



ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING

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SEWER RENEWAL WILLOW GROVE, EARSWICK

Project No.: 1435
Text: Kevin Collins
Illustrations: Oliver Cooper

prepared for

J N Bentley

on behalf of

Yorkshire Water Services Ltd

NAA 18/71
August 2018

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QUALITY ASSURANCE	
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Text Kevin Collins

Illustration Oliver Cooper

Client J N Bentley for Yorkshire Water Services Ltd

Location Willow Grove, Earswick, York

Grid Ref SE 6158 5730

SEWER RENEWAL, WILLOW GROVE, EARSWICK, YORK

ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING

Site Name: Earswick – Willow Grove (WGE18) **Administrative Authority:** City of York

Development: Sewer renewal

Client: Yorkshire Water Services Ltd

Contractor: J N Bentley Ltd

Monitoring Archaeologist: Kevin Collins

Project Manager: Oliver Cooper

NAA Project Number: 1435

Monitoring Dates: 15/05/18 to 21/06/18

NAA Report Number: 18/71

NAA Report Date: 23/08/18

Reasons for watching brief

The development comprised the installation of a new section of sewer connecting an existing main at Willow Grove, Earswick, near York, to an extant treatment works (at SE 6158 5730; Figure 1). Archaeological monitoring was undertaken to establish the presence or absence of any archaeological remains within the area associated with groundworks. Nearby excavations have identified remains of Roman, Viking, medieval and post-medieval date, as such there was the potential for archaeological remains to be encountered within the development.

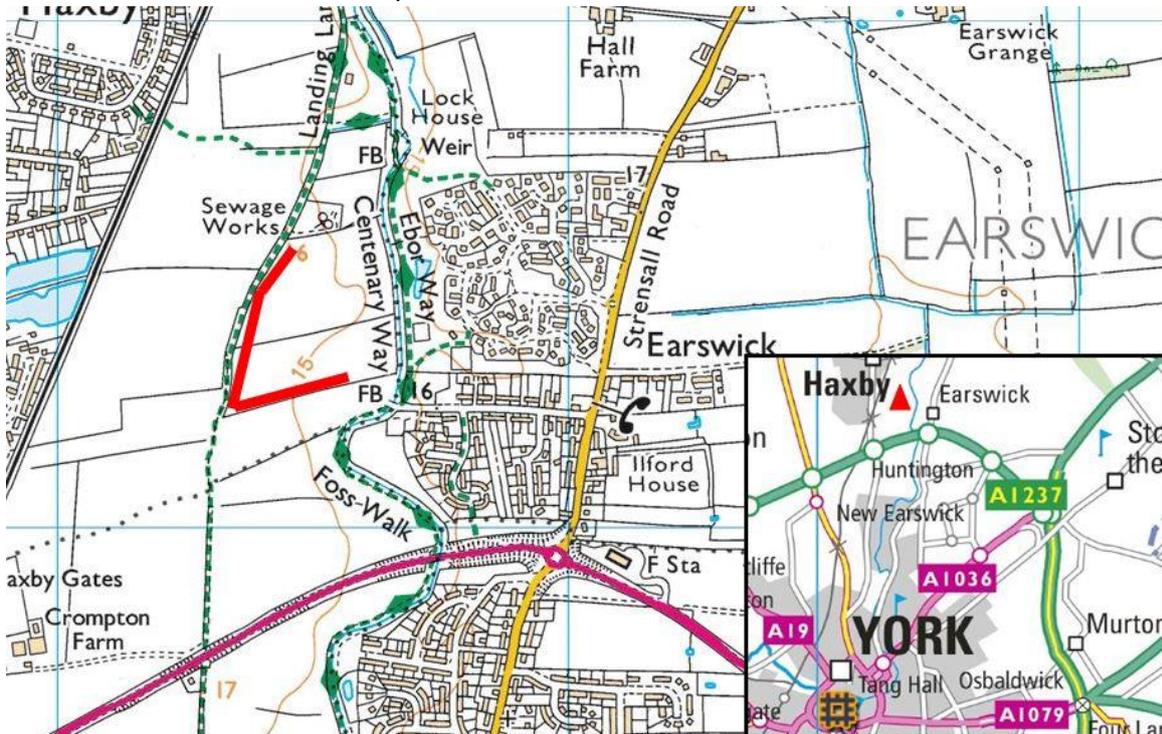


Figure 1. Work location

Location and Geology

The groundwork was located on the west side of the river Foss, some 2km to the north of York city centre. Work was undertaken within 614m of easement for the construction of the pipeline (Figure 2).

