Wessex Archaeology

Blind Lane, Kirk Ireton, Derbyshire

Archaeological Watching Brief Report

Ref: 72920.01

February 2010

BLIND LANE,
KIRK IRETON, DERBYSHIRE

Archaeological Watching Brief Report

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Archaeological Watching Brief Report

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Summary

Wessex Archaeology were commissioned by Severn Trent Water to undertake the archaeological monitoring of groundworks associated with the insertion of a new pipeline within Land adjacent to Topshill Farm, Kirk Ireton, Derbyshire (NGR SK 277 515). The work commissioned followed on from monitoring carried out by ARCUS between June and November 2009 (Tuck and Barnett 2009).

The Watching Brief consisted of monitoring the removal of a 7m wide topsoil and subsoil strip to a depth of 0.30m, followed by the excavation of a 0.50m wide pipe trench to a depth of 1.20m.

No archaeological features were uncovered during the groundworks. A mixed redeposited natural layer above the natural was identified as a trample layer from previous utility works carried out during the 20th Century.

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Acknowledgements

This project was commissioned by Severn Trent Water and Wessex Archaeology is grateful to John Wright in this regard. Wessex Archaeology would also like to thank Sarah Whiteley of Peak National Park Authority.

Fieldwork was undertaken by Chris Harrison. The report was researched and compiled by Chris Harrison. Illustrations were prepared by Chris Swailes. The project was managed for Wessex Archaeology by Richard O'Neill. This project was taken on by Wessex Archaeology after the closure of ARCUS in November 2009.

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Archaeological Watching Brief Report

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project Background

1.1.1 In June 2009 Archaeological Research and Consultancy at the University of Sheffield (ARCUS) were commissioned by Severn Trent Water to undertake an archaeological Watching Brief on the excavation of a pipe trench from Breamhead to Hulland, Derbyshire. ARCUS monitored work from land located between Stonebridge Farm and Callow Park, Alderwasley Hall School, to land between Topshill Wood and Wapentake Lane. In November 2009 Wessex Archaeology were commissioned to monitor works north and northwest of Topshill Farm.

1.1.2 Severn Trent Water initiated the scheme of works through permitted development rights. The Watching Brief was advised after consultation with ARCUS and Peak District National Park Authority.

1.1.3 The Watching Brief followed methodologies set out in a Written Scheme of Investigation (Davies 2009) approved by Peak District National Park Authority and Severn Trent Water.

1.1.4 The scope of this report is to detail the archaeological findings from works monitored by Wessex Archaeology. All results from work undertaken by ARCUS have been reported by ARCUS (Tuck and Barnett 2009).

1.2 Site Location and Geology

1.2.1 The site (running from NGR SK 270 507 to SK 272 508), extends for 2.2km between Topshill Farm, north-east of Kirk Ireton, and the B5036 Derby Road. This report covers the area immediately North and Northwest of Topshill Farm.

1.2.2 The area under investigation was labelled Field 9 (Fields 1-8 were monitored by ARCUS) and slopes from Southwest to Northeast. The underlying geology consists of variable glacially deposited boulder clay.

2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Chronology

2.1.1 Where mentioned in the text, the main archaeological periods are broadly defined by the following date ranges:

- Modern 1900-present
- 19th century 1800-1900
- Post-medieval 1500-1799
- Medieval AD1066-1499
- Saxon AD410-1066
- Post-Roman AD410-650

- Romano-British AD 43-410
- Iron Age 700 BC- AD 43
- Bronze Age 2400-700 BC
- Neolithic 4000-2400 BC
- Mesolithic 8500-4000BC
- Palaeolithic 500000-10000BP

2.2 Documentary Evidence

2.2.1 The archaeological background of the site and its location was detailed in Scoping Advice (May 2009) commissioned by Severn Trent Water and is summarised below.

