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Geophysical Survey

**Channelkirk Cottage,
Oxton,
Scottish Borders**

**Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment
and Watching Brief**

Report No. 1693

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	Graeme Carruthers MA MAAIS
Illustrator	Graeme Carruthers MA MAAIS
Editor	Melanie Johnson MA PhD FSA Scot MIfA
Commissioned by	KB Architecture and Design
Date issued	November 2009
Version	0
OASIS Reference	cfaarcha1 – 68175
Planning Application No	09/00273/FUL
Grid Ref	NT 48012 64537

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CONTENTS

1.	Introduction	3
2.	Working Methods	4
3.	Archaeological Results	5
4.	Conclusion	6
5.	References	7

Appendices

1.	Photographic Register	8
2.	Discovery and Excavation in Scotland Entry	9

Illustrations (bound at rear)

1.	Site location	
2.	Extract from map by H. Moll, 1732	
3.	Extract from map by W. Roy, 1793	
4.	Extract from 1st Edition Ordnance Survey map, 1853-57	
5.	Extract from 2 nd Edition Ordnance Survey map, 1895	
6.	Extract from Ordnance Survey map, Revision 1904	
7.	Extract from Ordnance Survey map, 1923	
8.	Location of Watching Brief Areas	
9.	Mortared floor surface from the South	
10.	Photograph from the South showing the footprint of the new building and also showing the terracing	
11.	Section of the graded slope showing exposed bedrock approximately 0.4m above the level of the terraced area	

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 General

1.1.1 This report presents the results of an archaeological desk-based assessment and a watching brief undertaken in October and November 2009 by CFA Archaeology Ltd (CFA), at Channelkirk Cottage, Oxton, Scottish Borders (NGR: NO 41182 30553) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by KB Architecture and Design.

1.1.2 A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for the project was produced by CFA on behalf of KB Architecture and Design. The WSI was designed to meet the requirements of the Scottish Borders Council Archaeology Officer.

1.2 Background

1.2.1 Planning permission has been granted by Scottish Borders Council (Ref No. 09/00273/FUL) for the alteration and extension to dwelling house, Channelkirk Cottage, Oxton, subject to a condition requiring a programme of archaeological works. The agreed programme of archaeological works consisted of a desk-based assessment and watching brief. This report contains the results of the desk-based assessment and watching brief.

1.2.2 The site is located approximately 100m to the ENE of Channelkirk House and approximately 1.5km to the NE of the village of Oxton. The watching brief was undertaken during ground-works which included topsoil stripping an area which was to be graded, the removal of a modern concrete base from a demolished modern garage, and the stripping of an area for the footprint of the new building extension.

1.2.3 No previous invasive archaeological fieldwork is known to have taken place within the proposed development area prior to this evaluation.

1.3 Objectives

1.3.1 The aims of the watching brief were to determine the presence or absence of any buried archaeological remains and finds by ensuring that the area of the watching brief area was cleared of topsoil and overburden thus allowing any archaeological features to be identified.

2. WORKING METHODS

2.1 General

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

2.2 Desk-based Assessment

2.2.1 The historic map collection held by the National Libraries of Scotland (NLS) was examined for information on pre-recent land use within the proposed development area. The maps examined included the Ordnance Survey 6" and 1" map editions, together with other readily available cartographic information.

2.2.2 The National Monuments Record of Scotland (NMRS) and Historic Scotland's 'Pastmap' (<http://jura.rcahms.gov.uk/PASTMAP/Map>) web site were consulted to obtain information on known archaeological sites within the proposed development area.

2.3 Watching Brief

2.3.1 An area of topsoil immediately to the north of the building footprint was removed and the area was graded down towards the new building footprint (Fig. 1). A concrete floor slab from a modern garage was removed from the area of the proposed new building and the area beneath and around it was stripped with a ditching bucket to a depth of 0.2m exposing the natural bedrock. All groundbreaking works were carried out under constant archaeological supervision.

3. ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS

3.1 Desk-based Assessment

NMRS Sites

- 3.1.1 The area of the new build sits within a probable Temporary Roman Camp of the first or second centuries AD and is listed by the NMRS (NMRS No. NT45SE 5). The camp defences are now not upstanding but a survey in 1803 determined that its West side and part of the East side of the camp including a 'gate' and a 'prestigious redoubt' were still visible. Today the line of the camp is indicated by a hedge and tree line which runs SE from Channelkirk Cottage intersecting the churchyard at Channelkirk. Ariel photography undertaken in 1988 proved the existence of the remains of the camp in the surrounding fields.
- 3.1.2 Sites listed by the NMRS within close proximity to the development site include Channelkirk Burial Ground (NMRS No. NT45SE 22), Channelkirk Manse, (NMRS No. NT45SE 73), Channelkirk Church Cist (NMRS NT45SE 8), Channelkirk Coin (NMRS No. NT45SE 58) and another Temporary Roman Camp (NMRS No. NT45SE 2).

Cartographic Sources

- 3.1.3 The Ordnance Survey First Edition 6 inch to 1 mile map (Surveyed 1853-1857) depicts two upstanding buildings on the site, one on or near the footprint of the existing Channelkirk Cottage and one immediately to its rear (Fig. 4). The Ordnance Survey Second Edition map (Surveyed 1895) depicts the same two buildings as mentioned above (Fig. 5).
- 3.1.4 By the time of the Ordnance Survey Revision map (surveyed 1904) and the Ordnance Survey map of 1923 both of these buildings appear to have disappeared (Figs 6-7).
- 3.1.5 In pre-Ordnance Survey maps depicting the development area, Moll (1732) only depicts the presence of the church at Channelkirk, known then as Chingilki (Fig. 2). However the scale of the map and the detail shown would mean that any building on the site would not be marked. Roy (1793) shows the Roman Camp to the north of the site in his 'Sketch of Agricola's camp near Channel Kirk' (Fig. 3). This depicts the church at Channelkirk but shows no other buildings along the road to the north.

3.2 Watching Brief (Fig. 8)

- 3.2.1 The area to the immediate north of the building footprint was stripped of topsoil to a depth of 0.5m and the area was graded down towards the new building footprint (Fig. 11). Within this area a rectangular area of compacted mortar and rubble (Fig. 9), measuring 5m by 3m, and two rubble-filled field drains were uncovered. The area of mortar is interpreted as a floor surface from an earlier building and presumably belongs to the rearmost building seen

on the first two Ordnance Survey editions. The SE edge of the mortar floor was cut by later terracing.

- 3.2.2 The terracing may have occurred when the current Channelkirk Cottage and its now demolished garage were constructed, to construct a level platform for the buildings. The terracing work has removed approximately 1m from the area of the new building footprint.
- 3.2.3 On the new build footprint, lying on this terraced area, only a thin layer of overburden, comprising 0.2m of topsoil and gravel mix, was present before it went straight onto the natural, shattered bedrock (Fig. 10). The only feature identified within this area was a trench for a modern water pipe which serviced the demolished modern garage.

4. CONCLUSION

- 4.1 A watching brief and desk-based assessment was carried out for an alteration and extension to a dwellinghouse at Channelkirk Cottage, Oxton. Two buildings are depicted on the Ordnance Survey First and Second Edition maps (1853-57 and 1895 respectively) within the area of the current Channelkirk Cottage and the proposed new extension. These buildings, however, do not appear on the Ordnance Survey Revision of 1904 and Ordnance Survey map of 1923. This would suggest that the current Channelkirk Cottage was built post 1923, with the earlier two buildings predating 1855 and having been removed some time between 1895 and 1904.
- 4.2 The watching brief identified the remains of a floor of a possible building, which is likely to have been the rearmost of the two buildings depicted on the First and Second Edition Ordnance Survey maps. As this putative building is slightly to the north of the current Channelkirk Cottage and the maps show the two removed buildings lying parallel to each other, the remains of the earlier building adjacent to the road may still survive slightly to the north of Channelkirk Cottage and not directly underneath it. The footprint of the existing Channelkirk Cottage and the new building are built on an area of terraced land meaning that any archaeological features would have been removed during the terracing work.
- 4.3 No further work is recommended in relation to the watching brief.
- 4.4 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 Scottish Borders Council Sites and Monuments Record.
- 4.5 A summary statement of the results of this watching brief will be submitted for publication in *Discovery and Excavation in Scotland* (Appendix 2).

5. REFERENCES

Cartographic

Ordnance Survey First Edition (Surveyed 1853-57) Berwickshire Sheet XIII, 6" to 1 mile.

