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DESK BASED ASSESSMENTS
ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION
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HISTORIC BUILDING RECORDING
ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES



ELECTRICITY NORTH WEST

ELECTRICITY REFURBISHMENT SCHEME, DRUMBURGH, CUMBRIA

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT

August 2017

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ELECTRICITY NORTH WEST

ELECTRICITY REFURBISHMENT SCHEME, DRUMBURGH

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

August 2017

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SUMMARY

Wardell Armstrong Ltd was commissioned by Electricity North West, to undertake an archaeological evaluation ahead of a low voltage electricity supply refurbishment scheme at Drumburgh, Cumbria (centred on NGR NY 326386 559864). The archaeological evaluation took the form of the excavation of five test pits measuring 2m by 1m excavated to a maximum depth of 0.65m near the site of the existing poles, at which depth the natural substrate was encountered. Post medieval finds were recovered from all five of the test pits, and a post medieval feature was noted in Test Pit 2. No roman finds were recovered, and no archaeological features were encountered during the evaluation which could relate to Hadrian's Wall.

The refurbishment works involved excavations within a Scheduled Monument (NHL 1014699), which comprises the area of 'Drumburgh Roman fort and Hadrian's Wall between Burgh Marsh and Westfield House in wall miles 76 and 77'. Scheduled Monument Consent for the works required archaeological mitigation in the form of this archaeological monitoring programme (Ref: S00167758). All works undertaken were consistent with this consent and with the project design.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Wardell Armstrong Ltd thanks Electricity North West for commissioning the project, and Rob While for all help during its progress.

The archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Frank Giecco, Sue Thompson and Cat Peters. The report was written by Cat Peters and Sue Thompson, and the figures were produced by Helen Phillips. The report was edited by David Jackson, Project Manager and the project was managed by Frank Giecco, Technical Director, Wardell Armstrong Ltd.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Circumstances of the Project

1.1.1 The archaeological evaluation report has been prepared by Wardell Armstrong Ltd (WA), following fieldwork undertaken in response to a request by Electricity North West. This report sets out the results of this archaeological fieldwork.

1.1.2 The groundworks subjected to archaeological evaluation were undertaken within the boundary of the Scheduled Monument of 'Drumburgh Roman fort and Hadrian's Wall between Burgh Marsh and Westfield House in wall miles 76 and 77' (NHL 1014699). As a result, scheduled monument consent was required (Ref: S00167758). A project design was submitted to, and approved by English Heritage, and this was adhered to during the entirety of the project (Giecco 2014).

2 METHODOLOGY

2.1 Introduction

2.1.1 Wardell Armstrong Ltd was commissioned by the client to undertake an archaeological evaluation and watching brief associated with excavations along the scheduled monument of Hadrian's Wall at Drumburgh, Cumbria (NHL 1014699). 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 Reporting

2.2.1 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.

2.2.2 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 **wardella2-294498**

2.3 Archive

2.3.1 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/17 CL11997, DBC-A.

3 BACKGROUND

3.1 Location, Topography and Geology

3.1.1 The area targeted by the archaeological monitoring lie within the north-western part of the village of Drumburgh (centred on NGR NY 26386 59864). Drumburgh is approximately 14km west of Carlisle, within the Solway Basin. The Solway Basin NCA is generally underlain by Lower Triassic deposits of St Bees Sandstone and Mercia Mudstone, with a Jurassic/Triassic Lias plateau of mudstone, siltstone, limestone and sandstone west of Carlisle (www.naturalengland.org.uk). The overlying geology of the area is largely covered by large quantities of boulder clay, sand and gravel, deposited by thick ice sheets and glacial meltwaters during the last glaciation (Countryside Commission 1998).

3.2 Historic Landscape Characterisation

3.2.1 The Historic Landscape Characterisation positions Drumburgh within 'Area 41: Solway Plain': *"a low lying area bounded by the coast to the north and west with extensive areas of sand, shingle, saltmarsh and mudflats"* (Cumbria Historic Landscape Characterisation Programme, available on-line at <http://cumbria.gov.uk/planning-environment/countryside/historic-environment/histlandcharacter.asp?Layout=Print>). The Historic Landscape Framework concludes that this area comprises *"a very traditional settlement pattern that largely pre-dates the 19th century, with mixed enclosures of modern and earlier date"* (*ibid*). There is also *"strong legibility of landscape elements of medieval origin"* (*ibid*).

3.3 Historical Background

3.3.1 **Introduction:** this is intended only as a brief history of the immediate area in the vicinity of the pole, from readily available sources, including previous archaeological interventions. It was not part of the remit of this work to undertake thorough preliminary research.

