

**CRAIG COTTAGE,
BANKS,
BRAMPTON,
CUMBRIA**



WATCHING BRIEF REPORT

CP. No: 10213/12

20/06/2012



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DOCUMENT TITLE: Craig Cottage, Banks, Brampton, Cumbria
DOCUMENT TYPE: Watching Brief Report
CLIENT: Shirley Nicholson
CP NUMBER: 10213/12
SITE CODE: CCB-A
PLANNING APP. NO: ' - '
OASIS REFERENCE: wardella2-128357
PRINT DATE: 20/06/2012
GRID REFERENCE: NY 5861 6520

Quality Assurance

This report covers works as outlined in the brief for the above-named project as issued by the relevant authority, and as outlined in the agreed programme of works. Any deviation to the programme of works has been agreed by all parties. The works have been carried out according to the guidelines set out in the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA) Standards, Policy Statements and Codes of Conduct. The report has been prepared in keeping with the guidance set out by WA Archaeology Ltd on the preparation of reports.

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SUMMARY

Wardell Armstrong Archaeology Ltd was commissioned by Shirley Nicholson to undertake an archaeological watching brief on groundworks relating to the removal of an old septic tank and the insertion of a new septic tank at Craig Cottage, Banks, Brampton, Cumbria (NGR NY 58616520). The work was liable to impact on an area within the Hadrian's Wall World Heritage Site. This comprises the Wall itself, the Military Way and the *Vallum*, all of which are legally protected as a scheduled monument (Scheduled Monument no. 26075). Craig Cottage is situated on land lying between the line of the Wall to its immediate north (under the current road surface) and the *Vallum* to the south. The property lies between the remains of Wall turrets 51A to the north-east and 51B to the south-west.

As a result, Mike Collins, Hadrian's Wall Archaeologist for English Heritage, granted consent for the work on the condition that an archaeological watching brief be undertaken during all groundworks.

The archaeological watching brief was undertaken over three days between 6th June and 8th June 2012. The watching brief monitored the removal of a redundant septic tank, the insertion of a new septic tank, in a different location, and all associated trenching for pipework. No archaeological remains were noted. As this archaeological watching brief was conducted as part of a recommendation to observe all groundworks in association with the insertion of a new septic tank, no further work is deemed necessary. However, given the property is within a World Heritage and Scheduled Site with high archaeological potential, it is recommended that any future work be subject to a programme of archaeological investigation.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Wardell Armstrong Archaeology Ltd would like to thank Shirley Nicholson, for commissioning the project, and for all assistance throughout the work. Wardell Armstrong Archaeology Ltd would also like to thank Mike Collins Hadrian's Wall Archaeologist for English Heritage, for all his assistance throughout the project.

Wardell Armstrong Archaeology Ltd also extends its thanks to the contracting staff of Ward's, for their help during this project.

The archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Kevin Mounsey. The report was written by Kevin Mounsey and the drawings were produced by Adrian Bailey. The project was managed by Frank Giocco, Technical Director for WAA Ltd. The report was edited by Martin Railton, Project Manager for WAA Ltd.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE PROJECT

- 1.1.1 In May 2012, Wardell Armstrong Archaeology Ltd were invited by Shirley Nicholson to maintain an archaeological watching brief at Craig Cottage, Banks, Brampton, Cumbria (NGR NY 5861 6520; Figure 1), during groundworks associated with the installation of a new septic tank. The work was liable to impact on an area within the Hadrian's Wall World Heritage Site. This comprises the Wall itself, the Military Way and the *Vallum*, all of which are legally protected as a scheduled monument (SAM no.26075). Craig Cottage is situated on land lying between the line of the Wall to its immediate north (under the current road surface) and the *Vallum* to the south. The property lies between the remains of Wall turrets 51A to the north-east and 51B to the south-west. As a result, Michael Collins, Hadrian's Wall Archaeologist for English Heritage requested that all groundworks be subject to a programme of archaeological observation and investigation. This is in line with government advice as set out in Section 12 of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF 2012).
- 1.1.2 All groundworks associated with the new septic tank installation had to be excavated under full archaeological supervision and all stages of the archaeological work were undertaken following approved statutory guidelines (IfA 2008), and were consistent with the specification provided by W A Archaeology (Town 2012) and generally accepted best practice.
- 1.1.3 This report outlines the monitoring works undertaken on-site, the subsequent programme of post-fieldwork analysis, and the results of this scheme of archaeological works.

