



Northamptonshire Archaeology

An archaeological watching brief for the
Boddington Gardens Flood Alleviation Scheme
Biggleswade, Bedfordshire
Addendum to NA report 09/190



Northamptonshire Archaeology

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Report 10/35

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BEDFM 2009.79



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QUALITY CONTROL

	Print name	Signed	Date
Checked by	Simon Carlyle		
Verified by	Pat Chapman		
Approved by	Andy Chapman		

Cover: General view along the easement, facing east

OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project name	Boddingtons Gardens Flood Alleviation Scheme, Biggleswade, Bedfordshire	
Short description (250 words maximum)	An archaeological watching brief was carried out during groundworks associated with the construction of a new sewer on the northern outskirts of Biggleswade, Bedfordshire. The new sewer, being constructed by Anglian Water Services, will form part of the Boddington Gardens Flood Alleviation Scheme. The watching brief followed a trial trench evaluation that had identified early to middle Iron Age remains in the area to the west of the sewer easement. The watching brief demonstrated that these remains did not extend into the easement and no other archaeological remains were encountered in this area.	
Project type	Watching brief	
Previous work	Evaluation, NA (Patenall and Carlyle 2009)	
Current land use	Arable field	
Future work	None	
Monument type/ period	-	
Significant finds	None	
PROJECT LOCATION		
County	Bedfordshire	
Site address	Boddington Gardens, Biggleswade	
Study area	1.2ha	
OS Easting & Northing	51964 24570	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Organisation	Northamptonshire Archaeology (NA)	
Project brief originator	Central Bedfordshire Council Archaeologists	
Project design originator	Simon Carlyle (NA)	
Director/Supervisor	Tim Upson-Smith (NA)	
Project Manager	Simon Carlyle (NA)	
Sponsor or funding body	Anglian Water Services Ltd	
PROJECT DATE		
Start date	26th January 2010	
End date	29th January 2010	
ARCHIVES	Location:	Description
Paper	Bedford Museum BEDFM 2009.79	4 watching brief forms; 9 colour slides; 9 black and white negatives and contact sheet.
Digital		1 disc containing digital photographs and copy of report
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
Title	An archaeological watching brief for the Boddingtons Gardens Flood Alleviation Scheme, Biggleswade, Bedfordshire: Addendum to NA report 09/190	
Serial title & volume	10/35	
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**AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF FOR THE
BODDINGTON GARDENS FLOOD ALLEVIATION SCHEME
BIGGLESWADE, BEDFORDSHIRE
JANUARY 2010**

Addendum to NA report 09/190

Abstract

In January 2010, an archaeological watching brief was carried out by Northamptonshire Archaeology during groundworks associated with the construction of a new sewer on the northern outskirts of Biggleswade, Bedfordshire. The new sewer, being constructed by Anglian Water Services, will form part of the Boddington Gardens Flood Alleviation Scheme. The watching brief followed a trial trench evaluation that had identified early to middle Iron Age remains in the area to the west of the sewer easement. The watching brief demonstrated that these remains did not extend into the easement and no other archaeological remains were encountered in this area.

1 INTRODUCTION

Anglian Water Services (AWS) are constructing a new sewer on the northern edge of Biggleswade, Bedfordshire, as part of the Boddington Gardens Flood Alleviation Scheme (site centred on NGR: TL 1964 4570; Fig 1). In December 2009, prior to construction, a trial trench evaluation was carried out by Northamptonshire Archaeology (NA) which identified two early to middle Iron Age pits in the area of a proposed compound, to the west of the sewer easement (Patenall and Carlyle 2009). To mitigate against the impact of the development on the archaeological remains, AWS decided to relocate the site of the compound to the nearby sewage works in Furzenhall Road. However, there was still the potential for archaeological remains to extend into the easement, so on the advice of the Central Bedfordshire Council Archaeologists (CBCA), an archaeological watching brief was requested, in compliance with Anglian Water's *Code of Practice* and in line with the guidance outlined in *PPG16 Archaeology and Planning*. A method statement for the watching brief, outlining the scope of works and professional requirements, was prepared by NA in January 2010, based on the brief issued by CBCA (2010).

This report presents the findings of the watching brief and has been prepared as an addendum to the trial trench report, which contains the detailed background to the project (Patenall and Carlyle 2009).

The aims of the watching brief, as outlined in the method statement (NA 2010) were to:

- Observe the topsoil strip in the area of the pipeline and its easement, and to record all archaeological deposits uncovered,
- Determine the date, character, state of preservation and depth of any archaeological deposits observed and to retrieve all datable artefacts,

- Create a permanent archive and record of the archaeological information collected during the course of the fieldwork and analysis.

The watching brief extended over four days, during the mechanical removal of the topsoil within the sewer easement (Fig 2). It was carried out in accordance with the method statement (NA 2010), regional standards for field archaeology (Gurney 2003), and the Institute for Archaeologists' (IfA) *Code of Conduct* (IfA 2008a) and *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs* (IfA 2008b). Recording followed NA guidelines, as detailed in Northamptonshire Archaeology's *Archaeological Fieldwork Manual* (NA 2003).

