

EYDON STW, NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

Archive Report For:
Archaeological Observation, Investigation and Recording

Prepared by

NETWORK ARCHAEOLOGY LTD

For

BLACK & VEATCH

On behalf of

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Non-Technical Summary

A programme of archaeological observation, investigation and recording was undertaken during groundworks associated with the expansion of Eydon sewerage treatment works, Northamptonshire (NGR 454455 250217), by Network Archaeology In November 2014.

The archaeological works comprised a walk-over survey following topsoil stripping, the hand-excavation of two test-pits and observation of groundworks associated with the construction of a new humus tank.

The works identified no archaeological finds, features or deposits.

1 Introduction

1.1 Purpose of this Report

This report presents the results of archaeological observation undertaken during groundworks associated with the expansion of Eydon Sewerage Treatment Works (STW), Northamptonshire (Figure 1).

1.2 Project Background

1.2.1 Proposed development and planning history

The works fell under 'permitted development' and, as such, were not subject to any planning conditions or controls. Thames Water, however, as part of its best practice policy, decided to consider the potential impact of its planned work upon the historic environment and, following consultation with Network Archaeology, a programme of archaeological observation and recording during groundworks was agreed.

1.2.2 Location, description and natural environment

The STW occupies an irregular, hexagonal-shaped fenced piece of land, of approximately 0.3 ha, at the east end of Doctors Lane on the east side of the village of Eydon in Northamptonshire (centred 454455 250217) (Figure 1). The STW slopes gradually down towards the south east side, from around 144m to 138m aOD. The main existing components of the STW included a humus tank, sludge-holding tank and an effluent lagoon.

The development areas were located on the south east and north west sides, with additional pipe work along the south west side of the STW .

The solid geology comprises Whitby Mudstone Formation. Northampton Sand Formation is mapped to the west, beneath the village (British Geological Survey, undated). The soils are mapped as being seasonally wet slightly acid but base-rich loamy and clayey soils (Cranfield University/NSSI, undated).

1.3 Archaeological Context

A rapid desk-based appraisal was undertaken in support of the Wrtiien Scheme of Investigation. A summary is presented below and the full appraisal appears in Appendix A.

The historic village of Eydon is a conservation area, containing numerous listed buildings and has possible medieval origins. It is surrounded by surviving fragments of medieval ridge and furrow field systems, the nearest being located immediately to the east of the STW.

1.4 Aims and objectives

The primary purpose of the archaeological observation and recording was to gather sufficient information:

- To identify, appropriately manage and fully mitigate the archaeological resource affected by the proposed works;
- To consider, in all cases of archaeological discovery, whether preservation in situ is desirable and achievable as the foremost response;
- To determine, where preservation in situ is not desirable or achievable, an appropriate strategy for preservation by record;
- To develop, where possible, knowledge and understanding of the historic landscape and archaeological resource through recording of threatened remains;
- To determine and understand the nature, function and character of any remains in their cultural and environmental setting;
- To obtain a chronological sequence for the human activity and to place it within its regional context;
- To establish the ecofactual and environmental sequence and context of archaeological deposits and features;
- To engage in a programme of post-excavation, archiving, synthesis and study, leading to publication and dissemination of results, and
- To ensure the long-term survival of the information through deposition of a project archive.

1.5 Methods

The planned focus of archaeological observation was topsoil stripping of the working area and excavation of the humus tank (Plate 1, Figure 2). Deturfing and partial topsoil stripping of the working area, however, took place prior to archaeological attendance. A walk-over survey was, therefore undertaken over the stripped surface, and two spade-sized holes were hand-excavated to investigate the underlying soil stratigraphy (Plate 2, Figure 2).

A full-time presence was maintained during mechanical excavation of the pit for the humus tank. Following this, the results of the archaeological work were reviewed in liaison with Northamptonshire Councils Archaeological Advisor. On balance, because the observations to date indicated that the likelihood of archaeological activity within the STW site was low, planned opportunistic observation of the storm tank and pipe trench did not take place.

