



ELECTRICITY NORTH WEST

**SCALESCEUGH LODGE,
CARLETON, CARLISLE,
CUMBRIA**

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF REPORT

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Electricity North West

Scalesceugh Lodge, Carleton, Cumbria

Archaeological Watching Brief

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Plate 2; Trench showing modern cut [106] and concrete block (103), Facing North East

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Figure 1: Site Location

Figure 2: Location of Watching Brief

Figure 3: South Facing Section of Cable Trench on East Side of Road

SUMMARY

Wardell Armstrong LLP (WA) was commissioned by the client, Electricity North West, to undertake an archaeological watching brief at Scalesceugh Lodge, Carleton, Carlisle (NGR: NY 44980 49440). The watching brief was required as part of a scheme of groundworks associated with the installation of a new electricity cable. The watching brief was undertaken in accordance with a written scheme of investigation (WSI) produced in response to a brief prepared by Jeremy Parsons, Historic Environment Officer, Cumbria County Council.

The groundworks were located close to the route of the Roman road running between Plumpton (*Voreda*) and Carlisle (*Luguvalium*) and the Scheduled Monument of the 2nd century Scalesceugh Roman kiln site.

The archaeological work was undertaken over two days between the 21st and 22nd January 2019 and comprised the archaeological supervision of a single trench excavated on the eastern side of the A6 carriageway and pavement. The investigation revealed a large concrete block to the eastern side of the carriageway of unknown purpose. Despite the potential to encounter Roman remains, no archaeological features or deposits were observed.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Wardell Armstrong LLP (WA) thanks the client, Electricity North West, for commissioning the project and for all assistance throughout the work. Also, WA thank Jeremy Parsons, Historic Environment Officer, Cumbria County Council for his assistance.

Wardell Armstrong LLP also thanks the Gallagher staff for their help on site during this project.

The watching brief was maintained by Sue Thompson who also wrote the report. The research was undertaken and compiled by Ariane Buschmann. The figures were produced by Adrian Bailey. Cat Peters edited the report. The project was managed by David Jackson.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project Circumstances and Planning Background

1.1.1 In January 2019, Wardell Armstrong LLP (WA) undertook an archaeological watching brief at Scalesceugh Lodge, Carleton, Carlisle (NGR: NY 44980 49440). It was commissioned by the Client who intends to install a new electricity cable to supply a British Telecom kiosk on land adjacent to Scalesceugh Lodge.

1.1.2 The proposed scheme of works crossed a section of the Roman road which ran between the Roman fort at Plumpton (*Voreda*) and Roman Carlisle (*Luguvalium*), at a point where it diverts from the present A6. In addition, the proposed works were located close to the Scheduled Monument of Scalesceugh Roman kilns (CCCHES 2018).

1.2 Project Documentation

1.2.1 The project conforms to a brief prepared by Jeremy Parsons (CCCHES 2018). A WSI (WA 2018) was then produced to provide a specific methodology based on the brief 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 16 of the National Planning Policy Framework 2019 (MHCLG 2019).

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

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 an archaeological watching brief* (2014a), and in accordance with the WA fieldwork manual (2017).

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 (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 archaeological desk-based assessment has been incorporated this report, which sets out the archaeological and historical background of the area and provides an assessment of the significance of known and potential heritage assets in close proximity of the planned groundworks.

2.3 The Watching Brief

2.3.1 A watching brief is defined as a programme of '*monitoring and investigation carried out during a non-archaeological activity within a specified area of land or development where construction operations may disturb or destroy archaeological remains*' (CIFA 2014a).

2.3.2 The watching brief comprised the monitoring of all intrusive works associated with the current development, this comprised the excavation of a single trench measuring c.10.00m in length and having an average depth measuring 0.80m. The general aims of these investigations were:

- to 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 levels of disturbance to any archaeological deposits;

- to 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 future proposed development arising from the current works; and
- to disseminate the results of the fieldwork through an appropriate level of reporting.

