies **040**, a light brown sandy gravel which forms a base layer for the floor of the building. Deposit **040** is abutted by foundation walls **026** and **031**, and cobbled surface **027**.

To the west, deposit **032** overlies a loose sandy gravel layer (**034**), which is similar in composition to **040** and also appears to be a make-up layer for flooring.

Several further linear features of similar construction to those in the south-east of the stripped area were exposed. Features **037** and **038** are NE-SW-orientated linear features of loosely packed small-medium sized rounded stones. Also unmortared, they appear to be the foundation of the NW wall of the building shown on the 1863 map. Feature **037** is 2m in length and 1.5m wide. Feature **038** is 4.6m in length and 1.5m in width. As with walls **026**, **028** and **031**, no foundation trench was visible for either of these features.

Two further linear features were exposed to the NW. Feature **035**, aligned NE-SW and 3.5m in length by 0.5m wide, was formed of large loosely-packed stones. Running parallel to **035** and slightly to the NW, feature **036** was constructed of smaller rounded stones forming a linear alignment 3.05m in length and 0.65m in width, possibly representing the remains of a wall or foundations. Again, neither feature had a cut for a foundation trench. If combined with **036**, feature **035** may have formed part of a more substantial wall or foundation.

Linear features **035**, **036**, **037** and **038** overlay deposit **042**, a mid-brown sandy clay found in the west and north-west of the stripped area.

An area of flat, large stone slabs (**046**), measuring 5m by 1.9m, was revealed (Fig. 5). A slightly curved arrangement of upright, rectangular stone blocks (**047**) frames part of this paving on the SE, and further to the NE the area of paving is backed by a slope, which seems to form a two-tiered area with two steps. A further curving linear arrangement of upright flat stones (**048**) may form part of another step down. Features and deposits **046-049** (Fig. 2a & 5) overlay deposit **042** and may form part of a landscaped garden area to the rear of the building.

No finds were recovered.

The features in this stripped area were covered with gravel and left in situ.

3.3 Cable Trench

A trench was excavated for an electrical cable to serve both Sprouston Cottage and the Manse (Fig. 1). This ran from a connection point adjacent to the B6350, through the roadside garden wall (**025**) and south-west towards Sprouston Cottage. Outside the cottage it branched, with cables leading into the cottage and to the Manse.

Over the eastern part of the cable's route, no archaeological remains were present and the cable trench cut through heavily root-affected garden soil (**020**) underlying a surface covering of pea gravel (**001**). To the west, however, a number of features were

recorded (Fig. 3b). The trench contained three walls, a culvert or box drain and features associated with the Manse. Post-medieval finds were recovered.

Towards the Manse, wall **008** was aligned NW-SE. This mortared wall was formed from a blue-grey micaceous schist-type stone (Fig. 6). It had a width of 0.6m and a depth of 0.3m with a projecting foundation course at the base. This wall had been cut by a cast-iron pipe (**009**) running parallel to wall **012**.

The other walls (**012, 017**) were formed from mortared red sandstone, visually similar to that forming the Manse. Wall **012** was aligned NE-SW (Fig. 7). It was 0.7m wide and a depth of 0.25m was preserved. Wall **017** was aligned NW-SE (Fig. 8). It was 0.5m in width and a depth of 0.3m was preserved with a projecting foundation course at the base. Between these walls were deposits of mortar (**016**) and soil containing frequent rounded small cobbles (**014**).

Close to the manse, modern services (**006, 007**) were recorded. At a distance of 0.25m from the SE wall of the Manse (**004**), a second wall (**005**) was recorded. The void between these walls seems to be a damp-excluding feature associated with a cellar within the Manse.

Culvert (**019**) was aligned NE-SW. The structure was mortared and was formed from the same blue-grey micaceous schist-type stone as wall **008**. An overall width of 1m was recorded with a depth of around 0.5m. The channel was partially filled with clean gravel (**021**).

