BROGBOROUGH PIPELINE RELAY
BROGBOROUGH
BEDFORDSHIRE

ARCHAEOLOGICAL OBSERVATION INVESTIGATION AND RECORDING

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Contents

List of Figures and Plates

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Preface

Every effort has been made in the preparation of this document to provide as complete a summary as possible within the terms of the project design. All statements and opinions in this document are offered in good faith. Albion Archaeology cannot accept responsibility for errors of fact or opinion resulting from data supplied by a third party, or for any loss or other consequence arising from decisions or actions made upon the basis of facts or opinions expressed in this document.

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Structure of the Report

Section 1 describes the background to the project and Section 2 describes the methodology used during the fieldwork. Section 3 describes the results of the fieldwork and this is followed by a discussion of the results in Section 4. Section 5 is a bibliography and Section 6 an appendix containing detailed context information.

Key Terms

Throughout this report, the following terms or abbreviations are used:

CAO	Bedfordshire's County Archaeological Officer
IFA	Institute of Field Archaeologists
LPA	Local Planning Authority
HER	Historic Environment Record

Acknowledgements

The Project was commissioned by Roger Wills of Cemex UK Ltd and monitored on behalf of the LPA by Martin Oake of Bedfordshire County Council's Heritage and Environment Section.

Fieldwork was carried out by Kathy Pilkinton (Assistant Supervisor) and Richard Gregson (Archaeological Supervisor). This report has been prepared by Kathy Pilkinton and James Newboult (Project Officer). Figures were produced by Joan Lightning (CAD Technician).

Non-Technical Summary

The Brogborough Pipeline Relay is part of the CEMEX UK Ltd, Kensworth to Rugby pipeline renewal project. The c.700m section of new pipeline lies approximately 800m to the north-east of Brogborough.

Due to the archaeological potential of the area that the new section of pipeline passes through, the Bedfordshire County Archaeological Officer recommended to the local planning authority that a programme of archaeological works be carried out as a condition of planning permission. These works comprised the archaeological monitoring of groundworks associated with the pipeline's installation, and the recording, investigation and reporting of any archaeological remains that were exposed.

The archaeological works identified two ditches and one large pit. Both ditches most likely functioned as drainage and/or boundary features and, although no dating evidence was recovered from either, their character, probable function and location suggest they are post-medieval or later in origin.

The function and date of the pit is not clear. However, post-medieval quarrying is known to have occurred in the vicinity therefore it is likely that such a large pit represents an extension of this activity.

None of the archaeological remains found during the pipeline works appear to represent features of great antiquity or unusual form. They are therefore considered to be of limited archaeological interest and significance.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project Background

The Brogborough Pipeline Relay is part of the CEMEX UK Ltd, Kensworth to Rugby pipeline renewal project. This part of the route, located to the north-east of Brogborough, deviates from the pipeline's original position.

Due to the archaeological potential of the area that the new section of pipeline passes through, the Bedfordshire County Archaeological Officer (CAO) recommended to the local planning authority that a programme of archaeological works be carried out as a condition of planning permission.

These works were to comprise the archaeological monitoring of groundworks associated with the pipeline's installation, and the recording, investigation and reporting of any archaeological remains that were exposed.

Prior to the commencement of fieldwork, a Project Design (Albion Archaeology 2008) was prepared and approved by the CAO.

1.2 Site Location and Description

The *c.*700m section of new pipeline lies approximately 800m to the north-east of Brogborough (Figure 1) and is centred on grid reference SP 9719 3846.

The landscape of the area comprises open arable fields with the land surface sloping downwards towards the northern half of the pipeline route. The underlying geology is clay.

1.3 Archaeological Background

The most significant archaeological remains recorded in the area are known as the "Ringwork" (HER30) (Figure 1). This scheduled monument (SM20436) lies approximately 100m to the south-west of the pipeline route and comprises a group of earthworks forming a ring-ditch, bank and bailey. The bank has been considerably damaged by post-medieval quarrying but the bailey is thought to be largely intact. This defensive earthwork is believed to be late Anglo-Saxon in origin and possibly the location of "Rudgemont Castle".

