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Makerstoun Church, near Kelso, Scottish Borders

Archaeological Watching Brief

Report No 2081

CFA ARCHAEOLOGY LTD

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

**Makerstoun Church, near Kelso,
Scottish Borders**

Archaeological Watching Brief

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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 General

This report presents the results of an archaeological watching brief carried out by CFA Archaeology Ltd (CFA) during June 2012 at Makerstoun Church, Makerstoun, near Kelso, Scottish Borders (NGR: NT 6684 3314) (Fig. 1). The work was undertaken in advance of the construction of an annexe to the church to form a meeting room/kitchen area and disabled toilet facilities. A Written Scheme of Investigation for the watching brief was produced by CFA, based on information provided by Roger G Dodd & Co, and approved by the Scottish Borders Council Archaeology Service (SBCAS).

1.2 Site Background

The current early 19th century church replaced an earlier church of medieval origins. The medieval church is mentioned in charters from the 14th century. The exact layout of the medieval church and churchyard are unknown, thus elements of the earlier phases could have been impacted on by the development. Additionally, there was a high risk of encountering human remains from the medieval period onwards during any invasive works.

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, foundation slab excavations, utility trenches, and removal of churchyard 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. METHODOLOGY

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 Watching Brief

Topsoil and modern overburden was removed by a JCB 3CX type mechanical excavator equipped with a smooth-bladed bucket. All groundbreaking work was carried out under constant archaeological supervision. All further excavation required to fulfil the objectives of the WSI was carried out by hand.

The stratification of all excavated areas was recorded, whether or not significant archaeological deposits were identified. All excavation and on-site recording was carried out according to standard CFA procedures, principally by drawing, by photography and by completing standard CFA record forms.

3. ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS

The watching brief area abutted the west side of the church (Fig. 1, 2). It was rectangular and measured 8.5m by 4.5m. Depth to natural (**002**) was c.0.6m (Fig. 3). Natural was orange-brown sandy clay with occasional sandstone. Topsoil (**000**) was c.0.1m to 0.2m thick and overlay a subsoil (**001**) which was 0.4m to 0.5m thick and comprised mid brown-orange silt with frequent stones and tree roots. A small rectangular extension to the development was excavated on the west side for a disabled ramp, measuring 2.6m by 1.5m. Only a 0.15m thick layer of topsoil was stripped from this.

A single archaeological feature was discovered during the watching brief. A linear ditch (**003**) aligned roughly north to south was identified, cut into the natural (**002**) and sealed by the subsoil (**001**) (Fig. 4-5). It was exposed for an extent of c.5m and was 0.5m wide by 0.25m deep. It had steep concave sides and a concave base and was filled with mid orange-brown silt (**004**) which contained flecks of coal, fragments of mortar and sherds of 19th and 20th century pottery. Its purpose is unclear but it is likely to have been associated with drainage around the exterior of the 19th century church. No other remains or deposits were identified.

4. CONCLUSION

The watching brief identified a linear ditch which is most likely an element of a drainage system associated with the 19th century church. No other remains or deposits were discovered and no traces of the medieval church were identified.

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 Monument Record.

A summary statement of the results of this watching brief will be submitted for publication in *Discovery and Excavation in Scotland* (Appendix 4) and an online OASIS form will be completed.

APPENDIX 1: Context Register

Context No.	Description
000	Topsoil
001	Subsoil: mid brown/orange silt with numerous stones and tree roots, 0.4-0.5m deep
002	Natural: orange/brown sandy clay
003	Cut of linear ditch
004	Fill of linear ditch: mid orange silt with flecks of coal and mortar, modern ceramic

