Withern Eight House Row

Archaeological Watching Brief Report

Client: Anglian Water

OA East Report No: 1574
OASIS No: oxfordar3-168989
NGR: TF 4379 8054
Withern Eight House Row

Watching Brief

Site Code: WEHR14

Accession No. LCNCC: 2014.6

Date of Works: 15/01/14 & 31/01/14

Report No: 1574

Excavator: Pat Moan & Kat Nicholls

Client: Anglian Water

Report Date: January 2014
Table of Contents

Summary .................................................................................................................................5
1 Geology and Topography .................................................................................................7
2 Archaeological Background ............................................................................................7
3 Methodology ...................................................................................................................8
4 Results ..............................................................................................................................8
  4.1 Site Visit & Topographic Survey .................................................................................8
  4.2 Monitoring of Reception Pits .....................................................................................9
5 Discussion and Conclusions ...........................................................................................9
  5.1 Medieval Earthworks adjacent to Chalk lane ...........................................................9
  5.2 Reception Pits ..........................................................................................................9
6 Acknowledgements .........................................................................................................9
Bibliography ......................................................................................................................10
Appendix A. OASIS Report Form .......................................................................................11
List of Figures
Fig. 1  Site location map
Fig. 2  Topographic Plan of the area of earthworks off Chalk Lane

List of Plates
Plate 1  Reception Pit 1
Plate 2  Reception Pit 2
Plate 3  Field with earthworks, showing location of valve
Plate 4  Work under way within earthwork field
Summary

On the 15/01/2014 and 31/01/2014, OA East carried out an archaeological watching brief at Withern, Lincolnshire (TF 4379 8054). The monitoring was carried out during the installation of a replacement water main. The excavation of two reception pits was monitored, and nothing of archaeological interest was seen.
1 GEOLGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

1.1.1 The pipeline is situated on Welton Chalk Formation with superficial deposits of
Devension diamicton. The pipeline begins at c. 8mOD in Withern, and rises gradually to
18mOD at the end of the pipeline in Woodthorpe, to the south. The pipeline traverses
six arable fields and one field lain to pasture.

2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1.1 The site crosses through an area of archaeological potential as defined by the County
Historic Environment Record. An archaeological background was recently written for
the specification for Archaeological Monitoring, as is replicated in parts below (Green
2013).

Prehistoric

2.1.2 Early prehistoric activity is present across the landscape, and predominantly seen as
finds spots within the Lincolnshire HER. Late Mesolithic and early Neolithic flints were
recovered during fieldwalking 1.84km north-east of Withern (HER 44461). Other finds
spots include a Neolithic or early Bronze Age flint scraper or knife was recovered
during field walking 3km to the north-east of the proposed pipe route (HER 44719) and
a prehistoric worked flints from Stain Hill east of Withern (HER 41134).

Roman

2.1.3 The only Roman activity nearby comes from Stain Hill, 3km to the east of the pipe
route, where 53 Roman counts were found (HER 41133).

Medieval & Post-Medieval

2.1.4 Withern is recorded in the Domesday Book as having a population of at least 44 with a
church and mill. The Church of St Margaret was build in the 15th century and rebuilt in
1811 – 1812. The nave and chancel were restored in 1875 and are constructed of brick.
The Church was made redundant in 1980 (Her 42667).

2.1.5 The scheduled site of Castle Hill is located 500m north-west of the pipe route. This site
is believed to have been the location of a house belonging to the Fitzwilliam family,
whom held large estates in Withern and Mablethorpe during the 17th century. The site
was then utilised during the Civil War, with earthworks dating to this period surviving
(HER 43555).

2.1.6 Approximately 1.3km south-west of the pipe route, substantial earthworks and buried
remains of the motte and bailey castle known as Toot Hill is located. This dates to the
11th or 12th century, and is either the site of a fortification dating to the post-conquest
period or to the civil war during the reign of King Stephen. During the post-medieval
period, a house known as Tothill Manor was built within the bailey, which is grade II
listed.

2.1.7 Surviving earthworks for a ditch and bank are located 1.9km to the east of the pipe
route, at Grange Farm. 18th century pottery was recovered from the feature when a
cable trench was cut through it (HER 43937).
2.1.8 Earthworks are also seen directly to the north of the pipe route, bounded by Chalk lane. The earthworks appear to be the remains of a number of medieval crofts, more of which can be seen further to the north, along the south-east of the A157.