2.2.2 The following information is derived from records held by Derbyshire County Council Historic Environment Record (HER), the Archaeological Data Service (ADS), Magic interactive map, historic O.S. maps and recent satellite imaging available from Google Earth and Live Search, covering a radius of 500m from the pipeline. A second search was carried out using the same resources at a 2km radius from the pipeline and was focused on retrieving data pertaining to Scheduled Ancient Monuments (SAMs).

2.2.3 Two SAMs exist within 2km of the pipeline: Callow shrunken medieval moated manor (SAM 23303) and Callow shrunken medieval village (SAM 29977). The pipeline passed four grade II listed buildings (Topshill Farm and Cowhouse, The Kernels farmhouse and a 19th century cast iron milepost on Derby Road HER 28348).

2.2.4 Within 500 metres of the proposed works 5 sites are listed in the HER. These include: an area of sunken lanes and house platforms to the west of Dark Lane (HER 3009); levelled ridge and furrow cultivation, visible as cropmarks to the south of Alton Manor (HER 21505); Alton Manor (HER 21510); Alton Manor Ice House (HER 21506) and; Alton Manor model farm (HER 21509).

2.2.5 Aerial photographic evidence from Live Search indicated that a curving earthwork exists within a field west of Topshill Farm. Cartographic evidence showed no significant features beyond those identified from other resources.

2.2.6 The historical landscape in which the pipeline was instated appears to have been well settled by the medieval period (May 2009). Further agricultural development in the post medieval and 19th century created the pattern of field systems visible today.

2.3 Archaeological Evidence

2.3.1 The initial phase of monitoring of groundworks in preparation of the construction of the pipeline from Breamhead to Hulland, was undertaken by ARCUS (Tuck and Barnett 2009). During excavations of field 4, where the pipeline intersected with an area of earthworks, designated by Derbyshire County Council Historic Environment Record as HER 3009, no archaeological features or finds were uncovered. As a result no archaeological interpretation could be given to the earthworks noted in field 4 (see Tuck and Barnett 2009 for illustrations and discussion)

3 AIMS

3.1.1 The aims of the archaeological watching brief were:

- to identify any archaeological remains along the route of the pipeline;
- to record all archaeological remains disturbed by the ground works;
- to recover artefacts disturbed by the site works;
- to produce an accurate and comprehensive record and report on the archaeology disturbed by the site works.

4 METHODOLOGY

4.1 Watching Brief Methodology

4.1.1 The Watching Brief was carried out in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) (Davies 2009). All work adhered to the standards outlined in the WSI and were agreed by Peak District National Park Authority, Severn Trent Water, ARCUS and Wessex Archaeology.

4.1.2 The groundworks associated with the insertion of the pipeline consisted of a 7 metre wide topsoil strip to an average depth of 0.30m, succeeded by the excavation of a 0.50m wide pipe trench to an average depth of 1.20m from ground level.

4.1.3 Ploughsoil and, where present, Topsoil was removed by a tracked 360-mechanical excavator fitted with a 2m wide toothless bucket. The strip progressed from immediately northeast of Topshill Farm southwest, turning westerly immediately north of Topshill Farm.

4.1.4 Once the area stripped had been archaeologically cleared, a 0.50m trench was excavated using a narrow toothless bucket attached to a tracked 360-mechanical digger.

4.1.5 Excavations were carried out under constant archaeological supervision by a suitably qualified member of Wessex Archaeology staff. Spoil generated by the excavations was scanned by a Wessex Archaeologist.

4.2 Recording

4.2.1 Recording of the Site was carried out using Wessex Archaeology's *pro forma* recording system where applicable. All recording was supported by day book entries and photographic records.

4.2.2 The field subject to development was allocated the number 9 continuing the sequence previously used by ARCUS. The area excavated within the road was labelled road 1. Context numbers were assigned to layers within field 9 as an extension of the system used by ARCUS, thus starting at 1019. Context numbers assigned to layers within the road started from 200.

4.3 Best Practice

4.3.1 This Watching Brief has been carried out in accordance with the Institute of Field Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief* (IFA 1994, revised 2008).

