Archaeological Monitoring in advance of Sewer Replacement work on land North West of Kettering

Archaeological Observation & Recording Report

February 2013

Client: Anglian Water

OA East Report No: 1431
OASIS No: oxfordar3-139014
NGR: SP 86269 80250
Archaeological Observation and Recording in advance of sewer replacement work on land North West of Kettering

By James Fairbairn

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Report Number: 1431
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HER Event No: N/a
Date of Works: October – December 2012
Client Name: Anglian Water
Client Ref: N/a
Planning Ref: N/a
Grid Ref: SP 86269 80250
Site Code: XNNKRS12
Finance Code: XNNKRS12
Receiving Body:
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Date: February 2013
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Position: Manager
Date: February 2013
Signed: A.A. Connor

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Fig. 3     Section showing typical truncation in area C

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Plate 2    Area C example of flooding next to the Slade Brook
Plate 3    Area F truncation in area of balancing ponds.
Summary

Between 5th October 2012 and 6th of December 2012 Oxford Archaeology East monitored topsoil and subsoil stripping in advance of the installation of a new sewer pipe on land to the NW of Kettering. The works involve the construction of a sewer pipeline through the southern extent of Northfield Avenue and backing off to follow the western side of the Slade Brook, terminating within allotment gardens to the south of the A43 north of Furnace Lane, Kettering a distance of approximately 675m. No archaeology was recorded on the route of this part of the pipeline although major disturbance and truncation by modern intervention was noted on almost the entire length of the area monitored.
1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Location and scope of work

1.1.1 An Archaeological monitoring and recording was conducted at land to the NW of Kettering. Along the southern extent of Northfield Avenue and following the western side of the Slade Brook, terminating within allotment gardens to the south of the A43 north of Furnace Lane. Approximately 675m.

1.1.2 This archaeological monitoring work was undertaken in accordance with a Brief issued by the planning department of Northamptonshire County Council (Mather, 2012) supplemented by a Specification prepared by OA East. (Connor, 2012)

1.1.3 The work was designed to assist in defining the character and extent of any archaeological remains within the proposed redevelopment area, in accordance with the guidelines set out in National Planning Policy Framework (Department for Communities and Local Government March 2012). The results will enable decisions to be made by Northampton County Council, on behalf of the Local Planning Authority, with regard to the treatment of any archaeological remains found.

1.1.4 The site archive is currently held by OA East and will be deposited with the appropriate county stores in due course.

1.2 Geology and topography

1.2.1 Topographically the route of the pipe line follows the meandering Slade brook and runs through areas of grass pasture and trees. The underlying geology within the area is predominately Upper Lias clay with alluvium along the Slade Brook. The site slopes to the south from around 74m AOD at the northern extent to 71m AOD south of the recreation ground off Northfield Avenue.

1.3 Archaeological and historical background

Prehistoric

1.3.1 Immediately to the north of area G (fig2) an archaeological watching brief and evaluation was carried out in July 2004 by Oxford Archaeology (Cokin, 2004) Although no significant archaeological features were recorded a small amount of flint including an early Mesolithic microlith and a later barbed and tanged arrow head along with seven sherds of Iron Age pottery were found within the subsoil layer giving background activity spanning the Mesolithic to the Iron Age period.

Just to the west of the northern end of the sewer route a flint working site has been recorded and quantities of Bronze age material including a miniature Bronze Age bipartite vessel was found on the site of quarrying close to the northern extent of the pipe line. Excavations prior to Iron stone workings south-east of Weekly Hall Wood, 1km to the east, revealed evidence of Iron Age settlement.

Roman

1.3.2 In the Roman period much of the northern part of Kettering was occupied by an unwalled Roman settlement, extending to the parishes of Weekley and Geddington.
The Royal Commission on Historic Monuments describes this part of Kettering, Geddington and Weekley as “apparently semi-urbanised or at least densely occupied” during the Roman period. Roman settlement was also recorded during construction of the railway line in 1854 at Glendon, north-west of the Slade Brook. (Greenall, 2003)

**Saxon and mediaeval**

1.3.3 Although an early Saxon Settlement is located immediately to the south of the Roman settlement at Kettering there is little evidence of Saxon activity in this area of the Slade Brook. The Domesday Book (1086) records that Kettering was held by the Abbey of Peterborough and comprised of 10 hides, land for 16 ploughs and meadow, woodland and two mills. There were thirty-one villagers and a female slave. Kettering was granted a weekly market in 1227. A three field open system was in operation in 1341 and prior to enclosure there were three open fields, with an area of older enclosure to the west and a common to the north. (Greenall, 2003)

