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



ENGLISH HERITAGE

BROUGHAM CASTLE, PENRITH, CUMBRIA,

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF REPORT

January 2015





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JANUARY 2015		
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DESK BASED ASSESSMENTS ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATION GEOPHYSICAL SURVEY TOPOGRAPHIC AND LANDSCAPE SURVEY HISTORIC BUILDING RECORDING EIA AND HERITAGE CONSULTANCY



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SUMMARY

Wardell Armstrong Archaeology was commissioned by English Heritage, to undertake an archaeological recording project during groundworks undertaken at Brougham Castle, near Penrith, Cumbria (centred on NGR NY 5371 2900). The recording took the form of an archaeological watching brief, maintained during excavation works undertaken as part of a new footpath scheme, in December 2014 and January 2015. Brougham Castle is a Scheduled Monument (NHL 1007186), comprising the upstanding remains of a moated castle and keep constructed around 1214 or soon after by Robert de Vieuxpont. It is located to the immediate north-east of the earthwork remains of *Brocovum* Roman Fort, dating from the 2nd to 4th centuries. Scheduled Monument Consent for the works required archaeological mitigation in the form of this archaeological watching brief programme.

The archaeological watching brief monitored all excavations associated with the provision of a new footpath following the exterior of the north and northern half of the western upstanding remains of the curtain wall of Brougham Castle. The excavations rarely reached a greater depth than 0.18m, only revealing topsoil beneath the turf.

Two areas of archaeological interest were observed to the north of the northern curtain wall in the upper path area towards its eastern extent. These took the form of two discreet areas of stone slabs, the purpose of which was unclear, though the location of the western ones suggested that these were flags, linked to a break in the masonry type of curtain wall at this point, perhaps suggesting where steps led to an entranceway in an earlier curtain wall of c.1300.

Adjacent to the western curtain wall a large red sandstone slab was incorporated into the line of the pathway, and possibly related to an earlier phase of construction in the area, part of which is still evident at the base of the wall. Also along much of the western length of the pathway was an area of modern disturbance containing chicken wire. This is believed to be a previous attempt at preventing erosion of the bank due to rabbit burrowing.

Medieval pottery was recovered from the topsoil during the archaeological monitoring, providing evidence of medieval domestic activity on the site at Brougham Castle, and its dating to the 12th-14th century may attest to activity relating to an early phase of the castle.



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Wardell Armstrong Archaeology thanks English Heritage for commissioning the project and Mick Wilson for all help during its progress.

Wardell Armstrong Archaeology also thank the groundwork staff for their assistance during this project.

The archaeological monitoring was undertaken by Cat Peters, Dave Jackson Kevin Horsley and Kevin Mounsey. The report was written by Cat Peters and Kevin Mounsey and the figures were produced by Adrian Bailey. The finds report was compiled by Megan Stoakley. The report was edited by Frank Giecco, Technical Director, and the project was managed by Martin Railton, Senior Project Manager, Wardell Armstrong Archaeology.



1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 **Circumstances of the Project**

- 1.1.1 The archaeological watching brief report has been prepared by Wardell Armstrong Archaeology (WAA), following monitoring fieldwork undertaken in response to a request by English Heritage. The report sets out the results of this archaeological monitoring.
- 1.1.2 The area subjected to groundworks occurred within the boundary of the Scheduled Monument of Brougham Castle (NHL 1007186). As a result, scheduled monument consent was required, a condition of which was archaeological mitigation in the form of a watching brief, to be undertaken on all groundworks occurring as part of the scheme for the provision of the new footpaths.



2 METHODOLOGY

2.1 **Project Design**

2.1.1 A project design was submitted to, and approved by English Heritage, and this was adhered to during the entirety of the project. All work undertaken was consistent with the relevant standards and procedures of the Institute for Archaeologists, as set out in *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs* (IfA 2008).

