

Barnham Crossroads Pumping Station Barnham Suffolk



Excavation Report



February 2014

Client: Anglian Water

OA East Report No: 1596
OASIS No: Oxfordar3-171550
NGR: TL 86619 79169

Barnham Crossroads Pumping Station, Barnham, Suffolk

Archaeological Excavation

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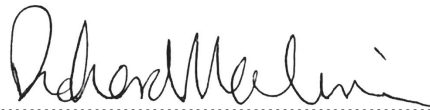
Illustrator: Séverine Bézine BA MA

Report Date: February 2014

Report Number: 1596
Site Name: Barnham Cross Pumping Station
HER Event No: BNH 104
Date of Works: February 2014
Client Name: Anglian Water
Client Ref: 16608
Planning Ref: -
Grid Ref: TL 86619 79169
Site Code: BNH 104
Finance Code: XSF BPS 14
Receiving Body: Suffolk County Council
Accession No: -

Prepared by: Rob Wiseman
Position: Assistant Supervisor
Date: February 2014

Checked by: Richard Mortimer
Position: Project Manager
Date: February 2014
Signed:



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Summary

Between the 18th and 19th of February 2014, Oxford Archaeology East carried out a small excavation at Barnham Crossroads in advance of construction of a water pumping station by Anglian Water. An area 17m x 28m metres was excavated. The topsoil and subsoil were stripped by machine to a depth of 0.5 – 0.8 metres, and archaeological features were then excavated by hand.

A post-medieval ditch-and-hedge were identified, running north-south parallel to the modern A134, as well a series of inter-cutting chalk quarry pits, probably Victorian in date. There is one other possible ditch, running east-west, although it could also be a natural gully.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Location and scope of work

- 1.1.1 An archaeological excavation was conducted at Barnham Crossroads (Fig. 1), in advance of the construction of a water pumping station, as part of a water pipeline being constructed by Anglian Water from Thetford to Bury St Edmunds. A separate evaluation, as part of the larger pipeline construction project, had previously been conducted in the area.
- 1.1.2 This archaeological excavation was undertaken in accordance with a Brief issued by Matthew Brudenell of Suffolk County Council, supplemented by a Specification prepared by OA East.
- 1.1.3 The work was designed to assist in defining the character and extent of any archaeological remains within the proposed redevelopment area, and to preserve these remains by record in accordance with the guidelines set out in *National Planning Policy Framework* (Department for Communities and Local Government March 2012).
- 1.1.4 The site archive is currently held by OA East and will be deposited with the appropriate county stores in due course.

1.2 Geology and topography

- 1.2.1 According to the British Geological Survey (1981), the underlying bedrock of the site is the Lewes Nodular Chalk Formation, overlain by River Terrace Deposits, comprising sand and gravels. The topsoil had been levelled for agricultural use in the past, but the underlying gravel layers sloped downward from southeast to northwest, to a small watercourse approximately 500 metres to the northwest.

1.3 Archaeological and historical background

- 1.3.1 The site is located in an area of high archaeological potential, as defined by information held by Suffolk County Historic Environment Record (HER). The site is c. 150m to the north-west of a group of Bronze Age ring ditches and barrows (HER nos. BNH 004-005, BNH 023 and BNH 025) – including one which is scheduled (BNH 004; SAM DSF15336) – and c. 100m to the west of two Roman findspots (BNH 030 and BNH 042).
- 1.3.2 Current excavations along the route of the Bury PZ Anglian Water pipeline have revealed an inhumation cemetery containing eight individuals to the south of the crossroads (BNH 100). 600m to the north an Early Saxon settlement comprising seven sunken-featured buildings and pits was discovered (BNH 098).

1.4 Acknowledgements

- 1.4.1 The author would like to thank Jean Cayless and Jo Everitt of Anglian water who commissioned and funded the archaeological work. The project was managed by Richard Mortimer, and the site excavated by Rob Wiseman, Michael Green, and Daria Tsybaeva. Matthew Brudenell of the Suffolk County Council monitored the project for Suffolk County Council. This report is illustrated by [Severine Bezie](#).

2 AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

2.1 Aims

- 2.1.1 The main aims of the project were to preserve the archaeological evidence contained within the excavation area by record, and to attempt a reconstruction of the history and use of the site.

