VEOLIA WATER

WATER MAINS REPLACEMENT WORKS

WILTSHIRE LANE, EASTCOTE, HA5

LONDON BOROUGH OF HILLINGDON

DMA MR-09-N08 WILTSHIRE LANE

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

May 2011

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COMPASS ARCHAEOLOGY

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AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

SITE CODE: TXI11
APPROXIMATE CENTRE NGR: TQ 1051 8890

COMPASS ARCHAEOLOGY LIMITED
5-7 SOUTHWARK STREET
LONDON SE1 1RQ

Telephone: 020 7403 9660
Email: mail@compassarchaeology.co.uk

May 2011

Abstract

This report details the results of an archaeological watching brief undertaken during Veolia Water UK water main replacement works in the Wiltshire Lane area of Eastcote, London Borough of Hillingdon HA5 (DMA MR-09-N08 Wiltshire Lane) between 10th February and 11th March 2011. The area is approximately located at NGR TQ 1051 8890.

Approximately 112m of trenching was observed along eight roads, Sutton Close, Haydon Drive, Gladsdale Drive, Field End Road, Azalea Walk, Wood Rise, Mount Park Road and Coteford Close. All trenches exposed modern road layers to a depth of c. 350mm to 400mm below the existing road level, overlying truncated natural clay deposits. No archaeological finds or features were observed. Following this initial monitoring programme it was agreed with English Heritage that no further archaeological monitoring was required, owing to the lack of archaeological remains and the nature of exposed deposits.

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1. Introduction

1.1 This report details the results of archaeological watching brief carried out in the Wiltshire Lane area of Eastcote Village, London Borough of Hillingdon during water mains replacement works by Veolia Water (DMA MR-09-N08). Archaeological monitoring was undertaken during contractors' groundworks between 10th February and 11th March 2011. The groundworks were centred at approximately NGR TQ 1051 8890.

1.2 The programme of archaeological monitoring was undertaken following advice from English Heritage as the area was considered to have archaeological potential because of its proximity to the medieval and post-medieval village of Eastcote and also as it lies just to the east of parkland containing the Scheduled Ancient Monument earthworks of Park Pale (SAM 30902). The earthworks also form an Archaeological Priority Area (APA) on the current Hillingdon UDP and it is understood that the village itself may form a new APA on the revised local plan (Fig 1). Initial monitoring between 10th February and 11th March recorded only modern road levels overlying truncated natural clay deposits with no archaeological finds or features observed. Following discussion with English Heritage it was agreed that no further archaeological monitoring was required

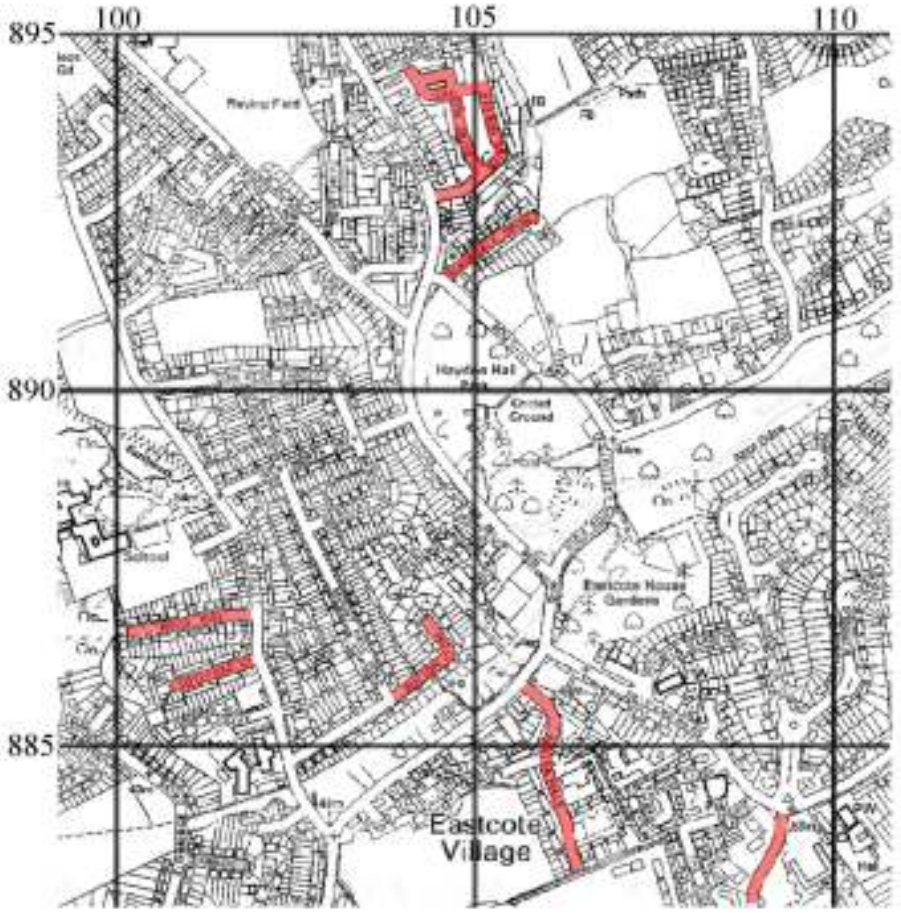

Figure 1: Site location plan showing the location of mains replacement works monitored between 10th February and 11th March 2011. Based on the current Ordnance Survey 1:5000 map.

