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**THE NATIONAL TRUST**

**ROW HEAD FARM, WASDALE, CUMBRIA**

**BUILDING SURVEY REPORT**

**November 2014**

*your earth our world*



**DATE ISSUED:** November 2014  
**JOB NUMBER:** CP11158  
**PLANNING APP NO:** 7/2014/4065  
**OASIS REFERENCE:** wardella2-193908  
**GRID REFERENCE:** NY 1869 0886

THE NATIONAL TRUST

ROW HEAD FARM, WASDALE HEAD, CUMBRIA

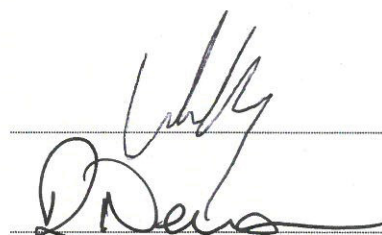
BUILDING SURVEY REPORT

NOVEMBER 2014

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DESK BASED ASSESSMENTS  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATION  
GEOPHYSICAL SURVEY  
TOPOGRAPHIC AND LANDSCAPE SURVEY  
HISTORIC BUILDING RECORDING  
ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

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## SUMMARY

Wardell Armstrong Archaeology was invited by Jamie Lund, Archaeologist at The National Trust, to undertake a building survey at Row Head Farm, Wasdale Head, Cumbria (NGR NY 1869 0886). This work relates to an application for the erection of a new cattle building and roofed midden on the site of surviving historic sheep pens to the west of Row Head Farm.

The archaeological survey was undertaken on the 29<sup>th</sup> October. As well as producing a general recording of the fabric of the surviving walls as standing, nine individual features were encountered during the archaeological recording, all likely to predate 1863. Four related to earlier gates, one was an earlier opening for stock control, two were breaks in the wall fabric, probable earlier full height accesses, one was a rectangular recess, and the last, the remains of a semi-circular pen known from 19<sup>th</sup> century mapping, represented by a stub wall.

This has been a rare opportunity to study and preserve for prosperity a record of agricultural features prior to demolition; assets that contribute to the outstanding universal values of a World Heritage Site candidate and a statutorily protected landscape, The Lake District National Park.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Wardell Armstrong Archaeology thank Jamie Lund, Archaeologist at The National Trust, for commissioning the project, and to Tom Slater, Project Manager for The National Trust, for all assistance throughout the work. Wardell Armstrong Archaeology also thank Eleanor Kingston of the Lake District National Park Authority, for all her assistance throughout the project. Thanks also go to staff at the Cumbria Archive Centre at Carlisle, and at the local studies section of the library at Carlisle.

Wardell Armstrong Archaeology also extend their thanks to Andrew and Heather Maylor-Lopez, at Row Head Farm, for their help during this project.

The archaeological survey was undertaken by Kevin Mounsey and Cat Peters. The report was written by Cat Peters and the figures were produced by Adrian Bailey. The report was edited by Richard Newman, Post Excavation Manager for WAA. The project was managed by Martin Railton, Senior Project Manager for Wardell Armstrong Archaeology (WAA).

## **1 INTRODUCTION**

### **1.1 Circumstances of the Project**

1.1.1 In October 2014 Wardell Armstrong Archaeology was invited by Jamie Lund, Archaeologist at The National Trust, to undertake an archaeological building survey at Row Head Farm, Wasdale Head, Cumbria (NGR NY 1869 0886; Figure 1). The archaeological works were undertaken prior to the construction of a proposed new cattle building and roofed midden (Planning Ref: 7/2014/4065). The proposed development required the removal of the remains of surviving sheep pen features to the south-west of Row Head Farm (centred at NGR NY 1869 0886). As these agricultural features were deemed of local heritage importance, and contributed to the Outstanding Universal Values defined for the prospective World Heritage Site, they needed to be recorded prior to demolition.

1.1.2 The archaeological recording was undertaken in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation, submitted to, and approved by, the Lake District National Park Authority. This is in line with government advice as set out in Section 12 of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF 2012).

1.1.3 This report outlines the results of the recording works undertaken on-site.

## **2 METHODOLOGY**

### **2.1 Written Scheme of Investigation**

2.1.1 A written scheme of investigation (WSI) was submitted by Wardell Armstrong Archaeology in response to a request by Jamie Lund, Archaeologist, and Tom Slater, Project Manager, both at The National Trust, for an archaeological building recording. Following acceptance of the WSI by the Lake District National Park Authority, Wardell Armstrong Archaeology was commissioned by The National Trust 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 2008; IfA 2012).

### **2.2 Rapid Desk-based Research**

2.2.1 Before the commencement of the archaeological survey, limited desk-based research was undertaken in order to provide historical information relating to the surviving structures at Row Head Farm. The assessment primarily involved the consultation of relevant historical mapping and documentary sources for the site at Wasdale Head.

### **2.3 The Archaeological Recording**

2.3.1 The building recording followed English Heritage Guidelines for a Level 2 survey (English heritage 2006). It comprised an observation of the sheep pens, the production of a written and photographic record, and a metric survey of the existing structure in plan.

2.3.2 The aims and principal methodology of the survey is summarised as follows:

- to provide general views of the exteriors of the pens prior to demolition;
- to provide detailed coverage showing the pens' walls' external appearances;
- to record any significance external or internal detail, including openings, breaks in construction, and structural detail, which is relevant to the designing of the pens and, and to their history;
- the relationship of the pens to their setting, topography and to other buildings or structures.