2.2 Methodology

- 2.2.1 The methodology used followed that outlined in the Brief (Brudenell 2014) and detailed in the Specification for Archaeological Excavation (Phillips 2014).
- 2.2.2 Machine excavation was carried out by a 360° excavator using a toothless ditching bucket, exposing an area of 17m x 28m (0.04 ha). This excavation was under constant archaeological supervision.
- 2.2.3 All archaeological features and deposits were recorded using OA East's *pro-forma* sheets. Trench locations, plans and sections were recorded at appropriate scales and colour and monochrome photographs were taken of all relevant features and deposits.

3 RESULTS

3.1 Introduction

- 3.1.1 All of the archaeological features identified in the area were post-medieval in date. They comprised two ditches and a series of inter-cutting quarry pits. In addition, two possible gullies were identified, probably natural rather than archaeological.
- 3.1.2 The surface appears to have been levelled for agriculture (possibly for access to the field) in the recent past. In the SE corner of the area, there was virtually no subsoil (depth 0.06m) but it deepened in the NW corner to 0.35m. The topsoil produced a mix of broken roof tile and printed table china, consistent with domestic dumping.
- 3.1.3 The inter-cutting quarry pits covered an area of approximately 3.5 x 10 metres. They were excavated with three slots (**3, 5, 7**). The pits were vertical- or near-vertical sided, cut into the natural chalk, to a uniform depth of 0.7 m. Deposit 8 produced four bricks, probably Victorian in date. No other finds were recovered. The pits may represent marling, or liming, pits, the alkaline chalk being used to improve the acidic sandy topsoil.
- 3.1.4 Two ditches ran north-south, almost parallel to the modern A134 road, 30 metres to the west, as well as to the boundary hedge. Both were shallow: the eastern ditch (**9, 13**) was a maximum of 0.25 metres deep; the western (**11, 15**) 0.12 metres deep. Two slots were cut through them to investigate their relationship: they appear to be contemporary. Deposit 12 produced a piece of post-medieval or modern flowerpot, post-medieval floor tile, and a lump of iron. The equivalent fill in (16) produced a broken chain link. Together, this points to a twentieth century date for both features. These two ditches are interpreted as an earlier version of the current field boundary ditch and hedge.
- 3.1.5 Running beneath and at 90° to this modern ditch-and-hedge was a possible gully or ditch (**19**). No finds were recovered, and the similarity of the fill to the natural geology suggests it might be a natural gully, rather than a ditch. It produced no finds, and the stratigraphic relationships suggests only a pre-20th century date. It could also represent an earlier field boundary ditch alongside the road to the south.
- 3.1.6 There is a small ditch or gully (21) in the southwest corner of the area, running SW-NE. It produced no finds, but the deposit is similar to that in gully 19. As it is small and not on the alignment of any other feature, it is interpreted as a natural feature.

4 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

4.1 Victorian quarrying

4.1.1 The earliest securely-datable activity identified on site is post-medieval chalk quarrying. The quarry pits are small and handcut, suggesting they were dug before the 20th century, but they also contain post-medieval brick. Together, this suggests a Victorian date.

4.2 Modern boundary ditch and hedge

4.2.1 The hedge line (11/15) contains late post-Medieval/modern finds, including printed table china, suggesting it was open from the late 19th century. Aerial photographs from 1945 in Google Earth show no sign of a hedge in this location.

4.3 Significance

4.3.1 Although significant Bronze Age, Roman and Saxon finds have been excavated nearby around Barnham, all of the features securely identified in this site are post-medieval in date..