1.3 This report was commissioned by Ian Thomson of Clancy Docwra on behalf of Veolia Water UK following conditions outlined by English Heritage; Clancy Docwra Ltd undertook the groundworks.

2. Site Location and Geology

2.1 Water mains replacement works were monitored along Haydon Drive, Gladsdale Drive, Sutton Close, Wood Rise, Coteford Close, Azalea Walk, Mount Park Road and Field End Road – all located in the Eastcote area of the London Borough of Hillingdon.

2.2 The area overlies natural London Clay with out crops of Woolwich and Reading Beds.

3. Archaeological and Historical Background

3.1 The London Borough of Hillingdon has evidence of prehistoric and early archaeological material, however, there is very little early evidence from the Eastcote area of the borough. The heavy London Clay geology, with patches of Woolwich and Reading Beds, suggests that the area was not suited to early settlement. The better drained gravel terraces and fertile river valleys to the south towards the Thames being quite densely occupied with settlement evidence most probable from the Bronze Age (2,000 to 600 BC), particularly the later Bronze Age. The River Pinn runs through Eastcote and through the DMA area and there is some possibility that archaeological deposits or data may survive in association with early usage of the river.

3.2 A search of the HER and LAARCH databases has revealed that there is no evidence of prehistoric or Roman activity/settlement in the area which would have probably been heavily wooded until the 7th century. Archaeological investigations by Wessex Archaeology Evaluation of 26 Field End Road found no archaeological features and the LAARC database has no other entries for archaeological projects in the area.

3.3 Eastcote is first recorded as a small medieval hamlet, one of three settlements in the Pinn Valley alongside Ruislip and Northolt. The place name means "*eastern cottage or shelter*". Kemp notes that *Fore Strete* is actually mentioned by name on the Survey of the Manor of Ruislip dated 1565[1].

3.4 The earthwork running east west across the Park is designated as a Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM 30902 Park Pale) and the SAM area and further earthworks which bound Park Pale are also designated as an APA. The earthworks skirt the western end of the DMA.

3.5 The description on the schedule for Park Pale reads as follows:

'The monument includes a continuous section of park pale and ditch which form the surviving northern side of Ruislip Park. The section is roughly 1.5km long and at the eastern end runs into a section of later medieval earthwork. Ruislip Park was

[1] Kemp, W.A.G 1963 'The History of Eastcote, Middlesex' p.147

mentioned in the Domesday Survey of 1086 as a 'Park for Woodland Beasts' and is one of only two such Parks in Middlesex mentioned in the survey. The Park originally enclosed an area of about 340 acres immediately to the north of St Martin's church at the junction of the roads now known as Bury Street and Eastcote Road. It was oval in plan and the River Pinn crossed it from west to east. About two thirds of the original park boundary pale have been lost under modern development but this section from just north of Broadwood Avenue in the west through Park Wood survives as a clearly visible earthwork of varying height. The earthwork consists of a substantial earthen bank about 1 metre high and up to 4 metres wide with a ditch towards the outside (north). Although the ditch is partially infilled and water filled in places, it measures between 3m and 6m wide where visible. Although there are a number of sections where the bank has been levelled and where original entrances may once have stood, the buried remains of the ditch and the terminal ends will survive so that the entire surviving section is of archaeological importance. The park pale is known to have been repaled, i.e. re-fenced, in 1436 by the then owners King's College. This shows a continued use of the park for containing deer and other animals four hundred years after it was originally built. The Park is believed by some to have been established by the Anglo-Saxon Manor of Wlward Wit at the time of Edward the Confessor, and to be associated with an Anglo-Saxon manor which was possibly on the site of the later motte and bailey (also a scheduled ancient monument)'

3.6 The Monuments importance is assessed as follows:

'Deer parks were areas of land, usually enclosed, set aside and equipped for the management and hunting of deer and other animals. They were generally located in open countryside on marginal land or adjacent to a manor house, castle or palace. They varied in size between 3ha and 1600ha and usually comprised a combination of woodland and grassland that provided a mixture of cover and grazing for deer. Parks could contain a number of features, including hunting lodges (often moated), a park-keeper's house, rabbit warrens, fishponds and enclosures for game, and were usually surrounded by a park pale, a massive fenced or hedged bank often with an internal ditch. Although a small number of parks may have been established in the Anglo-Saxon period, it was the Norman aristocracy's taste for hunting that led to the majority being constructed. The peak period for the laying-out of parks, between AD 1200 and 1350 coincided with a time of considerable prosperity amongst the nobility. From the 15th century onwards few parks were constructed and by the end of the 17th century the deer park in its original form had largely disappeared. The original number of deer parks nationally is unknown but probably exceeded 3000. Many of these survive today, although often altered to a greater or lesser degree. They were established in virtually every county in England, but are most numerous in the West Midlands and Home Counties. Deer parks were a long-lived and widespread monument type. Today they serve to illustrate an important aspect of the activities of medieval nobility and still exert a powerful influence on the pattern of the modern landscape. Where a deer park survives well and is well documented or associated with other significant remains, its principal features are normally identified as nationally important.

