

Archaeological Services & Consultancy Ltd

ARCHAEOLOGICAL DESK-BASED ASSESSMENT: WEEDON LOIS REINFORCEMENT MAIN NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

on behalf of Anglian Water Services Ltd



By
Karin Semmelmann MA AIFA & Teresa Hawtin MSc PIFA

August 2006

ASC: 829/WLM/1

Letchworth House
Chesney Wold, Bleak Hall,
Milton Keynes MK6 1NE
Tel: 01908 608989 Fax: 01908 605700
Email: office@archaeological-services.co.uk
Website: www.archaeological-services.co.uk



Site Data

<i>ASC project code:</i>	WLM	<i>ASC Project No:</i>	829
<i>Event No:</i>	n/a		
<i>County:</i>	Northamptonshire		
<i>Village/Town:</i>	Maidford to Adstone Lodge		
<i>Civil Parish:</i>	Maidford		
<i>NGR (to 8 figs):</i>	SP 613 522- SP 605 507		
<i>Present use:</i>	N/A		
<i>Planning proposal:</i>	Reinforcement water main		
<i>Planning application ref/date:</i>	N/A		
<i>Local Planning Authority:</i>	N/A		
<i>Date of assessment:</i>	12 th September 2006		
<i>Client:</i>	BSP Associates Ltd 45A High Street Stony Stratford Milton Keynes MK11 1AA		
<i>Contact name:</i>	Terry Smith		
<i>Telephone</i>		<i>Fax:</i>	

Internal Quality Check

<i>Primary Author:</i>	Karin Semmelmann	<i>Date:</i>	15 th Sept 2006
<i>Revisions:</i>		<i>Date:</i>	
<i>Edited/Checked By:</i>		<i>Date:</i>	

© Archaeological Services & Consultancy Ltd

No part of this document is to be copied in any way without prior written consent.

Every effort is made to provide detailed and accurate information. However, Archaeological Services & Consultancy Ltd cannot be held responsible for errors or inaccuracies within this report.

© Ordnance Survey maps reproduced with the sanction of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office.
ASC Licence No. AL 100015154

CONTENTS

Summary	4
1. Introduction	4
2. Aims & Methods	7
3. Archaeological & Historical Evidence	9
4. Walk-Over Survey	4
5. Statutory Constraints on Development	13
6. Conclusions	14
7. Acknowledgements	15
8. Sites & Monuments Data	16
9. References	16
10. Cartographic Sources	16

Figures:

1. General location	3
2. Proposed route & known archaeological sites	5

Plates:

Cover: Clearing across Adstone Brook

1. View Southeast along road at Northern end	12
2. North-eastern view of hedgerow where proposed work enters field at north-east	12
3. View south-west along track in north-eastern field	12
4. South-western view of clearing across brook	12
5. View north-east across Fully Meadow and small paddock	12
6. View west along road at southern end	12

