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UNITED UTILITIES

SOUTH EGREMONT PIPELINE, CUMBRIA

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF REPORT

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UNITED UTILITIES

SOUTH EGREMONT PIPELINE

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF REPORT

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SUMMARY

Wardell Armstrong Archaeology was commissioned by United Utilities to undertake an archaeological recording project during groundworks undertaken as part of the new water pipeline distributing water from Ennerdale to West Cumbria (running between NGR NY 0040 0850 to NY 0855 1531). This recording took the form of an archaeological watching brief, maintained during excavation works undertaken in areas of archaeological potential along the route, namely in fields forming part of Far End Farm, in land at Snellings Farm and at Church Street in Cleator. The other areas were identified as being of archaeological potential by a desk based assessment undertaken in 2012 (McIntyre 2012), and in areas not investigated as part of the subsequent archaeological evaluation (Moore 2013).

The archaeological watching brief monitored all excavations undertaken in these three areas of archaeological potential. No finds or features of note were encountered in the fields to the east of Egremont or in the field to the north of Snellings Farm.

Sandstone features encountered at the western extent of Church Street in Cleator line up with walls shown on early mapping, predating United Utilities entrance to their water works. It is likely that these remains or similar, may exist in other neighbouring areas. No other archaeological remains were encountered during excavations on the Church Street site.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Wardell Armstrong Archaeology thanks United Utilities for commissioning the project, and Kitty Hankins and Chris Higham 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 Ed Johnson, Sue Thompson and Cat Peters. The report was written by Cat Peters and the figures were produced by Adrian Bailey. The report was edited and 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 a scheme of archaeological monitoring undertaken in response to a request by United Utilities, along key parts of a pipeline route. This report sets out the results of the archaeological monitoring.

1.1.2 The area affected by the groundworks subjected to archaeological monitoring was undertaken in three areas highlighted to be of archaeological potential by an earlier desk-based assessment (McIntyre 2012) and geophysical survey (Railton 2012) and not tested by the subsequent archaeological evaluation (Moore 2013), and one area highlighted by Jeremy Parsons, Cumbria County Council Historic Environment Service, as of being worthy of further monitoring.

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 South Egremont Pipeline, Cumbria. All work undertaken was consistent with the relevant standards and procedures of the Chartered 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 undertaken in four areas identified as of archaeological potential and needing further work, following an archaeological desk-based assessment (McIntyre 2012), geophysical survey (Railton 2012) and evaluation (Moore 2013) and 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 **wardella2-218597**.

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 CP10234, SEP-B.

3 BACKGROUND

3.1 Location, Topography and Geology

3.1.1 The pipeline route is located at the western edge of the western fells of the Lake District in Cumbria. Ennerdale Water lies to the west of the start point, with the route running parallel and to the east of the River Ehen until it gets south of Egremont, where it crosses the Ehen and enters the West Cumberland Plains, an area of lower lying less undulating topography. The route runs primarily through enclosed pasture, but also runs into Cleator itself and crosses the A595 to the south-west of Egremont. The groundworks monitored by the archaeological watching brief were undertaken in fields forming part of Far End Farm, in land at Snellings Farm, at Church Street in Cleator and across the known location of a Roman road by the A595 south-west of Egremont.

3.1.2 From Ennerdale Water to Egremont the bedrock geology consists of mudstone and sandstone of the Buttermere Formation, formed approximately 470 to 495 million years ago during the Ordovician Period. From Egremont to the south, the bedrock is of the younger St Bees Sandstone Formation, formed approximately 242 to 248 million years ago in the Triassic Period (BGS 2001).

3.1.3 The nature of the topography, hydrology and geological history of western Cumbria has made the superficial geology generally chaotic. The majority of the area is covered by Devension Cold Stage diamicton- glacial till comprising non-sorted to poorly sorted sands or larger particles suspended in a mud matrix. Along the pipe route east of Cleator Moor to Thornhill, patches of glaciofluvial (melt water) sands and gravels of Devension age are recorded. Soils comprise mainly freely draining slightly acid loamy soils, known as Wick 1 Association. East of Cleator and Cleator Moor, a small patch of slowly permeable seasonally wet acid loamy and clayey soil is evident associated with Blackhow Wood, while south of Egremont, towards Nethertown and Beckermat, freely draining slightly acid sandy soils are encountered (SSEW 2012).

