
NORTH PENNINES ARCHAEOLOGY LTD

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**REPORT ON
AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL
WATCHING BRIEF OF
WORKS ON THE
WILLOWHOLME TO
ROCKCLIFFE OVERHEAD
ELECTRIC LINE SCHEME**

FOR UNITED UTILITIES

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1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In October-November 2004 North Pennines Archaeology maintained an archaeological watching brief on groundworks associated with the Willowholme to Rockcliffe overhead electric line scheme, Carlisle, Cumbria. The work was requested by Cumbria County Council Archaeology Service (CCCAS) following a consultation prior to the commencement of the scheme. The scheme consisted of the excavation of a series of post holes within selected areas designated by CCCAS.
- 1.2 The scheme affects an area of archaeological significance recorded on the County Sites and Monuments Record. These include three areas of cropmarks recorded on aerial photographs comprising: an enclosure to the south of Bankend Farm (NY 368 601; SMR 6110), a probable prehistoric earthwork enclosure, possibly used as an army encampment in the 18th century (NY 375 585; SMR 399) and an area of undefined cropmarks to the north of Stainton village (NY 378 574; SMR 9750).
- 1.3 The watching brief consisted of the monitoring of all groundworks within the specified areas by an experienced archaeologist.

2 PREVIOUS WORK

- 2.1 No previous archaeological work is known to have taken place within the development site.

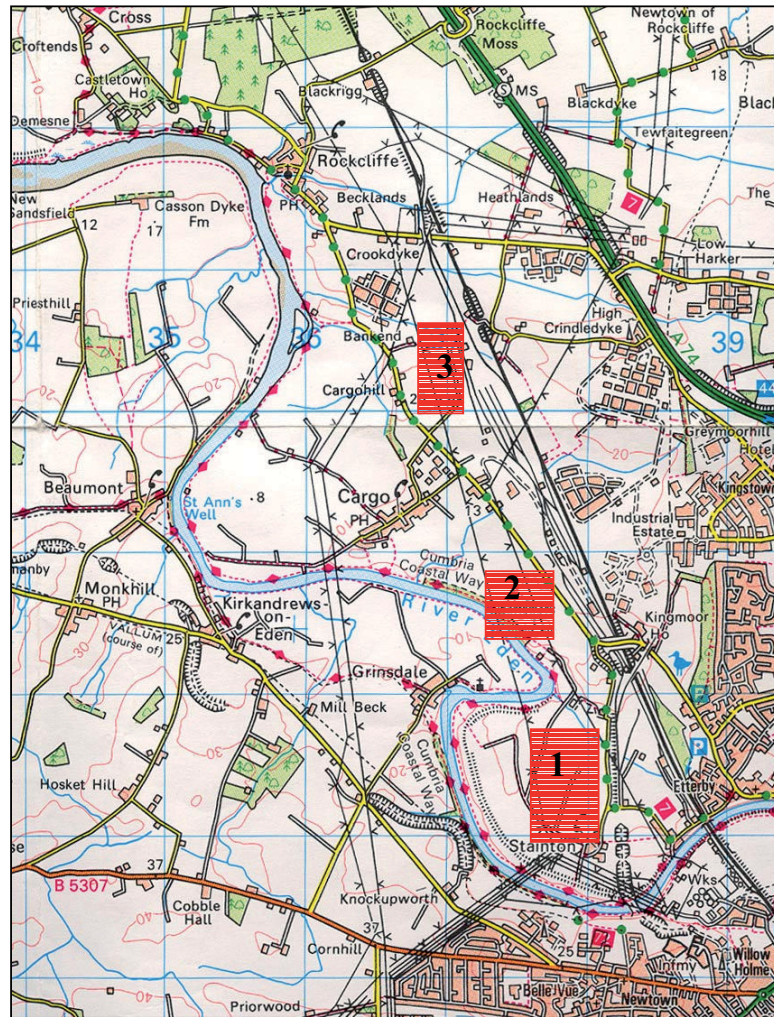


Figure 1: Site Location.

