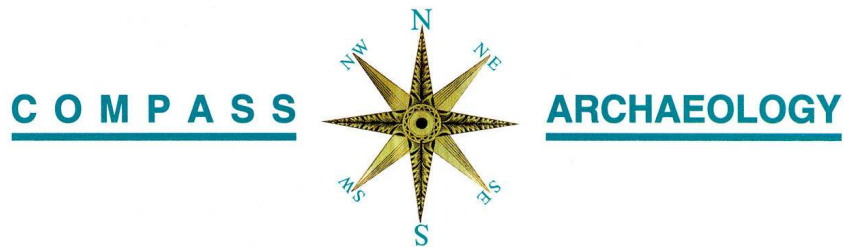


**THAMES WATER
VICTORIAN MAINS REPLACEMENT WORKS IN
THE VICINITY OF
FORE STREET AND ANGEL STREET**

London Borough of Enfield

An Archaeological Watching Brief



June 2013

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SITE CODE: FRE12

NGR: TQ 3432 9298 (NE corner)
TQ 3413 9301 (NW corner)
TQ 3394 9246 (SW corner)
TQ 3417 9243 (SE corner)

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June 2013

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Abstract

Between April and November 2012 Compass Archaeology conducted an Archaeological Watching Brief in the vicinity of Fore Street and Angel Street. The groundworks formed part of the Thames Water programme of the Victorian mains water replacement works in the District Metering Area WDF75.

The study area encompassed the Area of Archaeological Importance around the historic centres of Edmonton and Ermine Street. Fore Street has also been designated a Conservation Area due to several surviving 18th and 19th century properties.

In the event no archaeologically significant deposits or features were observed during the watching brief in WDF75. Truncated natural deposits were exposed approximately 800mm below existing ground level and in situ gravel geology was observed from 1.9m below ground level at the western end of Brettenham Road.

Contents		Page
1	Introduction	1
2	Site location, geology and topography	2
3	Archaeological and historical background	3
4	Archaeological research questions	8
5	Methodology	8
6	Results	9
7	Conclusions	21
8	Bibliography	21
	Appendix I: OASIS data collection form	22
	Appendix II: London Archaeologist summary	24

List of Figures

		Page
1	Location plan provided by Thames Water showing the DMA area outlined in green, with the area of the watching brief highlighted in blue	1
2	Extract from Faden's Topographical Map of the Country twenty miles around London c1800	4
3	Extract from the 1822 OS Map, with the DMA outlined in red	5
4	Extract from the OS Map, surveyed 1862-1871, with the DMA outlined in red	6
5	Extract from the OS Map, surveyed 1902, with the DMA outlined in red	7
6	Observed groundworks, (in red), within the DMA area, (outlined in green)	10
7	Trenching on Brettenham Road, facing W, (20 th August 2012)	12
8	Pit A on Fairfield Road, facing S, (5 th October 2012)	13
9	Pit towards the western end of Fairfield Road. Facing S, (5 th October 2012)	14
10	Northern-most pit on Folkestone Road, 14 th November 2012. Brettenham Road runs left to right in background. Facing NE (1m scale)	15
11	Fore Street opposite Lucas House, on the west side of the road. Facing SW, 10 th April 2012 (1m scale)	16
12	The Western side of Fore Street, facing N, (22 nd May 2012)	17
13	Pit on Fore Street towards the north junction of Station House Mews. Facing NW, (5 th October 2012)	18
14	West facing section through trenching on Fore Street on the 14 th of November 2012, (1m scale)	19
15	Section through pit on Morley Road facing S, 9 th July 2012 (1m scale)	20

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1 Introduction

- 1.1 This document forms a summary of an Archaeological Watching Brief conducted in the Thames Water District Metering Area, (DMA), Woodford 75, London Borough of Enfield, between 10th April 2012 and 14th November 2012. The watching brief was conducted during groundworks associated with Victorian mains water replacement works along Fore Street and Angel Street. The scheme of works involved replacement of the existing water mains, using a combination of methods including open-cut trenching and insertion.

