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



ELECTRICITY NORTH WEST

RIGGSIDE, BANKS BRAMPTON CUMBRIA

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT

October 2016





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ELECTRICITY NORTH WEST

Riggside, Banks, Brampton, Cumbria

Archaeological Evaluation Report

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SUMMARY

Wardell Armstrong Archaeology were commissioned by Electricity North West to undertake a rapid desk-based assessment and archaeological evaluation at Riggside, Banks, Brampton, Cumbria (CA8 2JH, NY 56976 64562), associated with the relocation of pole and stay 273208. The work was required at the request of Mike Collins, Hadrian's Wall Officer for English Heritage as the site lies within the area of the Scheduled Monument, Hadrian's Wall Turret 52B, Burtholme (SM 315) and the vallum.

The evaluation was undertaken on the 17th October 2016 and comprised the excavation of two test-pits, located at the base of the existing electricity pole and where the existing stay enters the ground. The test-pits were excavated through an east to west aligned earthen mound in order to investigate the feature, which had the potential to have some association with the Hadrian's Wall frontier system.

Both test-pits measured $1m^2$ and were excavated to the level of the natural substrate at a depth of 1m. Each of the deposits making up the mound, as well as the buried soil below the mound, produced find of $19^{th} - 20^{th}$ century date, proving that the feature was constructed relatively recently. It is possible that this occurred during a programme of landscaping within the rear garden of the property of Riggside.

Of some significance was the recovery of a small assemblage of medieval pottery, although all of the sherds were residual. This, together with the recovery of further medieval finds from the garden soil of Riggside (Mrs Wilkinson *pers. comm.*), suggests that medieval activity may have taken place within the immediate vicinity.

No finds or features associated with the Hadrian's Wall frontier system were observed during the investigation.



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Wardell Armstrong Archaeology (WAA) thanks Gregg Davies of Electricity North West for commissioning the project, and for all their assistance throughout the work. Also, WAA thank Mike Collins, Hadrian's Wall Archaeologist for Historic England, for their assistance.

Wardell Armstrong Archaeology also thanks Mr & Mrs Wilkinson, for their help during this project.

The evaluation was undertaken by David Jackson, who also wrote the report. The rapid deskbased assessment was undertaken by Ariane Buschmann. The figures were produced by Helen Phillips. Finds assessment was undertaken by Sue Thompson. The project was managed by Frank Giecco and the report edited by Richard Newman.



1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 **Project Circumstances**

- 1.1.1 In October 2016, Wardell Armstrong Archaeology (WAA) undertook an archaeological evaluation at Riggside, Banks, Brampton, Cumbria (NGR: NY 56976 64562; Figure 1). The work was commissioned by Gregg Davies of Electricity North West, in advance of pole refurbishment works at the site.
- 1.1.2 Archaeological work was required as the proposed refurbishment works are situated within the immediate vicinity of Hadrian's Wall and vallum, and just to the south of the Wall Turret 52B (SM 315). Of particular significance is the presence of an earthen mound at the rear of Riggside which will be impacted upon by the renewal works, although this impact will be minimised as the majority of this work will utilise areas which have already been disturbed by the existing electricity pole.
- 1.1.3 The site lies within the area of the Scheduled Monument, Hadrian's Wall Turret 52B, Burtholme (SM 315) and the vallum. Hadrian's Wall marks one of the frontiers of the Roman Empire. The international importance of the surviving remains has been recognised through designation as a World Heritage Site (WHS). Given the presence of this mound within such an archaeologically sensitive area, Mike Collins, Hadrian's Wall Archaeologist for Historic England, requested a programme of test-pitting prior to the refurbishment work, in order to establish the date and nature of the mound.
- 1.1.4 Stretching over 70 miles, Hadrian's Wall was a continuous barrier of stone in the east and, initially, of turf in the west. The stone wall was originally designed to be ten Roman feet wide and sections of this width are termed 'broad wall'. The Wall begins in the east at Wallsend in Tyneside and continues to the west terminating at Bowness-on- Solway in Cumbria. A change of plan shortly after construction began led to a reduction in the width of the Wall to eight Roman feet, such sections being termed 'narrow wall'. Today, stretches of both wall types survive, including some sections of narrow wall built on broad wall foundations. For most of its length a substantial ditch on the northern side provided additional defence. Hadrian's Wall was designated as a World Heritage Site in 1987 and forms the most complex and best preserved of the frontiers of the Roman Empire (English Heritage 2002). The World Heritage Site (WHS) has a visual envelope extending between 1km and 6km from the site in order to serve as a buffer zone to protect the site and its immediate landscape from any development detrimental to the visual amenity of the site (ibid).



