



Greta Bridge

Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological
Watching Brief

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Greta Bridge

Written Scheme of Investigation

Prepared on behalf of:

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Purpose of document

This document has been prepared as Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Watching Brief for Mr WHT Salvin MRICS (the Client), the Archaeology Team at Durham County Council Archaeology section (DCCAS) and Historic England (HE). The purpose of this document is to provide an outline of planned works, aims and objectives of the watching brief, and methodology to be employed. The expected impact on an area of the site which forms part of Scheduled Ancient Monument is also discussed.

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Project summary

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County	Durham
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Acknowledgements

We'd like to begin with a sincere thank you to Mr WHT Salvin MRICS for commissioning us to undertake this project. In addition, we would like to acknowledge the advice and support of David Mason, Principal Archaeologist and at Durham County Council Archaeology Section and Lee McFarlane, Historic England.

The project will be managed by DigVentures. Stuart Noon will manage the project with Lisa Westcott Wilkins, Managing Director, acting as Project Executive.



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1 INTRODUCTION AND SCOPE

1.1 Project background

- 1.1.1 DigVentures has been appointed by Mr WHT Salvin MRICS (hereafter “the Client”) to prepare a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for an archaeological watching brief to be undertaken at Greta Bridge (hereafter “the site”) on Tuesday 1st December 2020.
- 1.1.2 The site is a Scheduled Monument under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979 (Historic England List Entry No. 1019074). An archaeological watching brief is a requirement of the scheduled monument consent issued by the Secretary of State at Department of Culture Media and Sport (DCMS).
- 1.1.3 The works proposed concern minor re-fencing with replacement gates at an existing access onto the A66 across the edge of the scheduled monument. The works are required to enable large farm machinery to access the field safely after the loss of an alternative access point. The current access levels will need to be reduced by no more than 200mm to facilitate terram to be laid and then a stone surface to protect any below ground deposits from rutting by heavy machinery use.
- 1.1.4 The development area, centred on NZ 08571 13239 (Figure 1), is situated at Greta Bridge at Rokeby, County Durham. This stage of works will involve proposed minor re-fencing with replacement gates at an existing access onto the A66 across the edge of a Scheduled Monument (Figure 2). The works are required to enable large farm machinery to access the field safely after the loss of an alternative access point.
- 1.1.5 This WSI provides a description of the methods to be employed for an archaeological watching brief to be undertaken during the development works at the site. The work will be undertaken under the guidance of Historic England’s (HE) Inspector of Ancient Monuments Lee McFarlane and David Mason of Durham County Council’s Archaeology Section (DCCAS), who have advised on the requirement for an archaeological watching brief in accordance with a WSI (SMC ref number S00240321).

1.2 Scope of document

- 1.2.1 This WSI sets out the strategy and methodology by which the archaeological contractor will implement the archaeological watching brief. In format and content, it conforms with current best practice and to the guidance outlined the Management of Archaeological Research Projects in the Historic Environment (Historic England 2015a), the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists’ Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Brief (2014) and the North East Regional Research Framework for the Historic Environment (Petts and Gerrard 2006). Draft Resource Assessments (NERFF 2020), and Standards for Archaeological Work in County Durham and Darlington (DCCAS 2019).
- 1.2.2 This WSI is to be submitted for approval prior to the commencement of the archaeological programme to Historic England who will monitor that the works in line with the conditions of Scheduled Monument Consent (SMC) and DCCAS, who provide archaeological planning advice to the Local Planning Authority.



