

Scawby Sewer Main Replacement



Archaeological Watching Brief Report



July 2013

Client: Anglian Water

OA East Report No: 1478

OASIS No: oxfordar3-155030

NGR: SE 975056 - SE 979047

Scawby Sewer Main Replacement

Watching Brief

Site Code: XLISCA13

CHER No. SWBI

Date of Works: May/June 2013

Grid Reference: SE 975 056 - SE 979 047

Report No: 1478

Excavator: Pat Moan

Client: Anglian Water

Report Date: 16/07/13

Table of Contents

Summary.....	5
1 Geology and Topography.....	7
2 Archaeological Background	7
3 Methodology.....	8
4 Results.....	8
4.1 Topsoil strip.....	8
4.2 Pipe cut strip.....	8
5 Discussion and Conclusions.....	9
6 Acknowledgements.....	9
Appendix A. OASIS Report Form	10

List of Figures

Fig. 1 Site location map.

List of Plates

Plate 1 Excavation of pipe trench in field 1 to natural geology.

Plate 2 View of pipe trench from the north-east, showing modern boundary ditch in plan.

Summary

During May and June 2013, OA East carried out an archaeological watching brief at Scawby, North Lincolnshire (SE 975056 - SE 979047). The monitoring was carried out during a 15m wide topsoil strip and a pipe trench excavation through 1140m of arable farmland in order to install a replacement sewer main. No features of archaeological significance were found; two recently backfilled modern field boundary ditches were recorded.

1 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

- 1.1.1 The pipeline is situated to the east of the village of Scawby, North Lincolnshire and runs through 3 arable fields (see Fig.1). The northern end of the route begins to the east of Scawby village on Brigg Lane, sitting at 18m AOD. The land then rises to 20m AOD at Gainsborough Lane, and falls gently to 12m AOD at the Hibaldstow sewage works to the south.
- 1.1.2 Scawby village itself sits above the wide valley of the River Ancholme to the east, with the villages of Broughton to the north and Hibaldstow to the south. The pipe route is situated on a high point overlooking the valley, with east-west streams running into the Ancholme to both the north and south of the area. The end of the pipeline at Hibaldstow sewage works is within this southern stream valley.
- 1.1.3 The local geology consists of a limestone bedrock with overlying clay deposits. During excavation the natural was seen to be a highly fragmented and degraded limestone with some areas of Till boulder clay sitting above.

2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1.1 The route of the pipeline lies within an area of known and potential archaeological sites, mainly of Neolithic, Middle to Late Bronze Age or Romano-British date. Find spots nearby include Neolithic and Bronze Age flintwork and Roman material (HER 2407) immediately to the west of the pipeline route to the south of Brigg Rd, Neolithic and Roman material (HER 2416) near the Scawby Rd 500m to the east, Roman and medieval pottery (HER 2402) on a potential causeway c. 1.4km to the east, and a dense Roman occupation scatter (HER 2403) 400m to the north.
- 2.1.2 Cropmarks are evident within the vicinity of the route. Ring ditches, field systems and enclosures are recorded 300m to the east on Brigg Rd, on the Scawby Brook less than 1km to the northeast (HER 977065), at Sturton 1km to the west (HER 968049), and towards Hibaldstow 1km to the southwest (HER 19614 and 19615).
- 2.1.3 Parts of a Roman Villa (HER 2398) were recorded at Sturton Farm, less than a kilometre to the west of the sewage works (at the source of the stream to the south of the development area).
- 2.1.4 At Hopefield, Hibaldstow, 2.4km to the south, an area excavation in a broadly similar location to the current development area (though slightly further down the valley side) uncovered a complex Later Prehistoric settlement sequence with overlying Romano-British enclosures. The settlement was dated to the 10th to 8th century BC and was said to include a significant assemblage of Post-Deverel Rimbury Plainware pottery. Several phases of Romano-British fields systems were also recorded, beneath the scant remains of medieval ridge and furrow. (Archaeological Excavation Report: Hopefield, Hibaldstow, North Lincolnshire Allen, M & Rylatt, J Lincoln: Pre-Construct Archaeology, 2001).
- 2.1.5 Further to the northwest at Phoenix Parkway, Scunthorpe, a multi-period excavation recorded Neolithic, Middle Bronze Age, Early Iron Age and Romano-British settlement activity (Land off Phoenix Parkway, Scunthorpe, North Lincolnshire: Allen Archaeology Limited Report Number 2010004, February 2010).

