

Oxton 15 SECTION A

Archaeological Watching Brief



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On behalf of Severn Trent Water Ltd

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County Nottinghamshire

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Dates of fieldwork 24 and 25th of April 2019 Fieldwork directed by Viktoria Halldorsdottir

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Contents

	maryowledgements	
1	INTRODUCTION	. 4 . 4
2	ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND	. 4
3	AIMS AND OBJECTIVES	. 6
4	METHODS	. 7 . 7 . 7
5	ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS	. 8 . 8
6	CONCLUSIONS	_
7	ARCHIVE STORAGE AND CURATION. 7.1 Museum 7.2 Preparation of the archive 7.3 Selection policy 7.4 Security copy 7.5 OASIS	. 8 . 8 . 9
8	8.1 Archive and report copyright	. 9
REFE	ERENCES1	10
APPI	Appendix 2: OASIS for	11



List of Figures

Figure 1 Site location

Figure 2 Plan of watching brief area showing archaeology

List of Plates

Cover Trench 1, view from east
 Plate 1 North-east facing representative section
 Plate 2 Plan of trench, view from north-east
 Plate 3 Modern rubbish pit 104, view from south-west

Plate 4 Working shot of pipe installation, view from south-west



Summary

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by NMCNomenca on behalf of Severn Trent Water to undertake an archaeological watching brief on groundworks during the installation of a water mains. The archaeological watching brief was undertaken on the 24th–25th of April 2019.

The groundworks were centred on NGR 461787 337808 (SK 61787 37808), at Stragglethorpe Lane, Cotgrove, Nottingham, NG12 2JZ5 km south-east of the city.

The monitored area measured 140 m by 3 m, forming a single 'L'-shaped trench. A single rubbish pit was detected containing modern artefacts eg, brick/tile and glass

Acknowledgements

Wessex Archaeology would like to thank NMCNomenca and Severn Trent Water for commissioning the archaeological watching brief, in particular Mark Middleton of NMCNomenca. Wessex Archaeology is also grateful for the advice of Scott Lomax, City Archaeologist at Nottingham City Council, who monitored the project on behalf of the local planning authority, and to Ken Rodney Construction Ltd. for their cooperation and help on site.

The fieldwork was directed by Viktoria Halldorsdottir. This report was written by Viktoria Halldorsdottir and edited by Emma Carter. The project was managed by Milica Rajic on behalf of Wessex Archaeology.



Oxton 15 Section A, Nottinghamshire: Archaeological Watching Brief

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project and planning background

- 1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by NMCNomenca on behalf of Severn Trent Water to undertake an archaeological watching brief on groundworks during the installation of a water mains. The monitored area measured 140 m by 3 m (0.042ha), centred on NGR 461787 337808 (SK 61787 37808), at Stragglethorpe Lane, Cotgrove, Nottingham, NG12 2JZ (Fig. 1).
- 1.1.2 The watching brief was undertaken in accordance with a written scheme of investigation (WSI), which detailed the aims, methodologies and standards to be employed (Wessex Archaeology 2019a). Scott Lomax, City Archaeologist at Nottingham City Council approved the WSI, on behalf of the Local Planning Authority (LPA), prior to fieldwork commencing. The watching brief was undertaken on 24–25 April 2019.

1.2 Scope of the report

1.2.1 The purpose of this report is to provide the results of the watching brief, to interpret the results within their local or regional context (or otherwise), and to assess their potential to address the aims outlined in the WSI, thereby making available information about the archaeological resource (a preservation by record).

1.3 Location, topography and geology

- 1.3.1 The watching brief occurred at Stragglethorpe Lane, Cotgrove, Nottingham, 5 km southeast of Nottingham city (**Fig. 1**). The works form part of a larger pipeline development comprising four sections (A-D). The area monitored during the watching brief is located within Section A, which forms a 3 km stretch between Gamston and Radcliffe-on-Trent ('the Scheme').
- 1.3.2 Existing ground levels lie at 20–30 m above Ordnance Datum (aOD).
- 1.3.3 The underlying geology is mapped as Gunthorpe Member mudstone. Superficial Quaternary alluvial deposits are found across the Scheme, including Bassingfield Sand and Gravel (British Geological Survey online viewer).