Immediately to the west of the earthworks are the remains of Park Farm and the "Round House" (HER5340) which dates to the 17th century. A Roman road (HER485) is believed to pass through Park Farm on its way north-east, with its projected line crossing the north-western half of the pipeline route. However, this road is now suspected to be a Victorian invention. Unspecified Roman remains are also documented in the HER as being found in the vicinity of the earthwork (HER2018).

The land south of the pipeline and east of Park Farm was the site of a medieval deer park (HER693). It is first referenced in AD1246, and in AD1326 it is described as being 30 acres in area.

1.4 Project Objectives

The general aim of the fieldwork was to:

- Observe all significant ground works associated with the development.
- Investigate and record these works and any archaeological deposits encountered within them.
- Prepare a report of the fieldwork findings for deposition in the Bedfordshire Heritage Environment Record and with OASIS online database.
- Deposit the project archive with Bedford Museum (accession number: 2008.223).

2. METHODOLOGY

2.1 Standards

The archaeological fieldwork was carried out to the standards and methods set out in the approved Project Design (Albion Archaeology 2008) and comprised the following:

1 Any stripping of overburden or excavation of trenches was monitored to identify *in situ* archaeological deposits.
2 All disturbed soil scanned for artefacts.
3 Revealed archaeological deposits were investigated and recorded in accordance with the Albion's *Procedures Manual.*
4 All archaeological observations were recorded at a suitable scale on base plans that could be tied in to the OS national grid.
5 A photographic record was maintained of the construction works and any revealed archaeological remains.

Throughout the project, the standards set out in the IFA's *Code of Conduct* and *Standards and Guidance* documents, specifically *Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief*, September 1999, were followed.

2.2 Fieldwork

The archaeological works were undertaken between 21st August and 18th November 2008. During this period, all construction groundworks requiring monitoring were completed.

These groundworks comprised the stripping of topsoil from an easement (Figure 1, Plate 1) that ran the length of the pipeline route. This easement varied in width but on average measured around 15m wide. This was followed by the excavation of a trench (Plate 2) to accommodate the pipeline itself. Again, the dimensions of this excavation varied depending on ground conditions. However, its minimum width was 1m and average depth between 1.2-1.5m

All investigated archaeological features and deposits were issued with unique context numbers. Within this report, context numbers referring to cut features are written as [**], and layers or deposits within cut features are written as (**).

Detailed information on all the deposits and archaeological features referred to below can be found in Appendix 1.

3. RESULTS OF THE FIELDWORK

3.1 Overburden

Between 0.3m and 0.4m of topsoil (100) was removed from the pipeline easement, revealing clayey subsoil (101). Subsoil deposits of around 0.2m in depth were excavated in the pipe trench exposing undisturbed geological deposits of yellow grey clay (102).

3.2 Archaeological features

Excavation of the pipe trench across the extant field boundary located towards the south-eastern end of the pipeline (Figure 2) exposed the full profile of the existing boundary ditch [114] (Plate 3). Also exposed in the trench and stripped easement was evidence of an earlier phase of boundary ditch [111]. This feature ran parallel with, and was truncated by, the later ditch and measured around 1.2m in depth. The upper fill of this ditch (117) was significantly disturbed by rooting from the boundary hedgerow.

A further ditch [103] was encountered approximately 35m to the west, on the same alignment as the field boundary. It measured approximately 1.5m wide and 0.27m deep. It contained a single fill (104) of grey brown silty clay.

Approximately midway along the pipeline route the pipe trench cut through what appeared to be a large relatively shallow pit [107] (Plate 4). In the trench section, the cut measured approximately 20m wide and 1.75m at its deepest and contained at least three fills. The feature lay beneath the subsoil and therefore its edges within the stripped easement were not visible.

No finds were recovered from any of the features identified during the pipeline works.

