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Northamptonshire County Council

Northamptonshire Archaeology

**An archaeological watching brief at
Canwick Sewage Treatment Works,
Canwick, Lincolnshire
January – March 2009**

NGR SK 997 702

SITE CODE: CTW09

Accession No: LCNCC: 2009.33



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June 2009

Report 09/058

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QUALITY REPORT FORM

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PROJECT DETAILS

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OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project name	An archaeological watching brief at Canwick Sewage Treatment Works, Washingborough Road, Canwick, Lincolnshire	
Short description	An archaeological watching brief was undertaken during groundworks connected with the laying of a new pipeline at Canwick Sewage Treatment Works, Washingborough Road, Canwick, Lincolnshire. A disturbed stratigraphy was revealed throughout the development area. No archaeological deposits or artefacts were present.	
Project type	Watching Brief	
Site status	Sewage treatment works	
Previous work	Archaeological watching brief (Jordan, 2004)	
Current Land use	Industrial	
Future work	Unknown	
Monument type/ period		
Significant finds		
PROJECT LOCATION		
County	Lincolnshire	
Site address	Canwick sewage treatment works, Washingborough Road, Canwick, Lincolnshire	
OS Easting & Northing	SK 997, 702	
Height OD		
PROJECT CREATORS		
Organisation	Northamptonshire Archaeology	
Project brief originator	Historic Environment Officer, Lincolnshire County Council	
Project Design originator	Northamptonshire Archaeology	
Director/Supervisor	David J. Leigh	
Project Manager	William A. Boismier	
Sponsor or funding body	Anglian Water	
PROJECT DATE		
Start date	January 2009	
End date	March 2009	
ARCHIVES	Location (Accession no.)	Content (eg pottery, animal bone etc)
Physical		
Paper	The Collection Museum, Lincoln Accession No: LCNCC: 2009.33	Watching brief forms (9) Colour slides (18) black and white contact prints (18) Digital photographs (74)
Digital	As above	Report text and figures

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**AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF AT
CANWICK SEWAGE TREATMENT WORKS, WASHINGBOROUGH ROAD,
CANWICK, LINCOLNSHIRE
JANUARY – MARCH 2009**

Abstract

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Northamptonshire Archaeology between January and March 2009 during groundworks connected with the laying of a new pipeline at Canwick Sewage Treatment Works, Washingborough Road, Canwick, Lincolnshire. A disturbed stratigraphy was revealed throughout the area of archaeological observation. No archaeological deposits or artefacts were present.

1 INTRODUCTION

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Northamptonshire Archaeology between January and March 2009 during groundworks connected with the laying of a new pipeline at Canwick Sewage Treatment Works, Washingborough Road, Canwick, Lincolnshire (NGR SK 997 702: Fig 1; Plate 1). The work was carried out on behalf of Anglian Water following a specification produced by Northamptonshire Archaeology.

2 BACKGROUND

2.1 Location and Topography

The development area is located approximately 2km south-east of the City of Lincoln and is sited on the southern side of the River Witham on ground rising to the south. Areas of concrete hard-standing extend across much of the development area along with buildings and structures connected with the sites primary function. A number of areas of low scrubby grass area also contained within the development area. The underlying geology has been mapped by the British Geological survey of Great Britain as comprising Alluvium (BGS website).

2.2 Historical Background

The development area is located to the south-east of the City of Lincoln in an area of archaeological interest. The Lincolnshire Historic Environment Record (LHER) was consulted so that the archaeological potential of the development area and its environs could be identified. A number of sites of archaeological interest are recorded. Of these a number are situated in close proximity to the development area. These include a Bronze Age barrow cemetery approximately 600m to the north-east of the development area, Historic Environment Number (HER) 60930, which survives as low earthworks and as a series of crop-marks. Approximately 500m to the north-east fieldwalking and trail trenching has identified the site of a possible

Romano-British building. Finds recovered include pottery sherds and fragments of ceramic building material (HER 60463). Immediately adjacent to the development area on its southern boundary a middle Bronze Age cinerary urn (HER 61503), an Iron Age ring ditch (HER 63642) and a scatter of Romano-British roof tiles (HER 63643) have been recorded. A full list of the information held by the LHER in the vicinity of the development area is provided below.

