

Report 2492



nps archaeology

**Continuous Archaeological Monitoring, Recording,
Mapping and Excavation along the Route of the
Harrowby to Easton Water Main, Lincolnshire**

Phases 1 and 2

HEMR 11



Prepared for
Anglian Water Services Limited
Thorpe Wood House
Thorpe Wood
Peterborough
Cambridgeshire
PE3 6WT

John Ames MIfA

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www.nps.co.uk

PROJECT CHECKLIST		
Project Manager	David Whitmore	
Draft Completed	John Ames	16/07/2012
Graphics Completed	David Dobson	13/08/2012
Edit Completed	Jayne Bown	15/08/2012
Signed Off	Jayne Bown	15/08/2012
<i>Issue 1</i>		

NPS Archaeology

Scandic House
85 Mountergate
Norwich
NR1 1PY

T 01603 756150

F 01603 756190

E jayne.bown@nps.co.uk

www.nau.org.uk

BAU 2492

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Location:	Harrowby to Easton, Lincolnshire
District:	South Kesteven
Grid Ref.:	SK 9475, 3415
HER No.:	HEMR 11
OASIS Ref.:	132214
Client:	Anglian Water Services Ltd
Dates of Fieldwork:	27 September-29 November 2011

Summary

Continuous archaeological monitoring, recording, mapping and excavation was carried out along the route of a 13km Anglian Water pipeline from Harrowby to Easton, Lincolnshire.

The archaeological potential along the route of the pipeline was thought to be reasonably high, as the pipeline lies close to a number of previously identified sites of Bronze Age, Roman and medieval date. Much of the pipeline's route was adjacent to the A52 and B6403 - along the line of the Roman Road known as Ermine Street.

A possible Roman roadside ditch perhaps associated with Ermine Street may have been exposed running adjacent to the A52. Due to its location there is a high likelihood that the ditch was Roman in origin although no finds of Roman date were recovered from the fills. However post-medieval pottery and a 16th-century coin were recovered from its fills. Unstratified 4th-century AD coins and 12th-century date were collected from subsoil close to the ditch.

Although, there was no physical evidence of occupation along the route of the pipeline artefactual evidence of prehistoric, Roman, medieval and post-medieval date suggests that, unsurprisingly, some activity had occurred within the vicinity of the pipeline's route. Artefacts recovered from the pipeline easement include struck flints of possible Bronze Age date, seven Roman coins (one of 1st/2nd-century AD date and the remainder 3rd/4th century AD), a 12th-century silver medieval coin and a copper-alloy pilgrim badge of St Barbara of 15th- to 16th-century date. Also recovered were ten post-medieval coins (one of which was a 16th-century Nuremberg Jetton) and nine Georgian and Victorian coins. The amount of multi-period coinage recovered from the easement of the pipeline is probably indicative of the Ermine Street being in use for centuries.

The route of the pipeline was through limestone and clay which would have been less conducive to settlement than freer-draining, more fertile areas. This might explain the absence of evidence of settlement and other activity.

Deposits encountered within the pipeline's easement appear not to have been truncated by farming techniques.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

This work along the easement route of the Harrowby to Easton pipeline (Fig. 1) was undertaken to fulfil the requirements of an Archaeological Brief was issued by Lincolnshire County Council (28/6/10). The work was conducted in accordance

with a Project Design and Method Statement prepared by NPS Archaeology (Ref.NAU/BAU/2492a/DW/NAU/BAU/2492b/DW). This work was commissioned and funded by Anglian Water Services Ltd

This programme of work was designed to assist in defining the character and extent of any archaeological remains within the proposed redevelopment area, following the guidelines set out in *Planning Policy Statement 5: Planning for the Historic Environment* (Department for Communities and Local Government 2010), subsequently replaced by the *National Planning Policy Framework* (Department for Communities and Local Government 2012). The results will enable decisions to be made by the Local Planning Authority about the treatment of any archaeological remains found.

