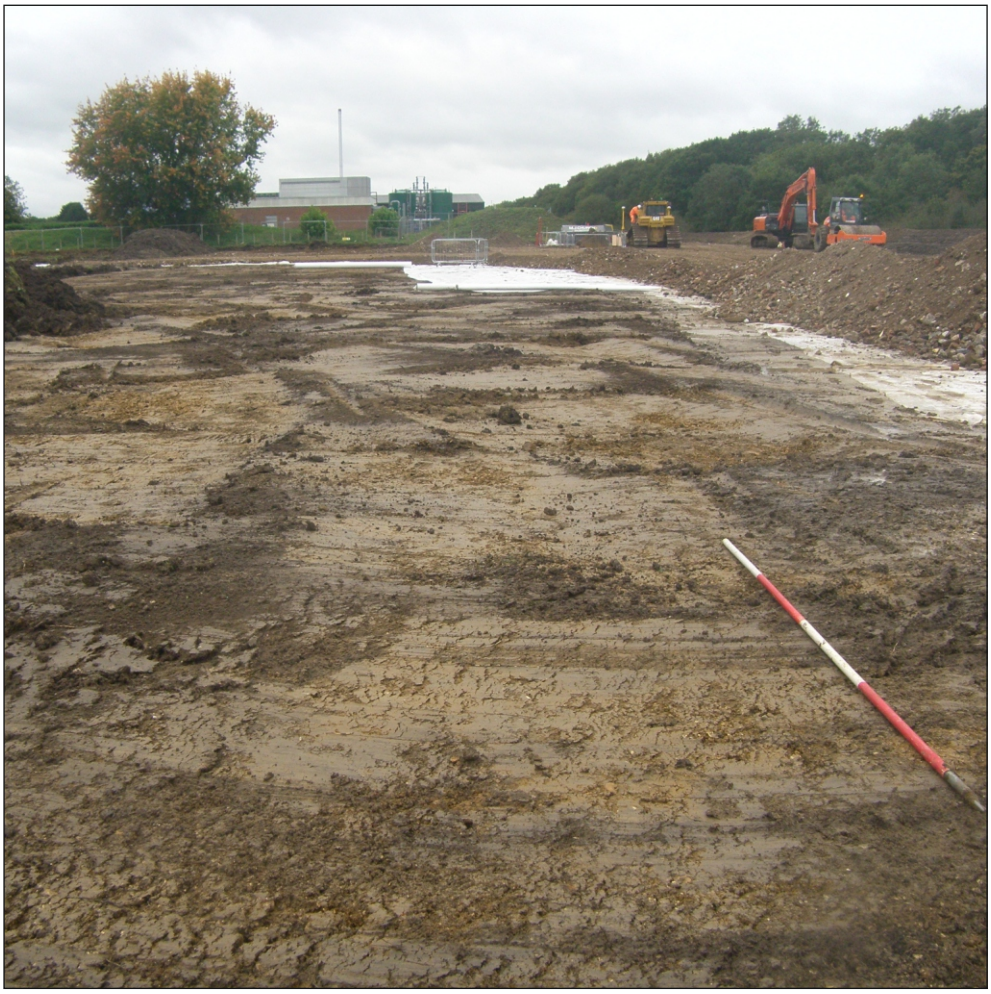
making sense of heritage

Basingstoke Sewage Treatment Works THP Chineham, Hampshire

Archaeological Watching Brief Report



Ref: 110890.04
January 2016

archaeology

Basingstoke Sewage Treatment Works THP
Chineham, Hampshire

Archaeological Watching Brief

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Report Date: October 2015

Report Ref: 110890.03

Quality Assurance

Project Code	110890	**Accession Code**		**Client Ref.**	
Planning Application Ref.		**Ordnance Survey (OS) national grid reference (NGR)**	467468, 155238		

Version	Status *	Prepared by	Checked and Approved By	Approver's Signature	Date
v01	E	*G Flood*	*B Eaton*		02/11/2015
File:	\\projectserver\wessex\PROJECTS\110890_Reports\110890_Report_v01				
v02	F	*G Flood*	*B Eaton*		04/12/2015
File:	\\projectserver\wessex\PROJECTS\110890_Reports\110890_Report_v02				
V03	F	*P Harding*	*B Eaton*		13/01/2016
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* I = Internal Draft; E = External Draft; F = Final

Basingstoke Sewage Treatment Works THP Chineham, Hampshire

Archaeological Watching Brief

Contents

Figures

Basingstoke Sewage Treatment Works THP Chineham, Hampshire

Archaeological Watching Brief

Summary

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Costain Ltd on behalf of Eight2O to carry out an Archaeological Watching Brief on land at the Basingstoke Sewage Treatment Works, Chineham, (centred on NGR 467468, 155236) ahead of the construction of a new Thermal Hydrolysis Plant (THP) within the eastern part of the Site. The watching brief was conducted intermittently between the 6th and 12th October 2015, with a supplementary visit on 18th January 2016.

