

# 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*

**Smiddy Corner,  
Nenthorn, Kelso  
Scottish Borders**

**Archaeological Evaluation**

**Report No. 2150**

## **CFA ARCHAEOLOGY LTD**

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

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## **1. INTRODUCTION**

### **1.1 General**

This report presents the results of a watching brief undertaken by CFA Archaeology Ltd (CFA) on 15 November 2012 at Smiddy Corner, Nenthorn, near Kelso, Scottish Borders (NGR: NT 68021 37402, Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Mr Robin Thomson.

A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) dated 2 October 2012 was produced by CFA and agreed by Dr Christopher Bowles, Scottish Borders Council Archaeologist.

### **1.2 Background**

Planning permission (ref. 12/01162/ERE) has been granted for the construction of new housing at Smiddy Corner, Nenthorn, Kelso. Due to its location within an archaeologically sensitive area a programme of archaeological works was attached to the consent. The first stage of the fieldwork will involve an archaeological evaluation in order to understand the archaeological potential of the site.

### **1.3 Objectives**

The project's aims and objectives are:

- To establish the presence/absence, extent, condition, character, quality and date of any archaeological features or deposits within the proposed development area through trial trenching evaluation;
- To establish the vulnerability of any archaeological features to the proposed development;
- To propose mitigation measures.

## **2. WORKING METHODS**

### **2.1 General**

CFA Archaeology Ltd follows the Institute for Archaeologists' Code of Conduct, Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Evaluations.

### **2.2 Archaeological Evaluation**

Three trial trenches were excavated and this was done to a strategy agreed with the Scottish Borders Council Archaeology Officer. The trenches covered 6% (150m<sup>2</sup>) of the development site (0.25ha).

All trenches were excavated by machine under direct archaeological supervision to remove topsoil and modern deposits down to subsoil or the first significant archaeological horizon, whichever was reached first. Any further excavation required to fulfil the objectives of the evaluation was carried out by hand.

The stratification of all excavated areas was recorded, whether or not significant archaeological deposits have been identified.

The locations of all trenches was recorded using industry standard electronic surveying equipment.

Trenches were backfilled on completion of excavation.

### 3. ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS

Three trenches were excavated during the evaluation, (Fig. 1-2). The numbers in bold and parentheses refer to contexts (Appendix 1).

#### 3.1 Trench 1

Trench 1 was T-shaped to cover the footprint of house plot 2. The north-south aligned part of the trench measured 10m long, 1.5m wide and 0.8m deep and the east-west aligned part was 15m long, 1.5m wide and 1m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.3–0.4m of topsoil (**001**) overlying between 0.3–0.5m of subsoil (**014**) and below this was the underlying natural clay geology (**000**). Only a single 19th-20th-century field drain was noted and no other archaeological deposits were observed in this trench.

#### 3.2 Trench 2

Trench 2 was aligned north-south and covered the line of the proposed service trench. It measured 20m long, 1.5m wide and 0.45m deep. The stratigraphy comprised of 0.4m of topsoil (**001**) directly overlying the natural geology (**000**). Four features (**002**, **004**, **005** and **008**) and a 19th-20th-century land drain (unexcavated) was found in this trench.

Pit **002** was located at the southern end of the trench. It was sub-oval in plan and measured 1.2m long, 1.05m wide and 0.39m deep. It contained brown-grey clay silt with occasional small rounded stone inclusions (**003**).

Pit **008** was located at the northern end of the trench. It was oval in plan and measured 1m long, 0.6m wide and 0.2m deep. It contained dark brown silty clay (**009**) with occasional charcoal inclusions and a single piece of bone.

Pits **004** and **005** were located between 5m and 6m from the northern end of the trench and were approximately 1m apart. Pit **004** measured 0.3m in diameter and 0.12m deep; it contained brown-grey clay silt (**006**), with no inclusions or finds. Pit **005** measured 0.4m in diameter and 0.14m deep; it contained brown-grey silt (**007**) with no inclusions or finds.

#### 3.3 Trench 3

Trench 3 was T-shaped to cover the footprint of house plot 1. The north-south aligned part measured 12.5m long, 3m wide and 0.4m deep and the east-west aligned part was 15m long, 3m wide and 1m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.35m of topsoil (**001**) directly overlying the natural clay geology (**000**). Two features were identified: a ditch (**010**) and a curvilinear feature (**012**).