1.3 Site location, geology and background

- 1.3.1 The site lies at grid reference NZ 08571 13239 and is situated in the parish of Brignall, Rokeby in the south of County Durham located to the north, south and east of the Morritt Arms Hotel which is a Grade II listed building (List entry no: 1121699), (Figure 1). The proposed development area is an existing access onto the A66 across the edge of the scheduled monument (Figure 3).
- 1.3.2 The monument lies within an area of sedimentary bedrock of the Alston Formation formed between 337 and 328 million years ago during the Carboniferous period. The bedrock constituents vary from bioclastic limestones, sandstones, mudstones, siltstones and rare coals typically in regular cyclothemic sequence. The superficial geology comprises river terrace and glaciofluvial sheet deposits comprising gravel, sand and silt formed since the Last Glacial Maximum (BGS, <http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk>).
- 1.3.3 Greta Bridge is the focus of considerable historic and archaeological interest. It is the site of a well preserved Roman fort, an associated civilian settlement or vicus and a section of the Roman road which linked Dere Street at Scotch Corner to Carlisle across the Stainmore Pass. The monument is contained within three separate areas of protection (Historic England, List Entry 1019074).
- 1.3.4 A comprehensive archaeological and historic background to the site is provided by Archaeoenvironment Ltd (2012). The fort covers an area of 3.5 acres and may have been known in Roman times as Maglona. The first construction of the fort is thought to date to the late 1st century AD, the period of Agricola's northern campaigns. A dedication slab to Antoninus Pius (138-161 AD) discovered near the north gate in 1793 suggests occupation at least up until the mid 2nd century AD. An inscription, (now lost), found in 1727 suggests the presence of a beneficiarii consularis at Greta Bridge in the 3rd century whose function would have been to provide surveillance for the civil settlement (NAA 1997, p.1).
- 1.3.5 The north defences are now largely lost beneath the Morritt Arms Hotel but excavation in the 1990s at Burns Cottage (south of the garage) identified substantial surviving buried remains of the ditch and stone buildings with suggestions of occupation from the early 2nd to the late 4th century AD. In addition, a previous rear extension on the north side of the Morritt Arms uncovered parts of the north gate (Porta Praetoria) and rampart (NAA 1997 Section 3 and Casey 1998, p.111).
- 1.3.6 Excavations some distance to the north of the proposed development during the construction of the A66 by-pass in 1973-74 revealed the complete plan of a burned-out timber courtyard building likely to have been a mansio, an official wayside inn for those on government business, of Trajanic or Hadrianic date. The rooms were sealed by deposits of a late 3rd to early 4th century date. Twelve or more strip houses of a pre-4th century date were also recorded (Casey 1998, 129-131 and NAA 1997, section 3).
- 1.3.7 The main civil settlement appears to have taken the form of a ribbon development on both sides of the Stainmore road immediately north of the fort itself, extending across both the River Greta and the Tutta Beck for a total of approximately 600 metres (Casey et al 1998, p.122).

1.3.8 The Roman road survives as a cambered gravel surface 6m wide, later replaced in stone, and flanked by stone lined drains. The road is thought to be of first century date but it remained an important arterial route, especially in the middle and later third century (Historic England, List Entry 1019074). A link connecting the fort to the arterial road together with building and road foundations of 2nd century date outside the fort gate, was observed during earlier road works in 1929 just in front of the hotel and a road with side ditches was observed in 1972 (NAA 1997, p.2).

1.3.9 A watching brief in the area immediately to the east of the vicus produced some evidence of cremation burials; the existence of burials, which are normally located beyond the limit of the settlement, is thought to indicate that this is the eastern limit of the vicus at Greta Bridge. The full extent of the vicus is not yet understood and further remains may survive beyond the area of protection (Historic England, List Entry 1019074).

