

Sheeplands Water Treatment Works Wargrave Berkshire

Archaeological Watching Brief



for
Eight2O Alliance

on behalf of
Thames Water

CA Project: 770408
CA Report: 17739

December 2017



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Figure 2	The site, showing location of groundworks (1:2,000).
Figure 3	Working shots



SUMMARY

Project Name: Sheeplands Water Treatment Works
Location: Wargrave, Berkshire
NGR: 478044 177571
Type: Watching Brief
Date: June -July 2016, November - December 2017
Location of Archive: TBC
Site Code: WTW16

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in June - July 2016, November - December 2017 during groundwork associated with the development of Sheeplands Water Treatment Works.

No features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed during groundwork, and no artefact material pre-dating the modern period was recovered.



1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In June - July 2016, November-December 2017 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological watching brief for Eight2O Alliance at Sheeplands Water Treatment Works (WTW), Wargrave Berkshire (centred at NGR: 478070 177454; Figure 1). Following consultation with Berkshire Archaeology it has been determined that an archaeological watching brief is required to monitor groundworks for the excavation of a run-to-waste pipeline 550m long and up to 1.75m deep, running from the WTW to the River Lodden and other associated works.
- 1.2 The watching brief was carried out in accordance with a detailed *Written Scheme of Investigation* (WSI) produced by CA (2016) and approved by the LPA acting on the advice of Kathleen Leary of Berkshire Archaeology. The fieldwork also followed *Standard and guidance: Archaeological watching brief* (ClfA 2014) and the Berkshire Archaeology's Standards for the Historic Environment.

The site

- 1.3 The Site is situated in the county of Berkshire, south-east England. It is located approximately 800m south-west of Wargrave and 8.8km north-east of Reading. The River Loddon is situated approximately 500m to the west which is a confluence of the River Thames, located 1.4km west and 800m north of the Site respectively. The run to waste pipeline will be c. 550m long and runs westward from the WTW to the River Lodden. The north and south of the Site are bound by farmland, and immediately northwest is a road access track and drainage ditch. This track and ditch, along with a single track railway line, have to be crossed by the run-to-waste pipeline. The single track railway line is bound to the east by trees. The site lies at a height of c. 35m aOD
- 1.4 The underlying bedrock geology of the area is mapped as Seaford Chalk Formation and Newhaven Chalk Formation (undifferentiated) - Chalk. Sedimentary Bedrock formed approximately 71 to 89 million years ago in the Cretaceous Period. Superficial deposits are mapped as Kempton Park Gravel Formation - Sand and Gravel. Superficial Deposits formed up to 2 million years ago in the Quaternary Period for the majority of the route. Superficial deposits of Alluvium - Clay, Silt, Sand and Gravel are mapped at the western end of the route by the River Lodden (BGS, 2017)

2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Below is a succinct summary of the known archaeological background of the site.

2.2 A review of publicly accessible data on Heritage Gateway and PastScape within a 500m radius of the route has been undertaken and a summary of these results is presented below:

- c. 300m to the south of the route possible pits of unknown date are visible as cropmarks on aerial photographs. Six pits are arranged in a random fashion. They are situated between a possible Neolithic mortuary enclosure and a possible Bronze Age round barrow with a diameter of 18m, but there is no obvious connection between these features and the pits.

- c.100m to the south of the western part of the route, fragments of possible Prehistoric or Roman settlement are visible as cropmarks on aerial photographs. The realignment and overlapping of the features probably indicates a number of phases for the site. Two almost complete enclosures could be identified. These are both rectilinear. One enclosure measures 18 metres by 15 metres, and has an extension to the north which measures 8 metres across. The other enclosure measures 32 metres by 20 metres. Fragments of boundaries, probably parts of more enclosures, extend over an area measuring 200 metres by 150 metres. Twenty five pits are scattered across the area of enclosures. The possible Bronze Age round barrow is visible on the western edge of the settlement

- Within the wider vicinity of the route prehistoric worked flint scatters have been found including a Mesolithic tranchet axe from Wargrave. An extensive flint assemblage dating to the Neolithic period was found during the Loddon Valley Survey. Bronze Age axes and an Iron Age sword have been dredged from the River Thames. An oval pit was recorded during the excavation of the Sheeplands Nitrate Removal Pipeline in 1998, which produced finds of burnt flint and four pieces of prehistoric pottery dating to the Late Bronze Age period (WA 1998). Bronze Age axes and an Iron Age sword have been dredged from the River Thames within the vicinity of the site.