1.2 **Project Documentation**

- 1.2.1 The project conforms to a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) submitted by WAA (2016a), which was prepared in consultation with Mike Collins of Historic England. The WSI was approved by Mike Collins prior to the fieldwork taking place.
- 1.2.2 This report outlines the work undertaken on site, the subsequent programme of postfieldwork analysis, and the results of this scheme of archaeological evaluation.



2 METHODOLOGY

2.1 Standards and guidance

- 2.1.1 The archaeological evaluation was undertaken following the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists *Standard and Guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (2014a), and in accordance with the WAA fieldwork manual (2015a).
- 2.1.2 The fieldwork programme was followed by an assessment of the data as set out in the Standard and Guidance for archaeological field evaluation (CIfA 2014a) and the Standard and Guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials (CIfA 2014b).

2.2 Documentary Research

2.2.1 A rapid desk-based assessment was prepared by WAA as part of this programme of works and included within this report. This 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 0.5km from the area of investigation.

2.3 The Field Evaluation

- 2.3.1 The evaluation comprised the excavation of two test-pits, each measuring 1m² and located within the earthen mound to the rear of Riggside. The general aims of the investigations were:
 - to establish the presence/absence, nature, extent and state of preservation of archaeological remains and to record these where they were observed;
 - to establish the character of those features in terms of cuts, soil matrices and interfaces;
 - to recover artefactual material, especially that useful for dating purposes;
 - to recover palaeoenvironmental material where it survives in order to understand site and landscape formation processes.

And specifically to:

- investigate the earthen mound within the vicinity of the proposed works;
- and to establish if the pole location is suitable for the scheme.
- 2.3.2 Both test-pit were excavated by hand to the level of the natural substrate.
- 2.3.3 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 returned to the land owners at their request.

- 2.3.4 On completion of the evaluation, the test-pits were reinstated by replacing the excavated material and replacing the turf in its original location.
- 2.3.5 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 within Tullie House Museum, with copies of the report sent to the Cumbria County Council Historic Environment Service (CCCHES) in Kendal, Cumbria, available upon request. The archive can be accessed under the unique project identifier **WAA 16**, **RIG/A**, **CP11892**.
- 2.3.6 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: wardella2-266260



3 BACKGROUND

3.1 Location and Geological Context

- 3.1.1 The site is located within the small settlement of Banks, approximately 3km northeast of Brampton, Cumbria (NGR: NY 56976 64562; Figure 1). The investigation area comprises an east to west aligned earthen mound within a garden, at the southern extent of the property of Riggside (Figure 2). The site is within an area of enclosed fields, many of which contain the visible remains of features associated with the Hadrian's Wall frontier.
- 3.1.2 The underlying solid geology within the area of investigation is mapped as limestone, sandstone, siltstone and mudstone of the Tyne Limestone Formation deposited during the Carboniferous Period approximately 331 to 339 million years. This is overlain by superficial deposits of diamicton of the Devensian Till deposited 2 million years ago during the Quaternary Period (BGS 2016).

3.2 Historic Landscape Character

- 3.2.1 The Historic Landscape Characterisation (accessed 2016) positions Banks within 'Area 27: Irthing Valley', a mixed pattern of modern and older settlements and field enclosure, moderate legibility of landscape elements of medieval origin in Cumbria: *The River Irthing and its tributaries are the main topographical features of this character area. Much of the character area is within the Hadrian's Wall World Heritage site visual impact zone. The line of the Wall runs to the north of the River Irthing, and for part of its length forms a discernible feature within the local fieldscape. The settlement pattern is predominantly dispersed, with 39% of the discrete settlements are around the edge of former common waste, and some of the discrete and nucleated 19th century settlements relate to small-scale rural Industry, including coal mining (CHLCP 2009, 75).*
- 3.2.2 Although much of the settlement pattern appears to be of relatively recent origin, the field systems have much older roots. The character area is dominated by ancient enclosures with former common arable areas associated with the principal older nucleations, such as Walton, Brampton, Farlam and Talkin. Planned enclosures are largely confined to low moorlands. The remainder of the ancient woodland is confined to the valleys of the River Irthing, Cam Beck, King Water and River Gelt (CHLCP 2009, 75).



