

**An Archaeological Watching Brief
during groundworks at Measham Pumping
Station, off Huntingdon Way,
Measham, Leicestershire (SK 337 110)**

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For Severn Trent Water plc
and Pick Everard

University of Leicester Archaeological Services

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Appendix 1 Specification for archaeological work (NUCL 14.8.2003)

Figures

Figure 1. Site location Scale 1: 50000. (from Ordnance Survey Landranger Map 129. (Reproduced with permission of the Controller of HMSO © Crown Copyright. ULAS License No. AL 51800A0001)

Figure 2 Location of the off-line storage culvert at Measham Pumping Station, Measham, Leicestershire scale 1:1000.

Plate 1 View of previously stripped surface from the north.

Plate 2 Culvert excavation in progress.

An Archaeological Watching Brief during groundworks at Measham Pumping Station, off Huntingdon Way, Measham, Leicestershire (SK 337 110)

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Summary

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by ULAS during groundworks for a construction of a culvert at Measham Pumping Station, Measham, Leicestershire (SK 337 110). No archaeological deposits, palaeoenvironmental deposits or finds were located. The archive will be held by Leicestershire County Council, Heritage Services (X.A45.2004).

Introduction

This report presents the results of an archaeological watching brief carried out during excavation of a storage culvert at Measham Pumping Station, off Huntingdon Way, Measham, Leicestershire (SK 618 182: Fig. 1-2). Archaeological work was required following consultation with Leicestershire County Council, Heritage Services as advisors to the planning authority. Archaeological attendance during the groundworks was required because the site is located in an area with archaeological potential as it lies close to a prehistoric flint scatter (SMR LE 7663) and near to a riverbank location which were often favoured for prehistoric settlement. Waterside locations may also have the potential for the survival of palaeochannels and palaeo-environmental information.

The Ordnance Survey Geological Survey of Great Britain, Sheet 142, indicates that the underlying geology is likely to consist of alluvium and sands and gravels

Aims and Methods

The aim of the work was to observe the topsoil stripping and excavation of the culvert trenches, and to record, as appropriate, any archaeological deposits or features encountered. The work followed the Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA) *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs* and the *Specification for archaeological watching brief* (NUCL; 14.8.2003 Appendix 1)

The site was visited on the 13th February 2004, during the excavation of for the culvert. However the topsoil stripping had already been carried out prior to the notification of the commencement of work. The stripped surface was examined and the spoil heaps checked for artefacts (Plate 1). The excavation of the culvert was observed.

Results

The machine stripping had removed approximately a 0.25m depth of topsoil. The area had been stripped several weeks earlier and had subsequently been tracked over during very wet conditions. Visibility was therefore considerably impaired. The topsoil, where visible, comprised a fine clean dark grey brown sandy loam.

The culvert was excavated to a width of *c.* 2 m and to depth of *c.* 3.5 metres using a wheeled hymax with toothed bucket. In view of the depth the sides were shored which restricted the visibility of the sections. The natural substratum where visible comprised a reddish orange sandy clay overlying sands and gravels to a depth of *c.* 1.5m. No archaeological or palaeo-environmental deposits or modern or earlier artefacts were observed.

Conclusion

No archaeological deposits or artefacts were located during the archaeological watching brief. No organic river deposits were located and the clay substratum is likely to have derived from alluvium overlying river sand and gravels.

As the topsoil had previously been stripped without supervision and subsequently tracked over it is possible that archaeological deposits remained undetected. The construction methods of excavating a deep culvert with shoring may also have prevented deposits from being identified.

Archive

The archive consists of a watching brief report sheet including sketch plan and colour transparencies. The archive will be held by Leicestershire County Council, Heritage Services (X.A45.2002).