APPENDIX A. TRENCH DESCRIPTIONS AND CONTEXT INVENTORY

Trench 1						
General description						
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of soil and subsoil overlying a natural of silty sand.					Avg. depth (m)	0.4
					Width (m)	17
					Length (m)	26
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
1	Layer	-	0.35	Topsoil	CBM, printed table china	post-medieval/modern
2	Layer	-	0.06	Subsoil	-	-
3	Cut	1.0	0.7	Slot in chalk quarry pit	-	post-medieval
4	Fill	1.0	0.7	Chalk quarry pit fill	-	post-medieval
5	Cut	1.0	0.7	Slot in chalk quarry pit	-	post-medieval
6	Fill	1.0	0.7	Chalk quarry pit fill	-	post-medieval
7	Cut	1.8	0.7	Slot in chalk quarry pit		post-medieval
8	Fill	1.8	0.7	Chalk quarry pit fill	4 bricks; 2 brick fragments	post-medieval
9	Cut	1.5	0.25	Ditch	-	post-medieval
10	Fill	1.5	0.25	Ditch	-	post-medieval
11	Cut	0.8	0.12	Hedge	-	post-medieval
12	Fill	0.8	0.12	Hedge	floor tile, modern flower pot, iron lump	post-medieval
13	Cut	1.4	0.14	Ditch	-	post-medieval
14	Fill	1.4	0.14	Ditch	-	post-medieval
15	Cut	1.1	0.12	Hedge		post-medieval
16	Fill	1.1	0.12	Hedge	animal bone, broken chain link	post-medieval
17	Cut	1.4	0.2	Tree bole	-	-
18	Fill	1.4	0.2	Tree bole	-	-
19	Cut	1.1	0.44	Ditch/natural gully	-	-
20	Fill	1.1	0.44	Ditch/natural gully	-	-
21	Cut	0.4	0.07	Ditch/natural gully	-	-
22	Fill	0.4	0.07	Ditch/natural gully	-	-

APPENDIX B. FINDS REPORTS

Context	Material	Object Name	Weight in kg	Comments
1	Ceramic	Ceramic Building Material	0.01	Miscellaneous fragments
1	Ceramic	Vessel	0.02	
1	Organic	Clinker	0.05	Burnt Oil Shale
1	Ceramic	Ceramic Building Material	0.11	Peg Tile, x4 Fragments
8	Ceramic	Brick	2.74	weight for single brick
12	Ceramic	Vessel	0.00	
12	Ceramic	Brick	0.47	
16	Bone	Bone	0.04	

B.1.1

APPENDIX C. BIBLIOGRAPHY

Brudenell, M. (2014) Brief for Archaeological Excavation at Anglian Water Barnham Cross Pumping Station, Barnham, Suffolk. Unpublished letter (dated 20 January 2014)

Phillips, T. (2014). *Barnham Cross Pumping Station. Specification for Archaeological Excavation*. Unpublished (dated 12 February 2014)

APPENDIX D. OASIS REPORT FORM

All fields are required unless they are not applicable.

Project Details

OASIS Number	<input type="text"/>		
Project Name	<input type="text"/>		
Project Dates (fieldwork) Start	<input type="text"/>	Finish	<input type="text"/>
Previous Work (by OA East)	<input type="text"/>	Future Work	<input type="text"/>

Project Reference Codes

Site Code	<input type="text"/>	Planning App. No.	<input type="text"/>
HER No.	<input type="text"/>	Related HER/OASIS No.	<input type="text"/>

Type of Project/Techniques Used

Prompt

Please select all techniques used:

<input type="checkbox"/> Field Observation (periodic visits)	<input type="checkbox"/> Part Excavation	<input type="checkbox"/> Salvage Record
<input type="checkbox"/> Full Excavation (100%)	<input type="checkbox"/> Part Survey	<input type="checkbox"/> Systematic Field Walking
<input type="checkbox"/> Full Survey	<input type="checkbox"/> Recorded Observation	<input type="checkbox"/> Systematic Metal Detector Survey
<input type="checkbox"/> Geophysical Survey	<input type="checkbox"/> Remote Operated Vehicle Survey	<input type="checkbox"/> Test Pit Survey
<input type="checkbox"/> Open-Area Excavation	<input type="checkbox"/> Salvage Excavation	<input type="checkbox"/> Watching Brief

Monument Types/Significant Finds & Their Periods

List feature types using the [NMR Monument Type Thesaurus](#) and significant finds using the [MDA Object type Thesaurus](#) together with their respective periods. If no features/finds were found, please state "none".

