

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

**Summerhouse
Torsonce Mansion House
Stow
Scottish Borders**

Archaeological Watching Brief

Report No. 3116

 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
web: www.cfa-archaeology.co.uk

Author	Magnus Kirby MA FSA Scot AIfA
Illustrator	Tamlin Barton MA
Editor	Bruce Glendinning BSc PGDip MifA
Commissioned by	Ms Sharon-Anne Young
Date issued	January 2014
Version	0
OASIS Reference	cfaarcha1 -168388
Planning Application No	13/00453/FUL
Grid Ref	NT 45592 43412

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

**Summerhouse
Torsonce Mansion House
Stow
Scottish Borders**

Archaeological Watching Brief

Report No. 3116

CONTENTS

1.	Introduction	3
2.	Working Methods	4
3.	Archaeological Results	4
4.	Conclusion and Recommendations	5
5.	References	6

Appendices

1.	Photographic Register	7
2.	Context Register	7
3.	Discovery and Excavation in Scotland Entry	8

Illustrations (bound at rear)

Fig. 1	Location map showing area monitored
Fig. 2	Development area from SW following soil stripping
Fig. 3	Development area from NE following soil stripping

1. INTRODUCTION

This report presents the results of an archaeological watching brief undertaken in December 2013 during ground-works for a summerhouse at Torsonce Mansion House, Stow, Scottish Borders (NGR: NT 45592 43412) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Ms Sharon-Anne Young (Ms Young)

A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) dated 09 December 2013 for this programme of works was produced by CFA on behalf of Ms Young. The WSI was designed to meet the requirements of the Scottish Borders Council Archaeologist.

1.2 Background

Planning Permission (13/00453/FUL) has been granted for the construction of a summerhouse at Torsonce Mansion House, Stow. The planning permission was subject to an archaeological condition requiring a watching brief on the ground-works.

Torsonce House is understood to date from the early to mid-19th century, but is believed to occupy the site of a late medieval tower (Torsonce Castle). An entry in the New Statistical Account (NSA 1845) suggests that part of the original tower may have been incorporated into the current house, but there is no evidence to substantiate this report. The tower was most probably enclosed by a barmkin wall, which is also likely to have enclosed a variety of other structures. Further structures may have existed outwith the barmkin forming a small hamlet around the tower. This phenomenon is known from other contemporary towers such as Smailholm. Consequently, it was considered possible that evidence for buildings and other activities may have survived as buried features within the development area.

Torsonce appears on Roy's Military Map (c.1750) as enclosed wooded estate land, with the general area being annotated *Torsons hill*, while on the First Edition Ordnance Survey map (1854) the current house is depicted and annotated *Torsonce on the site of Torsonce Castle*. Roy's reference to *Torsons Hill* suggests that the name Torsonce may be derived from the Norse name Torson or Thorson (son of Thor).

1.2 Objectives

The objectives of the programme of archaeological works were

- To conduct an appropriate programme of archaeological investigation (Watching Brief) to monitor topsoil stripping.
- to mitigate the effects of construction on any archaeological deposits or features identified through excavation and recording and produce a report on them.

2. WORKING METHODS

2.1 General

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

2.2 Watching Brief

An area measuring 4.5m ENE-WSW by 3.8m transversely (Fig.2 and 3) was soil stripped for the summerhouse foundations using a 360° tracked mini-digger equipped with a smooth-bladed ditching bucket. This operation was carried out under constant archaeological supervision.

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, photography and by completing standard CFA record forms.

3. ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS

3.1 Watching Brief

The deposits within this area consisted of up to 0.3m of dark/mid-brown silty-clay topsoil (**001**) and up to 0.2m of mid-brown silty-clay subsoil (**002**) overlying orange-yellow clay natural (**000**). Two rubble drains were identified aligned NE to SW. These measured 0.3m in width and were located 2m apart. There were no features, deposits or artefacts of archaeological significance identified.

4. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

An archaeological watching-brief was carried out during ground-works for a summerhouse at Torsonce House, Stow. Torsonce House is understood to occupy the location of an earlier late medieval tower known as Torsonce Castle. The watching brief did not identify any features, deposits or artefacts of archaeological significance.

CFA does not recommend any further archaeological work in relation to this programme of works. However the final decision on any further mitigation measures lies with the Scottish Borders Council Archaeology Service.

The project archive, comprising all CFA record sheets, maps and reports, will be deposited with the RCAHMS and copies of reports will be lodged with the Scottish Borders Council Sites and Monuments Record.

A summary statement to be submitted for publication in *Discovery and Excavation in Scotland* (Appendix 3) will be sufficient to disseminate the results of this programme of works.

5. REFERENCES

Bibliographic

NSA (1834-1845) *The new statistical account of Scotland by the ministers of the respective parishes under the superintendence of a committee of the society for the benefit of the sons and daughters of the clergy* Vol.1 (Edinburgh) p.418

