

# CFA Archaeology Ltd

*archaeological consultants*

*Advice on Archaeology & Planning*

*Environmental Impact Assessment*

*Interpretation, Design & Display*

*Finds/ Environmental Analysis*

*Field Evaluation & Excavation*

*Historic Building Recording*

*Site & Landscape Survey*


*Geophysical Survey*

**New Water Main,  
Duns Law Farm,  
Near Duns, Scottish Borders**

**Archaeological Watching Brief**

**Report No 2098**

 0131 273 4380

 0131 273 4381

 info@cfa-archaeology.co.uk

 www.cfa-archaeology.co.uk

## **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)

Authors	Bruce Glendinning BSc PgDip MifA
Illustrator	
Editor	Melanie Johnson MA PhD FSA Scot MifA
Commissioned by	Scottish Water Shared Services
Date issued	July 2012
Version	0
OASIS Ref	cfaarcha1-130732
Grid Ref	NT 78843 54628 (centred)

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

**New Water Main,  
Duns Law Farm,  
Near Duns, Scottish Borders**

**Archaeological Watching Brief**

**Report No 2098**

## **CONTENTS**

1.	Introduction	3
2.	Methodology	4
3.	Archaeological Results	4
4.	Discussion & Conclusion	6

## **Appendices**

1.	Context Register	8
2.	Photographic Register	8
3.	Drawings Register	8
4.	Samples Register	9
5.	Finds Register	9
6.	Discovery & Excavation in Scotland Entry	10

## **List of Figures** (bound at rear)

1.	Location map
2.	Pit 100 in section
3.	Plan of Pit 102 showing 106
4.	Section of Pit 102
5.	Post-excavation plan of Pit 102
6.	Pit 102 showing fill 104
7.	Detail of stone lining 106
8.	Pit 102 post-excavation

## **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 to the north of the town of Duns and to the immediate east of Duns Law Fort (Fig. 1). The work was undertaken during the topsoil strip for a new water main. A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for the watching brief was produced by CFA, based on information provided by Scottish Water Shared Services, and was approved by the Scottish Borders Council Archaeology Service (SBCAS).

### **1.2 Site Background**

The location of the new water main lay in agricultural fields adjacent to, but outside of, the Scheduled Monument of Duns Law Fort and Camp (Scheduled Monument No 3939). In addition, a stray find of a flint thumbnail scraper (Scottish Borders SMR Site No 1090029) had been recovered from the field through which the new main was to be laid.

### **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 for the development
- 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 an Archaeological Watching Brief. 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 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**

### **3.1 General**

The numbers in bold and in parentheses are context numbers and a full description of these is given in Appendix 1.

The area stripped of topsoil measured 6-7m wide by approximately 400m long, with c.0.3m of topsoil overlying orange stony clay-silt and pinkish clay-silt natural substrate. Two archaeological features were identified and fully excavated (Fig. 1 for location).

### **3.2 Archaeological features**

#### *Pit 100*

A single small pit (**100**) (Fig. 2) was sub-circular in plan, measured 0.9m across and 0.5m deep, and contained a single fill of sandy silt (**101**). It did not contain any artefacts or dating material.

#### *Pit 102*

A large pit (**102**) contained the remains of an Early Bronze Age burial. The pit was sub-circular in plan, measuring 3.2m east-west by 2.6m north-south, and was 0.75m deep. It had near vertical sides and a flat base (Fig. 3-4).

Cut into the base of the pit were two small shallow pits or scoops (**108, 110**); these were both filled with orangey-brown sandy silt (**109, 111**) which was very similar to the natural (Fig. 5, 8). Each scoop contained a possibly whole, although broken,

comb-impressed Beaker vessel; these were likely to be crushed following their deposition.

Immediately overlying **109** was a thin lens of dark greyish-brown silt (**107**). Overlying this and covering the base and sides of the pit was a deposit of mid reddish-brown sandy silt (**105**), which had the appearance of re-deposited natural (Fig. 4). A few large angular stones were mixed in with this fill, and fragments of cremated bone and sherds of Beaker pottery were also recovered from this fill.

