

Report 2013/1333



nps archaeology

**Archaeological Watching Brief at the
Ashwicken S101a Scheme, Leziate Drove,
Ashwicken, Leziate, Norfolk**

ENF131997



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

Steve Hickling BA MA AIfA

November 2013



www.nps.co.uk

PROJECT CHECKLIST		
Project Manager	David Whitmore	
Draft Completed	Steve Hickling	19/09/2013
Graphics Completed	David Dobson	27/09/2013
Edit Completed	Jayne Bown	29/10/2013
Reviewed	David Adams	01/11/2013
<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

01-04-13-2-1333

© NPS Archaeology

Contents

<i>Summary</i>	1
1.0 Introduction	1
2.0 Geology and Topography	3
3.0 Archaeological and Historical Background.....	3
4.0 Methodology	5
5.0 Results.....	5
6.0 Conclusions	8
<i>Acknowledgements</i>	9
<i>Bibliography and Sources</i>	9
Appendix 1: OASIS Report Summary	10

Figures

Figure 1 Site location

Figure 2 Locations of Leziate Drove and Fen Lane pumping stations

Plates

Plate 1 Leziate Drove Pumping Station, site stripping

Plate 2 Fen Lane Pumping Station, site stripping

Location:	Leziate Drove and Fen Lane Pumping Stations, Ashwicken, Leziate, Norfolk
District:	King's Lynn and West Norfolk
Grid Ref.:	569553, 319656
Planning Ref.:	N/A
HER No.:	ENF131997
OASIS Ref.:	162871
Client:	Anglian Water Services Limited
Dates of Fieldwork:	20 May - 5 September 2013

Summary

An archaeological watching brief was conducted for Anglian Water Services Limited during groundworks associated with improvements to the Leziate Drove and Fen Lane Pumping Stations at Ashwicken in Norfolk.

No archaeological features or artefacts were present in either of the areas monitored. However the presence of a layer of subsoil at the Fen Lane Pumping Station is worth noting.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

The construction of a new access road, lorry turning area and pumping station improvements at the Leziate Drove Pumping Station and the area construction of a pumping station at Fen Lane required a programme of archaeological monitoring on the groundworks. The sites were located at the dispersed village of Ashwicken in the parish of Leziate, just north of the B1145 on Leziate Drove and Fen Lane (Fig. 1).

This work was undertaken to fulfil planning requirements set by the Borough Council of King's Lynn and West Norfolk and a Brief issued by Norfolk Historic Environment Service (GenericWUASCBrief). The work was conducted in accordance with a Project Design and Method Statement prepared by NPS Archaeology (01-04-13-2-1333/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 Norfolk Museums and Archaeology Service (NMAS), following the relevant policies on archiving standards.

2.0 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

The site lies in the area of an interface of two geological deposits. To the south are Cretaceous sands of the Leziate Member; while to the north are Quaternary glacial deposits of the Lowestoft Formation above Cretaceous sandstone of the Carstone Formation (<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>).

The site lies just to the north of the B1145 'Trans-Norfolk Highway' which runs between King's Lynn in the west to Mundesley in the east.

The site lies on a slight south-facing slope at a height of c.20m OD. The Gaywood River (which drains west in to King's Lynn) and Leziate Fen lie to the north.

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

A search of data held by the Norfolk Historic Environment Record (NHER) within a 500m radius of Leziate Pumping Station was commissioned. The results of this search along with historic mapping sources were consulted. to prepare this section

Prehistoric

In 1956 a Palaeolithic flint flake chopper (NHER 3332) was found in a gravel pit 475m north-west of the pumping station.

A Bronze Age bowl barrow (NHER 3381) survives as an earthwork mound 490m north-west of the pumping station. It is protected as a Scheduled Monument. 250m south of it is the cropmark of another probable barrow (NHER 11694).

In 1983 a Palaeolithic flint flake (NHER 19425) was found in a gravel pit 500m south-west of the pumping station.

Flints and pottery dating from the late prehistoric period (NHER 28351) were recovered by fieldwalking 40m west of the pumping station, before the area became a golf course.

A Neolithic polished flint axehead and a Neolithic arrowhead (NHER 28352) were found during fieldwalking 570m north-west of the pumping station.

Roman

Fragments of Roman pottery (NHER 3384) have been found 70m north of the pumping station in 1956 and 1979.

Roman flue tile (NHER 14772) has been found 120m north of the pumping station.

Roman finds (NHER 28351) have been found at Bawsey Golf Course, 40m west of the pumping station during fieldwalking and 570m north-west (NHER 28352).

