



## Clipstone to Edwinstowe Outfall Sewer Renewal, Nottinghamshire.

Archaeological Watching Brief Report





**CLIPSTONE TO EDWINSTOWE OUTFALL SEWER RENEWAL,  
NOTTINGHAMSHIRE**

**Archaeological Watching Brief**

Prepared for:  
**North Midland Construction PLC**  
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On behalf of:  
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## QUALITY ASSURANCE

SITE CODE	<b>73650</b>	ACCESSION CODE	<b>TBC</b>	CLIENT CODE	-
PLANNING APPLICATION REF.	-	NGR	<b>46173 36591 TO 46023 36386</b>		

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\* I= INTERNAL DRAFT E= EXTERNAL DRAFT F= FINAL

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**CLIPSTONE TO EDWINSTOWE OUTFALL SEWER RENEWAL,  
NOTTINGHAMSHIRE****Archaeological Watching Brief****Summary**

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Seven Trent Water (the Client) to undertake an archaeological watching brief on the Clipstone to Edwinstowe Outfall Sewer Renewal. The pipeline runs through mixed agricultural land from Edwinstowe (National Grid Reference 46173 36591) to Old Clipstone (NGR 46023 36386) in Nottinghamshire.

No direct evidence was recovered during the watching brief for human activity predating the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Although Romano-British remains associated with possible settlement, and medieval occupation in the area of King John's Palace near the south end of the route attest to a long history of occupation in the vicinity, the negative results illustrate that known occupation in the area prior to the 19<sup>th</sup>-century produced little evidence in terms of artefacts or intrusive features within the monitored areas of the pipeline. The only features observed during the course of the watching brief relate to 19<sup>th</sup>-century agricultural water management activity, a water meadow sluice and feeder channel system forming part of the Duke of Portland's irrigation scheme.

The project archive, consisting of all primary written documents, plans, sections, photographs, and electronic data, is currently stored at the offices of Wessex Archaeology in Sheffield. It is anticipated that a copy of this report will be deposited in due course with Newark Museum. An OASIS form will be completed at <http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis/> for inclusion in the ADS database. This will include an electronic copy of the report in PDF format.

**CLIPSTONE TO EDWINSTOWE OUTFALL SEWER RENEWAL,  
NOTTINGHAMSHIRE**

**Archaeological Watching Brief**

**Acknowledgements**

The archaeological monitoring was commissioned by North Midland Construction Ltd.

The archaeological monitoring was undertaken by Rob Barnett, James Thomson and Iwona Kozieradzka-Ogunmakin. Preparation of this report was by Rob Barnett. Illustrations were prepared by Chris Swales. The project was managed on behalf of Wessex Archaeology by Richard O'Neill.

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## **CLIPSTONE TO EDWINSTOWE OUTFALL SEWER RENEWAL, NOTTINGHAMSHIRE**

### **Archaeological Watching Brief**

## **1 INTRODUCTION**

### **1.1 Project Background**

1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology (Sheffield) was commissioned by North Midland Construction Ltd (hereafter 'the Client') to carry out an archaeological watching brief on the Clipstone to Edwinstowe Outfall Sewer Renewal, Nottinghamshire (hereafter 'the Site'). The Site lies approximately between National Grid References (NGR) 46173 36591 to 46023 36386 (**Figure 1**).

1.1.2 Nottinghamshire County Council (NCC) requested that an archaeological watching brief should be undertaken to monitor groundworks during the top and subsoil stripping of the easement and open cut pipe trench.

1.1.3 A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) was prepared by ARCUS (ARCUS 2008a) detailing the methods and standards to be employed during the archaeological works. This report presents a brief description of the methodology followed, the results of the monitoring, and the archaeological interpretation of the findings.

### **1.2 The Site, location and geology**

1.2.1 The pipeline is situated c.5 miles to the northeast of Mansfield and commences south of Waterfield Farm. From there it heads north and under the Mansfield Road to Clipstone Junction then northeast adjacent to the River Maun to Mill Lane on the southwest of Edwinstowe. The route is located in the valley bottom.

1.2.2 The underlying geology of the area is Pleistocene and Recent Older Alluvium and Permo-Triassic Bunter pebble Beds, overlying middle Permian Marl and Sand, Lower Magnesian Limestone and Middle Coal measures of the Upper Carboniferous (Geological Survey of Great Britain sheet 113).

## **2 METHODOLOGY**

### **2.1 Aims and Scope**

2.1.1 The principal aim of the watching brief was to provide further information concerning the presence/absence, date, nature, and extent of any buried archaeological remains and to investigate and record all archaeological features revealed during the groundworks.

2.1.2 The original intention of the watching brief was to monitor all groundworks within the Site. The programme of works comprised the stripping of topsoil along the route preceding the excavation of the pipe trench and subsequent reinstatement. Groundwork was monitored in Fields 1-4 between 01/06/10 and 26/07/10; groundworks within Fields 5-7 were not observed.



