BRITISH GAS PIPELINE, CHAPEL HADDLESEY TO EGGBOROUGH, NORTH YORKSHIRE

REPORT ON AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF
OSA REPORT No. 99WB03

National Grid Reference: SE 584 264 to SE 570 240

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OSA

ON SITE ARCHÆOLOGY

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Report Summary

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PERIODS REPRESENTED:	Roman, Post-medieval, Undated.
NATIONAL GRID REFERENCE:	SE 584 264 to SE 570 240
COUNTY:	North Yorkshire
PARISH:	Chapel Haddlesey, Kellington and Eggborough

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1.0 Abstract

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by On-Site Archaeology *on behalf of Transco during the topsoil strip of the working easement and selected areas of the pipe trench excavation for a gas pipeline between Chapel Haddlesey and St.Gobain glassworks, Eggborough, North Yorkshire. The work was carried out in order to fulfil the archaeological requirements as recognised in the Gas Act 1995 to mitigate the effects of utilities works on sites of archaeological or historic interest.*

Six archaeological features were identified at three separate locations. A double-ditched feature, possibly a trackway, an associated ditch and a large feature, tentatively interpreted as a pond, containing organic material and Roman pottery were identified near Chapel Haddlesey. A ditch and an associated clay bank were located beneath alluvial material north of the River Aire. A metalled trackway was encountered near the junction between Hensall Lane and the A19 main road.

The report text was prepared by David Tyler and the illustrations were prepared by Guy Hopkinson of On-Site Archaeology.