All archaeological observation and recording was carried out in accordance with the methodologies and standards laid out in the written scheme of investigation (Network Archaeology Ltd, 2014).

1.6 Resources

The topsoil walk-over and test-pitting was undertaken by a single archaeologist over a one day period during October 2014. The monitoring of the humus tank excavation was undertaken by a single archaeologist over a 3 day period in November 2014.

2 Factual Results & Interpretation

2.1 Introduction

This chapter presents the factual results of the archaeological monitoring. Throughout this section cut features and deposits are referred to by unique context numbers. A convention has been adopted whereby cut features and structures are referenced in bold type, whilst deposits such as fills and layers are referenced in plain type.

2.2 Test-pits and humus tank

2.2.1 General stratigraphy

Within test-pit 1, the topsoil (001) overlay 0.11m of made-ground (002). Below the made ground was 0.2m of clayey silt alluvium (003) which overlay the natural clay geology (004) (Plate 2).

Within test-pit 2 the topsoil (006) overlay at least 0.1m of alluvium (007).

Within the area of the humus tank the general stratigraphy was topsoil (100) overlying 0.08m of subsoil (101). Below this was 0.18m of compact alluvial clay (102) which overlay the natural clay geology (103) (Plate 3).

Along the eastern edge of the excavation, the topsoil (100) overlay 0.2m of made-ground (105) below which was up to 0.3m of buried topsoil (106). Below this was the alluvium (102) which overlay the natural clay (103) (Plate 4).

2.2.2 Archaeological findings

No archaeological finds, features or deposits were identified during the archaeological work.

3 Conclusion

The evaluation has been successful in recording the natural stratigraphic sequence of the development area within the eastern half of the STW.

The presence of made ground (002 / 105) beneath a thin layer of redeposited topsoil and directly overlying the alluvial subsoil suggested that this part of the STW had been stripped during previous construction works. Archaeological remains which might exist within the alluvial subsoils or at their interface with the underlying natural geology would have been unaffected by this truncation event.

Despite the presence of vestigial ridge and furrow earthworks immediately to the east, no evidence of medieval agricultural activity was identified within the STW. The presence of alluvium within both the test-pits (003 and 007) and the stripped area for the humus tank (102) suggest that the south east half of the PDA may have been low-lying marshland possibly susceptible to seasonal flooding from the stream located immediately to the east. It is therefore probable that the land occupied by the eastern half of the STW was marginal and unsuitable for agricultural use.

There is a high level of confidence in both the factual results of the monitoring and their interpretation, due to the clarity of the stratigraphic relationships, and the prevailing conditions at the time of the investigations.

Given the total absence of archaeological remains during the archaeological observation work, the overall significance of any adverse effects caused by the expansion of the STW is likely to be negligible.

The archaeological observation and recording has assured the long-term survival of the data collected through the compilation of a site archive and this report.

4 Archive

The evaluation produced the following document archive, under the site code of BBY14.

Table 4-1 Archive quantification

Trench	Length
Number record	1
Context indices	1
Context records	14
Photographic registers	1
Black and White photographs	7
Digital images	33
Drawing indices	1
Permatrace sheets	1

There is currently no suitable museum to receive the archive. Network Archaeology will therefore prepare and store the archive until a suitable museum is available.

5 Acknowledgements

Network Archaeology would like to thank the following people and organisations for their assistance during the evaluation and the production of this report.

Table 5-1 Acknowledgements

Organisation	Name	Position	Contribution
Northamptonshire County Council	Lesley-Ann Mather	Archaeological advisor	External monitoring
Black and Veatch	Jenny Marshall-Evans	Environmental Scientist	Project data
	Richard Jones	Project Manager	Project data
	John Cole	Site Manager	Project data
Network Archaeology Ltd	David Bonner	Technical Director	Project management
	Andrew Hunn	Senior Project Officer	Topsoil survey and test-pitting
	Stephen Thorpe	Project Officer	Humus tank monitoring Report compilation
	Adam Holman	Geomatics/IT manager	Report figures

