Archaeological Services & Consultancy Ltd

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION: GREAT CORNARD REINFORCEMENT MAIN SUFFOLK

TL 894 411 to TL 908 375

on behalf of Anglian Water Services Ltd

Lizzie Gill BSc PgDip
(with a contribution by Rog Palmer MA MIFA)

April 2007

ASC: 865/CTM/2

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

ASC project code:	CTM	*ASC Project No:*	865
Event No:		*Accession No:*	
County:	Suffolk		
Villages:	Great & Little Cornard		
Civil Parishes:	Great & Little Cornard CP		
NGR (to 8 figs):	TL 8944 4117 – TL 9090 3756		
Present land use:	Agricultural		
Planning proposal:	Reinforcement water main		
Local Planning Authority:	Suffolk County Council		
Date of fieldwork:	15th–17th January, 18th April 2007		
Client:	Anglian Water Services Ltd Yare House 62-64 Thorpe Road Norwich Norfolk NR1 1SA		
Contact name:	Chris Bretton		
Telephone	01603 247003	*Fax:*	

Internal Quality Check

Primary Author:	Lizzie Gill	*Date:*	20th April 2007
Revisions:		*Date:*	
Edited/Checked By:		*Date:*	

CONTENTS

Appendices:

Figures:

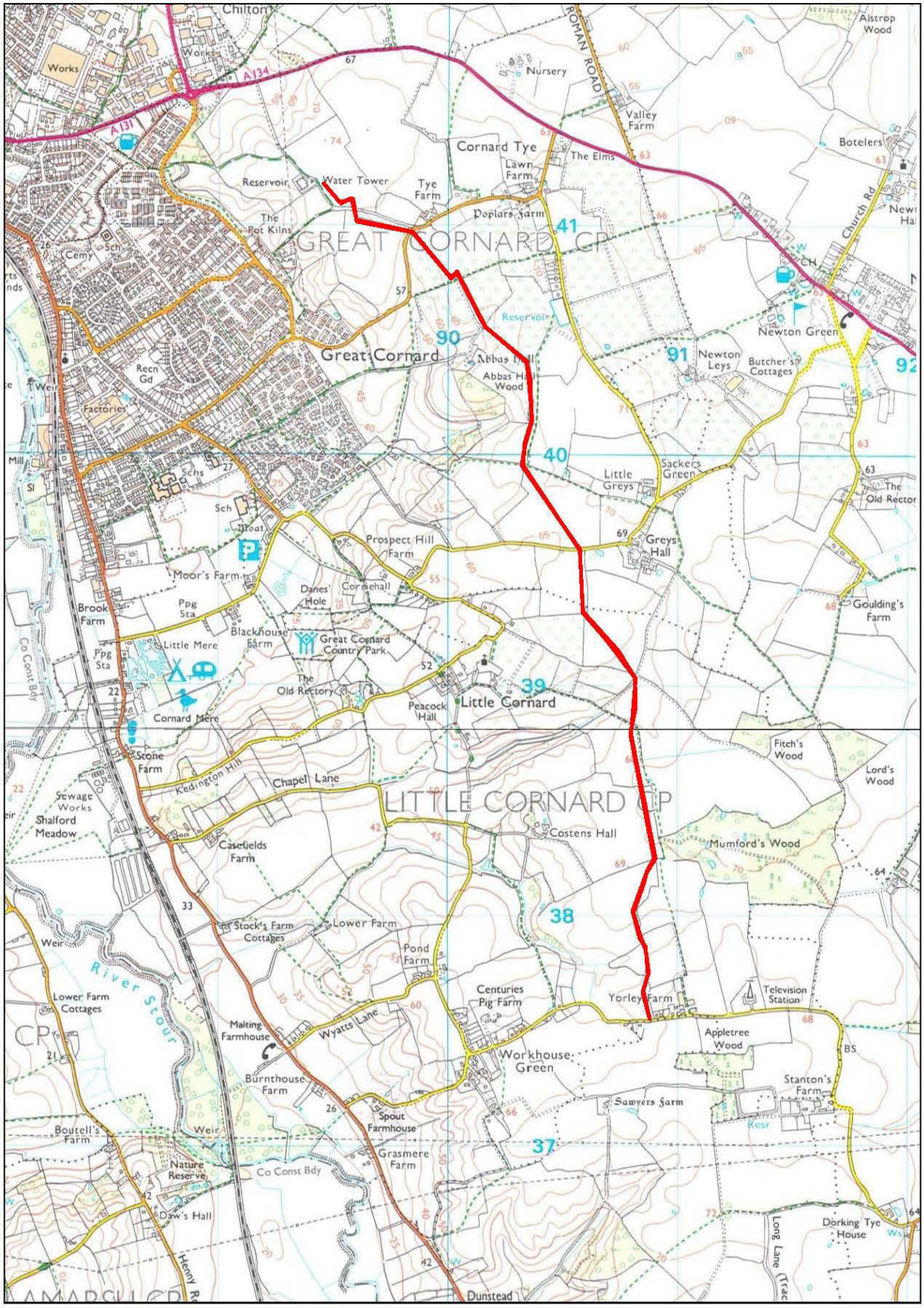

Figure 1: General location, pipeline route shown in red *(scale 1:25,000)*

Summary

Between January and April 2007 an evaluation comprising fieldwalking and an aerial photograph assessment was undertaken in advance of the construction of the Great Cornard reinforcement water main, on land in the parishes of Great & Little Cornard, Suffolk. The fieldwalking survey recovered very few finds over the 4km route. Most were of post-medieval or modern date, and their presence could be explained as a result of agricultural activity, such as manuring, or the disposal of domestic waste from farms. The aerial photo assessment did not reveal any archaeological sites or features along the pipeline corridor, only agricultural features such as field boundaries and ponds. While this does reinforce the fieldwalking results, it is suggested that the absence of archaeology in the assessment could be due to other factors, such as local soils, weather and dates of photography.

1 Introduction