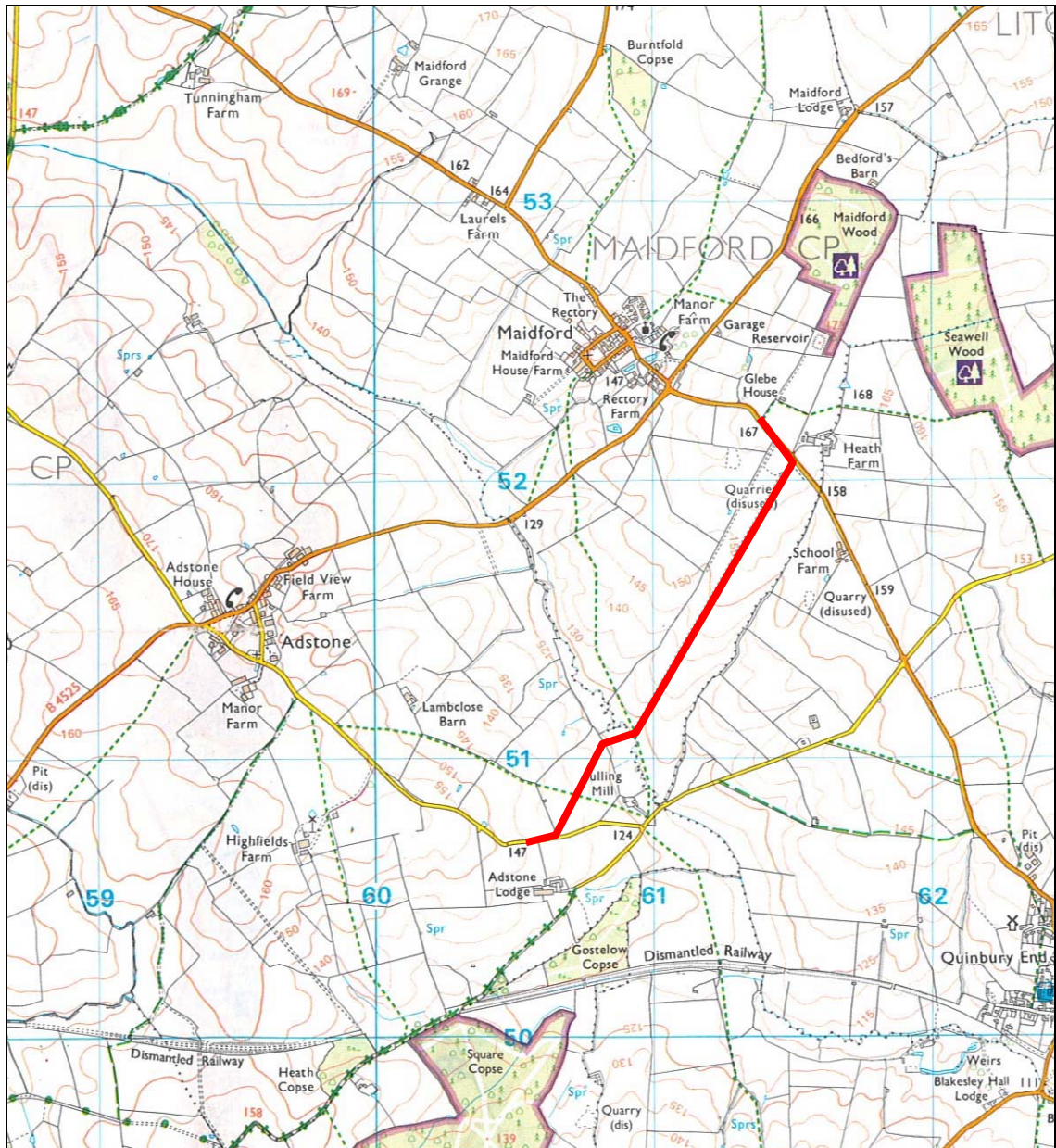


Figure 1: General location (scale 1:25,000)

Summary

In September 2006 Archaeological Services and Consultancy Ltd (ASC) carried out an archaeological desk-based assessment of a proposed pipeline route between Maidford and Adstone Lodge, Northamptonshire in order for Anglian Water Services Ltd (AWSL) to fulfil their statutory obligations.

The earliest known evidence for human activity in the Adstone and Maidford area dates from the Saxon period and both settlements are recorded in the Domesday Survey of 1086, where they are known as Atenestone or Etenestone and Merdeford respectively. The economic basis of both settlements appears to have been predominantly agricultural and the fields in Maidford were enclosed in 1778 and those in Adstone by 1780. Ridge and furrow is still in evidence to the north and southeast of the proposed pipeline route. Building stone and lime quarrying provided economic diversity for the two villages and the remains of the Maidford lime quarries lie at the northern end of the proposed route.

1 Introduction

1.1 In September 2006 *Archaeological Services and Consultancy Ltd (ASC)* carried out an archaeological desk-based assessment of a proposed pipeline route between Maidford and Adstone Lodge, Northamptonshire (NGR SP 613 522 to SP 605 507: Fig. 1). The project was commissioned by *BSP Associates Ltd* on behalf of *Anglia Water Services Ltd (AWSL)* in order to fulfil their statutory obligations.

1.2 Planning Background

This desk-based assessment has been commissioned by AWSL in line with their statutory obligations.

1.3 Location

Maidford is situated in south Northamptonshire, approximately 9.5km northwest of Towcester. The village of Adstone is located approximately 1.5km southwest of Maidford and Adstone Lodge lies approximately 1.25km south east of the centre of the village. The two village are separated by a brook known as either the Maidford or Adstone Brook (Bridges 1791: 230).

