

# CFA Archaeology Ltd

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*Geophysical Survey*

**Stonehouse, Sprouston, Kelso,  
Scottish Borders**

**Archaeological Watching Brief**

**Data Structure Report  
No. 2169**

## **CFA ARCHAEOLOGY LTD**

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## **1. INTRODUCTION**

### **1.1 General**

This report presents the results of an Archaeological Watching Brief undertaken by CFA Archaeology Ltd at Stonehouse, Sprouston, near Kelso, Scottish Borders (NGR: NT 7564 3537; Fig. 1) between October 2012 and March 2013. The work was commissioned by Roxburghe Estates.

Planning Permissions have been granted by Scottish Borders Council for alterations and extension to Stonehouse Cottage, including a revised access from the B6350, new boundary wall and garden improvements, erection of a detached garage/store and alterations to outbuildings to form annexe accommodation. A condition for an archaeological watching brief on ground breaking has been secured against the permissions and a Brief for this work was produced by Dr Chris Bowles of Scottish Borders Council Archaeology Service (SBCAS).

A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) was produced by CFA and agreed by Dr Bowles prior to the fieldwork

### **1.2 Background**

Stonehouse Cottage is located within the medieval core of Sprouston. Both the nearby church and the village itself are first mentioned in charters from the 12<sup>th</sup> century although the settlement is likely to be considerably older. The site of an Anglo-Saxon settlement to the north of the village may have formed the early nucleus, with the village gradually moving to its present location by the medieval period.

Recent excavations to the south of the church have confirmed an earlier medieval date for at least one phase of occupation. There is a possibility that a significant medieval house, or possibly a castle, was located at Sprouston as the residence of King William the Lion's daughter, Margaret, and his son in law, Eustace de Vescy. The whereabouts of this house are unknown.

In addition to this, there have been a number of prehistoric finds and features in the vicinity of the village over the years. Prehistoric archaeology could therefore survive within the development area.

Historical maps show a number of buildings within the development area. A single roofed structure is shown as lying between Sprouston Cottage and the Manse to the north and what may be a row of roofed buildings are shown to the east, parallel to the road but set back from it.

A previous watching brief was undertaken in 2011 during excavations for a new garage building and a cable trench (Suddaby & McCaig 2011). The unmortared linear features of small-medium rounded stones recorded in the open excavation area for the garage appeared to represent the foundations of the walls of the south-westernmost building of the row of roofed buildings recorded on the 1863 Ordnance Survey First Edition 25 inch map. Within the interior of the building a sandy gravel was deposited, followed by a clay surface. The exterior of the building to the north-west appeared to

have been landscaped, with an area of paving and adjacent upright stones which may have been steps.

The earliest features in the cable trench were a wall and culvert formed from schist. This wall is not depicted on historic maps. The red sandstone mortared walls recorded in the cable trench appeared to be the remains of a NW-SE aligned roofed building recorded on the 1863 Ordnance Survey First Edition 25-inch map. The building is still depicted on the 1898 Second Edition map and by 1921 the map indicated the building had been remodelled. The building is not depicted in 1970.

### **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.
- To mitigate the effects of construction on any archaeological deposits or features identified through excavation and recording and produce a report on them.

## **2. METHODS**

### **2.1 General**

CFA follows the Institute for Archaeologists' Standards and Guidance and Code of Conduct.

### **2.2 Watching Brief**

All ground breaking work was monitored by an archaeologist down to natural subsoil or formation level. All excavation was undertaken using either a rubber tracked 360° degree mechanical excavator or with hand tools.

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

### 3. ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS

#### 3.1 General

In the text below, context numbers are in bold and parentheses. These are further described in Appendix 1.

#### 3.2 Conservatory Area

The conservatory covered an area of 71.25m<sup>2</sup> and was stripped in two phases; the first was the removal of the topsoil (**062**) which revealed a red-brown soil with frequent stone inclusions, pieces of broken ceramic drain and the denuded remains of a wall (**50**) (Fig. 1).

The second phase was the excavation of three foundation trenches (1-3) to formation level, the results of which are described below (Fig. 2). A number of archaeological features and deposits were observed within the foundation trenches.

Due to the slope of the ground surface, formation depth was variable, reaching 0.7m below existing ground surface to the SE in Trench 3 and 0.1m below existing ground surface to the NW in Trench 1. Natural was not reached apart from in Trench 3 and the southerly part of Trench 2.

