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# **NORTH PENNINES ARCHAEOLOGY LTD**

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**Project Designs and Client Reports No. CP/91/04**

**REPORT ON  
AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
WATCHING BRIEF OF  
WORKS ON THE BRAMPTON  
TO BOOTHBY HV  
UNDERGROUND CABLE  
SCHEME**

**FOR UNITED UTILITIES**

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## CONTENTS

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	<i>Page</i>
List of Figures.....	ii
List of Plates .....	iii
<b>1 INTRODUCTION .....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>2 PREVIOUS WORK .....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>3 AIMS AND METHODOLOGY .....</b>	<b>8</b>
3.1 WATCHING BRIEF .....	8
<b>4 RESULTS.....</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>5 CONCLUSION.....</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>6 BIBLIOGRAPHY.....</b>	<b>8</b>
Secondary Sources.....	8

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## LIST OF FIGURES

---

	<i>Page</i>
Figure 1	Site Location 1:50,000.....4
Figure 2	Location of Watching Brief Areas 1-3 .....5
Figure 3	Area 1: Ordnance Survey 1 <sup>st</sup> Edition.....6
Figure 4	Area 2: Ordnance Survey 1 <sup>st</sup> Edition.....7
Figure 5	Area 3: Ordnance Survey 1 <sup>st</sup> Edition.....8

## **1 INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 Between August – November 2004 North Pennines Archaeology maintained an archaeological watching brief on groundworks associated with a scheme for an underground electric cable between the Sawmill, Brampton and the Old Sawmill, Boothby, Cumbria. The work was requested in a brief prepared by Cumbria County Council Archaeology Service (CCCAS) following a consultation prior to the commencement of the scheme. The work involved the monitoring of the excavation of a linear cable trench only within areas designated by CCCAS as archaeologically sensitive.
- 1.2 The scheme affects an area of archaeological significance recorded on the County Sites and Monuments Record. At the southern end, the proposed works lie close to the earthwork remains of Brampton Castle, a Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM 27694). The line of the cable runs through an area highlighted by the Cumbria Extensive Urban Survey as associated with the castle during the medieval period. The proposed cable also runs along the supposed line of the Stanegate Roman Road between Boothby Cottages and the old sawmill at Boothby (SMR 10005). Previous investigations in the vicinity of Boothby suggest the road survives in a good state of preservation below ground level (SMR 3118).
- 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 In 1974 George Richardson excavated a number of trenches across the Stanegate at Boothby, close to Estate House (CWAAS 1975). The work revealed the extent of the road, flanked by ditches to north and south. The ‘agger’ of the road consisted of a layer of river pebbles set in compact blue clay, consolidated with large stones set in puddled yellow clay. This was sealed by a layer of small cobbles and gravel, resting on an irregular layer of large stones (Ibid). There was also evidence that the road had been repaired with much larger stones.

