

Report 2014/1233



nps archaeology

Archaeological Watching Brief on the Taverham Road DG5 Sewerage Scheme, Taverham, Norfolk

ENF 135489



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



Steve Hickling MA, ACIfA

May 2015

| PROJECT CHECKLIST | | |
|--------------------------|----------------|------------|
| Project Overview | Jayne Bown | |
| Draft Completed | Steve Hickling | 17/12/2014 |
| Graphics Completed | David Dobson | 18/02/2015 |
| Edit Completed | Andrew Crowson | 19/02/2015 |
| Reviewed | David Adams | 19/02/2015 |
| <i>Issue 1</i> | | |
| Revised | Andrew Crowson | 08/05/2015 |
| <i>Issue 2</i> | | |

NPS Archaeology

Scandic House
85 Mountergate
Norwich
NR1 1PY

T 01603 756150

F 01603 756190

E nau.mail@nps.co.uk

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

01-04-15-2-1233

© NPS Archaeology

Contents

| | |
|--|----|
| <i>Summary</i> | 5 |
| Introduction..... | 6 |
| Geology and Topography | 8 |
| Archaeological and Historical Background | 9 |
| Prehistoric | 9 |
| Roman | 9 |
| Anglo-Saxon | 10 |
| Medieval | 10 |
| Post-Medieval | 11 |
| Modern..... | 11 |
| Undated | 11 |
| Cartographic Evidence..... | 12 |
| Methodology..... | 13 |
| Results | 14 |
| Conclusions..... | 17 |
| <i>Acknowledgements</i> | 18 |
| <i>Bibliography and Sources</i> | 18 |
| Appendix 1: OASIS Report Summary | 19 |

Figures

Figure 1 Site location

Figure 2 Site plan

Plates

Plate 1 Compound area topsoil strip, facing east

Plate 2 Stripped pipe trench easement, facing east

Plate 3 West end of the pipe trench, facing east

Location: Taverham Road, Taverham
District: Broadland
Grid Ref.: 616333,313615 – 616637,313553
HER No.: ENF 135489
OASIS Ref.: 196558
Client: Anglian Water Services Ltd
Dates of Fieldwork: 24 November–12 December 2014

Summary

An archaeological watching brief was conducted by NPS Archaeology for Anglian Water Services Ltd during groundworks associated with the instatement of a sewerage main on Taverham Road in Taverham, Norfolk, and in a field to the southwest of the road.

Archaeological finds of different periods have been made in and around the area of the watching brief, with a marked concentration in the Anglo-Saxon period. Many of these finds were recovered by metal-detecting.