The majority of the Site was stripped with the exception of the southwest quarter because of a concrete spoil heap in this area. On the east side of Site the proposed Cake Import Hopper area was excavated to a depth of approximately 5m.

Archaeological features observed included ceramic and concrete drainpipes that were either modern or likely 19th century in date, a foundation trench associated with the modern concrete drain and a ditch likely to date to the 18th or 19th century. Typically, the construction level was higher than the top of the archaeological level across the majority of the Site. This limited the opportunities to observe potential archaeology except within the area excavated for the Cake Import Hopper.

Basingstoke Sewage Treatment Works THP Chineham, Hampshire

Archaeological Watching Brief

Acknowledgements

This project was commissioned by Costain Ltd on behalf of Eight2O, and Wessex Archaeology is grateful to Andy Woodroffe in this regard. We would also like to thank Claire Hallybone, Senior Archaeologist at Thames Water, and David Hopkins, the County Archaeologist for Hampshire, for their advice and assistance throughout this project.

The watching brief was undertaken by Grace Flood who also compiled the report. Phil Harding visited the site in January 2016. The illustrations were produced by Liz James. The project was managed on behalf of Wessex Archaeology by Bruce Eaton.

Basingstoke Sewage Treatment Works THP Chineham, Hampshire

Archaeological Watching Brief

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project background

1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology (WA) has been commissioned by Costain Ltd (hereafter 'the Client'), on behalf of Eight2O, to carry out an Archaeological Watching Brief on land at the Basingstoke Sewage Treatment Works, Chineham, RG24 8LL hereafter 'the Site' (centred on NGR 467468, 155236) ahead of the construction of a new Thermal Hydrolysis Plant (THP) within the eastern part of the Site.

1.1.2 A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) (WA 2015) was submitted and approved by Hampshire's County Archaeologists prior to commencement of fieldwork.

1.2 The Site

1.2.1 The Site is located in Chineham on the north-east side of Basingstoke. The River Loddon runs to the south and east of the Site and a tributary of the River Loddon known as Petty's Brook runs to the north.

1.2.2 The solid geology of the area is mapped as London Clay, formed of clay, silt and sand. (BGS 2015).

2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Introduction

2.1.1 A detailed heritage assessment for the site has previously been produced by the Ecology and Heritage Team, Thames Water (EaHTTW 2015), and as such it will only be summarised here.

2.2 Archaeological background

2.2.1 Three archaeological monuments and seven Grade II listed buildings have been noted within a 1km study area from the Hampshire Archaeology and Historic Buildings Record (AHBR).

2.2.2 350m to the south of the Site the 1958 Ordnance Survey map marks the location where Roman tile and pottery were found and is the probable site of a Roman Villa and located approximately. The Roman road running from Silchester to Chichester was discovered in 1949 and is located to the south-west of the Site and its alignment is depicted on the same map.

2.2.3 The AHBR also notes the scheduled monument of Pyotts Hill entrenchment 850m to the west and Monlshay farm and 310m to the north of the Site. Pyotts Hill appears to have formed part of the park pale which enclosed the deer park of Old Basing, and be of medieval date.

2.2.4 Of the seven Grade II listed buildings within a 1km radius of the Site, the earliest is Moulshay house that dates back to the 15th century and includes the remains of a late medieval timber framed hall, with later additions and brick cladding. It is located 850m to the north- east of the Site and includes a 19th century granary.

2.2.5 Post-medieval Grade II listed buildings include the octagonal Old Toll House dating to the early 19th century 900m to the west of Site, and an early 19th century Milestone is located on the A33. The 18th century Sherfield Hall is located 950m to the north-west of site. 960m to the south-west of Site is the early 18th to late 19th century Basing Lodge Farmhouse, at a distance of a farther 10m from the farmhouse is a 17th century barn.

