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# Watching brief to the south of Kirkby La Thorpe Boston Road Lincolnshire



**Archaeological  
Watching Brief Report**

oxfordarchaeology



easteasteast

July 2010

**Client: Anglian Water**

OA East Report No: 1196

OASIS No: oxfordar3-79662

NGR: TF 0965 4568

Archaeological Watching Brief Report

Lincolnshire County Council

14 OCT 2010

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**Watching brief to the south of Kirkby La Thorpe, Boston Road, Lincolnshire**

*Watching Brief*

*Site Code: JKLT10*

*Accession No.: LCNCC: 2010.65*

*Date of Works: 23rd April 2010 and 21st-23rd June 2010*

*Report No: 1196*

*Excavators: Rob Atkins and John Diffey*

*Client: Anglian Water*

*Report Date: July 2010*

*Updated: September 2010*

Watching first to the south of Kirby's Thorne, Boston Road, Lincolnshire

Watching East

Watching West

Watching North

Watching South

Watching East

Watching West

Watching North

Watching South

Watching East

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### **Summary**

*On the 23rd of April 2010, the 21st to 23rd of June 2010, 27th and 29th of July 2010, Oxford Archaeology East carried out an archaeological watching brief on behalf of Anglian Water on land to the south of Kirkby La Thorpe, Boston Road, Lincolnshire (TF 0965 4568). The work was carried out in response to a Brief issued by Lincolnshire County Council Historic Environment Team dated 27/10/09 (LCC 09). The majority of the pipeline was laid prior to archaeological monitoring, however, four trenches (two at each end of the pipeline) were monitored. No archaeological features or artefacts were found during this work.*





## 1 LOCATION AND SCOPE OF WORK

- 1.1.1 The site is located in North Kesteven district in the parish of Kirkby la Thorpe.
- 1.1.2 A new water supply is required to feed a proposed new factory to be built outside Kirkby La Thorpe, directly to the south of the A17 and adjacent to the west of the slip road (Fig. 1). As a consequence a new water pipe was to be routed between existing mains water supplies, a total of approximately 215 metres. Due to the high archaeological potential of the area through which the pipe was laid Lincolnshire County Council Historic Environment Team (LCC HET) required archaeological monitoring (watching brief) to take place along its length and prepared a Brief for the work dated 27/10/09 (LCC 09). It was proposed that the pipeline would be constructed using a mixture of open cut and directional drilling with a 3m wide easement.
- 1.1.3 Due to an administrative error, most of the proposed work by Anglian Water was carried out during March 2010, prior to archaeological monitoring. Oxford Archaeology East was subsequently appointed in April 2010 to monitor the remaining work and prepared a Specification for the work for approval by LCC HET (Atkins 2010).
- 1.1.4 Work on the pipeline that took place during March 2010 was not observed by an archaeologist. This work comprised a combination of directional drilling and open cut. Directional drilling was used at the southern end of the site and under the A17 Boston Road. A small trench was dug to connect the new pipe to the existing water main close to the southern slip road onto the A17, this was subsequently re-excavated and observed by an archaeologist (Trench 1, section 4.1). A second small trench was dug to connect the new pipe to the water main in the northern slip road onto the A17. The remainder of the pipe was laid in an open cut trench along an earthen trackway following the edge of a field to within 9m of the main pipe to which it was later connected (Trench 2, section 4.2). Further observation was carried out on the capping off of water mains at the north and south ends of the new pipeline

## 2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1.1 The Historic Environment Record of Lincolnshire County Council ([www.heritagegateway.org.uk](http://www.heritagegateway.org.uk) accessed 8th July 2010), shows that the subject site lies in an area of high archaeological importance. There is extensive cropmark evidence within the area surrounding the watching brief site. Late Romano-British field enclosures from the 3rd century AD and a possible farmstead or villa have been recorded (TF 094 464; Lincs HER 62205). These features have been mapped through aerial photographs. The features were partly analysed through archaeological work during the Hatton to Silk Willoughby gas pipeline. This work comprised field walking, a geophysical survey, a trial trench evaluation and a subsequent excavation. A possible Roman ditch was found in a Watching Brief at the Kirkby La Thorpe Church of England school (TF 099 459; Lincs HER 62949). Metal detecting has uncovered a Roman nail cleaner relatively near by this ditch (TF 098 453 ; Lincs HER 64842).
- 2.1.2 Just to the north of the subject site are the remains of the settlement of Kirkby which probably dates from at least the Middle Saxon period. It is likely that the subject site lies within former field systems belonging to this settlement
- 2.1.3 The pre-Conquest date and significance of this settlement are evidenced by the name Kirkby which is given to those settlements where the Danes found a church on their arrival. Furthermore, its importance in the Late Saxon period is shown by surviving mid