The Park Pale, Ruislip despite only representing about a third of the original circuit, survives as a clearly visible earthwork and is associated with other monuments of the Saxon and Norman period. It is known to be one of only two such Parks mentioned in

Middlesex in the Domesday survey and as such is a rare and important historical site. Its archaeological survival along this section will provide the potential for further evidence of the early development of such Parks prior to the Norman Conquest and of the construction methods used. In addition, later records record the date of repaling and such opportunities to link documentary and archaeological events are uncommon. The site lies in public open space and the earthwork is valued for its historical importance by the local community'.

3.7 Eastcote contains some significant 16th century houses in the form of Haydon Hall, Highgrove House and Eastcote House. Eastcote House is Elizabethan in date and was the home of Hawtrey's from 1525 and includes a 17th century dovecote and coach house. Haydon Hall is possibly slightly earlier in origin and is recorded in Manor Court Rolls from the 15th century.

3.8 There are also some 16th and 17th century timber buildings particularly along the High Road in the centre of old Eastcote, which would have had medieval buildings flanking both sides of the road.

3.9 The road system is of some antiquity including Eastcote Road, Joel Street, Field End Road (the access road to Eastcote's open fields) and these are evident on the early maps of the area (*cf*. Figs 2 to 6). During WWII Eastcote was an important outstation from Bletchley Park at RAF Lime Grove.

3.10 The development of Pinner and Eastcote was slow until the arrival of the railway but much of the general area did remained rural until the 20th century as a consequence of the 1804 Ruislip Enclosure Act. Greater residential development of the area, e.g. South Ruislip, really only took place in the 20th century.

