

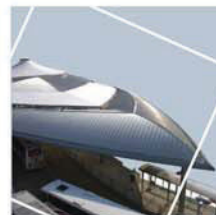
Report 2818



nps archaeology

Archaeological Watching Brief along the Ringland to Attlebridge Replacement Main, Norfolk

ENF128983



Prepared for
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| | |
|---------------------|---|
| Location: | Attlebridge to Ringland replacement main (around Weston Longville), Norfolk |
| District: | Broadland District |
| Grid Ref.: | TG 1173 1433–TG 1219 1409 TG 1127 1583–TG 1141 1590 TG 1166 1617–TG 1174 1627 |
| Planning Ref.: | N/A |
| HER No.: | ENF128983 |
| OASIS Ref.: | 138115 |
| Client: | Anglian Water Services Limited |
| Dates of Fieldwork: | 30 April-29 May 2012 |

Summary

An archaeological watching brief was conducted for Anglian Water Services Limited during groundworks associated with the laying of a replacement water main between Attlebridge and Ringland in Norfolk. Three areas along the route were identified for constant archaeological monitoring - two as a result of cropmarks shown on aerial photographs and one due to the location of the medieval church at Weston Longville.

No significant archaeological features or artefacts were uncovered in the areas covered by the archaeological monitoring. It is possible that the archaeological features producing the linear features noted on the aerial photographs have been truncated or destroyed by modern ploughing.

