

NYMNPA

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# Land at Crosscliff, Dalby Forest, Phase II

Written Scheme of Investigation

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Land at Crosscliff,  
Dalby Forest, Phase II  
Written Scheme of Investigation

Prepared on behalf of:

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## Purpose of document

This document has been prepared as a Written Scheme of Investigation for the second phase of Archaeological Watching Briefs on behalf of Forestry England, in association with the continuation of ground works at Crosscliff in Dalby Forest comprising construction of a solar panel support and cable trench for the solar array (20 panels) connected to approved art installation A Room That Sings. The purpose of this document is to provide an outline of the planned works, the aims and objectives of the watching brief, and the methodology to be employed.

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## Project summary

DV project code and type	SNG24 Written Scheme of Investigation
OASIS ID	digventu1-522006
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County	North Yorkshire
Planning Ref:	NYM/2023/0454
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DigVentures is aiming to reduce its per capita carbon emissions.

## Acknowledgements

We'd like to begin with a sincere thank you to Katie Thorn, the Heritage & Projects Forester for the Yorkshire Forest District of Forestry England and Martin Ovastar, for inviting us to undertake this work. Thanks are also due to Miles Johnson also to the North York Moors National Park Authority for advice and support.



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## 1 INTRODUCTION AND SCOPE

### 1.1 Project background

1.1.1 DigVentures has been appointed by Forestry England (hereafter “the Client”) to prepare a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for an Archaeological Watching Brief to be undertaken at Dalby Forest, North Yorkshire (NGR SE 88950 91550); hereafter “the site”), in compliance with requirements outlined within planning permission for the work (NYM/2023/0454).

1.1.2 Forestry England is undertaking construction of a solar panel support and associated cable trench of approximately 15m in length to supply power to the approved art installation, ‘A Room That Sings’, near Cross Cliff Car Park, Dalby Forest, (Figure 1).

1.1.3 The site sits in an area shown as a barrow cemetery in NYMNPA HER data (HER No. 72). There are no scheduled ancient monuments listed in the development area, however Dargate Dikes (List No. 1020212) lies just over 500m to the east of the proposed area of works. Due to the archaeological potential of the site, an archaeological watching brief is required during any ground clearance and excavation works at request of the North York Moors National Park Authority.

1.1.4 An earlier phase of archaeological monitoring was undertaken over the works to reduce the ground for the foundations of ‘A Room That Sings’ and associated access path in February 2024, which proved to be negative for material culture or archaeological features (Swain 2024).

1.1.5 No other archaeological investigations have taken place on the site. The works will involve the preparation of ground for the construction of the cable trench and excavation of the foundation footprint for the solar panel support structure (Figure 2). This WSI provides a description of the methods to be employed for an archaeological watching brief to be undertaken during the planned works across the site. The work will be undertaken under the guidance of the North York Moors National Park Authority Archaeologist Nick Mason, and will be carried out in accordance with the relevant *Standards and guidance* of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA 2014).

### 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), and the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists’ Universal Guidance for Archaeological Monitoring and Recording (2023). This WSI is to be submitted for approval prior to the commencement of the archaeological programme to Forestry England (FE) and the North York Moors National Park Authority (NYMNPA).

### 1.3 Site location and geology

1.3.1 The site is located at NGR SE 88950 91550, near the junction of two un-named forest roads to the south of Crosscliff Brow in the south-east of the North York Moors

National Park, approximately 8 miles from Scarborough (Figure 1). The site comprises of woodland plantations with associated tracks and access roads.

- 1.3.2 The site sits at approximately 230m above Ordnance Datum (aOD), sloping gently down to the south, west and east but much more steeply sloped to the north at Crosscliff Brow. The bedrock of the site is shown as sandstone of the Jurassic Lower Calcareous Grit Formation, with no superficial deposits recorded (British Geological Survey, 2024).
- 1.3.3 The site has shown little change throughout historical mapping sources, having formed part of the 'Staindale forest' plantation that developed on Allerston Low Moor at some point after 1910 (National Library of Scotland, 2024).