4. DISCUSSION OF RESULTS

The archaeological works on the route of the pipeline identified two ditches and one large pit.

One of the ditches was located within an existing land boundary and probably represents an earlier phase of the boundary ditch. The second ditch was located near to this boundary and on the same alignment. Both features most likely functioned as drainage and/or boundary features and, although no dating evidence was recovered from either, their character, location and probable function suggest they are post-medieval or later in origin.

The function and date of the pit was not apparent from the evidence recovered from the archaeological works. However, post-medieval quarrying is known to have occurred approximately 100m to the south-west, in the vicinity of Park Farm (see 1.3 above). It is likely therefore that such a large pit represents an extension of this activity.

None of the archaeological remains found during the pipeline works appear to represent features of great antiquity or unusual form. They are therefore considered to be of limited archaeological interest and significance.

There was also no evidence to indicate the presence of a Roman Road crossing the route of the pipeline as suggested by records held by the HER. This supports the view that its projected line is probably entirely conjectural.

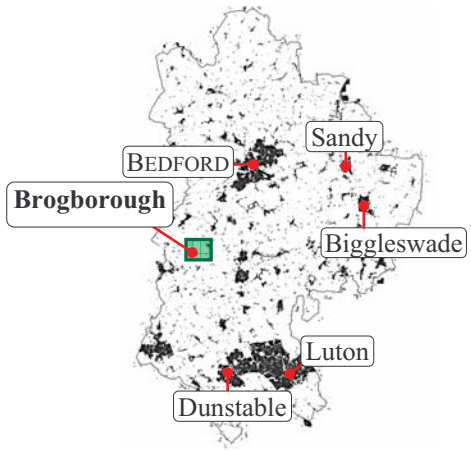
5. BIBLIOGRAPHY

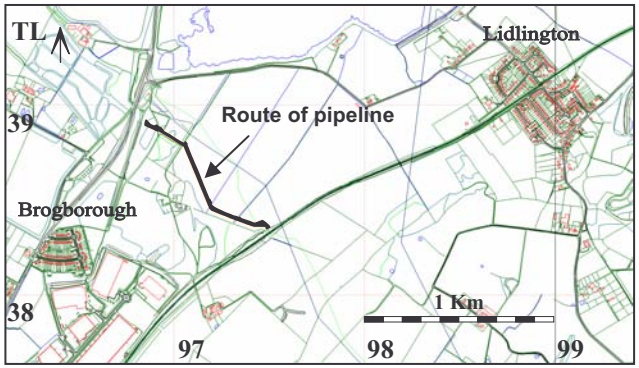
Albion Archaeology, 2008. *Brogborough Pipeline Relay, Brogborough, Bedfordshire: Project Design for Archaeological Observation, Investigation, Recording, Analysis and Publication*.

6. APPENDIX: CONTEXT SUMMARY

Area: 1
Extent (ha): 1.42
OS Co-ordinates: TL9748538347
Description: Monitoring of pipeline easement and trench

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
100	**Topsoil**	**Firm mid grey brown silty clay occasional small stones. Thichness: 0.4m**	☐	☐
101	**Subsoil**	**Firm mid brown grey silty clay . Thickness 0.2m**	☐	☐
102	**Natural**	**Firm light yellow grey clay**	☐	☐
103	**Ditch**	**Linear NE-SW profile: irregular base: concave dimensions: max breadth 2.5m, max depth 0.25m, min length 15.m**	☑	☐
104	Fill	Firm mid grey brown silty clay . Thickess:0.25m	☑	☐
107	**Pit**	**Linear E-W profile: concave base: uneven dimensions: max breadth 20.m, max depth 1.85m, min length 1.1m**	☑	☐
108	Fill	Firm dark brown brown silty clay occasional small stones. Thickness: 0.4m	☑	☐
109	Fill	Firm mid grey brown silty clay occasional small stones. Thickness: 1.5m	☑	☐
110	Fill	Firm light blue grey clay . Thickness: 1.25m	☐	☐
111	**Ditch**	**Linear NE-SW profile: concave base: concave dimensions: max breadth 2.m, max depth 1.18m, max length 1.1m. Runs parallel to existing field boundry marked by ditch and hedge**	☑	☐
112	Fill	Firm dark blue grey silty clay . Thickness: 0.02m	☐	☐
113	Fill	Mid red grey silty clay . Thickness: 0.5m	☑	☐
117	Fill	Firm mid grey brown silty clay . Thickness: 0.8m	☑	☐
114	**Ditch**	**Linear NE-SW profile: concave base: concave dimensions: max breadth 4.2m, max depth 1.12m, max length 260.m. Ditch in use as field boundry and for drainage**	☑	☐
115	Fill	Temporary backfill as part of pipeline construction. Thickness: 1.12m	☑	☐