HER No:	NGR:	Details:
60463	TF 0020 7051	Romano-British artefact scatter
60468	TF 0042 7052	Scatter of post-medieval pottery
60929	TF 0052 7056	Site of Shepwash Grange medieval
60930	TF 0020 7070	Bronze Age barrow cemetery
61473	TF 006 707	Site of possible medieval wharf
61474	SK 9968 7022	Site of Holy well and conduit, medieval – post medieval
61488	SK 990 730	Find spot of medieval pipkin handle
61489	SK 9929 7002	Find spot of Roman bronze coin (72AD – 78AD)
61498	SK 991	medieval moulded stone fragment recovered during groundworks
61503	TF 000 703	Middle Bronze Age cinerary urn
63640	TF 0023 7041	medieval – post medieval limekilns, discovered during trial trenching along the route of the proposed Lincoln Eastern Bypass.
63642	TF 0005 7016	Iron Age ring ditch discovered during trial trenching along the route of the proposed Lincoln Eastern Bypass
63643	TF 0000 7006	Romano-British artefacts scatter, identified during trial trenching on the proposed route of the Lincoln Eastern Bypass. 11 fragments of tile were recovered.
63645	SK 9991 6994	Undated ditches and pits recorded during trial trenching along the route of the proposed Lincoln Eastern Bypass.
63646	SK 9978 6974	Quarry, post-medieval – modern, discovered during trial trenching for the proposed Lincoln Eastern Bypass.
65444	TF 00319 68919	Find spot of Neolithic/Bronze Age lithic implement recovered during fieldwalking along the route of the proposed Lincoln Eastern Bypass.
65450	TF 00254 70162	Enclosure or field system, undated. Identified during geophysical survey along the route of the proposed Lincoln Eastern Bypass.

Previous work in the immediate vicinity of the development area has comprised a programme of fieldwork connected with the proposed Lincoln Eastern Bypass. A watching brief carried out within the development area (Jordan, 2004) during extension work to the sewage treatment plant

(fig 3) revealed modern deposits, no archaeological deposits were present. The site is currently in use by Anglian Water Services for the treatment of sewage.

3 OBJECTIVES AND METHODOLOGY

The aims of the watching brief were to:

- ◆ Observe the groundworks connected with the laying of the new pipeline, and to record all archaeological deposits uncovered.
- ◆ Determine the date, character, state of preservation and depth of any archaeological deposits observed and to retrieve all datable artefacts.
- ◆ Create a permanent archive and record of the archaeological information collected during the course of the fieldwork and analysis.

The fieldwork comprised six visits to the site during the groundworks for the new pipeline. The groundworks were carried out using a 360° tracked excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket. The new pipeline extends across the site on a north-east to south-west alignment. The initial brief for the archaeological work required an intensive watching brief during all groundworks for the new pipeline. However following a site inspection from the Historic Environment Officer it was agreed that a series of auger holes to compliment the results of the archaeological recording work completed at that stage would be sufficient to conclude the archaeological recording.

A photographic record in both black and white negative and colour slide was kept, with supplementary photographs in digital format. The written record used Northamptonshire Archaeology pro-forma sheets. The watching brief was carried out in accordance with the standards and guidelines for an archaeological watching brief (IfA 2008).

4 THE RECORDED EVIDENCE

Three phases of archaeological observation were carried out. These comprised the excavation of a temporary storage area and access road, temporary footpaths and observations along the pipeline route.

4.1 The temporary storage area and access road (Fig 3; Plates 2 - 4)

Throughout the area of temporary storage and the access road hardcore had already been laid prior to the present development. Subsequently a low scrubby grass had re-colonised some of the area.

A disturbed stratigraphy was revealed across all of the new storage area and access road. This comprised pale grey/brown fragmented stone with pockets of crushed modern ceramic building material. This was partially overlain by up to 0.10m of grey/brown silt loam, containing occasional irregular stones and small fragments of modern ceramic building material. The upper surface of this was covered in a low scrubby grass.

No archaeological deposits or artefacts were present within the area of temporary storage and the access road.

