

# Test pits Between Christchurch, Cambridgeshire, and Welney, Norfolk



Archaeological  
Evaluation Report



February 2009

Client: Anglian Water

OA East Report No: 1072

OASIS No: oxfordar3-55125

NGR: TL 4900 9700 - 5300 9400

**One post-medieval and one undated ditch found in test pits between  
Christchurch and Welney**

*Archaeological Evaluation*

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## **Summary**

*An archaeological evaluation was conducted along a proposed sewer pipe route from Christchurch (Cambridgeshire) to Welney (Norfolk). 48 test pits were excavated along the c.4.95km route and these were positioned mostly about 100m apart. In total there were only three features found in the evaluation comprising a post-medieval ditch, an undated ditch and a modern dog burial.*

## 1 INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Location and scope of work

- 1.1.1 An archaeological evaluation was conducted as part of a project to construct a sewer pipe, associated pumping stations and reservoir over c.4.95km from the village of Christchurch, Cambridgeshire to Welney, Norfolk (Fig. 1; TL 4900 9700 – 5300 9400). This report deals only with the excavation of test pits along the pipe route. An earlier report has dealt with the evaluation in the area of the reservoir (Atkins 2008b).
- 1.1.2 The archaeological test pit evaluation was undertaken in accordance with a Brief issued on 15th July 2008 (Gore 2008) of Cambridgeshire County Council (CCC), supplemented by a Specification prepared by Rob Atkins (Atkins 2008a) of Oxford Archaeology (OA) East (formerly Cambridgeshire County Council's CAM ARC). Anglian Water are proposing to directional drill the new pipeline with a launch/receptor pit every 100m. The launch pits will be 2m x 2m x 1.5m. The brief stipulated that should the pipeline construction methodology change then so will the level of evaluation and mitigation required. If Anglian Water decided: a) strip a working easement b) create open trenched areas or c) increase the size of the drill access pits then further evaluation would be required. There were also two vacuum stations to be built, one each at Christchurch and Welney.
- 1.1.3 The Brief required that there would be a suitable level of documentary research, including consultation with CHER (Cambridge Historic Environmental Record) and NHER (Norfolk Historic Environmental Record), to set the results in their geographical, topographical, archaeological and historical context (Gore 2008). The likely archaeological potential of the site would then be assessed with regard to current regional and national research issues and preservation criteria.
- 1.1.4 A specification for the site was written on the 18th August 2008 (Atkins 2008a). This specification was written after suitable documentary research had been undertaken. Both the CHER and NHER have supplied records within the route of the pipeline with a buffer of 0.50km around it. A visit to the NHER took place and the air photographic collection was analysed. As a result, a request for ten photographs to be scanned and put on disk was made to the NHER office. A further two photos will be requested from the CUP (Cambridge University Photographic Collection) if features are encountered during test pitting. Two large OS (Ordnance Survey) photographs were too large to scan and these were photocopied. Secondary records were analysed and photocopied where appropriate.
- 1.1.5 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 *Planning and Policy Guidance 16 - Archaeology and Planning* (Department of the Environment 1990). The results will enable decisions to be made by CCC, on behalf of the Local Planning Authority, with regard to the treatment of any archaeological remains found.
- 1.1.6 The site archive is currently held by OA East and will be deposited with Norfolk County Council in due course.

## 1.2 Geology and topography

- 1.2.1 The underlying geology is Ampthill Clay, overlain by Terrington Beds: younger saltmarsh and tidal creek deposits (silty clay and sandy silt) (BGS (British Geological Society) 1995 map sheet 159 and BGS 1980 map sheet 173). The Anglian Water pipeline crosses the Old Croft River and runs through land at c.3m AOD in Christchurch and between 0mOD and 5mOD elsewhere.

## 1.3 Archaeological and historical background

- 1.3.1 The proposed pipeline route passes through a landscape of high archaeological potential. Within most of the Cambridgeshire section of the route, the air photographs have been professionally assessed and plotted as part of a planning application in 2005 to build houses in Church Road, Christchurch (Air Photos Services 2005 Land at Christchurch, Area centred on TL 4916 9649, Cambridgeshire: Aerial Photographic Assessment, unpub. Manus. Held by JSAC). Unfortunately cropmarks within the Norfolk section have yet to be plotted. The NHER records and interpretations of the cropmarks are therefore general. Very little archaeological work has taken place within the line of the pipeline and the surrounding areas within both Cambridgeshire and Norfolk parts (Fig. 1). Figure 1 records the Cambridgeshire and Norfolk HER cropmarks and previous archaeological sites. The Norfolk HER cropmarks were within large geographic areas whilst Cambridgeshire HER had the cropmarks as a single TL reference number (Fig. 1).

