

**TEMPORARY WORKS TO EXISTING DITCH,
BOURNE SUB-STATION, SOUTH KESTEVEN, LINCOLNSHIRE**

**SCHEME OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING
AND RECORDING**

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Report prepared for
Western Power Distribution

by

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PI. 2: General view of the ditch before the works were undertaken, looking north.

PI. 3: General view of the ditch after the works were completed, looking south.

Summary

A scheme of archaeological monitoring and recording was undertaken during the groundworks for the replacement and reinforcement of a pipe within an existing ditch at Bourne Sub-Station.

The site is directly adjacent to the earthworks of an early medieval castle, a Scheduled Ancient Monument.

Archaeological monitoring was required to ensure that the groundworks only affected modern silt deposits and topsoil within the existing ditch.



Figure 1: Location plan of the site at scale 1:25,000. OS mapping © Crown copyright. All rights reserved. PCAS licence no. 100049278.

1.0 Introduction

Pre-Construct Archaeological Services Ltd. (PCAS) was commissioned by Western Power Distribution to carry out a scheme of archaeological monitoring and recording during the groundworks associated with the replacement and reinforcement of a pipe within an existing ditch at Bourne Sub-Station, off Manor Lane, Bourne, Lincolnshire.

2.0 Site location and description (figs. 1 & 2)

The market town of Bourne is located 30km north-west of the city of Peterborough and 19km south-west of Spalding within the administrative district of South Kesteven. It is centred on the crossroads of the north-to-south A15 and the east-to-west A151.

The sub-station is situated in the south-west quarter of the town, off Manor Lane, which runs roughly southwards from the A151. It lies directly adjacent to the earthworks of Bourne's Norman castle, which are sited to the south of the modern town centre.

The scheme of works comprised the insertion of a pipe with concrete-filled sandbag support into an existing ditch at the front of the sub-station, in order to enable heavy transport to access the sub-station without risking damage to the pipe.

Central National Grid Reference: TF 0910 1990.

3.0 Geology and topography

No drift geology is recorded on the site: the sub-station and the castle earthworks are situated on the exposed solid geology of Jurassic Oxford Clay (BGS, 1972).

The general lie of the land in the vicinity of the site is a shallow eastward slope towards the watercourses of the Car Dyke, the Bourne Eau and the River Glen.

4.0 Planning background

English Heritage requested a written scheme of investigation for a scheme of archaeological monitoring and recording on groundworks at the Bourne Sub-Station off Manor Lane, during the insertion of a pipe with supporting material into an existing ditch. The monitoring and reporting have been carried out according to the methodology established in the written scheme of investigation prepared by this company (Savage, 2013).

As the ditch that is the subject of the scheme of archaeological monitoring runs around the edge of a Scheduled Ancient Monument, the purpose of the monitoring scheme was to ascertain the absence of archaeological deposits during the groundworks: to ensure only modern topsoil and ditch fill would be removed (Scheduled Monument Consent ref. S00060396).

An online record of the project data was initiated with the Archaeological Data Service (OASIS database) before fieldwork commenced, to be completed at the end of the project, including an uploaded digital copy of this report.

