MARKET HARBOROUGH WATER MAINS, LEICESTERSHIRE

Archaeological Watching Brief Statement of Results



Ref: 77881.01 November 2011



MARKET HARBOROUGH WATER MAINS, LEICESTERSHIRE

Archaeological Watching Brief Statement of Results

Prepared for:

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Report reference: 77881.01

November 2011

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MARKET HARBOROUGH WATER MAINS, LEICESTERSHIRE

Archaeological Watching Brief Statement of Results

Summary

Wessex Archaeology Ltd was commissioned by Laing O Rourke Infrastructure to undertake an archaeological watching brief to mitigate the potential loss of archaeological remains during groundworks associated with the renewal of water mains at Market Harborough, Leicestershire (**Figure 1**).

The renewal of the water mains involved the excavation of a pipe trench along the line of an existing main. Archaeological monitoring took place where the Scheme passed through the areas of High Archaeological Potential as identified in the Written Scheme of Investigation (Wessex Archaeology 2011). The watching brief was carried out between July 18th and September 22nd 2011 in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (attached).

Archaeological remains encountered during the works included a small section of a cobbled surface with over lying deposit and edging stones, a stone culvert and a brick culvert.

This document contains the results of the watching brief recorded and presented on *pro forma* sheets.

The project archive is currently held at Wessex Archaeology's offices in Sheffield.



MARKET HARBOROUGH WATER MAINS, **LEICESTERSHIRE**

Archaeological Watching Brief Statement of Results

Site name	Market Ha	arborough	Water Mains	
Site address	Market Harborough, Leicestershire			
Site code	77881		Grid ref	473315, 288511
				to 472791, 287048
Planning ref	N/A			
Dates(s) of attendance		Intermittently 18-07-11 to 22-09-11		
Description of construction activities monitored		Excavation of a pipe trench along the line of a former water pipe within the current highway (Figure 1).		
Summary of site stra	tigraphy			

The tarmac road surface lay above a number of sand bedding layers (Plate 1). Broken brick hardcore was also present at the southern end of High Street. Below these layers was compact orange brown sandy silt with frequent small stones and moderately compact mid-vellowish brown clay silt with frequent small stones which may represent the former land surface.

Archaeological remains encountered during the works included a small section of a cobbled surface with over lying deposit and edging stones, a stone culvert and a brick culvert.

A portion of a cobbled surface (Figure 2) was exposed at the base of the trench, 1.25m below street level, at approximately NGR 473268, 287380. It consisted of well-rounded and flat medium sized stones >50mm, with flat sandstone edging stones (Plate 2) to the east, running along the edge of the trench. Evidence for this surface was also identified 5m south and approximately 7m north of the NGR above. This surface was exposed below the required depth of the trench therefore it was not excavated. Above the cobbles was a deposit, 0.05m in depth, consisting of midorange brown silty clay with frequent small angular pebbles. Shell and undiagnostic fragments of animal bone were observed within this deposit.

A stone culvert (Figure 2) was located at approximately NGR 473277, 287361, running E-W. It was constructed of flat stones, averaging 0.1m x 0.3m x 0.2m. The feature was 0.5m x 0.48m and was filled with mid yellowish brown silty clay. No finds were recovered from the feature.

A number of modern intrusions were noted including several services with associated trench cuts and backfill as well as a modern pit with brick debris. Brick culverts were also observed within the trench.

Archaeological	Cobbled surface	Natural features	None
features	with edging stones		
	and over lying		



