

**NORFOLK ARCHAEOLOGICAL UNIT**

Report No. 1058

**An Archaeological Watching Brief at Reffley Cycle Path,  
King's Lynn, Norfolk**

11982 KLY

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Location: Reffley Cycle Path, Kings Lynn  
District: West Norfolk  
Grid Ref: TF 6450 2134  
NHER.: 11982 KLY  
Date of fieldwork: 18th March 2005

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## **Summary**

*An archaeological watching brief was undertaken to monitor the replacement of a brick culvert over Bawsey Drain. Nothing of archaeological significance was observed or retrieved from the site.*

## **1.0 Introduction**

(Figs 1 and 2)

The site was located on Reffley Cycle Path, Gaywood, near Kings Lynn (north of the B1145) where the path crosses the Bawset Drain. The area of land measured 10m by 5m (50 sq. m) and was excavated to a depth of approximately 1.65m.

The watching brief was carried out because the site lay in an area where a number of prehistoric burnt flints (or 'potboilers') were found (Norfolk Heritage Environment Record (NHER) 11982), while an important Late Neolithic to Early Bronze Age (Beaker) site is located a c. 1km to the north-east (NHER 5489).

This report was commissioned and funded by Norfolk County Council and undertaken in accordance with a Brief issued by Norfolk Landscape Archaeology (NLA Ref: EJR/13/10/03).

The objective of this watching brief was to record any archaeological evidence revealed during the excavation of the brick culvert. The Brief required that an archaeologist be present during all works.

Contractors demolished and removed a red brick culvert using a tracked 360° digger, then excavated a rectangular pit through the drain.

Spoil, exposed surfaces and features were scanned with a metal detector.

Details of the works were recorded using Norfolk Archaeological Unit *pro forma* sheets. Colour photographs were taken of the excavation.

The site archive is currently held by the Norfolk Museums and Archaeology Service, in accordance with the relevant policy on archiving standards.

## **2.0 Observations**

The removal of the old brick culvert had been undertaken by the contractor before an archaeologist was present. The remains of the structure, however, had been deposited nearby. These consisted of (probable) Victorian red brick bonded with a pale cream-coloured mortar.

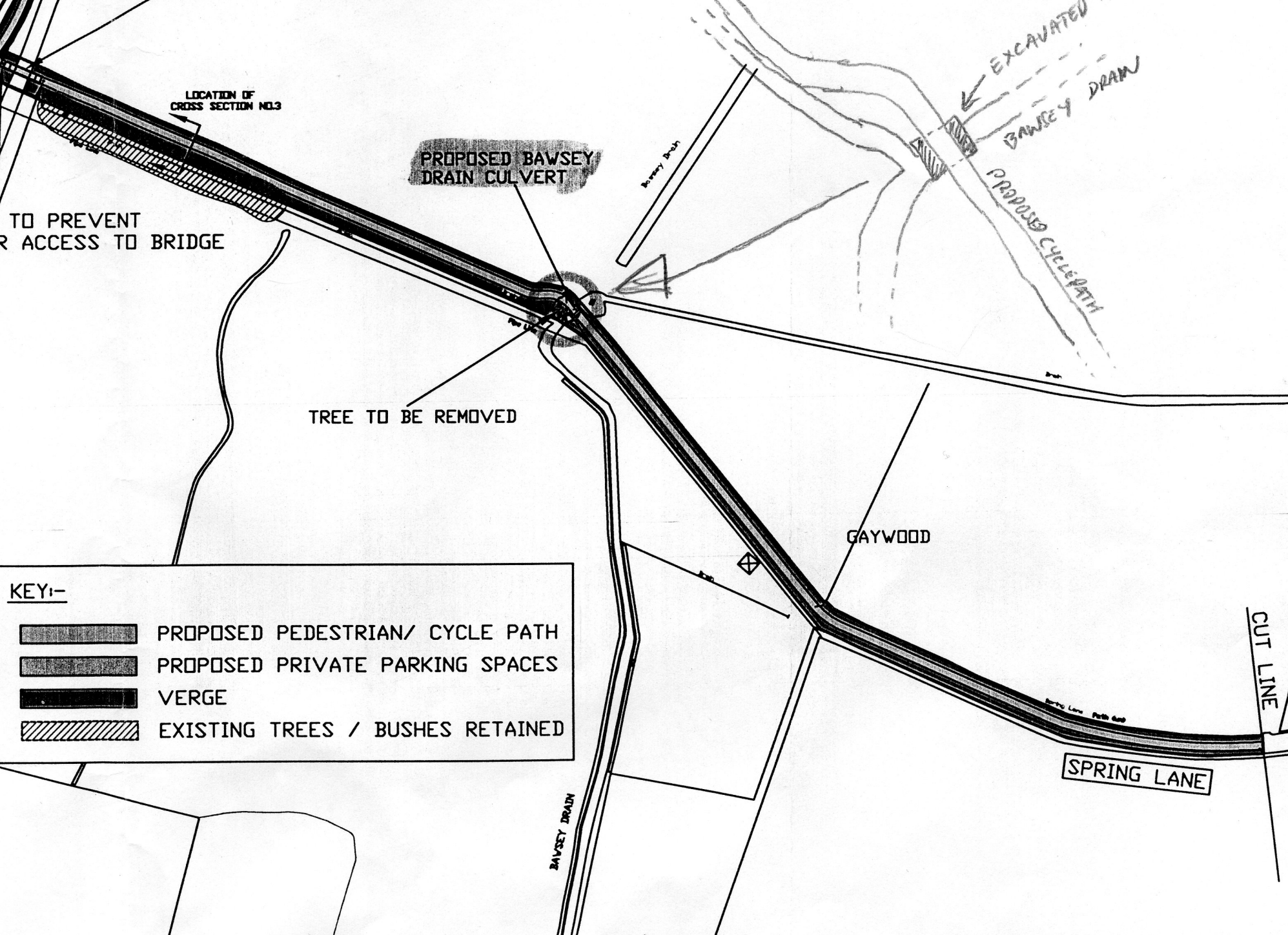
The soil surrounding the culvert was largely a black-coloured waterlogged silty peat (1.32m deep) below which was a soft grey clay (0.33m deep) which continued to the limit of excavation (1.65m). No finds were visible within this material, nor were any found using the metal detector.

### **3.0 Conclusions**





Despite being located in a known area of prehistoric activity and the trench excavated to a significant depth, nothing of archaeological significance was observed or retrieved from the site.

#### ***Acknowledgements***

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**KEY:-**

-  PROPOSED PEDESTRIAN/ CYCLE PATH
-  PROPOSED PRIVATE PARKING SPACES
-  VERGE
-  EXISTING TREES / BUSHES RETAINED