

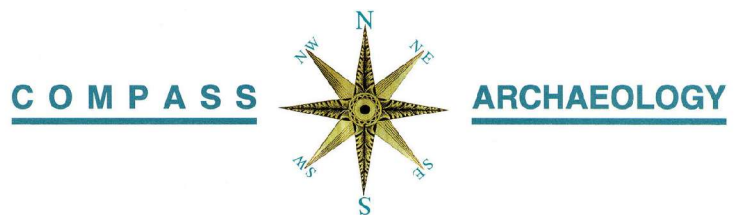
**SADLERS MILL STREAM THAMES WATER SEWER
REPLACEMENT SCHEME**

KING GEORGE'S FIELD, BUSH HILL PARK

LONDON BOROUGH OF ENFIELD

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

April 2008



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April 2008

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Abstract

This report describes the results of an archaeological watching brief undertaken between February and March 2008 during groundworks on King George's Field, Bush Hill Park, London Borough of Enfield. The groundworks formed part of the Thames Water Sadlers Mill Stream Sewer Replacement scheme and consisted of initial topsoil stripping and subsequent pipe-trench excavations.

No archaeological finds or features were observed during the course of the watching brief. Exposed deposits consisted of topsoil containing occasional 19th-20th century pottery, overlying truncated subsoil and natural deposits of Enfield silt and underlying gravels. Natural was encountered between 18.8m and 19.5m OD. Various modern intrusions were observed, including services and an unidentified section of recent brickwork which probably reflects a foundation for a small, insignificant structure of war-time or later date.

Contents

	Page
1 Introduction	1
2 Site Location and Geology	2
3 Archaeological and Historical Background	2
4 Archaeological Research Questions	3
5 The Archaeological Programme	3
5.1 Standards	3
5.2 Fieldwork	3
6 Post-Excavation Work	4
6.1 Finds and Samples	4
6.2 Report Procedure	4
7 The Site Archive	4
8 The Archaeological Watching Brief	5
8.1 Area 1	6
8.2 Area 2	6
8.3 Pipe-Trench Excavations	9
9 Summary and Conclusions	9
Bibliography	10
Appendix I: OASIS Data Collection Form	11
Appendix II: London Archaeologist Summary	13

List of Figures

		Page
1	Site location based on the current Ordnance Survey, showing the new sewer line (blue) and groundworks covered by the Archaeological Watching Brief (red).	1
2	Site plan showing stripped areas and pipe-line excavation route. Site Compound (Area 1) shown in blue, and easement corridor (Area 2) shown in red.	5
3	The site compound area.	6
4	North end of Area 2, showing single brickwork course and associated deposits.	7
5	Stripped ground in the south of Area 2, view looking southeast	8
6	Stripped ground in the south of Area 2, looking northeast	8
7	East facing section of open cut pipe trench.	9

1. Introduction

- 1.1 This report details the results of an archaeological watching brief undertaken between 6th February and 11th March 2008, during groundworks as part of the Thames Water Sadler's Mill Stream Sewer Replacement Scheme, on King George's Field, Bush Hill Park, London Borough of Enfield.
- 1.2 The new pipeline will run from Queen Anne's Place in the northwest (outside Bush Hill Park Station) to the central part of King George's Field just to west of the A10 Great Cambridge Road. The section of the scheme within King George's Field was considered to have particular archaeological potential, as this area had not been developed and was consequently thought to be relatively undisturbed.