6 Bibliography

ACAO	1993	Model briefs and Specifications for Archaeological Assessments and Field Evaluations	
ALGAO	2003	Standards for field archaeology in the east of England	EAA occasional paper 14
British Geological Survey	Accessed 2014	http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html	Geology of Britain viewer
Cranfield University/NSSI	Accessed 2014	https://www.landis.org.uk/soilscapes	Soilscapes viewer
Department for Communities and Local Government	2010	PPS5: Planning for the Historic Environment	The Stationery Office
Department for Communities and Local Government	2008	PPS11: Regional Spatial Strategies	Update 2/2008
EAA	2005	Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England	Occasional Paper 14
English Heritage	1991	The Management of Archaeological Projects, 2nd edition	London
English Heritage	1997	Sustaining the historic environment: new perspectives on the future	
Ferguson L.M. & Murray D.M.	1997	Archaeological Documentary Archives: Preparation, Curation and Storage, Paper 1,	Institute of Field Archaeologists' Manchester
HSE	2002 (As amended)	Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations (COSHH)	
HSE	1994	Construction (Design and Management) Regulations	
HSE	1974	Health and Safety at Work Act	
IFA	2008 (194, revised 2001)	Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological material	

IFA	2008 (194, revised 2001)	Standard & Guidance documents (Desk-Based Assessments, Watching Briefs, Evaluations, Excavations, Investigation and Recording of Standing Buildings, Finds, Waterlogged Wood)	
IFA	2008 (194, revised 2001)	Code of Conduct	
IFA	2000b	Code of Approved Practice for the Regulation of Contractual Arrangements in Field Archaeology.	
MGC	1992	Standards in the Museum Care of Archaeological Collections	Museums and Galleries Commission London
Network Archaeology Ltd	2014	Eydon STW, Northamptonshire. Written Scheme of Investigation: Archaeological Observation, Investigation, Recording, Analysis and Publication	Unpublished client report
Society of Museum Archaeologists	1995	Towards an accessible archaeological archive - the transfer of archaeological archives to museums: guidelines for use in England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales	Society for Museum Archaeologists, London
Walker, K.	1990	Guidelines for the preparation of excavation archives for long-term storage.	United Kingdom Institute for Conservation, Archaeology Section (London)

APPENDIX A

RAPID DESK-BASED APPRAISAL

Desk-based appraisal

A rapid desk-based appraisal has been carried out using data collated from various online sources including English Heritage, British Museum, Council for British Archaeology, Natural England and Northamptonshire County Council's website.

The nearest scheduled monument is medieval Canon's Ashby, forming part of a registered park and garden, 3km to the east of the STW. Two further scheduled monuments include the medieval ringwork at Culworth 3km to the south east and Edgcote Roman villa 3km to the south west. Edgcote is also the site of a registered battlefield.

The historic village of Eydon is a conservation area, containing numerous listed buildings and has possible medieval origins. It is surrounded by surviving fragments of medieval ridge and furrow field system, the nearest being located immediately to the east of the STW.

Eydon Park Hall, a non-registered park of early modern date is located just 300m to the south west.

The Great Central Railway and the East & West Junction Railway run north west to south east approximately 600m to the east of the STW.

The surrounding landscape also includes a number of undated sites, the nearest of which is just over 500m to the south east of the STW.