Overlying **105** was a deposit of angular / sub-angular stones in a matrix of mid brown sandy silt (**104**), containing Beaker pottery sherds and burnt bone (Fig. 4, 6). Within this deposit a stone setting had been constructed (**106**) to create a stone-lined cist, which measured 1.4m east-west by 1.1m north-south by 0.6m deep (Fig. 3, 7). This appeared to be filled with material the same as **104** but with less stone. A re-flaked stone axe was recovered from the fill of this cist along with a small quantity of Beaker pottery. The north side of the stone setting was well built and showed that it has been purposefully constructed whilst the base and the south side was not so obviously constructed and was formed from the mass of dumped stones making up fill **104**. Interestingly, the cist feature was located directly above the shallow pit (**108**) containing Beaker pottery excavated into the base of the main pit (**102**).

Sealing **104** was a thin deposit of mid brown sandy silt (**103**) which was very similar to the topsoil and the soil matrix of **104** (Fig. 4). This contained sherds of Beaker pottery, cremated human bone and modern glass, suggesting that this context may have been affected by later ploughing.

### 3.3 The Finds, by Melanie Johnson

Type	No.	Wt (g)
Preh pot	92	1367
Lithics	4	8
Stone	2	316
Glass	1	17
Burnt bone	-	186

Table 1: Summary of finds

#### *Prehistoric pottery*

Sherds from at least seven different Early Bronze Age Beaker vessels were recovered from the fills of pit **102**. These were all comb-impressed in a variety of geometric patterns. The vessels from contexts **109** and **111** were possibly complete although found broken: they had external cordons below the rim, and the vessel in **111** was associated with a possibly worked stone. Two sherds from another vessel were also found in association with the vessel in **109**. The other vessels were found scattered throughout contexts **103**, **104**, **105** and **106**, and these vessels are not complete, comprising just a small number of sherds per vessel.

#### *Lithics*

Four pieces of worked flint, two burnt and two unburnt, were recovered from the topsoil during topsoil stripping throughout the length of the pipeline route.

### *Stone*

A small stone axe head was recovered from within the cist (**104**). This object appears to have been re-flaked (A Clarke pers comm.). A fairly flat circular stone object recovered from **111** also appears to have been worked.

### *Post Medieval*

A shard of a glass bottle base was recovered from context **103**.

### *Biological evidence*

A quantity of cremated human bone was collected by hand from contexts **103**, **104** and **105**; further bone remains in the soil samples and will be retrieved following processing of the samples. The remains have been identified preliminarily as those of an adult female.

## **4. DISCUSSION & CONCLUSION**

The watching brief conducted during topsoil stripping for the new water main adjacent to Duns Law Fort uncovered two features of archaeological significance. One of these was a small pit (**100**) which did not contain any dating evidence and therefore its date, origin and function remains uncertain. The other feature was a stone-filled pit (**102**) containing a stone-built cist, cremated human remains, Beaker pottery and a re-flaked stone axe.

From the surviving remains the burial pit seems to have involved a reasonably complex construction process. First the main pit (**102**) was excavated, then two smaller shallow pits (**108**, **110**) were excavated into its base and two different Beaker pots were purposefully deposited in these and were broken. Following this, re-deposited natural filled **108** and **110** and partially filled the main pit (**102**). It is not known whether the fills (**109**, **111**, **105**) were deposited at different times but they all appeared to be re-deposited natural so could all have been part of one event. A deposit of angular / sub-angular stones was then introduced into the pit and a stone setting (**106**) was created into which was deposited a stone axe and cremated human remains and then covered over with further stones.

From the surviving evidence, the infill of stones and the construction of the stone setting all appear to be one event rather than a later insertion of the cist into the pit. It is possible that stone or soil was mounded up over the pit to form a small cairn/mound over the burial to mark its position (now ploughed away). The sherds of Beaker pottery and cremated human bone contained in **103** could be the remains of secondary burials inserted in to the cairn or the disturbed remains of the primary burial.

A programme of post-excavation analysis and reporting will be required on the burial pit. A Post-excavation Research Design will be prepared by CFA under separate cover and submitted to SBCAS for approval.

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 6) and an online OASIS form will be completed.