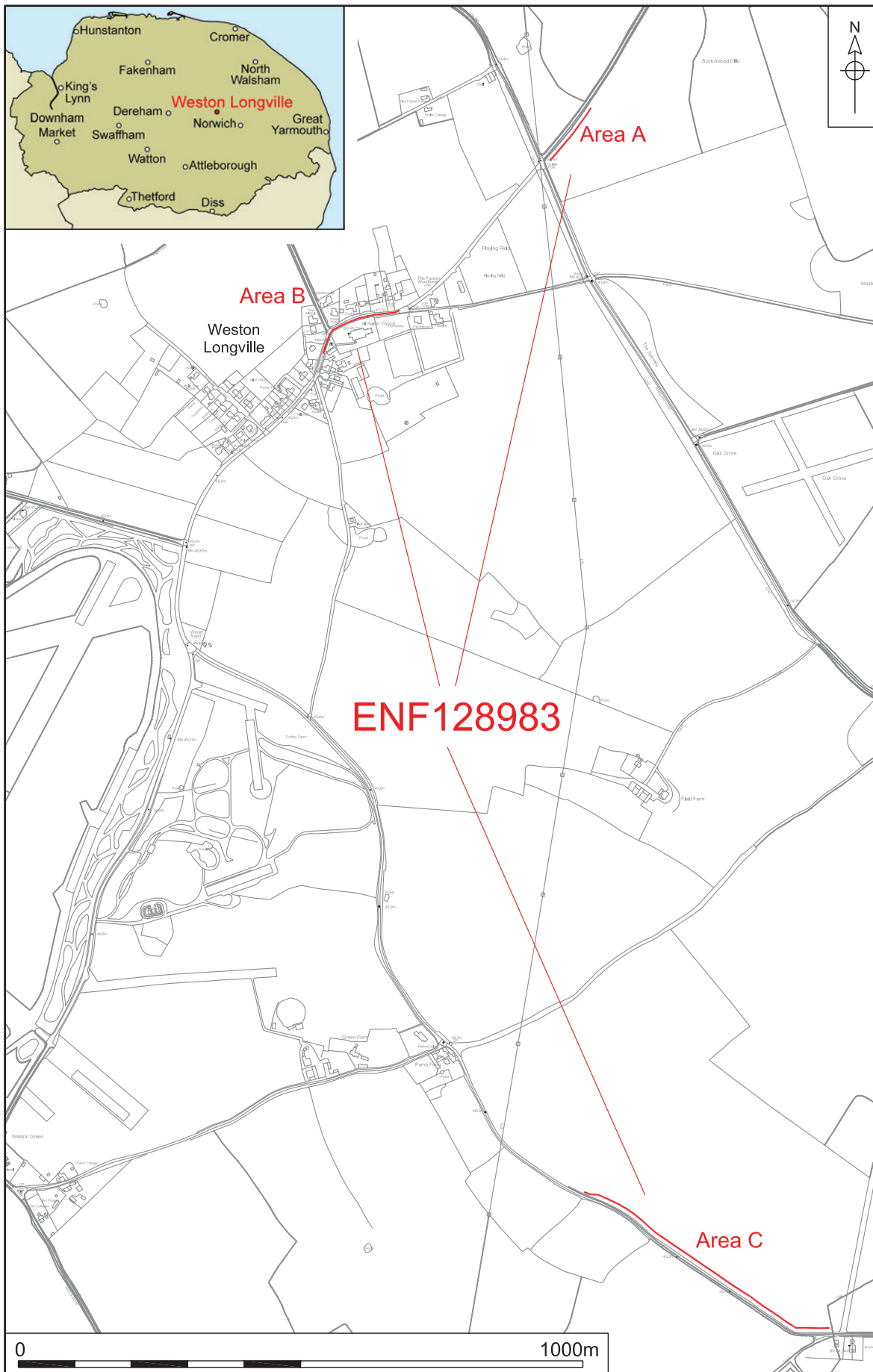
1.0 INTRODUCTION

This project consisted of a constant attendance watching brief on three parts of the Ringland to Attlebridge Replacement Water Main - labelled Areas A, B and C (Fig. 1). The three areas were selected for archaeological monitoring due to the presence of cropmarks and the close proximity of Weston Longville parish church.

This work was undertaken on the request of Anglian Water Services Limited to fulfil a Brief issued by Norfolk Historic Environment Service (CNF43347). The work was conducted in accordance with a Project Design and Method Statement prepared by NPS Archaeology (NAU/BAU2818/DW). This work was commissioned and funded by Anglian Water Services Limited.

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 *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 Norfolk Museums and Archaeology Service (NMAS), following the relevant policies on archiving standards.



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Figure 1. Site location. Scale 1:10,000

2.0 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

The underlying geology through which the monitored route runs consists of Anglian glacial sands and gravels (BGS 19991) above Cretaceous Upper Chalk (BGS 1985).

The monitored sites were located on the southern slope of the valley of the River Wensum, some 13.5km north-west of the city of Norwich. Attlebridge and Ringland both lie in the valley bottom however the replacement main was routed via Weston Longville which lies on the watershed.

Area A was located on a slope, the highest part of which was at a height of 38.3m OD. Area B was positioned in the centre of the village of Weston Longville, at a height of c.48m OD. Area C was located on a slope between heights of 46mOD and 35m OD.