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 the pipeline be stripped of topsoil with a toothless ditching bucket under archaeological supervision. The subsoil would then be removed within the width of the pipe cut by a smaller machine with a toothless bucket. Any archaeological features within the pipe cut would then be cleaned, excavated and recorded by a qualified archaeologist.
- 3.1.3 The area of investigation was located between Scawby to the north and Hibaldstow to the south, running through 3 arable fields. The site was stripped from south to north through the 3 fields.
- 3.1.4 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 Site conditions were generally dry and bright, but with occasional rain. The site was well draining so ground conditions were not an issue.

4 RESULTS

4.1 Topsoil strip

- 4.1.1 The initial topsoil strip of the fields showed that they contained no underlying subsoil. The topsoil was between 0.28m to 0.34m thick and overlay a highly degraded limestone for the majority of the strip. In part of the northernmost field a Till boulder clay was recorded overlying the limestone. During the topsoil strip the only artefact recovered was a small fragment of post-medieval clay pipe from the northernmost field.

4.2 Pipe trench strip

- 4.2.1 Once the topsoil had been removed, a smaller machine was brought in to strip off the topsoil/natural interface where the pipe trench was to be excavated.
- 4.2.2 The Pipe trench strip was excavated in three phases, with each field being stripped separately. This started in the southernmost field and worked northwards through the 2 other fields.
- 4.2.3 The southernmost field contained no features of archaeological significance. A mid to late 20th century ditch was uncovered within the pipe cut. This measured between 0.6m and 0.7m in width and 0.24m in depth. It ran through the centre of the field and was clearly a recent boundary ditch which had been infilled, as the current field boundaries still respected it. Parts of a tin jug were recovered from the fill, but not retained.
- 4.2.4 The central field also contained no significant archaeological features. Like the southern field, a modern ditch was uncovered within the pipe cut. It measured between 0.7m and 0.75m in width and 0.3m in depth. This boundary ditch also ran through the centre of the field and was respected by a track that ran parallel next to it in the northern half of the field. A number of modern bricks were recovered from the fill, but not retained.
- 4.2.5 No features of archaeological significance were recorded within the northernmost field.

5 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

- 5.1.1 No features of archaeological significance were found during the excavation for the new sewer main. The boundary ditch uncovered in the southern field can be seen on maps dating to 1972. After that it appears the ditch was backfilled and used as set-aside on the boundary between two fields. The ditch in the second field can also be seen on the 1972 map and is likely to have been filled in during the same period, to make one large field.

6 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- 6.1.1 The author would like to thank Site Agent Simon Crowder of Barhale, Euphemia Manyanga of Anglian Water who commissioned the archaeological work and Anglian Water for funding the project. The project was managed by Richard Mortimer.
- 6.1.2 The brief for archaeological works was written by Alison Williams.

APPENDIX A. OASIS REPORT FORM

All fields are required unless they are not applicable.

Project Details

OASIS Number	Oxfordar3-1550330			
Project Name	Scawby Sewer Main Replacement			
Project Dates (fieldwork)	Start	09-05-2013	Finish	12-06-2013
Previous Work (by OA East)	No		Future Work	No

Project Reference Codes

Site Code	XLISCA13	Planning App. No.	
HER No.		Related HER/OASIS No.	

Type of Project/Techniques Used

Prompt

Please select all techniques used:

<input checked="" 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 checked="" 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"/>	Select period...	<input type="text"/>	Select period...
<input type="text"/>	Select period...	<input type="text"/>	Select period...
<input type="text"/>	Select period...	<input type="text"/>	Select period...

Project Location

County	Lincolnshire	Site Address (including postcode if possible)	
District	North Lincolnshire	Scawby Road, Scawby Lincolnshire	
Parish	Scawby		
HER	North Lincs HER		
Study Area	1140m	National Grid Reference	SE 975 056 - SE 979 047

Project Originators

Organisation	OA EAST
Project Brief Originator	Alison Williams
Project Design Originator	
Project Manager	Richard Mortimer
Supervisor	Pat Moan

