Report 3059b

nps group

nps archaeology

Archaeological Watching Brief at Whitton Water Treatment Works, Whitton, Suffolk

IPS 672

Prepared for
Anglian Water Services Limited
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December 2012

www.nps.co.uk

PROJECT CHECKLIST		
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BAU3059 / 01-04-13-2-1006

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Location:	Whitton Water Treatment Works, Thurleston Lane, Whitton, Ipswich
District:	Ipswich
Grid Ref.:	615540, 248400
Planning Ref.:	n/a
HER No.:	IPS 672
OASIS Ref.:	138705
Client:	Anglian Water Services Limited
Dates of Fieldwork:	11–13 June 2012

Summary

An archaeological watching brief was conducted for Anglian Water Services Limited during groundworks associated with a new road at the Whitton Iron Removal Plant.

The only feature encountered during this project was a layer of probably colluvial subsoil which was exposed but not bottomed.

The presence of medieval material is accounted for by manuring and spreading of midden material across the arable land. It is possible that there may be a Bronze Age site located to the north but no evidence of this was encountered.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

This project monitored the groundworks associated with the construction of an access road to a new borehole at the Whitton Iron Removal Plant (Fig. 1). An earlier evaluation had taken place at the borehole site (Hodges 2012). The road was 4.0m wide and 130.0m long.

This work was undertaken to fulfil requirements set by Anglian Water Services Limited and a Brief issued by The Archaeological Service of Suffolk County Council (Ref. Jess Tipper 10 April 2012f). The work was conducted in accordance with a Project Design and Method Statement prepared by NPS Archaeology (Ref. NAU/BAU3059/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 *National Planning Policy Framework* (Department for Communities and Local Government 2012). The results will enable decisions to be made by the Local Planning Authority about the treatment of any archaeological remains found.

The site archive is currently held by NPS Archaeology and on completion of the project will be deposited with Suffolk Historic Environment Record, following the relevant policies on archiving standards.

