

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING OF  
GEOTECHNICAL GROUND  
INVESTIGATIONS BETWEEN  
STAPLEFORD AND BABRAHAM,  
CAMBRIDGESHIRE**

**SUMMARY REPORT**

**JANUARY 2012**

**PRE-CONSTRUCT ARCHAEOLOGY  
R11159**

# ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF ON GEOTECHNICAL GROUND INVESTIGATIONS BETWEEN STAPLEFORD AND BABRAHAM, CAMBRIDGESHIRE: SUMMARY REPORT

Site Code: CSMS 12

Report Number: R11159

HER Event Number: ECB3717

Written by Christopher Montague

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January 2012

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## **1. INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 PCA Central was commissioned by Mouchel to undertake an archaeological watching brief of 9 geotechnical pits prior to the laying of a water pipe between Stapleford and Babraham in Cambridgeshire.
- 1.2 The archaeological background to this work and the methodology followed during this watching brief are detailed in the WSI prepared by Mark Hinman (2012).
- 1.3 The watching brief monitored and recorded 9 geotechnical test pits along the proposed route of the Stapleford to Babraham pipeline. The work was carried out on the 17th January 2012.
- 1.4 The route of the proposed pipeline extends for roughly 2.5km from the junction of Gog Magog Way and Haverhill Road on the north eastern extent of the village of Stapleford (TL 5478/2521) eastwards towards Babraham to a pumping station (TL 5504/2516) accessed via the A1307.
- 1.5 The test pits measured 2.5m x 1.5m. The depth of the test pits varied between approximately 0.30 and 0.90m deep.

## **2. DEPOSIT SUMMARY**

- 2.1 Test Pit 3 contained a small pit or posthole [18], circular in plan, diameter 0.50m and 0.25m deep. Two narrow (0.20m wide) parallel linear plough marks ([14] & [16]) were also recorded. No finds were recovered from these features.
- 2.2 Test Pit 7 contained an irregular glacial feature in the northeast corner of test pit which measured 0.50m x 0.30m x 0.10m (depth).

2.3 Test Pit 8 contained two natural tree bowls [21] & [24]. These features measured 0.80m x 0.50m x 0.10m (depth) and 0.50m x 0.30m x 0.10m (depth) respectively.

2.4 The other test pits did not contain archaeological features. The following table provides depths measured below ground level (BGL) in metres of topsoil (plough soil), subsoil (if present) and the chalk natural recorded in the 9 test pits.

Test Pit	Context	Depth m BGL	Comments
1	10	0.00	Plough soil
1	11	0.28	Subsoil
1	12	0.86	Chalk natural
2	10	0.00	Plough soil
2	11	0.20	Subsoil
2	12	0.90	Chalk natural
3	10	0.00	Plough soil
3	12	0.36	Weathered chalk
3	12	0.51	Chalk natural
4	10	0.00	Plough soil
4	12	0.30	Weathered chalk
4	12	0.40	Chalk natural
5	10	0.00	Plough soil
5	11	0.20	Subsoil
5	12	0.35	Chalk natural
6	10	0.00	Plough soil
6	12	0.25	Weathered chalk
6	12	0.35	Chalk natural
7	10	0.00	Plough soil
7	11	0.15	Subsoil
7	12	0.53	Chalk natural
8	10	0.00	Plough soil
8	11	0.15	Subsoil
8	12	0.53	Chalk natural
9	10	0.00	Plough soil
9	12	0.35	Weathered chalk
9	12	0.45	Chalk natural

## APPENDIX 1: PHOTOGRAPHS

Route of the proposed pipeline looking west



Excavation of Test Pit



Test Pit 3 Feature [8]



Plough marks [14] & [16]



Test Pit 7 with natural feature [18]



Test Pit 8 with excavated natural feature [24] and natural chalk [12]



Features [21] and [24]



## APPENDIX 2: OASIS FORM

OASIS ID: [preconst1-118381](#)