2.2 Archaeological Watching Brief

2.2.1 The main objectives of the watching brief were to monitor all groundworks undertaken as part of the improvements to visitor circulation in the form of the installation of new footpaths, and to record any archaeological features encountered during the excavations. The groundworks followed procedures set out in English Heritage's specification (Wilson 2014).

2.3 **Reporting**

- 2.3.1 A final bound copy of the report will be deposited with the Historic Environment Record at Cumbria County Council, where viewing will be made available on request.
- 2.3.2 Wardell Armstrong Archaeology and Cumbria County Council support the Online AccesS to the Index of archaeological investigationS (OASIS) project. This project aims to provide an online 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 study will be made available by Wardell Armstrong Archaeology, as a part of this national scheme. This project has the unique identifier of wardella2-199019.

2.4 Archive

2.4.1 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). The archive will be deposited within Tullie House Museum, Carlisle, under unique project identifier WAA/14 CP11515, BCP-A.



3 BACKGROUND

3.1 Location, Topography and Geology

- 3.1.1 Brougham Castle lies within the undulating farmland of the Eden Valley, approximately 1km east south east of Penrith in the east of Cumbria (Figure 1). The castle lies at a height of approximately 109m AOD, and is located close to the confluences of the rivers Eamont and Lowther. The underlying geology is Permian basal breccias, sandstone and mudstone with overlying Moraninic Drift, glacial sand, gravel and Alluvium (British Geological Survey 2001). The overlying soils are known as Wick 1 soils, which are typical brown earths consisting of glacio-fluvial or river terrace drift (Railton 2014, 3).
- 3.1.2 The groundworks monitored by the archaeological watching brief were undertaken to the north and west of the surviving curtain walls of Brougham Castle.

3.2 Historic Landscape Characterisation

3.2.1 The Historic Landscape Characterisation positions Brougham Castle within 'Area 17: Eden Valley', one of the largest character areas in Cumbria: "the landscape is one of rolling hills and enclosed low fells around the river valleys. The pre-1770 settlement pattern was largely nucleated, with most of the villages and towns originating in the medieval period. Only 29% of the discrete settlements pre-date 1770 and this indicates that the settlement pattern has become more dispersed in the past 200 years, in part following the enclosure of open wastes" (Cumbria Historic Landscape Characterisation Programme, available on-line at http://cumbria.gov.uk/planningenvironment/countryside/historic-environment/histlandcharacter.asp?Layout=Print.)

3.3 Historical Background

- 3.3.1 *Introduction:* this is intended only as a brief history of the immediate area around the castle from readily available sources. It was not part of the remit of this work to undertake desk-based research.
- 3.3.2 The Roman fort at Brougham (*Brovacum*) was cited at the junction of two main roads, intersecting and crossing the River Eamont at this location, close to its confluence with the River Lowther. Evidence suggests that it was occupied from the governorship of Agricola (AD78- 84) to the end of the 4th century. A small number of altars from the vicinity have been found dedicated to Belatucadrus, perhaps the indigenous equivalent to Mars. During the 3rd century, a substantial *vicus* developed adjacent to the fort (National Heritage List information).



- 3.3.3 The area was subjected to border warfare for much of the 11th and 12th centuries. Amidst this, the lordship of Westmorland was granted to Robert de Vieuxpoint in 1203 by King John, by which time, documentary evidence suggests, a wellestablished community existed at Brougham. Land was acquired for a castle by Vieuxpoint, in around 1214, with construction commencing soon afterwards a threestorey stone square keep, with other buildings of timber construction.
- 3.3.4 Under Robert Clifford's ownership, the keep was heightened (c.1300), the curtain wall erected in stone and the Tower of League (the south-western tower), inner and outer gatehouses were constructed. By the late 14th century, Roger, the 5th Lord Clifford, had further improved the domestic accommodation by rebuilding the hall, kitchen and chapel block and connecting it via a corridor, to the keep; the Great Chamber, originally two storeys, was heightened and connected to the top storey of the outer gatehouse (English Heritage 2004, 2). Lady Anne Clifford added a new bakehouse and brewhouse and inserted a number of fireplaces in the Tudor style. The drawing room over the outer gatehouse became known as the 'Painted Chamber', with the castle by then serving as an important residence rather than a military base.