The geology of the York area comprises undifferentiated Permian and Triassic sandstones (BGS 2018), overlain predominantly by lacustrine clays, derived from the ancient Lake Humber. However, there is also a series of ridges of glacial boulder clay, one of which is followed by the A19 to the north-west of York.

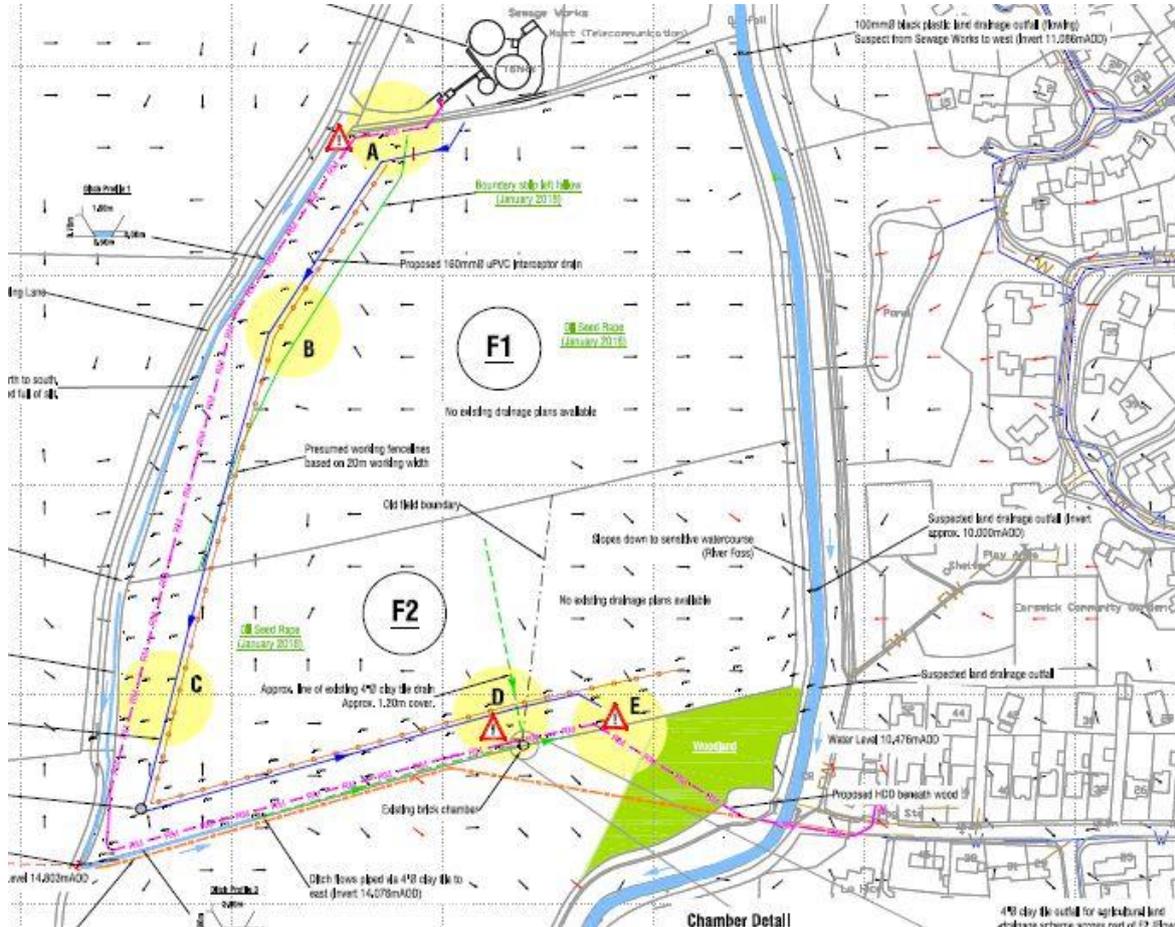


Figure 2. Archaeological monitoring area (between pink and black line), based on excerpt from client drawing

Methodology

A series of test pits was excavated using a small mechanical excavator under archaeological supervision to establish the depth, direction and spacing of field drainage.

The topsoil for the pipeline easement was stripped using a bulldozer, with an archaeologist present, but against the advice of NAA. As this did not provide the opportunity to observe the natural substrate, and therefore to identify any features of potential archaeological interest, the mechanical excavation of the pipe trench was also monitored by the archaeologist.