2.3 Recent investigations in the area

2.3.1 The map regression conducted by the Ecology and Heritage Team, Thames Water (EaHTTW 2015) concluded that the works will take place within areas of the sewage treatment works which have not previously been disturbed.

2.3.2 Ground investigation ahead of the construction of the new THP included exploration holes excavated on Site by the Environmental Scientifics Group (ESG). This comprised ten boreholes and seven trial pits (ESG 2015).

3 METHODOLOGY

3.1 Project aim

3.1.1 With due regard to the CIfA *Standard and guidance: archaeological watching brief* (CIfA 2014a), the principle aim of an archaeological watching brief is to record the archaeological resource during development within a specified area using appropriate methods and practices, and in compliance with the *Code of conduct* and other relevant by-laws of CIfA.

3.2 Project objectives

3.2.1 In furtherance of the project aim, the following objectives are defined:

- *to allow, within the resources available, the preservation by record of archaeological deposits, the presence and nature of which could not be established (or established with sufficient accuracy) in advance of development or other potentially disruptive works; including*
    - *To ensure their preservation by record to the highest possible standard;*
    - *To confirm the approximate date or date range of the remains, by means of artefactual or other evidence;*
    - *To determine or confirm the approximate extent of any remains;*
    - *To determine the condition and state of preservation of the remains; and*
    - *To determine the degree of complexity of the horizontal and/or vertical stratigraphy present.*
- *to provide an opportunity, if needed, for the watching archaeologist to signal to all interested parties, before the destruction of the material in question, that an archaeological find has been made for which the resources allocated to the watching brief itself are not sufficient to support treatment to a satisfactory and proper standard; and*
- *To prepare a report on the results of the watching brief.*

3.3 Watching brief

3.3.1 The watching brief methodology submitted in the WSI was proposed following a site visit by Claire Hallybone, Senior Archaeologist for Thames Water, and the subsequent consultation with David Hopkins, the Archaeological Officer for Hampshire County Council.

3.3.2 All works were carried out in accordance with the CIfA's *Standard and guidance: archaeological watching brief* (CIfA 2014a), except where superseded by statements made below.

3.3.3 The fieldwork consisted of the monitoring of soil stripping ground reduction and excavation associated with the proposed development within the Site as shown on **Figure 1**.

3.3.4 The mechanical stripping of the Site was monitored. Machine excavation proceeded to the required construction levels or the top of archaeological levels whichever was the higher. The majority of the Site was stripped by a mechanical excavator using a toothless ditching bucket. An area in the centre of the Site was stripped by a mechanical excavator using a toothed bucket and spoil moved by bulldozer.

3.3.5 The majority of the initial strip proceeded to construction levels that were higher than the top of archaeological levels. It was therefore considered necessary to monitor the area of deeper excavation for the Cake Import Hopper on the east side of the Site.

3.3.6 The WSI mentions six structures, including the Cake Import Hopper, which require deeper foundations or piles (WA 2015, paragraph 4.3.3). However when the watching brief for the topsoil strip was conducted the designs for the Digesters on the west side of the Site were under review and may not require deeper foundations.

3.3.7 All potential features and deposits of possible archaeological origin were partially excavated to ascertain their nature and function and were fully recorded using WA's *pro forma* record sheets. All deposits were assigned a unique number. A digital photographic record was maintained during the watching brief. A graphic record comprising dimensioned sketches of recorded contexts and scaled plan of the excavated area was also undertaken.

3.4 Monitoring

3.4.1 The project was monitored on behalf of Hampshire County Council by County Archaeologist David Hopkins.

4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS

4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 The following presents a summary of the results of the archaeological watching brief.

4.1.2 The watching brief was carried out on 6th-8th and 12th October 2015. Heavy rain on the 6th and morning of the 7th October delayed the progress of the strip but after this the weather improved and was dry ranging from clear to overcast for the rest of the time on Site.

4.1.3 A supplementary visit was made on 18th January 2016 to monitor spoil heaps and observe exposed sections related to the construction of a Surface Drainage Pumping Station at the east end of the Site, immediately south east of the Cake Import Hopper.

4.1.4 Across the majority of the Site the construction level was higher than the top of the potential archaeological horizon. This limited the opportunities to observe the presence or absence of archaeological features.

