

Archaeological Services & Consultancy Ltd

WATCHING BRIEF: ROBERT STREET & EARL STREET WATER MAIN RENEWALS NORTHAMPTON

on behalf of Anglian Water Services Ltd.



Teresa Hawtin BA MSc PIFA

April 2006

ASC: 749/NWM/2

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Site Data

ASC project cod	e:	NWM		ASC Proj	iect No:	749	
County:		Northam	Northamptonshire				
Village/Town:		Northam	Northampton				
Civil Parish:		Northam	Northampton				
NGR (to 8 figs):		SP 7570	6089 – SP	7574 6097	- SP 7551 6109		
Present use:			Resident	ial area			
Planning proposal:			Renewal	Renewal of existing water mains			
Local Planning	4uth	ority:	Northam	Northampton Borough Council			
Date of fieldwork:		3 rd Febru	3 rd February 2006 – 26 th March 2006				
Client:			_	Anglian Water Services Ltd.			
		c/o - BS	c/o – BSP Associates Ltd.				
			George I	George House			
			George Y	George Yard			
			Stony St	Stony Stratford			
		Milton K	Milton Keynes				
			MK11 1.	MK11 1AE			
Contact name:	_		Terry Sn	Terry Smith – BSP Associates Ltd.			
Telephone	Fax:						

Internal Quality Check

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Revisions:		Date:	
Edited/Checked By:		Date:	

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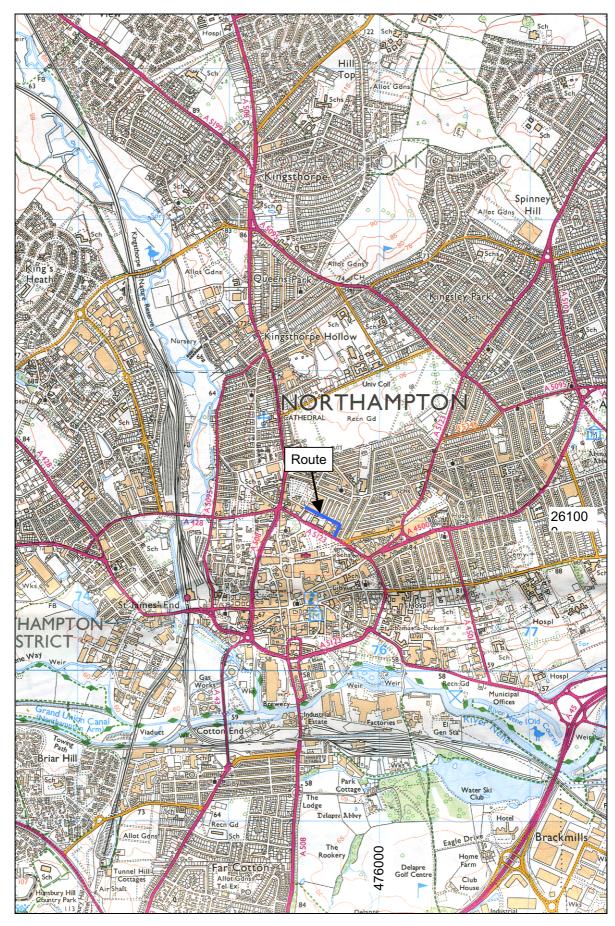


Figure 1: General location, showing pipeline route marked in blue (scale 1:25,000)

Summary

During February and March 2006 ASC Ltd. undertook an archaeological watching brief during a water mains reinforcement scheme in Robert Street and Earl Street in Northampton. The area has been heavily disturbed by earlier service trenches, which have either destroyed or heavily truncated any archaeological features or deposits that may have been present. At the junction of Earl Street with Upper Mounts several large dressed stones were identified. These appear to have been re-deposited within the backfill a service trench, but may have originally been part of a structure, possibly the medieval defences that were located in that area.

1 Introduction

1.1 In February and March 2006 Archaeological Services and Consultancy Ltd (ASC) carried out a watching brief at Robert Street and Earl Street, Northampton (NGR SP 7570 6089 – SP 7574 6097 – SP 7551 6109: Fig. 1). The project was commissioned by Anglian Water Services Ltd., and was carried out according to a project design prepared by ASC (749/NWM/1), and a brief (Flitcroft 2005) prepared on behalf of the local planning authority (LPA), Northampton Borough Council, by their archaeological advisor (AA), Northamptonshire County Council.

