

**OLD CHURCH LANE,  
BRAMPTON,  
CUMBRIA**

**RAPID DESK-BASED ASSESSMENT AND  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF  
CP11061  
26/11/2014**



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**DOCUMENT TITLE:** Old Church Lane, Brampton, Cumbria  
**DOCUMENT TYPE:** Rapid Desk-Based Assessment and Archaeological Watching Brief Report  
**CLIENT:** Electricity North West & Mrs Wilson  
**PROJECT REF NUMBER:** CP11061  
**SITE CODE:** CLB/B  
**OASIS REF NUMBER:** wardella2-196414  
**PRINT DATE:** 24/11/2014  
**GRID REFERENCE:** NY 5132 6151

## *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

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Wardell Armstrong Archaeology were commissioned by Robert While of Electricity North West, on behalf of Mrs Wilson, to undertake a rapid desk-based assessment and watching brief relating to groundworks associated with the installation of a new low voltage underground cable along Old Church Lane, Brampton, Cumbria.

The site lies within the World Heritage Site Buffer Zone of Hadrian's Wall and *Vallum*. As such, Mike Collins, Hadrian's Wall Officer for English Heritage, advised an 'all underground' solution for the electricity works to avoid more 'clutter' in the World Heritage Site Buffer Zone, and that 'excavations should be covered by an archaeological watching brief'.

The rapid desk-based assessment, undertaken prior to the groundworks at Old Church Lane, showed that as well as the potential for encountering features of Roman origin, the area lay in an area of high archaeological interest in a location utilised by people from the Mesolithic period onwards. In particular, Neolithic features previously encountered at the eastern extent of the groundworks, and the site of a Roman fort, Roman road, deserted medieval village and medieval church with burial ground at the western extent, as well as a medieval deer park in the vicinity, further highlight the archaeological potential of the area, and increase the likelihood of features to be exposed by the groundworks.

The archaeological watching brief was undertaken over two days, between the 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> of November 2014 and monitored all excavations associated with the new cable trench. A total of c.480m of trenching was monitored, which was excavated at an average width of 0.4m and to an average depth of 1m. The entire length of the cable trench revealed natural orange sand, which measured over 0.75m in depth, below c.0.25m of topsoil. No archaeological finds, features or deposits were encountered during the watching brief.

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## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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Wardell Armstrong Archaeology would like to thank Robert While of Electricity North West and Mrs Wilson for commissioning the project. Wardell Armstrong Archaeology would also like to thank Cumbria County Council Historic Environment Service.

The rapid desk-based assessment was undertaken by Cat Peters. The archaeological watching brief was undertaken by David Jackson and Adam Slater. The report was written by Cat Peters and David Jackson and the figures were produced by Adrian Bailey. The project was managed by Frank Giecco, Technical Director, and the report was edited by Richard Newman, Post-Excavation Manager for Wardell Armstrong Archaeology.

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## 1 INTRODUCTION

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- 1.1 Wardell Armstrong Archaeology were commissioned by Electricity North West to undertake a rapid desk-based assessment and archaeological watching brief in relation to groundworks associated with the installation of a new low voltage underground cable along Old Church Lane, Brampton, Cumbria (centred on NY 5132 6151).
- 1.2 The area due to be impacted upon by the groundworks lies within the World Heritage Buffer Zone for Hadrian's Wall and *Vallum* World Heritage Site. As such, Mike Collins, Hadrian's Wall Officer for English Heritage, advised an 'all underground' solution for the electricity works to avoid more 'clutter' in the World Heritage Site Buffer Zone, and that 'excavations should be covered by an archaeological watching brief'.
- 1.3 The rapid desk-based assessment was undertaken in order to find an archaeological and historical context for the groundworks. The watching brief monitored the excavation of a linear trench, undertaken in order to install a new low voltage underground cable. All archaeological work was undertaken following approved standards and guidance (IfA 2008; IfA 2011).
- 1.4 This report outlines the results of the rapid desk-based assessment and subsequent archaeological monitoring of the groundworks.

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## 2 SITE LOCATION

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- 2.1 Brampton is located within the broad lowland plain of the Solway Basin, approximately 15 kilometres north-east of Carlisle. The site is located within a gently undulating rural landscape, approximately 1.3km north-west of Brampton town centre (Figure 1).
- 2.2 The route of the linear trench for the low voltage electricity cabling runs from a new dwelling on Old Church Lane (NGR NY 5157 6152), westwards along the southern edge of the lane, to south of St Martin's Old Church (NGR NY 5105 6160), a route centred on NGR NY 5132 6151 (Figure 2).
- 2.3 Natural England's National Character Area describes the Solway Basin (Area 6) as being *"dominated by pastoral agriculture in rectilinear fields bounded by hedges but with increasing arable farming on the low hills"* (Natural England 2014, 6). The geology consists of *"underlying Triassic sedimentary sandstones, siltstones, mudstones and, more locally, Carboniferous limestones and coal measures, shaped by glacial processes including streamlining and deposition, and modified by post-glacial coastal, estuarine and peat-forming processes"* (ibid, 7).



