THAMES WATER UTILITIES LTD WATER MAINS REPLACEMENT WORKS

LAND EAST OF CHURCH ROAD, BIGGIN HILL LONDON BOROUGH OF BROMLEY

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

April 2008





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LAND EAST OF CHURCH ROAD, BIGGIN HILL LONDON BOROUGH OF BROMLEY

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

SITE CODE: CBX 08

SITE CENTRE NGR: TQ 42354 58995 (WEST), TQ 43746 5926 (EAST)

COMPASS ARCHAEOLOGY LIMITED 5-7 SOUTHWARK STREET LONDON SE1 1RQ

Telephone: 020 7403 9660 Facsimile: 020 7403 9661 Email: <u>mail@compassarchaeology.co.uk</u> April 2008 ©Compass Archaeology Limited

Abstract

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken between January and March 2008, during Thames Water Utilities pipeline installation works from Church Road, Biggin Hill, in the west to Berry's Green Road. This work forms a response to recommendations made by English Heritage for an archaeological assessment and walkover survey followed by on-site monitoring, to take place during a Thames Water watermain replacement scheme.

The water pipeline ran for c. 1.7km, largely across farm fields, adjacent in the west to a residential area, and across the Cherry Lodge golf course towards Berry's Green. The watching brief required monitoring over the area approximately between Church Road and Berry's Green Road. Works comprised the stripping of an easement track, measuring 20m wide, wherein open cut trenching would take place. It is proposed to install a 355mm diameter pipe off the line of the existing 12" pipe for the full length from Church Road to Berry's Green Road. Construction of an access road linking the pipe route with Main Road to the south was also monitored.

Exposed deposits consisted almost exclusively of a topsoil and subsoil overlying natural soil, Clay-with-Flints. No important significant archaeological finds or features were observed during the course of the watching brief. Metal detecting along the easement recovered a small assemblage of material, mostly $19^{th}-20^{th}$ century date, plus a couple of 18^{th} century copper coins.

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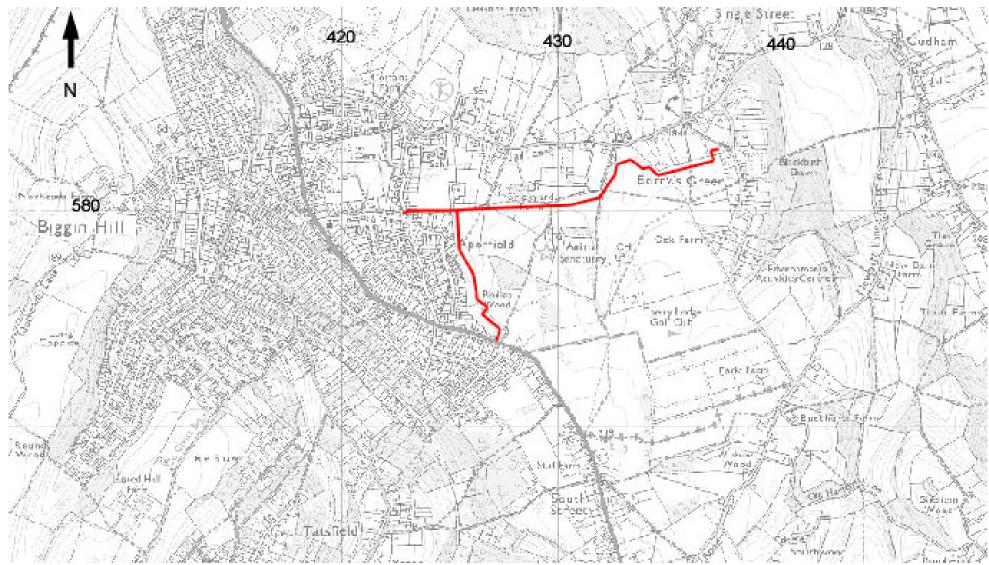


Fig 1: OS based map showing the location of the route of the monitored watermain and access road in relation to Biggin Hill.