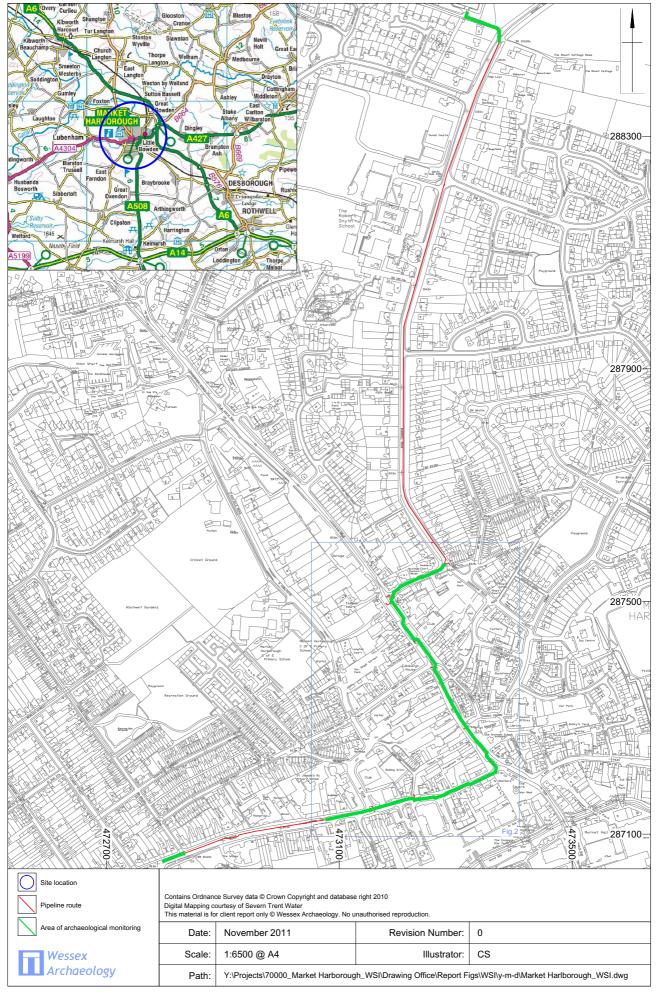
	deposit. Stone				
	•				
	culvert.				
Finds observed	Shell and fragments of animal bone				
Finds collected	None	Samples	N/A		
Photography	Digital: 85 shots				
Other records	Day book, Photo	register, trench reco	ord sheets, context		
	sheets, scale drawings				
Current archive location		Wessex Archaeology, Sheffield			
Long term archive location		Not yet known			
Interpretation					
A possible former road surface was discovered in the form of cobbles and edging					
stones, it was only exposed in one part of the trench and stretched for approximately					
12m.					
Other information					
Form completed by	GC	Date	15-11-11		
Checked by	AB	Date	22-11-11		
Additional documentation attached -					
1. Plan of monitored areas					
2. Plan of monitored area with illustrative plates					
3. Written scheme of investigation					



Plate 1: West facing section of pipe trench on High Street



Plate 2: Edging stones associated with cobble surface



Plan of pipeline route Figure 1





MARKET HARBOROUGH MAINS RENEWAL, LEICESTERSHIRE

Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological Watching Brief

Prepared for: Laing O Rourke

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Report reference: 77880.01

May 2011

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MARKET HARBOROUGH MAINS RENEWAL, LEICESTERSHIRE

Written Scheme of Investigation for **Archaeological Watching Brief**

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WA Report No. 77880.01



MARKET HARBOROUGH MAINS RENEWAL, LEICESTERSHIRE

Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological Watching Brief

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project Background

- 1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology has been commissioned by Laing O Rourke (hereafter 'the Client') to undertake an archaeological watching brief to mitigate the potential loss of archaeological remains during the renewal of a water mains at Market Harborough, Leicestershire (hereafter 'the Scheme') (**Figure 1**).
- 1.1.2 The Scheme comprises 2km of mains renewal through the town centre. The insertion of the pipeline will be carried out under permitted development rights and will involve the excavation of an open cut trench within the current highway.
- 1.1.3 This Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) sets out the manner in which Wessex Archaeology will carry out the archaeological watching brief. This WSI has been prepared in accordance with current industry best practice and will be submitted to the Client and Leicestershire County Council (LCC).

