Main Road, Redmile
Leicestershire

Archaeological Watching Brief

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Summary

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Severn Trent Water to undertake an archaeological watching brief during water pipeline replacement works along Main Road, Redmile, Leicestershire NG13 0GB. The area within which the watching brief occurred extended from the north-western edge of the village (NGR 479591, 335567) for 2.2 km north-west along Main Road to a point near Old Hill Farm (NGR 477955 336732). Main Road is thought to follow the course of a Roman road that formerly linked the Belvoir ridge to a settlement on the Fosse Way near Bingham (Roman *Margidunum*).

The excavation of stretches of open-cut trenching, launch/reception pits for directional drilling and trial holes to intercept services was monitored during the watching brief.

Following seven weeks of archaeological monitoring, during which time no remains of significance were observed, a 'Toolbox Talk' was delivered to groundworkers who then scanned their own works in the remaining areas for any archaeologically significant features.

No archaeological remains were identified before or after the Toolbox Talk, and notwithstanding the putative Roman road, the absence of archaeological remains supports the conclusions of an earlier Heritage Impact Assessment that noted the undeveloped and rural character of the land along most of the watching brief area. However, the narrow width of the intervention and the re-excavation of pre-existing cuts limits conclusions regarding the archaeological potential of the wider area around the monitored groundworks.

Given the very limited results of the fieldwork, it is recommended that deposition of the archive resulting from the watching brief will involve the uploading of the site report to the Archaeology Data Service via OASIS only, with a copy also supplied to the Leicestershire HER. An OASIS record (wessexar1-521993) has been provisionally completed and will be finalised following final approval of this report.

Acknowledgements

Wessex Archaeology would like to thank Severn Trent Water for commissioning the archaeological watching brief, in particular Meghan Fletcher. Wessex Archaeology is also grateful for the advice of both the Principal and Senior Planning Archaeologists for Leicestershire County Council, who monitored the project for Melton Borough Council, and to staff of Network Plus Services Ltd for their cooperation and help on site.

Main Road, Redmile, Leicestershire

Archaeological Watching Brief

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project background

1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Severn Trent Water (Derby), to undertake an archaeological watching brief during water pipeline replacement works along Main Road, Redmile, NG13 0GB (Fig. 1).

1.1.2 The watching brief was carried out at the request of the Principal Planning Archaeologist for Leicestershire County Council.

1.1.3 The watching brief was undertaken in accordance with a written scheme of investigation (WSI) which detailed the aims, methodologies and standards to be employed (Wessex Archaeology 2022b). The Senior Planning Archaeologist for Leicestershire County Council had approved the WSI, on behalf of the Local Planning Authority (Melton Borough Council), prior to fieldwork commencing. The watching brief was undertaken by staff of Wessex Archaeology between 10 January and 01 March 2023.

1.2 Scope of the report

1.2.1 The purpose of this report is to provide the results of the watching brief, to interpret the results within their local or regional context (or otherwise), and to assess their potential to address the aims outlined in the WSI, thereby making available information about the archaeological resource (a preservation by record).

1.3 Location, topography and geology

1.3.1 The watching brief area extends for 2.2 km north-west of the village of Redmile, which itself is located 12 km west of Grantham. The monitored works occurred between the north-western edge of Redmile (NGR 479591, 335567), along Main Road, to a point near Old Hill Farm (NGR 477955 336732).

1.3.2 The ground surface descends from 47 m OD to 33 m OD along the length of the watching brief area; en route, Main Road crosses the Grantham canal to the immediate north-west of Redmile.

1.3.3 The bedrock geology is composed of Lias group mudstone, siltstone, limestone, and sandstone. The village of Redmile itself and the project area is primarily built over various interbeddings of limestone and mudstone from various bedrock members. Superficial deposits of alluvial clay, silt, sand, and gravel are occasionally present (British Geological Survey 2023).

2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Introduction

2.1.1 The archaeological and historical background was assessed in a Heritage Impact Assessment (Wessex Archaeology 2022a), which considered the recorded historic

environment resource within a study area extending 500 m from the pipeline route. A summary of the results is presented below, with relevant entry numbers from the Leicestershire County Council Historic Environment Record (HER) and the National Heritage List for England (NHLE) included. Additional sources of information are referenced, as appropriate.

2.2 Designated heritage assets

2.2.1 There are no designated heritage assets along the majority of the new water pipeline route. However, the south-eastern end of the watching brief area lies within Redmile Conservation Area (DLE643). The conservation area is centred upon the historic core of the village and includes the area surrounding St Peter's Church and the majority of properties within the village.

2.2.2 There are eleven listed buildings within Redmile, which predominately date from the 17th and 18th centuries. The Grade II* listed Church of St Peter (NHLE 1075013) dates from the 12th century and serves as a focal point for the historic core of the village. Within the churchyard lie three Grade II listed headstones (NHLE 1188597, NHLE 1360934).

2.3 Previous studies

2.3.1 No records of any previous intrusive archaeological investigations which overlap directly with the route were identified during the preparation of the Heritage Impact Assessment.

2.3.2 An archaeological evaluation was undertaken in advance of the proposed installation of a toilet and drainage scheme within the bell tower and grounds of St Peter's Church (ELE6796). There was no evidence for a structure pre-dating the existing bell tower, but several burials were located as well as pottery. Another archaeological watching brief was undertaken at St Peter's in 2021 (ELE11547), although no archaeological features were encountered on that occasion.

2.4 Archaeological and historical context

Prehistoric (to AD 43)

2.4.1 The LHER contains no entries relating to confirmed prehistoric activity within the study area.

2.4.2 The LHER describes an anecdote from an 18th-century writer describing, "In a close on the north side of the town of Redmile are three hills in a straight line, about 40 yards asunder, having very much the appearance of tumuli or barrows; but probably intended only for some kind of antient exercise, and the close is called 'The Butt Close'"(MLE4006). This field has been ploughed in recent years and no upstanding trace of the mounds remain.

Romano-British (AD 43–410)

2.4.3 During the Romano-British period, this part of the East Midlands was extensively settled and cultivated, with the area containing a network of roads, villas and farmsteads. Many of these would have interacted with the nearby Fosse Way Roman road, here running between settlements at Leicester (*Ratae Corieltauvorum*) and Lincoln (*Lindum Colonia*).

