

Report 2636



nps archaeology

An Archaeological Watching Brief at Stokes Avenue, Watton, Norfolk

ENF126398



Prepared for
Anglian Water Services Limited
Thorpe Wood House
Thorpe Wood
Peterborough
Cambridgeshire
PE3 6WT

Steve Hickling MA AIfA

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www.nps.co.uk

PROJECT CHECKLIST		
Project Manager	David Whitmore	
Draft Completed	Steve Hickling	11/07/2011
Graphics Completed	David Dobson	07/07/2011
Edit Completed	Jayne Bown	19/07/2011
Signed Off	David Whitmore	20/07/2011
<i>Issue 1</i>		

NPS Archaeology

Scandic House
85 Mountergate
Norwich
NR1 1PY

T 01603 756150

F 01603 756190

E jayne.bown@nps.co.uk

<http://nau.nps.co.uk/>

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Location:	Stokes Avenue, Watton, Norfolk
District:	Breckland
Grid Ref.:	TF 90460061 – TF 90550055
HER No.:	ENF 126398
OASIS Ref.:	105512
Client:	Anglian Water Services Limited
Dates of Fieldwork:	5 April – 6 June 2011

Summary

An archaeological watching brief was conducted for Anglian Water Services Limited during groundwork associated with the laying of a replacement water main along Stokes Avenue, Watton, Norfolk.

No significant archaeological features or artefacts were noted during the course of the watching brief.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

Anglian Water Services Limited were constructing a replacement water main along Stokes Avenue and Bridle Road, Watton. As a possible Roman inhumation burial had previously been found in the area, a section of the pipe trench excavations was subject to an archaeological watching brief (between TF 9046 0061 and TF 9055 0055).

This work was undertaken to fulfil the requirements of a Brief issued by the Norfolk Historic Environment Service (Ref. CNF42924). The work was conducted in accordance with a Project Design and Method Statement prepared by NPS Archaeology (Ref. NPS/BAU2636/DW). This work was commissioned and funded by Anglian Water Services Limited.

This programme of work was designed to assist in defining the character and extent of any archaeological remains within the proposed redevelopment area, following the guidelines set out in *Planning Policy Statement 5: Planning for the Historic Environment* (Department for Communities and Local Government 2010).

The site archive is currently held by NPS Archaeology and on completion of the project will be deposited with the Norfolk Museums and Archaeology Service (NMAS), following the relevant policies on archiving standards.

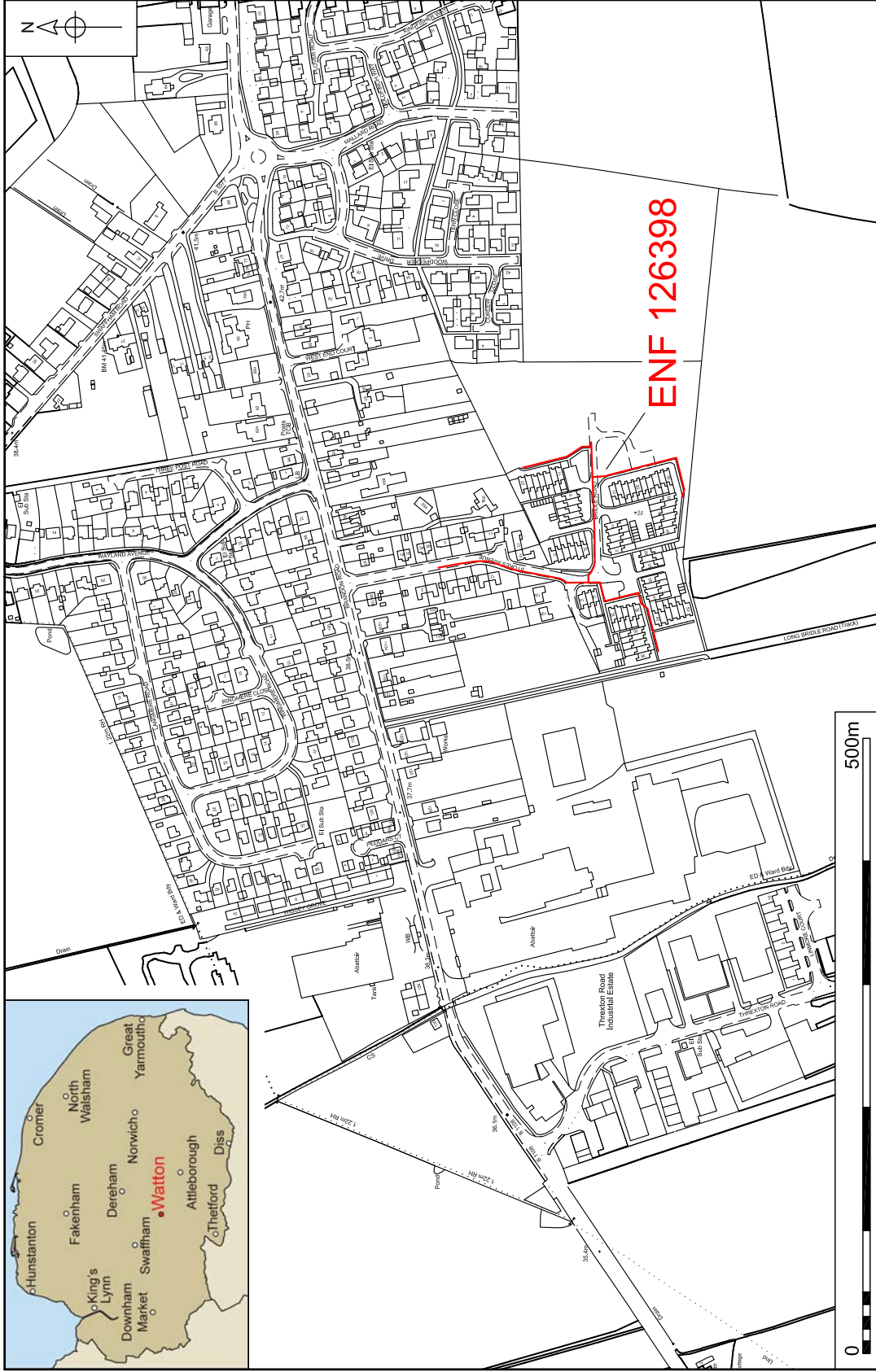
2.0 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