Ditch **010** was aligned north-east/south-west and measured at least 2m long, 0.8m wide and 0.3m deep. The ditch contained sticky brown clay-silt (**011**) with frequent rounded stone inclusions. No artefacts were found within the ditch.

The curvilinear feature (012) was approximately aligned north-east/south-west and measured 3m long, 0.4m wide and 0.15m deep. It contained brown clay-silt (013) with two pieces of burnt bone and a single sherd of pottery.

### 3.4 The finds, by Sue Anderson

Finds were collected from two contexts, pit fill 009 and curvilinear feature fill 013. A brief catalogue is included in Appendix 3. A fragment of long bone shaft, possibly a sheep radius, was recovered from 009 and there were two pieces of white calcined animal bone from 013. One sooted body sherd of Scottish white gritty ware from a straight-sided Type 1 jar (Jones *et al* 2003) was found in 013, which is of 12th-century date.

## 4. CONCLUSION

The evaluation consisted of three trenches which were located on the two plots for the proposed houses and the line of the service trench. A total of six features were found: four of these (002, 004, 005 and 010) contained no finds and within the other two (008 and 012) were two pieces of burnt animal bone and a single piece of medieval pottery and animal bone respectively.

A summary statement of the results of this evaluation will be submitted for publication in *Discovery and Excavation in Scotland* (Appendix 3).

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.

## 5. REFERENCES

Jones, R, Will, B, Haggarty, G and Hall D, 2003, 'Sourcing Scottish white gritty ware', *Medieval Ceramics* 26–27, 45–84.

## APPENDIX 1: Context Register

Context No.	Description
000	Natural geology
001	Topsoil
002	Pit
003	Fill of 002
004	Small pit
005	Small pit
006	Fill of 004
007	Fill of 005
008	Pit
009	Fill of 008
010	Ditch
011	Fill of 010
012	Curvilinear feature
013	Fill of 012
014	Subsoil

## APPENDIX 2: Photographic Register (Digital)

No.	Description	From	Conditions
1	Trench 1 looking north	S	OC
2	Trench 1 looking west	E	OC
3	Trench 2 looking north	SW	Sun
4	Trench 3 looking west	E	Sun
5	Trench 3 looking north	S	OC
6	Cut 002 north west-facing section	NW	OC
7-8	Cut 004 south west-facing section	SW	OC
9-10	Cut 005 north west-facing section	NW	OC
11	Cut 008 south-facing section	S	OC
12	Cut 010 north east-facing section	NE	OC
13	Cut 012 northeast-facing section	NE	OC

