

Report 2014/1337



nps archaeology

**Archaeological Watching Brief at the
Station Road Flood Alleviation Project,
Whittlesey, Cambridgeshire**

ECB4139



Prepared for
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Location:	Station Road, Whittlesey, Cambridgeshire
District:	Fenland
Grid Ref.:	527450, 296410
Planning Ref.:	n/a
HER No.:	ECB4139
OASIS Ref.:	197329
Client:	Anglian Water Services Ltd
Dates of Fieldwork:	17 – 21 March 2014

Summary

An archaeological watching brief was conducted for Anglian Water Services Ltd during groundworks associated with a flood alleviation scheme at Station Road, Whittlesey in Cambridgeshire.

No significant archaeological features were identified and no artefacts were recovered from monitoring the groundworks. The area has been extensively landscaped for use as a recreation ground, which may have truncated any archaeological remains.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

The flood alleviation works consisted of installing a 2.25m-diameter Aquaspira HPPE pipe adjacent to Station Road Pumping Station. Whilst the site is outside the medieval core of the town of Whittlesey, archaeological monitoring of the groundworks was necessary as it is situated close to possible Roman settlement.

The archaeological work was undertaken to fulfil planning requirements set by Anglian Water Services Ltd and a Brief issued by Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Team (Ref. Thomas 3/7/2013). The work was conducted in accordance with a Project Design and Method Statement prepared by NPS Archaeology. The work was commissioned and funded by Anglian Water Services Ltd.

The programme of work was designed to assist in defining the character and extent of any archaeological remains in the proposed development 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.

The site archive is currently held by NPS Archaeology and on completion of the project will be deposited with the Cambridgeshire County Archaeology Store, following the relevant policies on archiving standards.

2.0 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

The British Geological Survey records that the underlying geology of the development area is Jurassic Mudstone of the Oxford Clay Formation, with no overlying deposits. However, when groundworks commenced it was evident that

the solid geology was overlain by sands and gravels, probably related to nearby Quaternary March Gravels Member deposits (<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>).

The site is situated just to the north of the Whittlesey Dyke, on the south side of the town (Fig. 1). It lies beyond the medieval centre of Whittlesey, on the edge of a fen island. The site is part of a recreation ground, once on a south-facing slope, but now levelled to provide a football field. The site lies at a height of 3m OD.

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

This section of the report is based on a search of the Cambridgeshire Historic Environment Record (CHER) for archaeological and historical sites, find spots and buildings within 500m of the development site. The CHER provided information for a 1km-radius search, so this has been edited down.

3.1 Cambridgeshire Historic Environment Record Data

Prehistoric

Palaeolithic flint artefacts have been found in numerous of the clay quarries in the area (CHER 02958 and 10597).

A complete human skeleton (CHER 01482) was found in a gravel pit 550m east of the development site in 1944. It is thought to have been Bronze Age in date.

Roman

Roman material has been found in Whittlesey town centre (CHER 01963A), on Bernwick Road (CHER 02920), and five late 4th-century coins were discovered 550m east of the development area (CHER 02938). The site of a possible Roman settlement (CHER 02949) is recorded 600m southeast of the development.

Medieval

Whittlesey town centre is rich in medieval artefacts, centred on the market place, the two churches of St Mary's (CHER 02928) and St Andrew's (CHER CB14921), and the Manor House (CHER 02918), which dates from the 15th century.