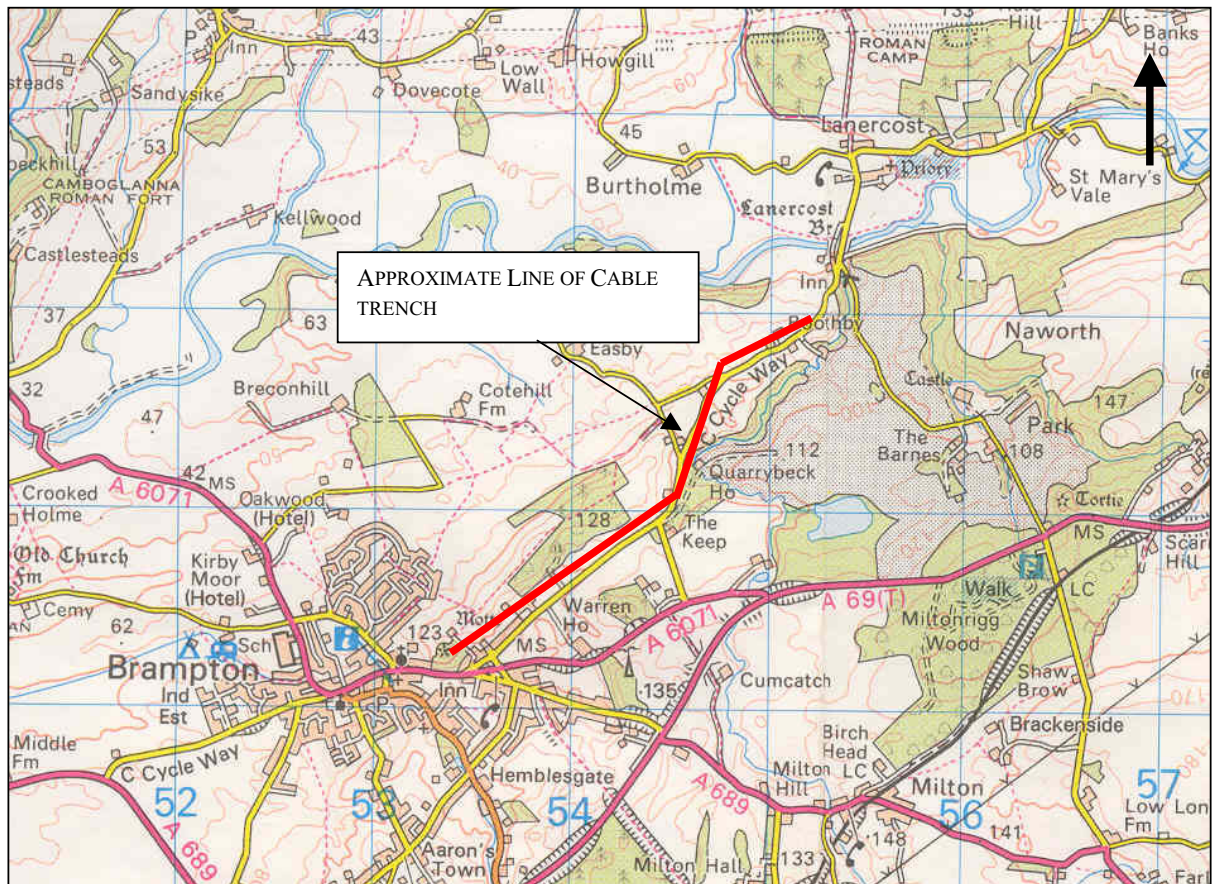


Figure 1: Site Location.

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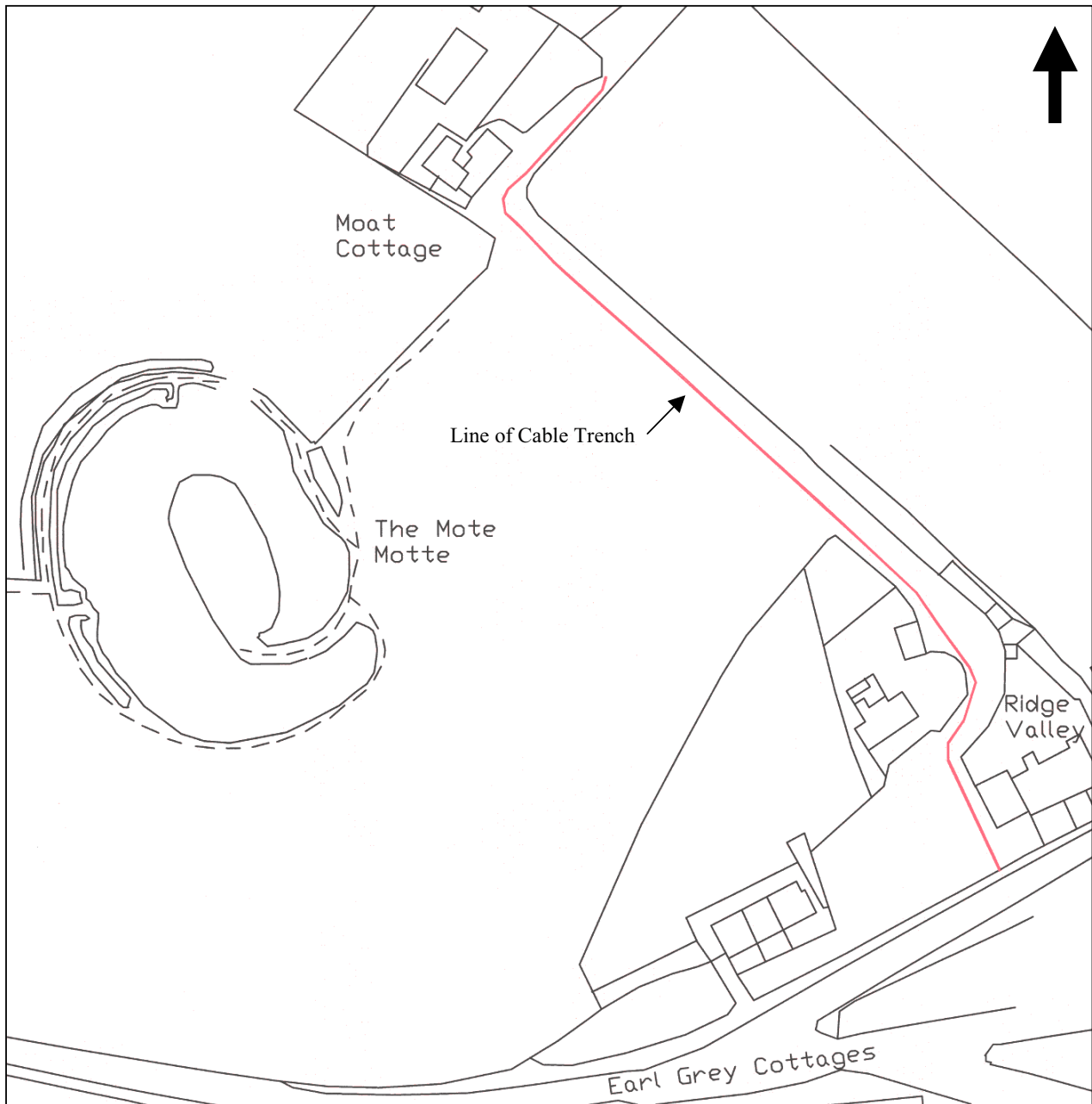