2.3.3 Deposits considered not to be significant were removed by a mechanical excavator 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 archaeological supervision by a suitably trained archaeologist. Where potential archaeological remains were present the groundworks were subsequently cleaned by hand. All possible features were inspected and selected deposits were excavated by hand to retrieve artefactual material and environmental samples. Once completed all features were recorded according to the WA standard procedure as set out in the Excavation Manual (WA 2017).

2.3.4 No artefacts were observed or recovered, and no environmental samples were taken.

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 with Carlisle Archives Centre with copies of the report sent to the Cumbria HER, available upon request. The archive can be accessed under the unique project identifier **CL12187, SLC-A**.

2.3.6 Wardell Armstrong LLP 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 WA as a part of this national project. The OASIS reference for the project is: **wardella2-346747**

3 BACKGROUND

3.1 Location and Geological Context

3.1.1 The site is located at NGR: NY 44980 49440. The site's environs comprise farmland, although the groundworks only impacted the A6 carriageway. The study area lies within the civil parish boundary of St Cuthbert Without to the south of Carlisle. The area of investigation lies at a height of c. 71.00 m above Ordnance Datum (aOD)) with the ground sloping down gently to the south and west.

3.1.2 The proposed works involved approximately 30.00m of trenching across the route of the A6. At present the site comprises the main A6 carriageway, with grassed verges, surrounded by farmland on either side.

3.1.3 The underlying solid geology within the area of investigation is mapped as mudstone, sandstone and siltstone of the Permian Rocks, formed 251 to 299 million years ago in the Permian Period. This is overlain by superficial deposits of Glacigenic Deposits of the Devensian Till deposited up to 3 million years ago during the Quaternary Period (BGS 2019).

3.2 Historical and Archaeological Background

3.2.1 A rapid desk-based assessment has been undertaken to assess the known historical and archaeological background of the area to be affected by the groundworks and the surrounding landscape, the results of which are included here.

3.2.2 **Prehistoric:** no known sites of prehistoric date are known from the area.

3.2.3 **Roman:** the location of the groundworks is situated in close proximity to the Scalesceugh Roman Pottery and Tile Kilns (NHL 1007181), a Scheduled Monument, located to the north and north-west of Scalesceugh Lodge (Figure 2). Although there was some variation throughout the country, all Roman potteries broadly comprise kiln drying chambers and associated structures such as work sheds, preparation floors, stores and sometimes accommodation for the workforce. There are variations between fewer than five kilns, up to 35 kilns in potteries. The Scalesceugh kiln site is preserved as buried remains. The monument was partially excavated in 1915-16 and 1970-1 revealing large quantities of charcoal, inscribed tiles of the 9th and 20th Legions as well as the buried remains of a pottery kiln infilled in the Roman period. The kiln had a paved and cobbled floor and the foundations of a substantial enclosure wall as found nearby. A geophysical survey has revealed that there are possibly at least 42 kilns or hearths along the presumed route of the Roman road,

which runs through the scheduled area. This is the course of the Plumpton to Carlisle Roman road, though the modern A6 diverts from the course of the Roman road in the vicinity of the groundworks. A Roman milestone has been found in close proximity to Scalesceugh Hall (HER 646).

- 3.2.4 **Medieval:** there are no known sites of medieval date in close proximity to the groundworks.
- 3.2.5 **Post-medieval and modern:** Scalesceugh Hall is a grade II listed building (NHL 1391509), comprising a country house and farm house. A date stone indicates a date of 1746 for the farmhouse (NHL). Thomas Robley, the younger son of Thomas of Newlands, was born in Newlands, Carlton and died 1712 at Scalesceugh, Carlton. He was given Scalesceugh by the Steward of the Manor of Botchardgate in 1693, at the customary rent of 5/- per annum. After his death in 1712, Thomas was succeeded by his son, also called Thomas Robley (1690-1733). The younger Thomas was a bachelor and he made his sister, Ann, his main heir. She was the wife of Christopher Robinson of Nunclose, a yeoman (Scalesceugh Farm 2019).
- 3.2.6 The Robinson family remained at Scalesceugh until the death of John Robinson in 1851. By that time the Robinsons were prospering and owned 4 farms. Their only son died at the age of 24, thus their youngest daughter, Frances (1832-1909), inherited for lack of a male heir. She had married John Harrison in 1851. On an 1868 map, a Brick and Tile Works was located close to the present site of the groundworks. Scalesceugh Lodge is not shown on the 1868 map, although the building opposite to it, across the road, had already been constructed. Frances and John Harrison's son, John Robinson Harrison, a ship owner, had Scalesceugh Hall built following his retirement (Scalesceugh Farm 2019).
- 3.2.7 A keystone at Scalesceugh Hall has the inscription of J.R.H and M.K.H, flanked by 1915 and 1684. There is no physical evidence for the 1684 date over the archway to the farmhouse, it is assumed that this may be a reference to the family. Scalesceugh Hall was built in 1913-1914 by the Glasgow architect Alexander N Paterson. The lodge came into existence in the first half of the 20th century, possibly in association with the construction of the hall adjoining the old farmhouse. The lodge lies to the immediate west of the area monitored during the watching brief.