2.3.3 Metric survey was also undertaken of the sheep pens to provide a plan of the structures as they existed, plus any additional evidence for pre-existing structures.



## 2.4 The Archive

- 2.4.1 A full professional archive has been compiled in accordance with the specification, and according to the Archaeological Archives Forum recommendations (Brown 2011). The archive will be deposited within an appropriate repository, with copies of the report sent to the County Historic Environment Record at the Lake District National Park Authority offices, Murley Moss, Oxenholme, where viewing will be available upon request. The archive can be accessed under the unique project identifier WAA14, CP 11158.
- 2.4.2 Wardell Armstrong Archaeology and the Lake District National Park Authority, 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, as a part of this national project.

### 3 BACKGROUND

#### 3.1 Location and Geological Context

3.1.1 Wasdale Head is a small agricultural community at the foot of Scafell Pike and Great Gable, north of Wastwater within the Lake District National Park. Row Head Farm is a holding consisting of around 1,368 hectares, the National Trust's second largest farm in the Park on account of its extensive area of freehold fell.

#### 3.2 Archaeological Background

3.2.1 The earliest detailed reference to 'Row' at Wasdale Head comes from an agreement over stints for Wasdale Head c. 1800 (CA(C) DX 68/58). It was likely to have been in existence before this date, however, as Wasdale Head is thought to have been of more importance pre 1800 when there were apparently 18 farms at Wasdale Head, "having contained in 1792, 47 inhabitants" (Mannix and Whellan 1847, 369). In 1841 there were 35 (*ibid*).

3.2.2 There is archaeological evidence at Row of settlement shrinkage (National Trust 2000, 46-9). Row was one of four settlements in existence at Wasdale Head in the 16<sup>th</sup> century and probably originated as a medieval vaccary (National Trust 2000; Newman 2014, 120). In 1322, there appear to have been four vaccaries which were grouped around a central ring garth containing a shared common arable field, and Row is likely to have been one of these (Newman 2014, 120).

3.2.3 The table below lists some past residents of Row Head, based primarily on trade directories:

<i>Year</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Place</i>	<i>Reference</i>
c.1800	Banks, Thos.; Tyson, Thos.; Ritson, Wm	'Row'	Taw House agreement about stints at Wasdale Head, 2 <sup>nd</sup> July 1800 (CA(C)) DX/68/58)
1829	Tyson, Thomas (yeoman)	'Row Head'	Parson and White 1829, 240
1847	Ritson, John	'Row Head'	Mannix and Whellan 1847, 369
1873	Ritson, John; Sharp, Joseph; Tyson, Thomas; Wilson, John	Farmers, 'Wasdale Head'	Kelly 1873, 873
1921	Wilson, Richard M. farmer	'Middle Row'	Kelly 1921, 156

3.2.4 At some time during the 1870s, Tom and Anne Tyson established Row Head as a guest house. This became a rival establishment to the hotel to the south, “*was teetotal, had clean and comfortable rooms and a reputation for good home cooking... [providing] something of a contrast to the more raucous and unpredictable atmosphere at the Huntsmans’*” (Cocker 2006, 22). Daniel Tyson, who was involved in running the Row Head guesthouse, also took over the lease of the Huntsman’s Inn in 1879, from Will and Dinah Ritson changing the name to the Wastwater Hotel (*ibid*), eventually retiring in 1901. By 1903, the Row Head guest house was referred to as the ‘Temperance Hotel’ in an advertisement for tenants of the Wasdale Estate. At that time, ‘Rowhead’ had a ‘stock of 350 Sheep’ (*West Cumberland Times, Saturday September 19<sup>th</sup>, 1903, page 4*).

## 4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL RECORDING

### 4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 The archaeological recording was undertaken on Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> October 2014. Although midden and undergrowth clearance had been undertaken, some areas were obscured by rubble and tumble, with the area between the northern area and the central area being at a higher level, with dumps of undergrowth obscuring it. The area to the west of the surviving walls was obscured by tumble (Plate 1) though there was no clear evidence for earlier walls west of the surviving walls recorded during the survey. The surviving sheep pens comprised a series of walls, sub-divided for the purposes of this discussion as the northern area, the central area and southern area. Walls A, B and C were in the northern area; Walls D, E, F and G in the central area and Walls H, I, J and K in the southern area, the locations of which are shown in Figure 5. Features noted from the walls have been given individual numbers, and are summarized in Appendix 1, their locations depicted in Figure 5.



*Plate 1: Westernmost area beyond surviving walls facing north-east*

4.1.2 The walls in all three areas comprised a mixture of sub-rounded and sub-angular individual stones averaging in size to 0.35m wide and 0.25m tall, to form free standing dry stone walls. No through stones were noted anywhere in the wall remains. The capstones of the northern area comprised two stones spanning the width of the wall, whereas the southern area, where the wall survived to its fullest

extent, single stones capped the wall. Much of the central area did not survive to its full extent.

