

# Archaeological watching brief on land adjacent to Halse Road, Halse



## Archaeological Watching Brief Report



November 2014

**Client: Anglian Water Ltd**

OA East Report No: 1697

OASIS No: oxfordar3-194297

NGR: SP 56040 to SP5638

## Report Title

*Archaeological watching brief on land adjacent to Halse Road, Halse*

*Site Code: XNNHAL14*

*Date of Works: 27/10/2014 – 30/10/2014*

*Report No: 1697*

*Excavator: James Fairbairn*

*Client: Anglian Water Ltd*

*Report Date: November 2014*

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## **Summary**

*Between 27/10/2014 and the 30/10/2014 OA East carried out an archaeological watching brief at Halse Road north of Halse village. The monitoring concentrated on the removal of topsoil from a 425m stretch of the 0.8km pipeline. This area was located north of Halse village. One small coin of Roman date was found during the removal of topsoil from the route of the pipeline.*

## 1 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

1.1.1 The area monitored was located adjacent to Halse Road north of the village on agricultural land and ran from SP 56040 40850 to SP56380 40590. The pipeline route was located on Upper Lias Clay. Superficial geology consisted of silty clay plough soil overlying a sandy silty clay subsoil. The area monitored pipeline runs from a high point of 156m at Halse village to a low point of 148m AOD at the northern end of the topsoil strip.

## 2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1.1 The pipeline runs through a landscape rich in multi period archaeological activity. The most specific areas of known activity lie to the north and south of Halse village. These comprise of a possible Iron Age Romano British settlement (SMR 290) and the remains of Halse deserted medieval settlement to the south (SMR 277). Recent archaeological investigations within the Brackley area have identified extensive Iron Age activity.

## 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 confines of the topsoil strip.
- 3.1.2 The Brief required that a 2.5m x 425m wide topsoil strip be monitored for archaeological remains.
- 3.1.3 The area of investigation was located on agricultural land adjacent to the road North of Halse Village (Fig 1)
- 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 Site conditions varied from dry to wet.

## 4 RESULTS

### 4.1 Topsoil strip

- 4.1.1 The topsoil along the 425m monitored area of pipeline consisted of 2.5m wide trench cut to an average depth of 0.45m. This consisted of a patchy sandy clay natural geology overlain by a mid to light brown silty clay subsoil that existed to an average depth of 0.22m. This was capped by a clay silt plough soil that had an average depth of 0.20m.
- 4.1.2 A copper-alloy *nummus* in very poor condition (possibly cut down) was found during the removal of the ploughsoil. Inscriptions on both sides area illegible. Reverse: Chi-Rho flanked by alpha and omega. Obverse: Largely illegible aside from the rear of the bust

with diadem. The presence of the diadem on the bust suggests Constantius II, dating to the period AD 352 – 353. Mint of Trier. RIC VIII, p. 165, no. 332. The coin was regarded as a casual loss.

## 5 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

### 5.1 Conclusion

5.1.1 Nothing of archaeological note was recorded from the monitoring of the topsoil removal at Halse Road, but the discovery of a late Roman coin found within the topsoil does suggest that a Romano British settlement does exist in the vicinity.

## 6 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- 6.1.1 The author would like to thank Anglian Water Ltd who commissioned and funded the archaeological work. The project was managed by James Drummond-Murray and on site monitoring was carried out by James Fairbairn.
- 6.1.2 The brief for archaeological works was written by Northhampton County Council Planning Services, who monitored the watching brief.

## 7 BIBLIOGRAPHY

Carson, R. P. Hill & J. Kent. (1978). *Late Roman Bronze Coinage*. Spink. London

## APPENDIX A. OASIS REPORT FORM

All fields are required unless they are not applicable.

### Project Details

OASIS Number	oxfordar3-194297			
Project Name	Archaeological monitoring at Halse Road, Halse.			
Project Dates (fieldwork)	Start	27-10-2014	Finish	30-10-2014
Previous Work (by OA East)	No		Future Work	No

### Project Reference Codes

Site Code	XNNHAL14	Planning App. No.	
HER No.		Related HER/OASIS No.	

### Type of Project/Techniques Used

Prompt

Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPS 5

### 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 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
	Select period...	Coin	Roman 43 to 410
	Select period...		Select period...
	Select period...		Select period...

### Project Location

County	Northamptonshire	Site Address (including postcode if possible)	
District	Brackley	Halse Road, Halse.	
Parish	Greatworth		
HER	Nothampton		
Study Area	850sqm	National Grid Reference	SP 56040 to SP5638



## Project Originators

Organisation	OA EAST
Project Brief Originator	Planning Services, Northampton County Council
Project Design Originator	OA East
Project Manager	James Drummond-Murray
Supervisor	James Fairbairn