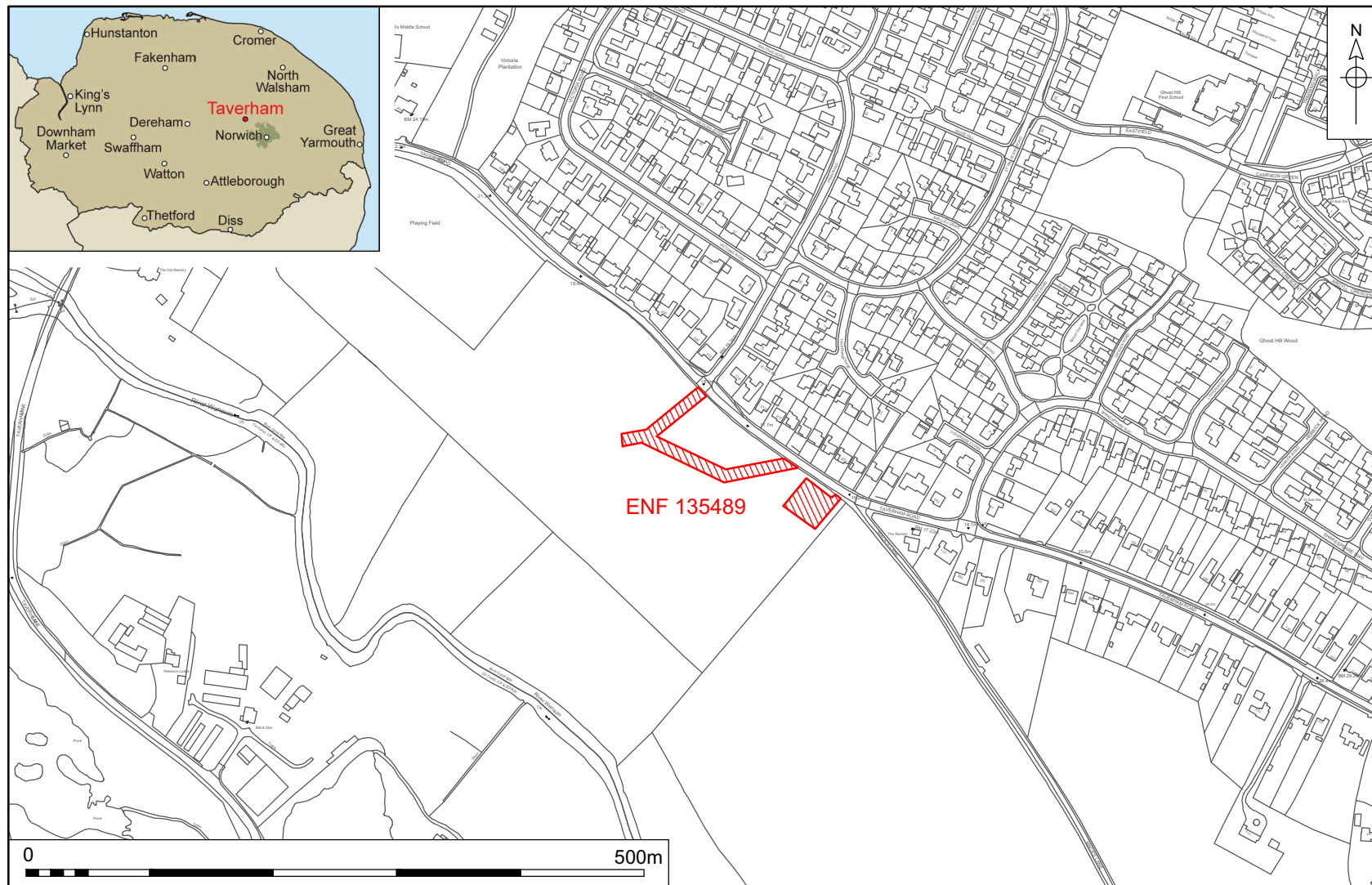
Although 2926m² of land was stripped of topsoil, and natural geology was visible over c.2000m², no archaeological features or artefacts were identified.

It appears likely that any archaeological site containing remains belonging to the Anglo-Saxon or other historical periods does not extend into the area of the watching brief.

INTRODUCTION

Figure 1

- 1 The installation of a DG5 Sewerage Scheme at Taverham Road, Taverham necessitated a programme of archaeological monitoring on groundworks associated with the scheme, other than those that took place in the public road.
- 2 Previous metal-detecting unconnected with the current project had recovered an open-work terminal of an Early Saxon girdle hanger and other Early Saxon material from the field containing the groundworks. Finds of prehistoric, Roman, Late Saxon, medieval, and post-medieval date have also been collected from the surrounding fields.
- 3 The work was undertaken to fulfil planning requirements set by Broadland District Council and a Generic Brief issued by Norfolk Historic Environment Service (NHES) (Powell 2014). The work was conducted in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) by NPS Archaeology (Bown 2014). The work was commissioned and funded by Anglian Water Services Ltd.
- 4 The programme of work was designed to assist in defining the character and extent of any archaeological remains within the proposed redevelopment area, following 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.
- 5 The site archive is currently held by NPS Archaeology and on completion of the project will be deposited with Norfolk Museums Service following the relevant policies on archiving standards.



© Crown copyright and database rights 2015 Ordnance Survey 100019340

Figure 1. Site location. Scale 1:5000

GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

- 6 The underlying geology of the area consists of Quaternary sands and gravels of the Happisburgh Glacigenic Formation and Lowestoft Formation above Cretaceous chalk.¹
- 7 The site of the watching brief is situated in an arable field on the southwest edge of the village of Taverham. The village centre is 800m to the north, Norwich is 7.00km to the southeast and the River Waveney is 200m southwest.

¹ <http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>

ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

- 8 The primary source for archaeological evidence in the county of Norfolk is the Norfolk Historic Environment Record (NHER), which details archaeological discoveries and sites of historical interest. In order to characterise the likely archaeological potential of the watching brief site, data was collated from NHER records within a 500m radius of grid reference TG 16466 13603. This search returned 26 individual records including monuments, find spots and buildings.
- 9 Data obtained from the NHER provides the main source of information given in this Section, with further details supplied from historic maps viewed at Norfolk County Council's online *Map Explorer*.² The records are summarised below by historical period.
- 10 References in the following text with the prefix NHER are cited from Norfolk Historic Environment Record; all NHER data are copyright of Norfolk Historic Environment Service/Norfolk County Council. Individual contributors to NHER are acknowledged where appropriate.