#### 4.2 Northern Area

4.2.1 The northern area comprised the remains of Walls A, B and C. Wall A will remain unaffected by the development, and runs on a north-east south-west orientation to the west of Row Head farmhouse, joining Wall B which runs south-eastwards from its southern extent. Wall C runs south-westwards from the central point of the south-west face of Wall B. Walls A and B were still in use at the time of the survey, though the eastern extent of Wall B had odd remnants of slab and stones added at a more recent date (Plate 2). Wall C was in a poor state of repair, obscured and truncated at its southern extent (Plate 3). No structural details of note were observed in the northern area.



*Plate 2: Eastern extent of Wall B, northern area, facing west*



*Plate 3: Wall C, northern area, facing west*

4.2.2 From cartographic analysis, it is clear that Walls B and C were parts of a more extensive wall system during the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Wall B once continued on a south-easterly alignment across much of the southern side of the farmhouse, before heading southwestwards to join the north-eastern corner of the barn wall to the south, as shown on Ordnance Survey Mapping of 1863 and 1899 (Figures 3 and 4). Wall C once continued southwards to join Wall E in the central area, and, together with Walls G, E and B, formed an enclosed area or pen, larger in 1863 (Figure 3), and divided by Wall D into a smaller area by 1899 (Figure 4). Wall A heading westwards and northwards to the west of the farmhouse appears to be a more recent post 1899 alignment, with the earlier wall running closer to the house (Figure 4).

#### 4.3 **Central Area**

4.3.1 The central area of wall remains comprised Walls D, E, F and G, all linking to provide a square enclosed area. Wall H, leading from the south east corner of the enclosure, was poorly preserved, and had been added to with modern brick and wood discards in more recent times (Plate 4), and altered at its southern extent by a modern concrete rendered wall, discussed in the southern area discussion below.



*Plate 4: Wall H, central area, facing south east*

- 4.3.2 Wall D once had a gateway at its north western corner, evidenced by a metal bracket/ gate hanger hook for the top of a gate (Feature 2), located in the south-western face of Wall G (Plate 5).
- 4.3.3 The area to the immediate north contained dumps of tumble and stones, making analysis of this area more difficult. Within the enclosure, towards the southern extent of Wall E, in the north west face of the wall, was a rectangular storage recess (Feature 1) measuring 0.33m in width and 0.2m in height (Plate 6). A self-contained pen is shown at this location on the Second Edition Ordnance Survey Mapping of 1899 (Figure 4), though only three of its walls are depicted on the First Edition Map of 1863 (Figure 3), indicating that Wall D is a post 1863 pre 1899 alteration of an earlier larger enclosure.



*Plate 5: Feature 2 (gate pin) in Wall G, facing west north west*



*Plate 6: Feature 1 (storage recess) in Wall E, facing south west*

4.3.4 Several other features were noted from the central area. These included a low blocked opening located in Wall F (Feature 4), which measured 0.56m in width and 0.6m in height (Plate 7). This could have been a 'bolt hole' or 'smoot', 'sheep creep' or 'cripple hole' (Brooks 1977, 118-120), used to control the passage of livestock. The level of the ground to the south was quite high, perhaps higher than when the opening was in use. To the west of this was a break in the wall or possible gateway



located 1.3m from the wall corner (Feature 5). The break in construction was more obvious at the eastern extent (Plate 8).



*Plate 7: Feature 4, in Wall G, facing north west*



*Plate 8: Feature 5, in Wall G, facing north*

4.3.5 In addition, a metal bracket/ gate hanger hook for the top of a gate (Feature 6) was located at the western edge on the south face of Wall F (Plate 9), suggesting a gate, and therefore presumably further walls no longer in existence, extending to the south. Walls are shown to the immediate south on both the First and Second Editions of the Ordnance Survey Maps (Figures 3 and 4).



*Plate 9: Feature 6 (gate pin), in Wall F, facing north west*

4.3.6 Further features were noted in the westernmost wall of the pen, Wall G. The southernmost of these was a break in the wall (Feature 7) noted to the immediate south of a stub wall (Feature 8; Plate 10). The stub wall (Feature 8) abutted Wall G and indicates where an earlier wall once extended from this point. A semi-circular pen is depicted at this location on 19<sup>th</sup> century maps (Figures 3 and 4). The break in the wall (Feature 7) could represent an earlier entranceway providing access from the enclosure or pen to the west, into the semi-circular pen.



*Plate 10: Features 7 (right) and 8 (left) in Wall G, facing east*

4.3.7 The final feature noted in this central area was a metal bracket/ gate hanger hook for the top of a gate (Feature 9), which was located at the northern extreme Wall G (Plate 11). This was 0.95m from ground level, and indicated that the wall once extended beyond its present limit, northwards. Indeed, both the First and Second Editions of the Ordnance Survey mapping of 1863 and 1899, show the wall continuing north, and then north-eastwards to join Wall B (Figures 3 and 4).



*Plate 11: Feature 9 (gate pin) in Wall G, facing east north east*

#### 4.4 Southern Area

4.4.1 The southern area of wall remains consisted of a modern breezeblock and concrete rendered area of wall, abutting tumbled dry stone remains to the immediate west, Walls H and I, and adjoining the central area enclosure or pen to the north (Plate 12). This obscured the earlier wall, Wall H, and had evidence of recent use for midden stockpiling. The curved area of walls, Wall K, to the south and west of this was in a good state of repair and was still in use at the time of the archaeological recording for sheep pens for herdwick sheep (Plate 13).