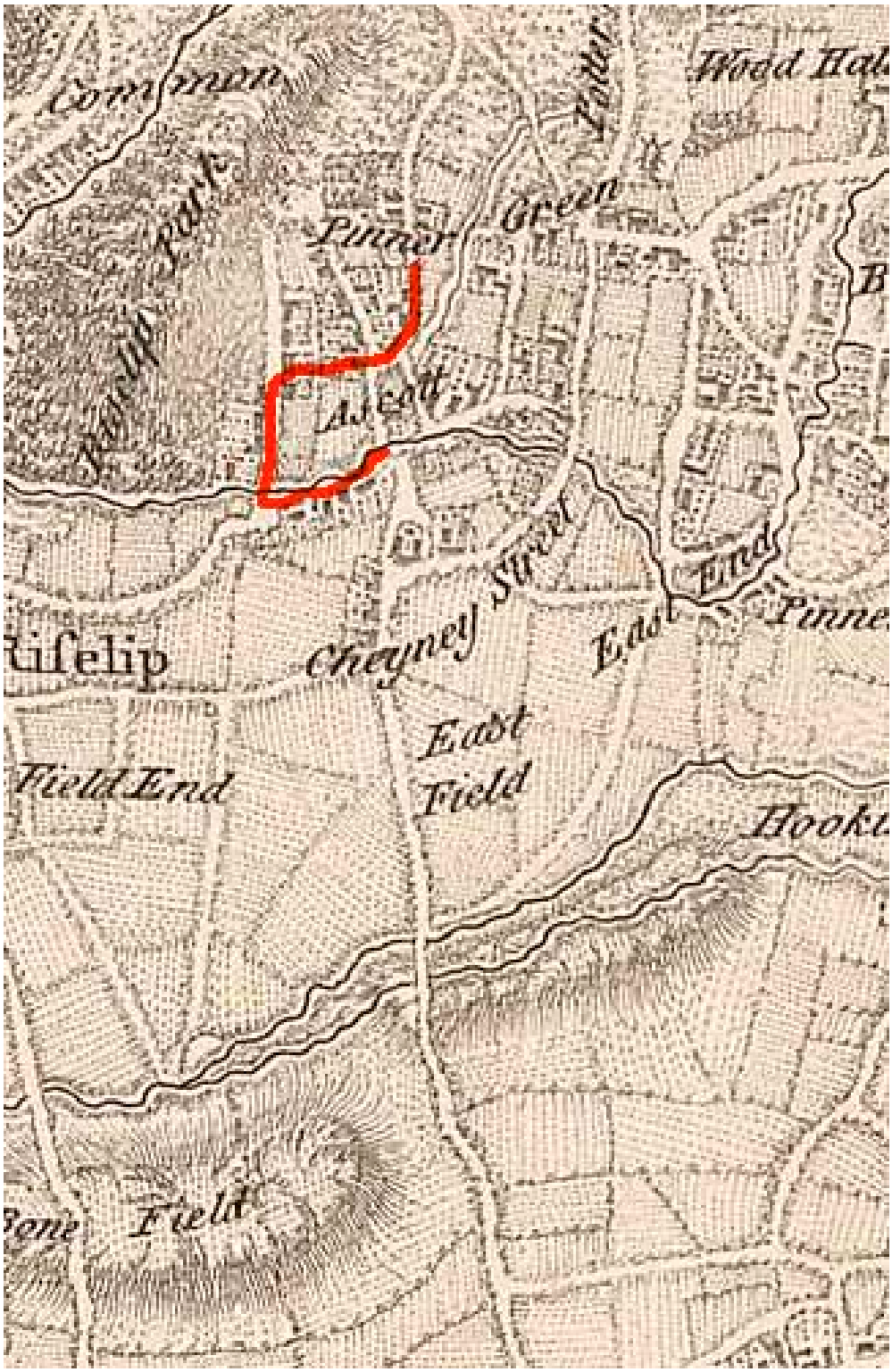

Fig 2 Rocque's Map of 1757, showing the principal roads of the DMA in red.