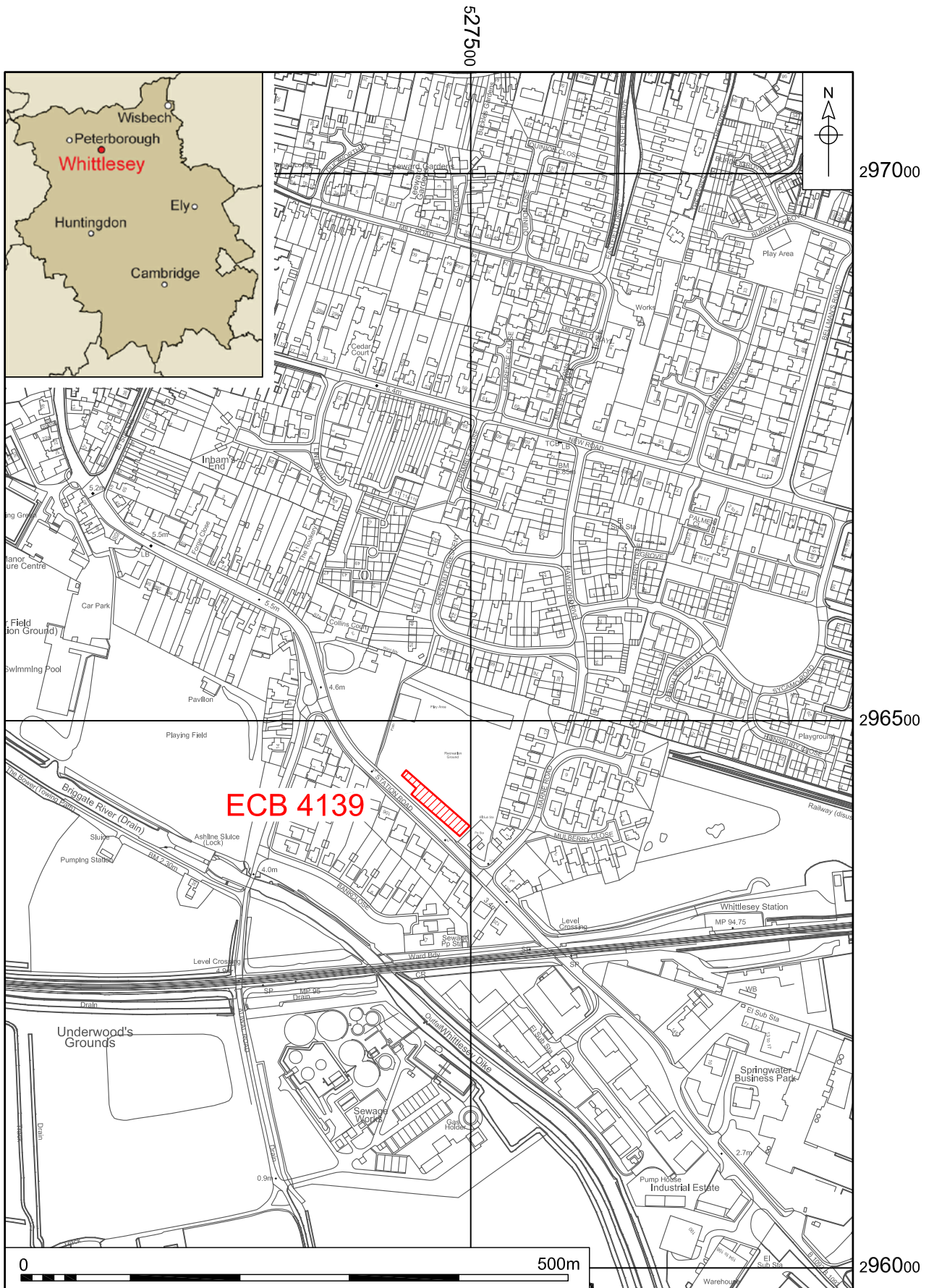
Post-medieval

Although Whittlesey town centre also has records of many post-medieval artefacts, remains and buildings, only a disused windmill (CHER 02909) lies close to the development, 400m to the north.

An archaeological evaluation (CHER MCB17675), 450m northwest of the development found evidence of post-medieval quarry pits and dumping.

Modern

A pillbox connected with the River Welland to Floods Ferry GHQ Line (General Headquarters Line, a World War 2 defensive cordon) (CHER CB15191), lies 300m south of the development.