Acknowledgements

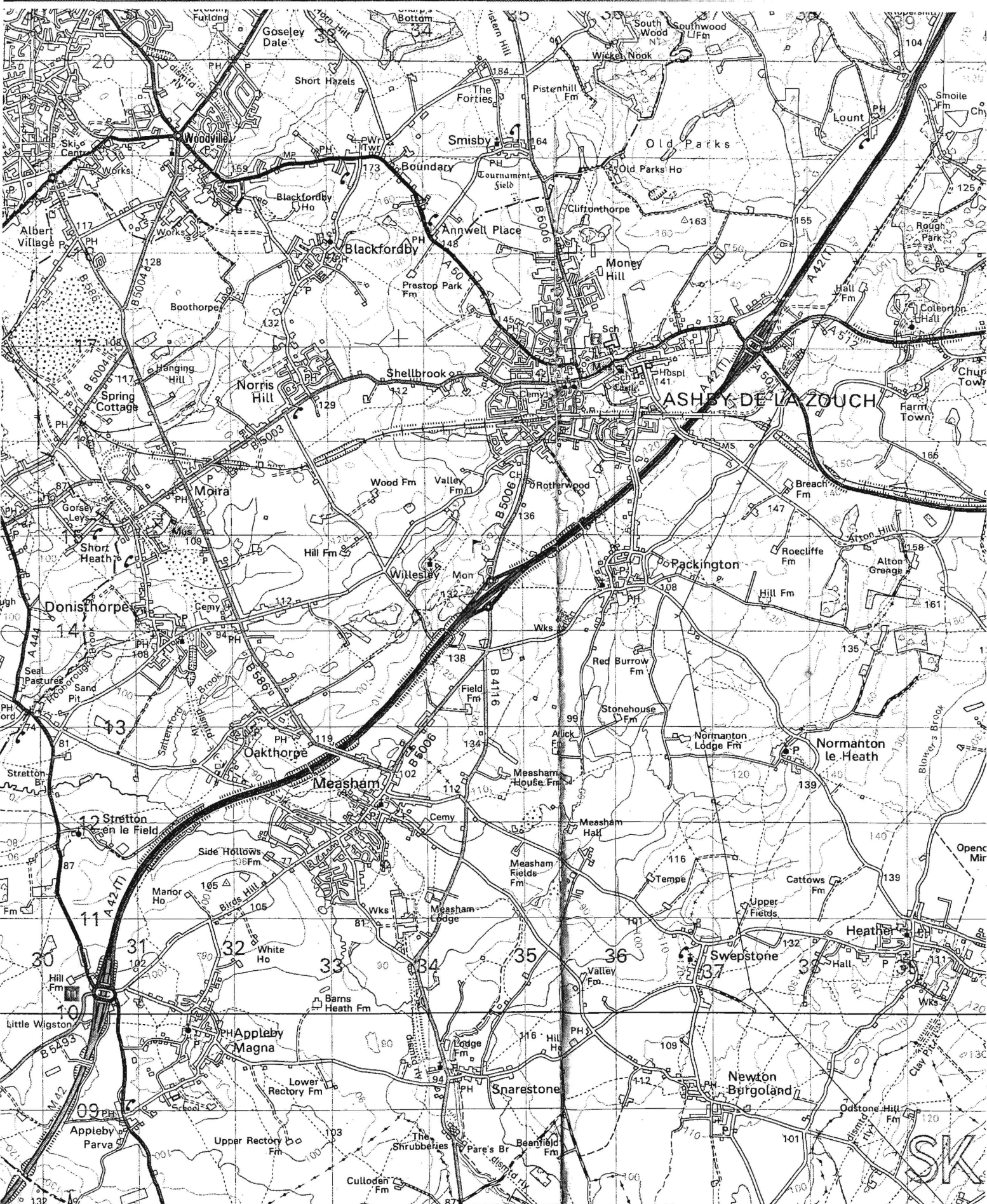
I would like to thank Richard leathers of Pick Everard and Gavin Kinsley of NUCL for their help and co-operation during this watching brief.