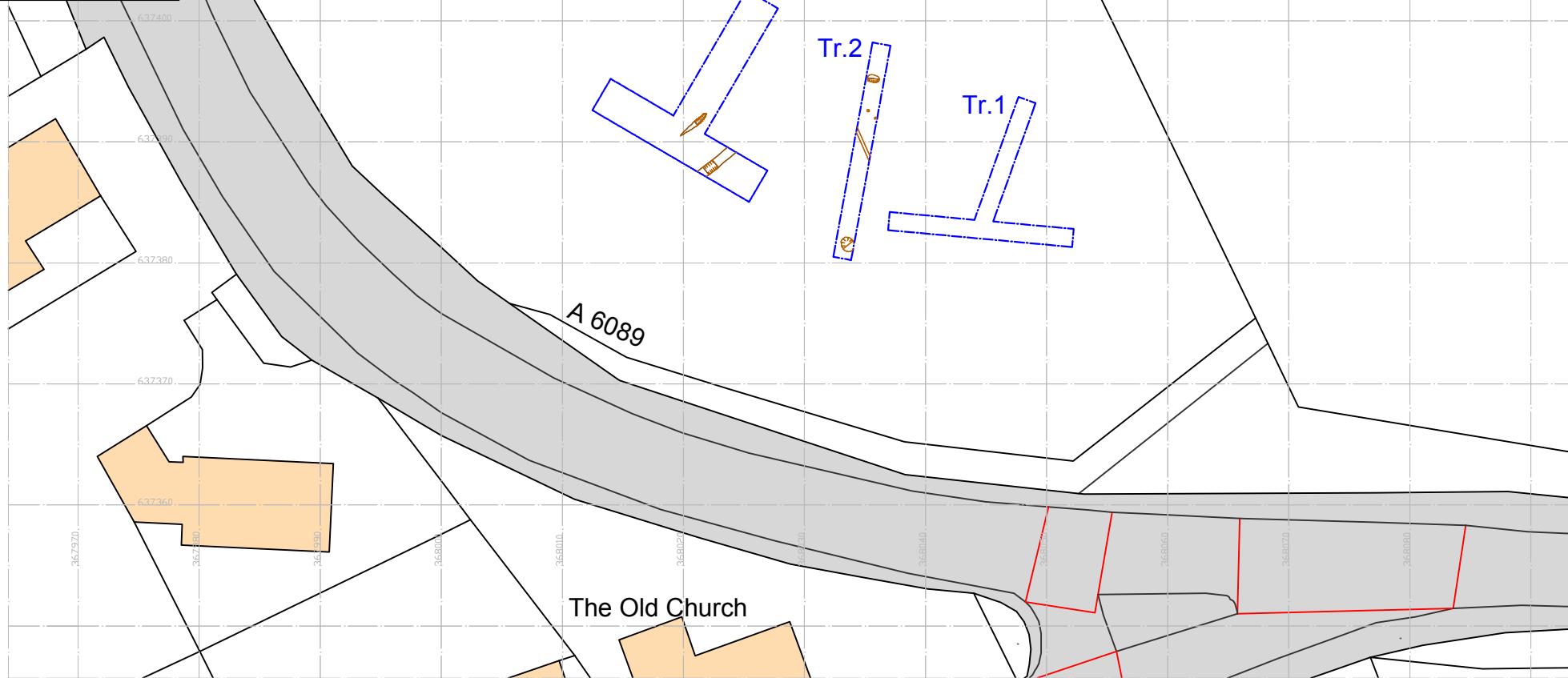
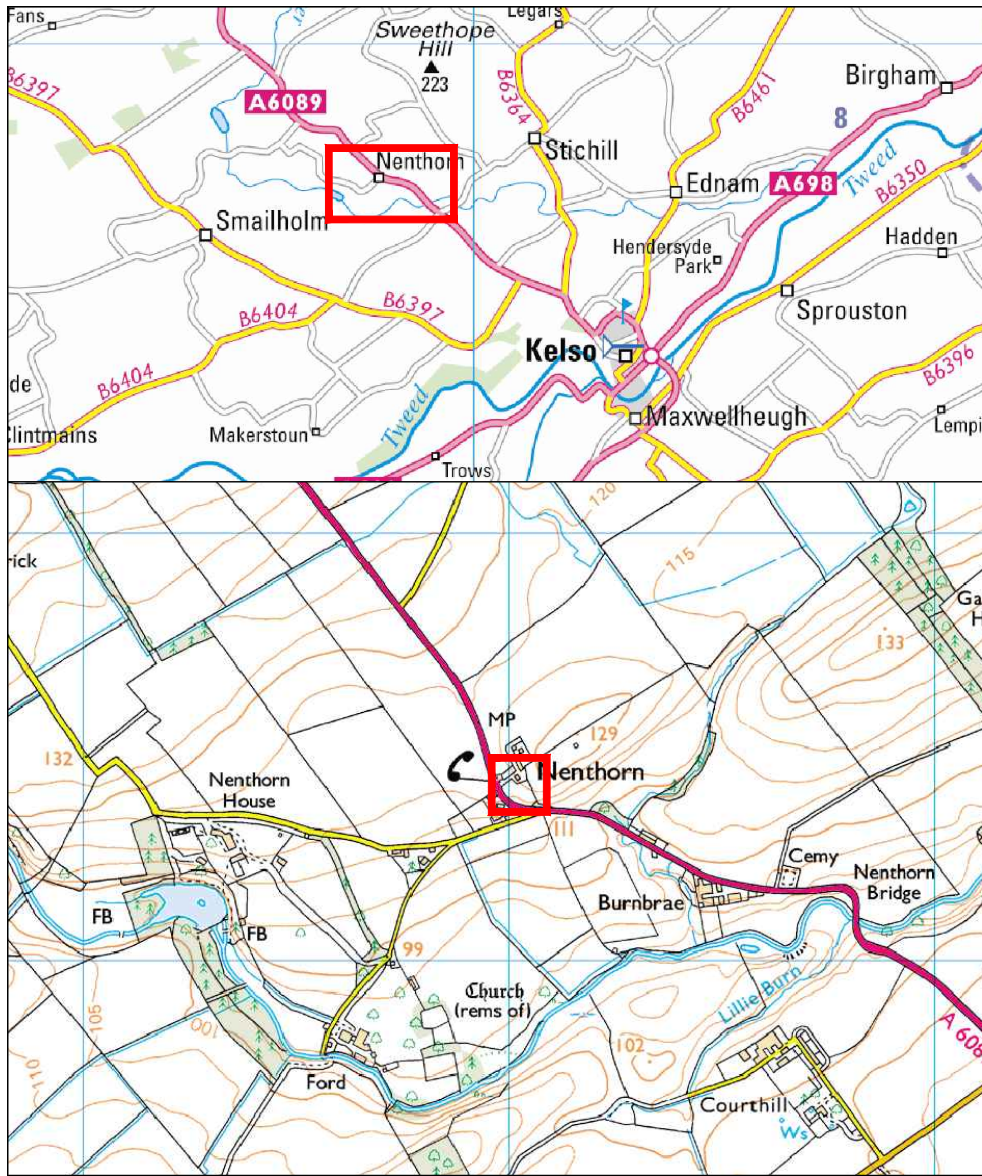
## APPENDIX 3: Finds