4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 The archaeological watching brief monitored all excavations associated with the provision of a new footpath following the exterior of the north and northern half of the western part of the upstanding remains of the curtain wall of Brougham Castle, to improve visitor circulation of the site. This was undertaken between Tuesday 16th December 2014 and Monday 26th January 2015. Context numbers are provided, where relevant, in brackets, relating also to a summary table provided in Appendix 1.

4.2 Results

4.2.1 The groundworks required the excavation of a linear route, 1m in width along the length of the new footpath (Figure 2). The excavations largely consisted of the removal of turf to a depth of up to 0.18m, exposing only topsoil, although slightly larger depths were required where new steps were inserted and at landing areas (Plate 1).



Plate 1: General view of upper (right) and lower (left) paths north of upstanding curtain wall remains, facing east

4.2.2 Two areas of excavations wider than 1.00m were required; one at a mid way point between the lower (northernmost) and upper paths, and the other at the easternmost extent of the upper path to form landings or rest areas for visitors (Figure 2). These areas measured 2.00m by 0.80m and 1.80m by 1.80m respectively, the former excavated up to 0.30m deep and the latter reaching a maximum depth of 0.50m. Excavation at the uppermost landing exposed the top of three sandstone



slabs close to the northern curtain wall immediately to their south (Plate 2). They were located 1.80m from the curtain wall to the east and had a north-south orientation. Their total length measured 1.00m and there width measured 0.40m. They appeared to lie within a deposit of sandstone fragments and crushed mortar **(101)** which was only revealed at the eastern end of the upper northern pathway. It was beneath the same dark brown silty topsoil **(100)** found throughout the excavations.



Plate 2: Three sandstone slabs exposed in uppermost landing, facing south

- 4.2.3 At a distance of 3.40m to the west of the curtain wall, along the upper path, the tops of two further stone slabs were exposed. These measured in total 1.40m in length, surviving at the base of the excavation (at 0.18m depth) and immediately north of the northern curtain wall (Plate 3).
- 4.2.4 To the west of the surviving curtain wall, 4.50m south of the north-westernmost corner, an area of silty backfill with chicken wire mesh was exposed across much of the western area (Plate 4), apparently a recent attempt to retain the bank in this area and prevent rabbit burrow damage (Mick Wilson *pers. comm.*). Again, on the western side at a distance of c.8.90m from the north-west corner a previously exposed, large sandstone slab had to be incorporated into the line of the pathway



(Plate 5). The slab was adjacent the southern end of a possible earlier phase of building seen remaining in the lower courses of the western curtain wall (Plate 5).



Plate 3: Two stone slabs observed towards eastern extent of upper path, north of northern surviving curtain wall, facing west



Plate 4: Path west of surviving western curtain wall, facing north





Plate 5: Sandstone slab incorporated into line of path (note earlier wall phase projecting adjacent to scale), facing north-west

4.3 **Finds**

- 4.3.1 A total of 23 artefacts, weighing 327g, were recovered from the topsoil during an archaeological watching brief at Brougham Castle, Penrith.
- 4.3.2 All finds were dealt with according to the recommendations made by Watkinson & Neal (1998) and to the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIFA) Standard & Guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials (2014b). All artefacts have been boxed according to material type and conforming to the deposition guidelines recommended by Brown (2011) and Tullie House Museum.
- 4.3.3 The material archive has been assessed for its local, regional and national potential and further work has been recommended on the potential for the material archive to contribute to the relevant research frameworks.
- 4.3.4 The finds assessment was compiled by Megan Stoakley. Quantification of finds by context is visible in Table 1.