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Figure 1. Site location. Scale 1:5000

3.2 Cartographic Sources

The Ordnance Survey First (1887), Second (1901) and Third (1927) Edition maps (<http://www.old-maps.co.uk/maps.html>) show the development area mainly as open field, with a recreation ground to the north of Station Road and the Railway Hotel at the southeast end of the present site

Housing on the south side of Station Road appears for the first time on the 1970 mapping (<http://www.old-maps.co.uk/maps.html>).

4.0 METHODOLOGY

The objective of this watching brief was to record any archaeological deposits in the development area.

The Brief required that all groundworks be monitored by a qualified archaeologist.

Machine-excavation was carried out by a 29-ton hydraulic 360°-excavator equipped with a toothless ditching bucket.

Spoil, exposed surfaces and features were scanned with a metal-detector. No finds of archaeological significance were recovered by metal-detector or by hand, and nothing was retained for further inspection.

No archaeological features or deposits were identified, and no deposits were recorded. The location of the stripped easement and the pipe trench were recorded at appropriate scales. Monochrome and digital photographs were taken of the work as appropriate.

Due to a lack of suitable deposits, environmental samples were not taken.

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

5.0 RESULTS

The groundworks comprised topsoil-stripping a 13m-wide easement, and the excavation of a 5m-deep by 3.5m-wide by 55m-long trench to receive a 2.25m-diameter Aquaspira HPPE pipe (Pl. 1, Fig. 2).

The easement strip was not monitored, although the black, peaty topsoil measured only 0.15m deep.

It was noted from the pipe trench that the topsoil overlay an intermittent layer of mid-brown re-deposited natural gravel up to 1m deep. This, in turn, lay above natural sands and gravels with bluey-grey clay at a depth of 2m below ground level.

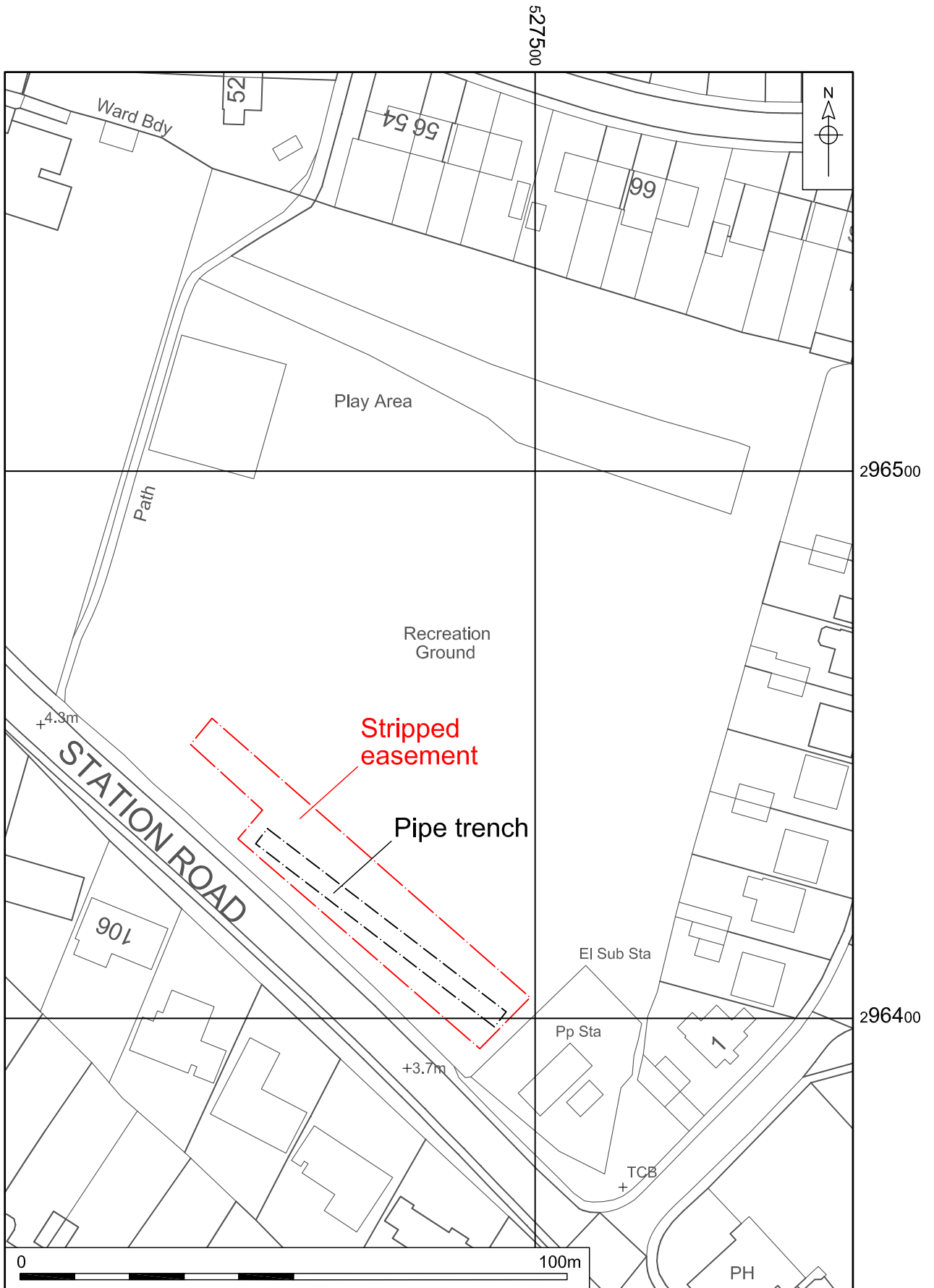
No significant archaeological features were present, but there was considerable evidence of prior earth movement to landscape the recreation ground, involving truncation of areas at either end of the pipe trench and deposition of soils in the central portion of the pipe run.