The proposed main will follow the Quinbury End Road from the track leading to the reservoir, which lies immediately to the east of Maidford. At Heath Farm it will turn southwest and run almost parallel to a track beside a disused quarry. The pipeline will then dogleg across the Maidford or Adstone Brook and the field to the southwest of it before regaining its previous orientation to join the road leading to Adstone and terminating to the north of Adstone Lodge.

1.4 Geology & Topography

The pipeline route traverses three geological areas. The soil association at the Maidford end of the route is Denchworth, which is described as *'Slowly permeable seasonally waterlogged clayey soils with similar fine loamy over clayey soils. Some fine loamy over clayey soils with only slight seasonal waterlogging and some slowly*

permeable calcareous clayey soils. Landslips and associated irregular terrain locally.’ (Soil Survey 1986). To the south of this the pipeline encounters the Banbury soil association, which is described as ‘*Well drained brashy fine and coarse loamy ferruginous soils over ironstone. Some deep fine loamy over clayey soils with permeable subsoils and slight seasonal waterlogging*’ (*ibid.*). The soil association in the area of the Maidford or Adstone Brook is Wickham 2, which is described as ‘*Slowly permeable seasonally waterlogged fine loam over clayey, fine silty over clayey and clayey soils. Small areas of slowly permeable calcareous soils on steeper slopes*’ (*ibid.*). The pipeline route terminates in the Denchworth soil association.