## 2.2 Watching Brief

- 2.2.1 In accordance with the WSI (ARCUS 2008a) the archaeological watching brief was maintained by a suitably qualified member of Wessex Archaeology staff during topsoil stripping and pipe trench excavation.
- 2.2.2 Easement stripping was undertaken with a tracked 360° machine, fitted with a toothless grading bucket.
- 2.2.3 All features located were investigated and recorded by hand.
- 2.2.4 All recording was undertaken using Wessex Archaeology's *pro forma* recording system, supported by a photographic record, and the location and extents of the excavations were planned using a post processed Leica SR20 GPS. The content of the fieldwork archive is tabulated below as **Table 1**.
- 2.2.5 The photographic record comprised black and white 35mm, colour slides and digital images. A selection of the photographic record is reproduced as **Plates 1-5**.

## 2.3 Best Practice

- 2.3.1 All works were conducted in compliance with the Institute for Archaeologists' *Standards and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief* (Revised 2008) and with the requirements of Nottinghamshire County Council.

## 2.4 Copyright

- 2.4.1 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.

## 3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

### 3.1 Introduction

- 3.1.1 A previous archaeological desk-based assessment (ARCUS 2008b) was produced for the Clipstone to Edwinstowe Sewer Renewal. The results of this assessment are summarised below.

### 3.2 Prehistoric

- 3.2.1 No prehistoric sites have been discovered within 500m of the pipeline route.

### 3.3 Romano-British

- 3.3.1 Romano-British pottery and several associated features were found across the site of King John's Palace, to the west of the pipeline, during excavations undertaken in the 1950's.

### **3.4 Saxon and Medieval**

- 3.4.1 There are no known Saxon sites or findspots along the route, though local place names indicate Anglian and Scandinavian influence in the area from the 5<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> centuries. Several medieval sites are situated around the Site, although the majority of these were not impacted by the pipeline works.
- 3.4.2 The route passes c.300m to the east of the Scheduled Ancient Monument of King John's Palace (SAM No. NT101) in Field 2. a 12<sup>th</sup> century royal hunting lodge. Sub-surface remains in the vicinity have been identified by geophysical survey and excavation.
- 3.4.3 The site of the Great Pond, a fish pond and mill associated with St. John's palace, is located in Field 3.

### **3.5 Post-medieval**

- 3.5.1 Several post-medieval sites are located in the vicinity of the route. These include the possible site of Clipstone Forge, an ironworks recorded in the 17<sup>th</sup> century, though the location is unknown.
- 3.5.2 Former water meadows in Field 3 (Dog & Duck Meadow) were constructed by the 4<sup>th</sup> Duke of Portland between 1819 and 1839 as part of the Clipstone Park Water Meadows. The system covered 500 acres following the River Maun for over 8 miles between Mansfield and Edwinstowe. A previous Level 3 Earthwork Survey undertaken by ARCUS identified both surface and sub-surface features associated with the water meadows (ARCUS 2008c).

## **4 RESULTS**

### **4.1 Introduction**

- 4.1.1 The easement ran for a length of c. 3.50km (**Figure 2; Plate 1**). Seven fields were subject to the archaeological watching brief. Fields 1, 2, 3 and 5 were under pasture with Fields 4, 6 and 7 under cereal or vegetable crops.
- 4.1.2 The following sections provide a summary of the information held in the site archive. Observed features and contexts for each field are contained in **Appendix 1**.

### **4.2 General stratigraphy**

- 4.2.1 The geology across the Site was consistent in the monitored fields, comprising glacially deposited sands with varying gravel inclusions.
- 4.2.2 The upper sediments were largely consistent, comprising silty sandy loam topsoil and plough soils. A sandy sub soil was present below the topsoil in areas of Fields 2 and 3.

### **4.3 Archaeological features**

- 4.3.1 The majority of monitored groundworks revealed nothing of archaeological interest. The only significant archaeological features were observed to the southwest of the Dog & Duck Public House, within two areas (A & B) in Field