4.1.5 Once stripped and recorded, the majority of the Site was overlaid with terram and a layer of stone rubble brought in to Site and compacted to create a hard surface for Site traffic (**Plate 1**). This rubble includes a wide range of material including concrete, ceramic, metal and plastic building fragments to computer circuit boards. The area marked for excavation associated with the Cake Import Hopper was left uncovered following the initial strip.

4.1.6 The southwest corner of Site was not stripped because it was occupied by concrete rubble spoil from demolition of modern drainage channels along the east and west sides of the Site (**Plate 2**). The contractors were in the process of moving this spoil on the 12th October when excavation of the Cake Import Hopper area began.

4.2 Overburden deposits

4.2.1 There was a large bund of made ground across the north end of Site that was removed prior to the watching brief. The west end of this bund, to the west of the area to be stripped, was left in situ **Figure 1, cover**. It is approximately 5 m high. The made ground of the truncated bund (**1004**) was visible across the northern side of the Site measuring 90 m by 13 m in plan. This area was not excavated further; therefore the depth of this context is unknown.

4.2.2 The topsoil (**1001**) and subsoil (**1002**) layers were fairly consistent across the Site. Topsoil consisted of a dark black brown sandy-silt to an average of 0.15 m below ground level. It has frequent stone and root inclusions and has been disturbed with modern CBM fragments including brick and pipe. This modern material may be part of the stone rubble brought to Site to create a compact surface of new-made ground for construction vehicles to manoeuvre.

4.2.3 Beneath the topsoil there was a subsoil layer of light red-brown silty-clay which ranged from 0.05 to 0.15 m thick across Site. This layer contained occasional sub-angular and rounded flints and was heavily disturbed by modern building rubble towards the north end of the Site. This was probably related to construction of the bund (**1004**) in this area. Modern components observed within the subsoil included kerb stones, a car tyre, metal posts, CBM, ceramic drain pipes, bricks, concrete slabs and tarmac; the majority of the material was fragmented.

4.2.4 A mid-brown-orange clay layer (**1003**) underlay the subsoil. It ranged from 0.02 m to approximately 1 m thick from the west to the east end of the Site. Gravel inclusions became more frequent towards the east. The dramatic change in depth and components suggests the layer is an alluvial deposit from the River Lodden.

4.2.5 The natural London Clay was encountered at a depth of 0.27 m to approximately 1.40 m. It was visible sporadically in plan across the Site as well as in section within the excavated area for the Cake Import Hopper (**Plate 3**).

4.2.6 Typically stripping proceeded to a depth of 0.20-0.30 m below ground level and only revealed the subsoil (**1002**) or alluvial clay (**1003**) beneath.

4.2.7 The inspection undertaken in January 2016 to observe foundations for a Surface Drainage Pumping Station confirmed conclusions drawn from the principal phase of work in October 2015.

4.2.8 The deposits at the eastern fringes of the Site comprised topsoil approximately 0.20-0.30 m thick, which overlay deposits of made ground derived from earlier construction work at the Site. The topsoil had apparently been stripped and the ground level raised above the flood plain of the River Loddon before the topsoil was reinstated.

4.2.9 The made ground directly overlay fluvial deposits of the River Loddon. These deposits comprised alternating beds of mid brown/orange clay (flood loam), which probably represents oxidised London Clay, and fine/medium bedded flint gravel. These gravel beds also contained lumps of reworked London Clay and indicate periods of increased velocity of the River Loddon.

4.3 Archaeological features and deposits

4.3.1 Prior to the watching brief, the contractors demolished modern drainage channels orientated north to south located on the east and west sides of the Site. This included concrete pad stones and a wall approximately 1.5 m tall that formed a north-south channel fed by a concrete drainpipe orientated east-west (Chris Higgs pers.comm. 08/10/2015). A section of this concrete drainpipe (**1021**), 0.80 m in diameter, was visible in-situ during the monitoring (**Plate 4**). It was located on the east side of Site within the area excavated for the Cake Import Hopper. Another feature associated with the modern drainage channel was a foundation trench (**1011**) filled with a levelling material of flint stones in friable sand (**1012**) on which the concrete pad stones had been laid (**Plate 5**). This trench was located on the east side of Site, orientated north-south, to the west of drainpipe (**1021**). It ran the full length of the Site, over 90 m in length and 0.75 m wide. Higgs advised that a similar trench had been removed from the west side of Site but this was not observed *in-situ*.

