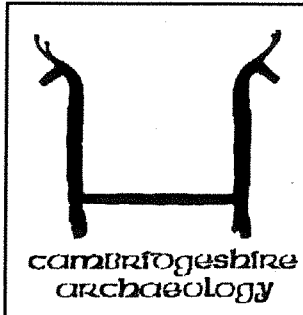


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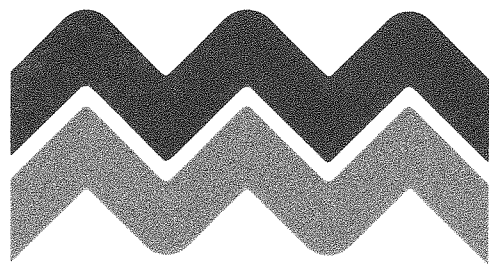
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**A Watching Brief at Snailwell on the  
Lodes-Granta Development Scheme  
Snailwell and Exning Support Pipelines 1993**

**Stephen Macaulay**  
On Behalf of  
**The National Rivers Authority**

Report No. AS



**Cambridgeshire  
County Council**

# An Archaeological Watching Brief at Snailwell

Stephen Macaulay

## Lodes-Granta Development Scheme Snailwell and Exning Support Pipelines

### Summary

*In January, 1993, Cambridgeshire Archaeology carried out an archaeological watching brief at Snailwell (TL 6450/6750) on behalf of the National Rivers Authority. Despite the evidence of archaeological activity in the surrounding area from SMR data, there was no archaeology disturbed by the pipeline or its easement.*