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

A search of records held by the Norfolk Historic Environment Record (NHER) for a 1km radius of the monitored area was commissioned and the relevant results are summarised below ordered by the area in which they are located. Historic mapping sources were also consulted during the preparation of this section.

Area A

Metal detecting in 2006 in the field immediately to the south of Area A (NHER 49540) produced a Late Anglo-Saxon disc brooch and a 15th-century Venetian coin.

Immediately to the north of this area lies a cropmark of a medieval or post-medieval field boundary (NHER 55942).

In 1996 a metal detectorist found a coin of Edward I and five post-medieval thimbles (NHER 33084) some 140m north of this area.

Metal detecting in 2003 recovered a medieval rivet and strap loop as well as two early post-medieval hooked tags (NHER 43444) 260m south-west of this area.

Middle to late Saxon disc brooch (NHER 38560) was found in 1998 by a metal detectorist 210m southwest of this area.

A large pit (NHER 32234) was previously interpreted from aerial photographs as a Roman or Bronze Age barrow, 220m south of Area A.

A large complex of cropmarks (NHER 55945), probably representing field boundaries and trackways, lies in excess of 150m south of Area A.

The c.1885 First Edition Ordnance Survey map (<http://historic-maps.norfolk.gov.uk/mapexplorer>) depicts a wooded area labelled Hardingham Hills to the north of Area A. The Tithe Map (1841) shows straight boundaries in this area indicating parliamentary enclosure of former common or openfield, but the area to the west (towards the village of Western Longville) has boundaries consistent with piecemeal enclosure of openfield areas.