2.4.4 Both Main Road (MLE19789) and a parallel road to the south-west (Plungar Road/Granby Lane) are thought to be former Roman roads linking the Belvoir ridge and a settlement on the Fosse Way near Bingham (*Margidunum*).

2.4.5 There is no other known Romano-British activity recorded within the study area.

Medieval (AD 410–1550)

2.4.6 The historic core of the village has its origins in the early medieval period (MLE8417). The LHER records a single entry for the Anglo-Saxon period: an Anglo-Saxon grave slab built into the sill of St Peter's Church nave's north-east window (MLE6215).

2.4.7 The settlement of Redmile is first recorded in the *Domesday* Survey, in the hundred of Framland. It states that in 1066 Redmile was owned by Leofric of Bottesford, but by the time of the survey was administered by Lord Robert of Tosney. It had a recorded population of four households, putting it in the smallest 20% of settlements recorded in *Domesday* (Open Domesday n.d.).

2.4.8 The LHER records the partial remains of a medieval moated site (MLE4012), located 170 m south of the proposed pipeline corridor. A local tradition suggests that there was a small house of nuns here and the site is known locally as 'All Hallows'. The feature was truncated by the construction of the railway in the post-medieval period.

2.4.9 Belvoir Castle was first built in the Norman period as a motte and bailey castle and a royal manor, overlooking the vale and the early settlement of Redmile. The castle was built on the land of the overlord Robert de Todeni, who administered the surrounding vale on behalf of the Crown.

2.4.10 A canalised stream known as the 'Grimmer' follows the course of the Redmile Parish boundary for 3 km and crosses beneath the watching brief route to the west of Redmile village. Its date is uncertain, but the name is thought to derive from the Old English '*grima'* or '*grimbroc'*, meaning boundary marker (Survey of English Placenames 2022).

2.4.11 The anecdotal evidence recorded within the LHER of three barrows or archery butts located on the northern edge of the town has been set out above. Should the association with archery be correct, then these would have been medieval features (or, perhaps, prehistoric monuments repurposed in the medieval period).

Post-medieval–modern (1550–present)

2.4.12 The Grantham Canal (MLE9091) passes along the western boundary of the village, a hump-back bridge crosses the channel on Main Road. It was built in the 1790s, connecting the town with Nottingham. In 1936 an Act of Parliament was passed to close the canal.

2.4.13 The Great Northern and London and North Western Joint Railway (MLE16075) opened in 1879 running from Market Harborough to the GNR Nottingham/Grantham line. The Redmile and Belvoir train station lay to the south of Main Road. The line was closed in 1962. The railway passes beneath Main Road and coincides with the pipeline route.

2.4.14 First Edition Ordnance Survey mapping reveals that the overall character of the study area has not changed markedly since the 19th century, remaining a rural landscape of dispersed satellite farmsteads surrounding the small settlement of Redmile.

2.4.15 The LHER contains two records relating to the modern period: a World War II pillbox (MLE15992) and a Grade II listed K6 telephone kiosk (NHLE 1360932) (MLE12740).

Historic landscape character

2.4.16 The form and character of Redmile has been preserved with minor modern development within its bounds. Immediately surrounding the historic core of Redmile lies a buffer of small paddocks and other small rectilinear fields. Cartographic analysis reveals a rural hinterland of 'Reorganised piecemeal enclosure', largely flanking Main Road and the proposed route.

Beyond the bounds of the village lies large swathes of 'Planned Enclosure' (Leicestershire County Council 2019).

3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

3.1 Aims

3.1.1 The aims of the watching brief, as stated in the WSI (Wessex Archaeology 2022b) and as defined in the CIfA *Standard and guidance for an archaeological watching brief* (CIfA 2014a), were to:

- allow, within the resources available, the preservation by record of archaeological deposits, the presence and nature of which could not be established (or established with sufficient accuracy) in advance of the development or other works;
- provide an opportunity, if needed, for the watching archaeologist to signal to all interested parties, before the destruction of the material in question, that an archaeological find has been made for which the resources allocated to the watching brief itself are not sufficient to support treatment to a satisfactory and proper standard; and
- guide, not replace, any requirement for contingent excavation or preservation of possible deposits.

3.2 Objectives

3.2.1 In order to achieve the above aims, the objectives of the watching brief, also defined in the WSI (Wessex Archaeology 2022b), were to:

- determine the presence or absence of archaeological features, deposits, structures, artefacts or ecofacts within the specified works area;
- record and establish, within the constraints of the works, the extent, character, date, condition and quality of any surviving archaeological remains (a preservation by record);
- place any identified archaeological remains within a wider historical and archaeological context in order to assess their significance; and
- make available information about the archaeological resource on the site by preparing a report on the results of the watching brief.

4 METHODS

4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 The watching brief was undertaken in accordance with the detailed methodology set out within the WSI (Wessex Archaeology 2022b) and in general compliance with the standards outlined in CIfA guidance (CIfA 2014a). The methods employed are summarised below.

4.2 Fieldwork methods

General

4.2.1 Between 10 January and 01 March 2023 groundworks were monitored by an archaeologist from Wessex Archaeology. During this period, 37 separate areas of excavation were

monitored along the watching brief area (these are referred to as 'trenches' within this report, regardless of their shape in plan).

4.2.2 The watching brief methodology was amended from 01 March onwards because of an absence of significant remains to that point in time. At the beginning of March, the attending archaeologist delivered a 'toolbox talk' (Wessex Archaeology 2023; Appendix 2) to groundworkers from Network Plus Services Ltd who then monitored their own works for any archaeologically significant features.

4.2.3 This amended methodology was approved by the Senior Planning Archaeologist representing the LPA.

4.2.4 Between 10 January and 01 March 2023, the attending archaeologist monitored all mechanical excavations within the specified area. Spoil from machine stripping and hand-excavated archaeological deposits was visually scanned for the purposes of finds retrieval. No artefacts meeting the criteria for retention set out in the WSI were seen; finds of modern date (fragments of ceramic land drain) were recorded on site and not retained.

Recording

4.2.5 Exposed deposits were recorded using Wessex Archaeology's pro forma recording system.

4.2.6 A full photographic record was made using digital cameras equipped with an image sensor of not less than 10 megapixels. Digital images have been subject to managed quality control and curation processes, which has embedded appropriate metadata within the image and will ensure long term accessibility of the image set.