3.3.2 **Romano-British:** Hadrian's Wall was designated as a World Heritage Site in 1987, and forms the most complex and best preserved frontier of the Roman Empire (English Heritage 2002). This is centred on the military installations constructed from AD 122 on orders of the Emperor Hadrian, and also includes some sites and structures predating the wall, and a wealth of pre-Roman and post-Roman sites and landscapes (*ibid*).

- 3.3.3 Hadrian's Wall itself was constructed between the Tyne and Solway, and comprised a number of elements, including a wall fronted by a V-Shaped ditch, a number of stone garrison fortifications including forts, milecastles and turrets, a large earthwork and ditch, the *Vallum*, running parallel to and south of the Wall, and a metalled supply road linking the garrison forts, the 'Military Way'.
- 3.3.4 The area affected by the electricity refurbishment scheme lies within areas scheduled within the 'Drumburgh Roman fort and Hadrian's Wall between Burgh Marsh and Westfield House in wall miles 76 and 77' (NHL 1014699). More specifically, the location of the new cable trench is in the vicinity of Turret 76a, located in excavations in 1948 just east of Drumburgh Schoolhouse; its remains now surviving as buried features with no visible traces above ground (NHL descriptive information).
- 3.3.5 The north-easternmost pole to be replaced is on the likely line of Hadrian's Wall itself, which was previously thought to be well preserved throughout this length, surviving as a buried feature throughout the entirety of this scheduled area; the results of this evaluation show that this is not the case. The Wall has been located to the east of Drumburgh Fort through excavations in 1899 which found it to be 2.95m wide, with the wall ditch being 8.9m wide and 8m to the north of the Wall (NHL descriptive information). The two southernmost electricity poles lay in the vicinity of the potential course of the Military Way, not confirmed in this section, but expected to run parallel to the course of the Wall, set back a few metres to the south, and these poles, also lay close to the location of Drumburgh Roman Fort.
- 3.3.6 Drumburgh Roman Fort was known to the Romans as *Congavata*. It is one of the least known of the forts associated with Hadrian's Wall and very little archaeological investigation has been undertaken. Small scale excavations undertaken in 1899 located a small stone fort. Further excavation in 1947 revealed that this lay within an earlier and larger turf and timber fort that had clay ramparts. It is likely it was converted to stone in c. AD160 (HER 387 information). Pottery suggested that it was occupied into the late Roman period. Its remains survive as buried features. It is likely that there was a harbour associated with the fort, and several roads are known to have extended from the fort (Johnstone 2006, 11).
- 3.3.7 **Medieval:** a right angled ditch to the west of Drumburgh House, thought to have been part of the Roman fort, was found in 1899 to be a medieval ditch, though its associations remain unclear (NHL descriptive information). This may have been the

boundary of a medieval grange (HER 388 information). In 1829, it was described as part of Drumburgh Castle. Drumburgh Castle, at the western edge of the village, was originally a 13th century tower house, largely rebuilt in 1518 and further altered in 1678-81 with 19th century alterations. It was most recently functioning as a farmhouse (HER 4549 information).

3.3.8 **Post Medieval and Modern:** the village of Drumburgh seems to have developed over the post medieval period. The forge dates to this period (HER 10502 information), though is now no longer a smithy. The schoolhouse, to the west of the cable trench excavated as part of the groundworks scheme, is shown as a 'School' on First Edition Ordnance Survey Mapping of 1865 (Figure 3). The other buildings at Drumburgh are centred around the T junction to the south of the fort by this date, with the other areas affected by the groundworks remaining in and close to the road, except the south-easternmost, which was in an area, perhaps an orchard, in 1865 (Figure 3). The railway line runs to the north of the village. By 1900 and the publication of the Second Edition Ordnance Survey Map the 'orchard' has no trees and a square building has been constructed within the plot (Figure 4). Further buildings have been constructed in the interim period, including 'Sea View' to the east of the northernmost areas affected by the groundworks. The Third Edition Ordnance Survey map of 1926, shows little change, though Drumburgh Farm has been constructed, consisting of two buildings to the west of the south-westernmost monitoring area (Figure 5). The buildings now in the vicinity of the south-eastern monitoring area therefore post-date 1926.

4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELDWORK

4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 The archaeological evaluation consisted of the excavation of five test pits to the west of Drumburgh Roman Fort. Due to the potential archaeological importance of the area the test pits were excavated by hand. No evidence of Hadrian's Wall or its associated ditch were observed in any of the test pits.