Context	Find type	No	Wt (g)	Notes	Date
009	Bone	1	4	fragment of medium mammal long bone shaft (?sheep radius)	-
013	Pot	1	9	sooted body sherd of Scottish white gritty ware, probably from a Type 1 straight-sided jar	12th c.
013	Bone	2	4	calcined fragments of animal bone	-



## APPENDIX 4: Discovery and Excavation in Scotland Entry

<b>LOCAL AUTHORITY:</b>	Scottish Borders Council
<b>PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:</b>	Smiddy Corner, Nenthorn, Kelso
<b>PROJECT CODE:</b>	SMIC
<b>PARISH:</b>	Nenthorn
<b>NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:</b>	James Lewis
<b>NAME OF ORGANISATION:</b>	CFA Archaeology Ltd
<b>TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:</b>	Archaeological Evaluation
<b>NMRS NO(S):</b>	N/A
<b>SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):</b>	N/A
<b>SIGNIFICANT FINDS:</b>	N/A
<b>NGR (2 letters, 10 figures)</b>	NT 68021 37402
<b>START DATE (this season)</b>	15 November 2012
<b>END DATE (this season)</b>	15 November 2012
<b>PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)</b>	N/A
<b>MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION:</b> (May include information from other fields)	An evaluation was undertaken at Nenthorn which consisted of three trenches, located on the plots for the proposed houses and the line of the service trench. The evaluation uncovered four pits, one ditch and a curvilinear feature. Only the ditch and the curvilinear feature contained finds, which consisted of three pieces of animal bone and sherd of 12th-century White Gritty Ware pottery.
<b>PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:</b>	N/A
<b>CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:</b>	N/A
<b>SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:</b>	Mr Robin Thomson
<b>ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:</b>	The Old Engine House, Eskmills Park, Musselburgh, EH21 7PQ
<b>EMAIL ADDRESS:</b>	cfa@cfa-archaeology.co.uk
<b>ARCHIVE LOCATION (intended/deposited)</b>	Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historic Monuments of Scotland Scottish Borders Council Sites and Monuments Record