10th-11th century sculptures in the form of stone grave covers (Lincs HER 62260). It is thought that Kirkby, nearby Laythorpe (Lincs HER 60571) and Burgh were part of the same estate in a pattern common throughout the Aswardhurn wapentake, and that these three separate settlements were elements with defined functions, with Kirkby perhaps being 'the settlement of the church'. The Domesday Book records a manor at Kirkby which belonged to the king. Burgh (Lincs HER 63684) seems to have been displaced by Kirkby in the medieval period.

- 2.1.4 A little to the south of the present Subject Site and the settlement of Kirkby, was the settlement of Laythorpe (TF 098 450; Lincs HER 63680). The place-name 'Laythorpe' probably means 'Leithulf's secondary settlement from the Old Norse personal name 'Leithulfr' and the Old Danish 'thorp'. The settlement was large enough to have a possible medieval chapel of ease. It was to some extent amalgamated with Kirkby from at least 1334 when the Lay Subsidy records both settlements in a single entry.
- 2.1.5 Remains of ridge and furrow earthworks survive in numerous fields and presumably date from the medieval period. It is extremely likely the Subject Site area is within the former field systems of Kirkby Laythorpe.

### 3 METHODOLOGY

- 3.1.1 All ground penetrating works that took place after March 2010 were observed and recorded by a suitably qualified and experienced archaeologist. Trenches and spoil were scanned to aid the recovery of finds.
- 3.1.2 Two locations were available for monitoring at the north and south ends of the pipeline where the new pipe connected into the existing pipe (Figure 1). The one at the southern end of the route (Trench 1) was recorded on April 23rd 2010 by Rob Atkins, a second trench was placed at this location on the 29th July 2010 and recorded by John Diffey (Trench 1a). Trench 2 at the northern end of the pipeline was recorded by John Diffey between the 21st and 23rd June 2010, a second trench was dug in this location on the 27th of July 2010 and recorded by John Diffey.
- 3.1.3 All works were recorded using OA East's *pro-forma* sheets. Digital, black and white and colour print photographs were taken. Site conditions were dry.

### 4 RESULTS

#### 4.1 Trench 1

- 4.1.1 On the 23rd April 2010, a kabota type tracked excavator fitted with an 11" (28cm) wide ditching bucket, excavated a sub-rectangular area 3.1m by 2.2m which was stepped to 1.35m deep in the centre. Within this trench, the new connection to the mains and the southern end of the new directionally drilled pipe were exposed. The trench had previously been opened during March 2010 and the trench comprised disturbed backfill including modern concrete. The lowest 0.2m of the trench had not been disturbed and comprised a dark grey brown sandy silt layer which sealed natural orange gravels and sands. No archaeological features or artefacts were observed in the trench.

#### 4.2 Trench 2

- 4.2.1 Between the 21st and 23rd of June 2010, a JCB type machine fitted with a 1.8m wide ditching bucket excavated an area of c.9.5m by up to 6m wide, stepped to 2.5m wide.



The deepest section in the centre of the trench was dug using a 0.9m wide ditching bucket. The trench was cut in order to join the new pipe laid in March 2010 to the existing mains. The western and eastern ends of the trench had been disturbed by work during March 2010. A north to south modern drain was also located within the trench. The centre of the trench was the only area that remained undisturbed, here, there was a 0.5m deep reddish brown sandy silt plough soil sealing the natural subsoil comprising a yellowish red sand and gravel. No archaeological features or artefacts were found.

