

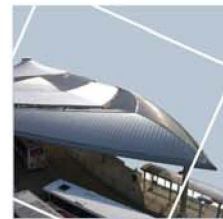
Report 2014/1249



nps archaeology

**Archaeological Watching Brief at Great Blakenham
Cement Works, Gipping Road, Claydon, Suffolk**

CLY034



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

Steve Hickling BA MA AIfA

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www.nps.co.uk

PROJECT CHECKLIST		
Project Manager	Nigel Page	
Draft Completed	Steve Hickling	03/12/2013
Graphics Completed	David Dobson	10/12/2013
Edit Completed	Jayne Bown	02/01/2014
Signed Off	Nigel Page	03/01/2014
<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

www.nau.org.uk

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Location:	Great Blakenham Cement Works, Gipping Road, Claydon, Suffolk
District:	Mid Suffolk
Grid Ref.:	612740, 250030
HER No.:	CLY034
OASIS Ref.:	158969
Client:	Anglian Water Services Ltd.
Dates of Fieldwork:	16 September - 05 November 2013

Summary

Archaeological monitoring was undertaken at a site just west of Claydon for Anglian Water Services Ltd during groundworks associated with the Mason Cement development (Great Blakenham).

No significant archaeological features or artefacts were present within the area monitored. Furthermore no riverine deposits were in evidence within the area subject to the watching brief. There has been extensive remodelling of the landscape in this area, probably when the adjacent A14 was constructed. In addition, the River Gipping has been redirected into its new modern channel to the west of the monitored area, rather than its historic course to the east.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

The installation of a new 2400mm tank sewer adjacent to the Anglian Water pumping station at Claydon required a programme of archaeological monitoring due to its location close to the former course of the River Gipping (Fig. 1). The trench for the tank sewer was 68m long (north to south) and c.3m wide.

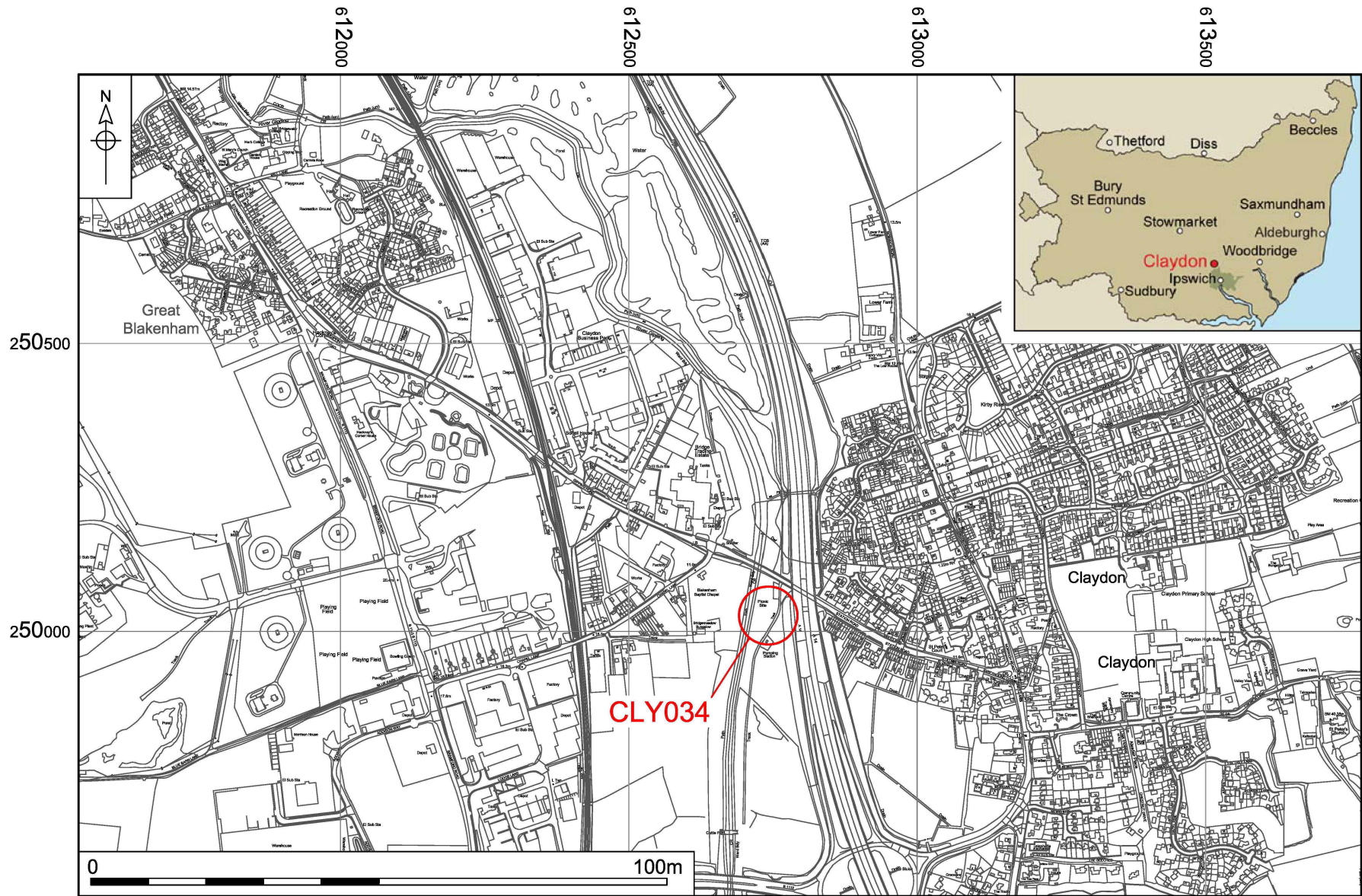
This work was undertaken to fulfil requirements of Suffolk County Council Archaeology Service. This work was commissioned and funded by Anglian Water Services Ltd (@one alliance purchase order 7000012066).