The site archive is currently held by NPS Archaeology and on completion of the project will be deposited with Lincoln County Council following the relevant policies on archiving standards.

2.0 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

The solid geology consists of Lower Lincolnshire Limestone Member sedimentary bedrock (Harrowby), Upper Lincolnshire Member – Ooidal Limestone sedimentary bedrock (Grantham) and Rutland Formation – Argillaceous Rocks with Subordinate Sandstone and Limestone (Woodnook) all formed in the Jurassic Period. The bedrock is overlain by Till and Glaciofluvial deposits of sand and gravel formed in the Quaternary Period.

From the western end of the easement (Fig. 1) the route lies on a relatively flat plateau ranging between 125m OD at Harrowby Lane then rises to 129m OD at Heath Farm Lane before gradually sloping to 124m OD at High Dyke B6403. The easement crosses over the B6403 before crossing over the A52 at 123m OD. The easement diverts around Coldharbour Farm Cottage at approximately 124m OD before running parallel to the A52 Ermine Street at 121m OD. The easement diverted in an easterly direction on both sides of the B1176 at 118m OD. The easement then rejoined the B6403 south of the Grantham roundabout and headed in a southerly direction towards Easton.

The easement then continues in a relatively straight line along the Roman Road, Ermine Street now the B6403, High Dyke at 121m OD. The land slopes downwards here in a southerly direction to 105m OD at Woodnook. The easement then rises to a relatively flat plateau ranging between 112m OD to 119m OD which then slopes down to 89m OD at Highdyke Cottage. South of Highdyke Cottages the land rises to 116m OD then slopes into a shallow valley at 105m OD before rising again to 119m OD where the easement terminates north of Burton Lane at Easton.

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Several sites of archaeological and historical interest located within 1kn either side of the pipeline route are listed on the Lincolnshire Historic Environmental Record (LHER). These entries are listed in broad chronological order.