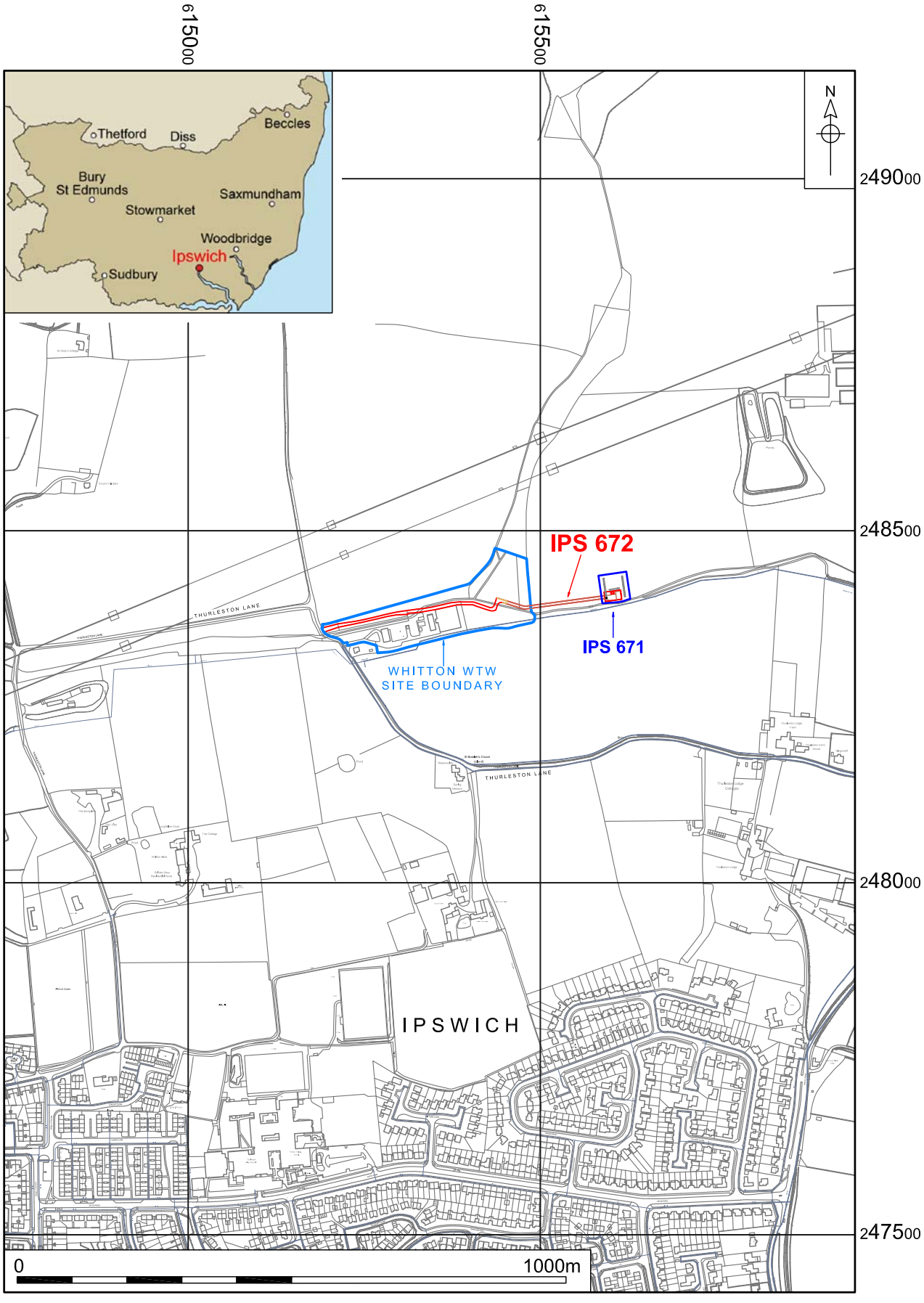

Figure 1. Site location. Scale 1:10,000

2.0 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

The underlying geology consisted of Anglian glacial sands and gravels (BGS 1991) above Palaeogene Woolwich and Reading Beds (BGS 1985). The topsoil (01) was 0.3-0.4m thick and consisted of pale grey mid brown sandy silt with some clay and contained occasional - moderate flint and occasional ceramic building material (CBM) fragments including red brick.

The site was located to the east of the established Whitton Water Treatment Works in an area of agricultural land with a wheat crop.

The site lay in a valley bottom at a height of *c*.23m O.D.

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The Suffolk Historic Environment Record (SHER) and historic mapping sources have been consulted during the preparation of this section.

A large number of the SHER sites are the result of intensive metal detecting and probably do not indicate occupation, but rather casual losses or manuring spreads on arable fields.

Prehistoric

A Neolithic polished flint axehead (SHER AKE 023) has been found 600m north-west of the development site.

The tip of a Bronze Age spearhead (SHER AKE 015) was found by metal detecting 940m north-west of the development site.

A bronze blade fragment possibly from a Bronze Age sword (SHER IPS 290) was found by metal detecting 470m south of the development area.

A Bronze Age palstave axe (SHER WHI 005) was found by metal detecting 820m west of the development site.

An archaeological watching brief at the Thurleston High School new playing fields (800m south-west of the development area) produced a large Iron Age enclosure and some medieval features (SHER IPS 504).

An archaeological evaluation and watching brief at the Thurleston High School old playing fields (800m south-west of the development area) produced one Iron Age ditch, which probably remained in use into the medieval period (SHER IPS 581).

Two Iron Age gold stators (coins) have been found in the area, one (SHER AKE 025) 1000m north-east and the other (SHER AKE 026) 1000m north of the development area.

Another Iron Age coin (SHER WHI 006) has been found 840m west of the development site.

Roman

Roman coins and a brooch (SHER AKE 027) have been found whilst metal detecting 770m north-west of the development area.

Roman coins, two brooches and pottery (SHER AKE 029) have been found whilst metal detecting 800m north-west of the development area.