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## 3 METHODOLOGY

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### 3.1 INTRODUCTION

- 3.1.1 Electricity North West sought advice from Mike Collins, Hadrian's Wall Officer for English Heritage, prior to works being undertaken on the installation of new low voltage electricity cabling. The advice was that, as the site lies within the Buffer Zone of the Frontiers of the Roman Empire (Hadrian's Wall) World Heritage Site, underground cabling was preferable to overhead apparatus, but that excavation works should be undertaken under archaeological monitoring.
- 3.1.2 A project design (Giecco 2014) was produced, and this has been adhered to in full, in compliance with professional standards (IfA 2008; IfA 2011).

### 3.2 RAPID DESK-BASED ASSESSMENT

- 3.2.1 The rapid desk-based assessment involved the collation of information from the Cumbria Historic Environment Record (HER), a database of known and potential archaeological sites within the county (excluding the Lake District National Park). This covered an area contained within a 500m radius centred on the centre point of the groundworks, in order to achieve an understanding of the character of the historic landscape in this area of Cumbria, and to identify sites of archaeological interest within close proximity to the location of the electricity groundworks.
- 3.2.2 Following this, historic maps and published and unpublished material relating to area around the site were consulted. The library at Wardell Armstrong Archaeology's Carlisle office was also consulted.
- 3.2.3 The desk-based assessment was undertaken in accordance with the Institute for Archaeologists *Standard and Guidance for Historic Environment Desk-Based Assessment* (IfA 2011).

### 3.3 WATCHING BRIEF

- 3.3.1 The main objectives of the watching brief was to monitor all groundworks associated with the electricity apparatus, and to record any archaeological features encountered during the excavations.
- 3.3.2 A single linear trench, measuring approximately 480m was excavated under close archaeological supervision.

### 3.4 ARCHIVE

- 3.4.1 An archive for this project will be prepared in accordance with the recommendations in *Archaeological Archives: A Guide to Best Practice in Creation, Compilation, Transfer and Curation* (Brown 2011).
- 3.4.2 A copy of the final report will be deposited with Cumbria County Council Historic Environment Service at Kendal, where viewing will be made available upon request. The archive can be accessed under the unique project identifier WAA/14,

CP11061, CLB/B. The archive will be deposited within Cumbria Archive Centre, Carlisle.

- 3.4.3 Wardell Armstrong Archaeology and Cumbria County Council Historic Environment Service support the **Online Access to Index of Archaeological Investigations (OASIS)** project (<http://www.oasis.ac.uk/>). The overall aim of the OASIS project is to provide an online index to the mass of archaeological grey literature that has been produced as a result of the advent of large-scale developer funded fieldwork. Details of this project have been included on the OASIS database under the identifier **wardella2-196414**.

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## 4 RAPID DESK-BASED ASSESSMENT

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### 4.1 INTRODUCTION

4.1.1 Information regarding known and potential archaeological sites in close proximity to the site of the groundworks at Old Church Lane, Brampton was obtained principally from information provided by the Cumbria Historic Environment Record (HER) and English Heritage datasets such as the Scheduled Monument descriptions provided on The National Heritage List for England website. Historical mapping and published and unpublished sources were consulted, as were previous works undertaken by Wardell Armstrong Archaeology.

### 4.2 HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

4.2.1 The earliest evidence for activity in the vicinity of the groundworks from the HER dataset possibly comes from Crooked Holme Mound (HER 6684), an earthwork of unknown origin, that may date to the prehistoric period, or may be of later origin. The sites of two bowl barrows (HER 4568 and 15288) lie to the south-east of the Old Church, both scheduled monuments, but outside our 500m study area.

4.2.2 Of particular interest for this study, are the results of an archaeological excavation undertaken prior to the construction of the new dwelling at the easternmost extent of the groundworks, in 2013, following an earlier sporadic archaeological intervention (Martin Sowerby Archaeology). This later excavation encountered several pits and features, which, from radiocarbon dating evidence and the finding of fragments of Grimston Ware, were dated to the early Neolithic (Jackson 2013, 26). This, along with traces of a Mesolithic soil horizon encountered in the grounds of the William Howard School in Brampton by Carlisle Archaeology Unit (Zant 1998), indicates that this is an archaeologically rich landscape, experiencing continued occupation and activity from the Mesolithic period onwards.