APPENDIX 2: Photographic Register

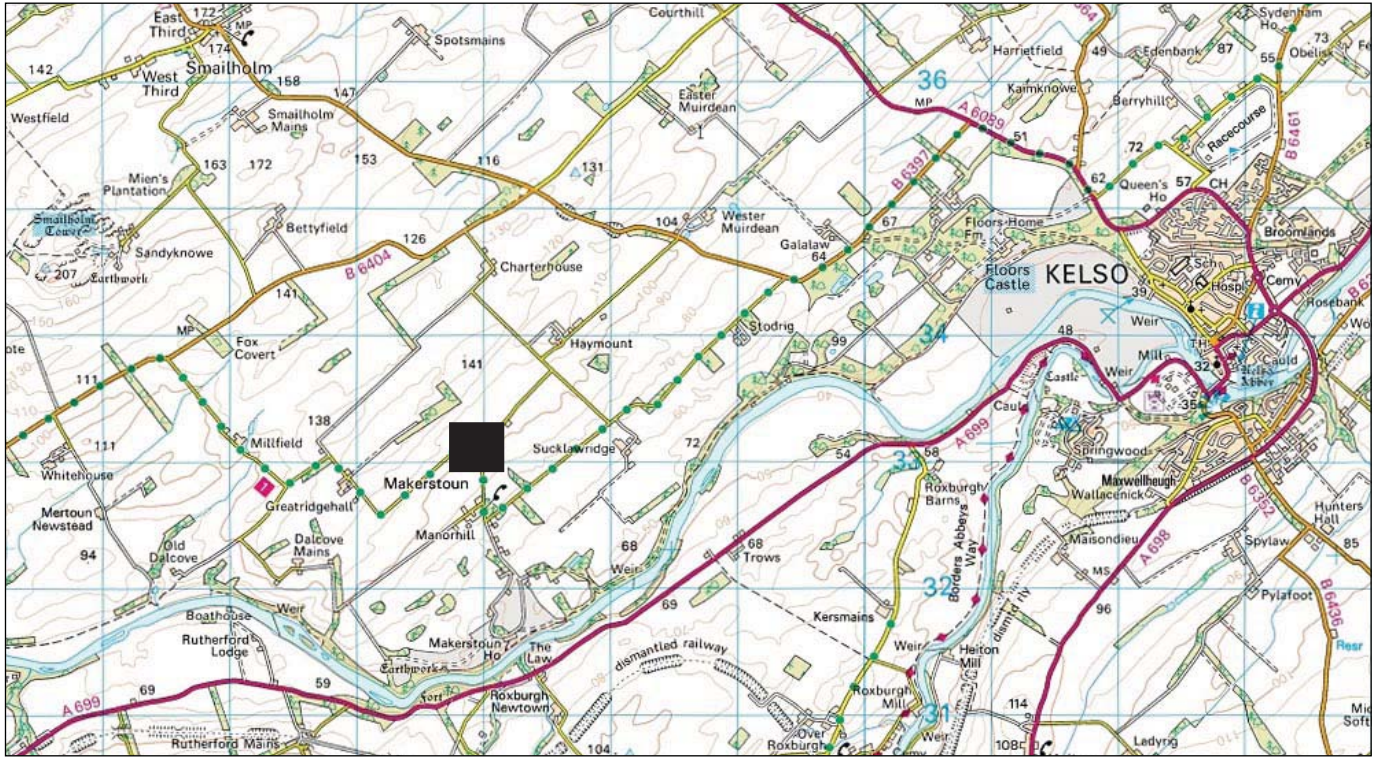
Photo No.	Description	Taken From
1--3	General pre-ex view of the church wall and development area	W
4	Linear ditch general view	W
5	Linear ditch general view	S
6	Linear ditch section	S
7	Development area fully excavated	SW
8	Development area fully excavated	NW
9	Development area fully excavated	W
10	General view of ditch and fully excavated development area	S
11	Section of excavated area	E