#### **4.3 Trenches 1a and 2a**

- 4.3.1 During July 2010 two small trenches were cut at each end on the pipeline in order to access water mains for the purpose of capping off.
- 4.3.2 Trench 1a was 2.5m x 2.5m x a maximum of 1.9m deep, it was located at the southern end of the pipeline. The entire depth of the trench was found to have been previously disturbed by works associated with the road and services. No archaeological features or deposits were found.
- 4.3.3 Trench 2a was 1.9m x 2.5m x a maximum of 1.3m deep, it was located at the northern end of the pipeline. It was excavated through a modern road and road verge. The area of the trench cutting through the road verge showed modern disturbance throughout its entire depth. The portion of the trench cutting through road surface showed that undisturbed ground was present below the modern road surface (0.38m thick). The undisturbed deposits comprised a series of thin horizontal bands of reddish brown sands and light greenish blue to yellowish green clays (0.37m thick) lying above gravel. These deposits are likely to be natural in origin and may be indicative of a paleochannel in this location. No artefacts or other signs of human intervention were found.

### **5 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS**

#### **5.1 Overview**

- 5.1.1 Approximately half of the pipeline route was subject to directional drilling and therefore archaeological monitoring was not appropriate, the other half comprised a cut trench, but unfortunately no archaeologist was present to record the results. Four small trenches, two each at the southern and northern ends of the pipeline were monitored by archaeologists. All of the trenches had previously been disturbed, either during earlier works in March 2010 or by works associated with road building and other services. Three of the trenches showed some undisturbed deposits at the base of the trenches. No archaeological features or finds were observed in any of the trenches.

### **6 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

- 6.1.1 The author would like to thank Anglian Water who commissioned and funded the archaeological work. The project was managed by Aileen Connor and the work carried out by Rob Atkins and John Diffey.



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## BIBLIOGRAPHY

Atkins, R., 2010 Specification for Archaeological Monitoring and Recording, Boston Road A17/A1121 Diversion Scheme Anglian Water at Kirkby La Thorpe OA East specification (unpublished)

Lincolnshire County Council Historic Environment Team (LCC 09) Archaeological Brief Boston Road A17/A1121 Diversion Scheme Anglian Water dated 27/10/09 (unpublished)

[www.heritagegateway.org.uk](http://www.heritagegateway.org.uk) accessed 8th July 2010, Lincolnshire County Council Historic Environment Records for Kirkby La Thorpe



## APPENDIX A. OASIS REPORT FORM

All fields are required unless they are not applicable.

### Project Details

OASIS Number	oxfordar3-79662		
Project Name	Watching brief to the south of Kirkby La Thorpe, Boston Road, Lincolnshire		
Project Dates (fieldwork) Start	23-04-2010	Finish	23-04-2010
Previous Work (by OA East)	Yes	Future Work	No

### Project Reference Codes

Site Code	JKLT10	Planning App. No.	N/A
HER No.	N/A	Related HER/OASIS No.	N/A

### Type of Project/Techniques Used

Prompt: Water Act 1989 and subsequent code of practice

### Please select all techniques used:

<input type="checkbox"/> Field Observation (periodic visits)	<input type="checkbox"/> Part Excavation	<input type="checkbox"/> Salvage Record
<input type="checkbox"/> Full Excavation (100%)	<input type="checkbox"/> Part Survey	<input type="checkbox"/> Systematic Field Walking
<input type="checkbox"/> Full Survey	<input type="checkbox"/> Recorded Observation	<input type="checkbox"/> Systematic Metal Detector Survey
<input type="checkbox"/> Geophysical Survey	<input type="checkbox"/> Remote Operated Vehicle Survey	<input type="checkbox"/> Test Pit Survey
<input type="checkbox"/> Open-Area Excavation	<input type="checkbox"/> Salvage Excavation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Watching Brief

### Monument Types/Significant Finds & Their Periods

List feature types using the [NMR Monument Type Thesaurus](#) and significant finds using the [MDA Object type Thesaurus](#) together with their respective periods. If no features/finds were found, please state "none".

Monument	Period	Object	Period
N/A	Select period...	N/A	Select period...
	Select period...		Select period...
	Select period...		Select period...

