



Archaeological Services & Consultancy Ltd

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL DESK-BASED ASSESSMENT:  
DAVENTRY RING MAIN,  
DAVENTRY  
NORTHAMPTONSHIRE**

*on behalf of Anglian Water Services Ltd*



**Jenny Richards BA PIFA**

**November 2007**

**ASC: 1006/DRM/1**

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## Site Data

<i>ASC project code:</i>	DRM	<i>ASC Project No:</i>	1006
<i>County:</i>	Northamptonshire		
<i>Village/Town:</i>	Daventry		
<i>Civil Parish:</i>	Daventry CP and Newnham CP		
<i>NGR (to 8 figs):</i>	From SP 58676 61131 to SP 56903 61952		
<i>Present use:</i>	Roads and fields		
<i>Planning proposal:</i>	Water main		
<i>Planning application ref/date:</i>	N/A – permitted development under AWSL’s statutory powers		
<i>Local Planning Authority:</i>	N/A – permitted development under AWSL’s statutory powers		
<i>Date of assessment:</i>	November 2007		
<i>Client:</i>	Anglian Water Services Ltd C/o BSP Associates Ltd 45A High Street Stony Stratford Milton Keynes MK11 1AA		
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## Internal Quality Check

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

## Summary

*In November 2007, Archaeological Services and Consultancy Ltd (ASC) carried out an archaeological desk-based assessment of two phases of a proposed water main in Daventry, Northamptonshire, to inform the need for archaeological mitigation during construction.*

*Although the route of the pipeline mainly follows existing roads, its eastern end passes very close to the Scheduled Ancient Monument of Burnt Walls, which comprises a possible Norman motte and bailey castle on the site of an earlier defended site. The pipeline route also crosses the line of a Saxon boundary, adjacent to Burnt Walls, and passes close to the site of John of Gaunt's Castle and a medieval deer park.*

*It is therefore recommended that the stripping of the easement at the eastern end of the pipeline be conducted under constant archaeological supervision, in order to identify, investigate and characterise any archaeological remains which may be uncovered by the development, including those associated with Burnt Walls, and any evidence for the Saxon boundary. An appropriate report on the results of this investigation should also be prepared.*

## 1 Introduction

1.1 In November 2007 *Archaeological Services and Consultancy Ltd* (ASC) carried out an archaeological desk-based assessment of a proposed water main route in Daventry, Northamptonshire (Fig. 1). The project was commissioned by *BSP Associates Ltd* on behalf of *Anglian Water Services Ltd* (AWSL), and was carried out according to ASC's general method statement for archaeological desk based assessments (Appendix 1).

### 1.2 *Planning Background*

This desk-based assessment has been commissioned by AWSL in line with their statutory obligations, to inform the necessity for archaeological mitigation works related to the construction of the water main.

### 1.3 *Archaeological Services & Consultancy Ltd*

*Archaeological Services & Consultancy Ltd* (ASC) is an independent consultancy providing a full range of archaeological services including consultancy, field evaluation, mitigation and post-excavation studies, historic building recording and analysis. ASC is recognised as a *Registered Archaeological Organisation* by the Institute of Field Archaeologists, in recognition of its high standards and working practices.

### 1.4 *Management*

The assessment was carried out under the overall direction of **Bob Zeepvat** BA MIFA. Bob is an established archaeologist with extensive experience in managing archaeological projects, of a wide range of fieldwork in both rural and urban environments, of post-excavation, publication and presentation projects, and of work on a wide range of historic buildings and structures. He holds a first degree from the University of Leicester, and has been a validated Member of the Institute of Field



Archaeologists since 1986. He has been involved in the management of archaeological projects since the late 1970s, formerly as Senior Field Archaeologist for the *Milton Keynes Archaeology Unit*, and as Project Manager for the *Hertfordshire Archaeological Trust*.

### 1.3 *Site Location*

The route of the proposed water main (Fig. 2) begins at the junction of Western Avenue and Badby Road in the centre of Daventry at NGR SP 58676 61131 and extends for 500m in an approximately south-easterly direction to an existing main north of London Road to the south east of Daventry, at and NGR SP 56903 61952. A more detailed description of the route appears in Section 4.

### 1.4 *Geology & Topography*

The pipeline route is within the urban area of Daventry and no geological data was available. However, the surrounding areas to the south-east of Daventry comprise soils of the *Banbury* and *Denchworth* Associations, overlying Jurassic and Cretaceous ironstones and clay respectively (Soil Survey 1983: 544 & 712b).

The pipeline route traverses undulating terrain, varying between *c.*150m above OD at its north-westernmost point and *c.*137m above OD at its south-easternmost point.

## 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 ASC’s general method statement for archaeological desk-based assessments, which follows 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 Historic Environment Record (HER), Northampton. The study area employed in the HER search includes the site itself, and a surrounding study area of 0.25km either side of the pipeline route and extending 0.25km to each end of it.

### 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 sources consulted were the HER, the Northamptonshire Local Studies Library (NLSL), Northampton, 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. Due to time constraints no air photographs were examined.

### 2.3.5 *Geotechnical Information*

A description of the topography and solid and surface geology of the site and its environs was compiled, so as to appreciate the potential condition of any archaeological remains, to assess the hydrological conditions, and to appraise the potential for the survival of buried waterlogged archaeological and palaeoenvironmental deposits.

