

CROSBY RAVENSWORTH TO COLBY PIPELINE,

Cumbria



Archaeological Watching Brief Statement



Oxford Archaeology North

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United Utilities

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NGR: NY 362134 513956 to

NY 366557 520400

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SUMMARY

United Utilities proposed the construction of a *c* 13km long transfer flow pipeline from Crosby Ravensworth through Maulds Meaburn and on to the south-west of Colby in Cumbria (NY 362134 513956 to NY 366557 520400). Following the results of previous desk-based research (OA North 2009), the Planning Archaeologist at Cumbria County Council (CCC), requested that a watching brief be undertaken during topsoil stripping activities in areas of previously undisturbed ground. The fieldwork was undertaken by Oxford Archaeology North (OA North), and completed between January and May 2011.

Two stone-line field drains and a lynchet were observed during the topsoil stripping activities. These features are not closely datable.

No recommendations are offered for further work in the sections of the easement subject to the watching brief.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Oxford Archaeology North (OA North) would like to thank United Utilities for commissioning the project. Thanks are also due to Waitings and AE Yates Ltd for facilitating the groundworks.

Andy Bates, Kelly Clapperton-Bates, Nate Jepson and Becky Wegiel undertook the fieldwork and wrote the report; Mark Tidmarsh produced the drawings. Alison Plummer managed the project, and also edited the report.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE PROJECT

- 1.1.1 United Utilities proposed the construction of a *c* 13km long transfer flow pipeline from Crosby Ravensworth through Maulds Meaburn and on to the south-west of Colby in Cumbria (NY 362134 513956 to NY 366557 520400; Fig 1). Following the results of previous desk-based research (OA North, 2009), the Planning Archaeologist at Cumbria County Council (CCC), requested that a watching brief be undertaken during topsoil stripping activities in areas of previously undisturbed ground and off the highway. The fieldwork was completed between January and May 2011.
- 1.1.2 This document presents the results of the watching brief and should be read in conjunction with the desk-based research report (OA North 2009). The research report presents a full historical and archaeological context for the pipeline route.

2. METHODOLOGY

2.1 WATCHING BRIEF

2.1.1 The archaeological watching brief was conducted along three separate areas of the pipeline. The most southerly section was a short section located at the north end of Maulds Meaburn (Fig 2b). The central section comprised the easement from Low Bridge Farm to Long Rigg Lane (Figs 2a and 2b, and the most northerly section was to the immediate west of Colby (Fig 2a). The topsoil was removed using mechanical excavator fitted with a 1.8m ditching bucket down to the subsoil or natural geology, which was systematically examined for archaeological remains.

2.2 ARCHIVE

- 2.2.1 The results of all archaeological work carried out will form the basis for a full archive to professional standards, in accordance with current English Heritage guidelines (*Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment*, 2006). The original record archive of the project will be deposited with the County Record Office in Carlisle.
- 2.2.2 The Arts and Humanities Data Service (AHDS) online database *Online Access to index of Archaeological Investigations* (OASIS) will be completed as part of the archiving phase of the project.

3. WATCHING BRIEF RESULTS

3.1 SOUTH SECTION

3.1.1 The mid-brown topsoil was removed to the depth of the natural boulder clay. No archaeological features or finds were observed within this section.

3.2 CENTRAL SECTION

3.2.1 Following topsoil stripping two north-east/south-west aligned stone-lined field drains were observed (Plate 1; Fig 2a). The drains are not closely datable. A putative lynchet was also present in the same area.



Plate 1: South-east facing section through one of the stone-filled field drains

3.3 NORTH SECTION

3.3.1 The topsoil was as seen in the southern section (mid-brown) and was removed to the depth of the natural boulder clay. No archaeological features or finds were observed within this section.

3.4 CONCLUSION

- 3.4.1 The stone-lined field drains and lynchet represent agricultural activity, and the lynchet would suggest this activity was prolonged. No date can be ascribed to these features other than to state they are typical of late-medieval to post-medieval agricultural practice. It is interesting to note that both of the villages (Maulds Meaburn to the south-west and Colby to the north-east) between which the pipeline easement lies, are of medieval origins, and medieval field patterns are still evident in the surrounding landscape.
- 3.4.2 No further archaeological work is recommended within the three sections of the pipeline easement.

