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S E R V I C E S

**Bodicote Pipeline, Bodicote,  
Banbury, Oxfordshire**

**Archaeological Watching Brief**

**by Steve Crabb and Luis Esteves**

**Site Code: BPB17/204**

**(SP 4648 3718)**

# **Bodicote Pipeline, Bodicote, Banbury Oxfordshire**

**An Archaeological Watching Brief**

**For CALA Homes (Chiltern) Ltd**

by Steven Crabb and Luis Esteves

Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code BPB 17/204

**November 2017**

## Summary

**Site name:** Bodicote Pipeline, Bodicote, Banbury, Oxfordshire

**Grid reference:** SP 4648 3718

**Site activity:** Watching Brief

**Date and duration of project:** 16th October - 27th November 2017

**Project coordinator:** Tim Dawson

**Site supervisor:** Luis Esteves

**Site code:** BPB17/204

**Summary of results:** No archaeological deposits or artefacts were observed during the stripping of the easement for the laying of the drain, while the deeper works for the pipe itself were entirely within the sterile natural geology.

**Location and reference of archive:** The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited with Oxfordshire County Museum Service in due course.

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[www.tvas.co.uk/reports/reports.asp](http://www.tvas.co.uk/reports/reports.asp).*

Report edited/checked by: Steve Ford ✓ 01.12.17 Steve Preston ✓ 01.12.17
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# **Bodicote Pipeline, Bodicote, Banbury, Oxfordshire An Archaeological Watching Brief**

by Steven Crabb and Luis Esteves

**Report 17/204**

## **Introduction**

This report documents the results of an archaeological watching brief carried out at Cotefield Farm, Bodicote, Banbury, Oxfordshire. (SP 4648 3718) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Ms Vikki Roe of CALA Homes (Chiltern) Ltd, Gemini House, Mercury Park, Wooburn Green, Buckinghamshire, HP10 0HH

Planning permission (P17/01225/F) has been granted by Cherwell District Council for the construction of a new drain at Cotefield Farm. Due to potential disturbance of below ground archaeological features a condition (3) was attached to the consent requiring a programme of archaeological investigation be carried out, in the form of a watching brief.

This is in accordance with the Department for Communities and Local Government's *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF 2012) and the District's policies on archaeology. The field investigation was carried out to a specification approved by Mr Richard Oram, Planning Archaeologist for Oxfordshire County Archaeological Service, the adviser to the District Council on matters pertaining to archaeology within the planning process based on a brief produced by him. The fieldwork was undertaken by Luis Esteves, David Sanchez and Rebecca Constable, from the 16th October to 27th November 2017 and the site code is BPB 17/204.

The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited at Oxfordshire Museums Service in due course.

## **Location, topography and geology**

The site is located to the south of the village of Bodicote, itself located to the south-east of Banbury in northern Oxfordshire (Fig. 2). The site is currently under grass and slopes down towards the Sor Brook from 111m above Ordnance Datum at the north-eastern end to 94m AOD at the south-western end. The underlying geology is mapped as being middle lias deposits of Marlstone, clays, silts and siltstones and alluvial deposits associated with the Sor Brook.

## **Archaeological background**

The archaeological potential for this site derives from its location to the south of an area of Iron Age and Roman settlement comprising roundhouses and enclosures recorded by archaeological evaluation. Also found during this work were isolated Neolithic pits (Wolframm-Murray 2010). The full extent of these deposits is not known and may extend into the area traversed by the drainage scheme.

## **Objectives and methodology**

The purpose of the watching brief was to record and if necessary, excavate and record all archaeological deposits and features within the areas threatened by the proposed development. Specific research objectives were:

- to produce relative and absolute dating and phasing for deposits and features recorded on the site;
- to establish the character of these deposits in an attempt to define functional areas on the site such as industrial, domestic, etc; and
- to produce information on the economy and local environment and compare and contrast this with the results of other excavations in the region.