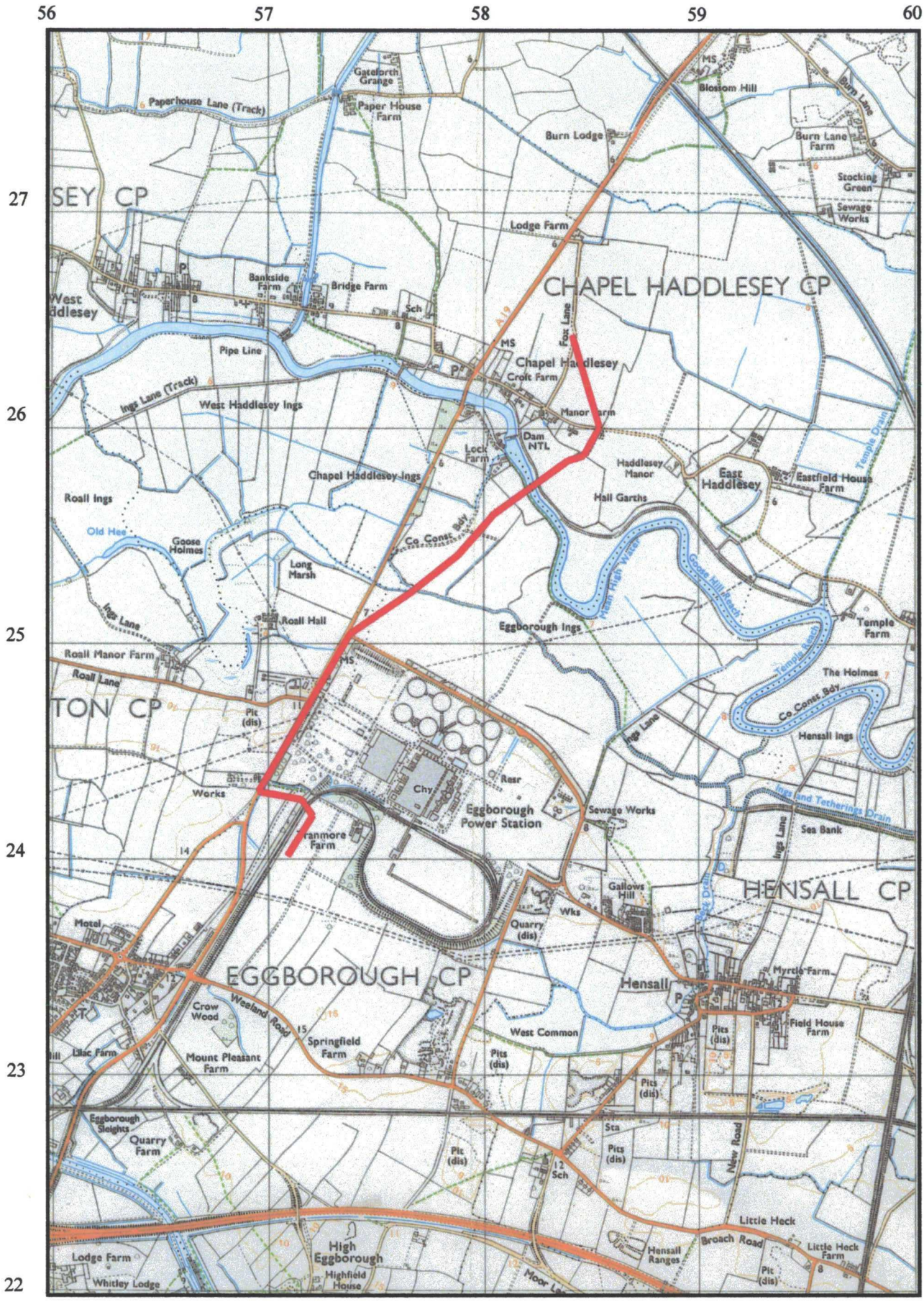

Figure 1. Pipeline route (NGR SE 584 264 to SE 570 240).

Figure 2. Pipeline route & monitoring areas.
Scale 1:15,000
Based on Transco Drawing No: 4706/GD-76A, Revision C.