4.2.3 The site of the groundworks, on Old Church Lane, Brampton, also lie within the Buffer Zone of the Frontiers of the Roman Empire (Hadrian's Wall) World Heritage Site (1000098). Hadrian's Wall is probably the most complex and best preserved of the frontiers of the Roman Empire (Austen and Young 2002). Begun in AD 122, the wall was a composite military barrier, which in its final form, comprised a stone wall fronted by a V-shaped ditch, and a number of purpose built stone garrison fortifications such as forts, milecastles and turrets. A large earthwork and ditch, built parallel with, and to the south of the Wall, known as the Vallum, and a metalled road linking the garrison forts, which is known as the 'Roman Military Way', completed the northern military boundary. The northern military boundary was designated as a World Heritage Site in 1987.

4.2.4 Other Roman features in the vicinity of the groundworks are the Roman road (SM 10005) and Old Church Roman fort at Brampton (HER 286/ SM 27705), both Scheduled Monuments. Brampton Old Church Roman fort is believed to date to the Early Trajanic Period, when the Stanegate frontier was being strengthened following the Roman military withdrawal from Scotland. It is thought to have been

relatively short-lived probably decommissioned following the construction of Hadrian's Wall, as there is evidence that it was deliberately dismantled. An earth resistance survey, undertaken as part of a wider programme of geophysical survey, detected features associated with the eastern fort defences, not previously known, and evidence for the layout of internal stone buildings, corresponding to the results of a 1935 excavation (Railton 2007, 8-9). The road (SM 10005) leads from the north-east, to the fort, following a straight line to the north of Old Church Lane, and presumably is contemporaneous with the fort. This was the main road which linked the fort to the Stanegate Roman road, a section of which was uncovered by excavations in 1935 (Simpson and Richard 1936, 178).

- 4.2.5 Two areas of Romano-British farmsteads are also known from the vicinity of the groundworks (HER 305/ SM 27704 and HER 244/ SM 27698). Both are Scheduled Monuments, the first of which consists of four farmsteads, two overlying rectangular enclosures seen on aerial photographs, investigated in the late 1800s when no internal masonry was found (Haverfield 1898). A hoard of 3<sup>rd</sup> century Roman coins were also found, and it is thought that it was a settlement occupied by members of the indigenous population while Hadrian's Wall was in use. The latter (HER 244/ SM 27698) is visible as cropmarks on aerial photographs. Limited excavated of the westernmost enclosure confirmed that it was defended by a ditch and an internal timber palisade, and within the enclosure, the foundations of a building with farm outbuildings were discovered, with finds suggesting a date of late 3<sup>rd</sup>/ early 4<sup>th</sup> century (Blake 1959).
- 4.2.6 The old Church itself (HER 4591), a Grade II\* Listed Building (LB 77859) and the reason for the lane being called Old Church Lane, dates back to the 12<sup>th</sup> century, includes reused Roman architectural fragments, and was constructed within the northern half of the Roman fort (HER 286/ SM 27705). It is still shown as a church on 18<sup>th</sup> and mid 19<sup>th</sup> century mapping (Figures 3-5), though by 1901 it is 'Old Church' (Figure 6). A church is thought to have predated this one, perhaps a Celtic Church, established in the ruins of the fort (Jackson 2013). A medieval earthwork also lies in the vicinity of the church, and is thought to be a deserted medieval village (HER 248), a scheduled monument. St Ninian's Well (HER 4570), to the north-west of the church, also dates to the medieval period, as does the site of St Martin's Oak, folk tradition maintains it was of medieval origin (HER 4589).
- 4.2.7 Old Church farmstead (HER 4590) a Grade II\* Listed Building (LB 77860), located to the north of the church, contains Roman architectural fragments, and originated as a medieval fortified tower house, though was remodeled as a farmhouse in the post medieval period. In addition, much of the area to the south of Old Church Lane is thought to have lain within the site of Brampton Medieval Deer Park (HER 43687), later a post medieval park, documented in 1770. It has been suggested that when Thomas de Multon, Lord of Gisland, created Brampton Park, he enclosed both the Roman Camp, and the Medieval Village, and moved the inhabitants to the present town, which he helped to build (Whitehead in Norwood 1888), which may explain why the Old Church lies so far from the settlement of Brampton, though there is no other evidence that this was the original settlement (Cumbria County Council 2000, 7).

4.2.8 Hodkinson and Donald's Plan of Cumberland of 1774 (Figure 3) shows '*Brampton Church*' (HER 4591) and buildings around there, approximately half way between Brampton, to the south-east, and Irthington to the north-west. A road leading between those buildings and '*Parkhead*' to the south-east is also shown, presumably what is now Old Church Lane. The western part of Old Church Lane is also depicted on a Plan of the Parish of Irthington of 1845 (Figure 4), with '*BRAMPTON OLD CHURCH*' (HER 4591) and a building to the south-east, '*HABA*' shown, the latter shown on later mapping as '*Hawkhirst Cottage*' (Figure 5), and gone by 1901 (Figure 6). No other buildings are illustrated on Old Church Lane, indicating that any earlier archaeological features are unlikely to have been impacted upon by post medieval development. The First Edition map of 1861 (Figure 5) shows '*St Martins Church*' (HER 4591) with '*Grave Yard*' close to the western extent of the groundworks. The route of the '*ROMAN ROAD*' (SM 10005) is also shown running into Old Church Lane to the north-east of the eastern extent of the groundworks. In addition, '*Old Church Lane*', is already so-called. By the publication of the Second Edition Ordnance Survey map in 1901, '*St Martin's Church*', is also labeled '*Old Church*' (HER 4591), the grave yard is no longer depicted, suggesting it has gone out of use and the cottage has gone (Figure 6). The Roman Road is also no longer shown. Otherwise, the location of the groundworks remains the same.