4.4 Copyright

4.4.1 This report may contain material that is non-Wessex Archaeology copyright (e.g. Ordnance Survey, British Geological Survey, Crown Copyright), or the intellectual property of third parties, which we are able to provide for limited reproduction under the terms of our own copyright licences, but for which copyright itself is non-transferrable by Wessex Archaeology. You are reminded that you remain bound by the conditions of the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 with regard to multiple copying and electronic dissemination of the report.

5 RESULTS

5.1 Introduction

5.1.1 An outline of the results of archaeological monitoring during the excavation of the pipe line, are presented below. A table describing the individual contexts can be found in **Appendix 1**.

5.2 Field 9 Sequence

5.2.1 The soil profile was consistent across the entire of Field 9, with only the depths of deposits altering an otherwise homogenous sequence.

5.2.2 The modern ground surface was short grass above a dark reddish brown humic silty clay loam topsoil with infrequent unsorted subangular Gritstone inclusions, averaging 0.01m in diameter (**1019**). The depth of this deposit decreased from 0.30m in the Southwest of Field 9 to 0.15m in the Northeast (decreasing upslope).

5.2.3 The removal of (**1019**) revealed a mid reddish brown silty clay loam with rare angular Gritstone inclusions (**1020**). The depth of this deposit was 0.30m at the Southwest of Field 9, decreasing to 0.25m in the Northeast.

5.2.4 Subsoil (**1020**) overlay a layer of broken redeposited natural light grey Gritstone, averaging 0.05 in diameter (**1023**). The deposit measured 0.05m in depth across the entire of Field 9.

5.2.5 Beneath the layer of broken Gritstone (**1023**) existed a poorly sorted mottled mid greyish blue and mid orange silty clay deposit (**1021**). The depth of the deposit was 0.40m and was consistent across Field 9.

5.2.6 The removal of the silty clay layer (**1021**) revealed a well sorted mid greyish blue and mid orange silty clay deposit (**1022**) that existed above natural Gritstone bedrock (**1024**). The depth of the homogenised silty clay layer (**1022**) measured 0.50m.

5.2.7 No archaeological features were encountered during groundworks.

5.3 Road 1 (Topshill Lane) Sequence

5.3.1 The soil profile beneath Road 1 was consistent with field 9, save for the insertion of an air valve and pipeline identical to that being constructed within the scheme of works.

5.3.2 The road surface (**200**) lay 0.15m above hardcore and levelling layers (**205** and **206**) made from broken gritstone (0.02m x 0.02m x 0.01m). Further excavation revealed a deposit of Yellowish Brown Silty Clay (**207**) with infrequent blue and orange patches (from a depth of 0.55m to 1.07m below ground level), similar a deposit found within field 9 (**1021**).

5.3.3 The removal of the silty clay layer (**207**) revealed a Mid Brown Silty Clay layer with blue and orange coloration (15%) well sorted within its matrix. The excavated depth of the deposit was 0.40m. Towards the deposit's base the blue colouration was more prevalent (35%).

6 FINDS

6.1.1 A modern horse shoe was uncovered from deposit (**1020**), along with several modern ceramic land drain segments (not *in situ*). No finds were retained.

7 CONCLUSIONS

7.1 Field 9

7.1.1 Field 9 displayed a sequence of deposits related to the natural alluvial and colluvial movement of soils down slope (**1021** and **1022**). Above natural deposits (**1021** and **1022**) existed a redeposited clay and broken stone and layer (**1023**) that had some broken material such as ceramic land drains within it. Utility maps of the investigation area indicate that pipelines were inserted within field 9 in the 20th century, close to the current scheme of works. It is, therefore, reasonable to assume that (**1023**) represents a trodden layer formed during the insertion of utilities. Topsoil and subsoil (**1019** and **1020**) appear to have been redeposited above (**1023**).

7.2 Road 1

7.2.1 The sequence of the ground make up below Road 1 was consistent with Field 9. A cut into the road surface was noted, although it proved to be for a modern ductile pipe and air valve.