Plate 1: Pipe trench looking northwest

6.0 CONCLUSIONS

No significant archaeological features or artefacts were identified or recovered from the groundworks associated with the flood alleviation project. The area has been extensively landscaped for use as a recreation ground, which may have truncated any archaeological remains.



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Figure 2. Site plan. Scale 1000

Acknowledgements

The author would like to thank Trevor Newman and the staff of Barhale for their help and cooperation during the fieldwork stage of this project.

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

Bibliography and Sources

British Geological Survey 1985 *East Anglia*, Sheet 52N 00 Solid Geology, 1:250,000 series

British Geological Survey 1991 *East Anglia*, Sheet 52N 00 Quaternary, 1:250,000 series

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

<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html> Accessed 13.03.2014

<http://www.old-maps.co.uk/maps.html> Accessed 13.03.2014

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](#)

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OASIS ID: norfolka1-197329

Project details

Project name	Whittlesey Flood Alleviation Scheme
Short description of the project	An archaeological watching brief was conducted for Anglian Water Services Ltd during groundworks associated with a flood alleviation scheme at Station Road, Whittlesey in Cambridgeshire. No significant archaeological features were identified and no artefacts were recovered from monitoring the groundworks. The area has been extensively landscaped for use as a recreation ground, which may have truncated any archaeological remains.
Project dates	Start: 17-03-2014 End: 21-03-2014
Previous/future work	N / N
Any associated project reference codes	ECB4139 HER event no.
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	None
Current Land use	Other 14 - Recreational usage
Monument type	None
Significant Finds	None
Investigation type	Watching Brief
Prompt	Water Act 19 and subsequent code of practice

Project location

Country	England
Site location	CAMBRIDSHIRE FENLAND WHITTLESEY Whittlesey Flood Alleviation Scheme
Study area	80.00 Sqare metres
Site coordinates	527450 20410 527450 00 00 N 0410 00 00 E Point

Project creators

Name of Organisation	NS Archaeology
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Project brief originator Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Team

Project design originator NS Archaeology

Project director/manager Steve Hicking

Type of sponsor/funding body NS Archaeology

[Project archives](#)

Physical Archive Exists? N

Digital Archive recipient NS Archaeology

Digital Contents bther'

