



# Northamptonshire Archaeology

An archaeological watching brief at  
Burghley Park, Stamford, Peterborough  
October 2012



## Northamptonshire Archaeology

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Northamptonshire  
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Report 12/203

December 2012



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**QUALITY CONTROL**

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**OASIS REPORT FORM No. 139106**

<b>PROJECT DETAILS</b>		
Project title	An archaeological watching brief at Burghley Park, Stamford, Peterborough, October 2012	
Short description	An archaeological watching brief was carried out by Northamptonshire Archaeology during the laying of a new water pipe across the north-east part of Burghley Park, Stamford, Peterborough. The work observed the strip of topsoil and then the following deep excavation of the pipe trench between chainages 0-400m. No archaeological features or deposits were encountered.	
Project type	Archaeological watching brief	
Site Status	None	
Previous work	None	
Current land use	Grass parkland	
Future work	None	
Monument type and period	None	
Significant finds	None	
<b>PROJECT LOCATION</b>		
County	Peterborough	
Site address	Burghley Park, Stamford, Peterborough	
Post code	None	
OS co-ordinates	TF 0340 0650	
Area (sq m/ha)	400m long pipe trench	
Height	c35-36m above Ordnance Datum	
<b>PROJECT CREATORS</b>		
Organisation	Northamptonshire Archaeology	
Project brief originator	Rebecca Casa-Hatton, Peterborough City Council	
Project Design originator	Jim Brown, Northamptonshire Archaeology	
Director/Supervisor	Laszlo Lichtenstein, Northamptonshire Archaeology	
Project Manager	Jim Brown, Northamptonshire Archaeology	
Sponsor or funding body	Anglian Water Services	
<b>PROJECT DATE</b>		
Start date	22/10/12	
End date	25/10/12	
<b>ARCHIVES</b>	<b>Location (Accession no.)</b>	<b>Contents</b>
Physical	Peterborough Museum	No finds
Paper		Watching brief record sheets, engineering plan, photographic register and background notes
Digital		Client PDF and digital photographs
<b>BIBLIOGRAPHY</b>		
Journal/monograph, published or forthcoming, or unpublished client report (NA report)		
Title	An archaeological watching brief at Burghley Park, Stamford, Peterborough, October 2012	
Serial title & volume	12/203	
Author(s)	Jim Brown	
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**AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF AT  
BURGHLEY PARK, STAMFORD, PETERBOROUGH  
OCTOBER 2012**

*Abstract*

*An archaeological watching brief was carried out by Northamptonshire Archaeology during the laying of a new water pipe across the north-east part of Burghley Park, Stamford, Peterborough. The work observed the strip of topsoil and then the following deep excavation of the pipe trench between chainages 0-400m. No archaeological features or deposits were encountered.*

## **1 INTRODUCTION**

An archaeological watching brief was carried out by Northamptonshire Archaeology during the laying of a new water pipe across the north-east part of Burghley Park, Stamford, Peterborough for Anglian Water Services Ltd during work conducted by Balfour Beatty (NGR: TF 0340 0650; Fig 1). The engineering work was monitored along a 400m stretch of opencast excavation owing to the solid nature of the local bedrock. The remainder of the pipeline was laid using directional drilling techniques. The archaeological watching brief followed a method statement produced by Northamptonshire Archaeology (Brown 2010), which was approved by the Peterborough City Council Archaeologist prior to the commencement of the work.

Northamptonshire Archaeology is an Institute for Archaeologists (IfA) Registered Organisation. All work was undertaken in accordance with current best archaeological practice as defined in the Institute for Archaeologists *Code of Conduct* (IfA 2010), *Standard and Guidance for an archaeological watching brief* (IfA 2008a), and the procedural documents of English Heritage (EH 1997; 2002; 2006).

## **2 BACKGROUND**

### **2.1 Archaeological background**

The Domesday village of Burghley was abandoned by 1450, it is thought that the failure to locate it by archaeological methods is due to Burghley House being built over the site. The house was built between 1558 and 1587 for Sir William Cecil, later 1st Baron Burghley, who was Lord High Treasurer to Queen Elizabeth I, and modeled on the privy lodgings of Richmond Palace. The house is one of the main examples of stonemasonry and proportion in 16th-century English Elizabethan architecture, reflecting the prominence of its founder and wealth from the agricultural wool trade.

The open loggias around the ground floor were enclosed in the 17th century. The house was built with three wings but is now missing its north-west wing. The south front was raised to alter the roof line, and the north-west wing was demolished to allow better views of the new parkland during the period of the 9th earl.

The avenues and lake were created in 1775–80 by the famous park designer of the age, Lancelot Brown. He discovered a seam of waterproof clay on the grounds, and was able to enlarge the original 9-acre pond to the existing 26-acre lake. Brown also designed the Lion Bridge.