3. These comprised two stone structures (**Figure 1; Plates 2-5**) relating to 19<sup>th</sup> century water management.
- 4.3.2 The southern feature, **Area A**, comprised the eastern sluice gates recorded in the Level 3 survey (ARCUS 2008c) which were exposed revealing two associated stone lined channels/leats (**Figure 3; Plates 2-4**). The sluice gates consisted of two adjacent piers **303/304** constructed from large rectangular ashlar sandstone blocks situated 0.90m apart. The internal corners were chamfered to leave a flat central internal face to which the metal grooved gate slides were bolted. A pair of stone slabs (**307 & 308**) set on edge abutted the sluice gate stonework on the west side. These appear to have served to assist the water flow into the gate. A stone lined leat **305**, 1.70m wide aligned east to west ran between **303/304** and continued to the west for 10.10 m to another set of sluice gates outside of the easement (identified in the Level 3 survey).
- 4.3.3 The leat consisted of random squared sandstone blocks laid in a shallow concave cut into subsoil **301** with gently sloping sides. The base was flat and comprised larger blocks. A second leat **306**, 1.90m wide aligned north to south abutted **305** and the northern pier **303**. This continued north for 2.10m where it terminated at three large blocks **312** aligned east to west; no trace of **306** was found north of these blocks. Two stone slabs **309** set on edge abutted the east side of **306** and stone sluice gate pier **303**. **309** appeared to be the remains of a line of slabs set level with the top of pier **303**. The open cut trench for the sewer pipe cut through leat **305**. This showed the leat to consist of one course of stone slabs set within a concave shallow cut **311** upon a bedding layer of mid-brown silty sand **310** (**Plate 4**).
- 4.3.4 To the east of the sluice gate, the ground had been heavily disturbed by recent land drainage activity. This activity had removed any eastern continuation of the leat, with two adjacent orange fabric ceramic drains subsequently placed in the central area of the construction cut **311** and backfilled with topsoil.
- 4.3.5 The northern feature in **Area B** was located c. 35m to the northeast of **Area A** at the west edge of the easement (**Figure 4; Plate 5**). The feature consisted of a stone built culvert, aligned north/south, 1.10m wide and 4.60m in length. The top of the culvert comprised of 10 large rectangular sandstone slabs **404** supported on low red brick walls, **407** on the west and **408** on the east side. The jambs at both ends of the culvert were formed from stone blocks; **405** at the south and **406** at the north end. The culvert had a base formed by sandstone slabs **409** and sat in a flat based construction cut **403**, cutting the sand substrate **402**.

## 5 FINDS

### 5.1 Summary

- 5.1.1 The watching brief produced a very small quantity of finds, from topsoil deposits in fields 1 and 2. The finds consisted of modern red brick fragments, willow pattern pottery sherds and fragments of a large red earthenware pancheon, all dating to the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries, and were

not retained. The brick fragments were heavily abraded by ploughing activity. The domestic ceramic sherds are likely to have been introduced to the fields during manuring activities.

## **6 DISCUSSION**

### **6.1 Summary**

6.1.1 Archaeological monitoring of the Clipstone to Edwinstowe sewer renewal identified several features of archaeological significance. These comprised the water meadow sluice and feeder channel system constructed in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century as part of the Duke of Portland's irrigation scheme. The features form part of a catchwork system, with water flow controlled by a system of leats, sluice gates and small earth or wooden board dams. The stone used for construction is very similar to that in the nearby remains of St. Johns Palace and may have been sourced from there.

6.1.2 No evidence of the medieval 'Great Pond' identified in the desk based assessment (ARCUS 2008b) in Field 3 was observed during the watching brief.

### **6.2 Conclusion**

6.2.1 The course of the pipeline ran through an area containing a medieval monument. However, during the watching brief, no direct evidence was recovered for human activity prior to the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The archaeological features observed during the course of the watching brief relate to 19<sup>th</sup>-century agricultural water management activity.

## **7 ARCHIVE**

### **7.1 Preparation**

7.1.1 The project archive, consisting of all primary written documents, plans, sections, photographs, and electronic data, is currently stored at the offices of Wessex Archaeology in Sheffield and will be prepared in accordance with the requirements of the repository museum and in line with guidelines published by the United Kingdom Institute for Conservation (1990), Museums and Galleries Commission (1992), and English Heritage (1991).

### **7.2 Deposition**

7.2.1 A digital copy of the report will be prepared for the client and physical copies will be submitted to Nottinghamshire County Council, and to Newark Museum. As there was no archaeology discovered on site it is not deemed necessary to deposit the physical archive, the report will suffice.

7.2.2 An OASIS form will be completed at <http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis/> for inclusion in the ADS database. This will include an electronic copy of the report in PDF format.

**Table 1: Archive index**

<b>Paper archive</b>			
<b>Folder no.</b>	<b>Folder type</b>	<b>Item(s)</b>	<b>No.</b>
<b>1</b>	A4 ring binder	Written Scheme of Investigation	1
		Risk Assessment	1
		Day Book (copied)	7
		Test Pit/Trial Trench Record	4
		Graphic Register	1
		Drawings	6
		Context/Masonry Record	27
		Photographic Record	4

## **9 REFERENCES**

### **9.1 Bibliography**

**ARCUS 2008a**, *Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological Mitigation, Clipstone to Edwinstowe Outfall Sewer Renewal*. ARCUS unpublished report ref.1153.2 (1)

**ARCUS 2008b**, *Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment for Sewer Renewal, Clipstone to Edwinstowe, Mansfield, Nottinghamshire*. ARCUS unpublished report ref.1153.1 (1)

**ARCUS 2008c**, *Level 2 Landscape Survey for Sewer Renewal, Clipstone to Edwinstowe*. ARCUS unpublished report ref. 1153c (3)

**English Heritage 1991**, *Management of Archaeological Projects*, London; English Heritage.

**Institute for Archaeologists (IfA) 2008**, *Standards and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief*. Available: [www.archaeologists.net](http://www.archaeologists.net).