3.2 Historic Landscape Characterisation

3.2.1 The route encounters several different Historic Landscape Characterisation types. The areas monitored by the archaeological watching brief are within four separate land use areas: the field boundaries to the east of Egremont lie within a former enclosed common, the area at Snellings Farm and the Roman road location area lie

within areas of ancient enclosure and Church Street in Cleator lies within a settlement area.

3.3 Historical Background

- 3.3.1 **Introduction:** this historic background is taken from relevant information collated during desk-based research undertaken for the desk-based assessment for the project undertaken in 2012 (McIntyre 2012). Only relevant information relating to the four areas of groundworks subjected to archaeological monitoring is included. References in brackets are to known sites of interest, logged in Cumbria County Council's Historic Environment Record database.
- 3.3.2 The field to the north of Snellings Farm was not tested by geophysical survey or trial trenching, so the likelihood of this area containing archaeological remains had not yet been tested. The desk-based assessment found that the pipeline route lay in an area of prehistoric potential, demonstrated by findspots of Bronze Age scrapers (Railton 2012, 7). There was therefore a possibility that evidence for prehistoric activity survived in this area.
- 3.3.3 Other earlier evidence for activity that may have been encountered during the groundworks was of Romano-British origin, relating to the suspected route of a Roman road running from South Egremont to Thornhill, Blackbeck and Calder Bridge, and thought to cross the A595 to the south-east of Egremont (HER 1255 and 1210).
- 3.3.4 Medieval archaeology was likely to survive in the vicinity of fields to the east of Egremont, targeted by the archaeological monitoring, as remains of Egremont town fields remain visible in existing field boundaries in this area (HER 6579). The origins for the town itself are thought to lie in the late 12th century (Cumbria County Council 2000).
- 3.3.5 Further medieval activity is known from the vicinity of Church Street, in Cleator, with St Leonard's Church (HER 4448) having a 12th century chancel. The existing church was rebuilt in 1841, and further extended in 1903. This Church is Grade II listed. Similarly, the lych gate and quadrant walls at the entrance to the church are listed Grade II and date to 1903. It was thought possible that the grave yard, boundaries or graves themselves relating to the earlier church extended beyond the boundaries of the present one, and that archaeological remains may have been encountered during groundworks on Church Street.

4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 The archaeological watching brief monitored all excavations undertaken within three areas of archaeological potential highlighted by earlier archaeological works (McIntyre 2012, Railton 2012 and Moore 2013) and from advice from Jeremy Parsons of Cumbria County Council's Historic Environment Service. The groundworks monitored by the watching brief were undertaken between Monday 28th July 2014 and Wednesday 28th January 2015.

4.2 Results

4.2.1 The archaeological watching brief monitored excavations at three locations, at fields to the east of Egremont, at Snellings Farm and at Church Street, Cleator.

4.2.2 **Fields east of Egremont (Figure 2):** the work at fields to the east of Egremont concentrated on two hedgerow field boundaries, cut through for the pipeline route. The watching brief was maintained to identify and record any associated archaeological features or dating evidence relating to these possible medieval boundaries, or 'kestings'. Excavations for a small drainage ditch 0.4m wide were monitored in July 2014 which ran on a north-south alignment through the fields adjacent to the hedgerows, in areas not targeted by earlier trial trenching. This revealed a mid-brown sandy topsoil averaging 0.35m in depth overlying an orange sandy natural (Plate 1).



Plate 1: North facing section of drainage ditch excavation

4.2.3 Two of the field boundaries were also cut through as part of the groundwork operations to provide an easement for the pipeline (Figure 2; Plate 2). No features or finds were encountered during this monitoring.



Plate 2: Northernmost hedgerow, facing south-east

4.2.4 In September 2014, the three fields surrounding the two hedgerow field boundaries were stripped of topsoil to provide an easement area for the water pipeline route. This area was 10m wide stripped to a maximum depth of 0.4m (Plate 3).



Plate 3: Northern extent of topsoil stripped area facing south

4.2.5 Two areas of disturbance, consisting of linear areas of pink clay and broken brick and tile backfill, were encountered to the immediate north of the northernmost hedgerow field boundary, and these related to the locations of previous pipelines inserted 16 years earlier running parallel to the hedgerow field boundary (Plate 4). Some fragments of pottery were observed from within the topsoil, of late 19th or early 20th century origin, and these were not retained. No finds or features of archaeological interest were encountered during the archaeological monitoring of the works undertaken in the fields to the east of Egremont.