An archaeological watching brief at Akenhall Farm (1000m north of the development area) produced five sherds of Roman pottery (SHER AKE 024).

Three Roman coins and a brooch (SHER AKE 032) were found by metal detecting 815m north-west of the development site.

A Roman coin (SHER AKE Misc) has been found whilst metal detecting 950m north of the development area.

A Roman nail cleaner (SHER AKE Misc) was found in 2003 975m north-west of the current development.

A Roman coin hoard (SHER WHI 001) was found whilst metal detecting 730m west of the development site.

An early 3rd-century Roman coin (SHER IPS 180) has been found 100m south-west of the present development.

A Roman brooch and bracelet fragment (SHER WHI 005) was found by metal detecting 820m west of the development site.

Various Roman finds including two brooches and coins (SHER WHI 007) have been found whilst metal detecting 1000m west of the development site.

Anglo-Saxon

A fragment of a 6th-century brooch (SHER AKE 022) has been found 1000m north-west of the development site.

An Anglo-Saxon strap end (SHER AKE 027) has been found whilst metal detecting 770m north-west of the development area.

A silver penny of Aethelraed II and a 7th/8th-century brooch (SHER AKE 003) were found 850m north-west of the current development.

A silver penny fragment (SHER WHI 009) was found 1000m west of the development site.

Medieval

Medieval pottery and burnt clay (SHER AKE 003) has been found whilst metal detecting 850m north-west of the current development.

Sherds of 15th- and 16th-century pottery (SHER AKE 005) have been found 720m north of the development site.

The site of the church of St Mary (SHER AKE 007) lies 960m north-west of the present development. It was mentioned in the Domesday Book.

There are two moated sites (SHER AKE 009 and AKE 010) at Rise Hall, 900m west of the present development.

An archaeological watching brief found a flint and mortar wall (SHER AKE 012) 900m north-west of the present development. Subsequent metal detecting found metal finds.

Medieval metalwork (SHER AKE 022) has been recovered by metal detecting 900m west of the development site.

Metal detecting at Akenham Hall Farm, 1000m north of the development site, produced two medieval silver coins (SHER AKE 024).

Two silver coins were found during metal detecting in 2003, one 1130m west (SHER AKE Misc) and one 850m north (SHER AKE Misc) of the development site.

A buckle and buckle plate (SHER AKE Misc) were found whilst metal detecting 950m north-west of the present development.

The site of the medieval church of St. Botolph (SHER IPS 014) lies 280m south-west of the development site.

The medieval church of St. Mary (SHER IPS 111) lies 890m south-west of the development area.

A medieval coin, strap end and pottery (SHER AKE 029) have been found 775m north-west of the development area.

Various items of medieval metalwork (SHER AKE 032) have been found 850m north-west of the development site.

A large number of medieval coins (SHER WHI 001) were found during a metal detecting rally in 1994, 740m west of the development site.

A medieval lead seal matrix and two silver coins (SHER WHI 005) have been found 700m west of the development site.

A silver penny (SHER WHI 006) has been found 700m west of the development area.

A medieval dagger chape (SHER WHI 007) was found 900m west of the development area.

Five silver coins and a bronze vessel fragment (SHER WHI 008) 900m west of the present development.

A medieval sword pommel and two silver coins (SHER WHI 010) were found 900m west of the development site.

Medieval pottery and a coin (SHER WHI Misc) have been found 920m west of the development area.

A medieval buckle and silver penny (SHER WHI Misc) have been found 880m west of the development area.

A lead seal matrix (SHER WHI Misc) was found 970m west of the development site.

Post-Medieval

The farm buildings at Rise Hall (SHER AKE 036) date from the 18th and 19th centuries and are located 920m north-west of the current development site.

Metal detecting at various sites in the vicinity (for example SHER AKE Misc, WHI001 and WHI012) have produced post-medieval finds.

Ordnance Survey maps were consulted, starting with the First Edition (1881).