## Project Archives

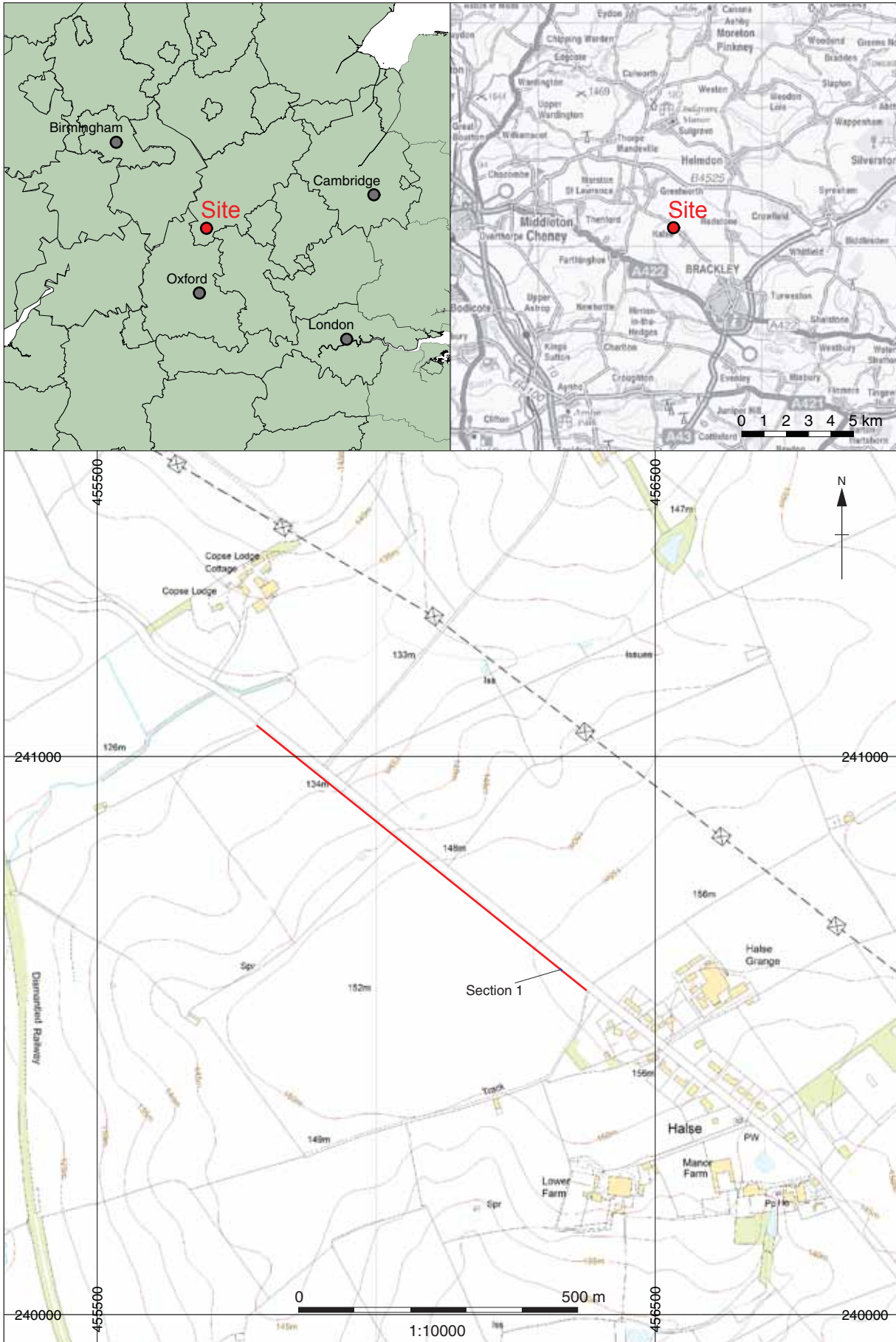
Physical Archive	Digital Archive	Paper Archive
OA East	OA East	OA East
XNNHAL14	XNNHAL14	XNNHAL14

## 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"/>
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Industrial	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Worked Stone/Lithic	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Other	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Digital Media	Paper Media
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<input type="checkbox"/> GIS	<input type="checkbox"/> Context Sheet
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<input type="checkbox"/> Virtual Reality	<input type="checkbox"/> Misc.
	<input type="checkbox"/> Research/Notes
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Photos
	<input type="checkbox"/> Plans
	<input type="checkbox"/> Report
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sections
	<input type="checkbox"/> Survey

### Notes:



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Figure 1: Site location showing area of monitoring and recording (red)

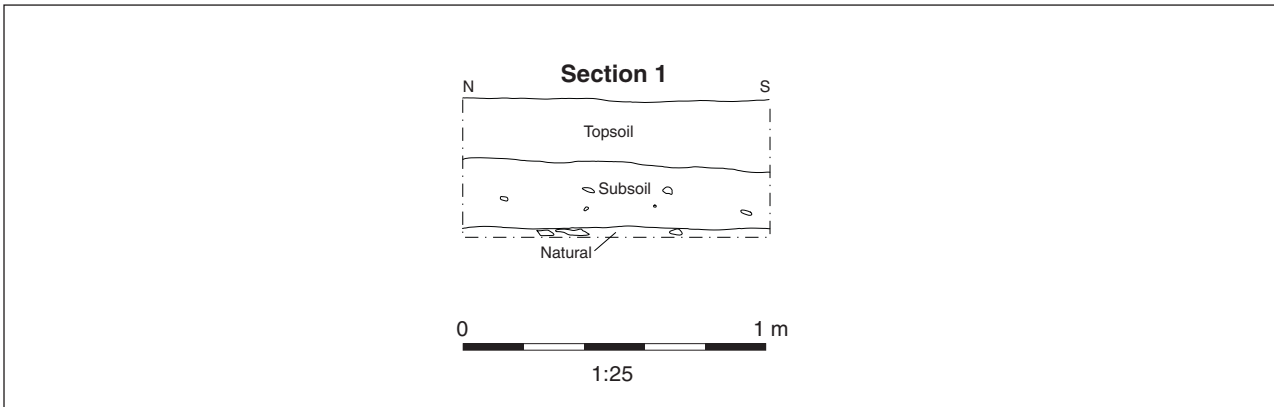


Figure 2: Section



Plate 1: Machine stripping





Plate 2: Pipeline route looking north from Halse



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