4. CONCLUSION

The Watching Brief carried out at Stonehouse Cottage, Sprouston revealed a series of building remains and a culvert

The unmortared linear features of small-medium rounded stones recorded in the open excavation area appear to represent the foundations of the walls of the south-westernmost building of the row of roofed buildings recorded on the 1863 Ordnance Survey First Edition 25 inch map (Fig. 3). There were no visible remains of foundation cuts for any of the possible walls. There is very little remaining of the walls and no signs of mortar. Within the interior of the building a sandy gravel was deposited, followed by a clay surface. The exterior of the building to the north-west appears to have been landscaped. It included an area of paving and adjacent upright stones which may have been steps.

The earliest features in the cable trench appears to be the wall and culvert formed from schist. This wall is not depicted on historic maps. The red sandstone mortared walls recorded in the cable trench appear to be the remains of a NW-SE aligned roofed building recorded on the 1863 Ordnance Survey First Edition 25-inch map (Fig. 3). This building lies within an enclosure which includes Sprouston Cottage. The building is still depicted on the 1898 Second Edition 1:2500 map. By 1921, the 1:2500 map indicates the building has been remodelled and is aligned NE-SW. Still present in 1957, the building is not depicted in 1970.

A summary statement of the results of the evaluation, to be submitted for publication in *Discovery and Excavation in Scotland 2011* (Appendix 4) and OASIS, will be sufficient to disseminate the results of the work.

In line with the Written Scheme of Investigation, copies of the report will be lodged with the Scottish Borders Council Sites and Monuments Record and the National Monuments Record of Scotland.

APPENDIX 1: Context Register

Context No.	Location	Description
001	Cable trench	Surface pea gravel
002	Cable trench	Compact grey-black silt sand & gravel
003	Cable trench	Soft yellow brown silty sand & varied gravel
004	Cable trench	Wall of Stonehouse Manse. Red sandstone with yellow ashlar sandstone door & window surrounds
005	Cable trench	Red sandstone wall retaining soil etc to the south of the building. Void between 005 and 004 to stop damp contacting wall where the cellar is located
006	Cable trench	Glazed ceramic sewage pipe
007	Cable trench	Brick (ROSLIN) surround for water pipe toby
008	Cable trench	Wall. Blue-grey micaceous mortar bonded stone. NW-SE. Not visible on early maps
009	Cable trench	Cut for cast iron water pipe
010	Cable trench	Cast iron pipe and as dug fill of 009
011	Cable trench	Yellow brown silty sand with occasional cobbles/gravel. Could = 003
012	Cable trench	Wall. Red sandstone mortar bonded. Aligns with existing wall & gate pillar to SW. Early maps show continuous wall with no gate here.
013	Cable trench	Yellow brown silty sand with occasional cobbles/gravel. Could = 003
014	Cable trench	Brown silty sand with frequent cobbles
015	Cable trench	Creamy yellow mortar deposit
016	Cable trench	Red brown gravelly sand with mortar chips & lumps
017	Cable trench	Wall. Red sandstone mortar bonded. Probably part of a NW-SE aligned building on early maps
018	Cable trench	Brown silty sand & gravel
019	Cable trench	Box drain /culvert. Stone as 008. NE-SW aligned
020	Cable trench	Brown silty sand & gravel
021	Cable trench	Gravel & sand
022	Cable trench	Creamy white mortar deposit cut by 009
023	Cable trench	Mixed soil & mortar with occasional stone chips
024	Cable trench	Brown soil with occasional cobbles
025	Cable trench	Roadside wall. Medium and large unmortared cobbles. Cut by cable trench and stripped area for garages
026	Open area excavation	Dry stone wall, NE-SW aligned
027	Open area excavation	Linear cobbled surface NW-SE aligned
028	Open area excavation	Possible wall foundations of dry wall. NE-SW
029	Open area excavation	Concrete floor slab
030	Open area excavation	Concrete slab of floor
031	Open area excavation	Possible wall/ foundations. NE-SW running
032	Open area excavation	Dark grey, clay deposit. Old floor surface
033	Open area excavation	Wall overlying 030, 029, 032
034	Open area excavation	Deposit of sandy gravel base for floor
035	Open area excavation	Possible wall/ foundations NE-SW
036	Open area excavation	Possible wall/ foundations NE-SW
037	Open area excavation	Possible wall/ foundations NE-SW
038	Open area excavation	Possible wall/ foundations NE-SW
039	Open area excavation	Not used
040	Open area excavation	Light brown, sandy gravel deposit
041	Open area excavation	Brown/grey, sandy gravel deposit
042	Open area excavation	Mid-brown sandy clay deposit
043	Open area excavation	Dark brown sandy silt deposit
044	Open area excavation	Light brown sandy gravel deposit

