



# Northamptonshire Archaeology

An archaeological watching brief on land  
at West Common, Carholme Road  
Lincoln  
March 2011



## Northamptonshire Archaeology

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Northamptonshire  
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Report 11/100

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### QUALITY CONTROL

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Checked by	Charlotte Walker		
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**OAS/S REPORT FORM**

<b>PROJECT DETAILS</b>		
Project name	An archaeological watching brief on land at West Common, Carholme Road, Lincoln	
Short description	An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Northamptonshire Archaeology on behalf of Anglian Water Services during groundworks connected with the installation of a new water pipeline on land at West Common, Carholme Road, Lincoln. Minimal modern disturbance was noted at the southern terminus of the pipeline, with undisturbed soils present throughout the remainder. No archaeological deposits or artefacts were present.	
Project type	Watching Brief	
Site status	None	
Previous work	None	
Current Land use	Common land	
Future work	Unknown	
Monument type/ period	None	
Significant finds	None	
<b>PROJECT LOCATION</b>		
County	Lincolnshire	
Site address	West Common, Carholme Road, Lincoln	
Study area (sq metres)	427m	
OS Easting & Northing	SK 96396 72528	
Height OD	9-20m	
<b>PROJECT CREATORS</b>		
Organisation	Northamptonshire Archaeology (NA)	
Project brief originator	The Planning Archaeologist, Lincolnshire County Council	
Project Design originator	David J Leigh, NA	
Director/Supervisor	David J Leigh	
Project Manager	Simon Carlyle, NA	
Sponsor or funding body	Anglian Water Services	
<b>PROJECT DATE</b>		
Start date	March 2011	
End date	March 2011	
<b>ARCHIVES</b>	<b>Location (Accession no.)</b>	<b>Content (eg pottery, animal bone etc)</b>
Physical		
Paper	The Collection, Lincoln Accession No: LCNCC: 2011.41	Watching brief forms (4) Colour slides (8) black and white contact prints (8) Digital photographs (37)
Digital	As above	Report text and figures

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**AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF ON LAND AT  
WEST COMMON, CARHOLME ROAD  
LINCOLN  
MARCH 2011**

**Abstract**

*An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Northamptonshire Archaeology on behalf of Anglian Water Services during the installation of a new water pipeline on land at West Common, Carholme Road, Lincoln. Minimal modern disturbance was noted at the southern terminus of the pipeline, with undisturbed soils present throughout the remainder. No archaeological deposits or artefacts were present.*

