

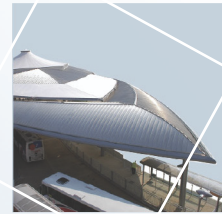
Report № 1870

**An Archaeological Watching Brief at the
Fairfields Flood Alleviation Scheme,
Thetford, Norfolk**

HER 51610

Prepared for

anglianwater



Steve Hickling

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BAU1870

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Location:	Fairfields, Thetford
District:	Breckland
Grid Ref.:	TL 8758 8403
HER No.:	51610
Client:	Anglian Water
Dates of Fieldwork:	24 June, 27 June and 1 July 2008

Summary

An archaeological watching brief was conducted on the stripping of soil for a storm tank and the excavation of a connecting sewer at Fairfields, Thetford. No archaeological features or artefacts were observed during this project.

1.0 Introduction

An archaeological watching brief was conducted on the stripping of soil for a 23m x 66m storm tank and the excavation of a connecting sewer at Fairfields, Thetford (Figs 1 and 2). The work was conducted in accordance with a brief for the monitoring of works under archaeological supervision and control issued by Norfolk Landscape Archaeology (NLA Ref: KH 02/05/2008). The objective of this watching brief was to record any archaeological evidence revealed during the groundworks. The Brief required that the works be monitored by means of regular visits.

All archaeological features and deposits were recorded using NAU Archaeology pro forma. Plans and sections were recorded at appropriate scales and colour and monochrome photographs were taken of all relevant features and deposits. All finds were retained for inspection, other than those which were obviously modern.

The site archive is currently held by NAU Archaeology and on completion of the project will be deposited with Norfolk Museums and Archaeology Service, following the relevant policy on archiving standards.

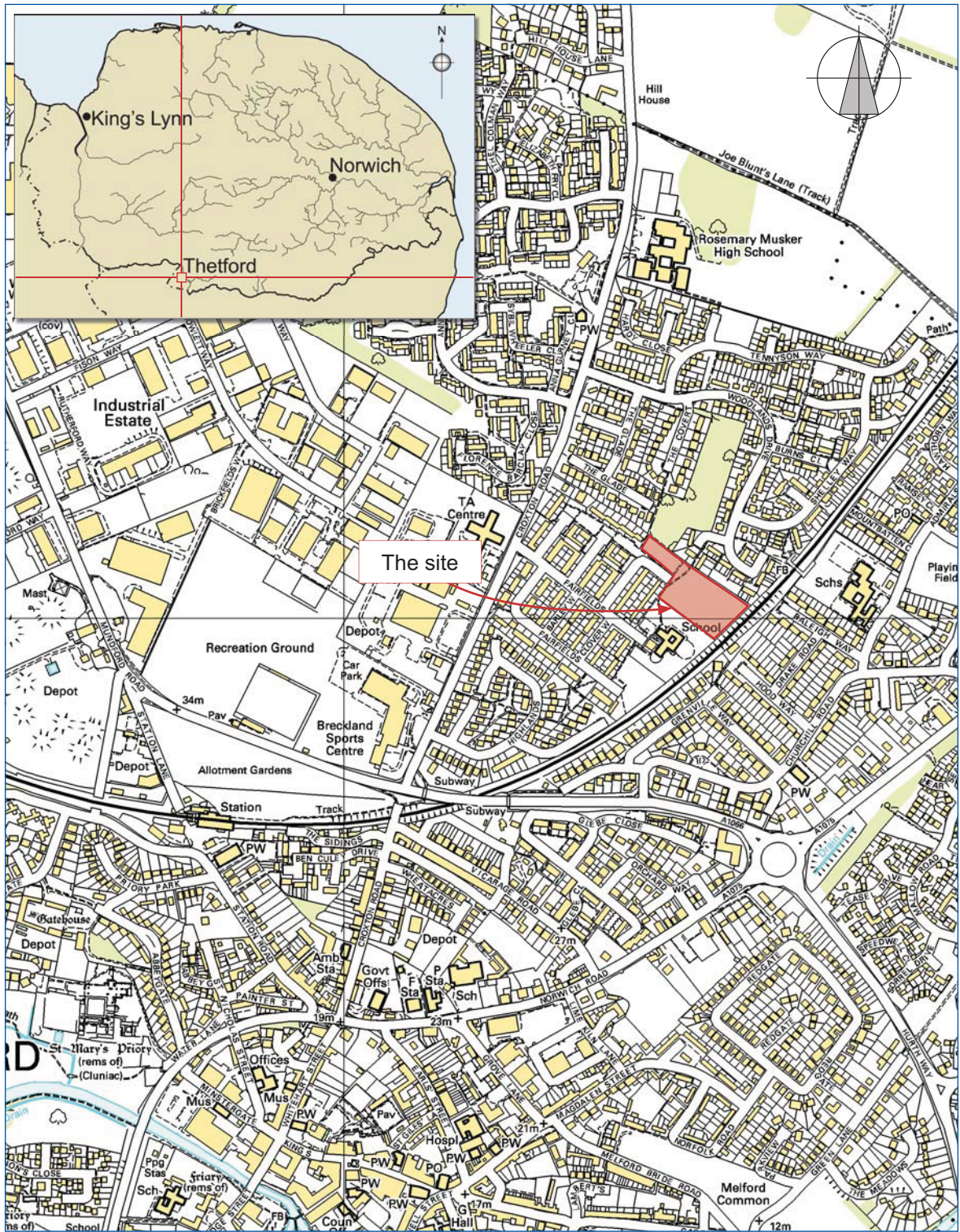
This project was commissioned and funded by Anglian Water Services Ltd.