## 2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORIC BACKGROUND

### 2.1 Archaeology in Dalby Forest (Figure 1)

- 2.1.1 The site falls within the limits of Crosscliff Brow Barrow Cemetery (HER no. 72) which is a series of round barrows situated above Crosscliff Brow. Documentary evidence for a number of these barrows are also recorded in the HER (No.s 6094, 6095 and 6096), consisting of references to barrows marked on the 1958 Ordnance Survey six-inch to the mile maps that have since been destroyed by tree planting or road widening. This indicates the potential for the existence of unlocated below ground remains associated with partially destroyed or levelled barrows in the vicinity of the proposed area of works.
- 2.1.2 Just over 500m to the east lies the Scheduled Monument of Dargate Dikes (SM 1020212, HER 6069). The dykes consist of three ditches surviving up to 2m in depth and two associated banks up to 0.7m high, likely constructed in the Bronze Age. The scheduled monument listing details the site as forming "*part of a wider network of Prehistoric linear boundaries surrounded by nearby burial monuments*" (Historic England, 2024). The two remaining Prehistoric HER entries are both findspots (HER No.s 884 and 885) consisting of a flint axehead found near Dargate Dikes and a burial urn; the exact location of which is unknown. Given the association of Prehistoric burial monuments within the vicinity of this large linear landscape enclosure and associated nearby findspots, there is potential for further below-ground archaeology relating to these monuments existing near the location of the proposed works. There are no recorded Roman HER entries.
- 2.1.3 A single Medieval HER entry is recorded as a findspot (HER no. 881), referring to the discovery of a millstone during ploughing in 1957 to the northwest of Keeper's House Farm. Therefore, the likelihood of archaeology relating to the Medieval period in the vicinity of the proposed works is considered low.
- 2.1.4 There are three HER records listed as relating to the Post-Medieval period, two of which (HER No.s 13666 and 13667) relate to limestone processing; a limestone quarry and a lime kiln. The quarry is cut into the north face of Crosscliff Brow and is shown on the first edition 25-inch to the mile Ordnance Survey map (1889-1898), suggesting it must have been in use by this date. The limekiln no longer survives and was likely destroyed during the forest plantation; it appears on the first edition 25-inch to the mile Ordnance Survey mapping, but not the later six-inch series. The third HER entry (No. 15102) relates to an enclosure visible on the second edition 25-inch to the mile

Ordnance Survey mapping (1911-1915) but has since been destroyed by severe ploughing. The likelihood of encountering archaeology relating to the Post-Medieval period within the vicinity of the proposed area of works is considered low to moderate.

### 3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

#### 3.1 Watching Brief

3.1.1 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 civil engineering work in Dalby Forest. This will include:

- verifying the archaeological potential of the site, and
- identifying the potential for remains not anticipated by previous research or record.

3.1.2 Archaeological monitoring and recording will comprise the following:

- Observation of excavation works associated with the construction of the solar array for the new 'A Room That Sings'
- Monitoring of groundworks associated with the reduction of the ground level to lay a new service cable
- A digital and photographic record of any archaeological features that may be revealed during the excavations
- Preparation of a summary report.

3.1.3 If archaeological remains are uncovered that relate to the Bronze Age barrow cemetery located near to the site, their investigation and understanding will contribute to the aims and objectives of the Yorkshire Archaeological Research Framework (2007).

### 4 METHODOLOGY

#### 4.1 Observation of excavation works

4.1.1 The works involve the clearance and excavation of the site for the solar array of 7m by 10m, set back into the crop a minimum distance of 3 meters from the road edge to maintain the habitat along the verge. The area will be excavated to a depth of 200mm.

4.1.2 A 3m by 2m area for the base for the junction box which will be 200mm deep.

4.1.3 There will be a narrow 0.6m service trench laid across the forest road where it will meet the cabinet base near the 'Room that Sings', approximately 15m away. There will also be a small duct from the solar arrays to the cabinet of approximately 1m. These will not exceed 600mm in depth. The maximum depth will only be reached across the area previously disturbed to the same depth in the earlier phase of works for the forest road.