1. Introduction and Acknowledgments

- **1.1** This report describes the results of an archaeological watching brief undertaken between January and March 2008 in the area of the Biggin Hill, London Borough of Bromley during water mains replacement works by Thames Water.
- **1.2** The new watermain will run from Church Road (at its junction with Main Road, the A233 opposite Biggin Hill Library TQ 4192 5895) to Berry's Green Road (TQ 4377 5925). A 355mm diameter pipe will be laid on the line of the existing 12" pipe for the full length from Church Road to Berry's Green Road. The new pipe runs in public highway, through fields and also passes through a golf course.
- **1.3** Archaeological observations were carried out during contractor's groundworks within the highlighted area east of Old Tye Avenue, coverage being determined by the nature and extent of the exposed deposits. Potential remains were investigated by hand, with recording and recovery of dating evidence as appropriate. This work followed an initial walkover survey and assessment.
- **1.4** The archaeological watching brief was commissioned by Arabella Bramley, Ecology and Conservation, Thames Water Utilities Ltd. The onsite works were undertaken by Clancy Docwra. Mark Stevenson of English Heritage recommended the preliminary walkover survey and fieldwork.

2. Site Location and Geology

- **2.1** The route is located on generally gently undulating farmland to the east of Biggin Hill, no obvious rivers or streams lie in close proximity of the route. The land surface in this area rises gently to the east, from about 190m to 200m OD.
- **2.2** The Site Geology is based upon the British Geological (BGS) Map Sheet 287 Sevenoaks (1971, 1:50 000) and BGS Memoir for Sheet 287, this shows the route primarily underlain by Clay-with-Flint, which is in turn underlain by Upper and Middle Chalk (now both reclassified as White Chalk). An outcrop of Dry Valley Gravel is observed about 400m west near the eastern end (Church Road end) of the site. Additionally, an outcrop of Upper Chalk is observed in less than 100m from the western end (Church Road end) and from the eastern end (Berry's Green Road end) of the site. A further outcrop of the Upper Chalk is also observed at about 200-300m north from the mid-section (in the Berry's Green Golf Course area) of the main route.

3. Archaeological and Historical Background

3.1 As part of the preliminary assessment, a Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) search was carried out in order to assess the archaeological potential along the watermain route, an area 300m on either side of the pipeline route and 300m at each end was studied. The start point for the SMR search was TQ 4192 5895 (west) and the end was at TQ 4377 5925 (east). The SMR showed only three records for this area, which are as follows:

3.1.1 Record 1 MLO72442 Jail Lane (Golden Acres) TQ 4300 5910

Site of landfill taken from British Geological Survey data supplied to the Environment Agency. It is not known whether this site was made or worked land,

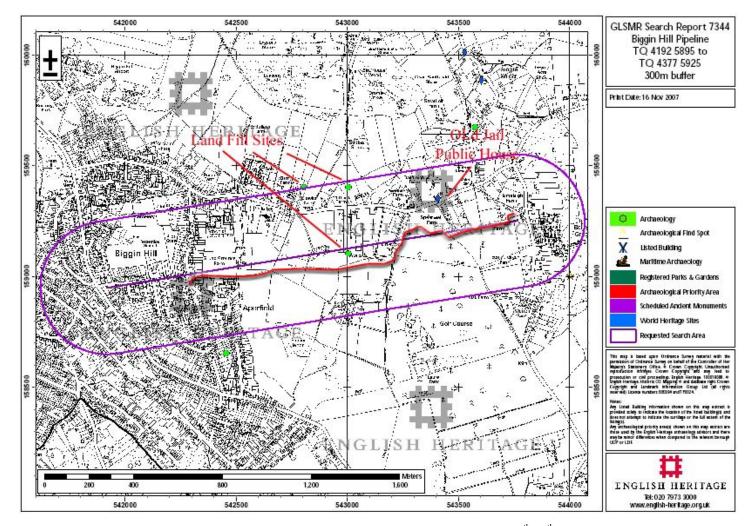


Fig 2. Extract from the SMR search for this pipeline route, showing only landfill locations of $19^{th}/20^{th}$ century date and the site of the Old Jail Public House to the north of the pipeline. The area shown in purple indicates the extent of the search area from TQ 4192 5895 to TQ 4377 5925 with a 300m buffer zone. Reproduced from GLSMR search report information. © Crown Copyright.

and the date of infill is unknown, although all of are 19th or 20th century date. A digitised map showing the extent of each landfill site is also held.