## 5 ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

### 5.1 INTRODUCTION

5.1.1 Archaeological monitoring was undertaken during all groundworks relating to the excavation of the low voltage electric cabling trench. The archaeological watching brief took place over two days, between the 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> of November 2014. A total of c.480m of trenching was undertaken, extending from a new dwelling on Old Church Lane westwards along the southern edge of the lane, to the south of St Martin's Old Church (Figure 2).

### 5.2 RESULTS

5.2.1 The monitored cable trench measured approximately 480m in length and was excavated at an average width of 0.4m and to an average depth of 1m. The entire length of the cable trench revealed natural orange sand (**101**), which measured over 0.75m in depth, below c.0.25m of mid-brown silty sand topsoil (**100**).

5.2.2 No archaeological finds, features or deposits were encountered during the watching brief.



*Plate 1: Cable trench at western end of route looking west*



*Plate 2: Cable trench looking east towards new dwelling*



*Plate 3: South facing section of cable trench*

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## 6 CONCLUSION

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- 7.1 The rapid desk-based assessment, undertaken prior to the groundworks at Old Church Lane, has shown that as well as the potential for encountering features of Roman origin, relating to the site's location within the Buffer Zone of the Frontiers of the Roman Empire (Hadrian's Wall) World Heritage Site, the area lay in an area of high archaeological interest in a location utilised by people from the Mesolithic period onwards. In particular, Neolithic features previously encountered at the eastern extent of the groundworks, and the site of a Roman fort, Roman road, deserted medieval village and medieval church with burial ground at the western extent, as well as a medieval deer park in the vicinity, further highlight the archaeological potential of the area, and increase the likelihood of features to be exposed by the groundworks.
- 7.2 Despite this high potential, the archaeological watching brief revealed no evidence of archaeological activity along the route of the cable trench. Significant archaeological remains have been revealed previously within the immediate vicinity of the works however, and this should be considered for any future work within the area.



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## 7 BIBLIOGRAPHY

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### 7.1 PRIMARY SOURCES

*Hodkinson and Donald's Map of Cumberland, 1774*

*Plan of the Parish of Irthington, Cumberland, 1845 (Cumbria Archive Centre Carlisle DRC 8/102)*

*First Edition Ordnance Survey Mapping, 1861, Cumberland Sheet XVII N.E., 6 inch to the mile scale*

*Second Edition Ordnance Survey Mapping, 1901, Cumberland Sheet XVII, 6 inch to the mile scale*

