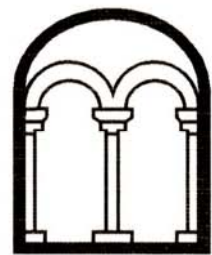


**LAND EAST OF ALWALTON HILL
GREAT HADDON
PETERBOROUGH**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL OBSERVATION,
INVESTIGATION, RECORDING, ANALYSIS
AND PUBLICATION**

Albion
archaeology



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AND PUBLICATION**

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Preface

Every effort has been made in the preparation of this document to provide as complete a summary as possible within the terms of the method statement. All statements and opinions in this document are offered in good faith. Albion Archaeology cannot accept responsibility for errors of fact or opinion resulting from data supplied by a third party, or for any loss or other consequence arising from decisions or actions made upon the basis of facts or opinions expressed in this document.

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The project was commissioned by CgMs Consulting Ltd and monitored on behalf of the LPA by Rebecca Casa-Hatton, the Peterborough City Council's Archaeologist (PCCA).

This report has been prepared by Marcin Koziminski (Archaeological Supervisor), who also undertook the fieldwork with the assistance of Wiebke Starke (Archaeological Supervisor). The finds were analysed by Jackie Wells (Artefacts Officer) and illustrations prepared by Joan Lightning (CAD Technician). All Albion Archaeology projects are under the overall management of Drew Shotliff (Operations Manager).

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Key Terms

Throughout this report the following terms or abbreviations are used:

CIfA	Chartered Institute for Archaeologists
Client	CgMs Consulting Ltd
DA	Development Area
LPA	Local Planning Authority
PCC	Peterborough City Council
PCCA	Peterborough City Council Archaeologist
PCHER	Peterborough City's Historic Environment Record
WSI	Written Scheme of Investigation



Non-Technical Summary

Planning consent (13/00713/FUL) was granted for the construction of a primary electricity supply station and foul water pumping station at land to the east of Alwalton Hill, Fletton Parkway, Peterborough.

A condition was attached to the planning consent requiring that a programme of archaeological work be implemented. Consultation and agreement with the Peterborough City Council's Archaeologist (PCCA) confirmed that the programme of archaeological work would be in the form of a watching brief.

The development area (DA) lies to the south-west of Peterborough, in an area with evidence for archaeological remains dating to the prehistoric, Roman, Saxon, medieval and post-medieval period. However, the majority of this evidence is located more than 1km away from the site itself.

The watching brief took place in September-November 2013 and comprised machine stripping of overburden down to the top of natural geology, followed by the excavation of deeper trenches, where required. Overall, the ground reduction works monitored covered an area of c. 4,950m².

No remains of archaeological interest were revealed during the works, which suggests that a focus of any medieval or earlier settlement was located some distance from the DA. Sparse artefacts recovered from the subsoil indicate low level of activity in the post-medieval period within the DA.



1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

Planning consent (13/00713/FUL) was granted for the construction of a primary electricity supply station and foul water pumping station at land to the east of Alwalton Hill, Fletton Parkway, Peterborough.

A condition (C3) was attached to the planning consent that a programme of archaeological work be implemented. This was in line with archaeological conditions imposed on the outline permission for the wider Great Haddon development (09/01369/OUT), of which that application was part, and which required further archaeological assessment as the development commenced. It was also in line with national planning guidelines in the form of Policy 141 of the *National Planning Policy Framework* (DCLG 2012). Consultation and agreement with the Peterborough City Council's Archaeologist (PCCA) confirmed that the programme of archaeological work would be in the form of a watching brief.

In response to the requirements and to comply with the condition, a Written Scheme of Investigation (Albion Archaeology 2013) was prepared detailing the scope of required work.

1.2 Site Description

Peterborough lies on the River Nene and the development area (DA) lies on level ground within the river valley at 20m OD.