## APPENDIX 1: Context Register

Context No.	Description
100	Cut of sub-circular pit, 0.8m in diameter x 0.5m deep
101	Fill of 100 – mid greyish brown sandy silt
102	Cut of large burial pit sub-circular in plan measuring 3.2m x 2.6m x 0.75m deep
103	Upper fill of burial pit, mid brown sandy silt
104	Fill of burial pit, sub-angular stones in a matrix of mid brown sandy silt
105	Fill of burial pit, mid-reddish brown sandy silt containing occasional large angular / sub-angular stones. This was re-deposited natural.
106	Stone setting within and under 104 to create a cist 1.4m x 1.1m x 0.6m deep
107	Lens of dark-greyish brown sandy silt below 105 but above 109
108	Cut of shallow scoop or pit in base of 102, circular in plan, 1m diameter x 0.13m deep
109	Fill of 108, mid orange-brown sandy silt very similar to natural
110	Cut of shallow scoop or pit in base of 102, circular in plan, 0.4m diameter x 0.1m deep
111	Fill of 110, mid orange-brown sandy silt very similar to natural

## APPENDIX 2: Photographic Register

Photo No.	Description
1	Pit (102) pre-excavation
2	Pit (102) pre-excavation
3	Pit (102) pre-excavation
4	Pit (102) pre-excavation
5	Pit (100) pre-excavation
6	Pit (100) pre-excavation
7	Pit (100) post-excavation
8	Pit (100) post-excavation
9	Pit (100) post-excavation
10	Pit (102) pre-excavation
11	Pit (102) pre-excavation
12	Pit (102) pre-excavation
13-17	Pit (102) fill 103 and 104 partially removed to expose 106
18-22	Pit (102) fill 103 and 104 partially removed to expose 106
23-24	Stone lined pit? 106 within and sealed by 104
25-28	Pit (102) half section with most of 104 removed
29	Pit (102) half section with most of 104 removed with detail of 106
30-31	Pit (102) half section with most of 104 removed
32-33	Pit (102) with most of 104 removed with detail of 106
34	Scoop / shallow pit (108) post-excavation
35-36	Pit (102) post-excavation working shots
37-43	Pit (102) post-excavation

## APPENDIX 3: Drawings Register

Drawing No.	Description	Contexts	Scale
1	Section	Section of Pit (100)	1:10
2	Plan	Plan of Pit (100)	1:20
3	Plan	Plan of Pit (102)	1:20
4	Section	Section of Pit (102)	1:10

#### APPENDIX 4: Sample Register

Sample No.	Context	Sample type	Volume
1	101	Bulk	10 litres
2	103	Bulk	10 litres
3	104	Bulk	10 litres
4	104	Bulk	10 litres
5	109	Bulk	10 litres
6	111	Bulk	1 bag