Results

Topsoil comprised reddish brown silty sand up to 0.40m deep. The natural substrate was mainly boulder clay with localised areas of sand (see Plates 1 and 2)

This report covers the archaeological monitoring of two areas of excavation. The first area was located at the south-eastern end of the pipeline route, some 8m from a footbridge over

the river Foss, and measured 5m x 7m x 1.50m deep. The area had been greatly disturbed by the installation of the original sewer pipe and also by the recent installation of a replacement sewer pipe under the river Foss. There were no archaeological features, and the only finds of archaeological interest were blue and white 19th to 20th-century pottery.

The second area of excavation was located close to the hedge-line adjacent to Landing Lane, extending for 394m south-westwards then turning eastwards for 253m towards the river Foss. The topsoil was initially stripped to a width of 9m using a bulldozer (Plate 1); the pipe trench was excavated by 360° excavator with a 1.5m-wide ditching bucket, with a variable depth of up to 1.8m. Excavation for the pipe trench (614m) revealed no archaeological features, only undisturbed natural substrate (Plate 2).



Plate 1. Bulldozer stripping topsoil



Plate 2. Sample section of pipe trench showing boulder clay

All finds derived from the topsoil (Appendix A). These included a small assemblage of Roman pottery (Appendix B) centred on SE 61581 57294, one piece of worked jet (Appendix C; Plate 3) at SE 61454 57562, and a mixed assemblage of animal bone, clay pipe stem, medieval, post-medieval, 18th to 20th-century pottery, and broken glass bottle and bowl fragments. The later material appeared to have been dumped in the topsoil, possibly during early 20th-century use of night soil for manuring.



Plate 3. Jet object

Conclusion

Due to the method used to remove the topsoil, the presence or absence of archaeological features cannot be ascertained. However, there were no features within the pipe trenches or test pits. The small assemblage of Roman pottery and a piece of worked jet or shale from the topsoil should be retained for future study. The remainder of the assemblage, which appears to derive from medieval to 20th-century manuring, should be discarded.

Reference

British Geological Survey (2018) *Geology of Britain Viewer*. [online] available at <http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html> [Accessed 25/7/18]

Appendix A

FINDS SUMMARY

Charlotte Britton
Finds Assistant Supervisor

A total of 68 items (840g) were recovered from the 2018 excavations at Willow Grove, Earswick (Table 1). The finds are indicative of Roman, medieval, and post-medieval/modern activity, and were exclusively recovered from topsoil.

Material	Count	Weight (g)
Animal bone	2	32
Ceramic Building Materials (CBM)	1	75
Medieval pottery	6	39
Post-medieval pottery	25	387
Roman pottery	8	126
Roman <i>mortaria</i>	1	34
Ceramic objects	3	35
Clay Pipe	16	31
Glass	5	78
Jet	1	3
Total	68	840

Table 1: summary of materials and quantities

Appendix B

ROMAN POTTERY SPOT-DATES

Dr David Griffiths

Nine sherds of pottery, weighing 160g, were all derived from topsoil.

Items present comprised:

- Mancetter-Hartshill hook-rimmed mortarium, c. AD110-180
- ?Crambeck Reduced ware jar, c. AD300-400
- Dales ware jar, c. AD200-375
- Small Black-burnished ware type jar, late 2nd century AD

Appendix C

JET OBJECT

Elizabeth M Foulds

There was a single fragment of worked jet/shale or similar material. It was a long rod that tapered to a dull point. It had a twisted square cross-section and a slight curve, which suggested that it may have come from a bangle style of bracelet. Jet bangles were worn in the Roman period, although known examples were annular (with no ends), whereas the tapered point of this fragment suggested that it would have been from a penannular shaped bangle. It is not clear what type of object this fragment is from.

This particular fragment is not closely datable, but jet and other black materials were used as early as the Neolithic in Britain. Elaborate multi-strand beaded necklaces with decorated plaques have been found in burials that date to this period. Jet was also popular in the Roman period in Britain, where it was used especially for jewellery (bracelets, necklaces, hair pins), but there are also a small number of examples where black material was used for equipment/tools (spindle whorls, distaffs), vessels (shale bowls), and furniture or decorative furniture inlay. Jet continued to be used in the medieval period, particularly for items of religious significance, and in the Victorian period jet became extremely fashionable (Allson-Jones 1996). During this later period, other 'jet-like' materials, such as glass, vulcanite, and bakelite, were also used to imitate true jet.

Catalogue

Jet or 'jet-like' twisted square-sectioned rod. One end tapered to a dull point, while the other end had broken away. Length: 49.4mm, Width (max) 8.4mm x 8.0mm. Weight: 2.9 grams. WGE18, Context 100.

Reference

Allason-Jones, L. (1996) Roman Jet in the Yorkshire Museum. York: The Yorkshire Museum.