Area B

Lying just to the south of Area B is All Saints' Church (NHER 7749), the parish church of Weston Longville. This is a large church with a 13th-century west tower, 14th-century nave, aisles and chancel and a 15th-century south porch.

Church Farm House (NHER 50984), just south of the western end of this area, is a late 18th-century brick-built house.

The Old Hart (NHER 25083) is a 17th-century single-storied timber-framed former pub located 50m north of this area.

The Old School (NHER 61444) is a former mid 19th-century village school, 40m north of this area.

Some 140m south-west of Area B is the site of a smithy that was working until 1921 (NHER 61639).

Disused brick pits and a yard (NHER 57324) lie 150m south-east of this area.

According to the historic mapping sources, this part of the pipe route, which followed the road, has always appeared as roadway.

Area C

Area C is located within two areas of cropmarks (NHER 55833 and NHER 55845).

Site NHER 55833 represents the cropmarks of possible Iron Age and Roman enclosures.

NHER 55845 is the cropmark site of possible medieval or post-medieval field boundaries.

To the south of Area C lies the site of a World War I and II Military training area (HER 55848) with surviving earthworks.

A watching brief on a water pipeline just to the south of this area (NHER 33261) produced prehistoric flints and a post-medieval coin, but no archaeological features.

The enclosure map (1825) shows this area as belonging to T. T. Berney esq. The field boundaries are very straight, suggesting parliamentary enclosure of former common pasture or arable (<http://historic-maps.norfolk.gov.uk/mapexplorer>). The field boundaries to the north-west are of a shape suggesting piecemeal enclosure of openfield.

4.0 METHODOLOGY

The objective of this watching brief was to record archaeological remains that may be affected by works along the route of the replacement main in specific areas.

The Brief required that constant monitoring be maintained over groundworks in three separate areas (Areas A, B and C).

Machine excavation was carried out with a wheeled JCB-type excavator/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.

Due to the absence of suitable deposits, environmental samples were not taken.

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

Site conditions were good, with the work taking place in fine weather.

5.0 RESULTS

5.1 Area A

Area A extended from TG 1166 1617 to TG 1174 1627 and ran along the edge of an arable field adjacent to the road (Fig. 2).

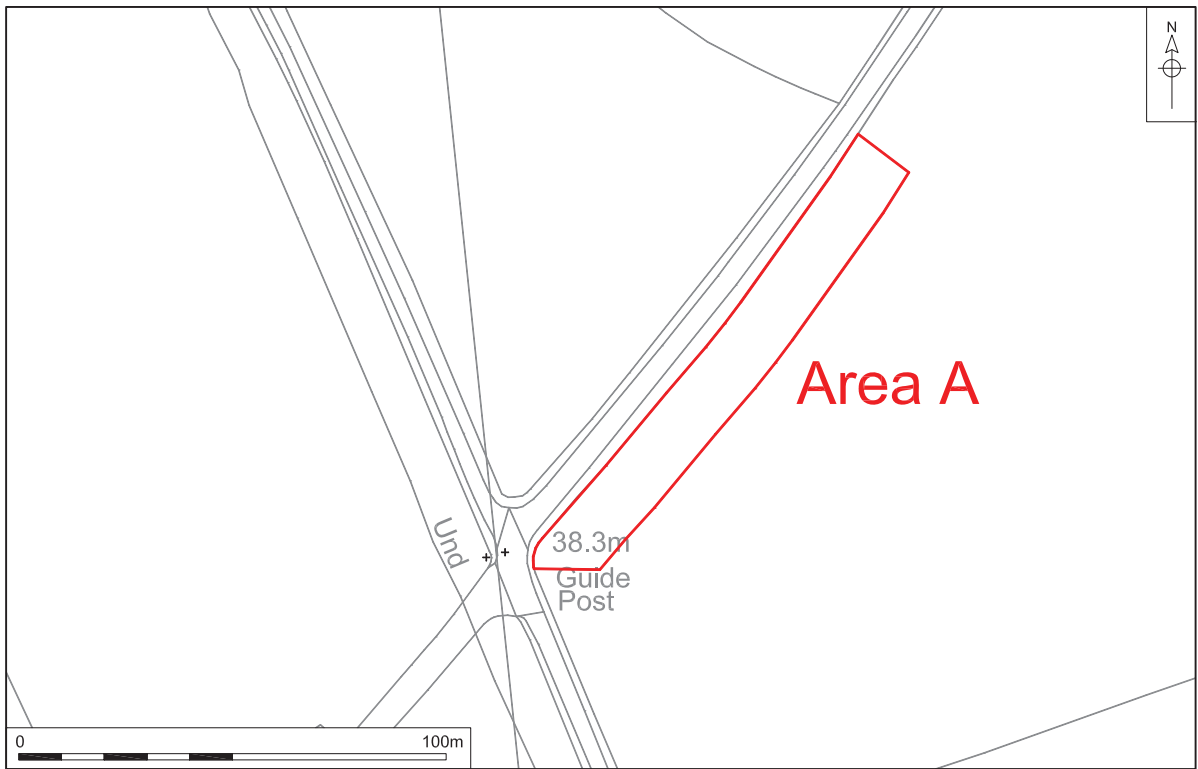
An easement measuring 10.0m wide was excavated to a depth of 0.5m revealing natural gravelly sand (Plate 1).