### 2.3.6 *Secondary & Statutory Sources*

The principal source consulted was *The Royal Commission on Historical Monuments Inventory of Archaeological Sites in North-West Northamptonshire*.

## 2.4 **Walk-Over Survey**

As part of the assessment a walk-over survey of the site was undertaken on 5<sup>th</sup> November 2007, 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 necessary.



### 3 Archaeological & 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 lies within an area of archaeological and historical interest and the archaeology of Daventry has recently been assessed by English Heritage as part of the *Northamptonshire Extensive Urban Survey* (Ballinger *et al* 2002). The pipeline route has the potential to reveal evidence of a range of periods. The location of known archaeological and historical sites recorded in the HER is shown in Fig. 2, and details appear in Section 9.

SAM = Scheduled Ancient Monument

#### 3.2 *Archaeological & Historical Background to the Study Area*

##### 3.2.1 *Prehistoric (before AD43)*

Daventry was an area of importance during the prehistoric periods and a number of prehistoric sites are known in the area, notably a hill fort on the east side of town known as *Borough Hill* (RCHME 1981:fig. 54; SAM 17145). A second enclosure, known as *Burnt Walls*, lies to the southeast of Daventry and may have prehistoric origins (Ballinger *et al* 2002).

##### 3.2.3 *Roman (AD43-c.450)*

A number of Roman sites are known in the area, notably within Borough Hill, where a number of barrows are situated within the hill fort and a Roman villa has been recorded on the north side of the fort (RCHME 1981, 66-67). Unstratified finds of Roman coins have been made south of the pipeline route (HER 1249, 1249/0/0); brick and tile as well as pottery fragments, possibly of Roman date, but more likely medieval, have also been found (HER 634/1/0).

##### 3.2.4 *Saxon (c.450-1066)*

Daventry probably originated during the Saxon period and may have acted as a centre for the collection of rents and renders by a royal reeve (Ballinger *et al* 2002). The focus of the middle and late Saxon town was probably around the east end of the present High Street.

The Badby charter of 944 and the Newnham charter of 1021 both describe the Saxon estate boundaries between Newnham, Badby and Daventry. The Newnham boundary crosses the pipeline route towards its eastern terminus (HER 8075, 8075/0/1).

##### 3.2.5 *Medieval (1066-1500)*

The Cluniac priory of Preston Capes was relocated to Daventry during the 12<sup>th</sup> century and the medieval town developed on the higher ground to the east of the High Street. Tenements were subsequently developed along the High Street and may have developed along Brook Street from the 13<sup>th</sup> century (Ballinger *et al* 2002).

The pipeline route terminates adjacent to the Scheduled Ancient Monument of Burnt Walls (SAM 39). This triangular area, bounded by a ditch and bank to the west and by a dammed stream to the north and south, has been interpreted as being a motte and bailey castle of Norman date, but may be on the site of an earlier Late Saxon fortification (Ballinger *et al* 2002; Walsh 2001, Brown 1991; HER 632, SAM 39).

There is upstanding ridge and furrow within the enclosure of Burnt Walls, indicating that it was used for arable agriculture in the medieval period (RCHME 1981, HER 5938, SAM39). However, the field was used as pasture in 1876 when Burnt Walls Farm was sold (Pierce 1876; Fig. 7). The Inclosure map of 1803 shows the area of Burnt Walls to be included in a much larger land parcel known as Hack Wood (Figs 7 and 8).

The moated site known as John of Gaunt's Castle lies south of the pipeline route. When the wood covering this site was removed in 1816 the foundations of a building were revealed. Further foundations were observed during quarrying between 1857 and 1904 (RCHME 1981, HER 634).

John of Gaunt's Castle lay within a deer park. The rights of this park were granted in 1271-2 and a fortified manor or hunting lodge existed here by 1284 (Ballinger *et al* 2002). The area is shown as woodland on the Inclosure Map of 1803 (HER 1260; Fig. 4).

### 3.2.6 *Post-Medieval (1500-1900)*

Daventry developed as an important market and coaching centre during the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries. The town developed into an important road junction, where routes from Warwick, Northampton and Banbury intersected with the London to Holyhead road. Two turnpike roads are known from the study area: these are the Old Stratford to Dunchurch road and the Banbury to Lutterworth road, which correspond with London Road and Badby Road respectively (HER 7376, 7376/1, 7376/1/1, 9401/1).

Production of bricks was an important industry in the area, however brickworking is under represented in the archaeological and historical literature. A brickworks was situated south of the pipeline route in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century (HER 6360, 6360/1, 6360/1/1, 6360/1/2; Fig. 2). A 19<sup>th</sup> century stone trackway was observed during archaeological investigations of the land north of London Road (HER 6414, 6414/0/1).

### 3.2.7 *Modern (1900-present)*

Daventry was the site of a Cold War Emergency Planning Centre during the 20<sup>th</sup> century (HER 638/35; Fig.2). Early experiments with radar also took place in the Daventry area at Borough Hill, which remained a radio transmitting station until the late 20<sup>th</sup> century (SAM 17145).

## 3.3 ***The Known Archaeology & History of the Site***

### 3.3.1 *Prehistoric (before AD43)*

The pipeline route passes within 1 metre of Burnt Walls, which may have prehistoric origins.

3.3.3 *Roman* (AD43-c.450)

There are no known sites of Roman date within the pipeline route.

