



ELECTRICITY NORTH WEST

**REFURBISHMENT OF HIGH & LOW VOLTAGE OVERHEAD APPARATUS,
TILE KILN COTTAGE, BEAUMONT
CUMBRIA**

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF REPORT

June 2016

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ELECTRICITY NORTH WEST

Tile Kiln Cottage, Beaumont, Carlisle, Cumbria

Archaeological Watching Brief

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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 (WAA) was commissioned by Electricity North West, to undertake an archaeological watching brief at Tile Kiln Cottage, Beaumont, Cumbria (NGR: NY 35004 6063). The watching brief was required as part of a scheme of archaeological works as the excavations were undertaken in the vicinity of a scheduled monument area, within the buffer zone of a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The watching brief was undertaken in accordance with a written scheme of investigation (WSI) produced in response to advice given by Jeremy Parsons of Cumbria County Council Historic environment Service (CCCHES).

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Wardell Armstrong Archaeology (WAA) thanks Electricity North West for commissioning the project, and for all their assistance throughout the work. Also, Jeremy Parsons of CCCHES for their assistance.

Wardell Armstrong Archaeology also thanks Electricity North West, for their help during this project.

The research and the watching brief was undertaken Ruby Neale, who also wrote the report. The project was managed by Frank Giecco and the report edited by Richard Newman.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.2 Project Circumstances and Planning Background

1.1.1 Wardell Armstrong Archaeology (WAA) was commissioned by Electricity North West to undertake an archaeological watching brief during the groundworks associated with the replacement and refurbishment of several electricity cables in the vicinity of Tile Kiln Cottage (NGR: NY 3504 6063).

1.1.2 The sites lie on land to the north of the scheduled monument of Hadrian's Wall at Beaumont (NHL: 1087623) and as a consequence all work was undertaken in advance of groundworks associated with the refurbishment and replacement of the aforementioned cables.

1.3 Project Documentation

1.2.1 A WSI (WAA 2016) was produced to provide a specific methodology based on the advice of Jeremy Parsons of CCCHES, for a programme of archaeological mitigation implemented via a watching brief. This was approved by the archaeological planning advisor prior to the fieldwork taking place. This is in line with government advice as set out in Section 12 of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF 2012).

1.2.2 This report outlines the work undertaken on site, the subsequent programme of post-fieldwork analysis, and the results of this fieldwork.

2. METHODOLOGY

2.1 Standards and guidance

2.1.1 The archaeological watching brief was undertaken following the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists *Standard and Guidance for an archaeological watching brief* (2014a). The archaeological evaluation was undertaken following the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists *Standard and Guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (2014a). Both ran in accordance with the WAA fieldwork manual (2015).

2.1.2 The fieldwork programme was followed by an assessment of the data as set out in the *Standard and Guidance for an archaeological watching brief* (ClfA 2014a) and the *Standard and Guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials* (ClfA 2014b).

2.2 Documentary Research

2.2.1 As part of this project, archaeological desk-based research was undertaken, included within this report, which sets out the archaeological and historical background of the site, and provides an assessment of the significance of all known and potential heritage Assets up to 500m from the area of investigation. This wider area is referred to as the study area.

2.3 The Watching Brief

2.4.1 The watching brief comprised the monitoring of all intrusive works associated with the current development. This comprised the excavation of a long trench spanning the entire northern field boundary, measuring 0.4m in width and 1.2m in depth.

2.4.2 The general aims of these investigations were:

- allow the monitoring archaeologist to signal that an archaeological find has been made before it is destroyed
- to provide the opportunity for appropriate resource allocation if the archaeological find cannot be dealt with under the watching brief remit
- to determine the presence or absence of buried archaeological remains within the proposed development site
- to determine the character, date, extent and distribution of any archaeological deposits and their potential significance
- determine levels of disturbance to any archaeological deposits

- investigate and record all deposits and features of archaeological interest within the areas to be disturbed by the current development
- to determine the likely impact on archaeological deposits from the proposed development
- to disseminate the results of the fieldwork through an appropriate level of reporting.

