

Brackley, Radstone Fields



Archaeological Watching Brief Report



January 2015

Client: Anglian Water

OA East Report No: 1723

OASIS No: oxfordar3-199061

NGR: SP 58984 38843

Brackley, Radstone Fields

Archaeological Watching Brief

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Summary

OA East and OA South undertook a watching brief at land near to Turweston Road, Brackley, Northamptonshire. The pipeline route is 3240m in length and comprises of three main areas, one of which has not yet been excavated.. Within these areas a mixture of open cut excavation took place alongside directional drilling. A number of Manholes were also excavated to large depths of between 4m and 5m. Throughout much of the pipeline route natural clays were observed however during excavation of Manhole 23 a large modern rubbish dump was uncovered which contained pottery, glass bottles, wood and metal objects.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Location and scope of work

- 1.1.1 An archaeological evaluation was conducted on land to the east of Brackley, Northamptonshire (Fig. 1)
- 1.1.2 This archaeological Watching Brief was undertaken in accordance with a Brief issued by Lesley-Ann Mather of Northamptonshire County, supplemented by a Specification prepared by OA East.
- 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 NCC, 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 pipeline runs across agricultural land to the east of Brackley, Northamptonshire (SP 58984 38843 – SP 59570 37330). The area of proposed development consisted of mixed arable and pasture agricultural land.
- 1.2.2 The geology of the area varies extensively along the route from alluvium in the valley to clay and upper estuarine limestone in the higher areas.

1.3 Archaeological and historical background

- 1.3.1 The information in this section has mainly been taken from the Brief for a programme of archaeological observation (Northamptonshire County Council, 2013).
- 1.3.2 The pipeline is within an archaeological sensitive landscape. A number of recent evaluations have been undertaken within or adjacent to the proposed route.
- 1.3.3 At the northern end of the pipeline, at Foxhills, Northamptonshire Archaeology identified an Iron Age settlement in 2012. A small cemetery was identified during the construction of a filling station immediately to the south-east with nine or ten individuals in six graves. The limits of the cemetery are uncertain and although small, possibly residual sherds of Iron Age pottery were recovered, no dating evidence was found. Pits with Iron Age pottery were identified near by. An alignment of stake holes, two pits and a ditch were also recorded in the vicinity (Northamptonshire Archaeology, 2012).
- 1.3.4 Further Iron Age activity was uncovered on the site of Brackley sawmills. Archaeological features were found in the north west area of the site in five of the trenches during the evaluation by Northamptonshire Archaeology in 2011. The features consisted of a number of post holes, a ditch terminus and remnant buried soils, which contained small quantities of Iron Age pottery.
- 1.3.5 Land to the south of Turwestern Road was evaluated by ULAS in 2013 and consisted of 43 trenches. The higher ground in the northern area of the site revealed evidence for further Mid-Late Iron Age activity along with early Saxon. The lower area of the evaluation produced evidence of Roman and Saxon activity in the form of ditches and post holes.

- 1.3.6 Albion Archaeology evaluated an area of land to the east of the Northampton Road and north of Turweston Road, Brackley in 2014. The main area of archaeological activity was found to be on the western side of the site and to the east of Northampton road. Linear boundaries, structural gullies and post holes were some of the features identified during this evaluation. Evidence of early to middle Iron Age occupation was uncovered over a large area of this site. Evidence for Ridge and Furrow was found in the Geophysical survey and confirmed during the evaluation although no dating evidence was found (Albion Archaeology, 2014).

1.4 Acknowledgements

- 1.4.1 The author would like to thank Anglian Water for commissioning the work. Thanks also to James Drummond-Murray who managed the project.

2 AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

2.1 Aims

- 2.1.1 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.

2.2 Methodology

- 2.2.1 The site was c. 3.24km long and was a mixture of open cut excavation and directional drilling (Fig 2). Where open cut excavation was carried out an easement of c. 20m was stripped. The pipeline trench was c.2m wide and excavated to a depth of between c.2m and 5m below current ground level. The directional drilling phase of the works entailed a 3m x 3m drill pit being excavated to depths of between 1.5m and 5m with narrow pipe lead in trenches (1.2m wide) being excavated adjacent to some of these pits. Manholes would also be excavated to depths of 4-5m.
- 2.2.2 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.