1.2 Planning Background

This watching brief was required under the terms of Anglian Water's statutory obligations in advance of the Robert Street and Earl Street water main renewals.

1.3 Location and Description

The route is located just to the north of the historic core of Northampton (Figures 1 & 2), between NGR SP 7570 6089, SP 7574 6097 and SP 7551 6109. The route runs NW-SE along Robert Street and turns SW along Earl Street to its junction with Upper Mounts.

1.5 Geology & Topography

The soils of the area are un-surveyed (Soil Survey, 1983, U) as the route lies in an urban area. The area lies at an elevation of c.90m AOD.

1.6 Archaeological and Historical Background

(SMR = Sites & Monuments Record)

The pipeline works affect an area at the northern edge of the core of Northampton's historic settlement (SMR 1160). The routes of several modern streets in this area reflect the line of the medieval town defences, which consisted of an earthen bank, wall and external ditch(es). These streets include Upper Mounts, Campbell Square and Campbell Street, although the town wall is thought to have been situated slightly to the north of these modern roads.

The Robert Street section of the water mains works lies outside of the medieval town, but the route crosses the line of the northern medieval town defences (SMR 1160/3) at the southern end of Earl Street. During the English Civil War the earlier medieval

defences were refurbished and a new defensive bastion, the 'East Mount' (SMR ref 1160/3/17), was constructed to project from the wall in the Earl Street area.

Although no visible remnants of the medieval defences or their seventeenth-century Civil War refurbishment survive, archaeological investigations in the vicinity have uncovered buried remains of wall footings and the associated defensive ditch. These features were recorded in small-scale excavations on the Upper Mounts / St Michael's Road junction, 60m east of Earl Street, in 1973 (Defences SMR 1160/3/35 & ~/40) and during larger-scale excavations in the Campbell Square / Bailiff Street area, 240m west of Earl Street, in 1996 (Defences SMR ref 1160/3/6). The archaeological remains of Northampton's medieval and Civil War defences are considered to be of countywide importance.

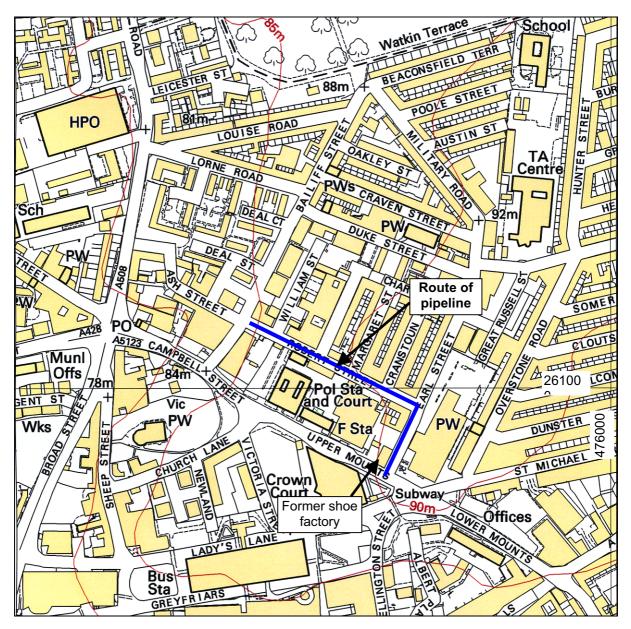


Figure 2: Site plan, showing pipeline route in blue (scale 1:5000)

2 Aims & Methods

2.1 *Aims*

As described in the brief (Section 2), the aims of the watching brief were:

- To identify, and make a basic record of, archaeological remains revealed by the works.
- To ensure the long-term survival of the information contained in such remains through archaeological recording prior to their physical destruction.
- Identification and recording of any surviving evidence for the Civil War 'East Mount' bastion and/or the earlier medieval town defences.

2.2 Standards

The work conformed to the project design, to the relevant sections of the Institute of Archaeologists' *Code of Conduct* (IFA 2000a) and *Standard & Guidance Notes* (IFA 2001), to Northamptonshire County Council Historic Environment Team's *Policy and Guidance for Archaeological Fieldwork Projects in Northamptonshire* (NCC 1995) and to the relevant sections of ASC's own *Operations Manual*.