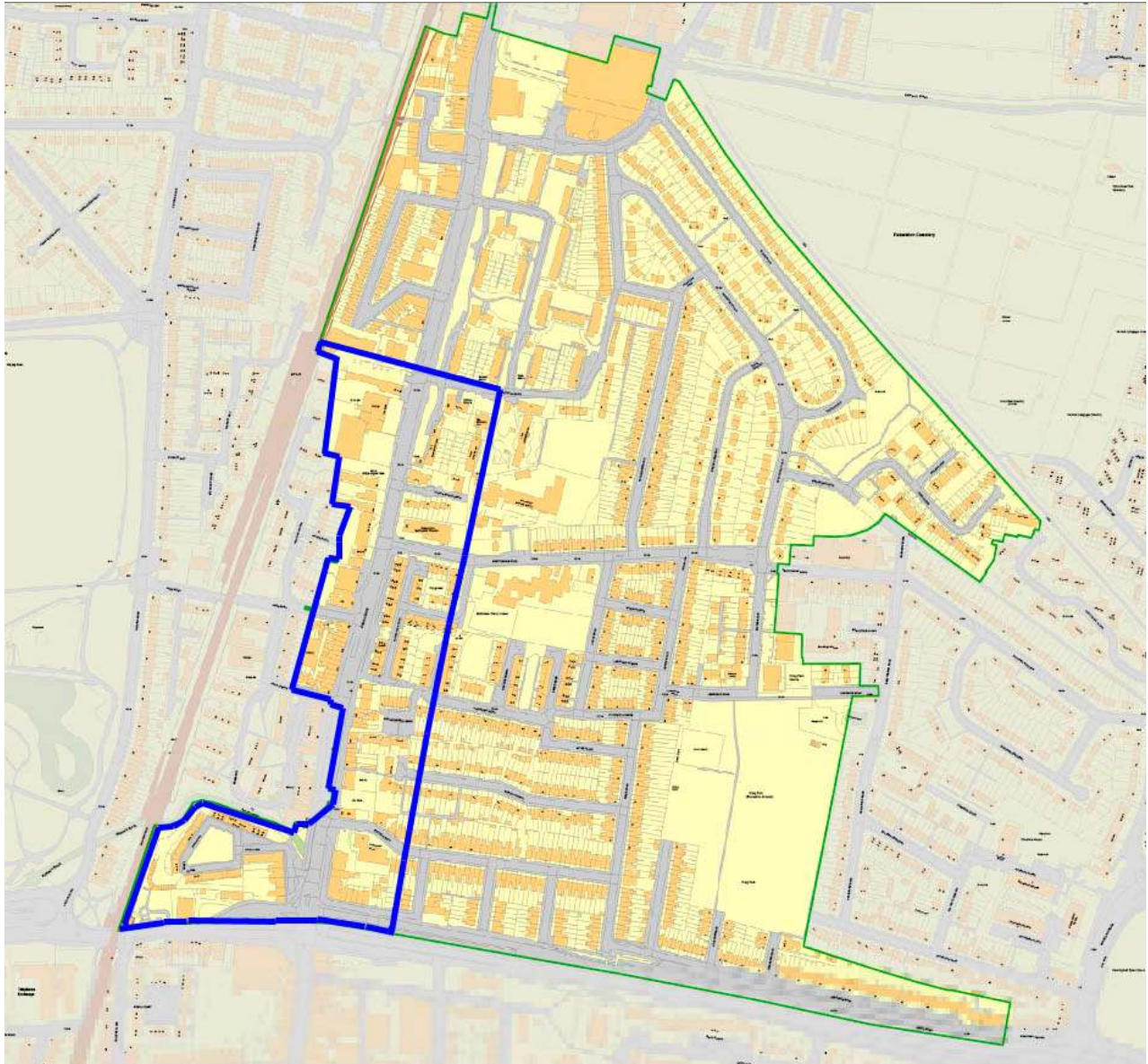


Fig.1: Location plan provided by Thames Water showing the DMA area outlined in green with the area of the watching brief highlighted in blue

- 1.2 Archaeological observations took place during contractors' groundworks, within the area shown in Figure 1, after consultations with Kim Stabler in the first instance, and later with Adam Single, both of English Heritage. The groundworks were conducted by Optimise, and Clancy Docwra, on behalf of Thames Water.

2 Site location, geology and topography

- 2.1 The monitored groundworks took place within the DMA of Woodford 75. They took place along the southern part of Fore Street, from the junction with Angel Road up to the junction with Sebastopol Road, and included a further 100m of the roads either side of this southern part of Fore Street. The south-western corner of the DMA, along and directly adjacent to Fore Street, up to approximately Brettenham Street, falls within an Area of Archaeological Importance, (AAI), as designated by the London Borough of Enfield Unitary Development Policy, and Fore Street itself is allocated a Conservation Area, due to its surviving 18th and 19th century buildings.

There are no Scheduled Ancient Monuments affected by these works. As works are all below ground there is no impact on any Listed Buildings within the DMA area.

- 2.2 The majority of the DMA is within an area of Enfield Silt, comprised of a mixture of Brickearth, sandy clay and silt geology, with the far western end of the DMA, (west of, and including, Fore Street), being a river terrace deposit (Kempton Park Gravels). This has created an area of fertile silt and well-drained gravel geology.
- 2.3 The DMA area gently slopes to the north and south of the DMA area with the central area of groundworks situated in a shallow dip in the landscape. The ground also drops off towards the east of the DMA area.

3 Archaeological and historical background

- 3.1** Beyond the geological propensity for prehistoric finds, this DMA has further potential for evidence of prehistoric activity. It lies just to the west of the Lea Valley – an area renowned for its prehistoric activity. Previous archaeological investigations at 258-260 Fore Street uncovered sherds of prehistoric pottery. At 3 Chauncey Close, just to the north of the DMA, a probable prehistoric pit was noted; and a prehistoric scraper has been uncovered in Chichester Road.
- 3.2** The main Roman road from London through to Lincoln and then on to York, known as Ermine Street, ran just to the west of the DMA, along the approximate line of Victoria Road. This gives rise to the possibility of Roman activity or settlement around the road.
- 3.3** It is known that there was established settlement and activity from the early medieval period onwards. Edmonton Hundred was a division of the historic county of Middlesex from Saxon times. Furthermore, Edmonton is mentioned in the Domesday Book of 1086, where it is recorded as ‘Adelmetone’ (a farmstead or estate of a man called Eadhelm). The archaeological investigations at 258-260 Fore Street revealed a 10th–11th Century ditch which may have represented the limit of the medieval settlement, and suggests that the medieval settlement in this area may have been concentrated within the same area as the post-medieval settlement, i.e. along Fore Street and the junction with Angel Road (see cartographic evidence). This is further corroborated by documentary evidence which shows that several large properties were built to the east of Fore Street during the 13th and 14th century’s when wealthy city merchants settled in the area and divided up the open fields amongst themselves. As the area became more densely settled the widely spaced houses were replaced with a continuous line of properties fronting the street from the mid-16th century onwards¹.

