

# CFA Archaeology Ltd

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

**Archaeological Watching Brief**

**Report No. 3048**

 0131 273 4380

 0131 273 4381

 [info@cfa-archaeology.co.uk](mailto:info@cfa-archaeology.co.uk)

 [www.cfa-archaeology.co.uk](http://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)

Author	Rebecca Hunt MA AIfA
Illustrator	Shelly Werner BSc MPhil PhD
Editor	Melanie Johnson MA PhD FSA Scot MIfA
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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 8 June 2013 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 22 February 2013 was produced by CFA.

### **1.2 Background**

A condition for an archaeological watching brief has been secured against the development of new housing at Smiddy Corner, Nenthorn. A previous phase of evaluation on the site identified potential archaeological remains (Lewis 2012) so a watching brief was requested on all groundbreaking. The work covered by this report was for the installation of services.

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.

### **1.3 Objectives**

The project's aims and objectives are:

- To conduct an appropriate programme of archaeological investigation (watching brief) to monitor all groundbreaking works
- To further establish the presence/absence, extent, condition, character, quality and date of any archaeological features or deposits within the proposed development area
- 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 Watching Brief**

All ground breaking works whether by mechanical excavator or hand tools were monitored.

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 watching brief was carried out by hand.

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.

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

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

### **3. ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS**

The numbers in bold and parentheses refer to contexts (Appendix 1).

#### **3.1 Main Water Pipe**

Trench for the main water pipe ran north-west, turning west-north-west then to the west and measured 46.5m long, 0.4m wide on the ground surface, tapering down to 0.2m wide at the base, to depth of 0.75m (Fig. 2). The stratigraphy comprised of 0.3m of topsoil (**001**) overlying the natural geology (**000**), which was excavated to a depth of 0.3m. No archaeological deposits were revealed.

#### **3.2 Access Road 1**

Access Road 1 followed the curve of the western edge of the site. Only the topsoil (**001**) was stripped in an area measuring 13m long, 5m wide and 0.25m deep (Fig. 5). No archaeological deposits were revealed.

#### **3.3 Access Road 1b**

Access Road 1b was a continuation of Access Road 1. It measured 5.4m long, 2-5m wide and 0.1-0.4m deep. The stratigraphy comprised of 0.4m of topsoil (**001**) at its deepest point in the western edge, where a small area of natural (**000**) was uncovered to reveal no archaeological deposits.

#### **3.4 Access Road 2**

The trench for Access Road 2 was aligned north-east/south-west, leading to house plot 2. It measured 12m long, 3.7m wide and was 0.3m deep in the north and 0.2m deep in the south (Fig. 3). The stratigraphy comprised of 0.2-0.3m of topsoil (**001**), overlying the natural geology (**000**). The natural was undisturbed and no archaeological deposits were revealed. The trench was filled with Type 2 hardcore.

#### **3.5 Service Box**

The trench for the service box was located immediately west of Access Road 2. It measured 3.5m long, 1.5m wide and 0.3m deep (Fig. 4). The stratigraphy comprised of 0.2m of topsoil (**001**) overlying the natural geology (**000**). No archaeological deposits were revealed.

#### **3.6 Electric Cable Trench A**

Trench A was aligned north-south and measured 6m long, 0.4m wide at the ground surface, tapering to 0.2m wide at the base, and 0.5m deep (Fig. 6). The stratigraphy comprised of 0.3m of topsoil (**001**) overlying the natural geology (**000**), which was excavated to a depth of 0.3m and no archaeological deposits were revealed. Trench A and B (see below) were truncated by evaluation trench 2.

### **3.8 Electric Cable Trench B**

Trench B was aligned north-west/south-east and measured 6m long, 0.4m wide at the ground surface, tapering to 0.2m wide at the base, and 0.5m deep. The stratigraphy comprised of 0.3m of topsoil (**001**) overlying the natural geology (**000**), which was excavated to a depth of 0.3m and no archaeological deposits were revealed.

## **4. CONCLUSION**

The watching brief comprised of seven trenches relating to the installation of various services mentioned above. The stratigraphy throughout revealed topsoil (**001**) to a depth of 0.2-0.4m, overlying the natural geology (**000**). No archaeological deposits were revealed during this watching brief. Both electric cable trenches A and B were truncated by evaluation trench 2 from the previous stage of work.

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**

Lewis, J 2012 *Smiddy Corner, Nenthorn, Kelso, Scottish Borders. Archaeological Evaluation*. CFA Archaeology Ltd Report No. 2150.