Plate 4: Area of disturbance to north of northernmost hedgerow field boundary, facing north

4.2.6 **Land at Snellings Farm:** the archaeological monitoring at Snellings Farm was undertaken in November 2014, in the south-east corner of the field to the north of the farm buildings (Figure 3). The works required the stripping of topsoil across an area 20m wide along the southern boundary of the field, widening at the eastern extent to meet an existing entrance into the field. The depth of topsoil removed varied between 0.2m and 0.35m and consisted of a mid-brown loose soil. Beneath, was a mixed sandy orange-brown natural (Plate 5).



Plate 5: Soil strip in south-eastern corner of field north of Snellings Farm, facing north

- 4.2.7 Four north-east south-west orientated field drains of mixed rubble and brick make-up were encountered in the south-eastern part of the field of between 0.27m and 0.37m width and 5.5m apart (Plate 6).



Plate 6: Second northernmost field drain, facing west-south-west

4.2.8 **Church Street, Cleator:** the works on Church Street initially involved the excavation of seven test pits to find out where existing services and obstructions were along the street to inform on the route for the pipeline. Test Pit 1, towards the western extent of Church Street, had been started prior to archaeological supervision beginning. This measured 2m in length and 0.64m wide, and had exposed some sandstone blocks on a north-south orientation at 0.15m below the tarmac ground surface, with smaller sandstone blocks to the west (Plate 7). The excavations had stopped at this level once these structures were encountered. The test pit was extended eastwards across the entrance to the United Utilities water works, uncovering a further section of the possible southernmost edge of a sandstone wall at 0.5m below the tarmac road surface on an east-west orientation (Plate 8). The final depth reached at the eastern side of the test pit was 1.1m, and the area to the south of the archaeological features consisted of a mixed backfill.



Plate 7: Features in western part of Test Pit 1, facing north



Plate 8: Features in eastern part of Test Pit 1, facing west

4.2.9 Six further test pits were excavated, spaced at irregular intervals along Church Street, spanning its width, and measuring 0.64m in width (Figure 4). All revealed a high level of disturbance through existing services and back-fill deposits beneath the road make-up deposits, with an orange natural clay or sand noted at varying depths between 0.65 and 0.85m beneath the existing tarmac road surface (Plate 9). No features or finds of archaeological note were observed in these test pits.



Plate 9: Natural revealed in southern part of Test Pit 2, facing north

4.2.10 In January 2015, three drill pits were excavated along Church Street, for drill launch and inspections for the drilling of the pipeline route along the street. Drill Pit 1 was located by the entrance to the United Utilities water works entrance towards the western extent of Church Street (Figure 4). This measured 2.55m north-south, 3m east-west and to a final depth of 2m and revealed a natural consisting of a pink-orange clay at 0.9m, beneath road make-up deposits and existing services (Plate 10).



Plate 10: Natural revealed in Drill Pit 1, facing north

4.2.11 Drill Pit 2 was excavated to the north of the entrance to St Leonard's Church (Figure 4). This was 1.55m north to south and 3.25m east to west and excavated to a depth of 2m. Two service pipes were encountered at a depth of 0.45m, so only the central 0.8m was excavated to the final depth. Natural orange sand was exposed in this central area at a depth of 0.7m (Plate 11).



Plate 11: Drill Pit 2, facing east

4.2.12 Drill Pit 3 was excavated at the eastern extent of Church Street, on the northern side (Figure 4). It measured 3.25m east to west and 1.5m north to south and was excavated to a depth of 2m. It revealed 0.1m of tarmac road surface, overlying 0.1m of hardcore make-up deposit above a thin black silty deposit of 0.05m, which in turn overlay 0.15m of crushed stone and brick make-up deposit which overlay an orange sandy natural at 0.6m depth (Plate 12). This area had not been disturbed by modern services.