Context No.	Location	Description
045	Open area excavation	Dark grey stones x2 in centre of building
046	Open area excavation	Flat paving stones
047	Open area excavation	Linear arrangement upright flat stones
048	Open area excavation	Linear arrangement upright flat stones
049	Open area excavation	Mid-brown sandy clay deposit

APPENDIX 2: Digital Photograph Register

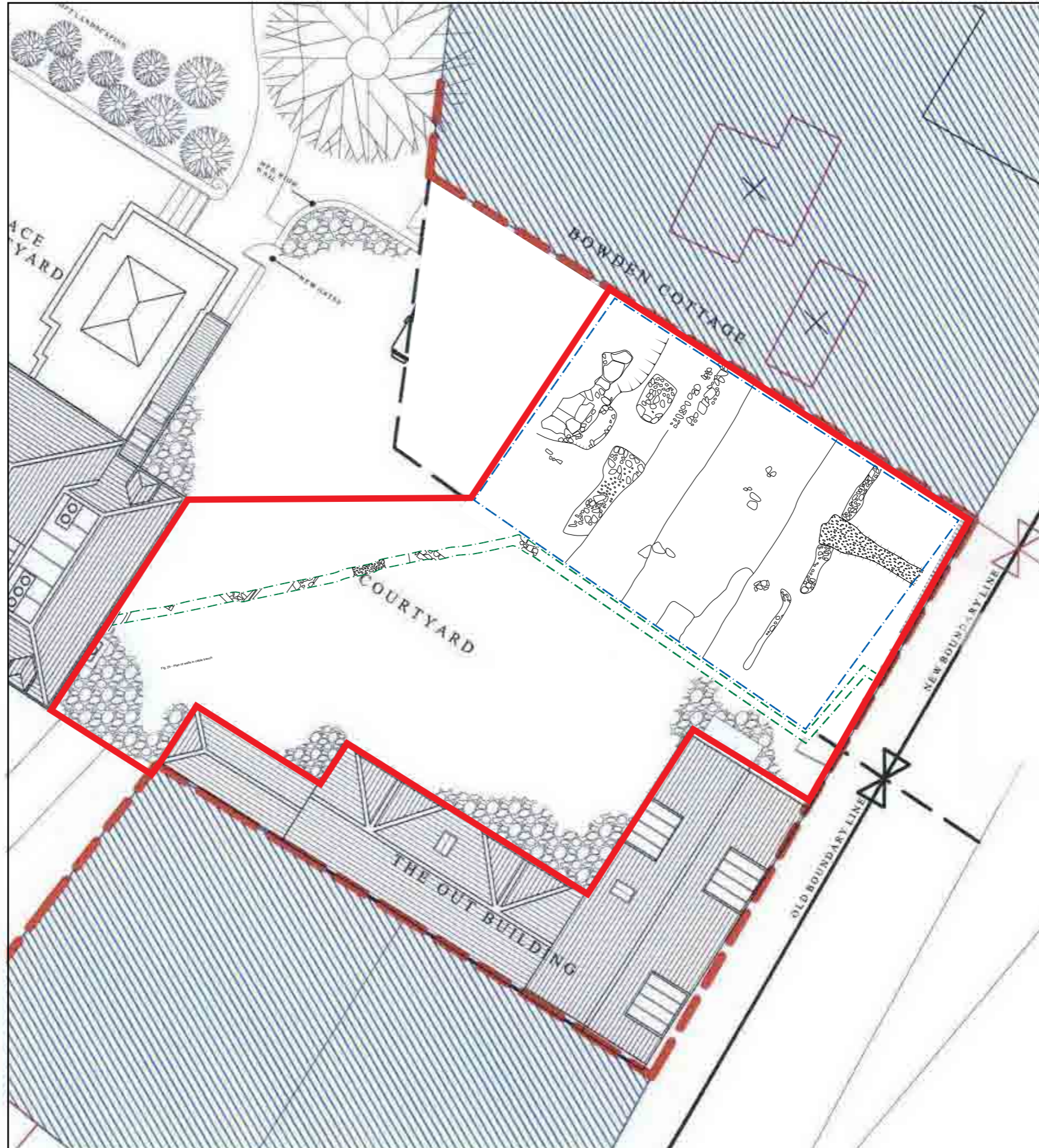
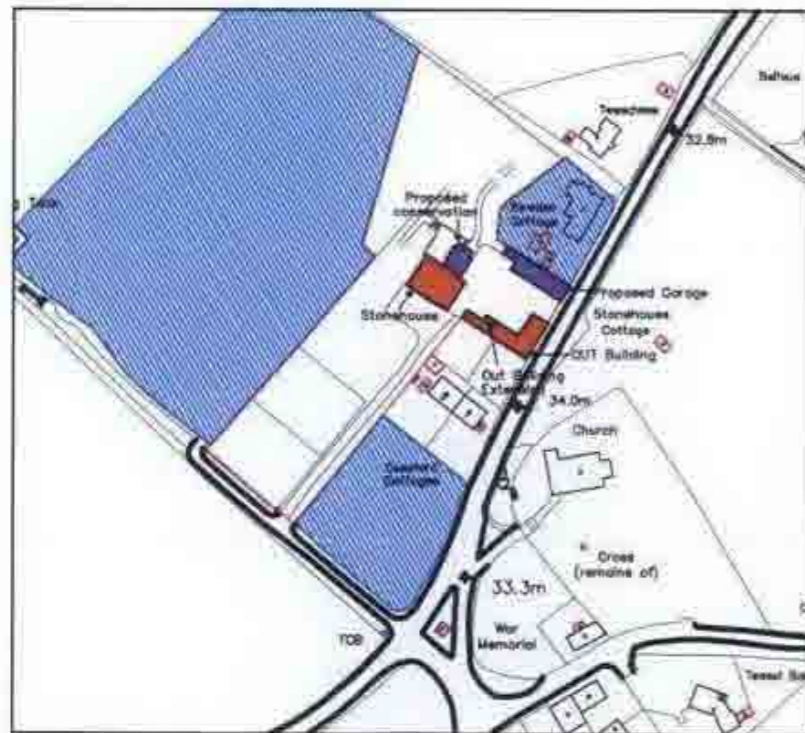
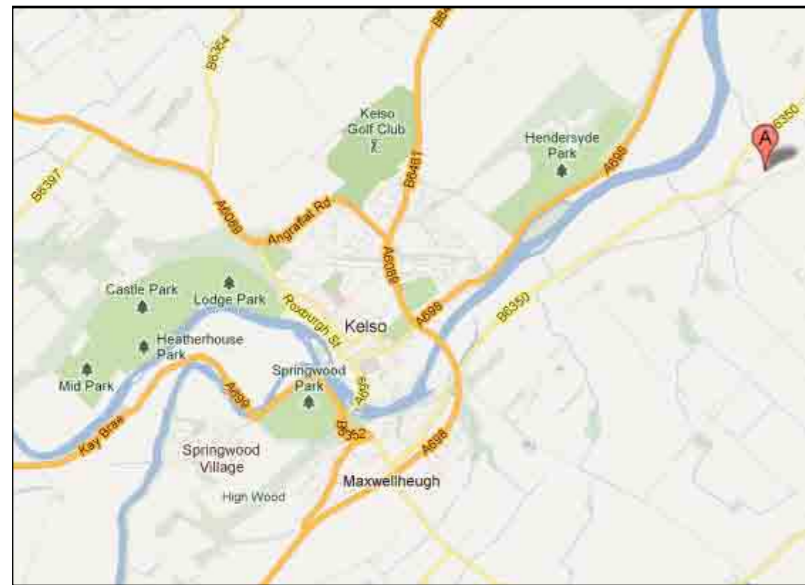
Photo No.	Description	From
	Electric Cable Trench	
1-16	General pre-excavation views of the site	Varied
17-19	Cable route marked out from the road up to Stonehouse Cottage	SW & NE
20-21	Cable route marked out from Stonehouse Cottage NW towards Stonehouse Manse	NW
22	Cable route marked out along final leg to Stonehouse Manse	SE
23-28	General views of excavated trench	Varied
29	Walls 004 and 005 with void between	SW
30	General view of trench	W
31-32	Wall 008 and pipe 009-010	N & NNW
33-35	Wall 012	NW, N, NE
36-37	Stones & soil 014 with mortar 015	W & E
38-40	Wall 017	N & NNW
41-42	Culvert 019	NE
43-46	General views of the trench	N & E
47	S facing section to W of wall 008, oblique view	SE