2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Introduction

The following is taken from the WSI (Wessex Archaeology 2019a), and reproduces text from the desk-based assessment Wessex Archaeology 2019b), which considered heritage assets within a 500 m radious of the Scheme.

2.2 Archaeological and historical context

can be accessed in the desk-based Assesment (Wessex Archaeology 2019b).



Prehistoric

- 2.2.1 In line with the broader picture from the rest of the region, there is limited evidence of Palaeolithic and Mesolithic activity; evidence of the period chiefly comprises flints found through fieldwalking or excavation (McNabb 2006).
- 2.2.2 An excavation by Trent and Peak Archaeology in 1992 uncovered a Bronze Age barrow cemetery comprising three barrows approximately 300 m north of the Scheme.
- 2.2.3 Other Bronze Age evidence includes fragments of pottery recovered from an Iron Age homestead, a pit containing a sherd of Bronze Age pottery and an axe head found through ploughing in the 1950s.
- 2.2.4 A post-built 'D'-shaped structure has been identified in Gamston, which could be Bronze Age or Iron Age (Willis 2006).

Iron Age/Romano-British

- 2.2.5 Iron Age to Romano-British settlement has been identified through archaeological excavations, aerial photographs and surveys. To the north of the pipeline, circular post-built structures have been recorded (Taylor 2006).
- 2.2.6 Other Romano-British heritage assets identified, include ditches and pits containing pottery sherds dating to the Romano-British period.
- 2.2.7 A Roman animal brooch and a fragment of a Roman inscribed glass bowl were recovered from an early medieval cemetery.

Early medieval

- 2.2.8 Whilst digging for gravel in the 19th century, labourers discovered the remains of a Saxon cemetery and the Roman artefacts mentioned above. Four early medieval burial sites are known nearby. One of these is close to a Bronze Age barrow cemetery. It was common practice for prehistoric barrows to be reused in the Saxon era for burial practices (Vince 2006).
- 2.2.9 Gamston, Holme Pierrepont and Bassingfield are all recorded in the Domesday Book as significant settlements (Powell-Smith 2019).
- 2.2.10 A Saxon wooden paddle was identified through fieldwalking in the village of Gamston.

Medieval

- 2.2.11 Medieval finds are abundant. There remnants of a shrunken medieval village would have been the nucleus of Gamston. The shrunken village incorporates a moated manor house, fishponds, house sites, platforms, ridge and furrow remnants, springs and enclosures. The manor house was probably the house of the Luterells mentioned in documentation from the 13th century. Documentary records suggest that a chapel was situated approximately 250 m south of the scheme. There is also another chapel (St. James') located south of the scheme, although its precise location is unknown.
- 2.2.12 Fieldwalking to the north-west of the Scheme has recovered a range of pottery sherds dating between the medieval and post-medieval periods.



Post-medieval

- 2.2.13 Ditches and quarry pits dating to the post-medieval period are recorded in the vicinity of the Scheme.
- 2.2.14 Nearby post-medieval listed buildings include Hall Farmhouse (possibly re-using stone from a chapel), and Holme House, an early 19th-century farmhouse. A smithy to the north of the scheme is known from historic maps. The Gamston bridge also lies nearby.

Undated

2.2.15 Three areas of cropmarks and earthworks are situated nearby. These have mainly been identified through aerial photographs, and there are no indications that these features have been surveyed or excavated in the past.

3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The following is taken from the WSI (Wessex Archaeology 2019).