4.2 Results

4.2.1 Test Pits 1 and 2 were located south of pole and stay wire 60001L03934 (Figure 6). The test pits were orientated east – west, and measured 2m x 0.70m due to their location between two lines of fencing.

4.2.2 Test Pit 1 was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.56m, revealing 0.30m topsoil (**100**) comprising soft dark grey brown sandy silt overlying a mid-grey brown sandy silt subsoil (**104**) (Plate 1). The natural geological sub-state of a soft orange sandy clay was reached at a depth of 0.50m.



Plate 1: Test Pit 1 - West facing

4.2.3 Test Pit 2 was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.60m, revealing a steep, almost vertical cut [**102**], filled with a single deposit of mid grey brown humic silty clay (**103**) and sealed by 0.30m topsoil (**100**) (Plate 2). A single fragment of post medieval

pottery was recovered from the base of the feature.



Plate 2: Test Pit 2 showing cut [102] – South-east facing

4.2.4 Test Pits 3 and 4 were located to the south of poles 63001LO3933 and 63001LO3931 and orientated east – west (Figure 6). They measured 1m x 2m and were excavated to a maximum of 0.65m revealing a maximum of 0.30m topsoil (**100**), sealing an average of 0.30m subsoil (**104**), which overlaid the orange brown natural substrate (**101**) (Plate 3 and 4).



Plate 3: Test Pit 3 – North-east facing

4.2.5 Test Pit 5 was located to the south of Pole 63001LO3932, and orientated north-south (Figure 6). It was measured 1m x 2m and was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.50m, revealing a depth of 0.30m topsoil (**100**), sealing a maximum of 0.20m subsoil (**104**), overlying the orange brown natural (**101**) (Plate 5).



Plate 4: Test Pit 4 – East facing

5 FINDS

5.1 Introduction

- 5.1.1 A total of 15 artefacts, weighing 140g, were recovered from five test pits excavated during archaeological investigations at Drumburgh, Carlisle, Cumbria.
- 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 (CIfA 2014b). All artefacts have been boxed according to material type and conforming to the deposition guidelines recommended by Brown (2011), EAC (2014) and Tullie House Museum.
- 5.1.3 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.
- 5.1.4 The finds assessment was compiled by Megan Stoakley.
- 5.1.5 Quantification of bulk finds by context is visible in Table 1.

TP No.	Context	Material	Quantity	Wgt (g)	Date	Notes
5	100	CBM	1	6	PM-Mod	Miscellaneous fragment
1	100	Ceramic	2	14	PM	Half a stoneware marble, Bone China base sherd
2	103	Ceramic	1	2	PM	CRE, 18 th – 19 th C
3	100	Ceramic	3	17	PM	Staffordshire slipware, TP, CRE
4	100	Ceramic	1	9	PM	CRE, 19 th century
5	100	Ceramic	5	30	PM	CRE, slipware, RWE
4	100	Glass	1	53	PM	Beer/wine bottle base shard
5	100	Glass	1	9	PM-Mod	Light-green complete marble
TOTAL			15	140		

Table 1: Quantification of Bulk Finds by TP No & Context

5.2 Post-medieval Ceramics

- 5.2.1 A total of 12 sherds of post-medieval ceramics, weighing 72g, was recovered from deposits (**100**) and (**103**) across all five test pits (Table 1). The sherds are in good condition.
- 5.2.2 Fabric types comprise stoneware, refined white earthenware, Buckley-type coarse and fine red earthenware, slipware and Staffordshire slipware.
- 5.2.3 Vessel types include plates and jars; half of a small stoneware marble and a small Bone China base sherd of either an ornamental vase / eggcup (?) was recovered from deposit (**100**) in Test Pit 1.
- 5.2.4 The post-medieval ceramic assemblage likely spans the 18th to late 19th centuries.
- 5.2.5 No further analysis on the ceramic assemblage is warranted.

5.3 Ceramic Building Material (CBM)

- 5.3.1 A single fragment of undiagnostic, late post-medieval to modern ceramic building material (CBM), weighing 6g, was recovered from deposit (**100**) in Test Pit 5 (Table 1). The fragment is in poor to moderate condition and displays evidence of post-depositional damage.
- 5.3.2 No further analysis is warranted.

5.4 Glass

- 5.4.1 Two fragments of post-medieval to modern glass, weighing 62g, were recovered from deposits (**100**) from Test Pits 4 and 5 (Table 1). The artefacts are in good condition.
- 5.4.2 The artefacts comprise a light-green glass marble recovered from Test Pit 5 (9g) and a late post-medieval to modern dark green wine/beer bottle base shard recovered

from Test Pit 4 (53g).