### Cambridgeshire

#### Cropmarks and evaluation CHER 00145 and CHER MCB 17930

- 1.3.2 The pipeline route within Cambridgeshire passes close to a known Roman settlement at Christchurch which is recorded c.300m to the north-east (CHER No. 00145). The field system of this Roman settlement is recorded as running into the area of the proposed pipeline (Air photos Services 2005; Bailey and Spoerry 2005, fig. 1).
- 1.3.3 This air photo survey found a Roman settlement and field system which is the largest and most regular block of ditched fields of Romano-British date in the fens covering c.85ha (quoted in Bailey and Spoerry 2005, 3). This field system appears to be orientated with the Fen Causeway (east-west) and the Old Croft River (north-south). The 2005 evaluation adjacent to the north of the pipeline at Church Road found a Romano-British driveway within the field system (Spoerry and Bailey 2005; CHER MCB 17930). Roddons were recorded in the air photo survey and some were found adjacent to the north of the proposed pipe route in the 2005 evaluation (Bailey and Spoerry 2005; CHER MCB 17930).

#### Cropmarks CHER 10635

- 1.3.4 The pipe trench passes through an undated field system (CHER No. 10635) 1km to the south-east of Christchurch. The Cambridgeshire HER reference (10635) was derived from a note from Rog Palmer dated 4th October 1989. The record was referenced to TL 499 956 with field system and ditch recorded as the cropmarks. Rog Palmer wrote, "Part of a regular (brickwork) field system, all straight ditched which continues into Norfolk where not mapped". The air photographs show a north to south and east to west ditches within the field system with the ditches up to 100m apart and they do not



run quite parallel to each other. Some of the north to south ditches can be seen to run more than 300m and are cut by the present day field boundaries of the development area. Although this field system was not analysed in the 2005 air photo survey it is clear from air photographs that these cropmarks do not equate with the Roman settlement crop marks more than 70m to the south NHER 2477 (see below).

- 1.3.5 These ditches run into the area of the reservoir and were sampled in this evaluation and proved to be part of a 17th or 18th pasture field system and was likely to have been a pre-enclosure field system (Atkins 2008b). There were two north to south ditches from this system, about 100m apart, and one of these was dated by artefacts to at least the 17th or 18th century. There was evidence of stake holes along the base of both ditch lines showing that the fields were enclosed. It is likely that these fences were for cattle farming for grazing in the dryer summer months. There were a few other undated ephemeral features within the evaluation area but it is likely most of these were of natural origin. The present field boundaries of the development area cut this former field system. The new boundaries were probably established as part of the 18th century enclosing of the fens. The area was also affected by the various Parliamentary Acts to drain and improve the area in the 18th and 19th centuries. This process meant that arable farming took over as the main farming use in fenlands.

## Norfolk

### Cropmarks (NHER 2477)

- 1.3.6 The Norfolk HER have recorded NHER 2477 to an area about 1km by 0.6km and defined them as, “cropmarks of possible ring ditches and Roman field system”. The possible ring ditches are recorded at TL5038 9521, c.300m to the south-east of the reservoir. The other cropmarks, between c.70m and c.400m to the south of the proposed pipe line, show a large regular planned Roman settlement on a north to south gridded axis. These cropmarks are especially dense here. Roman finds were found on the surface within this settlement c.400m to the south of the development area at TL 5045 9510 and consisted of a small scatter of 2nd to 4th century grey ware, coarse red gritted ware and briquetage (OS inspector: OS records). These cropmarks stop c.70m from the development area. The north to south and east to west ditches can be seen within the development area and further to the north into Cambridgeshire can not be seen joining up with the Roman settlement remains and they run at a slightly different alignment to the settlement remains.

### Cropmarks NHER No. 35499 and 13232

- 1.3.7 To the north of Tipps End, the pipeline goes through an area of cropmarks (given two numbers 35499 and 13232). The NHER have recorded these as “cropmarks of circular features which may date to the Roman period”. There are 23 circular enclosures recorded but it should be noted they may not be settlement related. With the NHER record it has also been suggested that the circles may have been caused by (Roman) haystacks.