3 METHODOLOGY

3.1.1 The objective of this watching brief was to determine as far as reasonably possible the presence/absence, location, nature, extent, date, quality, condition and significance of any surviving archaeological deposits within the development area.

3.1.2 The Brief required that any reception pits that were to be opened would be monitored by a qualified archaeologist. Furthermore, a topographic survey will be undertaken of any earthworks that may be affected by the project. The monitoring of an open cut of 900m was not required, due to the pipe being installed by a trenching machine, meaning no observations would be possible by an archaeologist.

3.1.3 The area of investigation was located through arable fields, and one field lain to pasture. The route also drilled under a number of roads and housing located on Chalk Lane.

3.1.4 All archaeological features and deposits were recorded using OA East's pro-forma sheets. Trench locations, plans and sections were recorded at appropriate scales digital photographs were taken of all relevant features and deposits.

3.1.5 Ground conditions were very wet, with standing water in large areas. Weather was dry and sunny.

4 RESULTS

4.1 Site Visit & Topographic Survey

4.1.1 On 15/01/14 the site was visited to review the pipe route and see if any of the earthworks at the northern end of the route would be affected by the laying of the pipe. A topographic survey was carried out within the southern area of the field, to see if any would be damaged by machinery. No earthworks were noted on the earthwork survey undertaken in the area of work. The location of the valve within the field was also found. It was within 5 metres of the gate used for access, and not located near any earthworks. It was agreed a fence would be erected to provide a physical barrier for the contractors so that they would know the safe working area. See fig. 2 for the topographic plan and access/valve locations.

4.1.2 The rest of the pipe route was walked, to ensure no other earthworks were located within the area, and to see the locations of any reception pits required by the contractor. Receptions pits were required near the northern terminus of the pipe route, with two being located within the field between Chalk Lane and the B1373. It was agreed these would be monitored by an archaeologist when they were to be opened.
4.2 Monitoring of Reception Pits

4.2.1 On 31/01/14, two reception pits were excavated approximately 3m by 2.2m in size. The first reception pit was located within the first field toward the northern end of the pipeline just south of Withern. The second was located towards the southern end of this same field just before the pipe line crossed the B1373 see Fig 1).

4.2.2 Reception pit 1 had a depth of 0.6m before encountering natural geology. The geology was overlain by 0.35m of mid yellowish brown subsoil which was in turn overlain by a dark greyish brown topsoil with a depth of 0.25m.

4.2.3 Reception pit 2 had a depth of 0.5m before encountering natural geology. The geology was overlain by 0.25m of mid yellowish brown subsoil which was in turn overlain by a dark greyish brown topsoil with a depth of 0.25m.

4.2.4 Modern field drains were present in both reception pits and no archaeology was observed. The pits were then backfilled to be re-excavated when needed by the contractor.

5 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

5.1 Medieval Earthworks adjacent to Chalk lane

5.1.1 The topographic survey of earthworks by Chalk lane indicated that there were no earthworks located within the area the contractors would need access to, with only a natural gradient from east to west. The survey undertaken directly to the north of the first area shows what appears to be a poorly preserved building platform to the west, and no other earthworks. This possible building is most likely part of a croft, more of which are known to survive to the north of the pipe route along the A157.

5.1.2 No open trenching was to take place by the valve, with access to it needed only to connect the new pipe to the well. Because of this, no further monitoring was required within the field.

5.2 Reception Pits

5.2.1 Nothing of archaeological interest was found within the reception pits directly south of Withern. This is likely due to the area monitored falling outside of the medieval core of the village. Similarly, the lack of archaeological evidence suggests little significant human habitation within the area. However, due to the limited excavations within the field, it is very possible that any surviving archaeology in the area was not located.

6 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

6.1.1 The author would like to thank Anglian Water who commissioned and funded the archaeological work. The project was managed by Richard Mortimer.

6.1.2 The brief for archaeological works was written by Louise Jennings, who monitored the watching brief.
**BIBLIOGRAPHY**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Author(s)</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
APPENDIX A. OASIS REPORT FORM
All fields are required unless they are not applicable.