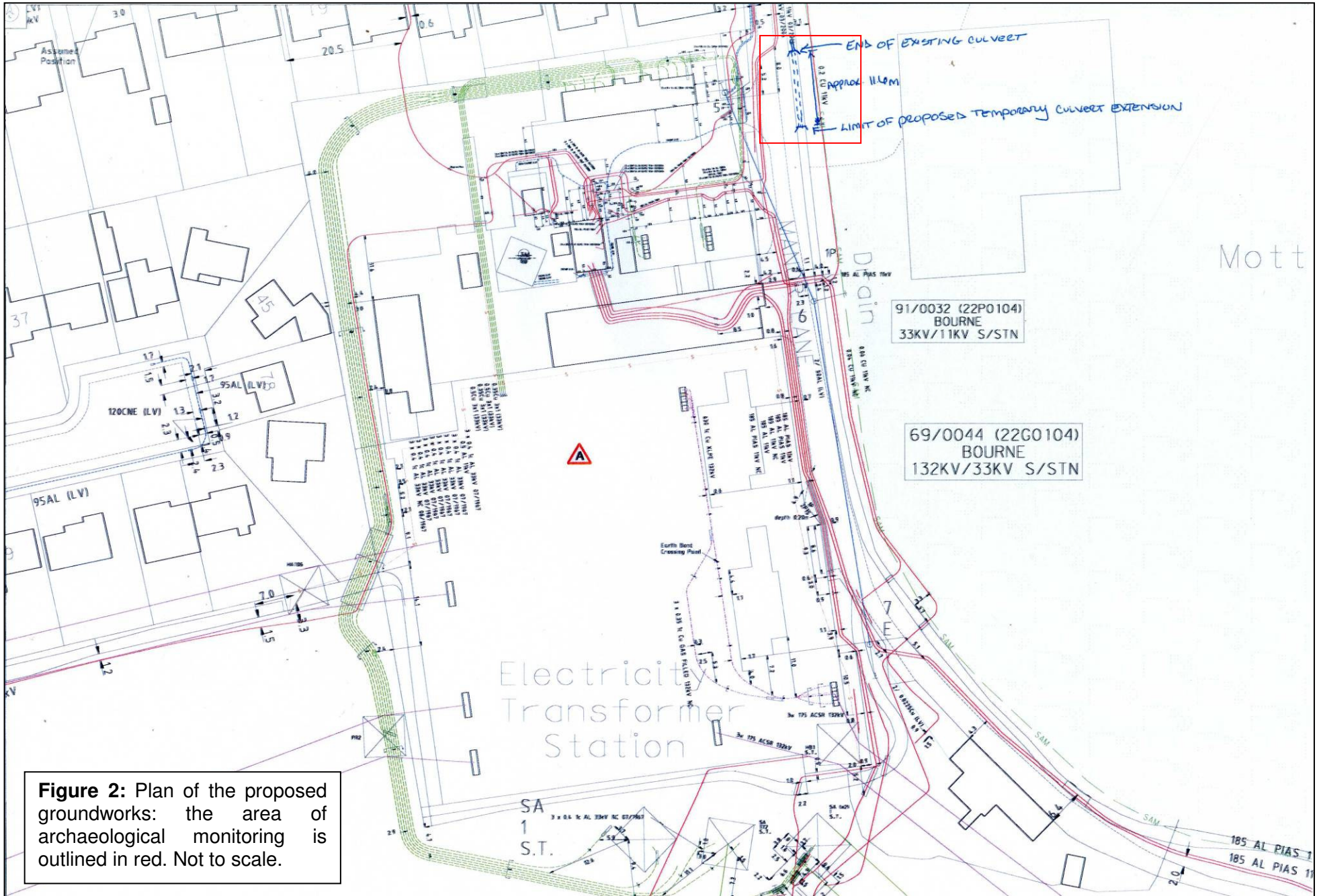


Figure 2: Plan of the proposed groundworks: the area of archaeological monitoring is outlined in red. Not to scale.

6.0 Archaeological and historical background

Bourne is located on the Roman road King Street that runs southwards to Water Newton and northwards to Sleaford. It is also served by the Car Dyke, a catchment drain/canal of Roman origins linking the Nene at Peterborough with the Witham at Lincoln (Whitwell, 1992).

The town is listed in the *Domesday Book* as *Brune*, probably from the Old Norse *brunnr* meaning a spring or stream (Cameron, 1998). Directly to the east of the sub-station are the earthwork remains of the Norman castle of Bourne. Excavations have revealed walls, a rampart, a moat and fish ponds, along with pottery dating from the 10th-17th centuries (Scheduled Ancient Monument No.95; HER 30043). The town thrived in the early medieval period, largely prospering from the wool trade, and was the centre of a major medieval pottery industry, which traded wares throughout Lincolnshire and beyond. The amalgamation of surrounding titles and estates, however, was to erode the importance of Bourne castle, and the town was in decline by the late 14th century (Brett, 2002).