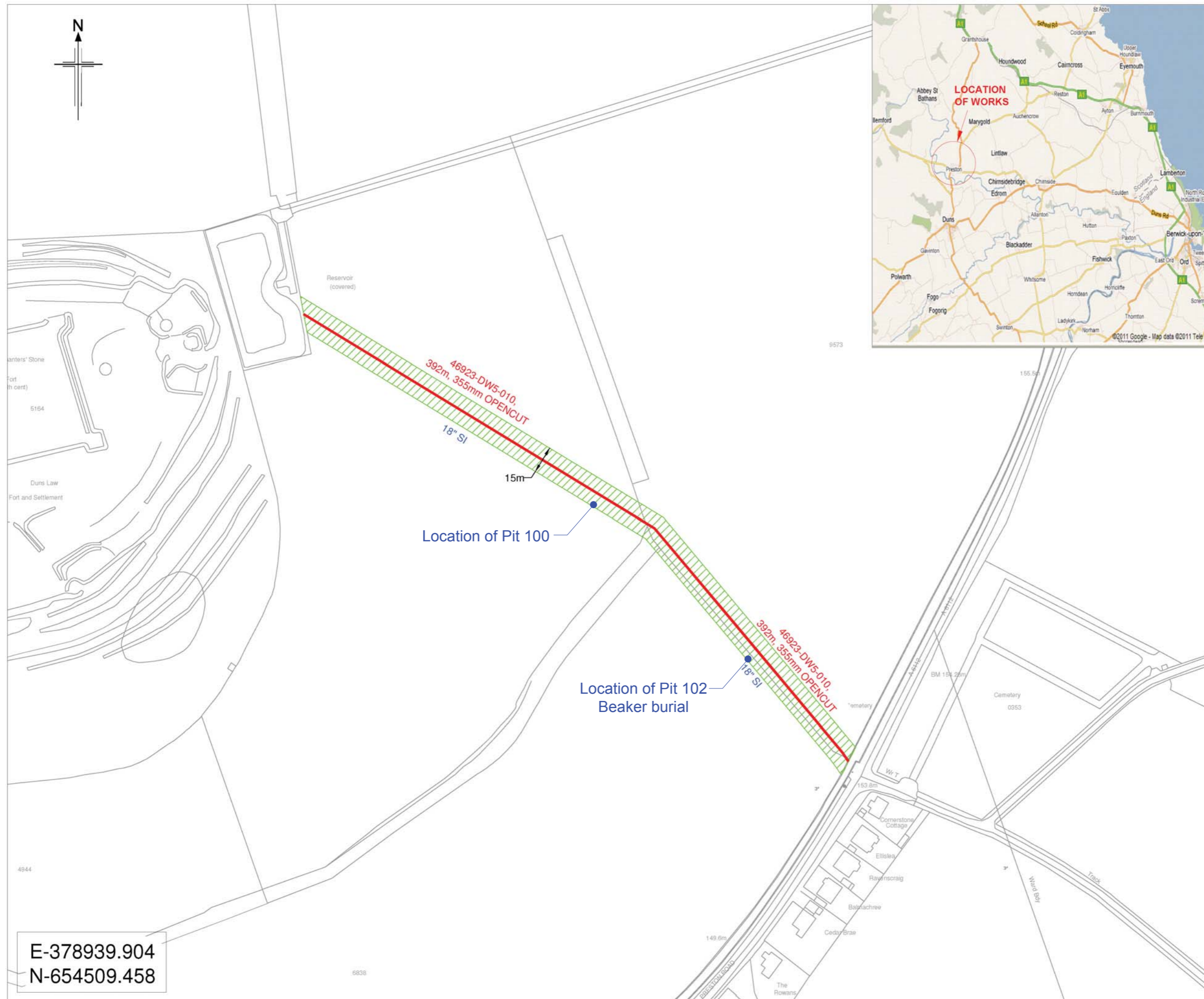
#### APPENDIX 5: Finds Register

Context	Find No.	Type	No.	Wt. (g)	Comments	Spot date
103	7	Bone		20	burnt	preh
103	26	Bone		40	burnt	preh
103	13	Glass	1	17	glass	Post Med
103	6	Pot	1	16	Beaker pottery, rim sherd	EBA
103	10	Pot	1	8	Beaker pottery, body sherd	EBA
103	11	Pot	1	7	Beaker pottery, body sherd	EBA
103	12	Pot	1	30	plain body sherd	preh
104	9	Bone		49	burnt	preh
104	8	Pot	1	34	Beaker pottery, rim sherd	EBA
104	15	Pot	1	6	Beaker pottery, body sherd	EBA
104	16	Pot	1	7	Beaker pottery, body sherd	EBA
104	18	Pot	1	21	Beaker pottery, body sherd	EBA
104	19	Pot	1	15	Beaker pottery, body sherd	EBA
104	20	Pot	1	29	Beaker pottery, rim sherd	EBA
104	21	Pot	1	15	Beaker pottery, body sherd (found with SF8)	EBA
104	22	Pot	1	12	Beaker pottery, body sherd (found with SF8)	EBA
104	23	Stone	1	183	stone axe	preh
105	25	Bone		77	burnt	preh
105	14	Pot	1	37	Beaker pottery, body sherd	EBA
105	25	Pot	2	9	beaker pottery	EBA
106	17	Pot	1	22	Beaker pottery, rim sherd	EBA
109	28	Pot	23	433	Beaker pottery, includes rim, base and body	EBA
109	28	Pot	2	61	Beaker pottery, rim sherd	EBA
111	29	Pot	51	605	Beaker pottery, includes rim, base and body	EBA
111	24	Stone	1	133	possible worked stone	preh
U/S	1	Lithic	1	1	burnt flint	preh
U/S	2	Lithic	1	1	flint	preh
U/S	3	Lithic	1	3	flint	preh
U/S	4	Lithic	1	3	burnt flint	preh