1.1 In January 2007 *Archaeological Services and Consultancy Ltd* (ASC) carried out an archaeological evaluation, comprising a fieldwalking survey and a programme of aerial photographic assessment, on the route of a proposed water main at Little and Great Cornard, Suffolk. The project was commissioned by *Anglian Water Services Ltd* (AWSL) as a fulfilment of their statutory environmental obligations, and was carried out according to a brief (Tipper 2006) prepared for AWSL by the archaeological advisor to the local planning authority (LPA), *Suffolk County Council Archaeological Services* (SCCAS), and a project design prepared by ASC (865/CTM/1).

1.2 *Location & Description*

The route of the pipeline will run through the parishes of Little and Great Cornard, in the administrative district of Babergh, Suffolk (Fig. 2). The route is generally aligned north-south and extends for a distance of *c.*4km between the existing water tower at Cornard Tye (NGR TL 8944 4117) at its north end, to its southern terminus adjacent to Yorley Farm (NGR TL 9090 3756). The survey area (Fig. 2) comprised a strip 100m wide following the route, encompassing the pipeline easement.

1.3 *Geology & Topography*

The route runs largely parallel to the river Stour, which dominates the natural drainage of the area and flows from north to south, *c.*2km to the west of the pipeline route. The route follows an area of higher land, above the east side of the river valley, at an elevation of *c.*70m OD. Soils of the area comprise the *Hornbeam 3 Association*, namely deep fine loamy soil, upon a geological base of chalky till (Soil Survey 1983, 582d).

1.4 *Historical and Archaeological Background*

1.4.1 The Stour valley is an area of considerable archaeological and historical importance. Little archaeological information is currently available for the route of the proposed pipeline but, in general, the Stour valley is an area of high archaeological potential.

1.4.2 The gravel terraces of the river valley contain a number of cropmarks (Brown & Glazebrook 2000) and the potential importance of Bronze Age remains in the river valley has been noted (Dymond & Northeast 1995, 18). Conversely, the heavier soils above the valley, through which the pipeline passes, are less susceptible to the development of cropmarks, although a reassessment of cropmark evidence is presented as part of this evaluation.