### Project details

Project name	ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF ON GEOTECHNICAL GROUND INVESTIGATIONS BETWEEN STAPLEFORD AND BABRAHAM, CAMBRIDGESHIRE
Short description of the project	PCA Central was commissioned by Mouchel to undertake an archaeological watching brief of 9 geotechnical pits prior to the laying of a water pipe between Stapleford and Babraham in Cambridgeshire.
Project dates	Start: 17-01-2012 End: 17-01-2012
Previous/future work	Not known / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	CSMS12 – Sitecode HER Event Number ECB3717
Type of project	Field evaluation
Monument type	POSTHOLE Uncertain
Monument type	NATURAL Uncertain
Significant Finds	NONE None
Methods & techniques	'Visual Inspection'
Development type	Pipelines/cables (e.g. gas, electric, telephone, TV cable, water, sewage, drainage etc.)
Prompt	Request by Historic Environment Team, Cambridgeshire County Council
Position in the planning process	Not known / Not recorded

### Project location

Country	England
Site location	CAMBRIDGESHIRE SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE STAPLEFORD Stapleford Sewer Main
Study area	2.50 Kilometres
Site coordinates	TL 5478 2521 51.9034322185 0.250125530453 51 54 12 N 000 15 00 E Line
Site coordinates	TL 5504 2516 51.9029104691 0.253879651197 51 54 10 N 000 15 13 E Line

### Project creators

Name of Organisation	Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited
Project brief originator	Cambridge HET
Project design originator	Mark Hinman
Project	Mark Hinman



*AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF ON GEOTECHNICAL GROUND INVESTIGATIONS BETWEEN STAPLEFORD AND BABRAHAM, CAMBRIDGESHIRE: SUMMARY REPORT*

director/manager

Project supervisor Chris Montague

Type of sponsor/funding Developer  
body

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**Project archives**

Physical Archive No  
Exists?

Digital Archive recipient Cambridgeshire County Council Archaeology Store

Digital Contents 'none'

Paper Archive recipient Cambridgeshire County Council Archaeology Store

Paper Contents 'none'

Paper Media available 'Context sheet','Notebook - Excavation',' Research',' General Notes','Photograph'

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**Project bibliography 1**

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

Title ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF ON GEOTECHNICAL  
GROUND INVESTIGATIONS BETWEEN STAPLEFORD AND  
BABRAHAM, CAMBRIDGESHIRE: SUMMARY REPORT

Author(s)/Editor(s) 'Montague, C.' 'Pullen, A.'