5.4.3 No further analysis is warranted.

5.5 Statement of Potential

5.5.1 The artefacts are of little archaeological significance and will not be retained with the archive.

6 DISCUSSION

6.1 The archaeological evaluation carried out to the west of Drumburgh consisted of the excavation of five test pits, which due to the high potential of discovering roman remains were excavated by hand.

6.2 A steep sided feature [102] was noted in Test Pit 2 to the east of the former school house, running at 90° to the projected line of Hadrian's Wall (Plate 2). While historic mapping does not show anything in this location, this is likely that this may be the remains of a post medieval field boundary or pit. A single sherd of red earthenware pottery dating to the 18th-19th century was recovered from the base of fill (103).

6.3 The remaining test pits were devoid of archaeological features. While finds were recovered from all four of the remaining test pits, they were of post medieval date, and as they were recovered from topsoil deposits, of little archaeological interest.

6.4 No significant archaeological features were observed during the excavation of the test pits at Drumburgh that could relate to Hadrian's Wall.

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APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT TABLE

<i>Context Number</i>	<i>Context Type</i>	<i>Area</i>	<i>Description</i>
100	Topsoil	Test Pit 1-5	Dark grey silt
101	Natural	Test Pit 1-5	Mid orange brown sandy clay
102	Cut	Test Pit 2	Steep sided post medieval feature
103	Fill	Test Pit 2	Grey brown humic silty clay
104	Subsoil	Test Pit 1-5	Mid orange/grey brown silty sand


APPENDIX 2: FIGURES





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2017

PROJECT: Electricity Refurbishment Scheme, Drumburgh, Cumbria
 CLIENT: Electricity North West
 SCALE: 1:25,000 at A4
 DRAWN BY: HP
 CHECKED BY: HP
 DATE: August 2010
 REPORT No: CL11997

KEY:



Site location



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Figure 1: Site location.