**Post mediaeval**

1.3.4 Northamptonshire experienced intensive urban growth during the 19th century, which is reflected in the growth of Kettering. By the end of the 18th century Kettering had become a modest centre for the textile industry but this was over shadowed in the succeeding century by the growth of shoe manufacturing and the extraction of Iron ore. Large scale ironstone extraction began after the opening of the Midland Railway line in 1857 and by 1873 the area was contributing nearly 10% of total British production. (Greenall, 2003)

**1.4 Acknowledgements**

1.4.1 The author would like to thank Anglian Water PLC for commissioning the work. Barhale and their sub contractors for the help given during the removal of soils. Lesley-Ann Mather of Northampton County Council wrote the brief for the archaeological observation. Aileen Conner managed the project and Helen Stock-Morgan assisted on site.
2 AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

2.1 Aims

2.1.1 The objective of this archaeological monitoring was to preserve the archaeological evidence within the development area by record and to attempt a reconstruction of the history and use of the site. The excavation will be conducted within the context of national, regional and local frameworks, in particular English Heritage (1991 and 1997) and Cooper (2006).

2.1.2 The investigation will seek to establish the character, date, state of preservation and extent of archaeological remains within the proposed development area.

2.2 Methodology

2.2.1 The Brief required that a programme of controlled archaeological investigation and recording be undertaken within the easement of the pipeline during the topsoil and subsoil in the areas of highest archaeological potential.

2.2.2 Machine excavation was carried out under constant archaeological supervision with a tracked excavator using a toothless ditching bucket.

2.2.3 Spoil, exposed surfaces and features were scanned with a metal detector. All metal-detected and hand-collected finds were retained for inspection, other than those which were obviously modern.

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

2.2.5 Site observation was undertaken on different dates and under different site conditions and areas B, C, E and F were particularly prone to flooding.
3 RESULTS

3.1 Introduction
3.1.1 The areas that were monitored are discussed in location order.

3.2 Area A (see fig 2)
3.2.1 Trench area A was located north of Furnace lane and south of the A43. SP 86193 80520. It measured 110m in length, 5m wide and had a maximum depth of 0.65m A mid brown silty clay subsoil (100) was overlain by a dark silty layer of topsoil (099) capped by a turf layer. Area A was devoid of any archaeological features.

3.3 Area B (see fig 2)
3.3.1 Area a was located at grid reference SP 86197 80547 which lies just north of Dalby Close. The intervention measured approximately 17m in length, 2m in width and had a maximum depth of 0.80m. It ran in a north-westerly direction away from the Slade Brook. No archaeology was recorded within the trench. The natural geology consisted of a heavy blue grey clay overlain by a disturbed mid brown silty clay subsoil (102) that contained modern brick, ferrous metal and tile which most likely has come from the modern housing development fronting the Slade Brook. This was capped by a dark silty clay topsoil and turf line (101).

3.4 Area C (see fig 2, plates 1,2)
3.4.1 Area C was located adjacent to the west of the Slade Brook at the bottom of a steep bank, grid reference SP 86287 80009 and opposite the Asda supermarket petrol station. The trench ran North-South and measured approximately 10m in length by 2m wide and was dug to a depth of 1m. Heavy flooding occurred as soon as the topsoil (103) was removed. A re deposited silt clay subsoil (104) was truncated by a row of large Gabion stones which when disturbed allowed water to enter the trench. No archaeology was noted before inundation of water.

3.5 Area D (see fig 2)
3.5.1 Area D was located approximately 30m due north of area C again to the west of Slade Brook, Grid reference SP 86273 80068. The trench measured 12m in length by 2m wide and was dug to an average depth of 0.80m. Natural geology in this area consisted of a sandy gravel with heavy blue grey clay. This was overlain by a redeposited mid brown silty clay subsoil (105). Which in turn was capped by a layer of dark brown silty clay mixture of disturbed sub and topsoil (106), no archaeology was recorded in area D.

3.6 Area E (see fig 2)
3.6.1 Area E was located along the west side of the Slade Brook and due north of area D and to the east of the Thorndale Care Home, grid reference SP 86265 80138. The trench measured 75m in length, 2m wide and was dug to an average depth of 0.80m. The natural geology consisted of a mixture of blue grey clay and sandy gravel patches. A mid brown silty clay subsoil (107) was capped by a dark brown silty clay topsoil (108). A modern pit was noted at the southern end of area E which had been dug through the topsoil layer. This contained remnants of a burned tree stump and pieces of a bicycle.
3.7  **Area F** (see fig 2, plate 3)

3.7.1 Area F was located on land to the south and east of Malham Drive, grid reference SP 86257 80303. The trenching here crossed two balancing ponds that were constructed to take water away from the housing development at Malham Drive. During this work topsoil and subsoil were stripped from the area and a bank was formed around the edge producing a shallow bowl. A thin layer of dark brown silty clay topsoil (109) had been replaced covering the blue grey clay natural geology.

