



# Design, Access, and Heritage Impact Assessment

Bigrigg Milestone

COA130886 / Rev 1

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amey consulting

## Document Control Sheet

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# 1. Introduction

## 1.1. Purpose of works

- 1.1.1 Amey have been commissioned by National Highways to assess and design improvements to the Grade II Listed Milestone east of Bigrigg (hereinafter referred to as 'the Milestone') (National Heritage List entry reference 1137121) and secure the relevant permissions to carry out the works (Ref 1).
- 1.1.2 On the 9<sup>th</sup> January 2019 Copeland Borough Council (CBC) contacted National Highways (then Highways England) informing National Highways that the Milestone had been damaged, likely from a vehicle collision.
- 1.1.3 The Milestone had been previously assessed as being of "adequate condition" in the 2016 Cultural Heritage Asset Management Plan (CHAMP) and had a brass plaque on one side (Ref 2). This scheme aims to improve the Milestone beyond the recorded 2019 condition, as well as assessing options to improve the Milestone setting.

## 1.2. Nature of proposal

- 1.2.1 The proposed works would look to restore the Milestone by recasting the missing plaques and repainting it to its original white with black detail as shown in Appendix A.
- 1.2.2 The Milestone would be mounted on a plinth measuring 600mm by 600mm and 200mm high being affixed by two steel pins which would also allow a more secure surface for the plaques to be attached.
- 1.2.3 It is proposed that surrounding vegetation will be cut back to the fence line and the gravel area surrounding the stone be extended to improve the setting and limit options for vegetation to cover the Milestone.

## 1.3. Description of asset

- 1.3.1 The Milestone is one of four Milestones listed along the southern portion of the A595, and is located at the junction of Dalzell Street and the A595. Recently, the Milestone was struck by a vehicle and toppled. Over time, the plaques have either fallen off or been removed leaving the stone in a poor condition (see plate 1).



Plate 1: Milestone from north east

## 1.4. Planning history

1.4.1 No planning applications or listed building consents for the Milestone have been lodged previously.

## 1.5. Consultation

- 1.5.1 A consultation exercise was carried out on 15<sup>th</sup> September 2021 with CBC, who highlighted the requirements for planning permission and Listed building Consent for the work.
- 1.5.2 The Milestone Society were consulted on 15<sup>th</sup> September 2021 and are supportive of the project and highlighted their guidance documents (Ref 3).
- 1.5.3 Historic England were consulted on 15<sup>th</sup> September 2021 with no response received to date. However, it should be noted that there is a precedent in place that any approvals associated with work to Grade II monuments are managed by the relevant local authority.



## 2. Asset significance

### 2.1. Description

- 2.1.1 The Milestone is a mid-Nineteenth century, sandstone block, broadly triangular in plan measuring 450mm in height sitting on a loose gravel. The stone measures approximately 400mm along each edge with a broadly flat top with chips from historic impacts and weathering present along its edges (see plates 2 – 4).



*Plate 2: Milestone from south east*



*Plate 3: Milestone from north east*





Plate 4: Milestone from north west

2.1.2 The second edition Ordnance Survey (OS) Map shows the Milestone sitting at its current position, and the plaque directions stated, as well guidepost information on the opposite side of the road (Figure 1).

