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**Eckford Mill Cottage,
Kelso, Scottish Borders**

Archaeological Watching Brief

Report No. 3151

 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	Andrew Brown MSc
Illustrator	Leeanne Whitelaw BSc MifA
Editor	Bruce Glendinning
Commissioned by	Andrew Walker Architectural Consultant <i>per</i> Colin and Jennie Aspinall
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Grid Ref	NT 72313 27435

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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 General

This report presents the results of an archaeological watching brief undertaken by CFA Archaeology Ltd (CFA) in March 2014 during work for an extension to Eckford Mill Cottage, Kelso, Scottish Borders (NT 72313 27435) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Andrew Walker Architectural Consultant on behalf of Colin and Jennie Aspinall. A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) was produced by CFA and agreed by Dr Chris Bowles, Scottish Borders Council Archaeologist.

The Scottish Borders Council Archaeologist has identified that the site of Eckford Mill has been in use since at least the late medieval period. A mill appears in this approximate location as early as Timothy Pont's map of the late 16th century. It is recorded on subsequent maps and depicted clearly on General Roy's map of the 1750s (Fig 2) as incorporating three buildings with a mill lead to the north and east of the complex. These buildings may correspond in part to the northern and easternmost buildings and ruins within the property. Eckford Mill cottage itself was built in 1851 and designed by Robert Cowan. The Ordnance Survey 1st Edition Map which was surveyed in 1859 (Fig. 3) shows the cottage and an ancillary building to the north-east of this. Its form changes slightly on the 2nd Edition Ordnance Survey Map which was surveyed in 1897. By the time it is depicted on this map it is a square block plan rather than an L-shaped plan and does not extend as far to the north as it has previously done.

It continued to be depicted on maps to the last quarter of the 20th century and it was likely demolished within living memory. The ancillary building may have been a cartshed, stable or storage for the mill and while likely dating from 1851 it was thought possible that it could incorporate earlier features from previous phases of mill development.

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. METHODOLOGY

2.1 General

CFA follows Institute of Archaeologists Code of Conduct, Standards and Guidelines as appropriate.

2.2 Watching Brief

All excavation by mechanical plant was done using a smooth-bladed ditching bucket under close archaeological supervision.

All archaeological features and deposits were excavated by the archaeologist using hand tools.

3. ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS

3.1 General

The watching brief area measured 7.8m by 8m. The topsoil and recent overburden was removed across the footprint of this area.

3.2 Watching Brief

The remains of part of a stone building consisting of mortared sandstone walls were revealed immediately below the turf (Figs. 1, 5-8). The structure was constructed of roughly-hewn, irregularly coursed sandstone within a grey mortar matrix (**003**). The southeast and southwest walls survived to a height of 0.30m high and 0.50m wide. The walls on the northeastern side of the exposed structure appeared to have been largely robbed or destroyed by landscaping within the gardens of the cottage as only the lowest foundations were still visible. An internal concrete/mortar floor surface (**004**) was also found largely intact. The depth of the floor surface from the top of the wall was 0.60m. An earlier service trench (**005**) had been cut through the building remains running northwest - southeast. The excavation of the trench for this service had removed the eastern corner of the building and cut through the floor.

The surviving remains could not be preserved in situ so they were removed. The walls were not contained in foundation trenches rather they were built straight on to the natural and the floor surface was laid over a thin spread of rubble over natural.

4. CONCLUSION

The watching brief at Eckford Mill, Kelso revealed part of a stone built structure with a mortared floor surface. The position and plan form of the identified structure matches that of the southern end of a building first identified on the Ordnance Survey 1st Edition map (Fig. 3) and later on the 2nd Edition map (Fig. 4). From this work it is clear that further remains of the structure are likely to survive within the grounds of the cottage.

Unfortunately there were insufficient remains exposed to date the structure or ascribe a function to it. However, the build of the walls did not match that of the Cottage but they did match closely with those of a standing building opposite and to the southeast, which was in use as an out house or shed. On a corner block of this standing building was what appeared to be a construction date carved into the stone of “1736”. This could suggest that the building identified in the watching brief was earlier than the Cottage and contemporary or near contemporary with the out house/shed. Of course the difference in build could simply be due to a difference in use i.e the building identified in the watching brief was more for storage or industrial use and did not merit the higher quality finish of the domestic cottage.

The exposed walls appeared to match the footprint of the building as it was mapped on the 1st Edition map (Fig. 3). No evidence for the alteration or rebuilding that is shown on the 2nd Edition map (Fig. 4) was identified within the portion of the building that was exposed within the development area.

A summary statement of the results of this watching brief will be submitted for publication in *Discovery and Excavation in Scotland* (Appendix 3) and an *OASIS Scotland* entry will be completed.

The project archive, comprising all CFA record sheets, maps and reports, will be deposited with the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland (RCAHMS) and copies of reports will be lodged with the Scottish Borders Council Sites and Monuments Record.

APPENDIX 1: Context Register

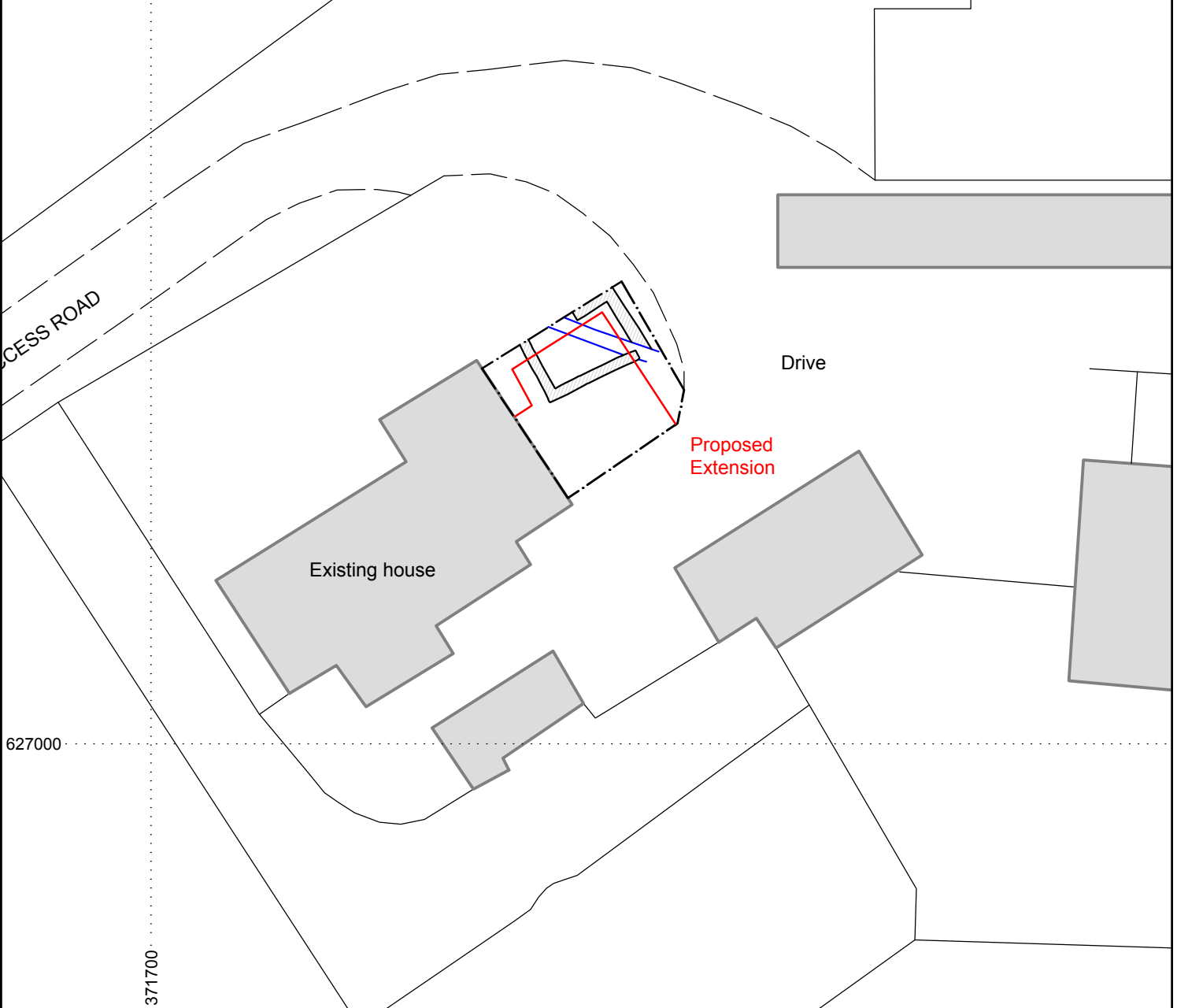
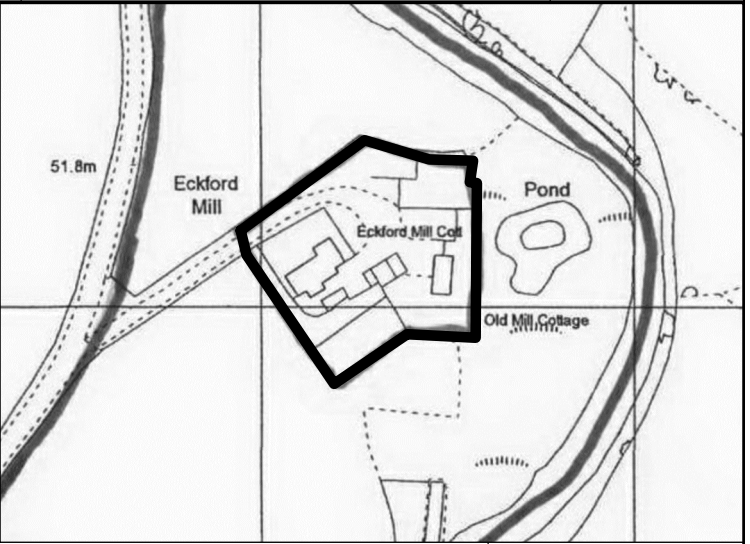
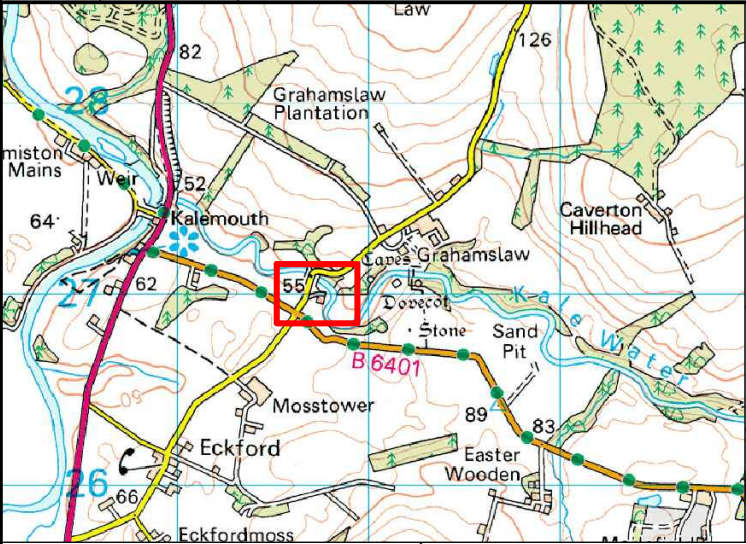
Context No.	Description
001	Topsoil
002	Subsoil
003	Sandstone wall
004	Concrete/mortar floor surface
005	Cut of modern service trench
006	Fill of modern service trench [005]
007	Rubble/demolition backfill

APPENDIX 2: Photograph Register

Photo No.	Description	From
1	Mid-ex shot of building (003)	SW
2	Mid- ex shot of building (003)	SE
3	Shot of SSE facing section	SSE
4	Shot of plan of building	S
5	Shot of NNW facing section	NNW
6	Area shot of building	N
7	Shot of N facing section	N
8	Shot of plan of building	S
9	Plan of return of wall in section	SE
10	Plan of return of wall in section	NW
11	Shot of modern truncation through building	NW

APPENDIX 3: Discovery & Excavation in Scotland Entry

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	Scottish Borders Council
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	Eckford Mill, Kelso
PROJECT CODE:	ECKM
PARISH:	Eckford
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	Andrew Brown
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	CFA Archaeology Ltd
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Archaeological Watching Brief
NMRS NO(S):	
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	None
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	None
NGR	NT 72313 27435
START DATE (this season)	28 March 2013
END DATE (this season)	28 March 2013
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. <i>DES</i> ref.)	N/A
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	An archaeological watching-brief was carried out during ground-works for an extension to Eckford Mill Cottage, Kelso. The watching brief revealed part of a stone built structure with a mortared floor surface that appears in plan to match a building first identified on the Ordnance Survey 1 st Edition map which was surveyed in 1859.
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	None
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	N/A
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	Colin and Jennie Aspinall
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:

- Watching brief area
- Proposed extension
- Mortar & sandstone wall
- Modern water pipe

Scale at A4: 1:300





Fig No: 1	Revision: A	Client: Mr Aspinnall
Title: Location Plan and trench plan		
Project: Eckford Mill Cottage, Kelso, Scottish Borders		

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: LW	Checked: LW	Report No: 3151
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Fig. 2 - Eckford Mill Cottage Roys Map 1752-1755

Fig. No: 2	Revision: A	Project: Eckford Mill Cottage, Kelso, Scottish Borders			CFA ARCHAEOLOGY LTD The Old Engine House Eskmills Park, Musselburgh East Lothian, Eh21 7PQ
Drawn by: LW	Checked: LW	Report No: 3151			Client: Mr Aspinal

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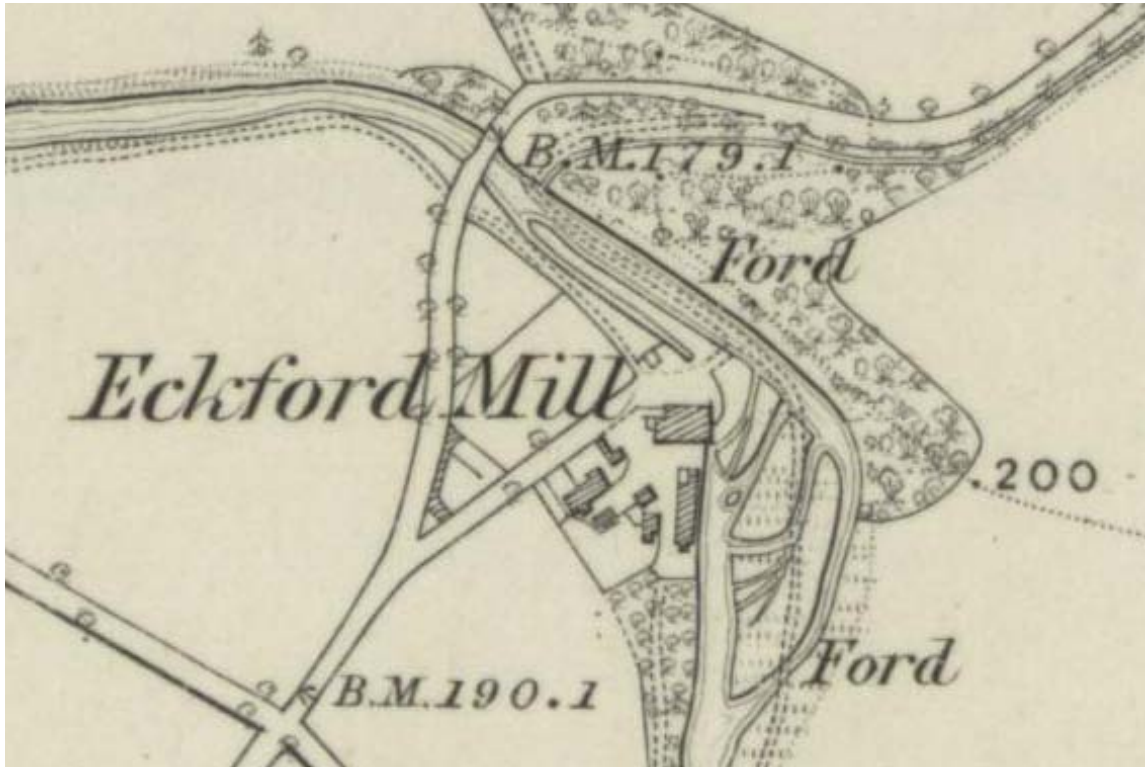


Fig. 3 - Eckford Mill Cottage Ordnance Survey 1st Edition, 1859

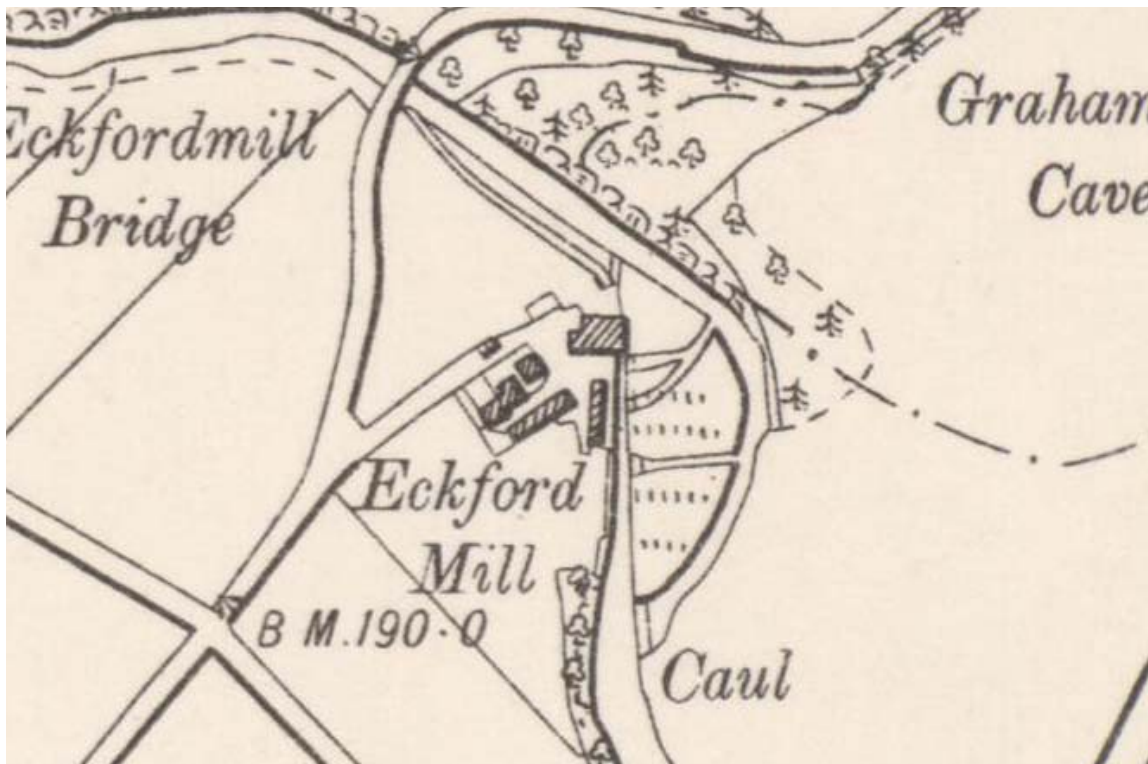




Fig. 4 - Eckford Mill Cottage Ordnance Survey 2nd Edition, 1897

Fig. No: 3-4		Revision: A	Project: Eckford Mill Cottage, Kelso, Scottish Borders		
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Fig. 5 - Shot of SSE-facing elevation of remains of structure

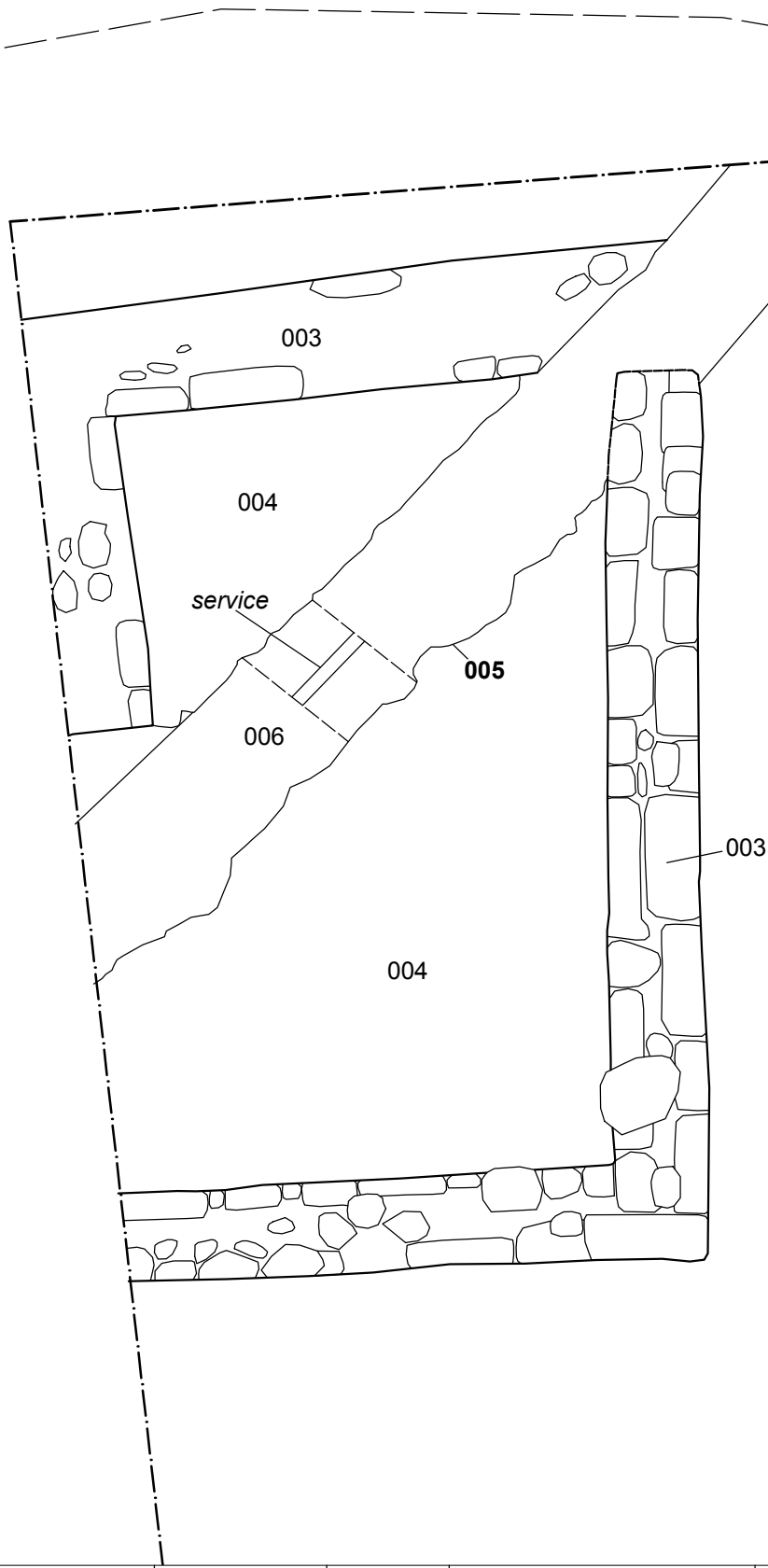


Fig. 6 - Shot of remains of structure from SW



Fig. 7 - Shot of remains of structure from NW

Fig. No: 5-7		Revision: A	Project: Eckford Mill Cottage, Kelso, Scottish Borders
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Key:
 Watching brief area



Fig No: 8 Revision: A Client: Mr Aspinall

Title:
Plan of structure

Project:
Eckford Mill Cottage, Kelso, Scottish Borders

CFA
 ARCHAEOLOGY LTD
 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

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1:40

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