### Cropmarks NHER No. 16618

- 1.3.8 The pipeline goes through an area of cropmarks of unknown date 1km to the north-west of Welney (NHER 16618). Here, the cropmarks recorded in the NHER were within an

area c.400m by 200m and they consisted of a circular enclosure, linear feature and a rectilinear enclosure. The photographic evidence, seems to point to there being other features within this area including a pit alignment.

### **Cropmarks NHER No. 4437**

- 1.3.9 Directly to the north of Welney, the pipeline runs through an area of cropmarks recorded as an area of Roman settlement and salt works. A trench opened up by the farmer in 1998 revealed evidence of Roman settlement and salt-production. Metal detecting on the site a Bronze Age razor, a large amount of Roman pottery, coins and metal finds. Also an Early Saxon girdlehanger, a Late Saxon brooch and medieval and post-medieval coins and metal finds.

### **History**

- 1.3.10 The pipeline runs from Christchurch, Cambridgeshire to Welney, Norfolk. Both areas were within the silt lands of the Wisbech region. This is important as geographically and geologically the Flandrian deposits in this area are mostly marine and as such were unable to support human habitation until the Roman period and later, when some of them emerged from the sea (Hall 1996, 189). This means the site was very marginal from the Roman period to modern days and it is not surprising that many of the Roman settlements in this area were founded probably to use this marginal land affected by tidal brackish water for salt making. Briquetage has been found near the proposed route, for example, a few hundred metres away to the south of the pipeline route and the reservoir site (see above). These briquetage artefacts were almost certainly part of this salt making industry. Although the Romans and the later medieval inhabitants did drain some of the land, it was only in the post-medieval period that the draining became more efficient in this fenland area.
- 1.3.11 The northern parts of the pipeline were in the Wisbech hundred and the VCH lists it under Outwell and Upwell (Pugh 1967, 206-219). Outwell and Upwell had four parishes with Christchurch the southern hamlet of Upwell. In the early 17th century Outwell and Upwell had several large drains cut through the area to drain it (Pugh 1967, 206). The reservoir development area is in the middle of two large drains - the Middle Level Drain c.3km to the north-west and the New Bedford River cut directly through to the south of Welney in 1651, c. 3km to the south-east. Despite the initial success of the reclamation, the drying of the land caused the peat to shrink greatly, lowering the land below the height of the drainage channels and rivers, and the reclaimed farmland was still extremely susceptible to flooding. By the end of the 17th century, much of the reclaimed land was again underwater, and would remain so until the advent of steam-powered pumps in the 18th century.
- 1.3.12 The Fenland enclosures took place in this area in the 18th century which would have divided up the land. Outwell, Upwell and Welney were also amongst other neighbouring areas listed in several Parliamentary Fenland Drainage Acts of the 18th and 19th centuries (1747, 1748 (amended 1772) and 1801 (amended 1872)). These acts all emphasise draining and improving the land showing that there was constant need to drain this area better.
- 1.3.13 In the pre-enclosure period, cattle was often grazed during summer on marginal land, fattened up and slaughtered in autumn and the land left fallow during winter. Marginal land only became fit for arable in the 18th century onwards with steam engines used to

drain land and later for steam ploughing. In the 18th century fen enclosure took place and land was extensively used in marginal fenland areas. Land plots became relatively small and were surrounded by deep drainage ditches. Due to this activity and the various Parliament Acts for drainage land improvement it caused arable farming to be the predominant farming land use in the fenland area.

- 1.3.14 The earliest map for the area, the 1889 1st Edition Ordnance Survey Map (1: 10 560) shows fields to be relatively small with deep drainage ditches around them.

## **1.4 Acknowledgements**

- 1.4.1 The author would like to thank Anglian Water who commissioned and funded the archaeological work especially Stephen Burrows who organised the scheme. Dick Prescott of Savills liaised with the landowners. Ken Goodger of Pates Farm kindly allowed access to his yard and was exceptionally accommodating throughout the project. Alice Cattermole of Norfolk HER was extremely helpful and patient. The project was managed by James Drummond-Murray and this report was also edited by him. The brief for archaeological works was written by Eliza Gore (Gore 2008) of Cambridgeshire County Council in liaison with Ken Hamilton of Norfolk County Council and the specification by Rob Atkins (Atkins 2008a) of Oxford East.
- 1.4.2 I am grateful for specialist analysis from Nina Crummy and Carole Fletcher . Helen Fowler supervised the post-excavation of the artefacts. Louise Bush surveyed in the test pits. Rob Atkins directed the evaluation. Séverine Bézie produced the illustrations.