Anglo-Saxon

Fragments of Anglo-Saxon pottery (NHER 3384) were found in 1956 and 1979, 70m north of the pumping station.

Fragments of pottery dating from the Late Saxon period (NHER 14772) have been found 120m north of the pumping station.

More fragments of Anglo-Saxon (NHER 28351) have been found at the Bawsey Golf Course, 40m west of the pumping station.

Late Saxon kiln furniture and pottery (NHER 28352) have been found during fieldwalking 570m north-west of the pumping station in 1991.

Fragments of pottery dating from the Late Saxon period (NHER 35987) has been found by metal detecting 520m north-east of the pumping station.

Medieval

Medieval pottery (NHER 3384) has been found 70m north of the pumping station in 1956 and 1979. This material may relate to the site of Leziate shrunken village.

Fragments of medieval pottery and building material (NHER 3385) were found in 1958, 375m south-east of the pumping station. The site is visible as a dark patch on aerial photographs, perhaps the location of a medieval building.

Some 285m north of the pumping station is the site of the medieval parish church of All Saints belonging to the shrunken village of Leziate (NHER 3409). There are no upstanding remains but medieval building material, floor tiles and human bones have been found on the site. The church building was in ruins by the end of the 17th century.

Medieval pottery, brick, a medieval quern and a medieval casket mount (NHER 14772) have been found by fieldwalking and metal detecting 120m north of the pumping station. This material may relate to the site of Leziate shrunken village.

Cropmarks of rectilinear enclosures, a curvilinear enclosure and ditches (NHER 16289) of probable Late Saxon to medieval date are visible on aerial photographs 225m north-west of the pumping station. It is likely that they relate to the medieval settlement of Leziate.

Earthworks and cropmarks (NHER 16290) relating to the shrunken medieval settlement of Ashwicken are visible on aerial photographs 500m south of the pumping station. These include a building platform, possible tofts and crofts and a hollow way.

Medieval pottery has been found during fieldwalking (NHER 28351) on Bawsey Golf Course, 40m west of the pumping station.

Fieldwalking (NHER 28352) in an area 570m north-west of the pumping station in 1991 recovered sherds of medieval pottery.

Medieval pottery, a medieval harness stud and a medieval sword pommel (NHER 40166) have been found by metal detecting 520m north-east of the pumping station.

Earthworks, 480m west of the pumping station, of a series of braided hollow ways of medieval to early post medieval date are visible on aerial photographs (NHER 50850). It is likely that these braided hollow ways represent the main route across the Leziate Warren prior to the construction of the Kings Lynn to Grimston turnpike road in 1770.

A group of three possible earthwork mounds (NHER 50820), perhaps relating to a medieval/post-medieval rabbit warren are visible on aerial photographs 480m west of the pumping station.

Post-medieval

A 19th-century brick kiln is depicted on an Ordnance Survey map of 1883 (NHER 3415), 600m south-west of the pumping station.

Ashwicken Fen (NHER 25283), 590m north-east of the pumping station, was used as a source of peat during the post-medieval period. This resource perhaps continued into the 20th century.

Ashwicken Church of England Voluntary Aided First School (NHER 57164) was built in 1911 and is located 500m south-west of the pumping station.

The c.1840 Tithe map shows this area as a field, while Leziate Drove is not shown as a road; a single field boundary is present on its site. The First Edition Ordnance Survey map (1883) shows Leziate Drove crossing fields, likewise with the 1946-7 aerial photo (<http://historic-maps.norfolk.gov.uk/mapexplorer>).

Undated

Cropmarks of undated linear ditches (NHER 56302), probably relating to field boundaries, are visible on aerial photographs 250m south-west of the pumping station.

4.0 METHODOLOGY

The objective of this watching brief was to record archaeological deposits within the areas of the two pumping stations (Fig. 2).

The Brief required that all groundworks should be subject to archaeological monitoring.

Machine excavation was carried out with a wheeled JCB-type excavator/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.

Due to the absence of suitable deposits, 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.

