

ARCHAEOLOGICAL DESK BASED ASSESSMENT

SHIPTON MOYNE WATER MAINS REPLACEMENT SCHEME PHASE II

SHIPTON MOYNE

GLOUCESTERSHIRE

NGR: ST 89848 88462 - ST 90995 90265

JOB N^o: BA1201SHBWP2



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JANUARY 2012



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Frontispiece: View looking SW along a stretch of the Fosse Way near Fossetilery Farm

Report specification

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1. Non-Technical Summary

This archaeological desk-based assessment, undertaken prior to the replacement of a water mains pipeline extending for a distance of approximately 2km either in or parallel to a section of the Fosse Way extending to the NE of the Shipton Moyne Pumping Station (Bristol Water), has identified evidence for prehistoric, Roman, medieval and post-medieval activity in the vicinity of the pipeline route.

- *Possible evidence for prehistoric activity has been identified in several locations close to the pipeline route, including the site of a possible ring ditch (in a field to the NE of Fossetilery Farm) from where a thumbnail scraper of Bronze Age date was recovered, and several other enclosure/boundary ditch features identified from aerial photography in fields to the E of the Fosse Way.*
- *For the majority of its length, the pipeline route runs directly along the line of the Fosse Way, an ancient routeway probably constructed by the Roman army shortly after their invasion of Britain in the mid-1st century AD. This section of the Fosse Way remained an important boundary feature throughout the medieval and post-medieval period; however its importance as a routeway declined by the 18th century.*
- *In 1961, archaeological observation of trenching for the laying of a water mains pipe along the Fosse Way, close to where the road crosses the Tetbury branch of the River Avon (at the NE end of the proposed pipeline route) revealed evidence for the original construction of the road. There is certainly potential for significant remains associated with its original construction to have survived beneath later metalling; however, in view of the presence of other modern utility services in close proximity to the proposed pipeline route, the survival of undisturbed deposits or structural components associated with the road may be partially reduced.*
- *Aerial photography has revealed evidence of a number of cropmark enclosures located in fields to the E of the Fosse Way, which may represent evidence of late prehistoric or Roman occupation/agricultural activity. It is possible that these enclosures could represent evidence of outlying settlement associated with the nearby Roman roadside settlement at Whitewalls Wood, situated on the Fosse Way approximately 1.3km SW of the Shipton Moyne Pumping Station.*
- *Archaeological evidence for medieval activity in the vicinity of the pipeline route is scanty, although a surface scatter of medieval pottery was identified during fieldwalking to the E of the Fosse Way. The site of an 18th century dwelling (Old Lion House) demolished in 1938 and a mid-19th century brick works and lime-kiln at Fossetilery Farm also lie in close proximity to the pipeline route.*
- *In summary, there is potential, where the pipeline route follows the course of the Fosse Way, for archaeological remains of the original construction of the Roman road to be identified; however any visible remains are likely to have been disturbed by existing modern utilities. Based on the evidence of aerial reconnaissance and fieldwalking undertaken in the fields to the E of Fossetilery Farm, there is also moderate potential for encountering evidence of prehistoric and Roman occupation in the vicinity of the pipeline route..*

2. Introduction

Border Archaeology undertook this archaeological desk-based assessment on behalf of Bristol Water to determine the nature of the archaeological resource within the vicinity of a proposed replacement water main pipeline, the route of which extends NE from Shipton Moyne Pumping Station (NGR ST 89848 88462) mostly along the line of the Fosse Way except for a short stretch at the NE end which extends through a field immediately W of the Fosse Way and then terminates at the crossing of the River Avon (Tetbury Branch) at NGR ST 90995 90265.

The scheme constitutes (1) 1484m new laid main in the Fosse Way, a minimum 1.0m distance from the existing three mains in the road and (2) 534m laid in private fields at least 1.0 m from the existing. The pipe trench will be between 0.6m and 1.0m wide, to a maximum depth of 1.5m approximately.

Copies of this assessment will be supplied to Bristol Water, to Melanie Pomeroy-Kellinger County Archaeologist, Wiltshire County Council and Charles Parry Esq., Senior Archaeological Officer, Gloucestershire County Council.

2.1 Soils and Geology

The soils in the vicinity of the study area are predominantly typical calcareous pelosols of the EVESHAM 1 series (411a), comprising slowly permeable calcareous clayey soils associated with shallow well drained brashy calacareous soils over limestone. The underlying geology comprises Jurassic clay and limestone (SSEW, 1983).



Fig 1: Plan showing the route of the proposed water mains pipeline running from the Shipton Moyne Pumping Station to the River Avon (marked in yellow) with an existing gas pipeline marked in red

3. Methodology

3.1 Archaeological Assessment

3.1.1 Research Aims

This archaeological desk-based assessment seeks to identify any known or potential archaeological resource within the study area and to establish its character, extent, quality and importance, within a local, regional and national context.

3.1.2 Research Methods

The research carried out for this detailed archaeological assessment consisted of the following elements:

3.1.3 Evaluation and study of archaeological databases

A search was made of the National Monuments Record (English Heritage), the Gloucestershire Historic Environment Record (HER) and the Wiltshire Historic Environment Record for any sites of archaeological or historic interest within a 200m corridor (100m on either side of the pipeline route).

3.1.4 Evaluation and study of primary sources

Primary documentary sources relating to the study area, where deemed necessary, were consulted at Gloucestershire Archives and the Wiltshire and Swindon Archives.

3.1.5 Evaluation and study of secondary sources

Secondary sources relating to the study area were consulted using the collections held at the Gloucestershire Archives and Wiltshire and Swindon Archives, including relevant articles in the *Transactions of the Bristol and Gloucestershire Archaeological Society* and the *Wiltshire Archaeological and Natural History Magazine*, as well as published and unpublished reports relating to archaeological work in the vicinity of the study area.

3.1.6 Evaluation and study of cartographic and other pictorial evidence

Historic maps dating back to c. 1770, including estate maps, tithe maps and respective apportionments for Brokenborough, Long Newnton and Shipton Moyne parishes were consulted at Gloucestershire Archives and the Wiltshire and Swindon Archives. Copies of the Ordnance Survey 1st-4th edition 6 inch and 25 inch maps and later OS 1:2500 and 1:10000 scale maps (c.1960 to present) were obtained from the Gloucestershire Historic Environment Record, Gloucestershire Archives and Wiltshire and Swindon Archives.

Aerial photographic records, including vertical and oblique photos ranging from the late 1940s to the present day, were consulted at the Wiltshire Historic Environment Record and the National Monuments Record, Swindon.

4. Site Specific Analysis

The specific study area comprises a section of pipeline route extending NE for distance of approximately 2km from Shipton Moyne Pumping Station (NGR ST 89848 88462) mostly along the line of the Fosse Way (apart from a 500m stretch through fields immediately W of the Fosse Way) and at terminating at the crossing of the River Avon (Tetbury Branch) at NGR ST 90995 90265.

4.1 Consultation of Archaeological Records

This section analyses the information available from records of archaeological work carried out in the vicinity of the proposed pipeline route and discusses its implications for the nature of the archaeological resource within the study area and the likely depth and survival of significant archaeological deposits and features.

4.1.1 Conservation areas

The proposed pipeline route does not run through or near any Conservation Areas.