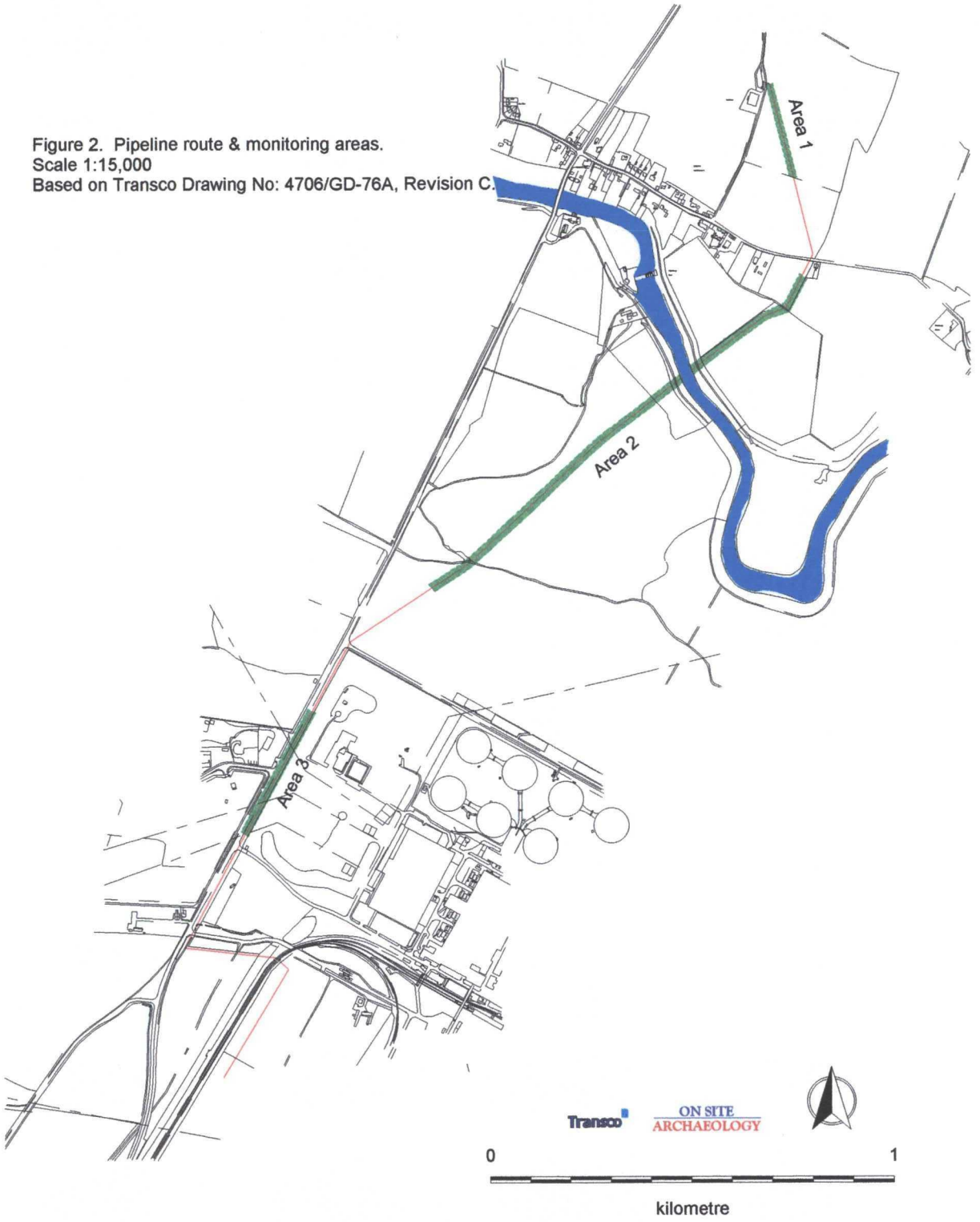

Figure 2. Detail of pipeline route, with monitoring areas shaded green. Scale 1:15,000.

2.0 Site Location, Topography, Geology and Land Use

2.1 Site location & route description

The pipeline route (Figure 1) covers a length of *c.*3km and crosses three parishes, Chapel Haddlesey, Kellington and Eggborough. The pipeline starts at an existing pressure reduction unit compound to the northeast of Chapel Haddlesey (SE 584 264) on the minor road between the village and Lodge Farm. It then runs south before turning southwest and crossing the River Aire; it then runs parallel with the A19 main road prior to turning southeast to terminate at a new pressure reduction unit compound (SE 570 240) at St Gobain glassworks to the southwest of Eggborough Power Station. The route lies within the Selby District of North Yorkshire, close to the southern boundary of the County. Eggborough lies *c.*10km southwest of Selby and *c.*30km south of York. The area ranges from *c.*6m above Ordnance Datum (AOD) in the north and across the floodplain of the River Aire to *c.*10m AOD in the south in the region of Eggborough Power Station.

2.2 Geology, topography & land use

The pipeline traverses soils of the Foggathorpe 2 Association, pelo-stagnogley soils developed on glacial clays, to the northeast of Chapel Haddlesey (Jarvis *et al.* 1984, 200). Toward the River Aire, soils are of the Sessay Association, stoneless fine loamy cambic soils on glacio-lacustrine drift (*ibid.* 277), which give way to the alluvial gley soils of the Enbourne Association (*ibid.* 186) across the floodplain. In the vicinity of the power station soils are of the Newport 1 Association, well drained brown sands developed on glaciofluvial sand and gravel and river terraces (*ibid.* 249). The drift geology comprises deposits of glacial sand, gravel and clay and younger riverine alluvium overlying a solid geology of Triassic Keuper and Bunter sandstones (Geological Survey of England and Wales 1906; Cope-Faulkner 1998). The area ranges from c. 6m above Ordnance Datum (AOD) in the north and across the floodplain of the River Aire, to c. 10mAOD in the south in the vicinity of Eggborough power station. The pipeline crosses predominantly agricultural land under arable cultivation.

3.0 Archaeological Background

In May 1998, an archaeological desk-top assessment was undertaken by Archaeological Project Services (APS 1998) for Engineering Archaeological Services Ltd in order to determine the archaeological implications of the proposed new gas pipeline. This report collated information from a variety of existing written and graphic sources and identified three main areas of archaeological potential along the route. These are summarised below:

Medieval pottery has been found in Chapel Haddlesey, adjacent to the proposed pipeline route, however it is not known whether this may suggest an occupation site, or merely a manuring scatter (SMR 9334).

Additional, undated cropmarks lie to the north at the southern edge of the River Aire floodplain (SMR 9321). This floodplain is an area where river silts may mask remains of early settlement and activity of prehistoric and Romano-British date.

Approximately 1km west of the pipeline route, in Kellington parish, a cropmark complex, interpreted as being a Romano-British fort and associated field systems (SMR 9273) may be associated with a parchmark seen on aerial photographs of a trackway, the projected alignment of which intersects the pipeline route at its proposed crossing of Roall Lane, west of Eggborough Power Station.

On place-name evidence, it is likely that the villages in the vicinity of the pipeline route had their origin in the Saxon period, however there has been no substantive early Medieval material found in this area. Later Medieval sites comprise a moated enclosure at Hall Garth, southeast of Chapel Haddlesey and a possible deserted medieval settlement near Roall Hall (SMR 9317 and 9274.01 respectively).