The site lies at the western edge of Watton, on flat land at a height of 38-40m OD. The development lies in an area of late 20th-century housing.

The natural geology consists of silts and clays of Glacial Till (BGS 1991) above Cretaceous Upper Chalk (BGS 1985).

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Both historic mapping and the Norfolk Historic Environment Record (NHER) were consulted. Very little information of direct relevance to this work was found.



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Figure 1. Site location. Scale 1:5000

There are cropmarks of undated field boundaries to the west of Stokes Avenue (NHER 5068). These are on different alignments to the modern field boundaries and so may be of some antiquity.

The modern east to west road through Watton (B1108) has been previously thought to be Roman in date, but there is at present no evidence for this assertion (NHER 8786).

In 1984 an inhumation burial was uncovered at 13 Stokes Avenue (NHER 20401). The skeletal remains were identified as those of an elderly woman and were associated with a sherd of Roman pottery.

On the B1108 just to the west of the junction with Stokes Avenue is a clay lump house dated to 1820 (NHER 50363).

Archaeological monitoring of works at 5-11 Stokes Avenue in 2009 and 2010 revealed no archaeological features or finds (NHER61542).

The Watton Tithe Map of c.1840 shows the area as openfields, with the northern part of the area as garden behind houses fronting onto the main road. Stokes Avenue is of 20th-century origin.

4.0 METHODOLOGY

The objective of this watching brief was to record any archaeological deposits and remains affected by the scheme's groundworks.

The Brief required that the area of the pipe trench between TF 9046 0061 and TF 9055 0055 should be subject to an archaeological watching brief.

Machine excavation was carried out with a hydraulic 360° excavator using a toothless ditching bucket under constant archaeological supervision.

Spoil, exposed surfaces and features were scanned with a metal-detector. All metal-detected and hand-collected finds, other than those which were obviously modern, were retained for inspection.

No environmental samples were taken as no suitable deposits were encountered.

All archaeological features and deposits were recorded using NPS Archaeology pro forma. Trench locations, plans and sections were recorded at appropriate scales. Colour, monochrome and digital photographs were taken of all relevant features and deposits where appropriate.

Site conditions were good, with the work taking place in fine weather.

5.0 RESULTS

The whole of the pipe trench between 13 Stokes Avenue (TF 9046 0061) and the rear of 23 Bridle Road (TF 9055 0055) was monitored but only natural clay subsoil and modern road deposits were exposed.

Elements of the pipe trench towards Long Bridle Road and behind 26-32 Bridle Road were also monitored revealing made ground consisting of mixed deposits of redeposited natural clay, redeposited topsoil and occasional fragments of concrete and brick rubble. It is known locally that there was a large pit in this area which was backfilled before the houses were built.



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Figure 2. Location of pipeline. Scale 1:1000



Plate 1: The pipe trench on Bridle Road

6.0 CONCLUSIONS

No significant archaeological features or finds were present within the area of the pipe trench.

Much of the area to the south and west, covered by the spurs to the main pipe towards Long Bridle Road and behind 26-32 Bridle Road appears to be made ground, possibly the modern backfill of a large quarry pit.

Acknowledgements

The author would like to thank Stuart Calow and Michelle Bull for assisting with the fieldwork. The Balfour Beatty site staff must be thanked for their cooperation.

This project was managed by Nigel Page, the illustrations for this report completed by David Dobson and the report edited by Jayne Bown.

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