##### *Wall 50*

A NW-SE aligned boundary wall (**50**) was recorded c.0.2m below the existing ground level and measured 2.8m long and 0.2m in height, and was truncated at the NW end. It consisted of irregular grey-blue schist stone, bonded within a mortar matrix. This was of similar construction to a demolished boundary wall previously recorded in the watching brief (wall **008** in Suddaby & McCaig 2011). This wall was removed before it could be recorded in detail but its location is indicated on Fig. 2 and is photographed in Fig. 6.

##### *Wall 51*

During the removal of a spoil heap, a NNW-SSE alignment of stones was recorded (**51**). This measured 4m long and c.0.3m wide (Fig. 7). It was constructed of un-bonded flat and rounded schist stones and there was no evidence of a foundation cut. This feature could be the remains of a wall. It lay outside of the foundation trenches and this area was not subject to any further ground reduction and so it was preserved in situ following recording.

##### *Trench 1*

A small rubble drain (**52**) was recorded; this comprised of un-bonded stones set firmly within the reddish-brown clay natural (Fig. 8). The drain overlay a wall (**53**) and this was constructed of large flat rough sandstones, bonded with reddish-brown clay (Fig. 9). The wall appeared to run parallel with wall **51**; however, unlike that wall this was bonded and better constructed. Overlying this wall was a thin deposit of rounded

pebbles (57). As formation level had been reached, no further excavation took place and the features were preserved in situ following recording.

### *Trench 2*

A deposit (54) of small to medium sized stones was recorded underlying a later stone deposit (55). Deposit 55 was comprised of sub-rounded and sub-angular stones and it ran perpendicular to the Manse wall (Fig. 4). These deposits are likely to be demolition debris as they did not form any coherent structure.

Wall 56 was aligned NE-SW and measured 1m wide. It was constructed of large stones which were bonded with reddish-brown sandy mortar. As formation level had been reached, no further excavation took place and the features were preserved in situ following recording.

### *Trench 3*

Feature 59 appears to be a culvert which has been found elsewhere on site (Feature 019, Suddaby & McCaig 2011). It was constructed of red sandstone blocks and was recorded to a depth of 0.6m (Fig. 5).

Feature 61 is recorded as a large irregular boulder, and may relate to demolition debris from wall 50 as it sat quite high in the section (Fig. 5).

A number of modern utility services were recorded (58, 60).

## **3.3 Test Pit One**

A small test pit was excavated in the garden, which measured 1.2m long, 1m wide and reached a maximum depth of 1.1m. The stratigraphy comprised of 0.3m of topsoil (062), overlying 0.8m of red-brown silty clay loam (063). Below this was the natural geology of orange-brown sand and gravels (064). The only finds were from the topsoil and these comprised of sherds of flowerpot and pieces of red brick.

#### 4. CONCLUSION

The Watching Brief uncovered a small number potential structural remains, including several walls, a culvert and a rubble drain.

The first edition 25" Ordnance Survey map (1863) shows a path lying to the north-east of the manse and a property boundary wall to the adjoining property. It seems likely that walls **50** and **53** could form the remnants of this boundary wall, and that rubble drain **52** ran along the edge of the path. The second edition 25" Ordnance Survey map (1898) shows an outbuilding built up against the boundary wall and an additional boundary within the development area running NE-SW: these don't appear to be represented by any of the archaeological remains found but could account for some of the demolition rubble, and other garden walls, landscaping and outbuildings may have been present within the development area. It seems likely that the vestigial remains recorded during the watching brief are 19th century in date. The majority of these remains are preserved in situ beneath the footprint of the conservatory.

A summary statement of the results of the evaluation, to be submitted for publication in *Discovery and Excavation in Scotland 2013* (Appendix 4) and OASIS, will be sufficient to disseminate the results of the work.

In line with the Written Scheme of Investigation, copies of the report will be lodged with the Scottish Borders Council Sites and Monuments Record and the National Monuments Record of Scotland.

#### 5. REFERENCES

Suddaby, I and McCaig, A *Stonehouse Cottage, Sprouston, Kelso, Scottish Borders. Archaeological Watching Brief*. CFA Archaeology Ltd Data Structure Report No. 1940.