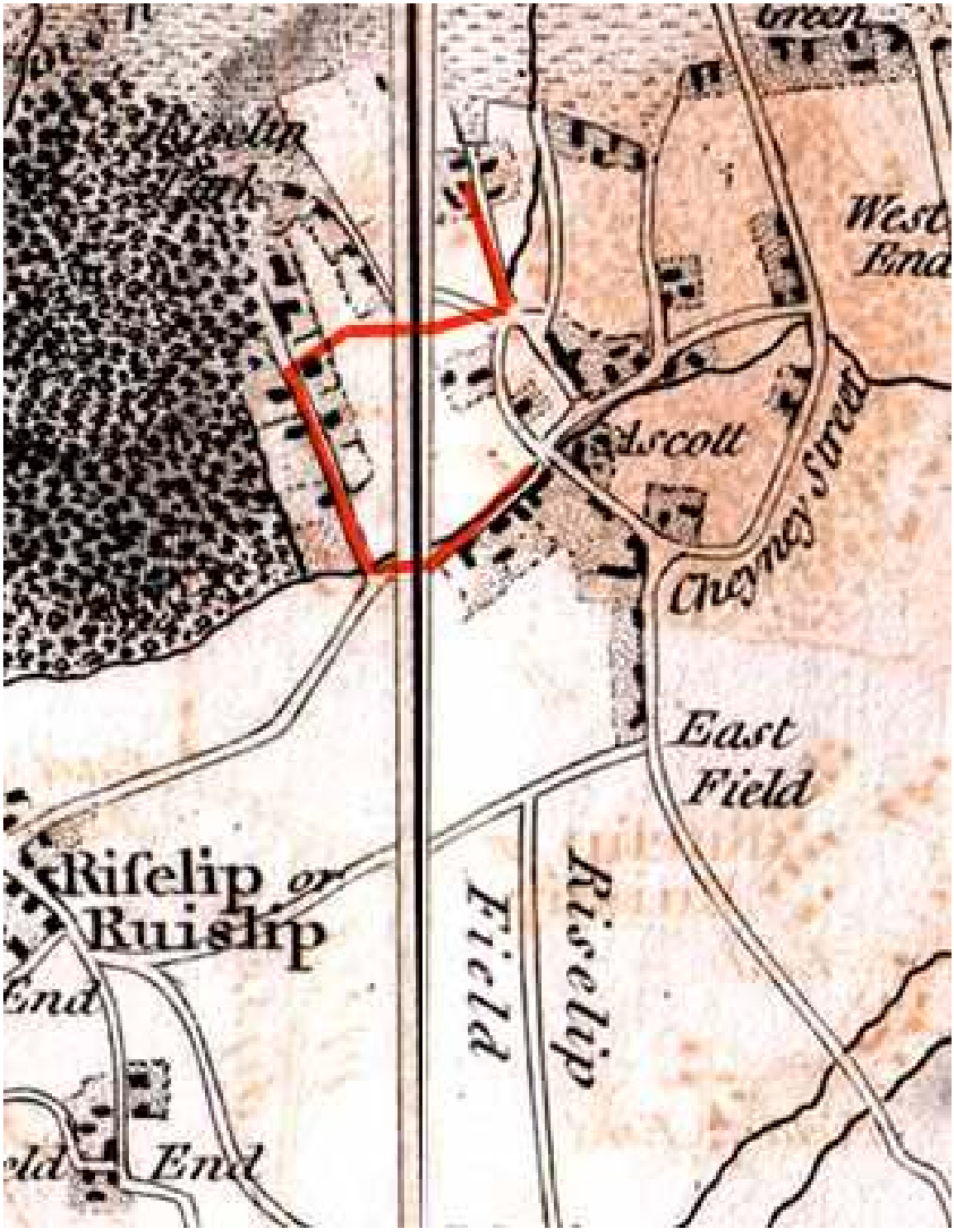

Fig 3 Cary's Map of 1786

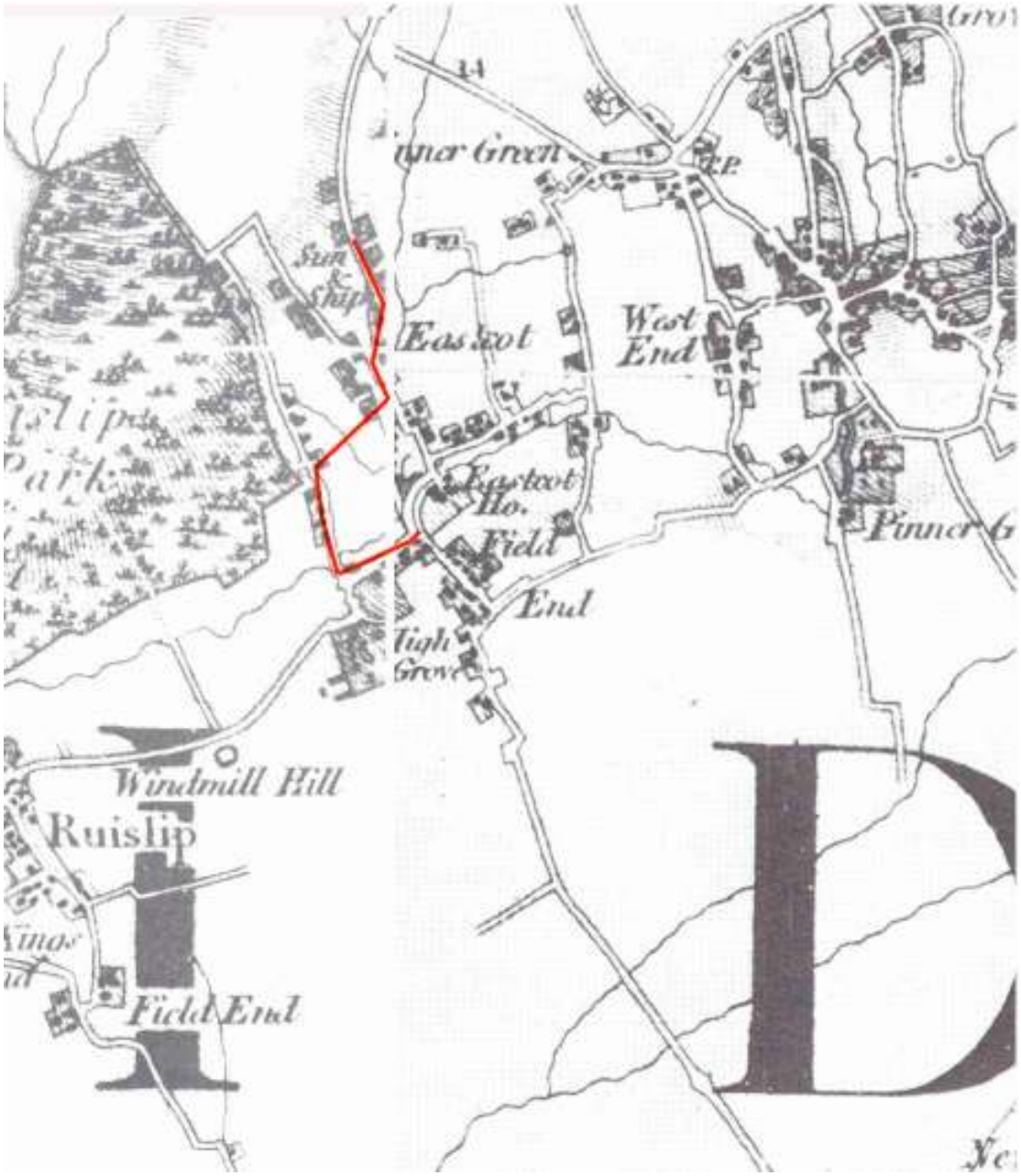

Fig 4 Extract from Ordnance Survey published 1826.

Fig 5 Extract from Ordnance Survey published 1880.