This involved monitoring of all areas of intrusive groundworks, including but not limited to the stripping of the pipeline easement (PIs 1-4). The easement, beginning from the SW end, was 5m wide and between 0.3-0.4m deep. The easement extends for 326m in a SW-NE alignment across the field directly south of the housing development connecting to an existing drain at the south. At the NE end of this stretch, it turned through 90 degrees to run 140m NW-SE to the corner of the new development (Fig. 2). At the end of this stretch, a 20m square area was also stripped to a depth no greater than 0.20-0.30m for use as a compound.

## **Results**

The stratigraphy observed at the south-western end of the stripped area consisted of 0.15-0.20m of topsoil overlying 0.15-0.20m of silty subsoil which overlay natural alluvium. As the easement extended up the hill the underlying geology changed to a silt and gravel natural geology. On the section running NW-SE there was no subsoil present with 0.15-0.20m of topsoil lying directly onto the natural geology. At the extreme north end the alluvial deposits gave way to sand and siltstone bedrock.

No archaeological deposits were observed in any of the stripped areas and no finds noted in the spoil.

The pipe trench was then excavated to a depth of 1.6m in the centre of this easement This was initially observed for the first 50m, but there was no change from the natural geology and no further observation was

made southwards. Northwards (up the slope) the trench went deeper, to a depth of approximately 3m at deepest: observations could be made only from the surface. The deepest section (at the point where the easement turned) was excavated through three layers of natural alluvial silt/clay, yellow clay-silt overlying blue clay overlying greyish-yellow sandy silt deposits. All of these layers were sterile.

The stripping of the compound area did not penetrate below the subsoil.

## **Finds**

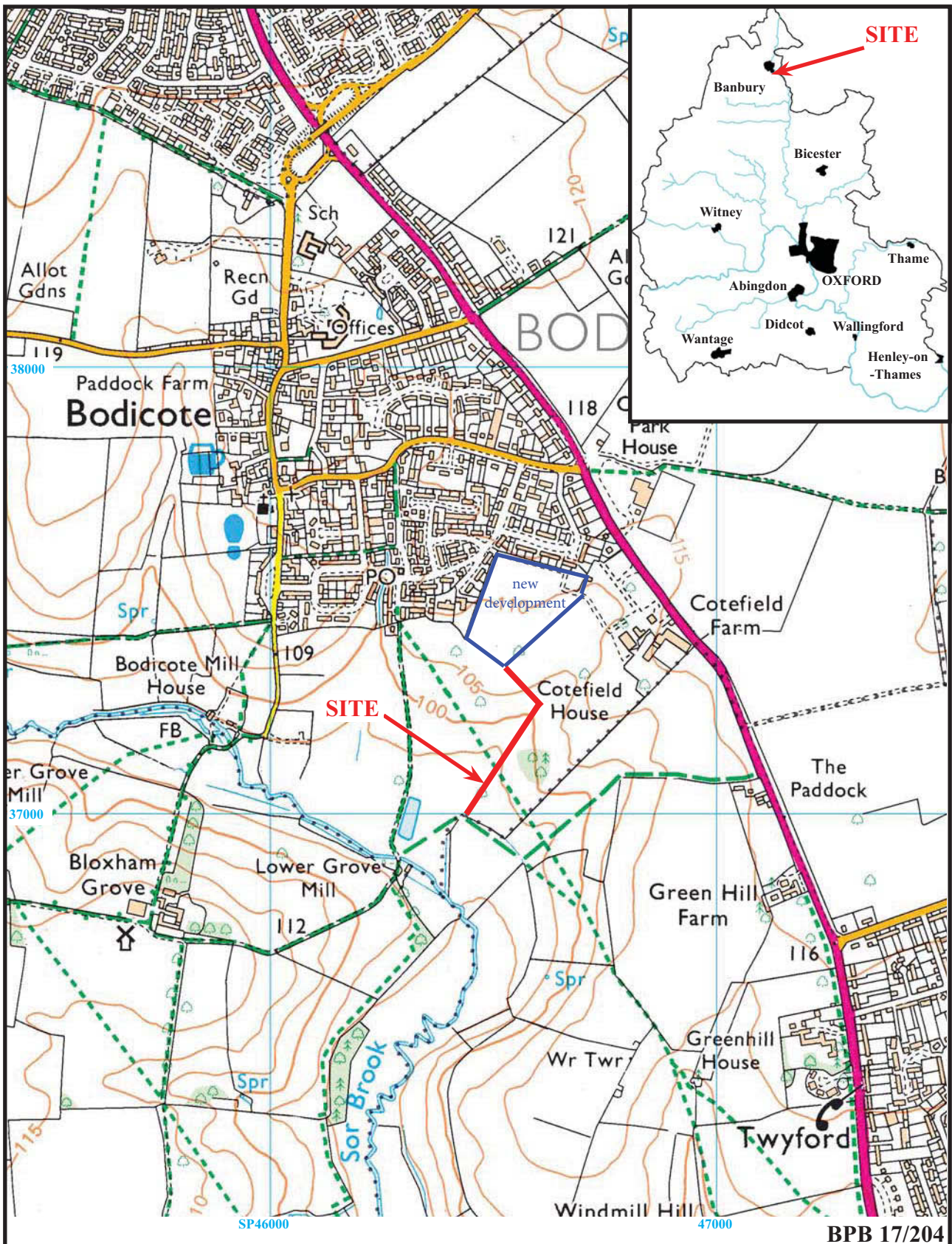
No finds of archaeological interest were recovered from this site.