1.4 North-East Regional Research Framework

1.4.1 A watching brief at Greta bridge holds some potential to address some of the research themes and questions posed in the North-East Regional Research Framework (NERRF, Petts and Gerrard 2006), as well as those raised more recently as a result of developer-led archaeology. Investigation could address some of the following themes highlighted within the NERRF;

1.4.2 Transport and communication - Being critical to the expansion of and success of settlement in the North East in more recent times, industry and transport was likely an important aspect of the region since at least Roman times. Apart from two main north-south roads, the other major axis of communication is west across the Pennines into Westmoreland. The route used by the Romans ran over the Stainmore Pass, and roughly followed the route of the modern A66. As well as the military activity on Stainmore itself, there were two forts on this route at Greta Bridge and Bowes. The fort at Greta Bridge, as the name suggests, was situated at a crossing point on the River Greta. The A66 passes through Greta bridge linking the Roman forts and settlements of Cumbria with the Roman forts and settlements of North Yorkshire, passing by through the vicus (or village) that lay just outside the Roman Fort of Bravoniacum, which lies below modern-day Kirkby Thore. Although the basic routes of all the main Roman roads are known, there are still stretches where the precise course remains conjectural (Petts and Gerrard 2006, p. 46-51).

1.4.3 Settlement, military infrastructure and native communities – Roman military infrastructure was unsurprisingly, closely linked to the road network within Country Durham. Although many of the county's forts have seen archaeological excavation, there has been little significant work since the 1970s, and this has been carried out in a development-control context (Petts and Gerrard 2006, p. 51). Apart from a small, recent evaluation excavation in the north-west corner of the fort (NAA 1996), there has been little work on the fort itself, though excavation has taken place on its related vicus (Casey and Hoffman 1998). Work is required to assess the nature of the system of forts, roads and towns, and the relationship of these 'Roman' elements of the landscape to the native populations who continued, on the whole, to live in a variety of traditional settlement types (Petts and Gerrard 2006, p. 54).

- 1.4.4 Material culture - The great number of military sites in the North-East has, unsurprisingly, produced large amounts of Roman pottery. The quality of publication of these assemblages is, however, variable. Whereas more recent publications are strong, many of the older site reports are of limited use (Petts and Gerrard 2006, p. 57). Pottery may facilitate the recognition of possible external ethnic groups; it has been suggested that 'Housesteads Ware' may have been made by Frisian units stationed on the Wall, and Vivien Swan has suggested that it may be possible to recognise African troops on the basis of locally made ceramics with North African affinities (Swan 1992; 1999).
- 1.4.5 Investigation of the Roman fort, vicus and road has the potential to add to knowledge and understanding of the military conquest and occupation of North Britain.

2 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

2.1 Watching Brief

- 1.1.1 The principal aim of the watching brief is to provide further information concerning the presence/absence, date, nature and extent of any buried archaeological remains and to investigate and record these within the area of the groundworks. This will include:
- To verify the archaeological potential of the site.
 - To identify the potential for remains not anticipated by previous research or record.
- 1.1.2 The site is located at the edge of the scheduled area on the line of the A66 at an existing access point and comprises of minor works in the form of the imposition of new access gate at a depth of 20cm. The principle archaeological question during works at the site will be to establish to what extent do the works impinge on the scheduled monument and if any Roman remains can be identified and recorded.
- 1.1.3 Although the size of the development is very limited, should *any Roman remains be identified* there may be potential to address some of the research aims of the NERRF (Petts and Gerrard 2006).

3 MONITORING OF DEVELOPMENT

- 3.1.1 A programme for the archaeological watching brief will be carried out, subject to four weeks notification being given by the Client, on the commencement of any groundwork that may have an impact on archaeological features and deposits. The works will involve the reduction of the current access levels by no more than 200mm to facilitate terram to be laid and then a stone surface to protect any below ground deposits from rutting by heavy machinery use (Figure 2).
- 3.1.2 The work is currently programmed for Autumn / Winter 2020. An archaeological presence will be maintained during the works. All works will be undertaken in accordance with the standards set out within the WSI provided by DigVentures and the requirements of the DCCAS and Historic England. The Client will afford reasonable access in order that all archaeological features and deposits revealed during groundwork can be investigated and recorded appropriately.