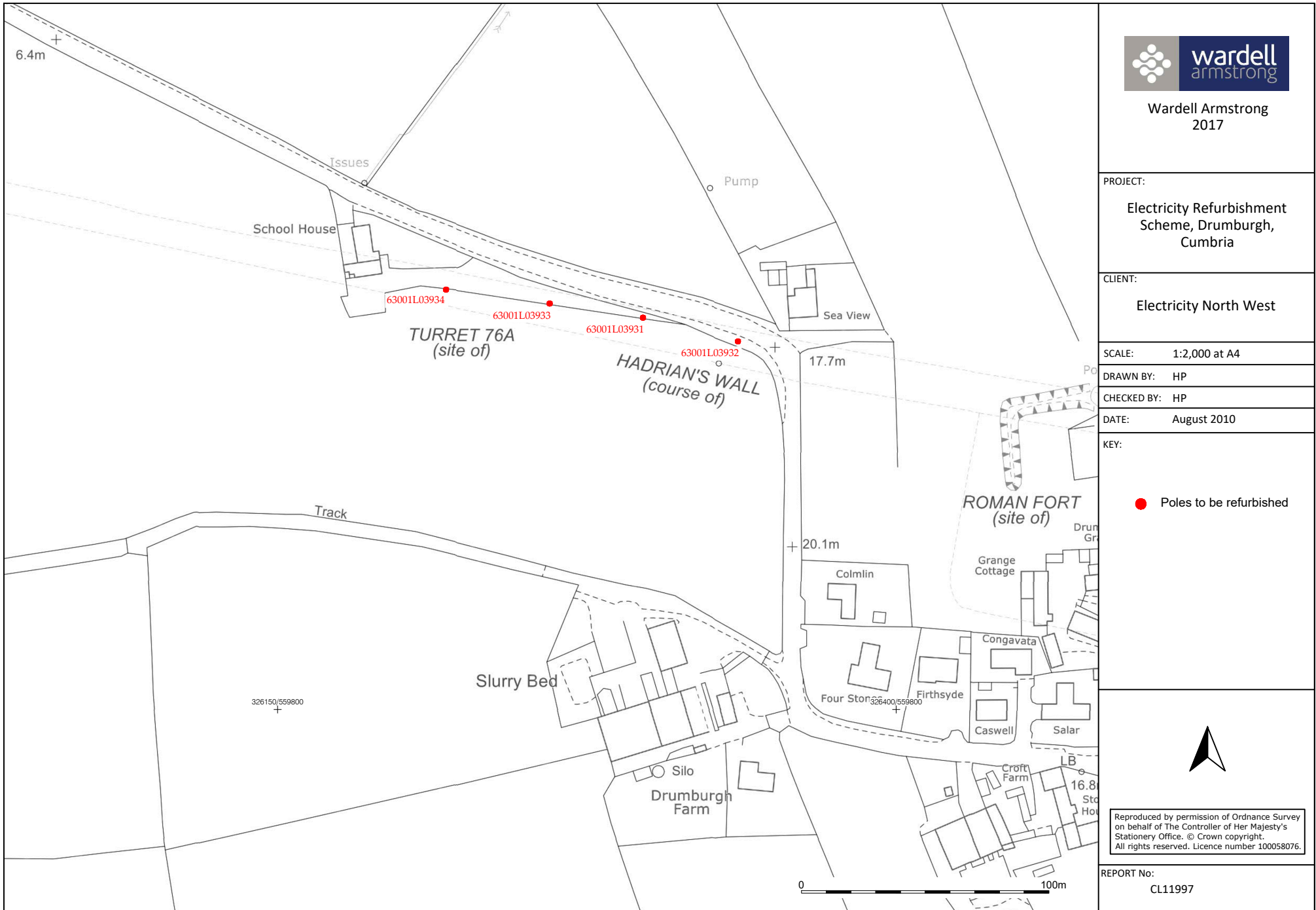


Figure 2: Detailed site location showing areas of archaeological fieldwork.




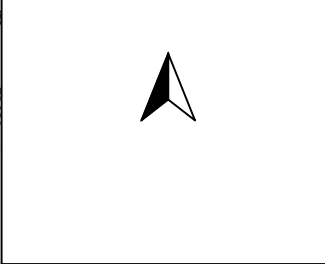
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2017

