

# CFA Archaeology Ltd

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*Geophysical Survey*


## **Borders Railway Project Site 622 Archaeological Evaluation**

**Report no. 2000**

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### **Borders Railway Project Archaeological Evaluation Site 622**

#### **Data Structure Report No. 2000**

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Fig. 4 North-facing section through the cairn. Iron wire can be seen within topsoil layer 002

## **1. INTRODUCTION**

### **1.1 General**

This report presents the results of an archaeological evaluation undertaken by CFA Archaeology Ltd (CFA) in December 2011. The work was undertaken in advance of the construction of the Borders Railway Project. Site numbers relate to study specific numbers from the Environmental Statement. The evaluation was undertaken on a cairn of unknown date or function in an area at the edge of the track bed of the old Waverly Line and adjacent to an area of rough, cultivated grassland (NT 45133 42631).

The Written Scheme of Investigation was based on mitigation measures approved by the Dr Chris Bowles, Scottish Borders Council Archaeologist 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 identify the provenance of a cairn (Site 622) of unknown date or function;
- to establish its vulnerability to the proposed development; and,
- 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*.

### **2.2 Evaluation Strategy**

A single trench was hand excavated across the cairn.

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**

Numbers in bold and parenthesis are context numbers which are described in Appendix 1.

The cairn was 7.3m in length and between 1.5m and 2m in width. The cairn was formed from large boulders (**006**) overlying concrete blocks and slabs (**003, 004 & 005**). A deposit of soil (**002**) formed from a mix of soil, ash, coal fragments also containing pieces of iron and plastic was present underneath and mixed through the mound. Below the soil (**002**) was a bank of made ground (**001**) and re-deposited natural which formed a bank along the side of the track bed.

## **4. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

The evaluation identified that the cairn was modern in date probably post-dating the closure of the original Waverly Line in 1969.

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 Dr Chris Bowles on behalf of the planning authority.

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 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: CONTEXT REGISTER

Context no.	Description
001	Made ground: re-deposited clay
002	Modern Topsoil
003	Floating concrete block contained within 002
004	Concrete block on surface of cairn
005	Concrete slab within surface of 002
006	Boulders forming cairn overlying all other contexts

### APPENDIX 2: PHOTOGRAPHIC REGISTER

Photo No.	Description	Taken from
1	Pre-excavation general view	W
2	Pre-excavation general view	W
3	Pre-excavation general view	N
4	Pre-excavation general view	N
5	Pre-excavation general view	S
6	Pre-excavation general view	S
7	Detail of reinforced concrete	NW
8	Detail of reinforced concrete	W
9	Detail of reinforced concrete	SW
10	Detail of steel pegs	NW
11	Detail of reinforced concrete	E
12	Detail of reinforced concrete	E
13	Working shot	N
14	005 partially de-turfed	NW
15	General view	W
16	View of 005	W
17	General view	W
18	005	W
19	003 & 005	W
20	003,004 & 005	S
21	003,004 & 005	S
22	003 & 006	S
23	003 & 006	S
24	003 & 004 section detail	S
25	Trench section	S
26	Trench section	S
27	General view of trench	W
28	General view of cairn within setting on railway	N