3.1.3 All recording will be undertaken using DigVentures pro forma recording system, supported by a digital photographic record that confirms with Historic England standards (Historic England 2015b). A sufficient sample of each feature type/deposit will be examined in order to establish the date, nature, extent and condition of the archaeological remains, encompassing the following percentage interventions:

- 50% of each intrusive feature (pits, postholes)
- 15% of each linear feature's exposed area + all terminals & intersections
- 50% structural features (beamslots, ring ditches) - actual surviving structural elements (walls, collapse/debris fields) just require exposure, cleaning and preservation for excavation in more appropriate circumstances
- 50-100% domestic/industrial working features (hearths, ovens)
- Investigation slots through all linear features will be no less than 1m in width

3.1.4 Areas under archaeological observation will be surveyed using a Total Station or dGPS and tied in with the Ordnance Survey. Variations to the WSI and Method Statement will be agreed in advance with the Client, DCCAS and Historic England.

3.1.5 In the event that unexpectedly complex and widespread archaeological remains are revealed, the Client, Historic England and DCCAS will be informed in order that the provisions of this WSI may be reviewed.

3.2 Finds and environmental samples

3.2.1 Finds will be treated in accordance with the relevant guidance given in the Chartered Institute for Archaeologist's Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Brief (2014), excepting where they are superseded by statements made below.

3.2.2 All artefacts will be retained from excavated contexts, except features or deposits undoubtedly of modern date. In these circumstances, sufficient artefacts will only be retained to elucidate the date and function of the feature or deposit.

3.2.3 All artefacts from the watching brief will, as a minimum, be washed, marked, counted, weighed and identified. Any stratified ironwork will be X-rayed and stored in a stable condition along with other fragile and delicate material. Suitable material, primarily the pottery and non-ferrous metalwork, will be scanned to assess the date range of the assemblage. The results of this scan will be appended to the watching brief report.

3.2.4 Bulk environmental soil samples for plant macrofossils, small animal bones and other small artefacts will be taken from appropriate sealed and dateable archaeological contexts (each sealed context will normally be sampled). Samples of between 40-60 litres will be taken or 100 % of smaller contexts. Samples will not be taken from the intersection of features. Bulk environmental soil samples will be processed by flotation and scanned to assess the environmental potential of deposits but will not be fully analysed. The residues and sieved fractions will be recorded and retained with the project archive. A statement on the environmental potential of excavated deposits will be appended to the watching brief report.

3.3 Human remains

3.3.1 In the event of discovery of any human remains, it is proposed that they will be left in situ, covered and protected, until the Client, Coroner, Historic England and Local



Planning Authority Advisor have been informed. Where development will unavoidably disturb them, they will be fully recorded, excavated and removed from the site subject to compliance with the relevant Ministry of Justice Licence, which will be obtained by DigVentures.

- 3.3.2 Should human remains be excavated during the watching brief, all excavation and post-excavation will be in accordance with the standards set out in ClfA Technical Paper 13 Excavation and post-excavation treatment of cremated and inhumed remains (McKinley and Roberts 1993), as well as those provided by Historic England and Advisory Panel on the Archaeology of Burials in England (APABE) (Historic England 2018; APABE and Historic England 2017; APABE 2015; 2013). Appropriate specialist guidance/site visits will be undertaken by specialist staff at DigVentures. The final placing of human remains following analysis will be subject to the requirements of the Ministry of Justice Licence.

3.4 Treasure

- 3.4.1 In the event of discovery of artefacts covered or potentially covered by The Treasure Act and Treasure Designation Order (1996; 2002), their excavation and removal will be undertaken following notification of the Client, DCCAS, and Historic England. Advice on reporting and management of any Treasure finds will be sought from the Finds Liaison Officer for Durham, Darlington and Teesside.