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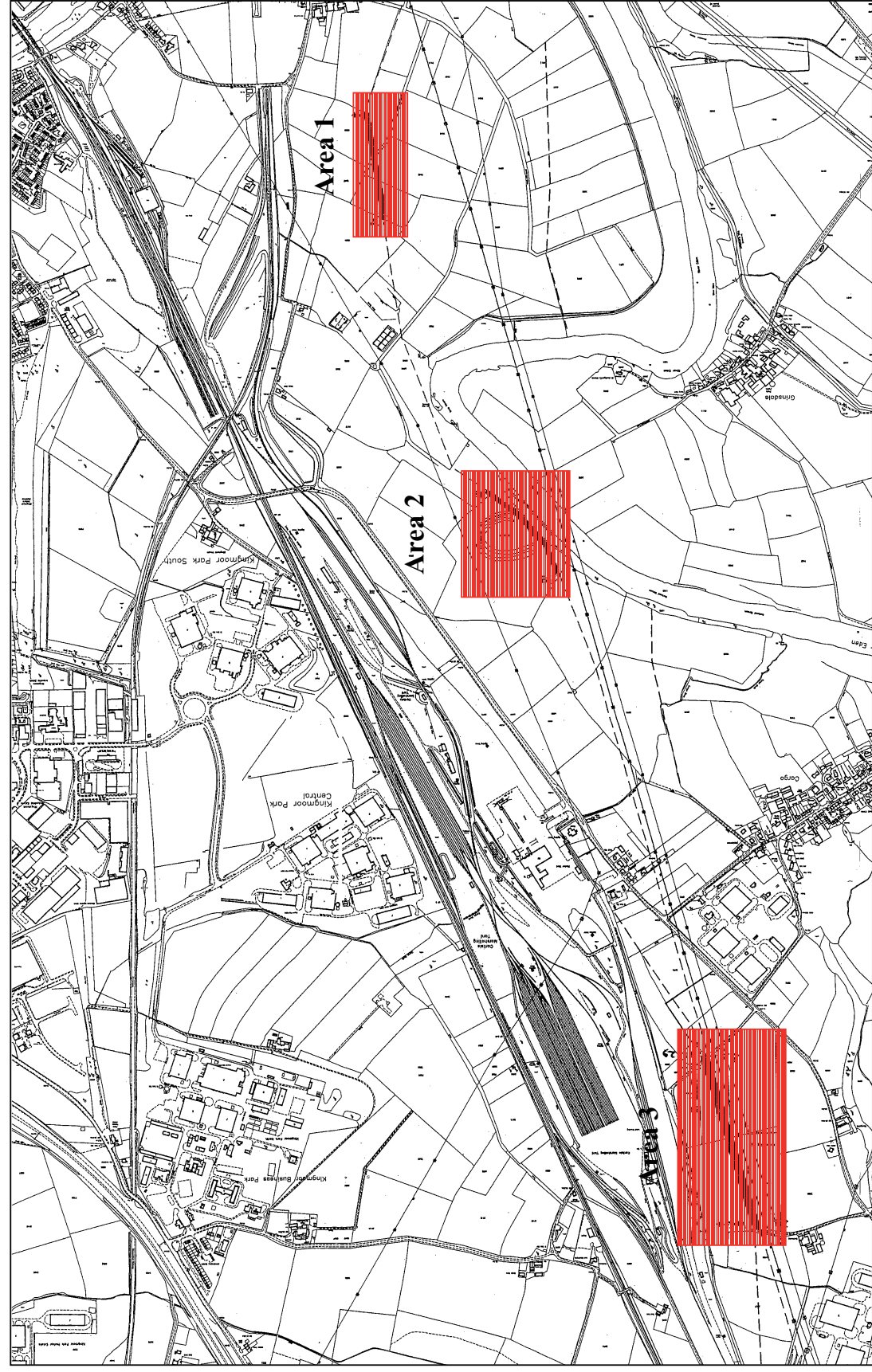


Figure 2: Location of Watching Brief. Not to Scale.