Prehistoric

after R. Clarke, Norwich Castle Museum, 1962; E. Rose, Norfolk Archaeological Unit, 1974, 1986; W. Milligan, Norwich Castle Museum, 1983; S. Howard, Historic Environment Service, 2011

- 11 Several finds of Neolithic date have been made within the 500m study area. Amongst these is a polished flint axehead found in 1974 in a field 380m northeast of the watching brief (NHER 7828). Another axehead and a flint scraper were found in 1962 at 117 Taverham Road, 430m east of the current site (NHER 7843). More recently, a chipped flint axehead was found in 1983, 590m to the northwest, in soil from nearby allotments (NHER 19753).
- 12 Other, less well-dated prehistoric-period finds have been made nearby. In 1986, a prehistoric flint flake was found in a garden on St Edmunds Rise, 435m to the northwest (NHER 22989). Intermittent metal-detecting between 1996 and 2013, and a watching brief in 2009, in a field to the southeast of the current site recovered a number of flint flakes and a retouched flake (NHER 32286).

Roman

after H. Geake, Norwich Castle Museum, 1996; A. Rogerson, Norfolk Landscape Archaeology, 2010

- 13 The 1996–2013 metal-detecting and 2009 watching brief in the field to the southeast of the current site recovered a number of Roman coins and metal finds, including a Roman plate brooch with remains of colourful enamelling over the entire surface (NHER 32286).

² <http://www.historic-maps.norfolk.gov.uk/>

Anglo-Saxon

after R. Clarke, Norwich Castle Museum, 1948; A. Gregory, Norfolk Archaeological Unit, 1987; S. Margeson, Norwich Castle Museum, 1988; W. Milligan, Norwich Castle Museum, 1988; A. Rogerson, Norfolk Archaeological Unit, 1988/Norfolk Landscape Archaeology, 2010

- 14 An open-work terminal belonging to an Early Saxon girdle hanger was found by metal-detecting at the watching brief site in 1988 (NHER 24896). In fact, metal-detecting in and around the watching brief site has recovered a significant number of metal finds dated to the Saxon period, which show a perceived bias towards brooches. In a field to the southeast of the current site, a number of Early Saxon metal objects were found, including a small-long brooch (NHER 32286). A fine 10th-century Viking trefoil brooch was found at an undisclosed site nearby in the same year (NHER 24649). Again to the southeast of the watching brief site, a Late Saxon disc brooch with cast relief ornament of tendrils was collected in 1987 (NHER 23866). Another Late Saxon find, a disc brooch with low-relief Borre-style ornament of interlace with traces of silvering or tinning was recovered 300m northwest of the current site in 1987 (NHER 23988).
- 15 Other metal-detected finds include a Late Saxon copper-alloy strap end with rivets and two rows of ring-and-dot motifs collected 290m to the west in 1987 (NHER 23987), and a Late Saxon/early medieval gilt bronze circular object found in 1988 325m to the northwest (NHER 24897).
- 16 In 1948, traces of burnt earth, fragments of Anglo-Saxon or medieval pottery and an Anglo-Saxon whetstone were recovered during the construction of a rectory, 400m northwest of the current site (NHER 7842).
- 17 Inside the parish church of St Edmund, 440m northwest of the watching brief site, there is the head of a Late Saxon cross (NHER 7908).

Medieval

after B. Green, Norwich Castle Museum, 1966; E. Rose, Norfolk Archaeological Unit, 1978, 1989/Norfolk Landscape Archaeology, 1992; A. Rogerson, Norfolk Landscape Archaeology, 2010

- 18 St Edmund's church has Saxo-Norman origins with a battlemented round tower and contemporary west and north nave walls and north doorway (NHER 7908). The church was extended in the 13th and 14th centuries, and altered after a fire in 1495.
- 19 Other evidence for the medieval period in the 500m study area around the watching brief site is not so numerous, with a marked reduction in the number of field surface finds in comparison to the Anglo-Saxon period. The site of a medieval manor is marked on a map of 1740, c. 195m north of the current site (NHER 13429). It had been completely built over by c. 1960. According to medieval documents, a watermill once stood in Tunstalls Yard, 435m west of the watching brief site (NHER 29022).
- 20 In 1966 a circular copper-alloy brooch was dug up at 18 Walter Road, 330m north of the current site (NHER 7840). It was believed to be of medieval date. A number of medieval coins, buckles and a pot-mend were found by metal-detecting between 1996 and 2013 in a field to the southeast of the watching brief (NHER 32286).