7.0 Methodology

The groundworks comprised the removal by machine of the silt from the base of the ditch and the topsoil from the sides. The specification required hand excavation to establish the depth of the modern silts; however, this proved impractical as the ditch was full of water – instead the sludge at the base of the ditch was skimmed out with the machine under close supervision. Between 0.2m and 0.3m of sludge was removed, the upcast being carefully checked for finds.

The works requiring archaeological monitoring were carried out in a single day. The fieldwork was undertaken by Michael Rowe on 7th May 2013.

All deposits were recorded on standard PCAS trench recording sheets, and the progress of the groundworks was recorded on a General Account sheet. A measured sketch was made on-site of the cross section and plan, supplemented with a digital photographic record, a selection of which is reproduced in Appendix 1.

8.0 Results (fig. 3)

As mentioned above, only the sludge at the base of the ditch was removed, which comprised a dark greyish brown organic silt (context 101), from which only modern finds were recovered (bricks, cans, bottles etc) which were not retained. This material was excavated to a depth of 0.2-0.3m.

On the eastern side of the ditch a mid-brown silt loam was observed (context 102). This material was the uppermost deposit here, and appears to represent slumping of the bank into the ditch after deposit 101 had partially filled the ditch. No finds were recovered from this horizon.

9.0 Conclusion

No finds or features pre-dating the modern period were encountered during the monitoring and recording programme. Although on the line of a ditch which forms the boundary with the Scheduled Monument of Bourne Castle, the modern ditch was probably cut as part of the works surrounding the adjacent housing estate or the transfer station/access road next to it. The ditch has been culverted to the north of the area, while to the south the ditch has been

revetted with concrete on its west side to support the road, demonstrating that it has already been the subject of extensive local engineering works.

The scheme of monitoring has been successful in ensuring that only modern deposits were removed during the groundworks and no deposits of archaeological significance were encountered.

10.0 Effectiveness of methodology

The methodology employed during this project achieved its primary objective, ensuring that only modern material was excavated during the excavation of the new pipe and no archaeological remains were disturbed by the works, while causing the minimum of disruption to the construction process.

11.0 Acknowledgements

PCAS Ltd would like to thank Western Power Distribution for this commission.

12.0 Site Archive

The project archive is currently held at the offices of PCAS Ltd. in Saxilby, Lincolnshire while being prepared for deposition, and will be deposited with the Lincoln City and County Museum ('The Collection') in the next available Archive deposition window - August 2013.

13.0 Bibliography

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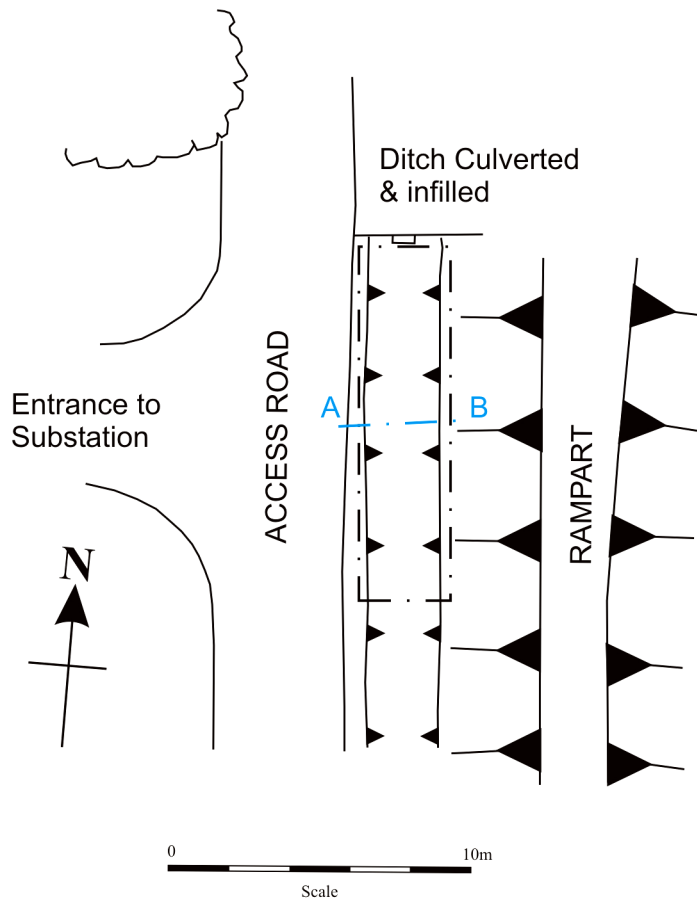