4. BIBLIOGRAPHY

English Heritage, 2006 *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment*, London

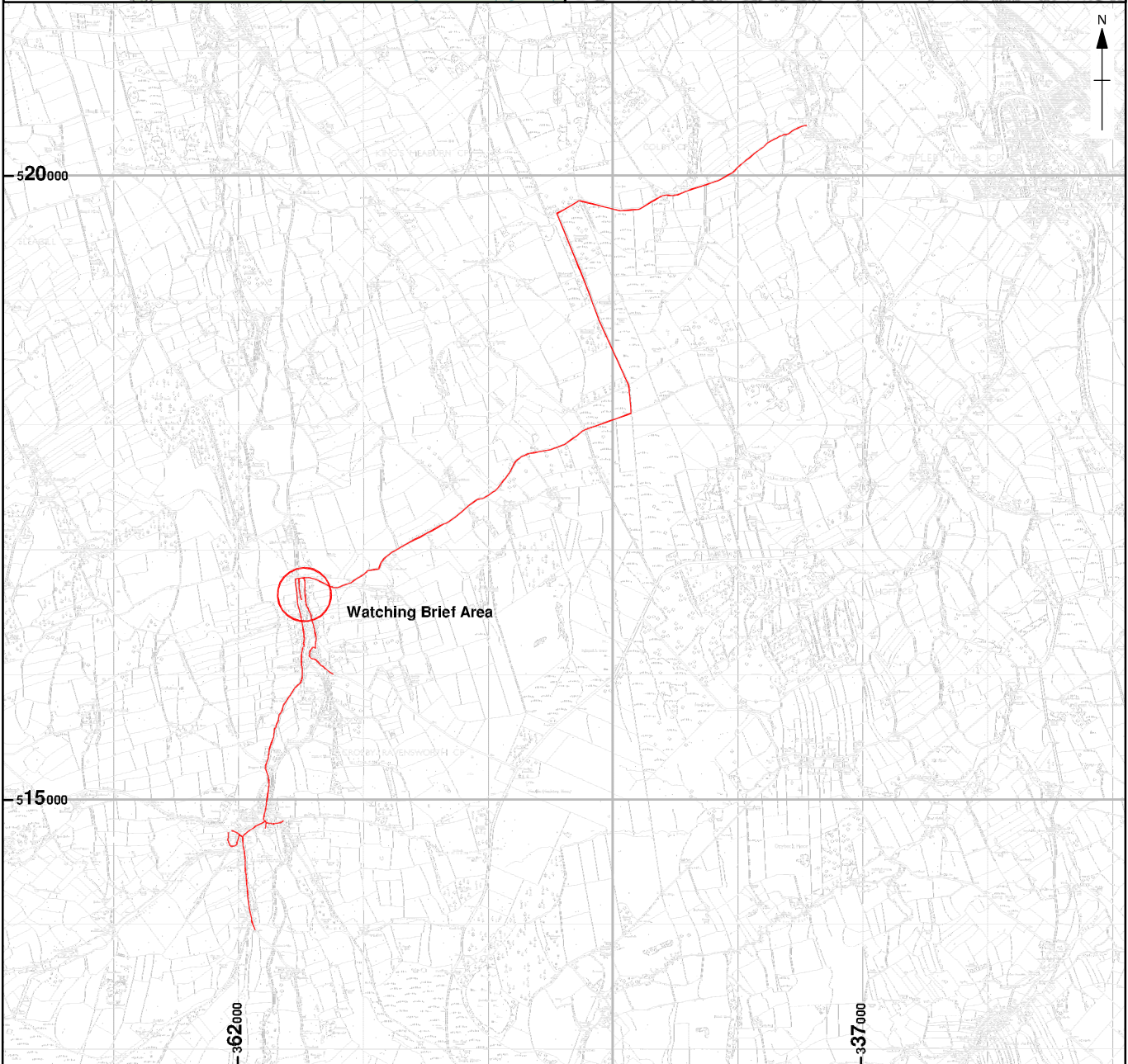
OA North, 2009 *Crosby Ravensworth to Colby Pipeline, Cumbria: Rapid Desk-based Research*, unpubl rep