‘Pymmes Brook’ ran eastwards from Hadley Wood to the River Lea, and therefore through the DMA itself – particularly across the southern part of Fore Street (where it still runs today). It existed from at least the Middle Ages, when it was known as the ‘Medesenge’. The brook has taken on several different names during its existence including ‘Millicent’s Brook’ in the late 17th Century, and then ‘Bell Brook’ by the late 18th Century. It was widened and deepened in 1766, and eventually culverted in 1883, enabling the development along Angel Street².

- 3.4** The post-medieval development of the DMA area is best discussed in relation to the cartographic evidence and several examples are given below.

¹ A History of the County of Middlesex Vol.5

² A History of the County of Middlesex Vol.5

3.5 This map shows Enfield as it was at the turn of the 19th century. It shows the lack of development within the study area, and indeed in the whole of the locality at this point in history. The main activity appears focused along the line of Tottenham High Road and the southern end of Fore Street, with a few larger properties in the north and immediate west of the DMA zone. Pymme's Brook is visible in the southwest corner of the study area.



Fig.2: Extract from Faden's Topographical Map of the Country twenty miles around London c1800

3.6 This map, dated to 1822, clearly shows increased levels of development along the line of Fore Street, with more concentrated clusters of settlement around both Lower and Upper Edmonton. ‘Angel Road’, running along the southern boundary of the DMA, is also depicted, with some development at its western end. It was along this end of Fore Street and Angel Road that typically urban style townhouses were transplanted during the 18th century to provide more comfortable dwellings for the richer migrants to the suburbs³. The rest of the DMA is mainly open fields. It seems probable that the earlier, medieval and immediate post-medieval, development was also concentrated in this area, supported by evidence from the archaeological investigations at 258-260 Fore Street.

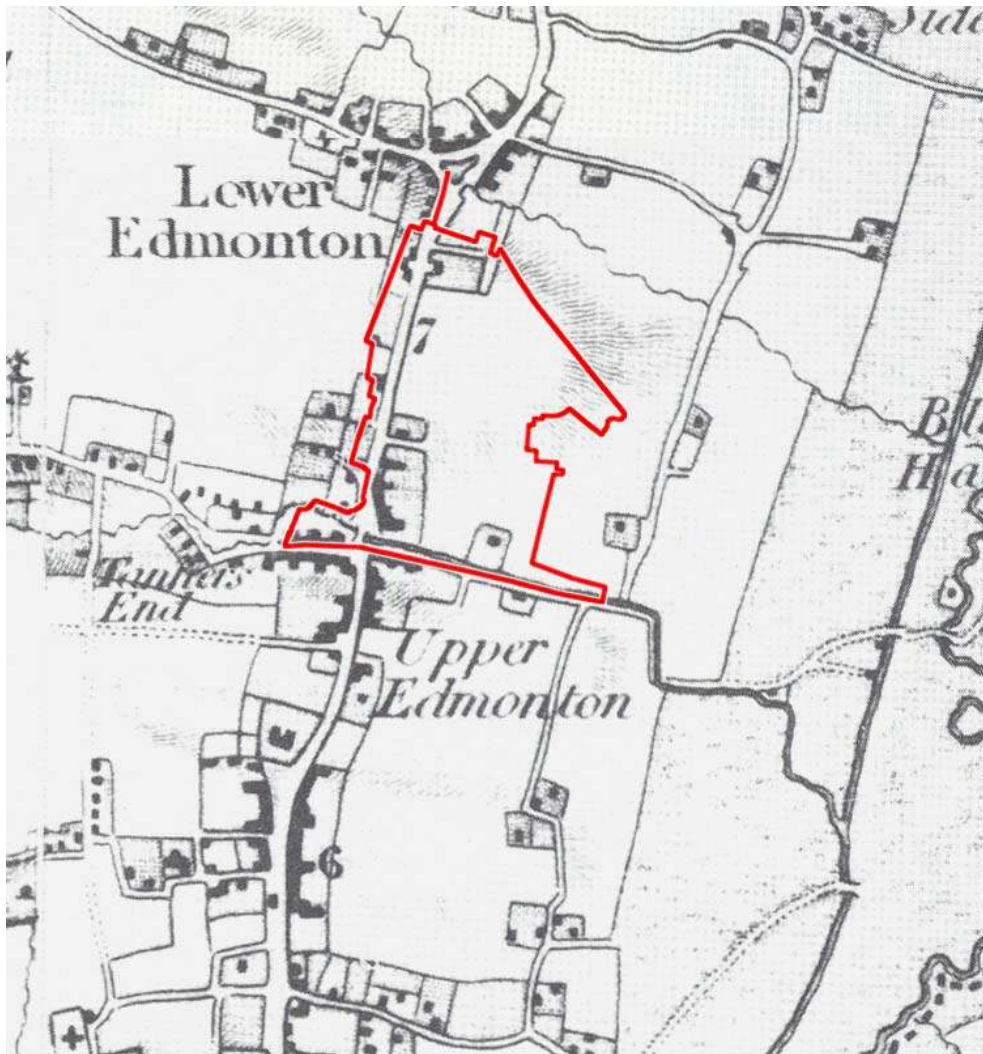


Fig.3: Extract from the 1822 OS Map, with the DMA outlined in red

³ Enfield Heritage Strategy : ‘A Living Landscape’ pg.21

3.7 This map, dated to 1862-71, shows further development along the line of Fore Street, particularly in the northern part. The rest of the study area remained broadly undeveloped, although the railway had been constructed and runs along the northeastern boundary of the DMA. The Angel Road station was originally opened in 1849 by the Eastern Counties Railway as Water Lane station but was re-opened in 1864 by the Great Eastern Railway.