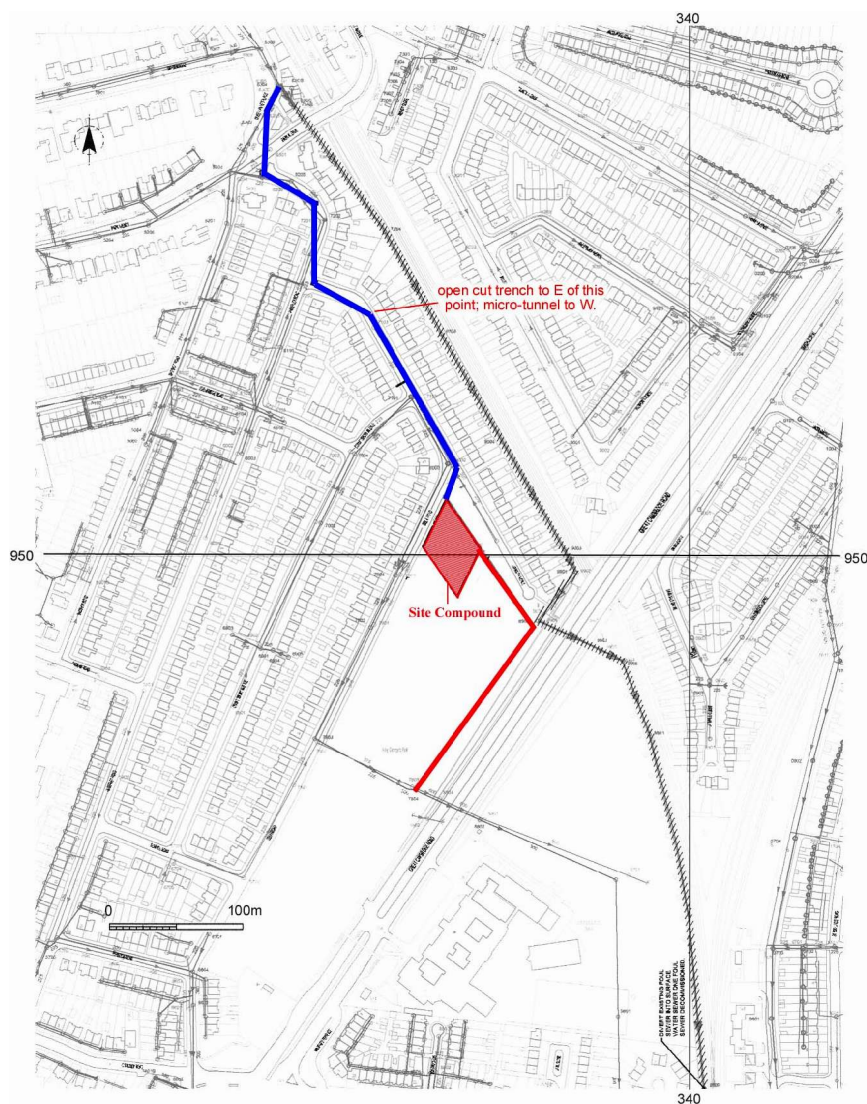


Figure 1: Site location based on the current Ordnance Survey map, showing the new sewer line (blue) and groundworks covered by the Archaeological Watching Brief (red).

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- 1.3 The archaeological watching brief was commissioned by Thames Water Utilities Ltd in response to the recommendations made by English Heritage.

2. Site Location and Geology

- 2.1 The scheme is located to the west of the Lea Valley, just over 2.5km from the river, and is approximately centred at NGR TQ 3380 9510. The first Ordnance Survey plan (published 1822) also records a small stream flowing about 150m to 200m to the east of the site; some other plans (both earlier and later) show this turning to the west at its northern end.
- 2.2 The land surface in this area rises gently to the northwest, from about 19.5m to 20.0m OD in the vicinity of King George's Field to around 23m OD in Queen Anne's Place.
- 2.3 The British Geological Survey (N London, *Sheet 256*, 1993) shows the whole area of the scheme overlying a recent natural deposit of brickearth (Enfield Silt, described as sandy clay and silt). This in turn seals either Kempton Park or Taplow River Terrace Gravel, the former exposed just to the east of the A10 and the latter to the west of the railway station.

3. Archaeological and Historical Background

- 3.1 The area was considered to have potential for a range of archaeological finds. Prehistoric activity is documented in the Lea valley and is likely to be associated with the brickearth and gravel terraces. Probable Iron Age evidence has been found in Park Avenue, to the west of Bush Hill Park station (site code PAE92).
- 3.2 There is considerable evidence for Romano-British activity in the vicinity of the site, with past finds including inhumations, cremations and structural remains suggesting a dispersed settlement. The projected line of a major Roman road (Ermine Street) passes just to the east. Roman burials are recorded in the area of Private Road, to the northwest of Bush Hill Park Station, and a substantial ditch is located to the northeast of the station and parallel to Leighton Road (LRE99). Other occupation features and indications of industrial activity have been found just to the south of the site and immediately east of the A10, and to the north close to Lincoln Road (ELR76).
- 3.3 There is limited evidence for the medieval and earlier post-medieval periods. However, historic maps show that the site lay within open farmland until the development of the railways in the mid 19th century – initially with the Enfield branch line. Both Rocque's survey of 1754 and the Ordnance Survey published in 1822 refer to the area as *Ounce Field(s)*, and show the nearest development located in the small hamlet of Bury Street just to the south. Both maps show a roughly north-south field boundary crossing the line of the works, and Rocque in particular suggests a number of cultivated fields.