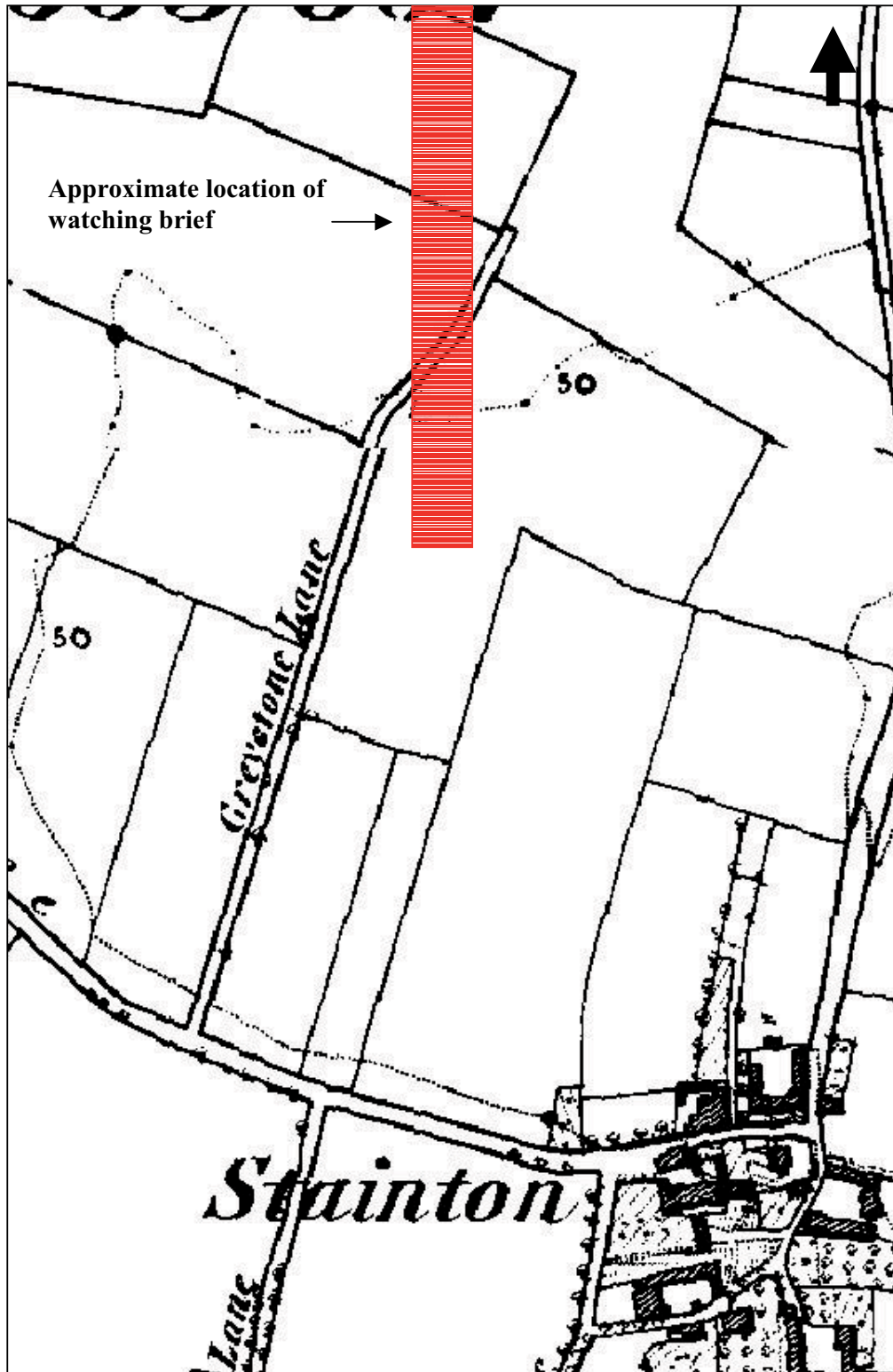


Figure 3: Area 1 in 1865. (Ordnance Survey 1st Edition). Scale: 6 inch to 1



Figure 4: Area 2 in 1865 (Ordnance Survey 1st Edition). Scale: 6 inch to 1 mile.