- A large scatter of Roman pottery was found, along with a quantity of Saxon and medieval sherds, during the Loddon Valley Survey. Roman and medieval pottery

and findspots of Roman coins and a bronze ring and pin are recorded from Wargrave. A possible pit was identified mainly in section during the excavation of the Sheeplands Nitrate Removal Pipeline. Finds consisted of burnt flint and four sherds of Saxon pottery (WA 1998).

- 2.3 The western part of the pipeline route, between the railway line and the river, lies within an area of High Archaeological Potential (Wokingham Borough Council Planning Proposals Map). The high archaeological potential for this part of the site relates to the area of possible Prehistoric or Roman Settlement detailed above.

3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 3.1 The objectives of the archaeological works were:

- to monitor groundworks, and to identify, investigate and record all significant buried archaeological deposits revealed on the site during the course of the development groundworks;
- at the conclusion of the project, to produce an integrated archive for the project work and a report setting out the results of the project and the archaeological conclusions that can be drawn from the recorded data.

4. METHODOLOGY

- 4.1 The fieldwork followed the methodology set out within the WSI (CA 2016). An archaeologist was present during intrusive groundworks that constituted the proposed development for the excavation of the proposed route of the c. 550m long run to waste pipeline and associated works.
- 4.2 Where archaeological deposits were encountered written, graphic and photographic records were compiled in accordance with CA Technical Manual 1: *Fieldwork Recording Manual*.
- 4.3 The archive and artefacts from the evaluation are currently held by CA at their offices in Andover. Subject to the agreement of the legal landowner the site archive will be deposited with the appropriate museum. A summary of information from this

project, set out within Appendix A, will be entered onto the OASIS online database of archaeological projects in Britain.

5. RESULTS (FIGURES 2-3)

- 5.1 No features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed during groundworks and, despite visual scanning of spoil, no artefacts pre-dating the modern period were recovered.

6. DISCUSSION

- 6.1 Despite the archaeological potential of the application area (see archaeological background above), the watching brief identified no archaeological remains within the area of observed groundwork. The absence of archaeological deposits may indicate that structural remains associated with the Neolithic, Mesolithic, Bronze Age, Roman and Saxon activity either do not extend as far as or were not exposed by the development, or that they may have been removed during previous development.

7. CA PROJECT TEAM

Fieldwork was undertaken by Adam Howard, Jeremy Clutterbuck, Sam Wilson, Steve Bush and Francesco Catanzaro. The report was written by Ray Kennedy. The illustrations were prepared by Esther Escudero. The archive has been compiled by Zoe Emery, and prepared for deposition by Hazel O'Neill. The project was managed for CA by Ray Kennedy and Damian De Rosa.



8. REFERENCES

BGS (British Geological Survey) 2017 *Geology of Britain Viewer*
<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html> Accessed 19 December 2017

CA (Cotswold Archaeology), 2016, *Sheeplands Water Treatment Works, Wargrave, Berkshire: Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Watching Brief*