Finds and environmental strategies

4.2.7 Strategies for the recovery, processing and assessment of finds and environmental samples were in line with those detailed in the WSI (Wessex Archaeology 2022b). Guidelines for the treatment of artefacts and environmental remains was in general accordance with: *Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials* (CIfA 2014b), *Environmental Archaeology. A Guide to the Theory and Practice of Methods, from Sampling and Recovery to Post-excavation* (English Heritage 2011) and CIfA's Toolkit for Specialist Reporting (Type 1: Description) (CIfA 2022a).

Monitoring

4.2.8 The Senior Planning Archaeologist monitored the watching brief on behalf of the Local Planning Authority (LPA). Any variations to the WSI, if required to better address the project aims, were agreed in advance with the client and the Senior Planning Archaeologist.

5 STRATIGRAPHIC EVIDENCE

5.1 Introduction

5.1.1 Between 10 January and 01 March 2023, the excavation of 37 trenches was monitored by the attending archaeologist; these were dug as open-cut trenching, launch/reception pits for directional drilling or to locate charted service ducts (Fig. 2).

5.1.2 Following the amendment to the watching brief methodology from 01 March 2023, photographs of two excavated trenches (numbers 38 and 40) were received from the on-site groundworks contractors, although no remains of archaeological significance could be discerned within the trenches, and none were reported.

5.2 Deposit sequence

5.2.1 Natural substrate was recorded in 34 of the trenches, the material generally appeared as a mid-yellow silty clay (Fig. 3), occasionally with a more greenish or greyish hue (Fig. 4). The depth below the modern ground level at which the upper surface of the natural substrate was first encountered varied between 0.1 m and 0.64 m, with a mean of 0.45 m. Within those trenches dug into the roadside verge the natural substrate was relatively close to the surface, being first encountered at 0.1–0.35 m below the modern ground level.

5.2.2 Non-natural layers variously described as deliberate backfill, levelling or made ground (e.g., Figs 5–7) were recorded in 35 of the trenches, where they were seen overlying the natural substrate and beneath those deposits that completed the stratigraphic sequence. These stony/sandy layers generally represented either aggregate preparation layers below the surface of Main Road, or backfill of the existing pipe cut that many of the trenches intercepted. Occasionally they were interpreted as potential earlier manifestations of the road surface (e.g., trenches 2 and 7; Fig. 8), but such deposits were bonded with bitumen and so of no great age.

5.2.3 The uppermost deposit encountered in most trenches was the modern tarmac road surface; within those trenches dug into the roadside verge a dark brown sandy or silty clay topsoil completed the stratigraphic sequence (Fig. 9).

5.2.4 No deposits interpreted as representing the proposed Roman road were recorded, and no other remains – either features or artefacts – of other archaeological significance were identified during the watching brief.

6 FINDS EVIDENCE

6.1 General

6.1.1 No finds meeting the criteria for retention set out in the WSI were seen during the watching brief.

7 ENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE

7.1 General

7.1.1 No deposits meeting the criteria for sampling described in the WSI were encountered during the watching brief.

8 CONCLUSIONS

8.1 General

8.1.1 Despite the possibility of a Roman road running beneath or alongside Main Road, the watching brief produced only negative results. Some of the more mixed made ground deposits could have originally formed part of the Roman road, but evidence capable of confirming this was would have been difficult to identify in the narrow windows afforded by the monitored trenches. Many of the made ground deposits clearly comprised imported aggregate of very probable modern extraction however (e.g., Fig. 6). Notwithstanding the proposed Roman road, the apparent absence of archaeological remains is in keeping with the otherwise undeveloped and rural character of the land along most of the watching brief area as noted in the archaeological and historical background presented above (section 2).

8.1.2 The aims and objectives of this project have been met, although the monitoring was hindered by the narrow width of the trenches, which meant that the full extent of remains could not be seen, so limiting the information that could be recorded. A lack of artefactual/dating evidence means that the interpretation of the made ground deposits is presumed rather than proven. These factors together hinder the interpretation of the deposit sequence within the trenches and prevent a definitive statement regarding the presence/absence of the proposed Roman road, or any other remains, from being made.

9 ARCHIVE STORAGE AND CURATION

9.1 Museum

9.1.1 The archive resulting from the watching brief is currently held at the offices of Wessex Archaeology in Sheffield.

9.1.2 Given the very limited results of the fieldwork, it is considered that the site conforms to the definition of a 'sterile project' (i.e., one that produces nothing of evidential value), according to the CIfA Toolkit for Selecting Archaeological Archives (archaeological archives from sterile projects) (CIfA 2022b). It is therefore recommended that only selected digital data are deposited with ADS, an approach commensurate with the scale and significance of the project. In this case, with the agreement of Leicestershire County Council Museum Collection, deposition will involve the uploading of the site report to the Archaeology Data Service via OASIS only, with a copy supplied to the Leicestershire HER also.

9.2 Selection strategy

9.2.1 It is widely accepted that not all the records and materials (artefacts and ecofacts) collected or created during the course of an archaeological project require preservation in perpetuity. These records and materials will be subject to selection in order to establish what will be retained for long-term curation, with the aim of ensuring that all elements selected to be retained are appropriate to establish the significance of the project and support future research, outreach, engagement, display and learning activities, i.e., the retained archive should fulfil the requirements of both future researchers and the receiving Museum.

9.2.2 The selection strategy, which details the project-specific selection process, is underpinned by national guidelines on selection and retention (Brown 2011, section 4) and generic selection policies (SMA 1993; Wessex Archaeology's internal selection policy) and follows CIfA's Toolkit for Selecting Archaeological Archives (CIfA 2022b). It should be agreed by all stakeholders (Wessex Archaeology's internal specialists, external specialists, local authority, museum) and fully documented in the project archive.

9.3 Security copy

9.3.1 In line with current best practice (e.g., Brown 2011), on completion of the project a security copy of the written records will be prepared, in the form of a digital PDF/A file. PDF/A is an ISO-standardised version of the Portable Document Format (PDF) designed for the digital preservation of electronic documents through omission of features ill-suited to long-term archiving.

9.4 OASIS

9.4.1 An OASIS (online access to the index of archaeological investigations) record has been initiated (http://oasis.ac.uk; wessexar1-521993), with key fields completed (Appendix 3). A.pdf version of the final report will be submitted following approval by the Senior Planning Archaeologist for Leicestershire County Council on behalf of the LPA. Subject to any

contractual requirements on confidentiality, copies of the OASIS record will be integrated into the relevant local and national records and published through the Archaeology Data Service (ADS) ArchSearch catalogue.