4.1.2 Historic Landscape Characterisation

The Historic Landscape Characterisation programme provides a framework for broadening our understanding of the whole landscape and contributes to decisions affecting tomorrow's landscape. Relevant historic landscape characterisation information was supplied by Gloucestershire Historic Environment Record. The landscape that the proposed pipeline runs through has been characterised as an area of 'less regular organised enclosure partly reflecting former unenclosed cultivation patterns'. No change to the existing description is anticipated.

4.1.3 Scheduled Ancient Monuments

The pipeline route does not run through or near any Scheduled Ancient Monuments (SAMs), the nearest, a Romano-British settlement and medieval moated site in White Walls Wood (NGR ST 8897 8731) being located approximately 1.3km SW of the pumping station.

4.1.4 Archaeological Sites

The Gloucestershire Historic Environment Record and the Wiltshire Historic Environment Record were both consulted to determine the nature and extent of the archaeological resource within the pipeline corridor, defined as being 200m in width (100m on either side of the pipeline route) and extending for its entire length along the line of the Fosse Way, a roadway of Roman origin which also marks the boundary between the counties of Gloucestershire and Wiltshire.

Within the pipeline corridor, a total of 12 individual sites were identified (in addition to the Fosse Way itself) which included a possible Bronze Age ring ditch and associated findspot and several cropmark enclosures which though undated could potentially be of prehistoric or Romano-British date. Six sites of post-medieval or modern date were also identified, which included a lime-kiln and associated quarry site, a stone stile and footbridge and two

sites of agricultural buildings and associated enclosures. However, it should be emphasised that the relatively limited nature of the archaeological record for this area may simply reflect a lack of previous fieldwork undertaken in the locality, rather than necessarily being a true reflection of the archaeological resource.

- **Prehistoric and Roman**

Evidence for prehistoric activity has been identified in relatively close proximity to the pipeline route. A Bronze Age thumbnail scraper was found during fieldwalking in the vicinity of a circular cropmark enclosure identified from aerial photography in the NW corner of a field situated approximately 30m E of the Fosse Way (Wilts HER ST98NW608; ST98NW151; NGR ST 9067 8963), which could possibly represent a Bronze Age ring ditch (Forward, 2000).

Possible evidence for prehistoric activity of has been identified elsewhere in the vicinity of the pipeline route, represented by a number of enclosure/boundary ditch features identified from aerial photography (although the date and function of these features as yet remains unconfirmed). A small circular enclosure is visible on aerial photographs to the S of Fosse Cottages at NGR ST 9011 8870 while a semi-circular cropmark feature possibly forming part of a boundary ditch defining a larger enclosure has been identified at NGR ST 9026 8893 (Wilts HER ST98NW609).

These features should be viewed in the context of an increasing body of evidence for prehistoric settlement and agricultural activity in the wider locality. Further to the SE, a study of aerial photography relating to the area of the Roman settlement at Whitewalls, Easton Grey has identified a series of features crossed by the Fosse Way, interpreted as a combination of field drainage ditches and trackways, possibly representing evidence of an organized agricultural landscape of late Iron Age date (WCAS, 2001).

Clearly the most significant archaeological feature to be considered is the Fosse Way itself (Wilts HER ST88NE302; Gloucs HER 6491), which the pipeline route follows for the majority of its length. The road itself was probably constructed by the Roman army during the middle decades of the 1st century AD, although there is some scholarly debate as to whether it was designed and built as a whole or was constructed in several stages. This section of the Fosse Way represents a section of the road which originally extended NW from Bath (Aquae Sulis) to Cirencester (Corinium Dobunorum). This stretch of the road now survives as a green lane, extending for a distance of 7 miles (11.2km) NW from Easton Grey to Cirencester, except for a stretch now obliterated by Kemble Airfield. No clear evidence of an *agger* has been identified, although stretches of metalling are visible at several points (Margary, 1973, 142).

Evidence for the construction of the Fosse Way was identified during the excavation of a water mains trench along the middle of the roadway from Long Newnton to Shipton Moyne. Observation of a section of trenching approximately 200 yards (182m) in length at the parish boundary between Long Newnton and Shipton Moyne in 1961 identified slight evidence for the construction of the road, consisting of 3 or 4 inches (0.07-0.10m) of small stones up to 4 inches long covered by one inch of small stone chippings, overlying which was a thin 'seam of decayed vegetable matter' in turn overlaid by a humic deposit approximately 0.30m thick. It appeared that 'there were no signs of any repairs and this part of the road appeared to have been little used' (Gracie, 1961, 179). No artefactual evidence of Roman date was apparently recovered from the trenching. Although no grid reference is provided, it is

probable that the stretch of the Fosse Way described in 1961 is situated either on or very close to the NE end of the pipeline route.

Apart from this record, there is little evidence of recorded fieldwork along this particular stretch of the Fosse Way. In 1931, trenching was excavated for the installation of a water main along the line of the Fosse Way in the vicinity of the scheduled area of the Whitewalls Roman settlement at Easton Grey (SAM 12046), at a point approximately 350 metres north of the Sherston branch of the River Avon (about 1.5km to the SW of the Shipton Moyne Pumping Station). A section across the Fosse Way was recorded, revealing evidence for the construction of the road, consisting of small limestone flags over 1 inch of rubble, above 0.75 inches of dark sand which increased in depth as the road approached the river crossing (Passmore, 1932, 270-2).

In 1997, a programme of archaeological observation was undertaken on groundworks for the replacement of a 200m section of a water mains pipeline running to the NE of the Sherston branch of the River Avon, close to the line of the Fosse Way where it extends through the scheduled area of the Roman settlement at Whitewalls Wood. No positive evidence for the construction of the Fosse Way was identified, although a small quantity of Roman pottery and a single bronze coin of mid-2nd century date were recovered from the trench backfill (AC Archaeology, 1997; WCAS, 2004).

Limited evidence for Roman occupation has been identified in the vicinity of this section of the Fosse Way. A scatter of Roman pottery and CBM was found during fieldwalking within a field to the NW of Brook Farm immediately E of the Fosse Way (NGR ST 908 895), a small quantity of which was found in the vicinity of a D-shaped enclosure identified from aerial photographs some 250m E of the Fosse Way (Wilts HER ST98NW311). Further to the SW, aerial reconnaissance has identified a rectangular enclosure with a possible entranceway on its N side in fields to the N of Upper Fosse Farm (Wilts HER ST88NE628; NGR ST 8997 8847). No archaeological investigation has been carried out on any of these cropmark enclosure sites, so it remains unclear whether they represent evidence of late prehistoric or Roman settlement. A possible interpretation is that these enclosure features could represent evidence of outlying settlement or agricultural activity associated with the nearby Roman roadside settlement at Whitewalls Wood.

- **Medieval**

No archaeological sites of medieval date are recorded within the pipeline corridor, although a fieldwalking survey within a large field to the NW of Brook Farm, immediately adjacent to the Fosse Way, recovered a small quantity of medieval pottery (Howard, 2000, 2).

- **Post-Medieval**

Five sites of post-medieval date are recorded in the vicinity of the pipeline corridor, most of which appear to be associated with the brick works and lime-kiln at Fossetilery Farm established in the mid-19th century (and marked on the OS 1st edition map as Fosse Kiln). These include the site of a lime-kiln immediately NE of Fossetilery Farm at NGR ST 90471 89512 (Gloucs HER 42614), and an adjacent well located at NGR ST 90515 89556 (Gloucs HER 42613). To the NE of Fossetilery Farm, the site of a limestone quarry is marked on the OS 1st edition map which appears to be contemporary with the nearby brick works/kiln site.