4. Archaeological Research Questions

The fieldwork presented an opportunity to address several research questions:

- Is there any evidence for prehistoric activity, either *in situ* features or residual finds? How does this relate to previous finds in the area?
- Is there any evidence for Roman activity and can the nature of this be defined (eg. 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 cultivated 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 management of the project was undertaken by a full Member of the Institute.

The recording system followed the procedures set out in the Museum of London recording manual. By agreement the recording and drawing sheets used were directly compatible with those developed by the Museum.

5.2 Fieldwork

5.2.1 Attendance

The archaeological watching brief concentrated on the works within King George's Field, and in particular the topsoil strip of the easement corridor and the area of the site compound. These works were archaeologically monitored so that any surviving evidence could be investigated, identified and recorded.

Subsequent observation during pipe trench excavation in King George's Field was determined by the results of the initial top-soil strip. Where natural deposits were exposed in surface stripping it was deemed unnecessary to observe subsequent excavation, elsewhere sections of pipe-trench were monitored accordingly.

The initial project design (Compass Archaeology: 2007) specified limited observation of open-trench excavation in Lynmouth Road and open pits dug as part of the additional micro-tunnelling work in residential areas towards Bush Hill Park. However, following the negative results of monitoring in King George's Field it was considered unnecessary for the Watching Brief to extend to these areas considering the degree of truncation through modern

development. As agreed with English Heritage, the archaeological monitoring was restricted to King George's Field.

The basic watching brief required one archaeologist on site to monitor works and investigate and record archaeological remains. Adequate time was allowed for investigation and recording, although every effort was made not to disrupt the works programme.

English Heritage were advised beforehand of the on-site start date. The Client and English Heritage were also kept advised of the progress of the fieldwork.

5.2.2 Methodology

Archaeological deposits and features were investigated and recorded in stratigraphic sequence, and where appropriate finds dating evidence recovered.

Archaeological deposits and features were recorded as appropriate on *pro-forma* trench sheets and/or drawn in plan or section, generally at scales of 1:10 or 1:20. The investigations were recorded on a general site plan and related to the Ordnance Survey grid. The fieldwork record was supplemented as appropriate by photography (35mm &/or digital).

6. Post-Excavation Work

The fieldwork was followed by off-site assessment and compilation of this report, and by ordering 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 context record, prior to assessment by appropriately qualified staff.

6.2 Report Procedure

Copies of this report will be supplied to the Client, English Heritage, the local planning authority and the local studies library.

7. The Site Archive

The records from the archaeological project will be ordered in line with MoL *Guidelines for the Preparation of Archaeological Archives* and will be placed in the Museum of London Archaeological Archive as part of the ongoing programme of archive deposition. No significant finds were retained from the watching brief.

8. The Archaeological Watching Brief

The archaeological watching brief concentrated initially on the topsoil stripping of the site compound area in the northern corner of King George's Field (Area 1) and the easement corridor running southeast between the north and east corners for approximately 100m, and turning southwest running for a further 150m (Area 2). Subsequent observations concentrated on the excavation of pipe-line sections, generally constituting 4-5m trenches, 3m in width and 3.5m + in depth – in most cases trench boxes or shuttering was used to secure sections and prevent collapse.