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 the Suffolk County Council Historic Environment Record following the relevant policies on archiving standards.

2.0 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

The development area is sited in an area of Quaternary period sand and gravel River Terrace Deposits and Quaternary silt and clay alluvium above Cretaceous chalk of the Newhaven Chalk Formation (<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>).



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

The development was located in the valley bottom of the River Gipping between river itself to the west and the A14 to the east, at an elevation of c.11m OD.

The area was a picnic area and grassed over with numerous bushes and trees.

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.

Medieval (SHER Records)

'The Parsonage' (SHER BRH044), 430m northeast of the present development, is the possible site of a medieval moat.

Numbers 12 and 14 Norwich Road (Formerly 'Smilax House' SHER DSF5613), 450m east of the present development, is a late medieval timber-framed house, now divided into two dwellings.

'Dove Cottage' (SHER DSF5578) at 16-22 Norwich Road, 450m east of the present development is an early 16th-century timber-framed open-hall house.

An archaeological evaluation at the former SCC Highways Depot, Great Blakenham (SHER ESF20806), 550m southwest of the present development, recorded a few medieval features and a thick layer of subsoil.

Post-medieval (SHER Records)

A post-medieval bridge crossing (SHER BLG015) the River Gipping, 80m north of the present development, is depicted on maps of 1783 and 1755. A bridge still exists at this location but the present course of the river is to the west of its original course.

The former 'Greyhound' at 4-8 Ipswich Road (SHER DSF5977), 450m southeast of the present development, is a timber framed 17th-century house, which is now a terrace of three houses.

'The Crown Inn' (SHER DSF4437), 500m southeast of the development site, has a mid 16th-century timber-framed core with major 19th- and 20th-century alterations.

'The Hollies' at 13 Norwich Road (SHER DSF5979), 400m east of the development site, is a mid 18th-century timber-framed house.

Modern (SHER Records)

Claydon Railway Station (SHER BLG021), 410m northwest of the present development, was erected in 1846 but is no longer standing.

Mason's Cement Works (SHER BLG 022), 405m west of the present development, was built in 1912, bombed during WWII and continued to produce cement until 1996. It closed at the end of 1999.

There is the reported site of a World War II pillbox (SHER BLG 027) 300m west of the present development.

Undated (SHER Records)

An assortment of bones in varying conditions (SHER BRH023) have been recovered by workmen from Eastall's gravel pit, 500m north of the present development, mainly ox and deer but including the front of the top of a human skull

in a condition described as 'Hard, partly fossilized. Black deposit on inside'. A few artefacts have also been found but it is impossible to relate them to particular deposits or levels.

An archaeological evaluation, 550m southwest of the current development, at the former SCC Highways Depot in Great Blakenham (SHER ESF21310) found a thick layer of subsoil continuing southwards.