2.4.3 Deposits considered not to be significant were removed by a mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket to maximise the chance for identification of archaeological remains should they be present. All intrusive groundworks were monitored under close supervision by a suitably trained archaeologist. No archaeological remains were noted.

2.4.4 All finds encountered were retained on site and returned to the Carlisle office where they were identified, quantified and dated to period. A *terminus post quem* was then produced for each stratified context under the supervision of the WAA Finds Officer, and the dates were used to help determine the broad date phases for the site. On completion of this project, the finds were cleaned and packaged according to standard guidelines (*ibid*). Please note, the following categories of material will be discarded after a period of six months following the submission of this report, unless there is a specific request to retain them (and subject to the collection policy of the relevant depository):

- unstratified material;
- modern pottery;
- material that has been assessed as having no obvious grounds for retention.

2.4.5 No environmental samples were taken.

2.4.6 A full professional archive has been compiled in accordance with the project specification, and the Archaeological Archives Forum recommendations (Brown 2011). The archive will be deposited with the Carlisle Archives, with copies of the report sent to the Cumbria HER, Oxenholme, Kendal, available upon request. The project archive can be accessed under the unique project identifier CP11734/16 TLK-A.

2.4.7 Wardell Armstrong Archaeology supports 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 WAA as a part of this national project. The OASIS reference for the project is: wardella2-246577.

3. BACKGROUND

3.1 Location and Geological Context

3.1.1 The sites affected by the groundworks lies to the north of the village of Beaumont, west of the River Eden and north-west of Carlisle (NGR: NY 35004 6063). The site's environs comprise arable farmland located to the north of the village of Beaumont.

3.1.2 The underlying solid geology within the area of investigation is mapped as mudstone and gypsum stone of the Mercia Mudstone group, formed 200-251 million years ago during the Triassic period under hot desert conditions. The overlying superficial geology consists of diamicton (clay and silts, commonly pebbly and sandy) of the Gretna Till Formation, formed up to two million years ago during the Quaternary period (BGS 2016).

3.2 Historical and Archaeological Background

3.2.1 Desk-based research was undertaken as a preliminary part of this project, to summarise the known historical and archaeological background of the site and the surrounding landscape. The results of this are included below.

3.2.2 This research has identified that the area affected by the groundworks lies within the buffer zone of a UNESCO World Heritage Site, the Frontiers of the Roman Empire (Asset 2).

3.2.3 No heritage Assets designated as scheduled monuments are recorded within the immediate vicinity of the site.

3.2.4 The key archaeological risk is therefore of encountering archaeological remains of the Roman period relating to Hadrian's Wall and associated features. Remains of the medieval period relating to the Beaumont coin hoard found in the area may also be encountered. The reason for the watching brief was the proximity of the groundworks to the scheduled monument and World Heritage site of Hadrian's Wall and environs, and was required as a condition of scheduled monument consent.

3.2.5 No previous archaeological works have been undertaken within the development area.

3.2.6 **Prehistoric:** there is no known evidence for prehistoric activity in the study area.

- 3.2.7 **Roman:** the groundworks undertaken under archaeological supervision occurred within the buffer zone of the UNESCO World Heritage site of Frontiers of the Roman Empire (Hadrian's Wall) (Asset 2). Hadrian's Wall, along with the German Limes and the Antonine Wall, forms the World Heritage site. It was constructed c. AD 122 by the Emperor Hadrian across a distance of 118km and is a "*striking example of the organisation of a military zone and illustrates the defensive techniques and geopolitical strategies of ancient Rome*" (Historic England 2015).
- 3.2.8 The area monitored during the archaeological watching brief lies to the north of Hadrian's Wall and vallum. No archaeological evidence of Roman activity has been found within the immediate vicinity of the development site; however on the 1926, 1952 and the 1954 OS maps it was noted that a collection of Roman coins were found just to the south-west of Tile Kiln cottage in 1884. In fact, this was a large hoard of medieval silver coins found under a large stone, thought to have been buried because of the 'anxious times... while wild Highlanders were hovering up and down at Rockcliffe Wath' (Ferguson, 1886).
- 3.2.9 The area to the south of the area affected by the groundworks is scheduled under 'Hadrian's Wall: Beaumont motte castle and section of Hadrian's Wall in wall mile 70 including turret 70a' and consists of a section of the wall and turret 70a which was buried underneath a medieval motte castle (<https://www.historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1013510>) (Asset 2).
- 3.2.10 Other evidence for Roman activity at Beaumont includes a Centurial Stone find (Asset 3) and an Altar Stone find (Asset 4).