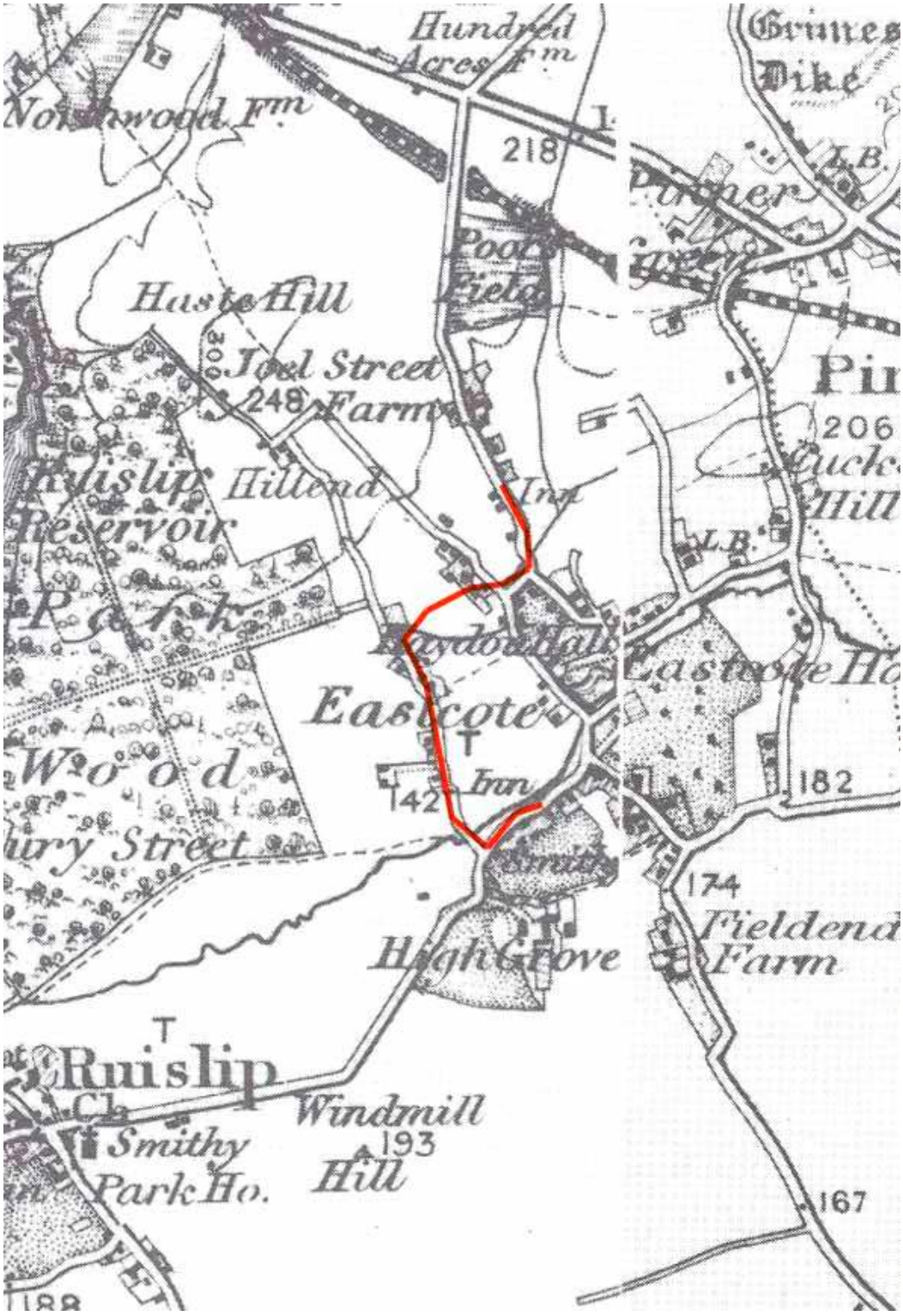

Fig 6 Extract from Ordnance Survey, published 1902

4. Archaeological Research Questions

The objectives of an archaeological watching brief are to contribute to the knowledge of the archaeology of an area through the recording of any remains exposed as a result of excavations in connection with approved groundworks. Particular attention was made to the character, height below ground level, condition, date and significance of the deposits. The fieldwork presented an opportunity to address the following general and specific research questions:

- Is there any evidence for prehistoric to medieval activity, and what is the nature of this?
- 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?
- What evidence is there for activity in relation to the earthwork structures in Ruislip Park?
- At what level do archaeological deposits survive in the highways across the area?
- Can the watching brief works inform on the site-specific research questions of local archaeological sites and archaeological priority areas?

5. The Archaeological Programme

5.1 The field and post-excavation work 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 of Field Archaeologists *(Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs).* Overall management of the project was undertaken by a full member of the Institute.

The recording system followed the procedures set out in the Museum of London recording manual. By agreement with MoLA the recording and drawing sheets used were directly compatible with those developed by the museum.

5.2 Fieldwork

The archaeological watching brief took place during contractors' groundworks, and basically involved one archaeologist on site as required monitoring the works and to investigate and record any archaeological remains or geological deposits. Close liaison was maintained with the groundworks team to ensure a presence on site as and when necessary.

Where possible, excavation was undertaken using a flat bladed bucket (working in a single direction) to enable deposits to be cleaned and recorded prior to disturbance.

The Client and the representatives of English Heritage and the Local Authority were kept advised of the progress of the fieldwork.

