Pumping Station
Hillington
Norfolk

Archaeological Watching Brief Report

OA East Report No: 1100
OASIS No: 57754
NGR: TF 7429 2618

Client: Anglian Water
February 2009
Archaeological Watching Brief at the Pumping Station, Hillington, Norfolk

Site Code: XNFHIT08

NHCR No. 25915

Date of Works: December 2008 to February 2009

Report No: 1100

Excavator: Nick Gilmour/Jon House/Heather Wallis

Client: Anglian Water

Report Date: February 2009
Report Number: 1100
Site Name: Hillington Nitrate Tank
HER Event No: NHER 25195
Date of Works: Dec 08 – Feb 09
Client Name: Anglian Water
Client Ref: N/A
Planning Ref: N/A
Grid Ref: TF 7429 2618
Site Code: XNFHIT08
Finance Code: XNFHIT08

Prepared by: Heather Wallis
Position: Project Officer
Date: March 09

Checked by: James Drummond-Murray
Position: Project Manager
Date: April 09
Signed: [Signature]

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Summary

On 16th & 17th December 2008 and 26th, 27th January, 5th, 6th & 9th February 2009, staff of Oxford Archaeology East carried out an archaeological watching brief at the Pumping Station, Hillington, Norfolk (TF 7429 2618). The monitoring was carried out during the construction of a new nitrate removal tank. No archaeological deposits or artefacts were noted.
1 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY
1.1 The underlying geology of the area is the Upper Cretaceous white chalk.

2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND
2.1 A search of the Norfolk Historic Environment record was made centred on TF 7429 2618 and covering all sites within 1.5km of this point. The accompanying files detail the records from this area. A summary of this information follows.

2.2 Neolithic
2.2.1 This period is represented by the occasional find of a flint tool.

2.3 Bronze Age
2.3.1 A number of ring ditches have been identified, mainly from aerial photographs, which are thought to be of a Bronze Age date. These occupy positions above the valley of the Babingley River, mainly to the north of the proposed area of watching brief.

2.4 Iron Age
2.4.1 Evidence for the Iron Age is limited to the recovery of finds from metal detecting on four separate sites and from trial trenching on site 25915 (see below). These finds consist of an Iceni gold stater, an Iceni silver coin, a copper alloy brooch, a copper alloy and iron linchpin and a copper alloy shield fitting.

2.5 Roman
2.5.1 Although there is more evidence of the Romano-British period it is largely limited to finds recovered from metal detecting. Twenty sites are listed from which Roman artefacts were found. The finds include coins, items of personal adornment (brooches, pins, finger rings and a bracelet) and toilet instruments. Pottery and tile has also been recovered. This evidence has been interpreted as indicating the presence of Roman settlement in this area.

2.6 Saxon
2.6.1 The Saxon period is represented by six metal finds and a few sherds of Middle and Late Saxon pottery. A wrist clasp and an unidentified object have been dated to the Early Saxon period, an 'Ansate' brooch from the Middle Saxon period is recorded and three objects of Late Saxon date; a disc brooch, a mount and a strap end.

2.7 Medieval
2.7.1 The main medieval site within the study area is Flitcham Abbey. This was an Augustinian Priory founded in 1217 as a dependant cell of the priory at Walsingham. The majority of other evidence from this period is in the form of isolated finds including coins, buckles, belt-fittings and brooches. One concentration is notable to the south (23492) where a number of such finds were made.

2.8 Post-medieval
2.8.1 Monuments of this period consist of several buildings, including a farm built amid the ruins of Flitcham Abbey, the construction of Hillington Park and all its associated buildings such as gatehouses, ice house and other outbuildings, and other farmhouses and barns. Isolated metal finds have also been recorded across the study area.

2.9 Site 25915 – Possible Roman settlement and multi-period finds
2.9.1 The watching brief was within the bounds of site 25915 at Hillington pumping station. Finds from this site included twenty-four Roman coins, an Iceni ‘gold’ stater, part of a Roman brooch and pottery sherds of Roman, Middle Saxon and Late Saxon date. A number of finds of similar dates have also been made from the broader area immediately around this site.