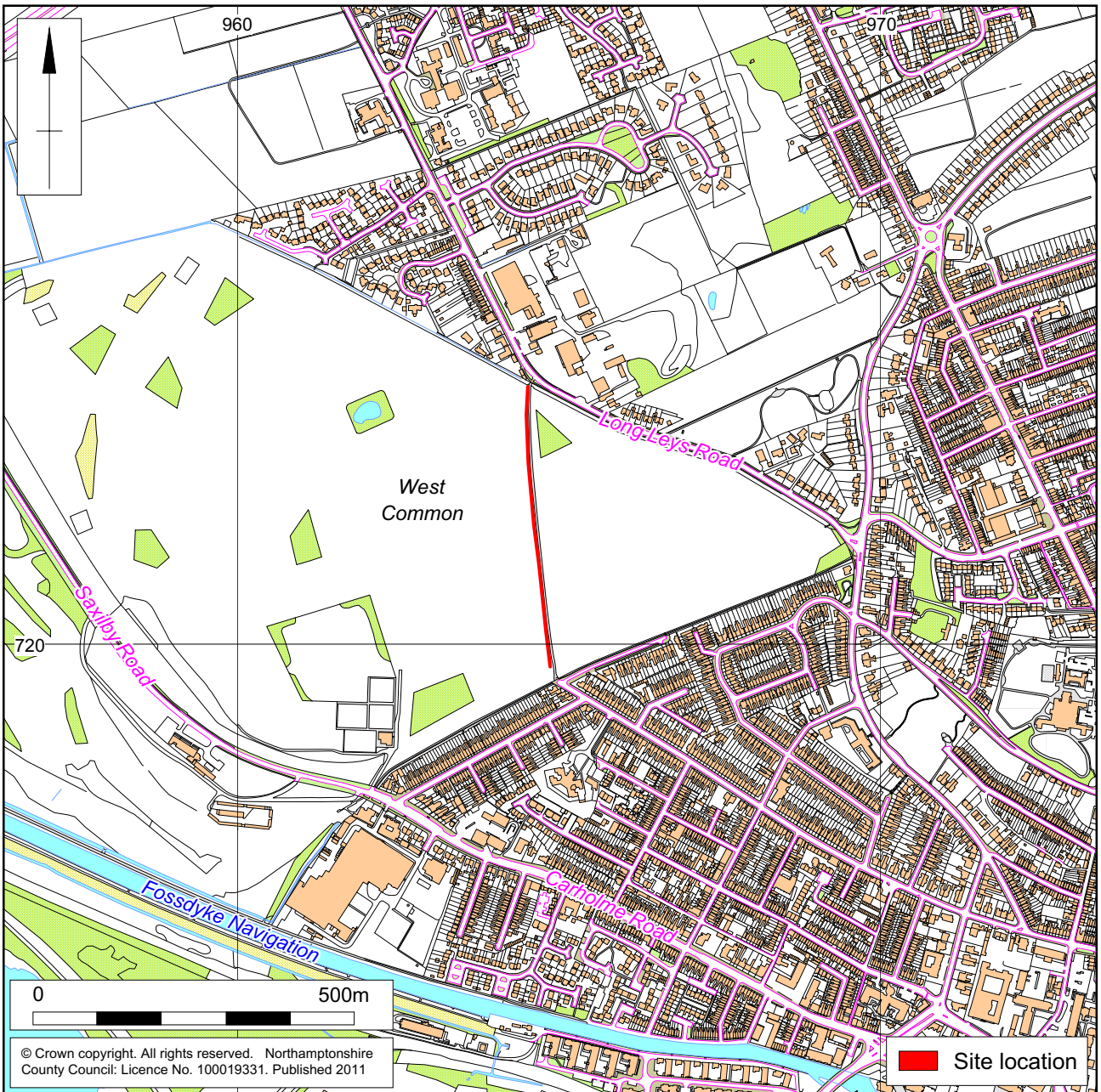
**1 INTRODUCTION**

In March 2011, an archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Northamptonshire Archaeology during groundworks for the installation of a new water pipeline on land at West Common, Carholme Road, Lincoln (NGR: SK 96396 72528; Figs 1 to 3). The work was carried out on behalf of Anglian Water Services and followed a specification produced by Northamptonshire Archaeology (Leigh 2011) and approved by the Planning Archaeologist, Lincolnshire County Council on 11 March 2011. It adhered to the requirements and guidelines as set out in the Archaeological Handbook, Lincolnshire County Council (accessed 8th March 2011) and complies with the English Heritage procedural document *Management of Archaeological Projects 2* (EH 1991) and relevant sections of *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment* (EH 2006).