Plate 12: North facing section of Drill Pit 3, facing south

5 DISCUSSION

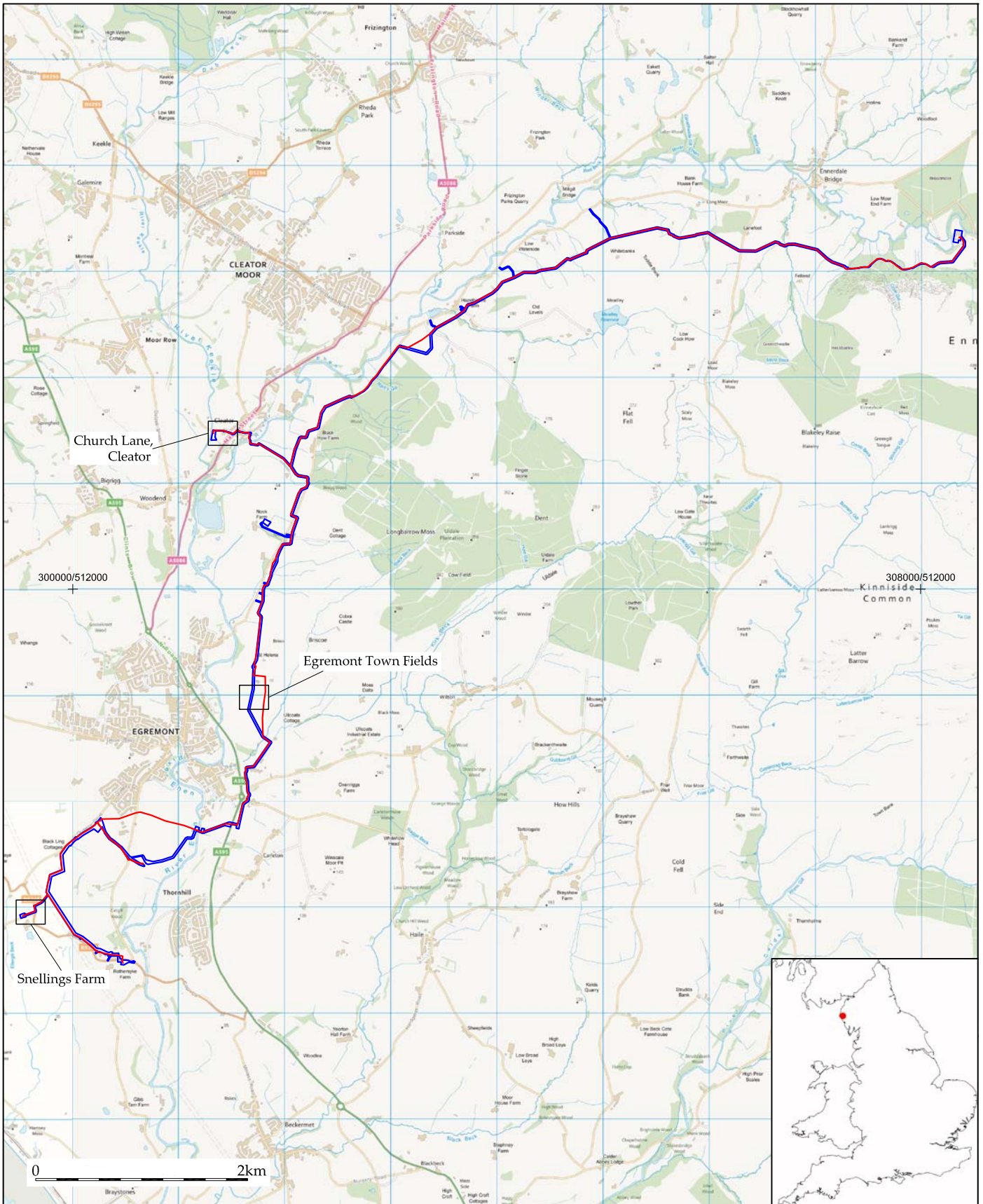
The archaeological watching brief monitored all excavations in the three areas outlined as of possible archaeological potential, or areas not able to be tested during previous archaeological investigations. No finds or features of note were encountered in the fields to the east of Egremont or in the field to the north of Snellings Farm.

Sandstone features encountered at the western extent of Church Street in Cleator line up with walls shown on early mapping, predating United Utilities entrance to their water works. It is likely that these remains or similar, may exist in other neighbouring areas. No other archaeological remains were encountered during excavations on the Church Street site.