Cartographic

Ordnance Survey 1st Edition 6" 1854 *Edinburghshire Sheet 25*

Roy, W 1747-55 *Military Survey of Scotland*

APPENDIX 1: Digital Photographic Register

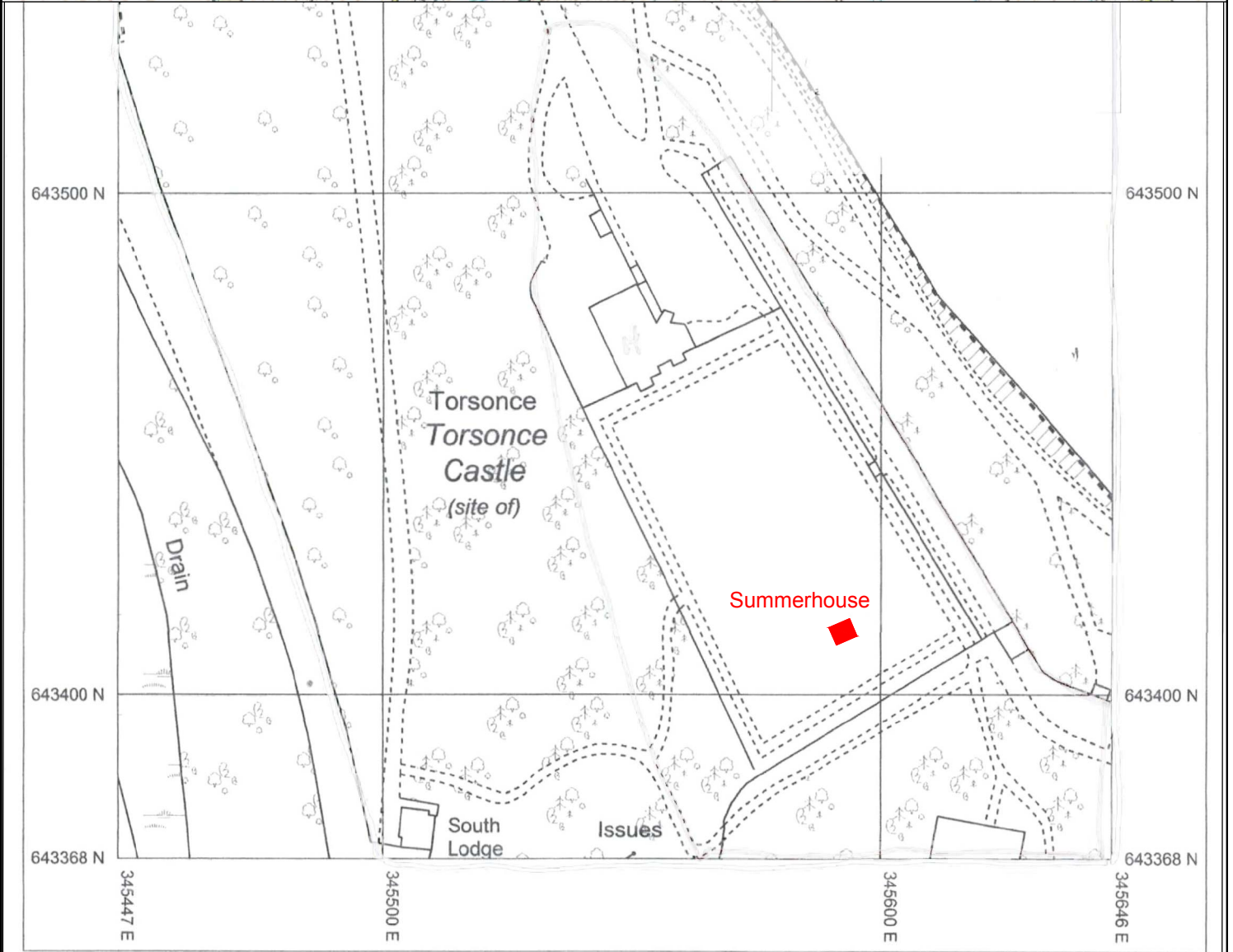
No.	Description	From	Conditions
1	Location of summerhouse pre-excavation	WSW	Overcast
2	Location of summerhouse pre-excavation	SSE	Overcast
3	Location of summerhouse following soil stripping	WSW	Overcast
4	Location of summerhouse following soil stripping	ENE	Overcast
5	1m sample section showing stratigraphy	NNW	Overcast

APPENDIX 2: Context Register

No	Description
000	Natural – orange-yellow boulder clay
001	Topsoil – dark/mid-brown silty clay
002	Subsoil – mid-brown silty-clay

APPENDIX 3: Discovery & Excavation in Scotland Entry

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	Scottish Borders Council
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	Torsonce House, Stow
PROJECT CODE:	TORS
PARISH:	Stow
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	Magnus Kirby
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	CFA Archaeology Ltd
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Archaeological Watching Brief
NMRS NO(S):	NT44SE 4
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	Torsonce House on site of Torsonce Castle
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	None
NGR	NT 45592 43412
START DATE (this season)	13 December 2013
END DATE (this season)	13 December 2013
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)	N/A
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	An archaeological watching-brief was carried out during ground-works for a summerhouse at Torsonce House, Stow. Torsonce House is understood to occupy the location of an earlier late medieval tower known as Torsonce Castle. The watching brief did not identify any features, deposits or artefacts of archaeological significance.
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	None
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	N/A
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	Ms Sharon-Anne Young
ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:	The Old Engine House, Eskmills Park, Musselburgh, EH21 7PQ
EMAIL ADDRESS:	cfa@cfa-archaeology.co.uk
ARCHIVE LOCATION (intended/deposited)	RCAHMS and Scottish Borders Council Sites and Monuments Record





Key:	Fig No: 1	Revision: A	Client: Sharon-Anne Young
Scale at A4: 1:1250	Title: Location map showing area monitored		
	Project: Summerhouse Torsonce Mansion House		
			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
Drawn by: TB		Checked: MK	Report No: 3116



Fig. 2 - Development area from SW following soil stripping



Fig. 3 - Development area from NE following soil stripping

Fig. No: 2-3		Revision: A	Project: Summerhouse Torsonce Mansion House			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
Drawn by: TB	Checked: MK	Report No: 3116	Client: Sharon-Anne Young			

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.