ULAS Report: 2004-49

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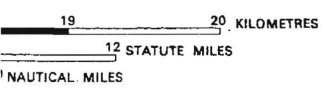
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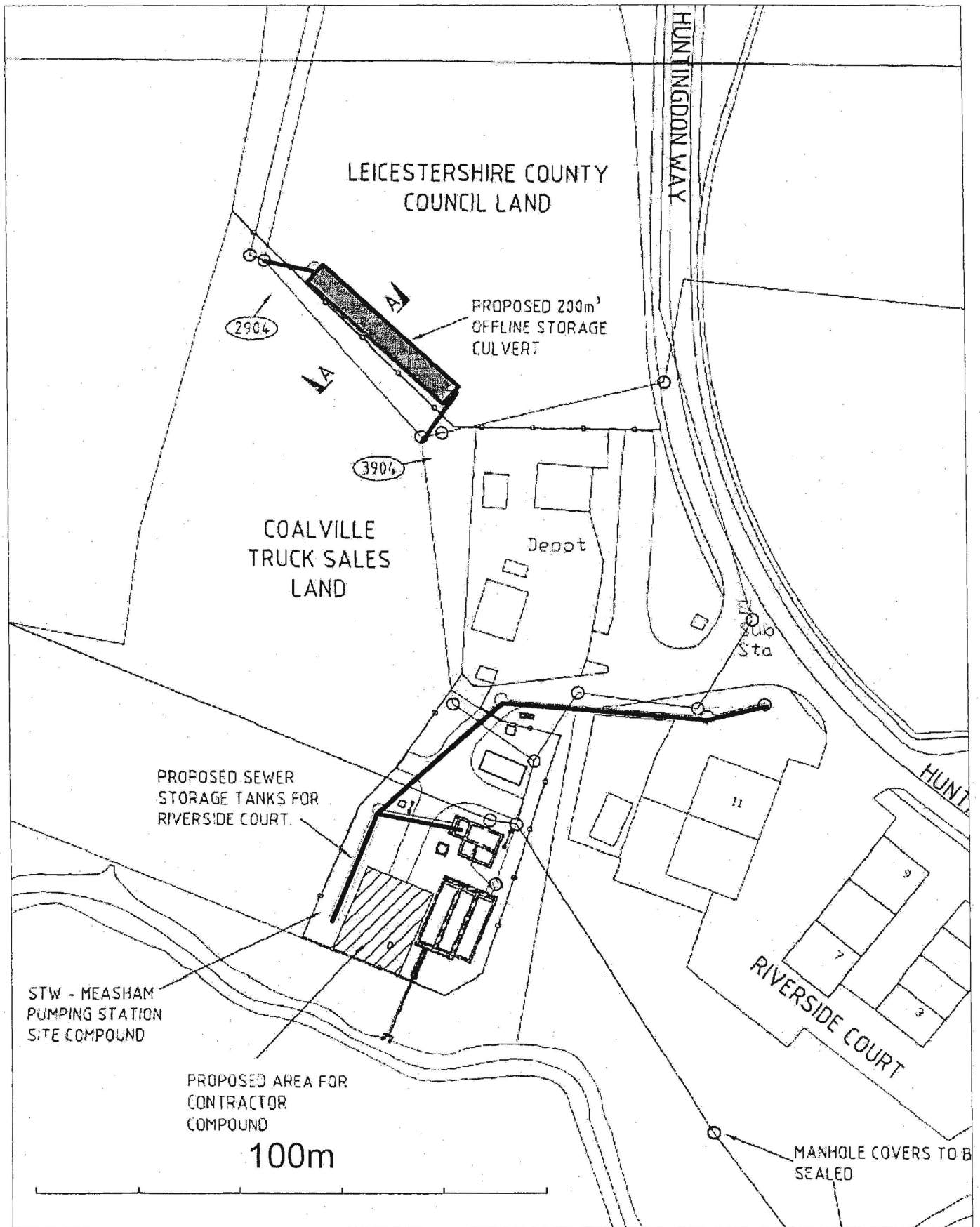
HINCKLEY AND BOSWORTH DISTRICT

LEICESTERSHIRE

30'

Long 1° 25' W





Construction works in disturbed ground (blue) and construction works to be covered by watching-brief with contingency for emergency recording (red) scale 1:1000.