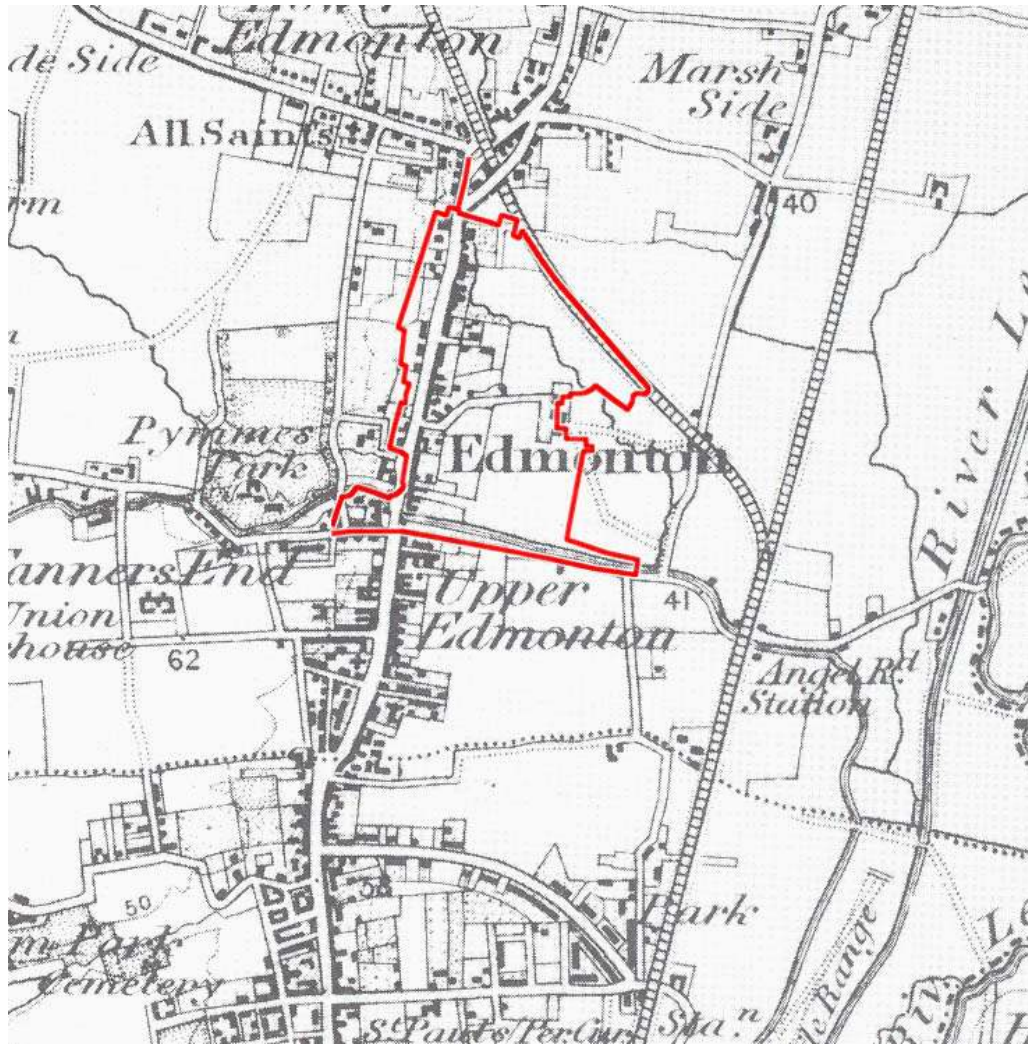


Fig.4: Extract from the OS Map, surveyed 1862-1871, with the DMA outlined in red

- 3.8 This 1902 map shows the expansion of residential areas in all parts of the DMA. Several new roads and terraces have been constructed in the central parts of Edmonton, reflecting the general increase in development that occurred across Greater London in the late 19th Century, associated with the emergence of the railway. The railway itself has added a second branch, this time running along the western side of the DMA and linking up with the earlier eastern branch towards the top of the frame.