4.1.4 An archaeologist will attend to monitor and record all works related to the excavation of the solar panel array and service trenching, which are scheduled to take place in summer 2024.





4.1.5 In areas where the depth of the archaeological horizon is known from previous work to be lower than the proposed depth of impact (e.g. scrub and topsoil), it is advisable that work should be allowed to proceed without continuous monitoring within the agreed superficial levels, but that no works should proceed until an archaeologist has attended and recorded the reduced areas and released it back to the developer.

#### 4.2 Archaeological monitoring and recording

4.2.1 All work will comply to ClfA Universal guidance for archaeological monitoring and recording (2023a), ClfA Code of Conduct, and the ClfA Standard and Guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives (2014). The ClfA's Standard for archaeological monitoring and recording offers the definition of 'archaeological monitoring and recording' as a "*formal programme of observation, investigation and recording conducted during works carried out for non-archaeological reasons, where there is a possibility that archaeological deposits may be disturbed or destroyed.*" (ClfA, 2023b).

4.2.2 Archaeological monitoring will be carried out, subject to prior and adequate notification being given by the Client, on any groundwork that may have an impact on archaeological features and deposits. The excavation works are expected to begin in summer 2024, and are estimated to take approximately one to two days to complete. If the works need to be extended, this will be agreed in writing with Forestry England.

4.2.3 The works have been proposed to occur along the 7m x 10m footprint of a solar panel array structure and associated service trench approximately 15m in length (Figure 2). 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 Forestry England and the NYMNPA. The Client will afford reasonable access in order that all archaeological features and deposits revealed during excavations and groundwork can be investigated and recorded appropriately.

4.2.4 Access to the site can be arranged for representatives of Forestry England or the NYMNPA should they wish to make a site visit to inspect and monitor the archaeological investigation as it progresses. Variations to the WSI or method statement will be agreed in advance with the Client and the NYMNPA.

#### 4.3 Excavation methodology

4.3.1 The archaeologist will monitor any ground works until the final depth of excavation has been reached in all areas. All works will be undertaken in accordance with the standards set out within the WSI provided by DigVentures and the requirements of Forestry England. All machine excavation will be carried out under constant archaeological supervision using a toothless bucket wherever possible, although a toothed bucket may be required where heavy rooting is encountered, and will include visually scanning spoil for artefacts. Excavation will continue in this manner, removing material in successive spits until significant archaeological remains are encountered or, should buried archaeology be absent, the desired depth of excavation or natural horizon is reached.

- 4.3.2 The Client will afford reasonable access in order that all archaeological features and deposits revealed during excavations and groundworks can be investigated and recorded appropriately.
- 4.3.3 All recording will be undertaken using DigVentures paper recording system, supported by a digital photographic record. Any recorded features will also be surveyed using a GPS.
- 4.3.4 A sufficient sample of each feature type/deposit will be examined in order to establish the date, nature, extent and condition of any archaeological remains, encompassing the following percentage interventions:
- 50% of each intrusive feature (pits, postholes)
  - 10% 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).
- 4.3.5 Areas under archaeological observation will be surveyed using a GPS tied in with the Ordnance Survey. Variations to the WSI and Method Statement will be agreed in advance with the Client.
- 4.3.6 In the event that unexpected archaeological remains are revealed, the Client will be informed in order that the provisions of this WSI may be reviewed.
- 4.4 Finds and environmental samples
- 4.4.1 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.
- 4.4.2 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.
- 4.4.3 All artefacts from the watching brief will, as a minimum, be washed, marked, counted, weighed and identified following approval for extra post-excavation costs from the Client. 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.
- 4.4.4 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.

#### 4.5 Human remains

4.5.1 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, and the NYMNPA have been informed. Where development will unavoidably disturb them and additional team mobilisation has been agreed with the Client, 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.

4.5.2 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 subject to additional mobilisation costs which will be agreed with the Client. The final placing of human remains following analysis will be subject to the requirements of the Ministry of Justice Licence.