3 METHODOLOGY
3.1.1 The objective of this watching brief was to determine as far as reasonably possible the presence/absence, location, nature, extent, date, quality, condition and significance of any surviving archaeological deposits within the development area.

3.1.2 The Brief required that an archaeologist was in attendance during the excavation of new below ground tanks.

3.1.3 Site conditions were not ideal since the watching brief was carried out following periods of heavy snow and rain. The local water-table was also relatively high leading to the flooding of the trenches which required constant pumping. Access into the trench was not possible and all recording was carried out from the edge of the trench.

3.1.4 All removed deposits were scanned both visually and with a metal detector for the retrieval of finds.

4 RESULTS
4.1.1 The topsoil removal and the excavation of an area c.3m x 8m were monitored. This area was located to the south of the present buildings on the site. The natural chalk was revealed at a depth of c. 1.2m. A very coarse flinty gravel in a matrix of orange sand grading to a mid brown silty sand towards the top overlay the natural.

4.1.2 Over this was a layer of re-deposited chalk, above which an orange gravelly silty sand was noted. These deposit were relatively modern, probably resulting from the works undertaken at the pumping station in the 1990s.

4.1.3 No archaeological features were noted during the excavation of the trench and no finds were recovered from the excavated material.

5 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS
5.1.1 Although located in an area in an area where several archaeological finds have been made this work revealed no further evidence for human activity.

6 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS
6.1.1 The author would like to thank Anglian Water who commissioned and funded the archaeological work and Biwater the site contractors who helped to enable the works.

6.1.2 The project was managed by James Drummond-Murray on behalf of OA East.

6.1.3 The brief for archaeological works was written by Edwin Rose. Further advice from Ken Hamilton of Norfolk Landscape Archaeology was also appreciated.
APPENDIX A. OASIS REPORT FORM
All fields are required unless they are not applicable.

Project Details

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<td>Project Dates (fieldwork) Finish</td>
<td>09-02-2009</td>
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Type of Project/Techniques Used

Prompt
Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPG16

Please select all techniques used:

- [ ] Field Observation (periodic visits)
- [ ] Full Excavation (100%)
- [ ] Full Survey
- [ ] Geophysical Survey
- [ ] Open-Area Excavation
- [ ] Part Excavation
- [ ] Part Survey
- [ ] Recorded Observation
- [ ] Remote Operated Vehicle Survey
- [ ] Salvage Excavation
- [ ] Salvage Record
- [ ] Systematic Field Walking
- [ ] Systematic Metal Detector Survey
- [ ] Test Pit Survey
- [ ] Watching Brief

Monument Types/Significant Finds & Their Periods

List feature types using the NMR Monument Type Thesaurus and significant finds using the MDA Object type Thesaurus together with their respective periods. If no features/finds were found, please state “none”.

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Project Location

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| Site Address (including postcode if possible) | Anglian Water Pumping Station
Hillington
Norfolk |
| National Grid Reference | TG 7429 2618 |
### Project Originators

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<td>Project Design Originator</td>
<td>OA East</td>
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<td>Project Manager</td>
<td>James Drummond Murray</td>
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### Digital Media

- □ Database
- □ GIS
- □ Geophysics
- □ Images
- □ Illustrations
- □ Moving Image
- □ Spreadsheets
- □ Survey
- □ Text
- □ Virtual Reality

### Paper Media

- □ Aerial Photos
- □ Context Sheet
- ✗ Correspondence
- □ Diary
- □ Drawing
- □ Manuscript
- □ Map
- □ Matrices
- □ Microfilm
- □ Misc.
- □ Research/Notes
- □ Photos
- □ Plans
- ✗ Report
- □ Sections
- □ Survey

### Notes:

The notes section is empty in this page of the document.
Figure 1: Location of the development area (highlighted red)