2 METHODOLOGY

2.1 PROJECT DESIGN

2.1.1 A project design was submitted by Wardell Armstrong Archaeology Ltd in response to a request by Mike Collins, Hadrian's Wall Archaeologist for English Heritage, for an archaeological watching brief of the study area. Following his acceptance of the project design, Wardell Armstrong Archaeology Ltd was commissioned by the client to undertake the work. The project design was adhered to in full, and the work was consistent with the relevant standards and procedures of the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA), and generally accepted best practice.

2.2 THE WATCHING BRIEF

2.2.1 The works involved a structured watching brief to observe, record and excavate any archaeological deposits from the development site. A watching brief is a formal programme of observation and investigation conducted during any operation carried out for non-archaeological reasons, on a specified area or site on land, inter-tidal zone or underwater, where there is a possibility that archaeological deposits may be disturbed or destroyed (IfA 2008).

2.2.2 The aims and principal methodology of the watching brief can be summarised as follows:

- to establish the presence/absence, nature, extent and state of preservation of archaeological remains and to record them;
- to carry out further excavation and recording work in adequate time, if intact archaeological remains are uncovered during the project;
- to accurately tie the area watched by the archaeologist into the National Grid at an appropriate scale, with any archaeological deposits and features adequately levelled;
- to sample environmental deposits encountered as required, in line with English Heritage (2002) guidelines;
- to produce a photographic record of all contexts using colour digital and 35mm monochrome formats, each photograph including a graduated metric scale;
- to recover artefactual material, especially that useful of dating purposes;
- to produce a site archive in accordance with MAP2 (English Heritage 1991) and MoRPHE standards (English Heritage 2006).

2.2.3 All groundworks were carried out on the southern lawn of Craig cottage commencing on 6th June 2012. A summary of the findings of the watching brief is included within this report.

2.3 THE ARCHIVE

2.3.1 A full professional archive has been compiled in accordance with the specification, and in line with current UKIC (1990) and English Heritage Guidelines (1991) and according to the Archaeological Archives Forum recommendations (Brown 2011). The archive will be deposited within Carlisle Archives Centre, with copies of the report sent to the County Historic Environment Record at Kendal Cumbria, available upon request. The archive can be accessed under the unique project identifier WAA12, CCB-A, CP 10213/12.

2.3.2 Wardell Armstrong Archaeology Ltd, and English Heritage, support the **Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations (OASIS)** project. This project aims to provide an on-line index and access to the extensive and expanding body of grey literature, created as a result of developer-funded archaeological work. As a result, details of the results of this project will be made available by Wardell Armstrong Archaeology Ltd, as a part of this national project.

3 BACKGROUND

3.1 LOCATION AND GEOLOGICAL CONTEXT

3.1.1 Craig Cottage lies 2.00km north-east of the hamlet of Banks and 6.25km north-east of Brampton in the county of Cumbria. The property is immediately adjacent to the south side of the minor road which runs along the line of Hadrian's Wall in this area (Figures 1 and 2). To the west of Banks is the low-lying Carlisle, Solway Plain which extends southwards as the Vale of Eden. Moors and fells rise to the north of the property, while to the south the River Irthing, at the base of a steep bank, provides a corridor connecting to the Tyne Gap. The cottage lies at a height of c.145m AOD. On the south side of the property is a large lawned area where the groundworks took place.