3.8  **Area G** (see fig 2)

3.8.1 Area G was located just west of the Slade Brook and close to the junction of Northfield Avenue (A6003), grid reference SP 863014 79857. The area here under investigation was in advance of the construction of a man hole and was therefore small. It measured 2.5m x 2.5m and was dug to a maximum depth of 0.50m. Natural geology of blue grey clay was overlain by a modern brick and rubble spread (501). This area in common with the other areas monitored had suffered soil removal and heavy truncation.

3.9  **Finds Summary**

3.9.1 Artefacts were exclusively of a modern date and were not retained.
4 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

4.1 Discussion
4.1.1 The route of the sewer pipe along the area adjacent to the Slade Brook, Kettering produced nothing of archaeological significance. Although close to areas of known historical settlement nothing other than heavy disturbance and truncation was recorded. This is due to the modern development that has taken place either side of the Slade Brook and the need to dispel water from these areas. Deep excavation has been undertaken in various areas for the construction of a gabion wall and this would have truncated any archaeological feature on its route.

4.2 Significance
4.2.1 There was nothing of archaeological significance found on this part of the route of the Kettering STW. However, the lack of archaeological remains maybe entirely due to 20th century disturbances.

4.3 Recommendations
4.3.1 Recommendations for any future work based upon this report will be made by the County Archaeology Office.
**APPENDIX A. TRENCH DESCRIPTIONS AND CONTEXT INVENTORY**

### Trench A

**General description**
Trench area A was located north of Furnace lane and south of the A43. No archaeology was recorded.

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<td>Subsoil</td>
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**Area B**

**General description**
East – West trench dug to the east of the embankment of the Slade Brook at Dalby Close. No archaeology was found within the intervention.

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<td>102</td>
<td>Layer</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Disturbed subsoil</td>
<td>Natural geology</td>
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**Area C**

**General description**
North-South Trench adjacent to the Slade brook. The trench flooded when a row of modern Gabion stones were disturbed. No archaeology was recorded within the intervention.

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<td>104</td>
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<td>Disturbed subsoil. Back fill of the construction cut for the Gabion stones.</td>
<td>Stone and Concrete</td>
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| Natural geology |
### Area D

**General description**
Area D was located due north of Area C and near to the site access. This area was devoid of archaeology.

**Orientation**
N-S

**Avg. depth (m)**
0.8

**Width (m)**
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**Length (m)**
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<td>0.5</td>
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### Area E

**General description**
Trench E was located east of the Thorndale Care home and adjacent to the Slade Brook. A modern pit was noted at the southern end of this area.

**Orientation**
N-S

**Avg. depth (m)**
0.8

**Width (m)**
2.1

**Length (m)**
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<tr>
<td>108</td>
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<td>0.3</td>
<td>Topsoil</td>
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### Area F

**General description**
Trench F was located to the south and east of Malham Drive and was dug through modern balancing ponds covered in a re-deposited topsoil. No archaeology was recorded.

**Orientation**
N-S

**Avg. depth (m)**
0.2

**Width (m)**
2.1

**Length (m)**
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<td>Topsoil</td>
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### Area G

**General description**
Area G was located just west of the Slade Brook and close to the junction of Northfield Avenue (A6003). No archaeology

**Orientation**

**Avg. depth (m)**
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APPENDIX B. BIBLIOGRAPHY


R.L. Greenall, A History of Kettering, Phillimore & Co. Ltd, 2003,
### Project Details

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### Type of Project/Techniques Used

| Prompt | Environmental (unspecified schedule) |
| Development Type | Pipelines/Cables |

Please select all techniques used:

- [ ] Aerial Photography - interpretation
- [ ] Aerial Photography - new
- [ ] Annotated Sketch
- [ ] Augering
- [ ] Dendrochronological Survey
- [ ] Documentary Search
- [ ] Environmental Sampling
- [ ] Fieldwalking
- [ ] Geophysical Survey
- [ ] Grab-Sampling
- [ ] Gravity-Core
- [ ] Laser Scanning
- [ ] Measured Survey
- [ ] Metal Detectors
- [ ] Photographic Survey
- [ ] Photogrammetric Survey
- [ ] Photographic Survey
- [ ] Rectified Photography
- [ ] Remote Operated Vehicle Survey
- [ ] Sample Trenches
- [ ] Survey/Recording Of Fabric/Structure
- [ ] Targeted Trenches
- [ ] Test Pits
- [ ] Topographic Survey
- [ ] Vibro-core
- [ ] Visual Inspection (Initial Site Visit)

### 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".

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**Archive Contents/Media**

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**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
Figure 1: Site location
Figure 2: Locations of monitored top and subsoil strip, including Section showing typical truncation in Area C
Plate 1: Area C looking south showing retaining steel wall
Plate 2: Area C example of flooding next to Slade Brook

Plate 3: Area F truncation in area of balancing ponds