3.1.2 Record 2 MLO72438 Jail Lane (Primrose Farm) TQ 4300 5940

The second record is also very similar and records a landfill site taken from British Geological Survey data supplied to the Environment Agency. Again, it is not known whether this site was made or worked land, and the date of infill is unknown, although all of are 19th or 20th century date. A digitised map showing the extent of each landfill site is also held.

3.1.3 Record 3 MLO79431 The Old Jail Public House TQ 43407 59353

The final record is for the Grade II listed building of the Old Jail Public House, Jail Lane. This record describes two buildings, but appears to describe only one that dates from the 18th century. The building lists a slate roof and two storeys, with the weather boarded first floor having a brick ground floor painted over. The right side of the building has a 19th century chimney and the left side has first floor stable door.

3.2 Additionally a study of the historic map records for the pipeline area was carried out from records at Bromley Museum and again, there is only limited evidence for the medieval and earlier post-medieval periods. Historic maps show that the site lay within open farmland with only one significant settlement in the pipeline area, this being the complex of buildings around Aperfield Court. However, the area historically occupied by Aperfield Court has now been extensively redeveloped into new houses, these houses probably dating from the 1980s or 1990s.

4. Archaeological Research Questions

This fieldwork presented an opportunity to address several research questions:

- Is there any evidence for prehistoric activity in the form of finds material in the topsoil strip?
- Is there any evidence for Roman activity and can the nature of this be defined (*e.g.*, settlement or agricultural land use)?
- Is there any evidence for medieval and/or earlier post-medieval activity, and what is the nature of this?
- What evidence is there for later post-medieval land use, and does this bear out the map record of open but probably uncultivated land? Is there any other evidence for activity?

5. The Archaeological Programme

5.1 Standards

The field and post-excavation work was carried out in accordance with English Heritage guidelines (in particular, *Standards and Practices in Archaeological Fieldwork, Guidance Paper 3*). Works also conformed to the standards of the Institute of Field Archaeologists (*Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs*). Overall a full Member of the Institute undertook management of the project. The

recording system followed the procedures set out in the Museum of London recording manual.

5.2 Fieldwork

5.2.1 Attendance

Machine stripping of soil horizons within open land, and where appropriate other excavation, was archaeologically monitored. Potential archaeological evidence was investigated and recorded as appropriate, including recovery of finds and/or samples. The level of monitoring during excavation of the open-cut pipe trench was guided by the results of the initial topsoil strip, specifically whether finds had been made and also how much of the soil profile/natural ground surface had been revealed. The basic watching brief required one archaeologist on site to monitor works and to investigate potential archaeological remains. The Client and English Heritage were kept advised of the progress of the fieldwork. In addition, a metal detecting survey was undertaken along the lie of the easement, prior to and during the excavation.

5.2.2 Methodology

A Specification for an Archaeological Watching Brief was agreed prior to commencement of the fieldwork. Representative samples were monitored and recorded in accordance with procedures set out in the Museum of London recording manual. The fieldwork was supplemented as appropriate by photography. Individual elements were recorded on drawings and on *pro-forma* trench record sheets.

6. **Post-Excavation Work**

The fieldwork was followed by off-site assessment and compilation of this report, and will be concluded by ordering and deposition of the site archive.

6.1 Finds and samples

Finds were treated in accordance with the appropriate guidelines, including the Museum of London's '*Standards for the Preparation of Finds to be permanently retained by the Museum of London'*. Finds and artefacts were retained and bagged with unique numbers related to the trench record. Assessment was undertaken by appropriately qualified staff.

6.2 Report procedure

Copies of this report will be supplied to the Client, English Heritage, and the local studies library. The level of reporting was determined by the results of the fieldwork. A short summary of the fieldwork is appended using the OASIS Data Collection Form, and in paragraph form suitable for publication within the 'excavation round-up' of the *London Archaeologist*.