Post-Medieval

after E. Rose, *Norfolk Archaeological Unit, 1978/Norfolk Landscape Archaeology, 1996, 2005*; S. Horlock, *National Mapping Programme, 2010*; A. Rogerson, *Norfolk Landscape Archaeology, 2010*; S. Howard, *Historic Environment Service, 2011*; A. Marsden, *Historic Environment Service, 2011*; A. Cattermole, *Historic Environment Service, 2011*

- 21 Evidence for the post-medieval period in the 500m radius study area comes from a variety of sources, including some standing buildings. Two post-medieval coins were found by a metal-detectorist in the field containing the watching brief in 2011 (24649). The 1996–2013 metal-detecting and 2009 watching brief in the field to the southeast of the current site collected a post-medieval jetton and metal objects including buckles and a cloth seal (NHER 32286).
- 22 Taverham Park, 500m west of the watching brief, was created soon after 1784, and incorporated existing woodland and isolated trees (NHER 30525). Formal gardens were laid out in 1860. Most of the land is now either cultivated or used as playing fields. A bridge is marked 550m west of the current site on an Ordnance Survey map from 1890 (NHER 13217). It is shown crossing the Wensum River, carrying a road from Costessey to Taverham mill. There is no longer a road or bridge at the site.
- 23 Church Farm Barn, 400m to the northwest, is a brick building dating to the late 18th or early 19th century (NHER 41916). Taverham School, 435m northwest of the watching brief site is a single-room school with an attached school house built in 1851; it is plain with restrained gothic features (NHER 55262). It is now a private house.
- 24 Crop-marks of ditches and former field boundaries of probable post-medieval date are visible on aerial photographs within the general area of the watching brief (NHER 54490).

Modern

after E. Rose, *Norfolk Archaeological Unit, 1980, 1986*; D. Holburn, *Historic Environment Service, 2012*

- 25 A lime kiln built in the 1930s once stood 550m to the northwest (NHER 16689). The kiln is probably now buried, as no visible traces of it remain.
- 26 One of only 28 surviving lozenge-shaped 1921 Ministry of Transport-style Place Name Signs, *Taverham*, is 515m northwest of the current site (NHER 57032).

Undated

after E. Rose, *Norfolk Landscape Archaeology, 2005*; S. Horlock, *National Mapping Programme, 2010*

- 27 In 2005, brick-building foundations were noted in the garden of the Old School House, 425m northwest of the watching brief (NHER 41787). The foundations were of a different type to the mid-19th-century brickwork of the adjacent school.
- 28 Crop-marks of fragmentary and dispersed ditches, the majority of which are likely to represent former field boundaries, are visible on aerial photographs in the area of Mack's Lane Taverham, 500m to the southeast of the watching brief location (NHER 54477). Finds in the area include material of Neolithic, Bronze Age, Roman, Anglo-Saxon and medieval date. The isolated and disconnected crop-

marks grouped under NHER 54477 may therefore represent features ranging in date over these periods.

Cartographic Evidence

- 29 The Tithe Award map (c. 1840) shows Taverham Road, with the watching brief site to its southwest as two fields. The area to the northeast of the road is open fields.³ The First Edition Ordnance Survey map (c. 1885) and the 1946 aerial photograph show a similar picture, but the two fields shown in 1840 southwest of Taverham Road are now one, larger field.⁴

³ <http://www.historic-maps.norfolk.gov.uk/>

⁴ <http://www.historic-maps.norfolk.gov.uk/>

METHODOLOGY

- 30 The objective of the watching brief was to determine as far as reasonably possible the presence or absence, location, nature, extent, date, quality, condition and significance of any surviving archaeological deposits within the watching brief area.
- 31 The Brief required that all groundworks in the field between Taverham Road and the Wensum River be monitored by a qualified archaeologist.
- 32 Machine excavation was carried out by a tracked hydraulic 360° excavator equipped with both a toothless and a toothed ditching bucket.
- 33 Spoil, exposed surfaces and features were scanned with a metal-detector. All metal-detected and hand-collected finds other than those that were obviously modern were retained for inspection.
- 34 None of the deposits exposed were considered suitable for environmental sampling.
- 35 All archaeological features and deposits were recorded using NPS Archaeology pro forma. Trench locations, plans and sections were recorded at appropriate scales. Monochrome and digital photographs were taken of all relevant features and deposits where appropriate.
- 36 Site conditions were challenging, with the work taking place in variable weather.