*Plate 12: Modern breezeblock and concrete rendered wall, facing west south west*



*Plate 13: Wall K, in use for sheep pens facing north east*

4.4.2 Wall J, to the south-west, was also in a good state of preservation, and marked a difference in ground levels either side of the wall, with the north west facing elevation survived to a height of 2.1m (Plate 14). A gate bisected the wall, and a metal bracket/ gate hanger hook for the bottom of a gate (Feature 3) survived on the west side (Plate 15), indicating that an earlier gate was also once in existence at this location.



*Plate 14: Wall J, facing north east*



*Plate 15: Feature 3 in Wall J, facing west south west*

4.4.3 An interesting corner of wall was noted extending from Wall H (Wall I; Plate 16), perhaps the corner of an earlier enclosure or building, though it does not exactly line up with features known from 19<sup>th</sup> century mapping (Figures 3 and 4). The widened

wall here, and further south east at Wall K, had been utilised in more recent times for dumping surplus material.



*Plate 16: Wall I, facing south east*

#### 4.5 Discussion

4.5.1 The First Edition Ordnance Survey map of 1863 (Figure 3) shows the farmhouse to the north and barn to south with a track to the west. Five enclosures are depicted, one narrow angular one to the immediate west of the barn with a further smaller one to its west and a wall extending beyond this, westwards and south-westwards to the buildings at Middle Row. To the north-west a third enclosure covers the area between the barn and the track south of the farmhouse, and to its west, an angled enclosure is depicted, with a semi-circular enclosure beyond. Walls K, J, F, E G, C and B, and probably therefore features 1-9, are the surviving remains of these enclosures or pens and all predate 1863.

4.5.2 The Second Edition Ordnance Survey map of 1899 (Figure 4) shows the same three northern enclosures, but the southern area has changed with the previously depicted two enclosures to the south west of the barn, reorganized to include two new square pens and a triangular enclosure within the wider enclosed area. The north-westernmost enclosure has also since been subdivided to include a square enclosure or pen to the immediate east of the semi-circular pen, constructed with the insertion of Wall D. Wall I may be the remains of some of these southern

changes, and thus Walls D and I date to between 1863 and 1899. Wall H must post date 1899, and therefore is likely to be a 20<sup>th</sup> century modification.



## **5 CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

### **5.1 Conclusions**

- 5.1.1 This has been a rare opportunity to study and preserve for posterity a record of agricultural features prior to demolition; assets that contribute to the outstanding universal values of a statutorily protected landscape, The Lake District National Park, which has also been put forward as a World Heritage Site (LDWHPP 2013, 2).
- 5.1.2 Nine individual features were encountered during the archaeological recording of the wall remains of former sheep pens at Row Head Farm and are likely to have predated 1863. Four related to earlier gates, one was an earlier opening for stock control, two were breaks in the wall fabric, probable earlier full height accesses, one was a rectangular recess, and the last, the remains of a semi-circular pen known from 19<sup>th</sup> century mapping, represented by a stub wall.

## 6 BIBLIOGRAPHY

### 6.1 Primary Sources

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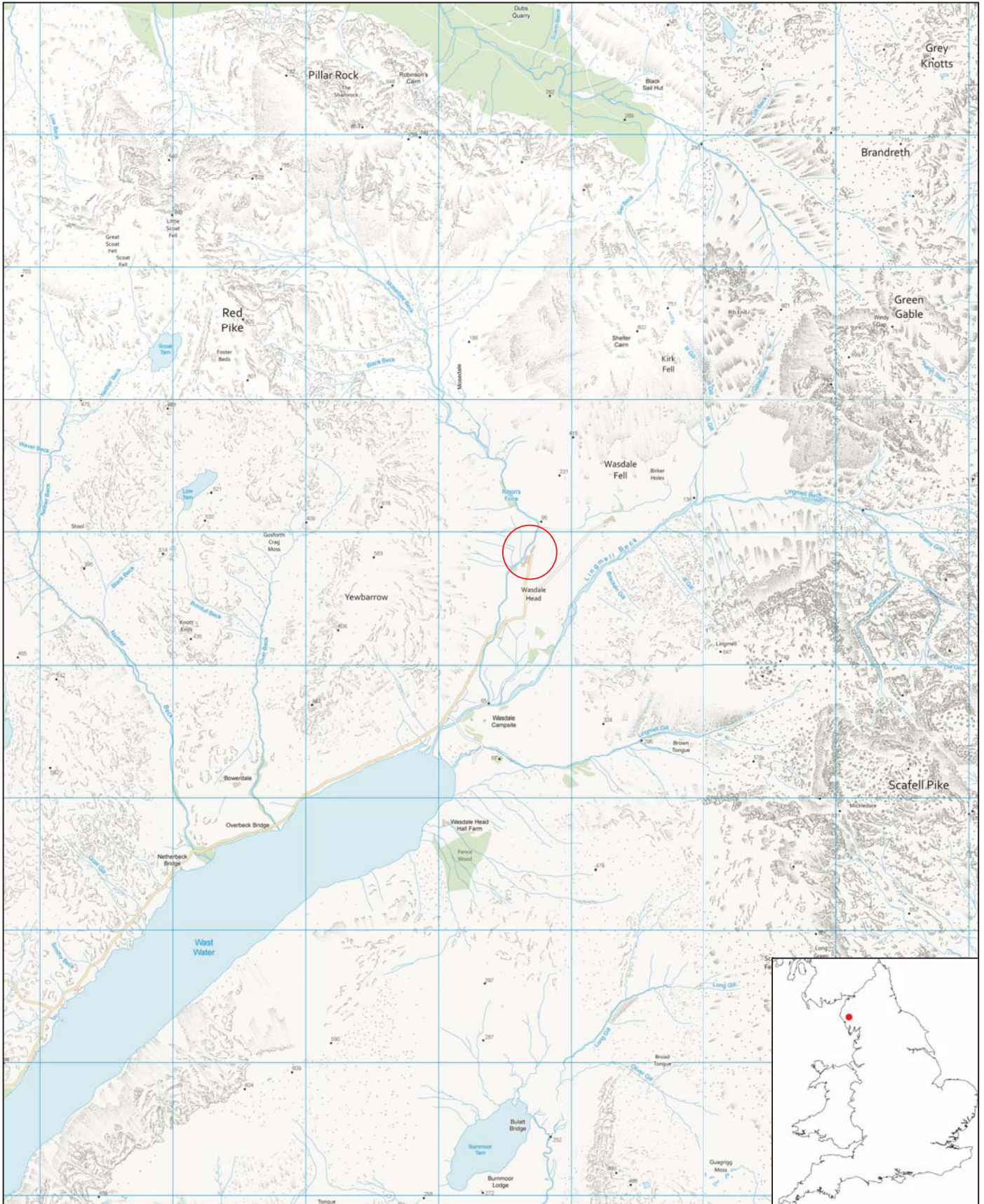
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### APPENDIX 1: FEATURE LIST