Cartographic Evidence

The First Edition Ordnance Survey map (1882-5) shows the development site as open fields next to the River Gipping on the Great Blakenham to Claydon road just southeast of the bridging point, as it is today. The course of the River Gipping was different in 1882-5, the course probably changed with the construction of the A14 in the late 20th century (<http://www.old-maps.co.uk/maps.html>).

On Hodskinson's Map of Suffolk in 1783 (Hodskinson 2011) the Road is shown as a turnpike linking Ipswich to Stowmarket. The course of the river and the position of the roads are the same as those depicted on the late 19th-century First Edition Ordnance Survey map (above).

4.0 METHODOLOGY

The objective of this archaeological monitoring was to identify and record archaeological deposits within a sewer tank trench excavated close to the Anglian Water pumping station close to Station Road and the A14 at Claydon (Fig. 2).

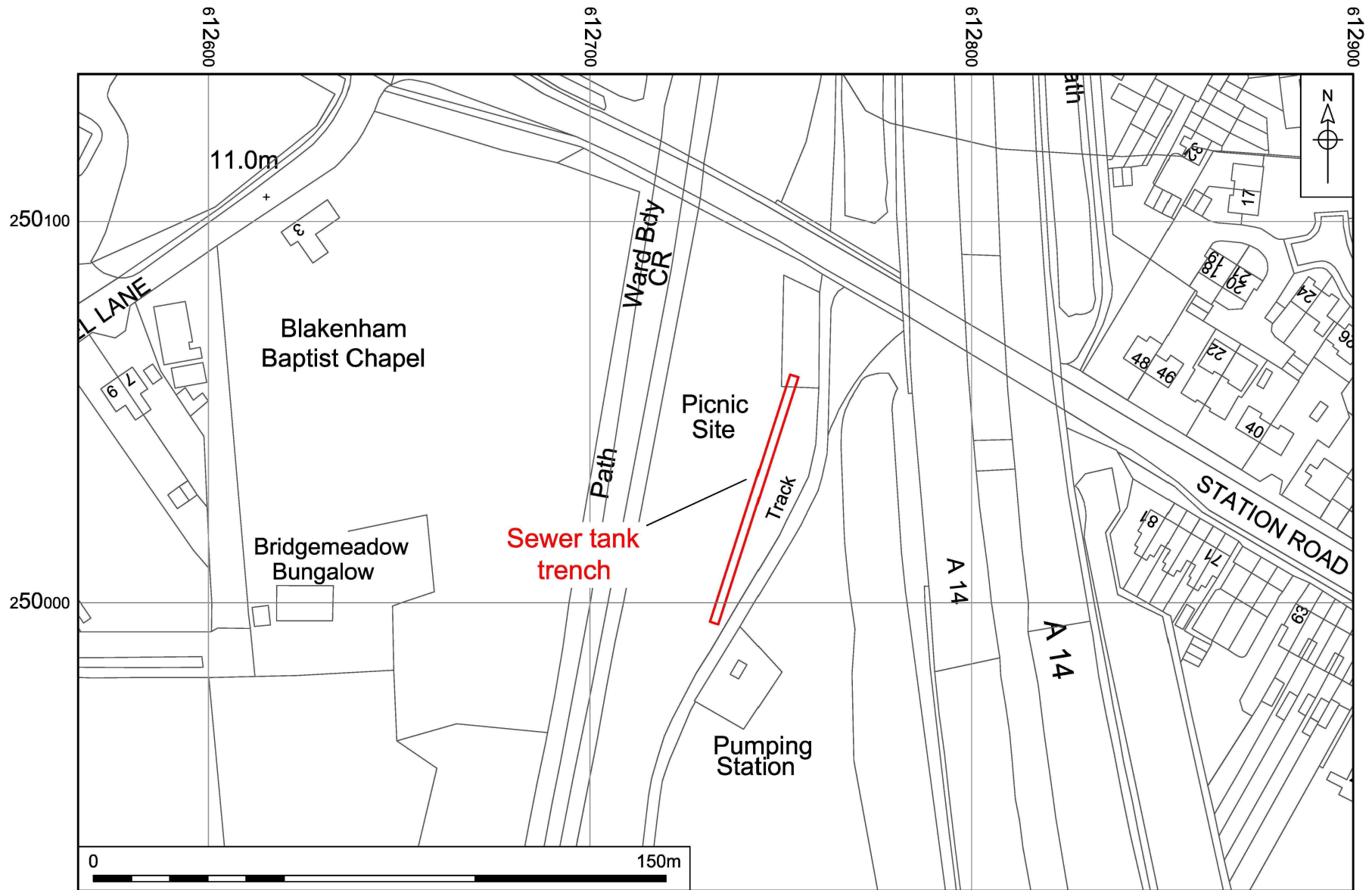
All groundworks were monitored and specific care was taken to identify any potential riverine deposits for environmental sampling. No suitable deposits were encountered hence no environmental samples were taken.