- 3.2.11 **Medieval:** The place name research suggests a French influenced name, based on ‘*bel*’ the old French for fair or beautiful, and the old French word ‘*mont*’ meaning hill or mountain. It is possible that there was an older name in place before the Norman Conquest of 1066, but the French linguistic traits appear to have exerted greater influence in the area. The mound beneath the present Church of St Mary is certainly the inspiration behind the *mont* element to Beaumont. It is also the location of the motte castle thought to have been constructed by the Le Brun family during the 12th century (HER No. 27668), and with whom the name Beaumont may have been first used. The core of the standing Church of St Mary is dated to the late 12th century yet may contain fabric from Hadrian’s Wall (LB No. 1335624).
- 3.2.12 During the medieval period, it is well known that there was a high level of conflict in the border regions, including Carlisle and the surrounding areas. It is believed that this is the reason for the burying of around 2000 medieval coins just across the road from the present house. These were discovered in 1884 and subsequently deposited with the treasury. The hoard contained 1890 English and Irish coins, 87 Scottish coins and 23 foreign coins. The English coins were found to depict mainly Edward I, II and III with one Henry III penny (Ferguson 1886) dating the hoard to the 14th century.
- 3.2.13 **Post Medieval:** the First Edition Ordnance Survey map of 1868 is the first map which specifically shows a building in the vicinity of Tile Kiln cottage, which is labelled as being a ‘brick and tile works’ (Asset 1). The OS maps of 1897 and 1901 show that there is a building in the development area, but it is not labelled, suggesting the brick and tile works had closed prior to the publication of these maps. This ties into the historical evidence for the Beaumont Brick and Tile Works being in use between 1830s and the 1870s. (<http://www.cumbriacountyhistory.org.uk/township/beaumont>).
- 3.2.14 **Modern:** The title of the house returns on the 1926 OS map, but is reduced to ‘Tile Kiln’. It also shows that the large ‘T’ shaped building to the rear of the current building was gone by this point, suggesting that there was no industrial activity continuing into the 20th century. This is also the first map to label the so-called ‘Roman coins found in 1884’ immediately to the south-west.
- 3.2.15 The current iteration of Tile Kiln Cottage, which currently occupies the area affected by the groundworks, is of 20th century date (Asset 1).

4. WATCHING BRIEF RESULTS

4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 The watching brief was undertaken between 20th and 22nd June. The archaeological watching brief monitored all excavations associated with the placement of new underground electricity cables to replace the existing overhead cables. Context numbers are provided, where relevant, in brackets, relating also to a summary table provided in Appendix 1.

4.1.2 The development groundworks required the excavation of a narrow trench, 0.4m wide, in order to lay the cables at a suitable safe depth. The excavations largely consisted of the removal of topsoil and natural to a depth of 1.2m, exposing the natural substrata. No archaeological remains were encountered.

4.2 Results

4.2.1 The excavation of the trench revealed no archaeological features. Several modern field drains were encountered and the topsoil contained some sherds of post-medieval pottery.

4.3 Archaeological Finds and Environmental Sampling

4.3.1 The only archaeological finds that were recovered were found in the topsoil and consisted of post-medieval ceramics. No environmental samples were retained during the groundworks.

5. FINDS

5.1 Introduction

5.1.1 A total of 4 artefacts, weighing 57g, were recovered from the topsoil during the watching brief. All artefacts were in reasonable condition, with little evidence of post depositional damage.

5.1.2 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 assessed according to material type and conforming to the deposition guidelines recommended by Brown (2011).

5.1.3 The material archive has been assessed for its local, regional and national potential and for its potential to contribute to the relevant research frameworks.