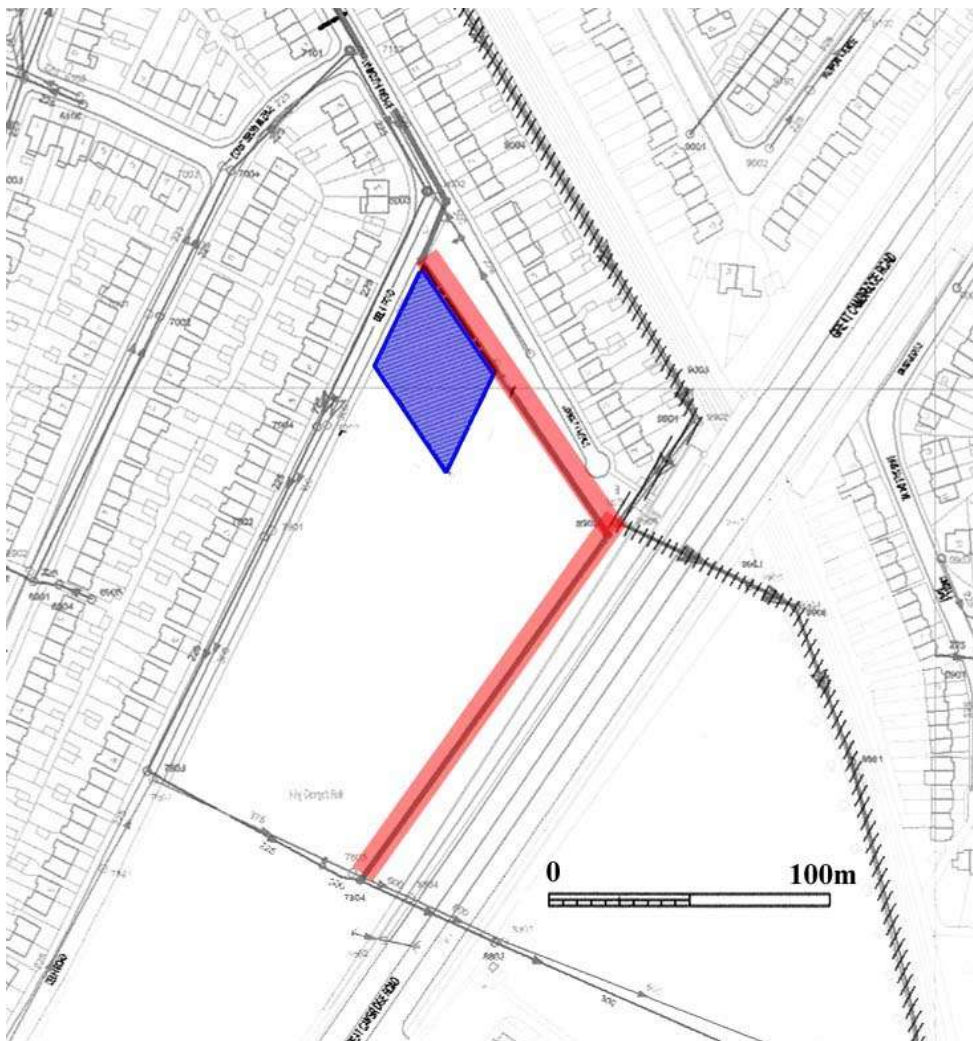


Figure 2: Site plan showing stripped areas and pipe-line excavation route. Site Compound (Area 1) shown in blue, and easement corridor (Area 2) shown in red.

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8.1 Area 1

The site compound consisted of approximately 1500m² of stripped land in the northern corner of King George's Field, housing site cabins and facilities (Figure 2). On stripping the exposed deposits consisted of shallow mid-brown/grey topsoil to a depth of 300-400mm, with pot, ceramic building material, glass and gravel inclusions. The deposit was uniform across the entire area and overlay lighter grey/orange sandy clay and silt with occasional gravel. This subsoil was exposed to 100mm in section and machining ceased at this level. The area was subsequently made-up with demolition rubble and stone ballast to create a hard-standing surface for machine movement. Poured concrete was laid in specific areas for the setting of cabins.

No significant archaeological finds or features were observed in this area. A sample of pottery sherds recovered from the stripped topsoil dated from the later 19th and 20th centuries.



Figure 3: The site compound area.

8.2 Area 2

Stripping of the easement corridor to a width of about 12m along the line of the pipe excavations exposed a broadly similar sequence to that observed in Area 1. Topsoil and subsoil deposits were slightly thicker to the southern extent of Area 2, extending up 600-700mm below the existing ground surface and only fully exposed in the subsequent pipe trench excavation. The majority of this area was stripped to the top of natural sandy clay and silt deposit (Enfield Silt).

Various modern intrusions were observed in this area, including existing man-holes and services. At the north end of Area 2 a single course of brickwork was observed in plan, cutting the surrounding subsoil (Figure 4). This consisted of a combination of modern heavily-frogged red bricks and unfrogged concrete moulded bricks. The feature was somewhat disturbed by machine movement but apparently laid very roughly, unmortared and associated with rubbish deposits. A linear cut was observed running from this feature, east in the direction of Lynmouth Avenue and filled by a very dark grey/black gravelly deposit with metal, brick and concrete inclusions. These features are clearly very modern, possibly reflecting war-time use of the land. The bricks are probably a foundation base for a small insubstantial structure, possibly a small shed or coldframe.

No significant archaeological finds or features were observed in this area. Again, ceramic sherds from this area were of late-19th and 20th century date, including white earthenware and fragments of glazed-stoneware pipes.