There are eight entries listed in the Peterborough Historic Environment Record within 500m of the pipeline (Fig 1). These are listed in Table 1.

*Table 1: Historic Environment Record data*

Period	Description	HER ref.	Sources
medieval	cross	11	OS 1:10000 1977; DOE (HHR) Barnack RD, Oct 1951 5; Blore, T, <i>A Guide to Burghley House</i> , 1815; DOE List, Peterborough, 29, 24/2/1982
medieval	ridge & furrow	50004	Nene Valley Research Committee SMR 1904
medieval	ridge & furrow	50007	Nene Valley Research Committee SMR 1895
medieval	earthworks	9879	NMR APs, TF0305/1, 2
medieval	earthworks	9881	NMR APs, TF0406/8, 10, 11, 15
post-medieval	enclosure	50005	Nene Valley Research Committee SMR 1903
post-medieval	lodge	50006	Nene Valley Research Committee SMR 1900-1
post-medieval	earthwork	50008	Nene Valley Research Committee SMR 1902

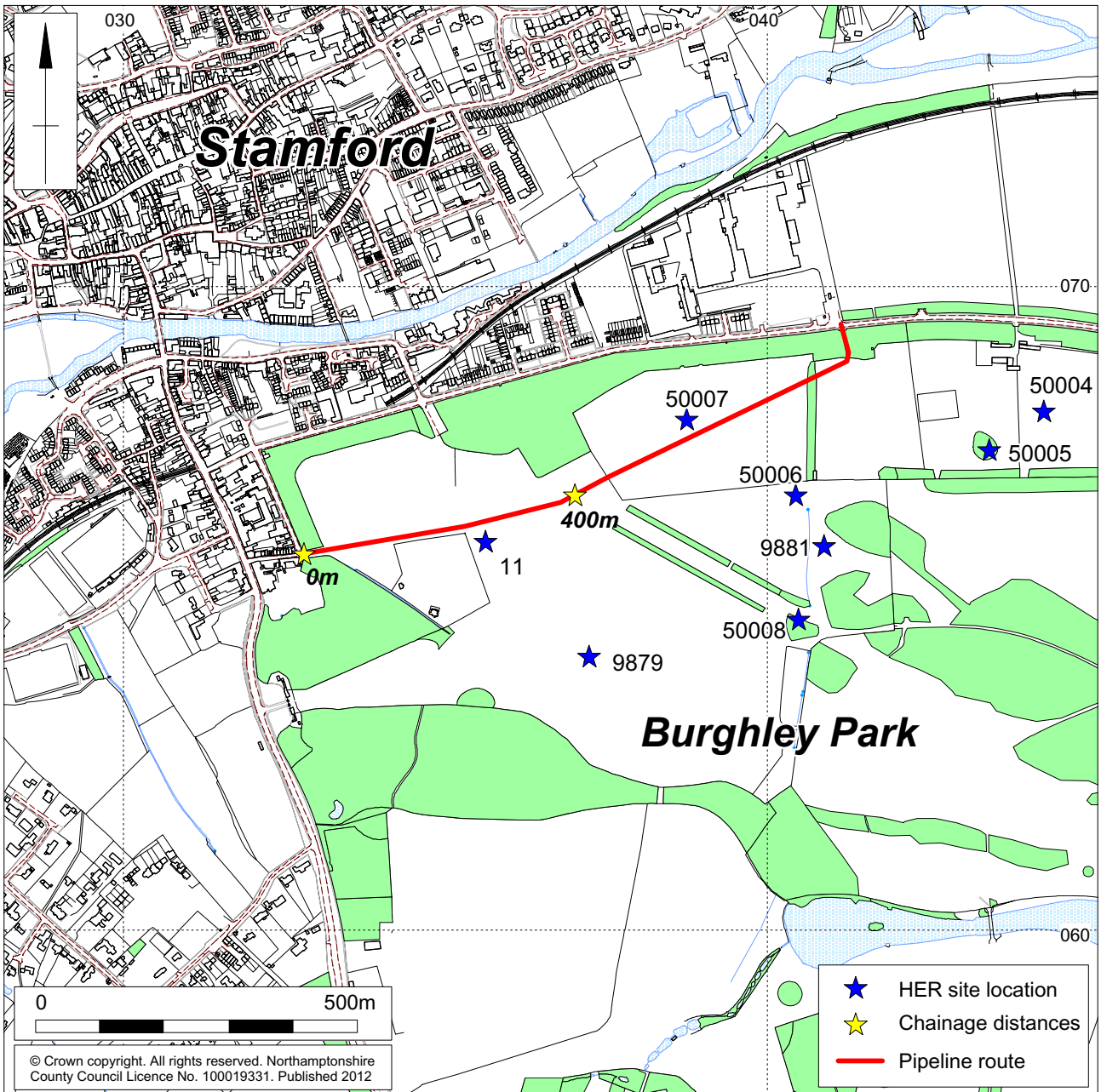
A nearby standing monument has a square base with defaced carved angles and about three feet of the shaft of a possible medieval cross (HER11). The octagonal shaft is tapered to a point. It is thought that there were once several together marking the site of a beacon.