2.3 Methods

The work was carried out according to the brief (Section 3), which required:

- A structured programme of archaeological observation, supervision and recording during excavation works for the mains reinforcement scheme.
- An archaeologist to be present during all scheme excavation works in Earl Street, and to monitor groundworks in Robert Street on an intermittent basis.
- Provision for the temporary suspension of excavation or other work if required by the archaeologist to enable the recording of identified archaeological features or remains.
- Any archaeological features revealed to be cleaned and sampled sufficiently to demonstrate their general date and character and then recorded and planned appropriately. A record to be made of the extent and depth of previous ground disturbance.
- Stratified and unstratified finds of pre-modern date to be collected and examined to provide additional information on the chronological development of the town and the trades and industries practised in the medieval and post-medieval town.

2.4 Constraints

Due to the amount of services present in Earl Street, the majority of trenches were hand dug. Because of this and the amount of disturbance from previous service trenches, it was deemed unnecessary to maintain a constant presence on site during excavation. Visits were timed to coincide with the excavation of trenches, prior to the pipes being laid.

3. Results

- 3.1 Twelve monitoring visits were made during the water main renewal works in Robert Street and Earl Street between 3^{rd} February and 26^{th} March 2006. All trenches and pits observed were excavated to a depth of c. 1.0 1.8m. They cut through the c. 5cm-thick tarmac road surfaces, which overlay a mid reddish orange sand with inclusions of modern brick rubble (Plate 1). The latter probably represents a levelling layer laid down when the roads were constructed, or the base of an earlier road surface, and was c. 0.2 0.75m thick.
- 3.2 In the pits/trenches in Robert Street a mid brownish yellow sandy clay was seen below the modern overburden (Plate 1). This is likely to be the natural stratum and reached a depth of at least 0.3m. No archaeological finds, features or deposits were identified in this area.



Plate 1: Trench section in Robert Street (1m scale).

- 3.3 At the north-eastern end of the Earl Street works, the modern overburden overlay a mid greyish brown silty clay and the trench did not reach natural strata despite its depth of c. 1.2 1.5m. Numerous service pipes were seen to cross the trench just below the level of the modern road layers.
- 3.4 As the trenching continued south-westwards along Earl Street, the natural brownish yellow sandy clay was observed below the modern road makeup, reaching a depth of at least 0.4 0.6m below this. The ground appeared to be very disturbed, largely due to the numerous service trenches already present in this area.
- 3.5 Towards the south-west of Earl Street layers of ash and brick rubble were observed below the road makeup (Plate 2), which may have been connected to the former shoe factory at the corner of Earl Street and Upper Mounts, c. 6m from this trench (shown in Fig. 2). As the trenching progressed towards Upper Mounts an increasing number of service trenches were present, which would have destroyed any archaeological features or deposits that may have been present in this area.
- 3.6 At the junction of Earl Street and Upper Mounts the modern road layers directly overlay what appeared to be the natural stratum, again consisting of a mid brownish

- yellow sandy clay. This layer reached a depth of at least 1.0m below the modern layers.
- 3.7 Within a trench situated on Upper Mounts, to the south-west of Earl Street, the modern road makeup was seen to overlie a mid brownish grey silty sand with frequent inclusions of sub-rounded pebbles, which reached a thickness of *c*. 0.4m. Towards the north-eastern end of this trench several large dressed stones were observed (Plate 3), which appeared to be within the backfill of an earlier service trench. These could have originally been part of a structure, possibly related to the medieval defences, which was disturbed by the earlier service trench and re-deposited in the backfill. Due to the limited extent of this trench, it was not possible to make a firm interpretation of this material. The neighbouring trenches failed to reveal any similar stone deposits or other archaeological features, suggesting that the stone was localised to the trench in which it was found.



Plate 2: Trench section towards SE end of Earl Street showing layers of ash and brick rubble (1m scale).



Plate 3: Trench section in Upper Mounts showing re-deposited dressed stone (1m scale).