Project Archives

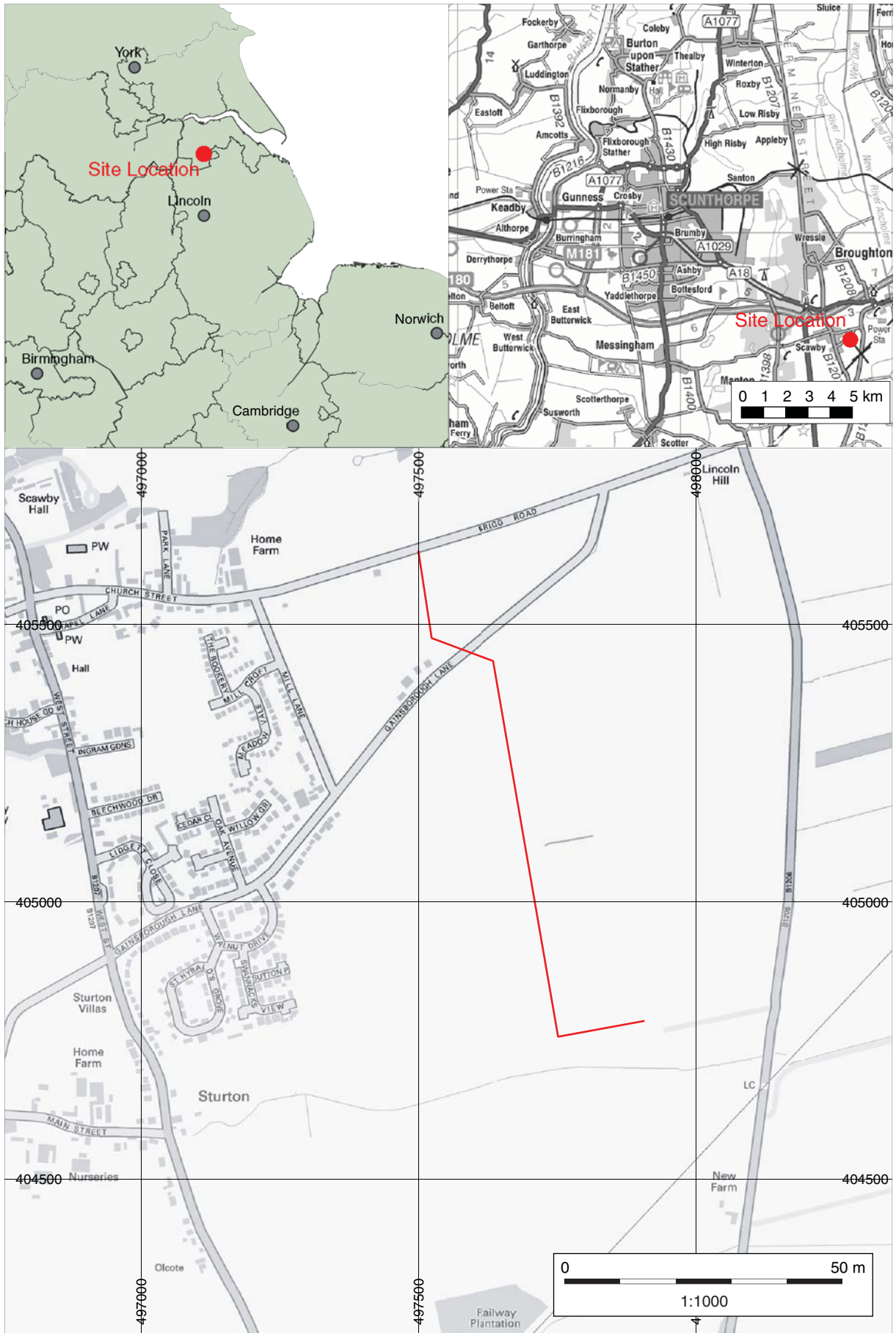
Physical Archive	Digital Archive	Paper Archive
North Lincs HER	Oxford Archaeology East	North Lincs HER
SWBI	XLISCA13	SWBI

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"/>
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Stratigraphic		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Worked Stone/Lithic	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
None	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Images	<input type="checkbox"/> Diary
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<input type="checkbox"/> Virtual Reality	<input type="checkbox"/> Misc.
	<input type="checkbox"/> Research/Notes
	<input type="checkbox"/> Photos
	<input type="checkbox"/> Plans
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Report
	<input type="checkbox"/> Sections
	<input type="checkbox"/> Survey

Notes:



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Figure 1: Site location showing pipeline route (red)



Plate 1: Excavation of pipe trench in field 1.



Plate 2: View of field 1 pipe trench from the north-east, showing modern boundary ditch in plan.



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