## 2 AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

### 2.1 Aims

- 2.1.1 The objective of this evaluation 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.
- 2.1.2 In the event that archaeological remains are present the evaluation will seek to consider appropriate methodologies and surviving archaeological deposits within the development area.

### 2.2 Methodology

- 2.2.1 Anglian water located 51 receptor pits where drilling would take place within their proposed 4.95km scheme – on average one every c.100m (Fig. 1). The location was located on the Ordnance Survey data and Louise Bush using a Leica G.P.S. 1200 located them in the fields with canes and flags over the 17th and 18th November. Although two flags were removed by persons unknown, one was replaced on the 18th by the surveyor whilst the second missing flag was only spotted on the 19th after the surveyor had gone. At the same time the test pits were being located, a JCB excavator machine with a 1.6m wide toothless ditching bucket was used under archaeological supervision to excavate these pits over the 17th and 19th November.
- 2.2.2 All archaeological features and deposits were recorded using OA East's *pro-forma* sheets. Digital and monochrome photographs were taken of all relevant features and deposits. Work took place under generally good weather conditions.

### 3 RESULTS

#### 3.1 Introduction

3.1.1 The evaluation excavated 47 of the proposed 51 test pits (Fig. 1). Two pits (nos.12 and 35) were not excavated as there was a large crop within the respective two fields. The line of the pipe route was at the back of both fields and it was considered that the damage that would have been caused to reach both pits would have been too great. One flag had been removed from a small horse paddock in Christchurch (test pit 49). Another test pit (no. 47) had been placed over a concrete tarmac road leading to a field in Christchurch and it was thought that the proposed damage if excavated would have been too great.

#### 3.2 Test Pits

3.2.1 In the 47 test pits excavated there were only two features of probable pre-modern date found (Table 1). As there was so few archaeological features most have been described in a single table. In the vast majority of the test pits the topsoil sealed natural subsoil with no archaeology present.

| Test Pit No. | Size (m)         | Natural                      | State of field | Comments   |
|--------------|------------------|------------------------------|----------------|--|
| 1            | 2.2 x 1.6 x 0.32 | Yellow sands                 | Stubble        | Topsoil a mid yellow brown loam. No archaeology  |
| 2            | 2.3 x 1.6 x 0.43 | Yellow sands                 | Stubble        | Topsoil a mid yellow brown loam. No archaeology  |
| 3            | 2.1 x 1.6 x 0.40 | Yellow sands                 | Stubble        | Topsoil a mid yellow brown loam. No archaeology  |
| 4            | 2.0 x 1.6 x 0.36 | Yellow sands                 | Grass          | Topsoil a mid yellow brown loam. No archaeology  |
| 5            | 2.0 x 1.6 x 0.42 | Yellow sands                 | Grass          | Topsoil a mid yellow brown loam. No archaeology  |
| 6            | 2.0 x 1.6 x 0.40 | Yellow sands                 | Grass          | Topsoil a mid yellow brown loam. Modern burial with dog skull exposed in pit cutting the natural sands. Bone in excellent condition – dog burial almost certainly in the last c.30 -100 years.   |
| 7            | 2.0 x 1.6 x 0.40 | Yellow sands                 | Grass          | Topsoil a mid yellow brown loam. No archaeology  |
| 8            | 2.0 x 1.6 x 0.35 | Yellow Sands                 | Stubble        | Topsoil a mid brown loam. No archaeology   |
| 9            | 2.2 x 1.6 x 0.35 | Yellow sands                 | Stubble        | Topsoil a mid brown loam. No archaeology   |
| 10           | 2.1 x 1.6 x 0.36 | Yellow sands                 | Stubble        | Topsoil a mid brown loam. No archaeology   |
| 11           | 2.0 x 1.6 x 0.35 | Yellow sands                 | Stubble        | Topsoil a mid brown loam. No archaeology   |
| 12           | -                | -                            | Crop           | Not excavated  |
| 13           | 2.1 x 1.6 x 0.63 | Yellow sands                 | Stubble        | Topsoil sealed a post-medieval ditch (3). Ditch roughly parallel to existing north to south eastern field boundary. 0.7m + wide (probably c.1m wide) and 0.25m deep and filled with a friable mid brown silty sand (2). A single post-medieval ?brick fragment was recovered from the fill of the ditch. |
| 14           | 2.2 x 1.6 x 0.35 | Yellow sands                 | Stubble        | Topsoil a mid brown loam. No archaeology   |
| 15           | 2.0 x 1.6 x 0.38 | Yellow sands                 | Stubble        | Topsoil a mid brown loam. No archaeology   |
| 16           | 2.1 x 1.6 x 0.38 | Yellow sands                 | Stubble        | Topsoil a mid brown loam. No archaeology   |
| 17           | 2.0 x 1.6 x 0.40 | Yellow sands                 | Just ploughed  | Topsoil a mid brown loam. No archaeology   |
| 18           | 2.0 x 1.6 x 0.40 | Yellow sands                 | Just ploughed  | Topsoil a mid brown loam. No archaeology   |
| 19           | 2.0 x 1.6 x 0.40 | Grey clay silt sand          | Just ploughed  | Topsoil a grey brown clay silt. No archaeology   |
| 20           | 2.3 x 1.6 x 0.65 | Grey sandy clay sealing peat | Just ploughed  | Topsoil a grey brown clay silt (0.35m thick) overlay a band of natural grey sandy clay (0.30m) which sealed a peat layer (not excavated). No archaeology   |