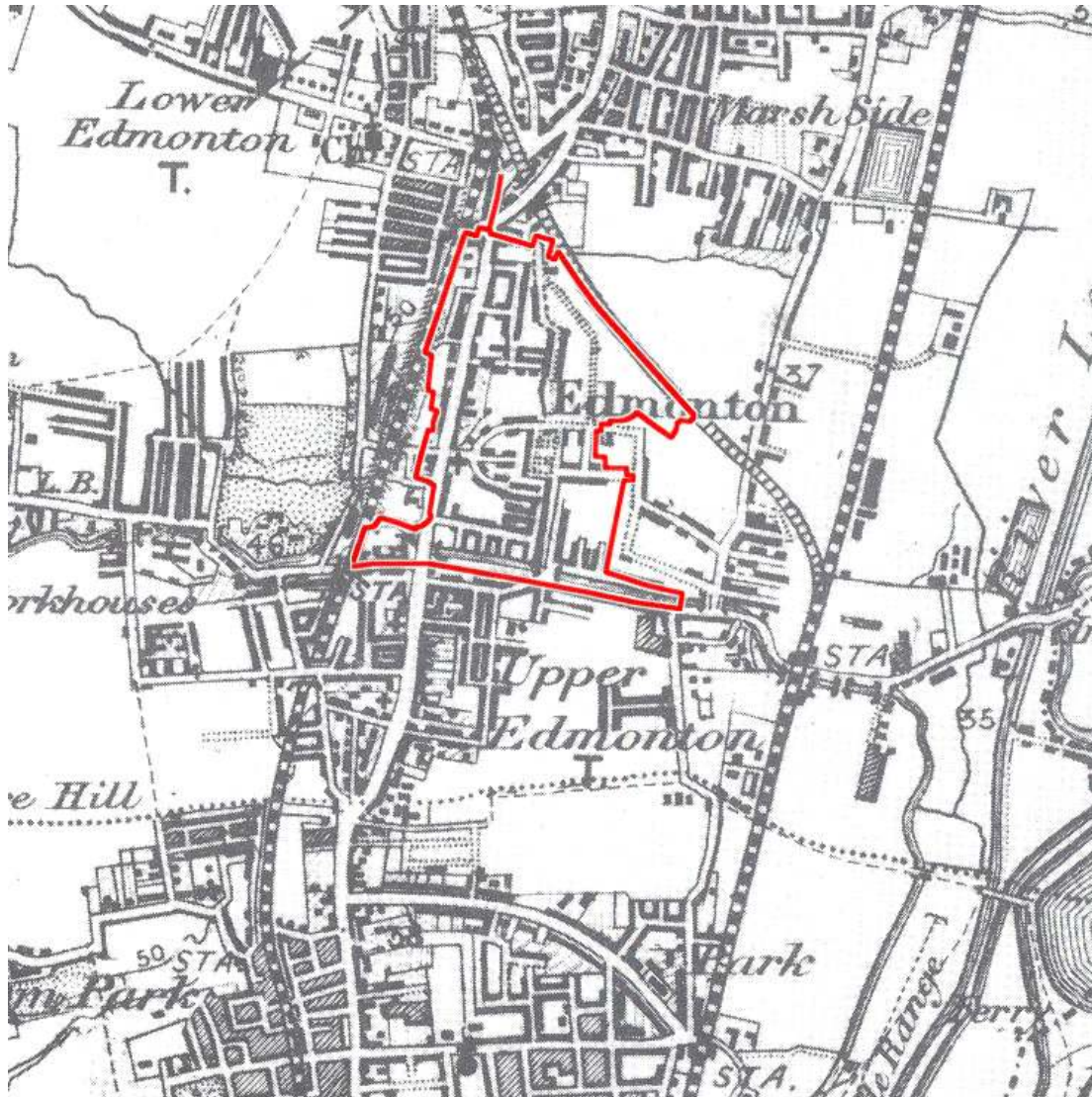


Fig.5: Extract from the OS Map, surveyed 1902, with the DMA outlined in red

4 Archaeological research questions

- Is there any evidence for prehistoric activity in this area, and what is the nature of this?
- Is there any evidence for Roman settlement or activity in this area, possibly associated with the Roman road (Ermine Street) which ran to the west of the DMA?
- Is there any evidence for the line of the medieval roads or early settlement patterns in this area?
- What evidence is there for post-medieval activity in the area?
- At what level do archaeological deposits survive in the highways across the area?

5 Methodology

5.1 Fieldwork

The fieldwork was carried out in accordance with current English Heritage guidelines (in particular, *Standards and Practice in Archaeological Fieldwork, Guidance Paper 3*) and to the standards of the Institute for Archaeologists (*Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs*). Overall management of the project was undertaken by a full member of the Institute.

Ground reduction works were undertaken by machine and finished off by hand, with new mains pipes being inserted as close as possible to the existing main. Contractor methods included open-cut trenching, directional drilling, pipe bursting and insertion.

Adequate time was given for investigation and recording of the observed trenches, although every effort was made not to disrupt the contractors' programme. The archaeological monitoring included an on-site photographic and written record. As a minimum *pro forma* Trench Record sheets were completed for individual excavations or sections of open-cut trench; recording the nature of exposed deposits and details of any archaeological finds and features. Where suitable finds/samples were collected from deposits for dating purposes. Photographs, recording representative trench sections and general site locations, were also taken.

Close liaison was maintained with the groundworks team to ensure a presence on site as and when necessary. The Client and Kim Stabler / Adam Single of English Heritage were kept advised of the progress of the fieldwork.

5.2 Post-excavation work

The fieldwork was followed by off-site assessment and compilation of a report, and by ordering and deposition of the site archive.

Finds were treated in accordance with the appropriate guidelines, including the Museum of London's *'Standards for the Preparation of Finds to be permanently retained by the Museum of London'*. Finds and artefacts were retained and bagged with unique numbers related to the trench records, although some material was discarded following assessment. Assessment was undertaken by appropriately qualified staff.

Copies of this report will be supplied to the Client, English Heritage and the local planning authority. A short summary of the fieldwork has been appended to this report using the OASIS Data Collection Form, and in paragraph form suitable for publication within the 'excavation round-up' of the *London Archaeologist*.

6 Results

The archaeological watching brief was undertaken during contractors' groundworks in the area illustrated in Fig.6 below. The groundworks took place as part of the Thames Water Utilities Ltd scheme of Victorian water mains replacement. Archaeological monitoring was undertaken on areas of open-cut trenching, trial pits and in launch pit areas, access pits and exit points of other methods. A total of approximately 200m of trenching was observed within the study area. The results of the archaeological watching brief are listed below, (discussed in alphabetical order by street).