**Museum and Galleries Commission 1992**, *Standards in the museum care of archaeological collections*.

**United Kingdom Institute of Conservation (UKIC) 1990**, *Guidelines for the Preparation of Excavation Archives for Long Term Storage*.

**10 APPENDIX 1 CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS**

(NB: DEPTH = BELOW PRESENT GROUND LEVEL)

**Table 2: Context descriptions: Field 1**

<b>Field 1</b>			
<b>Depth</b>	<b>Context</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Interpretation</b>
0.00-0.50m	100	Dark greyish-brown sandy silt loam with sparse rounded small to medium gravel	Topsoil
0.50m +	101	Orange sand-medium to coarse grains with sparse to moderate rounded and well rounded small, medium and large gravel	Substrate

**Table 3: Context descriptions: Field 2**

<b>Field2</b>			
<b>Depth</b>	<b>Context</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Interpretation</b>
0.00-0.50m	200	Dark greyish-brown sandy silt loam with sparse rounded small to medium gravel	Topsoil
0.32m +	201	Orange sand-medium to coarse grains, with sparse to moderate rounded and well rounded small, medium and large gravel	Substrate
0.20-0.28m	202	Dark greyish-brown silty sand with sparse small rounded gravel, below 200 and above 201. Only present along 1-2 m width of south edge of eastern 45m length of easement in Field 2	Subsoil

**Table 4: Context descriptions: Field 3: Area A**

<b>Field 3 Area A</b>			
<b>Depth</b>	<b>Context</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Interpretation</b>
0.00-0.26m	300	Dark grey silty loam with rare medium gravel	Topsoil
0.26-0.34m	301	Mid greyish-brown silty sand with moderate rounded and well rounded small gravel	Subsoil
0.26m +	302	Orange sand-medium to coarse grains with moderate rounded and well rounded gravel, pebbles and cobbles	Substrate

	303	Two courses of ashlar sandstone blocks 0.61m height	North side pier of sluice gate
	304	Two courses of ashlar sandstone blocks 0.61m height	South side pier of sluice gate
	305	Linear concave stone lined leat aligned east/west	Leat leading into sluice gate
	306	Linear concave stone lined leat aligned north/south	Leat
	307	Stone slab on west side of (304)	Slab to channel water into sluice gate-south
	308	Stone slab on west side of (304)	Slab to channel water into sluice gate-north
	309	Stone slabs on north of (303)	Water retention on east side of (306)
0.25– 0.30m	310	Mid brown silty sand filling cut (311)	Bedding deposit for stones forming leat (305)
0.25-0.30m	311	Concave cut filled with (310)/(305)	Construction cut

**Table 5 Context descriptions: Field 3: Area B**

<b>Field 3 Area B</b>			
<b>Depth</b>	<b>Context</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Interpretation</b>
0.00-0.15m	400	Dark brown sandy silt loam with rare small rounded and sub-rounded gravel	Topsoil
0.15-0.40m	401	Mid grey-brown sandy silt with occasional small to medium rounded gravel, sparse charcoal flecks and small red brick fragments	Fill of cut 403
0.15m +	402	Mid grey-brown silty sand with moderate rounded pebbles	Subsoil
0.15-0.40m	403	Linear cut aligned north/south, concave rounded sides with flat base.	Construction cut for culvert
	404	Sandstone slabs forming lid of culvert	Culvert component
	405	Sandstone blocks at south end of culvert supporting 404	Culvert component
	406	Sandstone blocks at north end of culvert supporting 404	Culvert component
	407	Red brick wall supporting 404 on west side	Culvert component
	408	Red brick wall supporting 404 on west side	Culvert component

	409	Sandstone slabs forming culvert base	Culvert component
	410	Dark brown fine sandy silt	Alluvial deposit-fill of culvert
	411	Grey/orange-brown sand fine to medium grains with occasional rounded and sub-rounded gravel, pebbles and cobbles	Substrate

**Table 6: Context descriptions: Field 4**

<b>Field 4</b>			
<b>Depth</b>	<b>Context</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Interpretation</b>
0.00-0.30m	500	Dark brown sandy silt loam	Ploughsoil
0.30m +	501	Orange sand-medium to coarse grains with random patches of rounded and sub-rounded gravel, pebbles and cobbles	Substrate