The site appears to have been fields since the late 19th century, but a number of field boundaries have disappeared. One of them, which could have been located in the eastern portion of the present site, disappeared between 1958 and 1965 (http://www.old-maps.co.uk).

4.0 METHODOLOGY

The objective of this watching brief was to monitor groundworks along the route of a new access road.

Machine excavation was carried out with a 21 tonne hydraulic 360˚ excavator equipped with a toothless ditching bucket and operated 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.

Environmental samples were not taken.

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 variable weather.

5.0 RESULTS

The topsoil stripping of the roadway was undertaken on two occasions, the first two days in advance of the second.

Plate 1. The roadway, facing west

The route was cleared on the first morning, and the upper 0.05m of topsoil removed.

The roadway was excavated in the second trench of fieldwork. A 4m wide and 130m long route was dug to a depth of 0.40m.

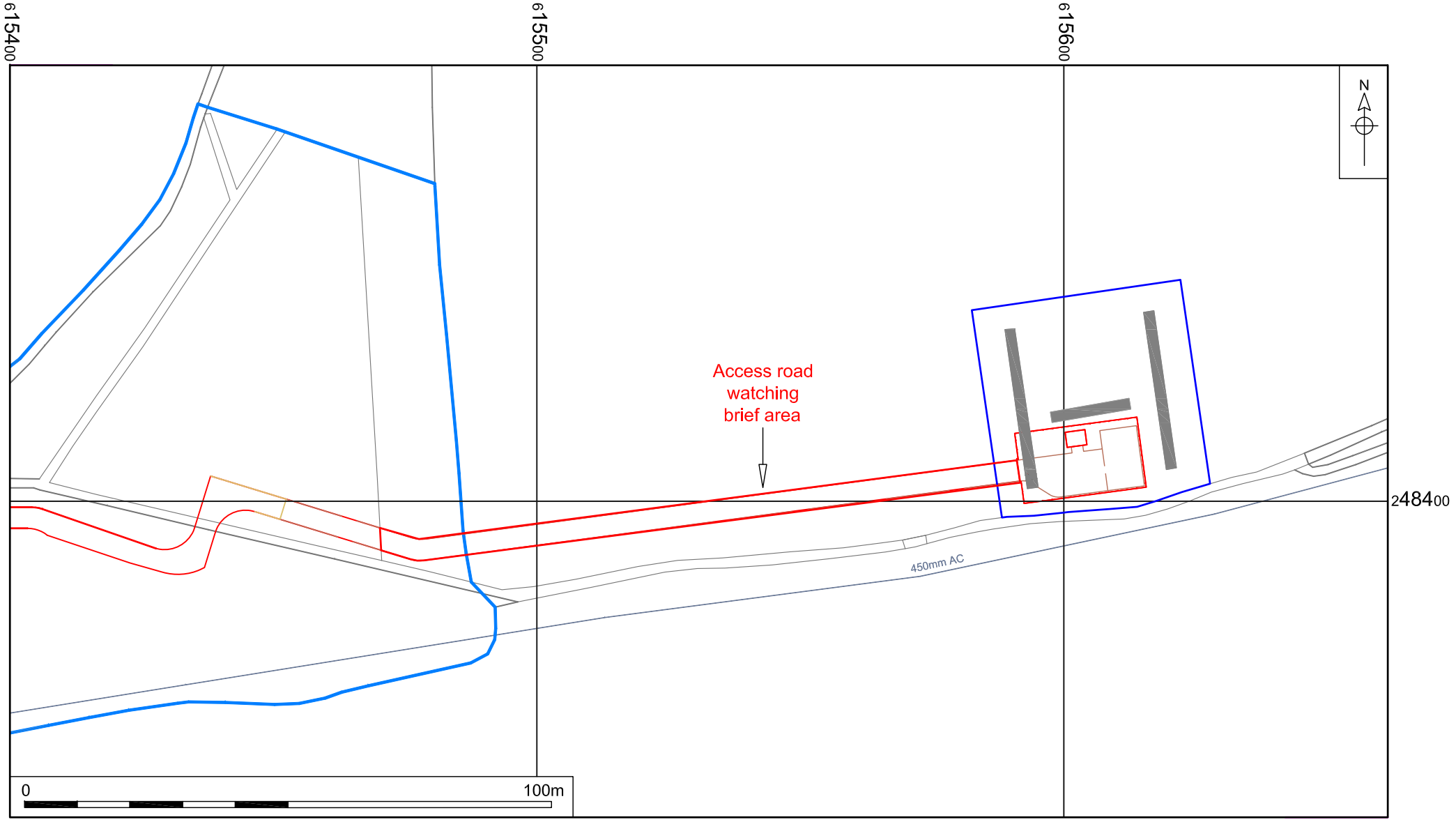

Figure 2. Watching brief area. Scale 1:1000

In the intervening day between the topsoil strip and excavation of the road, the borehole area (measuring 40m x 40m) was stripped of topsoil, revealing subsoil (02).

No features were visible in either area.

Topsoil (01) was dark brown clayey sand with occasional flint gravel and rare occurrences of fragments of ceramic building material (CBM), coal and charcoal. Two fragments of post-medieval pottery were recovered from this 0.35m-thick layer.

Subsoil (02) was mid-orangish brown clayey sand with occasional flint gravel and rare occurrences of pieces of charcoal. This deposit contained a large amount of pottery of medieval date, fragments of lava quernstone and five prehistoric flint waste flakes. The base of the subsoil was not reached.

6.0 THE FINDS

Finds were processed and recorded by count and weight and the data entered onto an Excel spreadsheet along with broad dating. Each material type has been considered separately and information is presented below organised by material. A list of finds in context number order can be found in Appendix 2a.

6.1 Pottery

by Rebecca Sillwood

A total of twenty-four fragments of pottery (143g) were recovered during the watching brief.