6.3 The site archive

The records from the archaeological project will be ordered in line with Museum of London *Guidelines for the Preparation of Archaeological Archives* and will be deposited in the Museum of London Archaeological Archive.

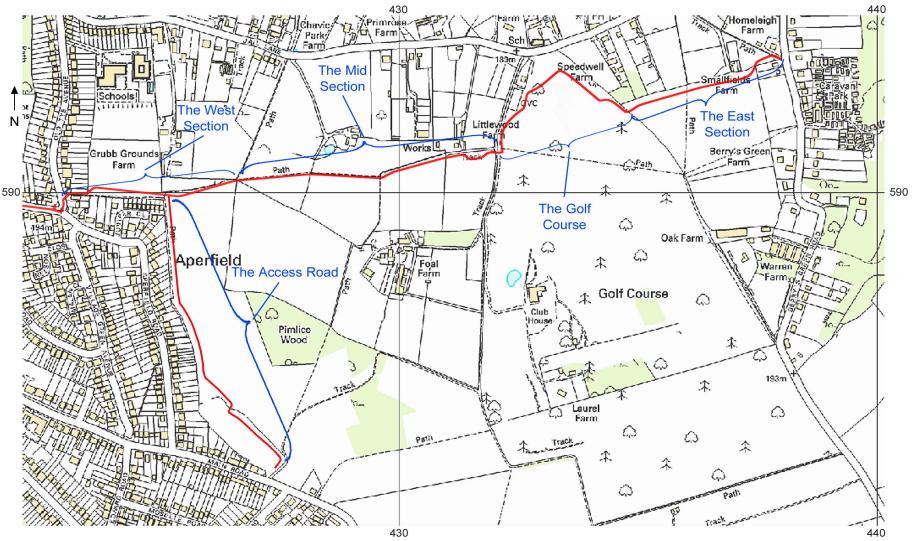


Fig 3. The monitored study area, reproduced from plans provided by Thames Water Utilities Ltd.

7. The Archaeological Watching Brief

Archaeological monitoring in the area bounded by Church Road and Berry's Green Road (west to east) consisted of regular visits by one or more archaeologists to observe and record open groundworks and to undertake metal detecting. The level of recording was determined by the nature of the exposed ground, and as throughout the length of the watermain, both the trench and the easement strip were negative for archaeological material, a simplified recording method was employed. During each visit any new area of trenching or stripping was recorded under a set of required elements on a 'Trench Record Sheet' and supplemented with sketch location plans and photography. The standard recorded elements constituted length, width and depth of excavations (in metres), location, orientation, brief description and dimensions of exposed deposits, and methods/conditions. Detailed photographs were taken with an appropriately sized scale, and in general covered a section shot, overall trench shot and where possible a wider location shot. The areas monitored have been divided into five sections, as shown on figure 2 and described below:

7.1 The Access Road

In order to access the area of trenching between the rear of No57 and 59 Old Tye Avenue and the west boundary of Cherry Lodge Golf Course, an access road was dug running from Main Road (A233) in a northerly direction parallel to Aperfield Road and was 692m in length. This included an area with a diameter of 12m for storing materials and equipment sited next to Main Road. Dug to a depth of 300mm and approximately 2.5m wide, the road uncovered natural yellow brown clay at a depth of 260-410mm exposing large flint nodules within this context. Above the natural was a dark brown humic layer of topsoil underneath the turf. There were no retained finds from this area, although occasional fragments of ceramic building material were noted within the soil horizon.



Fig 4. (right) A view of the Access Road from Main Road and (left) the Access Road from the main watermain route.

7.2 The Western Section of the Pipeline

Trenching began at the junction between Old Tye Avenue and Church Road in the west and ran in an easterly direction behind a row of houses, from No.6 Aperfield Close to No.10 Juniper Close. This section of the easement strip was 306m in length, 7.5m wide at its far western end, widening to 12.5m towards the junction with the access road, and dug to a depth of 340mm. The pipe trench was dug along the centreline of this stripped track. It was 1.6m deep (measured from the original level of the turf) and 1m wide. The yellow brown natural sandy clay deposit occurred at 220mm depth below the existing ground surface with large flint nodules present towards the upper horizon of the natural, gradually thinning after 900mm. At the exit of the Access Road, there were areas of possible dumping, metal scrap was detected by the metal detector and in two specific areas immediately opposite the entrance to the access road, was soil, stained and with CBM (ceramic building material) inclusions and charcoal flecking. These features can be seen to have derived from agricultural activity.