The site of a barn and an associated rectangular enclosure is recorded to the NW of Fossetilery Farm at NGR ST 91149 90459 (Gloucs HER 42611) and appears to be of early 19th century date (predating the brick works) as it is marked on an Ordnance Survey drawing of 1815. Two other sites of post-medieval date are recorded, namely a stone footbridge adjacent to where the Fosse Way crosses the Avon at NGR 91011 90259 (Gloucs HER 42610) and a stone stile at NGR ST 90470 89450 (Gloucs HER 14031).

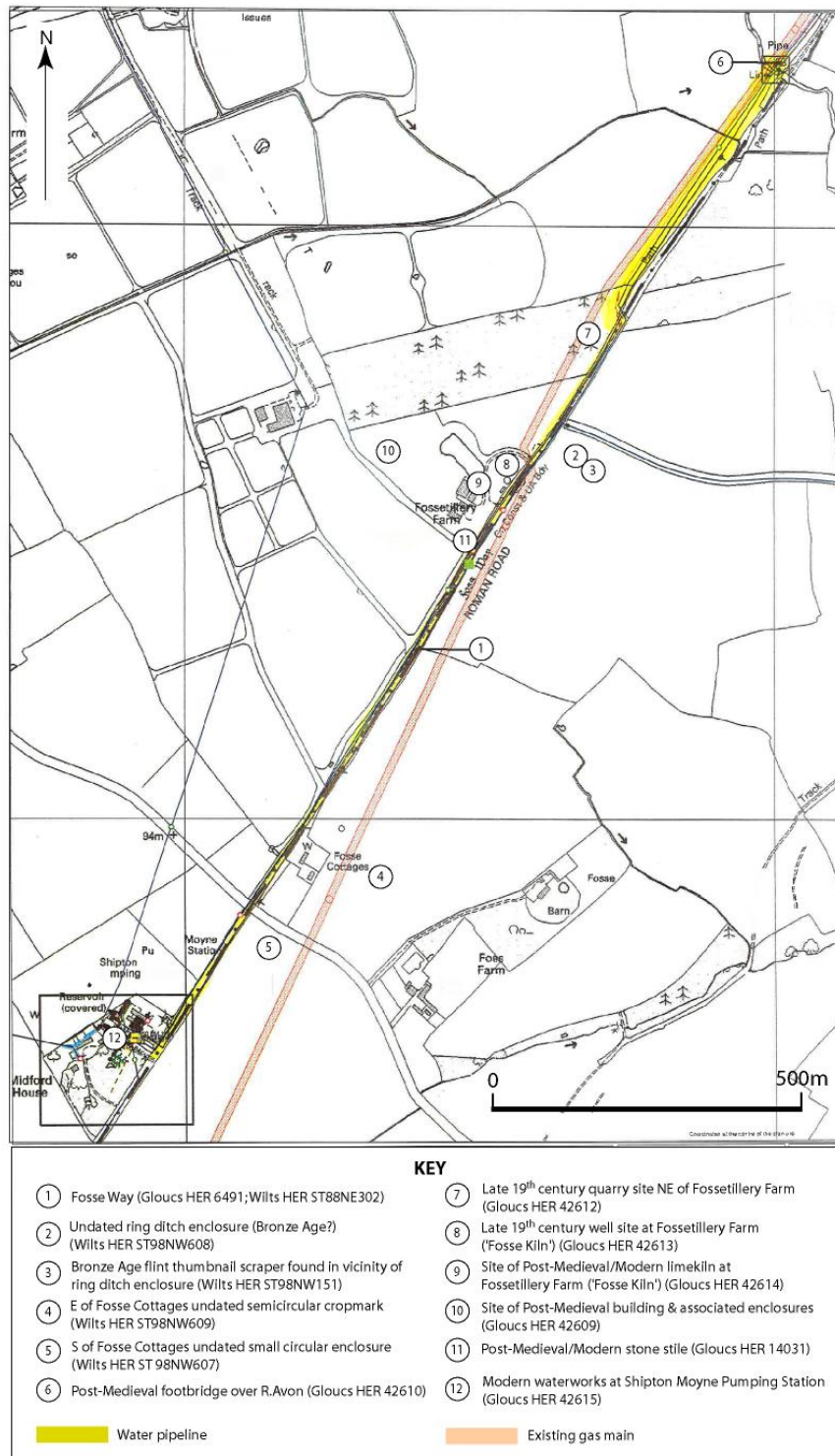


Fig. 2: Map showing location of archaeological sites recorded in the vicinity of the pipeline route

4.2 Documentary Study and Map Regression (including Aerial Photography)

4.2.1 c. 1750-1850

The pipeline route runs for the majority of its length along the line of the Fosse Way, a routeway of high antiquity which marks the boundary between the counties of Gloucestershire and Wiltshire and the parishes of Shipton Moyne (Glos.) and Brokenborough (Wilts.). While this section of the Fosse Way never appears to have been turnpiked (and indeed appears to have declined markedly in importance as a local routeway during the post-medieval period) it remained an important boundary feature and is depicted on historic mapping of the area dating back to the 18th century.

Andrews and Dury's map of Wiltshire dated 1777 (at a scale of 2 inches to the mile) is the earliest map to show the Fosse Way and the farms adjoining it in appreciable topographical detail (**Fig.3**). The map marks a small L-shaped dwelling called Red Lion House adjacent to the E side of the road, which was subsequently renamed as Fosse Cottages and was rebuilt in 1938. Further to the NE, on the W side of the road, a gated road is marked leading NW from the Fosse Way to 'Shipton Moyne House', the residence of the Hodges family. Continuing NE along the Fosse Way, the road is shown as crossing the River Avon at 'Foss Way Bridge'; it is unclear whether this refers to the stone footbridge located adjacent to the Fosse Way or a bridge (since demolished) carrying the Fosse Way over the Avon.