48	S facing section between walls 008 and 012, oblique view	SE
49-50	S facing section between walls 012 and 017	SE & SW
51	S facing section to W of culvert 019	S
52-53	SW facing section at culvert 019	SW
	Open Area Excavation	
54-55	NE-SW running possible wall/ foundations 028	SW
56	NE-SW running possible walls/ foundations 035 & 036	SW
57	NE-SW running possible walls/ foundations 035 & 036	NE
58	NE-SW running possible walls/ foundations 037 & 038	NE
59	Flat paving stones 046 and linear arrangement of upright flat stones 047 & 048	SW
60	NE-SW running possible wall/ foundations 037	NE
61	NE-SW running possible walls/ foundations 035 & 036	SW
62	NE-SW running possible wall/ foundations 038	NW
63	Flat paving stones 046 and linear arrangement of upright flat stones 047 & 048	NW
64	Flat paving stones 046 and linear arrangement of upright flat stones 047 & 048	SW
65	Flat paving stones 046 and linear arrangement of upright flat stones 047 & 048	SE
66	Flat paving stones 046 and linear arrangement of upright flat stones 047 & 048	NNW
67-9	General view of building remains	SW
70	NE-SW running possible wall/ foundations 031	SW
71	NE-SW running possible wall/ foundations 031	NE
72	NW-SE aligned linear cobbled surface	ESE