Machine excavation was carried out with a 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.

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.



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Figure 2. Location of groundworks. Scale 1:1,500

5.0 RESULTS

A tank sewer trench measuring 68m long (north to south) and c.3m wide was excavated close to the Anglian Water pumping station at Claydon (Fig. 2).

The southernmost 10.0m of the trench had a deep stratigraphy, perhaps representing recent levelling of the river valley. These deposits comprised (from the surface)

- dark brown gravelly topsoil at 0.0-0.4m below ground level (bgl)
- mid brown sandy gravel at 0.4-0.6m bgl.
- mid reddish brown clayey sand at 0.6-1.0m bgl
- dark brown gravelly sand between 1.0-2.0m bgl.
- natural flint gravel.

None of the deposits summarised above were datable, looked waterlogged or appeared to have been water borne.

Access to the trench was not feasible (Plate 1).



Plate 1. The southern end of the trench, facing north

For the remainder of the trench (58m), north of the southernmost 10.0m described above, the trench deposits comprised

- 0.2m of gravelly dark brown topsoil
- yellow sandy gravel thought to be ballast laid when the river was diverted and the A14 built (Plate 2)



Plate 2. The northern end of the trench, facing north

6.0 CONCLUSIONS

No significant archaeological features or artefacts were encountered within the area subjected to archaeological monitoring.

There has been extensive remodelling of the landscape in this area, most likely when the adjacent A14 was constructed and the River Gipping was redirected into a modern channel. This placed it to the west of the monitored area rather than its historic course to the east.

No riverine deposits were in evidence within the monitored trench.

Acknowledgements

The author would like to thank Dougie Barnard-Harris of Barhale and his staff for their help and cooperation during the fieldwork phase of this project.

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

Bibliography and Sources

Department for Communities and Local Government 2012 *National Planning Policy Framework*

Hodkinson, J. 1783 *The County of Suffolk Surveyed* printed as 'Hodkinson's Map of Suffolk in 1783', 2011, with an introduction by D.P. Dymond

<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html> Accessed 17.09.2013

<http://www.old-maps.co.uk/maps.html> Accessed 20.09.2013

Appendix 1: OASIS Report Summary

OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: England

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OASIS ID: norfolka1-158969

Project details

Project name	GT BLAKENHAM, MASONS CEMENT WORKS - WATCHING BRIEF
Short description of the project	Archaeological monitoring was undertaken at a site just west of Claydon for Anglian Water Services Ltd during groundworks associated with the Mason Cement development (Great Blakenham). No significant archaeological features or artefacts were present within the area monitored. Furthermore no riverine deposits were in evidence within the area subject to the watching brief. There has been extensive remodelling of the landscape in this area, probably when the adjacent A14 was constructed. In addition, the River Gipping has been redirected into its new modern channel to the west of the monitored area, rather than its historic course to the east.
Project dates	Start: 16-09-2013 End: 05-11-2013
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	CLY034 - HER event no.
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	None
Current Land use	Other 14 - Recreational usage
Monument type	NONE None
Significant Finds	NONE None
Investigation type	"Watching Brief"
Prompt	National Planning Policy Framework - NPPF

Project location

Country	England
Site location	SUFFOLK MID SUFFOLK CLAYDON GT BLAKENHAM, MASONS CEMENT WORKS - WATCHING BRIEF
Study area	200.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	0 0 612740 00 00 N 250030 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	Nigel Page
Project supervisor	Steve Hickling
Type of sponsor/funding body	Utility
Name of sponsor/funding body	Anglian Water Services Ltd

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	NPS Archaeology
Digital Contents	"other"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography", "Images vector", "Text"
Paper Archive recipient	SCCAS
Paper Contents	"other"
Paper Media available	"Report"

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Archaeological Trial Trench Evaluation of Land between Salhouse Road and Norwich Road, Wroxham, Norfolk
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