3.1 Aims

- 3.1.1 The aims of the watching brief, as stated in the WSI (Wessex Archaeology 2019) and as defined in the ClfA's *Standard and guidance for an archaeological watching brief* (ClfA 2014a), were:
 - To allow, within the resources available, the preservation by record of archaeological deposits, the presence and nature of which could not be established (or established with sufficient accuracy) in advance of the development or other works;
 - To provide an opportunity, if needed, for the watching archaeologist to signal to all
 interested parties, before the destruction of the material in question, that an
 archaeological find has been made for which the resources allocated to the
 watching brief itself are not sufficient to support treatment to a satisfactory and
 proper standard; and
 - To guide, not replace, any requirement for contingent excavation or preservation of possible deposits.

3.2 Objectives

- 3.2.1 In order to achieve the above aims, the objectives of the watching brief, also defined in the WSI (Wessex Archaeology 2019), were:
 - To determine the presence or absence of archaeological features, deposits, structures, artefacts or ecofacts within the specified works area;
 - To record and establish, within the constraints of the works, the extent, character, date, condition and quality of any surviving archaeological remains (a preservation by record);
 - To place any identified archaeological remains within a wider historical and archaeological context in order to assess their significance; and
 - To make available information about the archaeological resource on the site by preparing a report on the results of the watching brief.



4 METHODS

4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 All works were undertaken in accordance with the detailed methodology set out within the WSI (Wessex Archaeology 2019) and in general compliance with the standards outlined in CIfA guidance (CIfA 2014a). The methods employed are summarised below.

4.2 Fieldwork methods

General

- 4.2.1 The watching brief monitored preparation works for water main installation in Section A of the Scheme. The work included overseeing ground works; topsoil was stripped from a 140 x 3 m area, with a trench measuring 1.8 m wide by 1 m deep then dug for the water pipe. After the monitoring archaeologist had recorded the geological substrate, the trench was infilled and compacted. A 0.2 m wide by 1 m utility pipe trench was then excavated through the redeposited natural (**Pl. 4**).
- 4.2.2 All mechanical excavations within the specified area were monitored by the watching archaeologist. Where necessary, the surface of uncovered archaeological deposits was cleaned by hand. A sample of archaeological features and deposits identified was hand-excavated, sufficient to address the aims of the watching brief.
- 4.2.3 Spoil derived from both machine stripping and hand-excavated archaeological deposits was visually scanned for the purposes of finds retrieval. All artefacts found were those from features of modern date (19th-century or later); these were recorded on site and not retained.

Recording

- 4.2.4 All exposed archaeological deposits and features were recorded using Wessex Archaeology's pro forma recording system. A complete drawn record of excavated features and deposits was made including both plans and sections drawn to appropriate scales (generally 1:20 or 1:50 for plans and 1:10 for sections), and tied to the Ordnance Survey (OS) National Grid. The Ordnance Datum (OD: Newlyn) heights of all principal features were calculated, and levels added to plans and section drawings.
- 4.2.5 A Leica GNSS connected to Leica's SmartNet service surveyed the location of archaeological features. All survey data is recorded in OS National Grid coordinates and heights above OD (Newlyn), as defined by OSGM15 and OSTN15, with a three-dimensional accuracy of at least 50 mm.
- 4.2.6 A full photographic record was made using digital cameras equipped with an image sensor of not less than 10 megapixels. Digital images have been subject to managed quality control and curation processes, which has embedded appropriate metadata within the image and will ensure long term accessibility of the image set.

4.3 Artefactual and environmental strategies

4.3.1 Appropriate strategies for the recovery, processing and assessment of artefacts and environmental samples were in line with those detailed in the WSI (Wessex Archaeology 2019) and included: Guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials (CIfA 2014b) and Environmental Archaeology: A Guide to the Theory and Practice of Methods, from Sampling and Recovery to Postexcavation (English Heritage 2011).



