

# Newton Mains Replacement



## Archaeological Watching Brief Report



January 2014

**Client: Anglian Water**

OA East Report No: 1604

OASIS No: oxfordar3-166326

NGR: TL 919 407 - TL 915 416

## **Newton Mains Replacement**

### *Watching Brief*

*Site Code: NEN012*

*CHER No. NEN012*

*Date of Works: 9<sup>th</sup> December 2013 and 16<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup> December 2013*

*Report No: 1604*

*Excavator: Michael Green (Bsc)*

*Client: Anglian Water*

*Report Date: January 2014*

*Location: Newton, Sudbury, Suffolk TL 919 407 – TL 915 416*

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## Summary

*On the 9th December 2013 and the 16th-17th of December 2013 , OA East carried out an archaeological watching brief at Newton, Sudbury (TL 919 407 – TL 915 416). The monitoring was carried out during topsoil stripping of the easement and pipe trenching.*

*Much of the easement was not excavated to an archaeological level due to the thickness of the topsoil. The formation level was c. 0.3m in depth and topsoil coverage of most of the development area was c. 0.4m in depth.*

*The pipe trench was 0.25m wide and a varied depth of 1.2-1.6m. Due to the limited view that a pipe cut of this width gives it is uncertain that any archaeological features were positively identified although there were four possible linear features recorded.*

## 1 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

- 1.1.1 The pipeline (AW REF SEW-08938) begins at c. 62m AOD on the A134 Newton Rd east of Sudbury, and falls gradually down to the northwest to c. 53m AOD. The route traverses three fields, currently arable. The underlying bedrock geology is of the London Clay Formation - Clay, Silt And Sand, overlain by Lowestoft Formation – Diamicton.

## 2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1.1 The route of the replacement pipeline crosses an area of archaeological potential as defined by information held in the County Historic Environment Record. Finds of prehistoric and medieval date have been found in the vicinity of the scheme, the route of which crosses a south facing valley location; a situation known to be favourable to early occupation in the nearby Stour valley.

### **Prehistoric**

- 2.1.2 Prehistoric evidence comes from 2Km south west of the development area where a small number of Palaeolithic and neolithic implements have been recorded as a finds spot (MSF5485).

### **Roman**

- 2.1.3 Roman roof and box tile, mortar and lava quern has been recorded 1.26km south-east of the development as a finds spot (MSF1587).
- 2.1.4 A length of Roman road is recorded at TL 9047 4210 to TL 9106 4056 which lies 2.1km west of the proposed development (MSF5483).

### **Saxon**

- 2.1.5 No Saxon evidence can be found in the near vicinity of the development area.

### **Medieval**

- 2.1.6 In April 1992 finds discovered as a result of fieldwalking assessment recorded 15 sherds of Medieval and 13 sherds Post-Medieval pottery and 54 sherds peg-tile just 800M South of the development area on the extension of a golf course (MSF13379).
- 2.1.7 Newton Gildhall, mentioned in 1462 (but possibly the Newton in Corton or Hopton) is roughly located 2km South-West of the development (MSF14692).
- 2.1.8 The Church of All saints (Medieval - 1066 AD to 1539 AD) is in close proximity to the pipeline located only 210m to the north (MSF5482).

### **Post-Medieval and undated**

- 2.1.9 An Oval shaped mound defined and named as 'mound' on OS 1st edition facsimile map (based on 1838 edition) lies 1km south and is undated (MSF14691).
- 2.1.10 An evaluation revealed one small ditch of probable post-medieval date and a small group of un-stratified medieval pottery sherds 1.3km south-west of the development at Whisper Wood (MSF26671).