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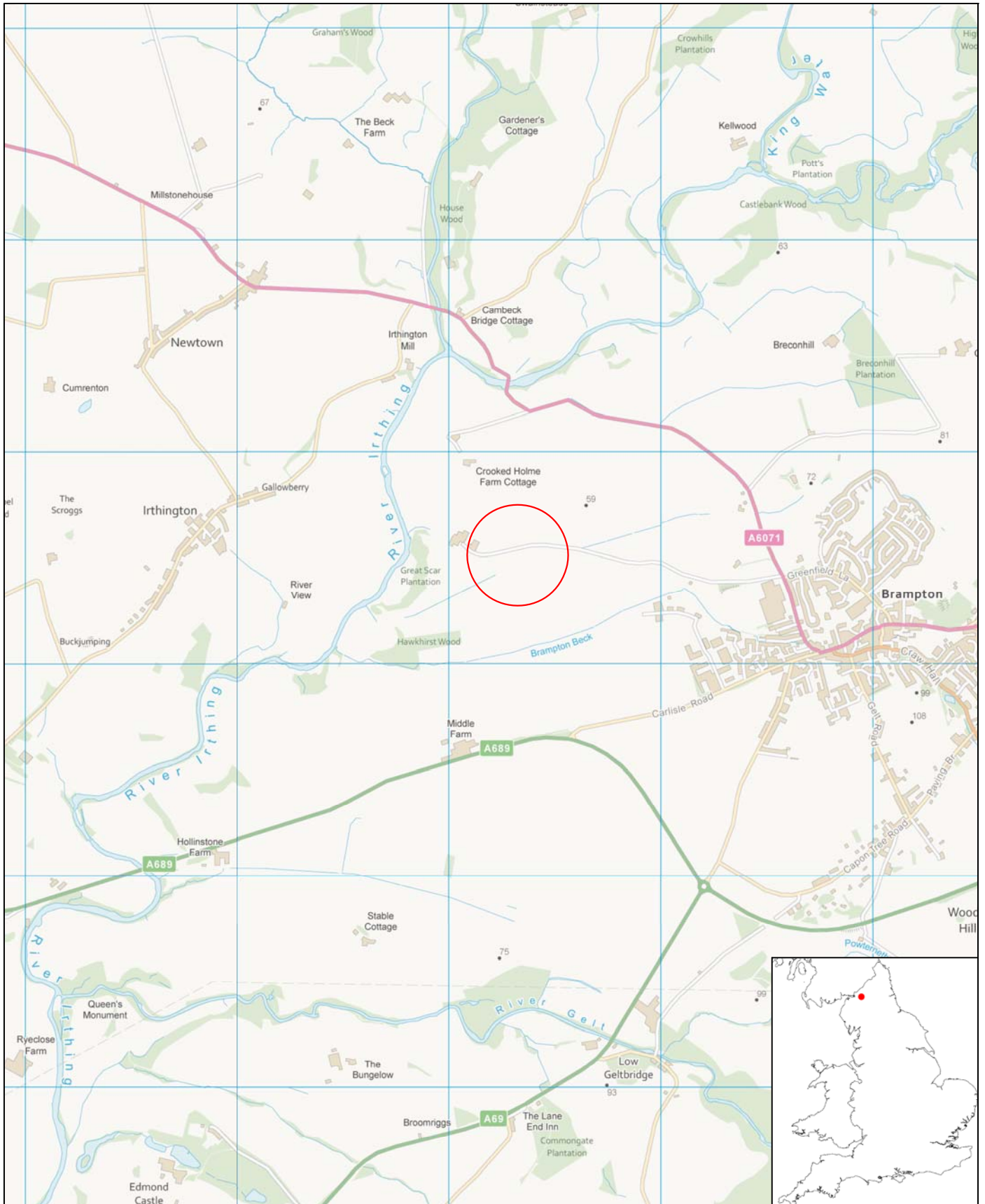
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## APPENDIX 1: FIGURES

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 <p>Wardell Armstrong Archaeology 2014</p>	<p>PROJECT: Old Church Lane, Brampton, Cumbria</p> <p>SCALE: 1:25,000 at A4</p> <p>REPORT No: CP11061</p> <p>CLIENT: Electricity North West</p> <p>DRAWN BY: AB</p> <p>DATE: July 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.