4.3.2 No environmental samples or artefacts were taken during the watching brief works.

4.4 Monitoring

4.4.1 Scott Lomax City Archaeologist at Nottingham City Council monitored the watching brief on behalf of the LPA.

5 ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS

5.1 Introduction

5.1.1 The excavation area formed an 'L'-shaped trench within which was revealed a single modern pit.

5.2 Soil sequence and natural deposits

5.2.1 The topsoil was typically 0.25 m thick and consisted of dark blackish-brown sandy silt with sub-rounded and sub-angular stones. Subsoil consisted of light yellowish-brown sand with 5% abundant well-rounded stones, 0.25–0.35 m deep. The geological substrate was encountered at 0.6 m below ground level (bgl) and consisted of light yellowish-brown sand with 15% common sub-rounded stones (**PI. 1, 2**).

5.3 Modern (19th century to present)

5.3.1 The centre of the trench revealed a rubbish pit 104, containing fragments of machine-made brick, cement and glass. The rubbish pit was recorded in plan only and measured 2.4 m wide and 0.3 m long continuing into the bulk (**Fig. 2, Pl. 3**).

6 CONCLUSIONS

6.1 Discussion

- 6.1.1 The archaeological watching brief revealed a single pit containing modern materials. The lack of archaeological remains suggests that the site lay at some distance from a settlement.
- 6.1.2 The archaeological remains are deemed to be of limited significance.

7 ARCHIVE STORAGE AND CURATION

7.1 Museum

7.1.1 The archive resulting from the watching brief is currently held at the offices of Wessex Archaeology in Sheffield.

7.2 Preparation of the archive

- 7.2.1 The archive, which includes paper records, graphics, artefacts, ecofacts and digital data, will be prepared following the standard conditions for the acceptance of excavated archaeological material by Nottingham City Museum, and in general following nationally recommended guidelines (SMA 1995; ClfA 2014c; Brown 2011; ADS 2013).
- 7.2.2 All archive elements are marked with the site code (216432), and a full index will be prepared. The physical archive currently comprises the following:
 - 1 file of paper records.



7.3 Selection policy

7.3.1 Wessex Archaeology follows national guidelines on selection and retention (SMA 1993; Brown 2011, section 4). In accordance with these, and any specific guidance prepared by the museum, a process of selection and retention will be followed so that only those artefacts or ecofacts that are considered to have potential for future study will be retained. The selection policy will be agreed with the museum, and is fully documented in the project archive.

7.4 Security copy

7.4.1 In line with current best practice (eg, Brown 2011), on completion of the project a security copy of the written records will be prepared, in the form of a digital PDF/A file. PDF/A is an ISO-standardised version of the Portable Document Format (PDF) designed for the digital preservation of electronic documents through omission of features ill-suited to long-term archiving.

7.5 OASIS

7.5.1 An OASIS online record (http://oasis.ac.uk/pages/wiki/Main) has been initiated (350720), with key fields filled out (Appendix 2). A.pdf version of the final report will be submitted in due course. Subject to any contractual requirements on confidentiality, copies of the OASIS record will be integrated into the relevant local and national records and published through the Archaeology Data Service ArchSearch catalogue.

8 COPYRIGHT

8.1 Archive and report copyright

- 8.1.1 The full copyright of the written/illustrative/digital archive relating to the project will be retained by Wessex Archaeology under the *Copyright, Designs and Patents Act* 1988 with all rights reserved. The client will be licenced to use each report for the purposes that it was produced in relation to the project as described in the specification. The museum, however, will be granted an exclusive licence for the use of the archive for educational purposes, including academic research, providing that such use conforms to the *Copyright and Related Rights Regulations* 2003. In some instances, certain regional museums may require absolute transfer of copyright, rather than a licence; this should be dealt with on a case-by-case basis.
- 8.1.2 Information relating to the project will be deposited with the Historic Environment Record (HER) where it can be freely copied without reference to Wessex Archaeology for the purposes of archaeological research or development control within the planning process.

