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Mardon Farm, Cornhill-on-Tweed, Northumberland: Archaeological Watching Brief

Report No. 2061

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**Mardon Farm, Cornhill-on-Tweed,
Northumberland:
Archaeological Watching Brief**

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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.	Dimensions and Character of Ground Works	6

Figures (bound at rear)

1.	Location	
2.	Plan of proposed shed	
3.	South-east-facing section of Posthole 4 showing (001) and (002)	
4.	Oblique view of drainage trench showing (004), (002) and (003)	

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 General

This report presents the results of an archaeological watching brief undertaken by CFA Archaeology Ltd (CFA) in May 2012 at Mardon Farm, Branxton, near Cornhill-on-Tweed, Northumberland (NGR: NT 9037 3754) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Edwin Thompson on behalf of George Farr.

A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) dated 13 April 2012 was produced by CFA on behalf of Edwin Thompson. Planning permission (Ref: 11/02555/FUL) has been granted for the construction of a new agricultural shed at Mardon Farm, Cornhill-on-Tweed (Fig. 2). In response to the planning application for the agricultural shed a programme of archaeological works was agreed with Northumberland Conservation consisting of a watching brief during ground works. This report presents the results of the archaeological watching brief.

1.2 Background

The development site is located within the area of the Battle of Flodden (1513), which is a registered battlefield. Therefore, there was a possibility that physical traces of the battle, including artefactual remains and graves, may have occurred within and around the application site.

1.3 Objectives

The objectives of the watching brief were:

- To conduct an appropriate programme of archaeological investigation (watching brief) to monitor all groundbreaking works associated with the construction of a new agricultural shed and identify the presence/absence, character and quality of any archaeologically sensitive deposits which lay within the proposed development area.
- To mitigate the effects of construction on any archaeological deposits or features identified through excavation and recording and produce a report on them.

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.

2.2 Archaeological Watching Brief

The terms of the WSI required an appropriate programme of archaeological investigation (watching brief) to monitor ground breaking works associated with the construction of a new agricultural shed.

Excavation was undertaken using a JCB excavator fitted with a 0.9m or 0.4m wide smooth-bladed ditching bucket, under constant archaeological supervision. The ground breaking works consisted of the levelling of a pre-existing raised platform area (c.53m x 28m), excavating 20 postholes for the new shed, and digging a drainage trench.

The postholes measured approximately 1.5m x 1.5m x 1.2m deep (See Appendix 3 and Fig. 2). In addition, a NE-SW aligned drainage trench (60m x 0.45m, 0.7m deep), an amendment to the original design, was excavated at the SW edge of the proposed development area.

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

3. ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS

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

A mixture of dark grey clay and rubble (**001**) (Fig. 3) formed the upper layer in a raised, walled platform area, probably contemporary with the older agricultural sheds. The deposit varied in depth (from 0.5m to 1.4m) but was deeper towards the NW end of the development area where the natural ground sloped away.

Underlying (**001**) in Postholes 1-3, 13-16 and 18-20 was a sandy gravel deposit (**002**), which varied between 0.3m and 1.3m in depth. Below this was fine loamy sand (**003**) which constituted the natural substrate, excavated to between 0.1m and 0.9m in depth in Postholes 6, 11, 12 and 15-20.

The deposits in the drainage ditch (Fig. 4) consisted of 0.25m of topsoil (**004**), 0.35m of sandy gravel (**002**) and 0.1m of fine loamy sand (**003**).

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

4. CONCLUSION

An archaeological watching brief was carried out during ground works associated with the construction of an agricultural shed at Mardon Farm, Cornhill-on-Tweed, Northumberland. There were no features, deposits or artefacts of archaeological significance identified during the watching brief.

The project archive, comprising all CFA record sheets, plans and reports, will be prepared in accordance with the recommendations of *The Management of Archaeological Projects*, 2nd ed, 1991, and arrangements made for its deposit with an appropriate repository within 6 months of the completion of post-excavation and reporting.

Northumberland Conservation will be notified of the arrangements made for the deposit of the archive and the transfer and storage of finds to the Great North Museum.

A summary will be prepared for 'Archaeology in Northumberland' and submitted by December of the year in which the work is completed. The online OASIS form will also be completed as part of the project.