3.3 Historical and Archaeological Background

- 3.3.1 A desk-based assessment was produced to summarise the known historical and archaeological background of the site and the surrounding landscape to a distance of 0.5km. This report identified that there is one designated heritage asset within close proximity of the site boundary. There are however, a further nine assets within the wider search area of 0.5 km.
- 3.3.2 Three heritage assets (SM 315, 312, 4565, 311) designated as scheduled monuments are recorded within the immediate vicinity of the site. They are all part of the Hadrian's Wall section between Milecastle 52 and 53, including turret 52A (SM 315) turret 52B (SM 4565) to the north of the site, Milecastle 53 (SM 311), and the Pike Hill Signal Tower (SM 312) to the north-east of the site.
- 3.3.3 Seven non-designated heritage assets are recorded within the immediate vicinity of the site. They date from the Roman period as well as the post medieval period. This desk-based assessment concluded that there was a reasonable likelihood that archaeological remains of Roman date may be present within the proposed development site.
- 3.3.4 A previous archaeological watching brief has been undertaken to the immediate north of the development area by G.M.T. Martin in 2011. No finds of archaeological interest were found. Outside the immediate study area the nearest archaeological works that have occurred was a Rapid Desk-Based Assessment and Archaeological Watching Brief approximately 1km to north-east of the present site at Bankshead (WAA 2014). No archaeological finds, features or deposits were encountered during the watching brief. Furthermore, an archaeological watching brief was undertaken at Banks Green Cottage, approximately 1.6km to the south-west, in 2016 by Wardell Armstrong Archaeology (WAA 2016b). No archaeological features were identified during these works.
- 3.3.5 **Romano-British**: The site is located just to the south of the assumed position of Hadrian's Wall Turret 52B, a Scheduled Monument (SM 315). This is situated to the east of a well preserved section of Hadrian's Wall and vallum, and their associated features between the field boundary west of Coombe Crag and Banks Green Cottage, and the road to Lanercost at Banks (SM 312). This section of Wall corridor is of particular significance as it contains three well-preserved and upstanding turrets and a signal tower. The archaeological remains, especially the remains of both the milecastle and turrets, contain important information regarding the function and



development of the frontier system over time (WAA 2016, 8).

- 3.3.6 The military importance of the Tyne-Solway route across the Pennines was recognised by the Romans during their early campaigns through northern England and into Scotland in the second half of the 1st century AD. At this time a military road, the Stanegate, was constructed along with a series of forts. Subsequently, the Romans largely withdrew from Scotland and there is evidence that the Tyne-Solway route was recognised as a frontier by the start of the 2nd century AD. This position was consolidated in the early 2nd century by the construction of a substantial frontier work, Hadrian's Wall, under the orders of the Emperor Hadrian (ibid).
- 3.3.7 To the south of the site, at Low Birkhurst Farm, a quern was found, dating to the Roman period (HER 272), and a Roman architectural feature was found to the west (HER 279).
- 3.3.8 **Medieval:** There is evidence for medieval settlement within the surrounding area of the site. North-east of Banks, is the site of Triermain medieval enclosure castle, and to the immediate west is the settlement of Lanercost associated with the medieval monastery that now forms the parish church. In the 19th century Banks was described as a constablewick in the township of Burtholme within the parish of Lanercost (National Gazetteer 1868). The place name Banks is first referenced in 1256 and the settlement appears to have medieval origins (Newman 2014).
- 3.3.9 **Post-Medieval to Modern** Donald's Map of Cumberland 1774 depicts several properties at 'Banks' and 'Banks Hill', although it is unclear if this in an accurate depiction. No buildings are shown in the position of the site itself and the existing cottage is likely to be of late 18th to early 19th century date. The line of Hadrian's Wall is clearly visible running along the north of the main east to west aligned road (Figure 3).
- 3.3.10 A few heritage assets of post-medieval date are situated within a 0.5km radius of the site. These include three post-medieval lime kilns (HER 10015, 10016, 10017), the farmstead and horse engine house of Calees, Burtholme (HER 41498) dating to the Victorian period, and the farmstead and horse engine house at Banksfoot (HER 41499), dating to the Georgian and Victorian periods.
- 3.3.11 A rectangular structure is shown on the First Edition Ordnance Survey of 1862 at the position of Riggside (Figure 4). By 1924 (Figure 5), two smaller properties were formed with boundary walls to the approximate extent of the current Riggside property.