1.2 Site location and description

- 1.2.1 The Scheme extends for approximately 2km (NGR 473315 288511 to 472791 287048) through existing highways within Market Harborough.
- 1.2.2 The Scheme begins at the covered reservoir west of Burnmill Road, it runs down Burnmill Road before turning west on to Bowden Lane. From here it turns south on to High Street and then west on to Coventry Road before terminating before the junction of Coventry Road and Clarke Street (**Figure 1**).
- 1.2.3 The geology of the area varies between the Dyrham formation of interbedded siltstone and mudstone and the Blue Lias mudstone formation (BGS map sheet E170).

2 HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Introduction

2.1.1 The area surrounding the Scheme is rich in archaeological remains including finds from prehistoric and the medieval and post-medieval periods. A 250m Study Area was defined either side of the Scheme. The following information has been collected from online resources and the Leicestershire Historic Environment Record (LHER).



2.2 Archaeological and Historical Background

- 2.2.1 The Scheme does not impact upon any Scheduled Monuments, Listed Buildings, Registered Parks and Gardens or Registered Battlefields. It does however run through part of The Market Harborough Conservation Area.
- 2.2.2 The earliest evidence for human activity within the Study Area comes from Iron Age remains discovered around Clarke Street and Wartnaby Street at the southern end of the Scheme. The remains consist of fragments of a cordoned storage jar (MLE1976) and a Late Iron Age necked bowl with cremated human bones (MLE1951) discovered in a pit. These were uncovered during construction work in the area.
- 2.2.3 Evidence for Roman activity within the Study Area comes from a coin (MLE7879) found on Burnmill Road. Some pottery fragments were also found with the coin suggesting possible occupation. Further occupation evidence has been found during an excavation on Clarke Street when pottery fragments dating to the 3rd and 4th centuries were found in association with undated animal bone (MLE1977). Roman pottery has also been found at the former Post Office on St Mary's Road (MLE1986). The remains of a possible Roman Road (MLE1995) was identified beneath High Street, however this could represent the remains of a medieval road. 170m north of the Site, just outside the town, a collection of 15 sherds of pottery, three brooches and nine 4th-century coins (MLE1999) were uncovered during metal detecting, while subsequent field walking uncovered 34 more sherds of Late Iron Age/Early Roman pottery.
- 2.2.4 The name Market Harborough is thought to originate in the Saxon 'haefera beorg' indicating that there may have been a settlement here at this time, however no physical evidence of this settlement has been found to date. The town developed as a trading centre during the post conquest period and a market was granted to the town every Tuesday from AD1204. Evidence for the medieval occupation of the town comes from a possible medieval well (MLE1984) recorded south of St Mary's Lane, a boundary ditch (MLE15952) excavated in 2006 on Roman Way and the possible remains of a medieval road (MLE1995) beneath High Street. Documentary evidence suggests a medieval manor house (MLE1989) may have been located on the site of the King's Head and the two adjacent properties on High Street.
- 2.2.5 The town expanded during the post-medieval period and many of the historic buildings in the town date to this period. By the 17th century the town was a great thoroughfare and was known for its numerous inns and tradesmen. Throughout the late 18th century new fairs were established in the town. The post-medieval features identified within the Study Area consist of a late post-medieval culvert (MLE15952) identified during excavations in the town square in 2006 and four post-medieval pits (MLE15953) found on Roman Way.
- 2.2.6 In the early 19th century a canal was completed at the north-west of the town and in 1850 the railway reached the town. These improved transport links allowed the town to continue to prosper5 despite the resulting decline in coach traffic.



3 AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

3.1 Aims

- 3.1.1 The principal aim of the watching brief is to allow for the collection and assessment/analysis of archaeological data impacted upon during groundworks associated with the Scheme.
- 3.1.2 The general aims of the project are:
 - to identify any archaeological remains along the route of the pipeline;
 - to accurately record the location and stratigraphy of areas excavated during groundworks;
 - to record all archaeological remains disturbed by the groundworks;
 - to determine the extent, condition, character, importance and date of any archaeological deposits encountered;
 - to provide information that will enable the archaeological remains to be placed with their local, regional and national contexts;
 - to recover artefacts disturbed by the site works; and
 - to produce an accurate and comprehensive record and report of any archaeological deposits disturbed by the site works.