1.4.3 A complex archaeological site lies at the south end of the route (COL 009 and COL 027), and dates from the late prehistoric and Roman periods. Communications in the area during the Roman period were probably dominated by a Roman road, which connected what is now north Suffolk and Norfolk, with the *civitas* capital of *Camulodunum* (Colchester: OS1979).

1.4.4 Little is known of the area during the Saxon and early medieval periods, but the settlements at Great and Little Cornard may potentially have Saxon or early medieval origins. Cornard is included in the Domesday Survey (1089), where the name appears as *Cornerda* and *Cornierda.* The land was divided between a number of landowners, including *Richard Fitzgilbert*, *Robert de Tosny* and the mother of the *Earl of Morcar*. The latter held land containing a hall and a church (Williams & Martin 2003).

1.4.5 The route passes close to Abbas Hall (COG 020), which is a building of considerable architectural and historical importance and benefits from Listed Building status (no 277968). At its core, it comprises a 13th-century aisled hall and is one of only two examples of this type of building in Suffolk. Its exterior is Elizabethan (Pevsner 1974).

Figure 2: Plan of survey area *(scale1:10,000)*

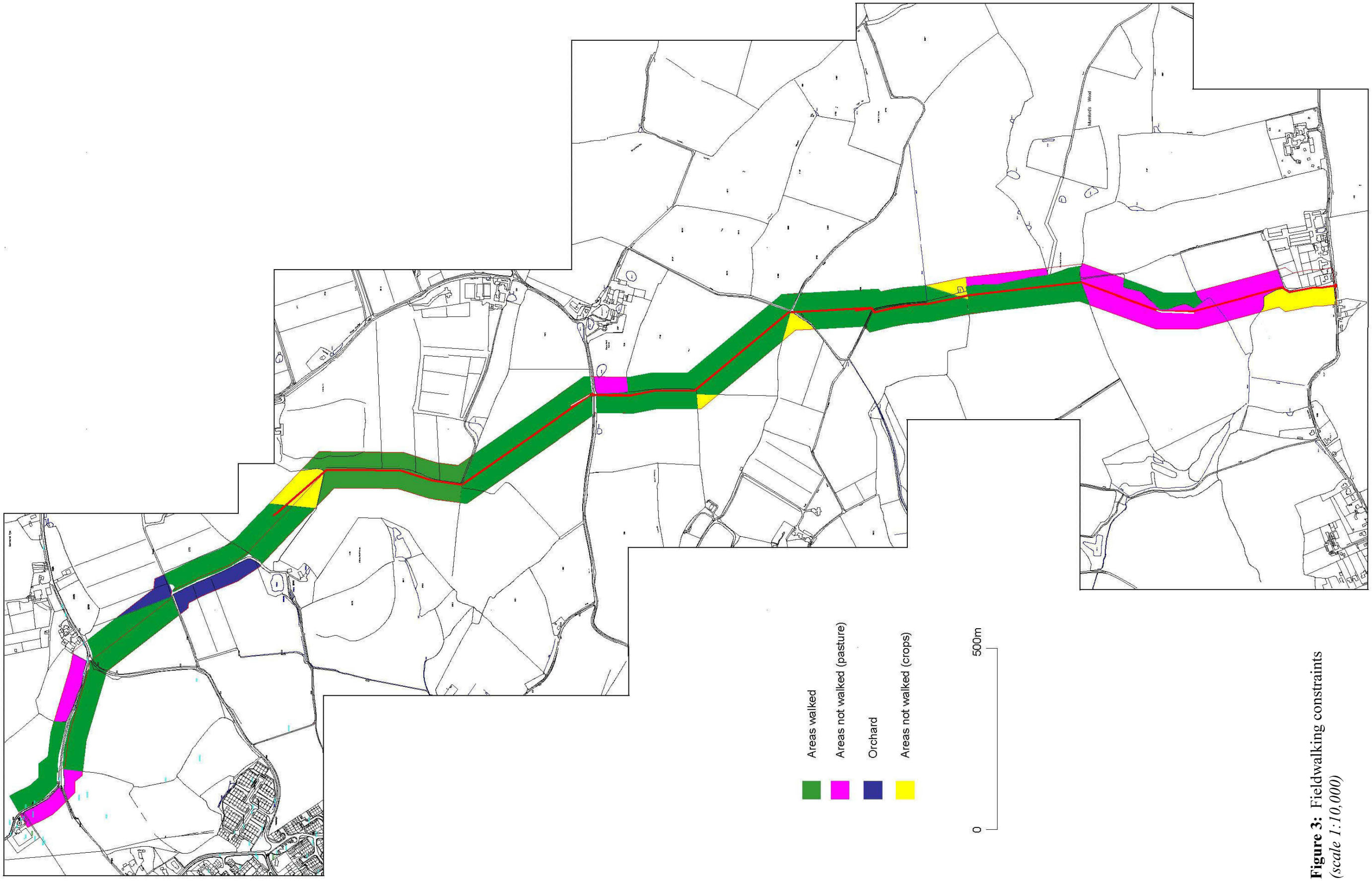

Figure 3: Fieldwalking constraints
(scale 1:10,000)