APPENDIX 3: Drawings Register

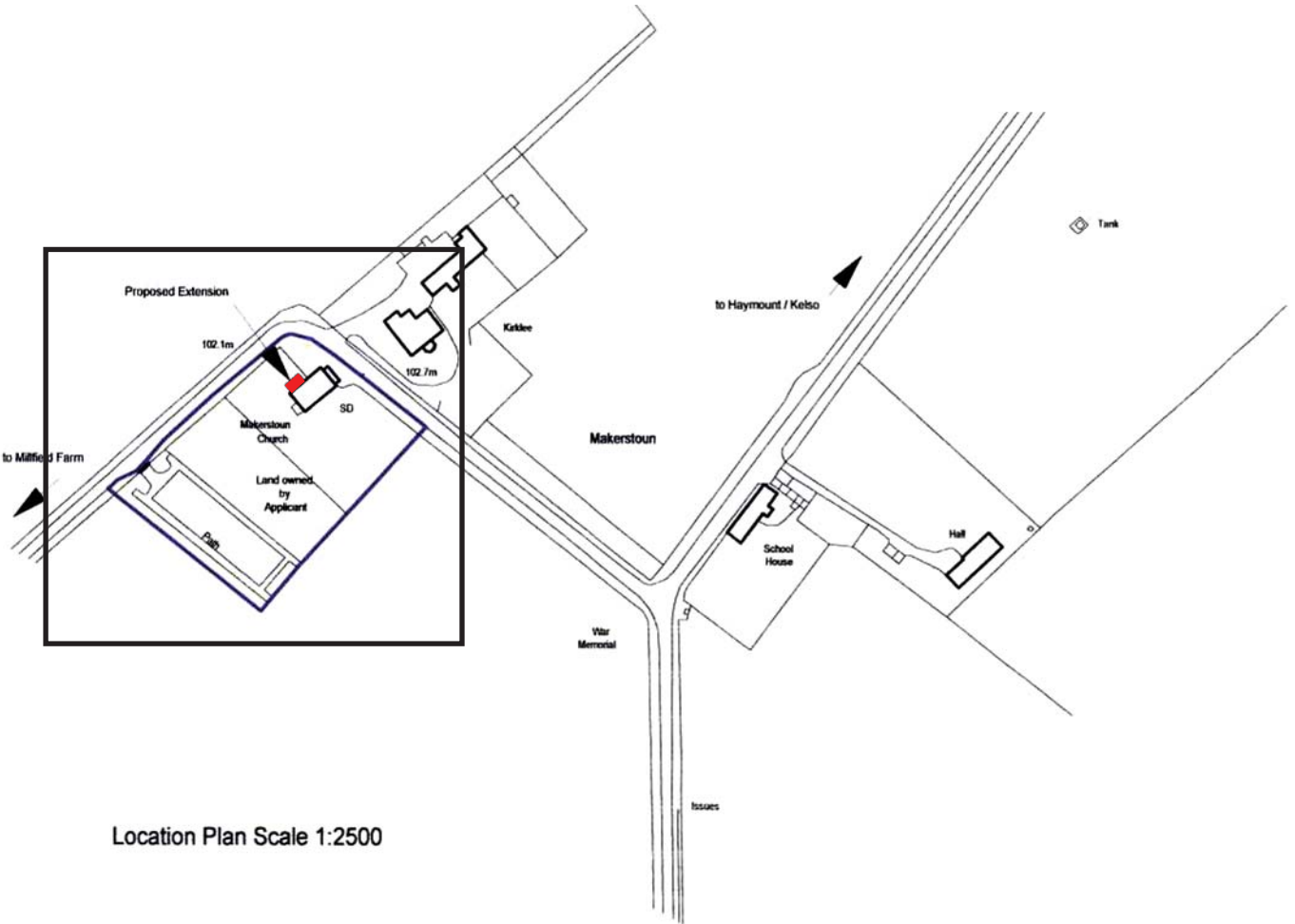
Drawing No.	Description	Contexts	Scale
1	Plan	Plan of development area	1:50
2	Section	003/004	1:10

APPENDIX 4: DISCOVERY & EXCAVATION IN SCOTLAND ENTRY

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	Scottish Borders
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	Makerstoun Church, near Kelso, Scottish Borders
PROJECT CODE:	MAKS
PARISH:	Makerstoun
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	S. Mitchell
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	CFA Archaeology Ltd
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Watching brief
NMRS NO(S):	NT63SE 50
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	Church, Manse
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	Drainage ditch
NGR (2 letters, 6 figures)	NT 6684 3314
START DATE (this season)	June 2012
END DATE (this season)	June 2012
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. <i>DES</i> ref.)	n/a
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	A watching brief was carried out during the excavation of foundations for an annex to Makerstoun church. A single linear ditch was identified, measuring 0.5m wide and deep. It had a 'U' shaped profile and was filled with orange sandy silt which contained fragments of coal, mortar and sherds of 19 th and 20 th century pottery. It is likely to be part of a drainage system associated with the 19 th century church.
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	None
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	None
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	Roger G Dodd & Co
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



nts



Location Plan Scale 1:2500

Key:



Fig. No: 1 Revision: A Client: Roger G Dodd & Co.