PROJECT:
Electricity Refurbishment
Scheme, Drumburgh,
Cumbria

CLIENT:
Electricity North West

SCALE: 1:2,500 at A4
DRAWN BY: HP
CHECKED BY: HP
DATE: August 2010

KEY:
 Poles to be refurbished



REPORT No:
CL11997

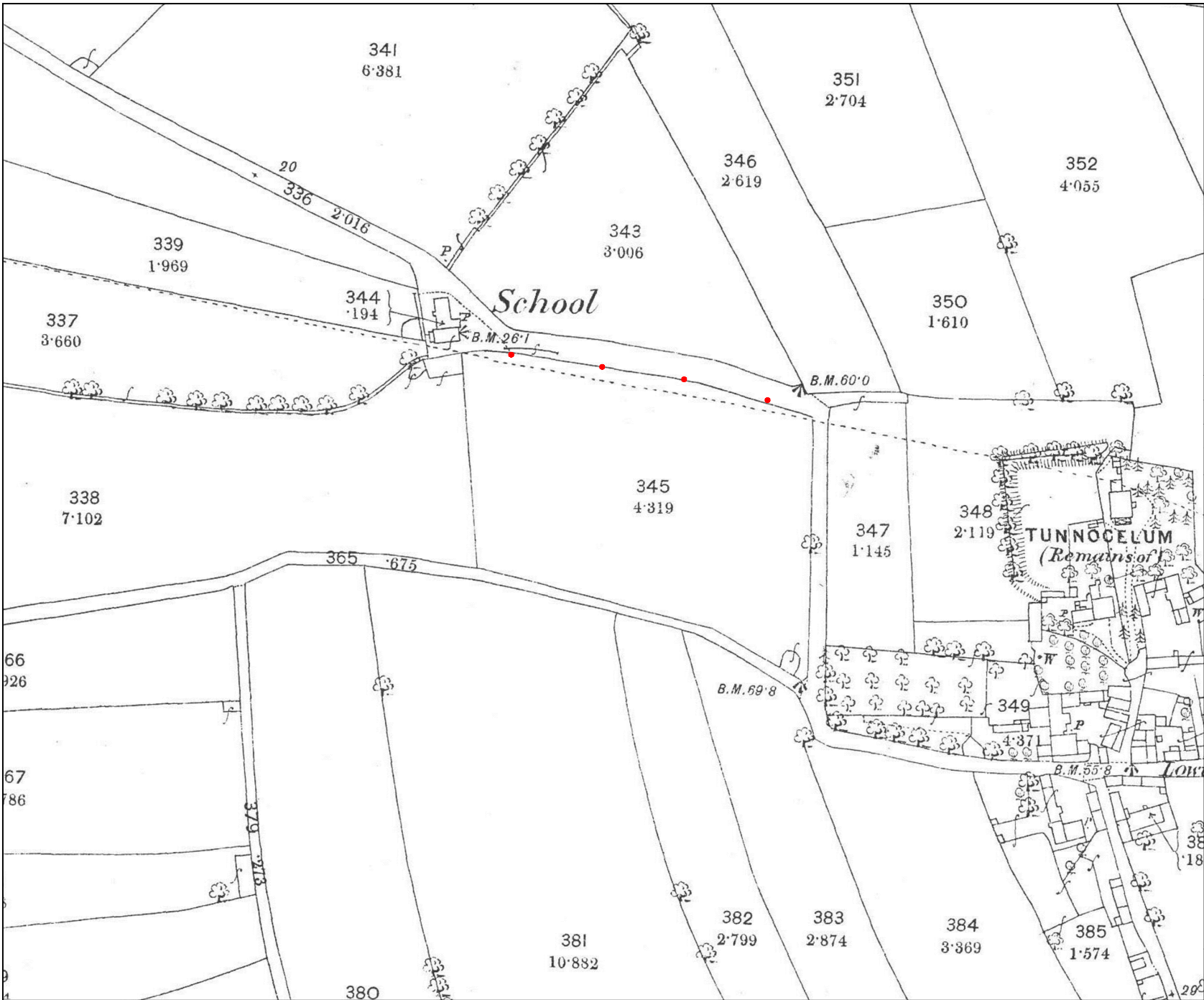


Figure 3: First Edition Ordnance Survey Mapping, 1865 (25 inch to 1 mile scale).