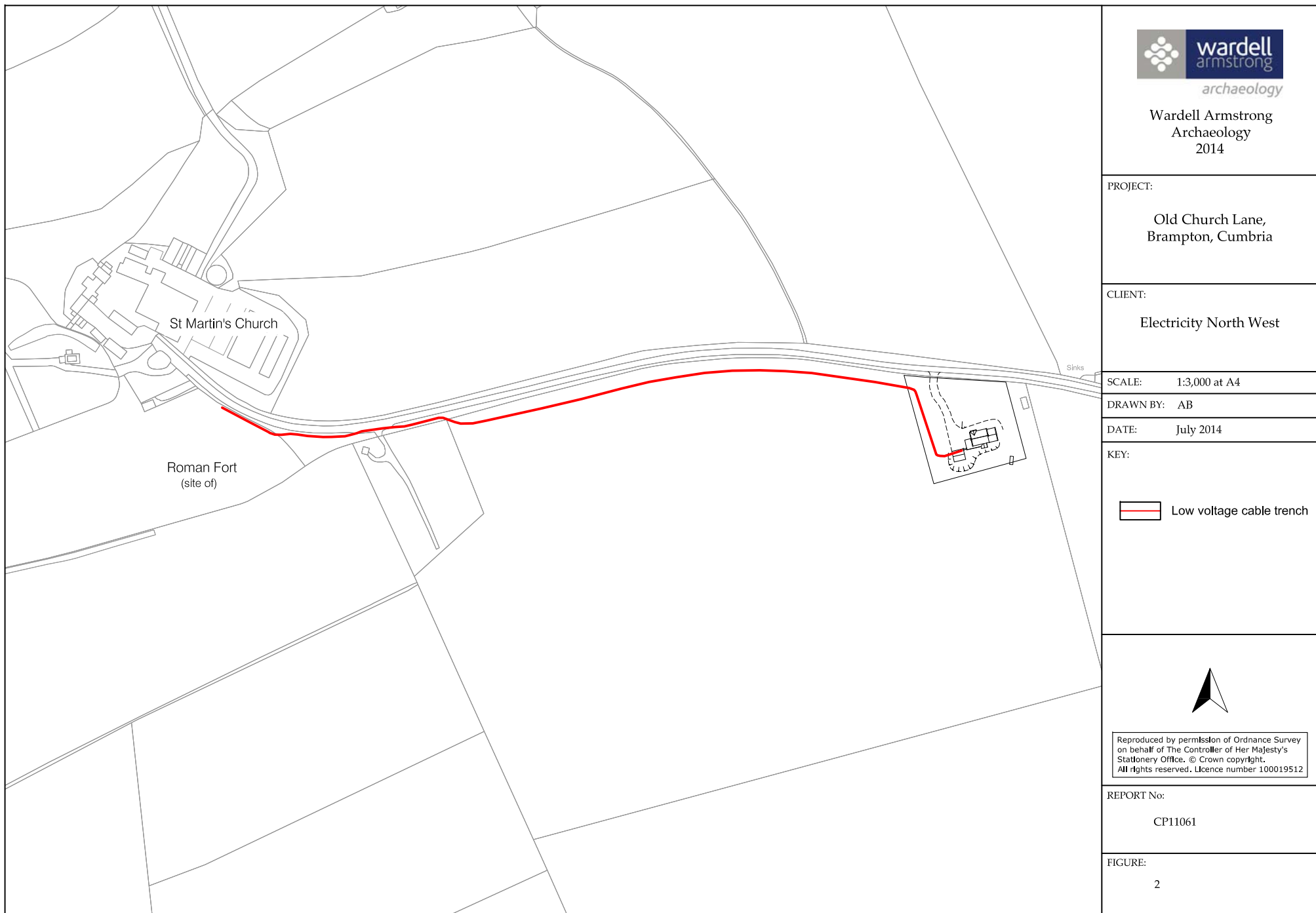
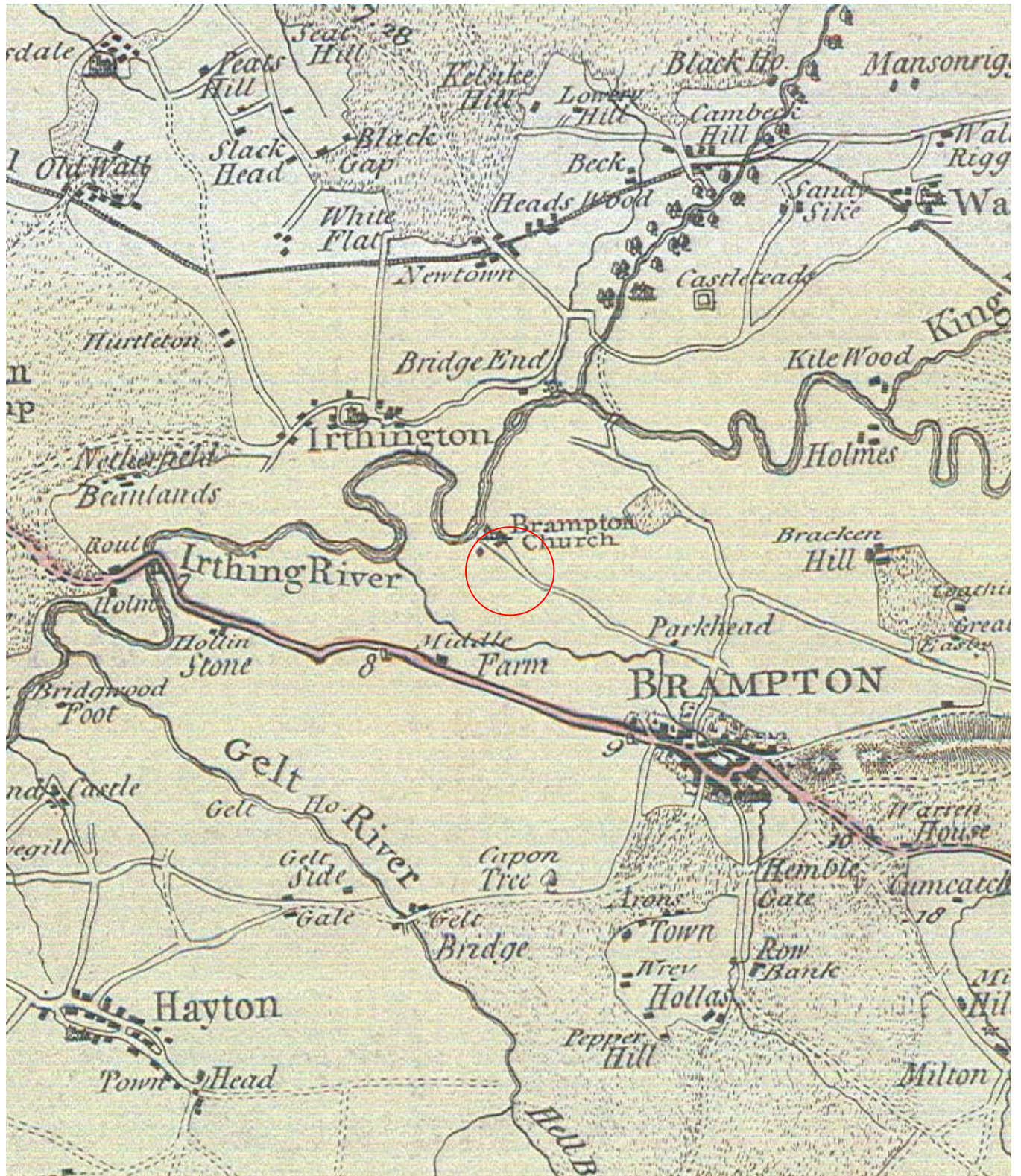


Figure 2: Location of electricity cable trench.