Figure 2. Location of Watching Brief: Area 1 – Brampton Mote. Scale: 1:1250

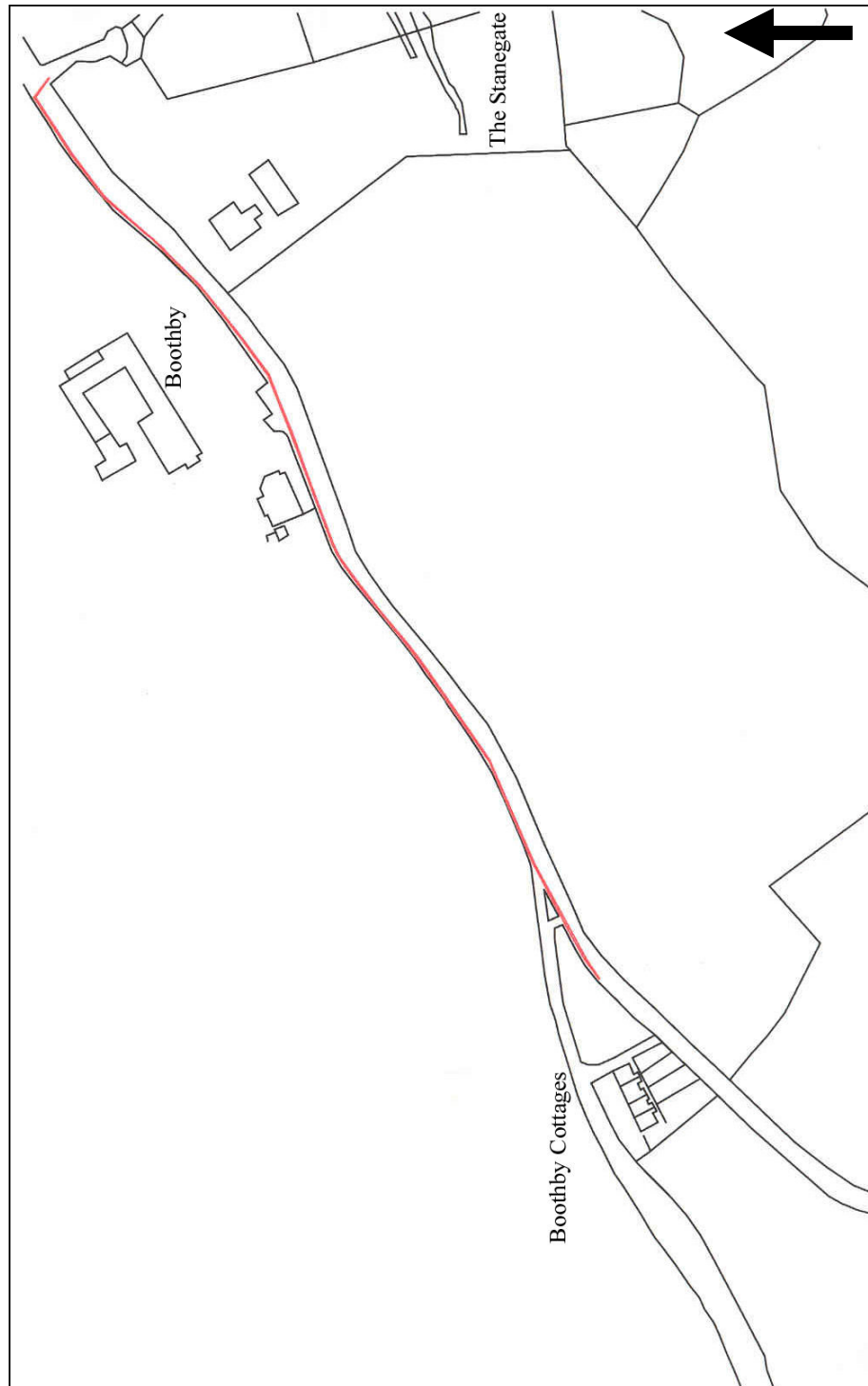


Figure 3. Location of Watching Brief: Area 2 – Boothby