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LAND AT CASTLE CARROCK, CUMBRIA

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF REPORT

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SUMMARY

Wardell Armstrong Archaeology was commissioned by Jackie Baker and David Mason to undertake an archaeological recording project during groundworks undertaken prior to the construction of a single dwelling centred on NGR NY 543 557. This recording took the form of an archaeological watching brief, maintained during groundworks.

There is evidence for prehistoric settlement around the modern village of Castle Carrock, although there is currently no archaeological evidence from within the settlement itself. There is also evidence of medieval activity within Castle Carrock, represented by the Church, a moated site, and fossilised remains of strip fields around the modern village. As a result of this archaeological potential the development site was identified as being worthy of monitoring by Jeremy Parsons of Cumbria County Council's Historic Environment Service.

The archaeological watching brief monitored groundworks undertaken during this development.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Wardell Armstrong Archaeology thank Jackie Baker and David Mason for commissioning the project, and Martin Forster and groundwork staff for all help during its progress.

Wardell Armstrong Archaeology also thanks Jeremy Parsons, Cumbria County Council Historic Environment Service for his assistance during this project.

The archaeological monitoring was undertaken by Sue Thompson. The report was written by Sue Thompson and the figures were produced by Adrian Bailey. The report was edited by Richard Newman, Post Excavation Manager and the project was managed by Frank Giecco, Technical Director, 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 a scheme of archaeological monitoring undertaken in response to a request by Jackie Baker and David Mason, on land opposite Hallsteads at Castle Carrock. This report sets out the results of the archaeological monitoring.

1.1.2 The area affected by the groundworks was subject to archaeological monitoring due to the archaeological potential of the area highlighted by Jeremy Parsons.

1.2 National Planning Policy

1.2.1 The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) defines the role of the planning system as to promote and achieve sustainable development and involves 'seeking positive improvements in the quality of the built, natural and historic environment' (9).

1.2.2 Under the NPPF plan making and decision taking is informed by 12 core planning principles, including the requirement for the planning system to 'conserve heritage assets in a manner appropriate to their significance', so they can be enjoyed for their contribution to the quality of life for this and future generations (s17).

1.2.3 Where heritage assets are to be affected by development, local authorities should require the applicant to describe the significance of the assets affected (including the contribution made to the significance of the asset by its setting); the level of detail being proportionate to the asset's importance, which may include an archaeological evaluation and/or mitigation. The NPPF also requires developers to 'record and advance understanding of the significance of any heritage assets to be lost' through archaeological excavations and reporting (s141).

1.2.4 The more important the heritage asset is the greater the weight that should be given to its conservation. The significance of a heritage asset can be compromised, reduced or lost through alteration, destruction or negative impacts on setting. The NPPF considers negative impacts on heritage assets in terms of loss, 'substantial harm' and 'less than substantial harm'. Heritage assets that are of the highest significance, such as scheduled monuments or grade I and II* listed buildings, will be protected from loss or substantial harm in all but 'wholly exceptional circumstances'. Those of high but lesser significance such as grade II listed buildings or registered

parks and gardens will be protected from loss or substantial harm in all but 'exceptional circumstances' (s132).

1.3 Local Policy

1.3.1 Carlisle District Local Plan (2001-2016) Policy LE8 states that 'on land for which there is no archaeological information, but where there are reasonable grounds for believing remains to be present, the City Council will ensure that the archaeological aspects of development proposals are examined and evaluated before planning applications are determined. Planning permission will not be granted without adequate assessment of the archaeological implications'.

1.1.3 Furthermore, under policy LE8, it states that 'where there is no archaeological information for a piece of ground, this does not mean that the ground is archaeologically sterile. Where there are reasonable grounds for assuming that a site has archaeological potential, but where the precise extent of deposits is not known, the City Council will require the developer to arrange for a professional archaeological field evaluation to be carried out prior to determining the planning application'.

2 METHODOLOGY

2.1 Introduction

2.1.1 Wardell Armstrong Archaeology was commissioned by the client to undertake an archaeological watching brief during groundworks associated with the construction of a single dwelling on land opposite Hallsteads at Castle Carrock, Cumbria. 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* (CIfA 2014).

2.2 Archaeological Watching Brief

2.2.1 The main objectives of the watching brief were to monitor all groundworks associated with the new development on land identified as of archaeological potential, and following advice from Cumbria County Council's Historic Environment Service.

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 **wardella2-206105**.

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 Carlisle Archives Centre, Carlisle, under unique project identifier WAA/15 CP11292, OCK-A.