3.1.2 The solid geology on the eastern side of the area comprises Carboniferous rocks, in the form of a succession of mudstones, siltstones, sandstones and limestones. Some of these are resistant to weathering and have been left as cliffs and ridges alongside the river (Giecco, Jones and Jones 2003). To the south of the area a succession of Permo-Triassic sandstones, including the St. Bees sandstone, outcrops in places. This fine-grained, dull red sandstone has long been used as a building stone of high quality. Subsequent glacial erosion has resulted in the deposition of boulder clay and sand and gravel over much of this solid geology.

3.2 HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

3.2.1 Craig Cottage is situated within the Hadrian's Wall World Heritage site corridor and is legally protected as a Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM no. 26075). This comprises the Wall itself, the Military Way and the *Vallum*, The Wall, with its forts, milecastles and turrets along with the defensive ditch and *Vallum* provide Britain with its most Substantial extant monument of the Roman Period (Shotter 1996).

3.2.2 The Wall ran from Bowness on Solway in the west to Wallsend on the River Tyne in the east, a distance of 73 miles (120km). Begun in AD 122 during the rule of the emperor Hadrian and thought to have taken between three and six years to complete, it was the first of two linear fortifications built across Britain. East of the River Irthing the Wall was constructed of stone and was between 5 and 6 metres high. West of the Irthing the wall was initially built of turf, 3.5m high, and later replaced by a stone construction. The width of the Wall varied between 1.8m and 6.00m depending on the requirements and mode of construction.

- 3.2.3 Hadrian's Wall was initially constructed as linear barrier (80 Roman miles long) having a 'milecastle' every Roman mile, with two turrets in between each milecastle. A large defensive ditch ran along the north side of the Wall. The initial milecastle, turret plan was soon revised with a series of forts constructed at regular intervals astride the wall. Gates in the milecastles and forts allowed passage through the wall. A wide ditch with mounds on either side known as the *Vallum* was constructed a short distance to the south of the Wall. Between and parallel the Wall and the *Vallum* ran a Roman military road known as the Military Way (Breeze and Dobson 1976).
- 3.2.4 The exact function of the Wall and there may have been many, is still very debatable. Certainly it would not have prevented a large scale, sustained attack from the north. It undoubtedly acted as an expression of Roman power and probably functioned as a customs barrier which controlled both smuggling, immigration and small scale raiding.
- 3.2.5 Craig Cottage is located between the preserved remains of turrets 51A and 51B (Figure 1). The line of the current minor road, to the immediate north of the property, overlies the actual Wall line. A signal tower at Pike Hill, on the line of the Wall, lies 1km to the west while Birdoswald Fort (*Banna*) is positioned just over 3km to the east.
- 3.2.6 At a distance of 3.25km to the west of Craig Cottage, situated on the flood plain of the River Irthing, is the Medieval Priory of Lanercost. Constructed by Augustinian monks in 1166 it contains a large amount of red and grey stone taken from Hadrian's Wall. Several Roman altars are to be found within the building. These include altars dedicated to Jupiter and the local god Silvanus, thought to have been originally erected by soldiers stationed at Birdoswald.

3.3 PREVIOUS WORK

- 3.3.1 No known previous archaeological work has occurred within the immediate vicinity of Craig Cottage. However numerous excavations have occurred at the sites of Birdoswald Roman Fort and the Medieval Priory at Lanercost, situated c.3km to the east and west of the cottage respectively.

4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

4.1 INTRODUCTION

4.1.1 The watching brief monitoring was undertaken over three consecutive days between the 6th and 8th of June 2012. All excavation work was carried out by a tracked mechanical excavator using both toothed and ditching buckets.

4.2 GROUNDWORKS

4.2.1 At a distance of 2.20m south of the south east corner of the garage a rectangular pit measuring 3.20m in length and 2.44m in width was excavated to a maximum depth of 2.55m (Figure 2; Plate 1). This was to contain the new septic tank. The orange/brown, sandy/clay natural substrate **(100)** was excavated into for a depth of 1.70m. Over this lay 0.70m of dark brown made ground **(102)** containing late 19th, early 20th century pottery and bottle glass sherds along with some clay tobacco pipe fragments. This was covered by 0.15m of dark brown, silty topsoil **(100)**.



