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**MR MALCOLM HOGG**

**CROFT HOUSE FARM  
GREAT ASBY  
CUMBRIA**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT**

**December 2017**

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**Great Asby**  
**Cumbria**

**Archaeological Evaluation Report**

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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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Figure 2: Trench location plan

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## SUMMARY

Wardell Armstrong Ltd. (WA) was commissioned by Mr Malcolm Hogg to undertake an archaeological evaluation on land at the former Croft House Farm, Great Asby, Cumbria (centred on NGR: NY 67993 13078). The property lies within the Yorkshire Dales National Park and is situated within an area considered to have archaeological potential relating to medieval activity. Miles Johnson, Senior historic Environment Officer, Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority (YDNPA) recommended that archaeological fieldwork by trial trenching was required as part of the planning application. This was to inform upon the potential archaeological resource and the impact upon the resource from the construction of three new dwellings at the site.

The archaeological work was undertaken over two days between the 13<sup>th</sup> and the 14<sup>th</sup> November 2017 and comprised the excavation of four trenches. The trenches all measured c. 8.00m in length and where possible were positioned over part of the footprint of each of the proposed new residential dwellings. The archaeological investigation revealed no significant archaeological features and that the topsoil and subsoil deposits were very disturbed which is consistent with a recently demolished farm complex on the site.

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## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

Wardell Armstrong Ltd thank Malcolm Hogg for commissioning the project and for all his assistance throughout the work. WA Ltd also thank Miles Johnson, Senior Historic Environment Officer Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority (YDNPA) for his assistance.

The evaluation was undertaken by Kevin Mounsey and Holly-Ann Carl. The project was managed by David Jackson, Senior Project Officer for WA Ltd and the report was written by Kevin Mounsey and Megan Stoakley. The report was edited by David Jackson.

## **1. INTRODUCTION**

### **1.1 Project Circumstances**

1.1.1 In November 2017, Wardell Armstrong Ltd undertook an archaeological evaluation on land at the former Croft House Farm, Great Asby, Cumbria (centred on NGR: NY 67993 13078; Figure 1). The work was commissioned by Malcolm Hogg as part of the planning application to construct three residential properties on the site (Eden District Council Planning Reference No. 15/0157).

1.1.2 Archaeological work was required as the proposed development will impact upon an area considered to have archaeological potential relating to medieval activity.

1.1.3 The evaluation was undertaken in accordance with a written scheme of investigation (WSI) (WA 2017), which was developed in consultation with Miles Johnson, Senior Historic Environment Officer Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority (YDNPA).

### **1.2 Project Documentation**

1.2.1 A WSI (WA 2017) was produced to provide a specific methodology for the archaeological evaluation, in accordance with discussions held between Wardell Armstrong and Miles Johnson. Miles Johnson approved the WSI 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, 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 WA fieldwork manual (2016).

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 The Field Evaluation

2.2.1 The evaluation comprised the excavation of four trenches, located within the area of the former Croft House Farm Complex which had been demolished in 2015 (*Pers. Comm.* Malcolm Hogg 2017) (Figure 2). The trenches measured c. 8.00m in length and 1.50m in width and where possible, were positioned over part of the footprint of each of the proposed new residential dwellings.

2.2.2 The general aims of the investigation were:

- determine the presence or absence of buried archaeological remains within the proposed development site;
- determine the character, date, extent and distribution of any archaeological deposits and their potential significance;
- determine levels of disturbance to any archaeological deposits from industrial practices or later building activities;
- investigate and record all deposits and features of archaeological interest within the areas to be disturbed by the proposed development;
- determine the likely impact on archaeological deposits from the proposed development;
- disseminate the results of the fieldwork through an appropriate level of reporting.

2.2.3 All trenches were cleared of modern overburden, rubble and backfill deposits by mechanical excavator with a toothless ditching bucket, under close archaeological supervision. The investigation areas were subsequently cleaned by hand and investigated and recorded fully according to the WA standard procedure as set out in

the Excavation Manual (WA LLP 2016).