Cottages – Boothby. Scale: 1:1250

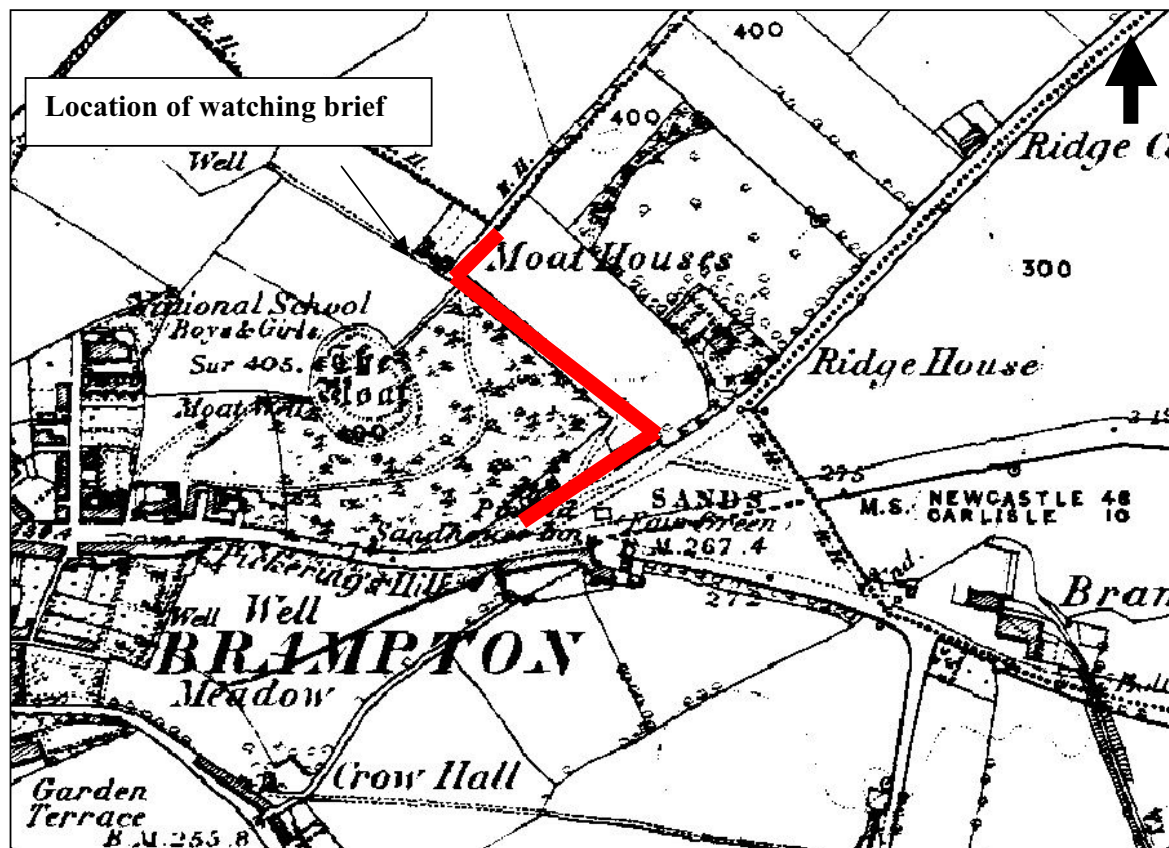


Figure 3: Area 1. Ordnance Survey 1<sup>st</sup> Edition (1865). Scale: 6 inch to 1 mile.