### Project Location

County	Lincolnshire	Site Address (including postcode if possible)
District	North Kesteven	Fields between sliproads of A17, Directly to the south of Kirby La Thorpe, Linc
Parish	Kirkby La Thorpe	
HER	N/A	
Study Area	Pipe trench	National Grid Reference
		TF 0965 4568



### Project Originators

Organisation	OA EAST
Project Brief Originator	Lincolnshire County Council
Project Design Originator	Rob Atkins, OA East
Project Manager	Aileen Connor, OA East
Supervisor	Rob Atkins, OA East

### Project Archives

Physical Archive	Digital Archive	Paper Archive
N/A	OA East	OA East
N/A	LCNCC: 2010.65	LCNCC: 2010.65

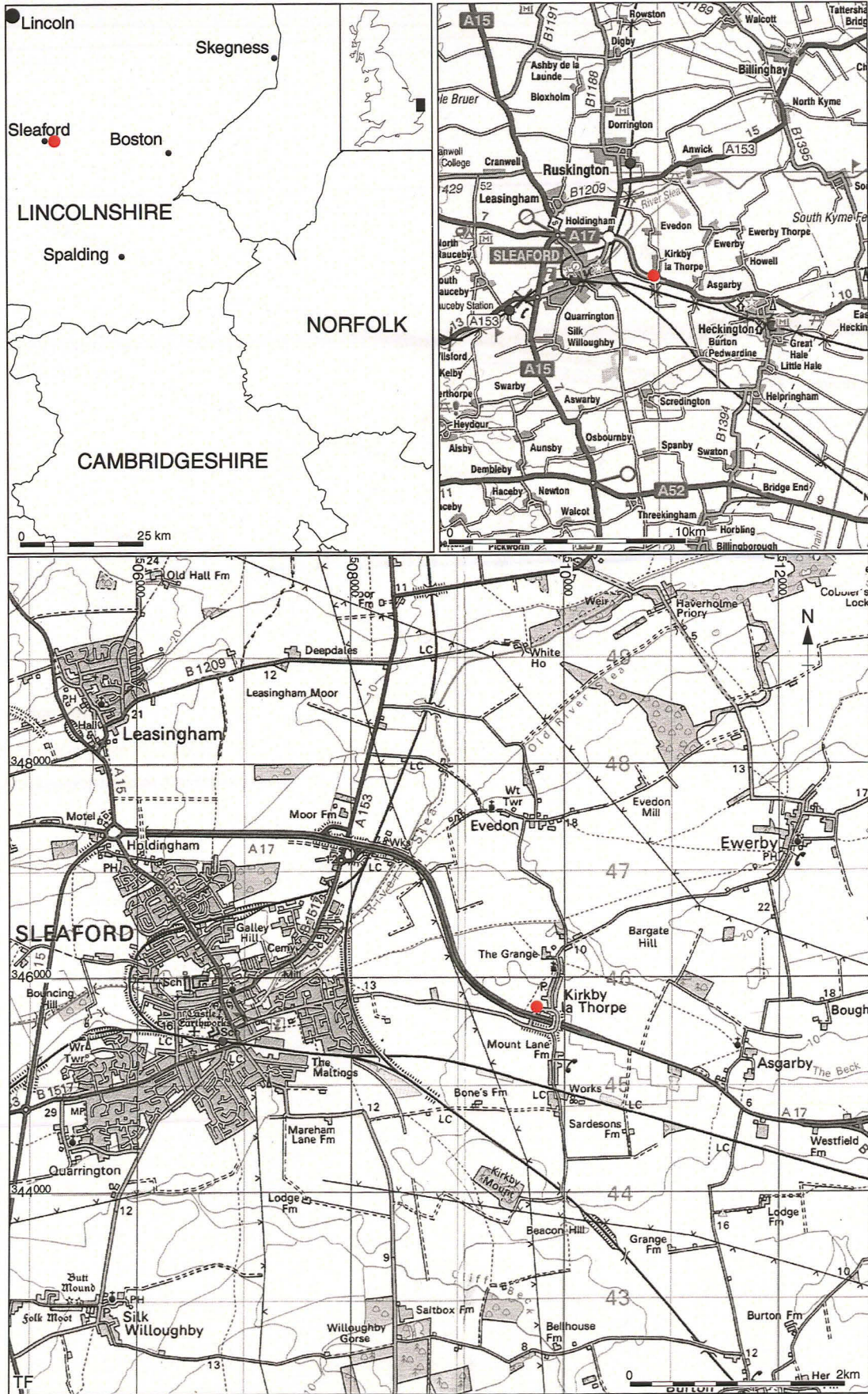
### Archive Contents/Media

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Ceramics	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Environmental	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Glass	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Human Bones	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Industrial	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Metal	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Survey		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Worked Stone/Lithic	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Other	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Digital Media	Paper Media
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	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Report
	<input type="checkbox"/> Sections
	<input type="checkbox"/> Survey