4.2 The temporary footpaths (Fig 3; Plates 5 & 6)

The temporary footpaths were located on the southern boundary of a grassed island contained within the permanent access road in the sewage plant.

An examination of the stratigraphic sequence revealed grey/brown silt loam, up to 0.15m thick, containing numerous fragments of crushed modern ceramic building material and occasional small pockets of fragmented tarmac extending the full depth of the excavation. The natural substratum was not revealed.

No archaeological deposits or artefacts were present in the area of the temporary footpaths.

4.2 The pipeline route (Fig 3; Plates 7 - 10)

Archaeological observations were taken along the route of the new pipeline and were supplemented by a series of four auger holes in order to better inform regarding the stratigraphic sequence along the route of the pipeline. The route of the pipeline encompassed two areas covered by low grass. These extended westwards from the eastern terminus of the route.

An examination of the stripped area revealed mid grey/brown silt loam, containing numerous fragments of modern ceramic building material and fragments of corroded modern objects along with occasional pockets of red/brown sand. This was sealed by grey/brown silt loam, up to 0.15m thick, containing occasional rounded stones and numerous fragments of modern ceramic building material.

In the western terminus of the route a test pit was excavated by the contractors in order to locate the line of the existing pipeline. This was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.30m and revealed grey/brown silt loam, containing numerous granite chippings and inclusions of soft grey/black peaty silt. This was overlain by pale yellow brown fragmented stone within a yellow/brown silt loam matrix, up to 0.30m thick.

Auger holes were excavated along a section of the route in order to gain a better understanding of the stratigraphic sequence along the new pipeline route where it was thought that undisturbed soils may be present. Four holes were excavated to a maximum depth of 1.2m at which point the auger appeared to encounter a compact layer which could not be penetrated. This revealed crushed modern ceramic building material within a matrix of mid grey/brown silt loam extending for the full depth of the auger holes.

No archaeological deposits or artefacts were present within the examined areas of the pipeline route.

5 THE SITE ARCHIVE

The project has generated a small archive comprising:

RECORD	NUMBER
Watching brief forms	2
Colour slides	20
Black and white contacts and negatives	20
Digital photographs	31

The archive will be deposited with The Collection museum in Lincoln under the accession number LCNCC: 2009.33.

6 CONCLUSIONS

The results of the watching brief show that disturbed soils are present throughout the areas of archaeological observation. This may be attributed to the concentration of industrial activity that has taken place due to the nature of the sites function. Based on the results of the watching brief it may be concluded that the area of the site north of the pipeline route has a very low archaeological potential. However it cannot be said for certain that the southern boundary of the site on higher ground does not contain significant archaeological deposits.

No archaeological deposits or artefacts were present within the watching brief area. The watching brief was carried out in favourable conditions and the results are considered to be reliable.