Two of the pieces came from the topsoil (01), and are of post-medieval date. Both are body sherds, one of stoneware and the other of white glazed tableware, probably dating to the 19th century or later.

Twenty-two pieces came from the subsoil (02), and all are of medieval, or possibly late medieval and transitional date. All (except one sherd) are unglazed, and in a variety of local unglazed fabrics. The single sherd with traces of green glaze is possibly a transitional piece.

6.2 Lava

by Rebecca Sillwood

A total of fourteen abraded fragments of grey vesicular lava were recovered from subsoil (02). None of the fragments had any remaining edges, and although they are likely to be the remnants of a quernstone, it is not possible to be certain. The pieces have since been discarded.

6.3 The Flint

by Andrew Peachey

A total of five flakes (37g) of struck flint were recovered from subsoil (02). The flakes comprise tertiary and un-corticated flakes with irregular profiles that suggest they may be the bi-product of later Neolithic to early Bronze Age (or possibly Bronze Age) core reduction. The flakes occur in an un-patinated condition but with

moderately to heavily rolled/abraded edges, which may be expected of repeatedly re-deposited material from the subsoil. None of the flakes exhibit any evidence of re-touch or wear that would suggest they were utilised.

6.4 Finds Conclusions

The finds from the watching brief phase of work at Whitton were from topsoil and subsoil deposits and as such they provide only a background ‘noise’ of activity of prehistoric, medieval and post-medieval date.

The flint is in a moderately abraded condition, and may therefore have travelled from its original point of deposition, as is also true of the pottery and lava. It is clear that there is evidence of activity of different periods in the vicinity, but perhaps with a focus beyond the current site.

7.0 CONCLUSIONS

The only archaeological element encountered during this project was subsoil layer (02). This deposit contained a few Bronze Age flint flakes and a larger amount of medieval pottery. The origin of this subsoil is likely to be colluvial, as the monitored access route was situated in a valley bottom. The material may have migrated down hill from the slope to the north.

It is possible that the source of the flint artefacts may be a Bronze Age site to the north, but the medieval material may have originated as manuring spreads on arable land.

