24 London Road
King’s Lynn
Norfolk

Archaeological
Watching Brief Report

February 2013

Client: Anglian Water Services
OA East Report No: 1445
OASIS No: oxfordar3-144745
NGR: TF 66259 19492
24 London Road, King's Lynn, Norfolk

Archaeological Watching Brief

Site Code: XNFLRK13

NHER No.: ENF 131090

Date of Works: 26th – 27th February 2013

Report No: 1445

Excavator: Louise Bush

Client: Anglian Water Services

Report Date: February 2013
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Summary

On the 26th to the 27th February 2013, Oxford Archaeology East carried out an archaeological watching brief at 24 London Road, King’s Lynn (TF 66259 19492). The monitoring was carried out during the excavation of a new pumping station and rising main.

The watching brief did not uncover anything of archaeological significance. The 3m by 3m trench for the pumping station revealed layers of modern make up to a depth of approximately 1.1m below present ground level. Sealed (and potentially truncated) beneath this was a layer of Victorian topsoil, approximately 0.2m in thickness, which contained fragments of white glazed porcelain, brick and oyster shell. This came straight down onto natural silts and clays.
1 GEOLGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

1.1 King's Lynn is situated on Kimmeridge Clay Formation Mudstone, overlain by Tidal Flat Deposits of clays and silts (BGS 2013). The town is located in a broadly flat fen landscape at around 6m OD. The site itself is located within the medieval walls, on the southern side of the town in the car park of the London Road Veterinary Centre (Fig. 1).

2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 King's Lynn is a major medieval and post-medieval centre of the East Anglian region. It was originally founded as the settlement of Lynn sometime before 1086, and is listed in the Domesday Book as a number of salt houses (Brown 1984). It later became Bishop's Lynn, when it was taken under the wing of the Bishop of Norwich in the late 11th century. The town's importance as a centre of commerce steadily increased during the 13th century, especially after the diversion of the Great Ouse via Lynn which served to connect the port with the surrounding fenland (Parker 1971).

2.1.2 By the 14th century, the town ranked as the third port of England. It still retains two buildings that were warehouses of the Hanseatic League that were in use between the 15th and 17th centuries. When Henry VIII took over the lordship of the town it was renamed King's Lynn (Alsford 2009).

2.1.3 The town defences are based on a series of natural earthwork banks which were formed in the salt marsh that once surrounded the town. Stone walls were constructed in the late 13th and early 14th centuries. These were strengthened in the 16th century, and were replanned during the civil war, largely following the medieval defences, the line of which is fossilised by modern streets and property boundaries. In the 18th century several sections of the walls were demolished, but some stretches of the wall are still standing, as well as the town gates, including South Gate (NHER 5486).

3 METHODOLOGY

3.1 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.

3.2 The Brief required that provision be made for monitoring the development, including, where appropriate, all areas of below ground disturbance, including excavations, foundation trenches, service trenches, drains, soakaways, pipeline and cable trenches.

3.3 All archaeological features and deposits were recorded using OA East's pro-forma sheets. Trench locations, plans and sections were recorded at appropriate scales digital photographs were taken of all relevant features and deposits.

3.4 Site conditions were grey and overcast.

4 RESULTS

4.1 The ground works consisted of a 3m by 3m trench being excavated to a depth of 4m below ground level for a new pumping station, along with a narrow pipe trench excavated to a depth of 2m below ground level.

4.1.2 The monitoring of the pumping station trench revealed various layers of modern make up beneath the present day tarmac (Plate 1). These layers of build up were present to a depth of c. 1.1m below modern ground level. Sealed (and possibly truncated) beneath this was a layer of Victorian topsoil, approximately 0.2m in thickness, which
contained fragments of white glazed porcelain, brick and oyster shell. This deposit came down directly onto natural silts and clays (Plate 2).

5 CONCLUSION
5.1.1 The monitoring of the ground works did not reveal anything of archaeological significance.

5.1.2 As a result of the lack archaeological deposits in the pumping station trench, it was deemed unnecessary to monitor the two short, deep pipe trenches.

6 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS
6.1.1 The author would like to thank Jason Swatman of Anglian Water Services who commissioned and funded the work. Thanks also go to Mark Gray of Claret Civil Engineering Ltd. for his on site cooperation.

6.1.2 The project was managed by Richard Mortimer. The brief for archaeological works was written by Ken Hamilton and James Albone of Norfolk Landscape Archaeology.
**BIBLIOGRAPHY**

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<td>Generic Brief for the monitoring of works under archaeological supervision and control</td>
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<td>Parker, V.</td>
<td>1971</td>
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APPENDIX A. OASIS REPORT FORM

All fields are required unless they are not applicable.

**Project Details**

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**Type of Project/Techniques Used**

**Prompt**

Select Prompt (this should be in your brief/spec).

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

**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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| Site Address (including postcode if possible) | 24 London Road
King's Lynn
PE30 5PY |
| National Grid Reference | TF 66259 19492 |

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### Project Originators

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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:

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Figure 1: Site location
Plate 1. Pumping station trench showing modern make up
Plate 2: Pumping station trench with shoring
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