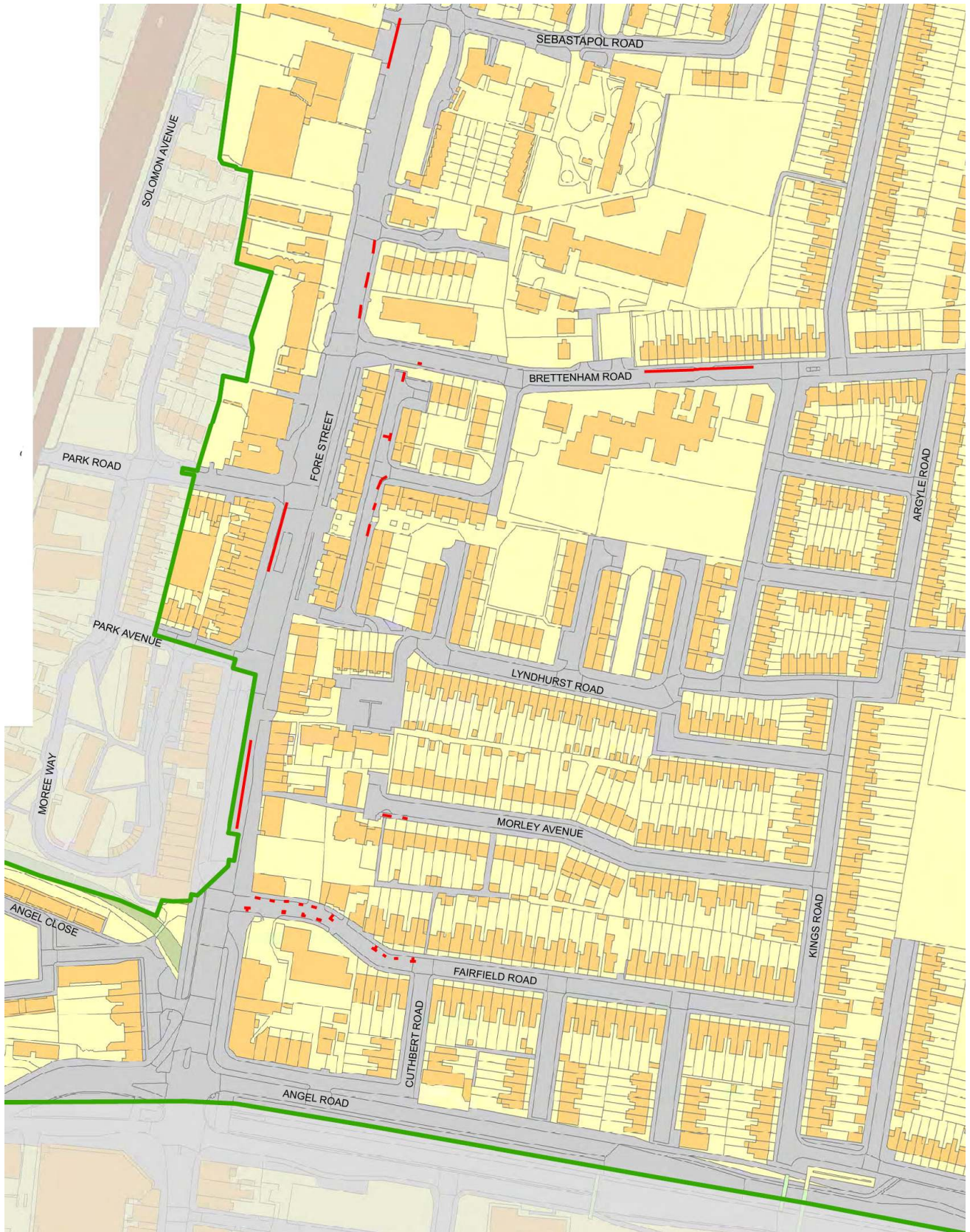


Fig.6: Observed groundworks, (in red), within the DMA area, (outlined in green)

6.1 Brettenham Road

On the 20th of August 2012, 63m of open-cut trenching was observed along the northern side of Brettenham Road, between numbers 33 and 57 (fig.7). The trench was cut approximately 500mm wide and up to 1m in depth with a separate feeder trench cut into the pavement outside each property. Solid brown clay, compacted and sterile, was exposed 600-700mm below the ground surface and continued beyond the base of the trench. This was overlain by mixed, lighter-brown / yellow sandy clay containing more frequent stones and gravels, former a layer 400mm thick, between 200mm and 600mm below ground level. This was sealed below a levelling layer of crushed purple brick and the rolled tarmac of the modern road surface, comprising the uppermost 200mm of stratigraphy.

A single deep shaft was opened 25m from the western end of Brettenham Road, towards the junction of Fore Street, on the southern side of the road. The pit was 2m long by 1m wide and sunk to a depth of 2.5m. Natural gravels were exposed 1.9m below ground level to the base of the pit, overlain by 600mm of the same sterile clay observed in the long stretch of trenching. The clay was sealed below 300mm of mixed rubble forming a levelling layer and 200mm of concrete forming the modern road base. The uppermost 50mm was rolled tarmac.



Fig.7: Trenching on Brettenham Road, facing W, (20th August 2012)

6.2 Fairfield Road

An initial visit to Fairfield Road was made on the 17th of September 2012 to observe six launch pits on the northern side of the road. The first pit was located on the north side of the road opposite No.43 and was a long thin open-cut trench. The other 5 were uniform in size and shape, being 3m long and 1.2m wide, the furthest pit was dug outside No.25. Sterile, light-brown, compacted, firm natural clay was exposed 500mm below the ground surface, overlain by concrete and gravel road base layers and the existing rolled tarmac ground surface.