## APPENDIX 1: Context Register

Context No.	Description
50	NW-SE aligned wall, truncated remains of schist boundary wall
51	NE-SW aligned wall (turns SW)
52	Loose stone deposit
53	NW-SE aligned wall
54	Stone deposit
55	SW terminus of 051
56	Stone deposit
57	Layer of medium pebbles
58	Utility service
59	Sandstone culvert
60	3 lead water pipes at depth of 0.57m. Parallel to manse
61	Large boulder, possibly demolition debris from wall 050
62	Topsoil
63	Subsoil
64	Natural Geology sand and gravels

## APPENDIX 2: Digital Photograph Register

Photo No.	Description	From
1-5	General view of conservatory area	various
8	Wall <b>50</b>	SE
10	Wall <b>50</b>	NE
12	Exposed wall <b>51</b>	S
13	Wall <b>51</b>	SW
14	General shot of cleaned area	W
15	Packed medium sized stones on east and West side of wall <b>51</b>	W
16	Location of trenches	W
17	South section of site- pre trenching	SW
19	Stone deposit at N end of <b>51</b> , note different colour & composition	SSE
20	Feature <b>52</b>	SSE
21	Trench 1 with feature <b>52</b> and step down	W
22	Trench showing feature <b>53</b>	S
23	Trench 1, step down exposed lower course of stones	SSE
24	Corner of Trench 1 & 2, showing <b>53</b> , <b>54</b> and <b>55</b>	SSE
25	Trench 2, showing part of <b>53</b> , <b>54</b> , <b>55</b> and <b>56</b>	NNW
26	Corner of Trench 1 & 2 and wall <b>51</b>	NW
27	Features <b>56</b> & <b>57</b>	W
28-29	General shot of Trench 1 and 2	S
30	Trench 3, note step down and large stones in section	S
31	Modern pipes and Culvert <b>58</b> , <b>59</b> & <b>60</b>	W
33	Extensions to Trenches 2 & 3 both displaying clean river gravels	E
34	Junction of trenches 2 & 3	SSE
35	Trench 3 step down	W

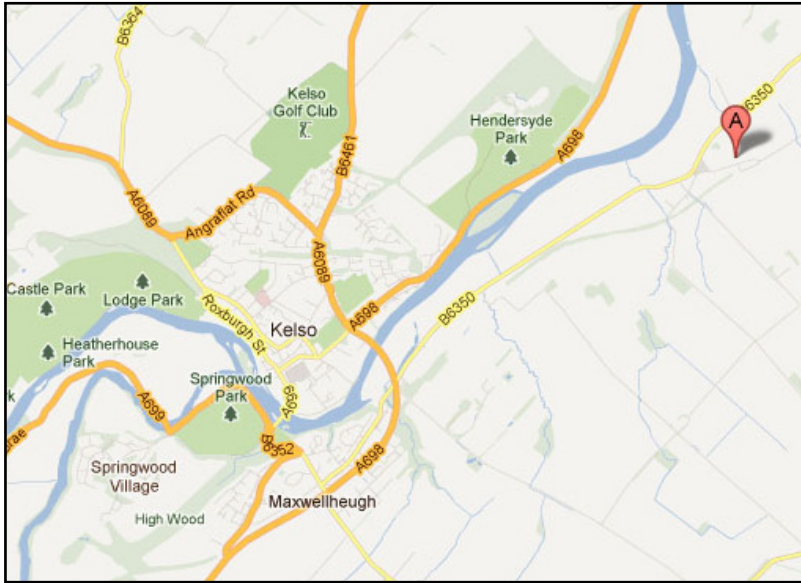
### APPENDIX 3: Drawings Register

Drawing No.	Sheet	Scale	Description
1	1	1:50	Foundation plan
2	2	1:20	NW-facing section of Trench 1
3	2	1:20	NE-facing section of Trench 2
4	2	1:20	NW-facing section of Trench 3