## **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 monitoring, sample 're-scraping' and re-stripping of easement as necessary (8m wide) between chainage c. 200-900m (c. TL 919 407 – TL 916 413).
- 3.1.3 The topsoil between chainage c. 200-900m had already been stripped with a toothed bucket. All subsequent groundworks were to be monitored. Any areas of the easement where archaeological deposits were revealed were to require re-stripping with a toothless bucket to facilitate feature definition. Opportunity was to be given to the archaeological contractor to hand excavate and record any archaeological features identified.
- 3.1.4 Monitoring of the pipe trenching machine including observations on both sections and up-cast spoil was to be carried out and any possible features recorded as necessary. The total length of the pipeline (1000m) was to be excavated using a pipe trenching machine.
- 3.1.5 A full metal detector survey was carried out for both chainage c. 200-900m which has already been topsoil stripped and for the up-cast created from the pipe trenching machine.
- 3.1.6 The area of investigation was located c. TL 919 407 – TL 915 416
- 3.1.7 Site conditions were generally good, dry and overcast.

## 4 RESULTS

### 4.1 Monitoring of Stripped area

- 4.1.1 Approximately 900m of the pipeline had previously been topsoil stripped prior to monitoring. This area was closely inspected and it could be seen that most of the area still had some topsoil *in situ*. The depth of machining was c. 0.3m but most of the area was covered by at least c. 0.4m of topsoil and no archaeological features could be identified.
- 4.1.2 The metal detector sweep of the area confirmed the presence of topsoil and recent mixed deposits due to modern foil, nails and other post medieval finds. These finds were noted but not kept.

### 4.2 Monitoring of pipe trenching machine

- 4.2.1 The total length of 1000m was monitored for pipe trenching. The trench cut was from chainage c. 200-1200m and was 0.25m wide and 1.2-1.6m in depth. The trenching traversed the stripped area (chainage c. 200-900m) and a ploughed field (chainage c. 900-1200m). A total of four possible features were identified from the trench sections and up-cast. These have been described as ditches below and were seen on both sides of the trench cut but due to the narrow width of the pipe trench identification is tentative, they may have been pits or hollows.
- 4.2.2 Feature (2) was possibly linear in plan with concave sides and base and had moderate break of slope. It measured 0.8m in width and 0.5m in depth and contained one fill (3). Fill (3) was a mid greyish brown soft silty clay with occasional small flint inclusions and no finds were recovered.
- 4.2.3 Feature (4) was possibly linear in plan with concave sides and base and had moderate break of slope. It measured 1.22m in width and 0.65m in depth and contained one fill (5). Fill (5) was a mid brown plastic clay with occasional small flint inclusions and and no finds were recovered.
- 4.2.4 Feature (6) was possibly linear in plan with concave sides and base and had gentle break of slope. It measured 2.4m in width and 0.55m in depth and contained one fill (7) and could be seen cutting subsoil (10). Fill (7) was a light reddish brown soft sandy clay with occasional small flint inclusions and and no finds were recovered.
- 4.2.5 Feature (8) was possibly linear in plan with concave sides and base and had steep break of slope. It measured 1.3m in width and 0.45m in depth and contained one fill (9) and could be seen cutting subsoil (10). Fill (9) was a mid reddish brown soft sandy clay with occasional small flint inclusions and and no finds were recovered.
- 4.2.6 Subsoil (10) was present for the entire construction area (c. 200-1200m) and



varied in depth from 0.3m at the south eastern extent to 0.21m at the north west. Two features were seen to cut the subsoil ((**6**) and (**8**)) and were both possible ditches.

## 5 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

### 5.1 Undated possible linears

5.1.1 Due to the width of the pipe trench it is difficult to say with any certainty what the recorded features represent. However, it seems most likely that all the features seen were of a post-medieval date, particularly ditches (**6**) and (**8**) as they appeared to cut the subsoil. It is possible that these ditches are visible on earlier maps as a small field linking to existing boundaries and can be seen on first edition OS maps (<http://www.old-maps.co.uk/maps.html>, accessed 11/03/2014) Features (**2**) and (**4**) were possibly of some archaeological significance and were seen on the higher ground and closer to the site of the church of All Saints. No finds were recovered from either due to the small amount of upcast available during excavation.

## 6 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- 6.1.1 The author would like to thank Jo Everitt and Anglian Water who commissioned and funded the archaeological work.
- 6.1.2 The brief for archaeological works was written by Matthew Brudenell (Suffolk County Council). Richard Mortimer managed the project and edited the report.

## APPENDIX A. OASIS REPORT FORM

All fields are required unless they are not applicable.