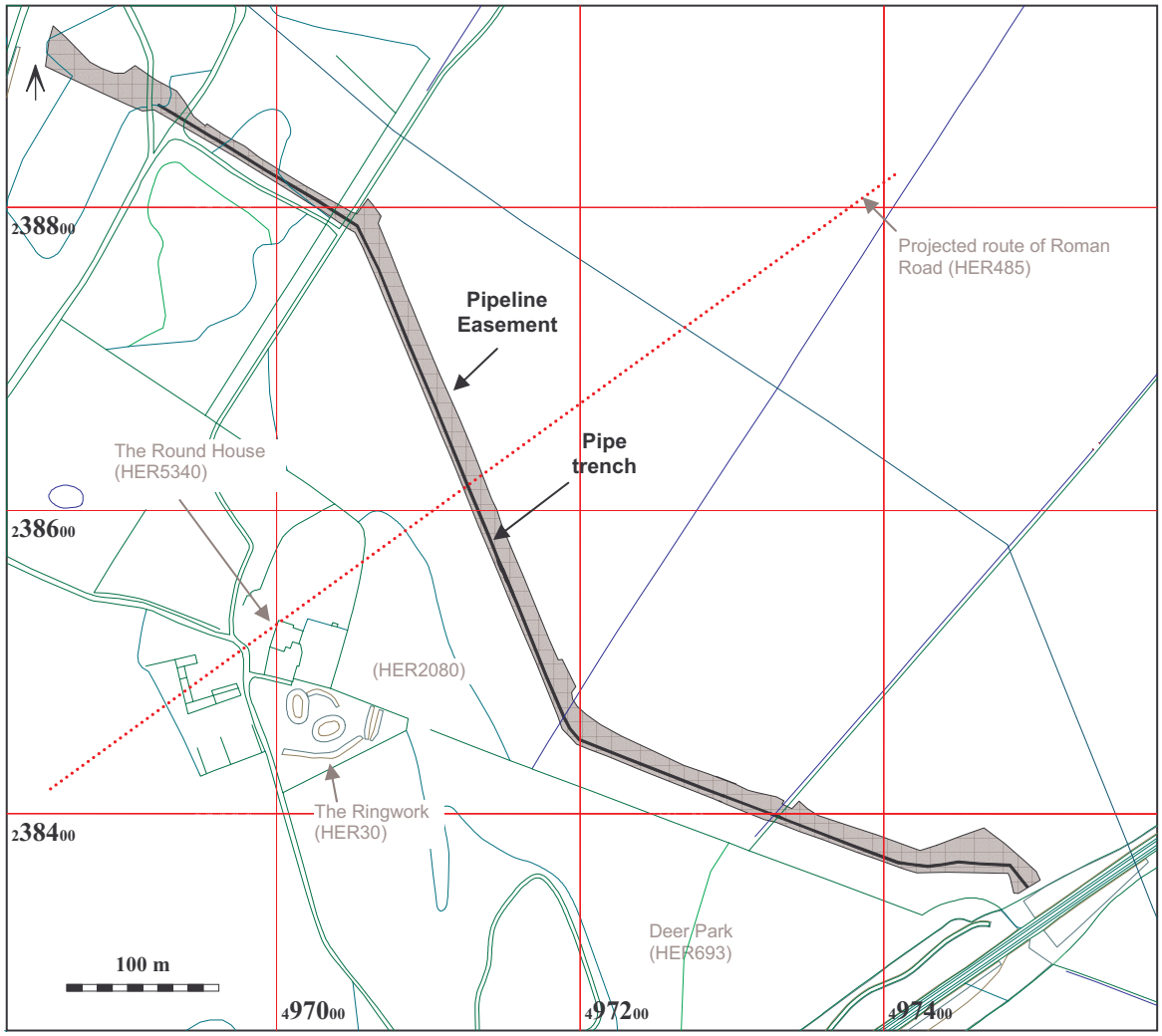
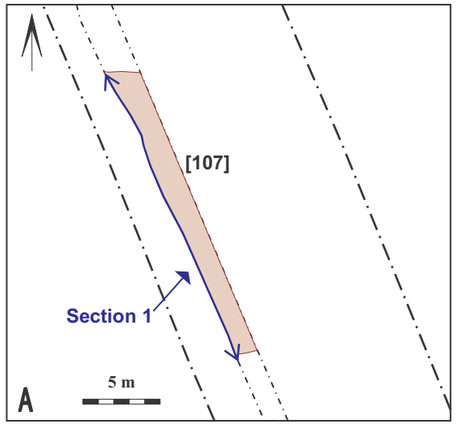
