

# Water Main Extension Gosbecks View Colchester



**Archaeological  
Monitoring**



April 2015

**Client: Anglian Water**

OA East Report No: 1767

OASIS No: oxfordar3-209681

NGR: TL 9734 2285

**A Water Main Extension South of Gosbecks View, Colchester, Essex**

*Archaeological Monitoring*

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*Report Date: September 2015*

**Report Number:** 1767  
**Site Name:** Land South of Gosbecks View  
**HER Event No:** 2014.79  
**Date of Works:** October 2014  
**Client Name:** Anglian Water  
**Client Ref:** -  
**Planning Ref:** -  
**Grid Ref:** TL 9734 2285  
**Site Code:** COLEM2014.79  
**Finance Code:** XEXBPZ14  
**Receiving Body:** Colchester Museum  
**Accession No:** COLEM2014.79  
**Prepared by:** Gareth Rees  
**Position:** Project Officer  
**Date:** 01/09/2015  
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**Position:** Senior Project Manager  
**Date:** 01/09/2015



**Signed:** .....

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## **Summary**

*Oxford Archaeology East conducted archaeological monitoring of the works of the watermain extension, south of Gosbecks View, Colchester, Essex (TL 9734 2285) on the 22nd October 2014.*

*Ground works involved the excavation of a small exploratory pit, measuring 4.70m by 2.40m, in order to locate the existing watermain. No archaeological remains were uncovered during this excavation. Deposits exposed were those of the backfill of the existing watermain trench and natural geological deposits.*



## 1 INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Location and scope of work

- 1.1.1 Archaeological monitoring was conducted at Gosbecks View, Colchester, Essex (TL 9734 2285; Figure 1).
- 1.1.2 This archaeological monitoring was undertaken in accordance with a Brief issued by Chris Lister of Colchester Borough Planning Department (CBPD), supplemented by a Specification prepared by OA East (Drummond-Murray 2014).
- 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 CBPD, 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 The site lies in a small field with underlying Cover Sand on London Clay. It is at a height of c.35m O.D. on relatively flat ground. The field was under pasture at the time the works took place. The site was bounded to the north by Gosbecks View Road, with Gosbecks Road to the east and Cunobelin Way to the south.

### 1.3 Archaeological and historical background

- 1.3.1 There is evidence for continuous human occupation in Essex from the Palaeolithic period onwards with flint scatters including tools having been recovered from across the county associated particularly with ecotonal and estuarine environments (Wymer 1996, 2; Jacobi 1996, 10). Evidence for earlier prehistoric activity near the Site comes from a single transect axe located at Gosbecks Farm to the south-west (EHER 12727)
- 1.3.2 Across the county it is common to find Neolithic sites associated with earlier, Mesolithic activity. There was an increasing emphasis towards estuarine locations and river terrace deposits.
- 1.3.3 Evidence for settlement becomes increasingly common throughout the Iron Age. The site lies on the periphery of Gosbecks Iron Age and Romano-British site, one of two recognised centres within the nationally important Late Iron Age *oppidum* of Camulodunum. The *oppidum* (designated as Scheduled Monument, Listing 1002180) covered approximately 12 square miles of territory, delineated by large defensive linear earthworks consisting of banks and ditches, known locally as dykes. Part of the defensive enclosure for this *oppidum* is located to the south of the current Site; Shrub End Dyke (EHER 11640; EHER 11636) provided the outer line of a triple defence.
- 1.3.4 There have been a number of excavations carried out at Gosbecks; those prior to 1995 are summarised in Hawkes & Crummy (1995). In 1842 an antiquarian called Jenkins uncovered parts of what he interpreted as a Roman villa, but was in fact the portico of the Roman temple. Following the discovery of the Colchester Mercury statue in the



1940s, a number of small excavations were carried out which led to the identification of the Roman theatre. In 1967, the theatre was partially excavated by Dunnet, and in 1977, small areas of the theatre and portico were examined to assess plough damage.