Context Summary

Context	Type	Dimensions (m)	Description	Interpretation	Same as	Finds (Y/N)
001	Layer	0.09m thick	Soft dark brown clayey silt	Topsoil		N
002	Layer	0.11m thick	Bright orange-brown silt with ironstone fragments	Made ground	105	N
003	Layer	0.2m thick	Light grey clayey silt with orange mottling	Alluvium	102	N
004	Layer	0.11m thick	pale grey-orange clay	Natural clay	103	N
005	Layer	n/a	Firm bright orange-grey clay	Natural clay	104	N
006	Layer	0.2m thick	Soft dark brown clayey silt	Topsoil		N
007	Layer	0.1m+ thick	Light brown-yellow clay with pale grey mottling	Alluvium	003 102	N
100	Layer	0.16m thick	Soft dark brown clayey silt	Topsoil	001	N
101	Layer	0.08m thick	Soft mid to dark orange brown clayey silt	Subsoil		N
102	Layer	0.18m thick	Compact light to mid grey brown clay	Alluvium	003 007	N
103	Layer	0.3m thick	Compact bright yellow Orange clay with mudstone	Natural clay	004	N
104	Layer	n/a	Compact bright yellow-blue clay	Natural clay	005	N
105	Layer	0.2m thick	Bright orange-brown silt with ironstone fragments	Made ground	002	N
106	Layer	Up to 0.3m thick	Soft mid to dark grey clayey silt	Buried topsoil		N

APPENDIX C

PLATES



Plate 1: General view of humus tank area after topsoil strip. Camera facing southeast



Plate 2: Test pit 1. Camera facing northwest



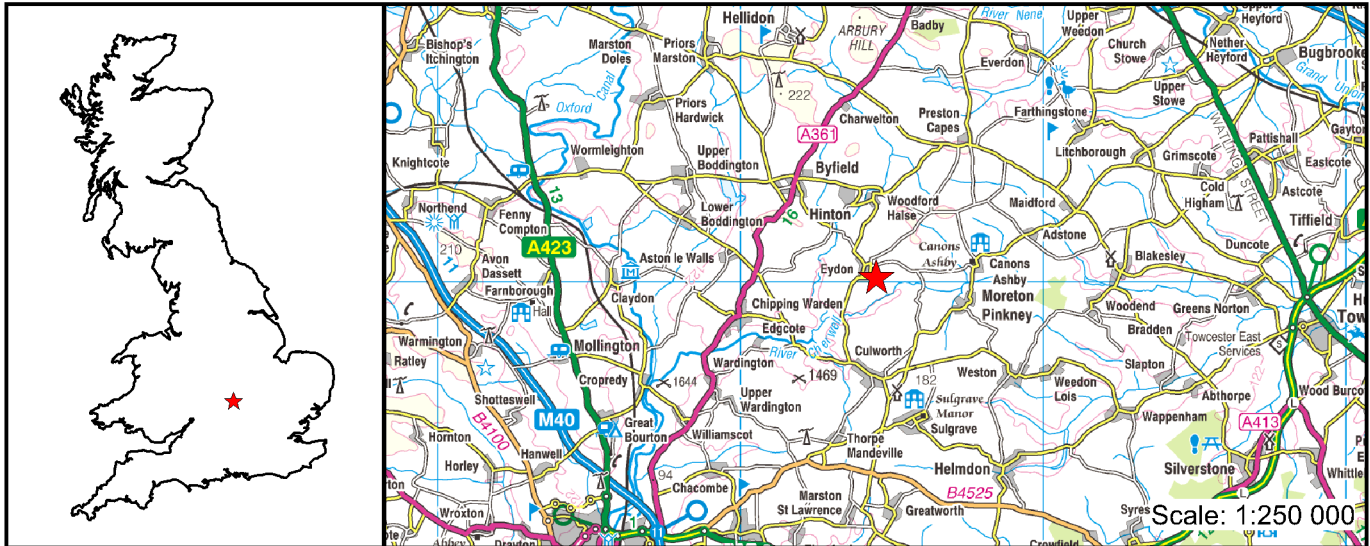
Plate 3: Humus tank profile showing natural stratigraphy. Camera facing northeast