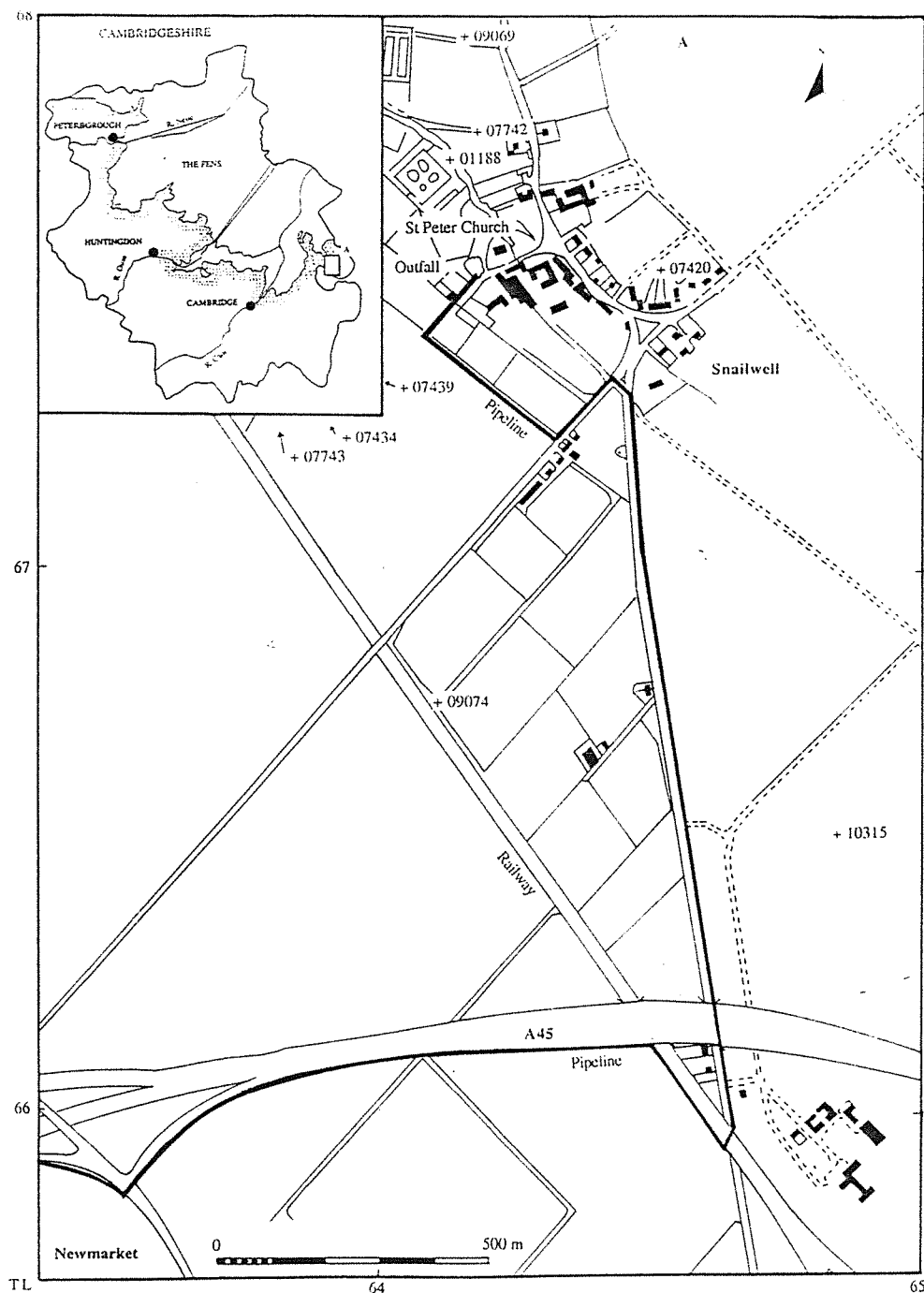


Figure 1 - Location of Pipeline (+ 10315 = SMR entry)

## **Introduction**

Early in January, 1993, Cambridgeshire Archaeology were engaged to conduct a watching and recording brief for the National Rivers Authority during the laying of the final Lodes-Granta discharge pipeline to Snailwell (TL 6450/6750) and Exning (TL 6160/6550). This covered a distance of 2km within Cambridgeshire, however a much greater distance was being laid down in Suffolk.

## **Background**

The County Sites and Monuments Record Office identified several archaeological sites close to the proposed pipeline route. This included a Bronze Age Burial, spectacular Iron Age chieftain burial, Roman settlement and cremation, traces of Saxon settlement and the site of the manor house that was given to Ely Abbey in the reign of Edward the Confessor. In addition the pipelines terminus opened at St Peter's Church which is one of only two round tower churches in Cambridgeshire.

## **Pipeline Route**

The pipeline stretches for the majority of its length (within Cambridgeshire) along the verge of the Newmarket-Snailwell road. The route circumvents the Stud House, Snailwell, to the North and turns Northwest behind the Old Rectory then cuts Northeast behind the Rectory College to its destination, the Outfall.

The geology of the area is based on Cretaceous Middle Chalk with pockets of Alluvium and Lower Chalk to the North of the route.

## **Methodology**

The route was walked after the stripping of topsoil to form the easement. It was hoped that any stray finds would be detected and any features revealed. Archaeological features were to be recorded and dating evidence retrieved where possible.

The pipeline was laid in two phases:

1. The stripping of an easement 6 metres wide and on average 0.20 metres deep.
2. The digging of a pipe trench 0.6 metres wide and 1.4 to 1.5 metres deep.

## **Results**

Despite the potential for archaeological remains, no evidence was produced to indicate that the pipeline was disturbing any deposits, neither features nor artefacts, along its length within Cambridgeshire.

From observations it was possible to construct a generalised soil profile. Topsoil existed to a depth of 0.20-0.30m, below this was a yellow/brown sandy gravel to a depth of 0.80-0.90m. Underlying this was a chalky silt at a depth of 1.00-1.10m which lay on top of the natural chalk. Generally this profile remained constant for the length of the pipeline.

## **Conclusions**

The result of modern disturbance (ie the road), and the relatively small area of land being disrupted during pipe laying, may explain the lack of any archaeological evidence. However, given that no archaeology was uncovered so close to Snailwell itself does suggest that there may have been little surviving activity in the immediate area.

## **Bibliography**

Page, W. (ed), 1932, The Victoria History of the Counties of England: a History of Cambridgeshire, Vol ii.

Cambridgeshire County Council (1993). Sites and Monuments Record.

## **Appendix**

Sites and Monuments Record (See Figure 1)

- 01188 - Medieval Moat & Post-Medieval Fish Ponds
- 07420 - Iron Age Cremation Burial (possible Chieftain burial)
- 07434 - Roman Cremation Burial
- 07439 - Post-Medieval Building (remains of Manor House)
- 07742 - Anglo-Saxon Settlement
- 07743 - Roman Settlement
- 09069 - Earthworks
- 09074 - Ring Ditch (crop mark/barrow?)
- 10315 - Earthworks (crop mark/linear boundary?)