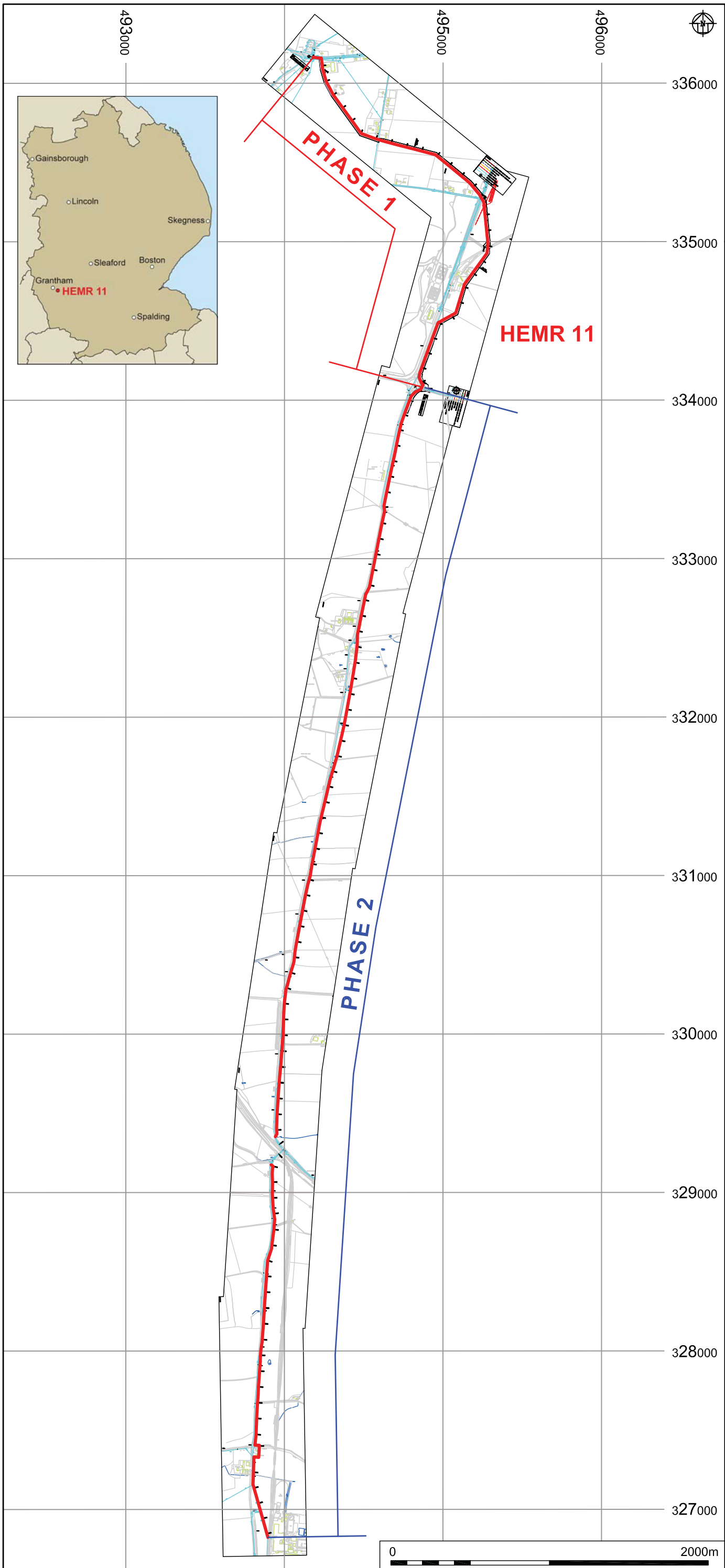


Figure 1. Route of pipeline.
 Scale 1:25,000
 Based on drawings supplied by Anglian Water

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Prehistoric

- HER 30480 is a flint scatter located east of Harrowby Cottages and to the north of the pipeline.
- HER 30483 produced Neolithic and Bronze Age artefacts and lies to the north of the pipeline.

Roman

- HER 33847 produced sherds of greyware and lies to the east of the pipeline.
- HER 33919 is a series a cropmarks showing a double ditch - possibly the line of a Roman Road located to the west of the pipeline and east of Spittlegate Heath Farm.
- HER 33921 represents cropmarks of double ditches aligned roughly south-east to north-west covering two fields. It is located to the east of the pipeline and west of Rise Plot.

Medieval

- HER 35168, the medieval settlement of Old Somerby, is located to the east of the pipeline. It was first documented in 1086. Medieval earthworks of ridge and furrow are recorded north and south of the present village.

Post-medieval

- HER 30474 is possibly the site of a rabbit warren of post-medieval date located to the north of the pipeline.

Modern

- HER 34958 denotes the location of RAF Grantham and Spittlegate. It was opened as an airfield in 1916 and taken over by the army as barracks in 1975.
- HER 36658 is the site of a disused Second World War gun emplacement lying to the north-east of the pipeline. The battery probably formed the defences of the nearby Spittlegate airfield.

4.0 METHODOLOGY

The objective of this watching brief was to determine as far as reasonably possible the presence or absence, location, nature, extent, date, quality, condition and significance of any surviving archaeological deposits within the development area.

The Brief required that an archaeologist be in constant attendance at the site during the topsoil and subsoil stripping to record any archaeological remains that may be uncovered by these works. Three kilometres of the route (Phase 1) was subject to strip, map and sample excavation whereas the requirement for Phase 2 was continuous monitoring only (Lincolnshire County Council's Archaeological Brief (28/6/10) and NPS Archaeology Project Designs (NAU/BAU/2492a/DW and NAU/BAU/2492b/DW)).

Phase 1 (SK 94247, 36051 to SK 95022, 34050) (Fig. 1) was approximately 3km long and 15m wide. The archaeological requirement was to continuously monitor the stripped area during the machining phase. Should archaeological features or deposits be encountered then liaison with the Lincolnshire County Council Historic

Environment Officer was required to discuss the method of excavation and percentage of archaeological features and deposits to be examined. Mapping of features and deposits, followed by excavation and a record would be undertaken.

