

# CFA Archaeology Ltd

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## **Borders Railway Project Site 11 Archaeological Evaluation**

**Report no. 1997**

## **CFA ARCHAEOLOGY LTD**

The Old Engine House  
Eskmills Business Park  
Musselburgh  
East Lothian  
EH21 7PQ

Tel: 0131 273 4380  
Fax: 0131 273 4381  
email: [info@cfa-archaeology.co.uk](mailto:info@cfa-archaeology.co.uk)  
web: [www.cfa-archaeology.co.uk](http://www.cfa-archaeology.co.uk)

Author	Graeme Carruthers MA MifA
Illustrator	Graeme Carruthers MA MifA
Editor	Bruce Glendinning Bsc PgDip MifA
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standard operating procedures.

### **Borders Railway Project, Site 11 Archaeological Evaluation.**

#### **Data Structure Report No. 1997**

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## **1. INTRODUCTION**

### **1.1 General**

This report presents the results of an archaeological evaluation undertaken by CFA Archaeology Ltd (CFA) in December 2011 in advance of the construction of the Borders Railway Project. Site numbers relate to the study specific numbers from the Environmental Statement. The evaluation was undertaken on Site 11, the former site of Harelaw Farm (NMRS No NT36NW423).

The Written Scheme of Investigation was based on mitigation measures approved by the East Lothian Council Archaeology Service which are identified in Table A4 in the *Cultural Heritage Management Plan* (Jones & Neighbour 2010). The area for evaluation is identified in the *Borders Railway Project Environmental Management System Manual* (McLuckie 2011).

### **1.2 Objectives**

The objectives of the project were:

- to establish the presence/absence, extent, condition, character, quality and date of any archaeological features and specifically to test the possible presence of surviving remains of Site 11 Harelaw Farm, (NMRS No NT36NW423), or any other deposits within the proposed development area;
- to establish their vulnerability to the proposed development;
- to propose mitigation measures where appropriate to avoid, reduce or offset any predicted negative impacts on the archaeological resource.

## **2. WORKING METHODS**

### **2.1 General**

Work was conducted with regard to the Institute for Archaeologists' (IfA) *Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Evaluation and Code of Conduct*.

The evaluation covered Site 11, trench numbering starts at Tr.1 and carried on to Tr.7.

### **2.2 Evaluation Strategy**

The total evaluation area for Site 11 was 2000m<sup>2</sup>: seven trial trenches were opened which examined 120.75m<sup>2</sup>, slightly over 6% of the total area.

The trenches were excavated by machine under direct archaeological supervision to remove topsoil and other soil deposits down to subsoil or the first significant archaeological horizon, whichever was reached first.

Samples of all features of archaeological interest were hand excavated in order to establish their likely date, nature, extent and condition.

All hand excavation and on-site recording was carried out according to standard CFA procedures, principally by drawing, by digital photography and by completing standard CFA record forms.

Trench locations were recorded using industry standard surveying equipment and the trenches were backfilled on completion of recording.

### **3. ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS**

#### **3.1 General**

Numbers in square brackets are context numbers described in Appendix 3. Only trenches where features or deposits of note were identified are described below. The other trenches are described in Appendix 1.

The trenches were evenly spread across the site.

#### **3.2 Evaluation – Area 11**

Seven trenches (Fig. 2, Appendix 1) were excavated within Area 11.

##### **Tr.1**

Underlying the contemporary topsoil [001] was a 0.35m deep layer [003] of dark brown gritty silt containing ash, broken stone, fragments of brick and tile, metal fragments, broken white ceramic and glass bottles. This layer overlaid [004] a buried topsoil layer. Deposit [003] would appear to be dumped rubbish material filling in localised natural depression.

##### **Tr. 2**

This was the same as Trench 1; underlying the contemporary topsoil [001] was a 0.35m deep layer [003] of dark brown gritty silt containing ash, broken stone, fragments of brick and tile, metal fragments, broken white ceramic and glass bottles. This layer overlaid [004], a buried topsoil layer. Deposit [003] would appear to be dumped rubbish material filling in localised natural depression.