6 BIBLIOGRAPHY

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APPENDIX 1: FIGURES





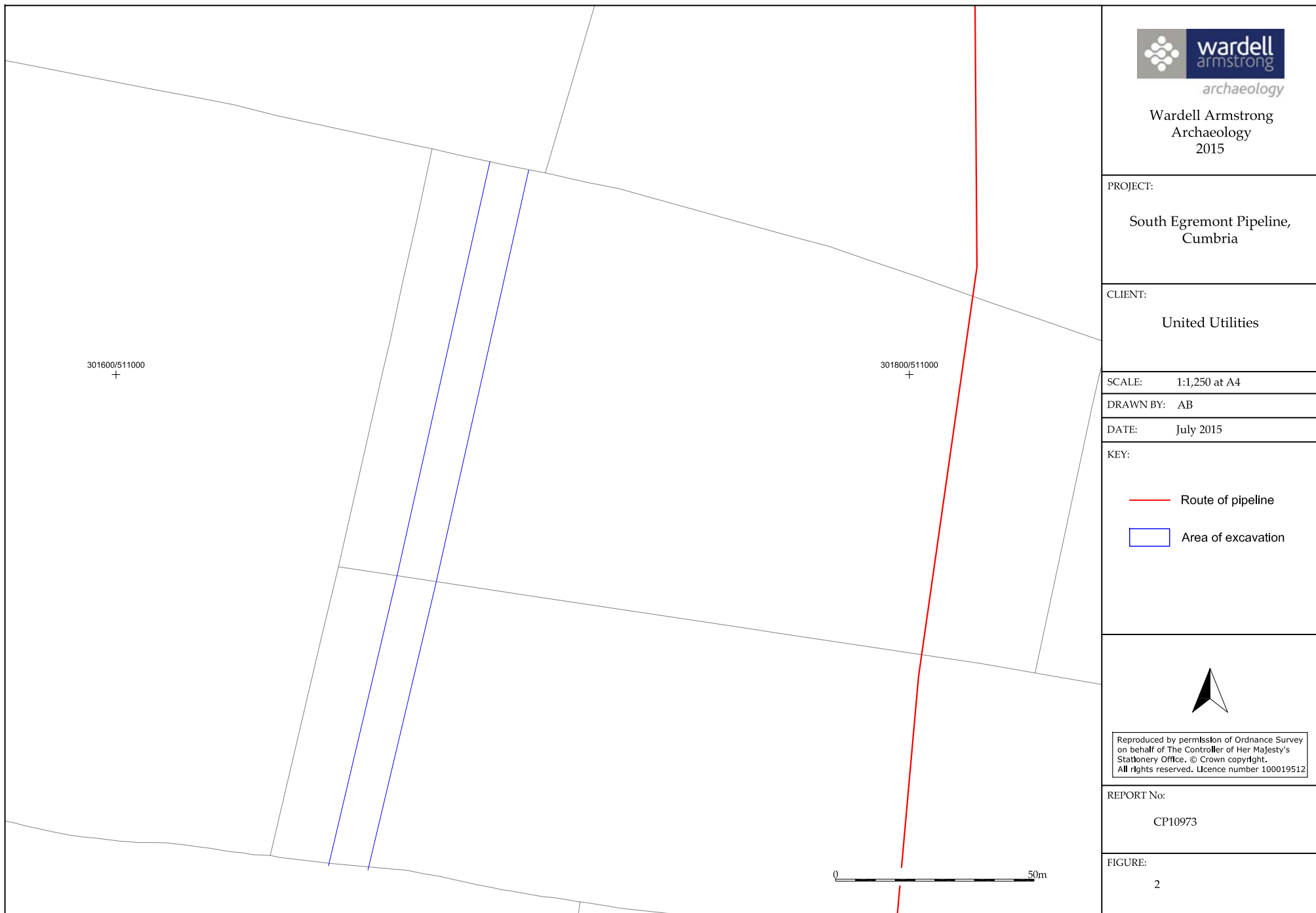
 <p>Wardell Armstrong Archaeology 2015</p>	<p>PROJECT: South Egremont Pipeline, Cumbria</p> <p>SCALE: 1:50,000 at A4</p> <p>REPORT No: CP10973</p> <p>CLIENT: United Utilities</p> <p>DRAWN BY: AB</p> <p>DATE: July 2015</p> <p>FIGURE: 1</p>	<p>KEY:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> — Route of pipeline — Pipeline easement 	 <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.