Title: Location maps

Project: Makerstoun Church, near Kelso. Watching Brief

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Scale at A4:

Drawn by: KH Checked: LW Report No: 2081



Fig. 2 - Watching brief area prior to excavation. From the west.





Fig. 3 - Watching brief area following excavation. From the north.

Fig. No: 2-3		Revision: A	Project: Makerstoun Church, near Kelso. Watching Brief		
Drawn by: KH	Checked: LW	Report No: 2081	Client: Roger G Dodd & Co.		
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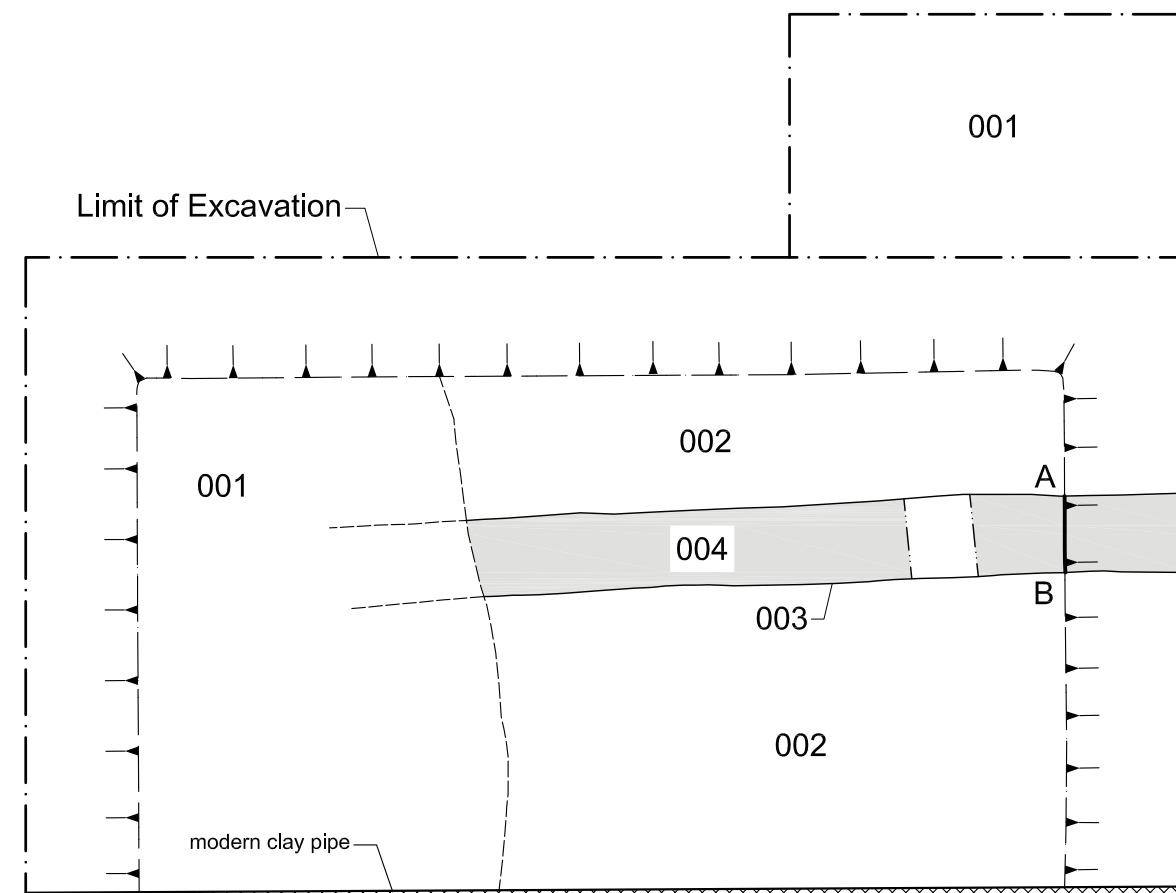