**2 BACKGROUND**

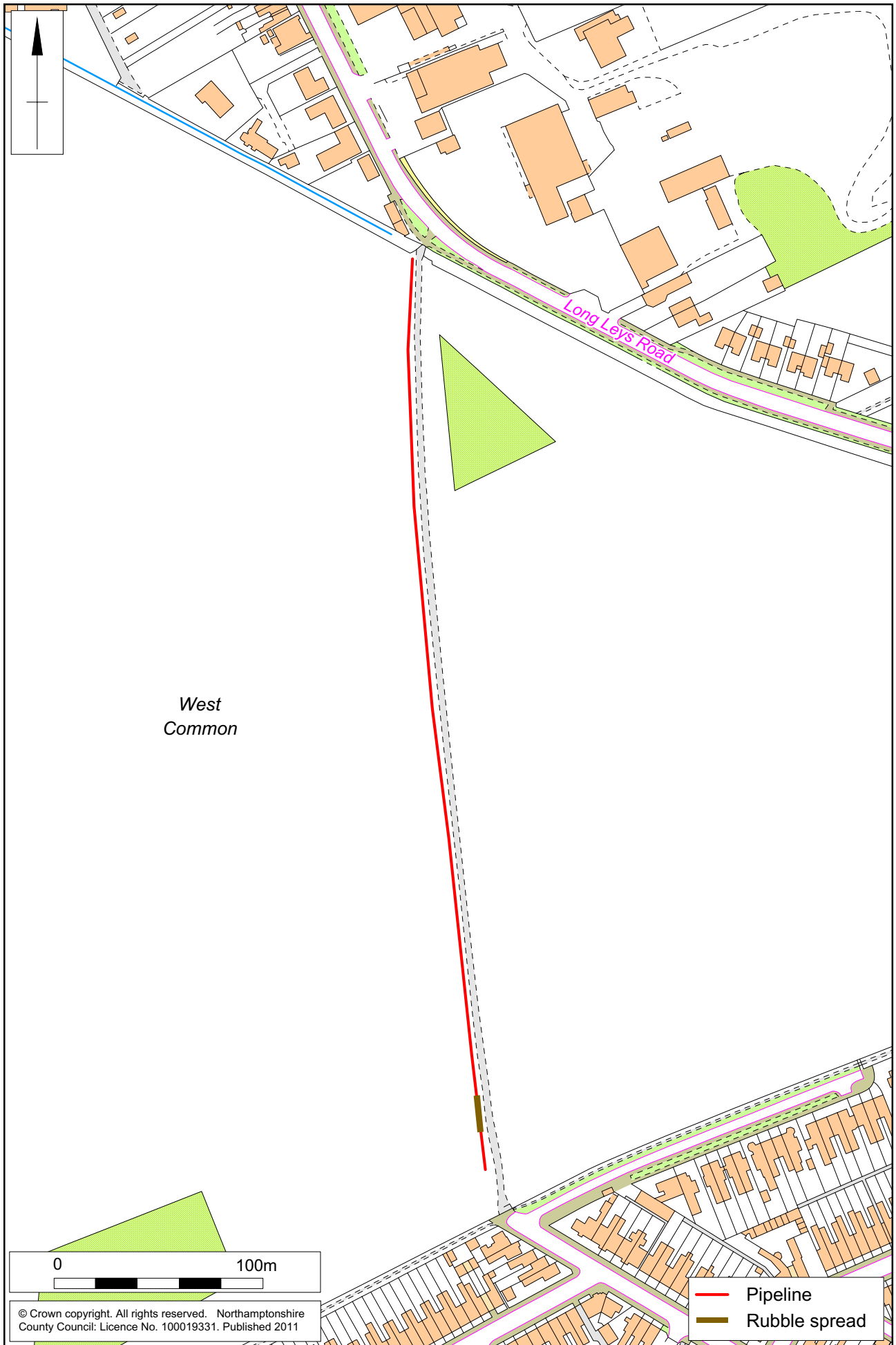
**2.1 Location and topography**

The development is located on common land at West Common, Carholme Road, Lincoln. The underlying geology has been mapped as Lincolnshire Limestone (<http://www.bgs.ac.uk/geoindex/home.html>).



Scale 1:10,000

Site location Fig 1



The Lincolnshire Historic Environment Record (LHER) was consulted so that the archaeological potential of the development area and its environs could be identified. A number of sites of archaeological interest have been recorded within the area of West Common. These include the earthwork remains of ridge and furrow believed to be of post-medieval origin and the site of a refuse dump of Victorian date. A number of cropmarks believed to be connected with World War II aircraft obstruction structures, along with an aircraft hanger and searchlight battery are recorded. A 20th-century quarry is also listed as being located on the common. No previous archaeological work is recorded as having been carried out in the immediate area of the new water pipeline.



The pipeline route prior to the start of groundworks, looking north-west Fig 3



### 3 OBJECTIVES AND METHODOLOGY

The aims of the watching brief were to:

- ◆ Observe the groundworks connected with the installation of the new water pipeline and to record all archaeological deposits uncovered
- ◆ Determine the date, character, state of preservation and depth of any archaeological deposits observed and to retrieve all datable artefacts
- ◆ Create a permanent archive and record of the archaeological information collected during the course of the fieldwork and analysis.

The fieldwork comprised three visits to the site during the excavation of the water pipeline trench. The trench was 0.20m wide with a maximum depth of 0.90m below present ground surface. The groundworks were carried out using a 360° mini-excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket (Fig 4).

A photographic record in both black and white negative and colour slide was kept, with supplementary photographs in digital format. The written record used NA *pro-forma* sheets. The watching brief was carried out in accordance with the Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and guidance for archaeological watching briefs* (IfA 2008).



The groundworks in progress, looking south Fig 4

#### 4 THE RECORDED EVIDENCE

The stratigraphic sequence comprised a natural substratum of compact mid greyish-brown clay which was encountered approximately 0.80m below present ground level. This was overlain by mid brown silt loam, up to 0.65m thick, containing occasional irregular stones. This was sealed by grey-black silt loam topsoil, up to 0.15m thick, containing numerous irregular stones and a high content of organic matter.

Towards the southern terminus of the pipeline route a spread of fragmented sandstone was noted lying within the topsoil (Fig 2). This extended for approximately 2m and comprised rough un-worked fragments of limestone and occasional small fragments of modern ceramic building material. No archaeological deposits or artefacts were present.



The stratigraphic sequence Fig 5

## 5 THE SITE ARCHIVE

The project has generated a small archive which has been assigned the Accession No: LCNCC:2011:41 and comprises:

Record	Number
Watching brief forms	4
Colour slides	8
Black and white contacts and negatives	8
Digital photographs	37

## 6 CONCLUSIONS

Undisturbed soils were recorded along the length of the new pipeline with minimal modern disturbance, comprising a hardcore spread noted towards the southern terminus. The proximity and nature of this spread to one of the entrances onto the common would indicate that this was laid down relatively recently to facilitate vehicle access across an area of soft ground.

No archaeological deposits or artefacts were present within the area of investigation. The watching brief was undertaken in favourable circumstances and the results are considered to be reliable.

## BIBLIOGRAPHY

BGS 2009 <http://www.bgs.ac.uk/geoindex/home.html> British Geological Survey website, accessed 18/4/11

EH 1991 *Management of Archaeological Projects 2* English Heritage Procedural Document

EH 2006 *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)*, English Heritage Procedural Document

IfA 2008 *Standard and guidance for archaeological watching briefs*, Institute for Archaeologists

Leigh, D J, 2010 *Specification for a Programme of Archaeological Monitoring, Investigation and Recording on Land at West Common, Carholme Road, Lincoln Northamptonshire Archaeology Project Design*



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