Feature Number	Description	Dimensions
1	Rectangular recess in north-western face of eastern wall in central wall remains	0.32m wide; 0.2m high
2	Metal bracket/ gate hanger hook for top of gate, located in south-western face of western wall in central wall remains	0.07m long; 0.07m high
3	Metal bracket/ gate hanger hook for bottom of gate in east facing western gate entranceway in south-westernmost wall remains	0.05m long; 0.08m high
4	Blocked low pre-existing opening located in southern wall of central wall remains	0.56m wide; 0.6m high
5	Break in wall or gateway in southern wall of central wall remains area	1.05m wide
6	Metal bracket/ gate hanger hook for top of gate, located in south-western face of southern wall in central wall remains	0.07m wide; 0.08m high
7	Break in wall in western wall of central wall remains	
8	Jutting out area of wall on western face of westernmost wall in central wall remains	0.75m wide at base
9	Metal bracket/ gate hanger hook for top of gate, located at northern extent of western wall in central wall remains	0.08m wide; 0.08m high

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## APPENDIX 2: FIGURES






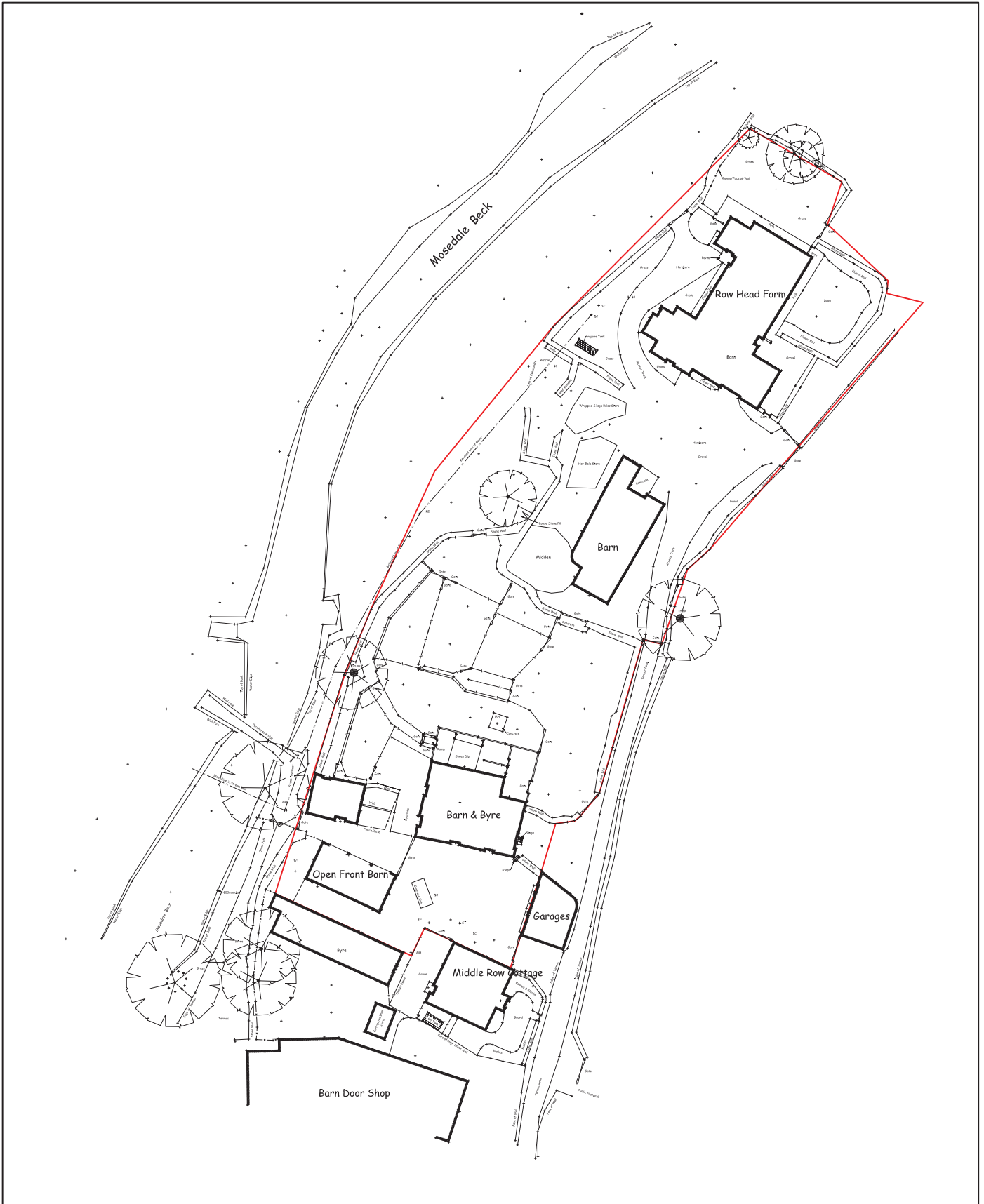
 <p>Wardell Armstrong Archaeology 2014</p>	<p>PROJECT: Row Head Farm, Wasdale Head, Cumbria</p> <p>SCALE: 1:40,000 at A4</p> <p>REPORT No: CP11158</p> <p>CLIENT: The National Trust</p> <p>DRAWN BY: AB</p> <p>DATE: November 2014</p> <p>FIGURE: 1</p>	<p>KEY:</p> <p> Site location</p>	 <p>Reproduced by permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown copyright. All rights reserved. Licence number 100019512</p>
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Figure 1: Site location.