Plate 4: Humus tank profile showing buried topsoil 106. Camera facing east

APPENDIX D

Figures



★ □ STW

N

0 500m

[Contains Ordnance Survey data
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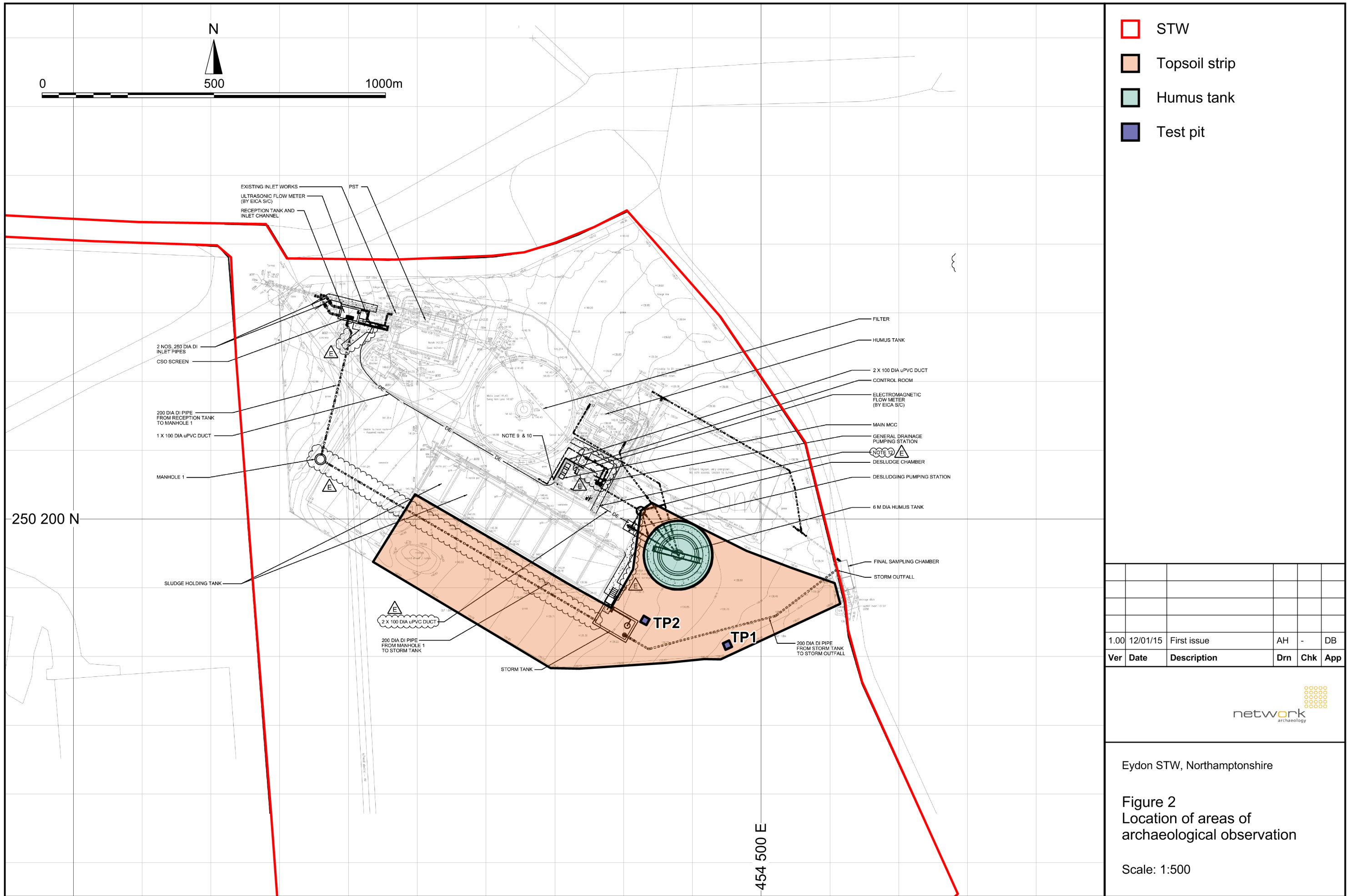
Ver	Date	Description	Drn	Chk	App
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Eydon STW
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Figure 1
Location of STW

Scale: 1:10 000



- STW
- Topsoil strip
- Humus tank
- Test pit

Ver	Date	Description	Drn	Chk	App
1.00	12/01/15	First issue	AH	-	DB



Eydon STW, Northamptonshire

Figure 2
Location of areas of archaeological observation

Scale: 1:500