The proposed substation and pumping station is located to the south-west of Peterborough, immediately south of the Fletton Parkway (A1139)/Orton Parkway roundabout, at grid reference TL154 943 (Figure 1). New Road to the west provides access to the site. The A1(M) motorway lies c. 1km to the west of the development area DA.

1.3 Archaeological Background

The DA lies in an area with evidence for archaeological remains dating to the prehistoric, Roman, Saxon, medieval and post-medieval periods. However, the majority of this evidence is located more than 1km away from the DA itself.

Neolithic implements (PCHER 1428 and 50440) have been found immediately west of Yaxley. To the west of the DA evidence for Iron Age ditches, pottery and human remains were revealed (PCHER 51421), indicating the presence of a possible settlement or farmstead.

Roman pottery and coins (PCHER 1390, 1636 and 50399) have been found to the west of the DA along the line of the A1 which runs along the line of the former Roman Ermine Street from London to Leicester. An Iron Age and Roman period rural settlement site and cemetery is recorded north-east of the junction between Natures Way and Fletton Parkway 1.4km to the east of the DA.



Archaeological trial trench evaluation has been taking place in the areas to the south and east of the DA which are part of the Proposed Southern Expansion Land south of Peterborough (Albion Archaeology 2008a). The evaluation revealed two potential Iron Age/Roman settlements in Areas C and D, spaced c. 500m apart and c. 1.5km south and south-east of the DA. Area A in the north, closest to the DA, revealed no archaeological features other than remains of medieval or post-medieval field systems.

A trial trench evaluation (part of the construction of the Western Peripheral Road to the south-east of the DA) revealed traces of a Roman field system, considerably truncated by later medieval agricultural activity. The report concluded that these are likely results for an area within a 500m radius of a major Roman road (Ermine Street) and with a scatter of known Roman farmsteads within 1.5km of the development area (Albion Archaeology 2010).

Saxon settlement in the vicinity is located at Orton, which is first mentioned in AD664 when it is listed in a royal charter. A number of Saxon buildings and a cemetery have been identified at Fletton, all of which are more than 1.3km distant from the DA. The potential for Saxon remains to be present on the DA is low as Saxon settlement sites are likely to have continued to be occupied into the medieval period and lie in the vicinity of later villages.

The fields immediately south of the DA were subject to a non-intrusive fieldwalking survey (Albion Archaeology 2008b). This revealed 22 artefacts across the area, consisting of post-medieval pottery and ceramic building material and a number of prehistoric flint flakes. It is likely that these artefacts represent a background presence of material spread by manuring and do not denote any settlement or flint-working sites.

Evidence for medieval ridge and furrow agricultural features (PCHER 51344 and 51854) is recorded to the west of the DA. Post-medieval pottery, brick and tile (PCHER 51897) was found in the area to the south of the DA. The area to the east of the DA has been dominated by the clay extraction works of the London Brick Company from the 1890's onwards.

1.4 Project Objectives

The immediate objective of the archaeological fieldwork was to monitor and supervise all groundworks that had the potential to reveal archaeological remains, and to investigate, characterise and record any archaeological deposits encountered within them.

The general objectives of the investigation were to determine:

- the date, nature and extent of any activity or occupation within the DA;
- the relationship of any remains found to the surrounding contemporary landscapes;
- recover palaeo-environmental remains to determine local environmental conditions.

The research framework that has been devised for the region is *Research and Archaeology Revisited: a revised framework for the East of England* (Medlycott



2011). This comes in two parts. The first provides a comprehensive assessment of the current state of knowledge; the second establishes a research agenda and strategy for future investigations and for consolidating and integrating current knowledge. They are therefore vital tools for the assessment of any heritage asset within its local, regional and national historic environment setting.

General themes identified within the research framework which were potentially applicable to this project included:

- Testing of ploughsoil to identify nature of Neolithic activity and location of potential sites (Medlycott 2011, 13);
- Roman rural settlements and landscapes (Medlycott 2011, 47);
- Medieval agricultural landscapes (Medlycott 2011, 70).