Figure 4: North end of Area 2, showing single brickwork course and associated deposits.



Figure 5: Stripped ground in the south of Area 2, view looking southeast.



Figure 6: Stripped ground in the south of Area 2, looking northeast.

8.3 Pipe Trench Excavations

A series of open-cut sections and pits were observed along the course of the pipe-line. In most cases these pits were excavated to a depth of 3.5 – 5m below the existing ground surface, the sides were shuttered obscuring the exposed sections. Where observed, the open-cut trenches exposed remaining unstripped subsoil overlying undisturbed orange/brown sandy silt and clay to a depth of between 0.8 and 1.5m below the existing ground surface. This deposit overlay layers of sandy gravels with clay lenses to the limit of excavation.

No archaeological finds or features were observed in the open-cut pipe trenches, with exposed deposits consisting of recent reworked soil deposits overlying probable truncated subsoil and natural silt and gravel sequences.



Figure 7: East facing section of open cut pipe trench.

9. Summary and Conclusions

No significant archaeological finds or features were exposed during the course of the watching brief. Due to the negative results of monitoring over King George's Fields it was considered unnecessary to continue observations on the trenching undertaken in roads to the north. The exposed sequence of deposits observed during monitoring consisted of topsoil containing later 19th and 20th century material, overlying truncated subsoil with natural silts and gravels between 0.5 and 0.7m below the existing ground level (approximately 18.8m and 19.5m OD). Occasional modern intrusions were observed in stripped areas, of no archaeological significance.

Bibliography

Compass Archaeology. 2008. *Thames Water Utilities Ltd. – Sadlers Mill Stream Sewer Replacement Scheme. Specification for an Archaeological Watching Brief during groundworks in King George’s Field and land to the northwest, Bush Hill Park, London Borough of Enfield*

Appendix I: OASIS Data Collection Form

OASIS ID: compassa1-41326

Project details

Project name	King George's Field, Bush Hill Park, London Borough of Enfield
Short description of the project	An archaeological watching brief undertaken during groundworks at King George's Field as part of the Thames Water Sadler's Mill Stream Sewer Replacement Scheme. No archaeological finds or features were observed during the course of the watching brief.
Project dates	Start: 06-02-2008 End: 11-03-2008
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	KFB08 - Sitecode
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	None
Current Land use	Other 14 - Recreational usage
Investigation type	'Watching Brief'
Prompt	Water Act 1989 and subsequent code of practice

Project location

Country	England
Site location	GREATER LONDON ENFIELD ENFIELD King George's Field and Land to the Northwest, Bush Hill Park, London Borough of Enfield.
Postcode	EN1
Study area	8500.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	TQ 3380 9510 51.6382843775 -0.06627210365350 51 38 17 N 000 03 58 W Point
Height OD	Min: 18.70m Max: 19.40m

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	Rosie Cummings
Type of sponsor/funding body	Thames Water Utilities

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	'Drawing','Map','Notebook - Excavation',' Research',' General Notes','Photograph','Plan','Report'

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Thames Water Utilities Ltd Sadlers Mill Stream Sewer Replacement Scheme: King George's Field, Bush Hill Park, London Borough of Enfield: An Archaeological Watching Brief
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Cummings, R
Date	2008
Issuer or publisher	Compass Archaeology
Place of issue or publication	5-7 Southwark St. SE1 1RQ
Description	Short bound report detailing results of an archaeological watching brief

Entered by	Rosie Cummings (mail@compassarchaeology.co.uk)
Entered on	25/04/08

Appendix II: London Archaeologist Summary

Site Address: King George's Field, Bush Hill Park, London Borough of Enfield, EN1.

Project type: Watching brief.

Dates of Fieldwork: 6th February – 11th March 2008

Site Code: KFB08

Supervisor: Rosie Cummings

NGR: TQ 3380 9510

Funding Body: Thames Water Utilities Ltd.

An archaeological watching brief undertaken on King George's Field, Enfield as part of groundworks relating to the Thames Water Sadlers Mill Stream Sewer Replacement Scheme recorded no significant archaeological finds or features. Relatively shallow topsoil and subsoil were stripped over a site compound area and easement corridor, followed by open-cut pipe trench sections. Natural Enfield silt and River Terrace Gravels were exposed between 18.8m and 19.4m OD, occasionally truncated by modern intrusions. Top-soil produced pottery sherds of late-19th and 20th century date.