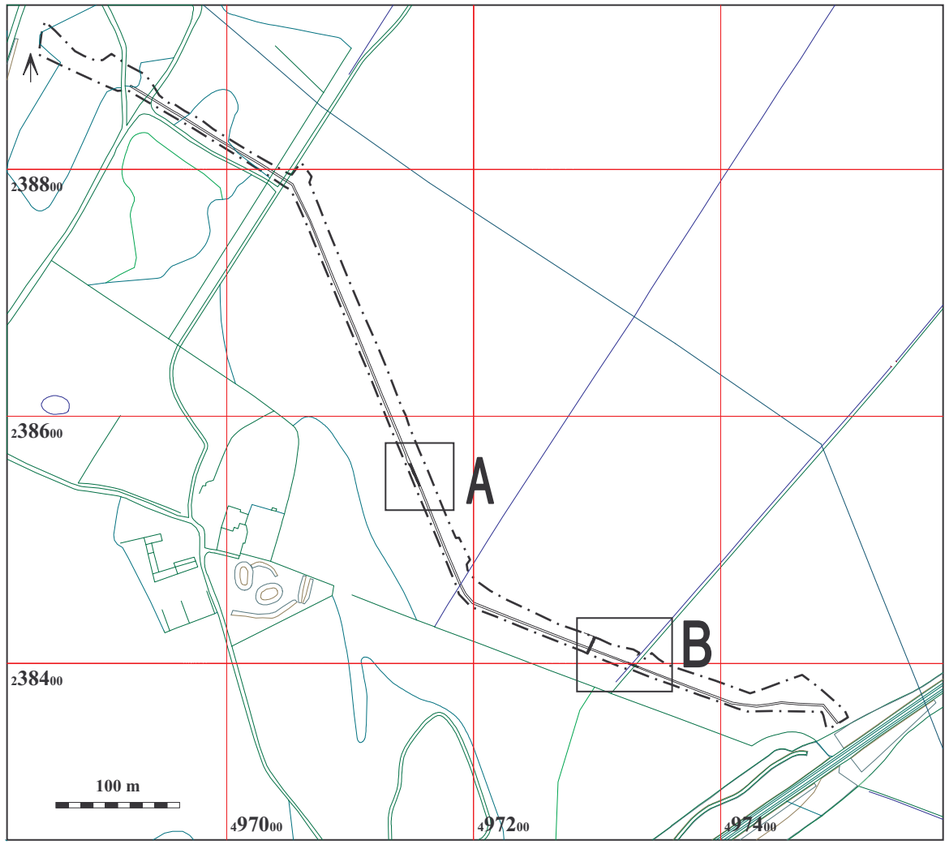
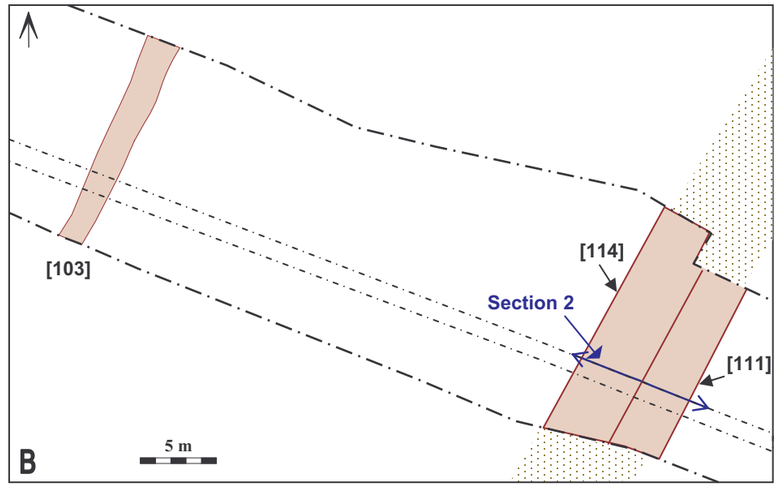


