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Geophysical Survey

**Outhouse at Kirkbride House,
Traquair,
Scottish Borders.**

**Archaeological Watching Brief
Report No. 1706**

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Fig. 4	Section showing the large cobbles of the former yard surface under gravel and over natural subsoil

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 General

- 1.1.1 This report presents the results of an archaeological watching brief undertaken by CFA Archaeology Ltd (CFA) in November 2009 on the site of an extension to an existing outbuilding at Kirkbride House, Traquair, Scottish Borders (Fig. 1, NGR: NT 320 335 centred). The work was commissioned by Fiona Martynoga.
- 1.1.2 A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) dated 30 October 2009 for this watching brief was produced by CFA on behalf of Ms Martynoga. The WSI was based on information supplied by her and by Benjamin Tindall Architects. It was designed to meet the requirements of the Scottish Borders Council Archaeologist.

1.2 Background

- 1.2.1 The site lies adjacent to the northern corner of the graveyard wall surrounding Traquair Parish Church (Fig. 2). An information board in the churchyard states that there has been a church on or near this location from as early as 1116 at which time it belonged to the diocese of St Kentigern of Glasgow. The existing church dates to 1778, with notable additions being made in 1914. The church manse, within whose grounds the watching brief took place, dates to 1790.
- 1.2.2 The extension to the existing outhouse was situated in a narrow gap between it and the high graveyard wall to the south (Fig. 2). The ground level within the graveyard is much elevated over that on the site of the outhouse extension. Three elements of the development were recorded.

1.3 Objectives

- 1.3.1 The objectives of the project were:
- To conduct an appropriate programme of archaeological investigation (Watching Brief) to monitor the excavation of foundation trenches and associated works.
 - To mitigate the effects of construction on any archaeological deposits or features identified through excavation and recording and produce a report on them.

1.4 Acknowledgements

- 1.4.1 We acknowledge the assistance of Fiona Martynoga during the fieldwork in assisting in the interpretation of the archaeological remains and the history of Kirkbride Manse.

2. WORKING METHODS

- 2.1 The excavation of the foundation trenches and soakaway were carried out using a tracked mini-digger, under constant archaeological supervision. Leading through the yard to the north-east, a new water pipe was required to replace the existing lead one. As the new pipe was to follow the line of the existing pipe the SBC Archaeologist allowed this to be excavated unmonitored but it was left open for the monitoring archaeologist to check the sections.
- 2.2 All on-site recording was carried out according to standard CFA procedures, in this case by photography and by completing standard CFA record forms.

3. ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS

- 3.1 Numbers in bold and parentheses below refer to contexts, a list of which is contained in Appendix 1.
- 3.2 Within the footprint of the outhouse, under surface gravel and soil (**001**) was a layer of substantial cobbles (**002**) with a depth of up to 0.2m (Fig. 3). These appeared to be the remains of a cobbled yard which overlay natural subsoil (**003**). This consisted of a compact and stony pinkish sandy silt.
- 3.3 A soakaway drain was excavated to the west of the foundations. The only feature located was a cut (**004**) containing a clay-piped field drain (**005**) alongside which was a narrow, internally-glazed ceramic pipe (**006**).
- 3.4 The previously excavated service connection (Fig. 4) which ran north-east from the outhouse extension was inspected for archaeological remains. The sections were cleaned to enable the identification of features. Two such features were recorded. The first (**007**) appeared to be a stone-filled field drain 0.6m wide and 0.5m deep containing cobbles and a matrix of brown silt (**008**). The second (**009**) measured 1m in width and 0.5m in depth. This had no clear function but it contained stones, lumps of mortar and redeposited subsoil with broken slates in the base (**010**). It was suggested (F. Martynoga pers. comm.) that a wall was once present in this area and this may therefore be a robbed-out wall foundation trench.