**Table 7: Context descriptions: Field 5**

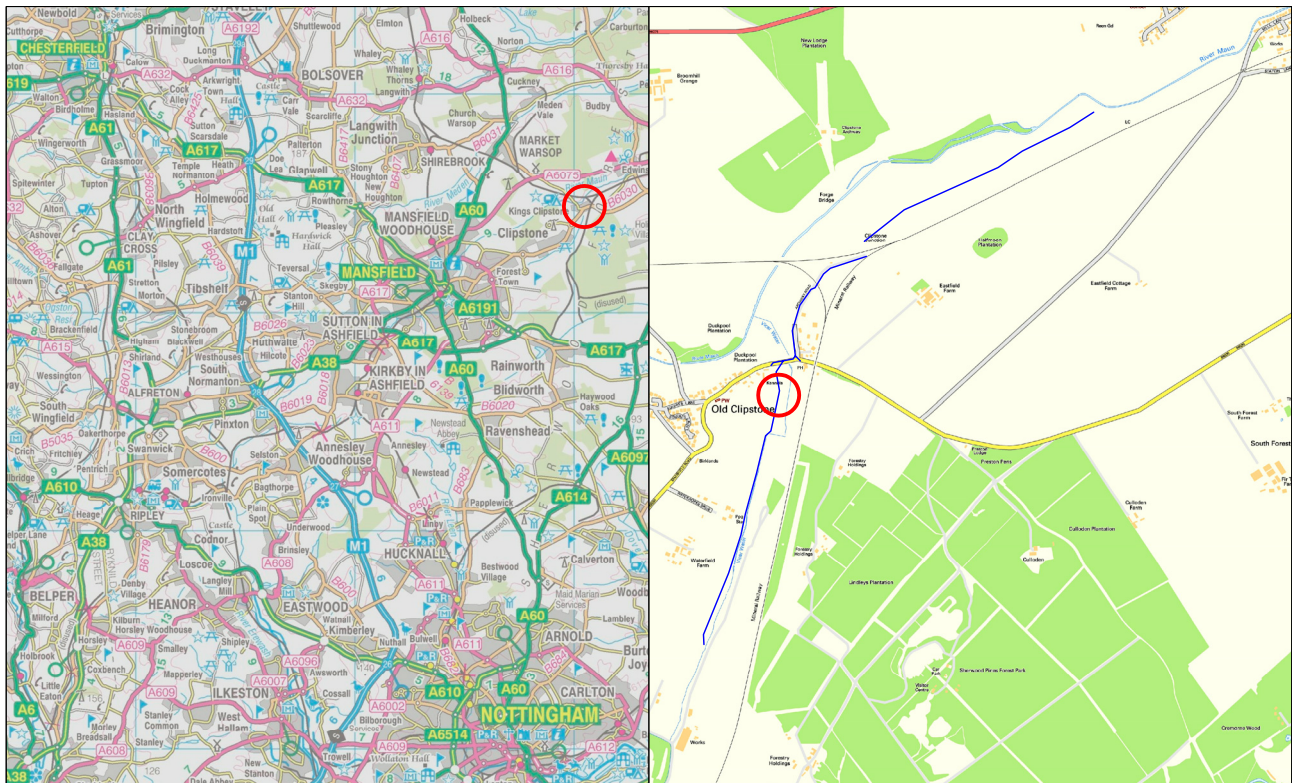
<b>Field 5</b>			
<b>Depth</b>	<b>Context</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Interpretation</b>
0.00-0.16m	600	Dark greyish-brown sandy silt loam with occasional small sub-rounded gravel	Topsoil
0.16m +	601	Orange sand-medium to coarse grains with moderate small to medium rounded gravel	Substrate

**Table 8: Context descriptions: Fields 7 & 8**

<b>Fields 7 &amp; 8</b>			
<b>Depth</b>	<b>Context</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Interpretation</b>
0.00-0.28m	700	Dark greyish-brown sandy silt loam with rare small rounded and sub-rounded gravel	Ploughsoil
0.28m +	701	Orange sand-medium to coarse grains with occasional small to medium rounded and sub-rounded gravel	Substrate