<http://www.heritagegateway.org.uk/>

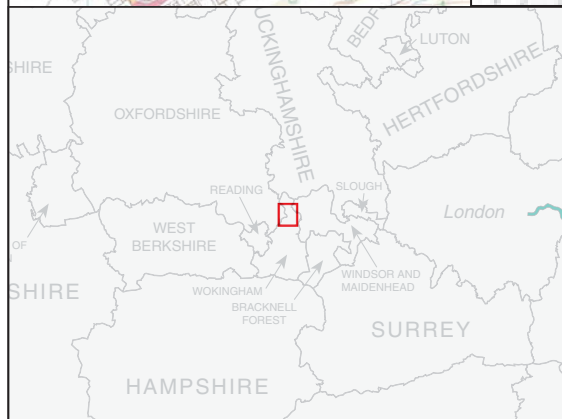
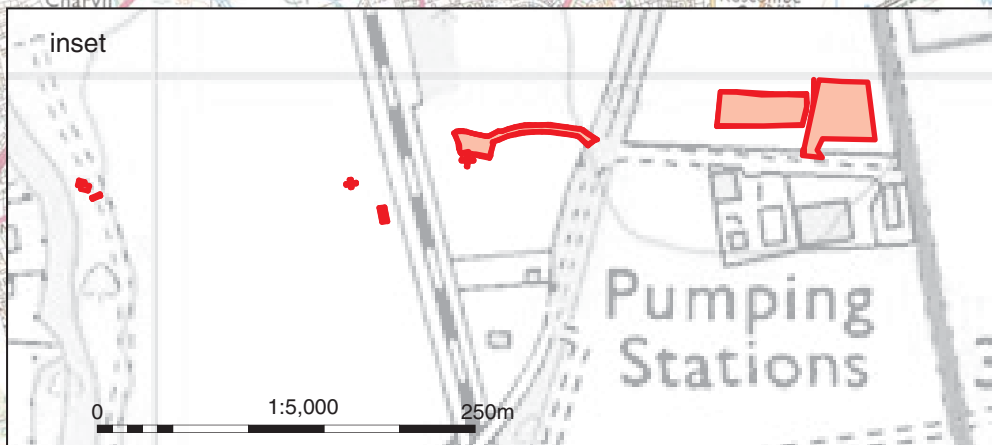
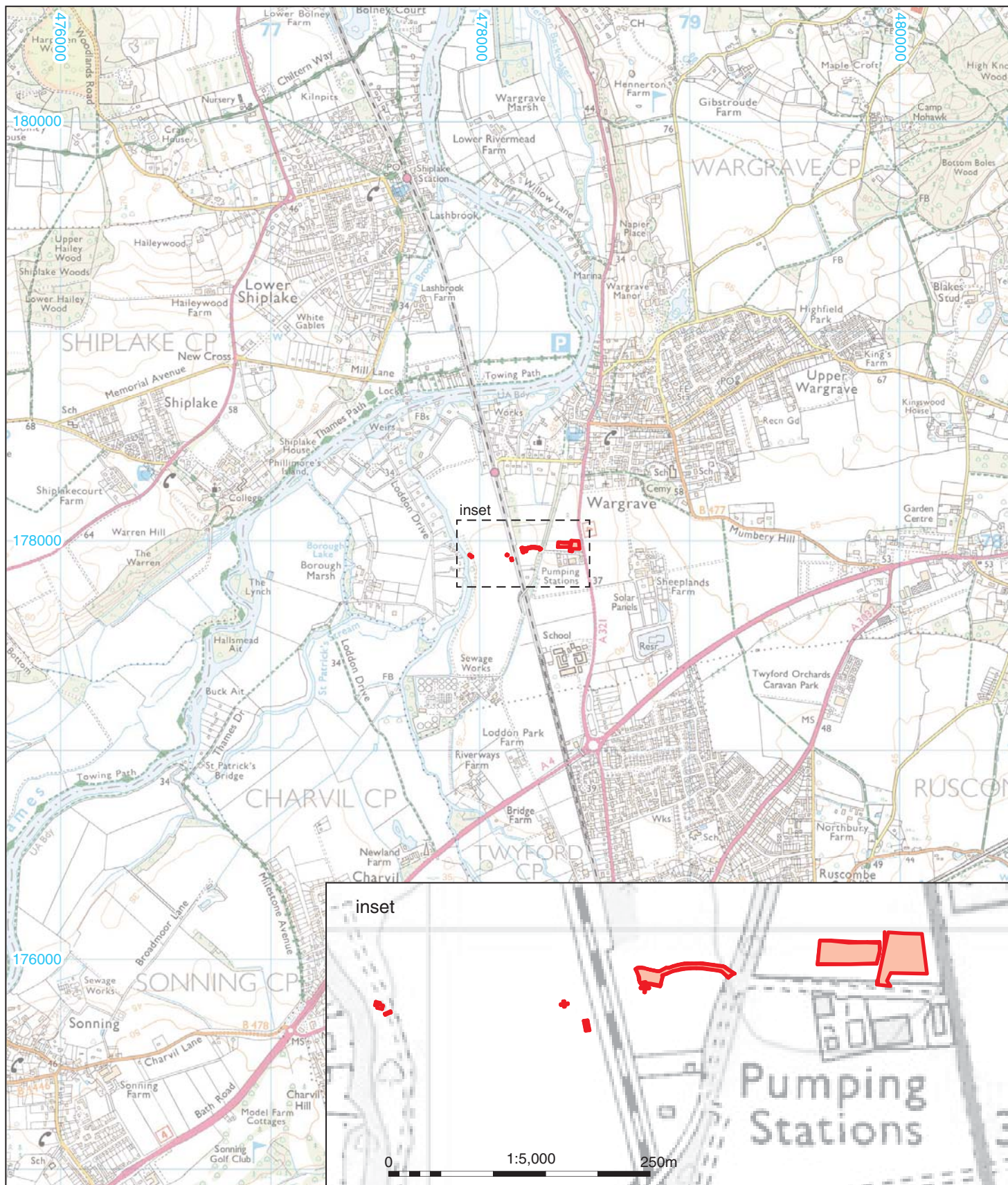
<http://www.pastscape.org.uk/>