Parts of the former open field cultivation belonging to the lost medieval village of Burghley are evident as ridge and furrow on a north to south alignment (HER50004/7). The latter of these is defined to the south by a hollow-way possibly leading to the old lodges of Burghley House and to the north by a ditch. Further cultivation earthworks are also visible on aerial photographs stored in the National monument Record at Swindon (HER9879; 9881). There is an area of ridge and furrow surrounding a circular earthwork, which may denote an enclosure, and indications of a possible headland.

Elements of the former deer park and its developments are in clear evidence. A ditched enclosure, rectangular in plan with rounded corners and slightly bowed sides lies at the edges of a copse (HER50005). A possible park pale is denoted by earthworks where they are interrupted by a hollow-way and the site of the old lodges of Burghley House (HER50008). The hollow-way lies east-west. There are two rectangular banked enclosures straddling the line of the hollow-way and lying against the east edge of the park pale (HER50006).

## 2.2 Topography and geology

The site is open grassland within the bounds of Burghley Park, which is used as grazing for sheep (Fig 1). The ground is roughly level at 35-36m above Ordnance Datum, there is a slight downward incline towards the north which is the natural topographic slope towards the River Welland. The underlying geology is Inferior Oolitic Limestone (BGS 2001). The soil belongs to the Sherborne soil association comprising shallow well drained calcareous coarse loamy and sandy soils over Jurassic limestone and clay (LAT 1983).



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Scale 1:10,000

Site location Fig 1

### **3 FIELDWORK STRATEGY**

#### **3.1 Objectives**

The main aim of the investigation was to determine if archaeological features or deposits were present, and to record these if they were encountered by the pipeline.

If remains were present, then the specific objectives of the project was to determine the location, nature and date of any archaeological features or deposits encountered. The work would then interpret this evidence within its local, regional and national contexts, advised by the research aims laid out in the regional research frameworks for the eastern counties (Glazebrook 1997; Brown and Glazebrook 2000; Medleycott and Brown 2008; Medleycott 2011) and the English Heritage research agenda (EH 1997).

#### **3.2 Methodology**

Archaeological attendance, observation, investigation and recording was conducted during the mechanical excavation of the topsoil strip and pipe trench (Figs 2-3). No subsoil was present. The topsoil strip took place using a mechanical excavator, fitted with a toothless ditching bucket, to reveal the natural substrate. The pipe trench was cut using a trenching machine and the spoil was examined for finds and scanned by metal detector.

The site location, area and extent was recorded in relation to the Ordnance Survey using engineering plans and fixed boundaries. Spot heights were taken from the engineering survey and recorded in relation to Ordnance Datum.

Digital photographs form the basis of the photographic record accompanied by *pro forma* watching brief record sheets that contain notes and observations recorded during attendance (NA 2011). All photographs and paper archive records have been compiled in accordance with recognised museum practise (Walker 1990, IfA 2008b) and the requirements of Peterborough Museum (PM 1998).

### **4 THE WATCHING BRIEF**

The pipe trench was 400m long, and 0.5m wide by 1.0m deep. The route was roughly straight and aligned south-west to north-east across Burghley Park. The natural substrate comprised a high density of fragmented Oolitic Limestone which is the weathered surface of the underlying bedrock, punctuated by occasional outcrops and overlain by patches of sand. This can be seen in the up-cast material (Figs 4-5).

There were no indications of features cut into the limestone at any point along the pipe trench. Subsoil was absent throughout its route and the topsoil formed 250-300mm thick layer that comprised light greyish-brown sandy loam. Apart from the presence of roots from parkland trees and shrubs there seemed to be little evidence for disturbance of the soil horizon since it became parkland. No finds were made with the metal detector.





Topsoil strip along the pipe trench, looking north Fig 2



Section of the fully excavated pipe trench, looking north Fig 3



Pipe trench excavation, looking south-west Fig 4



Route of the pipe trench, looking south-west Fig 5

## 5 SUMMARY

No features or deposits of antiquity were present and there was no evidence of modern disturbance. The land is likely to have been grassland since the park was created and there is no suggestion within this small intervention for archaeological remains of any period.

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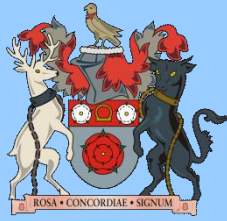
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