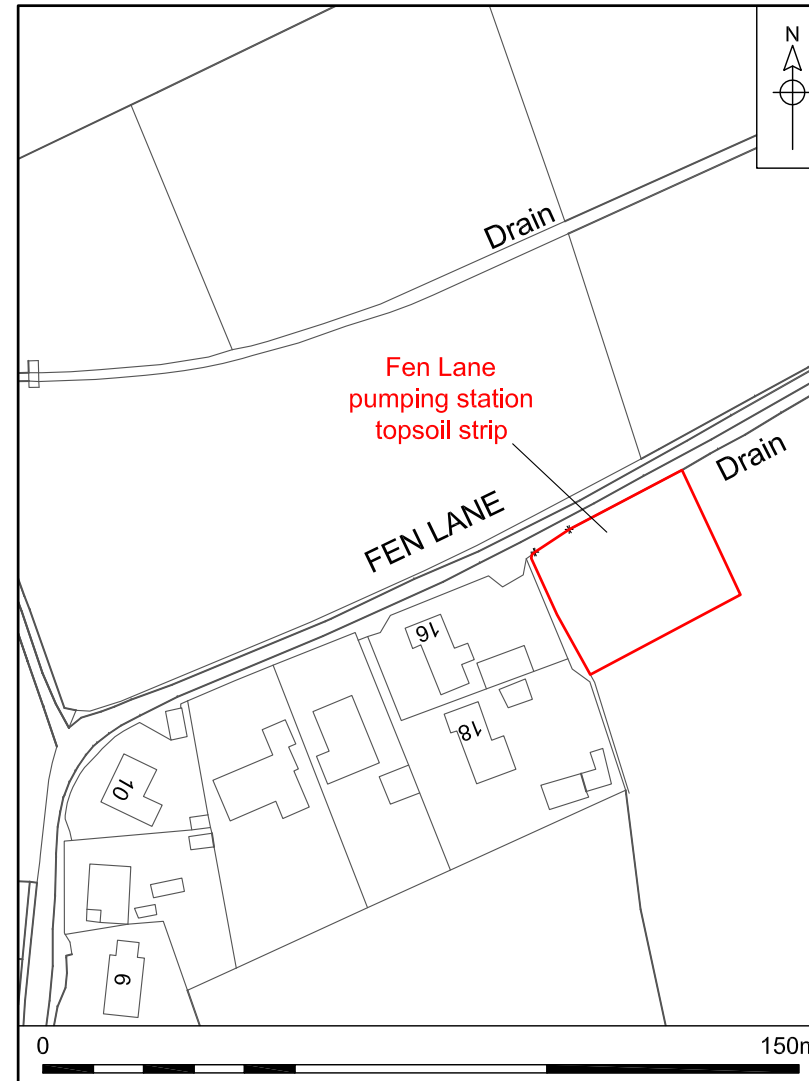
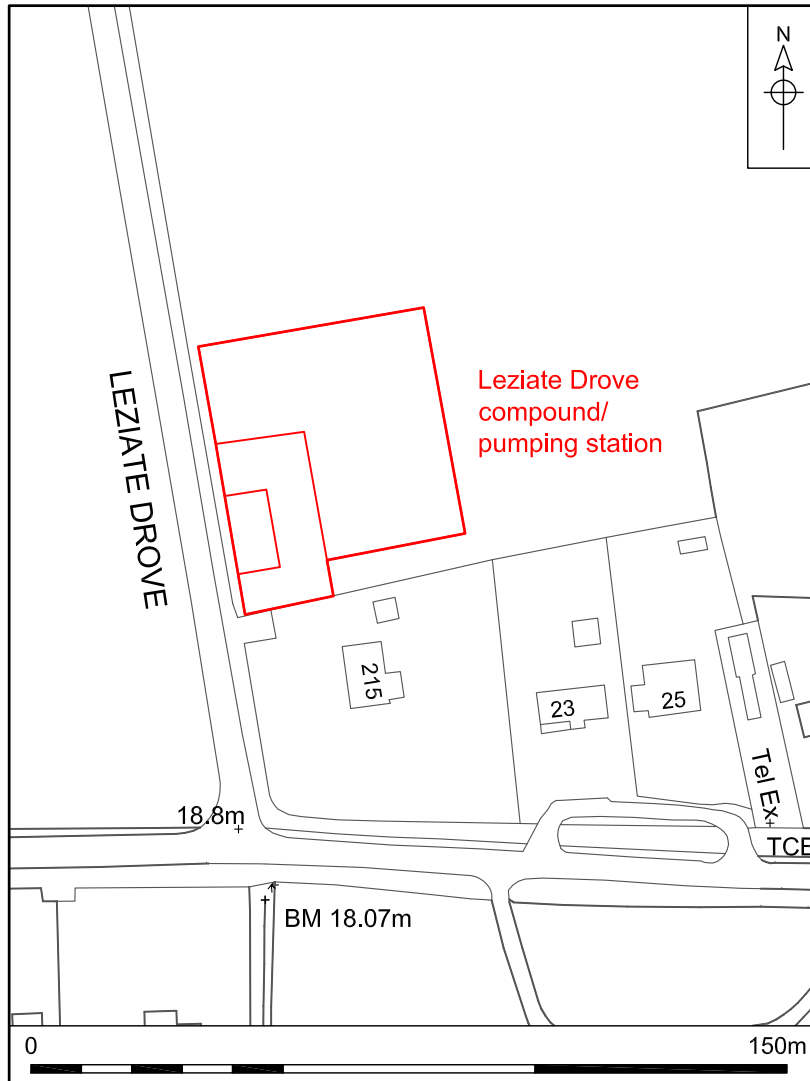
Site conditions were good, with the work taking place in fine weather.