3 RESULTS

3.1 Introduction

3.1.1 The site of pipeline extended between Foxhills and Brackley North, to the north, extending southwards to Anglian Water Ltd sewage works at the southern end. The site was divided into three distinct areas covering different parts of the pipeline route:

- Area 1 – Foxhills
- Area 2 – Land east of Northampton Road and North of Turweston Road
- Area 3 – Land south of Turweston Road to Nether Close, Brackley

3.2 Area 1 – Foxhills

3.2.1 Area 1 has not yet been excavated.

3.3 Area 2 – Land north of Turweston Road

3.3.1 The pipe trench in this area was installed using a mixture of both open cut excavation and direct drilling. A series of manholes were dug along the line of the pipeline, chainage 550.17 to chainage 1096.36, and were numbered MH14 to MH21, a total of 520 metres.

3.3.2 The pipe trench was open cut between manholes MH21 and MH19, a length of 80 metres. The trench was excavated to a depth of c. 3.5m into blue/grey clay which had two variations with the lower being of a more friable nature and was overlain by a sandy gravelly clay orange grey in colour (**104**). Overlying this was the subsoil which is an orange brown silty clay and approximately 0.31m in depth(**101**). A layer of mid grey/brown silty clay (**100**) covered the site (Fig. 3).

3.3.3 The manholes were dug along the route of the pipeline and were c 2.5m x 2.5m in diameter and were excavated to a depth of between 4m and 5m. The manholes were dug into a blue/grey clay overlain by a sandy grey gravelly natural layer. This was overlain by an orange silt/clay subsoil and topsoil. Manhole 21 was excavated to the southern end of the site, c. 22m to the north of Turweston Road and excavated to a depth of c. 5m.

3.3.4 The field east of Northampton road had well preserved ridge and furrow over much of the field.

3.3.5 A 10m x 10m lagoon was dug 15m within the field on the south-eastern side of Northampton road. The topsoil was 0.15m deep overlying 0.10m of sub soil which in turn overlay a natural of light yellow brown clay. No archaeology was found.

3.4 Area 3 – Land south of Turweston Road

3.4.1 The pipe trench in this area was installed using a mixture of both open cut excavation and direct drilling. A series of manholes were dug along the line of the pipeline, chainage 1032.49 to chainage 1703.99, and were numbered MH22 to MH32, a total of 671.5 metres.

3.4.2 The pipe trench was open cut between manholes 28 to 32, a length of 224.15 metres. The trench was excavated to a depth of c. 2m into a grey/blue clay overlain by a sandy gravelly clay orange grey in colour. The natural is overlain by c. 0.10m of an orange silt clay subsoil and c. 20m of topsoil.

3.4.3 The manholes were dug along the route of the pipeline and were c. 2.5m x 2.5m in diameter and were excavated to a depth of between 3m and 5m. The manholes were

excavated into a blue/grey natural clay overlain by a sandy clay orange/grey natural layer. This was overlain by an orange clay/silt subsoil and topsoil.

- 3.4.4 Manhole 23 was excavated towards the northern end of the site, to the south of Turweston Road. This manhole was 3.5m x 3.5m in diameter and was excavated to a depth of 5m entirely into a black/grey cindery make up layer. This layer contained waste deposits such as pot, glass bottles, wood and metal objects. It suggests that this area of the site was used as a rubbish dump or for landfill. No natural clays were observed in manhole 23.

4 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

4.1 Area 2 and 3

- 4.1.1 A variety of excavation types took place within area 2 and during the monitoring of these excavations no archaeology was uncovered, although ridge and furrow was noted to the east.
- 4.1.2 Most of the excavation into area 3 was similar to that of area 2 with natural being observed throughout. To the northern end of site just south of Turweston Road, manhole 23 was excavated to a depth of 5m. Here a vast dark cindery make up layer was encountered. This layer contained large amounts of pottery, glass bottles, wood and metal object all appearing to be modern in date. This suggests that this land may have been used as a rubbish dump or landfill and the natural clay seen throughout the rest of site was not observed here.
- 4.1.3 Area 1 has not yet been excavated.

APPENDIX A. BIBLIOGRAPHY

Albion Archaeology, 2014. *Land East of Northampton Road, Brackley, Northamptonshire. Archaeological Field Evaluation.*

Northamptonshire Archaeology, 2012. *Archaeological trial trench evaluation at Foxhills, Brackley North, Northamptonshire.*

Northamptonshire County Council Planning Services, 2013. *Brief for a Programme of Archaeological Observation, Investigation, Recording, Analysis and Publication associated with the Brackley, Radstone Fields, off site work, Brackley, Northamptonshire.*

Oxford Archaeology East, 2014. *Specification for Archaeological Monitoring and Recording.*

APPENDIX B. OASIS REPORT FORM

All fields are required unless they are not applicable.