5.1.4 The finds assessment was compiled by Sue Thompson.

5.2 Ceramics

5.2.1 Two sherds of pottery were recovered weighing 34g. The first was a white earthenware plate or bowl base sherd, weighing 11g, with a large blue transfer printed pattern. The second sherd weighing 23g was a red earthenware puncheon, or large bowl, glazed internally with a yellow glaze. Both sherds represent utilitarian pottery.

5.2.2 The pottery sherds are both likely to date to the mid-19th century.

5.3 Ceramic Building Material

5.3.1 Two sherds of coarse red unglazed earthenware were recovered, weighing 23g. They were likely to be fragments of either tile or land drain and are likely to date to the 19th or 20th century.

5.4 Statement of Potential

5.4.1 The finds are in reasonable condition but are of low potential, and do not contribute to archaeological significance of the site. No further work is required on any of the recovered finds.

5.4.2 The finds were not retained with the archive.

6. CONCLUSIONS

6.1 Interpretation

6.1.1 The archaeological watching brief monitored all excavations associated with the laying of underground electricity cables. No archaeological features or finds of archaeological significance were noted during the watching brief.

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March 2016)

APPENDIX 1: GAZETTEER OF ASSETS

<i>Asset Number</i>	<i>Reference</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Period</i>	<i>Grid Reference</i>
1	SMR 10300	Beaumont Brick and Tile works	Post-medieval and modern	334500,560400
2	NHL 1087623	Beaumont motte castle and section of Hadrian's Wall in wall mile 70 including turret 70a	Roman	334811,559285
3	SMR 457	Centurial Stone Find, Beaumont	Roman	334800,559240
4	SMR 455	Altar Stone find, Beaumont	Roman	334700,559300

APPENDIX 2: PLATES




Plate 1: General view of the service trench (looking north-east)



Plate 2: South-east facing section showing a modern field drain

APPENDIX 3: FIGURES

Wardell Armstrong
Archaeology
2016

PROJECT: Tile Kiln Farm, Beaumont,
Cumbria

SCALE: 1:25,000 at A4

REPORT No: CP11734


CLIENT: Electricity North West


DRAWN BY: AB

CHECKED BY: AB

DATE: April 2016

KEY:

 Site location



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Figure 1: Site location.



Figure 2: Detailed site location.