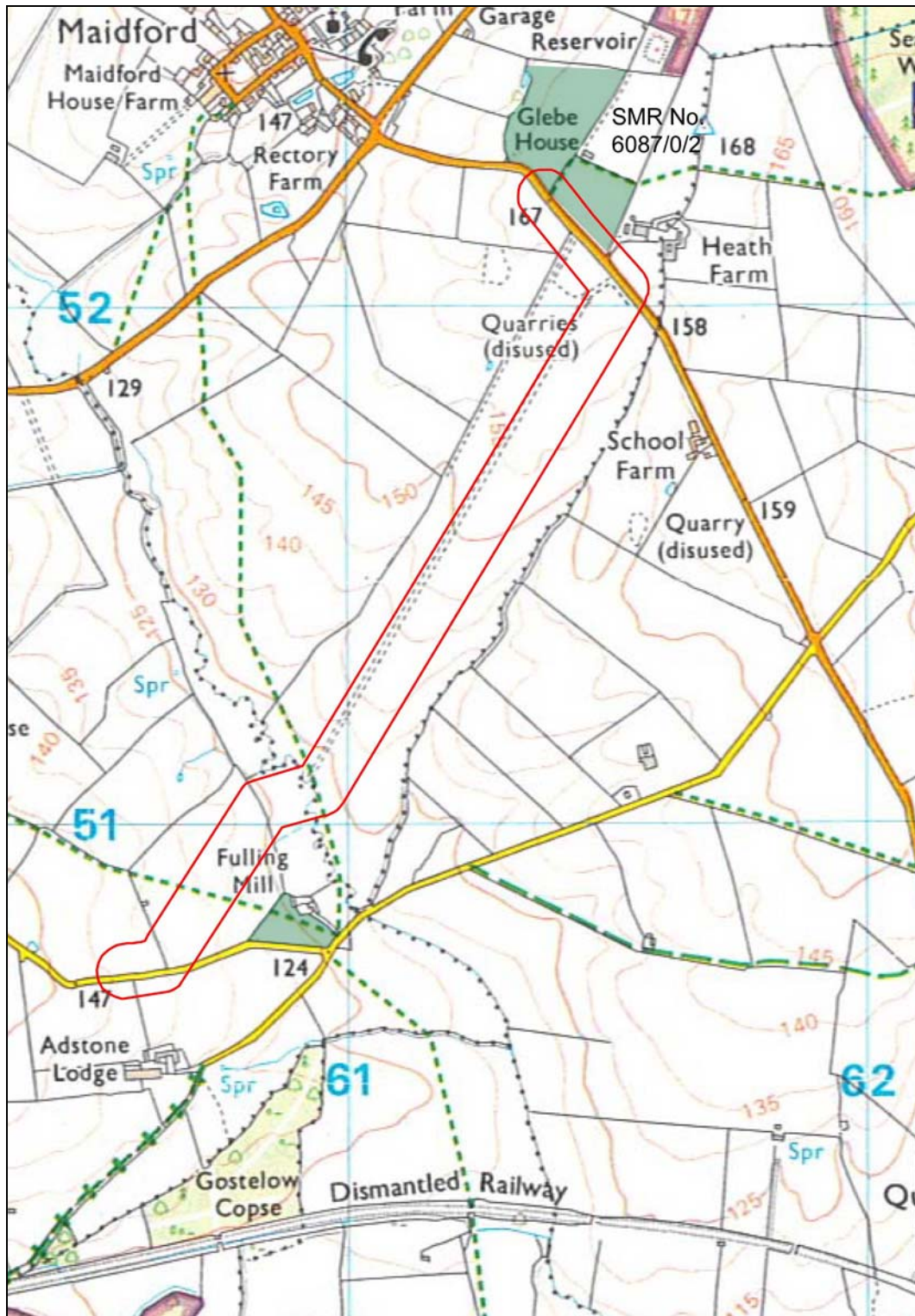


Figure 2: Proposed route & known archaeological sites (shaded green) (scale 1:1250)

2 Aims & Methods

2.1 ‘Archaeological desk-based assessment is an assessment of the known or potential archaeological resource within a given area, consisting of a collation of existing information in order to identify the likely extent, character and quality of the known or potential archaeological resource, in order that appropriate measures might be considered’ (IFA 2000).

2.2 The assessment was carried out according to the Brief, and the Institute of Field Archaeologists’ *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Desk-Based Assessments* (IFA 2001).

2.3 The following readily available sources of information were consulted for the desk-based assessment:

2.3.1 *Archaeological Databases*

Archaeological databases represent the standard references to the known archaeology of an area. The principal source consulted was the Northamptonshire Sites & Monuments (SMR), Northampton.

2.3.2 *Historic Documents*

Documentary research provides an overview of the history of a site and its environs, suggesting the effects of settlement and land-use patterns. The principal source consulted was the Northamptonshire County Records Office (CRO), Northampton.

2.3.3 *Cartographic & Pictorial Documents*

Old maps and illustrations are normally a very productive area of research. The principal source consulted was the Northamptonshire County Records Office (CRO), Northampton.

2.3.4 *Air Photographs*

Given favourable light and crop conditions, air photographs can reveal buried features in the form of crop and soil marks. They can also provide an overview of and more specific information about land use at a given time. No sources were consulted.

2.4 Walk-Over Survey

As part of the assessment a walk-over survey of the site was undertaken on 12th September 2006, with the following aims:

- To examine any areas of archaeological potential identified during research for the assessment, in particular with a view to gauging the possible survival or condition of any remains present.

- To consider the significance of any above-ground structures, historic buildings or historic landscape features present.
- To assess the present site use and ground conditions, with a view to the appropriate deployment of fieldwork techniques, if required by the AA.

3 Archaeological and Historical Evidence

- 3.1** The local and regional settings of archaeological sites are factors that are taken into consideration when assessing the planning implications of development proposals. The following sections provide a summary of the readily available archaeological and historical background to the development site and its environs.

The study area, comprising the proposed route of the pipeline, and the parishes of Adstone and Maidford, lies within an area of archaeological and historical interest, and the site has the potential to reveal evidence of a range of periods. The location of known archaeological and historical sites recorded in the SMR is shown in Fig. 2, and details appear in Section 9.

3.2 Archaeological & Historical Background to the Study Area

3.2.1 Prehistoric & Roman (before c.450)

There is no recorded evidence for the discovery of prehistoric or Roman sites or artefacts within the parishes of Maidford and Adstone. The nearest Roman town, *Lactodorum* (Towcester), lies 9km to the south-east, and the site and surrounding area do not appear to have been developed for agriculture, as the neighbouring parishes are equally devoid of recorded finds.

3.2.2 Saxon (c.450-1066)

The earliest known evidence for human activity in the Adstone and Maidford area dates from the Saxon period. Both settlements are recorded in the Domesday Survey of 1086, where they are known as *Atenestone* or *Etenestone* and *Merdeford* respectively. Maidford is recorded as having been held by Willa before the Norman Conquest and in 1086 Hugh held 2 hides and one fifth of a hide in Maidford of Hugh de Grandesmil. Leofwine the priest is recorded as holding 1 virgate of land in Adstone worth 6s from King William. A further one and one fifth of a virgate was held by Alvred (Williams & Martin 1992, 602, 604, 607).