Project Details

OASIS Number	oxfordar3-199061		
Project Name	Brackley, Radstone fields		
Project Dates (fieldwork)	Start	22-01-2014	Finish 31-01-2014
Previous Work (by OA East)	No	Future Work	

Project Reference Codes

Site Code	XNNBRA14	Planning App. No.	
HER No.		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 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
N/A	Select period...	N/A	Select period...
	Select period...		Select period...
	Select period...		Select period...

Project Location

County	Northamptonshire	Site Address (including postcode if possible)
District		Land near to Turweston Road
Parish	Brackley	Brackley
HER	Northamptonshire	NN13
Study Area	3240m	National Grid Reference SP 58984 38843

Project Originators

Organisation	OA EAST
Project Brief Originator	
Project Design Originator	
Project Manager	James Drummond-Murray
Supervisor	Ian Cook, Ashley Strutt, Alex Latham

Project Archives

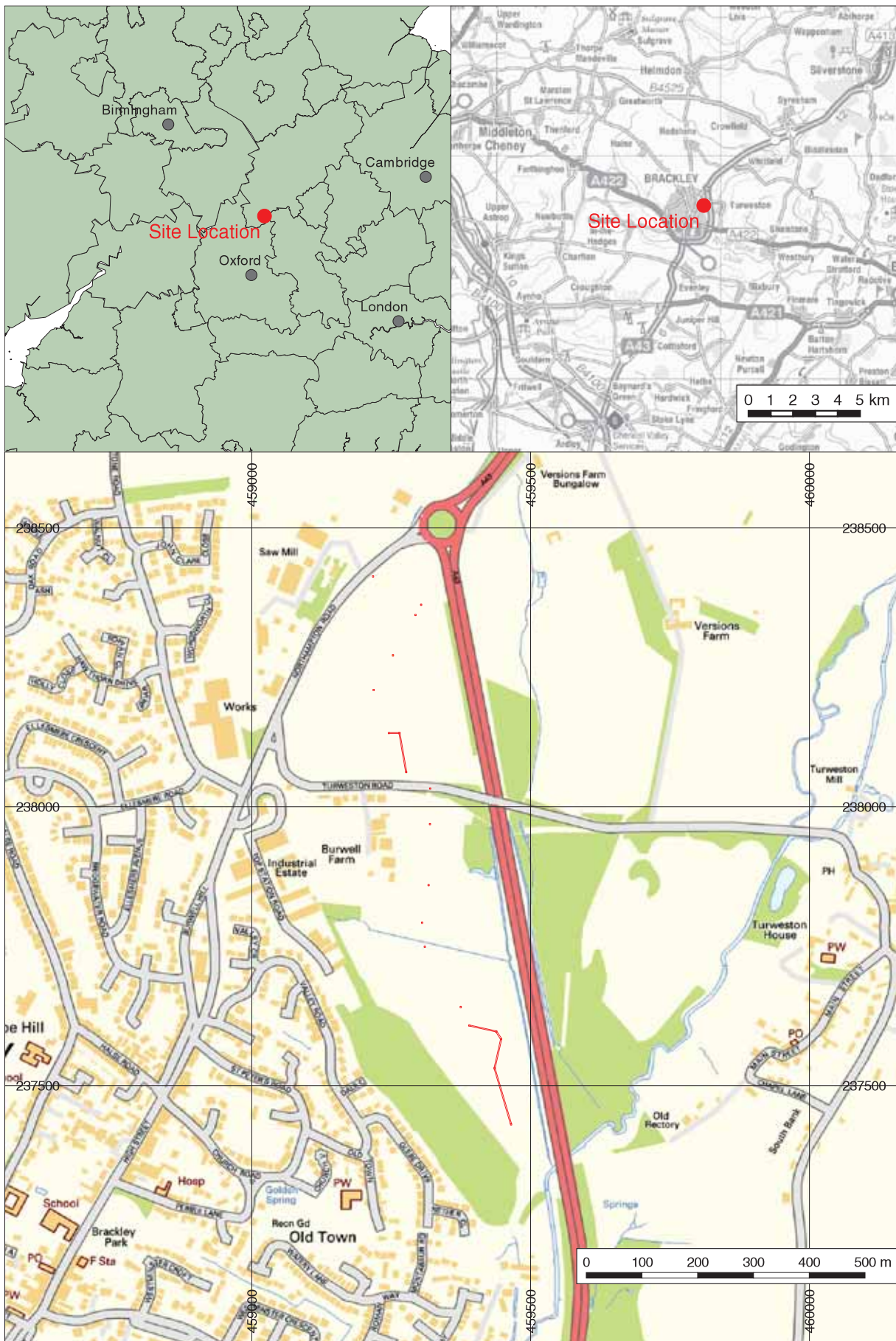
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OA East	OA East	OA East
XNNBRA14	XNNBRA14	XNNBRA14