3.8 Conclusion

- 3.8.1 No archaeological finds, features or deposits were identified during the course of this watching brief. The restricted nature of the pits and trenches excavated (pits of c. 1m x 1.5m and trenches of c. 0.5m width) limits the amount of interpretation possible, but the presence of numerous earlier service trenches and pipes suggests that any archaeological deposits that may have been present in this area will have been destroyed or heavily truncated by them.
- 3.8.2 The potential for the presence of deposits relating to the bastion was noted and the dressed stones observed in the Upper Mounts area may have been derived from this or an adjacent building. No other remains of the bastion were observed.
- 3.8.3 It is unlikely that significant archaeological remains were disturbed by the works and the archaeological impact of the scheme is considered to have been negligible.

4. Acknowledgements

ASC would like to express its thanks to Anglian Water Services Ltd. for funding this watching brief, and to Myk Flitcroft of Northamptonshire County Council for his cooperation and assistance in the execution of this project.

The fieldwork was undertaken by Alastair Hancock BSc PgDip and Elizabeth Gill BSc PgDip. This report was prepared by Teresa Hawtin BA MSc PIFA and edited by David Fell BA MA MIFA. The project was managed by Bob Zeepvat BA MIFA.

5. Archive

- 5.1 The project archive will comprise:
 - 1. Brief
 - 2. Project Design
 - 3. Report
 - 4. Clients site plans
 - 5. Site Monitoring Sheets
 - 6. List of photographs/slides
 - 7. Colour slides
 - 8. B/W prints & negatives
 - 9. CDROM with copies of all digital files.
- 5.2 The archive will be deposited with Northampton Borough Museum.

6. References

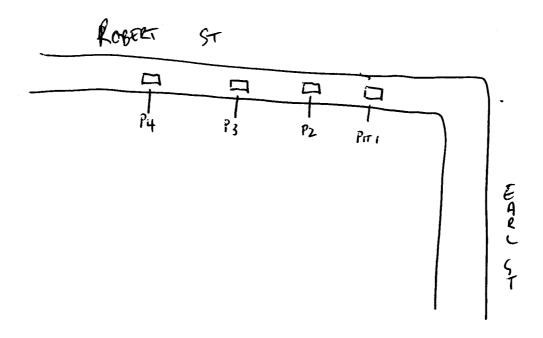
- EH 1991. The Management of Archaeological Projects, 2nd edition. English Heritage (London).
- Flitcroft, M. 2005. Brief for Archaeological Programme of works: Anglian Water Mains Reinforcement, Robert St / Earl St Northampton. Northamptonshire County Council.
- IFA 2000a. Institute of Field Archaeologists' Code of Conduct.
- IFA 2000b. Institute of Field Archaeologists' Code of Approved Practice for the Regulation of Contractual Arrangements in Field Archaeology.
- IFA 2001. Institute of Field Archaeologists' Standard & Guidance documents (Desk-Based Assessments, Watching Briefs, Evaluations, Excavations, Investigation and Recording of Standing Buildings, Finds).
- NCC 1995. Policy and Guidance for Archaeological Fieldwork Projects in Northamptonshire. Northamptonshire Heritage.
- Rouse, C. 2005. Project Design for a Watching Brief at Earl Street and Robert Street, Northampton ASC 749/NWM/1.
- Soil Survey 1983. 1:250,000 Soil Map of England and Wales, and accompanying legend (Harpenden).

Appendix 1: Monitoring Sheets

A.S.C. LTD ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD MONITORING RECORD				
Project: Project No/Code: Sheet: 749 NWN (of)				
WATER MAIN RENEWALS Date of visit: 3/2/06				
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Contact: TERRY SMITH Phone: 01908 263986				
Duration of Visit (inc. travel): Start: 1.00 Finish: 4.30				
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Development Type:				
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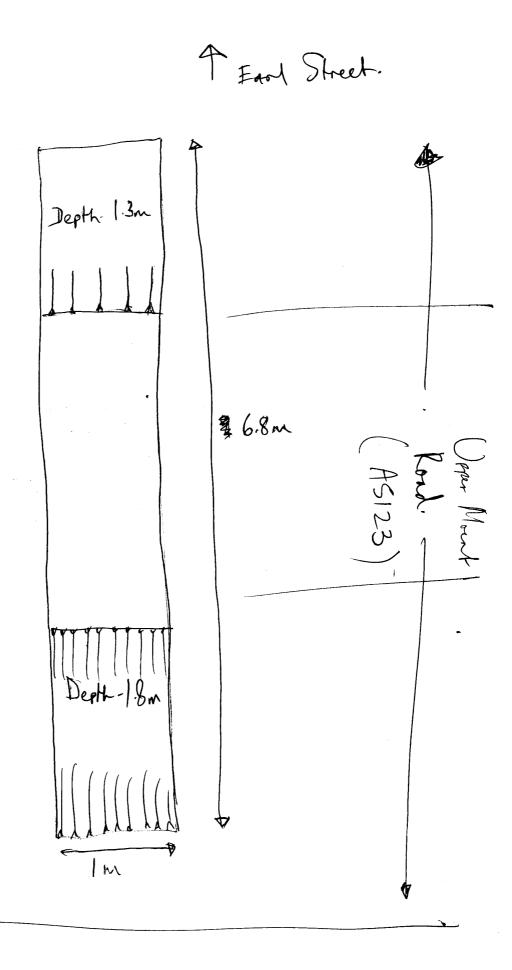