2.2.4 Finds of potential archaeological interest were retained on site and returned to the Carlisle office where they were identified, quantified and dated to period. On completion of this project, the finds will be 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):

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

2.2.5 On completion of the fieldwork, the evaluation trenches were backfilled with the excavated material and levelled as much as possible.

2.2.6 A full professional archive has been compiled in accordance with the specification, and according to the Archaeological Archives Forum recommendations (Brown 2011). The archive will be retained at the WA Carlisle office until a suitable repository becomes available. Copies of the report will be sent to the Yorkshire Dales National Park Historic Environment Record (HER), available upon request. The archive can be accessed under the unique project identifier **WA17, GAC/A, CL12063/17**.

2.2.7 Wardell Armstrong supports the **Online Access** to the Index of Archaeological Investigation**S** (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 WA as a part of this national project. The OASIS reference for the project is: **wardella2-302800**.



### **3. BACKGROUND**

#### **3.1 Location and Geological Context**

3.1.1 Croft House Farm is located on the south side of the village of Great Asby, south-west of St Peter's Church (Figure 1). The area subjected to the archaeological evaluation was located in the former yard area of the farm, bounded to the east by Green Head Barn, to the south by open pastureland, to the west by West View and to the north by the road 68/B6260 and Asby Beck (Figure 2).

3.1.2 The bedrock geology of the area is mapped as limestone of the Askham Limestone Member, a sedimentary bedrock formed approximately 329 to 337 million years ago in the Carboniferous Period (BGS 2017). The superficial deposits comprise alluvium, clay, silt, sand and gravel, which is fluvial in origin and formed up to 2 million years ago in the Quaternary Period (*ibid*).

#### **3.2 Historical Context**

3.2.1 This is intended only as a brief summary of the historical development within the vicinity of the proposed development site. No research element was required as part of this project.

3.2.2 Place-name evidence suggests a medieval origin for Great Asby, Asby coming from old Scandinavian 'askr' and 'by', meaning farmstead or hamlet where the ash trees grow (Mills 1991, 13). A hoard of pre-Conquest metalwork has been discovered in the parish, further indicative of pre-Conquest activity in the area, and perhaps a monastic settlement (LUAU 1997, 9).

3.2.3 Asby, the parish, included the townships of Little Asby and Great Asby, and Great Asby was once two manors, Asby Winderwath, north of the village green and Asby Coatsford to the south (LUAU 1997, 8). The parish of Asby is first mentioned in documents during the reign of Henry II (1154-1189) when it already included the three manors. At this time, Asby Coatsford was owned by the De Cotesford family, who held it up until the second half of the 15<sup>th</sup> century, when it passed to the Musgraves. A James Park purchased it from them in 1800, and in 1860, his son was lord of the manor and resided in Asby Hall (Whellan 1860, 727). The present church in the village dates to 1866, although a church has stood on the site since the medieval period. It is first mentioned in 1299 when Robert de Askeby founded a chantry within it (LUAU 1997, 9).

3.2.4 There are several known medieval sites in the vicinity of the proposed development

site, including the village itself, which retains its medieval linear settlement pattern with strip-fields to the north and south, areas of known ridge and furrow, the church, the vicarage and a farmstead (*ibid*, 9-10). The long narrow strip-fields surrounding the village are well-preserved and have changed little since the early 19<sup>th</sup> century.

### 3.3 Previous Work

- 3.3.1 The only known previous archaeological investigations to have occurred in the vicinity of the present evaluation site was an archaeological assessment undertaken by LUAU for North West Water Ltd in relation to a proposed sewerage scheme in 1997.

## 4. ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION RESULTS

### 4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 The archaeological investigation was undertaken over two days between the 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> of November 2017. The work comprised the excavation of four trenches, measuring c. 8.00m in length and 1.50m in width. Where possible the trenches were located over the footprint of each one of the proposed residential sites.