Cxt	Material	Qty	Wgt (g)	Date	Comments
100	Animal Bone	2	52	Med-PM	Cow molar & cow scap portion
100	Ceramics	4	37	Med	MNV 4 - early 14th C +
100	Ceramics	1	7	PM-Mod	Flowerpot
100	Ceramics	2	23	Med	12th C - 13th C red gritty ware
100	Ceramics	1	2	PM	18th C handle - from a Lovin cup? CRE
100	Clay Pipe	2	17	PM	1 undecorated stem; 1 bowl with 'TW' stamp
100	Glass	1	8	PM	Rolled
100	Iron	48	47	PM	Shoe cleat & small rod
100	Lead	6	91	Med-PM	Off-cut strips - associated with masonry?
100	Other	1	41	Mod	Bone & iron penknife - engraved? 1930s
100	Other	1	2	PM	Small (military?) decorated trouser button
TOTAL		23	327		

Table 1:	Quantification	of Bulk	Finds b	v Context
TUDIC 1.	Quantification	oj Duik	1 11103 0	Context

- 4.3.5 *Medieval Ceramics*: six sherds of medieval pottery, weighing 60g, were recovered from context (100) (Table 1). The sherds are generally in good condition, although abrasion is evident on some surfaces.
- 4.3.6 Two sherds likely comprise Red Gritty Ware of 12th to 13th century date and four sherds comprise reduced greyware of 14th century date. Green glaze is evident on the exterior surfaces of three of these sherds.
- 4.3.7 No further analysis is necessary.
- 4.3.8 **Post-medieval & Modern Ceramics:** Two sherds of post-medieval to modern ceramics, weighing 9g, were recovered from context (100) (Table 1). The sherds are in good condition.
- 4.3.9 One fragment comprises a small handle of an 18th century vessel, possibly a loving cup or a normal cup handle. The fabric comprises mid to dark red / brown, fine earthenware of dense compaction.
- 4.3.10 One fragment comprises a modern flowerpot fragment.
- 4.3.11 No further analysis is necessary.
- 4.3.12 *Clay Tobacco Pipe*: two fragments of clay tobacco pipe, weighing 17g, were recovered from the topsoil (Table 1). The artefacts are in good condition.
- 4.3.13 One fragment comprises an undecorated stem fragment of likely 19th century date.
- 4.3.14 One fragment comprises a bowl with the stamp "TW". This may stand for 'Tennant & Son' and may have originated from Northumberland. It likely dates to the mid 19th century.
- 4.3.15 No further analysis is necessary.



- 4.3.16 *Iron:* two fragments of iron, weighing 47g, were recovered from the topsoil (Table 1). The artefacts are in good condition.
- 4.3.17 One fragment comprises a shoe cleat of probable 18th to 19th century date. The other fragment comprises a small thin rod of unknown function.
- 4.3.18 No further analysis is necessary.
- 4.3.19 *Lead:* Six fragments of lead, weighing 91g, were recovered from the topsoil (Table 1). The artefacts are in good condition.
- 4.3.20 The fragments comprise rectangular lead off-cuts, possibly used in masonry. A broad date of medieval to post-medieval has been attributed to these artefacts.
- 4.3.21 No further analysis is necessary.
- 4.3.22 *Glass:* One fragment of glass, weighing 8g, was recovered from the topsoil (Table 1). The artefact is in moderate condition and displays evidence of post-depositional rolling.
- 4.3.23 The artefact comprises a fragment of bottle glass of later post-medieval date. It is likely that the artefact was in the river for some time, which would account for its eroded and rolled appearance.
- 4.3.24 No further analysis is necessary.
- 4.3.25 *Animal Bone:* two fragments of animal bone, weighing 52g, were recovered from the topsoil (Table 1). The artefacts are in moderate condition.
- 4.3.26 The animal bone fragments both originate from a cow and comprise a portion of cow scapula and a single molar (*Pers. Comm.* O'Meara 2015).
- 4.3.27 No further analysis is necessary.
- 4.3.28 **Other:** two artefacts, weighing 43g, were recovered from the topsoil (Table 1). The fragments are in moderate to good condition.
- 4.3.29 One of the artefacts comprises a worked bone and iron penknife with a small steel plate on one edge. This may have been engraved. The knife likely dates to the early 20th century (possibly 1930s).
- 4.3.30 The other artefact comprises a small decorated trouser button of likely 19th century date. The button is coated with a black lacquer and may have been manufactured from bronze or brass. It may have been part of a military uniform.
- 4.3.31 No further analysis is necessary.
- 4.3.32 **Statement of Potential:** the recovery of medieval pottery is interesting, as it provides evidence of medieval domestic activity on the site at Brougham Castle and its environs.