**Project Details**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>OASIS Number</th>
<th>oxfordar3-168989</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Project Name</td>
<td>Withern Eight House Row</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Project Dates (fieldwork)</td>
<td>Start 15-01-2014 Finish 31-01-2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Previous Work (by OA East)</td>
<td>No Future Work No</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Project Reference Codes**

| Site Code | WEHR14 |
| HER No.   | LCNCC: 2014.6 |

**Type of Project/Techniques Used**

Prompt: Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPS 5

- [ ] Field Observation (periodic visits)
- [ ] Part Excavation
- [ ] Salvage Record
- [ ] Full Excavation (100%)
- [ ] Part Survey
- [ ] Systematic Field Walking
- [ ] Full Survey
- [ ] Recorded Observation
- [ ] Systematic Metal Detector Survey
- [ ] Geophysical Survey
- [ ] Remote Operated Vehicle Survey
- [ ] Test Pit Survey
- [ ] Open-Area Excavation
- [ ] Salvage Excavation
- [x] Watching Brief

**Monument Types/Significant Finds & Their Periods**

List feature types using the NMR Monument Type Thesaurus and significant finds using the MDA Object type Thesaurus together with their respective periods. If no features/finds were found, please state "none".

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Monument</th>
<th>Period</th>
<th>Object</th>
<th>Period</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Earthworks</td>
<td>Medieval 1066 to 1540</td>
<td></td>
<td>Select period...</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Select period...</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Select period...</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Select period...</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Select period...</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Project Location**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>County</th>
<th>Lincolnshire</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>District</td>
<td>East Lindsey</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parish</td>
<td>Withern with Stain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HER</td>
<td>Lincolnshire HER</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Study Area</td>
<td>900m</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Site Address (including postcode if possible)</td>
<td>Chalk Lane, Withern LN13 0LQ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National Grid Reference</td>
<td>TF 4379 8054</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Project Originators

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Organisation</th>
<th>OA EAST</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Project Brief Originator</td>
<td>Louise Jennings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Project Design Originator</td>
<td>Richard Mortimer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Project Manager</td>
<td>Richard Mortimer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Supervisor</td>
<td>Pat Moan</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Project Archives

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Physical Archive</th>
<th>Digital Archive</th>
<th>Paper Archive</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>OA East</td>
<td>Lincolnshire County Store</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>XLIWIT13</td>
<td>WEHR14</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Archive Contents/Media

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Physical Contents</th>
<th>Digital Contents</th>
<th>Paper Contents</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Animal Bones</td>
<td>□</td>
<td>□</td>
<td>□</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ceramics</td>
<td>□</td>
<td>□</td>
<td>□</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Environmental</td>
<td>□</td>
<td>□</td>
<td>□</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Glass</td>
<td>□</td>
<td>□</td>
<td>□</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Human Bones</td>
<td>□</td>
<td>□</td>
<td>□</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Industrial</td>
<td>□</td>
<td>□</td>
<td>□</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leather</td>
<td>□</td>
<td>□</td>
<td>□</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Metal</td>
<td>□</td>
<td>□</td>
<td>□</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stratigraphic</td>
<td>□</td>
<td>□</td>
<td>□</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Survey</td>
<td>□</td>
<td>□</td>
<td>□</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Textiles</td>
<td>□</td>
<td>□</td>
<td>□</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wood</td>
<td>□</td>
<td>□</td>
<td>□</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Worked Bone</td>
<td>□</td>
<td>□</td>
<td>□</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Worked Stone/Lithic</td>
<td>□</td>
<td>□</td>
<td>□</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>None</td>
<td>□</td>
<td>□</td>
<td>□</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>□</td>
<td>□</td>
<td>□</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Digital Media

- Database
- GIS
- Geophysics
- Images
- Illustrations
- Moving Image
- Spreadsheets
- Survey
- Text
- Virtual Reality

### Paper Media

- Aerial Photos
- Context Sheet
- Correspondence
- Diary
- Drawing
- Manuscript
- Map
- Matrices
- Microfilm
- Misc.
- Research/Notes
- Photos
- Plans
- Report
- Sections
- Survey

### Notes:

---

© Oxford Archaeology East  Page 10 of 10 Report Number 1574
Figure 1: Site location showing reception pits and area of topographic survey (black) and route of pipeline (red)
Figure 2: Topographic Plan of area of earthworks off Chalk Lane
Plate 3: Field with earthworks, showing location of valve
Plate 4: Work under way in Earthwork Field.
OA North
Mill 3
Moor Lane
Lancaster LA1 1GF

t: +44 (0) 1524 541 000
t: +44 (0) 1524 848 606
e: oanorth@oxfordarchaeology.com
w: http://oxfordarchaeology.com

OA East
15 Trafalgar Way
Bar Hill
Cambridgeshire
CB23 8SQ

t: +44 (0) 1223 850 500
e: oaeast@oxfordarchaeology.com
w: http://oxfordarchaeology.com