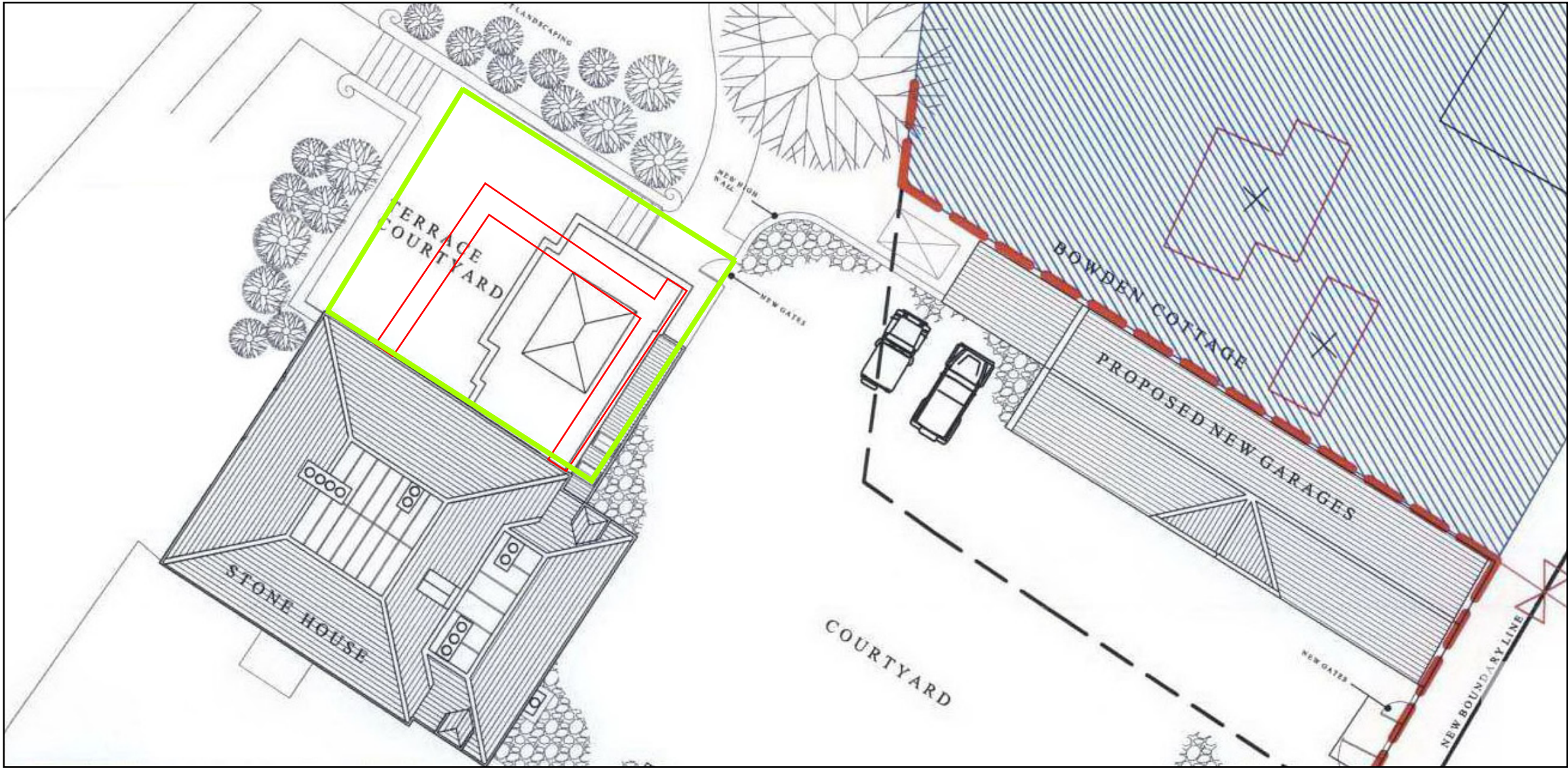
### APPENDIX 4: Discovery and Excavation in Scotland Entry