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Contact: Stee Cook Phone: 07885225207
Duration of Visit (inc. travel): Start: 5.00 Finish: 7.15
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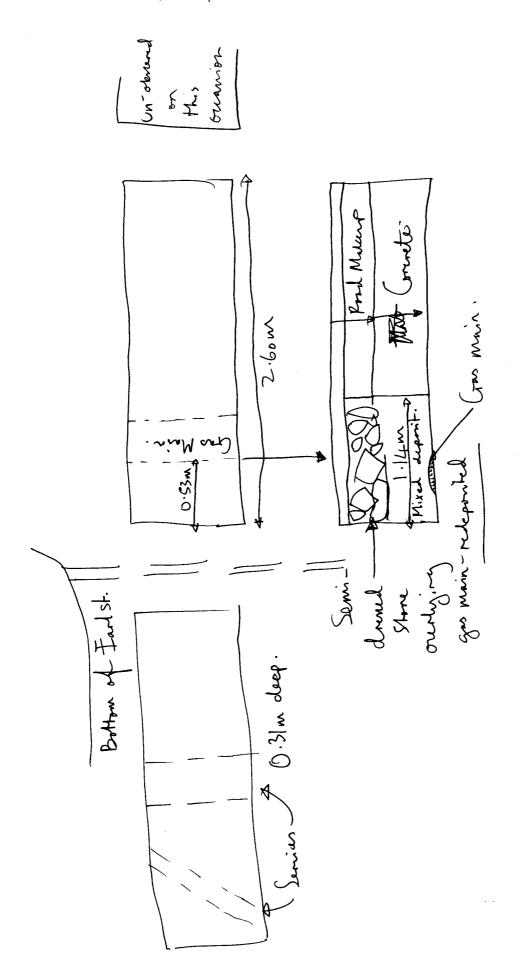
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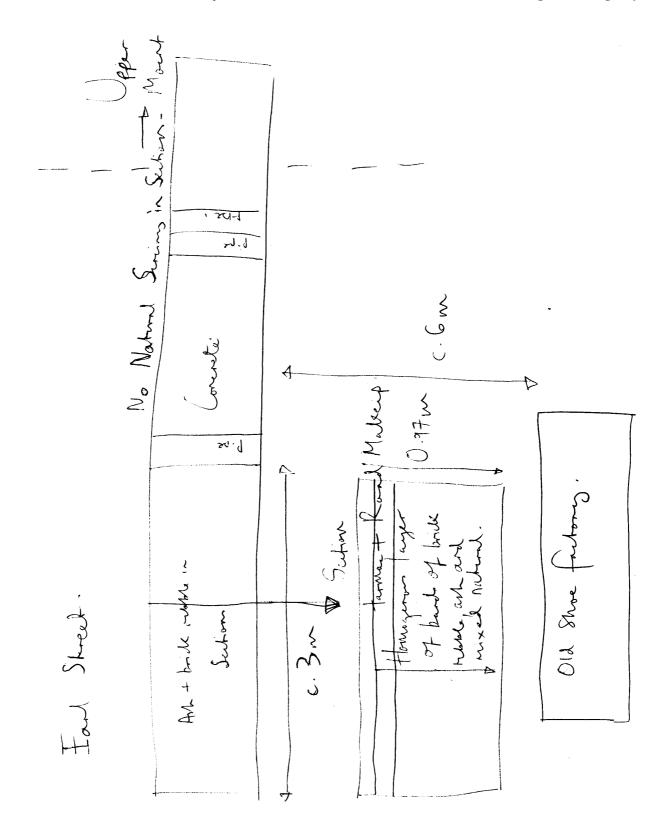
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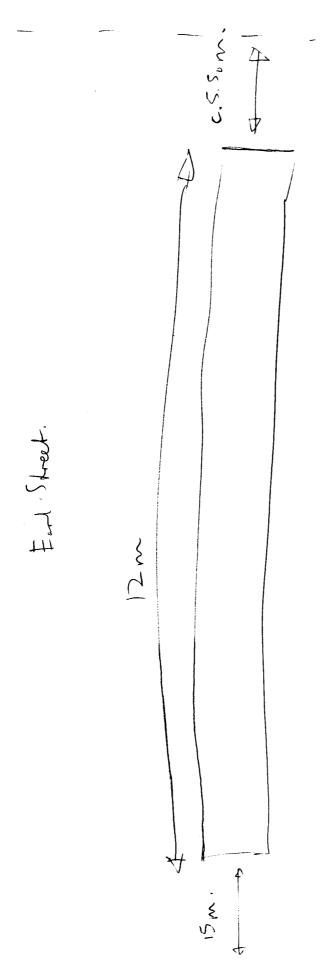
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Project: Potentst. / Earl st.	Project No	/Code:	Sheet:	of	
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Client/Developer		- \ /			
Angha Water Contact: Sean White		Phone: 07716	972	907	
Duration of Visit Start:	*	Finish:		, , ,	•
(inc. travel): 12-30 pm		<u> </u>	عمرم ه		
Completed by: LIZZIE GILL Developm	ent Type:				
		Other (spe	ecify):		
Site & weather conditions:					
Outrast + dry.		, A			
Observations:					
1.12 ms treath with distate	d str	at. Mining	, F,		
Tx 12 m trench with distace chine length. Depth of free of bluet white staze ceram at the Upper Mount and.	zh c.	1.7 m . C	ne i	hes	1
at blue tich te Mase ceram	ic Co	und at the	both	on	-
at the Upper Mount end.	N.J	large stones	obse	ned	
as how been seen in trench	es rea	rer + run	in a	won	n
Upper Mount,			<i></i>		
		<u> </u>			
				-417	
	_				
Comments: Pomiting one more Sinder	1.1	t of exce	nut	~ (>
Work Work) ~				
		-			
	,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,				
					4
		·			