## **Conclusion**

No archaeological deposits or artefacts were observed during the stripping of the easement for the laying of the drain, nor the deeper works for the pipe itself.

## **References**

BGS, 1968, *British Geological Survey*, 1:63,350, Sheet 218, Solid and Drift Edition, Keyworth  
NPPF 2012, *National Planning Policy Framework*, Dept Communities and Local Govt, London  
Wolframm-Murray, Y, 2010, 'An archaeological evaluation of land south of Blackwood Place, and Molyneux Drive and north west of Cotefield Farm, Oxford Road, Bodicote, Oxfordshire', Northamptonshire Archaeology report **10/203**, Northampton

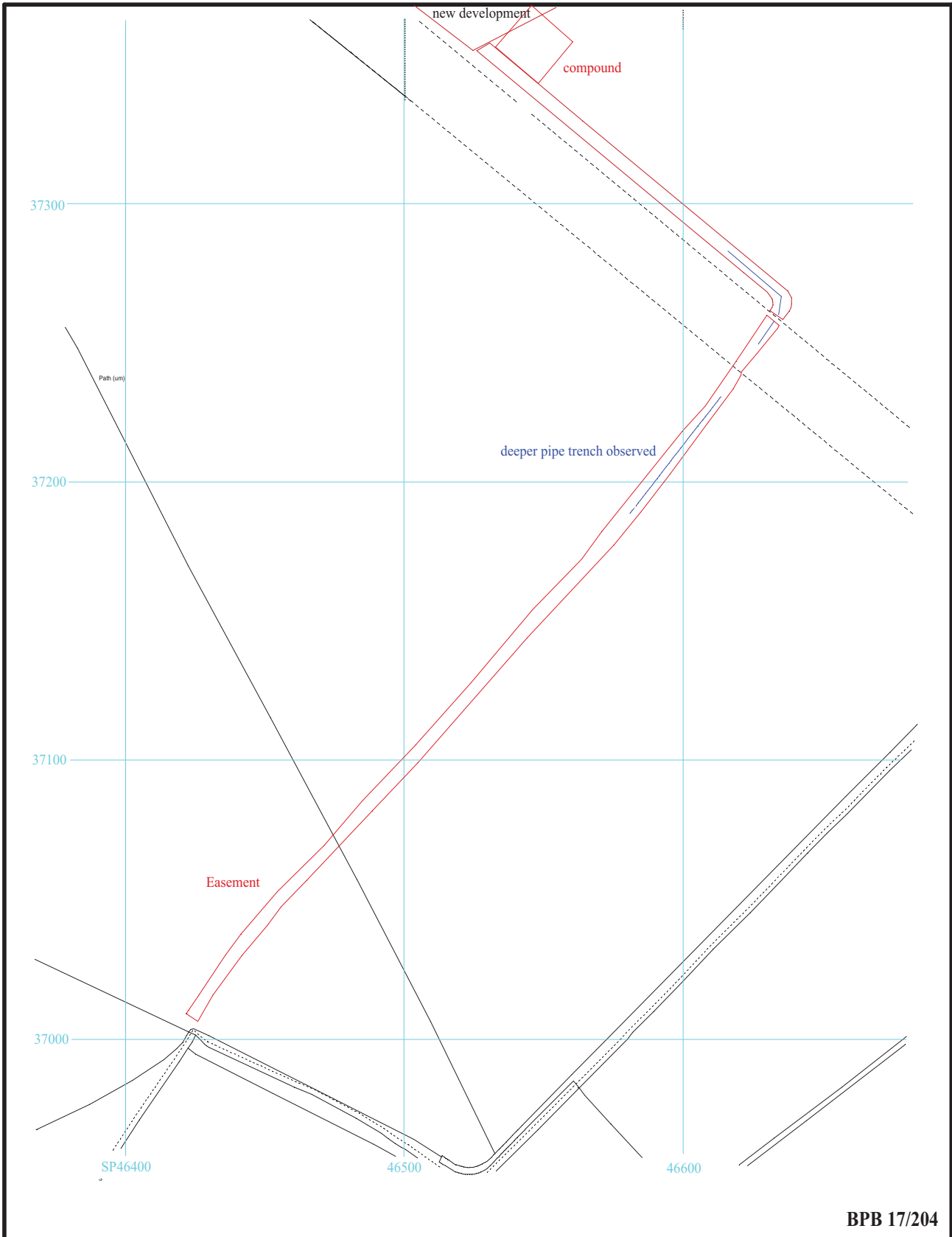


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Figure 1. Location of site within Bodicote and Oxfordshire.

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Figure 2. Route of new pipeline.



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Plate 1. Pipeline route prior to stipping, looking NW.



Plate 2. North compound area, looking SW, Scales: horizontal 1m, vertical 0.3m.

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Plates 1 and 2.**

