# KEAYS WAY, SCRAPTOFT, LEICESTERSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING & RECORDING

NGR: SK 64926 05948

PCAS job no. 2064 Site code: KWSM 18 Archive acc. no.: X.A73.2018

Prepared for

**NMCNomenca** 

by

Phil Evans BA (Hons) MCIfA

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PCAS Archaeology Ltd 47, Manor Road Saxilby Lincoln LN1 2HX Tel. 01522 703800

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# Contents

	Summary	1
1.0	Introduction	2
2.0	Site location and description	2
3.0	Topography and geology	2
5.0	Archaeological and historical background	4
6.0	Methodology	4
7.0	Results	4
8.0	Conclusion	4
9.0	Effectiveness of methodology	4
10.0	Acknowledgements	4
11.0	Site Archive	5
12.0	References/Bibliography	5

Figure.1: Site Location Plan
Figure. 2: Plan pipeline route

**Appendix 1:** Context Summary

# **Summary**

PCAS Archaeology Ltd. was commissioned by NMCNomenca to carry out a scheme of archaeological monitoring and recording during the construction groundworks for a new water pipe between Beeby Road and Keays Way, Scraptoft, Leicester.

The monitoring completed during the groundworks for the new pipeline recorded either a natural sequence of deposits or modern made ground (tarmac and subbase) over natural clay where works were undertaken in the road. No archaeological finds, features or deposits were revealed during the monitoring.

#### 1 Introduction

PCAS Archaeology Ltd. was commissioned by NMCNomenca to carry out a scheme of archaeological monitoring and recording during the construction groundworks for a new water pipe between Beeby Road and Keays Way, Scraptoft, Leicester (centred on SK 64926 05948, Fig. 1).

This report details the findings of the archaeological works undertaken on the site.



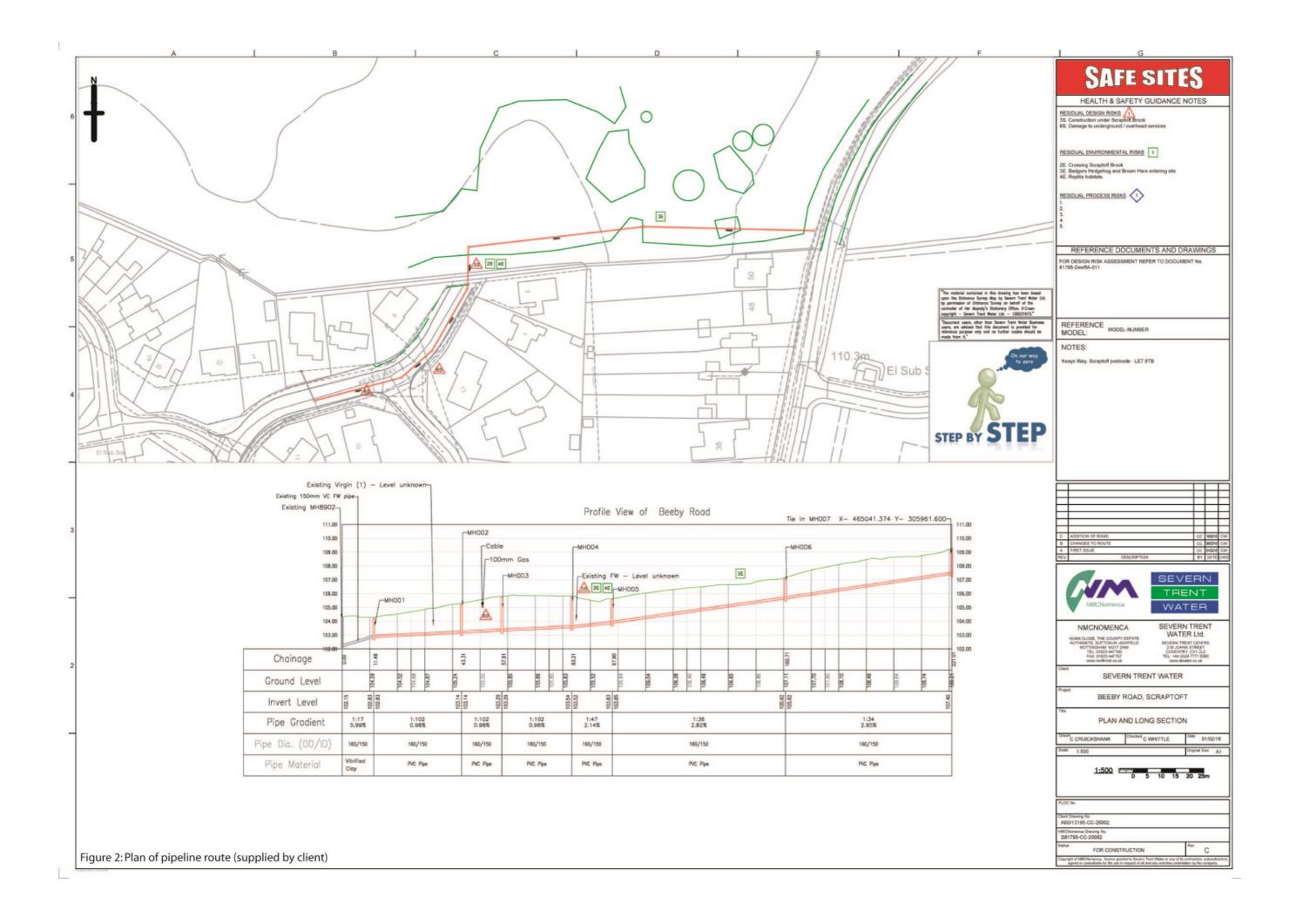
Figure. 1: Site Location Plan with pipeline route shown in red. OS mapping Crown Copyright. PCAS License No. 100049278.