## APPENDIX 6: DISCOVERY & EXCAVATION IN SCOTLAND ENTRY

<b>LOCAL AUTHORITY:</b>	Scottish Borders
<b>PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:</b>	Duns Law Farm, Near Duns, Scottish Borders
<b>PROJECT CODE:</b>	DULF
<b>PARISH:</b>	Duns
<b>NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:</b>	Bruce Glendinning
<b>NAME OF ORGANISATION:</b>	CFA Archaeology Ltd
<b>TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:</b>	Watching brief
<b>NMRS NO(S):</b>	n/a
<b>SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):</b>	Pit
<b>SIGNIFICANT FINDS:</b>	Beaker pottery, human remains, stone axe
<b>NGR (2 letters, 6 figures)</b>	NT 788 546
<b>START DATE (this season)</b>	June 2012
<b>END DATE (this season)</b>	June 2012
<b>PREVIOUS WORK (incl. <i>DES</i> ref.)</b>	n/a
<b>MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION:</b> (May include information from other fields)	A watching brief was carried out during topsoil stripping for the laying of a new water main. A large pit was identified which upon excavation was found to contain the cremated remains of an adult female within a stone setting within an otherwise stone-filled pit, along with a quantity of Beaker pottery (including two probably whole pots) and what appears to be a re-flaked stone axe.
<b>PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:</b>	Post-excavation analysis
<b>CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:</b>	None
<b>SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:</b>	Scottish Water Shared Services
<b>ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:</b>	CFA Archaeology Ltd, Old Engine House, Eskmills Park, Musselburgh, EH21 7PQ.
<b>EMAIL ADDRESS:</b>	cfa@cfa-archaeology.co.uk
<b>ARCHIVE LOCATION (intended/deposited)</b>	Archive to be deposited in NMRS, Reports lodged with SMR and NMRS

Key



**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

Fig. No:	1	Revision	A
----------	---	----------	---

Title  
**Location map**

Project  
**Archaeological Watching Brief near Duns, Scottish Borders**



Scale at A3  
**1:2000**

Client  
**Scottish Water Shared Services**

Drawn by:	Checked by:	Report No:
LW	LW	2098



Fig. 2 - Pit 100 in section

Fig. No: <b>2</b>		Revision: <b>A</b>	Project: <b>Archaeological Watching Brief near Duns, Scottish Borders</b>			<b>CFA ARCHAEOLOGY LTD</b> 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
Drawn by: <b>LW</b>	Checked: <b>LW</b>	Report No: <b>2098</b>	Client: <b>Scottish Water Shared Services</b>			
<small>The copyright in this document (including its electronic form) shall remain vested in CFA Archaeology Ltd (CFA) but the Client shall have a licence to copy and use the document for the purpose for which it was provided. CFA shall not be liable for the use by any person of this document for any purpose other than that for which the same was provided by CFA. This document shall not be reproduced in whole or in part or relied upon by third parties for any use whatsoever without the express written authority of CFA.</small>						