### Project Details

OASIS Number	<input type="text"/>		
Project Name	<input type="text"/>		
Project Dates (fieldwork) Start	<input type="text"/>	Finish	<input type="text"/>
Previous Work (by OA East)	<input type="text"/>	Future Work	<input type="text"/>

### Project Reference Codes

Site Code	<input type="text"/>	Planning App. No.	<input type="text"/>
HER No.	<input type="text"/>	Related HER/OASIS No.	<input type="text"/>

### Type of Project/Techniques Used

Prompt

### Please select all techniques used:

<input type="checkbox"/> Field Observation (periodic visits)	<input type="checkbox"/> Part Excavation	<input type="checkbox"/> Salvage Record
<input type="checkbox"/> Full Excavation (100%)	<input type="checkbox"/> Part Survey	<input type="checkbox"/> Systematic Field Walking
<input type="checkbox"/> Full Survey	<input type="checkbox"/> Recorded Observation	<input type="checkbox"/> Systematic Metal Detector Survey
<input type="checkbox"/> Geophysical Survey	<input type="checkbox"/> Remote Operated Vehicle Survey	<input type="checkbox"/> Test Pit Survey
<input type="checkbox"/> Open-Area Excavation	<input type="checkbox"/> Salvage Excavation	<input type="checkbox"/> 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".

Monument	Period	Object	Period
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

### Project Location

County	<input type="text"/>	Site Address (including postcode if possible)
District	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Parish	<input type="text"/>	
HER	<input type="text"/>	
Study Area	<input type="text"/>	National Grid Reference <input type="text"/>

### Project Originators

Organisation	<input type="text"/>
Project Brief Originator	<input type="text"/>
Project Design Originator	<input type="text"/>
Project Manager	<input type="text"/>
Supervisor	<input type="text"/>

### Project Archives

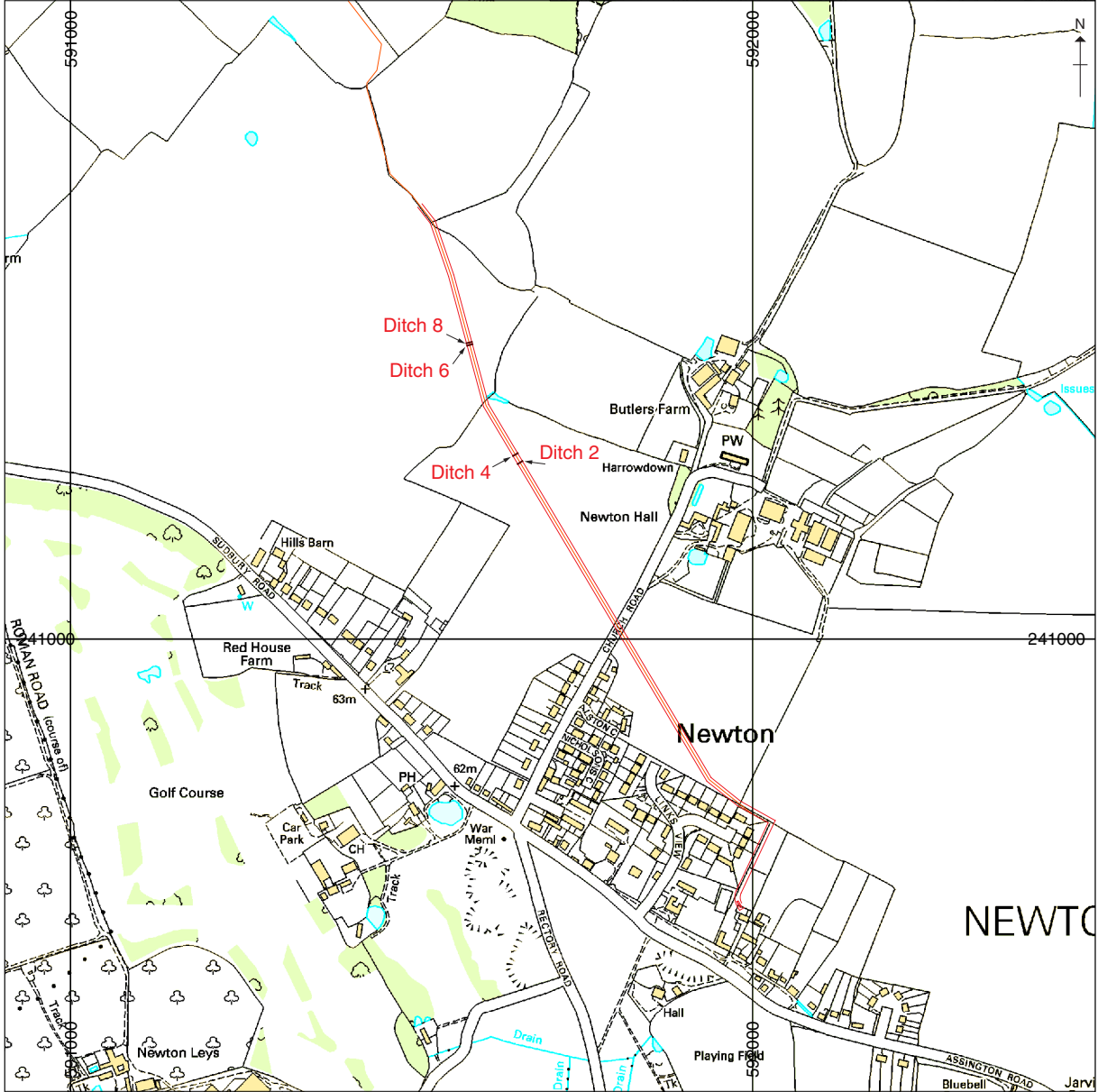
Physical Archive	Digital Archive	Paper Archive
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