4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION RESULTS

4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 The evaluation was undertaken on the 17th October 2016 and comprised the excavation of two test-pits, located at the base of the existing electricity pole and where the existing stay enters the ground (Figure 2). The test-pits were excavated through an east to west aligned earthen mound in order to investigate the feature, which had the potential to have some association with the Hadrian's Wall frontier system.

4.2 Results

4.2.1 Test-Pit 1: Test-pit 1 was located at the base of the existing electricity pole and measured 1m² (Figure 2). The test-pit was excavated to a maximum depth of 1m, revealing the natural substrate which was comprised of light greyish brown silty clay (104). This was sealed by a 0.18m deposit of mid-greyish brown silty clay subsoil (103), which was further below a 0.35m deposit of buried topsoil. The buried topsoil comprised dark brown silty clay (102) and contained several shards of post-medieval/modern glass, as well as a single sherd of residual medieval pottery. The buried topsoil was sealed by the earthen mound, which comprised a 0.18m lower deposit of light greyish brown silty clay (101), with frequent inclusions of firm yellow clay, and a 0.3m upper deposit of mid-brown silty clay and turf (100) (Figure 6; Plate 1). Both of these deposits produced finds of 19th-20th century date, as well as residual sherds of medieval pottery.



Plate 1: West facing section of Test-pit 1



4.2.2 Test-Pit 2: Test- pit two measured 1m² and was located approximately 6m west of Test-pit 1, where the existing stay enters the ground (Figure 2). The test-pit was excavated to a maximum depth of 1m revealing the natural substrate (204). This was sealed by the same buried deposits of subsoil (203) and topsoil (202) observed within Test-pit 1. The earthen mound at this point was found to comprise a 0.23m lower deposit of dark brown silty clay (205), with frequent lumps of orange and yellow clay. This was sealed by a 0.23m deposit of light greyish brown silty clay (201) and a 0.25m upper deposit of mid-brown silty clay and turf (200) (Figure 6; Plate 2). All of the deposits making up the mound within Test-pit 2 produced finds of 19th-20th century date.



Plate 2: East facing section of Test-pit 2



5 FINDS ANALYSIS

5.1 Introduction

- 5.1.1 The finds assessment was compiled by Sue Thompson. A total of 42 artefacts, weighing 583g, were recovered from six deposits during an archaeological evaluation on land at Riggside, Banks, Cumbria.
- 5.1.2 All finds were dealt with according to the recommendations made by Watkinson & Neal (1998), to the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) Standard & Guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials (2014c) and to EAC (2014). All artefacts were returned to the landowner following assessment.
- 5.1.3 The material archive has been assessed for its local, regional and national potential (Brown 2011) and further work has been recommended on the potential for the material archive to contribute to the relevant research frameworks.

Context	Material	Qty	Wgt (g)	Date	Comments
100	Ceramic	1	8	19th-20th cent	Transfer ware
100	Ceramic	4	25	Med	1 x base, 1 x rim, 2 x body sherds
100	Glass	2	11	19th-20th cent	Clear glass bottle
101	Ceramic	1	2	19th-20th cent	White porcelain
101	Ceramic	3	4	Med	1 x base, 2 x body sherd
101	Glass	4	44	19th-20th cent	Clear glass bottle/jars
102	Ceramic	1	2	Med	Body sherd
102	Glass	4	27	Post Med-mod	Clear glass. 1 x window, 1 x moulded, 2 x jar
200	Ceramic	3	10	19th-20th cent	White earthenware
200	Glass	3	116	Post Med-mod	Clear glass. 2 x window, 1 x bottle
201	СВМ	1	27	19th-20th cent	Moulded tile - unglazed
201	Ceramic	2	9	19th-20th cent	Transfer ware x 2
201	Ceramic	2	19	Med	1 x base, 1 x body sherd
201	Glass	3	55	19th-20th cent	Clear glass bottle x 3
201	Metal	1	71	Post Med-mod	Wood handled knife
205	Ceramic	2	34	19th-20th cent	White earthenware. 1 x plate, 1 x base stamped 'FOREIGN'
205	Glass	3	79	Post Med-mod	Clear glass. 1 x window, 2 x bottle
205	Glass	1	17	Post Med-mod	Green glass fragment - unknown purpose
205	Metal	1	23	Post Med-mod	Pattern makers wheel
Total		42	583		