9.5 Third party data copyright

9.5.1 This document and the project archive may contain material that is non-Wessex Archaeology copyright (e.g., Ordnance Survey, British Geological Survey, Crown Copyright), or the intellectual property of third parties, which Wessex Archaeology are able to provide for limited reproduction under the terms of our own copyright licences, but for which copyright itself is non-transferable by Wessex Archaeology. Users remain bound by the conditions of the *Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988* with regard to multiple copying and electronic dissemination of such material.

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APPENDICES

Appendix 1 Context summary

Trench No 1	Length 2 m	Width 0.40 m	Depth 1.20 m
Context Number	**Interpretative Category**	**Description**	**Depth BGL**
1001	Surface	Tarmac.	0–0.34
1002	Made ground	Light yellowish stones large and small about 0.80–2.5 mm firmly compacted used to make the made ground. Sandy clay.	0.34–0.45
1003	Natural	Mid-grey yellow clay, no inclusions.	0.45–1.2

Trench No 2	Length 2 m	Width 1 m	Depth 1.20 m
Context Number	**Interpretative Category**	**Description**	**Depth BGL**
2001	Surface	Tarmac. Quite thick	0–0.18
2002	Made ground	Dark brownish stones large and small about 0.80-2.3 mm in size firmly compacted together. possibly the old road due to the different colour with the newish made ground.	0.18–0.32
2003	Made ground	Light yellowish stones large and small about 0.80–2.5 mm firmly compacted used to make the made ground. Very sandy.	0.32–0.37
2004	Natural	Mid-grey yellow clay, no inclusions.	0.37–1.2+

Trench No 3	Length 2 m	Width 1 m	Depth 1 m
Context Number	**Interpretative Category**	**Description**	**Depth BGL**
3001	Surface	Tarmac.	0–0.20
3002	Made ground	Light yellowish stones large and small about 0.80–2.5 mm firmly compacted used to make the made ground.	0.20–0.62
3003	Natural	Greenish grey silty clay, no inclusions.	0.62–1+

Trench No 4	Length 2 m	Width 1 m	Depth 1 m
Context Number	**Interpretative Category**	**Description**	**Depth BGL**
4001	Surface	Tarmac.	0–0.15
4002	Made ground	Light yellowish stones large and small about 0.80–2.5 mm firmly compacted used to make the made ground.	0.15–0.50
4003	Natural	Mid-yellowish silty clay no inclusions.	0.50–1

Trench No 5	Length 2 m	Width 1 m	Depth 1 m
Context Number	**Interpretative Category**	**Description**	**Depth BGL**
5001	Surface	Tarmac.	0–0.15
5002	Made ground	Light yellowish stones large and small about 0.80–2.5 mm firmly compacted used to make the made ground.	0.15–0.28

5003	Made ground	Dark brownish stones large and small about 0.80-2.3mm in size firmly compacted together. possibly the old road due to the different colour with the newish made ground.	0.28–0.52
5004	Natural	Mid-grey yellow silty clay with no inclusions.	0.52–1

Trench No 6	**Length 2 m**	**Width 1 m**	**Depth 1 m**
Context Number	**Interpretative Category**	**Description**	**Depth BGL**
6001	Surface	Tarmac.	0–0.15
6002	Made ground	Light yellowish stones large and small about 0.80–2.5 mm firmly compacted used to make the made ground. Sandy clay.	0.15–0.46
6003	Made ground	Levelling layer. Mid-red black layer, possibly made ground to lay the stone or possibly the old road surface before it was paved.	0.46–0.56
6004	Natural	Mid-grey yellow, no inclusions found.	0.56–1+

Trench No 7	**Length 2 m**	**Width 1 m**	**Depth 1 m**
Context Number	**Interpretative Category**	**Description**	**Depth BGL**
7001	Surface	Tarmac.	0–0.16
7002	Made ground	Sandy clay. Light yellowish stones large and small about 0.80–2.5 mm firmly compacted used to make the made ground.	0.16–0.44
7003	Made ground	Mid-grey black silty clay layer, Dark brownish stones large and small about 0.80-2.3mm in size firmly compacted together. possibly the old road due to the different colour with the newish made ground.	0.44–0.58
7004	Natural	Light grey yellow silty sand, no inclusions.	0.58–1

Trench No 8	**Length 1.20 m**	**Width 0.74 m**	**Depth 1.10 m**
Context Number	**Interpretative Category**	**Description**	**Depth BGL**
8001	Surface	Tarmac.	0–0.16
8002	Made ground	Sandy clay with light yellowish stones large and small about 0.80–2.5 mm firmly compacted used to make the made ground.	0.16–0.48
8003	Natural	Mid-grey yellow silty clay, no inclusions.	0.48–1.10

Trench No 9	**Length 1 m**	**Width 0.60 m**	**Depth 0.30 m**
Context Number	**Interpretative Category**	**Description**	**Depth BGL**
9001	Surface	Tarmac.	0–0.15
9002	Made ground	Sandy clay. Light yellowish stones large and small about 0.80–2.5 mm firmly compacted used to make the made ground.	0.15–0.30

Trench No 11	**Length 3 m**	**Width 1 m**	**Depth 1 m**
Context Number	**Interpretative Category**	**Description**	**Depth BGL**

11001	Surface	Tarmac.	0.05–0.15
11002	Made ground	Light yellowish stones large and small about 0.80–2.5 mm firmly compacted used to make the made ground. sandy clay.	0.15–0.3
11003	Natural	Mid-yellowish grey silty clay.	0.3–1+
11004	Deliberate backfill	Fill of pipe, red coarse sand.	0.7–1+
11005	Pipe	Modern utility pipe.	0.8–0.95
11006	Deliberate backfill	Redeposited natural.	0.2–0.7
11007	Construction cut for pipe	N/A	0.05–0.95+
11008	Topsoil	Dark brown sandy clay.	0–0.15