The specific aims of the projects are:

- to identify and record any remains relating to the Roman or medieval road on High Street
- to identify and record any remains relating to the historic core of the town
- to identify and record and remains of Iron Age date in the vicinity of Clarke Street.

3.2 Monitoring of Excavations/Groundworks

- 3.2.1 It is proposed here that the programme for the archaeological watching brief will be carried out, subject to prior and adequate notification being given by the Client, on all groundworks that may have an impact on archaeological features and deposits.
- 3.2.2 All ground breaking activity within areas of archaeological potential will be monitored. These areas are deemed to be:
 - The northern end of the scheme from the covered reservoir to Burnmill Road (**Figure 3**)
 - The historic core of the town as identified by the LHER (**Figure 2**)
 - The southern end of the scheme near Clarke Street (**Figure 3**)
- 3.2.3 All works will be undertaken by a suitably qualified archaeologist from Wessex Archaeology. Any archaeological remains that may be revealed during the watching brief will be observed and recorded in accordance with current industry best practice (Institute for Archaeologists (IfA) 2008).



- 3.2.4 The Client will afford reasonable access in order that all archaeological features and deposits revealed during excavations and groundworks can be investigated and recorded. Depending upon the nature of any remains found further archaeological excavation may be necessary in consultation with the relevant authority.
- 3.2.5 All archaeological deposits will be recorded using Wessex Archaeology's pro forma recording system. Each context record will fully describe the location, extent, composition and relationship of the subject and will be cross-referenced to all other assigned records. Context numbers used in the evaluation will not be repeated. Each excavated context will appear on at least one detailed plan at 1:50 or 1:20 scale and one section at 1:10 and coordinated on to the overall site plan. A digital photographic record will be maintained to illustrate both the detail and the general context of the principal features. Photography using colour transparencies and black and white negatives (on 35mm film) will be used as appropriate.

4 FINDS AND ENVIRONMENTAL SAMPLING

4.1 Finds and environmental samples

- 4.1.1 Finds will be treated in accordance with the relevant guidance (IfA (2008), the UKIC (1990), Museums and Galleries Commissions (1992) and English Heritage (2005), and the requirements of the repository Museum excepting where they are superseded by statements made below.
- 4.1.2 All artefacts from excavated contexts will be retained (except unstratified modern material) and taken to Wessex Archaeology offices in Sheffield for further work.
- 4.1.3 All retained artefacts will, as a minimum, be washed, weighed, counted and identified. Any artefacts requiring conservation or specific storage conditions will be dealt with immediately in line with *First Aid for Finds* (Watkinson & Neal 1998). Ironwork from stratified contexts will be X-rayed and stored in a stable environment along with other fragile and delicate material. The X-raying of objects and other conservation needs will be undertaken by the staff of an appropriately approved conservation centre.
- 4.1.4 Information will be obtained from LCC concerning conditions and arrangements for the deposition of finds. Arrangements for archive deposition will be made with the relevant museum.
- 4.1.5 In the event of the discovery of any human remains, it is proposed that they will be left and recorded in situ, then covered, protected and reburied. The Client and LCC will be informed. Where the redevelopment works will unavoidably disturb such remains, these will be fully recorded, excavated and removed from the site, subject to compliance with the relevant Ministry of Justice Licence, which will be obtained by Wessex Archaeology.
- 4.1.6 Should human remains be excavated, all excavation and post-excavation will be in accordance with the standards set out in IfA Technical Paper 13: 'Excavation and Post-excavation Treatment of Cremated and Inhumed



Remains.' Appropriate specialist guidance/site visits will be undertaken by Jackie McKinley of Wessex Archaeology. Following analysis, the final placing of human remains will be subject to the requirements of the Ministry of Justice licence. Contingency sums for specialist site visits will be agreed as required.