Ordnance Survey Second Edition (Surveyed 1895) Kelso Sheet 25, 1" to 1 mile

Ordnance Survey Revision of 1904, Kelso Sheet 25, 1" to 1 mile

Ordnance Survey Revision of 1923, Kelso Sheet 25, 1" to 1 mile

Moll, H 1732 *The Shire of Berwick alias the Mer or March and Lauderdale*

Roy, W 1793 *Antiquities of the Romans in North Britain, Sketch of Agricolas camp near Channel Kirk*

Bibliography

Allan Archibald, 1900, *History of Channelkirk*, J. Thin, Edinburgh

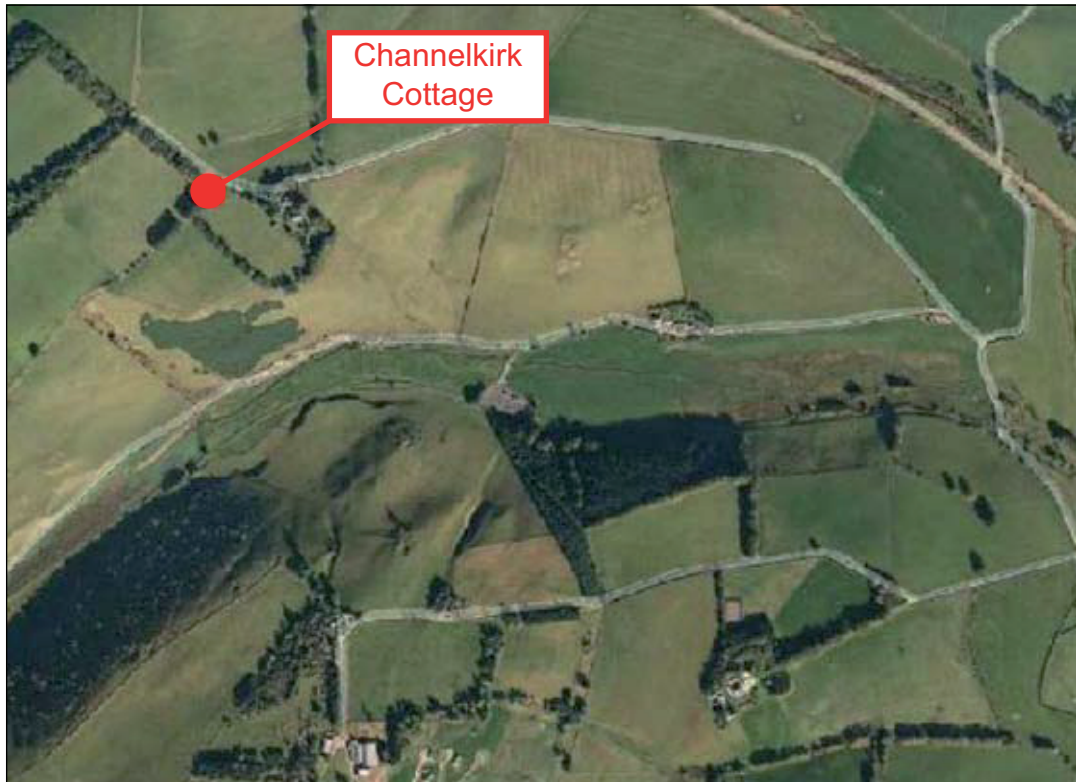
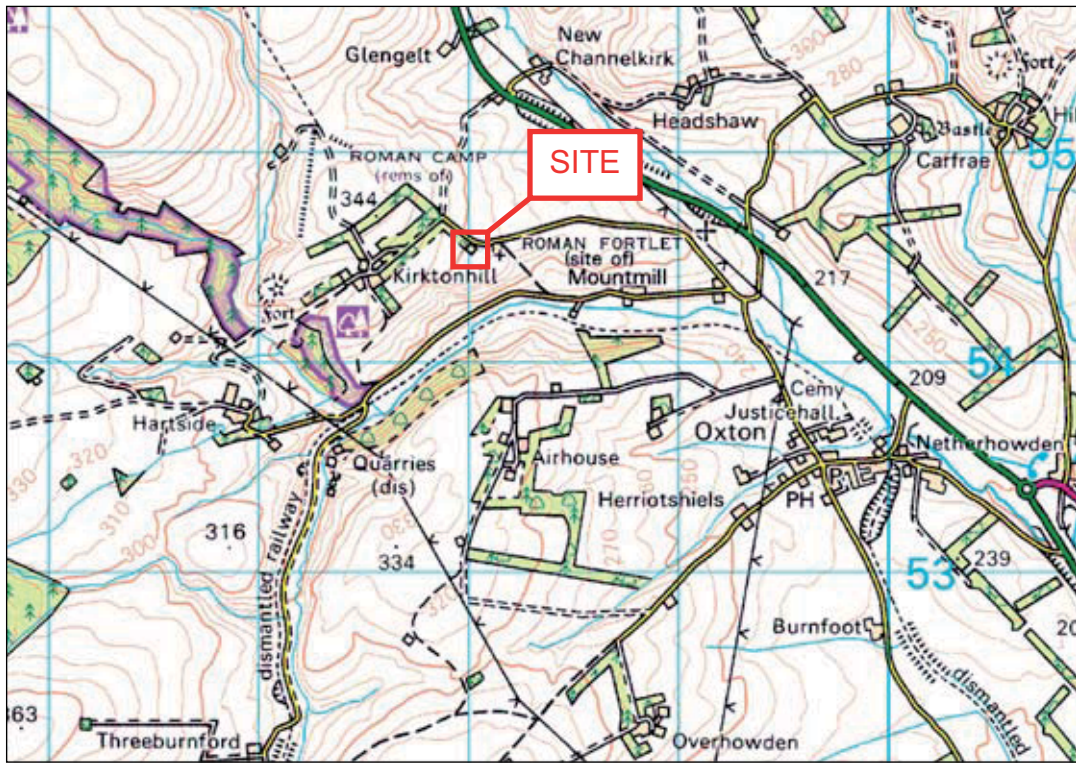
APPENDIX 1: Photographic Register