Phase 2 (SK 94819, 34026 to SK 93902, 26855) (Fig. 1) was approximately 6.4km long and 15m wide and constituted a watching brief during topsoil stripping. All fields were monitored for archaeological remains, metal-detected and visual inspected for casual finds.

All machine excavations were carried out with a tracked hydraulic 360° excavator equipped with a toothless ditching bucket and operated under constant archaeological supervision.

Spoil, exposed surfaces and features were scanned with a metal-detector. All metal-detected and hand-collected finds other than those which were obviously modern, were retained for inspection.

All archaeological features and deposits were recorded using NPS Archaeology pro forma. Trench locations, plans and sections were recorded at appropriate scales. Monochrome and digital photographs were taken of all fields and relevant features and deposits where appropriate.

Site conditions were good, with the work taking place in mixed weather from snowy conditions to fine weather.

5.0 RESULTS

(Figures 2-9)

Topsoil deposits encountered along the route in Fields 1-35 were between 0.30m and 0.60m deep and comprised mid to dark brown clayey silty sand. Very little subsoil was encountered across the entire length of the route but where it was observed it mainly consisted of ginger brown clayey silty sand. The natural ground remained fairly consistent throughout the route and consisted of intermixed clays with limestone or limestone outcrops.

Field 1 (Fig. 2)

The route through Field 1 measured approximately 750m long by 13.50m wide.

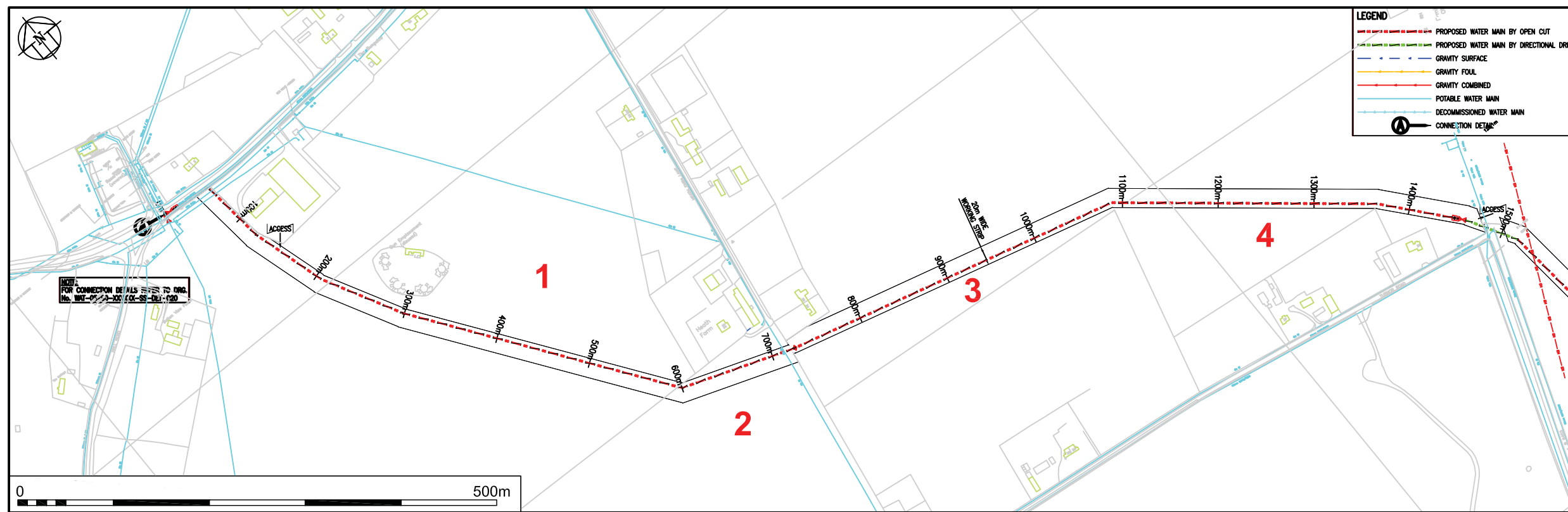
The topsoil (01) was between 0.30m and 0.40m deep. Natural ground consisted of clay with limestone. No archaeological features or deposits were observed in this field.