3 BACKGROUND

3.1 Location, Topography and Geology

3.1.1 Castle Carrock lies within the broad, river valley landscapes of the Eden Valley, approximately 14.5km to the east of Carlisle, and 6.4km to the south of Brampton. The modern village is situated along three roads leading into and out of the settlement, the B6413 being the main route north to south. The River Gelt flows in a north-westerly direction to the north of the village (Natural England 2013) (Figure 1).

3.1.2 The development site is situated at the eastern edge of the village, on the road to Geltsdale. The land has been in use as sheep pasture (Figure 2).

3.1.3 The area of comparatively low-lying ground which lies between the Lake District fells to the west and the Pennine escarpment to the east coincides closely with the outcrop of sandstones and mudstones of Permo-Triassic age. These rocks are generally concealed by glacial deposits (<http://mapapps.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>).

3.2 Historic Landscape Characterisation

3.2.1 The Historic Landscape Characterisation of the area records that Castle Carrock lies within the Cumwhitton and Kirkoswald character area. Overall, the character of the area is a pre-modern landscape in which most settlements and enclosures originated before the 18th century, with a strong legibility of landscapes of landscape elements of medieval origin, with strong survival of medieval and earlier archaeological features (Cumbria County Council 2009, 55).

3.3 Historical Background

3.3.1 Introduction:

3.3.2 The development site was not tested by geophysical survey or trial trenching, so the likelihood of this area containing archaeological remains had not yet been tested. There was however, the possibility that evidence for archaeological activity survived in this area.

3.3.3 Earthworks seen to the south of the site are known as Hallsteads, recorded as an Iron Age 'camp' or 'fort' (HER No 558). The earthworks are scheduled and have been investigated in the past. Examination in 1904 prior to waterworks associated with Castle Carrock reservoir suggested that the earthwork may be natural, however,

earlier investigations in 1881 recorded a charred pointed stake and squared log which may signify a palisade or gateway (Wooler 2014).

3.3.4 There is good evidence for medieval settlement within Castle Carrock, both from documentary sources and surviving landscape features. The present church was constructed in 1828, and is believed to have incorporated 'bits of earlier fabric'. A moated site east of the church is thought to represent a medieval fortified house. The land currently being developed is located to the east of the village, away from the medieval settlement, but historical and modern mapping show fossilised medieval strip fields surrounding the central core of the village, possibly indicating wider medieval settlement (*ibid*).

4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 The archaeological watching brief monitored groundworks prior to the construction of a single dwelling following advice from Jeremy Parsons of Cumbria County Council's Historic Environment Service. The groundworks monitored by the watching brief were undertaken on 10th March 2015.

4.2 Results

4.2.1 The archaeological watching brief monitored the topsoil strip on land opposite Hallsteads, Castle Carrock, and the excavation of a service trench to the western side of the site.

4.2.2 An area in the northern portion of the site measuring approximately 400m² was stripped of topsoil. This topsoil (**100**) was a dark grey brown sandy silt and was present to an average depth of 0.30m. A natural hollow to the south east corner of the excavated area was very boggy ground; the topsoil in this area was deeper and a maximum depth of 0.50m. The only feature noted during the topsoil strip was a cobble filled land drain, which was observed orientated north east south west. This drain cut through the topsoil, and is therefore relatively modern. A small glass screw top jar was recovered from amongst the cobbles in the drain, dating it to mid 20th century.

4.2.3 The topsoil strip revealed a firm sandy clay natural (**101**) which was varied in colour, from a bright orange at the western side of the site, becoming yellow, then grey to the east.

4.2.4 A service trench was cut at the western edge of the site, measuring 12m in length by 0.50m in width, and was a maximum of 0.70m in depth. The topsoil in this trench was a maximum depth of 0.40m above the natural clay. No subsoil was observed. A small glass ink well was recovered from the topsoil, probably dating to the early 20th century.

4.2.5 No significant archaeological finds were recovered and no environmental samples were taken as part of the watching brief. No archaeological features or deposits were encountered.



Plate 1: Topsoil strip looking south



Plate 2: Topsoil strip looking north

5 CONCLUSION

- 5.1 The archaeological watching brief monitored the excavation of topsoil prior to the construction of a new dwelling on land opposite Hallsteads, Castle Carrock, in an area outlined as being of possible archaeological potential.
- 5.2 The topsoil strip revealed a firm sandy clay, typical of the boulder clay which covers much of Cumbria. No archaeological features were observed. As natural geological deposits of boulder clay were exposed, and no archaeological features were revealed, it was unnecessary to monitor the excavation of the foundation trenches associated with the new dwelling.