##### **Tr.3**

Like trench 1 and 2 a 0.35m deep layer [003] of dark brown gritty silt containing ash, broken stone, fragments of brick and tile, metal fragments, broken white ceramic and glass bottles lay below the topsoil [001] and overlaid [004], a buried topsoil layer. Deposit [003] would appear to be dumped rubbish material filling in localised natural depression. Sealed by [004] was a shallow V-shaped cut [005] aligned WNW-ESE. The cut was 0.30m deep by 0.70m (max) wide by 9.5m in length and was cut in to the natural subsoil (Figs. 4 & 5). The fill [006] was a loose, light grey mortar containing broken fragments of sandstone blocks.

No ceramic field drains were encountered in any of the trenches.

#### **4. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

Overall, seven trial trenches were excavated which covered 120.75m<sup>2</sup> or 6% of the total area evaluated. One feature of archaeological significance was identified, a possible robbed out wall found in the base of Tr. 3. This may relate to the remains of Harelaw Farmstead but no other remains of a similar nature were identified.

Based on the results of the evaluation CFA recommend that no further work is required; however, the responsibility for deciding the scope of any further work lies solely with East Lothian Council Archaeology Service.

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 East Lothian Council Archaeology Service who provide archaeological support for Midlothian Council.

A summary statement of the results of this evaluation will be submitted for publication in *Discovery and Excavation in Scotland 2012*.

#### **5. BIBLIOGRAPHY**

Jones C and Neighbour T 2010 'Borders Railway Project: Cultural Heritage Management Plan' Version 5 Rev A

McLukie A 2011 'Borders Railway Project Environmental Management System Manual, Version 5 Rev A

## APPENDIX 1: SUMMARY OF EVALUATION TRENCHES

Trench	Trench Information
1	<p>Trench size: 1.50mx10.8m  Trench orientation: NW-SE  Trench depth: 0.80m-1.10m  Topsoil depth: 0.35m-0.60m  No visible subsoil  Topsoil overlies a debris layer, 003, which overlies a buried topsoil, 004, then natural  Geology is a mid brown coarse sand with small sub angular stones  Area is a natural depression in the ground into which 003 has been dumped over the original ground level</p> <p>Contexts in Trench  Topsoil - 001  Natural - 002  Dumping layer - 003  Buried Topsoil - 004</p>
2	<p>Trench size: 1.50mx11m  Trench orientation: N-S  Trench depth: 0.80m-1.05m  Topsoil depth: 0.30m-0.35m  No visible subsoil  Topsoil overlies a debris layer, 003, which overlies a buried topsoil, 004, then natural  Geology is a mid brown coarse sand with small sub angular stones  Area is a natural depression in the ground into which 003 has been dumped over the original ground level</p> <p>Contexts in Trench  Topsoil - 001  Natural - 002  Dumping layer - 003  Buried Topsoil - 004</p>
3	<p>Trench size: 1.50mx12.60m with a 1.50mx14m diagonal cross trench  Trench orientation: NNW-SSE  Trench depth: 0.85m-1.10m  Topsoil depth: 0.30m-0.40m  No visible subsoil  Topsoil overlies a debris layer, 003, which overlies a buried</p>

	<p>topsoil, 004, then natural</p> <p>Geology is a mid brown coarse sand with small sub angular stones</p> <p>Area is a natural depression in the ground into which 003 has been dumped over time. Remains of a possible robbed out wall, 005/ 006, running E-W for approximately 9.50m, cuts the natural</p> <p>Contexts in Trench</p> <p>Topsoil - 001</p> <p>Natural - 002</p> <p>Dumping layer - 003</p> <p>Buried Topsoil - 004</p> <p>Cut for possible robbed out wall - 005</p> <p>Fill of possible robbed out wall - 006</p>
4	<p>Trench size: 1.50mx12.60m</p> <p>Trench orientation: NNE-SSW</p> <p>Trench depth: 0.50m-0.60m</p> <p>Topsoil depth: 0.40m-0.50m</p> <p>No visible subsoil</p> <p>Topsoil sits on natural</p> <p>Geology is an orange/ brown coarse sand with medium sub angular stones</p> <p>No archaeology</p> <p>Contexts in Trench</p> <p>Topsoil - 001</p> <p>Natural - 002</p>
5	<p>Trench size: 1.50mx12.30m</p> <p>Trench orientation: N-S</p> <p>Trench depth: 0.20m-0.30m</p> <p>Topsoil depth: 0.20m-0.30m</p> <p>No visible subsoil</p> <p>Topsoil sits on natural</p> <p>Geology is a brown gravelly sand</p> <p>No archaeology</p> <p>Contexts in Trench</p> <p>Topsoil - 001</p> <p>Natural - 002</p>
6	<p>Trench size: 1.50mx11.80m</p> <p>Trench orientation: NW-SE</p> <p>Trench depth: 0.20m-0.30m</p>