4.3.2 In addition to the concrete drainpipe (**1021**) there were also several ceramic drainpipes excavated, apparently belonging to two different field drain networks.

4.3.3 A network of small diameter drain pipes were noted in the northeast corner and south end of Site (cuts **1007**, **1013**, **1015**) orientated west to east and northwest to southeast. Drain **1015** at the south end of Site was orientated towards a tank beyond the Site boundary at its southeast corner (**Plate 6**). All the cuts are similar to each other, except in orientation and the length of the feature observed. They measure 0.06 m in depth and width with a curved base, just large enough to contain the ceramic pipe. There was no other fill discernible. The pipe itself is divided into short sections, each one measuring 0.30 m long by 0.06 m external diameter, with an internal diameter of 0.045 m. All of the pipe sections observed were completely silted up and no longer operational. Their small diameter, fabric and simplistic form suggest they are of post-medieval or 19th century date.

4.3.4 Two larger ceramic pipes (cuts **1017**, **1019**) were uncovered within the Cake Import Hopper excavation. **1019** was orientated north-south and **1017** (**Plate 7**) east-west. Both were recorded *in-situ* approximately 1.30 m below ground level and were approximately 0.30 m in diameter. The pipes were laid in sections, each approximately 2 m in length with a collar at one end to link them together. Water was expelled from these pipes as they were demolished that indicates they were still functional.

4.3.5 In addition to the various drainage pipes, a shallow ditch (cut **1009**, fill **1008**, **Plate 8**) was uncovered during the watching brief. It was located at the north end towards the centre of

the Site. It was orientated north-south, curving slightly to the northeast at its northern end. As recorded it measured at least 32 m long, 0.60 m wide and 0.05 m deep. The fill of the ditch (**1008**) was a dark grey-brown silt-loam. A hand-cast, unfrogged brick that measured 0.20 by 0.11 by 0.06 m was found at the base of the cut within the natural. Its size and form suggest it dates to the 18th or early 19th century, which provides a probable date for the ditch. This feature was probably a drainage ditch that has silted up over time.

4.3.6 The locations of archaeological features are presented on **Figure 1**.

5 ARTEFACTUAL EVIDENCE

5.1 Introduction

5.1.1 No artefacts were recovered during the watching brief.

6 ENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE

6.1 Introduction

6.1.1 No environmental samples were taken during the watching brief.

7 DISCUSSION

7.1 Summary

7.1.1 The watching brief observed eight archaeological features: six drainage pipes (**1007**, **1013**, **1015**, **1017**, **1019** and **1021**) a ditch (**1009**) and foundation trench for a drainage channel (**1011**).

7.1.2 Three of the drainage pipes (**1007, 1013** and **1015**) were small diameter ceramic types that likely date to the 19th century and all appear to be part of a single field drain network. Pipes **1017** and **1019** were also ceramic but were larger in diameter and each section of pipe had a collar to link them together. Their size and form as well as the fact that there was still water flowing through them suggest that these field drains are more recent than the smaller type. In addition to the ceramic field drains there was also a concrete drainage pipe (**1021***) in-situ*. An associated channel formed from concrete pad stones and wall had been demolished prior to the watching brief but the foundation trench (cut **1011**, fill **1010**) for the channel remained *in-situ* and must be of modern construction. Ditch 1009 contained a hand-cast unfrogged brick covered in mortar that likely dates to the 18th or early 19th century.

7.2 Conclusions

7.2.1 The majority of the Site was stripped to construction levels that were higher than the top of the potential archaeological horizon. Therefore the opportunity for archaeological features to be revealed was fairly limited and there is the potential that archaeology remains *in-situ* at a lower level. Contrary to this, the area for the Cake Import Hopper was excavated to a depth of approximately 5 m and revealed drainage features consistent with the fields current use as flood storage for untreated sewage and storm flows.

8 STORAGE AND CURATION

8.1 Museum

8.1.1 With the agreement of Thames Water, the entire archive will be donated to and deposited with Hampshire County Museum Service.

8.2 Archive

8.2.1 The complete Site archive includes paper records, photographic records, graphics and digital data. It will be prepared following the standard conditions for the acceptance of excavated archaeological material by the appropriate Museum, and in general following nationally recommended guidelines (SMA 1995; Brown 2011; ADS 2013; CIfA 2014b).