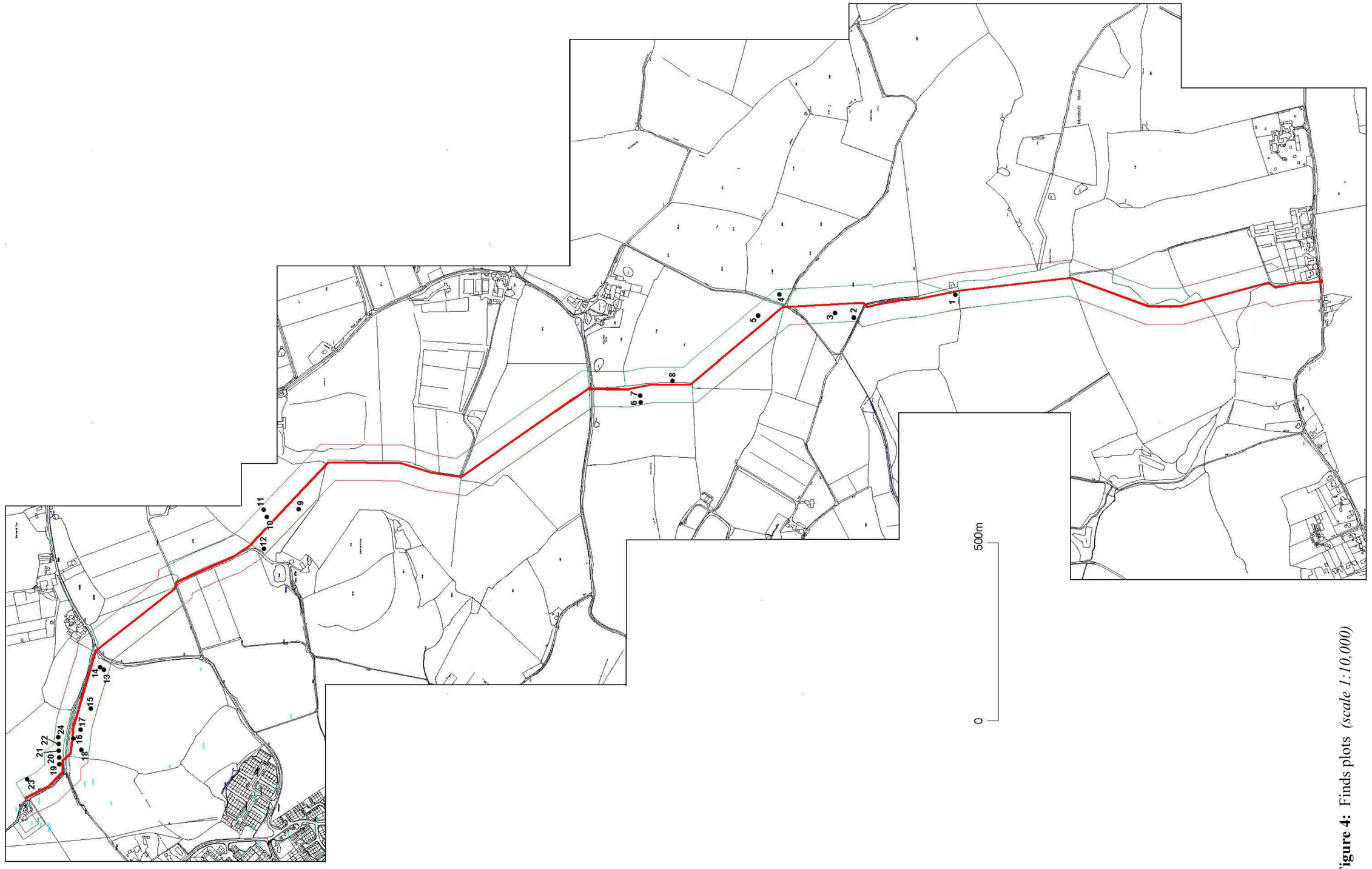

Figure 4: Finds plots *(scale 1:10,000)*

2. Aims and Methods

2.1 *Aims*

In line with the requirements of the brief (Section 3), the aims of the evaluation were:

- To determine the location, extent, date, character and significance of any surviving archaeological remains likely to be threatened by the proposed development.

2.2 *Standards*

The evaluation conforms to the requirements of the brief, to the relevant sections of the Institute of Archaeologists' *Standard & Guidance Notes* (IFA 2001) and *Code of Conduct* (IFA 2000a), to the Association of Local Government Archaeological Officers East of England Region *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England* (ALGAO 2003), to current English Heritage guidelines (EH 1991; EH 1995), and to the relevant sections of ASC's own *Operations Manual.*

2.3 *Methods*

In line with the requirements of the brief (Section 4), the methods be adopted for this project were:

- Fieldwalking along the route of the pipeline, in a 100m wide corridor (Fig. 2).
- An assessment of aerial photographic coverage of the route, from various sources. This was undertaken for ASC by Rog Palmer of *Air Photo Services:* his report is reproduced in full in Appendix 2 of this document.

Finds locations were plotted during fieldwalking by means of hand-held GPS instruments.

2.4 *Constraints*

About 15% of the route was occupied by pasture, orchards or sugar beet, and could not be fieldwalked. Access was initially denied to a 0.5km section of the route east of Abbas Hall Wood: this was eventually walked in April. The extent of these constraints is shown in Fig. 3. On some of those areas that could be walked, ground visibility was limited to some extent by crops at or above 10cm in height.