4 POST-EXCAVATION AND REPORTING

4.1 Watching brief report

- 4.1.1 Within four weeks of completion of all fieldwork, a report setting out the results will be produced and forwarded to the Client for approval. The watching brief report will be prepared in accordance with the guidance given in the Chartered Institute for Archaeologist's Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief (2014), except where superseded by statements below.
- 4.1.2 Emphasis will be given to placing the results into the context of the archaeology of the region, and their significance in the context of the priorities outlined in the North East Regional Research Framework for the Historic Environment (NERRF) (Petts and Gerrard 2006). The report will comply with the requirements of Historic England and DCCAS and may include:
- plans and sections at an appropriate scale locating the site, the, known and projected archaeological deposits and the extent and nature of colluvial and/or alluvial deposits, including OD heights
 - tabulation of finds data by context and by material type
 - a summary by category of the material types recovered during the watching brief
 - a summary of the palaeo-environmental evidence
 - a consideration of the archaeological evidence from within the Site set in its broader landscape and historic setting
 - SMC reference number
- 4.1.3 The preparation of the report may involve the following elements:



- the conservation of appropriate material, including the x-raying of ironwork
- the spot dating of all pottery from excavated contexts. Spot dating will be corroborated by scanning of other categories of material
- the preparation of a preliminary phased site matrix with supporting lists of contexts by type (ditch fill, pit fill etc.), by spot-dated phase (early bronze age, middle iron age, roman etc.), by structural grouping (e.g. contexts by pit, by building etc.), supported by preliminary phase plans
- a statement on each category of material, including reference to quantity, provenance, range and variety, condition and existence of other primary sources
- the selection and prioritisation of bulk soil samples taken for environmental and artefactual data in the light of preliminary phasing. sieving, processing and scanning of selected soil samples will be undertaken and an assessment statement on charred food and plant remains, including references as for the categories of material
- a statement of potential for each material category and for the data collection as a whole will be prepared, including specific questions that can be answered and the potential value of the data to local, regional and national investigation priorities

4.1.4 Where appropriate and subject to further agreement, further analysis may be undertaken and the results published in a journal appropriate to the significance of finds.

4.1.5 Where appropriate and subject to further agreement, further analysis may be undertaken and the results published in a journal appropriate to the significance of finds. An OASIS online record has been initiated before the start of work, and a copy of the OASIS form included with the final report within three months of leaving site. Where positive results are drawn for a project, a summary report will also be submitted to Historic England and DCCAS. On approval, the report will be submitted in hard copy and in digital copy to the DCC HER, with a copyright licence granted to Durham County Council to use the report for the purposes of the HER. A final copy of the report will be uploaded to OASIS within three months of approval by DCCAS.

5 ARCHIVE

5.1 Preparation and deposition

5.1.1 The complete project archive will be prepared in accordance with DigVentures' Guidelines for Archive Preparation and DCCAS's Standards (DCCAS 2019), and in accordance with best practice guidance (English Heritage 1991; Historic England 2015a; 2015b; Walker 1990; Watkinson and Neal 2001). The material archive from the project, including the finds and subject to the wishes of the landowner will be deposited in the Sevenhills Repository at Spennymoor.

5.1.2 Guidelines for preparation and deposition have been fully reviewed to ensure that the curator's requirements can be fully met. Deposition of the Digital Archive will follow guidelines outlined by the Archaeological Data Service (ADS).

6 PROJECT MANAGEMENT STAFFING

6.1 Staffing



- 6.1.1 The fieldwork will be directed and supervised by an experienced archaeologist from DigVentures core staff who will be on site, having been given prior notification by the Client, as soon as groundworks are being undertaken that could have an impact on potential archaeological features. No groundworks which could have an impact on extant archaeology should be undertaken prior to the archaeological evaluation if it has been determined that mitigation is required. The overall responsibility for the conduct and management of the project will be held by Stuart Noon MCIfA DigVentures' Project Manager, who will visit the fieldwork as appropriate to monitor progress and to ensure that the scope of works is adhered to. The Project Manager and an experienced archaeologist will be involved in all phases of the evaluation through to its completion.
- 6.1.2 The analysis of the finds and environmental data will be undertaken by DigVentures' core staff or external specialists, using DigVentures' standard pro forma recording system. The work will be carried out under the supervision of the departmental managers under the overall direction of the Projects Director. Further information on DigVentures' external finds and environmental specialists can be provided on request.