#### 4.6 Treasure

4.6.1 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. Advice on reporting and management of any Treasure finds will be sought from the appropriate Finds Liaison Officer.

## 5 POST-EXCAVATION AND REPORTING

### 5.1 Archaeological monitoring report

5.1.1 Within eight weeks of completion of all fieldwork, a draft report setting out the results will be produced and forwarded to the Client and the NYMNPA for approval. The archaeological monitoring report will be prepared in accordance with the guidance given by the ClfA (2023a), except where it is superseded by statements below.

5.1.2 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 research framework for the area. The report will comply with ClfA requirements and may include:

- a non-technical summary
- a site location plan to at least 1:10,000 scale and with an 8-figure grid reference
- the site code and dates of work carried out
- aims, objectives and methodology of the work undertaken
- a summary by category of the material types recovered
- a summary of the palaeoenvironmental evidence

- results and conclusions, including a consideration of the archaeological evidence from within the site set in its broader landscape and historic setting
- 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
- tabulation of contexts and archaeological features recorded
- statement of archive location

5.1.3 The preparation of the report may involve the following elements, depending on the agreement of additional costs should finds be discovered during the works:

- the conservation of appropriate material, including x-rays 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.

5.1.4 All specialist reporting will be undertaken by experienced specialists, including;

- Animal bone – Hannah Russ
- Environmental – Ellen Simmons
- Geoarchaeology – Joanne MacKenzie
- Prehistory pottery – Emily Edwards
- Roman pottery – David Griffiths
- Human bone – Malin Host
- Medieval / post medieval pottery – Stephanie Ratkái
- Glass – Cecily Cropper
- Lithics – Joshua Hogue
- Small finds and leather – Quita Mould

5.1.5 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.

5.1.6 An OASIS online record will be initiated at the start of work, and a copy of the OASIS form included with the final report within six months of leaving site. Where positive results are drawn for a project, a summary report will also be submitted to Forestry

England. A final copy of the report will be uploaded to OASIS within three months of approval by Forestry England and the NYMNPA.

## 6 ARCHIVE

### 6.1 Preparation and deposition

6.1.1 The complete project archive will be prepared in accordance with DigVentures' Guidelines for Archive Preparation and in accordance with best practice guidance (CIFA 2014; 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 NYMNPA will be deposited in an appropriate receiving institute.

6.1.2 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 2015).

### 6.2 Ownership

6.2.1 DigVentures agree that where any documents or materials (including, without limitation, any results, reports, surveys or assessments ("Outputs")) are provided to Forestry England or other public bodies under this Standard Brief, that Forestry England and those bodies are entitled to use the Outputs without any further payment for an indefinite period and for any purposes, including publication. DigVentures grants a non-exclusive, royalty-free, perpetual licence (with a right to sub-licence) to Forestry England and other public bodies to the extent mentioned above.

## 7 PROJECT MANAGEMENT, STAFFING AND PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS

### 7.1 Staffing

7.1.1 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 one of DigVentures' Project Managers, Stephanie Duensing, who will visit the fieldwork as appropriate to monitor progress and to ensure that the scope of works is adhered to. The appointed Project Manager and experienced archaeologist will be involved in all phases of the evaluation through to its completion.

7.1.2 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 following departmental managers under the overall direction of the Projects Director. Further information on DigVentures' external finds and environmental specialists can be provided on request.

7.2 Quality and professional standards

7.2.1 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.

7.2.2 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. CVs of core staff can be found in the Appendices.

## 8 INSURANCE, HEALTH AND SAFETY

8.1 Policy and Risk Assessment

8.1.1 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 (2018), 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.

8.1.2 A Risk Assessment will be undertaken in advance of fieldwork, under the direction of Stephanie Duensing (Programme Managers) and approved by Brendon Wilkins (Projects Director) in liaison with the Client. A copy will be given to Forestry England prior to the commencement of works. DigVentures holds public liability insurance (£5,000,000), employers liability insurance (£10,000,000) and professional indemnity insurance (£5,000,000).