Trench No 12	**Length 9.50 m**	**Width 1 m**	**Depth 0.55 m**
Context Number	**Interpretative Category**	**Description**	**Depth BGL**
12001	Surface	Tarmac.	0–0.08
12002	Layer	Made ground. Light yellowish stones large and small about 0.80–2.5 mm firmly compacted used to make the made ground. Sandy clay.	0.08–0.35
12003	Natural	Light yellowish grey silty clay.	0.35–1.2+

Trench No 13	**Length 2 m**	**Width 0.40 m**	**Depth 1.2 m**
Context Number	**Interpretative Category**	**Description**	**Depth BGL**
13001	Surface	Tarmac.	0.03–0.13
13002	Topsoil	Dark brown silty clay.	0–0.25
13003	Made ground	Light yellowish stones large and small about 0.80–2.5 mm firmly compacted used to make the made ground. Sandy clay.	0.13–0.25
13004	Natural	Yellowish brown silty clay.	0.13–1.20+

Trench No 14	**Length 1 m**	**Width 0.40 m**	**Depth 1.10 m**
Context Number	**Interpretative Category**	**Description**	**Depth BGL**
14001	Topsoil	Dark brown sandy clay.	0–0.15
14002	Made ground	A series of levelling layers, most likely the same event from the construction of Main Road.	0.15–0.35
14003	Natural	Greenish brown sandy clay.	0.35–1+

Trench No 15	**Length 2 m**	**Width 0.50 m**	**Depth 0.90 m**
Context Number	**Interpretative Category**	**Description**	**Depth BGL**
15001	Topsoil	Dark brown sandy clay.	0–0.25
15002	Natural	Mid-greenish brown silty clay.	0.25–0.9

Trench No 16	**Length 3 m**	**Width 0.50 m**	**Depth 0.60 m**
Context Number	**Interpretative Category**	**Description**	**Depth BGL**
16001	Topsoil	Dark brown sandy clay.	0–0.10

16002	Natural	Light greenish silty clay.	0.1–0.6

Trench No 17	Length 2 m	Width 0.50 m	Depth 0.80 m
Context Number	**Interpretative Category**	**Description**	**Depth BGL**
17001	Topsoil	Dark brown silty clay.	0–0.13
17002	Natural	Mid-greenish brown silty clay.	0.13–0.8

Trench No 18	Length 10 m	Width 0.50 m	Depth 0.50 m
Context Number	**Interpretative Category**	**Description**	**Depth BGL**
18001	Topsoil	Dark brown silty clay.	0.00–0.30
18002	Natural	Brownish yellow silty clay. Occasional subangular stones. Fragments of CBM (not retained). Dirty redeposited natural in the roadside verge, presumably disturbed by insertion of later services, amongst other events.	0.30–0.50+

Trench No 19	Length 13 m	Width 0.55 m	Depth 0.90 m
Context Number	**Interpretative Category**	**Description**	**Depth BGL**
1901	Surface	Tarmac.	0.00–0.28
1902	Made ground	Light yellowish stones large and small about 0.80–2.5 mm firmly compacted used to make the made ground. sandy clay.	0.28–0.52
1903	Natural	Light greyish yellow silty clay. Firm and compact. Wet and sticky. No stone inclusions can be seen within the layer.	0.52–0.90+

Trench No 20	Length 2.20 m	Width 0.80 m	Depth 1.10 m
Context Number	**Interpretative Category**	**Description**	**Depth BGL**
20001	Surface	Tarmac.	0.00–0.22
20002	Made ground	Light yellowish stones large and small about 0.80–2.5 mm firmly compacted used to make the made ground. sandy clay.	0.22–0.47
20003	Natural	Light greyish yellow silty clay. Firm and compact. Wet and sticky. No stone inclusions can be seen within the layer.	0.47–1.10+

Trench No 21	Length 2.20 m	Width 0.80 m	Depth 1.20 m
Context Number	**Interpretative Category**	**Description**	**Depth BGL**
2101	Surface	Tarmac.	0.00–0.25
2102	Made ground	Light yellowish stones large and small about 0.80–2.5 mm firmly compacted used to make the made ground. sandy clay.	0.25–0.49
2103	Natural	Light greyish yellow silty clay. Firm and compact. Wet and sticky. No stone inclusions can be seen within the layer.	0.49–0.90+

Trench No 22	Length 2.20 m	Width 0.80 m	Depth 0.90 m

Context Number	Interpretative Category	Description	Depth BGL
2201	Surface	Tarmac.	0.00–0.28
2202	Made ground	Light yellowish stones large and small about 0.80–2.5 mm firmly compacted used to make the made ground. Sandy clay.	0.28–0.63
2203	Natural	Light greyish yellow silty clay. Firm and compact. Wet and sticky. No stone inclusions can be seen within the layer.	0.63–0.90

Trench No 23	Length 2.20 m	Width 0.80 m	Depth 0.90 m
Context Number	**Interpretative Category**	**Description**	**Depth BGL**
2301	Surface	Tarmac.	0.00–0.15
2302	Made ground	Light yellowish stones large and small about 0.80–2.5 mm firmly compacted used to make the made ground. Sandy clay.	0.15–0.90+

Trench No 24	Length 2.20 m	Width 0.80 m	Depth 0.90 m
Context Number	**Interpretative Category**	**Description**	**Depth BGL**
2401	Surface	Tarmac.	0.00–0.25
2402	Made ground	Light yellowish stones large and small about 0.80–2.5 mm firmly compacted used to make the made ground for the bridge. Sandy clay.	0.25–0.90+

Trench No 25	Length 2.20 m	Width 0.80 m	Depth 0.90 m
Context Number	**Interpretative Category**	**Description**	**Depth BGL**
2501	Surface	Tarmac.	0.00–0.20
2502	Made ground	Light yellowish stones large and small about 0.80–2.5 mm firmly compacted used to make the made ground. Sandy clay.	0.20–0.63
2503	Natural	Light greyish yellow silty clay. Firm and compact. some stone inclusions can be seen within this layer probably due to the made ground above it. Small sub-rounded pebbles about 10-30mm in size.	0.63–0.90+

Trench No 26	Length 2.20 m	Width 0.80 m	Depth 0.90 m
Context Number	**Interpretative Category**	**Description**	**Depth BGL**
2601	Surface	Tarmac.	0.00–0.22
2602	Made ground	Light yellowish stones large and small about 0.80–2.5 mm firmly compacted used to make the made ground. Sandy clay.	0.22–0.63
2603	Natural	Light greyish yellow silty clay. Firm and compact. no stone inclusions within the layer.	0.63–0.90+