5.1.4 Quantification of finds by context is given in Table 1.

Table 1: Quantification of Bulk Finds by Context



5.2 **Medieval Ceramics**

- 5.2.1 Ten sherds sherd of medieval pottery, weighing 50g, were recovered from four deposits (Table 1). The sherds are in moderate to good condition.
- 5.2.2 The sherds are wheel-thrown and comprise buff-pink sandy/lightly gritty fabrics. A date of 12th to 13th century is likely for these sherds. A single body sherd of a reduced fabric from (**101**) dates to the 13th 14th century.
- 5.2.3 The medieval pottery was compared to similar material found in Carlisle which has been closely dated (Brooks 2000).
- 5.2.4 While the recovery of the medieval pottery is of note, each context also contained post medieval to modern material, and it is therefore of limited archaeological value.
- 5.2.5 No further analysis is necessary on this assemblage.

5.3 **Post-medieval Ceramics**

- 5.3.1 A total of eight sherds of post-medieval ceramics, weighing 56g, were recovered from five deposits (Table 1). The sherds are in moderate to good condition.
- 5.3.2 The post medieval ceramics comprise refined white earthenware, both plain white and transfer-printed and one fragment of white porcelain. Vessel types comprise domestic plates and teacups. The ceramic base from (**205**) is stamped FOREIGN, and likely to be the remnant of a bird figurine. These were popular Victorian ornaments.
- 5.3.3 The post medieval pottery assemblage is likely of 19th 20th century date.
- 5.3.4 No further analysis is necessary on this assemblage.

5.4 Ceramic Building Material

- 5.4.1 A single moulded fragment of ceramic building material was recovered from (**201**), weighing 27g (Table 1). The fragment is in good condition with no evidence of post-depositional damage and abrasion and is likely be part of an unglazed moulded tile.
- 5.4.2 No further analysis is necessary.

5.5 **Glass**

5.5.1 Twenty fragments of post-medieval to modern glass, weighing 349g, were recovered from all six deposits (Table 1). The fragments comprise mostly window glass, and bottles and jars. The fragments are in moderate to good condition.



- 5.5.2 A single fragment recovered from (102) is moulded glass and has developed a patina.It is likely of post-medieval date. A miscellaneous fragment of pale green glass was recovered from (205) but is of unknown purpose.
- 5.5.3 The glass assemblage is of post medieval to modern date, with the majority likely to date to the 19th- 20th century.
- 5.5.4 No further analysis is necessary.

5.6 Metal

- 5.6.1 Two artefacts, weighing 94g, were recovered from two deposits (Table 1). The artefacts are in poor condition and corrosion is evident on both objects.
- 5.6.2 A pattern makers wheel of post medieval date was recovered from deposit (**205**), and an iron knife complete with wooden handle was recovered from (**201**).
- 5.6.3 Both of the metal artefacts are post medieval to modern in date.
- 5.6.4 No further analysis is necessary.

5.7 Statement of Potential

- 5.7.1 The recovery of medieval pottery is of local archaeological significance. Although the assemblage is small, it provides clear evidence of medieval activity either on the site or its environs.
- 5.7.2 The recovery of the post-medieval artefacts is of low archaeological potential. Although the finds were recovered from stratified deposits, the deposits are known to be recent episodes of earth movement and therefore contribute little to the archaeological significance of the site.