<b>LOCAL AUTHORITY:</b>	Scottish Borders Council
<b>PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:</b>	Stonehouse Cottage, Sprouston, Kelso, Scottish Borders
<b>PROJECT CODE:</b>	STOH
<b>PARISH:</b>	Sprouston
<b>NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:</b>	Jamie Lewis
<b>NAME OF ORGANISATION:</b>	CFA Archaeology Ltd
<b>TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:</b>	Watching Brief
<b>NMRS NO(S):</b>	-
<b>SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):</b>	-
<b>SIGNIFICANT FINDS:</b>	None
<b>NGR (2 letters, 6 figures)</b>	NT 7564 3537
<b>START DATE (this season)</b>	?
<b>END DATE (this season)</b>	?
<b>PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)</b>	Suddaby 2013
<b>MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION:</b> (May include information from other fields)	A Watching Brief was carried out at Stonehouse, Sprouston during ground breaking works for construction of a new conservatory. A small number of potential structural remains were uncovered, including several walls, a culvert and a rubble drain. It seems likely that the vestigial remains recorded during the watching brief are 19th century in date and relate to former boundary walls, paths and other garden features. The majority of these remains are preserved in situ beneath the footprint of the conservatory.
<b>PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:</b>	-
<b>CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:</b>	-
<b>SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:</b>	Roxburghe Estates
<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.





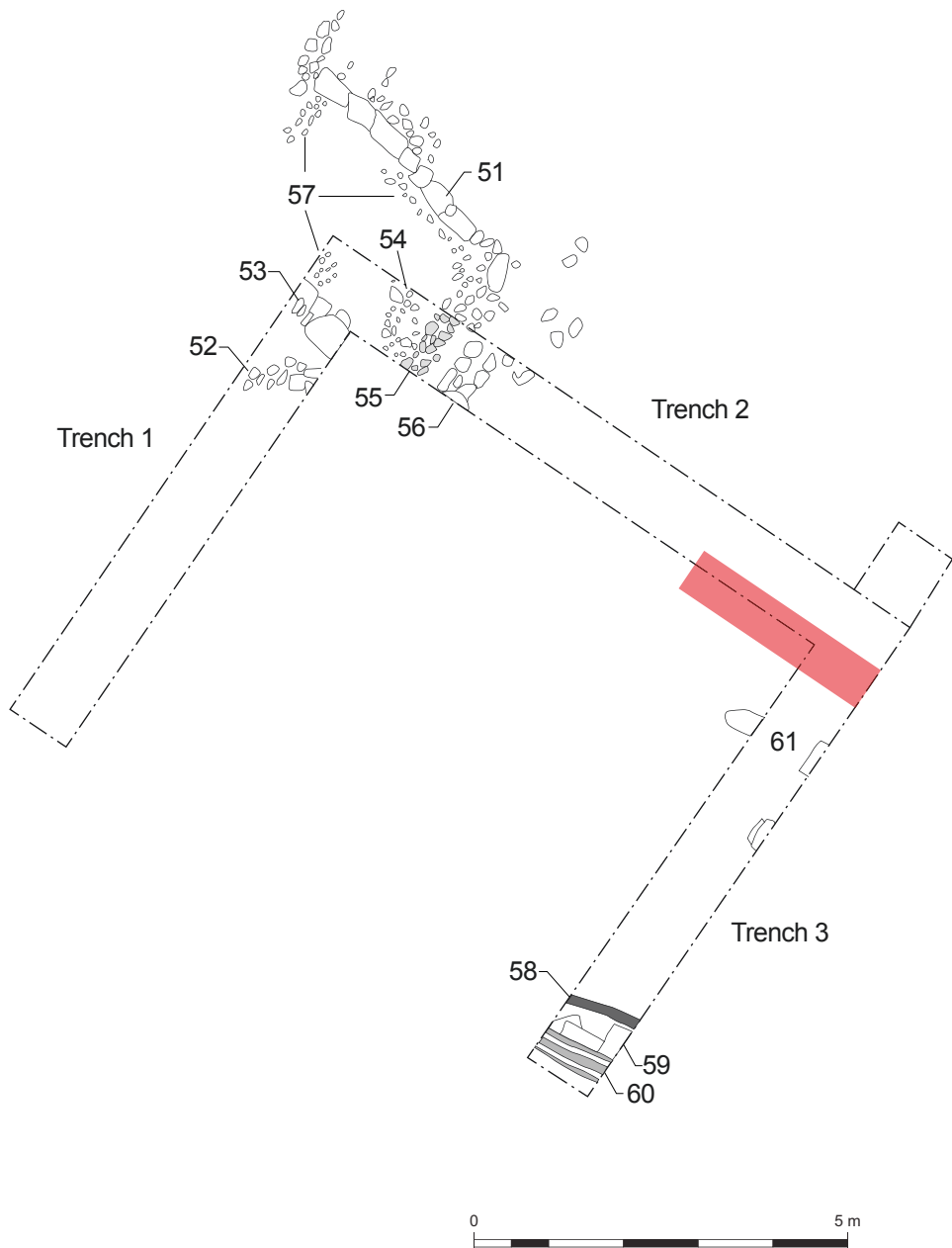
- Key
- Foundation trenches
  - Watching brief area