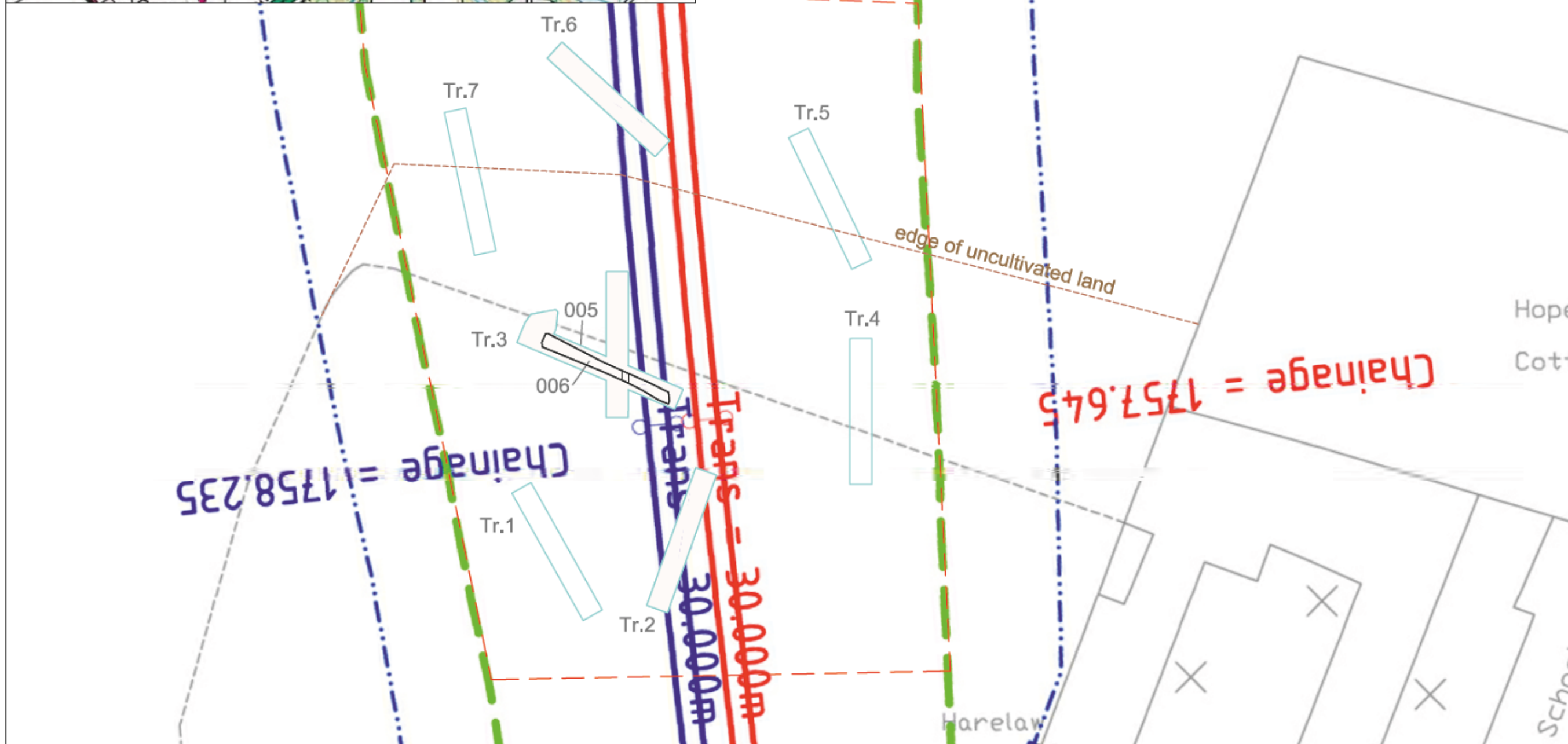
	<p>Topsoil depth: 0.20m-0.30m  No visible subsoil  Topsoil sits on natural  Geology is a brown gravelly sand  No archaeology</p> <p>Contexts in Trench  Topsoil - 001  Natural - 002</p>
7	<p>Trench size: 1.50mx10.50m  Trench orientation: N-S  Trench depth: 0.30m-0.40m  Topsoil depth: 0.30m-0.40m  No visible subsoil  Topsoil sits on natural  Geology is a brown sand with small angular stones  No archaeology</p> <p>Contexts in Trench  Topsoil - 001  Natural - 002</p>