The stratigraphy consisted of 0.4m of topsoil ([1]) - a dark brown sand with occasional pieces of flint gravel and sparse charcoal flecks with inclusions of post-medieval fragments of ceramic roof tile.

No archaeological features or deposits were present.



Plate 1. The easement facing north-east



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Figure 2. Area A location. Scale 1:1,250

5.2 Area B

Area B extended from TG 1127 1583 to TG 1141 1590 along the middle of the road in the centre of the village of Weston Longville, adjacent to the parish church (Fig. 3).

Because the trench ran along the road there was no easement, hence only excavation of the pipe trench could be monitored (Plate 2). The stratigraphy consisted of tarmac and hoggin associated with the modern road surface, above a 0.25m-thick layer of material that appeared to be like topsoil.

No archaeological features, deposits or finds were present.

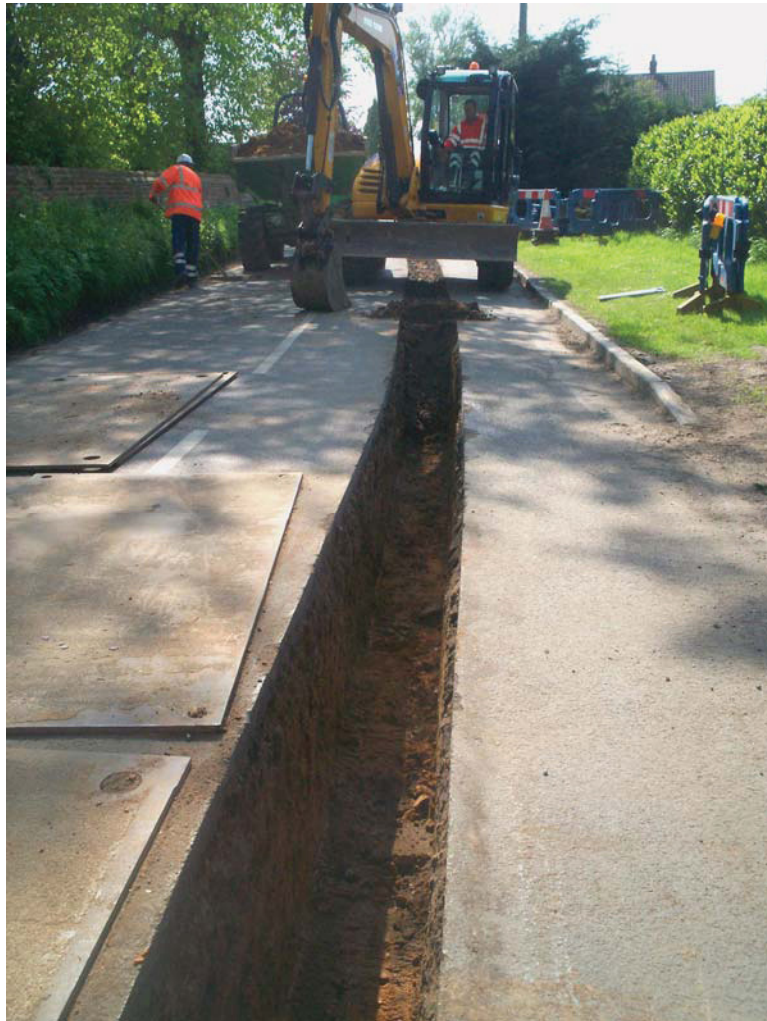


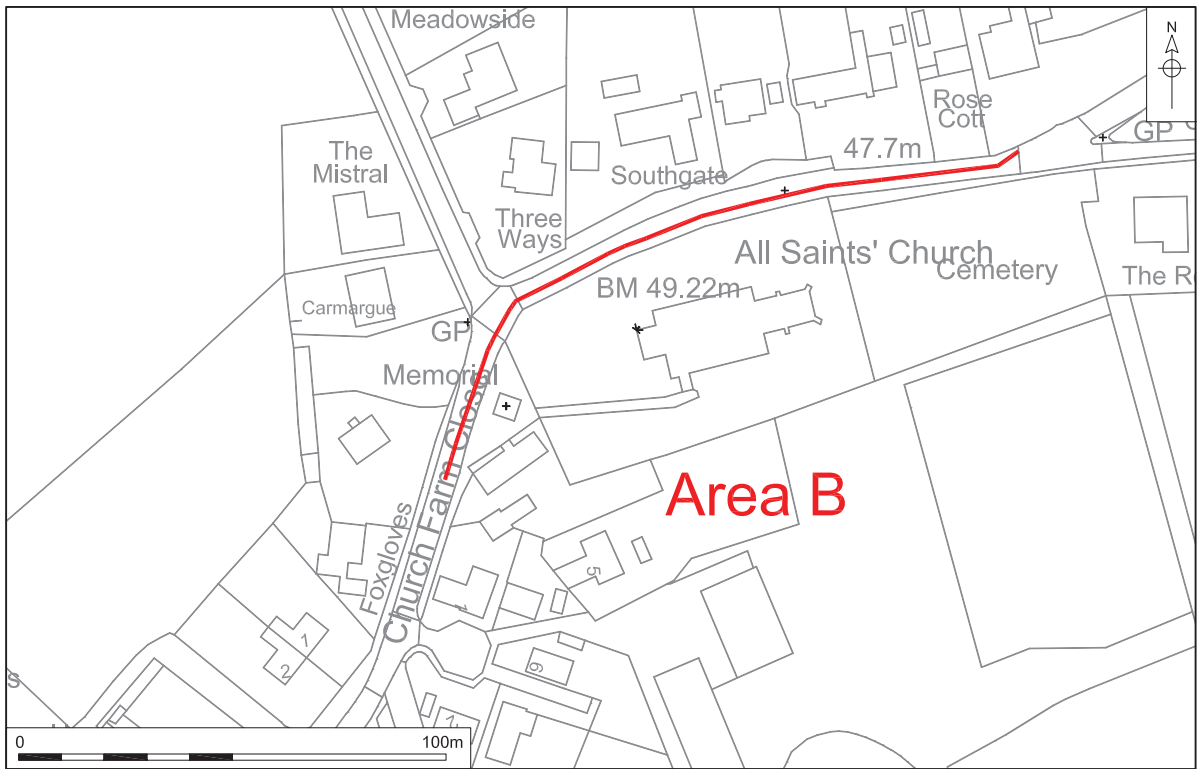
Plate 2. The pipe trench facing west with the churchyard wall to the left

5.3 Area C

Area C extended from TG 1173 1433 to TG 1219 1409 and ran along the edge of a field currently housing pigs (Fig. 4)