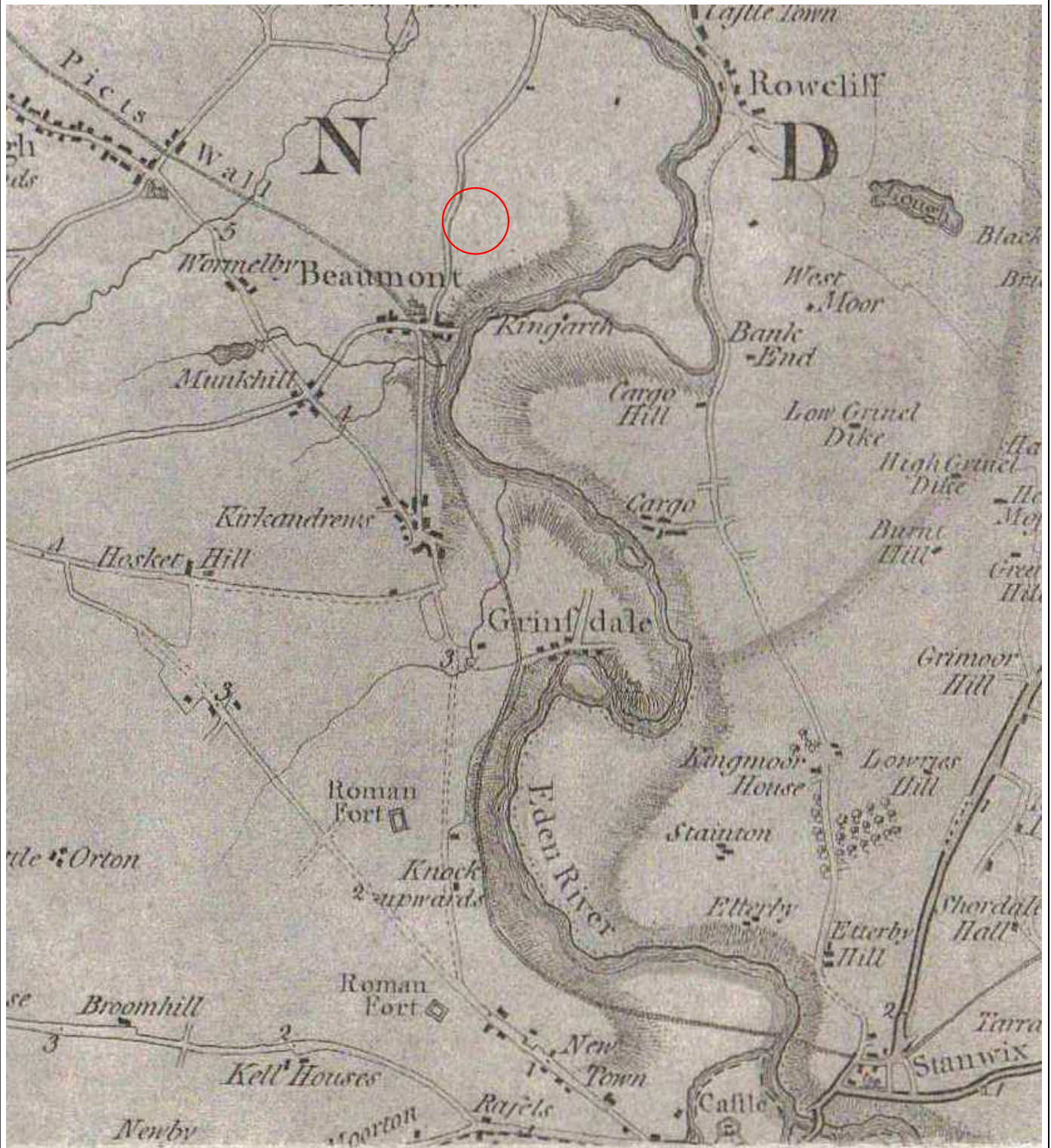
	<p>PROJECT: Tile Kiln Farm, Beaumont, Cumbria</p> <p>SCALE: Not to scale</p> <p>REPORT No: CP11734</p> <p>CLIENT: Electricity North West</p> <p>DRAWN BY: AB</p> <p>CHECKED BY: AB</p> <p>DATE: April 2016</p>	<p>KEY:</p> <p> Site location</p>	
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Figure 3: Extract from Saxton's Map of Cumberland, 1576.






	<p>PROJECT: Tile Kiln Farm, Beaumont, Cumbria</p> <p>SCALE: Not to scale</p> <p>REPORT No: CP11734</p> <p>CLIENT: Electricity North West</p> <p>DRAWN BY: AB</p> <p>CHECKED BY: AB</p> <p>DATE: April 2016</p>	<p>KEY:</p> <p> Site location</p>	
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Figure 4: Extract from Hodkinson & Donald's Map of Cumberland, 1774.

PROJECT:

Tile Kiln Farm, Beaumont,
Cumbria

CLIENT:

Electricity North West

SCALE: 1:12,500 at A4

DRAWN BY: AB

CHECKED BY: AB

DATE: April 2016

KEY:



REPORT No:

CP11734



Figure 5: First Edition Ordnance Survey Map, 1868 (6 inches to 1 mile scale).

PROJECT:

Tile Kiln Farm, Beaumont,
Cumbria

CLIENT:

Electricity North West

SCALE: 1:7,500 at A4

DRAWN BY: AB

CHECKED BY: AB

DATE: April 2016

KEY:



Site boundary



REPORT No:

CP11734

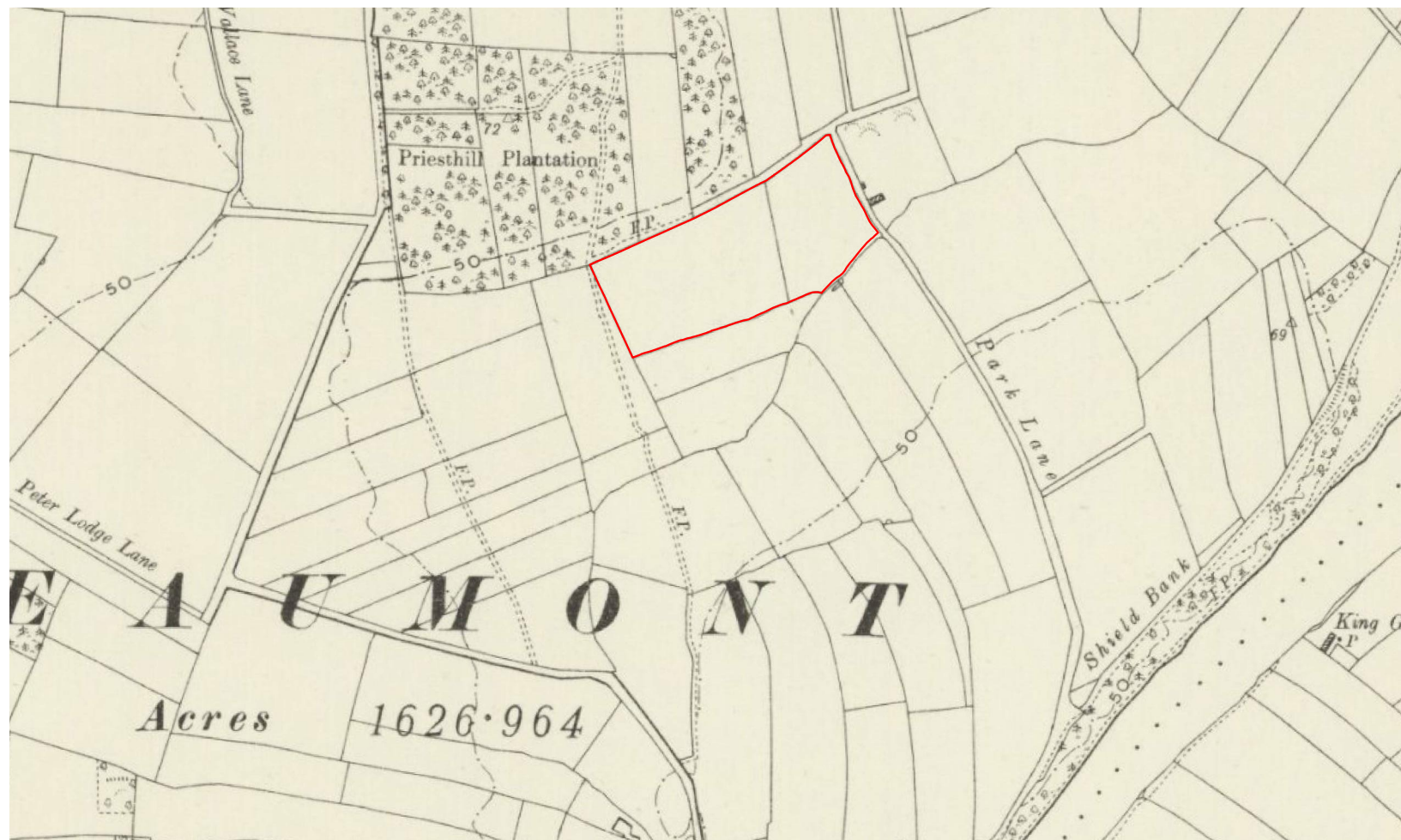


Figure 6: Second Edition Ordnance Survey Map, 1901 (6 inches to 1 mile scale).

PROJECT:

Tile Kiln Farm, Beaumont,
Cumbria

CLIENT:

Electricity North West

SCALE: 1:7,500 at A4

DRAWN BY: AB

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DATE: April 2016

KEY:



REPORT No:

CP11734



Figure 7: Ordnance Survey Map, 1926 (6 inches to 1 mile scale).

PROJECT:

Tile Kiln Farm, Beaumont,
Cumbria

CLIENT:

Electricity North West

SCALE: 1:7,500 at A4

DRAWN BY: AB

CHECKED BY: AB

DATE: April 2016

KEY:



Site boundary



REPORT No:

CP11734



Figure 8: Ordnance Survey Map, 1952 (6 inches to 1 mile scale).

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