3.3.4 *Saxon* (c.450-1066)

Two Saxon charters describing the estate boundaries indicate that the eastern end of the pipeline route crosses the line of the Saxon estate boundary (Fig. 2). Burnt Walls may have developed in the Saxon period.

3.3.5 *Medieval* (1066-1500)

The pipeline route passes within one metre of the Scheduled Ancient Monument of Burnt Walls. This triangular ditch and bank enclosure has been interpreted as being a motte and bailey castle of early 12<sup>th</sup> century date, but it may have earlier origins.

3.3.6 *Post-Medieval* (1500-1900)

The pipeline route terminates at the crossroads of Western Avenue and Badby Road. Badby Road follows the route of the 18<sup>th</sup> century Banbury to Lutterworth turnpike road (HER 9401/1; Fig. 2). The pipeline route also crosses the Old Stratford to Dunchurch turnpike road, which roughly corresponds to the current London Road (HER7376; Fig. 2).

3.3.7 *Modern* (1900-present)

There are no post-1900 archaeological sites known from the pipeline route.

## 4 Walk-Over Survey

### 4.1 *Extent, Access & Present Use*

The pipeline route begins at the junction of Western Avenue and Badby Road, and extends along Western Avenue in a south-easterly direction for 950 metres at which point Western Avenue joins London Road. The pipeline route then follows the line of London Road in a south-easterly direction for 300 metres. After the junction between London Road and South Way, the pipeline route moves north away from the road and continues to run alongside it through the edge of an industrial estate before entering a field.

Western Avenue and London Road are both two-way single carriageway roads, with tarmaced surfaces.

Access to the fields north of the A45 was not possible at the time of the walk-over survey. The view into this area, and subsequently the view of Burnt Walls, was partially obscured by mature trees, which form the boundary between the footpath and the field.

The field to the north of the A45, which contains Burnt Walls, is uncultivated, with small shrubs and weeds, particularly in the southern ditch of Burnt Walls.

### 4.2 *Buildings*

There are no buildings within the pipeline route, although it passes between areas of houses and industrial or commercial buildings. These buildings date to the late 20<sup>th</sup> century and none have Listed Building status.

### 4.3 *Services*

Service plans have not been provided, but it is likely that underground services such as gas, electricity and telecoms are present along Western Avenue. Overhead telephone lines cross Western Avenue at the junction with Badby Road and close to the junction with London Road.





**Plate 1:** View south east from junction of Western Avenue and Badby Road



**Plate 2:** View south east along Western Avenue



**Plate 3:** View of junction between Western Avenue and London Road



**Plate 4:** View east to Burnt Walls, through trees



**Plate 5:** View north to Burnt Walls from A45



**Plate 6:** View north west to Burnt Walls from A45



## 5 Statutory Constraints on Development

5.1 A range of planning constraints are in place in the area of the pipeline route. 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 pipeline route is not within a Conservation Area.

### 5.3 *Areas of Archaeological Significance*

The pipeline route and the surrounding study area do not fall within an Area of Archaeological Significance.

### 5.4 *Scheduled Ancient Monuments*

The pipeline route passes within one metre of the Scheduled Ancient Monument known as Burnt Walls. A second Scheduled Ancient Monument, Borough Hill, is situated less than 1km to the north.

### 5.5 *Listed Buildings*

There are no listed buildings within the study area.

## 6 Conclusions

6.1 The pipeline route passes within one metre of the Scheduled Ancient Monument of Burnt Walls. Despite the extensive development work carried out in Daventry in the latter part of the 20<sup>th</sup> century and continuing to the present, there has been relatively little archaeological intervention within the study area. The pipeline route therefore has the potential to encounter archaeological remains of all periods, but particularly of Roman to medieval date.

### 6.2 *Archaeological Potential of the Site*

The pipeline route follows Western Avenue for much of its length. It is probable that any archaeological remains that may have been present in this area were destroyed during the construction of the road (between 1927 and 1951).

However, at its eastern end the pipeline route crosses uncultivated land, where it passes within one metre of Burnt Walls, a ditched and banked enclosure interpreted as a motte and bailey castle of 12<sup>th</sup> century date. Immediately south east of Burnt Walls, the route also crosses the line of a Saxon boundary, which may have taken the form of a boundary ditch.

As the fields containing Burnt Walls and the Saxon boundary have not been subject to deep ploughing, the potential to find archaeological remains relating both to the enclosure and to the boundary is considered to be relatively high.

### 6.3 *Recommendations*

With regard to the available archaeological evidence, the following recommendations are proposed:

- Burnt Walls is a Scheduled Ancient Monument, and no groundworks may take place within the scheduled area without permission from English Heritage.
- The work programme for the construction of the new water main should allow for the implementation of an archaeological strip and record excavation of the eastern end of the pipeline route, where it passes next to Burnt Walls, and where it crosses the Saxon boundary, in order to identify and characterise any archaeological remains present.



## **7 Acknowledgements**

The writer is grateful to BSP Associates Ltd for commissioning this assessment, and to Anglian Water Services Ltd 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 CRO and the Northampton Local Studies Library is also gratefully acknowledged.

The research for the assessment was undertaken for ASC Ltd by Jenny Richards BA PIFA, and Calli Rouse BA; the walk-over survey was conducted by Jenny Richards. The report was prepared by Jenny Richards and edited by Bob Zeepvat BA MIFA.