- 1.3.5 In 1995-96 excavations were carried out in advance of development on three sites near the northern edge of the Archaeological Park, (i.e. on the Maldon Road side: CAT Report 30). This revealed features of Late Iron Age to early Roman in date including a large ditched enclosure and several pits. Early Roman military activity was recorded and later a wooden water main was laid across the area. Several Roman burials were also found, probably of later date. Very little post-Roman activity was noted. On a separate site on the east side the Roman road between Gosbecks and the Roman town was revealed (EHER12551; EHER16478).

## **1.4 Acknowledgements**

- 1.4.1 The author would like to thank Jo Everitt of Anglian Water who commissioned and funded the work. Chris Lister wrote the Brief for archaeological work whilst Paul Lancaster facilitated access to the site. The project was managed by James Drummond-Murray.

## 2 AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

### 2.1 Aims

- 2.1.1 The objective of the monitoring 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.

### 2.2 Methodology

- 2.2.1 The Brief required that monitoring was undertaken on entry and exit pits and a third pit in the centre of the water main. Subsequent to the brief being issued the scope of works was changed so that only one exit pit was required.
- 2.2.2 Machine excavation was carried out under constant archaeological supervision with a tracked mini-digger excavator using toothless ditching buckets. A trench measuring 1m by 2m was excavated using a 1m wide bucket. This trench was trench extended, to the north and west, and deepened using a 0.3m wide bucket in order to expose the existing pipe.
- 2.2.3 Spoil, exposed surfaces and features were scanned with a metal detector.
- 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 No environmental remains were recovered from the site.
- 2.2.6 The site was located in a field laying under pasture with no obstructions to access or archaeological monitoring.

### 3 RESULTS

#### 3.1 Introduction

- 3.1.1 A trench measuring 4.70m from south-south-east to north-north-west and 2.70m from west-south-west to east-north-east over the location of the pre-existing pipe (Figure 2). The trench measured 1.40m deep at the north-north-western end and 0.70m deep at the south-south-eastern end.

#### 3.2 Description of Stratigraphy

- 3.2.1 The natural deposits consisted of a mid reddish-brown clay-sand overlaying a light grey mottled sandy-clay with frequent gravel inclusions.
- 3.2.2 No archaeological deposits were encountered during the monitoring work. A modern cut was uncovered measuring 2m wide in which the existing water pipe had been laid (Plate 1).
- 3.2.3 Deposits in to which the pipe trench was cut consisted of up to 0.5m of mid orange-brown clay-silt subsoil overlain by 0.40m of mid grey brown clay-silt topsoil and turf.

#### 3.3 Finds and Environmental Summary

- 3.3.1 No artefacts were present during excavation or metal-detecting prior to, during and after excavation. No environmental samples were taken from the site.

## 4 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

4.1.1 It is interesting to note that there are no archaeological remains surviving in this part of the Gosbecks landscape. This phenomena is primarily due to modern truncation, however the lack of features, pottery, metal work or other artefacts present in the backfill, or in the deposits surrounding the pipe trench, is indicative of very low intensity of occupation activity in this particular area during the Late pre-Roman Iron Age and Roman period.

### 4.2 Recommendations

4.2.1 Recommendations for any future work based upon this report will be made by the County Archaeology Office.

## APPENDIX A. TRENCH DESCRIPTION

Trench 1						
<b>General description</b>				<b>Orientation</b>	NNW-SSE	
No archaeology deposits or finds uncovered. Majority of the trench area truncated by a modern water pipe trench.				<b>Avg. depth (m)</b>	1	
				<b>Width (m)</b>	2.70	
				<b>Length (m)</b>	4.70	
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
1	Layer	-	0.4	Topsoil	-	-
2	Layer	-	0.5	Subsoil	-	-

## APPENDIX B. BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Drummond-Murray, J. 2014 *Specification for archaeological monitoring and recording: Land South of Gosbecks View, Colchester*. OA East Spec.
- Hawkes, C.F.C and Crummy, P. 1995 *Camulodunum 2*. Colchester.
- Jacobi, R.M. 1996 The late upper Palaeolithic and Mesolithic in Essex. In O. Bedwin (ed), *The archaeology of Essex. Proceedings of the Writtle conference*. Chelmsford: Essex County Council. 10-14
- Wymer, J.J. 1996 The Palaeolithic period in Essex. In O. Bedwin (ed), *The archaeology of Essex. Proceedings of the Writtle conference*. Chelmsford: Essex County Council. 1-9