Trench No 27	Length 2.20 m	Width 0.80 m	Depth 0.90 m
Context Number	**Interpretative Category**	**Description**	**Depth BGL**
2701	Surface	Tarmac.	0.00–0.20

2702	Made ground	Light yellowish stones large and small about 0.80–2.5 mm firmly compacted used to make the made ground. sandy clay.	0.20–0.61
2703	Natural	Light greyish yellow silty clay. Firm and compact. No stone inclusions within the layer.	0.61–0.90+

Trench No 28	**Length 1.20 m**	**Width 0.80 m**	**Depth 0.90 m**
Context Number	**Interpretative Category**	**Description**	**Depth BGL**
2801	Surface	Tarmac.	0.00–0.20
2802	Made ground	Light yellowish stones large and small about 0.80–2.5 mm firmly compacted used to make the made ground. Sandy clay.	0.20–0.64
2803	Natural	Light greyish yellow silty clay. Firm and compact. sticky. No stone inclusions within the layer.	0.64–0.90+

Trench No 29	**Length 2.20 m**	**Width 1.10 m**	**Depth 1.10 m**
Context Number	**Interpretative Category**	**Description**	**Depth BGL**
2901	Surface	Tarmac.	0.00–0.20
2902	Made ground	Light yellowish stones large and small about 0.80–2.5 mm firmly compacted used to make the made ground. sandy clay.	0.20–0.63
2903	Natural	Light greyish yellow silty clay. Firm and compact. No stone inclusions within the layer.	0.63–1.10+

Trench No 30	**Length 2.20 m**	**Width 0.80 m**	**Depth 0.90 m**
Context Number	**Interpretative Category**	**Description**	**Depth BGL**
30001	Surface	Tarmac.	0.00–0.20
30002	Made ground	Light yellowish stones large and small about 0.80–2.5 mm firmly compacted used to make the made ground.	0.20–0.63
30003	Natural	Light greyish yellow silty clay. Firm and compact. No stone inclusions within the layer.	0.63–0.90+

Trench No 31	**Length 2.40 m**	**Width 1 m**	**Depth 1 m**
Context Number	**Interpretative Category**	**Description**	**Depth BGL**
31001	Surface	Tarmac.	0–0.15
31002	Made ground	Light yellowish stones large and small about 0.80–2.5 mm firmly compacted used to make the made ground. Sandy clay.	0.15–0.50
31003	Natural	Mid-yellowish silty clay, no inclusions.	0.50–1

Trench No 32	**Length 2 m**	**Width 1 m**	**Depth 1.35 m**
Context Number	**Interpretative Category**	**Description**	**Depth BGL**
32001	Surface	Tarmac	0–0.20
32002	Made ground	Light yellowish stones large and small about 0.80–2.5 mm firmly compacted used to make the made ground. Sandy clay.	0.20–0.40

32003	Natural	Mid-yellowish silty clay, no inclusions.	0.40–1.35+

Trench No 33	Length 2.10 m	Width 0.80 m	Depth 1.10 m
Context Number	**Interpretative Category**	**Description**	**Depth BGL**
33001	Surface	Tarmac.	0–0.20
33002	Made ground	Light yellowish stones large and small about 0.80–2.5 mm firmly compacted used to make the made ground. Sandy clay.	0.2–0.42
33003	Natural	Mid-greyish yellow silty clay, no inclusions.	0.42–0.90
33004	Natural	Mid-yellowish silty clay, no inclusions.	0.90–1.10+

Trench No 34	Length 1.60 m	Width 1.10 m	Depth 1.20 m
Context Number	**Interpretative Category**	**Description**	**Depth BGL**
34001	Surface	Tarmac.	0–0.20
34002	Made ground	Light yellowish stones large and small about 0.80–2.5 mm firmly compacted used to make the made ground. Sandy clay.	0.20–0.32
34003	Natural	Mid-yellowish silty clay, no inclusions.	0.32–1.2

Trench No 35	Length 1.60 m	Width 1.40 m	Depth 1 m
Context Number	**Interpretative Category**	**Description**	**Depth BGL**
35001	Surface	Tarmac.	0–0.17
35002	Made ground	Light yellowish large and small stones about 0.80-2.6mm in size. Firmly compacted and used to make the made ground.	0.17–0.35
35003	Natural	Mid-yellowish silty clay, no inclusions.	0.35–1+

Trench No 36	Length 2.40 m	Width 1 m	Depth 1.40 m
Context Number	**Interpretative Category**	**Description**	**Depth BGL**
36001	Surface	Tarmac.	0–0.20
36002	Made ground	Light yellowish stones large and small about 0.80–2.5 mm firmly compacted used to make the made ground. Sandy clay.	0.20–0.45
36003	Natural	Mid-yellowish silty clay, no inclusions.	0.45–1.40

Trench No 37	Length 1 m	Width 1.20 m	Depth 1.10 m
Context Number	**Interpretative Category**	**Description**	**Depth BGL**
37001	Surface	Tarmac.	0–0.20
37002	Made ground	Light yellowish stones large and small about 0.80–2.5 mm firmly compacted used to make the made ground. Sandy clay.	0.20–0.40
37003	Natural	Mid-yellowish silty clay, no inclusions.	0.40–1.10+

Trench No 38	Length 1 m	Width 0.30 m	Depth 0.20 m
Context Number	**Interpretative Category**	**Description**	**Depth BGL**

3801	Topsoil	Dark greyish brown friable sandy silt. Frequent small sub-angular stone inclusions.	0–0.2+

Trench No 40	**Length 2 m**	**Width 0.50 m**	**Depth 0.80 m**
Context Number	**Interpretative Category**	**Description**	**Depth BGL**
40001	Topsoil	Dark brown sandy silt.	0–0.3
40002	Road	Hard black tarmac modern road surface.	0–2
40003	Natural	Mid-yellowish silty clay, no inclusions.	0.3-0.8 +

Trench No 102	**Length Unknown**	**Width 0.70 m**	**Depth 1 m**
Context Number	**Interpretative Category**	**Description**	**Depth BGL**
10201	Surface	Tarmac.	0–0.2
10202	Made ground	Light yellowish stones large and small about 0.80–2.5 mm firmly compacted used to make the made ground. Sandy clay.	0.2–0.45
10203	Natural	Mid-grey yellow silty clay.	0.45–1.2+

Appendix 2 Toolbox talk

Project Name: Redmile Water Pipe, Leicestershire	**Toolbox Talk**	**Project Number: 264162**
Subject: Basics of Archaeological monitoring		Date: 28/02/2023

Reason: A basic introduction to the process of archaeological monitoring and recording.
Outline: This toolbox talk covers the identification and photography of archaeological remains.