5. ILLUSTRATIONS

Figure 1: Site location

Figure 2a: Plan of watching brief area, north

Figure 2b: Plan of watching brief areas, south



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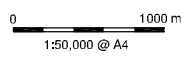


Figure 1: Site location

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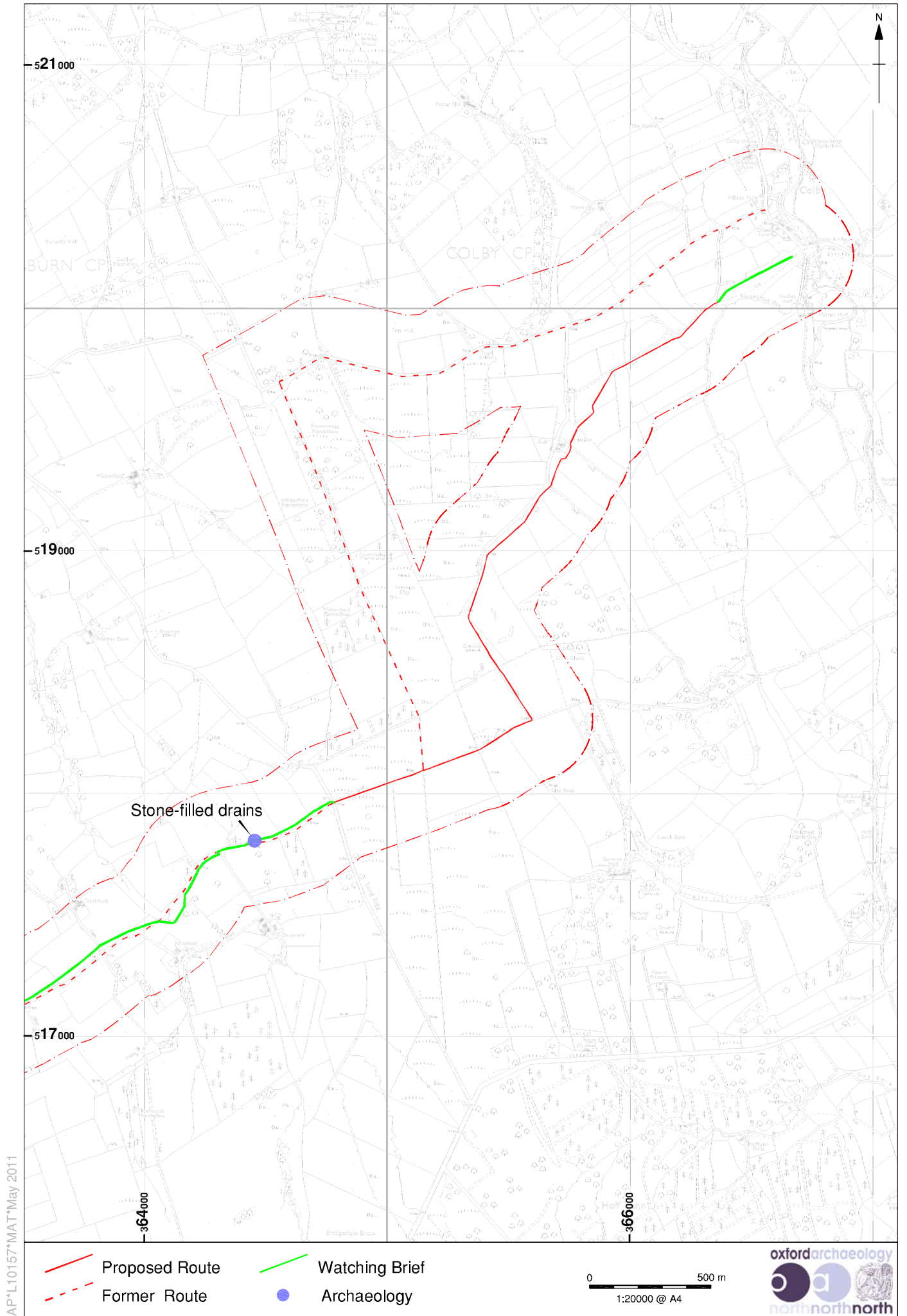
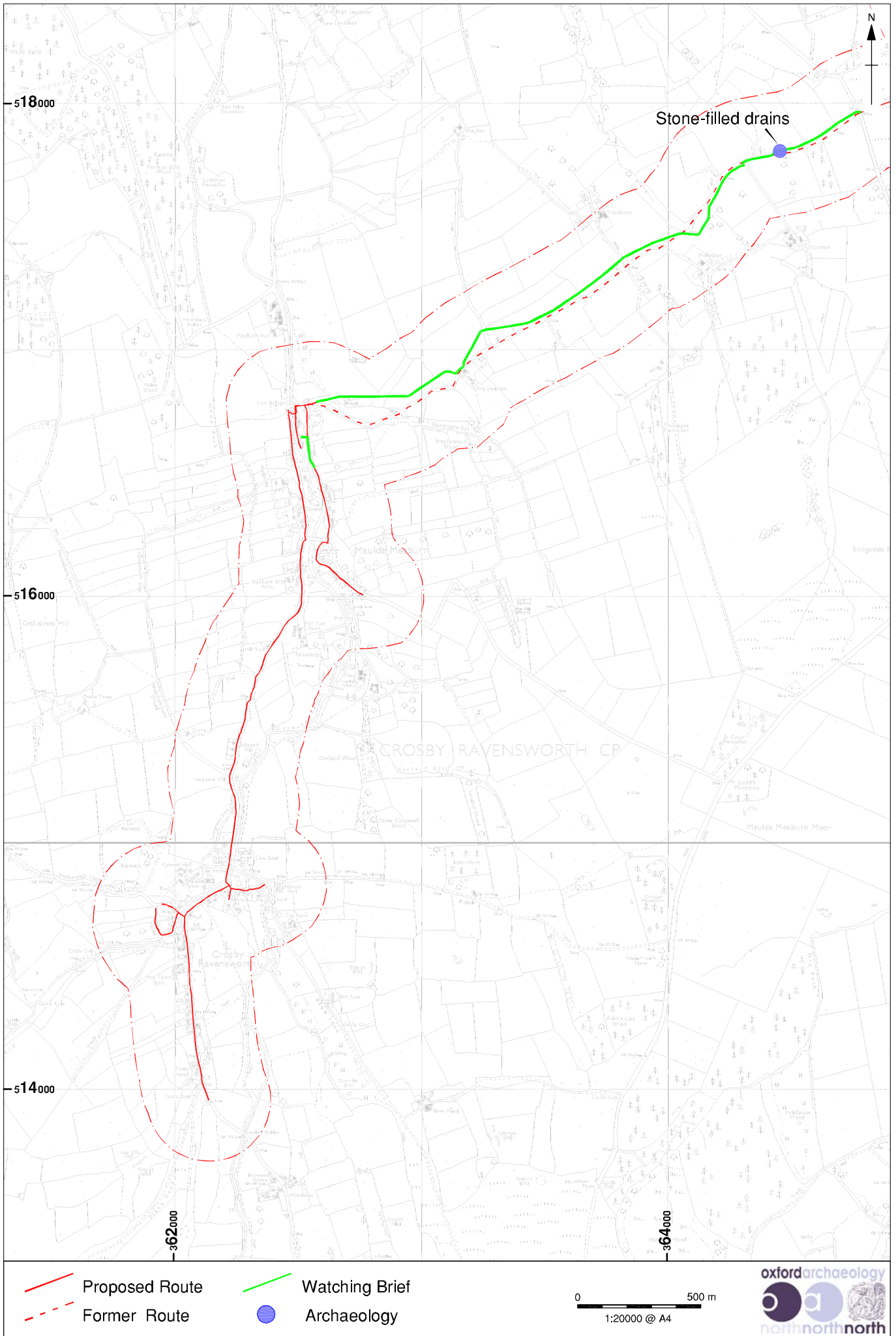


Figure 2a: Plan of Watching Brief areas, north



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Figure 2b: Plan of Watching Brief areas, south