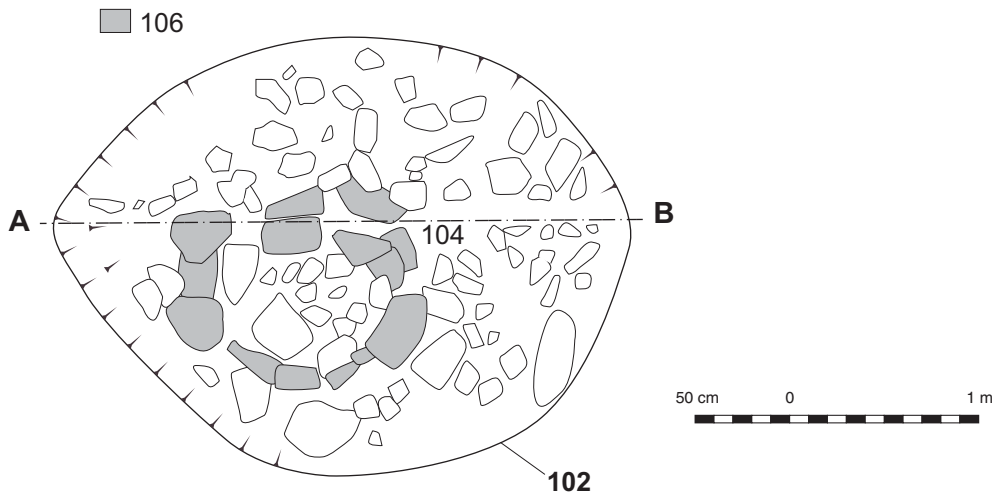


Fig. 3 - Plan of Pit 102 showing 106

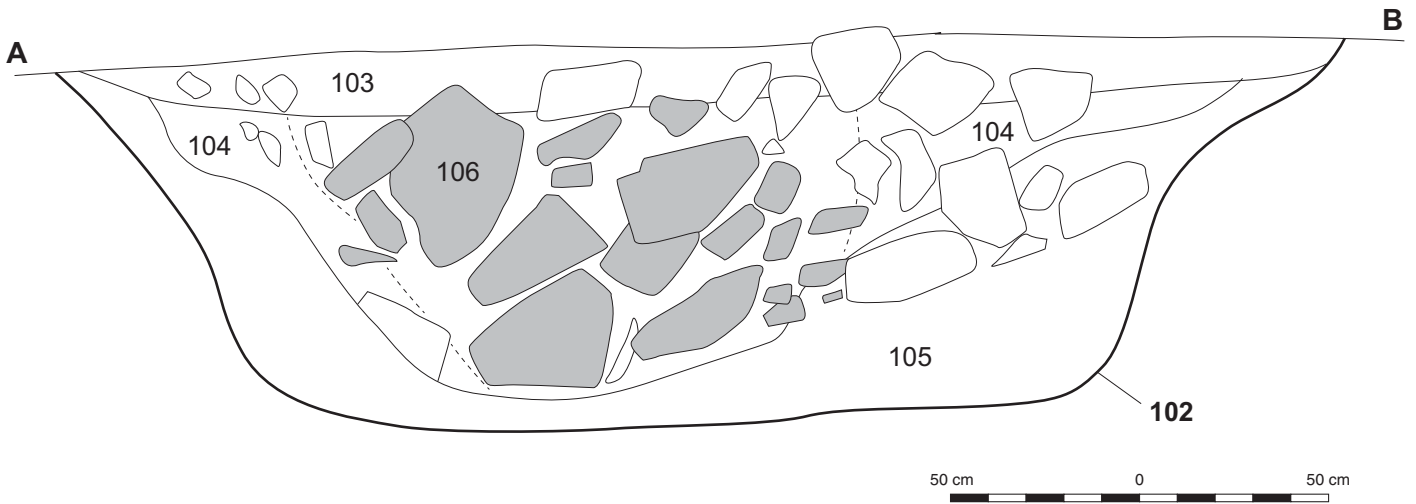


Fig. 4 - Section of Pit 102

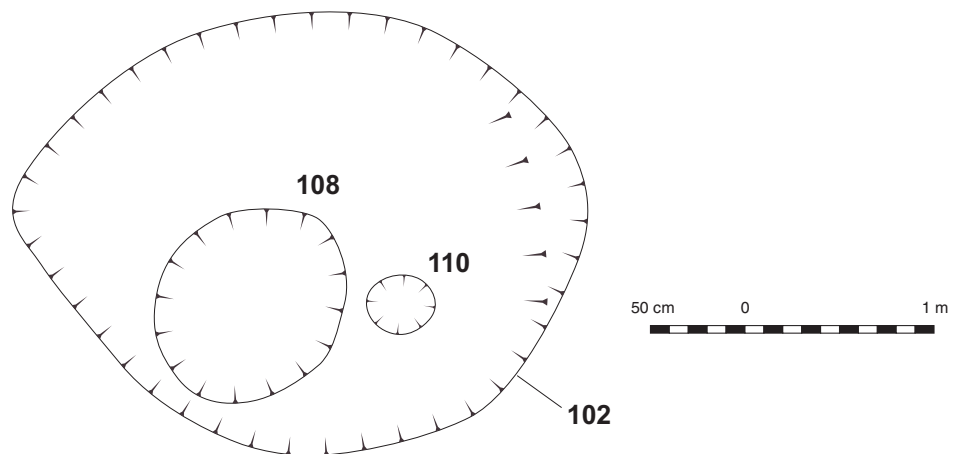


Fig. 5 - Post-ex plan of Pit 102


Fig. No: <b>3-5</b>		Revision: <b>A</b>	Project: <b>Archaeological Watching Brief near Duns, Scottish Borders</b>
Drawn by: <b>LW</b>	Checked: <b>LW</b>	Report No: <b>2098</b>	Client: <b>Scottish Water Shared Services</b>
<small>The copyright in this document (including its electronic form) shall remain vested in CFA Archaeology Ltd (CFA) but the Client shall have a licence to copy and use the document for the purpose for which it was provided. CFA shall not be liable for the use by any person of this document for any purpose other than that for which the same was provided by CFA. This document shall not be reproduced in whole or in part or relied upon by third parties for any use whatsoever without the express written authority of CFA.</small>			 <p><b>CFA</b> ARCHAEOLOGY LTD</p> <p><small>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</small></p>