4.1.2 Topsoil and modern overburden were removed by a mechanical excavator with a toothless ditching bucket, under close archaeological supervision. The trenches were subsequently cleaned by hand and investigated and recorded fully.

### 4.2 Results

4.2.1 **Trench 1 (Figure 2):** Trench 1 was located in the northern section of the site and was orientated northeast-southwest. The trench measured c.8.00m in length and 1.50m in width. It had a minimum depth of 0.26m and a maximum depth of 0.55m. The topsoil (**100**) comprised a dark grey firm silty clay and measured 0.18m in depth. The topsoil appeared very polluted by agricultural waste. Directly below this lay subsoil (**102**), which comprised a mid-brown firm silty clay and was recorded to a depth of 0.25m. The natural substrate layer (**101**) comprised an orange-grey firm boulder clay recorded to a depth of 0.1m+. Two deposits (**103**) and (**104**) comprising a concrete bedding layer and white-grey concrete were noted. These deposits were located in the northern end of the trench and measured up to depths of 0.10m and 0.18m respectively. The trench was devoid of any archaeological features.

4.2.2 **Trench 2 (Figure 2):** Trench 2 was located in the central (northern) section of the site and was orientated northwest-southeast. The trench measured c.8.00m in length and 1.50m in width. It had a minimum depth of 0.22mm and a maximum depth of 0.46m. Topsoil (**200**) comprised a heavily-polluted dark grey firm silty clay and was recorded to a depth of 0.28m. Subsoil (**202**) comprised a mid-brown firm silty clay and measured 0.10m in depth. The natural substrate (**201**) comprised an orange-grey firm boulder clay and was recorded at a depth of 0.56m+. No archaeological features or deposits were recorded.

4.2.3 **Trench 3 (Figure 2):** Trench 3 was located in the central (southern) section of the site and orientated northeast-southwest. The trench measured c.8.00m in length and 1.50m in width. It had a minimum depth of 0.23m and a maximum depth of 0.46m. Topsoil (**300**) comprised a dark grey, heavily polluted firm silty clay measuring up to

0.10m in depth. Directly underneath topsoil (300) lay subsoil (302) which comprised a mid-brown firm silty clay measuring up to 0.10m in depth. Topsoil and subsoil deposits appeared very mixed due to the demolition of a modern farm building. The natural substrate (301) was encountered at a depth of 0.20m+ and comprised a firm orange-grey boulder clay. This trench was devoid of archaeological features and deposits.

- 4.2.4 **Trench 4 (Figure 2):** Trench 4 was located in the southern section of the site and was orientated northwest-southeast. The trench was c.8.00m in length and 1.50m in width. The trench measured a minimum depth of 0.23m and a maximum depth of 1.06m. Topsoil (400) measured up to 0.10m in depth and comprised a firm, dark grey silty clay layer which was heavily polluted. Below this lay subsoil (402) which measured up to 0.36m in depth and comprised a mid-brown firm silty clay. The natural substrate (401) comprised a mid-orange to grey firm boulder clay and was observed at a depth of c.53m+. An east-west aligned hollow breeze block wall (403) was recorded at the northern end of the trench and was layered on a concrete foundation (404). These deposits represent a modern farm building which was demolished within the last two years (*Pers. Comm.* M Hogg 2017). The trench was devoid of archaeological features and deposits.
- 4.2.5 It should be noted that no finds were recovered and no environmental samples were taken during the course of the archaeological evaluation.