8.2.2 All archive elements will be marked with the Accession Code A2015.61 and a full index will be prepared. The physical archive comprises the following:

- *01 files/document cases of paper records & A3/A4 graphics*

8.2.3 The site archive will be prepared for long-term storage in accordance with current guidelines (*e.g.* Walker 1990). Provision has been made for the cost of long term storage in the post-fieldwork costs.

8.2.4 Until final deposition with the museum the archive will be stored at the offices of WA Southern Region in Salisbury.

8.3 Discard policy

8.3.1 Wessex Archaeology follows the guidelines set out in *Selection, Retention and Dispersal* (Society of Museum Archaeologists 1993), which allows for the discard of selected artefact and ecofact categories which are not considered to warrant any future analysis. Any discard of artefacts will be fully documented in the project archive.

8.3.2 The discard of environmental remains and samples follows nationally recommended guidelines (SMA 1993; 1995; English Heritage 2002).

8.3.3 No artefacts, ecofacts or environmental remains or samples were recovered from the Site. Therefore the discard policy is not applicable.

8.4 Security copy

8.4.1 In line with current best practice (*e.g.* Brown 2011), on completion of the project a security copy of the written records will be prepared, in the form of a digital PDF/A file. PDF/A is an ISO-standardised version of the Portable Document Format (PDF) designed for the digital preservation of electronic documents through omission of features ill-suited to long-term archiving.

8.5 Copyright

8.5.1 The full copyright of the written/illustrative archive relating to the site will be retained by WA Ltd under the *Copyright, Designs and Patents Act* 1988 with all rights reserved. The Museum, however, will be granted an exclusive licence for the use of the archive for educational purposes, including academic research, providing that such use shall be non-profitmaking, and conforms to the *Copyright and Related Rights Regulations* 2003.