4.2 Environmental Samples

4.2.1 Bulk environmental soil samples for plant macro-fossils, small animal and fish bones and other small artefacts will be taken from appropriate well-sealed and archaeological deposits. The residues and sieved fractions of the bulk environmental soil samples will be recorded and retained with the project archive. For charred material, bulk samples of 10 litres will be taken for processing by flotation, using Wessex Archaeology's flotation system and processing methods. All samples will be floated through a 500µm mesh.

4.3 Other Samples

4.3.1 Other samples will be taken, as appropriate, in consultation with Wessex Archaeology specialists and the English Heritage Regional Science Advisor (e.g. dendrochronology, soil micromorphology, monolith samples, C14, etc). Samples will be taken for scientific dating where necessary.

4.4 Treasure

4.4.1 In the event of discovery of artefacts covered or potentially covered by The Treasure Act 1996 (and amendments), their excavation and removal will be undertaken following notification of the Client, Coroner and LCC.

5 POST-EXCAVATION AND REPORTING

5.1 Report

- 5.1.1 On completion of all archaeological monitoring, a report detailing the results of work will be produced and forwarded to the Client and LCC within one month of completion of all fieldwork.
- 5.1.2 The watching brief report will be prepared in accordance with the IfA guidelines (2008) except where superseded by statements below.
- 5.1.3 The report may include;
 - a non-technical summary;
 - plans and sections at an appropriate scale locating the Site, location of works, known archaeological structures and deposits and their extent;
 - tabulation of finds data by context and by material type;
 - a summary by category of the material types recovered;
 - a summary of the palaeo-environmental evidence recovered;
 - preliminary phasing of any archaeological structures, features and deposits encountered;
 - a consideration of the archaeological evidence from within the Scheme set in its broader landscape and historic setting.



5.1.4 The preparation of the report may involve the following elements:

- the conservation of appropriate material, including the X-raying of ironwork;
- the spot-dating of all pottery from excavated contexts. Spot-dating will be corroborated by scanning of other categories of material;
- a statement on each category of material, including reference to quantity, provenance, range and variety and condition;
- the selection and prioritisation of bulk soil samples taken for environmental and artefactual data in the light of preliminary phasing. Sieving, processing and scanning of selected soil samples will be undertaken and an assessment statement on charred food and plant remains:
- a statement of potential for each material category and for the data collection as a whole will be prepared, including specific questions that can be answered and the potential value of the data to local, regional and national investigation priorities;

6 ARCHIVE

6.1 Preparation and Deposition

6.1.1 The complete project archive will be prepared in accordance with Wessex Archaeology's Guidelines for Archive Preparation and in accordance with standard guidelines for the preparation of excavation archives (UKIC 1990; Brown 2007). The Archive will be deposited with the local repository museum. As part of the post excavation work an OASIS form will be filled out and submitted to the Archaeological Data Service (ADS).

7 PROJECT MANAGEMENT AND STAFFING

7.1 Personnel

7.1.1 The fieldwork will be carried out by an experienced archaeologist from Wessex Archaeology's Sheffield office staff, who will be on Site at all times for the length of monitoring. The overall responsibility for the conduct and management of the project will be held by one of Wessex Archaeology's project managers, who will visit the fieldwork as appropriate to monitor progress and to ensure that the scope of works is adhered to. The appointed project manager and experienced archaeologist will be involved in all phases of the project through to its completion. The following staff may be utilised on the project:

Andrea Burgess BSc Project Manager

Sam Fairhead BSc Project Archaeologist



8 STANDARDS

8.1 Quality and Code of Practice

- 8.1.1 Wessex Archaeology is a registered archaeological organisation with the Institute for Archaeologists.
- 8.1.2 Wessex Archaeology endorses the Code of Practice and the Code of Approved Practice for the Regulation of Contractual Arrangements in Field Archaeology of the Institute for Archaeologists.
- 8.1.3 All core staff would be of a standard approved by Wessex Archaeology, be employed in line with The Institute for Archaeologists Codes of Practice and be members of the Institute for Archaeologists or be appropriately qualified
- 8.1.4 Wessex Archaeology operates a *Project Management System*. All projects are undertaken under the direction of the Project Manager who is responsible to a Regional Manager, who ensures the maintenance of quality standards within the organisation. The Chief Executive has ultimate responsibility for all of the Company's work.
- 8.1.5 All work will be carried out in line with current industry best practice (IfA 2008).