APPENDIX 3: Drawings Register

Drawing No.	Sheet	Scale	Description
1	1-2	1:20	Plan of the NW end of the cable trench
2	1-2	1:20	South facing section of the NW end of the cable trench
3	3	1:50	Plan of stripped area for garages
4	4	1:50	Plan of area to NW of stripped area for garages

APPENDIX 4: Discovery and Excavation in Scotland Entry

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	Scottish Borders Council
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	Stonehouse Cottage, Sprouston, Kelso, Scottish Borders
PROJECT CODE:	STOH
PARISH:	Sprouston
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	Ian Suddaby and Alison McCaig
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	CFA Archaeology Ltd
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Watching Brief
NMRS NO(S):	-
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	-
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	
NGR (2 letters, 6 figures)	NT 7564 3537
START DATE (this season)	August 2011
END DATE (this season)	October 2011
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)	-
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	<p>A Watching Brief was carried out at Stonehouse Cottage, Sprouston during ground breaking works for alterations and construction of new garages. The work revealed a series of building remains and a culvert</p> <p>Red sandstone mortared walls recorded in a cable trench appear to be the remains of a roofed building recorded on the 1863 Ordnance Survey First Edition 25-inch map.</p> <p>A series of unmortared linear features of small-medium rounded stones recorded in the new garage footprint are in approximate alignment with the walls of the south-westernmost building of a row of roofed buildings recorded on the 1863 Ordnance Survey First Edition 25 inch map. There were no visible remains of foundation cuts for any of the possible walls. There is very little remaining of the walls and no signs of mortar. Within the interior of the building a sandy gravel was deposited, followed by a clay surface. The exterior of the building to the north-west appears to have been landscaped. It included an area of paving and adjacent upright stones which may have been steps.</p>
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	-
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	-
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	Roxburghe Estates
ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:	CFA Archaeology Ltd, Old Engine House, Eskmills Park, Musselburgh, EH21 7PQ.
EMAIL ADDRESS:	cfa@cfa-archaeology.co.uk
ARCHIVE LOCATION (intended/deposited)	Archive to be deposited in NMRS, Reports lodged with SMR and NMRS.