On the 28th of September 2012 a series of five pits were excavated on the north side of Fairfield Road between Nos.5 and 21. The pits varied in size and shape, from 1.7m to 2.5m long, and between 1.0m to 3.2m wide. Maximum depths reached were between 1.1 and 1.3m below current ground level. The exposed stratigraphy was almost identical in each pit. A potential truncated natural deposit was visible 950mm below the ground, overlain by angular gravels within an orange-brown silty matrix. The gravels were present from as little as 330mm below ground, but were often truncated by the existing water mains pipes, and then re-deposited within the pipe cut. Within two of the westernmost pits, sealing the gravels and underlying pipes, was a layer of crushed CBM material forming the modern road base. This was overlain by MOT type 2 gravels up to 600mm thick in some places, and the modern ground surface comprised of 50mm of tarmac.



Fig.8: Pit A on Fairfield Road, facing S, (5th October 2012)

A further four pits were recorded on the 5th of October 2012, further west towards the junction with Fore Street, but showed no discernible differences in stratigraphy from the previous excavations on the 28th September (figs.8+9). Truncated grey-brown clay was observed in the easternmost pit from 800mm below ground level, sealed beneath an orange-brown matrix of gravels and silt present from c500mm below ground level. Immediately above the gravels was a layer of crushed brick and tile forming a levelling deposit for the new road base. Overlying the brick was 260mm of concrete, with thin reinforcing rods, overlain by rolled tarmac comprising the modern road surface.



Fig.9: Pit towards the western end of Fairfield Road. Facing S, (5th October 2012)

6.3 Folkestone Road

On the 14th of November 2012 a series of insertion pits were excavated along Folkestone Road, running parallel to Fore Street, from Brettenham Road to opposite no.43 (fig.10). No archaeological deposits were exposed in these works as the pits were sited directly over the existing water mains and so the stratigraphy was highly truncated and comprised backfill and re-worked gravels within the existing service cut. A 600mm thick, grey, clay-silt deposit was seen surrounding the water main itself and lying within the cut. This was sealed below an orange-brown silty-sand including some gravels, which was probably used to demark the service cut upon backfilling. This was overlain by 200mm of gravel-based aggregates, forming the current road base, and sealed below the existing tarmac road surface, (130mm thick).



Fig.10: Northern-most pit on Folkestone Road, 14th November 2012. Brettenham Road runs left to right in background. Facing NE (1m scale)

6.4 Fore Street

Approximately 25m of open-cut trenching was observed on the western side of Fore Street on the 10th April 2012, opposite Sebastapol Road (fig.11). This trench was $c0.6\text{m}$ wide, and excavated to a depth of $c1.05\text{m}$. Exposed stratigraphy consisted of $c0.35\text{m}$ of orange-brown gravels (observed at 0.7m beneath modern ground-surface), overlain by 0.15m of a grey silty-pebbly deposit. This was overlain by 0.15m of a dark clinker-ash deposit, under the modern road-make up and kerbstones (0.4m thick).



Fig.11: *Fore Street opposite Lucas House, on the west side of the road. Facing SW, 10th April 2012 (1m scale)*

On the 22nd May 2012, approximately 35m of open-cut trenching was observed on the western side of Fore Street, approximately between nos.247 and nos.254, just south of Park Road (fig.12). This trench measured approximately 0.7m in width, and was excavated to a general depth of 1m. A thick tarmac and concrete road-base was observed (generally 0.4m thick), overlying various made-ground deposits to the base of the trench, plus various service trench backfills.



Fig.12: The Western side of Fore Street, facing N, (22nd May 2012)

On the 5th of October 2012 three pits were recorded between Station House Mews and Brettenham Road on the east side of Fore Street. The pits were largely uniform in size and shape measuring 3.2m long by 2.1m wide and up to 1.5m deep, exposing the existing water main and old gas main in the bottom (fig.13). The fact that the pits were sunk directly over the two pipes meant that the underlying stratigraphy was heavily truncated and disturbed. Grey-brown clays were visible from approximately 600mm below ground to the base of the pits and bedded round the pipework. This was overlain by crushed CBM and sealed beneath thick concrete and tarmac comprising the modern road surface, (0mm-300mm below ground).



Fig.13: Pit on Fore Street towards the north junction of Station House Mews. Facing NW, (5th October 2012)

On the 14th of November 2012 a visit was made to works on Fore Street to view a total of c43m of open-cut trenching, 28m of which was excavated to full depth, and a further 15m partially completed (fig.14). The trench was opened along the western side of Fore Street and was situated in the southern part of the road just north of the Edmonton Medical Centre. The trench was approximately 500mm wide and up to 900mm deep. Observed stratigraphy was very basic. It included a mixture of grey-black / orange-brown silty clay representing made ground and service backfill present from 420mm below ground level and continuing below the limit of excavation. This was sealed by

400mm of reinforced concrete forming the modern road base, and 150mm of rolled tarmac forming the existing land surface. No archaeologically significant deposits were exposed.