Five metal-detected finds (03) were recovered from this field; one biconvex button with some decoration dating to the 17th-18th centuries, a Victoria 1861 halfpenny and a George VI 1938 penny with a deep bullet indentation - probably used for target practice (this penny was recovered adjacent to Second World War disused gun emplacement (HER 36658)). An unidentified object and a wire hook, both of copper alloy and a flint were also collected.

Field 2 (Fig. 2)

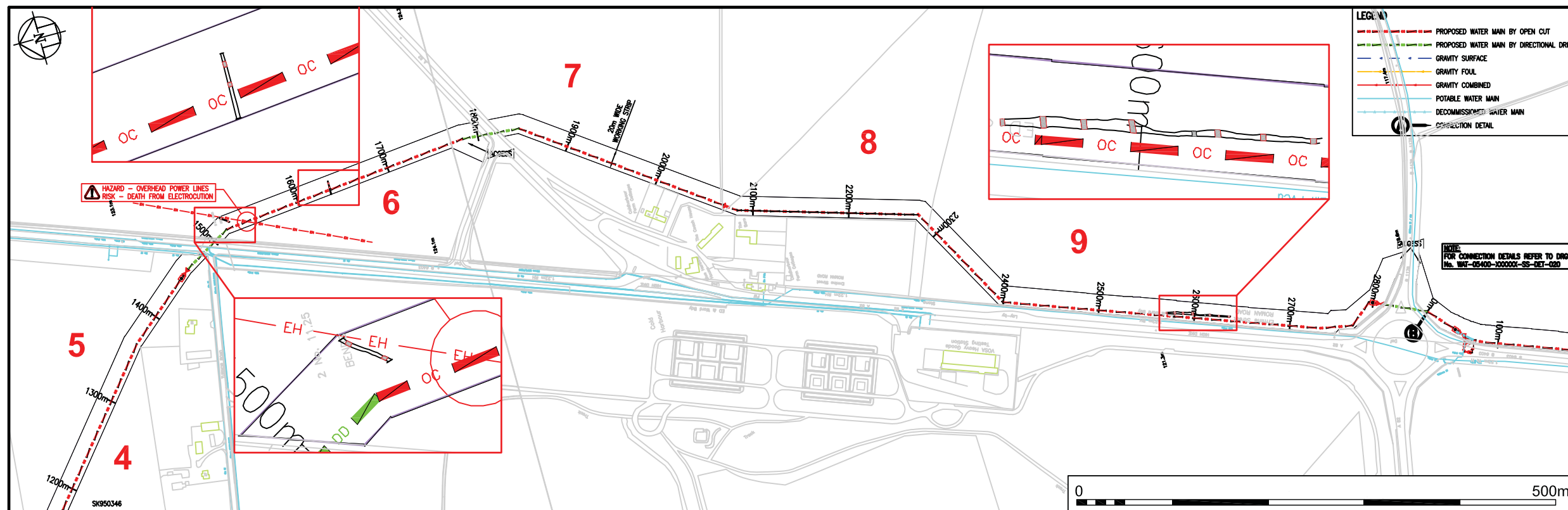
The route through Field 2 was approximately 110m long by 13.60m wide.

Topsoil (01) measured between 0.40m and 0.50m. No subsoil was observed and the natural ground was orange clays intermixed with limestone.



Based on Anglian Water drawing WAT - 05248 - XXXXXX - SS - LON - 101

Figure 2. Fields 1,2,3 and 4. Scale 1:5000



Based on Anglian Water drawing WAT - 05248 - XXXXXX - SS - LON - 102

Figure 3. Fields 5,6,7,8 and 9. Scale 1:5000, inset of features at 1:1000

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