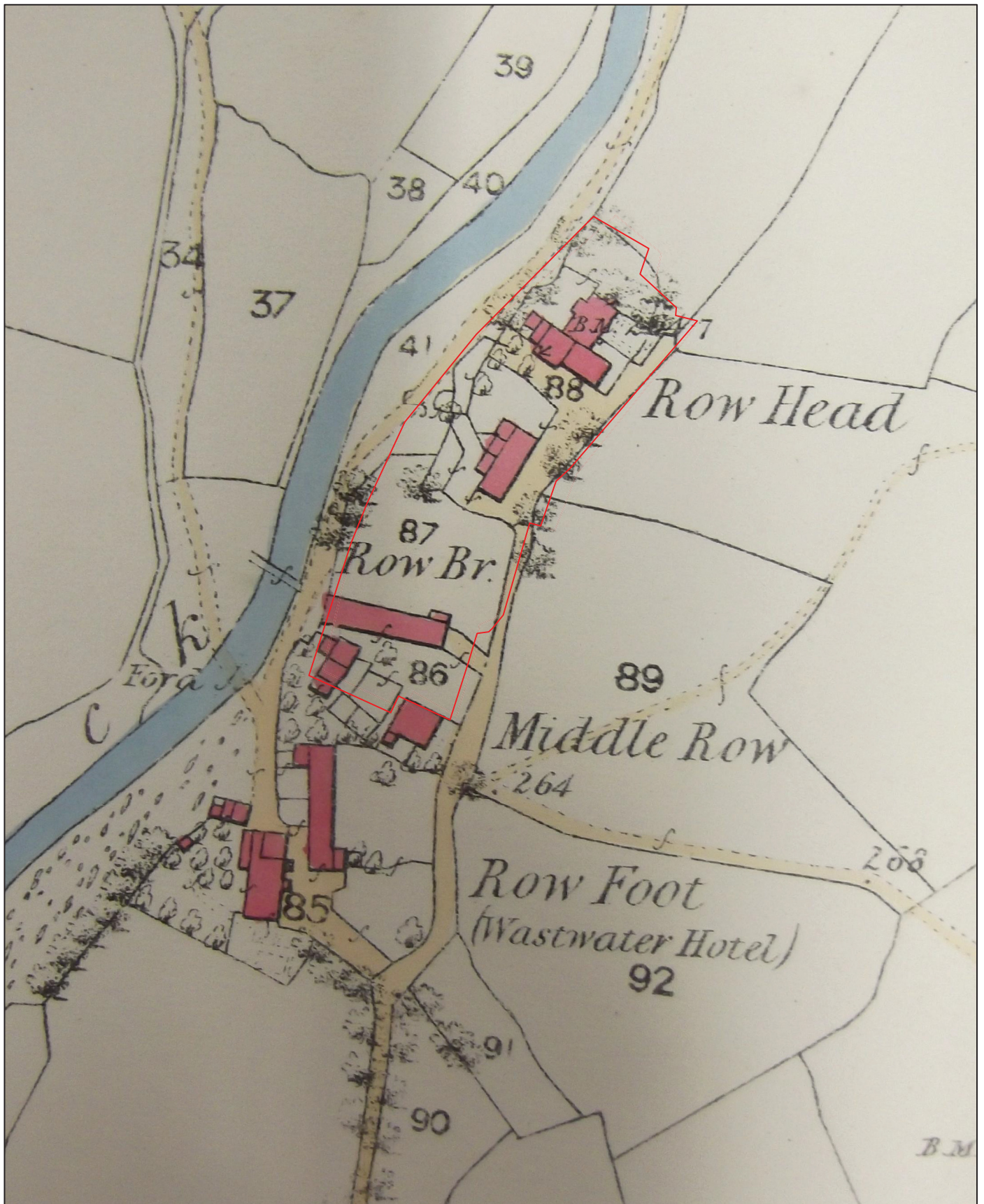
 <p>Wardell Armstrong Archaeology 2014</p>	<p>PROJECT: Row Head Farm, Wasdale Head, Cumbria</p> <p>SCALE: 1:750 at A4</p> <p>REPORT No: CP11158</p> <p>CLIENT: The National Trust</p> <p>DRAWN BY: AB</p> <p>DATE: November 2014</p> <p>FIGURE: 2</p>	<p>KEY:</p>  <p>Site boundary</p>	 <p>Reproduced by permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown copyright. All rights reserved. Licence number 100019512</p>
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Figure 2: Detailed site location.