Figure 1: Site location map

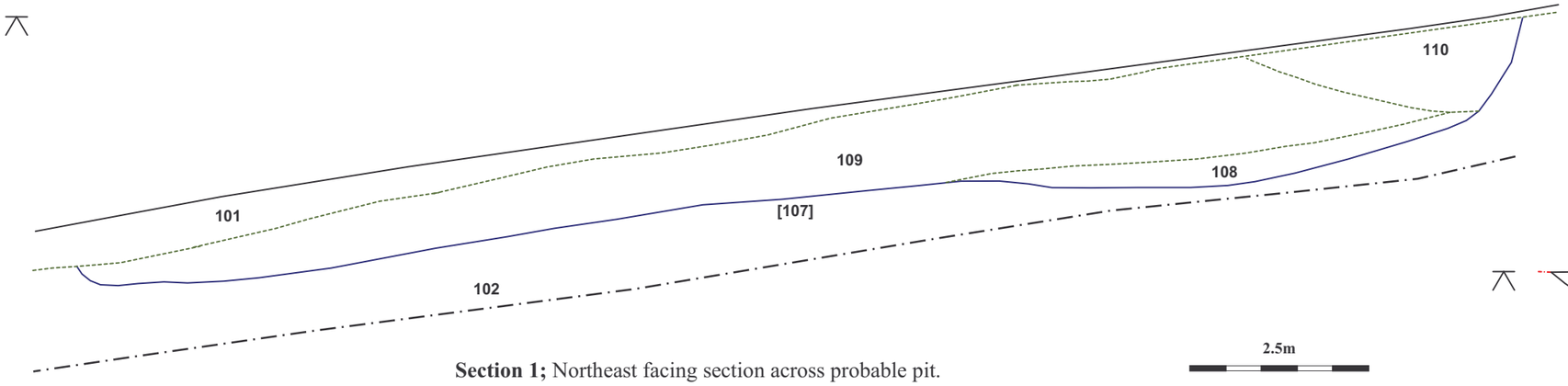






Archaeological feature

Extant boundary/hedgerow



Section 1; Northeast facing section across probable pit.

Section 2; Southwest facing section across ditches.

Figure 2: Plan and section drawings

Plate 1: Stripping of topsoil from pipeline easement

Plate 2: Excavation of pipe trench

Plate 3: Section showing extant field boundary [114] and earlier ditch [111]. Scale 1m.

Plate 4: Section showing east end of large pit [107]. Scale 1m.