2. METHODOLOGY

2.1 Methodological Standards

Throughout the project the standards and requirements set out in the following documents were adhered to:

• Albion Archaeology	<i>Procedures Manual: Volume 1 Fieldwork</i> (2nd edn, 2001).
• ALGAO	<i>Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England. EAA Occasional Paper No. 14</i> (2003)
• Historic England	<i>Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE) Project Managers' Guide</i> (2009)
	<i>Environmental Archaeology: A guide to the theory and practice of methods, from sampling and recovery to post-excavation, 2nd edition</i> (2011)
• CfA	<i>By-Laws and Code of Conduct</i> (2010)
	<i>Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief</i> (2008)

A full methodology of the project was summarised in the WSI (Albion Archaeology 2013).

2.2 Fieldwork

Archaeological watching brief took place between 6th September and 12th November 2013. The works comprised the machine stripping of topsoil and subsoil, followed by the excavation of trenches for a sewage pipe with an associated foul water pumping station in the west of the DA. The trench was in excess of 3m deep by c. 10m wide. In the east of the site topsoil and subsoil were stripped to the top of natural geology for the construction of a substation with associated infrastructure. This was followed by excavation of four pits within the perimeter of the substation. Overall, the ground reduction works that were monitored covered an area of c. 4,950m².

Overburden was removed by a mechanical excavator, fitted with a flat-edged 'ditching' bucket under the supervision of an experienced archaeologist. Once the undisturbed geological strata were exposed, the excavation was carried out using a digging 'teeth' bucket where required.

All deposits revealed during the archaeological monitoring were recorded using Albion Archaeology's *pro forma* sheets. Spoil heaps were also checked on a regular basis for archaeological artefacts, both by eye and metal detector.



3. RESULTS AND CONCLUSIONS

Deposits found during the monitoring works are described below and shown on Figure 2.

Overburden consisted of topsoil that comprised up to 0.5m thick deposit of dark grey-brown clay silt and was underlain by mid orange-brown clay silt subsoil that was up to 0.2m thick. Two abraded sherds (31g) of a 17th-century bowl in glazed red earthenware fabric were recovered from the subsoil.

Undisturbed geological strata were similar across the site and consisted of grey-orange silty clay and clay with red-brown sandy gravel outcrops, which were underlain by blue-grey clay.

No archaeological features or deposits were revealed during the works which suggests that any medieval or earlier settlement was some distance away from the DA. In addition, sparse artefacts recovered from the subsoil indicate low level of activity in the post-medieval period within the DA.