8 RECOMMENDATIONS

8.1.1 No further work is recommended.

9 ARCHIVE

9.1.1 Following completion of all archaeological works the project archive will be prepared to standards outlined in *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment* (2006) and by Buxton Museum Services.

9.1.2 The archive comprises of context registers, context sheets, trench recording sheets, photographic register and digital registers and photographs. An electronic version of the report will be sent to Severn Trent Water and Buxton Museum.

10 REFERENCES

Davies, G. 2009: *Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Watching Brief on Breamhead to Hulland (Item 3).* Unpublished ARCUS report 1303

English Heritage. 2006. *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment. English Heritage: Swindon.*

IfA. 2008. *Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief. Institute of Field Archaeologists.*

May, R. 2009: *Scoping Report for Breamfield to Hulland Pipeline.* Unpublished ARCUS Report

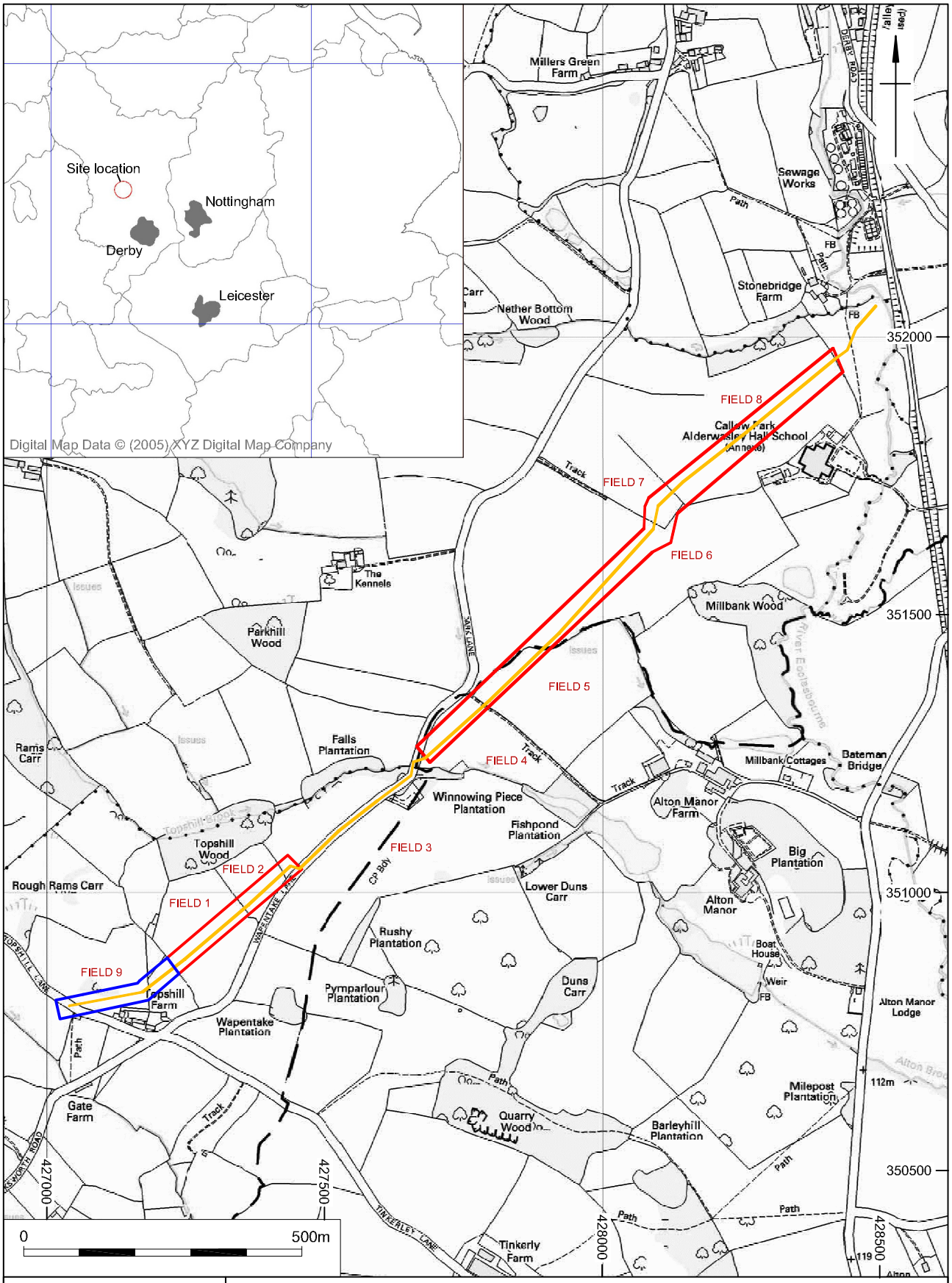
Tuck, A. and Barnett, R. 2009: *Report on Breamfield to Hulland Archaeological Watching Brief.* Unpublished ARCUS report 1303.1(2)

APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT DESCRIPTION

Field 9			
Depth bgl	Context	Description	Interpretation
0-0.3m	1019	Very dark reddish brown silty clay loam, with rare gritstone angular pebbles, averaging 0.05m in diameter. Very humic and friable. Diffuse boundary with 102 below.	Topsoil
0.3-0.6m	1020	Mid reddish brown silty clay loam, with rare gritstone angular pebbles, averaging 0.05m in diameter. Humic and friable. abrupt boundary with 1023 below.	Subsoil
0.65-1m	1021	Compact mixed blue and brownish orange patches (abrupt poorly sorted) sandy clay. Coloration caused by leeching and oxidisation. Abrupt boundary with 1023 above, diffuse boundary with 1022 below.	Natural
1m-1.5m	1022	Compact mixed blue and browny orange sandy clay (well sorted), gradually becoming more blue towards its base.	Natural
0.6-0.65m	1023	Compact Thin layer of broken angular gritstone, averaging 0.15m x 0.15m x 0.03m, mixed with mid brownish blue clay.	Trample layer of redeposited natural created during the insertion of modern services
1.5m-1.55m	1024	Compact gritstone.	Gritstone bedrock

Road 1			
Depth bgl	Context	Description	Interpretation
0-0.15m	200	Tarmac.	Tarmac surface of Topshill Lane
0.0-0.32m	201	Friable very dark brown silty clay loam,	Topsoil of

		diffuse boundary with 202 below.	verge
0.32-0.47m	202	Mid brown silty clay loam, abrupt boundary with 203 below.	Subsoil of verge
0.47-1.47m	203	Compact light yellowish brown sandy gravel, used to bed and pack around pipe 204.	Type 1 crush packing and backfill around pipe 204
1.10-1.40m	204	Fe ductile pipe finished with blue anti corrosive paint.	Modern 12" ductile pipe
0.15-0.38m	205	Impacted subangular dark brown gritstone and rubble hardcore below road surface 200, diffuse boundary with 206.	Hardcore layer below 200
0.38-0.55m	206	Compact brownish orange layer of same material, although slightly larger in size, as 206. Abrupt bounsdary with 207.	Hardcore layer below 205
0.55-1.07m	207	Compact yellowish brown sandy clay with dispersed orange and blue patches.	Natural
1.07-1.47m	208	Compact bluish yellow sandy clay, becoming bluer as it descends.	Natural
0.47-1.47m	209	Vertical sided cut with a flat base, (machine cut).	Cut for ductile pipe 204
0.0-0.55m	210	Smooth 45 degree angled shallow cut aligning with Topshill lane, and truncated by 209. Flat base.	Cut for Topshill Lane



pipeline route
WB area (Arcus)
WB area (Wessex)

Date:	12/01/10	Revision Number:	0
Scale:	1:10000 @ A4	Illustrator:	CS
Path:	S:USERS\Chris Swales\Project\72920_Blind Lane\72920_ill1-2.dwg		

Wessex Archaeology

Site location

Figure 1

PLATES

Plate 1: View from the northeast looking southwesterly along the top and subsoil strip.

Plate 2: View from the northeast showing pipe trench into natural clays.

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