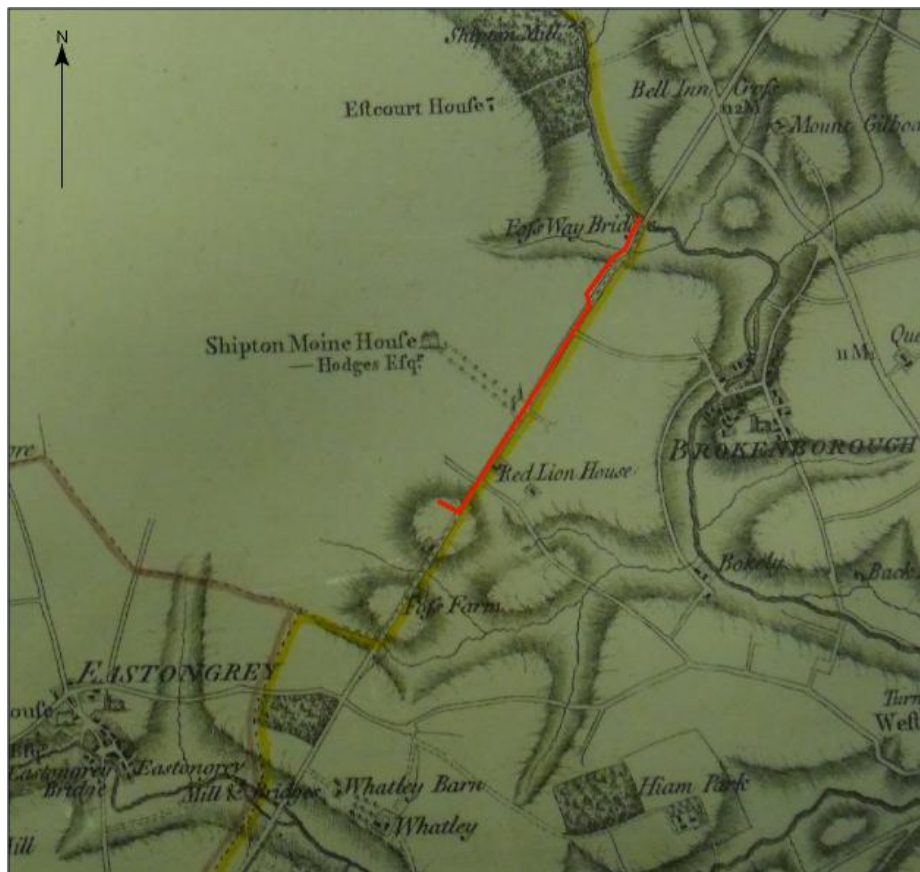


Fig. 3: Extract from Andrews and Dury's County Map of Wiltshire dated 1777
(Reproduced by courtesy of Wiltshire and Swindon Archives)

The existing pattern of landholdings and field enclosure within the study area appears to have gradually evolved during the medieval and post-medieval periods. The Fosse Way functioned as a significant boundary feature, marking the division between the substantial landholding of Brokenborough manor, which belonged to Malmesbury Abbey and was subsequently acquired by the Howard Earls of Suffolk, and the manor of Shipton Moyne (first recorded in the Domesday Survey of 1086) and the estate of Estcourt House, dating back to the early 14th century (Herbert & Pugh, 1976, 249-50; Crowley, 1991, 25-8).

To the E of Fosse Way, it appears that the majority of the land within the study area belonged to Brokenborough Farm, the chief demesne farm in Brokenborough manor owned by the earls of Suffolk and forming part of the Charlton Park estate. During the mid to late 17th century, there appears to have been an intensive process of enclosure and conversion of former arable fields to pasture (Crowley, 1991, 29-30). A number of smaller farm estates had also been established along the western periphery of Brokenborough manor during the 17th-18th century, most notably Twatley Farm (by c.1700) Fosse Farm, Upper Fosse and Mount Gilboa (between c.1700 and 1773) and Bell Farm (between 1773 and 1785).



Fig. 4: Extract from a survey of Brokenborough Farm belonging to the earls of Suffolk compiled in 1785, showing the fields to the E of the Fosse Way flanking the lane to Brokenborough village (Reproduced by courtesy of Wiltshire and Swindon Archives)

These farm estates are depicted in detail in a survey of the Brokenborough and Charlton estates of the Earls of Suffolk undertaken in 1785 (WRO Ref. 1024/1), at the time of compilation it appears that most of the fields adjoining the E side of the Fosse Way were under pasture, with some limited arable cultivation (**Fig. 4**). The southernmost fields belonged to Twatley Farm and Fosse Farm while the fields abutting the central and northern parts of the Fosse Way (up to the River Avon) belonged to Brokenborough Farm. The Fosse Way itself is shown as hedged and heavily lined with trees along its length. The field pattern is characterised by largely small to medium sized rectilinear hedged and tree-lined enclosures with a number of larger, irregularly shaped enclosures (mostly situated between the lane to Brokenborough village and the Avon). None of the field names recorded for these plots provide any obvious indication of earlier land use or settlement.

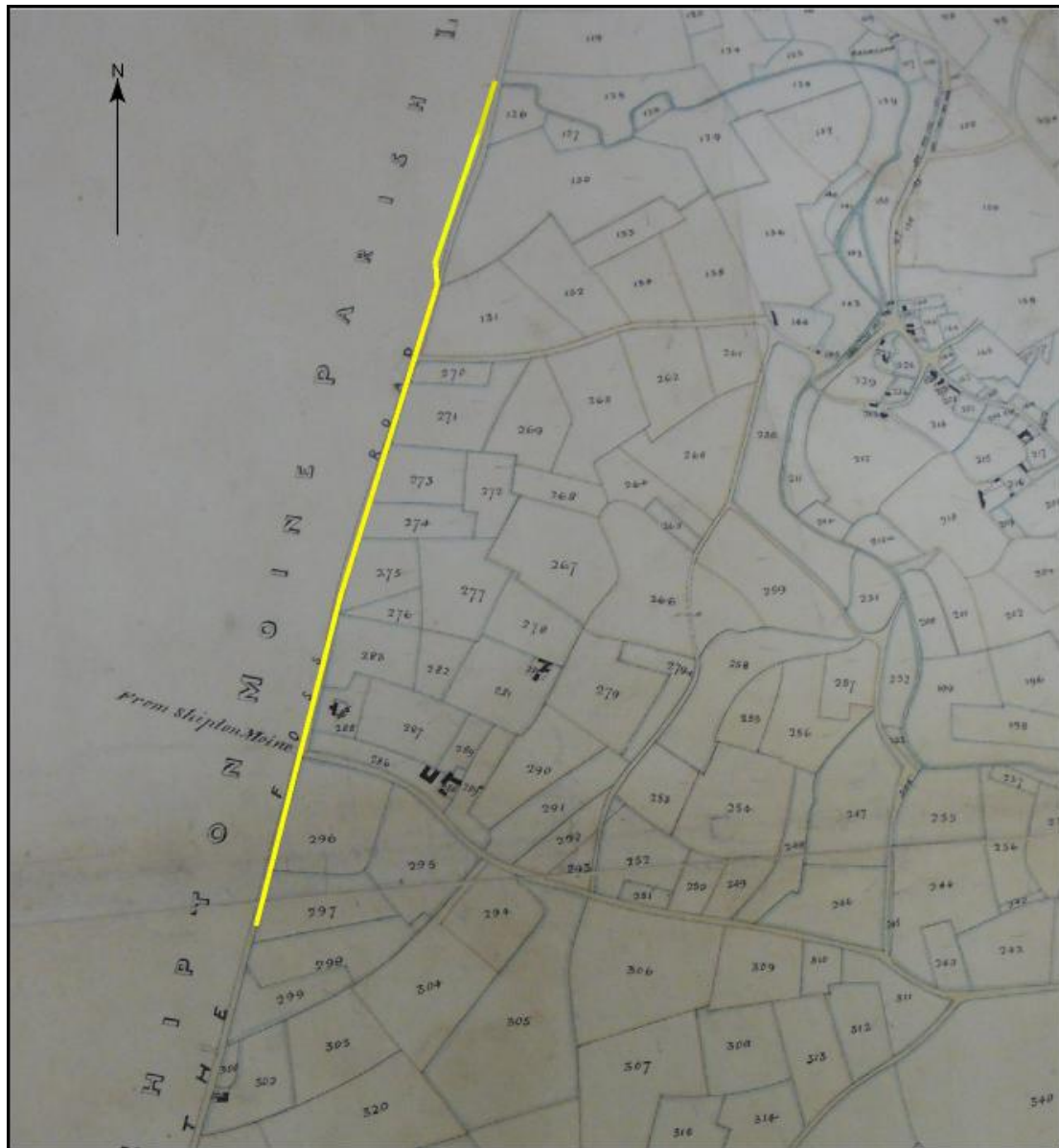


Fig. 5 Extract from the Brokenborough tithe map (1838)
(Reproduced by courtesy of the Wiltshire and Swindon Archives)

Comparison between the 1785 survey and the 1838 tithe map of Brokenborough parish (**Fig. 5**) reveals that the pattern of enclosure had remained largely intact, with the exception of the fields adjoining the Fosse Way leading NE from the junction with the lane to Brokenborough up to the crossing of the River Avon, which had been subject to a certain degree of amalgamation and redefinition of field boundaries (in particular the amalgamation of four separate fields to form a single large, irregularly shaped enclosure marked as plot no. 130 (Shoulder of Mutton Field) on the tithe map). By 1838, it appears that all the fields on the E side of this stretch of the Fosse Way, extending NE from Fosse Farm to the River Avon, were under pasture.