Plate 1: excavation of new septic tank pit (facing west)

4.2.2 From the north-east corner of the new septic tank pit a trench was excavated in a north-easterly direction toward the stream (Figure 2; Plate 2). This was done in order to contain a water sampling chamber and the outflow pipe. The trench measured 6.60m in length, had a maximum depth of 1.00m and

measured 0.35m in width. Made ground (102) was covered by 0.15m of topsoil (100).



Plate 2: excavation of outflow trench (facing south-west)

- 4.2.3 In order to connect into the existing foul water pipe a trench was excavated from the front of Craig Cottage, across the lawn in an easterly direction, to the south-west corner of the new septic tank pit (Figure 2; Plate3). The trench measured 22.60m in length. 0.35m in width and had an average depth of 0.75m. At the western end of the trench 0.60m of excavated natural substrate (100) was covered by 0.15m of topsoil (100). At a distance of c.4.00m west of the new septic tank pit the deposit of made ground (102) was encountered. This gradually increased in depth, toward the pit and stream, in an easterly direction until at the eastern end of the trench it measured 0.60m in depth with 0.15m of topsoil (100) over it.
- 4.2.4 On the lawn at a distance of c.13.00m south of the garage was the site of the redundant septic tank (Figure 2; Plate 4). In order to extract this a rectangular pit measuring 2.40m in length and 1.80m in width was excavated to a depth of 1.00m around it. Excavated natural substrate (101) measuring 0.85m in depth was covered by 0.15m of topsoil (100).



Plate 3: excavation of foul pipe connection trench (facing east)



Plate 4: Excavation for removal of redundant septic tank (facing north)

4.3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL FINDS AND ENVIRONMENTAL SAMPLING

4.3.1 No archaeological finds of note were recovered, and no environmental samples were retained during the groundworks.

5 CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 CONCLUSIONS

5.1.1 The rear lawn area of Craig Cottage lies on land between the line of Hadrian's Wall to its north and the *Vallum* to the south. Groundworks revealed an area of 19th century made ground on the western bank of the small north-south stream running through the garden. This probably relates to when the property was farm cottages and was constructed to prevent water inundation of the area. The stream appears to have been recently modified to aid water flow from the area. No significant archaeological remains were noted.

5.2 RECOMMENDATIONS

5.2.1 As this watching brief was conducted as a condition of ground works relating to the removal of an old septic tank and the insertion of a new septic tank with associated pipework, no further archaeological work is deemed necessary. However, given the site's location in relation to the Hadrian's Wall World Heritage Site, it is recommended that any work conducted in the future be subject to a similar programme of archaeological investigation.

