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Geophysical Survey

**2 No. Agricultural Buildings
Spittal-on-Rule
Denholm
Scottish Borders**

Archaeological Watching Brief

Report No. 3133

 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	Leeanne Whitelaw BSc MIfA
Editor	Bruce Glendinning BSc PGDip MIfA
Commissioned by	Ms Katie Turner
Date issued	March 2014
Version	0
OASIS Reference	cfaarcha1 -172994
Planning Application No	13/01442/FUL
Grid Ref	NT 58870 19940

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 an archaeological watching brief undertaken in February 2014 during ground-works for agricultural buildings at Spittal on Rule Farm, Denholm, Scottish Borders (NGR: NT 58870 19940) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Ms Katie Turner (Ms Turner)

A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) dated 12 February 2014 for this programme of works was produced by CFA on behalf of Ms Turner. The WSI was designed to meet the requirements of the Scottish Borders Council Archaeologist.

1.2 Background

Planning Permission (13/01442/FUL) has been granted for the construction of 2 No. Agricultural Buildings at Spittal on Rule Farm, Denholm. The planning permission was subject to an archaeological condition requiring a watching brief on the ground-works. This watching brief was required due to the close proximity of a medieval chapel site and burial ground (NMRS No.NT51NE 1). When the watching brief was undertaken, the development area consisted of a levelled hardcore surface bordered to the south-west by a steeply sloping bank rising up towards the burial ground. It was considered that there was some potential that this bank could have eroded over time and that as a consequence human remains and grave furnishings may have ended up within the development area.

The medieval chapel and associated burial ground is understood to have occupied the higher ground to the south-west of the development area. While there is no longer any evidence of the chapel, the burial ground appears to have remained in use until the 18th-century and a number of well preserved post-medieval grave-markers are still currently visible.

Evidence of medieval occupation within Spittal on Rule extends beyond the chapel site and burial ground with the name itself indicating the former presence of a medieval hospital on the Rule Water. Information obtained from the RCAHMS suggests that this may have been a leper hospital (NMRS No.NT51NE 1), which was founded before 1425 and destroyed by the Earl of Hertford's forces on the 16th September 1545 during the 1543-1550 war between Scotland and England known as 'The Rough Wooing'. The RCAHMS also mentions a possible teind barn. A teind or tithe barn was generally associated with a church or chapel and was built to store the ten percent of all produce that the surrounding farms were obliged to donate to the church by way of tax.

1.3 Objectives

The objectives of the programme of archaeological works were

- To conduct an appropriate programme of archaeological investigation (Watching Brief) to monitor groundbreaking associated with the construction of the agricultural buildings.
- 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

Soil stripping for the agricultural buildings was carried out using a 360° tracked midi-digger equipped with a smooth-bladed ditching bucket. This operation was carried out under constant archaeological supervision.

Although the total area of the proposed building measured c.25m by 25m, the existing hardcore surface at the north-eastern end of the proposed development area was deemed to be of suitable quality to support the structure. Consequently the area requiring stripping measured 25m NW to SE by a maximum of 10m SW to NE.

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 existing deposits across the majority of the site consisted of modern type-1 hardcore (001) overlying mid-brown slightly clayey sandy-silt buried topsoil (002). It was only along the extreme south-western edge of the proposed building where the ground started to slope upwards towards the burial ground that the type-1 was not present and the deposits consisted entirely of topsoil (003). Here the ground was reduced by up to 1m, but natural was not reached. With a depth of >1m, this quantity of topsoil would seem to indicate a high degree of slopewash material coming down the bank from the area of the burial ground. Away from the south-western edge of the site where the area was considerably more level, the depth of the site reduction was only in the region 0.3-0.5m and involved removing only the hardcore surface (001) down to the level of the underlying buried topsoil (002). Following groundbreaking works, the reduced area was backfilled with hardcore and a rafted concrete foundation for the agricultural buildings will be constructed on top of this surface. One brick-filled rubble drain was uncovered, but 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 agricultural buildings at Spittal on Rule Farm, Denholm. 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 as advised by 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. As OASIS Scotland entry will also be completed.