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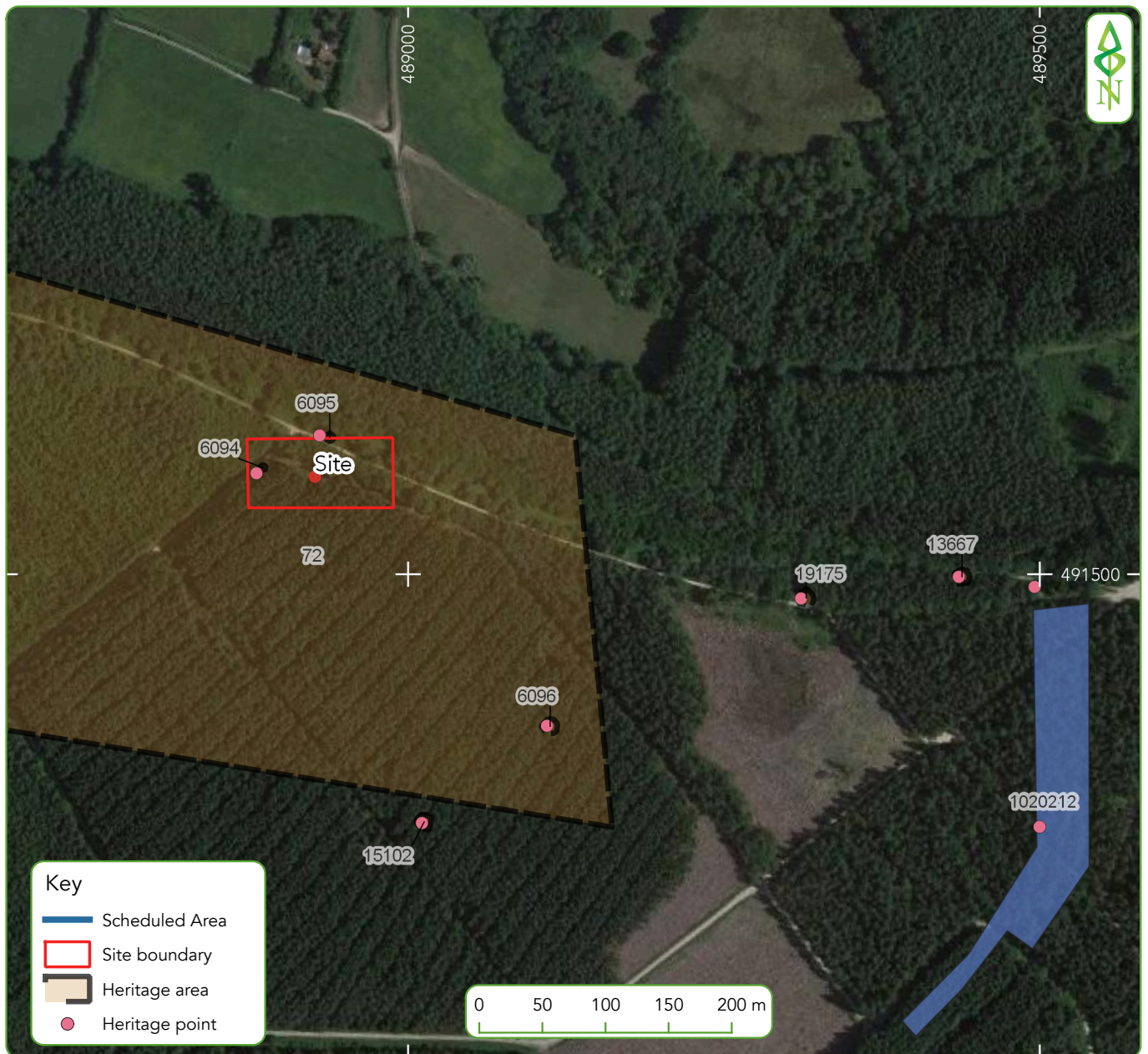