3. Results

3.1 *Fieldwalking Survey*

3.1.1 The fieldwalking survey recovered only a very small assemblage of finds from the survey area. This comprised for the most part abraded brick and tile fragments. A full list appears in Appendix 1, and the locations of the finds are shown in Fig. 4. Because of the small size of the assemblage, statistical analysis was not feasible.

3.1.2 The only find of archaeological significance to be recovered during the fieldwalking survey was a struck flint flake, found to the southeast of Greys Farm (Fig. 4, 24). Several fragments of burnt (or frost-shattered) flint were found during the survey, but it is unlikely that they are of any great significance.

3.1.3 A concentration of brick and tile rubble, of post-medieval or modern date, was noted at the northern end of the pipeline route (Fig. 4, 25). A lower density of similar material was noted throughout the area surveyed.

3.1.4 Fieldwalking along the pipeline route recovered only twelve sherds of pottery, all abraded. All were of post-medieval or modern date, including plain and glazed red earthenware, salt-glazed ware, porcelain and willow pattern. Other finds included a single sherd of bottle glass, and a clay pipe stem fragment.

3.2 *Aerial Photographic Assessment*

3.2.1 No archaeological features were identified along the pipeline route, other than slight suggestions of ridge and furrow to the north of the pipeline corridor.

3.2.2 Recent and natural features comprised a scatter of former field boundaries and ponds, field drains and colluvial deposits in valley bottoms.

3.2.3 It is suggested that this absence of archaeological information on aerial photographs may be a product of local soils, weather and dates of photography, rather than a real absence.