Fig.14: *West facing section through trenching on Fore Street on the 14th of November 2012, (1m scale)*

6.5 Morley Avenue

Morley Avenue was visited on the 9th of September and two pits were recorded on the southern side of the street by the junction with Fore Street, outside numbers 68 and 72 (fig.15). The pit outside no.72 measured 3.5m long by 0.8m wide and up to 1.2m deep, and the pit outside no.68 measured 1.1m long, by 0.9m wide and 0.8m deep. The latter had many existing services within the pit. A yellow-brown clay deposit was exposed approximately 800mm below ground level, though severe rainfall had caused the base of the pits to be somewhat obscured. The pits directly overlay the existing water main and so the majority of the exposed material comprised a compacted grey-brown silty-sand representing disturbed ground and backfill. This was overlain with concrete and bedding sand over which were lain the existing paving slabs of the footpath. No archaeologically significant deposits were exposed.



Fig.15: Section through pit on Morley Road facing S, 9th July 2012 (1m scale)

7 Conclusions

In the event no archaeologically significant deposits or features were observed during the watching brief in WDF75. Truncated natural deposits were exposed approximately 800mm below existing ground level and *in situ* gravel geology was observed from 1.9m below ground level at the western end of Brettenham Road.

The majority of the survey area was undeveloped until the later 18th century and was largely agricultural land or scattered, though large, properties. The subsequent rapid, high-density, development could easily have obliterated much of the evidence of previous activity in those areas. However, the roads should have been relatively less intrusive in terms of ground disturbance, but still no archaeology was encountered. This can be accounted for by the fact that the majority of the groundworks were working within the limits of existing pipework and thus, previously disturbed ground. Therefore outside of the footprint of existing houses and service runs, elements of the earlier incarnations of Fore Street may survive.

No evidence of prehistoric to medieval activity was observed and post-medieval evidence was confined to the levelling of the ground using crushed brick for the creation of the existing road network.

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Appendix I: OASIS data collection form

OASIS ID: [compassa1-135457](#)

Project details

Project name	THAMES WATER VICTORIAN MAINS REPLACEMENT WORKS IN THE VICINITY OF FORE STREET AND ANGEL STREET London Borough of Enfield
Short description of the project	Between April and November 2012 an archaeological watching brief was conducted in the area of Fore Street and Angel Street in the London Borough of Enfield. The watching brief took place during groundworks associated with mains water replacement works by Thames Water in the District Metering Area Woodford 75. Approximately 200m of trenching and pits were observed. In the event no archaeologically significant deposits or features were observed during the watching brief in WDF75. Truncated natural deposits were exposed approximately 800mm below existing ground level and in situ gravel geology was observed from 1.9m below ground level at the western end of Brettenham Road.
Project dates	Start: 10-04-2012 End: 14-11-2012
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	FRE12 - Sitecode
Any associated project reference codes	ENFI 008 - Contracting Unit No.
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	Area of Archaeological Importance (AAI)
Site status	Conservation Area
Current Land use	Other 11 - Thoroughfare
Current Land use	Transport and Utilities 3 - Utilities
Monument type	NONE None
Significant Finds	NONE None
Investigation type	"Watching Brief"
Prompt	Water Act 1989 and subsequent code of practice

Project location

Country	England
Site location	GREATER LONDON ENFIELD EDMONTON Fore Street and Angel Street, Enfield
Study area	200 Square metres
Site coordinates	TQ 343 929 51 0 51 37 06 N 000 03 35 W Polygon
Site coordinates	TQ 341 930 51 0 51 37 09 N 000 03 45 W Polygon
Site coordinates	TQ 339 924 51 0 51 36 50 N 000 03 57 W Polygon
Height OD / Depth	Min: 0.60m Max: 2.50m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Compass Archaeology
Project brief originator	English Heritage/Department of Environment
Project design originator	Compass Archaeology
Project director/manager	Compass Archaeology
Project supervisor	Compass Archaeology
Type of sponsor/funding body	Water utility/company
Name of sponsor/funding body	Thames Water

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	Museum of London archive
Digital Contents	"other"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography","Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Museum of London Archive
Paper Contents	"other"
Paper Media available	"Correspondence","Miscellaneous Material","Plan","Unpublished Text"

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	THAMES WATER VICTORIAN MAINS REPLACEMENT WORKS IN THE VICINITY OF FORE STREET AND ANGEL STREET An Archaeological Watching Brief
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Aaronson, J
Date	2012
Issuer or publisher	Compass Archaeology
Place of issue or publication	5-7 Southwark Street, SE1 1RQ
Description	Short report of the results of the watching brief. Includes historical, archaeological, geological and topographical background of the site, details of the methodology used, photographs and descriptions of all trenches monitored, and brief conclusions reached.

Appendix II: London Archaeologist summary

Site address: Thames Water mains replacement works in the vicinity of Fore Street and Angel Street, London Borough of Enfield

Type of project: Watching brief

Dates of fieldwork: April –November 2012

Site code: FRE12

Site Supervisor: Compass Archaeology

NGR: TQ 3432 9298 (NE corner)
TQ 3413 9301 (NW corner)
TQ 3394 9246 (SW corner)
TQ 3417 9243 (SE corner)

Funding body: Optimise

Between April and November 2012 Compass Archaeology conducted an Archaeological Watching Brief in the vicinity of Fore Street and Angel Street. The groundworks formed part of the Thames Water programme of the Victorian mains water replacement works in the District Metering Area WDF75.

The study area encompassed the Area of Archaeological Importance around the historic centres of Edmonton and Ermine Street. Fore Street has also been designated a Conservation Area due to several surviving 18th and 19th century properties.

In the event no archaeologically significant deposits or features were observed during the watching brief in WDF75. Truncated natural deposits were exposed approximately 800mm below existing ground level and *in situ* gravel geology was observed from 1.9m below ground level at the western end of Brettenham Road.