4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF RESULTS

4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 The watching brief was undertaken on the 21st and 22nd January 2019. The archaeological watching brief monitored groundworks associated with a new electric cable for a British Telecom kiosk. Context numbers are provided, where relevant, in brackets, relating also to a summary table provided in Appendix 1

4.1.2 The groundworks required the excavation of a single trench on the east side of the A6 carriageway (Figures 1 and 2). The excavations largely consisted of the removal of the asphalt road surface and substrate to an average depth of 0.80m, exposing a sandy deposit cut by modern remains, which were encountered at the east side of the carriageway (Figure 3). The remains encountered appeared to be associated with the construction of the present A6 carriageway.

4.2 Results

4.2.1 A single trench, measuring c. 10.00m and orientated roughly east to west, was excavated on the eastern side of the A6 carriageway and across the pavement to the east (Figure 2).

4.2.2 The trench was excavated to an average depth of 0.80m at which depth a firm orange / grey, clay, geological substrate (**101**) was observed. At the eastern end of the excavated trench, a loose orange sand deposit with frequent cobble inclusions was encountered (**104**), which was cut by a modern feature [**106**] (Plates 1 and 2; Figure 3). This steep sided cut was filled by a loose black 'crunchy' material (**105**) with a strong petro-chemical smell which appeared to act as a bedding layer for some large angular to sub-angular sandstone blocks (**102**).

4.2.3 A large block of reinforced concrete (**103**) was encountered at the eastern edge of the A6 carriageway which appears to cut [**106**]. The concrete measured at least 0.50m in depth and c. 3.00m in length at the eastern side of the carriageway (Plate 2; Figure 3). The camber of the road surface was echoed by the surface of the concrete and it appears to relate to the building of the most recent phase of road construction. The exact function of the concrete block remains uncertain.

4.2.4 The carriageway was sealed by a maximum of 0.40m asphalt road surface (**100**) (Figures 2 and 3).

4.2.5 The easternmost part of the trench was excavated across the pavement to a maximum depth of 0.40m. The natural substrate (**101**) was sealed by an asphalt pavement which had been previously cut for a north-south orientated service trench.

4.2.6 Due to the presence of the large concrete block, and its unknown purpose, the decision was made to reroute the electric cable. Further excavation across the western side of the carriageway was not carried out.

4.3 **Archaeological Finds and Environmental Sampling**

4.3.1 No archaeological finds were recovered, and no environmental samples were taken during the archaeological monitoring works.

5 CONCLUSIONS

5.1 Interpretation

- 5.1.1 The archaeological watching brief monitored groundworks associated with a new electricity cable on the eastern side of the A6 carriageway adjacent to Scalesceugh Lodge. The watching brief was required to establish the nature and extent of below ground archaeological remains within the vicinity, as the site lies on the route of the Roman road running between Plumpton (*Voreda*) and Carlisle (*Luguvalium*). In addition, the development lies close to the Scheduled Monument of the 2nd century Scalesceugh Roman kiln site.
- 5.1.2 Modern features were identified in the eastern edge of the A6 carriageway. Due to the location of a large reinforced block of concrete of unknown purpose, the groundworks were suspended, and the planned trench was not excavated across the western part of the carriageway. Of the original planned 30.00m of trenching across the carriageway, only c.10.00m on the eastern side was excavated.
- 5.1.3 No archaeological features or deposits were observed during the groundworks. The groundworks were conducted on the eastern side of the modern A6 at the point where it diverts from the course of the Roman road. No evidence of an earlier road was seen within the excavated trench deposits, but it remains possible that the Roman road survives beneath the western half of the modern carriageway.
- 5.1.4 No finds were recovered, and no environmental samples were taken.