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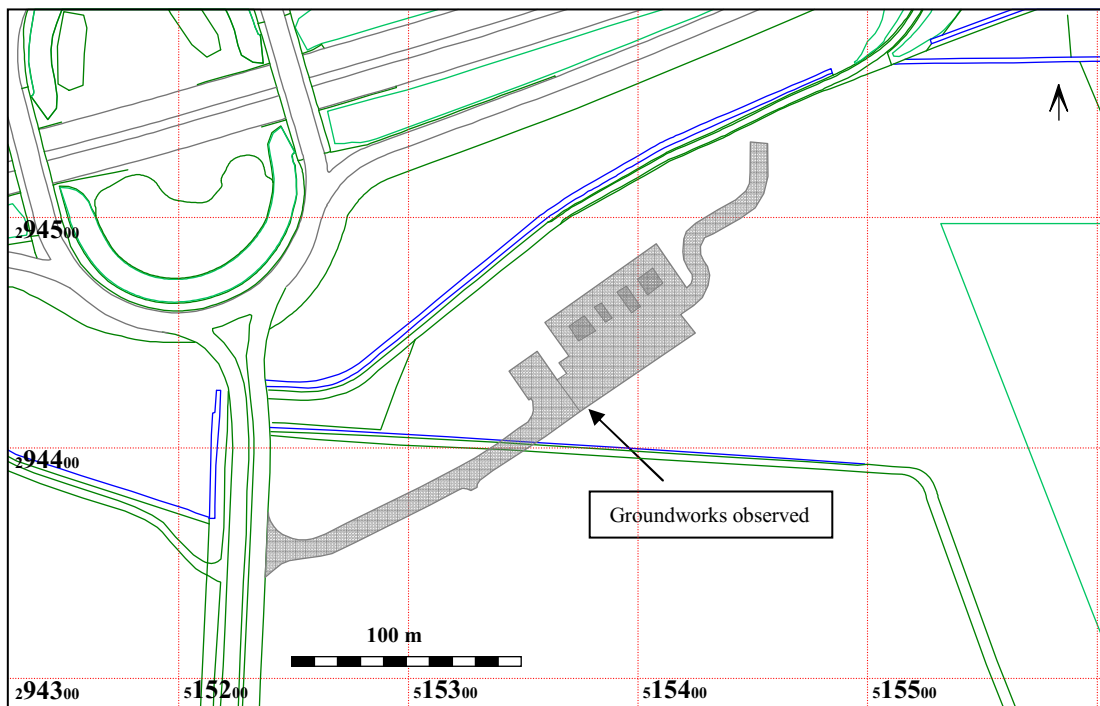
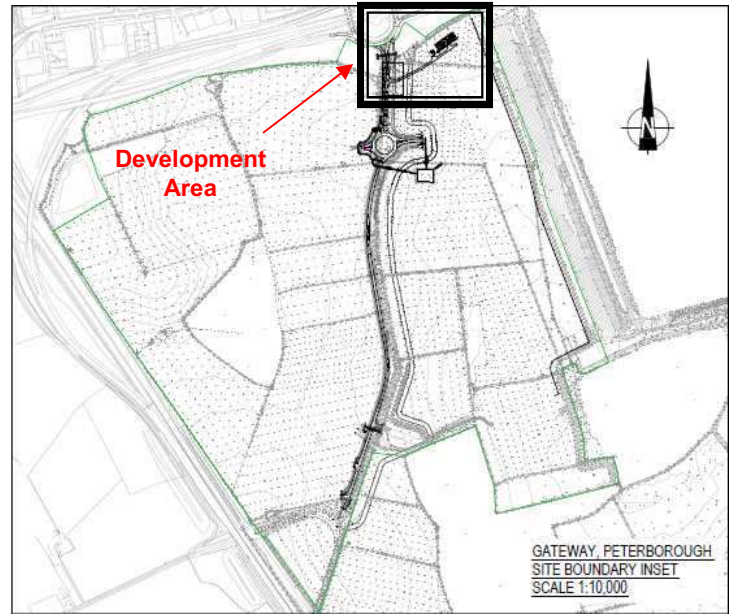
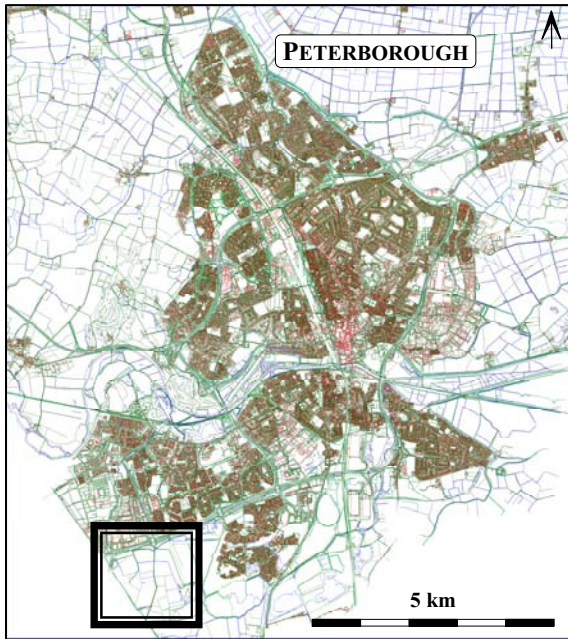