APPENDIX 1: Photographic Register

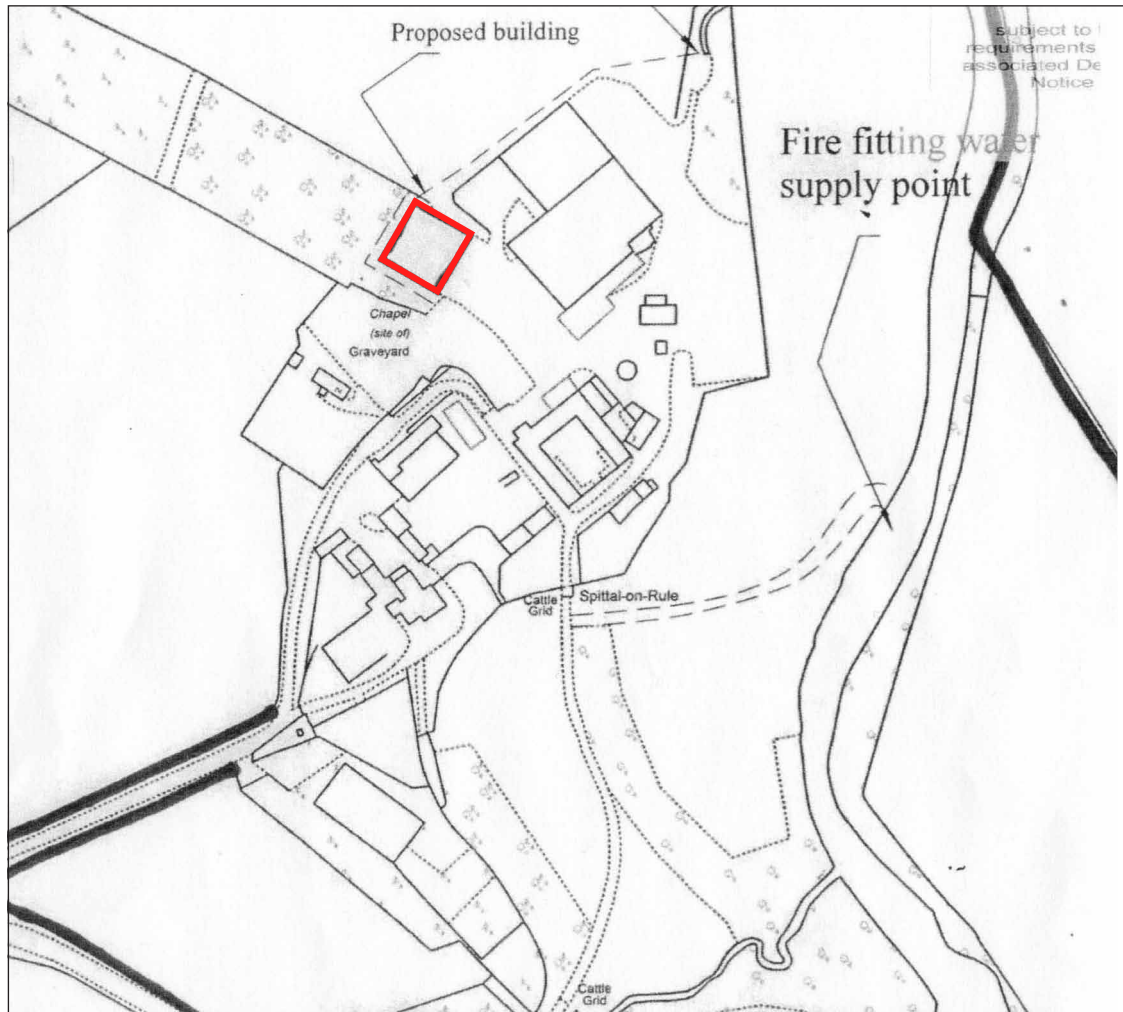
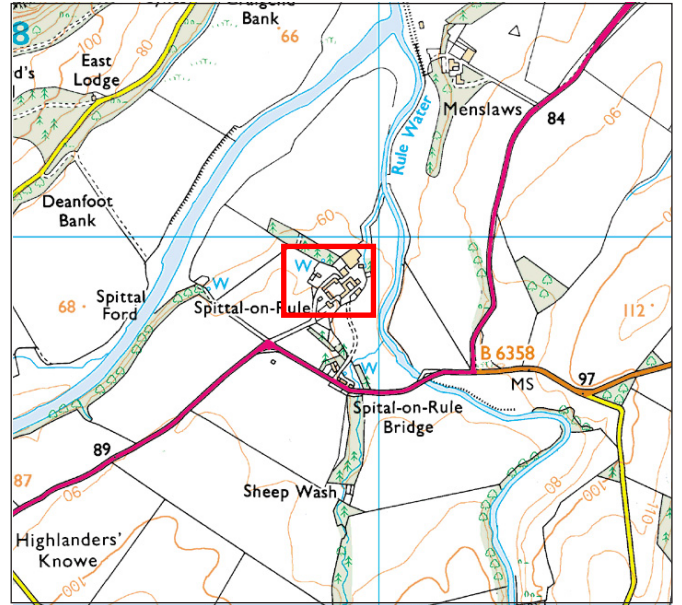
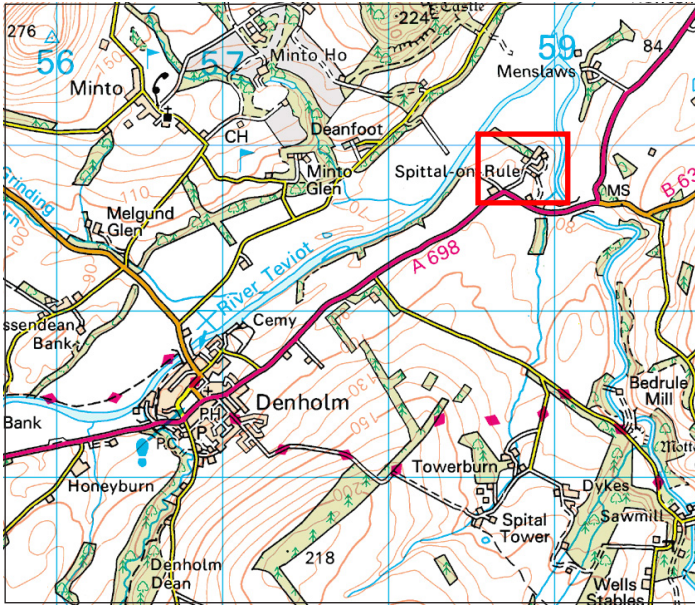
No.	Description	From	Conditions
1	Development area pre-ex	NW	Overcast
2	Development area pre-ex	SE	Overcast
3	Development area pre-ex	SW	Overcast
4	Development area pre-ex	W	Overcast
5	Working shot	NW	Overcast
6	Working shot	NE	Overcast
7	Working shot	NW	Overcast
8	Working shot	NW	Overcast
9	Section of soil deposits along SW edge of trench	NE	Overcast
10-11	Development area post-ex	NW	Sun
12-13	Sequence of two shots showing trench section below burial ground	NE	Overcast
14-15	Development area post-ex	SE	Sun

APPENDIX 2: Context Register

No	Description
001	Modern hardcore capping on proposed development area
002	Topsoil, truncated and capped by hardcore 001. Consists of mid-brown slightly clayey sandy-silt
003	Topsoil along SW edge of development area. Same as 002 but undisturbed by earlier groundworks.

APPENDIX 3: Discovery & Excavation in Scotland Entry

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	Scottish Borders Council
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	Spittal of Rule Farm, Denholm
PROJECT CODE:	SPOR
PARISH:	Cavers
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	Magnus Kirby
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	CFA Archaeology Ltd
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Archaeological Watching Brief
NMRS NO(S):	NT51NE 1
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	Burial Ground, Chapel, Leper Hospital (Medieval)
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	None
NGR	NT 58870 19940
START DATE (this season)	24 February 2014
END DATE (this season)	24 February 2014
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 agricultural buildings at Spittal on Rule Farm, Denholm. The name Spittal on Rule refers to a former medieval hospital located within this area, and a medieval chapel site and burial ground were situated adjacent to the development area. 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 Katie Turner
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 Scottish Borders Council Sites and Monuments Record (Report)



Key:



Fig. No: 1 Revision: A Client: Ms Katie Turner

Title: Location map showing area monitored

Project: 2 No. Agricultural Buildings, Spittal-on-Rule
Denholm, Scottish Borders
Archaeological Watching Brief

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The Old Engine House
Eskmills Park, Musselburgh
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T: 0131 273 4380
F: 0131 273 4381
e: info@cfa-archaeology.co.uk
w: www.cfa-archaeology.co.uk

Scale at A4: 1:2500

Drawn by: LW Checked: LW Report No: 3133



Fig. 2 - Development area from SE pre-excitation





Fig. 3 - Development area from NW following groundworks



Fig. 4 - Development area with steep slope below burial ground in background



Fig. 5 - Development area from SE following groundworks

Fig. No: 2-5		Revision: A	Project: 2 No. Agricultural Buildings, Spittal-on-Rule Denholm, Scottish Borders,		
Drawn by: LW	Checked: LW	Report No: 3133	Client: Ms Katie Turner		

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