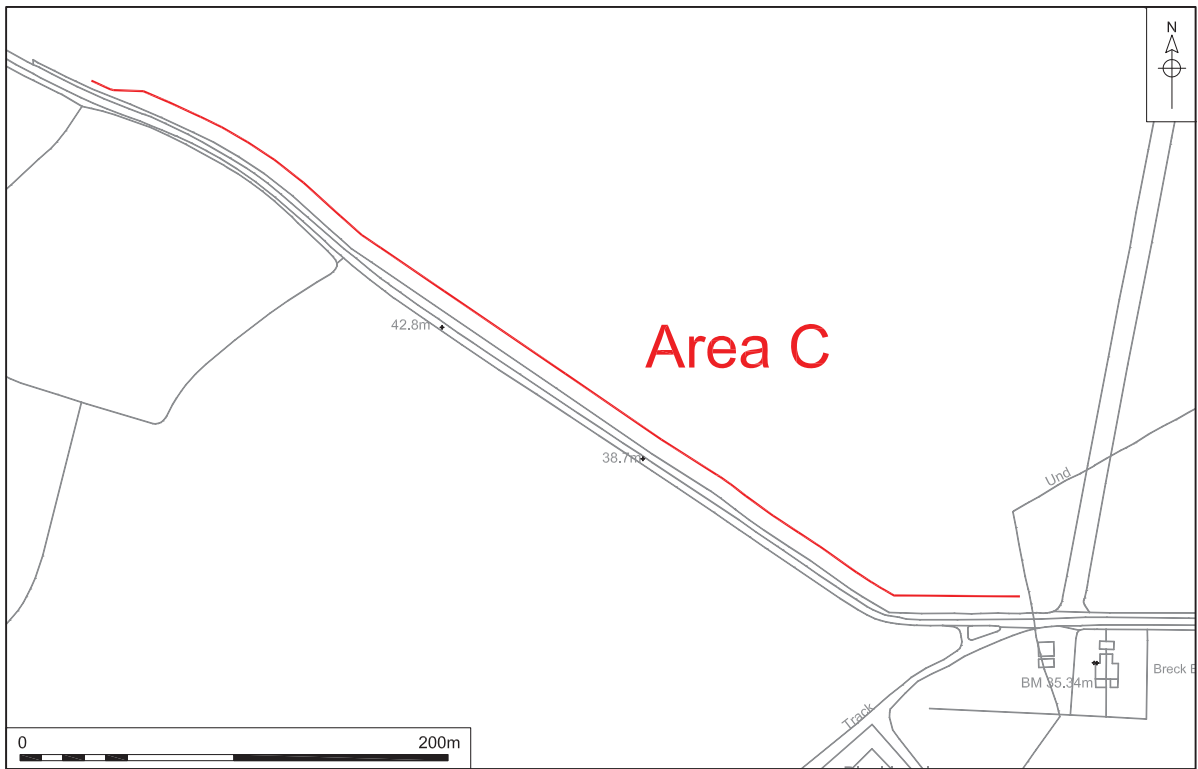
No easement was stripped so only the pipe trench excavations were monitored (Plate 3). The stratigraphy encountered consisted of 0.3m of topsoil ([1]) above natural sand with gravelly patches.

No archaeological features, deposits or finds were encountered.



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Figure 3. Area B location. Scale 1:1,250



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Figure 4. Area C location. Scale 1:2,500



Plate 3. The pipe trench facing north-west

Excavations at the southern end of Area C were postponed due to the presence of a live gas main. Unfortunately we were not advised when excavations for the gas main took place and so they were not monitored.

6.0 THE ARTEFACT EVIDENCE

by Rebecca Sillwood

A single artefact – a piece of ceramic roof tile was collected during fieldwork. It was processed and its weight was recorded and entered on an Excel spreadsheet.

6.1 The Ceramic Building Material

A single fragment (5g) of plain red roof tile was recovered from the topsoil (1) in area A. The piece is small and does not add a huge amount of knowledge to the area.

7.0 CONCLUSIONS

No significant archaeological features or artefacts were uncovered in the areas monitored during this project (Areas A, B and C).

This result could perhaps have been anticipated in Area B as this area has been a roadway as far back as the late 18th century (1797) when the historic mapping sources that were consulted commence. The location of the medieval parish church in Weston Longville suggests that the road is at least medieval in date and probably a lot older. Furthermore, the narrowness of the trench may have precluded observations of any subtle features

Areas A and C (especially Area C) contained cropmarks noted from aerial photographs. Those in Area A suggested a trackway may have crossed the pipeline, as parallel cropmarks were seen heading in the correct direction in an adjacent field. However these were not apparent when the easement was stripped. The cropmarks in Area C suggested one or two earlier field systems were present, perhaps predating the medieval period. However, when the pipe trench was excavated there was no sign of these features either.