9 REFERENCES

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10 APPENDICES

10.1 Appendix 1: OASIS form

OASIS ID: wessexar1-228652

Project details

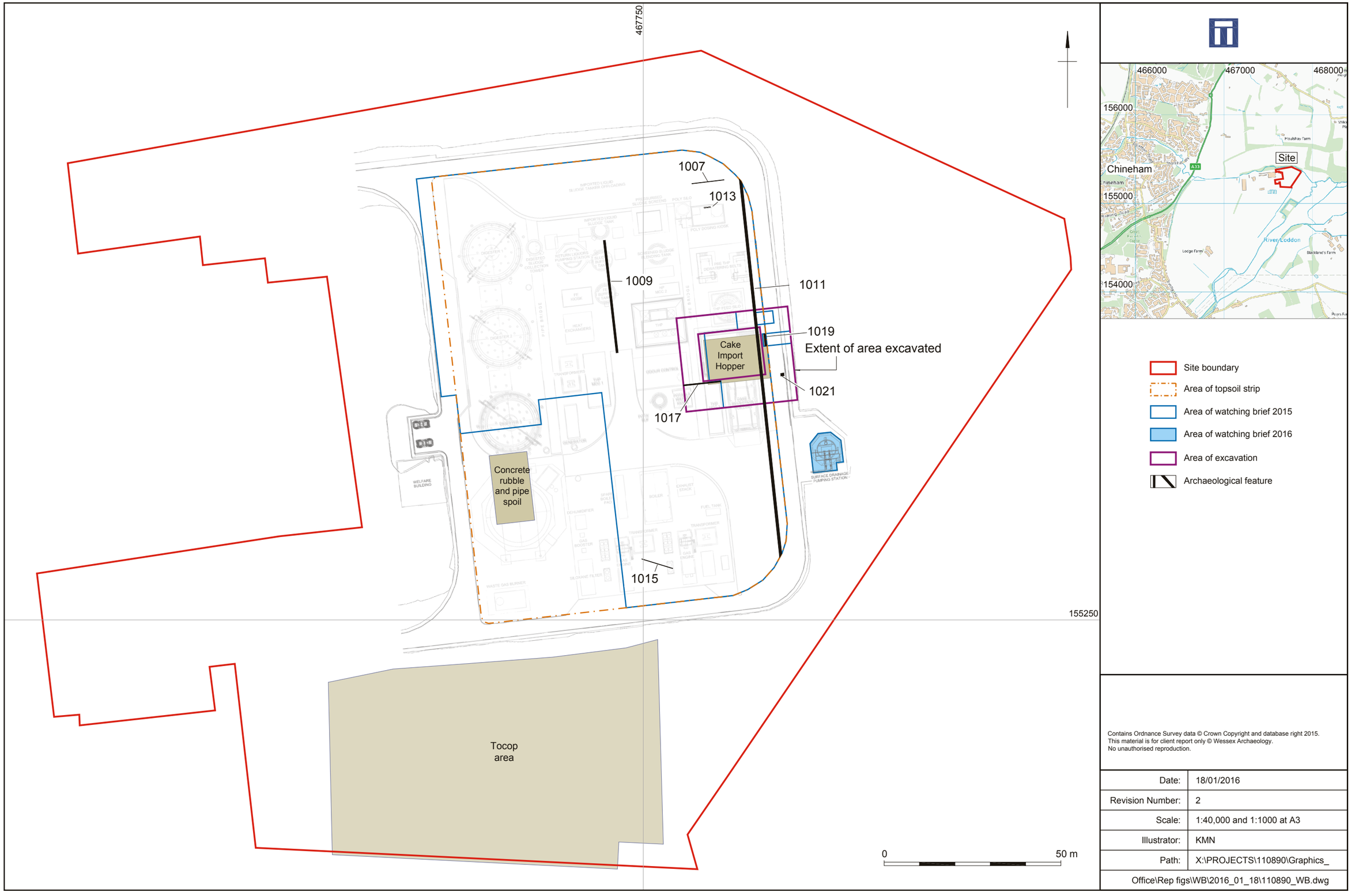
Project name	Basingstoke Sewage Treatment Works THP
Short description of the project	Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Costain Ltd on behalf of Eight2O to carry out an Archaeological Watching Brief on land at the Basingstoke Sewage Treatment Works, Chineham, (centred on NGR 467468, 155236) ahead of the construction of a new Thermal Hydrolysis Plant (THP) within the eastern part of the Site. The watching brief was intermittently conducted between the 6th and 12th October 2015. The majority of the Site was stripped with the exception of the southwest quarter because of a concrete spoil heap in this area. On the east side of Site the proposed Cake Import Hopper area was excavated to a depth of approximately 5m. Archaeological features observed included ceramic and concrete drainpipes that were either modern or likely 19th century in date, a foundation trench associated with the modern concrete drain and a ditch likely to date to the 18th or 19th century. Typically, the construction level was higher than the top of the archaeological level across the majority of the Site. This limited the opportunities to observe potential archaeology except within the area excavated for the Cake Import Hopper.
Project dates	Start: 06-10-2015 End: 12-10-2015
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	110890 - Contracting Unit No.
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	None
Current Land use	Transport and Utilities 3 - Utilities
Monument type	DRAINAGE Post Medieval
Monument type	DRAINAGE Modern
Investigation type	"Watching Brief"
Prompt	General structure plan/local plan/minerals plan guidance

Project location

Country	England
Site location	HAMPSHIRE BASINGSTOKE AND DEANE CHINEHAM Basingstoke Sewage Treatment Works, Chineham
Site coordinates	SU 67468 55238 51.291763640666 -1.03231710578 51 17 30 N 001 01 56 W Point

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Wessex Archaeology
Project brief originator	Thames Water Utilities
Project design originator	Wessex Archaeology
Project director/manager	Bruce Eaton
Project supervisor	Grace Flood
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer
Name of sponsor/funding body	Costain



- Site boundary
- Area of topsoil strip
- Area of watching brief 2015
- Area of watching brief 2016
- Area of excavation
- Archaeological feature

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Site location and plan showing archaeological features