4.0 Methodology.

4.1 Objectives

The objectives of the archaeological recording work within the three areas of potential identified above in section 3, are:

- to locate, recover, identify and conserve (as appropriate) any archaeological artefacts exposed during pipeline construction,
- to locate, sample, record and interpret any archaeological deposits exposed during pipeline construction,

4.2 On site methodology

The initial topsoil strip during easement preparation was monitored. A permanent presence was then maintained on site to monitor all ground disturbance works associated with the pipeline construction in the three areas of archaeological potential identified in section 3 above. These are:

- Area 1: the field to the northeast of Chapel Haddlesey where medieval pottery has previously been found.
- Area 2: the floodplain of the River Aire, including the terrace above for l00m,
- Area 3: the point along the A19 road where the projected alignment of the possible Romano-British trackway crosses the pipeline easement,

The working easement was c. 18m wide. The pipeline was 200mm in diameter and was laid using open cut methods. Horizontal directional drilling techniques were employed during the crossing of the River Aire, two dykes and road and rail crossings.

The topsoil over half the easement width was removed to the top of the natural by a Caterpillar 320L 360° tracked excavator fitted with a toothless bucket. The remaining topsoil was mounded to the side of the easement by a Caterpillar D6 bulldozer working perpendicularly to the alignment of the pipeline route. Following the removal of the topsoil, the pipe trench was cut using a Caterpillar 320L 360° tracked excavator fitted with a toothed 0.55m bucket to which angled side-blades had been fitted. The resulting trench was *c.*1.20m deep and measured *c.*1.60m wide at the top narrowing to 0.60m wide with a 0.60m wide, *c.*0.40m deep, slot at the base.

Areas of the exposed trench sides which were considered to have archaeological potential were then cleaned by hand in order to detect any archaeological features revealed through textural or colour changes in the deposits. Standard *On-Site Archaeology* techniques were followed throughout the excavation. This involved the completion of a context sheet for each deposit or cut encountered, along with plans and/or sections drawn to an appropriate scale. A photographic record of the deposits and features was also maintained.

5.0 Results

Six archaeological features were identified in three separate locations.

Three ditches and a large sunken feature were encountered in the field to the northeast of Chapel Haddlesey. The natural in this area comprised soft orange-brown sandy clay [1019]. Ditch [1000] (Pl.1 & 3) was aligned northeast – southwest and contained fills [1007], [1001] and [1002] respectively. The fills principally comprised mid and dark grey coarse sand containing ferrous staining and nodules consistent with iron panning. A second ditch [1003] was situated 3.8m to the north and ran parallel to ditch [1000]. Ditch [1003] (Pl.2 & 3) contained fill [1004] which was overlain by fill [1005]. The fills in ditch [1003] mainly comprised mid and dark grey coarse sand with ferrous nodules, similar to those filling ditch [1000]. Spanning the area between ditches [1000] and [1003] and partially overlying the upper fills of these ditches, [1002] and [1005] respectively, was a layer of light brownish grey coarse sand containing ferrous staining and nodules [1006] (Pl.3).

Ditch [1013] was aligned northwest – southeast and contained fill sequence [1014]. Moving sand in the base of the pipe trench and a rapid influx of groundwater required the pipe to be laid as quickly as possible: this precluded detailed recording of the fill sequence of ditch [1013], however, visual inspection confirmed the sequence to be very similar to those in ditches[1000] and [1003].

Situated to the north of ditch [1013] was a large sunken feature [1008]. The shape in plan and the full depth of this feature could not be determined within the confines of the pipe trench. The lowest fill [1012] (see Appendix 4) comprised waterlogged mid to dark brown humic silty sand containing rotted wood and twigs, mammal bone and two sherds of pottery. This was overlain by fills [1011] and [1010] respectively which comprised grey and brownish grey coarse sand containing ferrous staining nodules. Fill [1010] was sealed by fill [1009] which consisted of mid brown silty sand and contained a sherd of pottery. All the above features were sealed by topsoil [1018].

Situated towards the middle of the field immediately to the north of the River Aire was a low bank, c.9m wide, comprised of orange-brown slightly mottled with mid brownish grey silty clay [1015] (Pl.4). The maximum observed height of the bank was 0.40m, at which point it was *c*.0.50m below the reduced ground level. A possible ditch [1022], c.5.50m wide and located to the southwest of the bank was infilled with yellow brown and mid brownish grey silty clay [1023]. The bank and ditch were sealed by natural grey mottled orange-brown slightly sandy clay alluvial material [1020]. The ditch was cut into the natural which at this level was indistinguishable from the material [1020] sealing the bank and ditch. The full depth of these features within the pipe trench remained undetermined due to the influx of groundwater to a height of 0.35m.