Although the evidence of historic mapping for the fields to the W of the Fosse Way (lying in the Gloucestershire parish of Shipton Moyne) is not quite as detailed and extensive as for Brokenborough parish, it appears that a similar establishment of new farm estates and associated re-organization of field boundaries also took place during the 18th century. This reorganization of the fieldscape appears to be associated with the enclosure of former open common fields which took place in Shipton Moyne parish in 1742 (GRO Ref. Q/RI/125).

By c.1800, the majority of the fields to the W of the Fosse Way (extending SW from the Fosse Bridge to the junction with the lane to Shipton Moyne village) lay within the estate of Park Farm, a substantial landholding which originally formed a sub-tenancy of Shipton Moyne manor, belonging to the Hodges family and was acquired by the Estcourt family of Estcourt House in 1794 (Herbert & Pugh, 1976, 250).

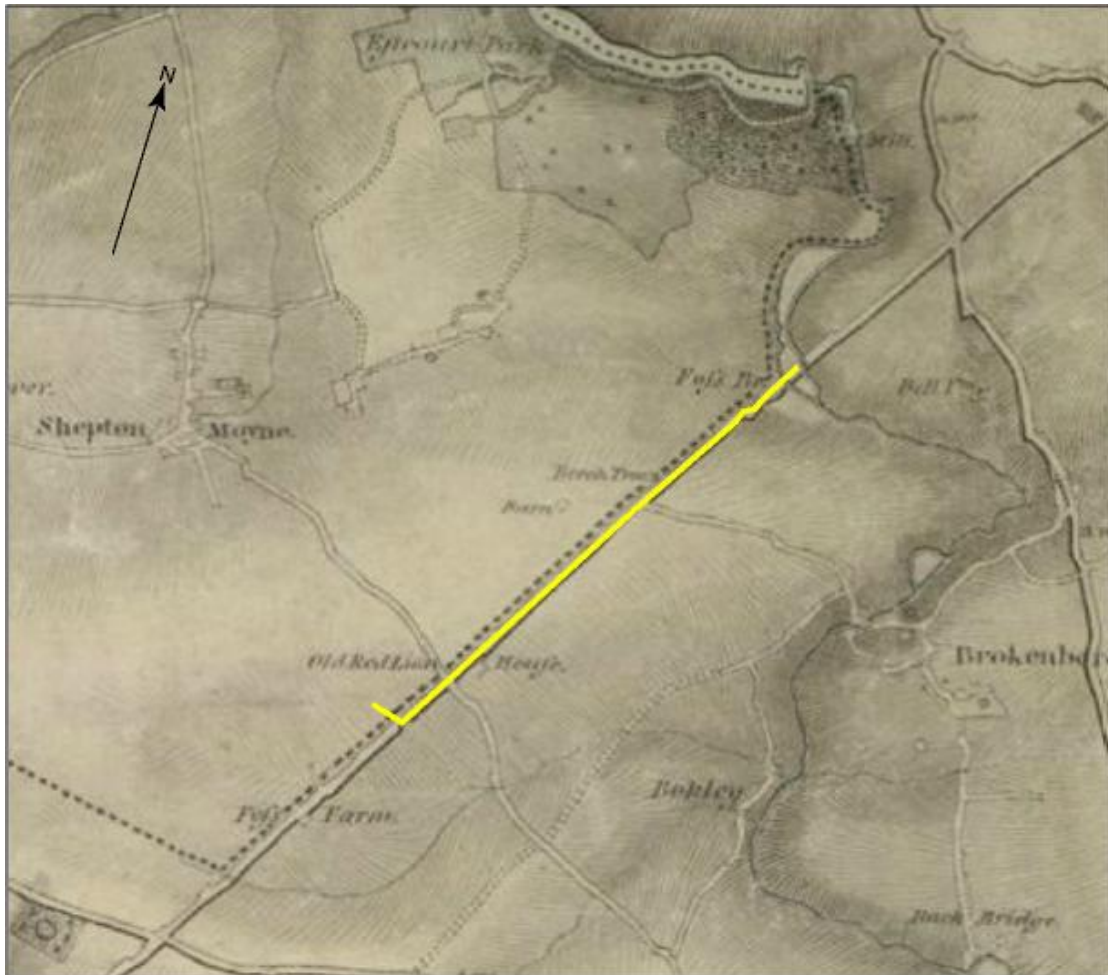


Fig. 6: Extract from an Ordnance Survey drawing of 1815 (at a scale of 2 inches to the mile) showing the Fosse Way and adjacent farmsteads and outbuildings
(Reproduced by courtesy of Gloucestershire Archives)

An Ordnance Survey drawing of the Shipton Moyne area dated 1815 (at a scale of 2 inches to the mile) marks the site of a barn to the W of the Fosse Way to the NW of present-day Fossetilery Farm (**Fig. 6**). The barn and its associated enclosure are shown on the Shipton Moyne tithe map of 1838 and appear to have remained intact until the early 20th century; it appears to have been demolished at some time between 1900 and 1921 as it is not shown on the OS 3rd edition 25 inch map.