5.3 Methodology

Distinct geological deposits and features were investigated and recorded in stratigraphic sequence, and the appropriate finds dating and environmental evidence safeguards were in place during the watching brief.

Geological deposits and features were recorded as appropriate on *pro-forma* context or trench sheets, and/or drawn in plan or section generally at scales of 1:10 or 1:20. The investigations were recorded on a general site plan and related to the Ordnance Survey grid. The fieldwork record was supplemented as appropriate by photography (35mm colour transparency/ monochrome print/ digital).

6. Post-Excavation Work

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

6.1 Finds and samples

There were no finds and samples discovered during the watching brief, if there had been these would have been 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'*.

6.2 Report procedure

Copies of this report will be supplied to the Client, English Heritage and the local planning authority and the local studies libraries.

The level of reporting is dependent upon the results of the fieldwork and this report concludes that there were no archaeological remains or finds. However, an interpretation of the deposits investigated and a site plan located to the Ordnance Survey grid is provided. A short summary of the fieldwork is appended using the OASIS Data Collection Form, and in paragraph form suitable for publication within the 'excavation round-up' of the *London Archaeologist*.

7. The Site Archive

The records from the archaeological project will be ordered in line with MoL *Guidelines for the Preparation of Archaeological Archives* and will be deposited in the Museum of London Archaeological Archive. The integrity of the site archive should be maintained.

8. The Archaeological Watching Brief

Archaeological monitoring was undertaken during water mains replacement works along Haydon Drive, Gladsdale Drive, Sutton Close, Wood Rise, Coteford Close, Azalea Walk, Mount Park Road and Field End Road (*cf.* Figure 1). No archaeological finds or features were recorded during the monitoring or these works, and it was consequently agreed with English Heritage that no further monitoring of contractors groundworks was required. In all cases, exposed sequences consisted of modern road layers overlying truncated natural clay deposits. The table below lists the streets and the extent of monitored groundworks along with the date on which the monitoring visit took place. A brief description of recorded deposits and a short photographic record supplement this summary below. Trenching mainly consisted of small areas of open-cut trenches and feeder trenches into properties, launch pits for directional drilling were also observed.

Street	Date	Extent of Works
Wood Rise	10/02/11	5 small areas of open-cut trench constituting *c*. 11.2m cumulative trenching.
Coteford Close	10/02/11	4 small area of open-cut trench constituting *c*. 7.2m cumulative trenching.
Azalea Walk	01/03/11	25 small pits and trenches constituting *c*. 35.5m cumulative trenching.
Field End Road	01/03/11	6 small trenches and pit constituting 16.5m cumulative trenching.
Haydon Drive	11/03/11	8 backfilled pits and 1 open trench measuring 3.7m in length.
Gladsdale Drive	11/03/11	4 small trenches and pits constituting 8.9m cumulative trenching.
Sutton Close	11/03/11	11 small trenches and pits constituting 22m cumulative trenching.
Mount Park Road	11/03/11	6 small areas of open cut trenching constituting *c.* 7m cumulative trenching.

Fig 7 Example of one of the historic properties surviving on Fore Street, this example dating to 1560. Kemp notes that *Fore Strete* is recorded on the Survey of the Manor of Ruislip dated 1565[2].

[2] *Ibid.*

8.1 Wood Rise

Tarmac and crushed road makeup material were observed to c. 300-400mm below the existing ground level, overlying truncated natural mid-yellow/brown clay. Standing water was observed a *c*. 600mm below ground level in all trenches, indicating rising ground water.

Figure 8: Water mains replacement works on Wood Rise (1m scale, below view northwest).

8.2 Coteford Close

Tarmac and road makeup layers were observed to *c*. 400mm below the existing ground level, overlying truncated natural clay to the remaining depth of excavation.

Figure 9: Water mains replacement works on Coteford Close (view west).

8.3 Azalea Walk

Tarmac and road makeup layers were observed to *c*. 300-400mm below the existing ground level overlying truncated natural clay. Modern services and associated backfills observed in some trenches.

Figure 10: Water mains replacement works on Azalea Walk (view south above, general view below).

8.4 Field End Road

Tarmac and concrete road makeup were observed to *c*. 400mm depth overlying truncated natural clay, the upper horizons of clay were mottled grey indicated contamination for the modern layers above.

Figure 11: General views of water mains replacement works on Field End Road (1m scale).

8.5 Haydon Drive

Tarmac and concrete hardcore were observed at a thickness of 280mm overlying a thin layer of clinker road makeup (*c* 50mm). Truncated natural clay was observed for the remaining depth of excavation, very compact orange-brown becoming blue/grey with depth.

8.6 Gladsdale Drive

Modern tarmac and concrete hardcore were observed to a depth of *c*. 300mm, except in paved areas where slabs were laid in sand bedding over concrete. Truncated natural clay was observed for the remaining depth of excavation.

Figure 12: Water mains replacement works on Gladsdale Drive (1m scale, view south).