## APPENDIX C. OASIS REPORT FORM

### 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	<input type="text"/>
Development Type	<input type="text"/>

### Please select all techniques used:

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

### 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
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<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

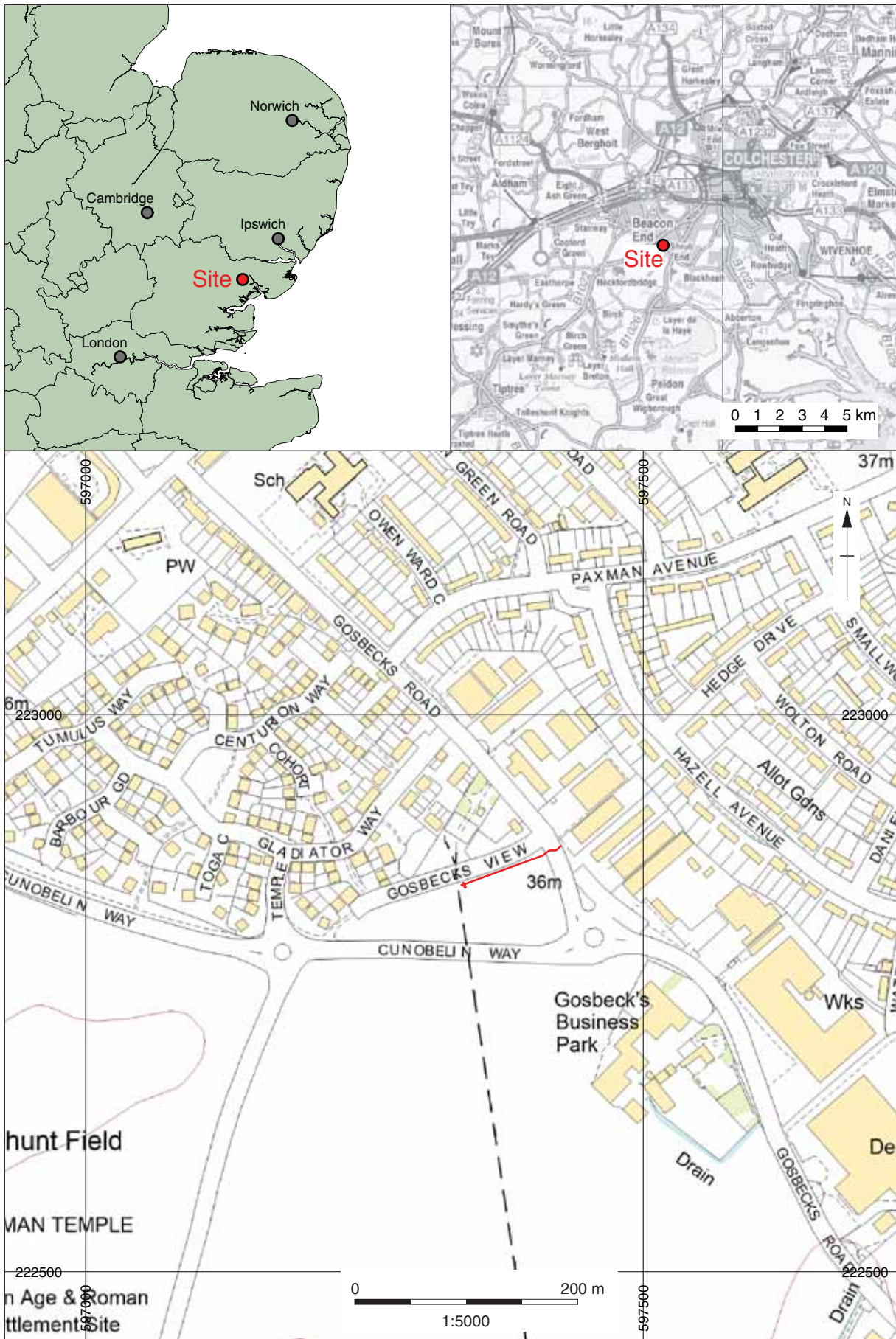
### Archive Contents/Media

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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