## APPENDIX 1: Context Register

Context No.	Description
000	Natural geology
001	Topsoil

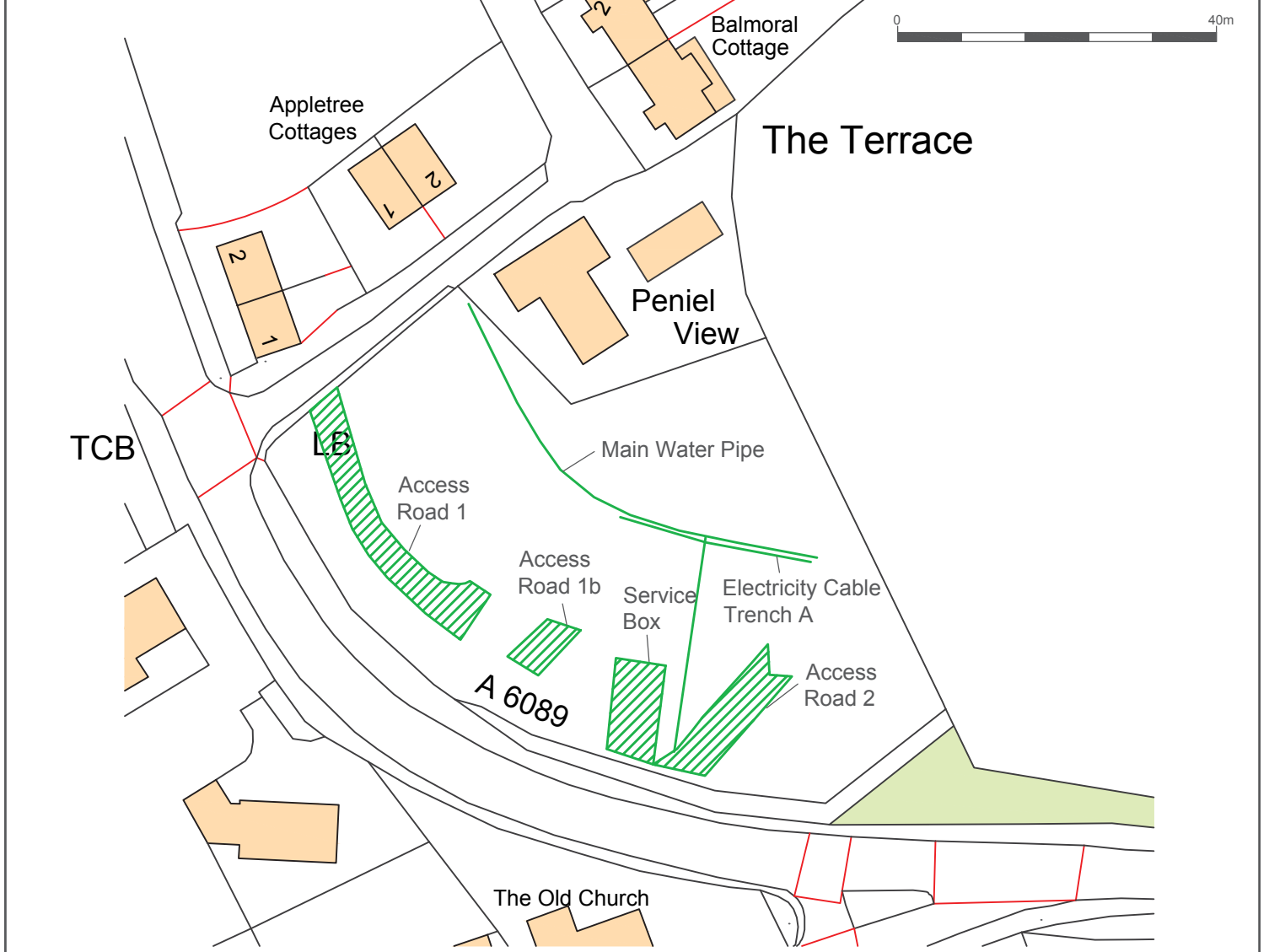
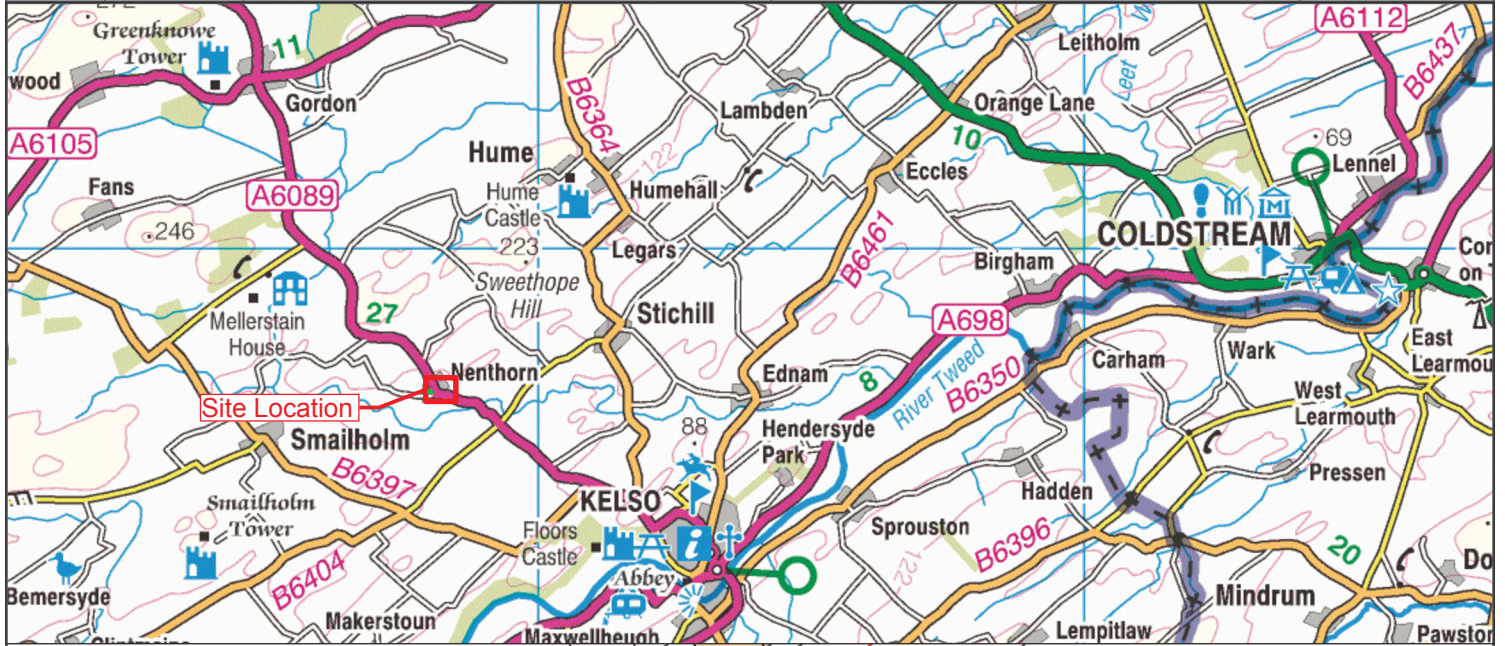
## APPENDIX 2: Photographic Register (Digital)