### Archive Contents/Media

	Physical Contents	Digital Contents	Paper Contents
Animal Bones	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ceramics	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Environmental	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Glass	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Human Bones	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Industrial	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Leather	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Metal	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Stratigraphic		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Survey		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Textiles	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Wood	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Worked Bone	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Worked Stone/Lithic	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
None	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Digital Media	Paper Media
<input type="checkbox"/> Database	<input type="checkbox"/> Aerial Photos
<input type="checkbox"/> GIS	<input type="checkbox"/> Context Sheet
<input type="checkbox"/> Geophysics	<input type="checkbox"/> Correspondence
<input type="checkbox"/> Images	<input type="checkbox"/> Diary
<input type="checkbox"/> Illustrations	<input type="checkbox"/> Drawing
<input type="checkbox"/> Moving Image	<input type="checkbox"/> Manuscript
<input type="checkbox"/> Spreadsheets	<input type="checkbox"/> Map
<input type="checkbox"/> Survey	<input type="checkbox"/> Matrices
<input type="checkbox"/> Text	<input type="checkbox"/> Microfilm
<input type="checkbox"/> Virtual Reality	<input type="checkbox"/> Misc.
	<input type="checkbox"/> Research/Notes
	<input type="checkbox"/> Photos
	<input type="checkbox"/> Plans
	<input type="checkbox"/> Report
	<input type="checkbox"/> Sections
	<input type="checkbox"/> Survey

### Notes:



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Figure 1: Site location



Plate 1: Trenching machine and trench cut, looking south



**Head Office/Registered Office/  
OA South**

Janus House  
Osney Mead  
Oxford OX2 0ES

t: +44 (0) 1865 263 800  
f: +44 (0) 1865 793 496  
e: [info@oxfordarchaeology.com](mailto:info@oxfordarchaeology.com)  
w: <http://oxfordarchaeology.com>

**OA North**

Mill 3  
Moor Lane  
Lancaster LA1 1GF

t: +44 (0) 1524 541 000  
f: +44 (0) 1524 848 606  
e: [oanorth@oxfordarchaeology.com](mailto: oanorth@oxfordarchaeology.com)  
w: <http://oxfordarchaeology.com>

**OA East**

15 Trafalgar Way  
Bar Hill  
Cambridgeshire  
CB23 8SQ

t: +44 (0) 1223 850500  
e: [oaeast@oxfordarchaeology.com](mailto: oaeast@oxfordarchaeology.com)  
w: <http://oxfordarchaeology.com>



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