Digital Images

Shot	Description	From	Conditions
1-2	Pre-excavation shots of watching brief area	South	Sun
3-4	Pre-excavation shots of watching brief area	North-east	Sun
5-6	General working shots	West	Sun
7-9	General working shots	North	Sun
10-11	General working shots showing building rubble within topsoil	West	Sun
12-13	Area of mortar	South	Sun
14-15	Area of mortar	North	Sun
16-17	Area of mortar	West	Sun
18-19	General working shots	North	Dusk
20-21	General working shots	South	Dusk
22	Building footprint from S	South	Overcast
23	Detail of exposed bedrock in section of graded area	South	Overcast
24	Section of bedrock in area next to WB area	South	Overcast
25	Detail of bedrock in WB area	South East	Overcast
26	Building footprint from S 2	South	Overcast

APPENDIX 2: Discovery and Excavation in Scotland Entry

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	Scottish Borders Council
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	Channelkirk Cottage, Oxton, Scottish Borders
PROJECT CODE:	CHAN
PARISH:	Channelkirk
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	Graeme Carruthers
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	CFA Archaeology Ltd
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Watching Brief
NMRS NO(S):	NT45SE 5
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	Temporary Roman Camp
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	N/A
NGR (2 letters, 10 figures)	NT 48012 64537
START DATE (this season)	October 2009
END DATE (this season)	November 2009
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)	N/A
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	<p>A watching brief and desk-based assessment was carried out for an alteration and extension to Channelkirk Cottage, Oxton, Scottish Borders. The development area sits within a Temporary Roman Marching Camp (NMRS No. NT 45SE 5). The Watching Brief area had previously been subjected to terracing meaning that any potentially archaeologically sensitive layers had been removed, exposing bedrock.</p> <p>The watching brief identified the remains of the mortared floor of a previously unknown building which was not represented on any of the map evidence.</p> <p>No further archaeological works were recommended.</p>
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	N/A
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	N/A
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	KB Architecture and Design
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



Key:



Fig. No:

1

Revision:

A

Client:

KB Architecture and Design

Title:

Site location

Project:

Channelkirk Cottage

Scale:



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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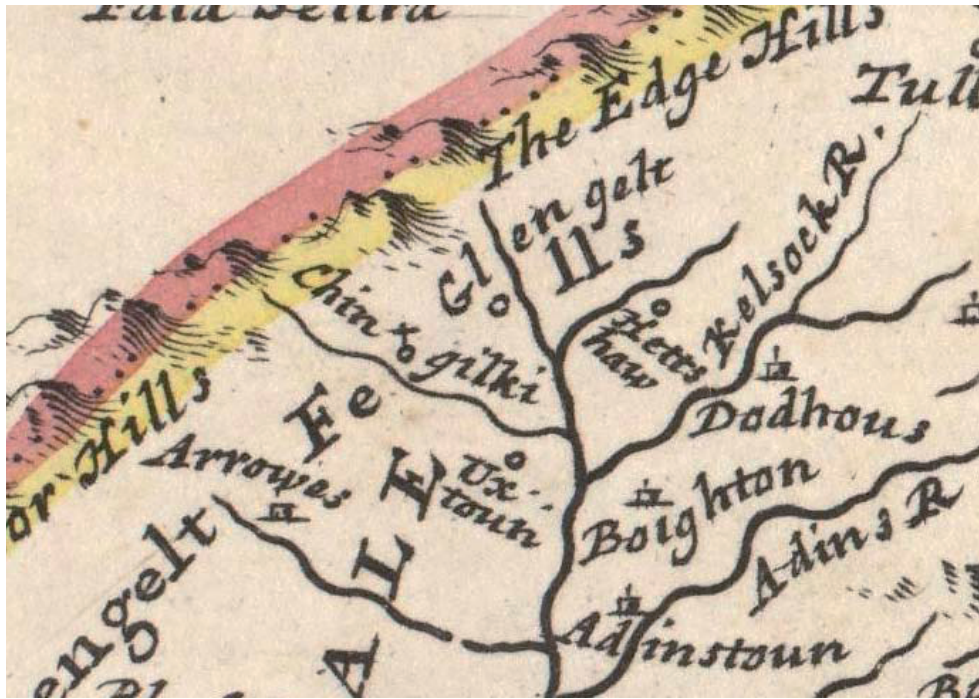


Fig. 2 Extract from map by H. Moll, 1732



Fig. 3 Extract from map by W. Roy, 1793

Key:



Fig. No:

2-3

Revision:

A

Client:

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Project:

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CFA ARCHAEOLOGY LTD
The Old Engine House
Eskmills Park
Musselburgh
East Lothian, EH21 7PQ
t: 0131 273 4380
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Report No:
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Fig. 4 Extract from 1st Edition Ordnance Survey map 1853-57



Fig. 5 Extract from 2nd Edition Ordnance Survey map 1895



Fig. 6 Extract from Ordnance Survey map, Revision 1904

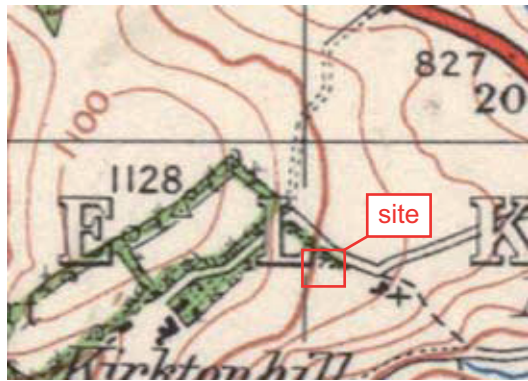


Fig. 7 Extract from Ordnance Survey map, 1923

Key:



Fig. No: 4-7 Revision: A Client: KB Architecture and Design

Title:

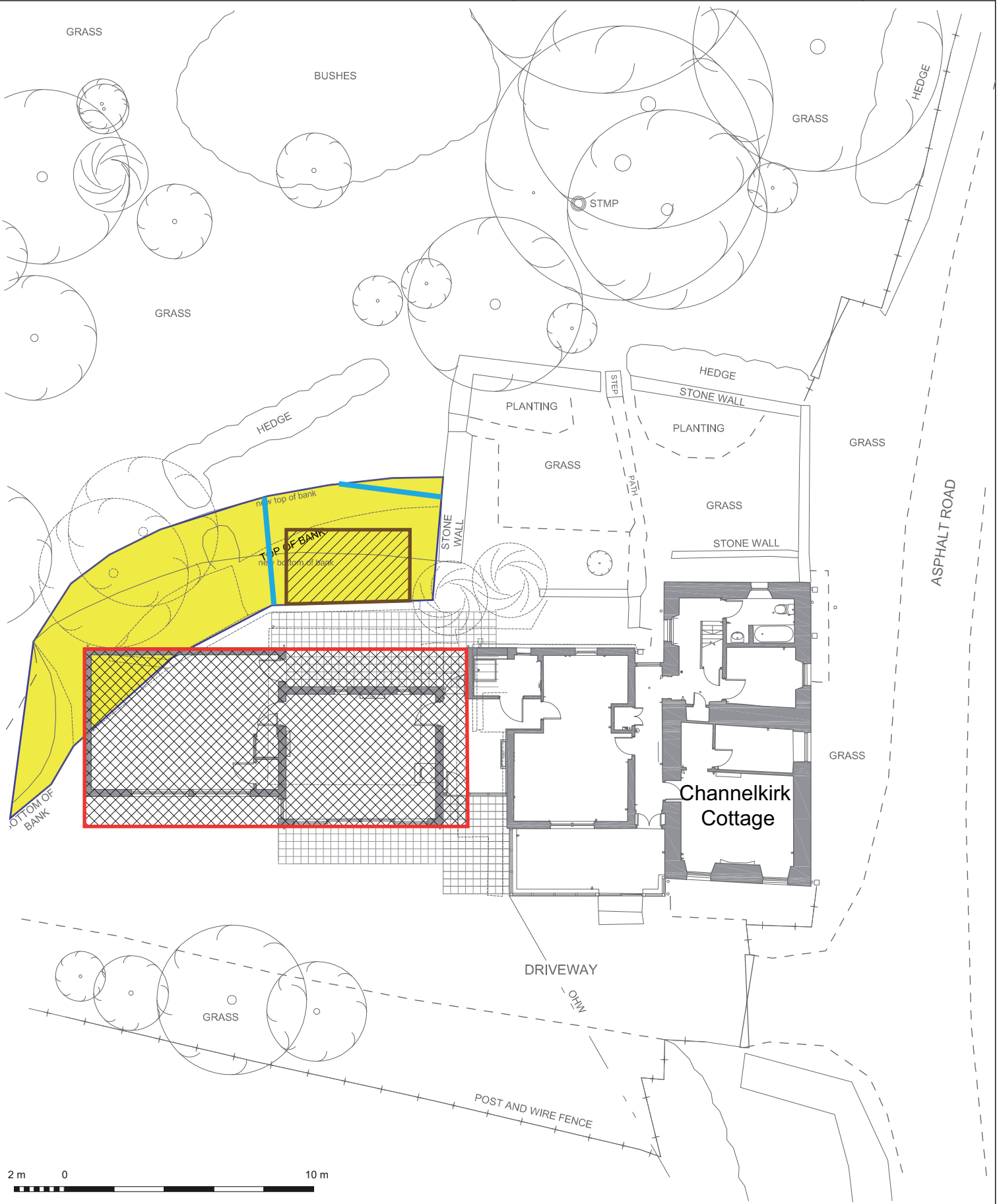
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CFA ARCHAEOLOGY LTD
The Old Engine House
Eskmills Park
Musselburgh
East Lothian, EH21 7PQ
t: 0131 273 4380
f: 0131 273 4381
e: info@cfa-archaeology.co.uk
w: www.cfa-archaeology.co.uk


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Key:

- Area of Watching Brief on slope grading
- Area of Watching Brief on new build footprint
- Mortared floor surface
- Rubble drain



Scale: 1:200@A4

Fig. No: **8** Revision: **A** Client: **KB Architecture and Design**

Title: **Location of Watching Brief Areas**

Project: **Channelkirk Cottage**



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CFA ARCHAEOLOGY LTD
The Old Engine House
Eskmills Park
Musselburgh
East Lothian, EH21 7PQ

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f: 0131 273 4381
e: info@cfa-archaeology.co.uk
w: www.cfa-archaeology.co.uk




Fig. 9 Mortared floor surface from the South



Fig. 10 Photograph from the South showing the footprint of the new building and also showing the area of terracing



Fig. 11 Section of the graded slope showing exposed bedrock approximately 0.40m above the level of the terraced area

Key:	Fig. No:	9-11	Revision:	A	Client:	KB Architecture and Design
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	Project:	Channelkirk Cottage				
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