APPENDIX 1: Context Register

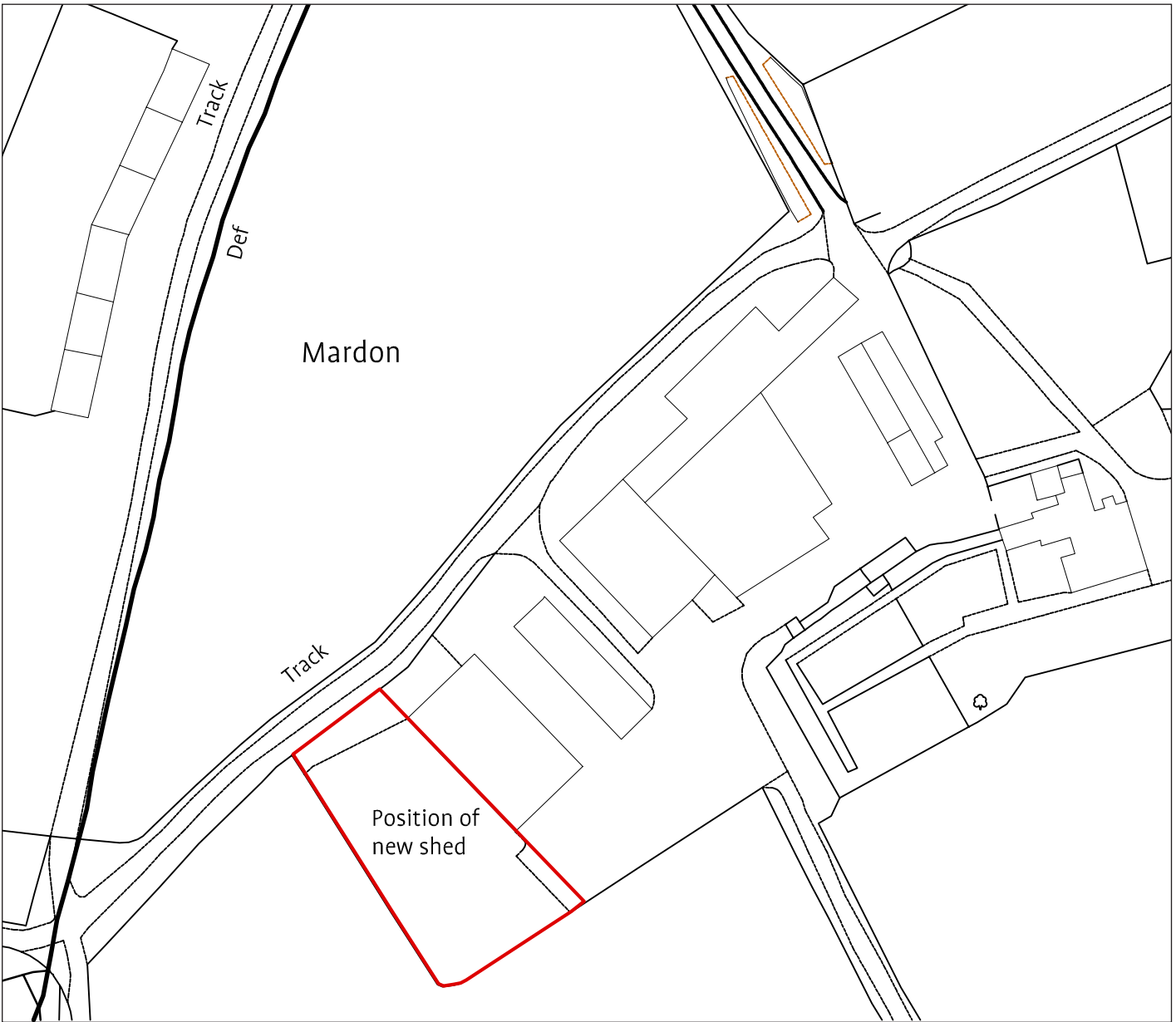
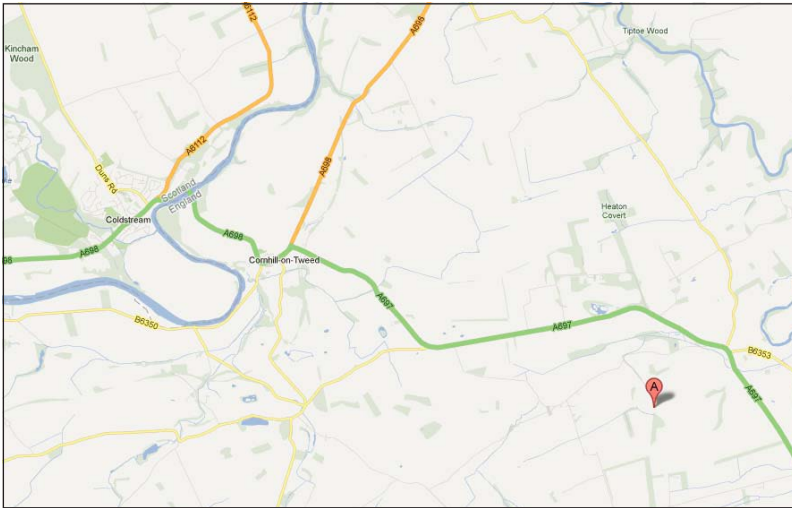
Context	Description
001	Dark grey clay/rubble mix
002	Sandy gravel
003	Fine loamy sand
004	Topsoil