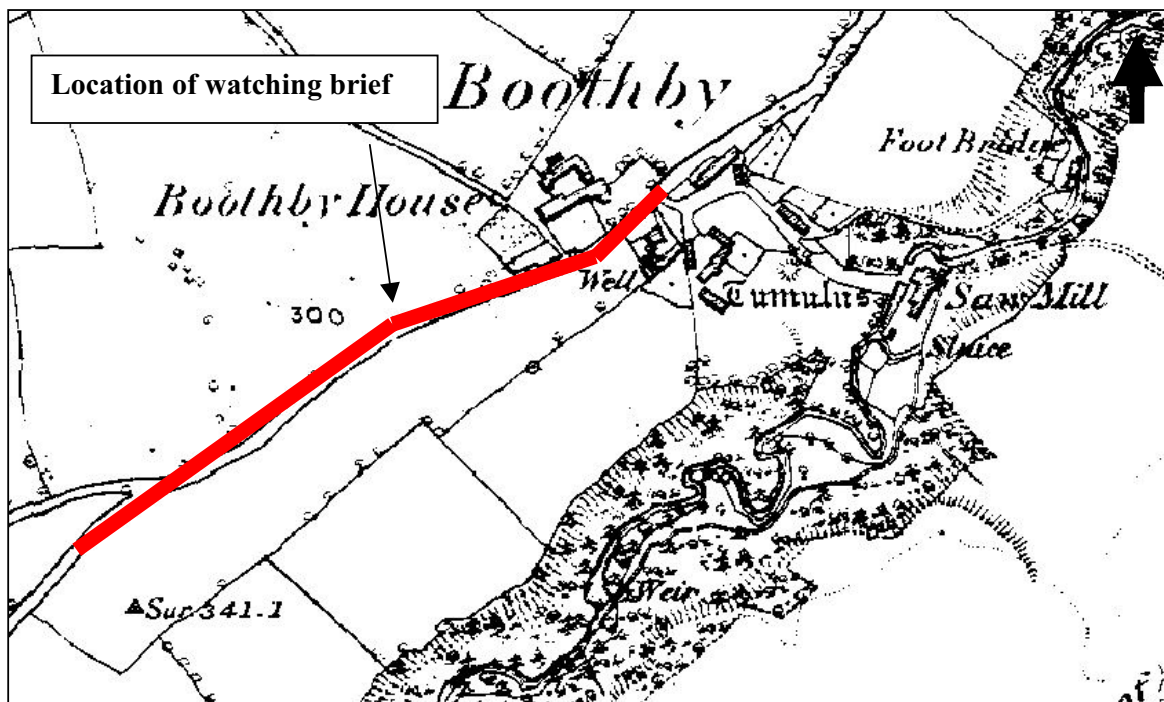


Figure 4: Area 2. Ordnance Survey 1<sup>st</sup> Edition (1865). Scale: 6 inch to 1 mile.

### 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 survived.

### 4 RESULTS

4.1 The watching brief was maintained for a total of 18.5 days by Frank Giecco BA, Dip Arch, AIFA, Chris Jones BA, MA, AIFA, and Ken Denham BA. The work consisted of the monitoring of the excavation of two sections of cable trench. The trenches were mechanically excavated by a 3 ton JCB minidigger and backfilled shortly afterwards following the insertion of ducting for the HV cable. The cable trench was approximately 0.30m wide and 0.90m deep.

4.2 The earliest recorded deposit was observed at a depth of 0.30m and consisted of light brown silty clay (101). This was sealed by a modern road surface which consisted of gravel and tarmac (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, nor was the line of the Roman road observed.

### 6 BIBLIOGRAPHY

#### Secondary Sources

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Richardson, G.G.S (1975) A Section of the Stanegate at Boothby, Cumbria. *Transactions of the Cumberland and Westmorland Antiquarian and Archaeological Society*. 76.