- 4.3.33 All of the finds were, however, recovered from the topsoil and are therefore of low archaeological potential.
- 4.3.34 Only the medieval pottery was retained with the archive.



5 DISCUSSION

- 5.1 The archaeological watching brief monitored all excavations associated with the provision of a new footpath following the exterior of the north and northern half of the western upstanding remains of the curtain wall of Brougham Castle. The excavations rarely reached a greater depth than 0.18m, only revealing topsoil beneath the turf. An area of modern disturbance was noted to the west of the western curtain wall in the form of chicken wire probably installed to prevent erosion of the bank.
- 5.2 Two areas of potential archaeological interest were observed to the north of the northern curtain wall in the upper path area towards its eastern extent. These took the form of stone slabs, the easternmost of which was at the upper landing, an area of deeper excavation, and consisted of three slabs (Plate 2) amongst a deposit consisting of sandstone fragments and crushed mortar **(101)**. It is unclear what its function was. The second area of potential interest was towards the eastern extent of the upper path, just north of the surviving north curtain wall. This consisted of two slabs to the immediate north of the curtain wall itself. Observations of the wall at this point revealed a break in masonry type and, at the base, an angled depression (Plate 5).



Plate 6: Curtain wall in the vicinity of the exposed stone slabs, facing north

5.3 It may be that this was the remains of where steps had once been inserted, and that the area of wall to the west is a later addition, the flags being the remains of a pathway relating to the steps. This area does appear to relate to a change in castle phasing (English Heritage 1997, 10-11; Figure 3); the main bulk of the curtain wall was erected in stone c. 1300 (English Heritage 2004, 2), and the



wall in the north-western corner area is narrower, and of uncertain date (English Heritage 1997, 10-11). It could be that these flags, and steps related to an earlier entranceway in the earlier curtain wall of c.1300, with the narrow western part of the wall being a later repair, beyond the time when defence was necessary, which is why it is much narrower than the wall it replaced (Figure 3).

- 5.4 The large red sandstone slab incorporated in the pathway along the side of the western curtain wall was already visible before any groundworks took place. However construction of the pathway did enhance its prominence. It was noted that it was immediately adjacent to the same section of curtain wall noted above (5.3) as of uncertain origin, and probably therefore an earlier wall build (Plate 5; Figure 3). Its true relationship to the earlier wall build, if any, would require further archaeological investigation to be carried out in order to clarify this.
- 5.5 The recovery of medieval pottery is interesting, as it provides evidence of medieval domestic activity on the site at Brougham Castle and its environs, and the dating of 12^{th} - 14^{th} century may attest to activity relating to an early phase of the castle. As all the finds were recovered from topsoil, further analysis would not add anything to the site interpretation.