RESULTS

Figure 2

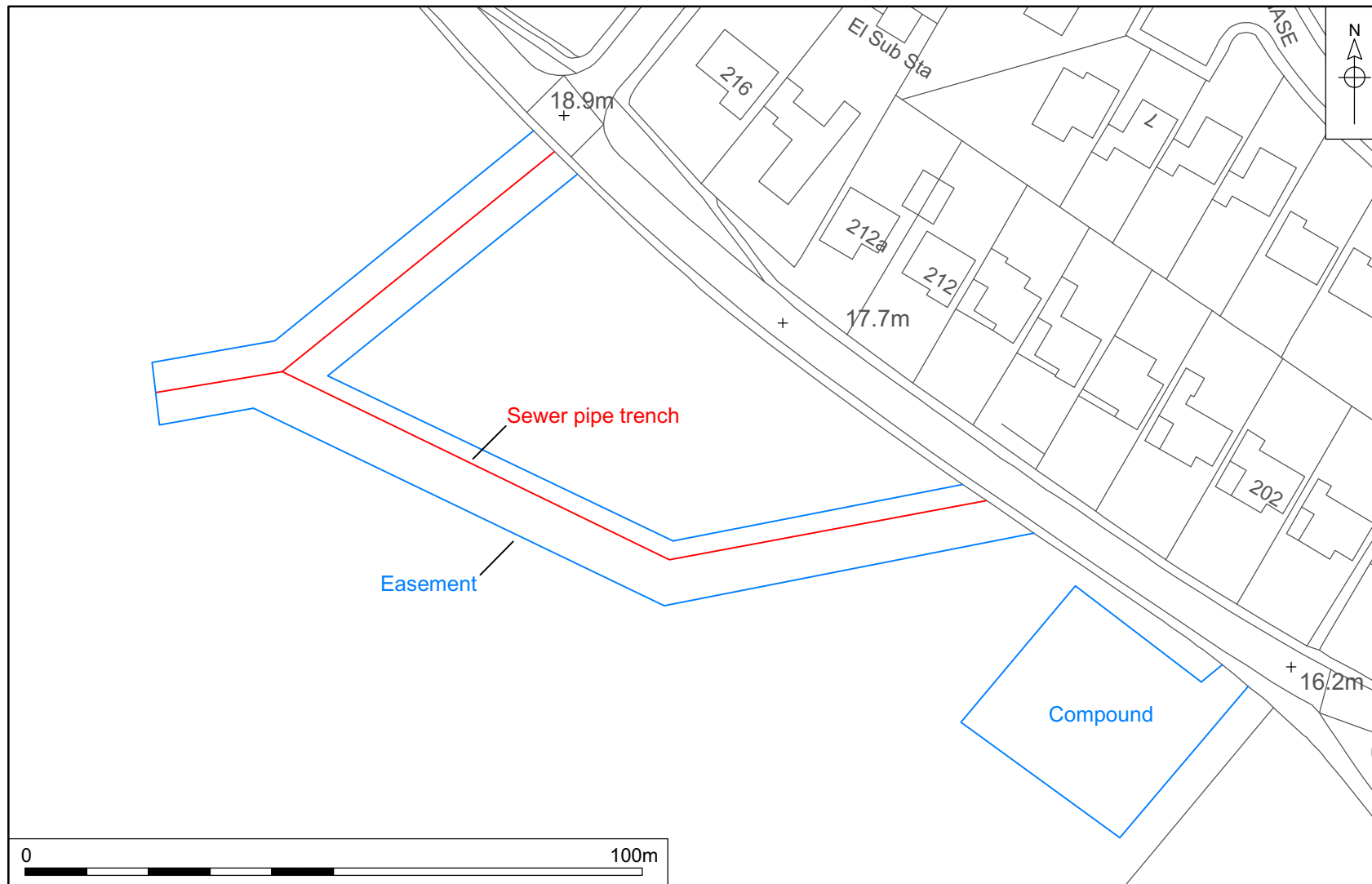
Plates 1–3

- 37 The contractors' compound area was stripped of topsoil in late November 2014. The topsoil was dark brown sandy clay with occasional flint gravel, 0.30–0.35m deep. Beneath the topsoil, mid-reddish brown clayey sand subsoil with moderate flint gravel was revealed. No artefacts were recovered or features visible.