Figure 13: Recording Water mains replacement works on Gladsdale Drive.

Figure 14: Location of water mains replacement works on Gladsdale Drive (1m scale, view south).

8.7 Sutton Close

Modern tarmac and concrete hardcore were observed to *c*. 350 mm below the existing ground level overlying compact orange-brown truncated natural clay.

Figure 15: Water mains replacement works on Sutton Close (1m scale, view east).

8.8 Mount Park Road

Modern tarmac and concrete hardcore were observed to *c*. 350 mm below the existing ground level overlying compact orange-brown truncated natural clay.

Figure 16: Water mains replacement works on Mount Park Road (1m scale).

9. Archaeological Research Questions

The fieldwork presented an opportunity to address the following general and specific research questions:

- Is there any evidence for prehistoric to medieval activity, and what is the nature of this? *No evidence for prehistoric or medieval activity was recorded.*
- Is there any evidence for the line of the medieval roads or early settlement patterns in this area? *No evidence was recorded.*
- What evidence is there for post-medieval activity in the area? *Recorded remains consisted only of modern road layers and truncated clay natural deposits.*
- What evidence is there for activity in relation to the earthwork structures in Ruislip Park? *No evidence was recorded.*
- At what level do archaeological deposits survive in the highways across the area? *No archaeological remains were recorded during the course of the watching brief.*
- Can the watching brief works inform on the site-specific research questions of local archaeological sites and archaeological priority areas? *No archaeological finds or features were recorded.*

10. Summary and Conclusions

10.1 Approximately 112m of trenching was observed during water mains replacement works along eight roads in the Eastcote area of the London Borough of Hillingdon. All exposed sequences consisted of modern road surfacing and makeup levels (to between 350mm and 450mm below the existing ground level), overlying truncated natural clay deposits. Rising groundwater was observed in several open trenches and modern services and associated deposits were frequently exposed. No archaeological finds or features were recorded during the course of the watching brief.

11. Bibliography

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APPENDIX I: OASIS Data Collection Form

OASIS ID: compassa1-98703

Project details

Project name	Water Mains Replacement Works in the Vicinity of Wiltshire Lane, Eastcote, HA5, London Borough of Hillingdon
Short description of the project	An archaeological watching brief was carried out during the water mains replacement works in the Wiltshire Lane area of Eastcote, Hillingdon. No archaeological finds or features were observed during the initial monitoring visits and it was consequently agreed with English Heritage that no further monitoring works were required.
Project dates	Start: 10-02-2011 End: 11-03-2011
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	TXI11 - Sitecode
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	Local Authority Designated Archaeological Area
Current Land use	Transport and Utilities 1 - Highways and road transport
Monument type	N/A None
Significant Finds	N/A None
Investigation type	'Watching Brief'
Prompt	Water Act 1989 and subsequent code of practice

Project location

Country	England
Site location	GREATER LONDON HILLINGDON RUISLIP Wiltshire Lane area, Eastcote, London Borough of Hillingdon
Postcode	HA5
Study area	0.11 Kilometres
Site coordinates	TQ 1051 8890 51.5876221153 -0.404667924784 51 35 15 N 000 24 16 W Point

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Compass Archaeology
Project brief originator	English Heritage/Department of Environment

Project design originator	Compass Archaeology
Project director/manager	Geoff Potter
Project supervisor	Geoff Potter
Type of sponsor /funding body	Water Authority/Company
Name of sponsor /funding body	Veolia Water UK

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	Museum of London archive
Digital Contents	'none'
Digital Media available	'Images raster / digital photography','Spreadsheets','Text'
Paper Archive recipient	Museum of London Archive
Paper Contents	'none'
Paper Media available	'Context sheet','Correspondence','Map','Photograph','Plan','Report','Unpublished Text'

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Water Mains Replacement Works in the Vicinity of Wiltshire Lane, Eastcote, London Borough of Hillingdon: An Archaeological Watching Brief
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Cummings, R
Date	2011
Issuer or publisher	Compass Archaeology
Place of issue or publication	5-7 Southwark St, London SE1 1RQ
Description	23-page spiral bound report

Entered by	Rosie Cummings (mail@compassarchaeology.co.uk)
Entered on	7 April 2011

APPENDIX II: London Archaeologist Summary

Site Address:	Water Mains Replacement Works in the Vicinity of Wiltshire Lane, Eastcote, HA5, London Borough of Hillingdon.
Project type:	Watching brief
Dates of Fieldwork:	10th February to 11th March 2011
Site Code:	TXI11
Supervisor:	Rosie Cummings
NGR:	TQ 1051 8890
Funding Body:	Veolia Water UK

Approximately 112m of trenching was observed across eight roads in the Wiltshire Road area of Eastcote, London Borough of Hillingdon. All trenches exposed modern road layers overlying truncated natural London Clay deposits. No archaeological finds or features were observed during the course of the archaeological watching brief.