6 CONCLUSIONS

6.1 Test Pit Results

6.1.1 The preceding evaluation comprised the excavation of two test-pits, in order to investigate an earthen mound which could have potentially been associated with the Hadrian's Wall frontier system. Both test-pits measured $1m^2$ and were excavated to the level of the natural substrate at a depth of 1m. Each of the deposits making up the mound, as well as the buried soil below the mound, produced find of $19^{th} - 20^{th}$ century date, proving that the feature was constructed relatively recently. It is possible that this happened during a programme of recent landscaping within the rear garden of the property of Riggside.

6.2 Archaeological Conclusions

- 6.2.1 Of some significance was the recovery of a small assemblage of medieval pottery, although all of the sherds were residual. This, together with the recovery of further medieval finds from the garden soil of Riggside (Mrs Wilkinson *pers. comm.*), suggests that medieval activity may have taken place within the immediate vicinity. This archaeological evidence confirms the landscape and place name evidence for Banks being a settlement with medieval origins.
- 6.2.2 No finds or features associated with the Hadrian's Wall frontier system were observed during the investigation.



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APPENDIX 1: FIGURES

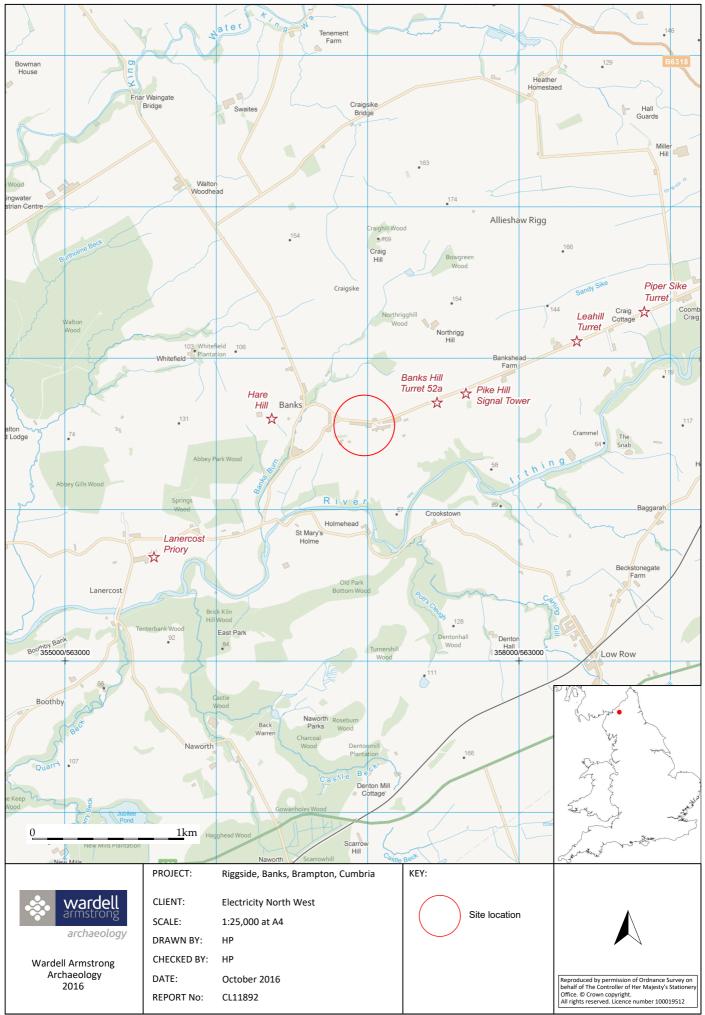


Figure 1: Site location.