9 INSURANCE AND HEALTH AND SAFETY

9.1 Policy and Risk Assessment

- 9.1.1 Health and safety considerations will be of paramount importance in conducting all fieldwork. Safe working practises will override archaeological considerations at all times.
- 9.1.2 All work will be carried out in accordance with the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974 and the Management of Health and Safety Regulations 1992, and all other relevant Health and Safety legislation, regulations and codes of practice in force at the time, and in accordance with the SCAUM (Standing Conference of Archaeological Unit Managers) health and safety manual Health and Safety in Field Archaeology (1997).
- 9.1.3 Wessex Archaeology will supply a Risk Assessment to the Main Contractor before the commencement of any fieldwork. The Risk Assessment will have been read and understood by all staff attending the Site before any groundwork commences, and a copy will be kept on Site at all times. A copy of Wessex Archaeology Health and Safety Policy is available on request.
- 9.1.4 All Wessex Archaeology staff will comply with any requests by the Main Contractor concerning health and safety, including requirements to attend site induction prior to the commencement of fieldwork.
- 9.1.5 Wessex Archaeology has both public liability (£10,000,000) and professional indemnity insurance (£5,000,000).



10 REFERENCES

10.1 Bibliography

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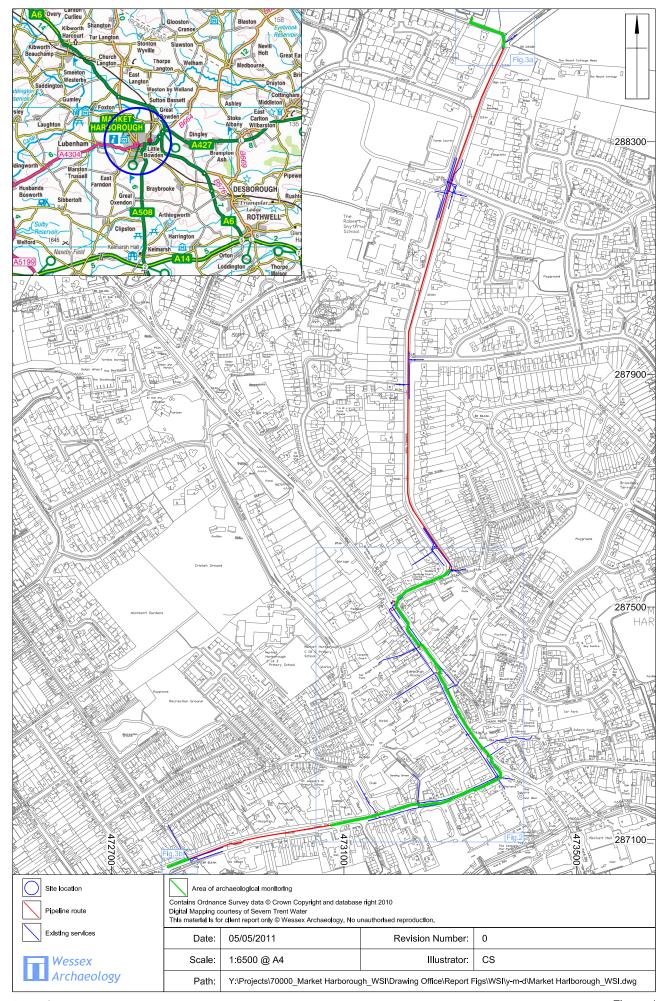
10.2 Websites

www.britishhistoryonline.co.uk

www.heritagegateway.co.uk

www.oldmaps.co.uk

www.harborough.gov.uk



Plan of pipeline route Figure 1