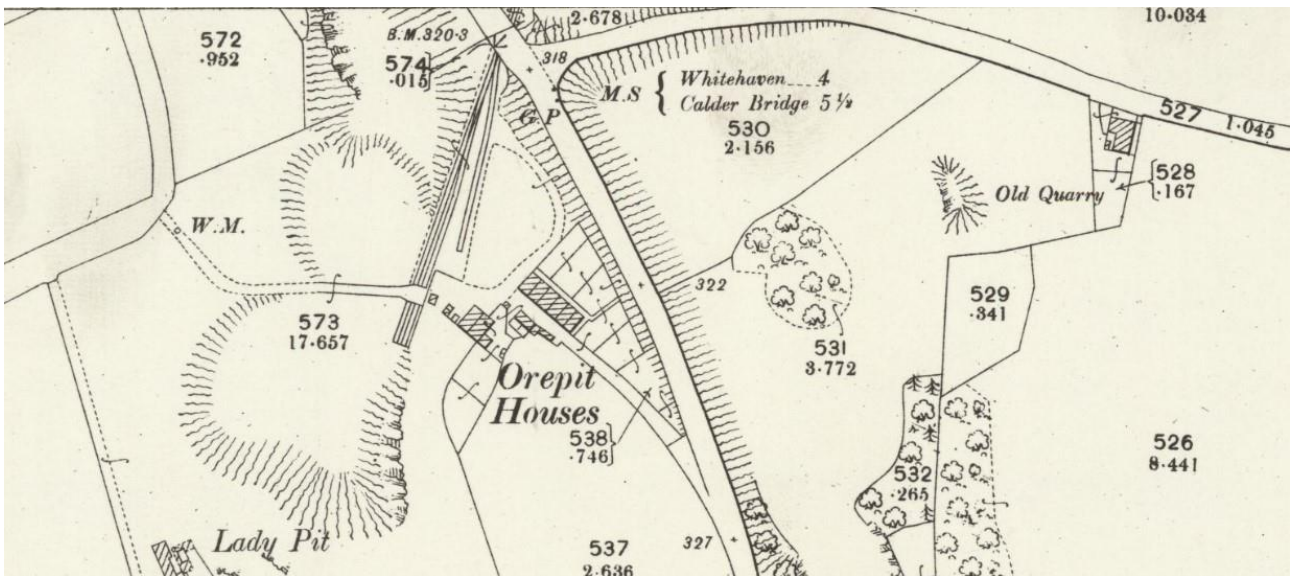


Figure 1: 1926 Second Edition OS Map

## 2.2. Interest

2.2.1 The Milestone highlights the historic land use of the road as part of the toll roads in Cumbria, with the roads in this portion of the county being the first to be designated turnpike roads. The roads were placed in control of a trust as part of the Whitehaven Harbour Act of 1739 (Ref 4). This was done to ensure the roads to Whitehaven Harbour were kept in good condition, and eventually extended to cover the surrounding road to Whitehaven.

2.2.2 The four milestones along this section of the A595 have a group value associated with them.

## 2.3. Significance

- 2.3.1 The Milestone is considered of moderate archaeological significance, as it is Grade II Listed and has a group value with the other Milestones located along the A595.



## 3. Impact on significance

### 3.1. Negative impacts

- 3.1.1 Moving the Milestone back and placing it on a modern plinth would reduce the authenticity of the feature, as it would no longer be in its original position or entirely of original construction.
- 3.1.2 The process of carrying out work will present an element of risk to the Milestone with works having the potential to cause damage to the feature.

### 3.2. Positive impacts

- 3.2.1 By restoring the Milestone with recast plaques and painting, the scheme would provide a direct improvement to the listed feature. These works would not only be in keeping with the stones style but would also increase the visibility of the feature to the public.
- 3.2.2 By relocating the Milestone slightly and placing it on a plinth, the proposed changes will provide better protection for the Milestone from further traffic collisions by enabling a better turning circle for large vehicles and, at the same time, will improve road safety at this location.

## 4. Summary

- 4.1.1 Placement of the repainted, restored Milestone on a plinth will improve the visibility and profile of the Milestone for the public.
- 4.1.2 The proposed new location for the Milestone and plinth have been chosen to ensure it is as close as possible to the original position, while at the same time improving road safety and providing a safer location for the Milestone, thereby minimising the risk of further collisions.
- 4.1.3 Work will be carried out by suitably qualified, trained, and experienced operators with the condition of the Milestone monitored throughout the duration of the works. Work will stop if potential for further damage is noted.

## 5. References

Ref 1 - Historic England <https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1137121>, accessed 12/10/2021

Ref 2 - Mouchel, (2016). Highways England Area 13, Cultural Heritage Asset Management Plan

Ref 3 - Milestone Society <https://www.milestonesociety.co.uk/caring-for-or-repairing-milestones/> accessed 12/10/2021

Ref 4 - Whitehaven Harbour Act (1739) <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukla/2007/1/enacted> accessed 12/10/2021