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Plate 3. Route of pipeline stripped, looking to SW, Scales: horizontal 1m, vertical 0.5m.



Plate 4. Route of pipeline stripped, looking NE, Scales: horizontal 1m, vertical 0.5m.

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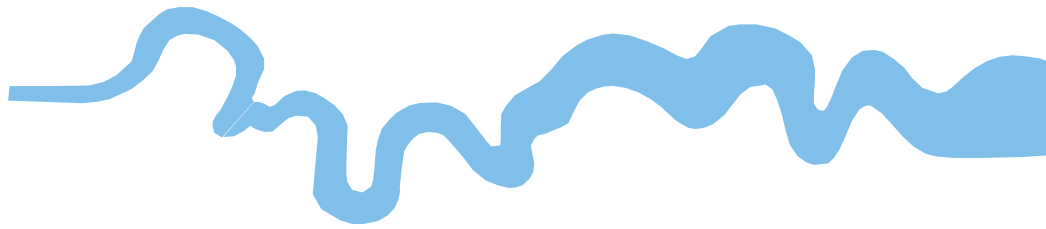
**Drainage pipeline at Cotefield Farm, Bodicote,  
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Plates 3 and 4.**

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## TIME CHART

	Calendar Years
Modern _____	AD 1901
Victorian _____	AD 1837
Post Medieval _____	AD 1500
Medieval _____	AD 1066
Saxon _____	AD 410
Roman _____	AD 43 AD 0 BC
Iron Age _____	750 BC
Bronze Age: Late _____	1300 BC
Bronze Age: Middle _____	1700 BC
Bronze Age: Early _____	2100 BC
Neolithic: Late .....	3300 BC
Neolithic: Early .....	4300 BC
Mesolithic: Late .....	6000 BC
Mesolithic: Early .....	10000 BC
Palaeolithic: Upper .....	30000 BC
Palaeolithic: Middle .....	70000 BC
Palaeolithic: Lower .....	2,000,000 BC





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