Figure 3: Plan showing the works at scale 1:250

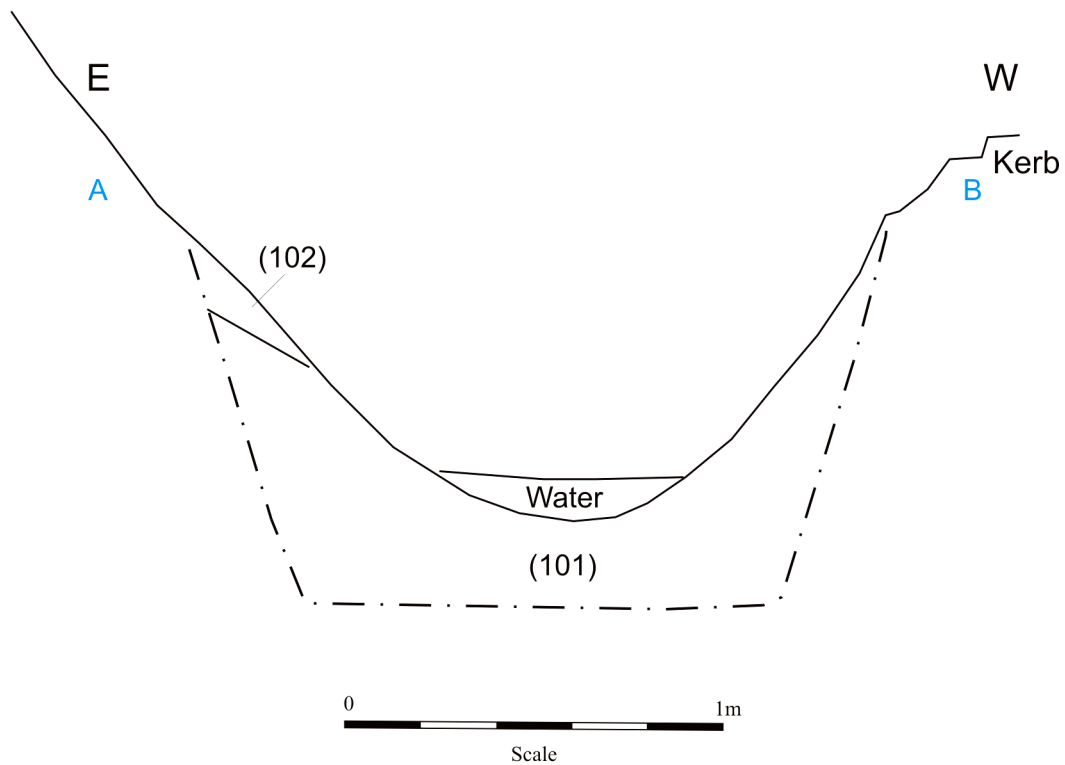


Figure 4: Section of the works at scale 1:20

Appendix 1: Colour Plates



Plate 1: General site shot, looking northwest from the earthwork castle rampart.



Plate 2: General view of the ditch before the works were undertaken, looking north.



Plate 3: General view of the ditch after the works were completed, looking south.

Appendix 2: Context Summary

Context No.	Type	Description	Finds/Dating
100	Layer	Ditch fill: dark greyish-brown organic silt	Modern refuse, not retained
101	Layer	Mid-brown silty loam: soil slumped from bank into ditch	None

Appendix 3: OASIS summary