A metalled trackway (Pl.5), aligned approximately north – south, was encountered to the northwest of the junction between Hensall Lane and the A19 main road. The trackway

comprised two crude metalled surfaces, [1016] and [1017]. The upper surface [1016] was cambered and the highest point was 0.13m below the reduced ground level.

Figure 3. Pipeline route & archaeological findspots
Scale 1:10,000
Based on Transco Drawing No: 4706/GD-76A, Revision C.

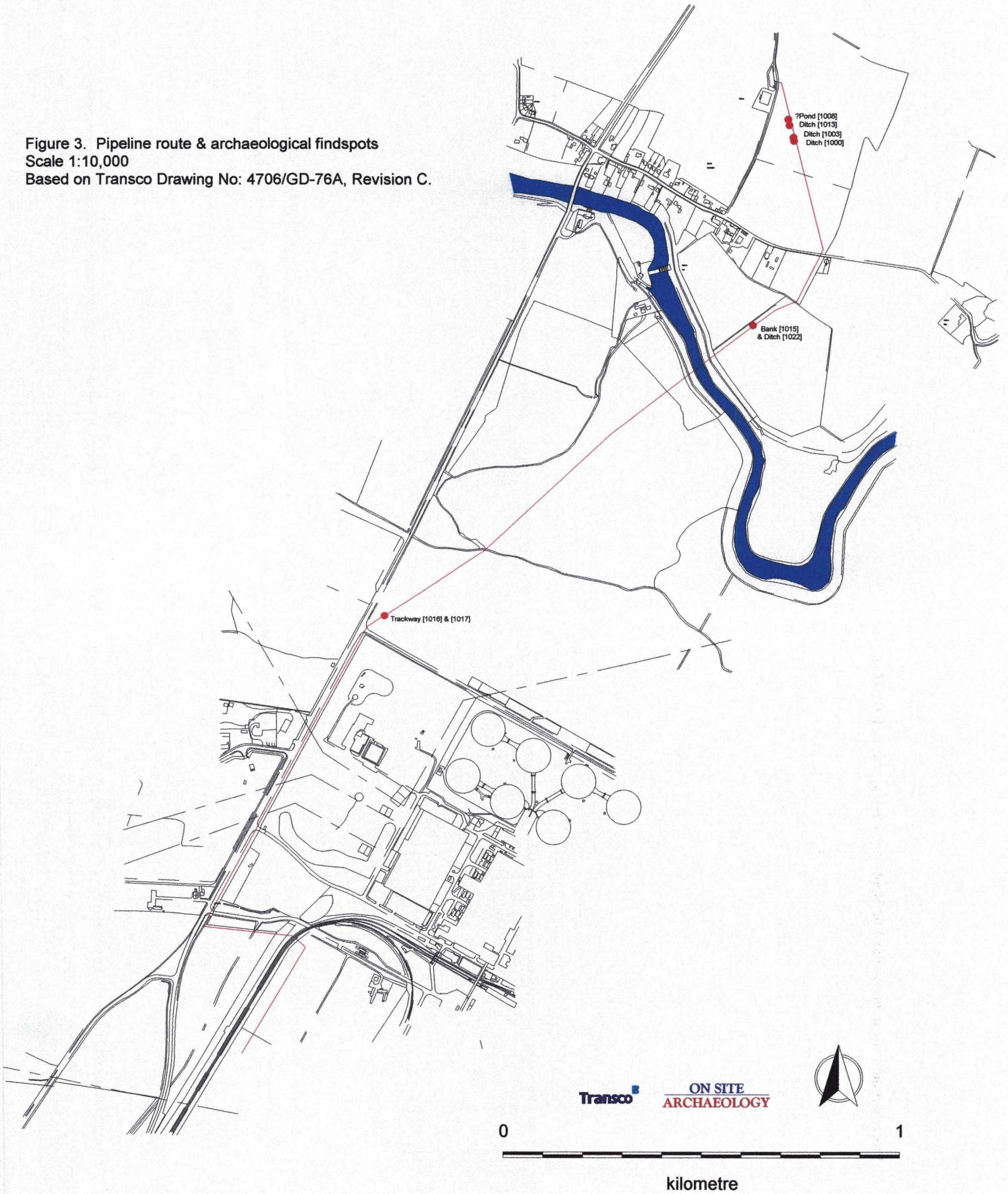

Figure 3. Pipeline route with archaeological findspots (red circles). Scale 1:10,000.