8.2 Third party data copyright

8.2.1 This document and the project archive may contain material that is non-Wessex Archaeology copyright (eg, Ordnance Survey, British Geological Survey, Crown Copyright), or the intellectual property of third parties, which Wessex Archaeology are able to provide for limited reproduction under the terms of our own copyright licences, but for which copyright itself is non-transferable by Wessex Archaeology. Users remain bound by the conditions of the *Copyright, Designs and Patents Act* 1988 with regard to multiple copying and electronic dissemination of such material.



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APPENDICES

Appendix 1

Trench 1	140 x 1.8 m		NGR 461787 337808	20-30 m aOD Depth bgl (m)	
Context	Interpretation Fill of		Description		
101	Topsoil	-	Dark blackish-brown sandy silt with sub-rounded and sub- angular stones.	0.00-0.25	
102	Subsoil	-	Light yellowish-brown sand with 5% abundant well-rounded stones	0.25-0.60	
103	Natural	-	Light yellowish-brown sand with 15% common sub-rounded stones	0.60+	
104	Cut of pit	105	Rubbish pit which contained modern refuse materials.	0.20-	
105	Fill of pit	104	Deliberate backfill of modern rubbish pit. Dark blackish- brown sand with glass, modern brick and CBM.	0.20-	



Appendix 2: OASIS for

Project Details

Project name Oxton 15

Short description of

the project

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by NMCNomenca on behalf of Severn Trent Water to undertake an archaeological watching brief on groundworks during preparations for the installation of water mains. The stripping of site and instillation of the water main was operated by

subcontractors Ken Rodney Construction Ltd. The archaeological watching

brief was undertaken on the 24th-25th of April 2019. Location of the groundworks were centred on NGR 461787 337808 (SK 61787 37808), at Stragglethorpe Lane, Cotgrove, Nottingham, NG12 2JZ. The area forms a 3 km stretch between Gamston and Radcliffe-on-Trent, 5 km south-east of Nottingham City. The works monitored during the 24th-25th April covered an area measuring 140 m and 3 m wide forming a single L-shaped trench. A single rubbish pit was detected containing modern artefacts e.g. CBM,

glass and broken brick.

Project dates Start: 22-04-2019 End: 10-05-2019

Previous/future work Yes / Not known

Type of project Recording project

Site status None

Current Land use Cultivated Land 2 - Operations to a depth less than 0.25m

Investigation type "Watching Brief"

Prompt Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPG16

Site Location

Site location NOTTINGHAMSHIRE NOTTINGHAM NOTTINGHAM Oxton 15

Postcode NG12 2JZ

Study area 280 Square metres

Site coordinates LL - 61787 37808 (decimal)

LL - 61787 00 00 N 37808 00 00 E (degrees)

Point

Height OD / Depth Min: 20m Max: 30m

Project Creators

Name of Organisation Severn Trent Water

Project brief

Nomenca Itd

originator

Project design originator

Wessex Archaeology

Project supervisor

Milica Rajic

Type of

Severn Trent Water



sponsor/funding

body

Project Archives

Digital Contents 'none'

Paper Archive recipient (other)

Nottingham Museum

Paper Media available

'Context sheet','Diary','Report'

Project Bibliography

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Author(s)/Editor(s) Halldorsdottir, V.