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APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT TABLE

Context Number	Context Type	Area	Description
100	Deposit	Across surface of trench	Black asphalt road surface
101	Geological	Throughout trench	Firm orange/ grey sandy clay natural substrate
102	Deposit	East side of A6 carriageway	Sub-angular stone blocks – fill of cut [106]
103	Deposit	East side of A6 carriageway	Large concrete block/ structure? Reinforced with rebar
104	Deposit	Western part of trench	Orange sand, frequent cobble inclusions
105	Deposit	East side of A6 carriageway	Loose black deposit – strong petro-chemical smell. Fill of cut [106]
106	Cut	East side of A6 carriageway	Steep sided cut filled by (102) and (105)

APPENDIX 2: PLATES



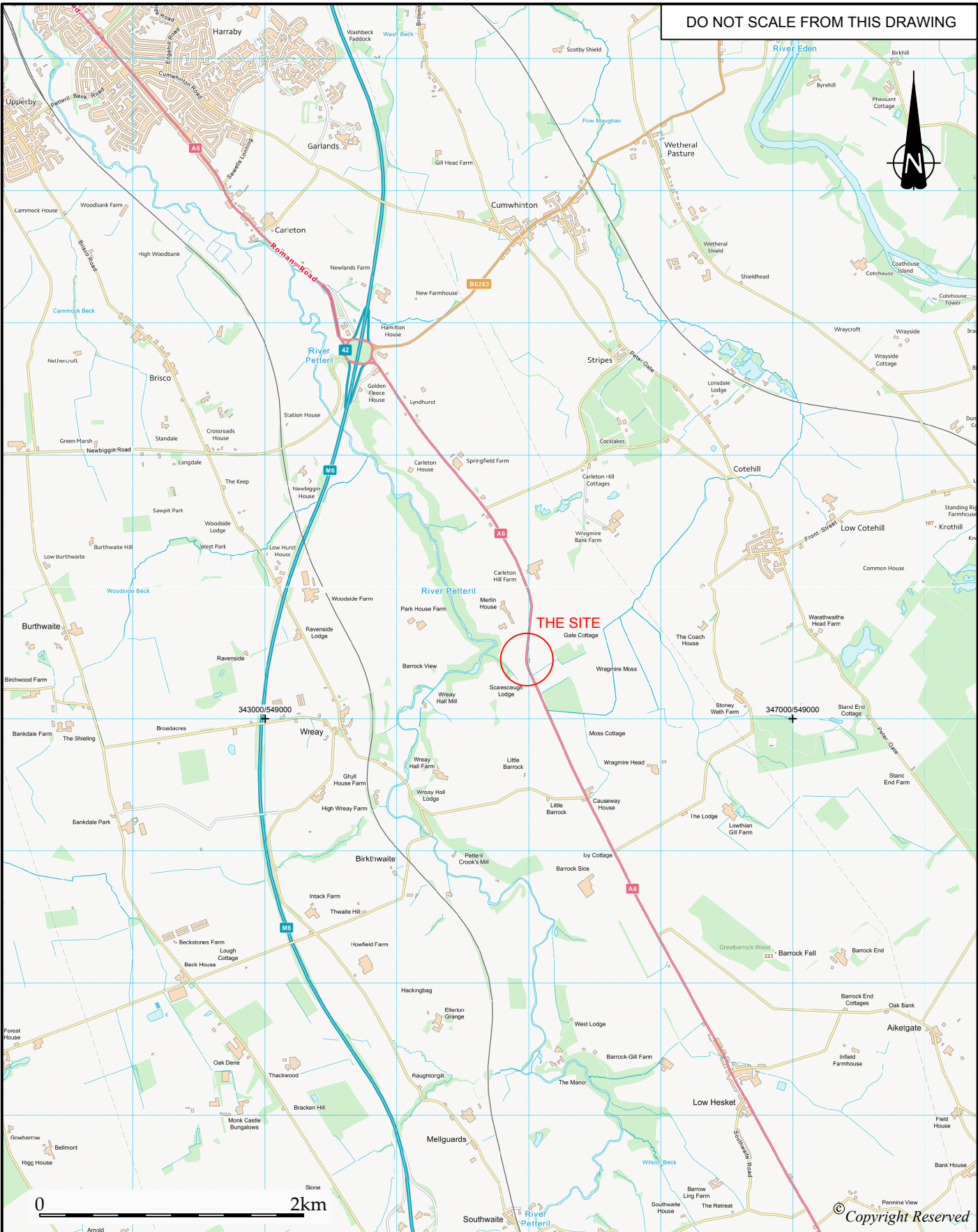
Plate 1; Trench showing modern cut [106], Facing North West, 1m Scale.