6 BIBLIOGRAPHY

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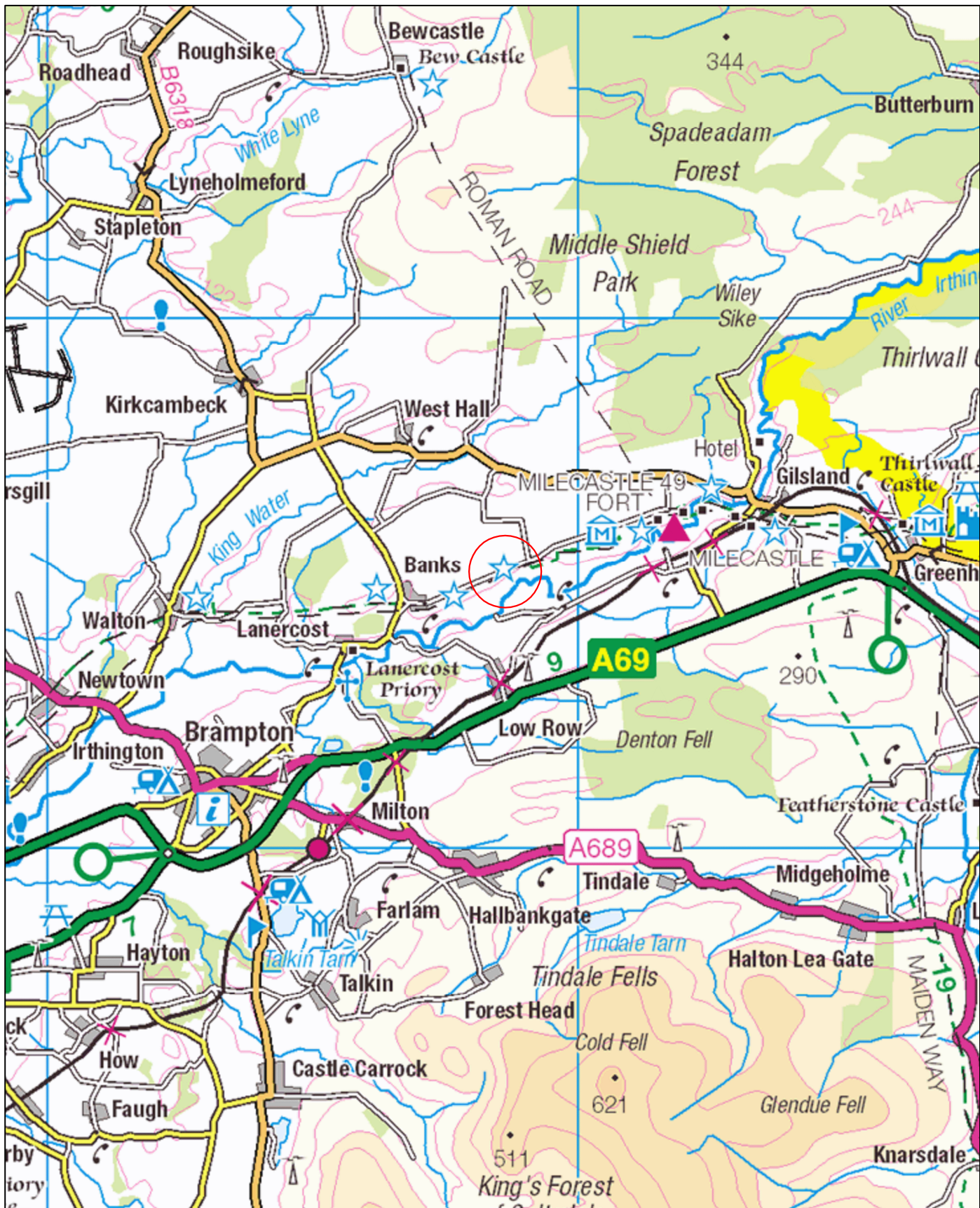
UKIC (1990) *Guidelines for the preparation of excavation archives for long-term storage*.

APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT TABLE

Context Number	Context Type	Description
100	Deposit	Topsoil
101	Geology	Natural Substrate
102	Deposit	Made Ground

Table 4: List of Contexts issued during Watching Brief

APPENDIX 2: FIGURES



WA Archaeology Ltd
2012

PROJECT: Craig Cottage, Banks, Brampton
Cumbria
SCALE: 1:100,000 at A4
REPORT No: CP10213
CLIENT: Shirley Nicholson
DRAWN BY: AB
DATE: June 2012
FIGURE: 1