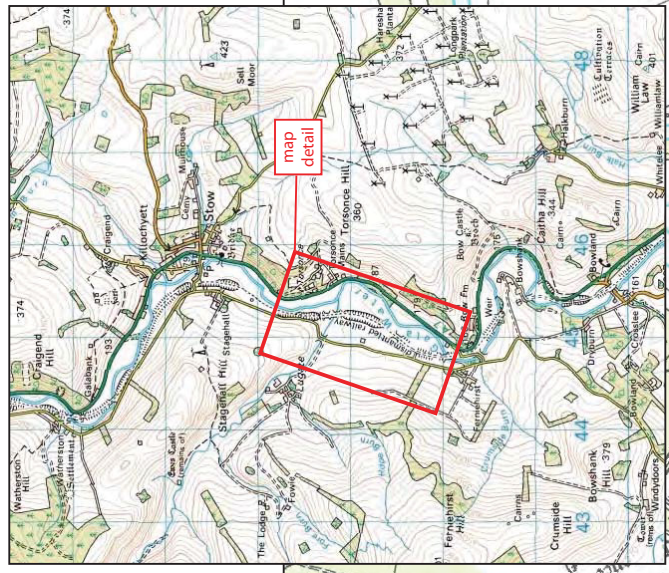
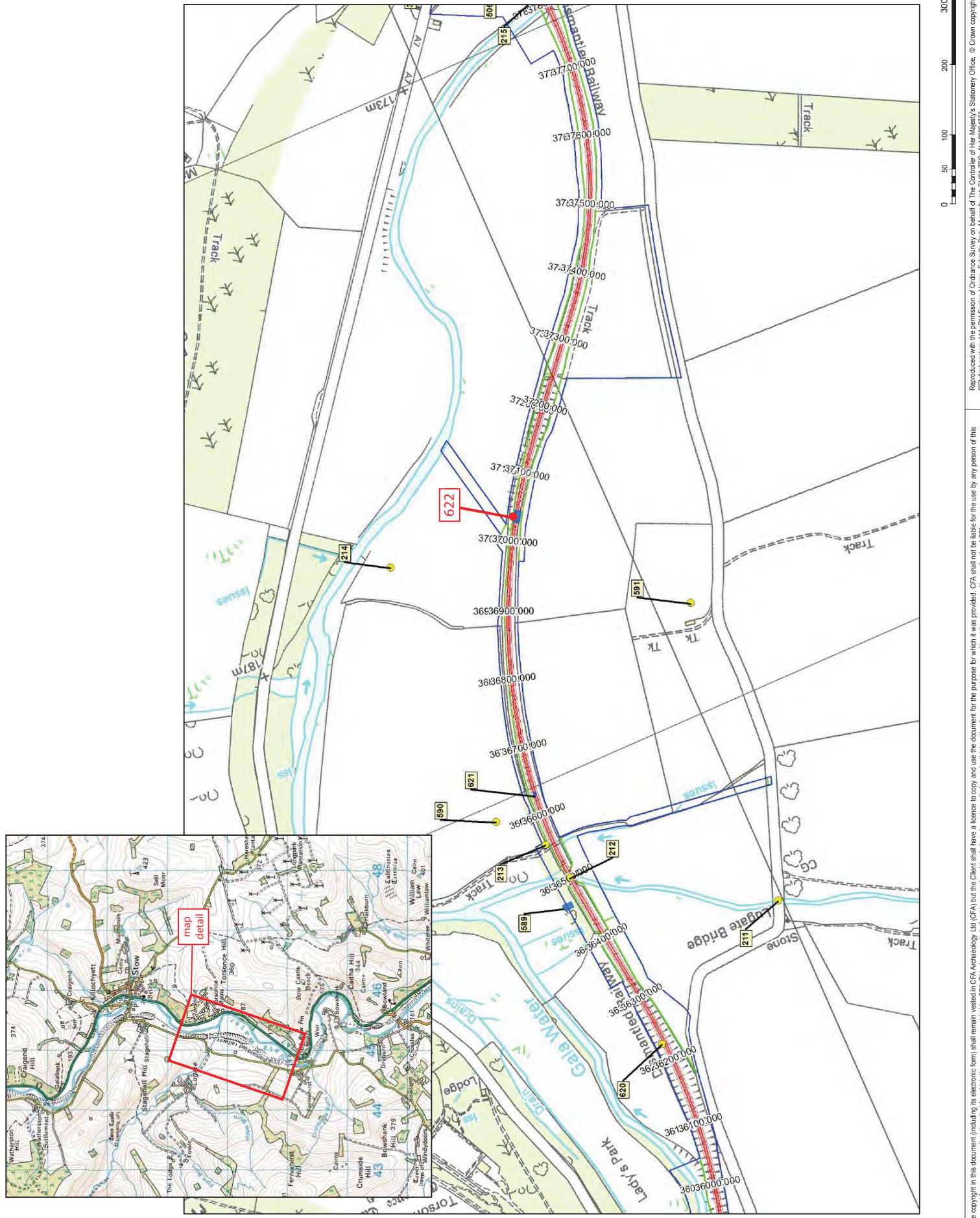




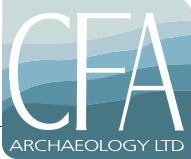
Fig. 2 pre-excavation shot of the site from the north



Fig. 3 post-excavation shot of Tr.1 with stones 006 and concrete slab 005 within cairn matrix



Fig. 4 Labelled north facing section through the cairn. Iron wire can be seen within topsoil layer 002

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	Title:					
Scale at A4:	Project:	Borders Railway Project, Site 622				
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