## 8 Sites & Monuments Data

Sites listed below are those within the study area, *i.e.* 0.25km radius of the pipeline route

CAS No	NGR	Period	Distance from pipeline route	Description
1249	SP 58105 61105	Roman	80m	Possible Romano-British activity
1249/0/0	SP 58105 61105	Roman	80m	Unstratified Roman coins
1260	SP58027 61083	Medieval	>1m	Deer Park dating from at least 1271AD, went out of use between 1442 and 1571
5938/0/3	SP 57906 61489	Medieval	>1m	Ridge and furrow visible as earthworks
5938/0/5	SP 58581 61264	Medieval	>1m	Ridge and furrow visible as earthworks
632	SP 58573 61229	Late Saxon-Medieval	>1m	Burnt Walls Scheduled Ancient Monument
632/0/1	SP 58573 61229	Medieval	>1m	Earthwork enclosure of Burnt Walls
632/0/2	SP 58573 61229	Medieval	c. 10m	Reference to earlier building within Burnt Walls enclosure
632/0/3	SP 5858 6122	Medieval	c. 5m	Possible quarry pit within Burnt Walls
632/0/4	SP 5856 6123	Medieval	>1m	Possible dam or pond surrounding Burnt Walls
634	SP 5807 6107	Medieval	c. 200m	Possible settlement
634/1	SP 5805 6110	Medieval	50m	John of Gaunt's Castle, possible fortified manor, mansion or hunting lodge
634/1/0	SP 5810 6115	Romano-British to Medieval	40m	Brick and tile found opposite Burnt Walls
634/1/1	SP 581 612	Medieval	50m	John of Gaunt's Castle
634/1/2	SP 581 612	Medieval	40m	Moat to John of Gaunt's Castle
6360	SP 5810 6119	C19th	50m	Industrial Activity
6360/1	SP 58096 61200	C19th	50m	Daventry Wood Brick Field – brickworks of 1866-1894
6360/1/1	SP 5810 6127	C19th	50m	Brick Kiln
6360/1/2	SP 5807 6118	C19th	50m	Clay Pit
638/35	SP57 62	C20th	50m	Cold War District Emergency Planning Centre
6414	SP 5835 6125	C19th	20m	Transport and communications site
6414/0/1	SP 5835 6125	C19th	20m	C19th stone trackway observed during excavations
7376	SP 64938 57300	Post-medieval	0m	Old Stratford to Dunchurch Turnpike
7376/1	SP 64938 57300	Post-medieval	0m	Toll Road, Act of Parliament passed in 1706
7376/1/1	SP 57622 61647	Post-medieval	c.60m	Daventry milestone, no longer insitu
8075	SP 53987 58827	Late Saxon	0m	Late Saxon estate, land unit
8075/0/1	SP 55605 57521	Late Saxon	0m	Charter boundary of Badby Parish
8506	SP 57 62	C20th	Unknown	Possible WWII military site
8506/1	SP 57 62	C20th	Unknown	Radar Station, one of 18 operational at the outbreak of WWII in 1939
9197	SP 57822 62950	Medieval	500m	Daventry township
9401/1	SP 52654 55014	Post-medieval	0m	Banbury to Lutterworth Turnpike

## 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*

Ballinger, J., Foard, G., Steadman, S. and Laughton, J. 2002 *Northamptonshire Extensive Urban Survey: Daventry* (Northamptonshire County Council)

Brown, A. E., Key, T. R. and Orr, C. 1977 *Some Anglo Saxon Estates and their Boundaries in South-West Northamptonshire*

Brown, A. E. *et al* 1990 "The Details of the Anglo Saxon Landscape: Badby Revisited" in *Northamptonshire Past and Present* 8

Brown, A. E. 1991 *Early Daventry* University of Leicester

Greenhall, R. L. 1999 *Daventry Past*

Pierce, W. J. 1876 *Particulars and Conditions of Sale of Freehold and Copyhold Estate called Burnt Walls Farm*

RCHME 1981 *Inventory of Archaeological Sites in North West Northamptonshire* (HMSO)

Serjeantson, R. M. and Ryland, W (eds) 1906 *The Victoria History of the Counties of England: Northamptonshire*

Steadman, S. 1991 *An Archaeological Evaluation at Burnt Walls, Daventry* (NAU Report)

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

Walsh, T. C. 2001 *Burnt Walls, Daventry, Northamptonshire SP585612: Analytical Interpretation of Earthworks*

## 10 Cartographic Sources

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

NLSL = Northampton Local Studies Library

CRO = Northampton County Records Office

ASC = ASC Ltd Library

<b>Date</b>	<b>Reference</b>	<b>Description</b>
1884	NLSL	Ordnance Survey County Series Northamptonshire sheets 43.1, 43.2, 43.5, 43.6
1900	NLSL	Ordnance Survey County Series Northamptonshire sheet 43 NW
1927	NLSL	Ordnance Survey County Series Northamptonshire sheet 43 NW
1951	ASC	Ordnance Survey 1:25000 map sheet SP 56
1802	CRO	Pre-Inclosure Map
1803	CRO	Inclosure Map
1876	CRO	Sales Particulars of Burnt Walls Farm