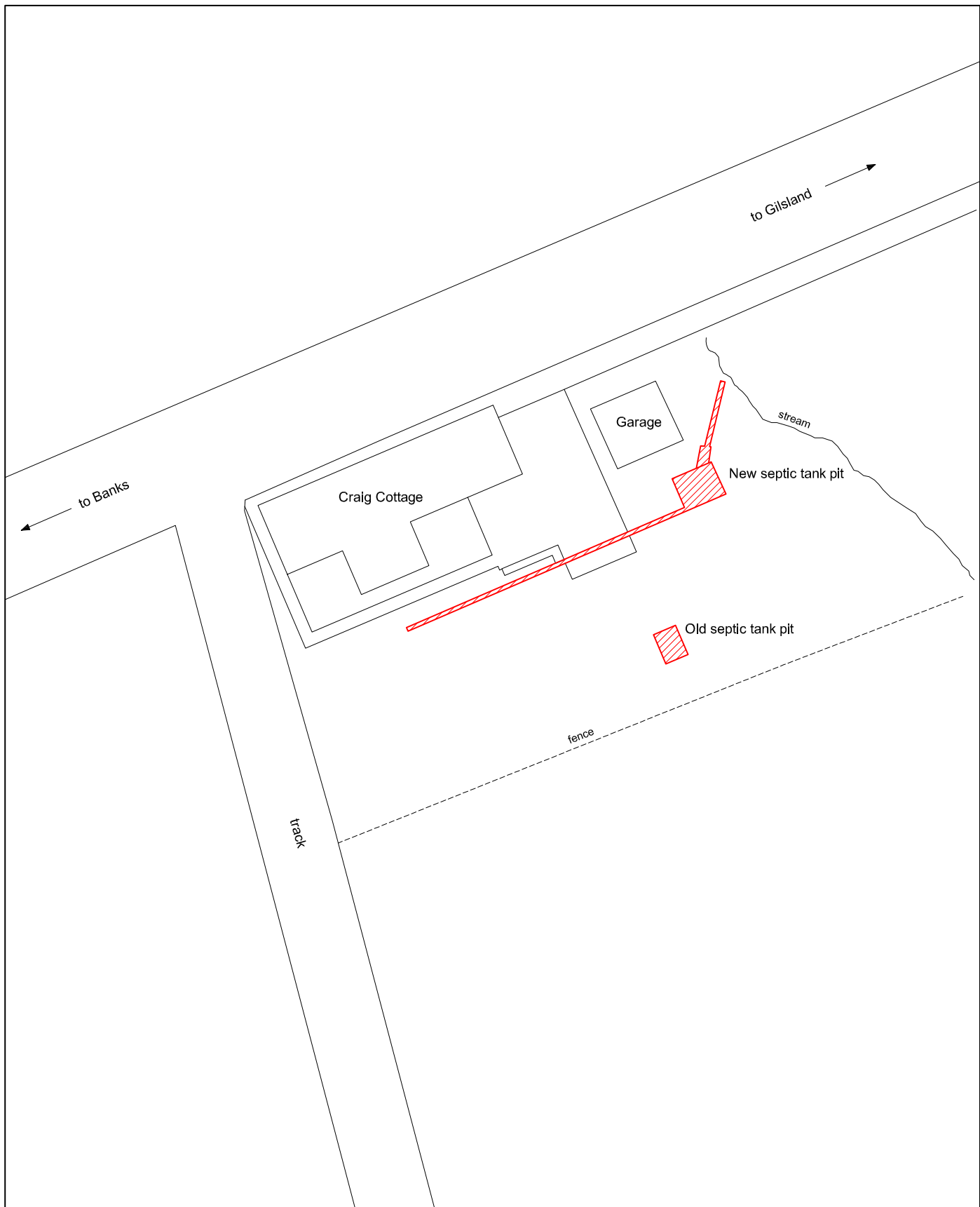
KEY:

 Site location



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Figure 1: Site location



WA Archaeology Ltd
2012

PROJECT: Craig Cottage, Banks, Brampton, Cumbria
 SCALE: 1:400 at A4
 REPORT No: CP10213
 CLIENT: Shirley Nicholson
 DRAWN BY: AB
 DATE: June 2012
 FIGURE: 2

KEY:

 Location of groundworks



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Figure 2: Craig Cottage groundworks