Fig. 6 - Pit 102 showing fill 104



Fig. 7 - Detail of stone lining 106

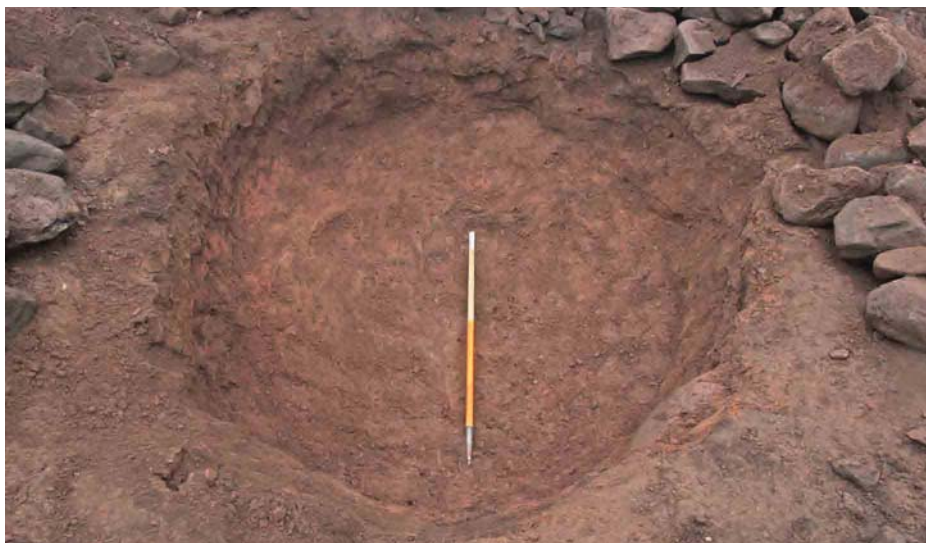




Fig. 8 - Pit 102 post-excitation

Fig. No: <b>6-8</b>		Revision: <b>A</b>	Project: <b>Archaeological Watching Brief near Duns, Scottish Borders</b>		
Drawn by: <b>LW</b>	Checked: <b>LW</b>	Report No: <b>2098</b>	Client: <b>Scottish Water Shared Services</b>		
<small>The copyright in this document (including its electronic form) shall remain vested in CFA Archaeology Ltd (CFA) but the Client shall have a licence to copy and use the document for the purpose for which it was provided. CFA shall not be liable for the use by any person of this document for any purpose other than that for which the same was provided by CFA. This document shall not be reproduced in whole or in part or relied upon by third parties for any use whatsoever without the express written authority of CFA.</small>					
					<small>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</small>