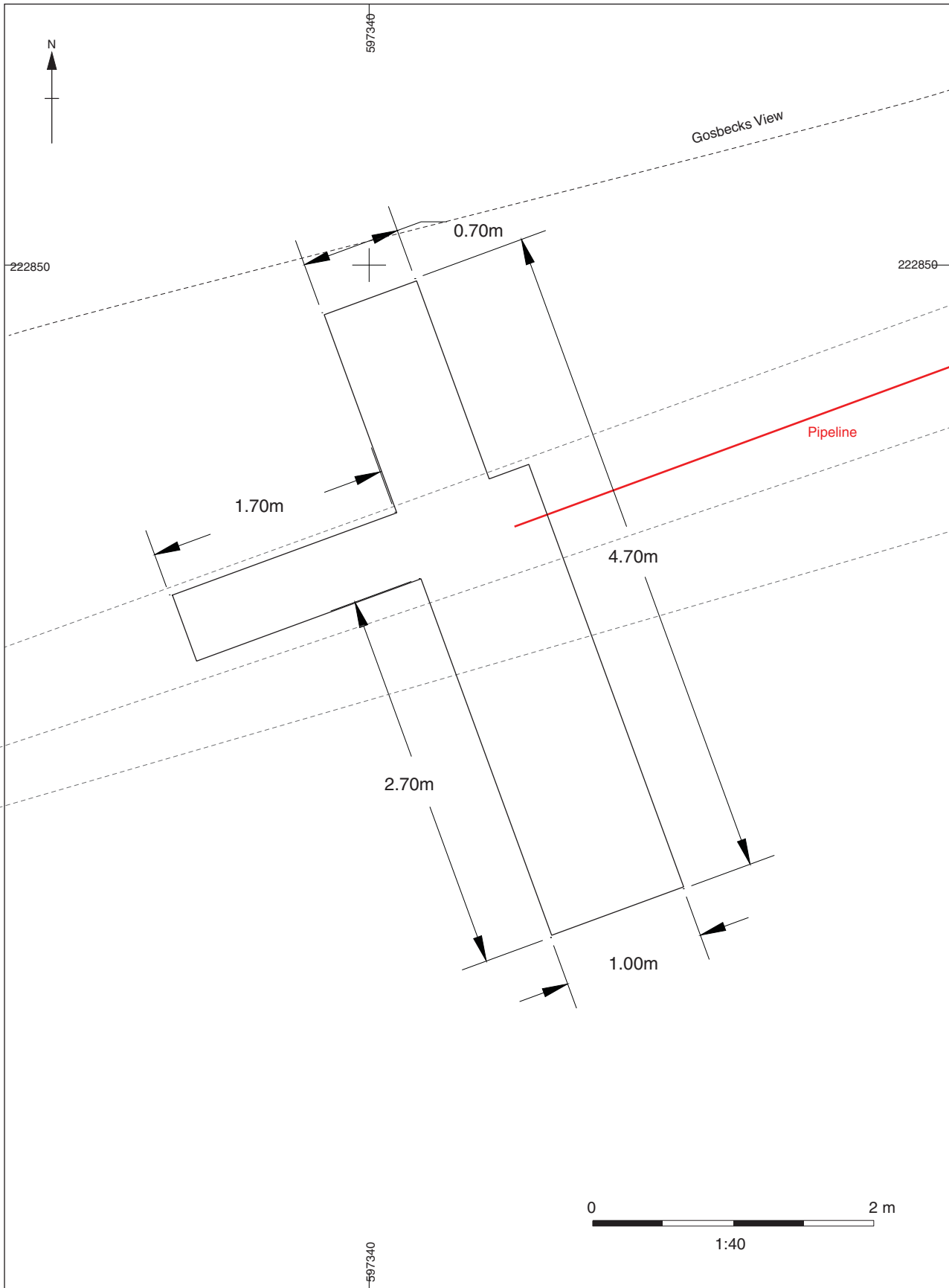


Figure 2: Plan of ground works at Gosbecks View



Plate 1: Excavations for watermain extension, facing west



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