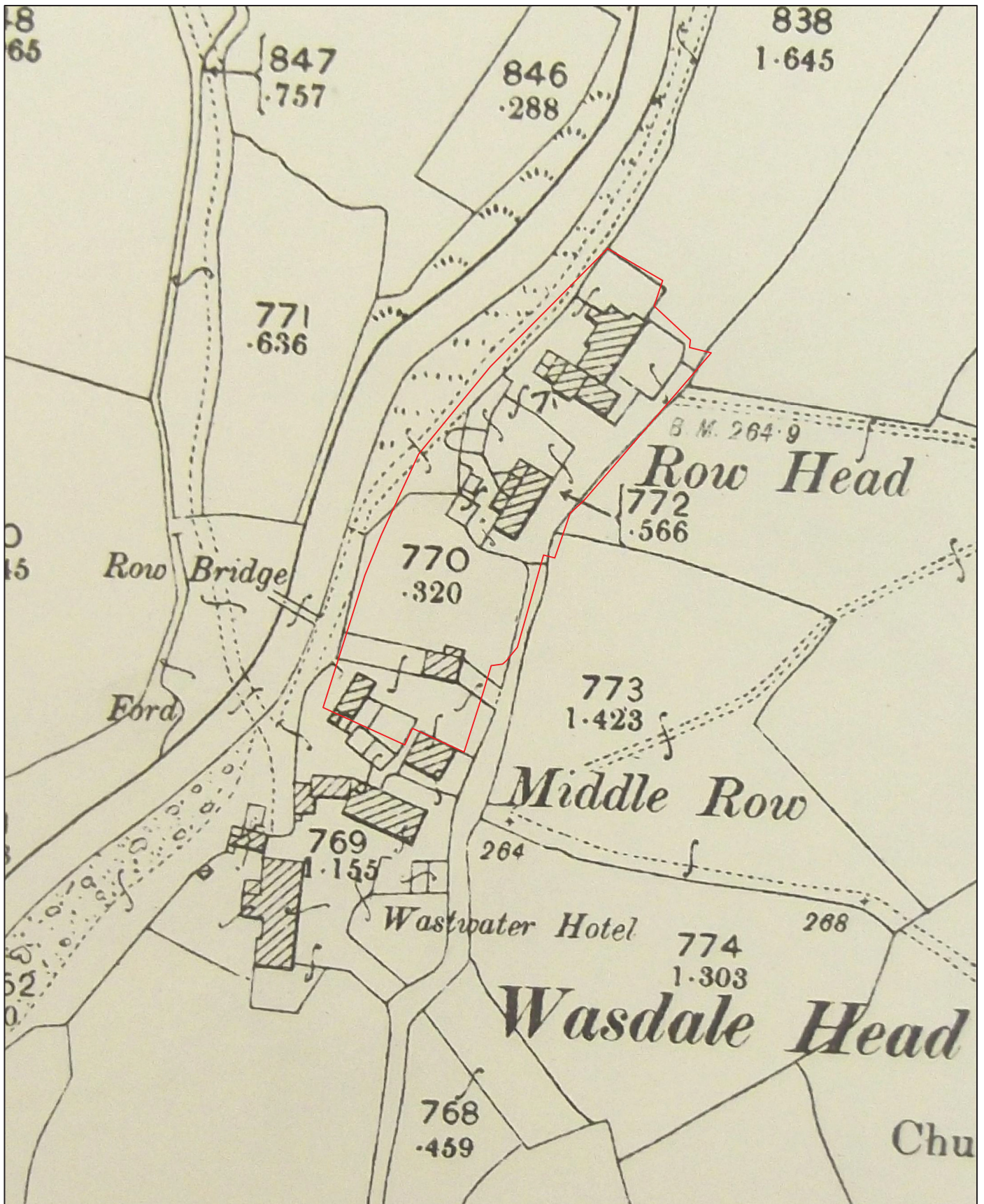
 <p>Wardell Armstrong Archaeology 2014</p>	<p>PROJECT: Row Head Farm, Wasdale Head, Cumbria</p> <p>SCALE: 1:1,250 at A4</p> <p>REPORT No: CP11158</p> <p>CLIENT: The National Trust</p> <p>DRAWN BY: AB</p> <p>DATE: November 2014</p> <p>FIGURE: 3</p>	<p>KEY:</p>  <p>Site boundary</p>	
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Figure 3: First Edition Ordnance Survey Map, 1863 (25" to 1 mile scale).