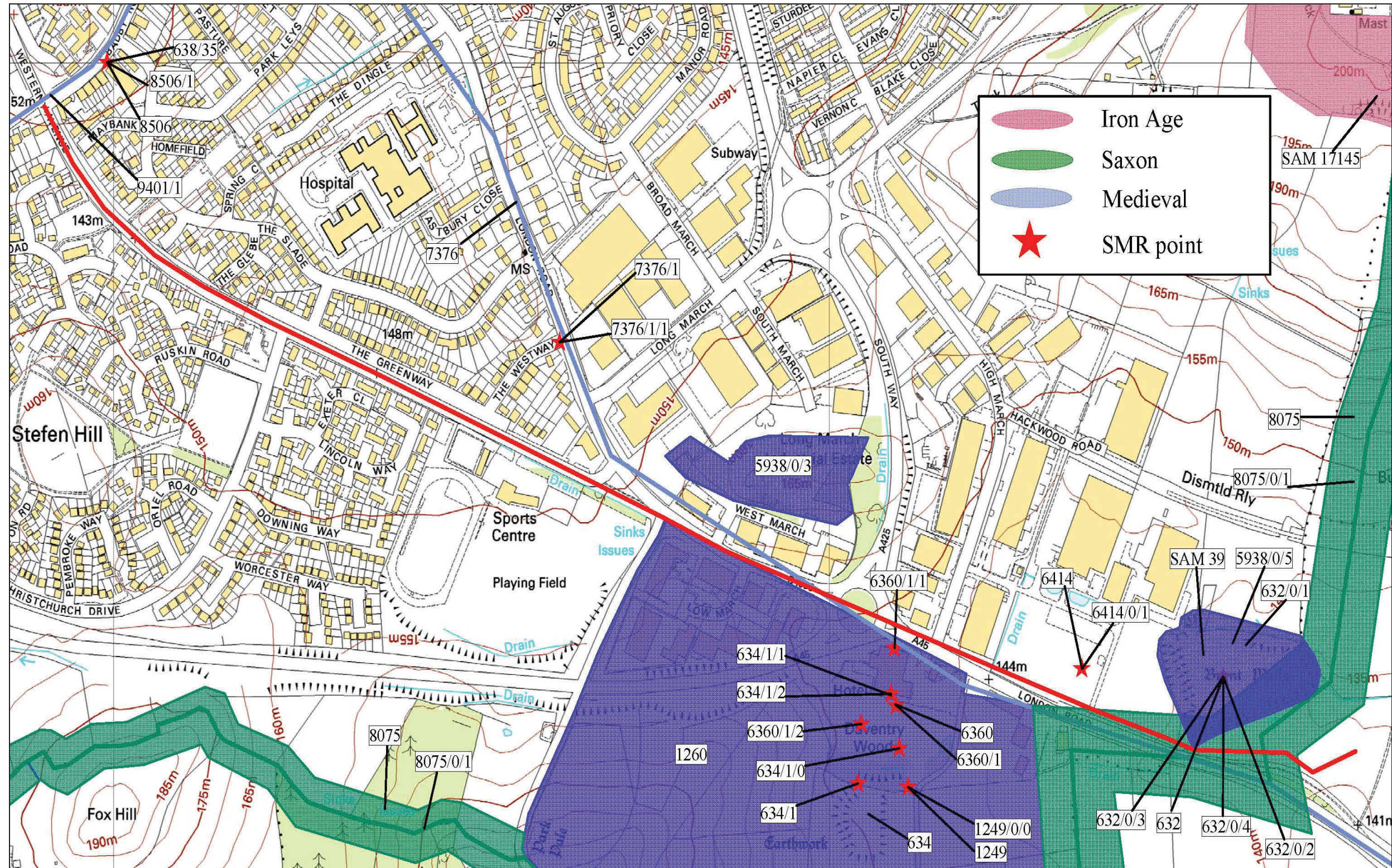


Figure 2: Pipeline route in relation to archaeological constraints (scale 1:10,000)