A.S.C. LTD ARCHAE	OLOGIC	AL FIELD MONI	TORING RECORD	
I Project:	Project No	o/Code: _9 /NwM	Sheet:	
Robert St. / Earl St.	Date of	26th March	γ	
Client/Developer A	visit:	20 March	2006	
Analia Water				
Contact: Sean Unite		Phone:	172902	
Duration of Visit (inc. travel): Start: 13.30		Finish: 3.25pm		
Completed by: LIZZIE GILL				
Developm		N. I	-: i . A.	
Footings Services Roads Levelling Qua	arrying F	Pipelines Other (spe	ecity):	
Site & weather conditions:				
Ourist, dry				
	-			
Observations:				
Last c. 15m of pipe trer	h exc	meter to	را ا	
Section down Fart st. to				
Statisary is distribut alo	12 H	Le whole	leven of	
This section. Start. consist	-) <u>/</u>	c 0:1, m	of tarmet	
road makey with c. O. !	om o	F mixed a	- Puy 3.1125	
are present in high numb	· Je	rice trenche	th h	
are present in high runts	ens re	uning accon	1 reinerch	
at right angles. No are	aco h	ogy observ	id.	
	<u>.</u>			
•				
		12.		
Comments:				
No more execution to be	curie	1 out- pipe	line is	
finished.		•		
			•	
,				
			<u> </u>	