# 2.0 Site location and description (Fig. 1)

Scraptoft lies in Harborough District in Leicestershire, just outside the Leicester city limits (Fig1). The proposed pipeline runs from the west side of Beeby Road for c. 125m through an area of open grassland at the northern end of the village before turning south-west along Keays Way for a further c. 75m.

# 3.0 Geology, Soils & Topography

The predominant soil type identified in the vicinity of the proposed development comprises slowly permeable seasonally wet slightly acid but base-rich loamy and clayey soils (Magic.co.uk). The solid geology of the area comprises Lias Group mudstone, siltstone, limestone and sandstone with superficial deposits of till (bgs.ac.uk).



# 4.0 Archaeological and historical background

To the north of the village of Scraptoft the route of the pipeline basses through the southern edge of an area defined of the Historic Environment Record as the site of the US 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne Division's 'Camp March Hare' in 1944 (MLE8364) which appears to have also been used as a Prisoner of War camp and a Repatriation camp. To the south of Beeby Road, c. 100m to the south of the south-western end of the pipe line lies the historic core/shrunken village of Scraptoft (MLE9024), Scraptoft Hall Gardens (MLE19795) and Fishponds (MLE2290). Other archaeological remains in the vicinity includes findspots for Prehistoric, Roman and Anglo-Saxon artefacts and the earthworks associated with the remains of medieval buildings, suggesting that Scraptoft has shrunk in size since the Post-medieval period

#### 5.0 Methodology

The excavations for the pipeline, manholes and site compound were subject to archaeological monitoring and recording. The adopted methodology followed the scheme set out within the approved Written Scheme of Investigation (Evans, 2018) and is summarised here:

Archaeological monitoring and recording took place on between 23<sup>rd</sup> July and 5<sup>th</sup> September 2018, during the excavation of the new pipeline and manholes. A mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless bucket was used to undertake the excavations. Monitoring was undertaken by suitably experienced field archaeologists (J. Lathan, S. Palmer – Brown, S, Savage & A. Pascoe).

A written record of each stratigraphic horizon was made on standard PCAS Context Sheets. These were supplemented by a drawn record consisting of measured plans and sample section drawings (scale 1:20). Alongside the written and drawn record, a digital photographic record was maintained. A narrative account of the daily progress was also maintained.

#### 7.0 Results

Monitoring during the groundworks associated with the new pipeline only revealed either a natural sequence of topsoil, subsoil, over natural clays, or where works were undertaken in the road, tarmac, modern made ground (subbase) and natural clay deposits.

#### 8.0 Conclusion

The monitoring completed during the groundworks for the new pipeline recorded either a natural sequence of deposits or modern made ground (tarmac and subbase) over natural clay where works were undertaken in the road. No archaeological finds, features or deposits were revealed during the monitoring.

#### 9.0 Effectiveness of Methodology

The Methodology employed during this project achieved its primary objective, ensuring that any archaeological remains that might have been present on the site would not have been destroyed unrecorded, while causing the minimum of disruption to the construction process.

# 10.0 Acknowledgements

PCAS Archaeology Ltd would like to GGP for this commission.

## 11.0 Site Archive

The project archive is currently held at the offices of PCAS Archaeology in Saxilby, Lincolnshire while being prepared for deposition, and will be deposited with Leicester Museums Archaeology Collections (Ref: X.A73.2018).

## 12.0 References

Evans, P. 2018. Keays Way, Scraptoft, Leicestershire: Specification for a Scheme of Archaeological Monitoring and Recording.

http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html

http://www.heritagegateway.org.uk/Gateway/

https://www.historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/

http://maps.nls.uk/geo/find

https://www.old-maps.co.uk/#/

# **Appendix 1: Context Summary**

Context	Туре	Description	Finds/dating
100	Layer	Topsoil	-
101	Layer	Modern made ground (tarmac and subbase)	-
102	Layer	Topsoil 0.3m thick	-
103	Layer	Orange brown silty clay subsoil 0.1 – 0.2m thick	-
104	Layer	Natural yellow brown silty clay	-
105	Layer	Natural mid brown natural clay	-
106	Layer	Natural yellow/orange boulder clay	-
107	Layer	Tarmac 0.08m thick	-
108	Layer	Modern made ground/subbase 0.5m thick	-
109	Layer	Topsoil 0.22m thick	-
110	Layer	Natural red brown clay	-