Plate 1 View of previously stripped surface from the north.

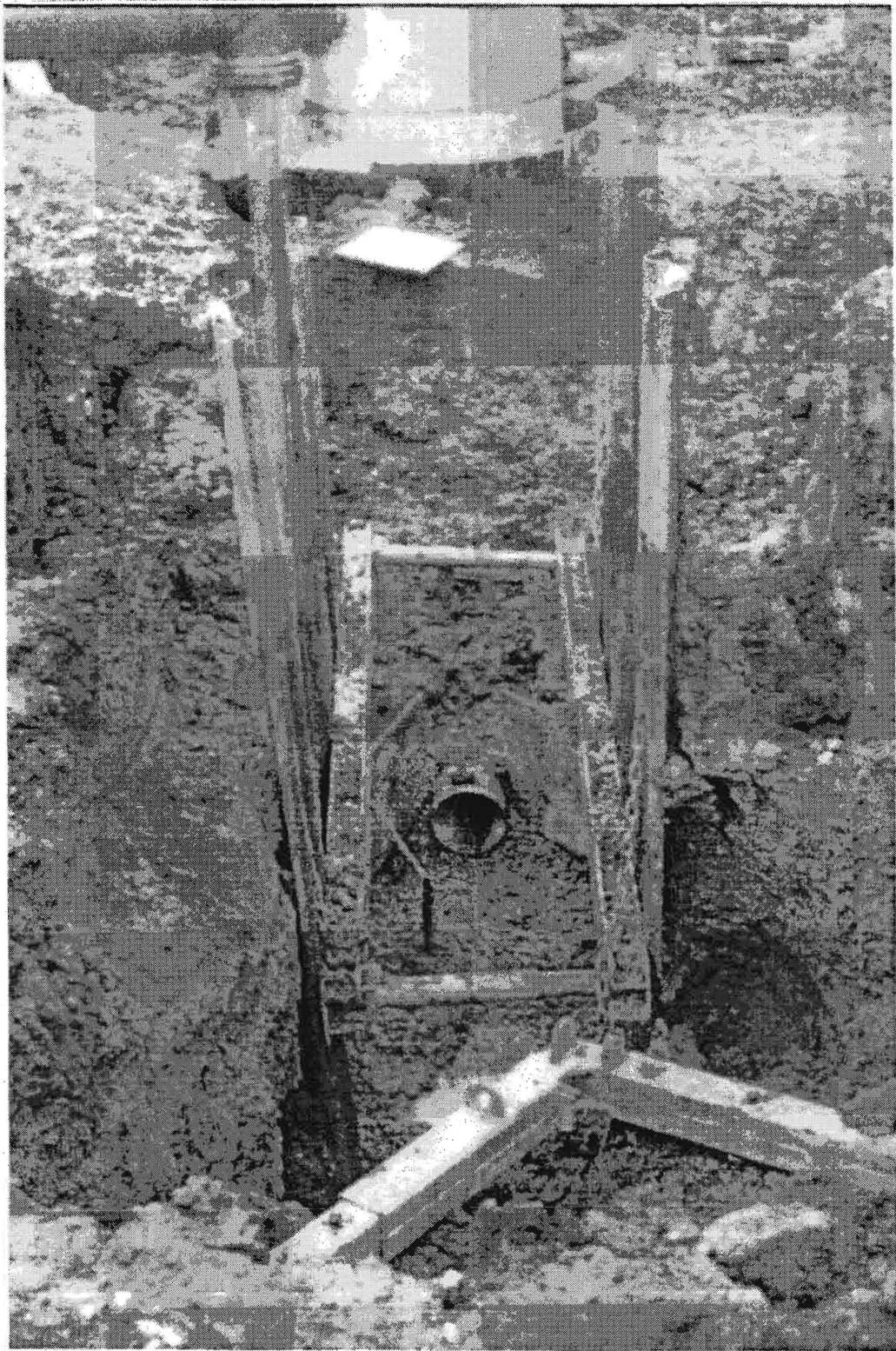


Plate 2 Culvert excavation in progress.