**11 PLATES**



Site location  
 Natural feature  
 Standing building  
 Pipeline route

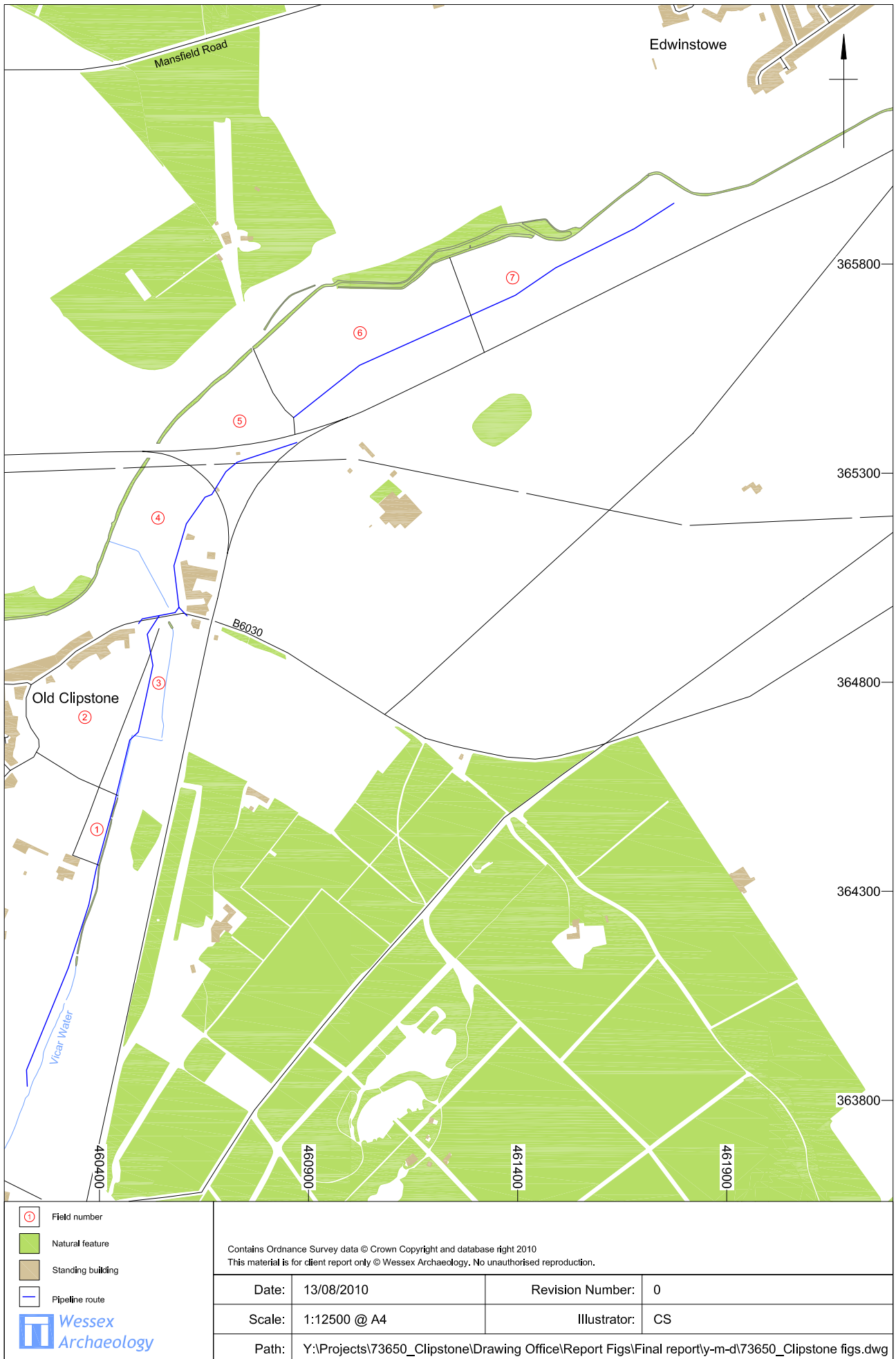
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Site location