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South Egremont Pipeline,
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CLIENT:
United Utilities

SCALE: 1:1,250 at A4

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KEY:
— Route of pipeline
 Area of excavation

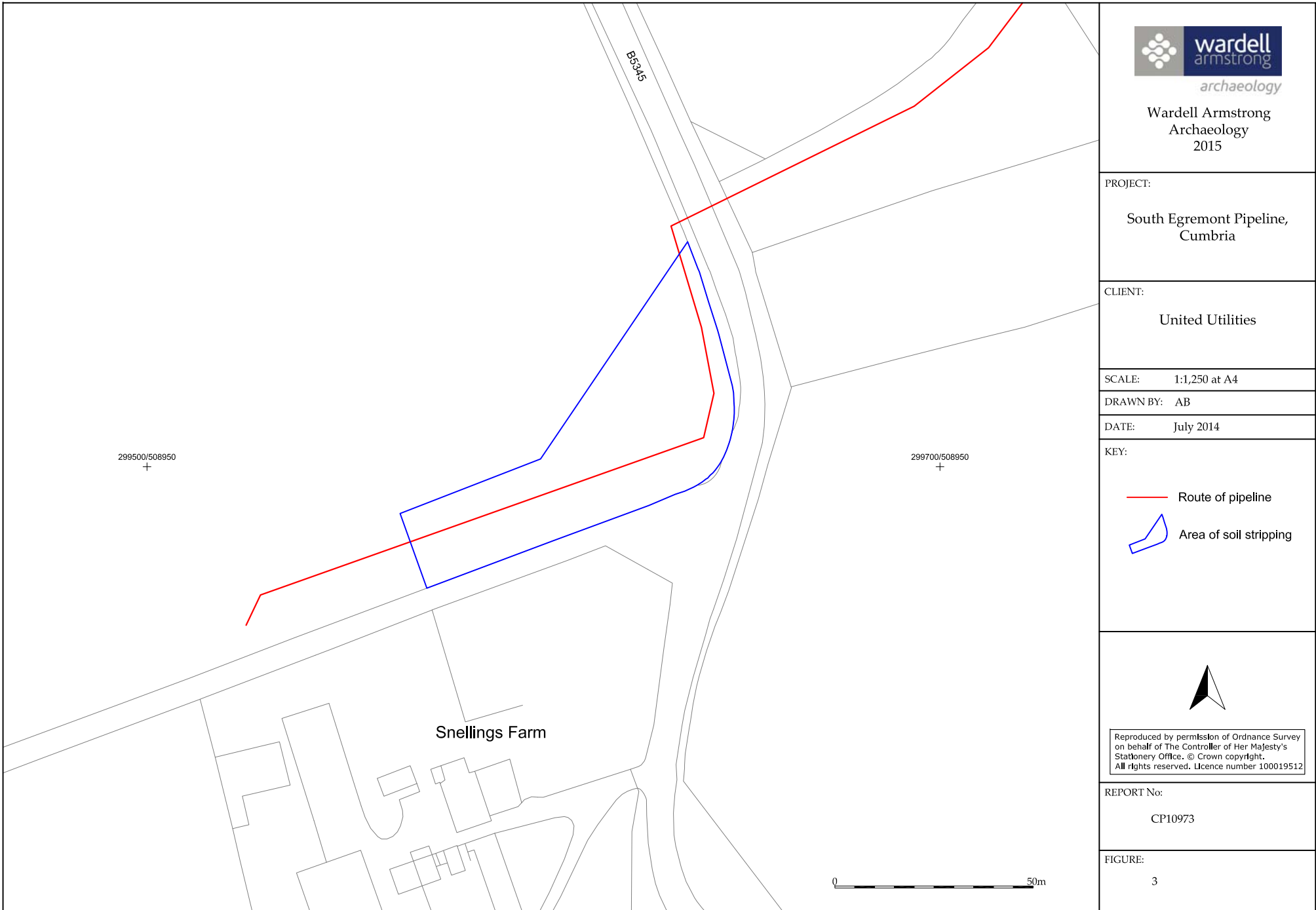


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FIGURE:
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Figure 2: Watching brief on land to the east of Egremont (Egremont Town Fields).