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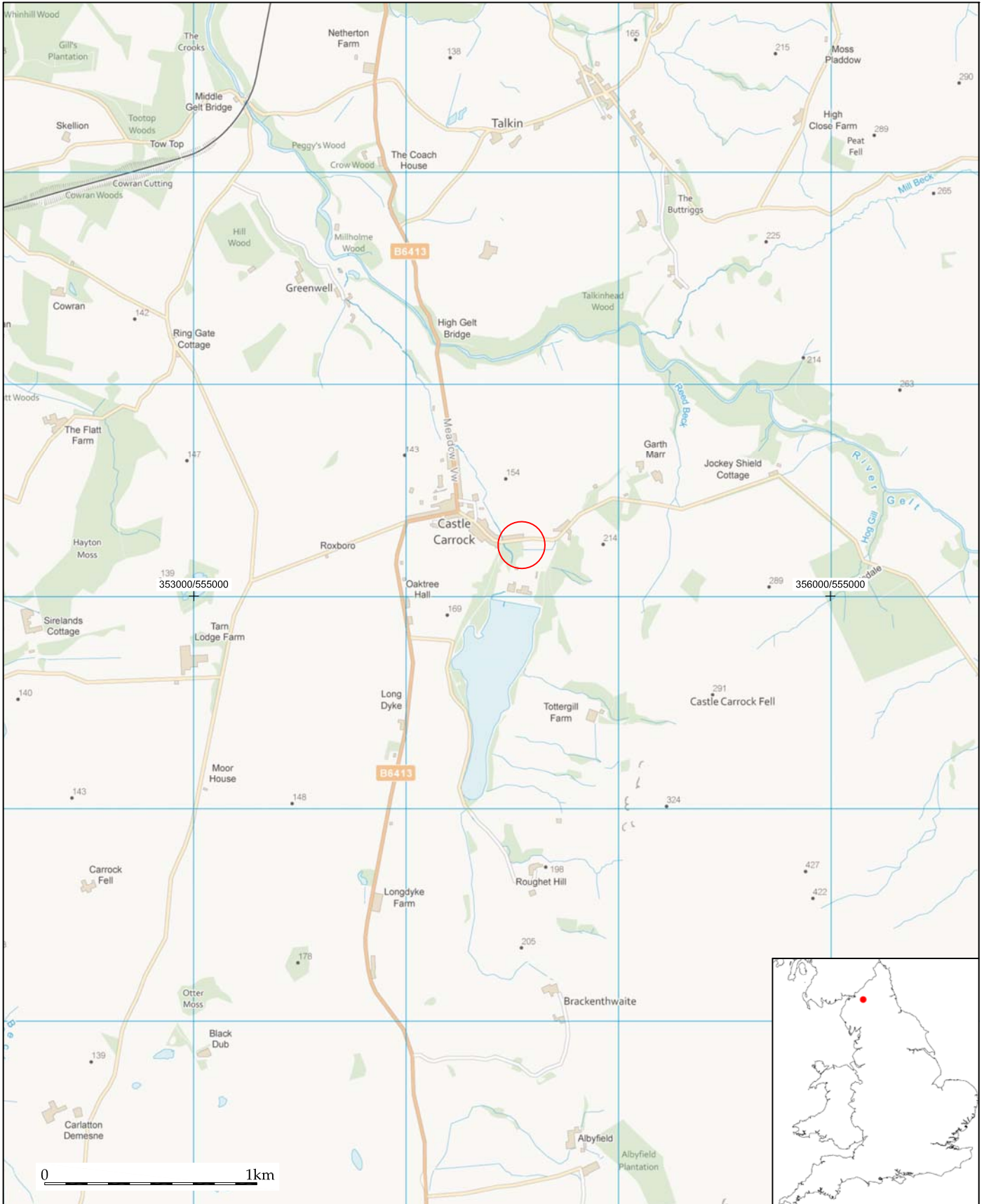
http://carlisle.gov.uk/planning_and_buildings/local_development_framework.aspx

<http://mapapps.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>

APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT TABLE

<i>Context Number</i>	<i>Context Type</i>	<i>Description</i>
100	Deposit	Topsoil
101	Deposit	Natural – Sandy clay