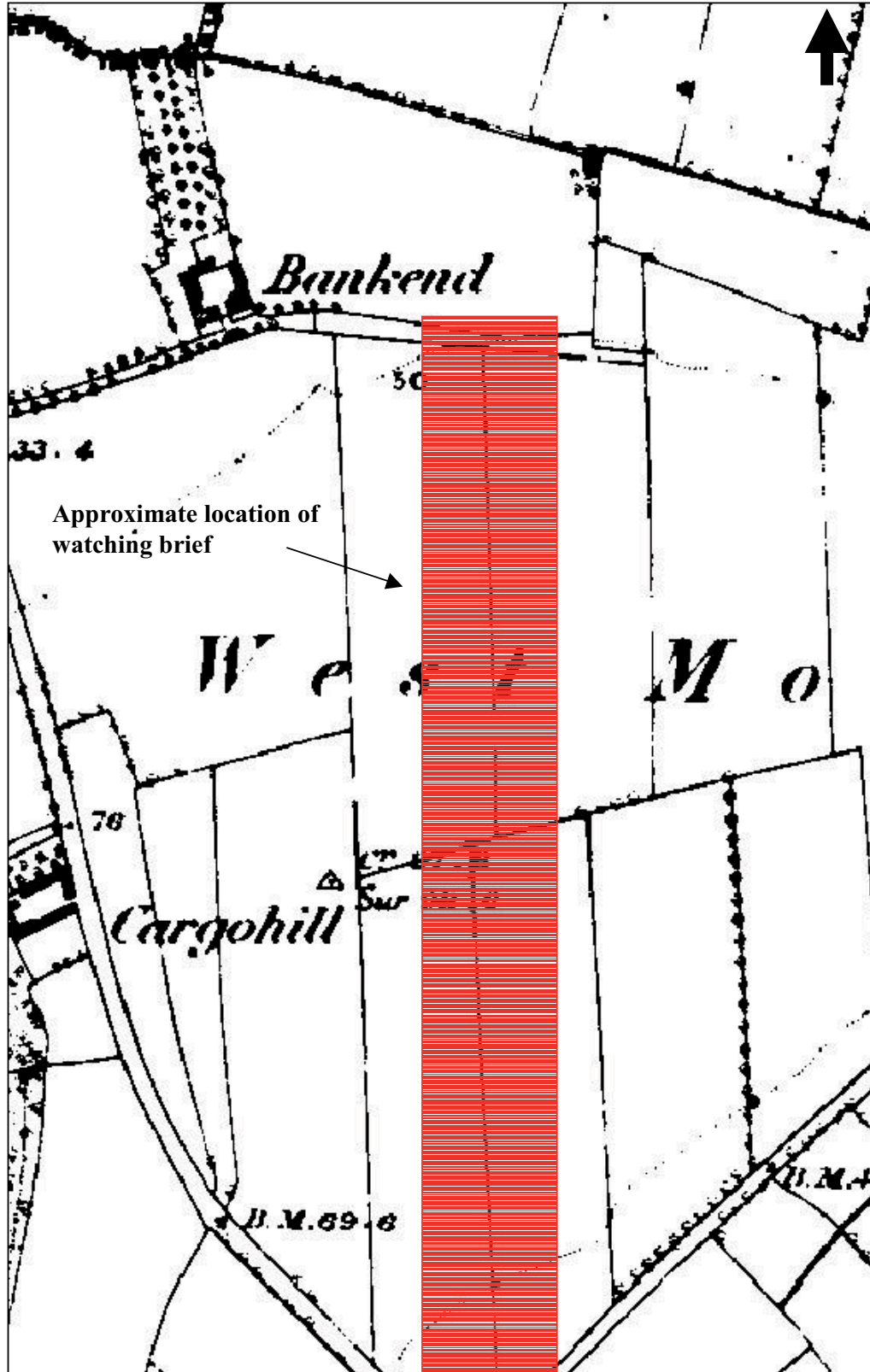


Figure 5: Area 3 in 1865 (Ordnance Survey 1st Edition). Scale: 6 inch to 1 mile

3 AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

3.1 Watching Brief

3.1.1 The aims of the watching brief were as follows:

- to supervise all topsoil stripping and excavation for footings and/or service trenches and to clean and record any putative archaeological features and produce a stratigraphic record;
- to record archaeological deposits;
- to establish, wherever possible, the depth of archaeological remains;
- to establish, wherever possible, the condition of the remains;
- to recover artefactual material, especially that useful for dating purposes;
- to recover paleoenvironmental material where it survives.

4 RESULTS

4.1 The watching brief was maintained for a total of 3 days by Chris Jones BA, MA, AIFA, NPA Project Archaeologist and Ken Denham BA, Archaeologist. The work consisted of the monitoring of the excavation of a series of 12 post holes. The holes were excavated by mechanical means through a combination of augur and excavation.

4.2 The earliest recorded deposit was observed at a depth of approximately 0.40m and consisted of light brown alluvial sand (102), which was sealed by a layer of mid brown sandy loam subsoil (101), which was in turn sealed by a dark brown loam topsoil (100).

4.3 No archaeological features or deposits were observed during the watching brief.

5 CONCLUSION

5.1 No significant archaeological features or deposits were observed in any of the excavations.

6 BIBLIOGRAPHY

Secondary Sources

Giocco, F.O. (2001) *North Pennines Archaeology Ltd: Excavation Manual*. Unpublished: Nenthead: North Pennines Archaeology Ltd.

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