No.	Description	From	Conditions
1	Water Pipe running north-west	SE	Sunny
2	Water Pipe running west-north-west	ESE	Sunny
3	Water Pipe running west	E	Sunny
4	East-facing Section	E	Sunny
5	Access Road 2	E	Sunny
6	Service Box	NE	Sunny
7	Access Road 1b	SW	Sunny
8	Access Road 1	NW	Sunny
9	Electricity Cable Trench A	SE	Sunny
10	Electricity Cable Trench B	SE	Sunny



### APPENDIX 3: 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>	Rebecca Hunt
<b>NAME OF ORGANISATION:</b>	CFA Archaeology Ltd
<b>TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:</b>	Archaeological Watching Brief
<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>	8 June 2013
<b>END DATE (this season)</b>	8 June 2012
<b>PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)</b>	N/A
<b>MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION:</b> (May include information from other fields)	A watching brief was undertaken at Nenthorn which consisted of monitoring the excavation of seven trenches for the installation of various services in association with proposed housing plots. The watching brief revealed no archaeological deposits.
<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



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Key:  
 Watching Brief areas



Fig No: 1 Revision: 0 Client: Mr. Robin Thomson

Title: Location Map

Project: Smiddy Corner, Nenthorn

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

Scale at A4: 1:800

Drawn by: SW Checked: MJ Report No: 3048



Fig. 2 - Water pipe excavated, from SE



Fig. 3 - Access road 2, from E



Fig. 4 - Service box, from NE



Fig. 5 - Access road 1, from NW



Fig. 6 - Electricity cable trench A, from SE

Fig. No: <b>2-6</b>		Revision: <b>A</b>	Project: <b>Smiddy Corner, Nenthorn</b>
Drawn by: <b>SW</b>	Checked: <b>MJ</b>	Report No: <b>3048</b>	Client: <b>Mr. Robin Thomson</b>



**CFA**  
ARCHAEOLOGY LTD

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The Old Engine House  
Eskmills Park, Musselburgh  
East Lothian, EH21 7PQ

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F: 0131 273 4381  
e: info@cfa-archaeology.co.uk  
w: www.cfa-archaeology.co.uk

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