Figure 1. Site location



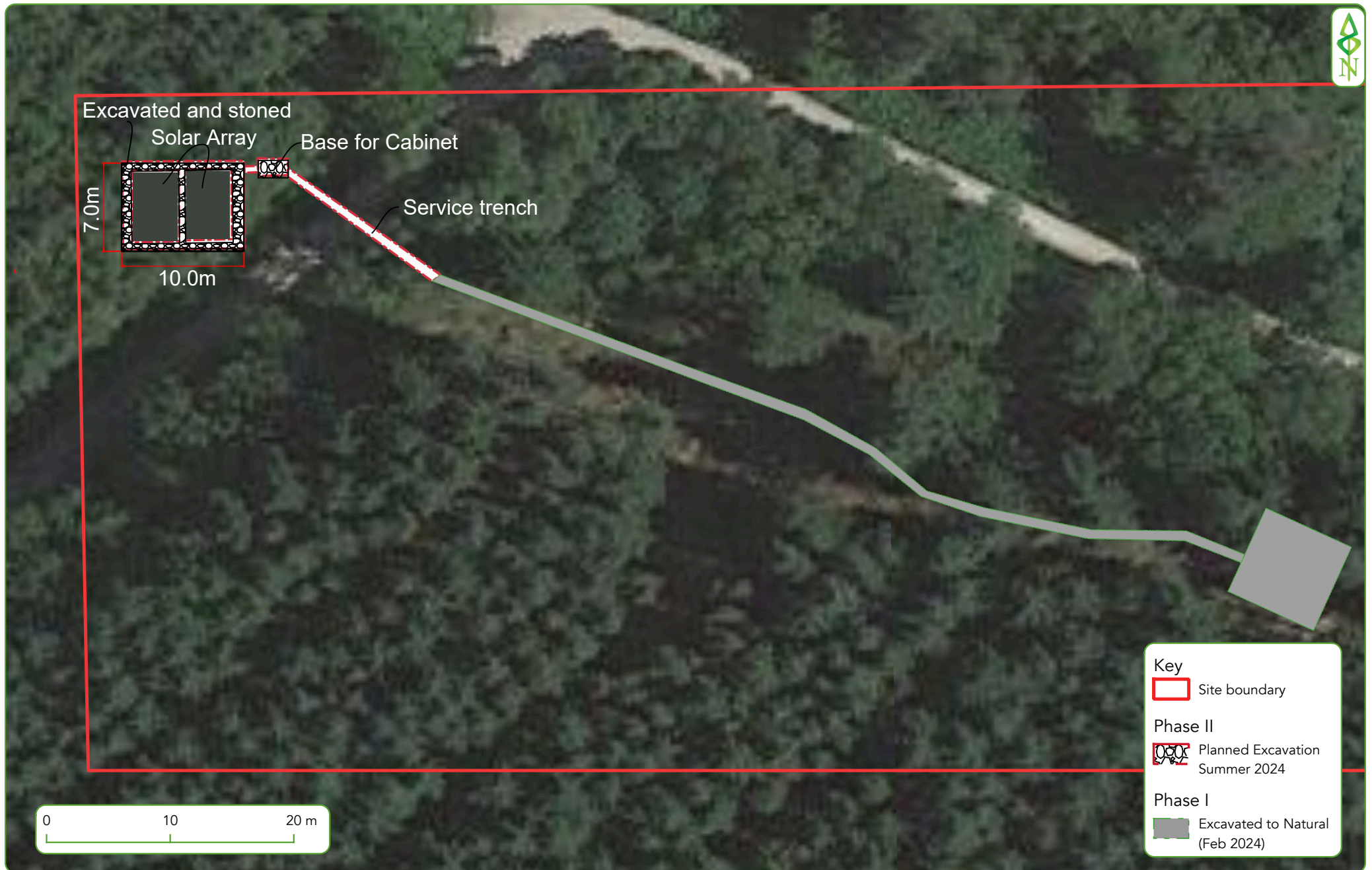


Figure 2. Areas of excavation