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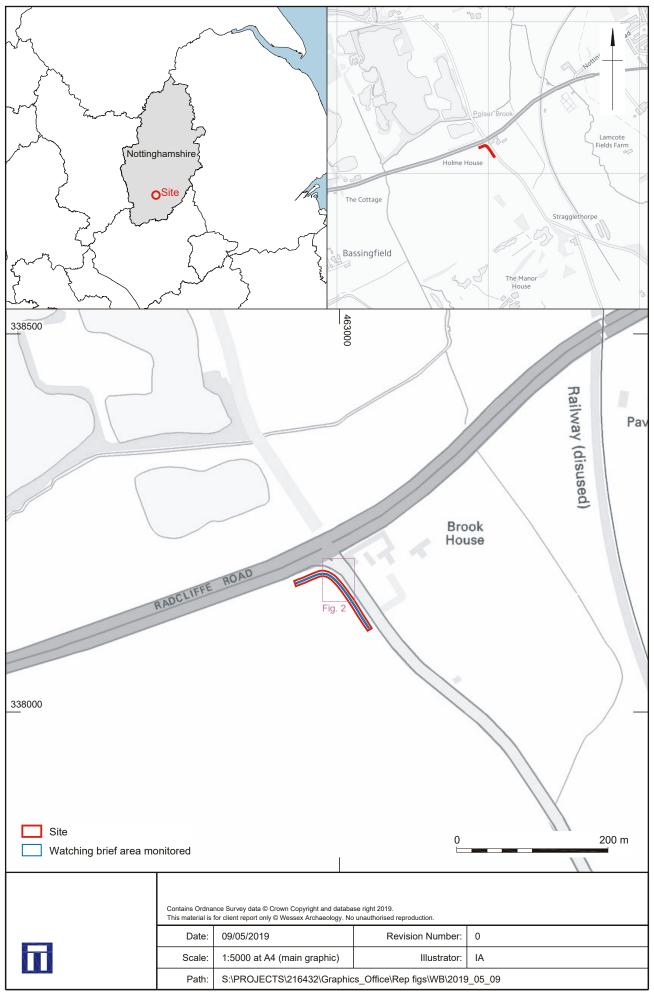
Issuer or publisher Weesex Archaeology

Place of issue or

publication

Sheffield

Description A4 document



Site location Figure 1

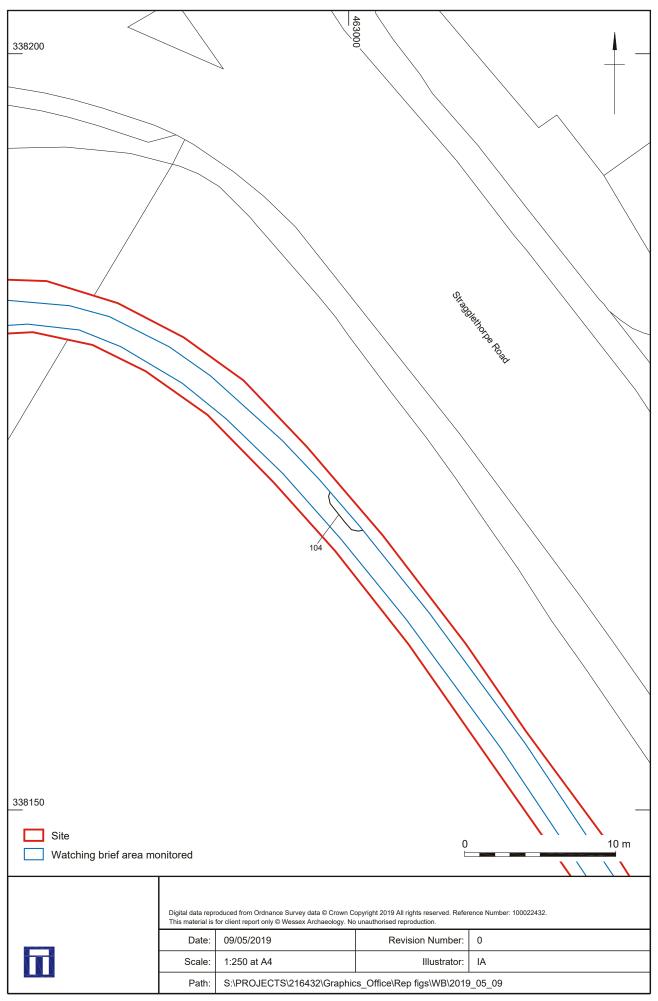




Plate 1: North-east facing representative section



Plate 2: Plan of trench, view from the north-east

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Plate 3: Modern rubbish pit 104, view from south-west



Plate 4: Working shot of pipe installation, view from the south-west

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