Digital Media available Images raster / digital photography,'Images vector','Text'

[Project bibliography 1](#)

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

Entered by J Bow [ayne.bow@ns.co.uk]

Entered on 19 December 2014

Appendix 2: Archaeological Brief

BRIEF FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING & RECORDING
Historic Environment Team

Site: Station Road, Whittlesey, Flood Alleviation Scheme

Client: Anglian Water

Location: NGR TL 275 964

This design brief is only valid for six months after the date of issue. After this period the Historic Environment Team (HET) should be contacted. Any specifications resulting from this brief will only be considered for the same period. Please note that this document is written for archaeological project managers to facilitate the production of an archaeological specification of work; the term project manager is used to denote the archaeological project manager only.

The project manager is strongly advised to visit the site before completing their specification, as there may be implications for accurately costing the project. The project manager must consult the Cambridgeshire Historic Environment Record (CHER) as part of the evaluation. Any response to this brief should follow IfA Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluations, 2008.

NO FIELDWORK MAY COMMENCE UNTIL WRITTEN APPROVAL OF A SPECIFICATION HAS BEEN ISSUED BY THE HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT TEAM

1.0 Site Description

- 1.1 The proposed works are located in the historic town of Whittlesey.
- 1.2 The works are located on the south facing slope of Whittlesey Island, an area known to be favoured for prehistoric settlement. There is also evidence for Roman settlement in the vicinity (HER 02949) and the site is located a short distance from the medieval core of Whittlesey.
- 1.3 Detailed archaeological evidence and references for these and other sites can be obtained from a routine HER search.

2.0 The nature of the development and archaeological requirements

- 2.1 The proposed development is for flood alleviation works.
- 2.2 Archaeological monitoring of all the stages of construction that include ground works is required. The following sets out the basic requirements of the monitoring.
- 2.3 The archaeological project manager is asked to provide a written specification setting out a scheme of works to be undertaken immediately prior to, and during ground disturbance connected with the development. This scheme should be worked out with the client and conform to the objectives detailed below. The project manager should consider the following:
 1. Soil stripping under archaeological supervision.
 2. Inspection of subsoil for archaeological features.
 3. Recording of archaeological features in plan.
 4. Investigation of features present.
 5. Subsoil stripping under archaeological supervision.

6. Inspection of natural substrate for archaeological features, their investigation and recording.

3.0 Objectives

- 3.1 To ensure that any archaeological remains exposed during ground works are recorded, recovered and interpreted to an acceptable standard.
- 3.2 To ensure that any significant discoveries of artefact evidence are recorded and analysed to an acceptable standard.
- 3.3 Where significant archaeological remains have been found during the monitoring scheme, this should be communicated to HET and to the Client immediately. This may result in a need to review and agree the methods and resources for excavation, analysis and reporting.

4.0 Requirements

- 4.1 The monitoring & recording scheme must be undertaken by an archaeological team of recognised competence, fully experienced in work of this character and formally acknowledged by the HET officers, advisors to the Local Planning Authority (LPA). Inclusion in The Institute for Archaeologists' Register of Organisations is recommended.
- 4.2 HET is responsible for monitoring all archaeological work within Cambridgeshire and will normally inspect site works and review the progress of reports and archive preparation. The project manager must inform HET **in writing** detailing proposed start dates for the project.
- 4.3 The site archive specification should conform to the guidelines in and section 2 of MoRPHE¹, and be deposited within the County Archaeology Store on completion of site analysis and any ensuing publication.
- 4.4 A full report of the results in line with HET Mon&Rec rev06 should be prepared and presented to the HET within two weeks of the completion of site works.
- 4.5 All aspects of the archaeological programme shall be conducted in accordance with the Institute for Archaeologists' *Code of Conduct*, the *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluations* (2008), and *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England* (EAA Occasional Paper 14). Reference should also be made to *Research and Archaeology Revisited: a revised framework for the East of England* (EAA Occ. Paper No 24, 2011) and to the principles outlined in MoRPHE.
- 4.6 Care must be taken in dealing with human remains and the appropriate Ministry of Justice (MoJ) and environmental health regulations followed. HET and the local Coroner must be informed immediately upon discovery of human remains. If found during an evaluation, the human remains must be left *in situ*, covered and protected when discovered. No further investigation should normally be permitted beyond that necessary to establish the date, condition and character of the burial. If removal is essential an exhumation licence should be requested from the MoJ. Arrangements for the analysis & reporting, storage and/or reburial of human remains must be made as soon as possible after their discovery.
- 4.7 Before commencing work the project manager must carry out a risk assessment and liaise with the site owner, client and HET in ensuring that all potential risks are minimised. A copy of this must be given to HET before the commencement of works.