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APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT TABLE

Context Number	Context Type	Area Description	
100	Deposit	Throughout site	Topsoil
101	Deposit	Eastern extent of upper pathway	Sandstone fragments and crushed mortar



APPENDIX 2: FIGURES

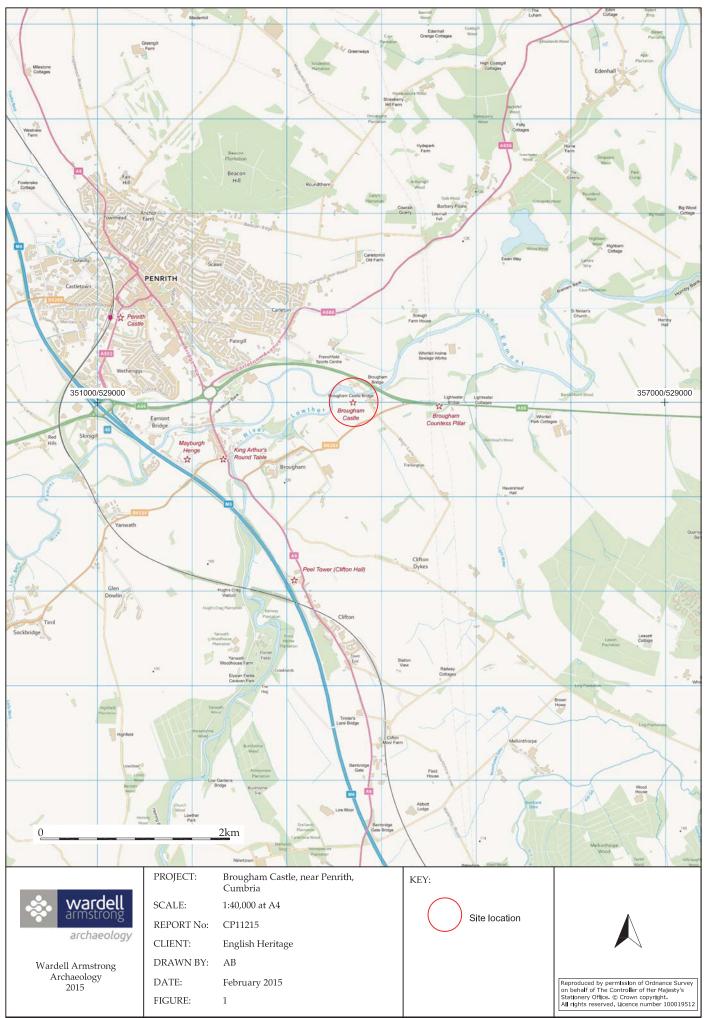


Figure 1: Site location.