Acknowledgements

The author would like to thank Anglian Water Services Limited for commissioning and funding this project.

The project was overseen for The Archaeological Service of Suffolk County Council by Jess Tipper; SCCAS also provided the historic and archaeological data. The Suffolk HER search was requested by Lilly Hodges who directed the previous trial trench evaluation in the borehole area.

Thanks must also be given to Harry the machine driver and the site foreman, Paul Williams, of Power Plant Projects for their cooperation.

The finds were processed, recorded and reported on by Rebecca Sillwood, with the flint reported on by Andrew Peachey.

This report was illustrated and produced by David Dobson and edited by Jayne Bown.

Bibliography and Sources

BGS (British Geological Survey)	1991	*East Anglia*, Sheet 52N 00 Quaternary, 1:250,000 series
BGS (British Geological Survey)	1985	*East Anglia*, Sheet 52N 00 Solid Geology, 1:250,000 series
Department for Communities and Local Government	2012	*National Planning Policy Framework*
Hodges, L.	2012	*Archaeological Trial Trench Evaluation at Whitton Water Treatment Works, Whitton, Suffolk* NPS Archaeology report forthcoming

http://www.old-maps.co.uk Accessed 12/6/2012

Appendix 1: Context Summary

Context	Category	Cut Type	Fill Of	Description	Period
01	Deposit			Topsoil	Post-medieval
02	Deposit			Subsoil	Medieval

Appendix 2a: Finds by Context

Context	Material	Qty	Wt	Period	Notes
01	Pottery	2	8g	Post-medieval	
02	Flint – Struck	5	37g	Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age	
02	Lava	14	62g	Unknown	No surfaces - DISCARDED
02	Pottery	22	135g	Medieval	

Appendix 2b: Oasis Finds Summary

Period	Material	Total
Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age	Flint – Struck	5
Medieval	Pottery	22
Post-medieval	Pottery	2
Unknown	Lava	14

Appendix 3: OASIS Summary

OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: England

List of Projects | Manage Projects | Search Projects | New project | Change your details | HER coverage | Change country | Log out

Printable version

OASIS ID: norfolka1-138705

Project details

Project name	Whitton Water Treatment Works
Short description of the project	An archaeological watching brief was conducted for Anglian Water Services Limited during groundworks associated with a new road at the Whitton Iron Removal Plant. The only feature encountered during this project was a layer of probably colluvial subsoil which was exposed but not bottomed. The presence of medieval material is accounted for by manuring and spreading of midden material across the arable land. It is possible that there may be a Bronze Age site located to the north but no evidence of this was encountered.
Project dates	Start: 11-06-2012 End: 13-06-2012
Previous/future work	Yes / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	IPS 672 - HER event no.
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	None
Current Land use	Cultivated Land 3 - Operations to a depth more than 0.25m
Monument type	NONE None
Significant Finds	WORKED FLINT Late Prehistoric
Significant Finds	POT Medieval
Significant Finds	POT Post Medieval
Investigation type	'"Watching Brief"'
Prompt	Water Act 1989 and subsequent code of practice

Project location

Country	England
Site location	SUFFOLK IPSWICH IPSWICH Whitton Water Treatment Works, Thurleston Lane, Ipswich
Study area	750.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	615540 248400 615540 00 00 N 248400 00 00 E Point

Project creators

Name of Organisation	NPS Archaeology
Project brief originator	Suffolk County Council Archaeological Services
Project design originator	NPS Archaeology
Project director/manager	David Whitmore
Project supervisor	Steve Hickling
Type of sponsor/funding body	Utility
Name of sponsor/funding body	Anglian Water Services Ltd

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient	Suffolk County Council
Physical Contents	"Ceramics","Worked stone/lithics"
Digital Archive recipient	NPS Archaeology
Digital Contents	"Ceramics","Worked stone/lithics"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography","Images vector","Spreadsheets","Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Suffolk County Council
Paper Contents	"Ceramics","Worked stone/lithics"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet","Report"