Fig. 4 - Section of linear drainage feature 003 from SW

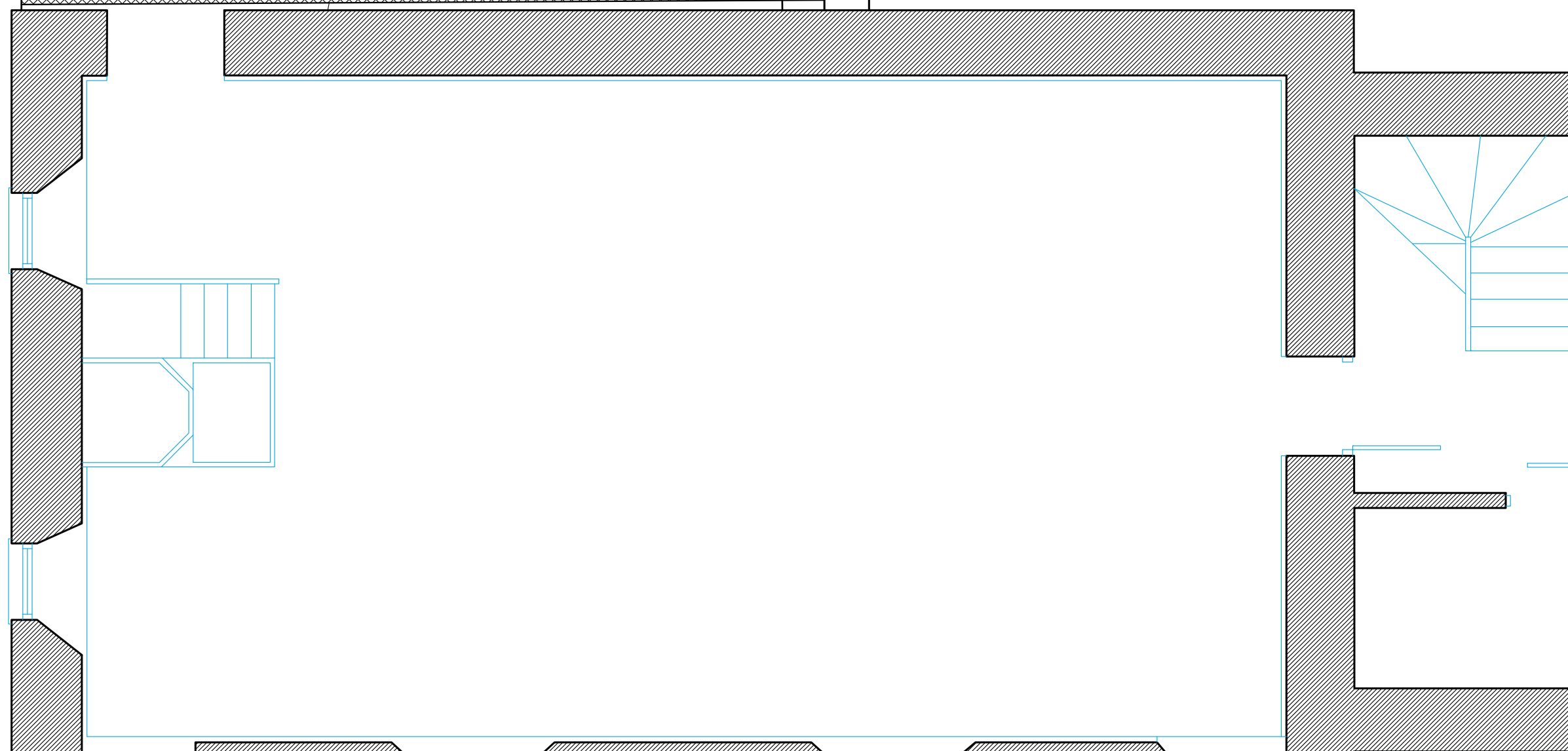
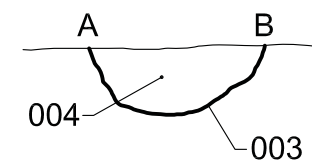
Fig. No: 4		Revision: A	Project: Makerstoun Church, near Kelso. Watching Brief			CFA ARCHAEOLOGY LTD The Old Engine House Eskmills Park, Musselburgh East Lothian, Eh21 7PQ T: 0131 273 4380 F: 0131 273 4381 e: info@cfa-archaeology.co.uk w: www.cfa-archaeology.co.uk
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Key:



Section through feature 003



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Fig. No: 5 Revision: A

Title:
Watching brief area following excavation

Project:
Makerstoun Church, near Kelso, Scottish Borders. Archaeological Watching Brief

Client:
Roger Dodd & Co.

Scale at A3:
1:50

Drawn by: KH Checked: LW Report No: 2081