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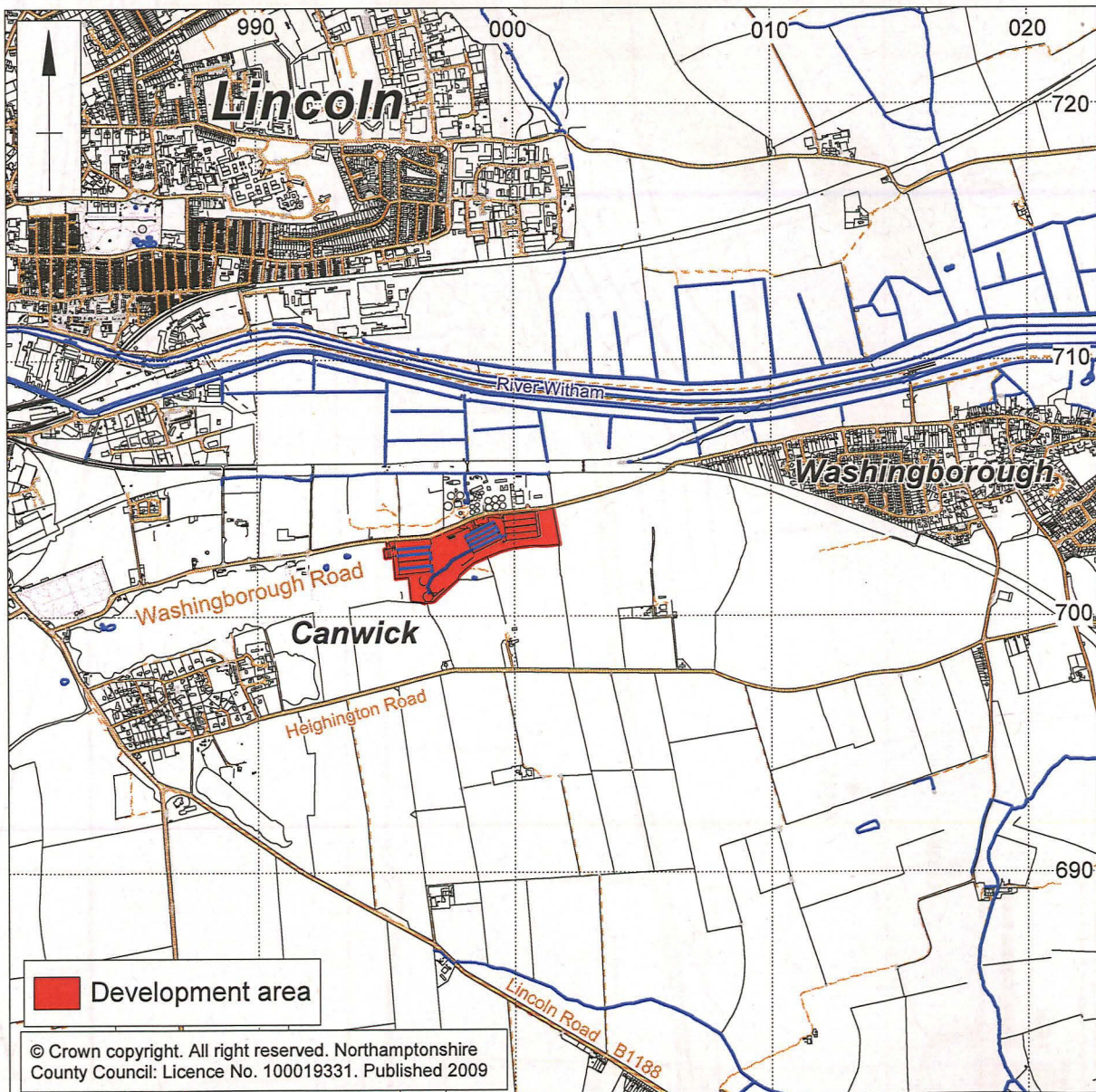
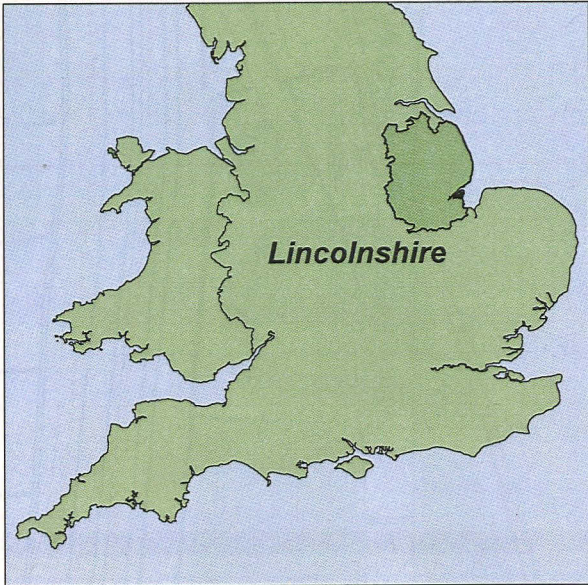