2 THE RECORDED EVIDENCE

The area of observation comprised a rectangular strip of land, which formed the easement for the sewer, at the southern edge of a large arable field, to the north of a modern housing estate (Fig 2). The easement extended south-westwards from the vicinity of Nursery Close to the ground behind Mountbatten Drive and measured 310m long by 38m wide (1.2ha). The central and north-east part of the easement was covered with an emergent crop and the south-western part was set-aside at the time of the topsoil strip. The watching brief was carried out in favourable conditions and the results are considered to be reliable.

No archaeological features were encountered within the easement and there were no archaeological artefacts in the topsoil or subsoil. The removal of the topsoil exposed the subsoil and in places the natural substrate. The natural substrate, which occurred at an average depth of c 0.5m below ground level, was river terrace gravel, comprising fine to coarse gravel in an orange or mid brownish-orange silty sand matrix. The subsoil, which was approximately 0.15m thick, comprised dark brown sandy silt and the overlying topsoil, consisting of dark grey organic sandy silt with occasional small pebbles, was approximately 0.4m thick.

3 CONCLUSION

The watching brief demonstrated that the Iron Age remains identified in the trial trench to the west of the easement did not extend into this area.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

CBCA 2010 *Brief for a programme of archaeological investigation, recording, analysis and publication of the Boddington Gardens Flood Alleviation Scheme, Biggleswade, Bedfordshire*, Central Bedfordshire Council Archaeologists

Gurney, D, 2003 *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England*, East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Paper **14**

IfA 2008a *Code of Conduct*, Institute for Archaeologists

IfA 2008b *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs*, Institute for Archaeologists

NA 2003 *Archaeological Fieldwork Manual*, Northamptonshire Archaeology

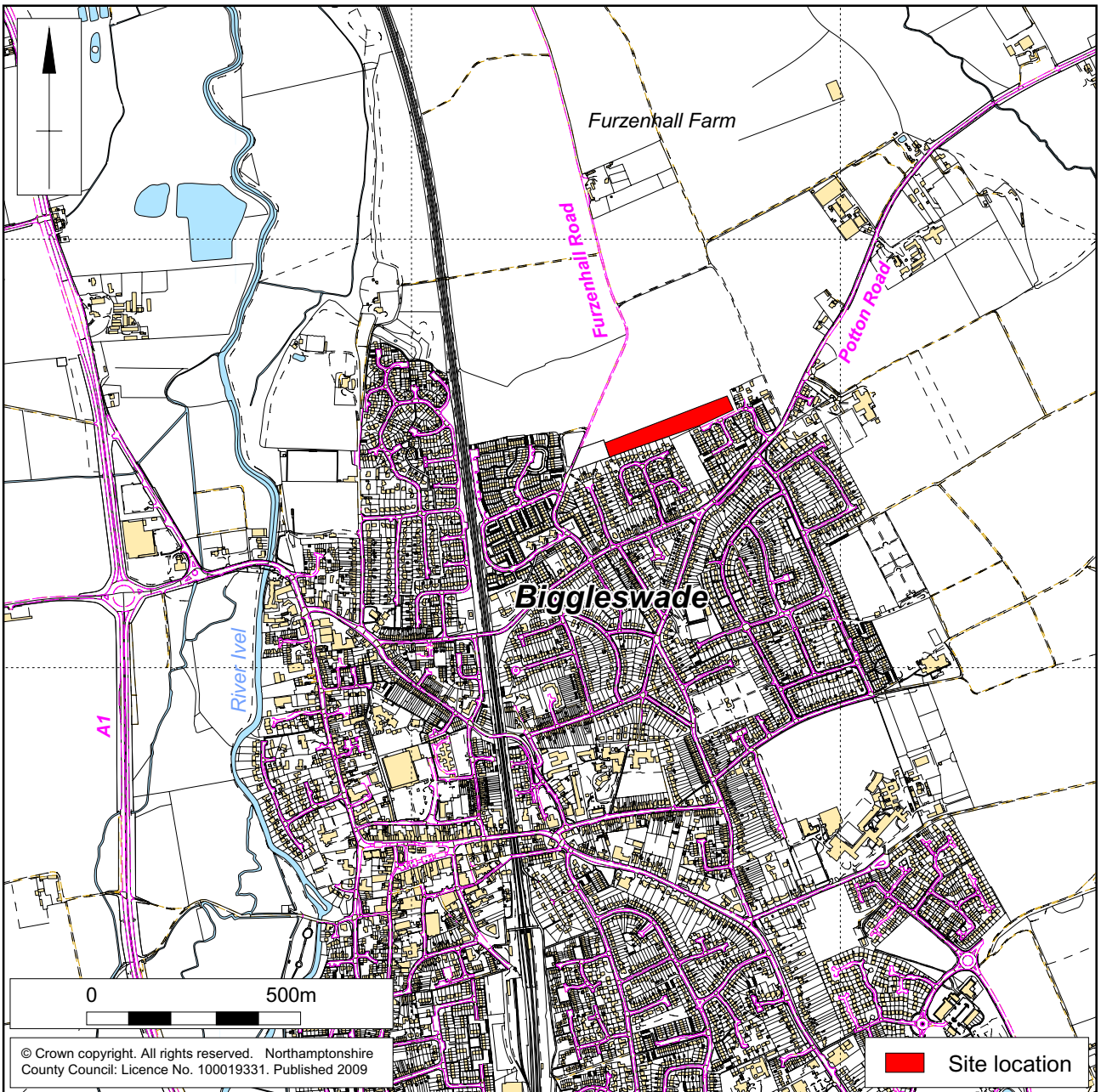
NA 2010 *Boddington Gardens Flood Alleviation Scheme, Biggleswade, Bedfordshire: specification for archaeological watching brief*, Northamptonshire Archaeology