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Archaeological Watching Brief at Whitton Water Treatment Works, Whitton, Suffolk
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Hickling, S.
Other bibliographic details	Reporty 3059b
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Description	A4 paper, double-sided, colour-printed, spiral-bound; PDF

Entered by	Jayne Bown (jayne.bown@nps.co.uk)
Entered on	5 December 2012

OASIS:

Please e-mail English Heritage for OASIS help and advice
 Created by Jo Gilham and Jen Mitcham, email Last modified Wednesday 9 May 2012
Cite only: http://www.oasis.ac.uk/form/print.cfm for this page

Appendix 4: Archaeological Specification

Suffolk County Council

The Archaeological Service

Economy, Skills and Environment
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Bury St Edmunds
Suffolk
IP33 1RX

Brief for Continuous Archaeological Recording

AT

ANGLIAN WATER WHITTON IRON REMOVAL PLANT, IPSWICH, SUFFOLK

PLANNING AUTHORITY:	Anglian Water
PLANNING APPLICATION NUMBER:	NA
HER NO. FOR THIS PROJECT:	To be arranged
GRID REFERENCE:	TM 154 383
DEVELOPMENT PROPOSAL:	New boreholes and associated work
AREA:	0.34 ha.
CURRENT LAND USE:	Greenfield
THIS BRIEF ISSUED BY:	Jess Tipper Archaeological Officer Conservation Team Tel. : 01284 741225 E-mail: jess.tipper@suffolk.gov.uk
Date:	10 April 2012

Summary

1.1 Anglian Water has been advised that the site of the proposed works is located in a sensitive archaeological location. There is high potential for heritage assets of archaeological interest, including palaeoenvironmental remains, to be disturbed by development in this area, and the proposed works would cause significant ground disturbance with the potential to damage any archaeological deposit that exists.

1.2 The archaeological contractor must submit a copy of their Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) or Method Statement, based upon this brief of minimum requirements, to the Conservation Team of Suffolk County Council's Archaeological Service (SCCAS/CT) for scrutiny.

1.3 The WSI should be approved before costs are agreed with the commissioning client, in line with Institute for Archaeologists' guidance. Failure to do so could result in additional and unanticipated costs.

1.4 The WSI will *provide the basis for measurable standards* and will be used to establish whether the requirements of the brief will be adequately met. If the approved WSI is not carried through in its entirety (particularly in the instance of trenching being incomplete) the evaluation report may be rejected.

Planning Background

2.1 There is high potential for archaeological deposits to be disturbed by this development. The proposed works would cause significant ground disturbance that has potential to damage any archaeological deposit that exists.

2.2 Anglian Water was advised that a programme of archaeological work should take place before development begins in accordance with PPS 5 *Planning for the Historic Environment* (Policy HE 12.3), now replaced by the NPPF Paragraph 141, to record and advance understanding of the significance of any heritage assets (that might be present at this location) before they are damaged or destroyed.

Requirement for Archaeological Investigation

3.1 Assessment of the available archaeological evidence indicates that the area of the new compacted stone road, 150.00m x 4.00 wide, can be adequately recorded by continuous archaeological monitoring and recording during all groundworks.

In addition, a trenched evaluation is required of the other development works, which is subject to a separate brief.

3.2 Any ground works, and also the upcast soil, are to be closely monitored during and after excavation by the archaeological contractor in order to ensure no damage occurs any heritage assets. Adequate time is to be allowed for archaeological recording of archaeological deposits during excavation, and of soil sections following excavation.

3.3 The archaeological investigation should provide a record of archaeological deposits which are damaged or removed by any development [including services and landscaping] permitted by the current planning consent. Opportunity must be given to the archaeological contractor to hand excavate and record any archaeological features which appear during earth moving operations.

3.4 The method and form of development should be also monitored to ensure that it conforms to previously agreed locations and techniques upon which this brief is based.

3.5 If unexpected remains are encountered SCCAS/CT must be informed immediately. Amendments to this brief may be required to ensure adequate provision for archaeological recording.