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PROJECT:
South Egremont Pipeline,
Cumbria

CLIENT:
United Utilities

SCALE: 1:1,250 at A4

DRAWN BY: AB

DATE: July 2014

KEY:
 Route of pipeline
 Area of soil stripping



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FIGURE:
3

Figure 3: Watching brief at Snellings Farm.

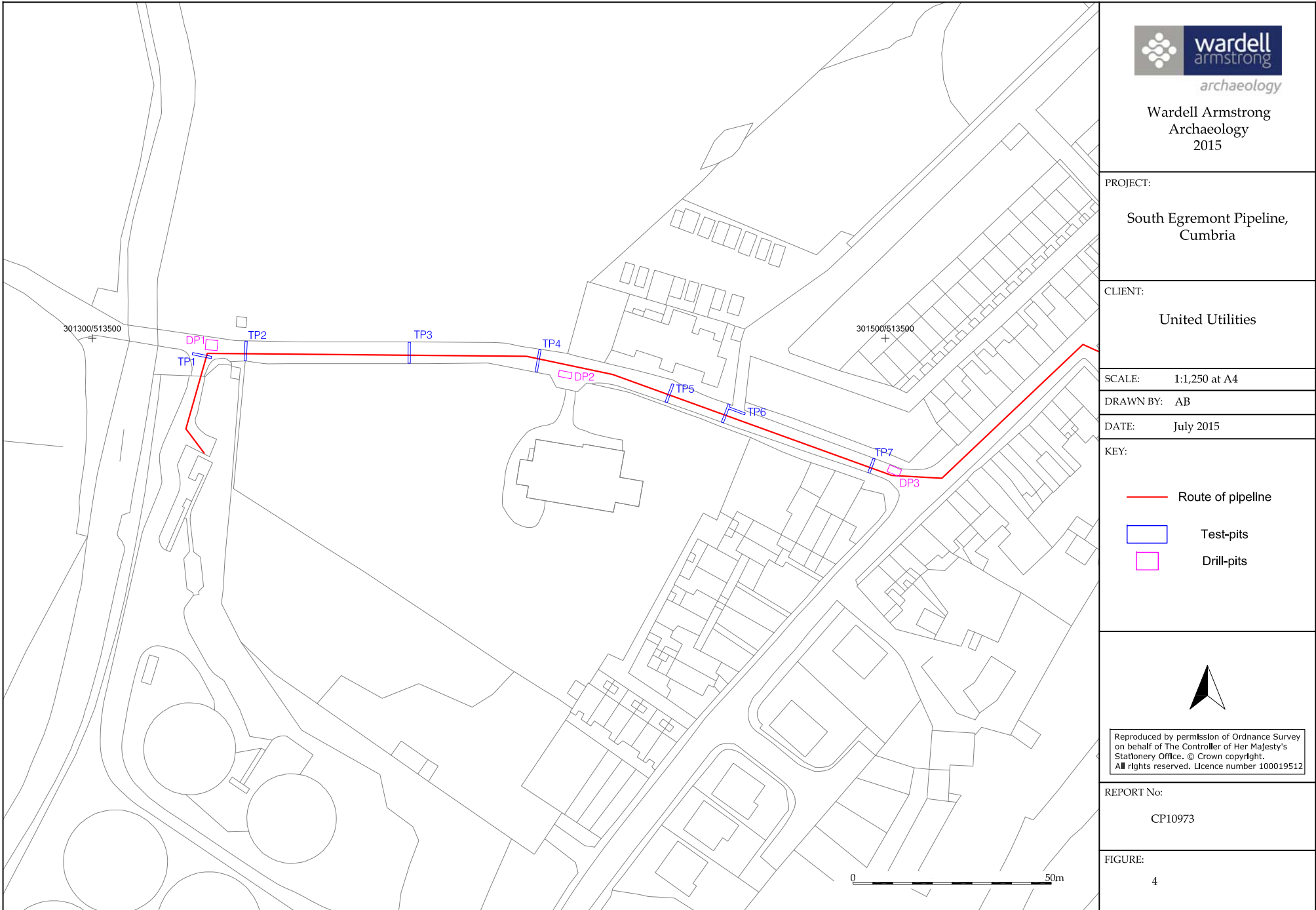


Figure 4: Watching brief at Church Street, Cleator.

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