¹ English Heritage, 1991. *Management of Archaeological Projects* (version 2).

English Heritage, 2006. *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment. The MoRPHE Project Managers' Guide*.

- 4.8 Project Managers are reminded of the need to comply with the requirements of the Treasure Act 1996 (with subsequent amendments). Advice and guidance on compliance with Treasure Act issues can be obtained from the Cambridgeshire Historic Environment Team (CHET) office. Any finds that could be considered treasure under the terms of the Act made during the process of fieldwork should be **immediately** reported to the Finds Liaison Officer of the Portable Antiquities Scheme based in CHET, so that it is reported to the appropriate Coroner within 14 days of discovery in line with the Act².
- 4.9 The site archive specification should conform to the guidelines in MoRPHE (EH 2006), eg section 2.5.3, and be deposited within the County Archaeology Store on completion of site analysis and any ensuing publication.
- 4.10 To assist with the curation of the project's archive, the Project Manager must contact the CHER office to obtain an **event number**. CHER will use this number as a unique identifier linking all physical and digital components of the archive. The unique event number must be clearly indicated on any specification received for this project and on any ensuing reports.
- 4.11 Arrangements for the long term storage and deposition of all artefacts must be agreed with the landowner and CHER before the commencement of fieldwork. The Project Manager should consult document ref HER 2004/1 (available from our website³) regarding the requirements for the deposition of the archive, which must be deposited in the County Store on completion of post-excavation analysis and publication.
- 4.12 Cambridgeshire Archaeology supports the national programme: Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations (OASIS III) project and requires archaeological contractors working in Cambridgeshire to support this initiative. In order that a record is made of all archaeological events within the county occurring through the planning system, the archaeological contractor is required to input details of this project online at the ADS internet site⁴: The OASIS reference ID and Data Collection Form should be clearly presented in the relevant report. **Any report that does not contain this information will not be accepted.**
- 4.13 An unbound copy of the report, clearly marked **DRAFT**, should be prepared and presented to HET within four weeks of the completion of site works (unless there are reasonable grounds for more time). This report must conform to the format contained within the document HET Mon&Rec rev 06 dealing with the production of archaeological evaluation reports. Copies can be obtained from the address below.
- 4.14 Following acceptance, **one copy** of the approved report of the results should be submitted to HET, **one hard and digital copy** to the CHER. The approved report should also be uploaded to the OASIS database.
- 4.15 HET officers are responsible for monitoring all archaeological work within Cambridgeshire and will normally inspect site works and review the progress of excavation reports and archive preparation. The project manager must inform HET in writing **at least one week in advance** detailing proposed start dates for the project.
- 4.16 Any changes to the specifications that the project manager may wish to make after approval by this office should be communicated directly to HET for approval.
- 4.17 HET should be kept regularly informed about developments both during the site works and subsequent post-excavation work.
- 4.18 The involvement of HET should be acknowledged in any report or publication generated by this project.

² Please see <http://finds.org.uk/treasure> for further information.

³ <http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/leisure/archaeology/archives/herstore.htm>

⁴ <http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis>

As part of our desire to provide a quality service to all our clients we would welcome any comments you may have on the content or presentation of this design brief. Please address them to the author at the address below.

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