What?

- Archaeology is the scientific study of human history and prehistory through the excavation of sites and the analysis of physical remains;
- Where no other records exist, it is often the only source of information about previous occupation of an area from the earliest inhabitants many thousands of years ago to more recent times of just a hundred years or so;
- It is not only buildings and foundations, but also artefacts such as flint, jewellery, pottery, coins, bones and skeletons that need expert examination before removal and preservation; and
- Many sites may have ancient monuments and/or listed buildings on them, which are protected by law and planning control. Any specific issues related to these should be identified before work on site begins.

Why?

- Avoid environmental harm: archaeology is an important part of heritage and valuable and irreplaceable remains can easily be damaged on construction sites; and
- Avoid prosecution: it is illegal to disturb human remains, remove treasure and to damage certain monuments and historical structures/buildings.

Questions

1. What old artefacts might be found on this site?
2. What should be done if something is found that looks like it might be of archaeological interest?

Answers

1. Ditches, pits and structures are the most common type of feature to be found on archaeological sites, these may vary greatly in size, shape and appearance. Typically ditches and pits can be identified through a change in texture and colour from the surrounding material, although this may be very subtle. Structures are typically easier to see and may be composed of stone, brick or wood. They may be buildings, walls or even old ground surface and roads. Sometimes, but not always, archaeological

features may incorporate additional material such as pottery, glass, bone, worked stone and metal. Both Main Road (MLE19789) which coincides with the proposed route, and Plungar Road turned Granby Lane, are thought to be former Roman roads, providing transport links between the Belvoir ridge and semi industrial scale camp at Fosse Way. The average width of a road such as this was approximately 6 m across.

2. If you find anything you should:

Do

- ✓ Stop work if anything is found that might be archaeological and immediately contact a line manager for instructions, follow the below guide correct recording methods;
- ✓ Find out if there are any archaeological sensitive areas on site
- ✓ Fence off any part of the site suspected of containing archaeological artefacts; and
- ✓ Follow the advice provided by any appointed archaeologist.

for

Don't

- × Assume that any artefacts or features discovered are unimportant;
- × Remove any 'finds' such as coins, pottery, or bones from the site – it is illegal;
- × Undertake work near to areas of archaeological importance without considering if any damage may be caused;
- × Use vibrating equipment as it may cause cracking – check with a line manager;
- × Dewatering may cause a preserved feature to settle and crack – check with a line manager; and
- × Drive vehicles through protected sites.

Monitoring and recording for archaeology

As there will not typically be a monitoring archaeologist on site, you will be asked to undertake self-monitoring of the excavation for any potential archaeology. For every trench excavated:

- Take regular pictures of the trenches during open cut excavation. You should take both general overview shots showing the length of the trench as well as shots showing the stratigraphy (Sequence of soils) in the section. Ideally shots should be taken showing the area prior to excavation starting. When a trial hole is completed, a photograph of one of the sections (whichever shows the stratigraphy best) should be taken.
- You should aim to take 2-3 shots of the section, as straight as possible, showing the full depth of the section and at least 1 m width, or the maximum width excavated. Try to avoid objects in the background where possible. Additionally, take a few location shots of trench. Scales should be used where possible in these shots.
- Photos should ideally be taken such that shadows or glare are avoided, the feature should ideally be as evenly lit as possible, do not use flash.
- Give each trench a number starting from 37 (Wessex Archaeology has recorded trenches 1 - 36).
- Photographs of trial pits should be emailed to e.eastwood@wessexarch.co.uk as soon as possible with subject line "Redmile Photos". Include a description of what each photograph

is of (trench/trial pit number), the direction the photograph was taken from (not the direction you are facing), the size of scale used if one is present, and the date the photograph was taken.

If you find suspected archaeology, photograph it immediately including an object for scale. Wessex archaeology should be notified immediately as well, they will use these photographs to determine if an archaeologist will be required on site to deal with the matter. If the photographs aren't clear enough, then someone will probably have to come out and check in person.

1. You can never take too many photos!

Examples of photographs

Examples of Archaeology

Ditches viewed from above, note the change in colour between the ditch and surrounding natural.

Ditch visible in section, good example of what you may see.

Structure at Caerphilly castle. Note the deliberate ordering and stacking of the stones.

Old ground surface/floor at Caerphilly castle, flat and neatly arranged.

Examples of pottery fragments recovered from features. Colour, shape and texture can vary significantly. Can be white, orange, red, green, grey or black (Not limited to these colours)

Ornate tile recovered from site

Stone block with inscribed writing, reused as part of later structure.

Two adjacent stones with inscribed writing

Brick chamber with rubble infill, possibly funerary based on shape and context

Well built stone and brick structure

Structure and rubble with overlying modern deposits

Stone structure under excavation, clearly visible in plan.

Appendix 3 OASIS summary

OASIS ID (UID): wessexar1-521993
Project Name: Main Road, Redmile, Leicestershire: Archaeological Watching Brief
Activity type: Watching Brief
Sitecode(s): 264162
Project Identifier(s): 264162
Planning Id: [no data]
Reason for Investigation: Heritage management
Organisation Responsible for work: Wessex Archaeology
Project Dates: 10-Jan-2023 - 01-Mar-2023
HER: Leicestershire HER
HER Identifiers: HER Event No - X.A145.2022
Project Methodology: Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Severn Trent Water to undertake an archaeological watching brief during water pipeline replacement works along Main Road, Redmile, Leicestershire NG13 0GB. The excavation of numerous stretches of open-cut trenching, launch/reception pits for directional drilling and trial holes to intercept services was monitored during the watching brief. Following seven weeks of archaeological monitoring, during which time no remains of significance were observed, a 'Toolbox Talk' was delivered to groundworkers who then scanned their own works in the remaining areas for any archaeologically significant features.
Project Results: Main Road is thought to follow the course of a Roman road that formerly linked the Belvoir ridge to a settlement on the Fosse Way near Bingham (*Margidunum*). But, despite this, the watching brief produced only negative results. Notwithstanding the proposed Roman road, the apparent absence of archaeological remains is in keeping with the otherwise undeveloped and rural character of the land along most of the watching brief area as noted in the earlier Heritage Impact Assessment. The aims and objectives of this project have been met, although the monitoring was hindered by the narrow width of the trenches, which meant that the full extent of remains could not be seen, so limiting the information that could be recorded. A lack of artefactual/dating evidence means that the interpretation of the made ground deposits is presumed rather than proven. These factors together hinder the interpretation of the deposit sequence within the trenches and prevent a definitive statement regarding the presence/absence of the proposed Roman road, or any other remains, from being made.
Keywords:
Archive:
Reports in OASIS:
Daniel, P., (2024). *Main Road, Redmile, Leicestershire: Archaeological Watching Brief*. Sheffield: Wessex Archaeology. 264162.03.

