



Hallgates to Elms Farm Pipeline, Ratby, Leicestershire

Archaeological Watching Brief Statement of Results

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Summary

Wessex Archaeology has been commissioned by Laing O' Rourke (hereafter 'the Client') to undertake an archaeological watching brief during the insertion of a new water pipeline from Hallgates to Elms Farm, Ratby, Leicestershire (hereafter 'the Scheme' from NGR 452731, 306252 to 450614, 303727).

The Scheme started in the north east on land between the M1 and the A46, north of junction 21a, and ran for approximately 3km in a broadly south east direction, terminating at Elms Farm, south west of Kirby Muxloe. The Scheme largely crossed through agricultural land and crossed a number of highways, a railway line and Rothley Brook. It was surrounded on all sides by further agricultural land.

The results of the watching brief show that the area to the north of the motorway was extensively disturbed during the construction of the M1, with the area built up with spoil during its construction. The central area identified as requiring a watching brief has been recently disturbed following the insertion of a fibre-optic cable. Due to this the watching brief was intermittent for the northern end of the scheme but continuous at the southern end of the scheme. Leicestershire County Council Archaeology Service was advised of this decision.

The extent of the watching brief can be seen in **Figure 1**.

Unstratified 19th and 20th Century pottery was found during stripping and a small furrow was discovered in area 4. No other archaeological features or deposits were observed during groundworks.

The project archive is currently held at Wessex Archaeology's offices in Sheffield and will be deposited with the appropriate museum authority in due course.



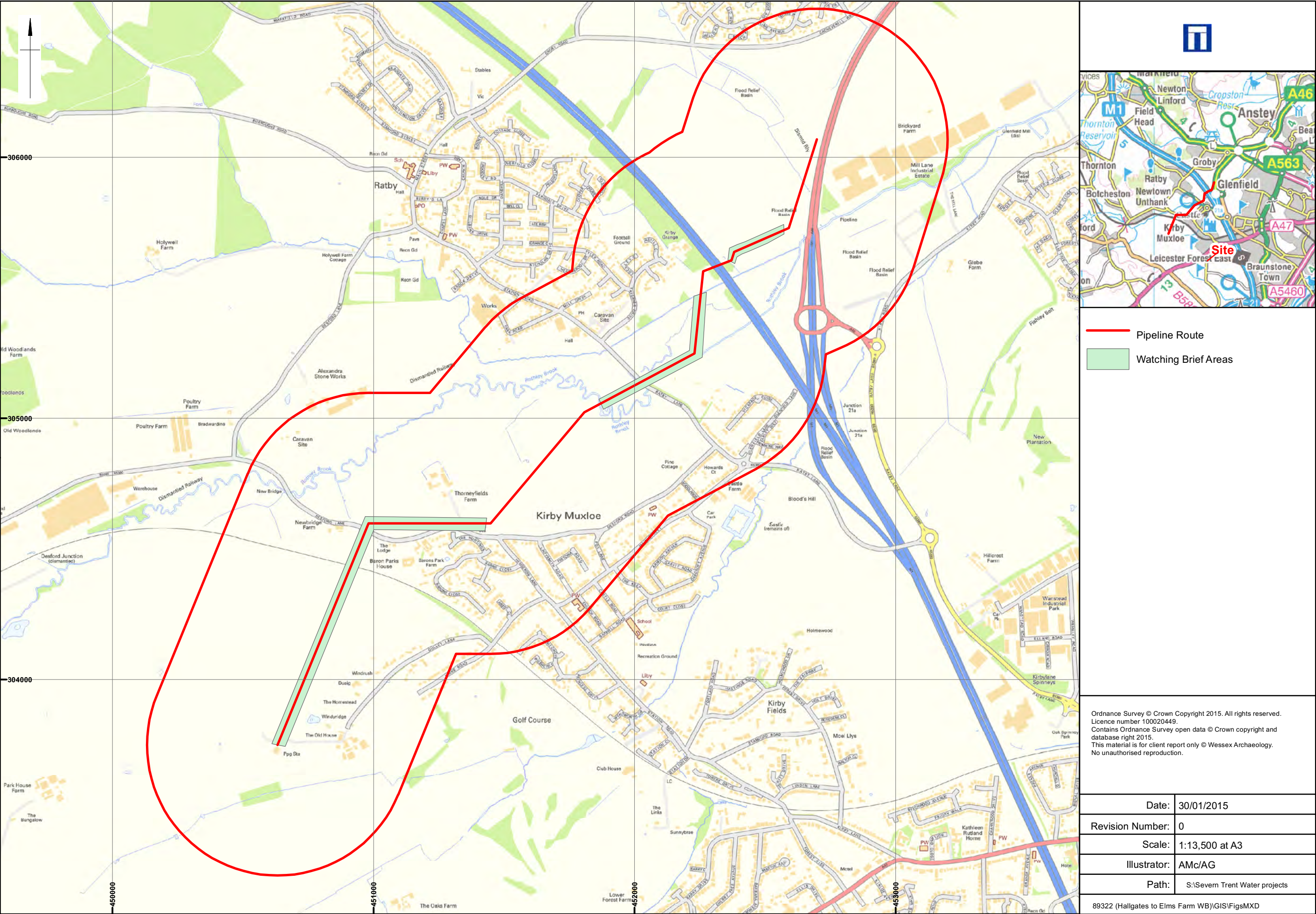
Hallgates to Elms Farm Pipeline, Leicestershire

Archaeological Watching Brief Statement of Results

Site name	Hallgates to Elms Farm Pipeline, Leicestershire		
Site address	Station Rd, Ratby, Leicester LE6 0JR.		
Site code	89322	Grid ref	452731, 306252 – 450614, 303727
Planning ref	n/a		
Dates(s) of attendance	01/04/14 – 08/07/14		
Description of construction activities monitored	Monitoring the topsoil stripping and pipeline trenching.		
Summary of site stratigraphy			
<p>The general stratigraphy along the Scheme consisted of mid brownish grey silty clay topsoil which varied in depth between 0.1m and 0.25m deep. This overlay subsoil consisting of mid yellow grey clays and mid brownish orange sandy silt. The natural varied between red clays and grey silts and greyish yellow clay (Plates 1 and 2).</p> <p>Late post medieval and modern pottery was found mixed throughout the topsoil, subsoil, on the surface of the natural and within a small furrow [405] (Plate 3).</p> <p>The watching brief occurred across six areas for both the stripping and the pipe installation with no other archaeological features or deposits observed during groundworks.</p>			
Archaeological features	Small furrow [405].	Natural features	None
Finds observed	Unstratified Post Medieval/Modern pottery. Not retained.		
Finds collected	None	Samples	None
Photography	Digital		
Other records	Day records, annotated maps, trench record sheet, DBA and WSI		
Current archive location		Wessex Archaeology, Sheffield	
Long term archive location			
Interpretation			
A small furrow was discovered in at 450790 304140 representing late post medieval farming. No other features were discovered.			
Other information			



Form completed by	M. Cooper	Date	14/07/2014
Checked by	A. Grassam	Date	15/12/2014
Checked by	A. Burgess	Date	16/12/2014
Additional documentation attached -			
1.	Figure 1. – Location of the Scheme and areas of mitigation		
2.	Plates		



Scheme location and watching brief areas

Figure 1



Plate 1: Topsoil strip along easement north of Desford Lane, facing north



Plate 2: Section cut for pipe trench showing subsoil deposit



Plate 3: Section through plough furrow 405



Plate 4: General working shot