3.2.3 Medieval (1066-1500)

Maidford had a population of 18 including a priest in 1086. By 1301 there were 32 individuals paying the Lay Subsidy and 63 people paid the Poll Tax in 1377, the highest figure in pre-modern times. There are still some medieval settlement remains in and around the village at c.150m AOD. Five fishponds survive within the village itself, a mound, possibly for a windmill lies in the north of the parish and a windmill is located to the southwest of the village (RCHME 1982, 97).

Medieval settlement remains are also present in and around Adstone between 150 and 170m AOD. There is an area of earthworks to the southwest of the village that has been truncated by later quarrying. Further earthworks to the north and east of the village have suffered the same fate (RCHME 1982, 5). Medieval ridge and furrows survive in a number of fields around both villages. Indeed, the only entry in the Northamptonshire SMR for the immediate area

around the proposed pipeline route is for surviving ridge and furrow at the northern end of the route.

Adstone was part of the royal manor of Norton at the time of the Norman Conquest and by early subinfeudation was annexed to the honour of Leicester and Winchester (Baker 1836, 17-18). Ashby Priory and the Priory of Bec in Normandy also held land in Adstone, the latter losing its lands in favour of Eton College when the foreign priories were suppressed in the 15th century (Baker 1836, 18).

3.2.4 *Post-Medieval (1500-1900)*

The fields in Maidford were enclosed in 1778 and those in Adstone by 1780. There are no enclosure maps for either village.

A fulling mill is recorded in Maidford by Bridges (1791) and Baker mentions two lime quarries which were worked for lime burning in 1836. The remains of these quarries lie to the west of the proposed pipeline route. The population of Maidford rose from 228 in 1801 to 373 in 1831.

It is unclear whether the ruined fulling mill mentioned as being in Adstone by Baker (1836, 17) is the same one as that reported as being in Maidford by Bridges some years before. The field to the south of the brook through which the pipeline is due to go was named Fully Field in a 1930 study of local field names (Adstone Field Name Map 1932). Quarrying also took place in Adstone, but in this case it was building stone rather than lime quarrying (Bridges 1791, 230).

Adstone appears to have always been the smaller of the two villages, having a maximum pre-modern population size of 185 in 1811 (Baker 1836, 19).

3.3 *The Known Archaeology & History of the Site*

The remains of medieval ridge and furrow cultivation are located in the fields at the northern end of the pipeline and towards the southern end around the fulling mill. In addition, there is a disused quarry at the northern end of the pipeline (Fig. 2).

4 Walk-Over Survey

4.1 *Extent, Access & Present Use*

The northern end of the proposed pipeline runs for *c.*215m along a narrow tarmac road with grass verges and hedgerows, including well-established trees, on both sides (Plate 1). The route crosses the entrance to Blakesley Heath Farm and Glebe Stables before turning southwest, through one of the hedgerows (Plate 2), into a grass pasture field used for grazing sheep. This field can be accessed via a gateway onto a dirt track to the northwest of the former quarry, which is now a wooded area. This track appears suitable for vehicles, unlike the smaller, parallel track adjacent to the proposed pipeline route.

The proposed pipeline traverses this gently sloping pasture field in a southwesterly direction for *c.*1.1km, running parallel to the smaller track (Plate 3). Towards the southern end of the field a pylon carrying electricity cables is located *c.*5m southeast of the track. These cables cross the proposed route of the pipeline.

At the southwestern end of the field the route crosses a brook. This is surrounded by trees, with a small clearing bounded on the opposite bank by a barbed wire fence (Plate 4). The ground on the north-east bank is slightly boggy in places and it was not possible to cross the brook on foot.

Immediately to the southwest of the brook is a small paddock with rough pasture, again utilised for grazing sheep. This paddock is bounded by a barbed wire fence with no visible access apart from via the Fulling Mill farm.

The proposed route of the pipeline then continues south west for *c.*340m across a field known as Fully Meadow (Plate 5), which is also pasture for grazing sheep. This field is more undulating and there is some suggestion of former ridge and furrow cultivation. Towards the southern corner of this field overhead cables cross the route of the pipeline. Access to Fully Meadow from the road to the south is through two metal gates (*c.*3m wide), via the field to the west.

The southern end of the proposed pipeline runs approximately 70m along a narrow tarmac road, again with grass verges and hedgerows on either side (Plate 6). The hedgerows include trees with low-lying branches crossing the road. Near the entrance to Adstone Lodge two sets of low-lying overhead cables, possibly telephone cables, cross the route. These are the same cables that cross the route in Fully Meadow.