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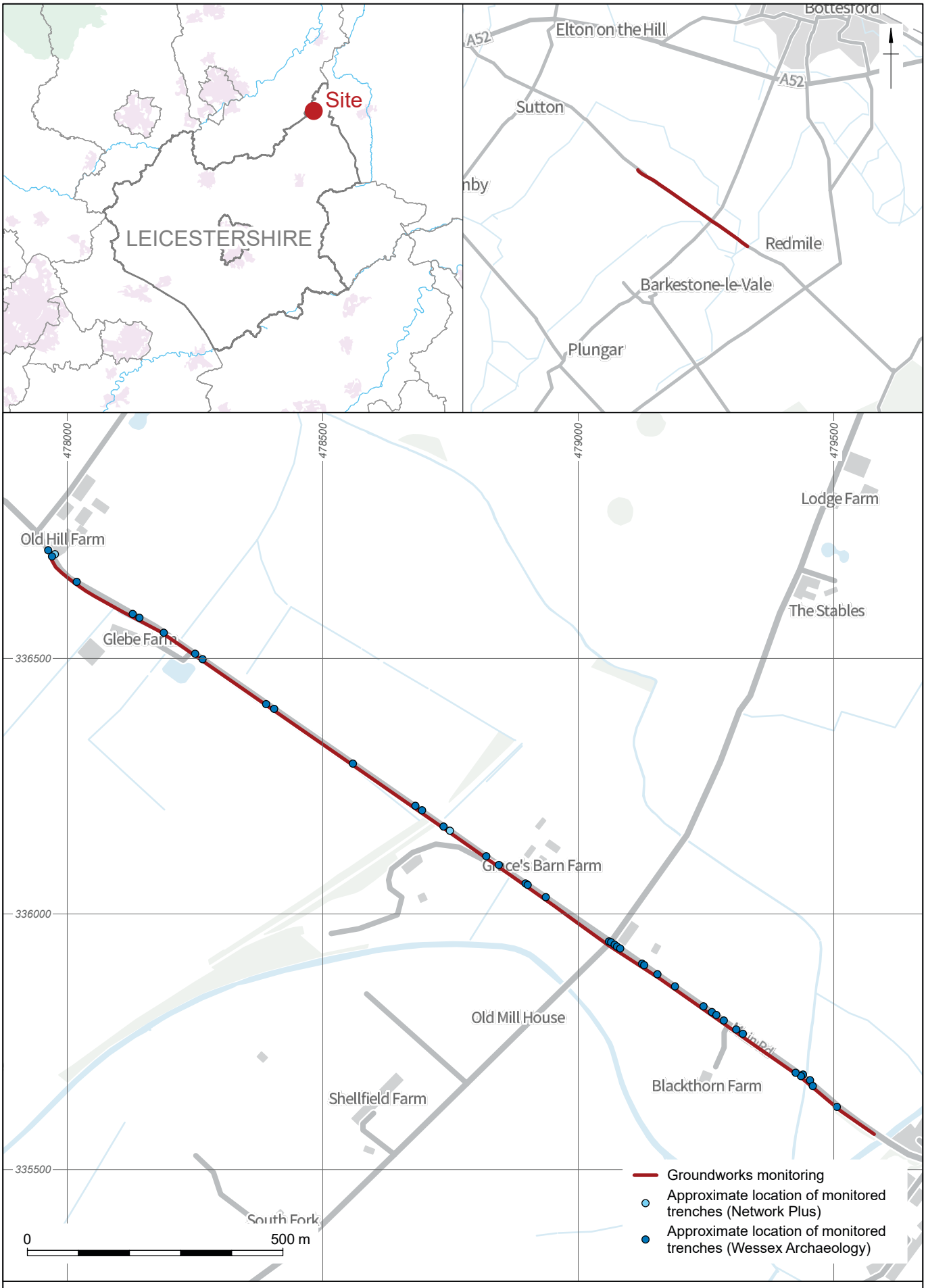

Coordinate system: OSGB 1936 British National Grid

Date: 16/01/2024	Created by: AW	Revision: 0	Scale: 1:10,000 at A4

Figure 1: Site location

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478000
478500
479000
479500
336500
336000

Old Hill Farm
Glebe Farm
Grace's Barn Farm
Old Mill House
Shellfield Farm
Blackthorn Farm
The Stables
The Lodge
Barkestone La
Main Rd

T34 T40 T35 T33 T37 T32 T31 T27 T30 T26 T29 T19 T25 T24 T38 T23 T22 T36 T20 T21 T11 T12 T02 T08 T102 T01 T03 T04 T05 T06 T07 T17 T15 T16 T14 T13 T18

0 25 m

0 250 m

Groundworks monitoring
Approximate location of monitored trenches (Network Plus)
Approximate location of monitored trenches (Wessex Archaeology)
Approximate location of monitored trenches (open cut)

Coordinate system: OSGB 1936 British National Grid

Date: 16/01/2024	Created by: AW	Revision: 0	Scale: 1:5,000 at A3

Figure 2: Approximate location of monitored trenches

Figure 3: Trench 4, view from south (1 m scale)

Figure 4: Trench 36, view from south (1 m scale)

Figure 5: Trench 8, view from west (1 m scale)

Figure 6: Trench 32, view from north-east (1 m scale)

Figure 7: Trench 30, view from north-east (1 m scale)

Figure 8: Trench 7, view from north (1 m scale)

Figure 9: Trench 11, view from south-east (1 m scale)

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