Fig 5. The west section of the easement strip with a view of the Access Road in the background (running parallel to the residential area).



Fig. 5. The furthest extent west of the area under the remit of the watching brief.



Fig 6. The watermain lying within its trench at the junction between the Access Road and the easement track.

7.3 The Mid-Section of the Pipeline

The middle section of the route of the pipe trench ran from the Brickyard Farm fields to the golf course for a distance of 563m. Stripping of this area was uneven and the subsoil and topsoil was not completely removed. As a consequence, the depth of the easement track varied greatly from 150mm to 400mm. The width too varied as access



Fig 7. View of the mid section easement track. Residual brick rubble can be seen within the natural in the foreground.

through the hedgerows between the fields meant that the trench was occasionally forced to a width of 2.35m although generally it was 12.5m wide. Towards the crest of the hill the topsoil and subsoil became shallower. Within the surface of the natural, some CBM rubble and flecking was observed, which may relate to the gravel pit that appears on the 2nd edition 1897 OS map. This gravel pit is found within farm called а Brickyard Farm and adjacent

to a clay pit. Furthermore, there is an area described as "waste (Brick Yard Kiln)" on the Cudham Tithe map of 1843-1844. Since there was no modern waste within these areas of disturbance, modern agricultural interference can be ruled out and a date of mid 19th to early 20th century can be given for the areas of disturbance. It was also from this area the majority of the finds from the metal detector were found.



Fig 8. (right) a view towards the Brickyard Farm looking towards the west, (left) the mid section of the easement track, looking towards the Cherry Lodge Golf Course.

7.4 The Cherry Lodge Golf Course

In order to cause as little disruption as possible to the Cherry Lodge Golf Course, trenching along the area of the golf course would not be preceded by stripping an easement track, rather, the trench would be dug straight from the ground surface. As a consequence, the pipe trench along the golf course was deeper than the sections that have been previously recorded. The trench along the golf course was 370m in length,

800mm wide and 1.8m deep. A rich humic topsoil lay above an orange brown sandy clay natural soil, the topsoil was 220mm deep gradually merging with the natural soil beneath it. Flint nodules were present in the upper regions of the natural gradually becoming less apparent towards the bottom of the trench. Throughout the golf course there were no finds or features of archaeological significance.



Fig 9. (clockwise from top left) View of the golf course towards the west of the watermain route; a view from the middle of the watermain route through the golf course, Looking towards Littlewood Farm; Representative section from the trench through the golf course; View of the pipeline heading towards the eastern section of the watermain route.

7.5 The Eastern End of the Pipeline

The easterly section of trenching ran along two fields of Smallfields Farm, the first stretch ran east for 290m before it turned north and then east again for 48m giving it a total east to west length of 285m. The total width once stripped was 12.5m and it was stripped to a depth of 230mm but did not expose the natural beneath the topsoil throughout most of the stripped area. The natural was exposed in some areas at a depth of 210mm, however. Where it was uncovered, flint nodules were again prevalent. Throughout this area there were no finds or features of archaeological significance observed, although some metal finds and coins were recovered.



Fig 10. (clockwise from top left) View of the east section of stripping through the hedge boundary (golf course side); Looking east over the easement strip before it turns into Smallfields Farm; View of the easement strip, the golf course is beyond the hedge in the background; The final section of the easement strip as it terminates at Smallfield Farm.

8 Finds

A collection of metal finds, including; coinage, foreign currency, pre-decimal and decimal British currency was unearthed through a series of visits by a metal detectorist. They were uncovered along the length of the easement track throughout the duration of the watching brief. Other finds exposed included a shotgun cartridge and several buttons.