Monument	Period	Object	Period
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<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

Project Location

County	<input type="text"/>	Site Address (including postcode if possible)
District	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Parish	<input type="text"/>	
HER	<input type="text"/>	
Study Area	<input type="text"/>	National Grid Reference <input type="text"/>

Project Originators

Organisation	<input type="text"/>
Project Brief Originator	<input type="text"/>
Project Design Originator	<input type="text"/>
Project Manager	<input type="text"/>
Supervisor	<input type="text"/>

Project Archives

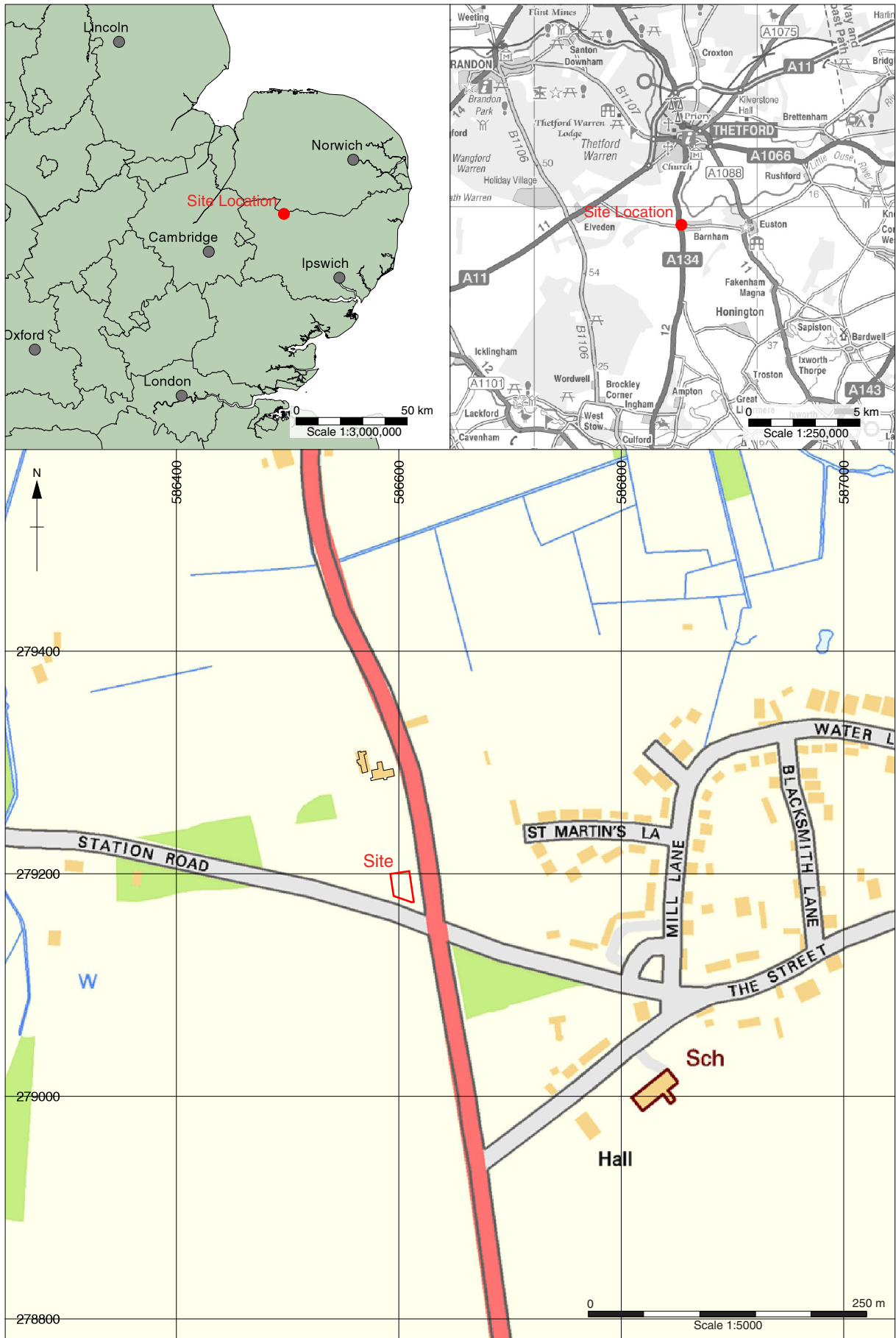
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Archive Contents/Media

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Glass	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Human Bones	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Metal	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Survey		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Textiles	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Wood	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Worked Bone	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Worked Stone/Lithic	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
None	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Digital Media	Paper Media
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	<input type="checkbox"/> Research/Notes
	<input type="checkbox"/> Photos
	<input type="checkbox"/> Plans
	<input type="checkbox"/> Report
	<input type="checkbox"/> Sections
	<input type="checkbox"/> Survey

Notes:



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Figure 1: Site location



Figure 2: Excavation area



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