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**SEVERN TRENT WATER
ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONSULTANCY
SPECIFICATION FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING-BRIEF AT
MEASHAM PUMPING STATION, LEICESTERSHIRE PA33376**

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Scope of construction works

- Proposed sewer through existing STW (blue) and the construction of a new off-line storage culvert adjacent to Coalville Truck Sales land (red) as marked on the attached map.

Requirements from Engineer / construction contractor

- Inform NUCL of any significant changes to the scope of construction works as summarised in Fig. 1.
- Provide access for the archaeological contractor to inspect the works and make a record of any archaeological remains
- Any topsoil stripping is to be carried out with a toothless ditching bucket on a back actor.

Archaeological context

- Nearby prehistoric flint scatter (SMR LE 7663) and a riverbank location, a type favoured for prehistoric settlement.

Scope of archaeological works

- Work must be undertaken to a high professional standard. The archaeological contractor will adhere to both the *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching-Briefs* published by the Institute of Field Archaeologists, and the appropriate standards set out in *Guidelines and Procedures for Archaeological Work in Leicestershire and Rutland* (LCC 1997).
- An archaeological watching-brief, to be maintained on Severn Trent Water's construction works within the area indicated on the accompanying plan(s). A continuous watch is to be maintained on the construction of the off-line storage culvert (red).
- The archaeological contractor will observe archaeologically sensitive areas during ground disturbance works and produce written, drawn and photographic records of deposits exposed.
- If artefacts or features are recovered, the area of interest will be protected from traffic, as far as practicable, until the remains are dealt with.
- In the event that significant archaeological deposits are encountered, the recording of which is beyond the scope of the normal watching-brief, the archaeological contractor must inform the STW site agent, NUCL (Tel 0115 9514821) and the Leicestershire County Archaeological Officer (Tel: 0116 264 5812) immediately.
- It is usual for the County Archaeological Officer to monitor progress of archaeological projects in accordance with the *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching-Briefs* published by the Institute of Field Archaeologists. In addition, the County Archaeological Officer will be appraised of the progress of the watching brief by the archaeological contractor and will be invited to visit to inspect any significant deposits exposed.
- At the completion of fieldwork the archaeological contractor will produce a written report on the works undertaken, which includes brief comment on the significance of any archaeological deposits discovered. The report will be submitted to Severn Trent Water no later than six months after the completion of fieldwork.
- In addition the archaeological contractor will compile a well-ordered and indexed archive of all site records, including drawings and photographs, produced during the watching-brief.
- All artefacts recovered will be kept by the archaeological contractor, or their agents, for study. Upon agreement with the legal owner all artefacts will be deposited, along with the written archive with the Leicestershire Museums Arts and Records Service. The archaeological contractor must obtain an accession number from the Museum Service before the start of work on site. All artefacts and site records must be appropriately labeled with the accession number.
- On completion two copies of the archaeological contractor's report should be forwarded to the County Council Archaeological Officer (to be lodged in the County Sites and Monuments Record) and one copy to the Environmental and Control Section, Dept of Planning and Transport, County Hall, Glenfield, Leicester.
- The copyright of all reports will be vested in the archaeological contractor, who will be free to publish the results of this work with due acknowledgement to Severn Trent Water. There will be no limitation on reproduction of the archaeological contractor's report by Severn Trent Water.