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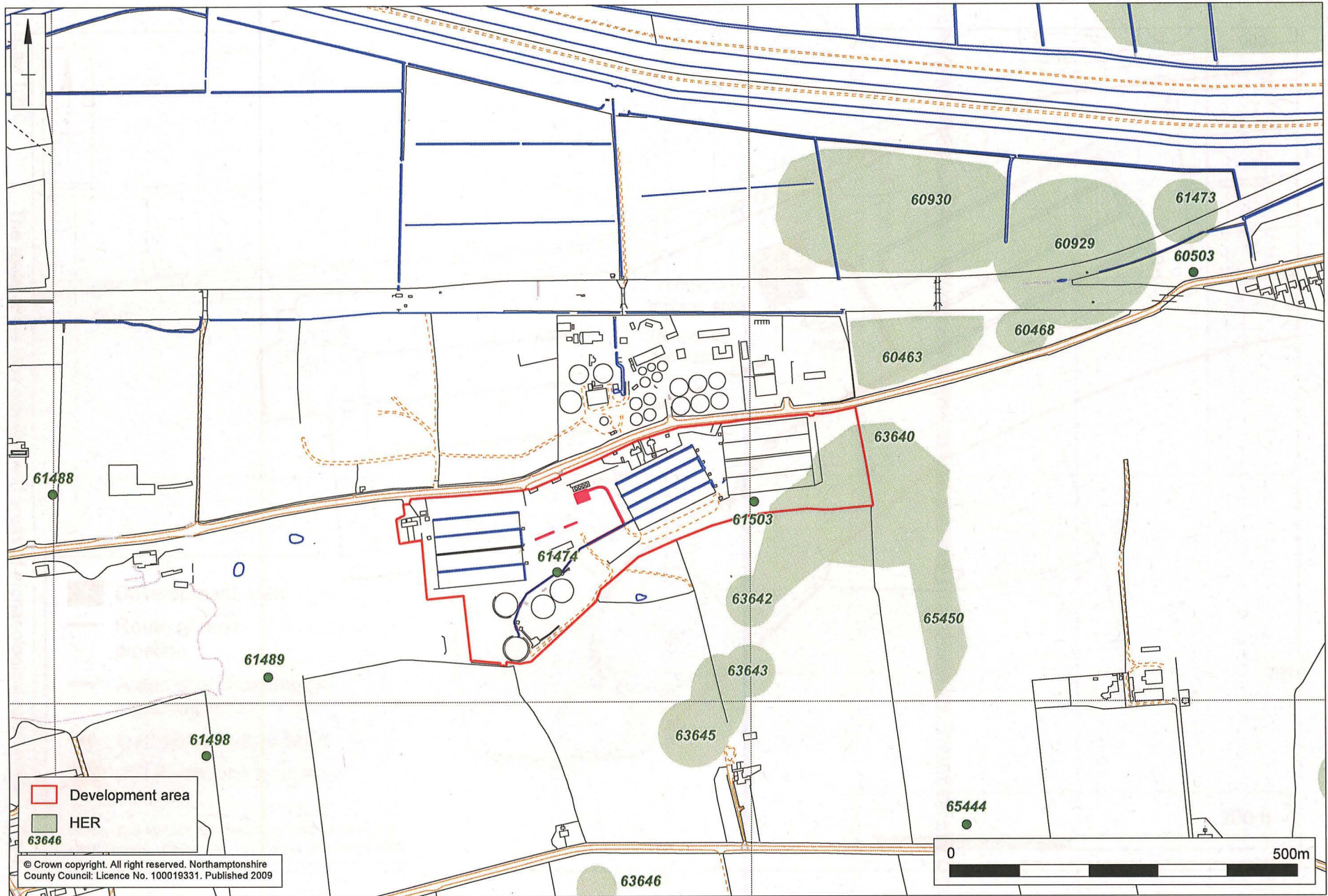
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Scale 1:2500