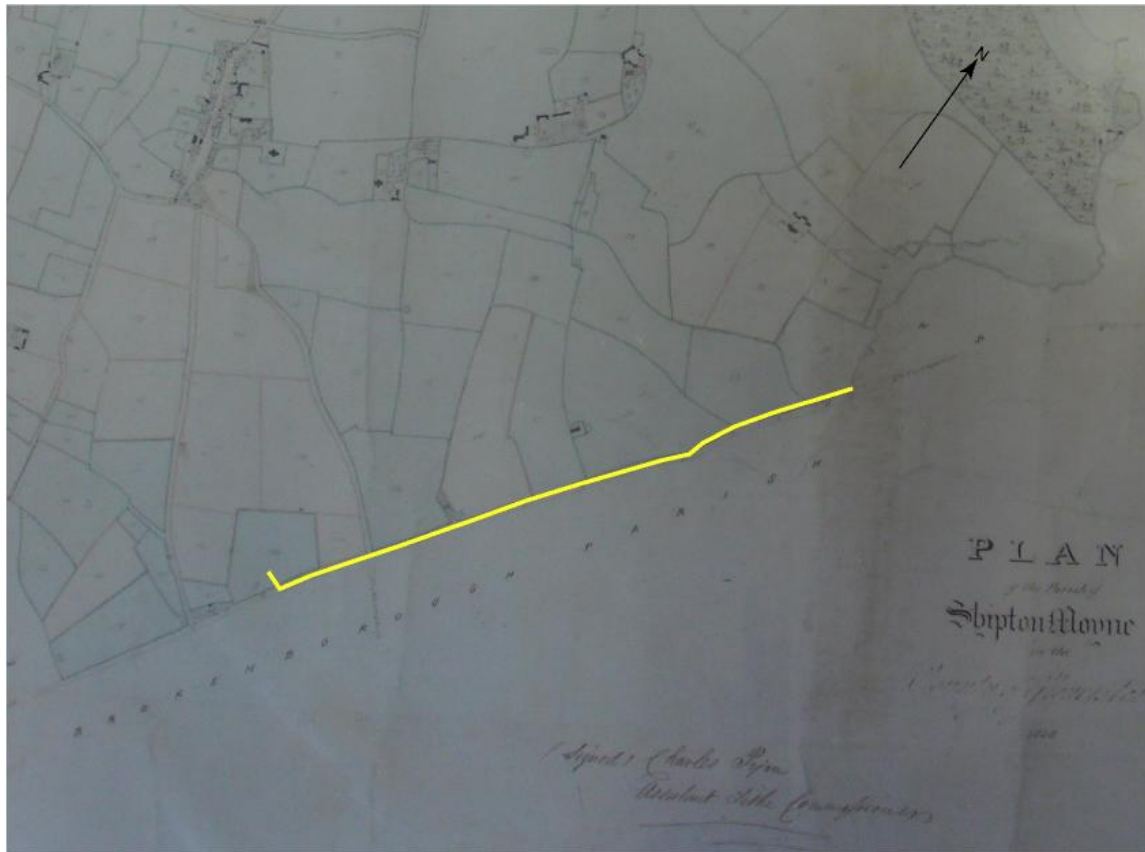


Fig. 7: Extract from the Shipton Moyne tithe map of 1838
(Reproduced by courtesy of Gloucestershire Archives)

The Shipton Moyne tithe map of 1838 (**Fig. 7**) is the earliest topographically accurate map to show in detail the pattern of field enclosures immediately to the W of the Fosse Way. The two pasture enclosures SW of the lane to Shipton Moyne (marked as 'Foss Ground' and 'East Foss Ground', the former of which represents the site of the present waterworks), were recorded in the tithe apportionment as belonging to the rector of Shipton Moyne, while the other fields to the NE belonged to the tenant of Park Farm.

The majority of these field enclosures (recorded as 'Further Sandy Leazes', 'The Lindoles' 'Ferry Leazes', 'Dean Mead' and 'Foss Hill') were under pasture, with the exception of Plot No. 98 ('Great Lindoles') which was then under arable cultivation. The pipeline route extends through the two fields at the NE end of the pipeline route ('Dean Mead' and 'Foss Hill') which were under pasture in 1838, and then terminates at the River Avon (which marks the boundary between the parishes of Shipton Moyne and Long Newnton). The field on the opposite side of the river is marked as a meadow enclosure called 'Merchants Mead' on the Long Newnton tithe map of 1838. The field name 'Merchants Mead' suggests an association with trade (perhaps when the Fosse Way was a routeway of greater importance).

4.2.2 c.1850-1900

Comparison between the Shipton Moyne and Brokenborough tithe maps (1838) and the OS 1st edition map of 1889 (**Fig. 8**) demonstrates that the fieldscape traversed by the Fosse Way had remained intact to a certain extent (particularly on the W side of the Fosse Way), although there had been some amalgamation and redefinition of field boundaries on the E side of the Fosse Way to the N of Fosse Cottages.

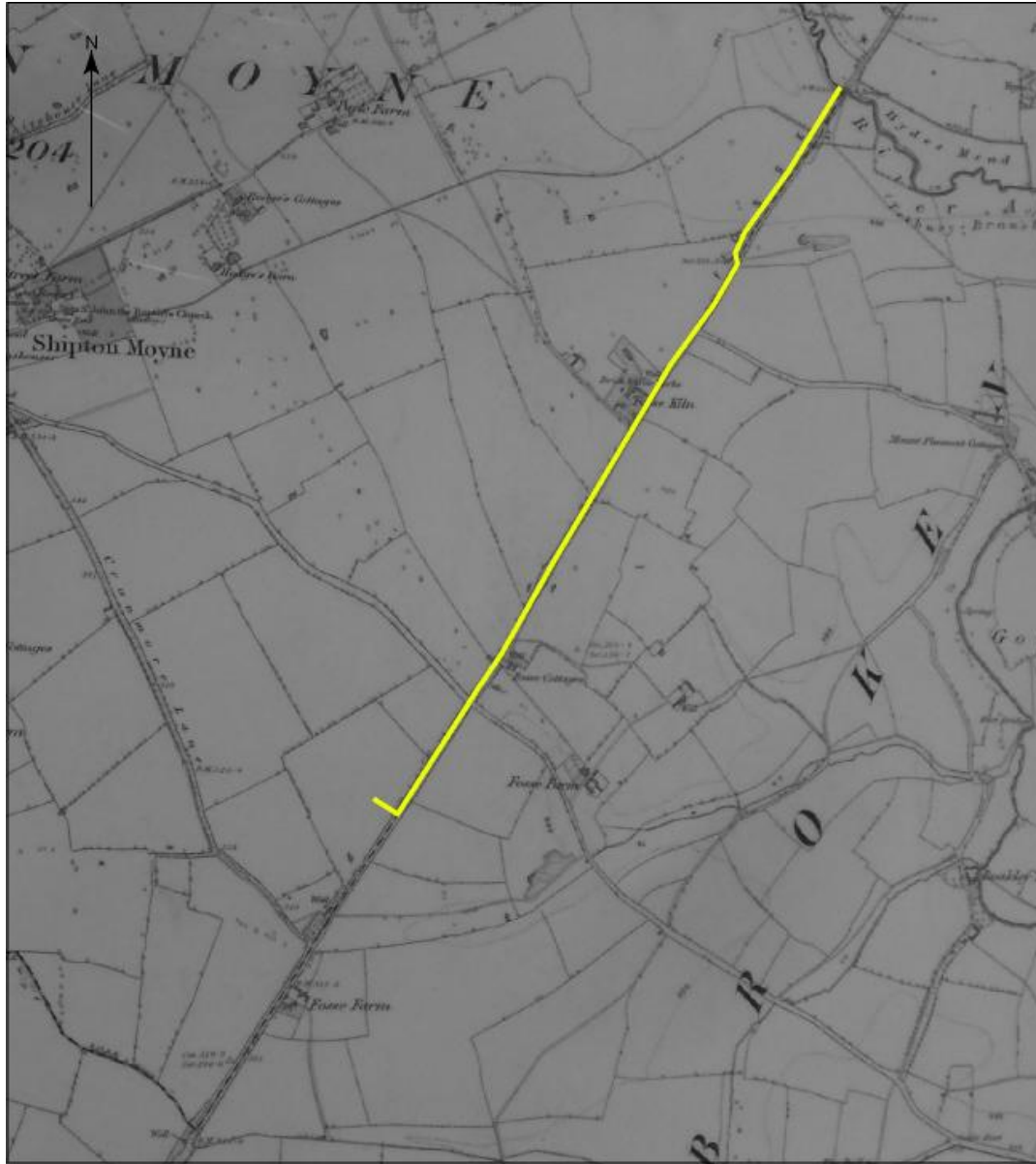


Fig.8: Extract from the OS 1st edition 6 inch map of 1889
(Reproduced by courtesy of the Wiltshire and Swindon Archives)

The most significant change visible is the construction of a brick and tile works immediately to the W of the Fosse Way, marked as 'Fosse Kiln' on the OS 1st edition map, in the location of present-day Fossetilery Farm. The brick and tile works appears to have consisted of an oblong structure aligned NE-SW with a cross wing oriented NW-SE, and a separate range

situated to the SW. A well is depicted immediately to the NE of the works buildings, with a sub-rectangular, elongated pond feature located further to the W.