**APPENDIX 2: PHOTOGRAPHIC REGISTER**

Digital Shot	Description	From	Conditions
1	JCB track mark entering site		cloudy
2	JCB track detail		cloudy
3	non ploughed area before trenching		cloudy
4	Tr. 1 post-ex	SW	Cloudy
5	TR.1 east facing section	W	Cloudy
6	Tr.1 east facing detail showing 003	SW	Cloudy
7	Tr.2 post-ex	N	Cloudy
8	Tr.2 west facing section showing 003	E	Cloudy
9	Tr.3 post-ex	NW	Cloudy
10	Tr.3 extension post-ex showing 005. 006	W	Cloudy
11	Tr.3 east facing section through 005. 006	W	Cloudy
12	Tr.3 extension post-ex showing 005. 006	E	Cloudy
13	Tr.4 post-ex	N	Cloudy
14	Tr.5 post-ex	SSE	Cloudy
15	Tr.6 post-ex	SE	Cloudy
16	Tr.7 post-ex with visible plough scars	N	Cloudy
17	general shot of back filling		cloudy
18	general shot of back filling		cloudy
19	JCB track marks leaving site		cloudy

**APPENDIX 3: CONTEXT REGISTER**

Context	Fill of	Location	Description	Drawing #
001			Topsoil	
002			Natural	
003		Tr1-3	Debris layer	001
004		Tr 1-3	Buried topsoil	001
005		Tr 3	Cut of possible robbed out wall	002, 003
006	005	Tr 3	Loose mortar and broken stone fill of possible robbed out wall	002, 003



Key:

- evaluation trenches
- feature
- evaluation area



Fig. No: 1 Revision: A

Title:  
Site location and trench plan  
showing features

Project:  
Borders Railway Project, Area  
11 Evaluation

Client:  
ERM Ltd per Transport  
Scotland

Scale at A3:  
1:300





Fig. 2 Pre-excitation photo of non-ploughed area looking south



Fig. 3 Tr. 5 east-facing section showing layer 003 under the topsoil


Key:	Fig. No:	2-3	Revision:	A	Client:	ERM Ltd <i>per</i> Transport Scotland						
	Title:					 <div>CFA ARCHAEOLOGY LTD The Old Engine House Edinville Park Musselburgh East Lothian, EH21 7PQ  t: 0131 273 4360 f: 0131 273 4361 e: info@cfa-archaeology.co.uk w: www.cfa-archaeology.co.uk</div>	Drawn by:	GC	Checked:	LW	Report No:	1997
Project:												
Scale at A4:	Borders Railway Project, Area 11 Evaluation											




Fig. 4 Tr.3 photo of possible robbed out wall 005/006 from the west



Fig. 5 Tr.3 east-facing section through 005/006



Fig. 6 Tr. 4 post-ex from the north

Key:	Fig. No:	4-6	Revision:	A	Client:	ERM Ltd <i>per</i> Transport Scotland			 <div>CFAARCHAEOLOGY LTD The Old Engine House Edinville Park Musselburgh East Lothian, EH21 7PQ  t: 0131 273 4360 f: 0131 273 4361 e: info@cfa-archaeology.co.uk w: www.cfa-archaeology.co.uk</div>			
	Title:											
Project:						Borders Railway Project, Area 9 Evaluation						
Scale at A4:							Drawn by:	GC	Checked:	LW	Report No:	1997