4. CONCLUSIONS

- 4.1 A watching brief was carried out at Kirkbride House, Traquair during the excavation of foundation trenches for an outhouse extension and associated service trenches. The identified features consist of a possible robbed out wall and a cobbled surface.
- 4.2 The project archive, comprising all CFA record sheets, maps and reports, will be deposited with the National Monuments Record of Scotland (NMRS) and copies of reports will be lodged with the Scottish Borders Council Sites and Monuments Record.
- 4.3 Summary statements of this work will be submitted for publication in *Discovery and Excavation in Scotland* (Appendix 3) and for inclusion on the OASIS website.

APPENDIX 1

Context Register

Context	Description
001	Surface gravel and soil within the area of the outbuilding extension
002	Large sub-angular greywacke cobbles forming the surface of a yard
003	Natural subsoil
004	Linear cut containing 005 and 006
005	Clay-piped field drain
006	Internally-glazed interlocking ceramic pipe once carrying water
007	Linear cut for field drain
008	Fill of 007. Cobbles and brown silt
009	Linear cut. Possible robbed-out wall trench
010	Fill of 009. Deposits of soil, mortar, redeposited subsoil and stones over slates

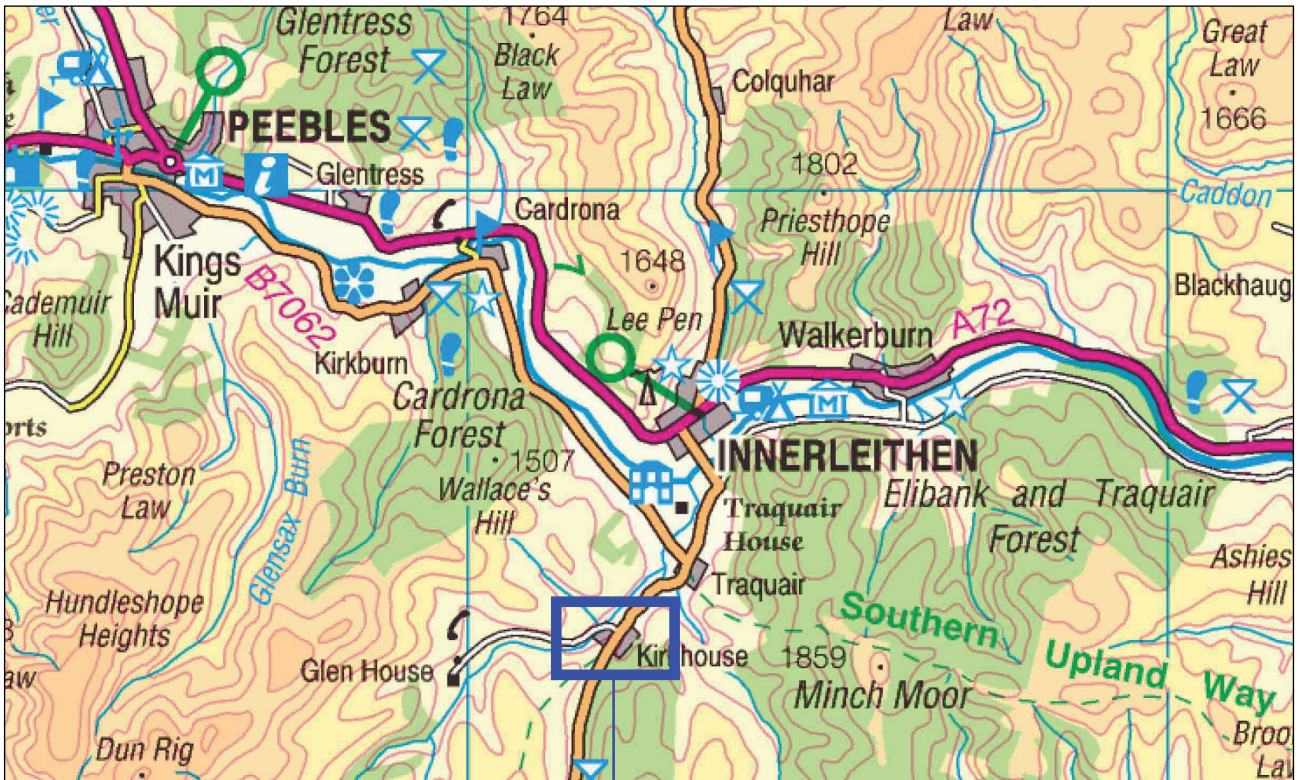
APPENDIX 2: Photographic Register

Digital

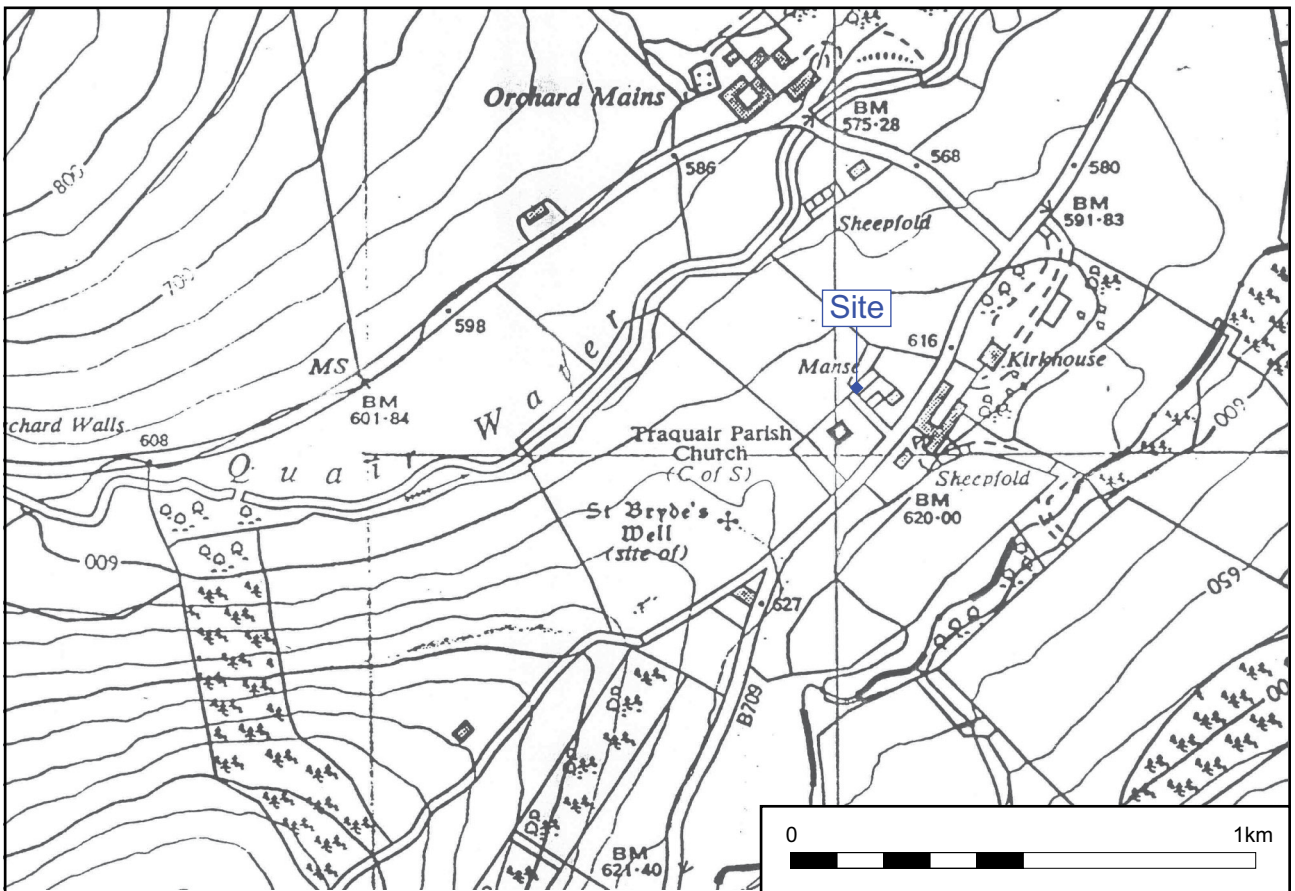
Shot	Description	From	Conditions
1	General views of the outhouse extension area pre-ex	SE	Overcast
2-3	General views of the foul sewer trench through the yard to the NE of the outhouse extension	SW	Overcast
4-5	General views of the area of the field to the NW of the outhouse extension pre-ex	S	Overcast
6-7	General view of the area of the field to the NW of the outhouse extension pre-ex	NW	Overcast
8-9	History of Traquair Parish Church information board	-	-
10-11	General view of the watching brief area from the steps of the church	S	Bright
12-13	Stone filled drain 007 exposed in the foul sewer trench section	SE	Overcast
14	Possible wall foundation trench 009 exposed in the foul sewer trench section	SE	Overcast
15	General view of features 007 and 009	S	Sun/Shade
16	General view of features 007 and 009	NE	Sun/Shade
17	Large stone with either a pivot hole or iron-railing hole drilled in it		
18-19	Pipes 005 and 006 exposed in cut 004 within soakaway drain	NE	Overcast
20-21	General view of these pipes in the section	NE	Overcast
22-23	Views of possible well into which the water pipe 006 flows. Note the small lintel covering the pipe entry	N	Sun/Shade
24-25	Working shots in the outhouse foundations showing soil and gravel 001 over cobbles 002 over subsoil 003	NW	Overcast
26-27	General views of the soakaway area	NW	Overcast
28-29	As 22, exposed in the SW end of the foul drain trench	NW	Overcast
30-31	General views of the watching brief area post-ex	SE	Overcast
32	Traquair Parish Church	N	Overcast
33	Traquair Parish Church graveyard nearest to the watching brief location	E	Overcast
34	General view of the foul sewer route to the NE of the outhouse extension	S	Overcast