8.1 Coinage

8.1.1 Pre-Decimal British Currency

•	1 Sixpence	
•	3 Halfpennies	

possił	ble 1960's date
1874,	1888 & 1889

- 1 Penny 1897 • 1 Shilling - 1922
- 1 Half crown 1939
- 1 Possible farthing of King George II (1727-1760). The coin was very abraded, with the head of the obverse side facing left. Diameter 21mm.
- 1 Possible halfpenny of King George III (1760-1820). This coin was very abraded, with the head of the obverse side facing right. Diameter 29.5mm
- 2 Possible halfpennies. There were no distinguishing marks on these coins. Diameter 27.5mm.

8.1.2 Decimal British Currency

•	1 Halfpenny	-	1974
•	3 Two pence piece	-	1971, 1998, 2001
•	1 Five pence piece	-	1998
•	2 Pound coins	-	1983 & 1989

8.1.3 Foreign Currency

• 1 Cent piece, USA - 1979

8.2 Personal Items

8.2.1 Buttons

A total of 4 Buttons were recovered from the watermain easement track.

- Cu alloy; originally plated with a diameter of 14mm. The exposed face was plain but there was an inscription on the rear, although illegible it is probably maker's name.
- Cu alloy, with a diameter of 12.5mm. It had a stippled design on the face and an inscription on rear, which was probably the maker's name.
- Pewter, with a diameter of 17.5mm. The exposed face was plain and flat, the rear was concave.
- Pewter, with a diameter of 17.5mm. The exposed face was plain and flat, the rear was convex in cross-section.

8.2.2 Other

• 1 Twisting mechanism from a clutch pencil. It is 30mm in length and has a diameter of 6mm. The twist feed mechanism was developed in the late 19th century and this piece appears to date to the early 20th century.

8.3 Militaria

- 3 Shotgun cartridge, diameter 21mm.
- 3 Cartridges with a diameter of 6mm.
- 1 Cartridge with a diameter of 10mm.
- 1 Cartridge with a diameter of 14mm.
- 1 Bullet with a base diameter of 7mm.
- 148 grams of shrapnel were recovered during a series of surveys with a metal detector. The shrapnel consisted of pieces of the driving band, nose plate and other unidentifiable pieces.

8.4 Miscellaneous

- 5 Pieces of window lead were recovered during metal detecting weighing 16g.
- Scarp lead, weighing 192g was also recovered during the watching brief.
- A 12g fishing weight was recovered during metal detecting.
- A copper alloy handle for a cabinet or drawer dating to the mid 19th century.
- 1 Plain buckle was exposed, copper alloy with iron ferrous pin. Possible 19th century date.

- 1 Iron circular gear from a clock or pocket watch, diameter of 42mm.
- 1 Pigeon tag, with a British code.
- 1 Piece of copper alloy in the form of a shallow bowl partly broken at the lip on one side, with a diameter of 50mm. Possibly the internal bell from a clock with a 19th or 20th century clock.

9 Assessment of the results of the watching brief

The archaeological evaluation has provided an opportunity to address the site-specific objectives that were defined within the preliminary Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI). The responses to these are outlined below:

• Is there any evidence for prehistoric activity in the form of finds material in the topsoil strip?

Throughout the watching brief no finds material relating to prehistoric activity was uncovered.

• Is there any evidence for Roman activity and can the nature of this be defined (e.g., settlement or agricultural land use)?

There was no evidence for Roman activity, either in situ features or residual finds.

• Is there any evidence for medieval and/or earlier post-medieval activity, and what is the nature of this?

There was no evidence for post-Roman to earlier post-medieval activity.

• What evidence is there for later post-medieval land use, and does this bear out the map record of open but probably uncultivated land? Is there any other evidence for activity?

Within the area recorded in the 1897 OS map as Brickyard Farm, and previously Brick Yard Kiln on the 1843-4 Tithe map, part of the natural was disturbed with some broken tiles and CBM flecking and may relate to brick workings and a gravel pit that are shown on the aforementioned maps. No other evidence was observed during the stripping and trenching programme, although there were a number of metal items of mainly 19th and 20th century date. Most of these appear to derive from chance loss, with a small assemblage of anti-aircraft shrapnel and spent small arms cartridges.

