

**FIDDLERS HAMLET SEWAGE TREATMENT WORKS
Nr THEYDON MOUNT
EPPING
ESSEX**

ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING



Essex County Council
Field Archaeology Unit
June 2006

**FIDDLERS HAMLET SEWAGE TREATMENT WORKS
Nr THEYDON MOUNT
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ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING

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As part of our desire to provide a quality service, we would welcome any comments you may have on the content or the presentation of this report.

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**FIDDLERS HAMLET SEWAGE TREATMENT WORKS
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EPPING**

ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING

Client: Thames Water

FAU Project No.: 1593

Planning Application No: OTH/0045/05

NGR: TL 47812 00488 (Centred)

Site Code: TMFH 06

Date of Fieldwork: 24th April to 15th May 2006

OASIS Ref: essexcou1-15217

SUMMARY

Archaeological monitoring was undertaken on the construction of a new Tertiary Treatment Plant at Fiddlers Hamlet Sewage Treatment works, near Theydon Mount, Epping.

The original route of the main backwash pipeline ran through a relatively undisturbed part of the site, however its route was changed to run through an area previously laid to reed beds and so was not monitored. Approximately 30m of short pipe trenches and foundation holes were inspected and the ground was seen to be disturbed to a depth of c.1m. No archaeological remains were identified.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

This report presents the results of archaeological monitoring at Fiddlers Hamlet Sewage treatment works, near Theydon Mount, Epping. Thames Water submitted a planning application for a new Tertiary Treatment Plant and pipeline to be constructed within the existing treatment works site. The local planning authority, advised by the Historic Environment Management team (HEM) of Essex County Council, placed an archaeological condition, in line with Planning Policy Guideline 16 (DoE 1990), on the development. Essex County Council Field Archaeology Unit (ECC FAU) were subsequently commissioned to undertake an archaeological watching brief on the groundwork. The original route of the main pipeline ran through an undisturbed area, this was however changed, during the fieldwork, to run through previously disturbed ground, and so with the agreement of HEM was not monitored.

The archive will be deposited at Epping Museum. An OASIS record essexcou1-15217 has been started for this project.

2.0 LOCATION AND BACKGROUND

The site lies on the east side of M11 motorway and to the immediate north of Hobbs Cross Golf Centre and the M25 motorway. It is surrounded by fields and a golf course. Although no archaeological investigations have taken place within the site, a number of Roman sites and find-spots have been identified in the general vicinity. These include a Roman kiln (HER 3801), a Roman Road (HER 3478) and Roman pottery (HER 3800) which lay approximately 500m away and were discovered during the construction of the M11.

The land slopes down to the southwest, towards the M25 motorway. The topsoil was approximately 0.15m thick, where present. Below this was approximately 1m of modern rubble and undisturbed natural geology which was mid brown silty clay.

3.0 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The aim of the monitoring was to determine the location, extent, character and condition of any surviving archaeological remains relating to past land-use within the site, in particular Roman period remains that may relate to occupation.

4.0 METHOD

The pipe and foundation trenches were excavated, by the contractor, using a 360 tracked mechanical excavator, to a depth of c.4m. After excavation, but prior to shuttering, the sections were examined for any archaeological remains. The trench positions were recorded in plan and representative sections drawn. A photographic record consisting digital images was maintained.

The IFA standards and by-laws and ALGAO's Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England (Gurney 2003) were adhered to during the fieldwork.

5.0 FIELDWORK RESULTS

Only the foundation trenches and the shorter pipe runs along the eastern side of the site were monitored as the route of the main backwash pipeline was changed to run through old reed beds and with the agreement of HEM this was not monitored. The ground was observed to have been disturbed to depth of approximately 1m. Below this the undisturbed natural geology, a mid brown clay, was excavated to a depth of approximately 4m. No Archaeological remains were identified in any of the sections and no artefacts collected from the spoil excavated from the trenches.

6.0 FINDS AND ENVIRONMENTAL

No finds were collected from any of the foundation trenches and no environmental samples were taken.