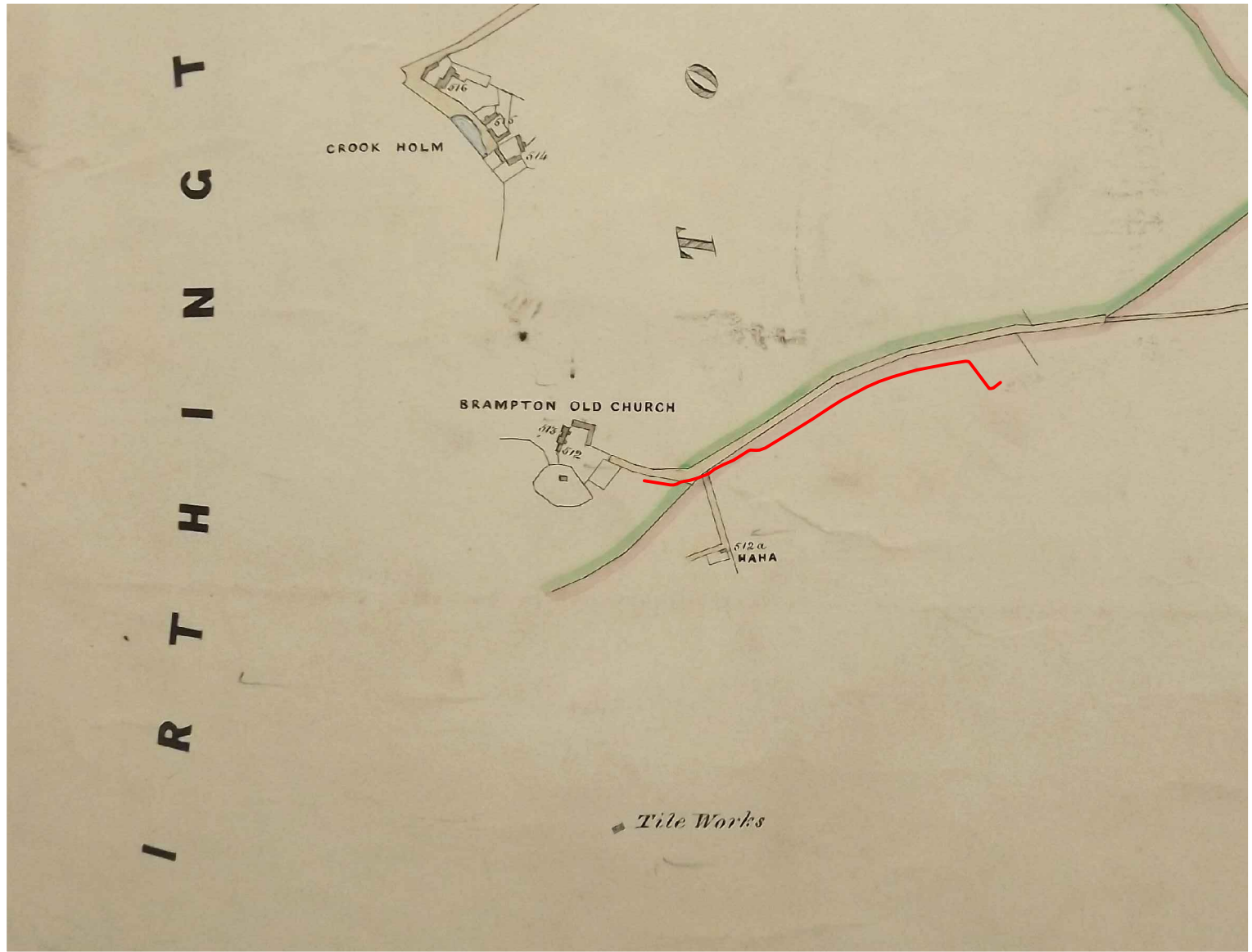
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	SCALE:	Not to scale		
	REPORT No:	CP11061		
	CLIENT:	Electricity North West		
	DRAWN BY:	AB		
DATE:	July 2014			
FIGURE:	3			

Figure 3: Extract from Hodkinson and Donald's Map of Cumberland, 1774.