Figure 1

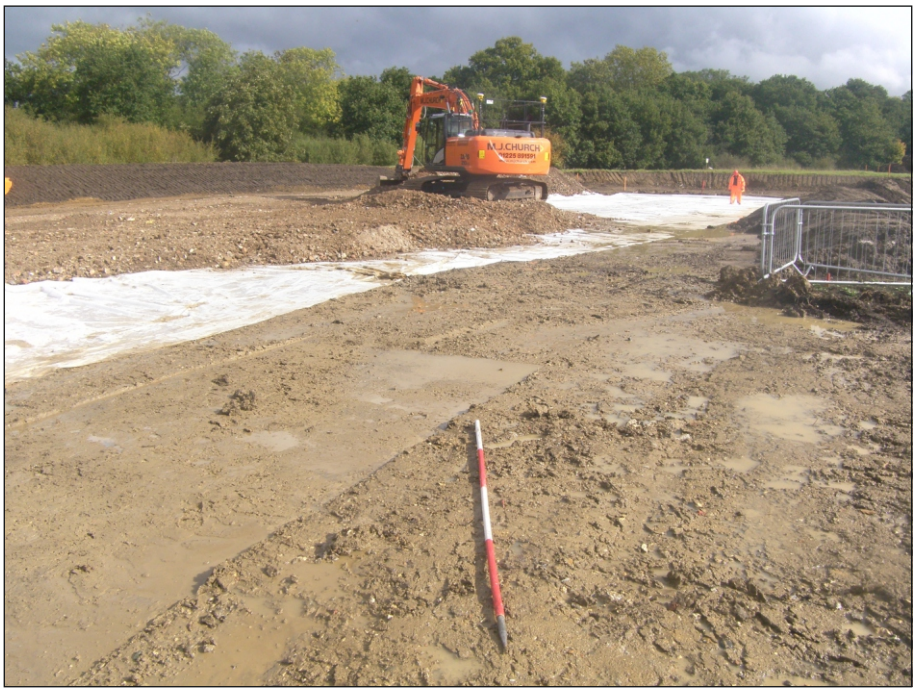

Plate 1: The north end of Site viewed from the southwest. The image shows the stripped area being covered with terram and a layer of stone rubble. Context 1003 is visible in the foreground.

Plate 2: View of the Site from the west showing the concrete spoil from a modern drainage channel demolished prior to the watching brief.

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Plate 3: South facing section observed during excavation of the Cake Import Hopper area. Contexts 1002, 1003 and 1005 are visible in the section.

Plate 4: Modern concrete drain 1021 on the east side of Site, viewed from the west.

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Plate 5: Modern foundation trench 1011 associated with concrete drain 1021, viewed from the south.

Plate 6: Ceramic drainpipe 1015 that forms part of a field drain network across the Site. View from the northwest.

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Plate 7: Ceramic drainpipe 1017 *in-situ* during excavation of the Cake Import Hopper area. View from the south.

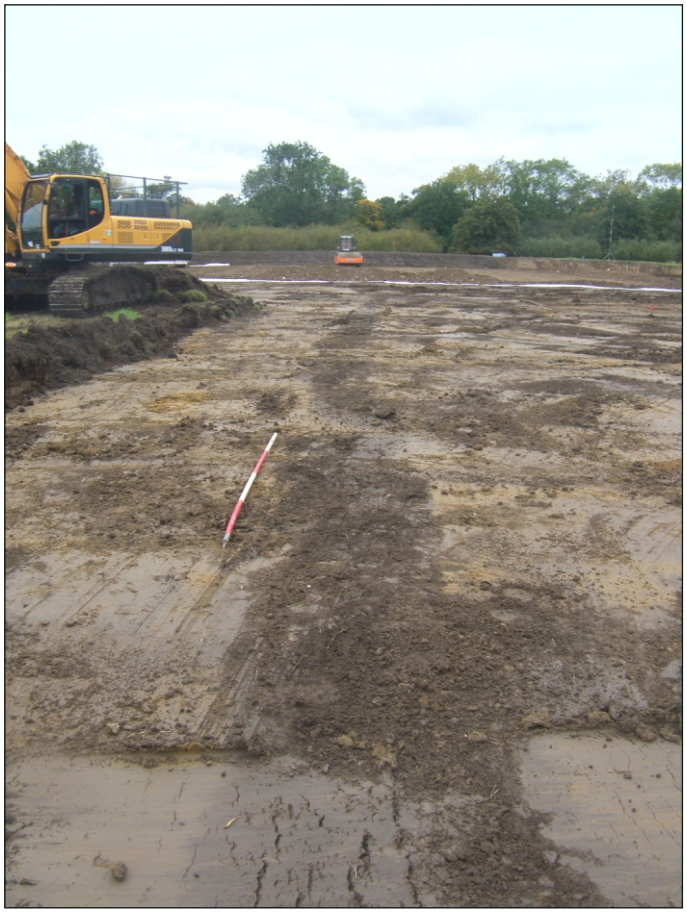

Plate 8: Ditch 1009 viewed from the south

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