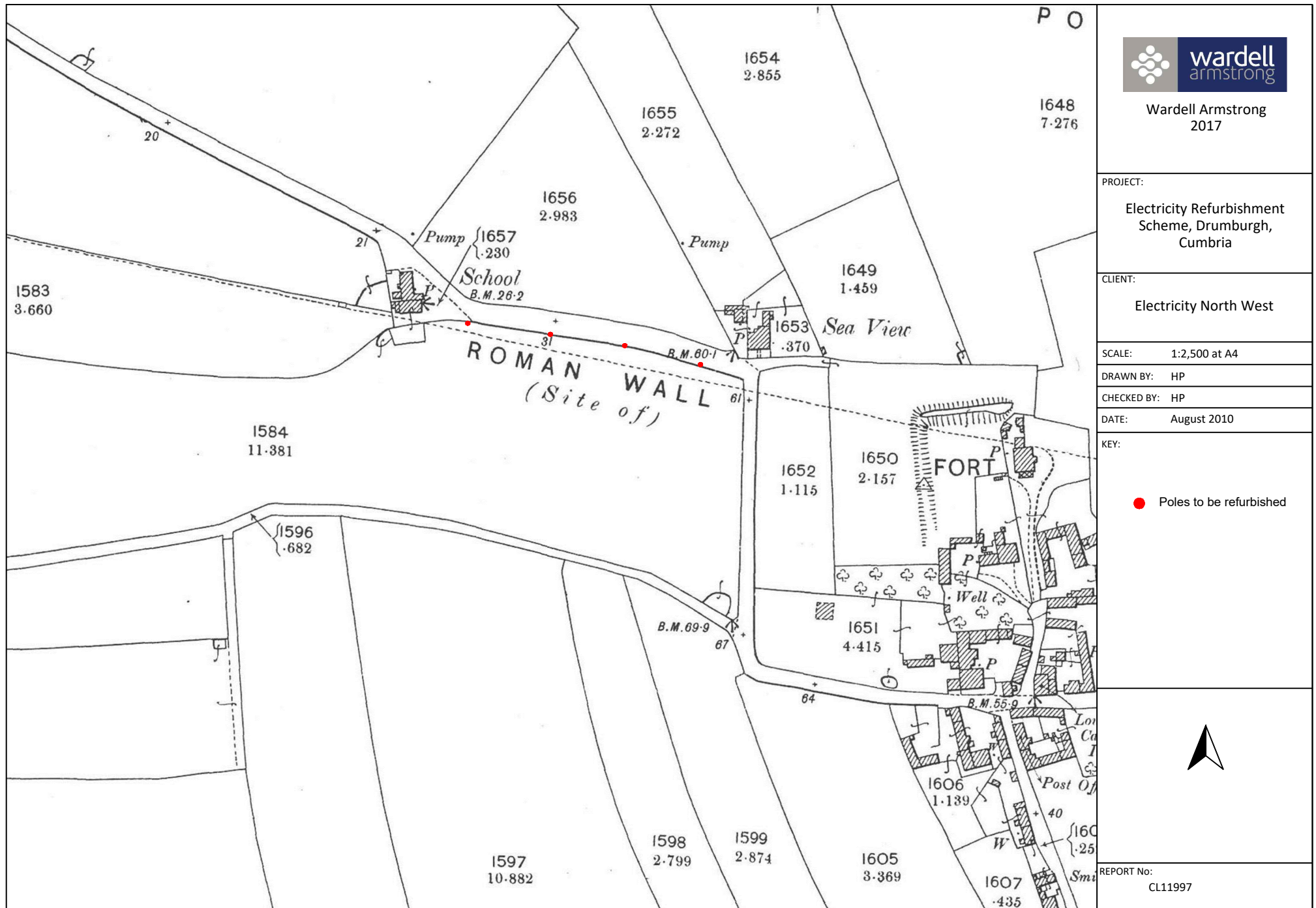
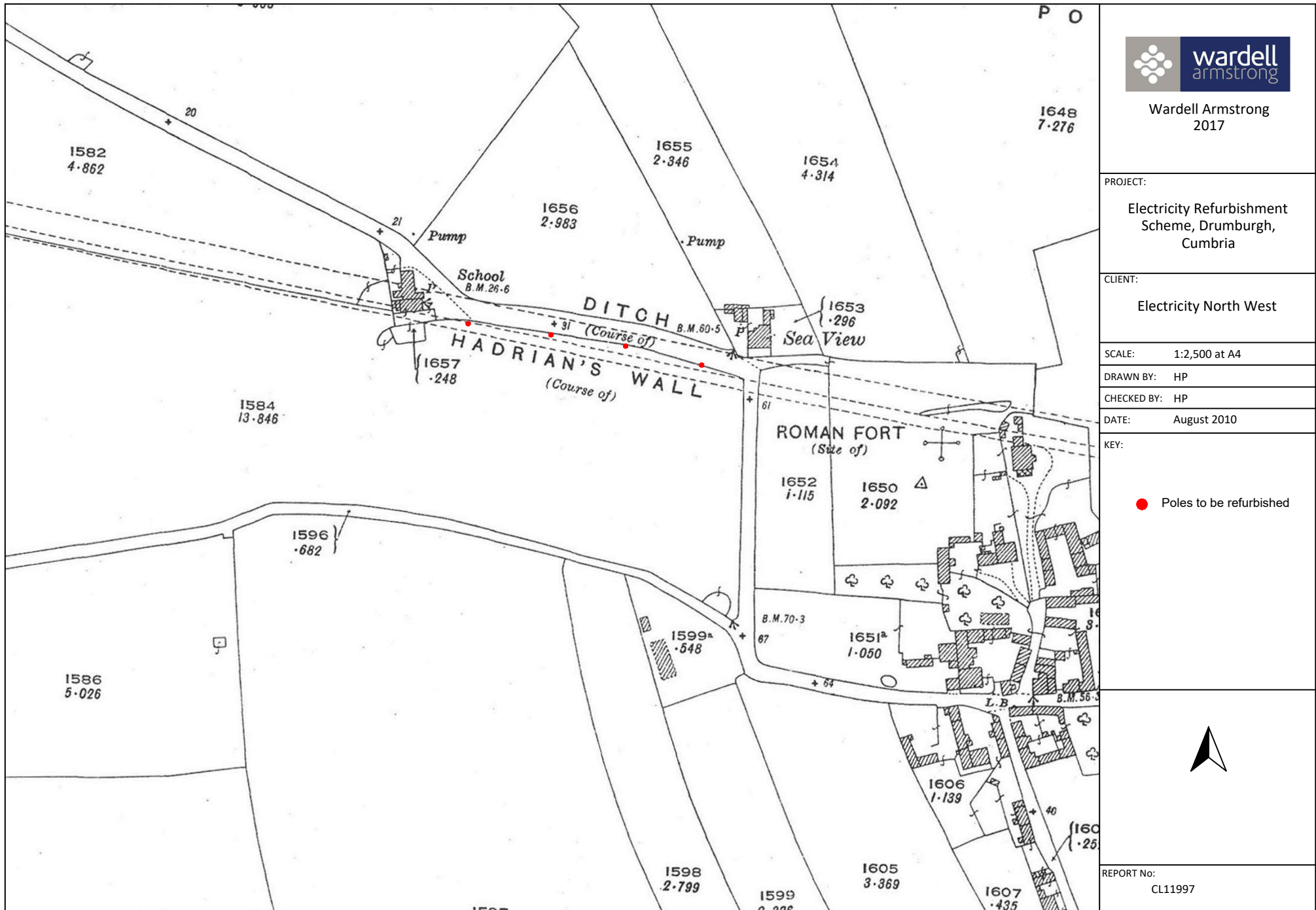


Figure 4: Second Edition Ordnance Survey Mapping, 1900 (25 inch to 1 mile scale).