Figure 3: OS map of 1884 showing approximate pipeline route

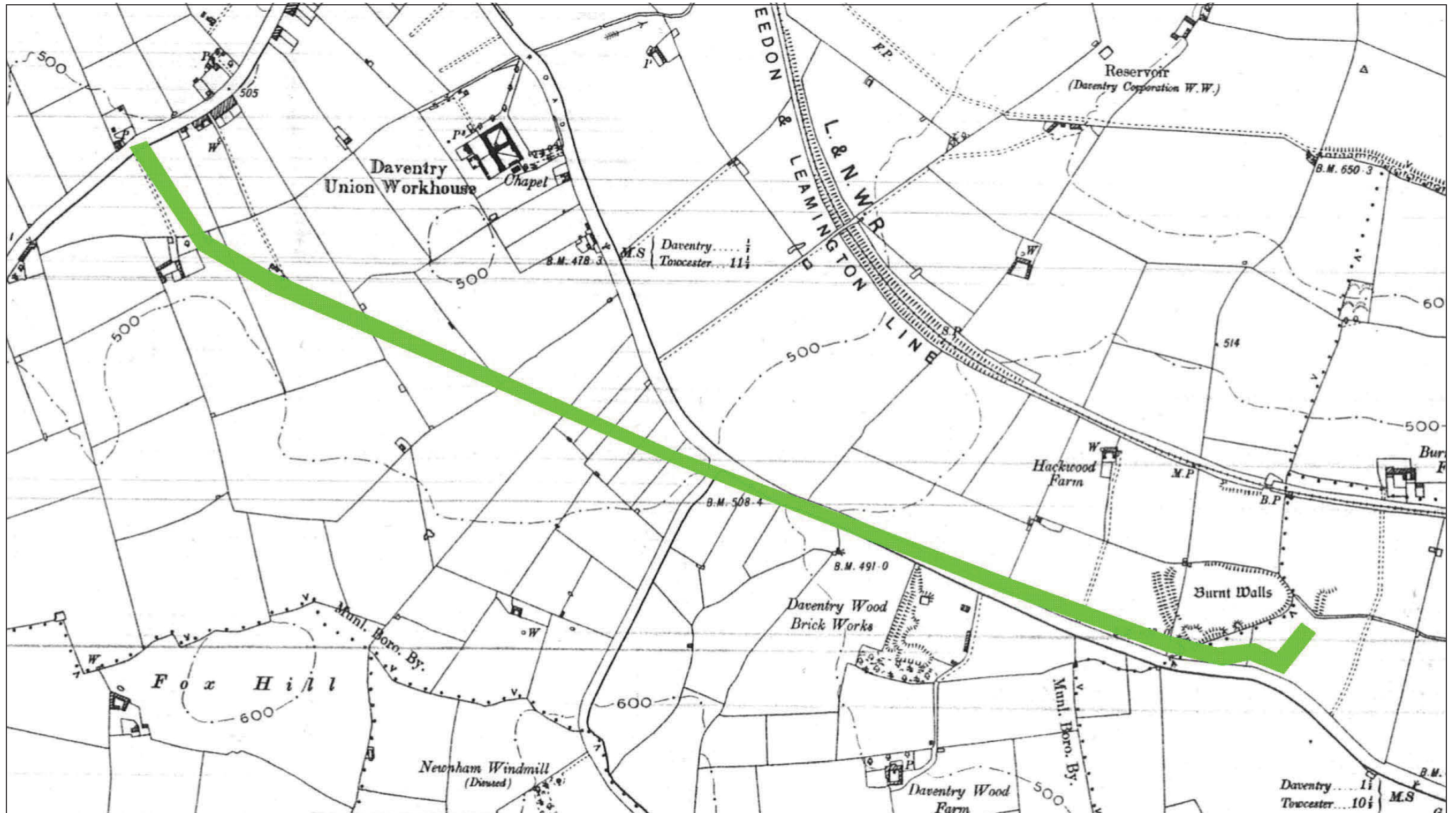


Figure 4: OS map of 1900 showing approximate pipeline route





Figure 5: OS map of 1927 showing approximate pipeline route



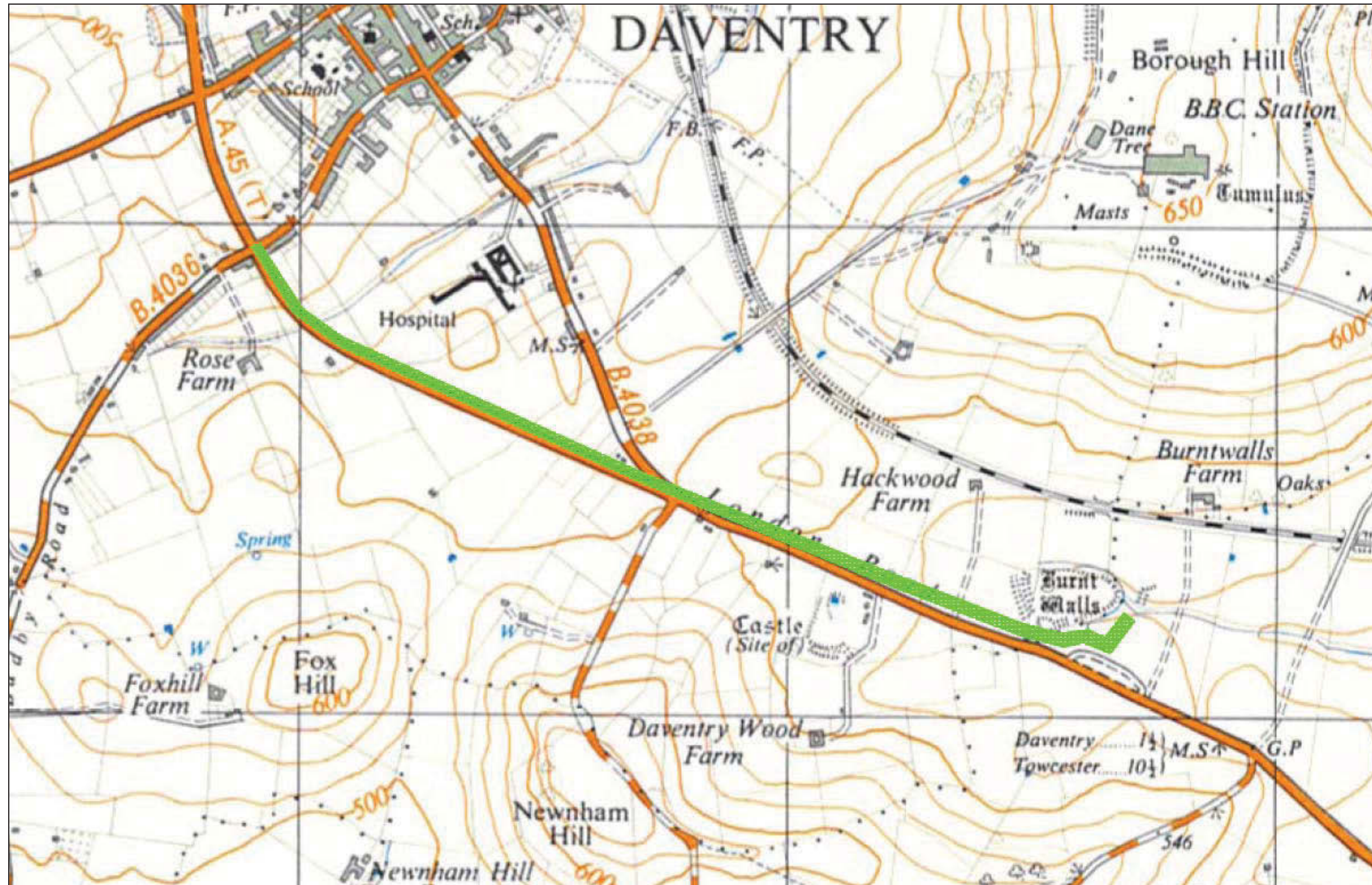