Fosse Kiln is first recorded in 1859 as a tilery and limekiln site owned by the Estcourt family; repairs to the limekiln were made in 1876 and the site appears to have remained in operation until the late 1890s. Further to the NE, the OS 1st edition map marks a small quarry on the W side of the Fosse Way with a trackway immediately opposite leading to another, larger quarrying site on the E side of the lane. These quarries were opened to provide limestone and sand for the nearby tilery/limekiln at Fosse Kiln; they appear to have been abandoned at the same time that the tilery was closed and are marked as old quarries on the OS 2nd edition map of 1900 (**Fig. 9**).

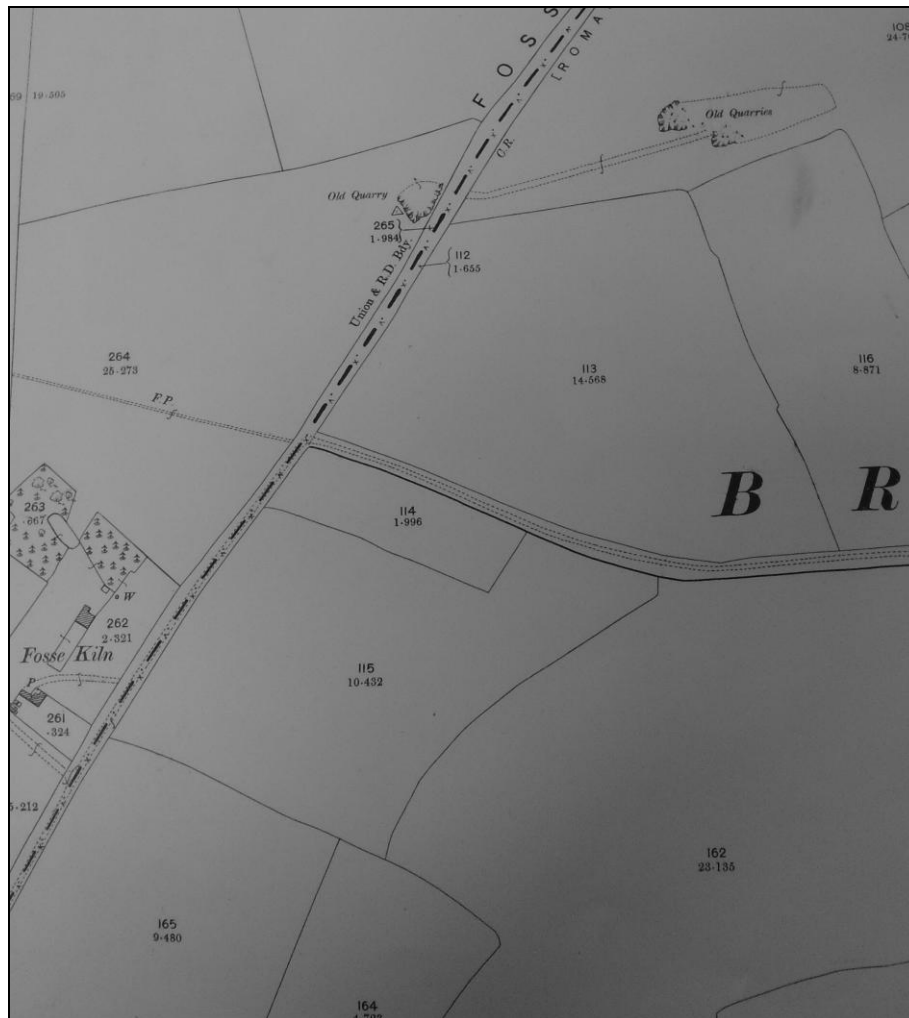


Fig. 9: Extract from the OS 2nd edition 25 inch map of 1900 showing the site of the former brick and tile works at Fosse Kiln (to left) shortly after its abandonment in the mid-1890s
(Reproduced by courtesy of Wiltshire and Swindon Archives)

4.2.3 c. 1900 to present

The evidence of the OS 2nd and 3rd edition 6 inch maps indicates that little change to the fieldscape had occurred during the intervening years; the most significant change being the construction of the Shipton Moyne waterworks (at the SW terminus of the proposed

pipeline route) by the West Gloucestershire Water Company in 1916 (**Fig. 10**). The waterworks was significantly enlarged and rebuilt in the early 1930s, with the construction of a sewage works and a house for the waterworks manager as shown on the OS provisional edition 6 inch map of 1938.

