

1EW03 - Enabling Works Central AWHe Summary Report for Topographic Survey at Grim's Ditch Scheduled Monument (AC210/14) Site Code: 1C19GDMTO

MDL:

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1 Summary

- 1.1.1 The topographic survey, conducted between November and December 2020 at Grim's Ditch Scheduled Monument, Buckinghamshire (centred on NGR SP 89129 03572), was targeted on land required for the main rail alignment, which in this section will be in a cutting, as well as associated engineering works. The Site Code for the topographic investigation is 1C19GDMTO.
- 1.1.2 The topographic survey was implemented to address the Project Plan (Doc. ref. (1EW03-FUS-EV-REP-CS03_CL05-009409) and followed the methodology laid out in the Location Specific Written Scheme of Investigation (Document Ref: 1EW03-FUS-IFA-EV-REP-CS03_CL05-000001).
- 1.1.3 There are numerous lengths of ancient linear earthworks bearing the name Grim's Ditch, in areas as diverse as Dorset, Essex and Leeds. The Site is one of several extant sections within Buckinghamshire bearing the name 'Grim's Ditch', stretching north-eastwards across the county, from Bradenham to Berkhamsted. The date of Grim's Ditch is uncertain and a key objective of this work, through the HS2 scheme, is to provide further understanding of the date and use of this monument along with its impact on the landscape.
- 1.1.4 The segment of the Grim's Ditch Scheduled Monument that lies within the site is 145m long, is aligned northeast-southwest and has a visible upstanding bank on the west side. The survey demonstrates that the maximum dimension of the earthwork ditch is 13.64m wide at the top with its lowest point at 191.03mOD; and that the bank is a maximum 10.92m wide at the base with a maximum height of 198.12mOD. This gives a differential from the top of the extant bank to the base of the ditch, as seen at ground level, of 7.09m. An examination of the main northeast-southwest, longitudinal axis of the Monument shows that the monument is at a higher elevation of 198m OD at the northeast end sloping down to 190m OD to the south.
- 1.1.5 Four large concave areas of disturbance visible towards the northeast end of the monument. These are circular in plan and vary from 6.5m to 11.5m in diameter and are between 3.13m and 1.25m deep. They may result from quarrying / extraction or tree uprooting, although evidence suggests the disturbances took place prior to the tree growth.
- 1.1.6 The results were able to rapidly capture detailed data which can be viewed as either orthomosaic photographic representations or as 3-dimensional models. This preserved the status of the Monument at one given point in time. No anomalies were found between the surveyed data and the established record for the site, but greater accuracy was gained. Views can be generated dependant on the viewpoint and plans and profiles were extrapolated at a variety of scales and show the location of features and remains within the investigation area.
- 1.1.7 The various aspects of the monument, which can be seen through the topographic survey indicate that, although it is fossilised within the landscape, it has not remained a static unchanged feature.
- 1.1.8 The work has the potential to contribute to KC13 in terms of being able to demonstrate the impact Grim's Ditch has had on the landscape following its construction. It also has the potential to aid in the presentation of the Monument to the public which contributes to the identified Community Engagement objectives.