The detailed survey report appears in Appendix 2.

4. Conclusions

4.1 The fieldwalking survey revealed very few finds along the pipeline route. The amount, location and nature of the finds do not indicate the existence of any buried archaeological sites along the pipeline corridor, and the presence of the finds can be explained by manuring and the disposal of domestic rubbish by farms in the post-medieval and modern periods.

4.2 The aerial photograph assessment also failed to reveal any evidence for archaeology along the pipeline route. The only features identified were field boundaries, ponds and field drains, all of likely post-medieval or modern date, and natural colluvial deposits in valley bottoms. While Rog Palmer does suggest that this apparent absence of archaeology may be due to a number of possible factors, it is reinforced by the findings of the fieldwalking survey.

4.3 On the basis of the results of this evaluation, the potential for encountering archaeology during the construction of the pipeline is assessed to be low.

4.4 *Confidence Rating*

Weather during both sessions of fieldwalking was dry, and ground conditions were generally dry and firm. A high confidence rating is therefore attached to the results of the fieldwalking survey.

5. Acknowledgements

The writer is grateful to Anglian Water Services Ltd for commissioning this evaluation. Thanks are due in particular to the AWSL Project Engineer, Chris Bretton, for his assistance. Thanks are also due to the landowners along the route for agreeing access, and to Rog Palmer for carrying out the aerial photo assessment. The project was monitored by Dr Jess Tipper of Suffolk County Council Archaeological Services.

The fieldwalking survey was managed for ASC by David Fell BA MA MIFA, and was led by Lizzie Gill BSc PgDip, assisted by Chris Swain and Zoe Clarke. The report was edited by Bob Zeepvat BA MIFA, who also identified the finds.

6. Archive

6.1 The project archive will comprise:

1. Brief
2. Project Design
3. Evaluation Report
4. Aerial Photo Assessment Report
5. Clients site plans
6. Fieldwalking records
7. Finds
8. Digital photos
9. CDROM with copies of all digital files.

6.2 The archive will be deposited with the Suffolk Sites & Monuments Record.

7. References

Standards & Specifications

ALGAO 2003 *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England.* East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Paper **14**.

ASC 2006 *New Water Main, Cornard Tye, Suffolk: Project Design for Archaeological Fieldwalking.* Archaeological Services and Consultancy **865/CTM/1**

Brown N & Glazebrook J (eds) 2000 *Research and Archaeology: A Framework for the Eastern Counties. 2. research agenda and strategy.* East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers **8** Scole Archaeological Committee.

EH 1991 *The Management of Archaeological Projects, 2nd edition.* English Heritage (London).

IFA 2000a Institute of Field Archaeologists' *Code of Conduct.*

IFA 2001 Institute of Field Archaeologists' *Standard & Guidance* documents *(Desk-Based Assessments, Watching Briefs, Evaluations, Excavations, Investigation and Recording of Standing Buildings, Finds).*

Tipper, J 2006 *Brief and Specification for a Non-Intrusive Archaeological Evaluation: Little Cornard Pipeline Scheme*; Suffolk County Council

Secondary Sources

Dymond, D & Northeast, P 1995 *A History of Suffolk* Phillimore (Chicester)

O S 1979 *Ordnance Survey Map of Roman Britain.* Ordnance Survey

Pevsner N 1974 *The Buildings of England: Suffolk.* Yale

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

Williams A and Martin G H (ed) 2003 *Domesday Book. A Complete Translation.* Penguin