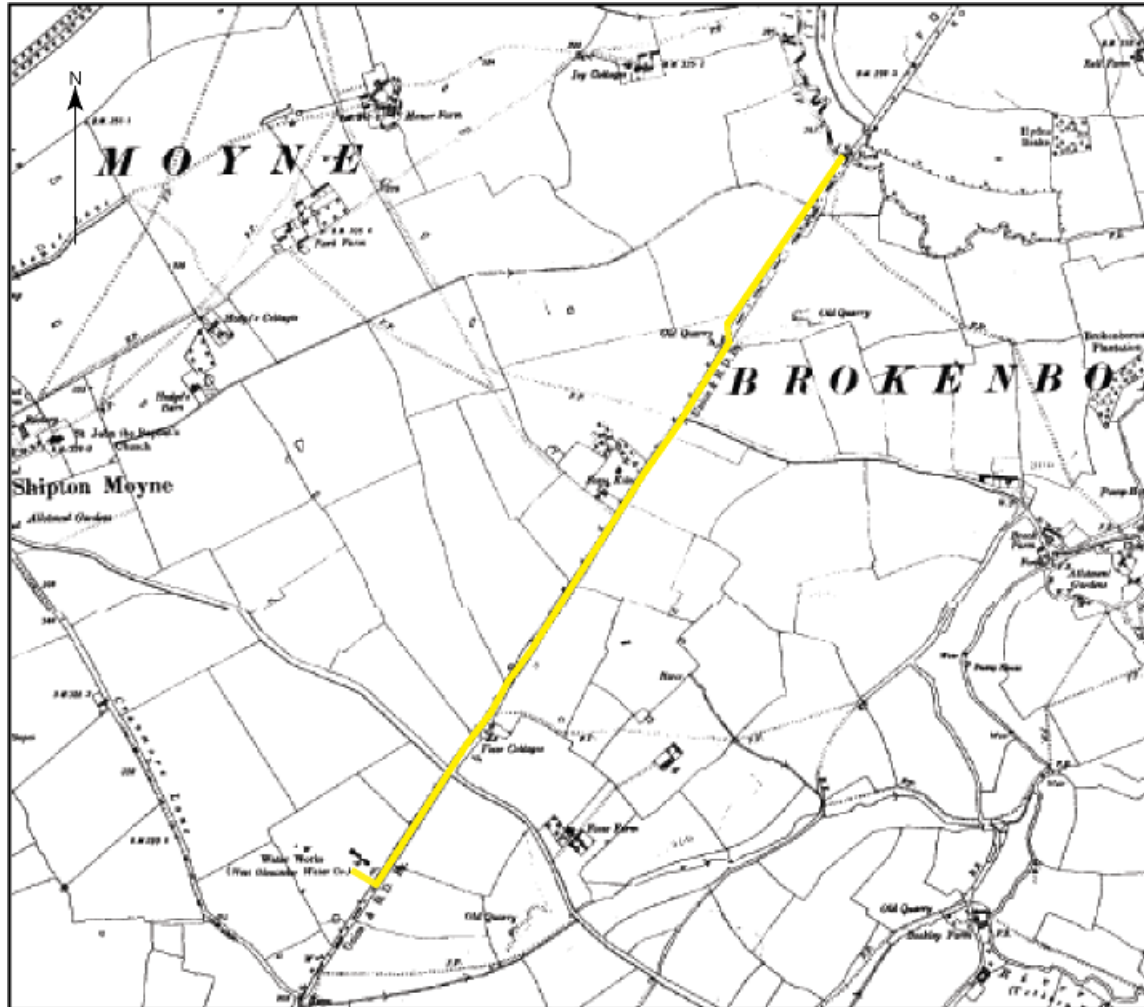


Fig. 10: Extract from the OS 3rd edition 6 inch map of 1924 showing the West Gloucestershire Company waterworks at the SW terminus of the pipeline route
(Reproduced by courtesy of the Wiltshire and Swindon Archives)

The evidence of an RAF vertical photograph of the area dated 1946 and the OS 6-inch map of 1955 indicates that the pattern of field enclosure on both sides of the Fosse Way had remained largely unchanged, although there had been a marked shift from pasture to arable cultivation. This increasing shift towards arable cultivation (in particular cereal crops) is apparent in later aerial photographs from the early 1970s onwards. A vertical photograph of the area dated 1971 also shows a significant reorganization of field boundaries to the E of Fossetilery Farm, immediately S of the lane to Brokenborough, where five fields had been amalgamated to form a single large, irregularly shaped enclosure. The 1971 photograph also shows the line of a modern utility pipeline trench running SW parallel with and to the W of the Fosse Way and then crossing the lane near Fossetilery Farm.

5. Site Visit

A site visit was carried out on 9th December 2011 and a photographic record of the study area undertaken from key vantage points along the pipeline route.



Plate 1: View looking NE along Fosse Way close to Shipton Moyne Pumping Station

From Shipton Moyne Pumping Station to Fosse Cottages, the road is carriageway quality tarmac, after which the Way degenerates into a mixture of aggregate and tarmac metalling with extensive potholing. Over the last 500 metres (approximate) before the river crossing, the Fosse Way becomes a trackway with meagre evidence of metalling and is bordered on both sides by trees with some evidence of banks and ditching, the date and provenance of which remains unknown (they could relate to the Roman road or later parish boundaries).



Plate 2: View looking W showing tree-lined bank and ditch on W side of Fosse Way



Plate 3 View looking SW showing Fosse Way and flanking tree-lined banks near river crossing



Plate 4: Plan view showing roughly metalled surface of Fosse Way to NE of Fossetilery Farm

6. Conclusion

This archaeological desk-based assessment, based on a detailed consultation of available sources of archaeological and historical information, has concluded that the proposed water mains replacement scheme at Shipton Moyne could potentially have a **moderate impact** on the archaeological assets within its vicinity.

The section of pipeline route to be replaced runs for the majority of its length along a section of the Fosse Way, a long-established routeway probably constructed by the Roman army shortly after their invasion of Britain in the mid-1st century AD.

This section of the Fosse Way (now surviving as a green lane) continued to function as an important boundary feature throughout the medieval and post-medieval periods, marking the county boundary between Gloucestershire and Wiltshire and the parishes of Shipton Moyne and Brokenborough, although it declined in importance as a major roadway.

Evidence for the original construction of the road was identified during archaeological monitoring of trenching for the laying of a water mains pipe along the Fosse Way, close to where it fords the Tetbury branch of the River Avon (towards the NE end of the pipeline route under discussion). This comprised a layer of small stones 0.07-0.10m in thickness, overlaid by a thin layer of stone chips which in turn underlay a thin organic deposit and a humic subsoil deposit 0.30m thick.

There remains **significant** potential for deposits and structural remains (eg. metallurgy) relating to the construction of the road to have survived beneath later metallurgy, possibly at a relatively shallow depth (less than 0.5m below ground level). It should be emphasised, however, that in view of the presence of modern services either in or adjacent to the road, the likelihood of identifying undisturbed remains associated with the original construction of the Fosse Way may be reduced to a certain extent.

Records of archaeological sites and fieldwork undertaken in the vicinity of the pipeline route are limited. However, the site of a possible ring ditch of Bronze Age date has been identified within a field to the NE of Fossetilery Farm, approximately 30m E of the Fosse Way. Several other curvilinear and rectangular enclosure/boundary ditch features have been identified from aerial reconnaissance in this and other fields to the E of the Fosse Way, which could possibly represent evidence of late prehistoric or Roman occupation/agricultural activity.

Fieldwalking undertaken in fields to the E of the Fosse Way (near Fossetilery Farm) has also identified scatters of Iron Age and Roman pottery. The potential for encountering evidence of prehistoric or Roman occupation should therefore be regarded as **moderate**, although this appears more likely to consist of residual scatters of material rather than stratified occupation deposits or features.

There is relatively low potential for encountering occupation deposits and features relating to medieval activity in the vicinity of the pipeline route, although a surface scatter of medieval pottery was identified during fieldwalking to the E of the Fossetilery Farm. The site of an 18th century dwelling (Old Lion House) demolished in 1938 and a mid-19th century brick works and lime-kiln at Fossetilery Farm lie immediately adjacent to the pipeline route.



7. Mitigation and Engineering

The impact upon the existing Fosse Way and, to a limited degree, the fields to the N of the new main will be substantial since it is necessary to cut an open trench at least 1.0m but possibly 2.0m away from the existing three pipes, the earliest of which is pre 1939, for the sake of engineering integrity and Health & Safety considerations.

Bristol Water have been advised by Border Archaeology that the use of a Trencher machine is not advisable due to the extensive damage it will cause to archaeological deposits and that any mitigation in terms of archaeological observation would be nullified by its use.

The erection of a site compound(s), at a location as yet undetermined but adjacent or convenient to the site works, will also present an opportunity to examine the extant archaeological resource, this being of course dependent upon the depth of material required for removal before hard standing aggregate is deposited.

Practicalities of excavation of the new trench in terms of road closures, engineering and public access would suggest that archaeological observation of the open cut trenching & diversion into the fields would be an appropriate mitigation strategy but naturally the response of Wiltshire and Gloucestershire Councils is germane to the final approved methodology.

8. Copyright

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Document Control

Job title	Shipton Moyne Water Mains Replacement Scheme Phase II	Job No	BA1201SHBWP2
Report written by	<i>Stephen Priestley MA</i>		
Report edited by	<i>George Children MA MfA</i>		
Issue No	Status	Date	Approved for issue
1	Final	January 2012	<i>NMS</i>
			<i>Neil Shurety Dip M.GM Inst. M</i>