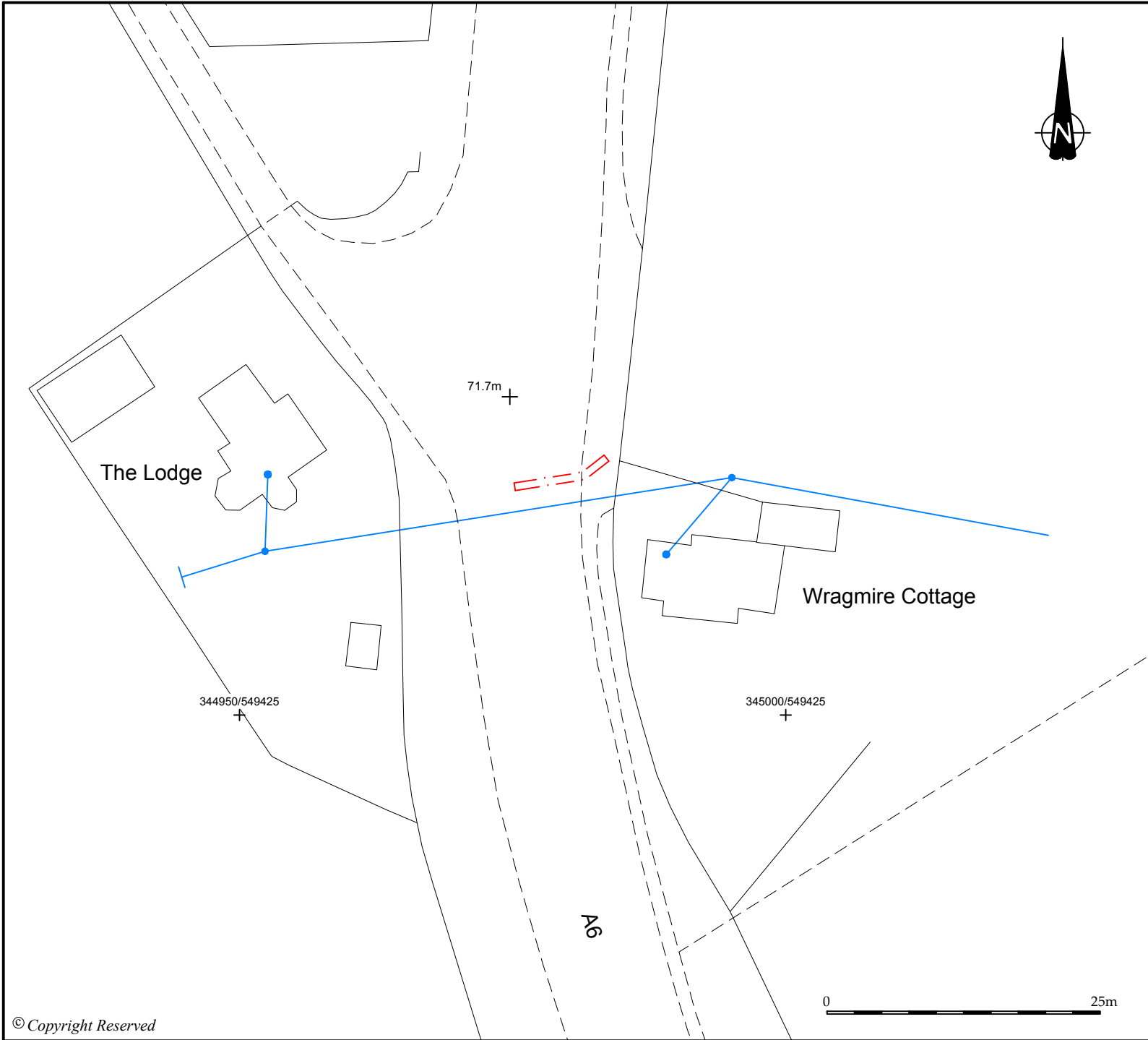
Plate 2; Trench showing modern cut [106] and concrete block (103), Facing North East