**Notes:**





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Figure 1: Location of site (red dot)



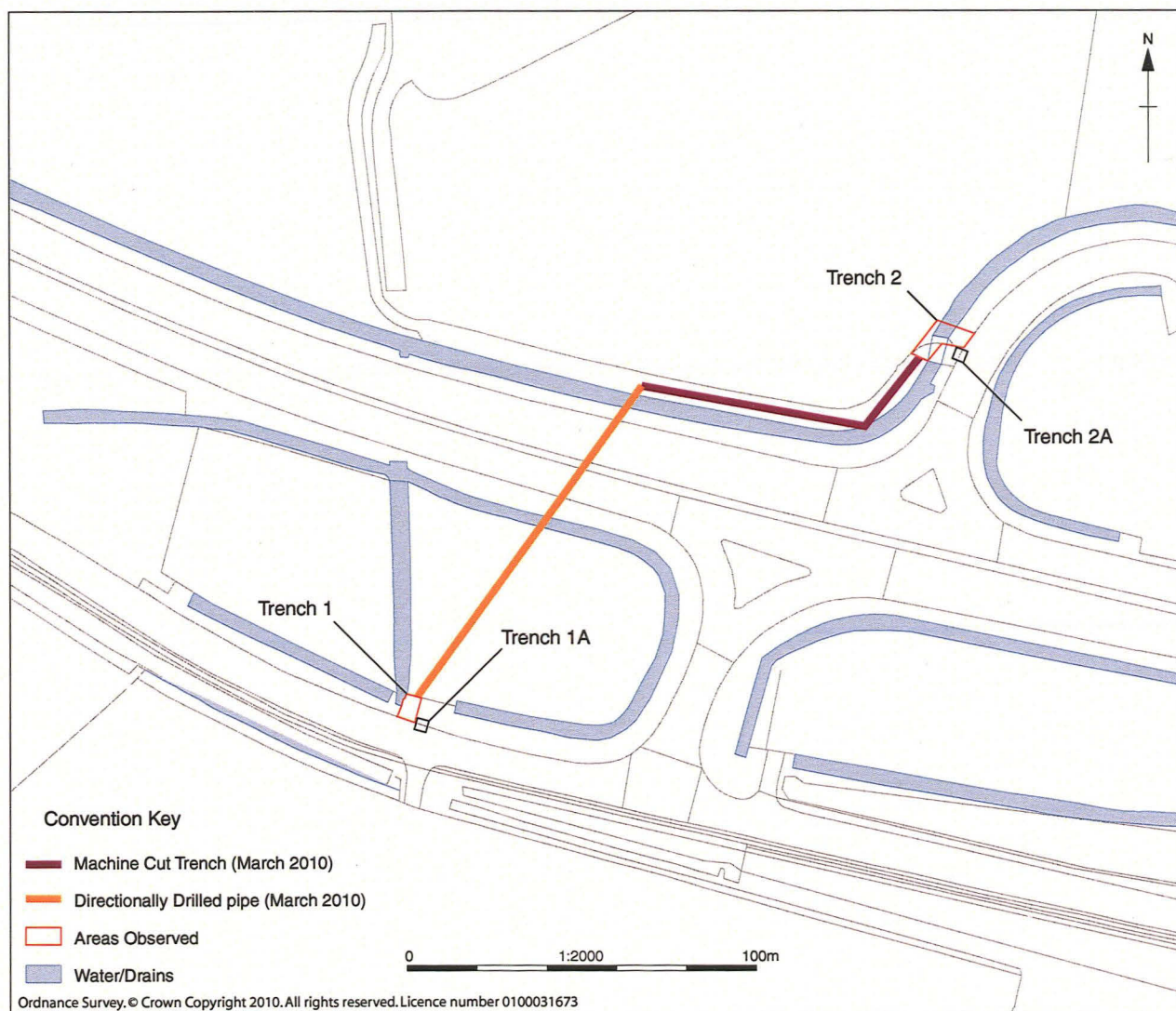


Figure 2: Plan of works