|    |                  |  |                        |   |
|----|------------------|--|------------------------|---|
| 21 | 2.1 x 1.6 x 0.75 | Mixed clay peaty sealed a bright grey/green sandy silt | Just ploughed          | Topsoil a grey brown clay silt (0.35m thick) overlay a mixed clay peat layer (0.4m) sealed a bright grey/green sandy silt (not excavated). No archaeology   |
| 22 | 2.2 x 1.6 x 0.6  | Light brown grey sandy clay sealed peat                | Just ploughed          | Topsoil a grey brown clay silt (0.35) overlay a natural light brown grey sandy clay (0.25m) which in turn sealed a peaty layer (not excavated). No archaeology  |
| 23 | 2.3 x 1.6 x 0.35 | Orange grey silty clay                                 | Just ploughed          | Topsoil a grey brown clay silt. No archaeology  |
| 24 | 2.5 x 1.6 x 0.38 | Yellow sandy silts                                     | Grass                  | Topsoil a grey brown clay silt. Ceramic ?tile or drain pipe and a 19th century pottery sherd was found in the topsoil. There was a small area of disturbance cutting the natural c.0.5m by 0.3m and 0.1m deep and 19th cent pottery was found in it. Uncertain if a 'real' feature.                   |
| 25 | 2.2 x 1.6 x 0.40 | Yellow sandy silts                                     | Grass                  | Topsoil a grey brown clay silt. 1871 'Bun Head' penny found in topsoil. No archaeology.   |
| 26 | 2.0 x 1.6 x 0.32 | Yellow sands   | Former oil seed rape   | Topsoil a grey brown clay silt. No archaeology  |
| 27 | 2.5 x 1.6 x 0.65 | Yellow sands   | Former oil seed rape   | Topsoil a mid grey brown loam (0.32m thick). This sealed an undated ditch which ran roughly north-west to south-east parallel and c.5m to the north-east of a public right of way. The ditch (5) was 1.20m wide and 0.33m deep with a flat base. It was filled with a clean mid brown sandy silt (4). |
| 28 | 2.0 x 1.6 x 0.35 | Yellow sands   | Former oil seed rape   | Topsoil a mid grey brown loam. No archaeology   |
| 29 | 2.2 x 1.6 x 0.35 | Yellow grey sandy silts                                | Grass                  | Topsoil a mid grey brown loam. No archaeology   |
| 30 | 2.0 x 1.6 x 0.30 | Yellow sands   | Grass                  | Topsoil a mid grey brown loam. No archaeology   |
| 31 | 2.2 x 1.6 x 0.30 | Yellow sands   | Former oil seed rape   | Topsoil a mid grey brown loam. No archaeology   |
| 32 | 2.0 x 1.6 x 0.30 | Yellow sands   | Former oil seed rape   | Topsoil a mid grey brown loam. One c.early 20th century ceramic ribbed land drain ran north to south and cut natural. The land drain had been cut by recent ploughing. No pre-modern archaeology  |
| 33 | 2.2 x 1.6 x 0.35 | Yellow sands   | Stubble                | Topsoil a mid grey brown loam. No archaeology   |
| 34 | 2.1 x 1.6 x 0.35 | Yellow sands   | Stubble                | Topsoil a mid grey brown loam. No archaeology   |
| 35 | -                | -  | Mature sugar beat crop | Not excavated due to crop   |
| 36 | 2.0 x 1.6 x 0.30 | Yellow sands   | Recently seeded        | Topsoil a mid grey brown loam. No archaeology   |
| 37 | 2.2 x 1.6 x 0.30 | Yellow sands   | Recently seeded        | Topsoil a mid grey brown loam. Metal object in topsoil was probably a post-medieval handle from a cutlery object. No archaeology  |
| 38 | 2.0 x 1.6 x 0.35 | Yellow sands   | Recently seeded        | Topsoil a mid grey brown loam. No archaeology   |
| 39 | 2.2 x 1.6 x 0.35 | Yellow sands   | Recently seeded        | Topsoil a mid grey brown loam. No archaeology   |
| 40 | 2.1 x 1.6 x 0.35 | Yellow sands   | Recently seeded        | Topsoil a mid grey brown loam. No archaeology   |
| 41 | 2.1 x 1.6 x 0.60 | Yellow sands   | Just ploughed          | Topsoil a mid to dark grey brown loam (0.35m). This sealed a ?subsoil layer (6). This was 0.25m deep and was a clean mid grey brown loam with some mixing with natural near the base of the layer. This test pit was in the corner of the field and this may be deeper here due to ploughing?         |
| 42 | 2.0 x 1.6 x 0.35 | Yellow sands   | Just ploughed          | Topsoil a mid to dark grey brown loam. No archaeology   |
| 43 | 2.0 x 1.6 x 0.38 | Yellow sands   | Just ploughed          | Topsoil a mid to dark grey brown loam. No archaeology   |
| 44 | 2.1 x 1.6 x 0.35 | Yellow sands   | Just ploughed          | Topsoil a mid to dark grey brown loam. No archaeology   |
| 45 | 2.1 x 1.6 x 0.35 | Yellow sands   | Just ploughed          | Topsoil a mid to dark grey brown loam. No archaeology   |
| 46 | 2.2 x 1.6 x 0.35 | Yellow sands   | Just ploughed          | Topsoil a mid to dark grey brown loam. No archaeology   |