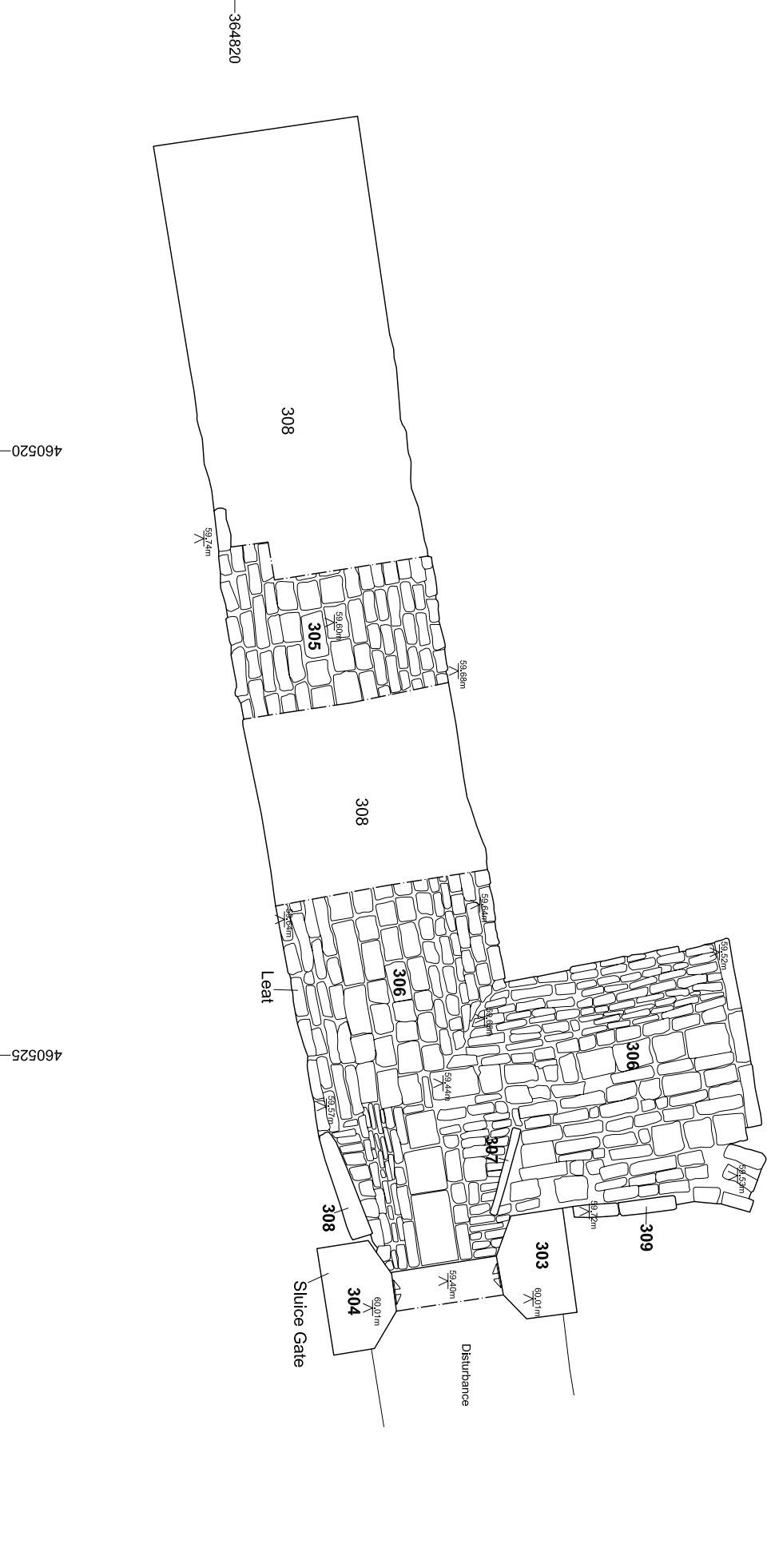
Figure 1



Location of pipeline route and fields 1-7

Figure 2

364825



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Plan of Sluice gates and Leats: Area A