PROJECT:

Old Church Lane,  
 Brampton, Cumbria

CLIENT:

Electricity North West

SCALE: c.1:7,500 at A4

DRAWN BY: AB

DATE: July 2014

KEY:

 Low voltage cable trench



REPORT No:

CP11061

FIGURE:

4

Figure 4: Plan of the Parish of Irthington, Cumberland, 1845.

PROJECT:

Old Church Lane,  
 Brampton, Cumbria

CLIENT:

Electricity North West

SCALE: c.1:7,500 at A4

DRAWN BY: AB

DATE: July 2014

KEY:

 Low voltage cable trench



REPORT No:

CP11061

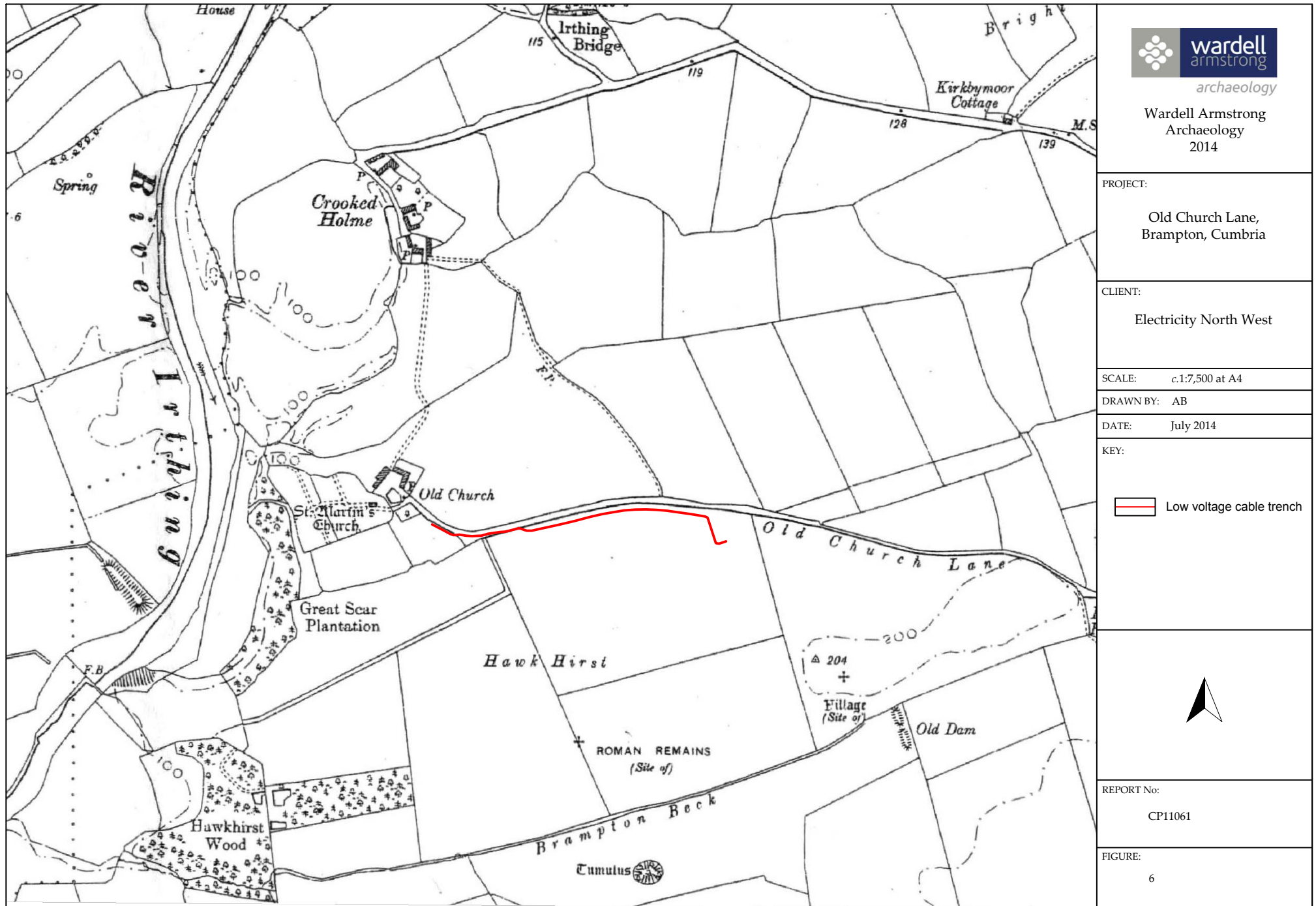
FIGURE:

5



Figure 5: First Edition Ordnance Survey Map, 1861 (6" to 1 mile scale).





PROJECT:  
Old Church Lane,  
Brampton, Cumbria

CLIENT:  
Electricity North West

SCALE: c.1:7,500 at A4

DRAWN BY: AB

DATE: July 2014

KEY:  
Low voltage cable trench



REPORT No:  
CP11061

FIGURE:  
6

Figure 6: Second Edition Ordnance Survey Map, 1901 (6" to 1 mile scale).