|    |                  |              |                 |   |
|----|------------------|--------------|-----------------|---|
| 47 | 2.2 x 1.6 x 0.1m | -            | -               | Stopped 0.1m below ground level after concrete and tarmac road surface leading to the field was exposed |
| 48 | 2.2 x 1.6 x 0.35 | Yellow sands | Grass           | Topsoil a mid to dark grey brown loam. No archaeology   |
| 49 | -                | -            | Grass           | Horse paddock – flag removed and therefore not excavated  |
| 50 | 2.2 x 1.6 x 0.35 | Yellow sands | Recently seeded | Topsoil a mid to dark grey brown loam. No archaeology   |
| 51 | 2.2 x 1.6 x 0.35 | Yellow sands | Recently seeded | Topsoil a mid to dark grey brown loam. No archaeology   |

Table 1: Test pits

### 3.3 Finds by Dr Alasdair Brooks

3.3.1 Just five artefacts were recovered from four test pits:

3.3.2 Test pit 13 context 2 (fill of ditch **3**). A small CBM fragment ?brick. Post medieval.

3.3.3 Test pit 24 context 1 (topsoil). 1) A very small pottery sherd of post 1820 -c. 1850 Transfer Printed White Ware . 2) Ceramic drain pipe fragment.

3.3.4 Test pit 25 context 1 (topsoil). A 1871 'Bun Head' penny.

3.3.5 Test pit 37 context 1 (topsoil). Fe object - a possible cutlery handle.



## 4 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

### 4.1 Overview

4.1.1 Only three archaeological features were found in the evaluation comprising a post-medieval ditch, an undated ditch and a modern dog burial. This lack of archaeological recovery needs to be explained and seems to be due to several factors:

1) The evaluation took place on very low lying land which had been, on the whole, only drained in the post-medieval period. The two ditches found in the evaluation were probably part of 17th or 18th century pasture fields which pre-dated the present field system and which have been found in a previous evaluation (Atkins 2008b).

2) The evaluation route also passed near but not through two known Roman field systems such as cropmark features NHER 2477 (c.400m to the south) and NHER 16618 (1km to the north-west). The evaluation did run through some other known cropmarks although some were probably not settlement related (NHER 35499 and 13232) and may have been haystacks. The only pre post-medieval domestic cropmark system the evaluation skirted through was just to the north of Welney (NHER 4437) and here the very limited nature of the works (test pits only one every 100m and only 2m<sup>2</sup> in size) and this can easily explain why no features or artefacts were found here.

### 4.2 Significance

4.2.1 The evaluation found extremely limited archaeological remains with only three features uncovered, two of which were post-medieval and modern in date.