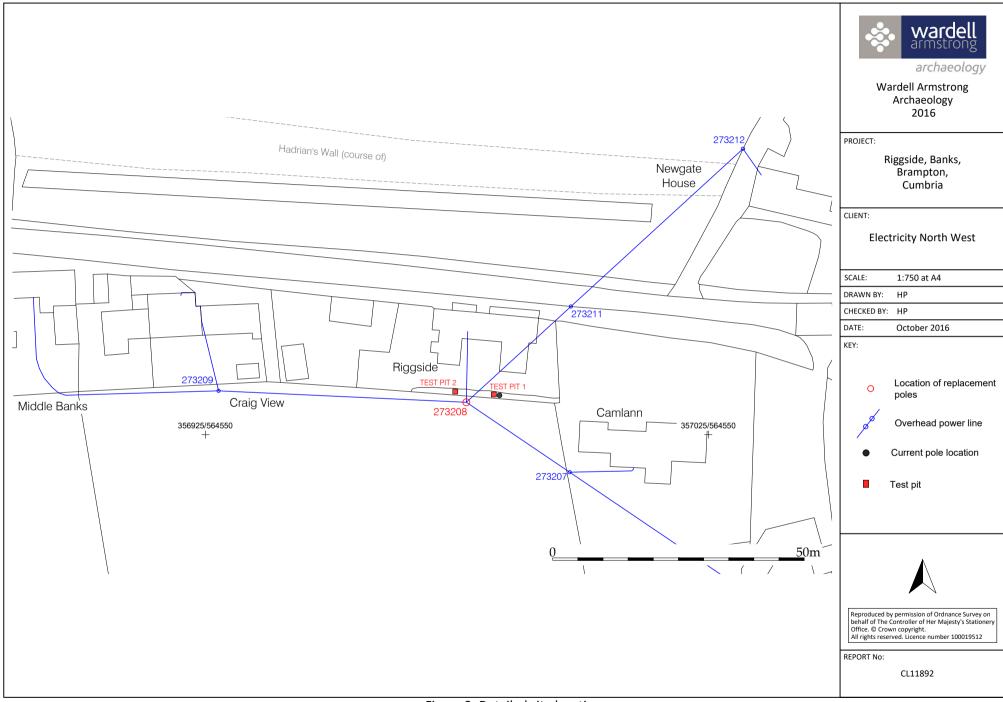
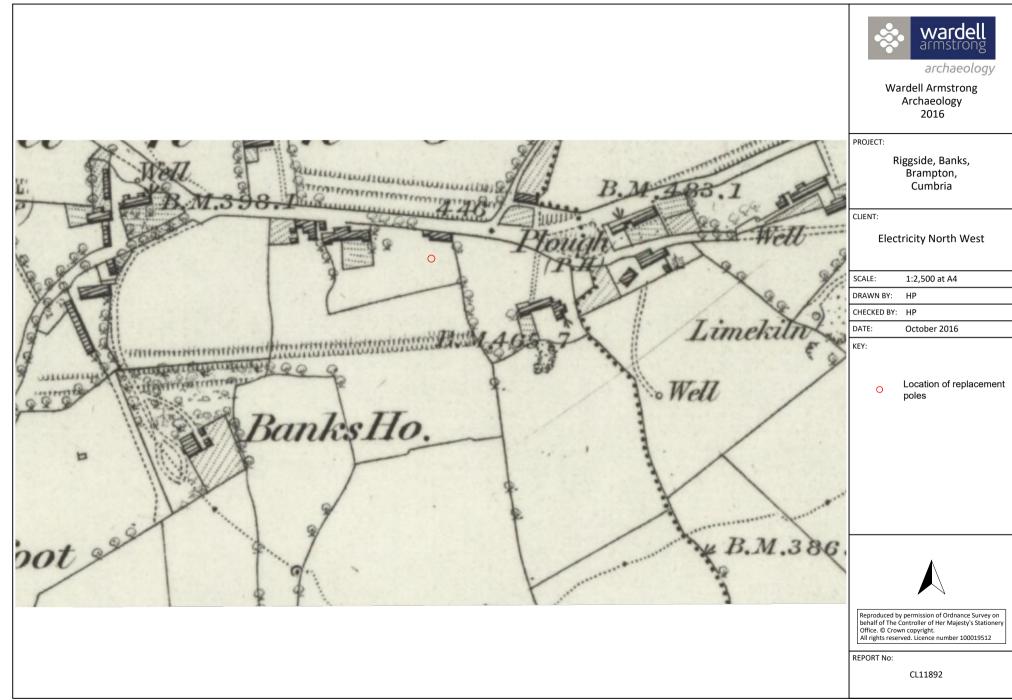
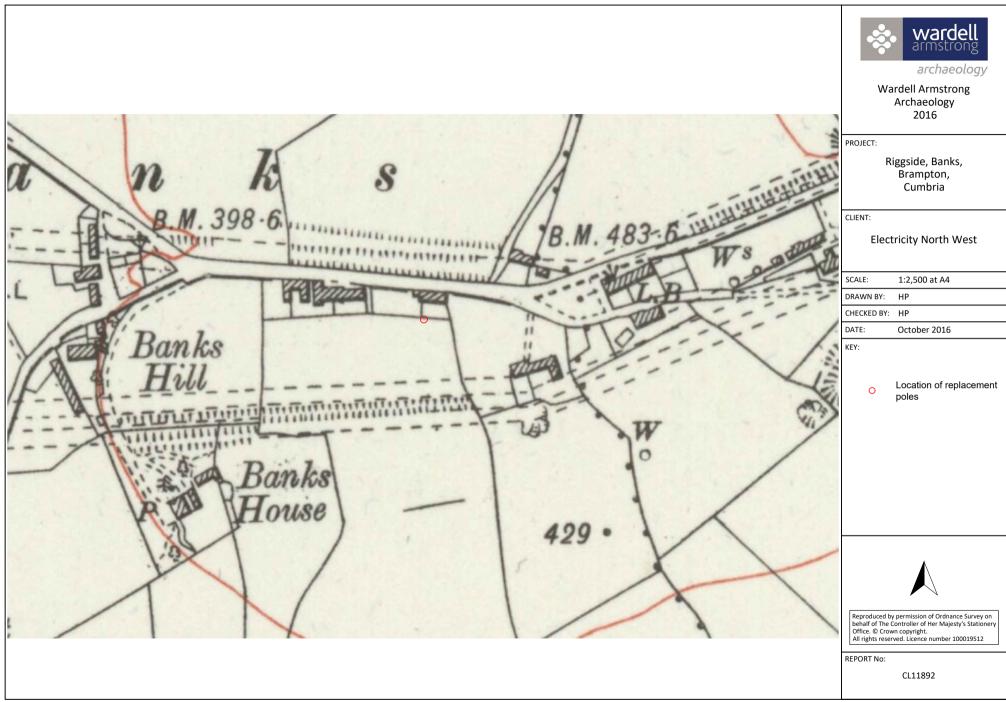