Appendix 1: Fieldwalking Finds List

Finds locations established by GPS readings. See Fig. 4 for finds plot

Bag no	NGR	Description	Date
1	590806.225 238912.193	Body sherd coarse red earthenware 2 frags CBM	All post-med
2	590616.997 239368.933	2 small abraded body sherds white salt-glazed ware	Post-med
3	590857.489 239068.812	Large frag CBM	Post-med
4	590575.344 239460.136	2 small abraded frags CBM	undated
5	590556.288 239459.408	Body sherd coarse red earthenware	Post-med
6	590797.954 239128.398	2 frags flint, frost-shattered, not worked	natural?
7	589597.231 241093.146	Body sherd of brown-glazed red earthenware	Post-med
8	589580.531 241030.648	Body sherd, dark green bottle glass	Post-med
9	589811.480 240977.575	Large abraded frag of honeycomb brick	C19/C20
10	589637.680 241032.822	Frag CBM	undated
11	589578.182 241092.421	Body sherd of willow-pattern plate	C19/C20
12	589559.132 241091.697	Frag CBM	undated
13	589811.480 240977.575	Rim sherd of salt-glazed jar Body sherd, coarse red fabric with grey core	C19/C20 undated
14	589696.005 241004.110	Rim and body sherds of black-glazed red earthenware	Post-med
15	589616.281 241093.871	Frag CBM	undated
16	589540.083 241090.972	Clay pipe stem frag	Post-med
17	589498.461 241182.184	Frag CBM	undated
18	590197.548 238858.019	Charcoal frags (from burnt area in old orchard)	Modern
19	590133.948 240525.891	Body sherd porcelain	C18+
20	590303.055 240594.207	Frag CBM	undated
21	585713.928 240359.302	Body sherd of willow-pattern plate	C19/C20
22	590857.339 238573.901	Frag slate	C19/C20
23	589617.456 241062.984	2 frags flint, frost-shattered, not worked Tiny frag CBM	natural? undated
24	590304.234 240563.321	Worked flint flake	Prehistoric
25	Area 2	CBM (sample)	Post-med

Appendix 2:

Aerial Photographic Assessment Report

(12 pages)

Appendix 3: ASC OASIS Form

PROJECT DETAILS			
Project Name:	Great Cornard Reinforcement Main, Suffolk		
Short Description:	*Between January and April 2007 an evaluation comprising fieldwalking and an aerial photograph assessment was undertaken in advance of the construction of the Great Cornard reinforcement water main, on land in the parishes of Great & Little Cornard, Suffolk. The fieldwalking survey recovered very few finds over the 4km route. Most were of post-medieval or modern date, and their presence could be explained as a result of agricultural activity, such as manuring, or the disposal of domestic waste from farms. The aerial photo assessment did not reveal any archaeological sites or features along the pipeline corridor, only agricultural features such as field boundaries and ponds. While this does reinforce the fieldwalking results, it is suggested that the absence of archaeology in the assessment could be due to other factors, such as local soils, weather and dates of photography.*		
Project Type:	FW & Air Photo Assessment		
Site status: (eg. none, SAM, Listed)	none	Previous work: (eg. SMR refs)	none
Current land use:	Agricultural	Future work:	unknown
Monument type:	N/a	Monument period:	N/a
Significant finds:	None		
PROJECT LOCATION			
County:	Suffolk	OS reference: (8 figs min)	TL 8944 4117 to TL 9090 3756
Site address:	Great Cornard Reinforcement Main		
Study area: (sq. m. or ha)	c.400 ha	Height OD: (metres)	c.70m
PROJECT CREATORS			
Organisation:	Archaeological Services & Consultancy Ltd		
Project brief originator:	Dr J Tipper, Suffolk CC	Project design originator:	C. Barclay
Project Manager:	D Fell BA MIFA	Director/Supervisor:	E Gill
Sponsor / funding body:	Anglian Water Services Ltd		
PROJECT DATE			
Start date:	Jan 2007	End date:	April 2007
PROJECT ARCHIVES			
	Location (Accession no.)	Content (eg. pottery, animal bone, files/sheets)	
Physical:	Suffolk SMR	Pottery, CBM, clay pipe, flint	
Paper:	Suffolk SMR	Project design, reports, fieldwalking records	
Digital:	Suffolk SMR	CD with all digital files	
BIBLIOGRAPHY (Journal/monograph, published or forthcoming, or unpublished client report)			
Title:	Archaeological Evaluation: Great Cornard Reinforcement Main, Suffolk		
Serial title & volume:	ASC reports, 865/CTM/2		
Author(s):	Lizzie Gill BSc PgDip & Rog Palmer MA MIFA		
Page nos		Date:	20th April 2007