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## 5. CONCLUSIONS

- 5.1.1 An archaeological evaluation was undertaken over the course of two days in November 2017 on land at Croft House Farm, Great Asby (NGR NY 67993 13078). The archaeological investigation was required as part of a planning condition for a new residential development on the site.
- 5.1.2 Four trenches were excavated by machine and were orientated northeast-southwest and northwest-southeast across the development area. Topsoil, subsoil and natural deposits were encountered in every trench; the topsoil was heavily contaminated in every trench due to the presence of agricultural pollutants. A hollow breeze block wall and associated bedding layer were observed and recorded in the northern end of Trench 4, which was located in the southern section of the site. It was confirmed that the wall formed part of a modern farm building which had recently been demolished.
- 5.1.3 All four of the trenches were devoid of archaeological features and deposits. No finds were recovered and no environmental samples were taken.

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### 6.2 Online Sources

British Geological Survey (BGS) online 2017:

<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html> [Accessed on 29-11-2017]

### 6.3 Other Sources

*Pers. Comm.* M Hogg (2017), *Consultation of landowner on modern deposits within Trench 4, Great Asby*

## APPENDIX 1: TRENCH DESCRIPTIONS

### Trench 1

Length: 8.00m Width: 1.50m Orientation: Northeast-Southwest

Min Depth: 0.26m Max Depth: 0.55m

Context #	Context Type	Description	Height/Depth
104	Deposit	White & grey concrete	0.10m
103	Deposit	Brown deposit of gravel + cobbles	0.18m
100	Deposit	Firm dark grey silty clay topsoil	0.18m
102	Deposit	Mid-brown firm silty clay subsoil	0.25m
101	Deposit	Orange-grey firm boulder clay (Natural)	0.1m+excavation

### Trench 2

Length: 8.00m Width: Orientation: Northwest-Southeast

Min Depth: 0.22m Max Depth: 0.46m

Context #	Context Type	Description	Height/Depth
200	Deposit	Dark grey firm silty clay topsoil	0.28m
202	Deposit	Orange-grey boulder clay	0.05m exc.
201	Deposit	Mid-brown firm silty clay subsoil	0.10m

### Trench 3

Length: 8.00m Width: 1.50m Orientation: Northeast-Southwest

Min Depth: 0.23m Max Depth: 0.46m

Context #	Context Type	Description	Height/Depth
300	Deposit	Dark grey firm silty clay topsoil	0.10m
302	Deposit	Mid-brown firm silty clay subsoil	0.20m
301	Deposit	Orange-grey boulder clay (Natural)	0.20m+

### Trench 4

Length: 8.00m Width: Orientation: Northwest-Southeast

Min Depth: 0.23m Max Depth: 1.06m

Context #	Context Type	Description	Height/Depth
400	Deposit	Dark grey firm silty clay topsoil	0.10m
402	Deposit	Mid-brown firm silty clay subsoil	0.36m
401	Deposit	Orange-grey boulder clay (Natural)	0.53m exc. sondage
403	Wall	Modern hollow breeze block wall	0.20m
404	Deposit	Concrete bedding layer	0.26m+