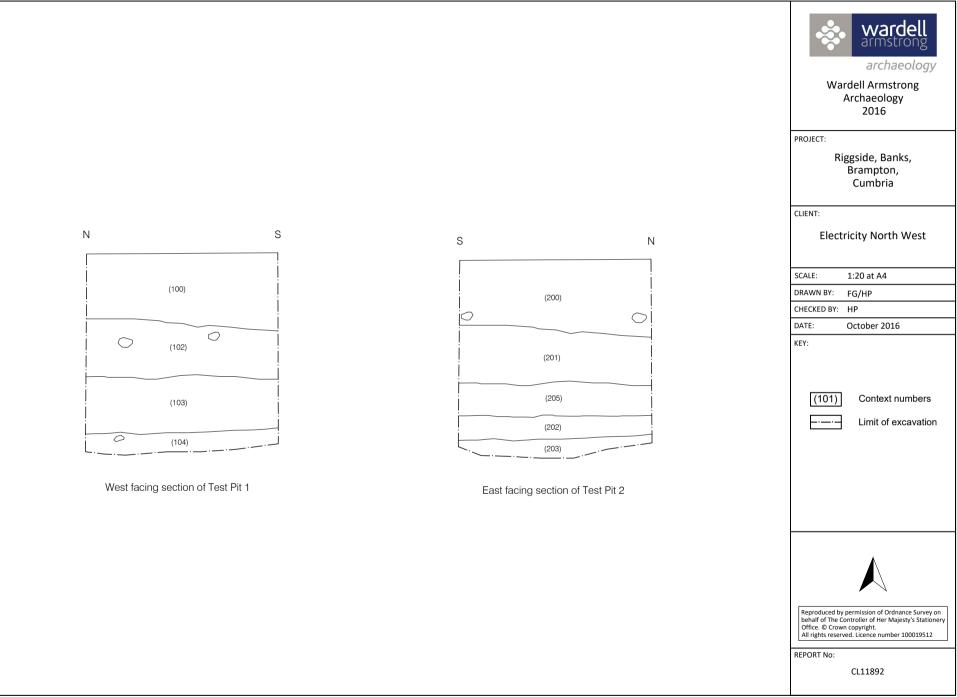




Figure 3: Hodskinson and Donald's Map of Cumberland, 1774.







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