Patenall, M, and Carlyle, S, 2009 *An archaeological evaluation for the Boddington Gardens Flood Alleviation Scheme Biggleswade, Bedfordshire*, Northamptonshire Archaeology report, **09/190**

Figures

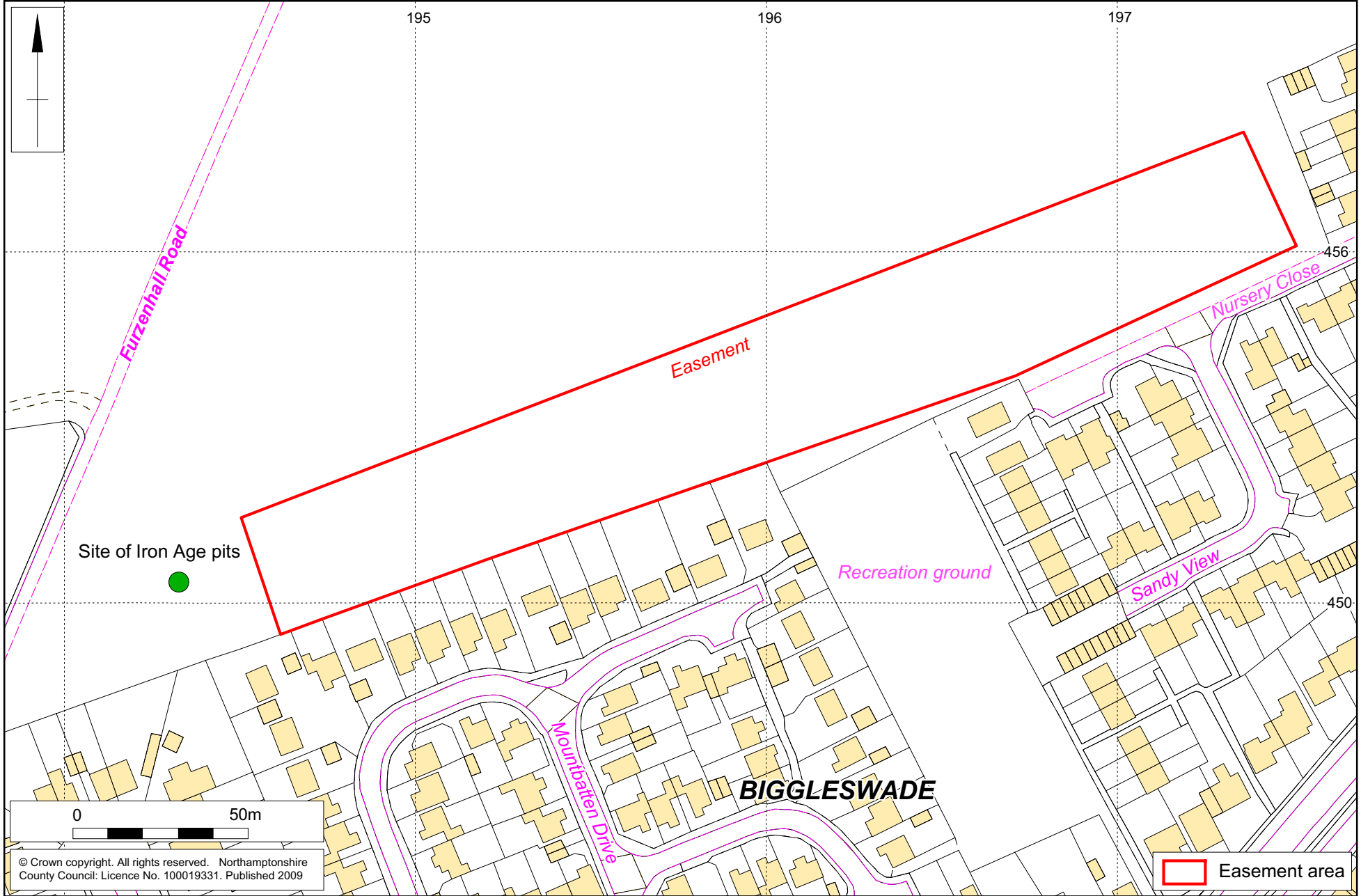
Fig 1: Site location, 1:15,000

Fig 2: Watching brief area, 1:1,500




1:1,500

Watching brief area Fig 2



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 Easement area



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