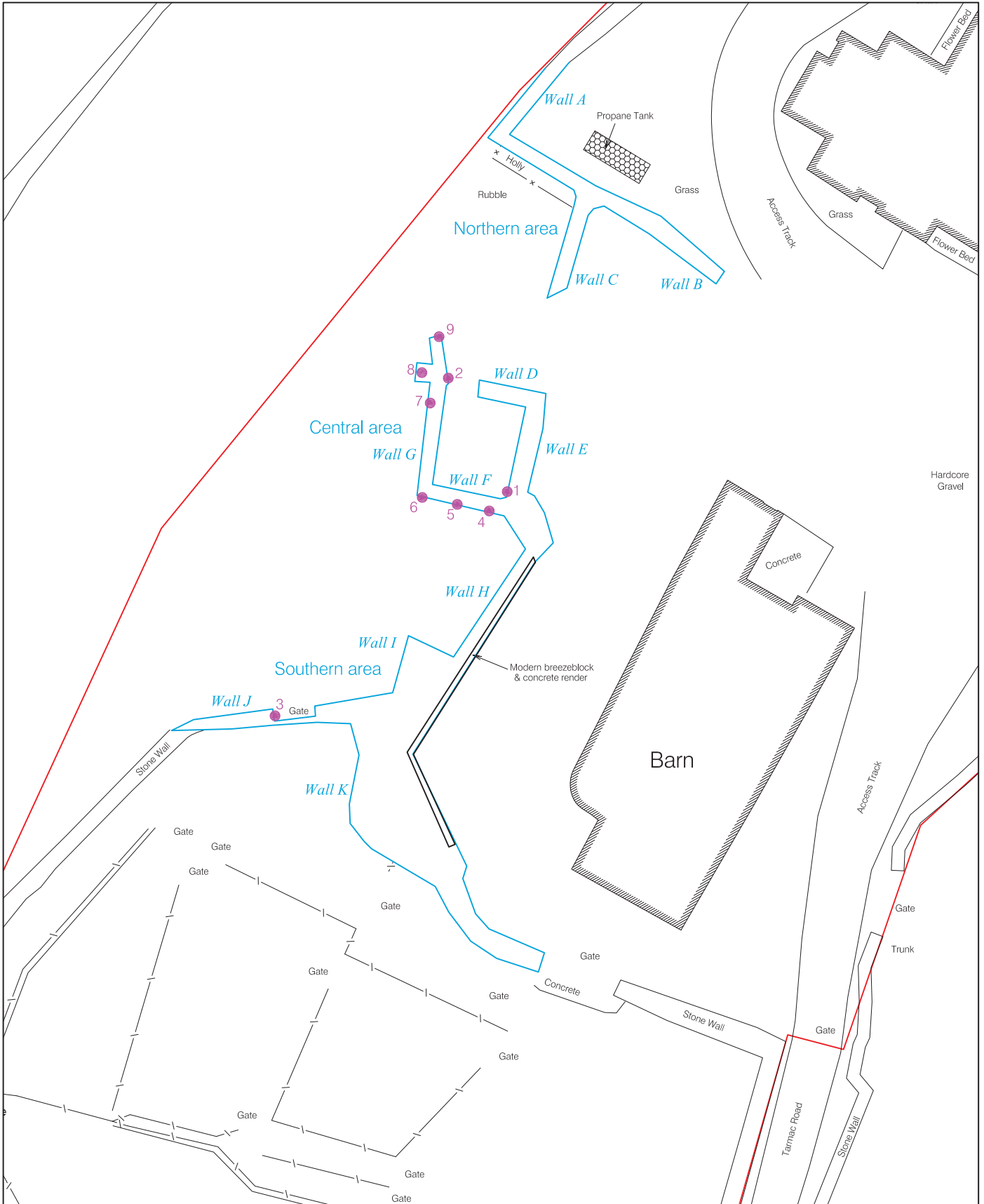
 <p>Wardell Armstrong Archaeology 2014</p>	<p>PROJECT: Row Head Farm, Wasdale Head, Cumbria</p> <p>SCALE: 1:1,250 at A4</p> <p>REPORT No: CP11158</p> <p>CLIENT: The National Trust</p> <p>DRAWN BY: AB</p> <p>DATE: November 2014</p> <p>FIGURE: 4</p>	<p>KEY:</p>  <p>Site boundary</p>	
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Figure 4: Second Edition Ordnance Survey Map, 1899 (25" to 1 mile scale).








 <p>Wardell Armstrong Archaeology 2014</p>	<p>PROJECT: Row Head Farm, Wasdale Head, Cumbria</p> <p>SCALE: 1:250 at A4</p> <p>REPORT No: CP11158</p> <p>CLIENT: The National Trust</p> <p>DRAWN BY: AB</p> <p>DATE: November 2014</p> <p>FIGURE: 5</p>	<p>KEY:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> Site boundary</li> <li> Feature numbers (Appendix 1)</li> <li> Wall remains</li> </ul>	 <p>Reproduced by permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown copyright. All rights reserved. Licence number 100019512</p>
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Figure 5: Results of archaeological recording.

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