Figure 1: Site location

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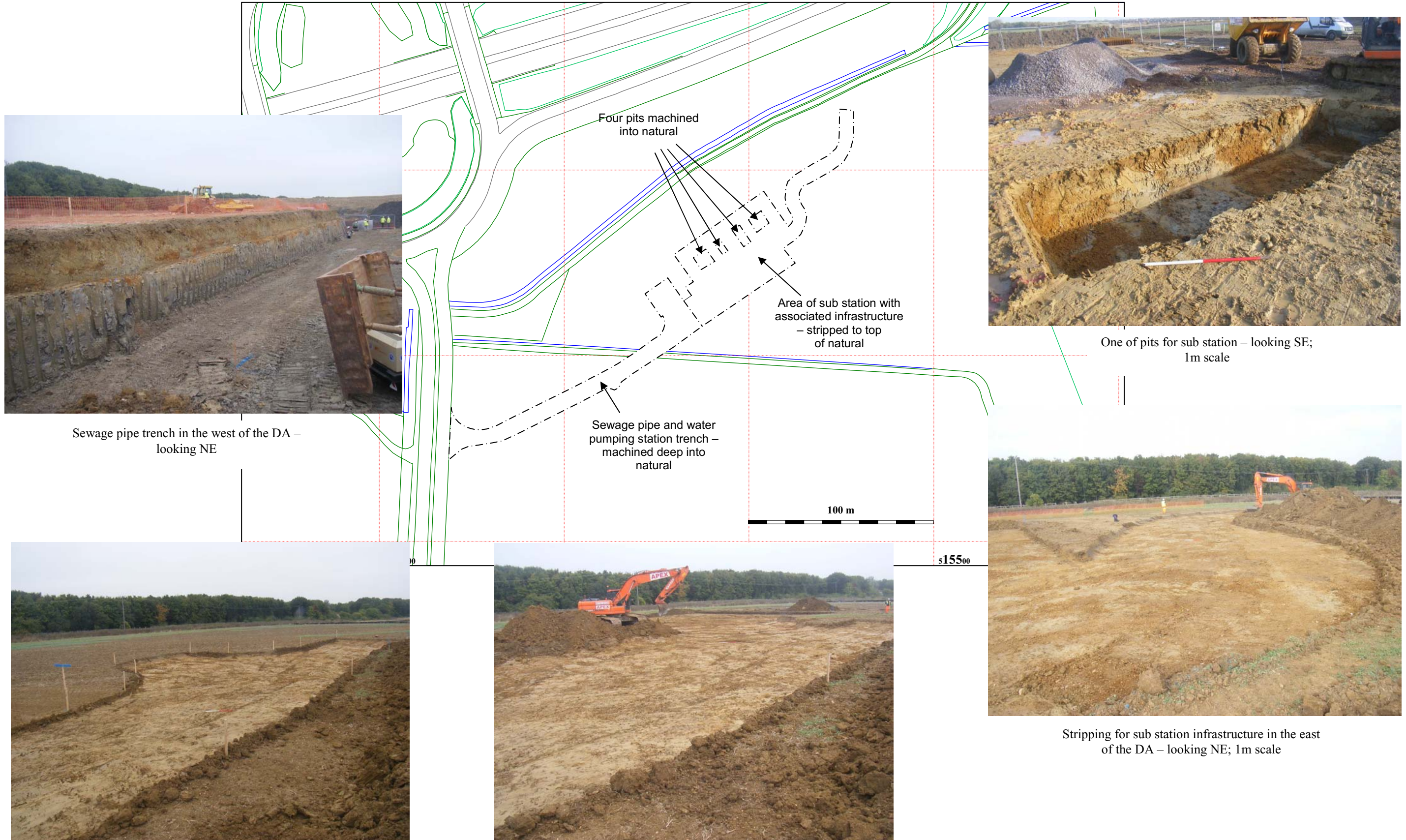
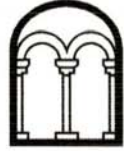


Figure 2: Watching brief results

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