APPENDIX 2: FIGURES






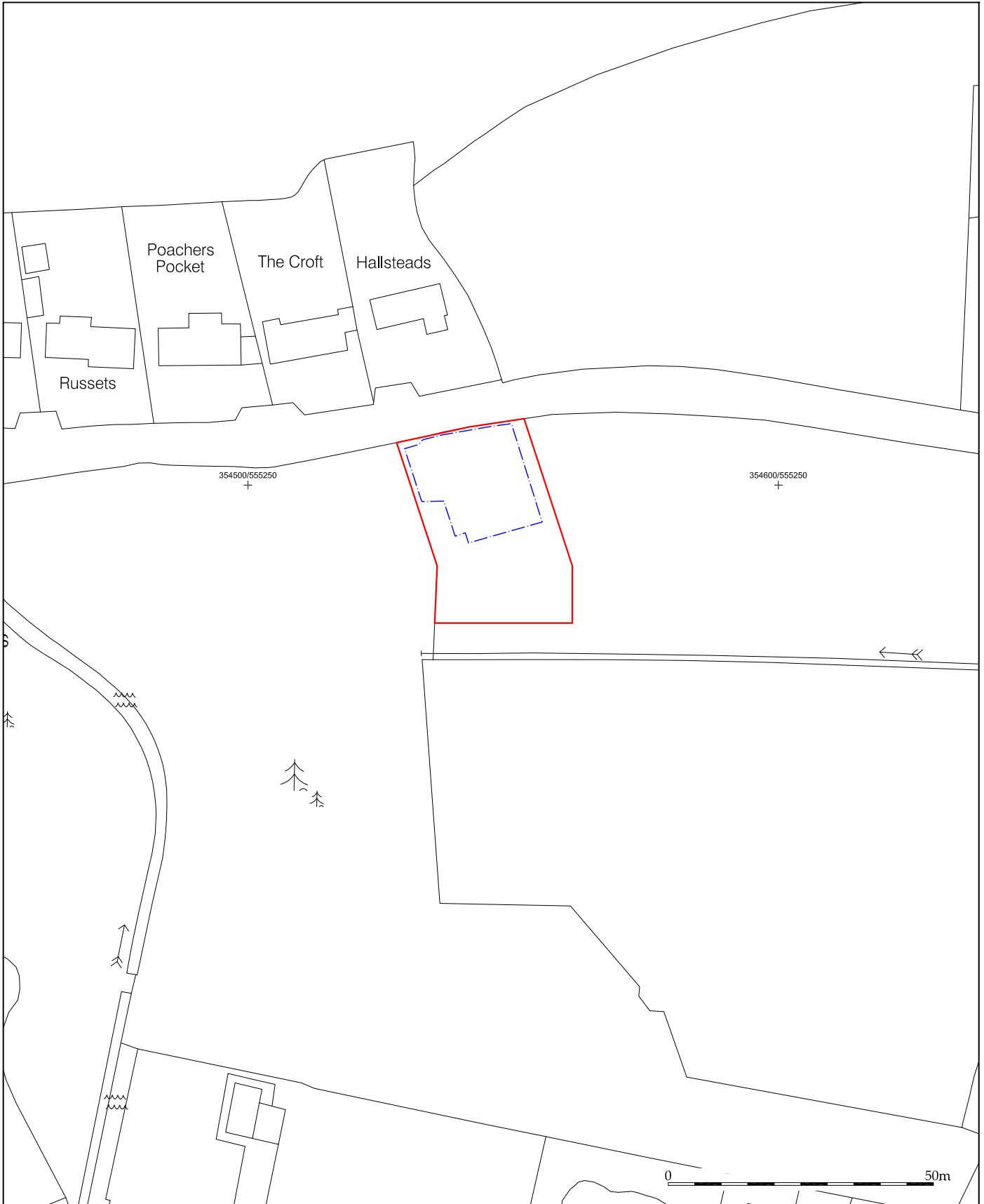
 <p>Wardell Armstrong Archaeology 2015</p>	<p>PROJECT: Land opposite Hallsteads, Castle Carrock, Cumbria</p> <p>SCALE: 1:25,000 at A4</p> <p>REPORT No: CP11292</p> <p>CLIENT: Jackie Baker & David Mason</p> <p>DRAWN BY: AB</p> <p>DATE: March 2015</p> <p>FIGURE: 1</p>	<p>KEY:</p> <p> Site location</p>	 <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 2015</p>	<p>PROJECT: Land opposite Hallsteads, Castle Carrock, Cumbria</p> <p>SCALE: 1:1,000 at A4</p> <p>REPORT No: CP11292</p> <p>CLIENT: Jackie Baker & David Mason</p> <p>DRAWN BY: AB</p> <p>DATE: March 2015</p> <p>FIGURE: 2</p>	<p>KEY:</p> <p> Site boundary</p> <p> Area monitored during watching brief</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: Location of watching brief.

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