Why this negative result would be the case in both areas A and C is unknown. It is possible that modern farming techniques, and especially deep ploughing, may have severely truncated them, perhaps even totally destroying them.

Acknowledgements

The author would like to thank Chris Taylor and the staff of Balfour Beatty for their cooperation during the fieldwork stage of this project.

The fieldwork was carried out by the author.

The finds were processed, recorded and reported on by Rebecca Sillwood.

This report was illustrated and produced by David Dobson and edited by Jayne Bown.

Bibliography and Sources

BGS (British Geological Survey) 1991 *East Anglia*, Sheet 52N 00 Quaternary, 1:250,000 series

BGS (British Geological Survey) 1985 *East Anglia*, Sheet 52N 00 Solid Geology, 1:250,000 series

Department for Communities and Local Government 2012 *National Planning Policy Framework*

<http://historic-maps.norfolk.gov.uk/mapexplorer> Accessed 06.11.2012

Appendix 1: Context Summary

| Context | Category | Cut Type | Fill Of | Description | Period |
|---------|----------|----------|---------|-----------------|--------|
| 1 | Deposit | | | Topsoil, Area A | Modern |

Appendix 2a: Finds by Context

| Context | Material | Qty | Wt | Period | Notes |
|---------|---------------------------|-----|----|---------------|-----------|
| 1 | Ceramic Building Material | 1 | 5g | Post-medieval | Roof tile |

Appendix 2b: Oasis Finds Summary

| Period | Material | Total |
|---------------|---------------------------|-------|
| Post-medieval | Ceramic Building Material | 1 |

Appendix 3: OASIS Report Summary

OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: England

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OASIS ID: norfolka1-138115

Project details

| | |
|--|--|
| Project name | Ringland to Attlebridge Replacement Main, Norfolk |
| Short description of the project | An archaeological watching brief was conducted for Anglian Water Services Limited during groundworks associated with the laying of a replacement water main between Attlebridge and Ringland in Norfolk. Three areas along the route were identified for constant archaeological monitoring - two as a result of cropmarks shown on aerial photographs and one due to the location of the medieval church at Weston Longville. No significant archaeological features or artefacts were uncovered in the areas covered by the archaeological monitoring. It is possible that the archaeological features producing the linear features noted on the aerial photographs have been truncated or destroyed by modern ploughing. |
| Project dates | Start: 30-04-2012 End: 29-05-2012 |
| Previous/future work | No / No |
| Any associated project reference codes | ENF128983 - HER event no. |
| Type of project | Recording project |
| Site status | None |
| Current Land use | Other 11 - Thoroughfare |
| Monument type | NONE None |
| Significant Finds | ROOF TILE Post Medieval |
| Investigation type | "Watching Brief" |
| Prompt | National Planning Policy Framework - NPPF |

Project location

| | |
|------------------|---|
| Country | England |
| Site location | NORFOLK BROADLAND ATTLEBRIDGE Ringland to Attlebridge Replacement Main, Norfolk |
| Study area | 0.75 Kilometres |
| Site coordinates | TG 1173 1433 52 1 52 41 05 N 001 07 58 E Line |
| Site coordinates | TG 1219 1409 52 1 52 40 56 N 001 08 22 E Line |
| Site coordinates | TG 1127 1583 52 1 52 41 54 N 001 07 37 E Line |

Site coordinates TG 1141 1590 52 1 52 41 56 N 001 07 45 E Line
 Site coordinates TG 1166 1617 52 1 52 42 04 N 001 07 59 E Line
 Site coordinates TG 1174 1627 52 1 52 42 07 N 001 08 03 E Line

Project creators

Name of Organisation NPS Archaeology
 Project brief originator Norfolk Historic Environment Service
 Project design originator NPS Archaeology
 Project director/manager david whitmore
 Project supervisor Steve Hickling
 Type of sponsor/funding body Utility
 Name of sponsor/funding body Anglian Water Services Ltd

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 Digital Archive recipient NPS Archaeology
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