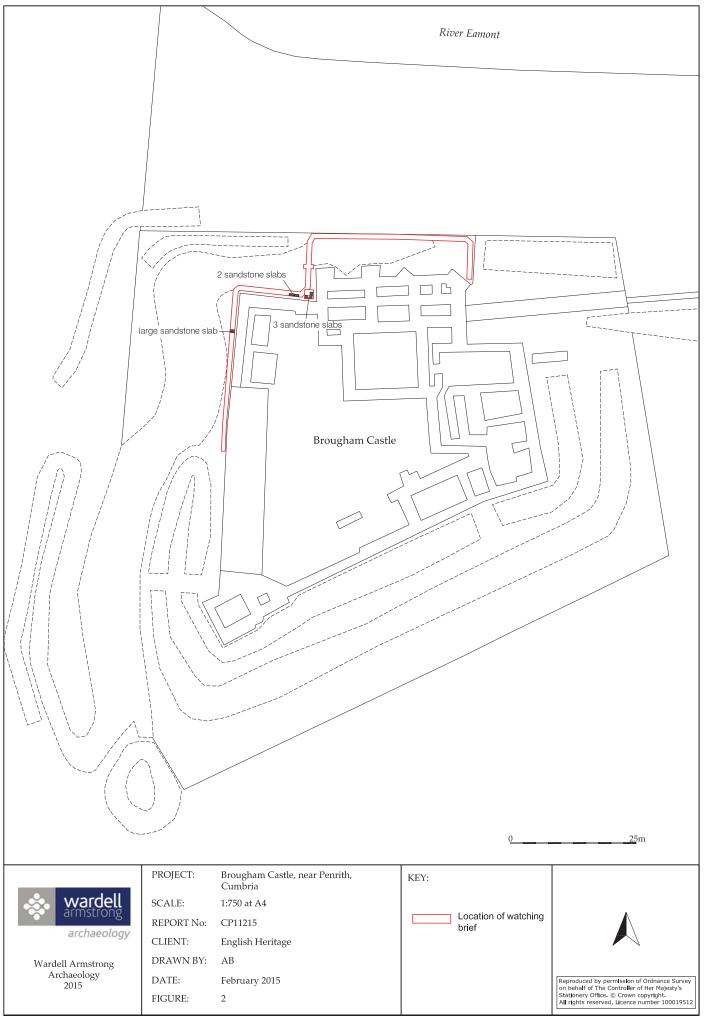
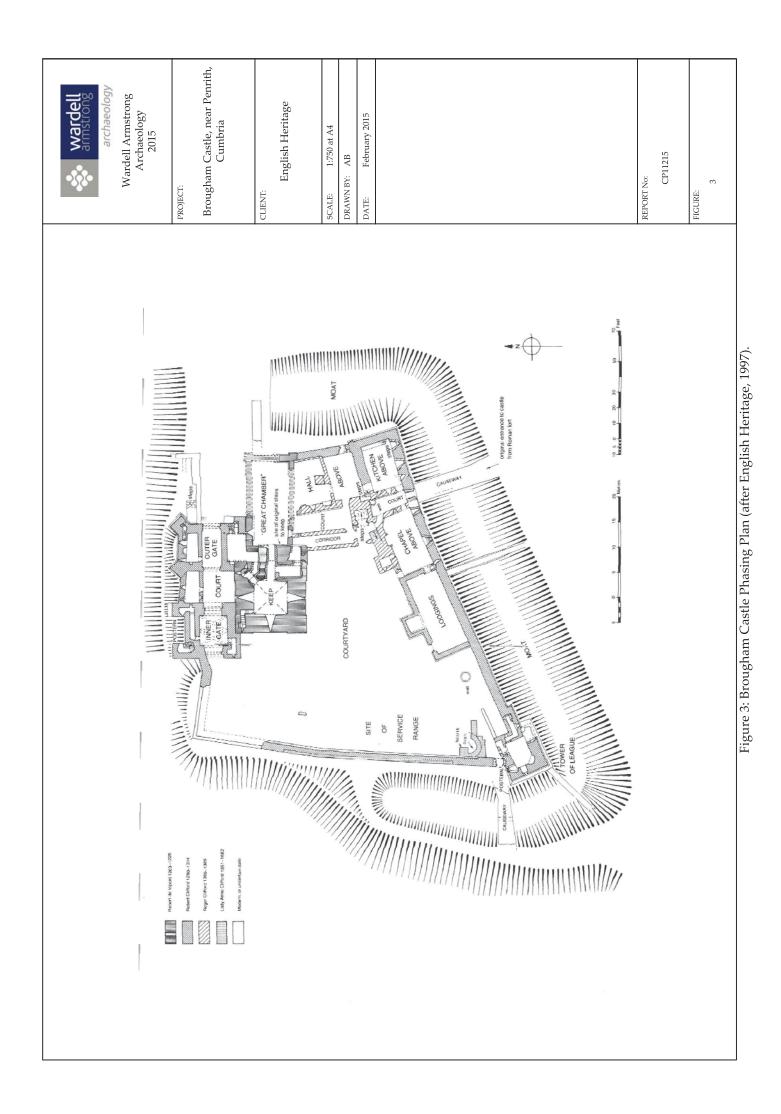


Figure 2: Location of area monitored by archaeological watching brief.



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