APPENDIX 2: Digital Photographic Register

Shot	Description	From	Conditions
1	Pre-strip shots of the area designated for the new shed	NW, SE, S	Sunny
4-5	Section of drainage trench with raised platform area of new shed in background	SW	Overcast
6	Oblique view of the same section of trench as above with detail of the section	S	Overcast
7	As above	W	Overcast
8-9	SW end of the NE-SW aligned drainage trench & shot of the entire drainage trench	SW	Overcast
10-11	Section of Posthole 1 showing (001) and (003)	NE	Sunny
12-13	Posthole 4, section showing (001) and (002)	SE	Sunny
14-15	Posthole 8, section showing (002)	NE	Sunny

APPENDIX 3: Dimensions and character ground works

Ground work	Dimensions	Character of deposits
Posthole 1	1.2m deep	0.9m of (001); 0.3m of (002)
Post hole 2	1.4m deep	1m of (001); 0.4m of (002)
Posthole 3	1.5m deep	1m of (001); 0.5m of (002)
Posthole 4	1.2m deep	1.2m of (001)
Posthole 5	1.4m deep	1.4m of (001)
Posthole 6	1.2m deep	0.7m of (002); 0.5m (003)
Posthole 7	1.1m deep	1.1m of (002)
Posthole 8	1.3m deep	1.3m of (002)
Posthole 9	1.3m deep	1.3m of (002)
Posthole 10	1.3m deep	1.3m (002)
Posthole 11	1.2m deep	0.3m (002); 0.9m (003)
Posthole 12	1.2m deep	0.3m (002); 0.9m (003)
Posthole 13	1.2m deep	0.9m of (001); 0.3m (002)
Posthole 14	1.3m deep	0.9m of (001); 0.4m of (002)
Posthole 15	1.2m deep	0.7m of (001); 0.4m of (002); 0.1m of (003)
Posthole 16	1.2m deep	0.7m of (001); 0.4m of (002); 0.1m of (003)
Posthole 17	1.3m deep	0.4m (002); 0.9m (003)
Posthole 18	1.2m deep	0.5m of (001); 0.5m of (002); 0.2m of (003)
Posthole 19	1.2m deep	0.5m of (001); 0.5m of (002); 0.2m of (003)
Posthole 20	1.2m deep	0.5m of (001); 0.5m of (002); 0.2m of (003)
Drainage trench (NE-SW)	0.7m deep x 0.45m wide x 60m long	0.25m of (004); 0.35m (002); 0.1m (003).



Key:

 Development Area



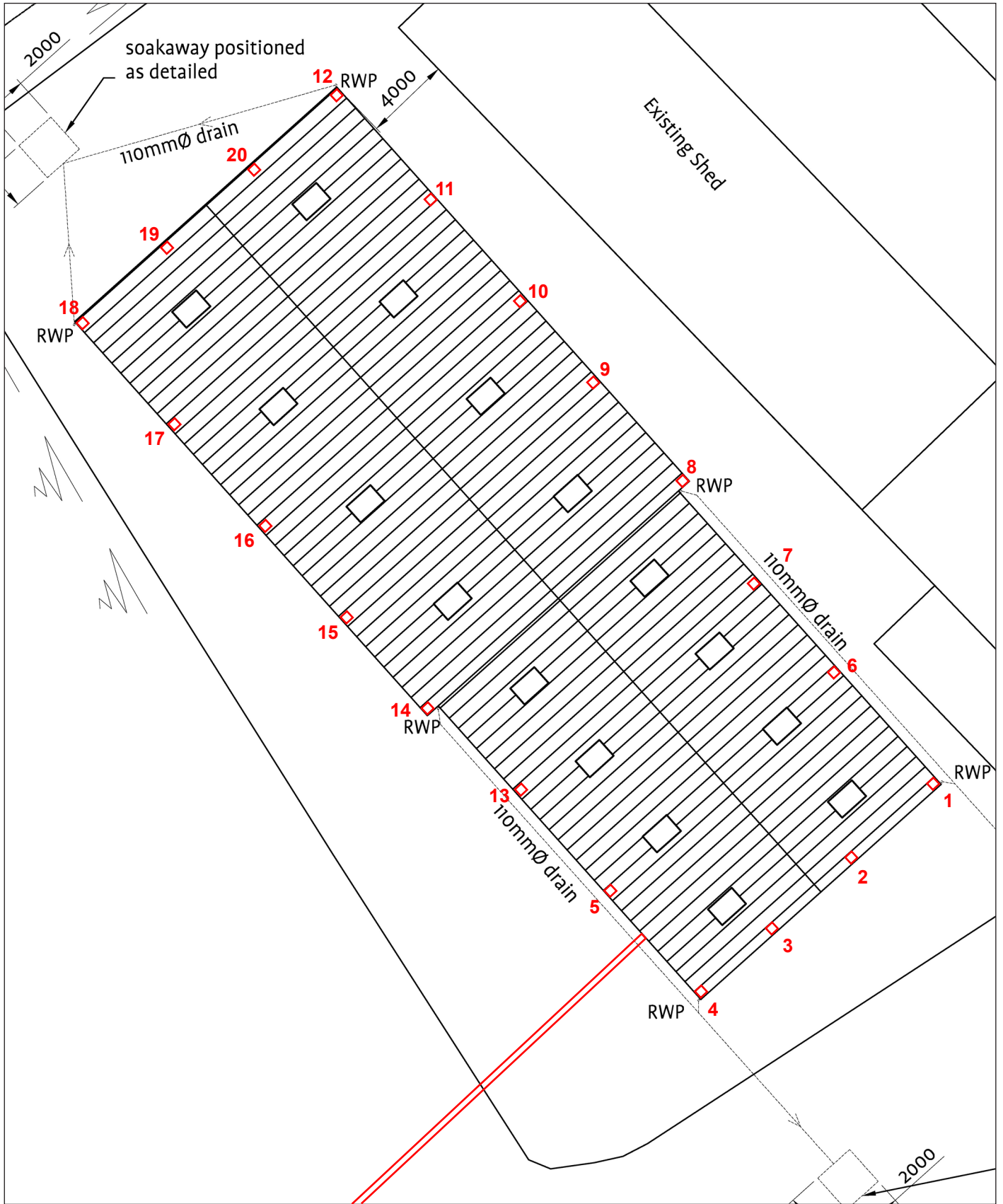
Scale at A4: 1:1250

Fig. No:	1	Revision:	A	Client:	Edwin Thompson
Title: Location Map					
Project: Mardon Farm, Cornhill-on-Tweed					

Drawn by:	Checked:	Report No:
LW	LW	2061



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Key:

- Post hole
- Drainage Trench

Scale at A4: 1:250

Fig. No:	2	Revision:	A	Client:	Edwin Thompson
Title:	Plan of proposed shed				
Project:	Mardon Farm, Cornhill-on-Tweed				

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Fig. 3 - South-east-facing section of Posthole 4 showing (001) and (002)



Fig. 4 - Oblique view of drainage trench showing (004), (002) and (003)

Fig. No: 3-4	Revision: A	Project: Mardon Farm, Cornhill-on-Tweed			CFA ARCHAEOLOGY LTD The Old Engine House Eskmills Park, Musselburgh East Lothian, EH21 7PQ T: 0131 273 4380 F: 0131 273 4381 e: info@cfa-archaeology.co.uk w: www.cfa-archaeology.co.uk
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