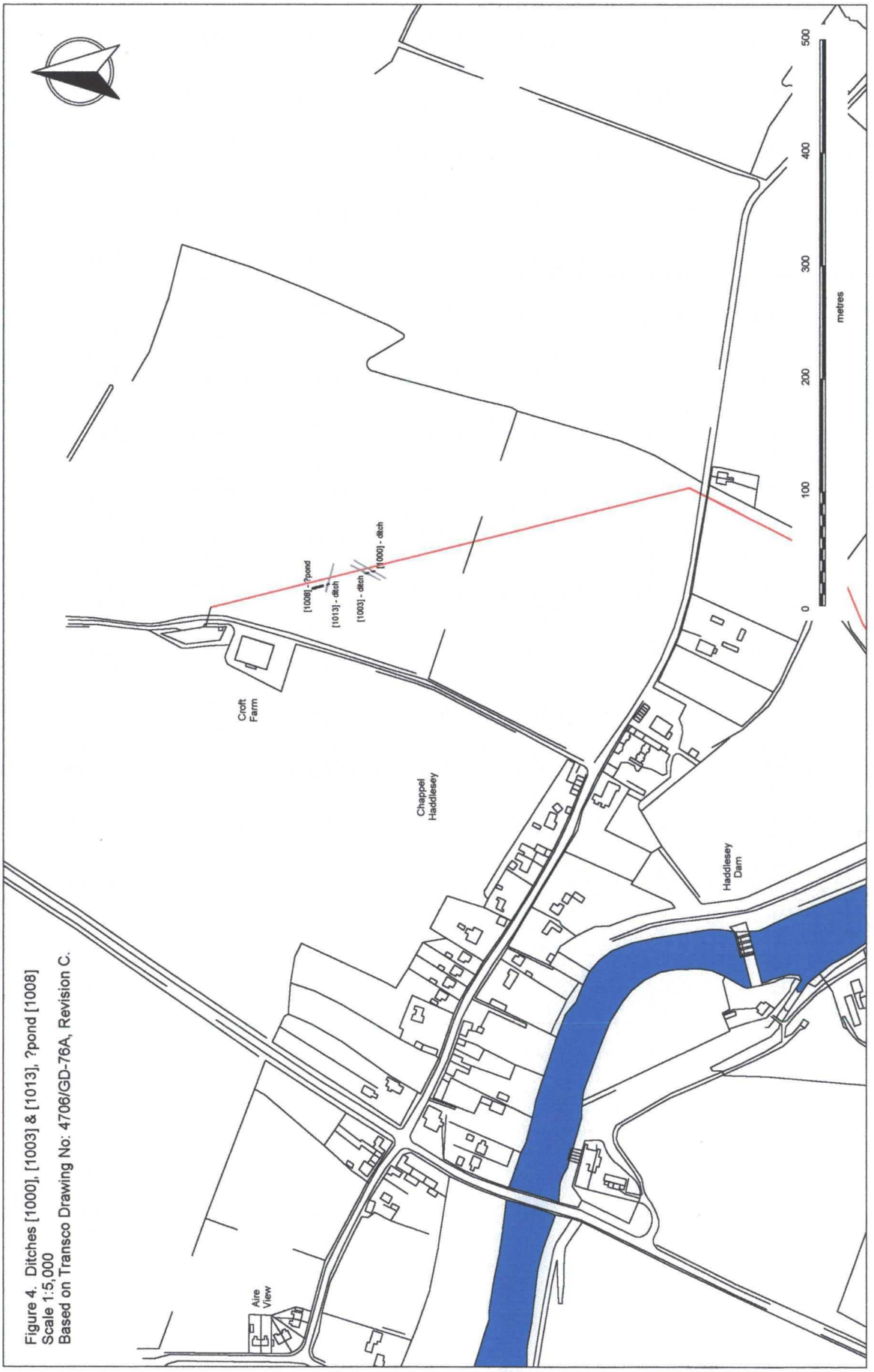

Figure 4. Location and alignment of ditches [1000], [1003] & [1013], ?pond [1008]. Scale 1:5,000.