Plate 1. Compound area topsoil strip, facing east

- 38 The topsoil strip of the pipe trench easement took place on 1–3 December 2014. A depth of 0.40–0.45m of topsoil was removed, exposing mainly yellow geological sand, but patches of subsoil on the lower parts of the slope remained intact.
- 39 The excavation of the trench for the sewerage pipe was monitored in those parts of the route where subsoil was present. The pipe trench was 2.00m wide, contained box shoring and natural geological chalk was exposed at the base.



© Crown copyright and database rights 2015 Ordnance Survey 100019340

Figure 2. Site plan. Scale 1:1000



Plate 2. Stripped pipe trench easement, facing east



Plate 3. West end of the pipe trench facing east

CONCLUSIONS

- 40 This watching brief was carried out by NPS Archaeology to monitor groundworks during construction by Anglia Water Services Ltd of the DG5 Sewerage Scheme at Taverham Road, Taverham in Norfolk. Material of Neolithic, Bronze Age, Roman, Anglo-Saxon and medieval date recovered from the vicinity of the site had highlighted the potential for archaeological remains to be affected by the construction works.
- 41 Although 2926m² of land was stripped of topsoil as part of this scheme, and natural geology was exposed over c. 2000m² of this area, no archaeological features or artefacts were identified by the watching brief. Based on this result, it would appear that no archaeological sites of any period extend into the area covered by the watching brief.

Acknowledgements

The author would like to thank Mitch Stace and Brendan Foley for their help and cooperation during the fieldwork phase of this project. The project was managed by Jayne Bown for NPS Archaeology and monitored for NHES by Kelly Powell.

This report was illustrated by David Dobson and edited by Andrew Crowson.

Bibliography and Sources

Bown, J. 2014. *Archaeological monitoring Field to the west of Taverham Road (and Taverham Road), Taverham, Norfolk*. Written Scheme of Investigation NPS Archaeology (unpublished)

British Geological Survey 2014. Geology of Britain Viewer. [online] Available at: <http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>. [Accessed 7 November 2014]

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

Norfolk County Council 2014. *Map Explorer*. [online] Available at: <http://historic-maps.norfolk.gov.uk/>. [Accessed 7 November 2014]

Powell, K. 2014 *Generic Brief for the Monitoring of Works under Archaeological Supervision and Control*. NHES

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: norfolka1-196558

Project details

| | |
|--|---|
| Project name | Taverham Road, Taverham |
| Short description of the project | An archaeological watching brief was conducted for Anglian Water Services Ltd during groundworks associated with the instatement of a sewerage main on Taverham Road in Taverham, Norfolk, and in a field to the southwest of the road. Archaeological finds of different periods have been made in and around the area of the watching brief, with a marked concentration in the Anglo-Saxon period. Although 2926m ² of land was stripped of topsoil, and natural geology was visible over c.2000m ² , no archaeological features or artefacts were identified. It appears likely that any archaeological site containing remains belonging to the Anglo-Saxon or other historical periods does not extend into the area of the watching brief. |
| Project dates | Start: 24-11-2014 End: 12-12-2014 |
| Previous/future work | Not known / Not known |
| Any associated project reference codes | 135489 - HER event no. |
| Type of project | Recording project |
| 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 BROADLAND TAVERHAM Taverham Road, Taverham |
| Study area | 2926.00 Square metres |
| Site coordinates | 0 0 616333 00 00 N 313615 00 00 E Point |
| Site coordinates | 616637 313553 616637 00 00 N 313553 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 | Steve Hickling |
| Project supervisor | NPS Archaeology |

Project archives

| | |
|---------------------------|--|
| Physical Archive Exists? | No |
| Digital Archive recipient | NPS Archaeology |
| Digital Contents | "other" |
| Digital Media available | "Images raster / digital photography","Text" |
| Paper Archive recipient | Norfolk Museums Service |
| Paper Contents | "other" |
| Paper Media available | "Report" |

Project bibliography 1

| | |
|-------------------------------|---|
| Publication type | Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript) |
| Title | Archaeological Watching Brief on the Taverham Road DG5 Sewerage Scheme, Taverham, Norfolk |
| Author(s)/Editor(s) | Hickling, S. |
| Other bibliographic details | 2014/1233 |
| Date | 2015 |
| Issuer or publisher | NPS Archaeology |
| Place of issue or publication | Norwich |
| Entered by | A. Crowson (andrew.crowson@nps.co.uk) |
| Entered on | 19 February 2015 |