## APPENDIX 2: PLATES



*Plate 1; Trench 1 (from south-west)*



*Plate 2; Trench 2 (from north-west)*





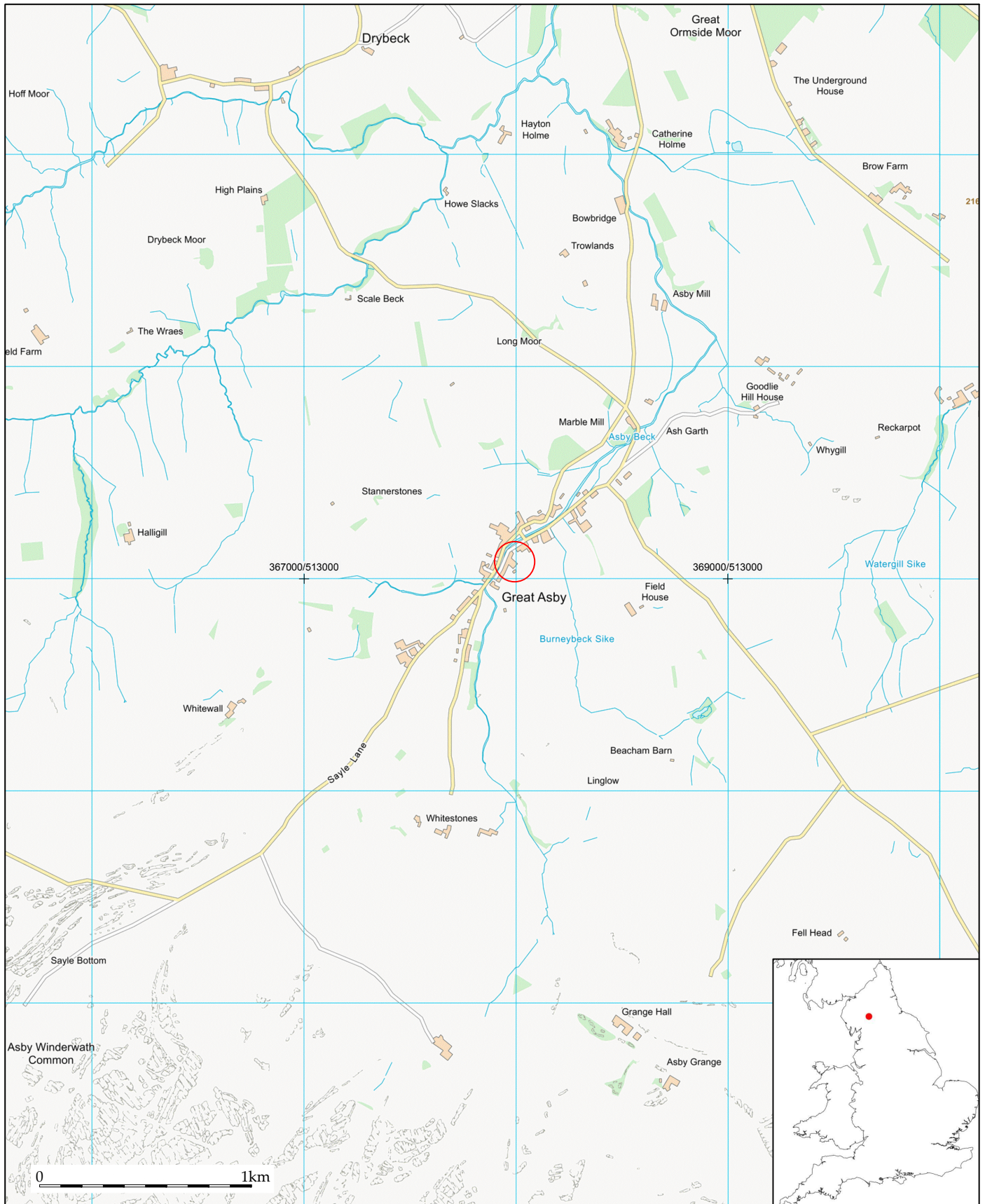
*Plate 3; Trench 3 (from north-east)*



*Plate 4; Trench 4 (from south-east)*

## **APPENDIX 3: FIGURES**








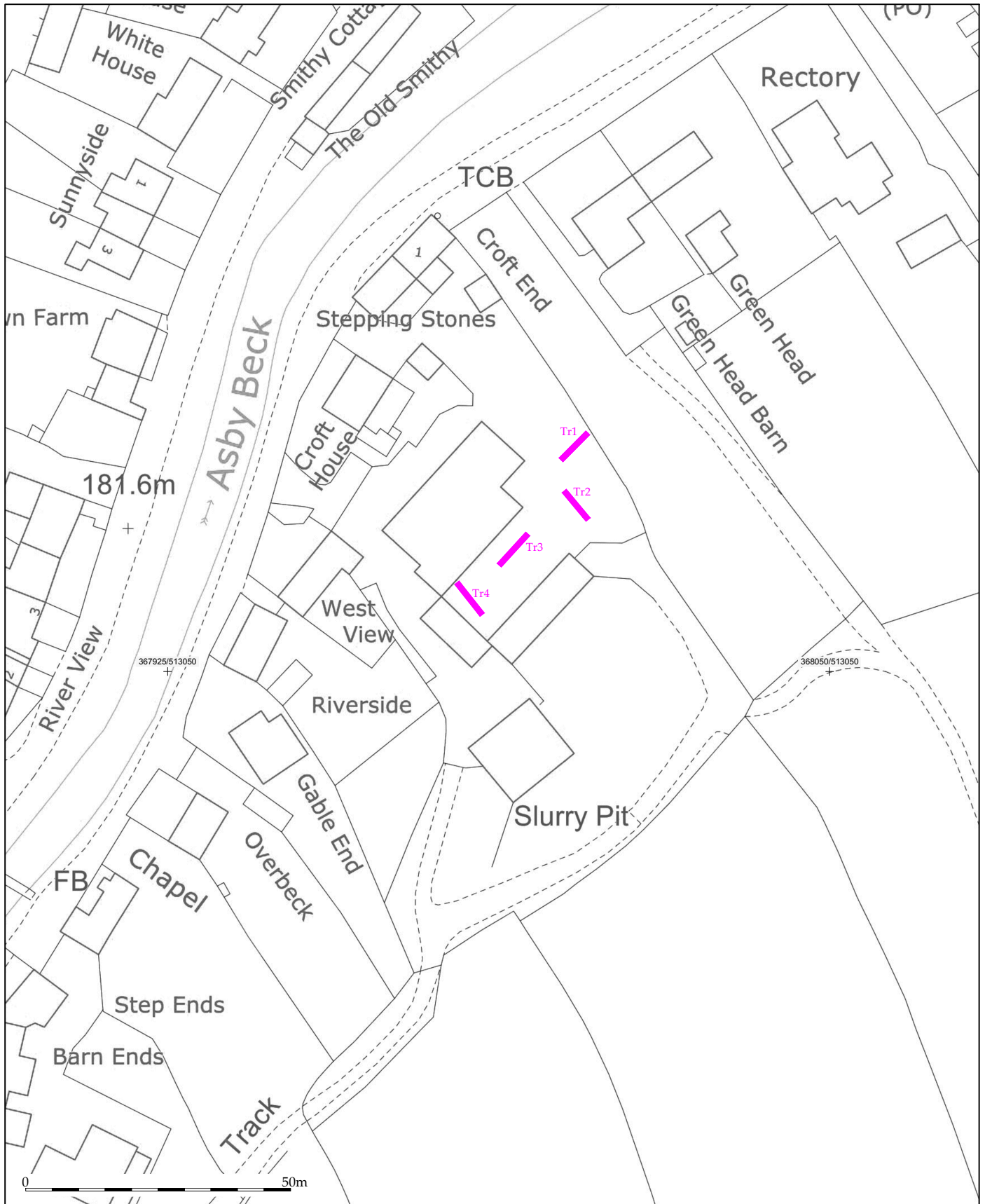
 <p>Wardell Armstrong 2017</p>	<b>PROJECT:</b> Croft House Farm, Great Asby, Cumbria	<b>KEY:</b>   Site location	
	<b>CLIENT:</b> Malcolm Hogg		
	<b>SCALE:</b> 1:25,000 at A4		
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Figure 1: Site location.








 <p>Wardell Armstrong 2017</p>	<p>PROJECT: Croft House Farm, Great Asby, Cumbria</p> <p>CLIENT: Malcolm Hogg</p> <p>SCALE: 1:1,000 at A4</p> <p>DRAWN BY: AB</p> <p>CHECKED BY: AB</p> <p>DATE: December 2017</p> <p>REPORT No: CL12063</p>	<p>KEY:</p> <p> Evaluation trenches</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 100058076.</p>
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Figure 2: Evaluation trench location plan.

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