6.2 Quality and professional standards

- 6.2.1 DigVentures is a Registered Organisation with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists. All senior managers are MCIfA registered. The company endorses the *Code of conduct* of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists and complies with the Institutes' *Standards and guidance* documents.
- 6.2.2 All core staff employed by DigVentures are appropriately qualified and employed in line with Chartered Institute for Archaeologists *Code of conduct*. DigVentures operates a Project Management System based on MoRPHE. All projects are undertaken under the direction of the Project Manager who is responsible to the Projects Director, who ensures the maintenance of quality standards within the organisation. The Managing Director has ultimate responsibility for all of the company's work.

7 INSURANCE, HEALTH AND SAFETY

7.1 Policy and Risk Assessment

- 7.1.1 Health and safety considerations will be of paramount importance in conducting all fieldwork. Safe working practices will override archaeological considerations at all times. DigVentures will ensure that all work is carried out in accordance with its company Health and Safety Policy, to standards defined in The Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974, and The Management of Health and Safety Regulations 1992, and in accordance with the SCAUM (Standing Conference of Archaeological Unit Managers) health and safety manual Health and Safety in Field Archaeology (1996). Trench excavation and design shall conform to Health and Safety legislation, incorporating current best engineering practice where possible. A Risk Assessment will be undertaken in advance of fieldwork, in liaison with the Client and CHET, and a copy given to CHET prior to the commencement of works. DigVentures holds public liability insurance (£5,000,000), employers liability insurance (£10,000,000) and professional indemnity insurance (£1,000,000).



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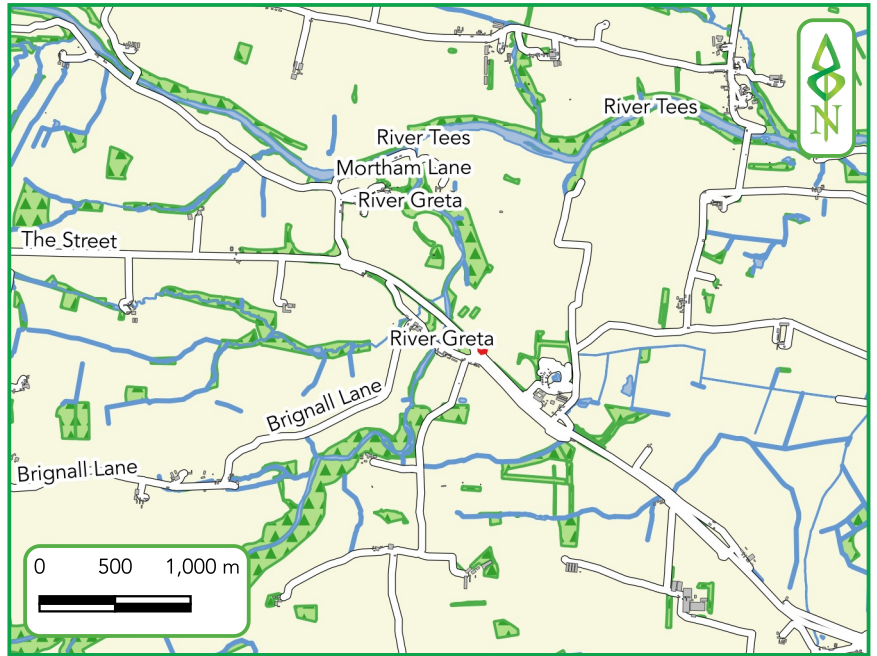


Figure 1 - Greta Bridge: Site location



Figure 2 - Greta Bridge: Extent of scheduled area Roman Fort showing location of proposed works