APPENDIX 3: Discovery & Excavation in Scotland Entry

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	Scottish Borders Council
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	Outhouse at Kirkbride House, Traquair, Scottish Borders
PROJECT CODE:	KIRB
PARISH:	Traquair
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	Ian Suddaby
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	CFA Archaeology Ltd
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Archaeological Watching Brief
NMRS NO(S):	N/A
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	N/A
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	None
NGR	NT 320 335 centred
START DATE (this season)	November 2009
END DATE (this season)	November 2009
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)	N/A
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	A watching brief was undertaken during the excavation of foundation and service trenches associated with an extension to an existing outhouse adjacent to the cemetery of Traquair Parish Church. A cobbled yard was recorded as was the foundation trench for a now robbed-out wall. No finds were recovered
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	N/A
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	N/A
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	Fiona Martynoga
ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:	The Old Engine House, Eskmills Park, Musselburgh, EH21 7PQ
EMAIL ADDRESS:	cfa@cfa-archaeology.co.uk
ARCHIVE LOCATION (intended/deposited)	National Monuments Record of Scotland Scottish Borders Council Sites and Monuments Record



Site Location



Key:



Fig. No: 1 Revision: A Client: Fi Martynoga

Title: General location map

Project: Outhouse at Kirkbride House, Traquair, Scottish borders



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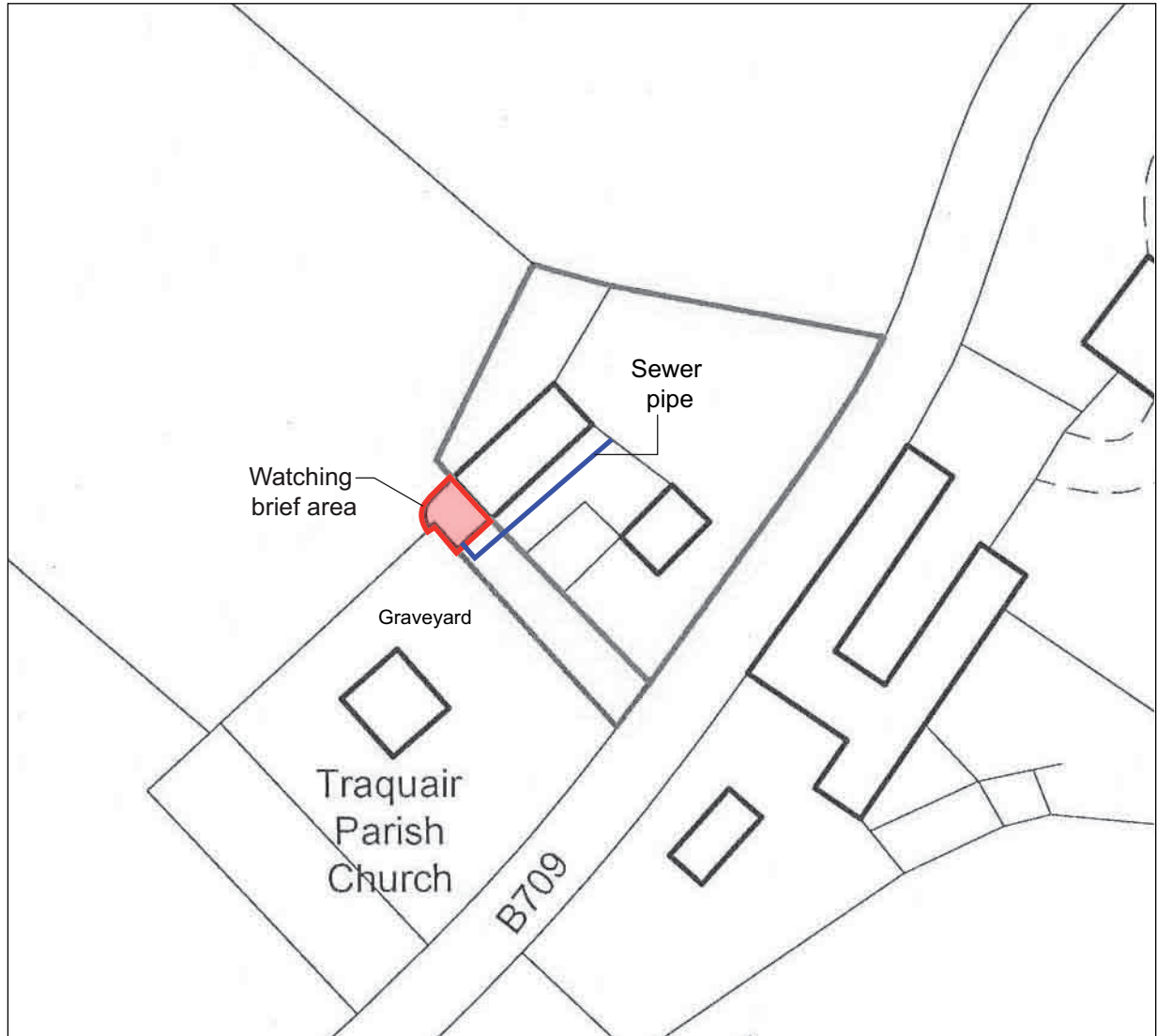
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Key:

-  Watching brief area
-  Sewer pipe

Scale: 1:1250 @ A4

Fig. No: 2 Revision: A Client: Fi Martynoga

Title: The location of the watching brief between the graveyard wall and the building centre left

Project: Outhouse at Kirkbride House, Traquair, Scottish borders



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Fig. 3 View of the sewer pipe route passing through the yard to the west of the Manse



Fig. 4 Section showing the large cobbles of the former yard surface under gravel and over natural subsoil

Key:

Scale:

Fig. No: **3-4** Revision: **A** Client: **Fi Martynoga**

Title:

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