5.0 RESULTS

The site compound/pumping station area at Leziate Drove was stripped on 20 May 2013 to a depth of 0.3m below ground level (bgl) (Fig. 2, Plate 1).

Some patches of a natural geological deposit were visible at this depth, but mostly the exposed surface was subsoil.

No archaeological features or artefacts were visible.



© Crown copyright and database rights 2011 Ordnance Survey 100019340

Figure 2. Locations of Leziate Drove and Fen Lane pumping stations. Scale 1:1500



Plate 1. Leziate Drove Pumping Station, site stripping

The contractors requested that the topsoil strip at the Fen Lane pumping station site, which was not part of the area covered by the Brief, be monitored (Fig. 2, Plate 2).

Dark brown sandy topsoil was removed to a depth of 0.3m revealing parts of the reddish brown sand subsoil beneath. The area was visually scanned for artefacts and features as well as being surveyed by metal detector, but no artefacts or features were present.



Plate 2. Fen Lane Pumping Station, site stripping

6.0 CONCLUSIONS

Although no archaeological feature or artefacts were present in either of the areas monitored, the presence of a layer of subsoil at the Fen Lane Pumping Station may be of interest.

The generally flat nature of the topography in the area of the site at Fen Lane negates the possibility that the subsoil could be alluvial or colluvial in nature, which suggests that it is the result of intensive arable agriculture, probably during the medieval/post-medieval period.

Acknowledgements

The author would like to thank Andy Barnett for monitoring the Leziate Drove works, while the author monitored the Church Lane works.

Thanks must also go to Tom Higgins of Barhale plc for his help and cooperation.

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*

<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html> Accessed 28.06.2013

<http://historic-maps.norfolk.gov.uk/mapexplorer> Accessed 27.06.13

Appendix 1: OASIS Report 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: norfolka1-162871

Project details

Project name	Ashwicken S101a scheme WB
Short description of the project	An archaeological watching brief was conducted for Anglian Water Services Limited during groundworks associated with improvements to the Leziate Drove and Fen Lane Pumping Stations at Ashwicken in Norfolk. No archaeological features or artefacts were present in either of the areas monitored. However the presence of a layer of subsoil at the Fen Lane Pumping Station is perhaps worth noting.
Project dates	Start: 30-05-2013 End: 05-09-2013
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	ENF131997 - 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	NONE None
Investigation type	"Watching Brief"
Prompt	National Planning Policy Framework - NPPF

Project location

Country	England
Site location	NORFOLK KINGS LYNN AND WEST NORFOLK LEZIATE Ashwicken S101a Scheme, Leziate Drove and Fen Lane
Study area	4000.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	0 0 569553 00 00 N 319656 00 00 E Point

Project creators

Name of Organisation	NPS Archaeology
----------------------	-----------------

Project brief originator	Norfolk Historic Environment Service
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 Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	NPS Archaeology
Digital Contents	"other"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography","Images vector","Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Norfolk Museums and Archaeology Service
Paper Contents	"other"
Paper Media available	"Report"

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Archaeological Watching Brief at the Ashwicken S101a Scheme, Ashwicken, Norfolk
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Hickling, S.
Other bibliographic details	Report 2013/1333
Date	2013
Issuer or publisher	NPS Archaeology
Place of issue or publication	Norwich
Description	A4 paper, colour-printed, double-sided, spiral-bound; pdf
Entered by	J Bown (jayne.bown@nps.co.uk)
Entered on	29 October 2013

OASIS:

Please e-mail [English Heritage](#) for OASIS help and advice

© ADS 1996-2012 Created by [Jo Gilham and Jen Mitcham, email](#) Last modified Wednesday 9 May 2012

Cite only: `/export/home/web/oasis/form/print.cfm` for this page