### 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. HEALTH AND SAFETY STATEMENT

- A.1.1 OA East will ensure that all work is carried out in accordance with relevant Health and Safety Policies, to standards defined in *The Health and Safety at Work, etc. Act, 1974* and *The Management of Health and Safety Regulations, 1992*, and in accordance with the manual *Health and Safety in Fieldwork Archaeology* (SCAUM 1997).
- A.1.2 Risk assessments prepared for the OA East office will be adhered to.
- A.1.3 OA East has Public Liability Insurance. Separate professional insurance is covered by a Public Liability Policy.
- A.1.4 Full details of the relevant Health and Safety Policies and the unit's insurance cover can be provided on request.

## APPENDIX B. BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Air Photos Services 2005 Land at Christchurch, Area centred on TL 4916 9649, Cambridgeshire: Aerial Photographic Assessment, unpub. Manus. Held by JSAC
- Atkins, R., 2008a Specification for Archaeological Evaluation Christchurch to Welney Pipeline Oxford East (unpublished)
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- Bailey, G., and Spoerry, P., 2005 Romano-British Droeway activity on a Roddon at Church Road, Christchurch, Wisbech, Cambridgeshire: An Archaeological Evaluation CCC AFU Rep. No. 844 (unpublished)
- Gore, E., 2008 Brief for Archaeological Evaluation Christchurch to Welney S101a and WWTW Cambridgeshire Archaeology Planning and Countryside Advice (unpublished)
- Hall, D., 1996 *The Fenland Project, Number 10: Cambridgeshire Survey, Isle of Ely and Wisbech* E. Anglian Archaeology 79
- Pugh, R. B. (ed.), 1967 *A history of Cambridge and The Isle of Ely Volume 4 The Victoria History of the Counties of England*

## APPENDIX C. OASIS REPORT FORM

All fields are required unless they are not applicable.

### Project Details

|                            |   |             |        |            |
|----------------------------|---|-------------|--------|------------|
| OASIS Number               | Oxfordar3-55125   |             |        |            |
| Project Name               | One post-medieval and one undated ditchfound in test pits between Christchurch and Welney |             |        |            |
| Project Dates (fieldwork)  | Start   | 17-11-2008  | Finish | 19-11-2008 |
| Previous Work (by OA East) | Yes   | Future Work | No     |            |

### Project Reference Codes

|           |                 |                       |     |
|-----------|-----------------|-----------------------|-----|
| Site Code | 52649 and 52650 | Planning App. No.     | N/A |
| HER No.   | ENF 121635      | Related HER/OASIS No. |     |

### Type of Project/Techniques Used

|                  |   |
|------------------|---|
| Prompt           | Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPG16 |
| Development Type | Pipelines/Cables                                |

### Please select all techniques used:

|   |   |   |
|---|---|---|
| <input checked="" 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 checked="" 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                     |
|----------|----------------------------|--------------|----------------------------|
| Ditches  | Post Medieval 1540 to 1901 | pottery      | Post Medieval 1540 to 1901 |
| burial   | Modern 1901 to Present     | metal objrts | Post Medieval 1540 to 1901 |
|          | Select period...           |              | Select period...           |

### Project Location

|            |                           |   |                          |
|------------|---------------------------|---|--------------------------|
| County     | Cambridgeshire + Norfolk  | Site Address (including postcode if possible) |                          |
| District   | Fenland; Kings Lynn + WNo | Anglian water pipeline                        |                          |
| Parish     | Christchurch and Welney   |   |                          |
| HER        | Norfolk                   |   |                          |
| Study Area | 4.95km                    | National Grid Reference                       | TL 4900 9700 - 5300 9400 |

## Project Originators

|                           |   |
|---------------------------|---|
| Organisation              | OA EAST                                   |
| Project Brief Originator  | Eliza Gore, Cambridgeshire County Council |
| Project Design Originator | Rob Atkins, OA East                       |
| Project Manager           | James Drummond-Murray                     |
| Supervisor                | Rob Atkins                                |