10 Summary and Conclusions

No important or significant archaeological finds or features were observed during the course of the archaeological watching brief in the area of Biggin Hill, London Borough of Bromley. Stripping along the watermain route, and trenching along the route of the pipeline generally exposed a shallow subsoil layer beneath the turf and then dark yellow natural deposits with flint nodules towards its upper extremities.

OASIS ID: compassa1-41227

Project details

Project name	Church Road, Biggin Hill, London Borough of Bromley: An Archaeological Watching Brief
Short description of the project	An archaeological watching brief took place between January and March 2008 during a Thames Water Utilities pipeline installation between Church Road and Berrys Green Road. No archaeological finds or features were observed during the course of the watching brief.
Project dates	Start: 14-01-2008 End: 05-03-2008
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	CBX 08 - Sitecode
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	None
Current Land use	Cultivated Land 1 - Minimal cultivation
Investigation type	'Watching Brief'
Prompt	Water Act 1989 and subsequent code of practice
Project location	
Country	England
Site location	GREATER LONDON BROMLEY BIGGIN HILL Church Road, Biggin Hill, London Borough of Bromley: An Archaeological Watching Brief
Postcode	TN16 3LB
Study area	2.00 Kilometres
Site coordinates	TQ 4192 5895 51.3114165948 0.03647939938290 51 18 41 N 000 02 11 E Line
Site coordinates	TQ 4377 5925 51.3136471249 0.06312858099890 51 18 49 N 000 03 47 E Line
Height OD	Min: 190.00m Max: 200.00m
Project creators	
Name of Organisation	Compass Archaeology
Project brief originator	English Heritage/Department of Environment
Project design originator	Compass Archaeology
Project director/manager	Geoff Potter
Project supervisor	Jonathan Henckert
Type of sponsor/funding body	Thames Water Utilities
Desite of a solution of	

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	Museum of London archive
Digital Contents	'none'
Digital Media available	'Images raster / digital photography'
Paper Archive recipient	Museum of London Archive
Paper Contents	'none'
Paper Media available	'Context sheet','Map','Report','Unpublished Text'
Project bibliography 1	
Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Publication type Title	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript) Church Road, Biggin Hill, London Borough of Bromley: An Archaeological Watching Brief
	Church Road, Biggin Hill, London Borough of Bromley: An
Title	Church Road, Biggin Hill, London Borough of Bromley: An Archaeological Watching Brief
Title Author(s)/Editor(s)	Church Road, Biggin Hill, London Borough of Bromley: An Archaeological Watching Brief Henckert, J
Title Author(s)/Editor(s) Date	Church Road, Biggin Hill, London Borough of Bromley: An Archaeological Watching Brief Henckert, J 2008
Title Author(s)/Editor(s) Date Issuer or publisher Place of issue or	Church Road, Biggin Hill, London Borough of Bromley: An Archaeological Watching Brief Henckert, J 2008 Compass Archaeology Ltd
Title Author(s)/Editor(s) Date Issuer or publisher Place of issue or publication	Church Road, Biggin Hill, London Borough of Bromley: An Archaeological Watching Brief Henckert, J 2008 Compass Archaeology Ltd 5-7 Southwark Street SE1 1RQ

Appendix II: London Archaeologist Summary

Site Address:	Open land between Old Tye Avenue and Berry's Green Road, Biggin Hill, London Borough of Bromley
Project type:	Watching Brief
Dates of Fieldwork:	14 January – 05 March 2008
Site Code:	CBX08
Supervisor:	Jonathan Henckert
NGR:	TQ 4192 5895 (WEST), TQ 4377 5925 (EAST)
Funding Body:	Thames Water Utilities Ltd.

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken between January and March 2008, during Thames Water Utilities pipeline installation works from Church Road, Biggin Hill, in the west to Berry's Green Road. This involved an archaeological assessment and walkover survey followed by on-site monitoring and metal detecting within the defined area of study, which took place during a Thames Water watermain replacement scheme. No archaeological finds or features were uncovered during this project. Top and subsoil layers were removed revealing a natural brown yellow clay deposit with large flint nodules visible within the soil horizon. In the fields adjacent to Brickyard Farm, ceramic building material fragments and flecking were also visible in the soil horizon.