Arrangements for Archaeological Investigation

4.1 All arrangements for the excavation of the site, the timing of the work and access to the site, are to be defined and negotiated by the archaeological contractor with the commissioning body.

4.2 The project manager must also carry out a risk assessment and ensure that all potential risks are minimised, before commencing the fieldwork. The responsibility for identifying any constraints on fieldwork (e.g. designated status, public utilities or other services, tree preservation orders, SSSIs, wildlife sites and ecological considerations rests with the commissioning body and its archaeological contractor.

Reporting and Archival Requirements

5.1 The project manager must consult the Suffolk HER Officer to obtain an event number for the work. This number will be unique for each project or site and must be clearly marked on any documentation relating to the work.

5.2 An archive of all records and finds is to be prepared and must be adequate to perform the function of a final archive for deposition in the Archaeological Service's Store or in a suitable museum in Suffolk.

5.3 It is expected that the landowner will deposit the full site archive, and transfer title to, the Archaeological Service or the designated Suffolk museum, and this should be agreed before the fieldwork commences. The intended depository should be stated in the WSI, for approval.

5.4 The project manager should consult the intended archive depository before the archive is prepared regarding the specific requirements for the archive deposition and curation (including the digital archive), and regarding any specific cost implications of deposition.

5.5 The WSI should state proposals for the deposition of the digital archive relating to this project with the Archaeology Data Service, or similar digital archive repository, and allowance should be made for costs incurred to ensure proper deposition (http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/policy.html).

5.6 A report on the fieldwork and archive, consistent with the principles of *MAP2*, must be provided. Its conclusions must include a clear statement of the archaeological value of the results, and their significance in the context of the Regional Research Framework (*East Anglian Archaeology*, Occasional Papers 3 & 8, 1997 and 2000).

5.7 An unbound hardcopy of the report, clearly marked DRAFT, must be presented to SCCAS/CT for approval within six months of the completion of fieldwork unless other arrangements are negotiated. Following acceptance, a single hard copy and also a .pdf digital copy should be presented to the Suffolk HER.

5.8 Where appropriate, a digital vector plan should be included with the report, which must be compatible with MapInfo GIS software, for integration in the Suffolk HER.

5.9 At the start of work (immediately before fieldwork commences) an OASIS online record http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis/ must be initiated and key fields completed on Details, Location and Creators forms. When the project is completed, all parts of the OASIS online form must be completed and a copy must be included in the final report and also with the site archive. A .pdf version of the entire report should be uploaded where positive results have been obtained.

5.10 Where positive results are drawn from a project, a summary report must be prepared, in the established format, suitable for inclusion in the annual 'Archaeology in Suffolk' section of the *Proceedings of the Suffolk Institute of Archaeology and History*. It should be included in the project report, or submitted to SCCAS/CT, by the end of the calendar year in which the work takes place, whichever is the sooner.

5.11 When no significant features or finds are found, a short report will be sufficient with the following information: grid ref., parish, address, planning application number and type of development, date(s) of visit(s), methodology, plan showing areas observed in relation to ground disturbance/proposed development, depth of ground disturbance in each area, depth of topsoil and its profile over natural in each area, observations as to land use history (truncation etc), recorder and organisation, date of report.

5.12 This brief remains valid for 12 months. If work is not carried out in full within that time this document will lapse; the brief may need to be revised and re-issued to take account of new discoveries, changes in policy and techniques.

Standards and Guidance

Detailed standards, information and advice to supplement this brief are to be found in *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England*, East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 14, 2003.

The Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance for an archaeological watching brief* (revised 2001) should be used for additional guidance in the execution of the project and in drawing up the report.

Notes

The Institute for Archaeologists maintains a list of registered archaeological contractors (www.archaeologists.net or 0118 378 6446). There are a number of archaeological contractors that regularly undertake work in the County and SCCAS will provide advice on request. SCCAS/CT does not give advice on the costs of archaeological projects.