Key:

- Watching brief area
- - - Electric cable Trench
- - - Open Area Excavation



Fig. No:	1	Revision:	A
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Title:
Location plan and site plan showing the areas of the development covered by the watching brief and simplified plan of the wall remains located during the fieldwork

Project:
Stonehouse Cottage, Sprouston, Kelso

Scale at A3:
1:200

Client:
Roxburghe Estates

Drawn by:	Checked by:	Report No:
LW	LW	1940

Key:

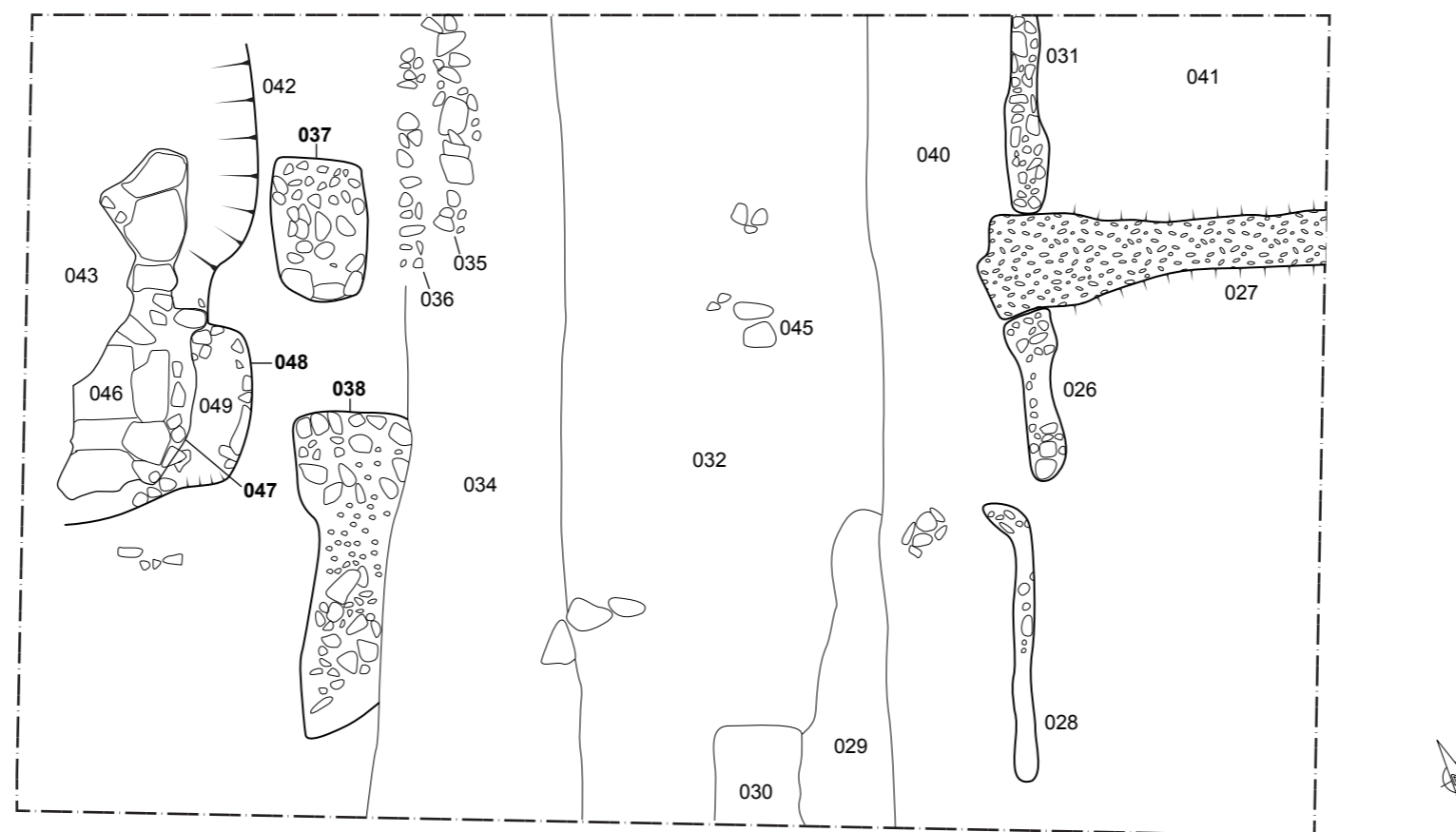


Fig. 2a - Plan of recorded features within open area excavation

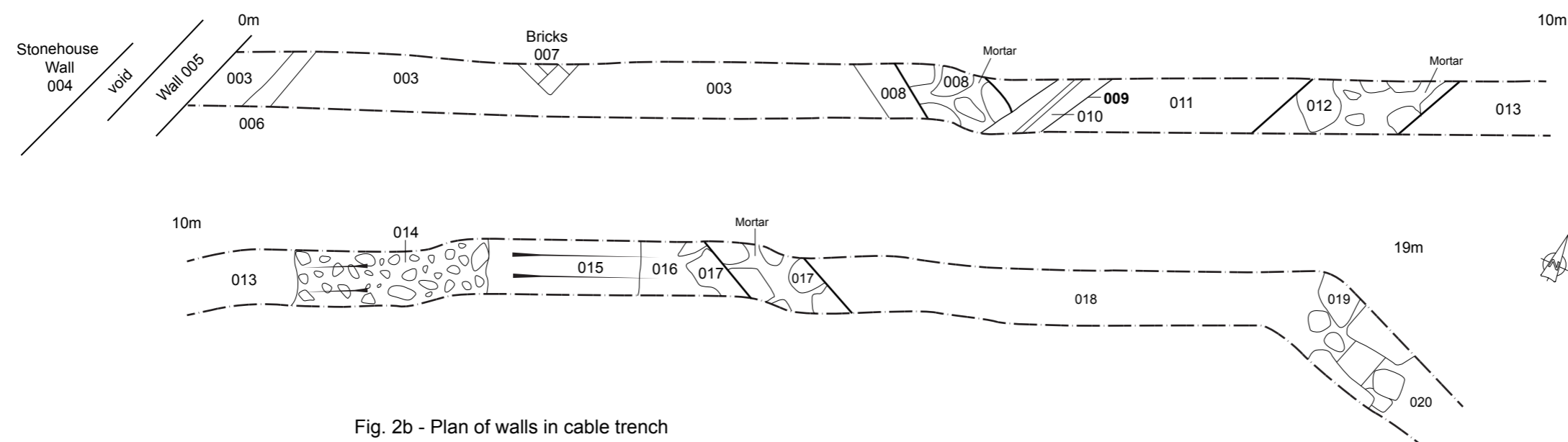


Fig. 2b - Plan of walls in cable trench



Fig.3 - Extract of the 1863 Ordnance Survey 25inch 1st Edition map

Key:



Development Area

Fig. No: 3 Revision: A Client: Roxburghe Estates

Title: Historical Map

Project: Stonehouse Cottage, Sprouston, Kelso



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Fig.4 - General view of the building remains from the south-west



Fig.5 - View of the paving to the north-west of the building from the south-west

Key:

Fig. No: 4-5 Revision: A Client: Roxburghe Estates

Title:

Project: Stonehouse Cottage, Sprouston, Kelso



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Fig.6 - Wall 008 exposed in the cable trench. The only wall made of a grey-blue schist



Fig.7 - Wall 012 exposed in the cable trench. Continues the alignment of the existing wall



Fig.8 - Wall 017 exposed in the cable trench. This aligns with the eastern gable of Stonehouse Cottage in the background

Key:	Fig. No:	6-8	Revision:	A	Client:	Roxburghe Estates
	Title:					
	Project:	Stonehouse Cottage, Sprouston, Kelso				
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						Drawn by: