

# CFA Archaeology Ltd

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**Plot 2, Old Nenthorn House Walled Garden,  
Nenthorn, Kelso, Scottish Borders  
Archaeological Evaluation**

**Data Structure Report  
No. 1684**

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### **Plot 2, Old Nenthorn House Walled Garden, Nenthorn, Kelso, Scottish Borders Archaeological Evaluation**

#### **Data Structure Report No. 1684**

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Fig. 1 Trench location map

Fig. 2 General shot of Trench 1 from west

Fig. 3 General shot of Trench 2 from west

## **1. INTRODUCTION**

### **1.1 General**

1.1.1 This report presents the results of an archaeological evaluation undertaken by CFA Archaeology Ltd (CFA) in September 2009 at the site of a proposed dwelling house and garage at Plot 2, Old Nenthorn House Walled Garden, Nenthorn, near Kelso, Scottish Borders (NT 6785 3675, Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Richard Amos Ltd for Mr & Mrs Fairgrieve.

1.1.2 A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for the evaluation was produced by CFA in consultation with the Scottish Borders Council Archaeology Officer (SBCAO).

1.1.3 There are no known sites within the development area but the area has a high potential for the recovery of archaeological remains. The walled garden is depicted on the First Edition Ordnance Survey map of 1858. The site of Old Nenthorn Church and burial ground (National Monuments Register of Scotland (NMRS) NT63NE 4.2) lies to the north of the walled garden; the church has a medieval origin and its exact location cannot be identified on the ground with certainty. The burial ground contains graves from the 17th century and is now disused. Oyster shells held in Wilton Lodge Museum, possibly representing midden material, are presumed to have been recovered from close to the church site (NT63NE 4.1).

1.1.4 The adjacent Plot 1 within the walled garden was evaluated in June 2009 by CFA (Hill 2009). No archaeological remains were found.

1.1.5 Now rebuilt and occupied, Old Nenthorn House (NT63NE 8) lies to the west of the development site, it is early 18th century in date and fell into disrepair in the late 19th century. It was home to members of the Roy family, who owned the estate of Nenthorn in the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries. A standing building survey and archaeological evaluation were undertaken in May 2006 by CFA (McKee 2006).

### **1.2 Objectives**

1.2.1 The project's aims and objectives are:

- To establish the presence/absence, extent, condition, character, quality and date of any archaeological features or deposits within the proposed development area through trial trenching evaluation;
- To establish the vulnerability of any archaeological features to the proposed development;
- To propose mitigation measures.

## **2. WORKING METHODS**

### **2.1 General**

2.1.1 Work was conducted with regard to the Institute for Archaeologists' Standards. Recording of all elements was done following established CFA

### **2.2 Trial trenching**

2.2.1 Two trenches were excavated across the footprint of the proposed development. These totalled 87m<sup>2</sup>.

2.2.2 The trenches were excavated by a back-acting machine with a smooth bladed ditching bucket under constant archaeological supervision, to remove topsoil and modern deposits down to subsoil or the first significant archaeological horizon, whichever was reached first. The trenches were backfilled at the end of the evaluation and after completion of recording.

2.2.3 Samples of all features of archaeological interest were hand excavated in order to establish their likely date, nature, extent and condition.

2.2.4 All hand 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 General**

3.1.1 Two trenches amounting to 87m<sup>2</sup> were excavated (Fig. 1). Trench descriptions are given in Appendix 1. Topsoil in both trenches consisted of a dark brown silty sand and this overlay a deposit of more reddish brown silty sand, which is interpreted as a buried ploughsoil as it sealed features interpreted as stone-holes. Together, these soils had a depth of 0.5m and they overlay a natural orange subsoil consisting of sands and gravels which included numerous large boulders, many of which protruded above the general level of the subsoil. No archaeological remains were uncovered.

#### **3.2 Trench 1 (Fig. 2)**

3.2.1 Trench 1 measured 27m by 1.5m and was aligned E-W. A large feature (**101**) was revealed at the east end and the trench was extended for 3m to the south to fully reveal it. A section revealed this to be a stone hole from which an abraded sherd of green glass (fill **102**) was recovered. A shallow possible ditch (**103**) was exposed in the middle of the trench and a section revealed this to be a natural stream channel (fill **104**) from which no finds were recovered.

#### **3.3 Trench 2 (Fig. 3)**

3.3.1 Trench 2 measured 28m by 1.5m and was aligned E-W. A continuation of the stream channel (**201**) exposed in Trench 1 was revealed and a second section supported the conclusion that this was indeed a natural stream channel. No finds were recovered.

#### **4. CONCLUSIONS**

- 4.1 Two trenches amounting to 87m<sup>2</sup> were excavated across the footprint of the proposed dwelling house at Plot 2, Old Nenthorn House Walled Garden, Nenthorn, near Kelso, Scottish Borders. No archaeological features were revealed. It is assumed that the stream channel was cut and the stream diverted when the walled garden was created. Efforts to extract awkward boulders may also have been undertaken at that time.
- 4.2 The responsibility for deciding whether further work is required lies with SBCAO.
- 4.3 The project archive, comprising all CFA record sheets, maps and reports will be deposited with the National Monuments Record of Scotland (NMRS).
- 4.4 A summary statement of the results of this evaluation will be submitted for publication in *Discovery and Excavation in Scotland 2009* (Appendix 3).
- 4.5 A summary statement of the results of this archaeological work will be submitted for inclusion on the OASIS website.

#### **5. REFERENCES**

- Hill, I 2009 Plot 1, *Old Nenthorn House Walled Garden, Nenthorn, near Kelso, Scottish Borders. Archaeological Evaluation*. CFA Report No. 1645
- McKee, K 2006 *Standing Building Survey & Archaeological Evaluation at Old Nenthorn House, Nenthorn, Scottish Borders*. CFA Report No. 1195

## APPENDIX 1: Trench Summary

Trench No.	Length (m)	Width (m)	Trench area (m <sup>2</sup> )	Trench depth (m)	Features
1	30	1.5	45	0.5	Stone hole. Natural stream channel
2	28	1.5	42	0.5	Natural stream channel

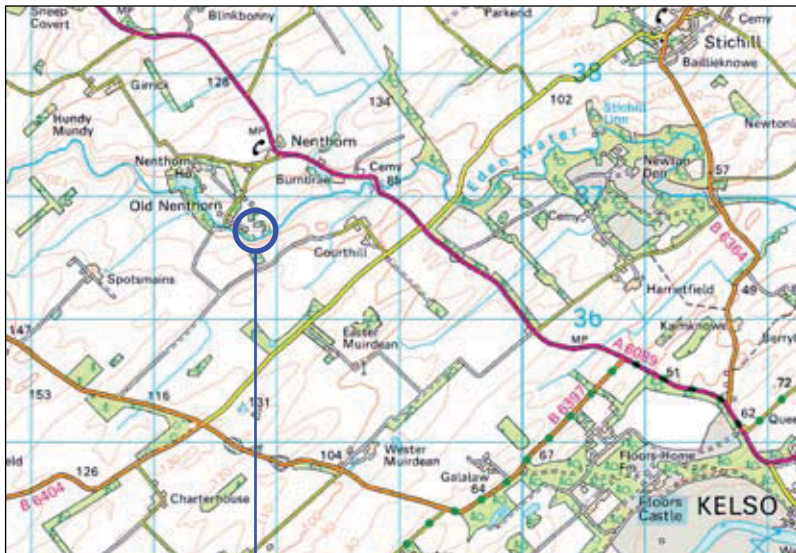
## APPENDIX 2: Photograph Register

Photo No.	Contexts/description	Taken from	Conditions
1-8	Pre-ex shots of Plot 2 North to South	W	Bright
9	Plot 2 looking E along the garden wall with the surviving NE corner in the distance	W	Bright
10	As 9, looking W with the Well in the foreground	E	Bright
11-13	Pre-ex shots of Plot 2 from the NE corner	NE	Bright
14	Trench 1 excavated	W	Sunny
15	Trench 1 extension at the S at the E end to further expose and evaluate probable stone-hole	N	Bright
16	Trench 1 excavated	E	Bright
17-19	Trench 1, section through stone-hole	Various	Bright/Shade
20-21	Trench 1, stream channel in mid-trench	N	Overcast
22	Trench 2 excavated	E	Bright
23	Trench 2 excavated	W	Bright
24-25	General views of both trenches excavated	SW	Sunny
26-28	Trench 2, possible stream channel following alignment of that in Trench 1 pre-excavation	Various	Bright
29-32	Trench 2, section through natural stream channel. Various views.	Various	Overcast
33	Trench 1 backfilled and trench 2 in the process of being backfilled	SW	Overcast



### APPENDIX 3: Discovery and Excavation in Scotland Entry

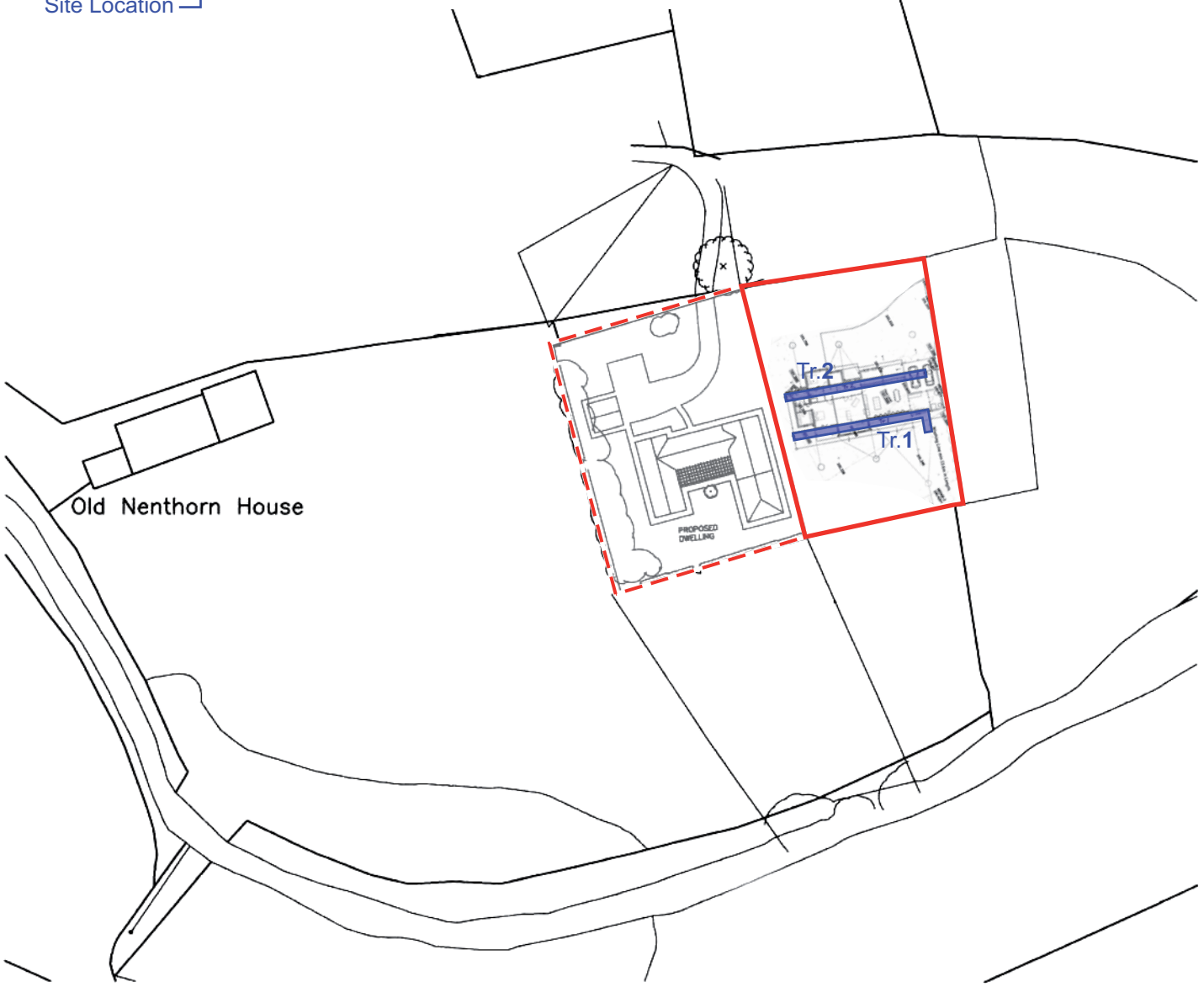
<b>LOCAL AUTHORITY:</b>	Scottish Borders Council
<b>PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:</b>	Plot 2, Old Nenthorn House Walled Garden, Nenthorn, Kelso, Scottish Borders
<b>PROJECT CODE:</b>	AMOS
<b>PARISH:</b>	Nenthorn
<b>NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:</b>	Ian Suddaby
<b>NAME OF ORGANISATION:</b>	CFA Archaeology Ltd
<b>TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:</b>	Evaluation
<b>NMRS NO(S):</b>	None
<b>SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):</b>	None
<b>SIGNIFICANT FINDS:</b>	None
<b>NGR (2 letters, 8 or 10 figures)</b>	NT 6785 3675
<b>START DATE (this season)</b>	22/09/09
<b>END DATE (this season)</b>	22/09/09
<b>PREVIOUS WORK (incl. <i>DES</i> ref.)</b>	None
<b>MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION:</b> (May include information from other fields)	An archaeological evaluation was carried out at Plot 2, Old Nenthorn House Walled Garden, Nenthorn, Kelso, Scottish Borders prior to the development of a proposed dwelling house. Two trenches were excavated across the footings of the proposed development, totalling 87m <sup>2</sup> . A relict stream channel and a large stone-hole were revealed but no other archaeological remains were discovered.
<b>PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:</b>	None
<b>CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:</b>	
<b>SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:</b>	Richard Amos Ltd
<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 Scottish Borders SMR and NMRS.



Site Location

Yard

Church  
remains of)



Old Nenthorn House

Tr.2  
Tr.1

PROPOSED DWELLING

Key:

- Plot 2
- - - - Plot 1
- Archaeological Trench

Scale: 1:1250 @ A4

Fig. No: 1 Revision: A Client: Richard Amos Ltd

Title: Trench Location Map

Project: Plot 2, Old Nenthorn House Walled Garden, Nenthorn, near Kelso, Scottish Borders. Archaeological Evaluation



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Drawn by: KH Page No: Report No: 1684



Fig. 2 - General shot of Trench 1 from west



Fig. 3 - General shot of Trench 2 from west

Key:	Fig. No:	2-3	Revision:	A	Client:	Richard Amos Ltd	 <b>CFA</b> 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
	Title:						
Scale:	Project:						
	Plot 2, Old Nenthorn House Walled Garden, Nenthorn, near Kelso, Scottish Borders. Archaeological Evaluation						
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