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Fig. No:	1	Revision	A
Title			
Location plan and site plan showing area of the development covered by the watching brief			
Project			
Stonehouse, Sprouston, Kelso, Scottish Borders			
Scale at A3			
1:200			
Client			
Roxburghe Estates			
Drawn by:	Checked by:	Report No:	
SW	MJ	2169	





Key:

Line of wall 050



Scale at A4: 1:100

Fig. No:

2

Revision:

A

Client:

Roxburghe Estates

Title:

Plan showing the location of the foundation trenches and archaeological deposits

Project:

Stonehouse, Sprouston, Kelso, Scottish Borders



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Drawn by:

SW

Checked:

MJ

Report No:

2169

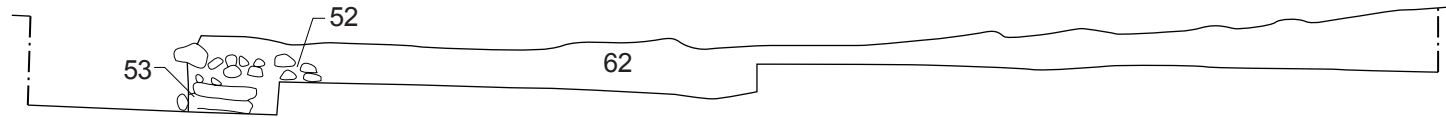


Fig. 3 - NW-facing section of Trench 1

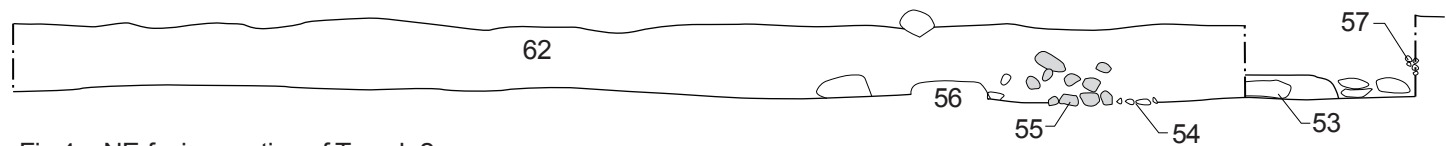


Fig 4. - NE-facing section of Trench 2

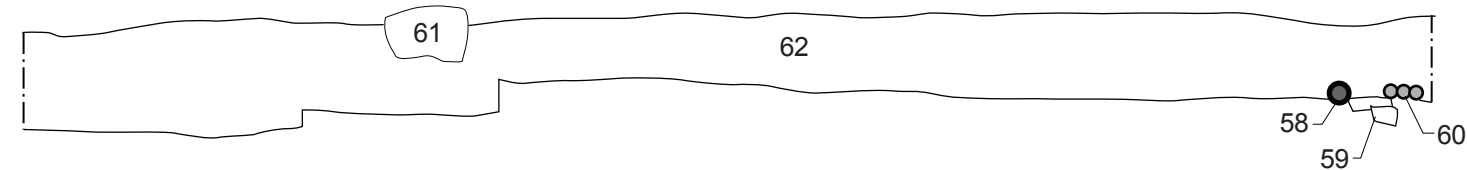


Fig. 5 - NW-facing section of Trench 3



Key:		Fig. No:	3-5	Revision:	A	Client:	Roxburghe Estates
		Title:					
		Project:					
Scale at A4:		1:40					
		Stonehouse, Sprouston, Kelso, Scottish Borders					
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Drawn by:		Checked:		Report No:			
SW		MJ		2169			



Fig. 6 - Wall 50



Fig. 7 - Possible wall 51 prior to excavation of foundation trenches







Fig. 8 - Photo showing Trench 1 and feature 52 (facing south-west)



Fig. 9 - General shot of Trench 1 and 2 (facing south-east)

Fig. No: 8-9		Revision: A	Project: Stonehouse, Sprouston, Kelso, Scottish Borders				<div>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</div>
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