Key:  
 Evaluation Trenches

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Fig. No: 1      Revision: A

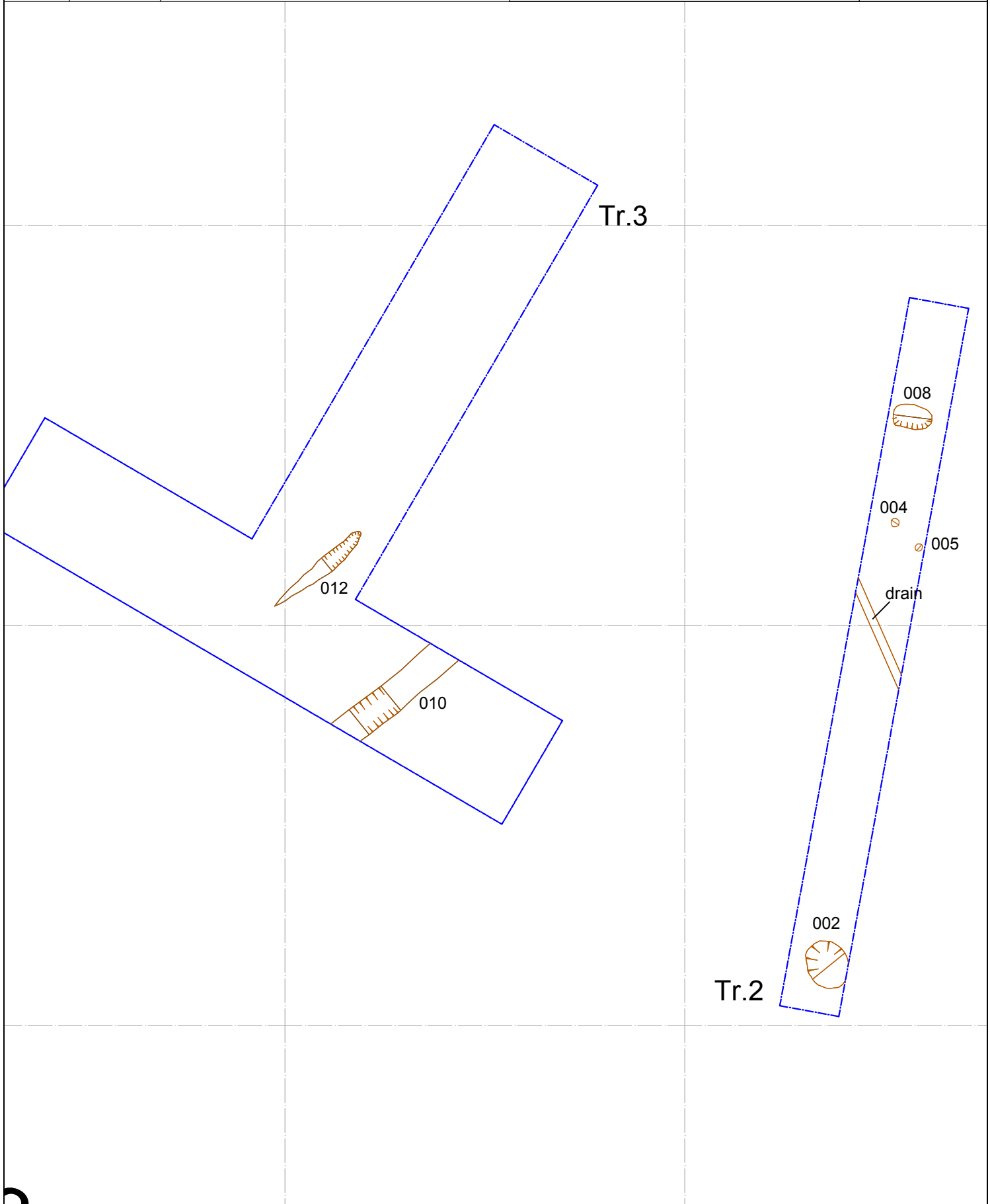
Title:  
**Site location and location of evaluation trenches**

Project:  
**Smiddy Cornerfield, Nenthorn, Kelso, Roxburghshires**


Client:  
**Mr Robin Thomson**

Scale at A3:  
**1:500**





Key:



Scale at A4:  
1:125

Fig No: 2	Revision: 0	Client: Mr Robin Thomson
Title: Plan of Trenches 2&3		
Project: Smiddy Cornerfield, Nenthorn, Kelso, Roxburghshire		



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	Drawn by: GC	Checked: LW



Fig.3 : Trench 2 looking north



Fig.4 : Trench 3 looking north

Fig. No: <b>3-4</b>		Revision: <b>A</b>	Project: Smiddy Corner Field, Nenthorn, Kelso, Roxburghshire			<b>CFA ARCHAEOLOGY LTD</b> The Old Engine House Eskmills Park, Musselburgh East Lothian, Eh21 7PQ
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Fig.5 : North-west-facing section of 002



Fig.6 : South-facing section of 008





Fig. No: <b>5-6</b>		Revision: <b>A</b>	Project: Smiddy Corner Field, Nenthorn, Kelso, Roxburghshire			<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
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Fig.7 : North-east-facing section of 010



Fig.8 : North-east-facing section of 012

Fig. No: <b>7-8</b>		Revision: <b>A</b>	Project: Smiddy Corner Field, Nenthorn, Kelso, Roxburghshire			<b>CFA ARCHAEOLOGY LTD</b> The Old Engine House Eskmills Park, Musselburgh East Lothian, Eh21 7PQ
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