Appendix 2: ASC OASIS Form

		PROJE	CT DETAILS					
Project Name:	Robert Street			vals. Northamptor	 າ.			
Short Description:	Robert Street and Earl Street water main renewals, Northampton. During February & March 2006 ASC Ltd. undertook an archaeological watching brief during a water mains reinforcement scheme. The area has been heavily disturbed by earlier service trenches, which have either destroyed or heavily truncated any archaeological features or deposits that may have been present. At the junction of Earl Street with Upper Mounts several large dressed stones were identified. These appear to have been re-deposited within the backfill a service trench, but may have originally been part of a structure, possibly the medieval defences that were located in that area.							
Project Type:	DBA	FW	Geophys	Survey	Bldg Rec	Post-Exc		
(indicate all that apply)	<u>WB</u>	Strip&Rec	Trenching	Test pits	Exc	Other		
Site status: (eg. none, SAM, Listed) Current land use:	None Residential		Previous work: (eg. SMR refs)		None Unknown			
Current land use.	Nesiderillai			Future work: (yes / no / unknown)		Olikilowii		
Monument type:	None		Monument per		N/A			
Significant finds: (artefact type & period)								
PROJECT LOCATION								
County:	Northampton	shire	OS reference: (to at least 8 figures)		SP 7570 6089 – SP 7574 6097 – SP 7551 6109			
District:	Northampton		Parish:		Northampton			
Site address: (with postcode if known)	Earl Street & Robert Street, Northampton							
Study area: (sq. m. or ha)	350m (linear)		Height OD: (metres)		c. 90m AOD			
	-	PROJEC	T CREATORS		<u>'</u>			
Organisation:	Archaeologic	al Services & C	Consultancy Ltd					
Project brief originator:	Myk Flitcroft, N County Counc	lorthampton	Project design originator:		Calli Rouse BA			
Project Manager:	Bob Zeepvat B	A MIFA	Director/Supervisor:		Alastair Hancock BSc PGDip & Elizabeth Gill BSc PGDip			
Sponsor / funding body:	Anglian Water	Services Ltd.						
	<u> </u>	PROJ	ECT DATE					
Start date:	3 rd February 2	2006	End date:		26 th March 20	006		
		PROJEC	T ARCHIVES					
	Location (Ad	cession no.)	Content (eg	Content (eg. pottery, animal bone, files/sheets)				
Physical:	N/A		None					
Paper:	Northampton Museum	Borough	Brief, PD, report, clients' site plans, monitoring sheets, photo lists, photographs, slides, negatives.					
Digital:	Northampton Museum	Borough	Copies of all digital files					
	BIBLIOGRAPHY (Journal/monograph, published or forthcoming, or unpublished client report)							
Title:	Serial title & vo		Author(s):		Page nos			
Watching Brief: Robert St & Earl St Water Main Renewals, Northampton.	ASC report 74	9/NWM/2	Teresa Hawtin BA MSc PIFA					
•			Date:		April 2006			

Appendix 3: SMR Summary Sheet

SMR Record Number:	Parish:		Site Name:		
ТВА	Northampton		Robert Street & Earl Street water main renewals,		
15,7	Normaniplon		Northampton.		
Date of Fieldwork:	Grid ref:		Fieldworker:		
3 rd February - 26 th March 2006	SP 7570 6089 – SP 7574 6097 – SP 7551 6109		Alastair Hancock BSc PGDip & Elizabeth Gill BSc PGDip, ASC Ltd.		
Sponsor:	Activity:				
Anglian Water Services Ltd.	Archaeological Watching Brief				
Landowner name/address:					
Northampton Borough Council.					
Normampion Borough Council.					
Finds location:			Finds Destination:		
N/A		N/A			
Records location:		Records Destination:			
ASC Ltd, Milton Keynes.		Northampton Borough Museum			
Finds Quantity:		Records Quantity:			
None		10 monitoring sheets, client plans, brief, PD, report, photographs, slides, negatives.			
Summary of Results:					
Carrifficity of Modalio.					
During February and March 2006 ASC Ltd. undertook an archaeological watching brief during					
a water mains reinforcement scheme in Robert Street and Earl Street in Northampton. The					
area has been heavily disturbed by earlier service trenches, which have either destroyed or					
	heavily truncated any archaeological features or deposits that may have been present. At the junction of Earl Street with Upper Mounts several large dressed stones were identified. These				
junction of Earl Street with opper wounts several large dressed stones were identified. These					

appear to have been re-deposited within the backfill a service trench, but may have originally been part of a structure, possibly the medieval defences that were located in that vicinity.

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