Figure 3

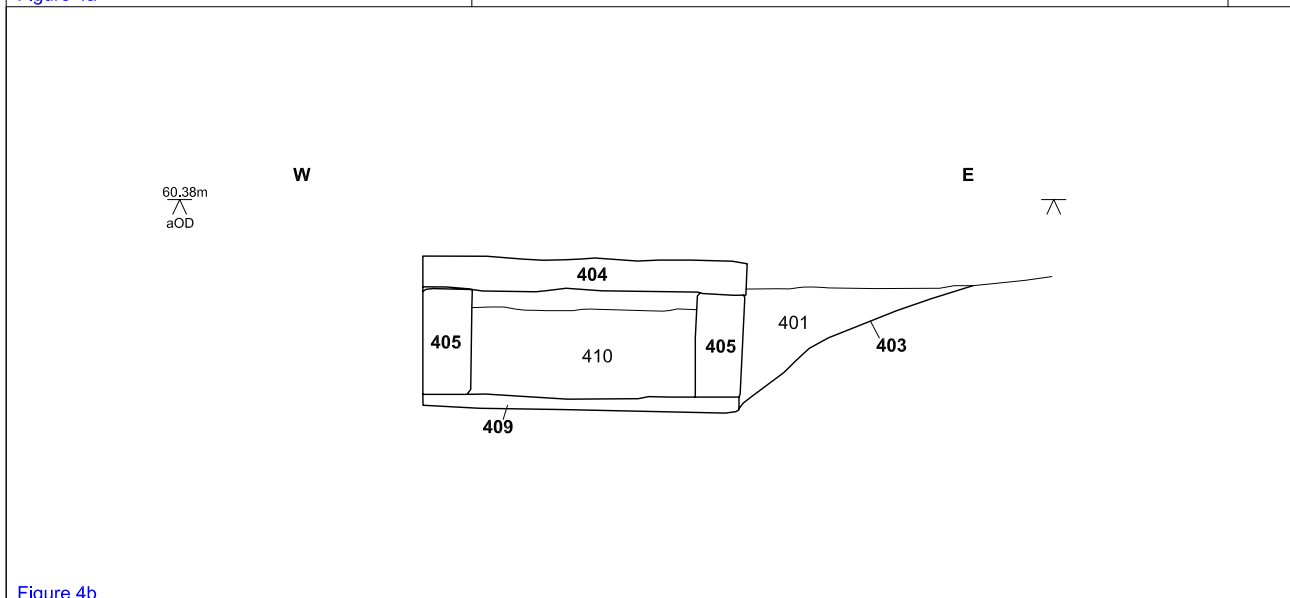
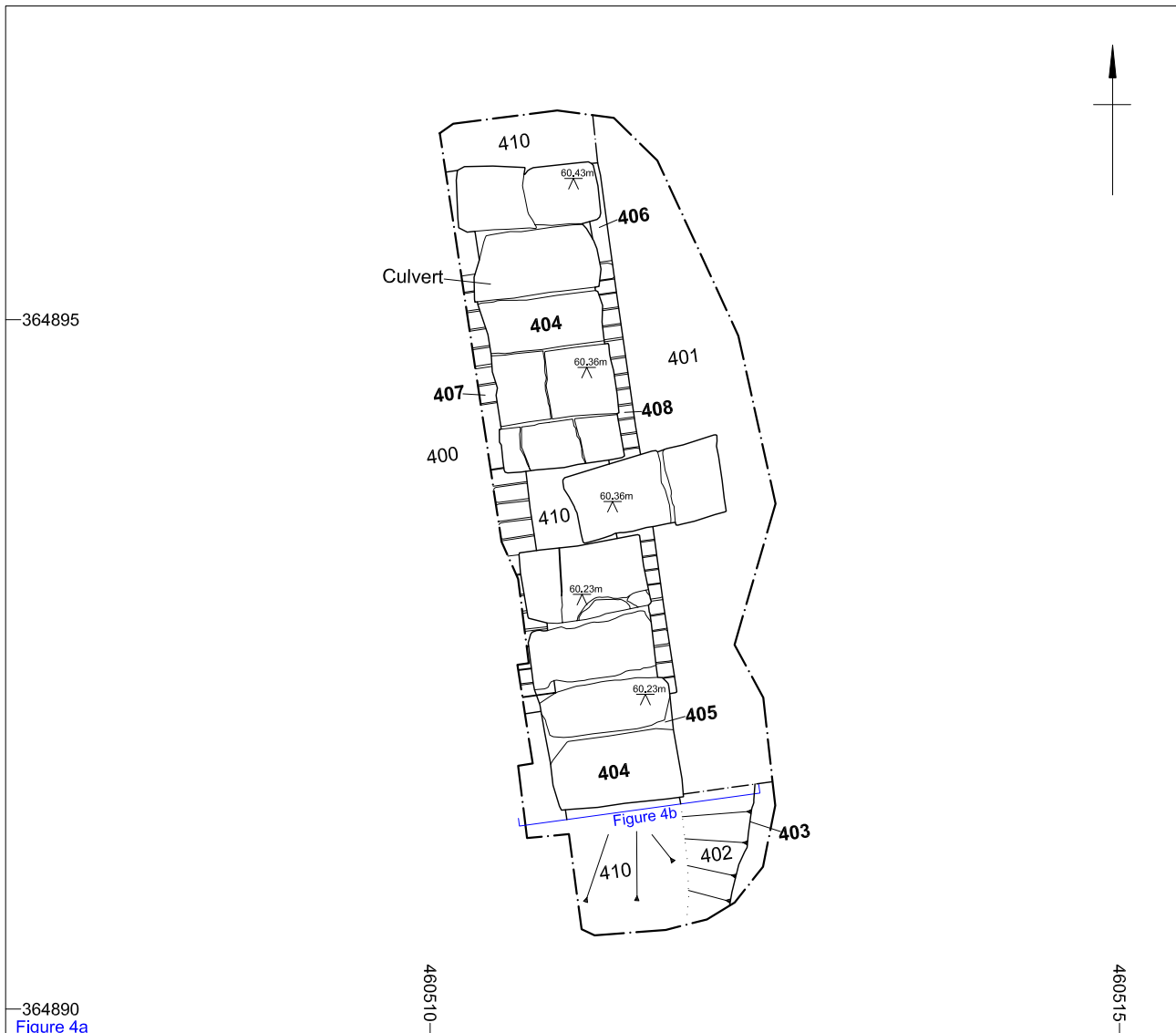


Figure 4b

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Plate 5: Culvert **404/405/408** in Field 3, Area B, looking north-west.

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Plate 1: Topsoil stripping in Field 2, noting St. John's Palace in background, looking north.



Plate 2: View of leats **305/306** and sluice gates **303/304** in Field 3, Area A, looking west.

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Revision Number: 0

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Illustrator: CS

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Plate 3: Detail of leat **306** and sluice gates **303/304** in Field 3, Area A, looking west.



Plate 4: Leat **306** showing construction cut **311** and bedding layer **310**, looking west.

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