2.0 Observations

2.1 The Storm Tank

The storm tank area was only observed after the initial stripping of the topsoil (Fig. 2; Plate 1). The stripped area measured 23m by 66m and the topsoil, a mid-brown silty sand containing moderate flints (01), had been stripped to a depth of 0.3m. In places this stripping revealed a layer of reddish-brown gravelly sand subsoil with patches of yellow natural sand (02). No archaeological features were observed in the stripped area and no archaeological artefacts were recovered.

The archaeological contractors were not informed when the full depth of the storm tank was excavated and this work was not able to be monitored. When the next monitoring visit took place the storm tank area had been backfilled.



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Figure 1 Site location

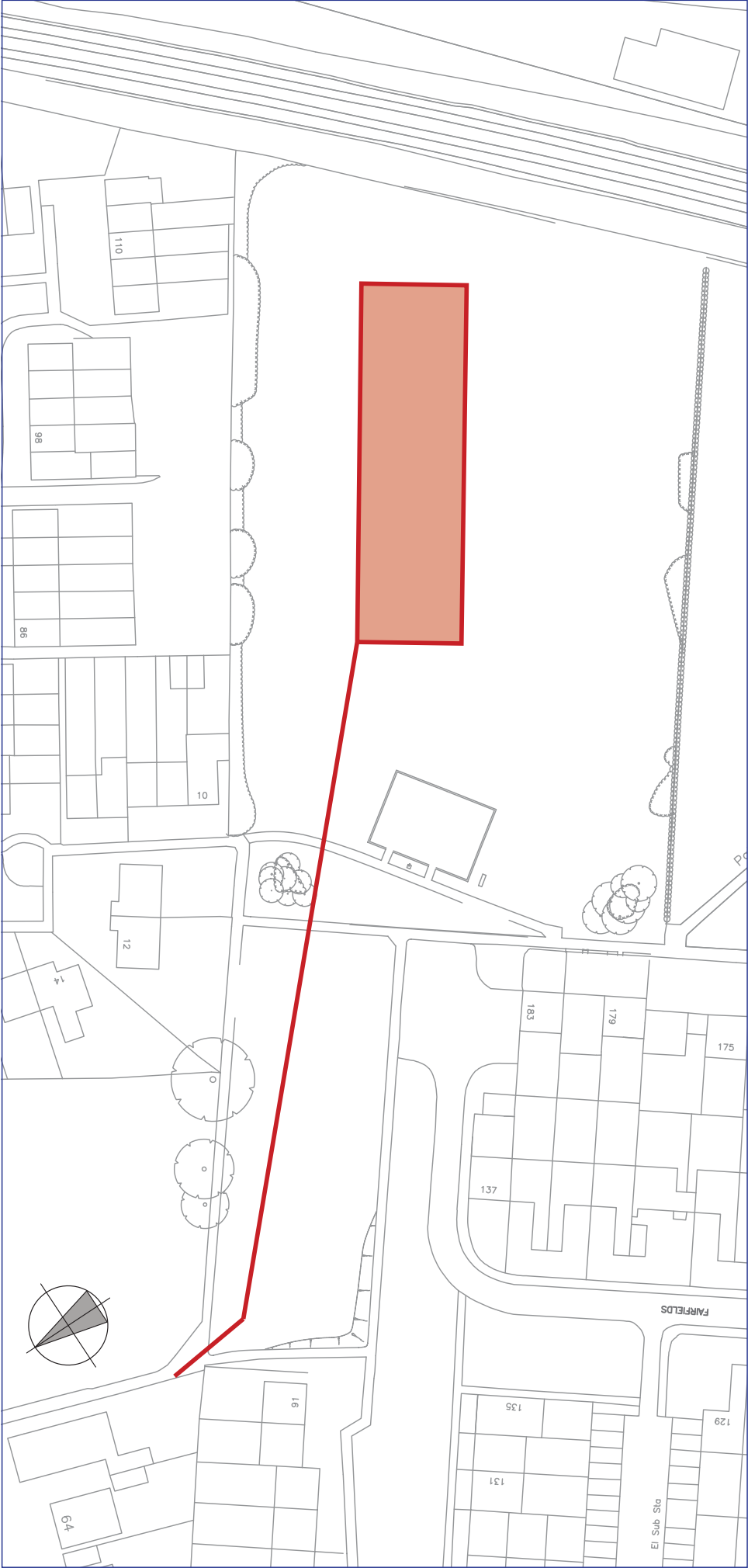


Figure 2 Trench location



Plate 1 The storm tank area, facing north-west

2.2 The Sewer Trench

The sewer trench was 3m wide and 3m deep and extended in a north-westerly direction from the north-western corner of the storm tank (Fig. 2; Plate 2). When the archaeological contractor arrived the area of the trench had already been stripped of 0.2–0.3m of topsoil (01). This stripped area was inspected, but no archaeological artefacts were recovered.

The excavation of the sewer trench revealed another 0.2m of topsoil – giving the topsoil a total depth of 0.4–0.5m – and revealed a 0.6–0.7m deep layer of reddish-brown gravelly sand subsoil (02).

No archaeological features were observed in this trench and no artefacts were recovered.

3.0 Conclusions

An archaeological watching brief conducted on the stripping of soil for a 23m x 66m storm tank and the excavation of a connecting sewer at Fairfield, Thetford, revealed no archaeological features and no archaeological artefacts were recovered.



Plate 2 The sewer trench, facing south-west

Acknowledgements

The author would like to thank Anglian Water Services Ltd for commissioning and funding this project. Barhale Construction Ltd must be thanked for their assistance on site. Thanks must also go to Matt Ratcliff for assisting with the monitoring and David Whitmore for managing the project. This report was illustrated by Michael Feather and edited by Richard Hoggett.

Bibliography

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Appendix 1: Context Summary

Context	Category	Description	Period
1	Layer	Topsoil. Mid-brown silty sand with moderate flints	Modern
2	Layer	Subsoil. Reddish brown gravelly sand	Undated