Figure 6: OS map of 1951 showing approximate pipeline route



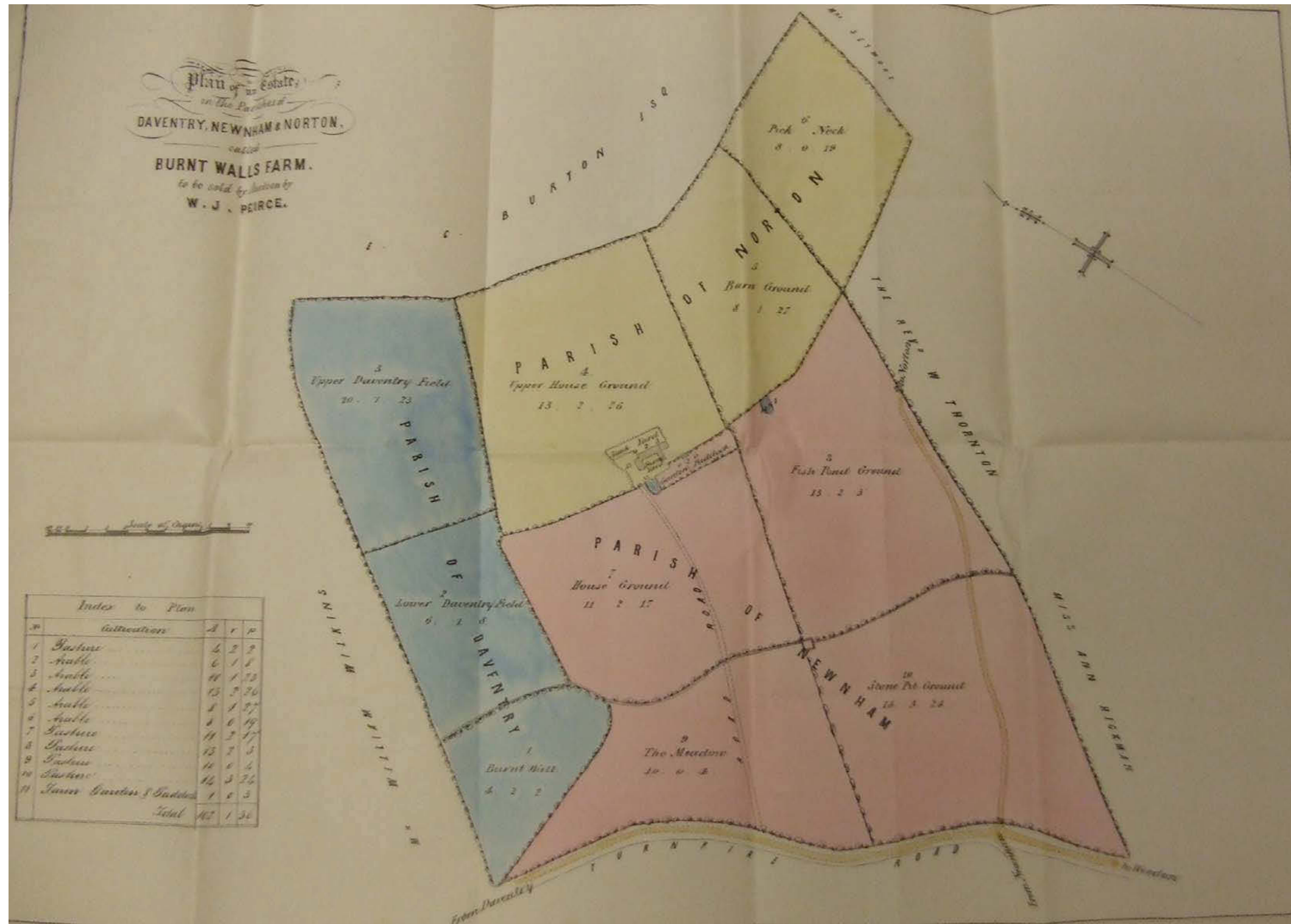


Figure 7: Map from Sales Particulars of Burnt Walls Farm



**Figure 8:** Part of Pre-Inclosure Map of 1802, area of Burnt Walls highlighted.





Figure 9: Part of Inclosure Map of 1803, area of Burnt Walls highlighted.