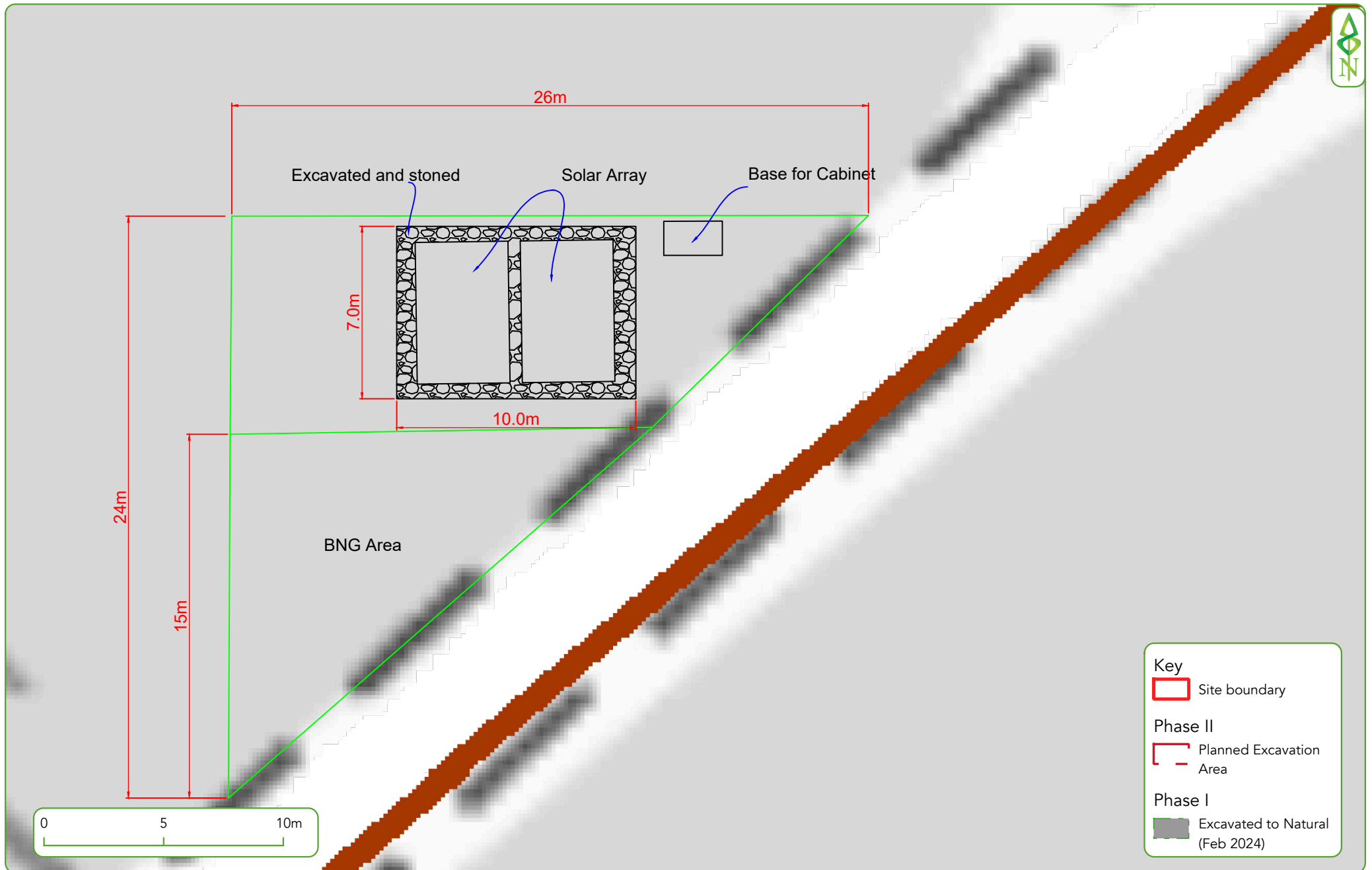


Figure 3. Detail of excavation area, image provided by Forestry England adapted by DigVentures