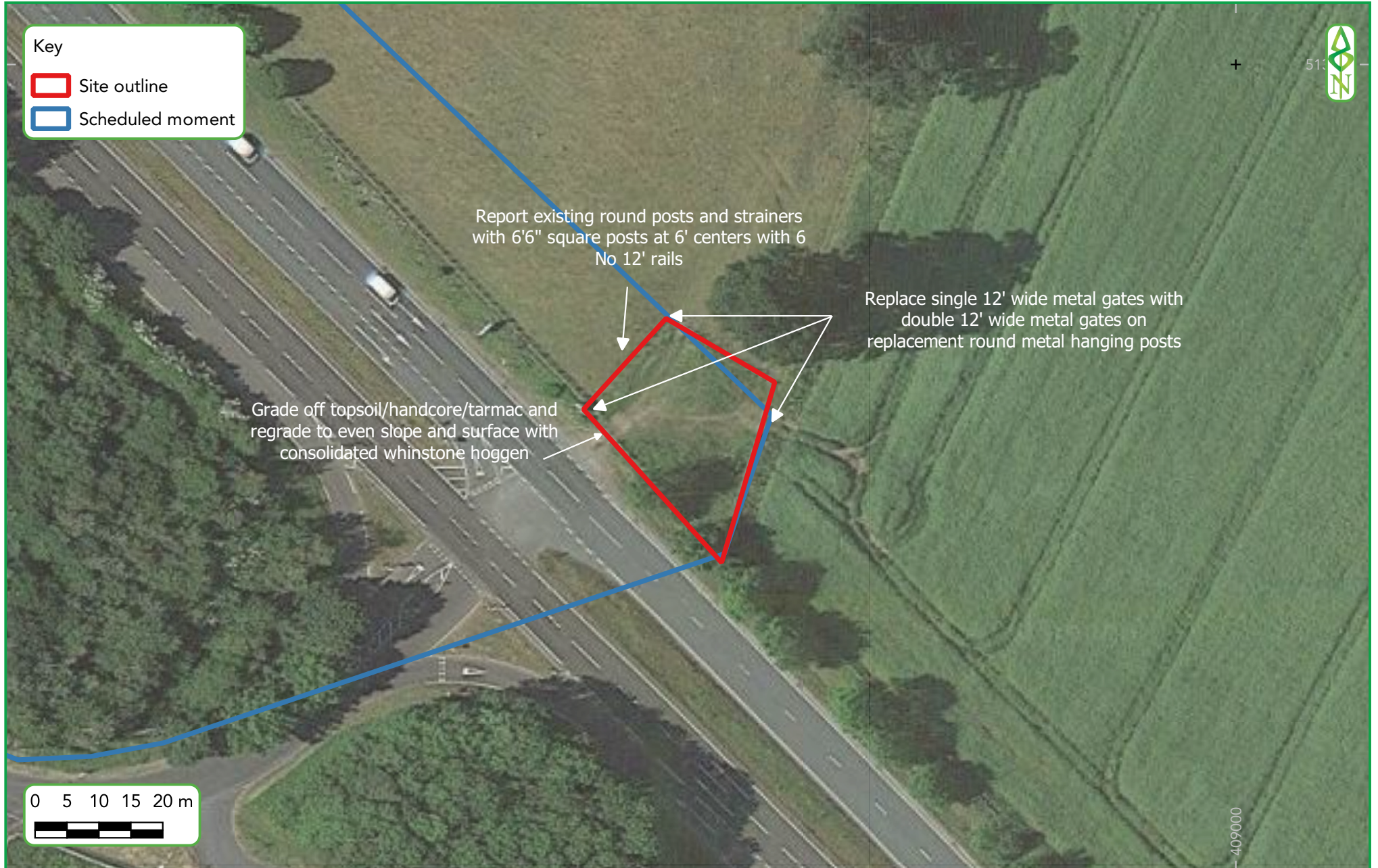


Figure 3 - Greta Bridge: Proposed access alterations showing site outline and extent of scheduled area