Wessex Archaeology (WA), 1998, *Sheeplands Nitrate Removal Pipeline, Oxon/Berks, Archaeological excavation and watching brief*



APPENDIX A: OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project Name	Sheeplands Water Treatment Works, Wargrave, Berkshire	
Short description	<p>An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in June - July 2016, November - December 2017 during groundwork associated with the development of Sheeplands Water Treatment Works.</p> <p>No features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed during groundwork, and no artefact material pre-dating the modern period was recovered.</p>	
Project dates	June - July 2016, November - December 2017	
Project type	Watching Brief	
Previous work	Wessex Archaeology (WA), 1998, Sheeplands Nitrate Removal Pipeline, Oxon/Berks, Archaeological excavation and watching brief	
Future work	Unknown	
PROJECT LOCATION		
Site Location	Sheeplands Water Treatment Works, Wargrave, Berkshire	
Study area (M ² /ha)	N/A	
Site co-ordinates	478070 177454	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Brief originator	Eight20	
Project Design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Manager	Damian de Rosa, Ray Kennedy	
Project Supervisor	Adam Howard, Jeremy Clutterbuck, Sam Wilson, Steve Bush and Francesco Catanzaro	
MONUMENT TYPE	None	
SIGNIFICANT FINDS	None	
PROJECT ARCHIVES	Intended final location of archive (museum/Accession no.)	Content (e.g. pottery, animal bone etc)
Physical		
Paper		Context sheets, matrices
Digital		Database, digital photos
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
<p>CA (Cotswold Archaeology), 2017, <i>Sheeplands Water Treatment Works, Wargrave, Berkshire: Archaeological Watching Brief</i>. CA typescript report 17739</p>		



 Area of observed groundworks

0 1:5,000 250m

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Ordnance Survey 0100031673



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PROJECT TITLE

**Sheeplands Water Treatment Works,
Wargrave, Berkshire**

FIGURE TITLE

Site location plan

DRAWN BY EE
CHECKED BY DJB
APPROVED BY RK

PROJECT NO. 770408
DATE 10/01/2018
SCALE @A4 1:25,000

FIGURE NO.

1



P:\770408 Sheeplands Water Treatment Works Wargrave, Berks - WBI\Illustration\Drafts\CAD file for figure 2.dwg

- Evaluation trench/Excavation area
- Heras fenceline
- Field drain

0 100m

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PROJECT TITLE
**Sheeplands Water Treatment Works,
 Wargrave, Berkshire**

FIGURE TITLE
Trench Location Plan

DRAWN BY	EE	PROJECT NO.	770408	FIGURE NO.
CHECKED BY	DJB	DATE	12/01/2018	2
APPROVED BY	RK	SCALE@A3	1:2,000	



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