APPENDIX 3: FIGURES

DO NOT SCALE FROM THIS DRAWING

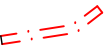



CLIENT	Electricity North West		DRG No.	CL12187_WB_001		REV	A	
PROJECT	Scalesceugh Lodge, Carleton, Carlisle, Cumbria		SIZE	A4	SCALE	1:40,000	DATE	April 2019
DRAWING TITLE	Figure 1: Site location		DRAWN BY	AB	CHECKED BY	CP	APPROVED BY	CBC
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KEY:

-  Area monitored during watching brief
-  Overhead cables

REVISION	DETAILS	DATE	DRAWN	CHKD	APPD
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PROJECT
Scalesceugh Lodge,
Carleton, Carlisle, Cumbria

DRAWING TITLE
Figure 2:
Location of watching brief

DRG No	CL12187_WB_002	REV	A
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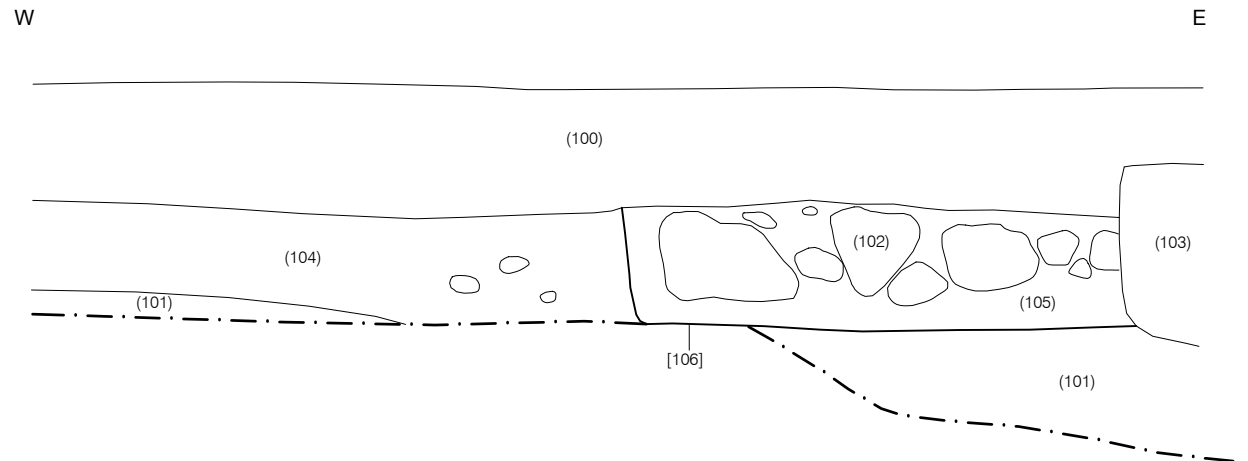
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KEY:

(101) Context numbers



South facing section of cable trench



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DRAWING TITLE
Figure 3:
South facing section of cable trench
on east side of road

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