7.0 DISCUSSION

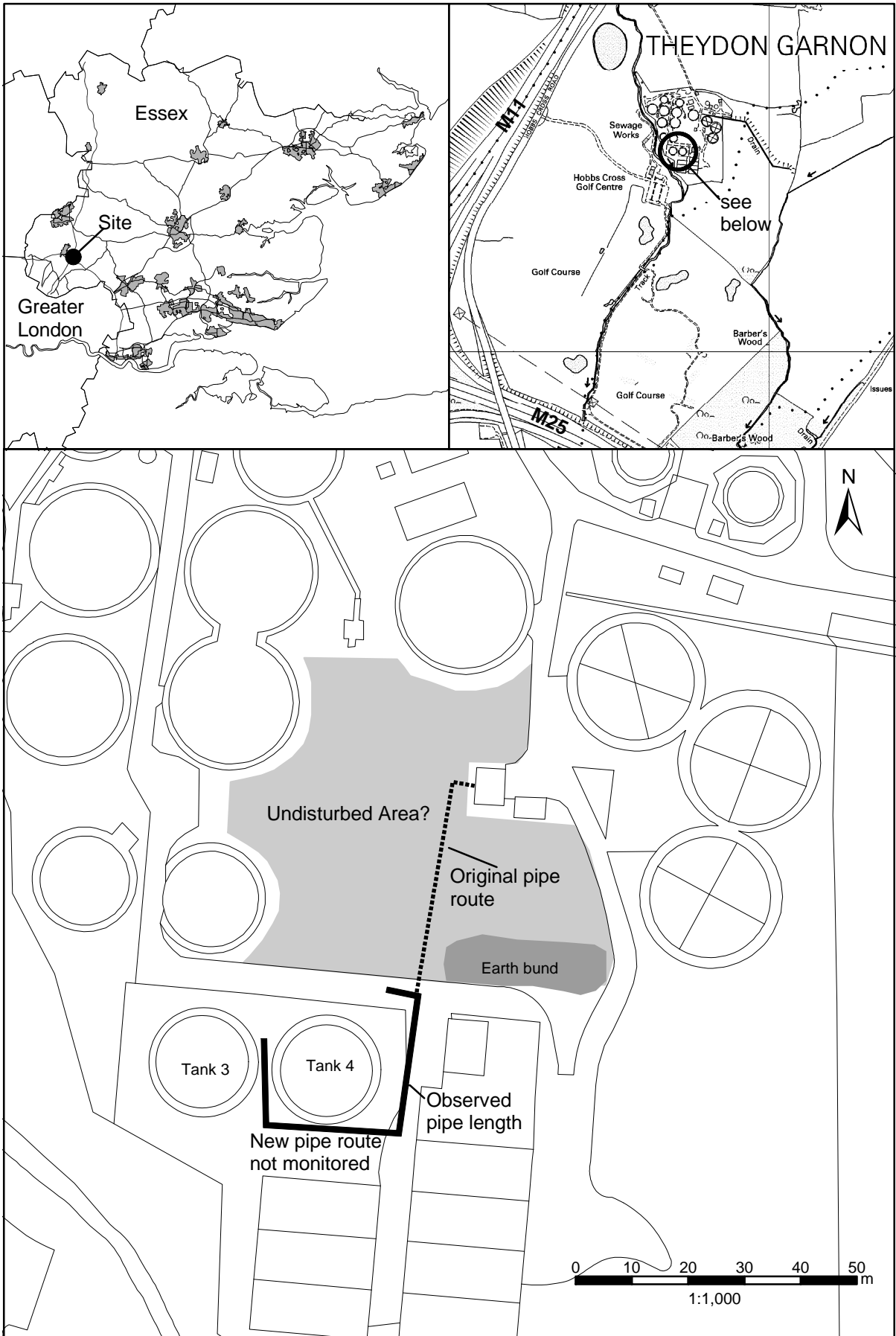
The lack of even residual archaeological artefacts may suggest that the Roman period remains do not extend into the sewerage treatment works site. The amount of ground disturbance further suggests that no archaeological remain are likely to survive, although the central grassed area may be undisturbed.

Acknowledgements

This project was commissioned and funded by Thames Water and thanks are due to Kevin Legg and David Jones for their assistance throughout the project. The monitoring officer was Ms. V. Clarke of HEM on behalf of the local planning office. Mr M. Atkinson managed the project and the fieldwork was undertaken by Mr M. Pocock and the author. The illustrations were prepared by A. Lewsey.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

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Fig.1. Location plan

APPENDIX 1: ARCHIVE INDEX

SITE NAME: FIDDLERS HAMLET SEWAGE TREATMENT WORKS (TMFH06)

Index to the Archive

File containing:

1. Introduction

1.1 Brief for Evaluation

1.2 Written Scheme of Investigation for Evaluation

2. Research Archive

2.1 Client Report

3. Site Archive

3.1 1 x Plan sheet

3.2 2 x Field notes

3.3 10 x Digital Images

No finds

APPENDIX 2: EHCR SUMMARY SHEET

Site Name/Address: Fiddlers Hamlet Sewerage Treatment Works, Nr Theydon Mount, Epping	
Parish: Theydon Garnon	District: Epping
NGR: TL 47812 00488 (Centred)	Site Code: THMF 06
Type of Work: Archaeological Monitoring	Site Director/Group: Andrew Robertson ECC FAU
Date of Work: 24th April to 15th May 2006	Size of Area Investigated: Approximately 60m ²
Location of Finds/Curating Museum: Epping Museum	Funding Source: Thames Water.
Further Work Anticipated? No	Related EHCR Nos:
Final Report: EAH Summary?	
Periods Represented: Modern	
SUMMARY OF FIELDWORK RESULTS:	
<p>A watching brief was undertaken on the construction of a new Tertiary Treatment Plant within the existing Fiddlers Hamlet Sewage Treatment works, near Theydon Mount, Epping.</p> <p>The route of the main backwash pipeline was changed to run through an area previously laid to reed beds and so was not monitored. The shorter pipe runs and foundation holes were inspected and the ground was seen to be disturbed to a depth of c.1m. No archaeological remains were identified within the area.</p> <p>It is unlikely that Roman period remains, recorded elsewhere in the vicinity, extend into the Sewage Treatment works area</p>	
Previous Summaries/Reports:	
Author of Summary: Andrew Robertson	Date of Summary: June 2006