## Project Archives

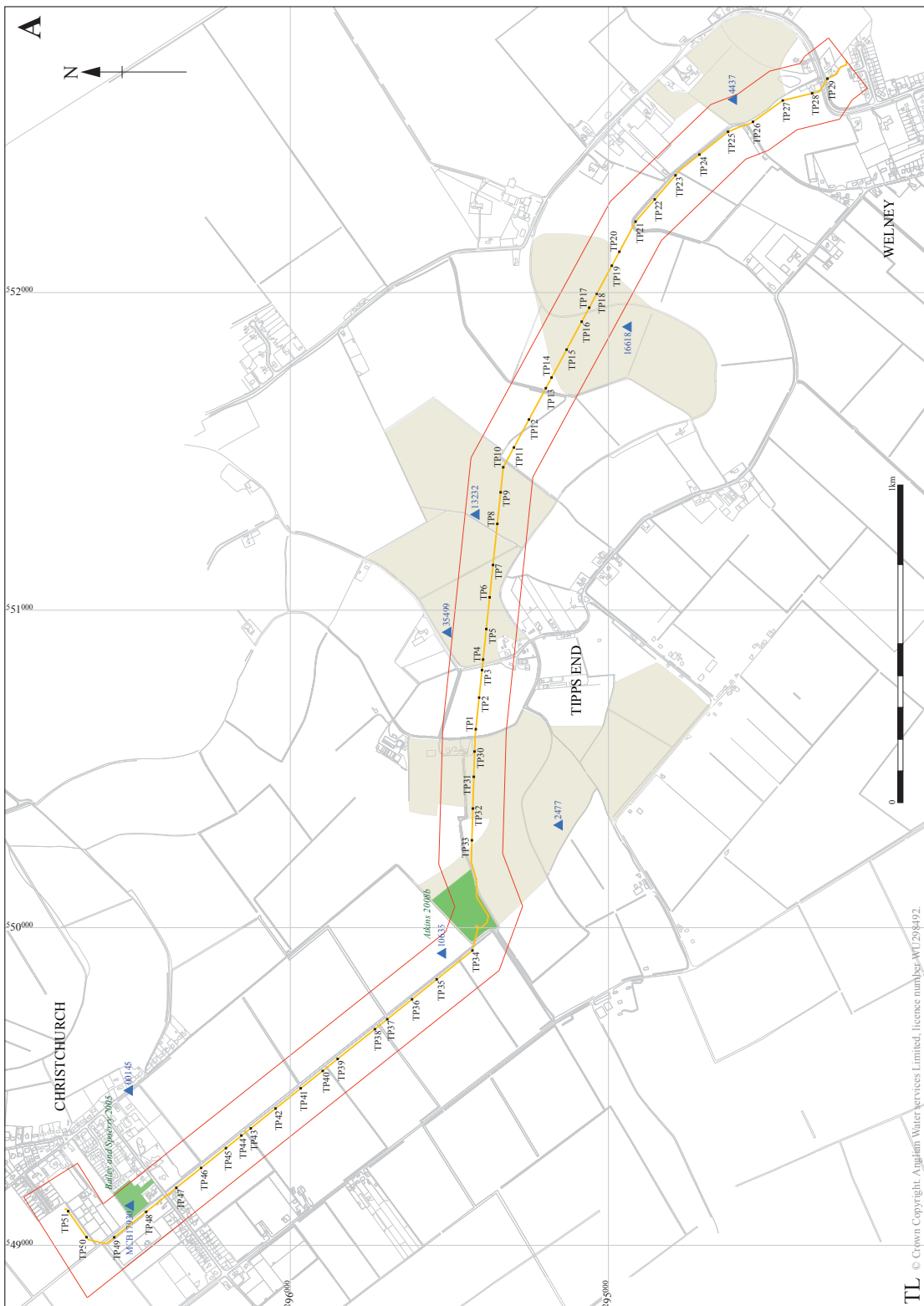
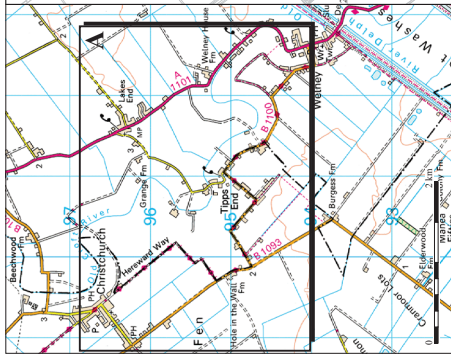
| Physical Archive | Digital Archive | Paper Archive   |
|------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Norfolk          | OA East         | Norfolk         |
| 52649 and 52650  | 52649 and 52650 | 52649 and 52650 |

## Archive Contents/Media

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

### Notes:



- Key**
- Development area
  - Anglian pipeline route
  - Test pit
  - Previous archaeological work
  - Cropmarks
  - ▲ HER entries

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Figure 1: Location of Test pits within Anglian pipeline route, previous archaeological work and known cropmarks recorded within Cambridgeshire and Norfolk HER



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