Date 2012

Issuer or publisher PCA

Place of issue or Brockley  
publication

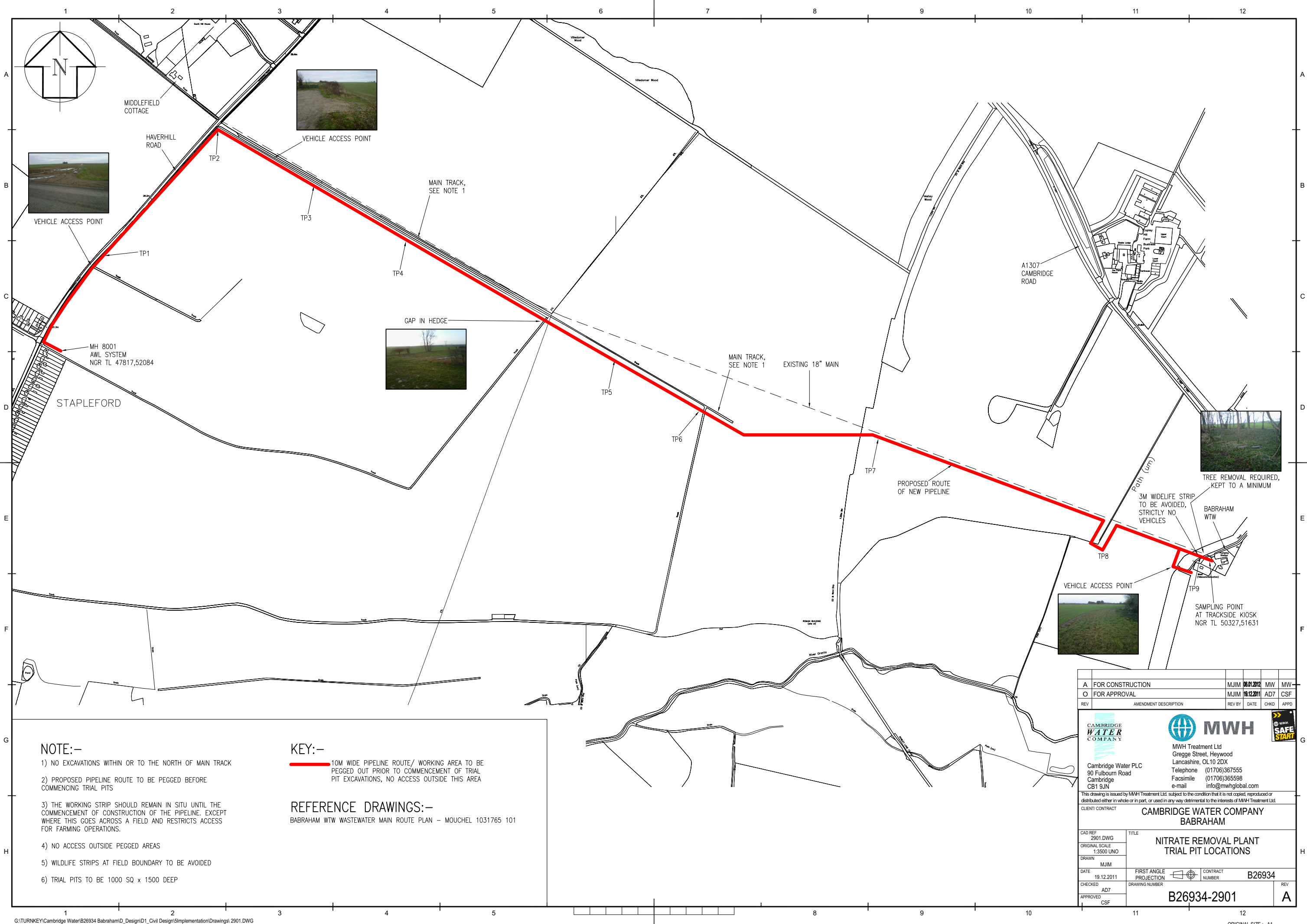
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Entered by Christopher Montague (cmontague@pre-construct.com)

Entered on 30 January 2012

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- NOTE:-**
- 1) NO EXCAVATIONS WITHIN OR TO THE NORTH OF MAIN TRACK
  - 2) PROPOSED PIPELINE ROUTE TO BE PEGGED BEFORE COMMENCING TRIAL PITS
  - 3) THE WORKING STRIP SHOULD REMAIN IN SITU UNTIL THE COMMENCEMENT OF CONSTRUCTION OF THE PIPELINE. EXCEPT WHERE THIS GOES ACROSS A FIELD AND RESTRICTS ACCESS FOR FARMING OPERATIONS.
  - 4) NO ACCESS OUTSIDE PEGGED AREAS
  - 5) WILDLIFE STRIPS AT FIELD BOUNDARY TO BE AVOIDED
  - 6) TRIAL PITS TO BE 1000 SQ X 1500 DEEP

**KEY:-**  
 10M WIDE PIPELINE ROUTE/ WORKING AREA TO BE PEGGED OUT PRIOR TO COMMENCEMENT OF TRIAL PIT EXCAVATIONS, NO ACCESS OUTSIDE THIS AREA

**REFERENCE DRAWINGS:-**  
 BABRAHAM WTW WASTEWATER MAIN ROUTE PLAN - MOUCHEL 1031765 101

A	FOR CONSTRUCTION	MJIM	08.01.2012	MW	MW
O	FOR APPROVAL	MJIM	18.12.2011	AD7	CSF
REV	AMENDMENT DESCRIPTION	REV BY	DATE	CHKD	APPD

**CAMBRIDGE WATER COMPANY**

**MWH**

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CLIENT/ CONTRACT		<b>CAMBRIDGE WATER COMPANY BABRAHAM</b>	
CAD REF	2901 DWG	TITLE	<b>NITRATE REMOVAL PLANT TRIAL PIT LOCATIONS</b>
ORIGINAL SCALE	1:3500 UNO	DATE	19.12.2011
DRAWN	MJIM	FIRST ANGLE PROJECTION	
CHECKED	AD7	CONTRACT NUMBER	<b>B26934</b>
APPROVED	CSF	DRAWING NUMBER	<b>B26934-2901</b>
			REV
			<b>A</b>

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