Location of the development area Fig 1

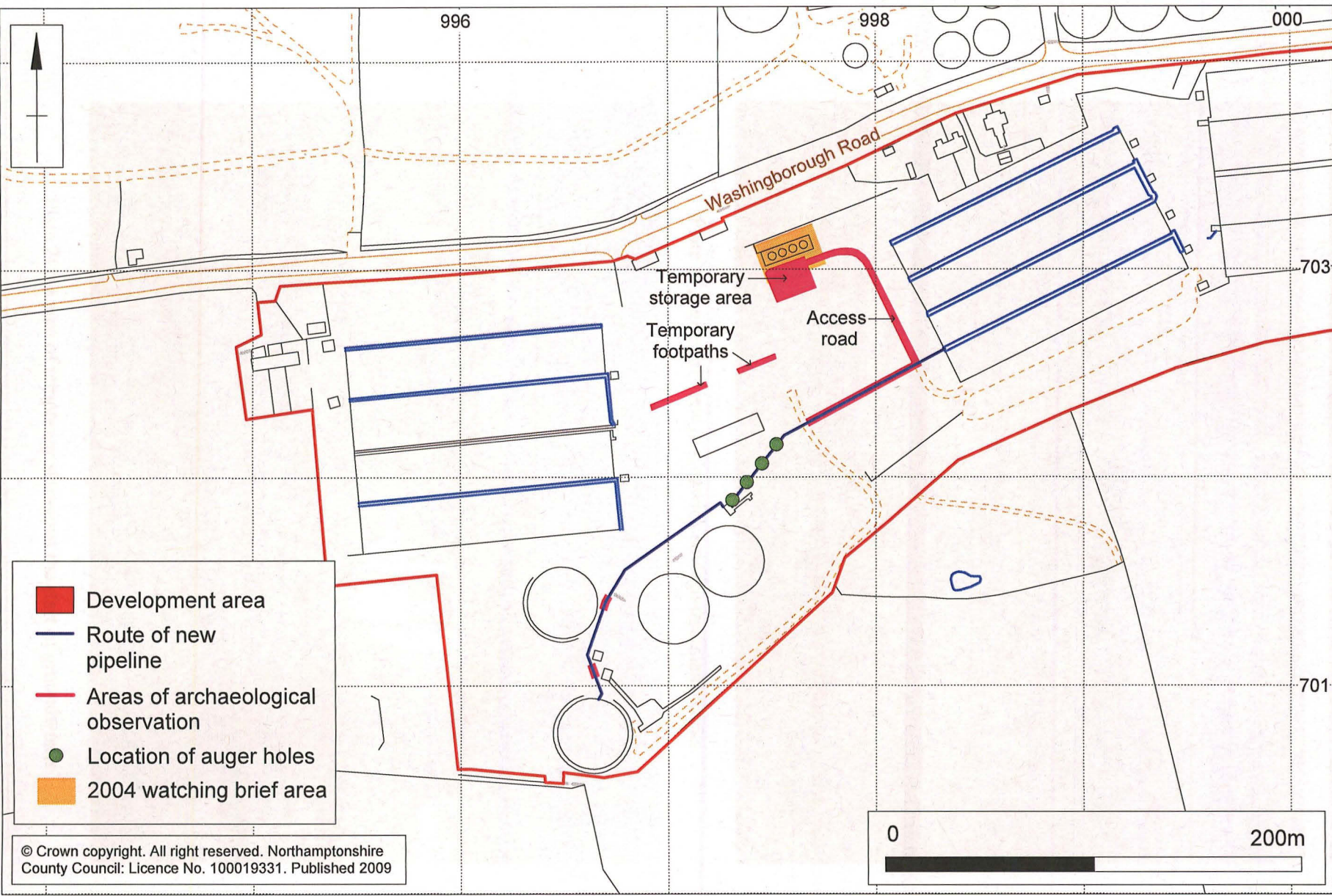


Scale 1:5000

The development area and sites listed in the Lincolnshire Historic Environment Record Fig 2

Scale 1:250

The route of the new pipeline and areas of archaeological observation



- Development area
- Route of new pipeline
- Areas of archaeological observation
- Location of auger holes
- 2004 watching brief area

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Fig 3

CANWICK SEWAGE TREATMENT WORKS



Plate 1: A general view of Canwick sewage treatment works



Plate 2: the area of temporary storage at the start of groundworks

CANWICK SEWAGE TREATMENT WORKS



Plate 3: The temporary storage area during groundworks



Plate 4: The temporary access road during groundworks

CANWICK SEWAGE TREATMENT WORKS



Plate 5: The temporary footpaths at the start of groundworks



Plate 6: The temporary footpaths during groundworks



Plate 7: The eastern terminus of the pipeline route during groundworks



Plate 8: The pipeline route during groundworks



Plate 9: The stratigraphic sequence along the pipeline route



Plate 10: The test pit, western terminus of the pipeline route