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PROJECT:
Electricity Refurbishment
Scheme, Drumburgh,
Cumbria

CLIENT:
Electricity North West

SCALE: 1:2,500 at A4

DRAWN BY: HP

CHECKED BY: HP

DATE: August 2010

KEY:
● Poles to be refurbished

REPORT No:
CL11997

Figure 5: Third Edition Ordnance Survey Mapping, 1926 (25 inch to 1 mile scale).

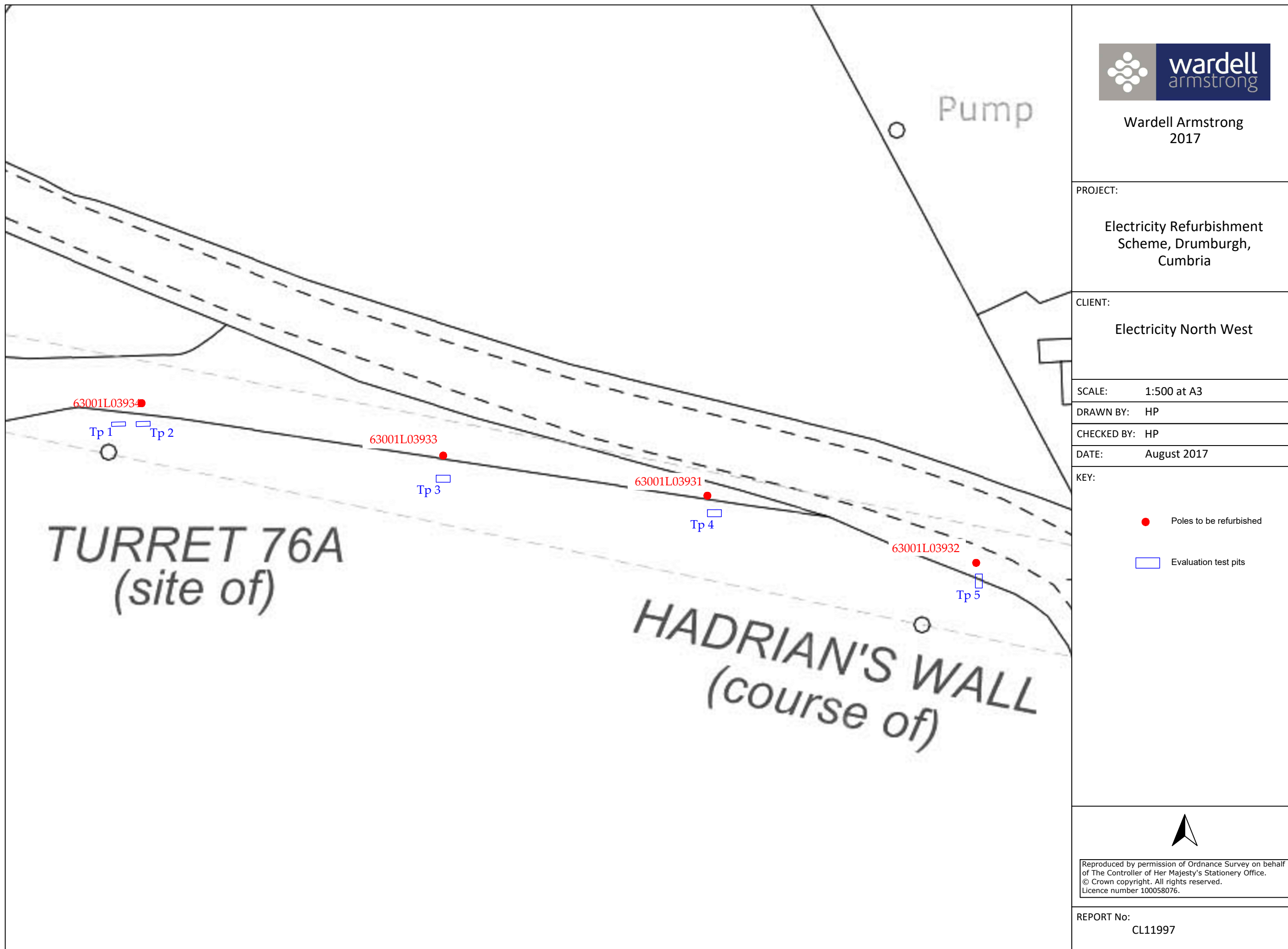


Figure 6: Detailed location of test pits.

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