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"/>
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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 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
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<input type="checkbox"/> Survey	<input type="checkbox"/> Matrices
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	<input type="checkbox"/> Research/Notes
	<input type="checkbox"/> Photos
	<input type="checkbox"/> Plans
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Report
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sections
	<input type="checkbox"/> Survey

Notes:



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Figure 1: Site location showing the development area (red)

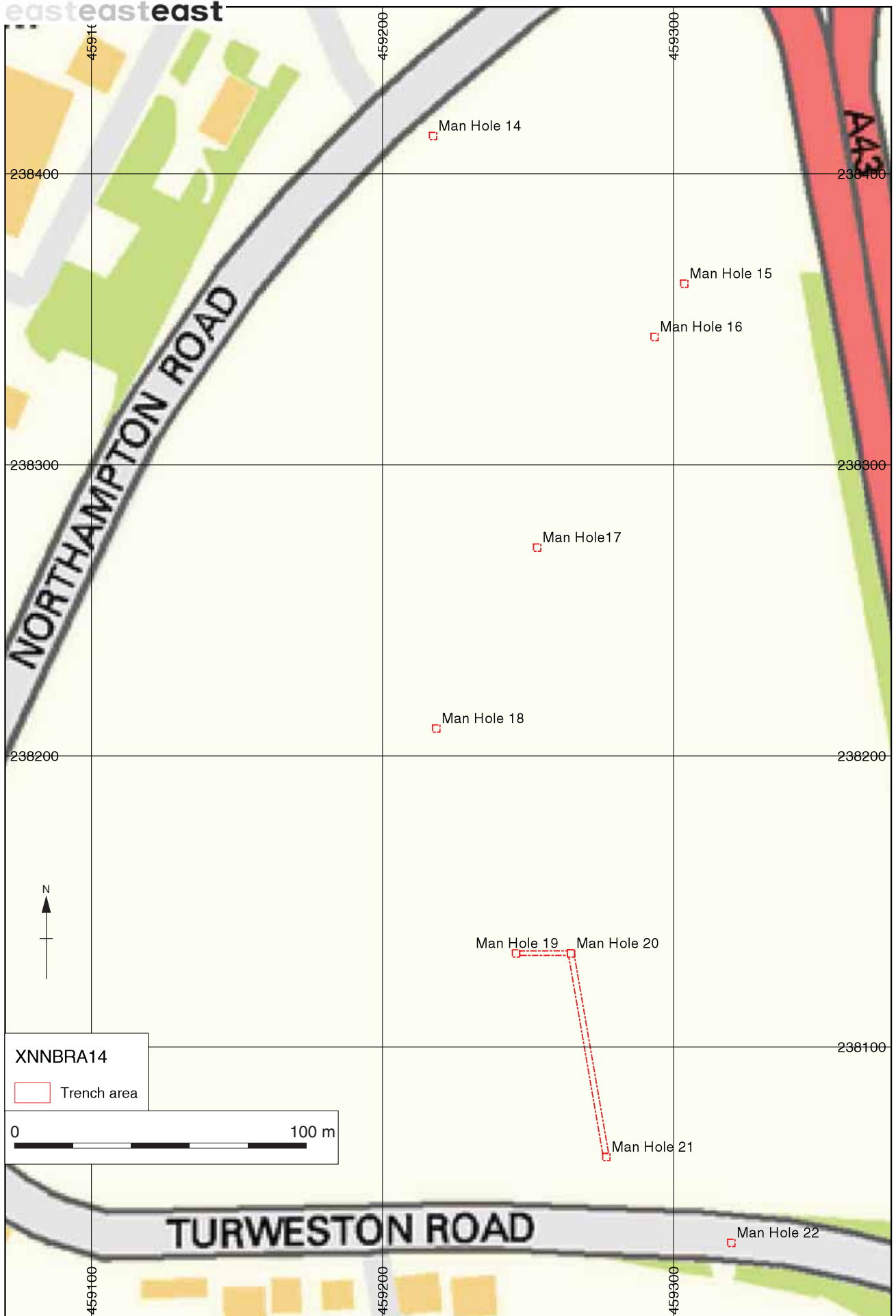


Figure 2: Detail of the location of manholes 14-22 (land east of Northampton Road)



Figure 3: Detail of the location of manholes 23-32 (land south of Turweston Road)



Plate 1: Open cut section south of Turweston Road, looking north



Plate 2: Open cut section south of Turweston Road, looking south



Plate 3: Manhole 27



Plate 4: Open cut section north of Turweston Road, looking north-west



Plate 5: Manhole 15



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