4.2 *Buildings*

No buildings lie along the proposed route of the pipeline. The only 'structures' that will be encountered, apart from the two roads, are the hedgerow towards the north-eastern end, the trees and barbed wire fence at the brook, and the barbed wire fence between Fully Meadow and the small paddock.

4.3 Services

Overhead cables were seen to cross the route in three locations, as described in Section 4.1. No other services were identified.



Plate 1: View southeast along road at northern end



Plate 2: Northeastern view of hedgerow where proposed work enters field at northeast



Plate 3: View southwest along track in north-east field



Plate 4: Southwestern view of clearing across brook



Plate 5: View northeast across Fully Meadow and small paddock



Plate 6: View west along road at southern end

5 Statutory Constraints on Development

5.1 A range of planning constraints may be in place in the area of the site. These constraints relate both to the area as a whole, and to individual buildings and sites. These constraints are taken into consideration when assessing the implications of planning and other proposals made to the local authority and to other local and national bodies.

5.2 *Conservation Areas*

The village of Maidford is centred on an ancient monastic site, and is designated a conservation area.

5.3 *Areas of Archaeological Significance*

The study area does not lie within an Area of Archaeological Significance.

5.4 *Scheduled Ancient Monuments*

There are no Scheduled Ancient Monuments within the study area.

5.5 *Listed Buildings*

There are no Listed Buildings within the study area.

6 Conclusions

- 6.1** The documentary, cartographic and SMR evidence suggest that the area affected by the pipeline route has only been utilised on a fairly permanent basis since the late Anglo-Saxon period, and then in a largely agricultural capacity. The main exceptions to this are the lime quarries at the northern end of the site and the fulling mill at the southern end.
- 6.2** *Archaeological Potential of the Site*
- 6.2.1 The route of the pipeline passes through an area of Northamptonshire where there has been very little structured archaeological intervention or fieldwork. Consequently, little is known archaeologically about it. On this basis, the construction of the pipeline can be deemed to have some potential for encountering prehistoric or Roman remains.
- 6.2.2 There is a high possibility that the proposed pipeline will encounter remnants of the ridge and furrow cultivation system as well as lime quarrying activity at the northern end of the route. The undulations in Fully Meadow, to the south of Adstone Brook, suggest that there is a medium to high risk of encountering further evidence of earlier agricultural systems.
- 6.3** The framework for the management of archaeological issues in the planning system is currently set out in the document PPG16 *Archaeology and Planning*. Decisions relating to archaeological matters within the area of the site are taken by the local planning authority, acting on the advice of Northamptonshire County Council.

7 Acknowledgements

The writer is grateful to BSP Associates for commissioning this assessment, and to Anglian Water Services for funding it. Thanks are also due to Christine Addison of the Northamptonshire Sites & Monuments Record for providing access to the SMR data. The assistance of the staff of the Northamptonshire County Records Office is also gratefully acknowledged.

The research for the assessment, and the walk-over survey, were undertaken for ASC Ltd by Teresa Hawtin BA MSc PIFA. The report was prepared by Karin Semmelmann MA AIFA and edited by Bob Zeepvat BA MIFA.

8 Sites & Monuments Data

Sites listed below are those within the study area, *i.e.* 500m of the proposed pipeline route

CAS No	NGR	Period	Type	Description
6087/0/2	Sp 6143 5229	Medieval	Ridge & Furrow	Upstanding in permanent pasture

9 References

Standards & Specifications

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' *Standards & Guidance documents (Desk-Based Assessments, Investigation and Recording of Standing Buildings)*.

Secondary Sources

Baker, G. 1836 *The History and Antiquities of the County of Northamptonshire* Nicholson & Son (London)

Bridges, J. 1791 *The History and Antiquities of the County of Northampton Vol. 1* (Oxford)

RCHME 1982 *An Inventory of the County of Northamptonshire: Southwest Northamptonshire Vol. 4* HMSO (London)

Soil Survey 1983 *1:250,000 Soil Map of England and Wales, and accompanying legend* (Harpندن).

10 Cartographic Sources

The following maps and plans were consulted in the course of this assessment:

Date	Reference	Description
1846	T.14	Maidford Tithe Map
1884	L.15	Maidford Ordnance Survey
1932		Adstone Field Name Map