## Appendix 1 Method Statement for Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment

*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).*

### 1 Standards

The desk-based assessment will be carried out in accordance with Institute of Field Archaeologists' *Code of Conduct* (IFA 2000). This specification has been prepared with reference to the IFA's *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Desk-Based Assessments* (IFA 2001).

### 2 Aims

In general terms, the aims of the desk-based study shall be:

- To determine the location, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of the historic environment of the site, from documentary sources;
- To provide a comprehensive assessment of the regional context within which the archaeological evidence rests, and to highlight any research priorities relevant to any further investigation of the site;
- To provide a predictive model of the archaeological remains likely to be present on site, and to assess their significance;
- To provide sufficient information to enable the formulation of an appropriate strategy for the management and/or investigation of the historic environment of the site.

### 3 Methods

Any of the following sources of information may be consulted for the desk-based assessment, providing that they are readily available:

#### 3.1 *Archaeological Databases*

Archaeological databases represent the standard references to the known archaeology of an area.

**SOURCE TYPE:**

Archaeological Excavation & Survey Records, National Monuments Records, National Buildings Records, County Sites & Monuments Records, Listed Buildings Lists, Scheduled Ancient Monuments Lists, Regional Inventories, Public & Private Collections of Artefacts and Ecofacts.

**SOURCE LOCATION:**

National Heritage Bodies, Royal Commissions, Local Authorities, Museums, Archaeological Trusts & Units, Universities, Ordnance Survey, Local Archaeological & Historical Societies.

#### 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 potential for further detailed documentary research will also be considered in the assessment.

**SOURCE TYPE:** Charters, Registers, Manuscript Collections (secular and ecclesiastical), Deeds, Wills, Estate Papers, Electoral Rolls, Contemporary Published Accounts (e.g. County & Agricultural Surveys), Industrial Investigations, Trade Directories.

**SOURCE LOCATION:** Public Record Office, Parish Records, Estate Collections, Museums, National & Local Libraries, County & District Archives, Study Centres, Press Libraries, Ordnance Survey, British Library.

### 3.3 *Cartographic & Pictorial Documents*

This is normally a very productive area of research.

**SOURCE TYPE:** Early Maps, Prints and Paintings, Inclosure & Tithe Maps, Ordnance Survey maps, Estate Plans, Goad Maps.

**SOURCE LOCATION:** Public Record Office, Parish Records, Estate Collections, Museums, National & Local Libraries, County & District Archives, Press Libraries, Ordnance Survey, Private Collections, Local Archaeological & Historical Societies.

### 3.4 *Aerial Photographs*

Given favourable light and crop conditions, aerial 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.

**SOURCE TYPE:** Air Photographs.

**SOURCE LOCATION:** National Registers of Air Photographs (inc. RAF & OS flights), Museum Collections, National Heritage Bodies, Sites & Monuments Records, University Collections, Private Collections.

### 3.5 *Geotechnical Information*

A description of the topography and solid and surface geology of the site and its environs will be compiled, so as to appreciate the potential condition of any archaeological remains, to assess the hydrological conditions, and to appraise the potential for the survival of buried waterlogged archaeological / palaeoenvironmental deposits.

**SOURCE TYPE:** Borehole & Test-Pit Logs, Site Surveys, Geological Maps.

**SOURCE LOCATION:** Client's Engineers Records, Ordnance Survey, British Standards Institute, British Geological Publications.

### 3.6 *Secondary & Statutory Sources*

**SOURCE TYPE:** Regional & Period Archaeological Studies, Landscape Studies, Local Knowledge, Dissertations, Policy Statements and Research Frameworks, Legislative documents, European Directives, Local Government Plans, Constraints Maps.

**SOURCE LOCATION:** Libraries, Local Landowners, Local & National Museums, Universities, Academic Journals,



Monographs & Other Publications, Local  
Archaeological & Historical Societies.

3.7 *Preliminary Walk-Over Survey*

As part of the assessment a preliminary walk-over survey of the site will be undertaken with the following aims:

1. 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.
2. To consider the significance of any above-ground structures, historic buildings or historic landscape features present.
3. To assess the present site use and ground conditions, with a view to the appropriate deployment of fieldwork techniques, if required.
4. With regard to (3), to carry out a Health & Safety Risk Assessment of the site.

4 *Staffing*

The assessment will be managed by ASC's Manager, **Bob Zeepvat BA MIFA**, an established archaeologist with extensive experience in managing archaeological projects, of a wide range of fieldwork, post-excavation and publication work in both rural and urban environments. Research and reporting for the assessment will be carried out by one of ASC's Project Officers, all of whom are members of the Institute of Field Archaeologists (MIFA or AIFA), with demonstrable track records in a wide range of fieldwork and assessment projects. Further details are available on ASC's website ([www.archaeological-services.co.uk](http://www.archaeological-services.co.uk)).

5 *Reporting*

5.1 The assessment report will normally be prepared within four weeks, and will typically include:

- a concise non-technical summary of the results
- information relating to the circumstances of the project
- background information about the site
- a summary of the aims of the project and the methods used
- the results of the research detailed above, supported by appropriate illustrative material
- a predictive model of the nature, location, extent, date, significance and quality of any archaeological material on the site revealed by the assessment
- the contents and location of the archive
- a database of information and a full bibliography

Copies of the report will be provided as required