

# Pumping Station Hillington Norfolk



Archaeological  
Watching Brief Report



February 2009

Client: Anglian Water

OA East Report No: 1100

OASIS No: 57754

NGR: TF 7429 2618

## **Archaeological Watching Brief at the Pumping Station, Hillington, Norfolk**

*Site Code: XNFHIT08*

*NHER No. 25915*

*Date of Works: December 2008 to February 2009*

*Report No: 1100*

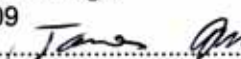
*Excavator: Nick Gilmour/Jon House/Heather Wallis*

*Client: Anglian Water*

*Report Date: February 2009*

**Report Number:** 1100  
**Site Name:** Hillington Nitrate Tank  
**HER Event No:** NHER 25195  
**Date of Works:** Dec 08 – Feb 09  
**Client Name:** Anglian Water  
**Client Ref:** N/A  
**Planning Ref:** N/A  
**Grid Ref:** TF 7429 2618  
**Site Code:** XNFHIT08  
**Finance Code:** XNFHIT08

**Prepared by:** Heather Wallis  
**Position:** Project Officer  
**Date:** March 09

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**Position:** Project Manager  
**Date:** April 09  
**Signed:** 

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### **Summary**

*On 16<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup> December 2008 and 26<sup>th</sup>, 27<sup>th</sup> January, 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup> February 2009, staff of Oxford Archaeology East carried out an archaeological watching brief at the Pumping Station, Hillington, Norfolk (TF 7429 2618). The monitoring was carried out during the construction of a new nitrate removal tank. No archaeological deposits or artefacts were noted.*

## 1 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

- 1.1 The underlying geology of the area is the Upper Cretaceous white chalk.

## 2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1 A search of the Norfolk Historic Environment record was made centred on TF 7429 2618 and covering all sites within 1.5km of this point. The accompanying files detail the records from this area. A summary of this information follows.

### 2.2 *Neolithic*

- 2.2.1 This period is represented by the occasional find of a flint tool.

### 2.3 *Bronze Age*

- 2.3.1 A number of ring ditches have been identified, mainly from aerial photographs, which are thought to be of a Bronze Age date. These occupy positions above the valley of the Babingley River, mainly to the north of the proposed area of watching brief.

### 2.4 *Iron Age*

- 2.4.1 Evidence for the Iron Age is limited to the recovery of finds from metal detecting on four separate sites and from trial trenching on site 25915 (see below). These finds consist of an Iceni gold stater, an Iceni silver coin, a copper alloy brooch, a copper alloy and iron linchpin and a copper alloy shield fitting.

### 2.5 *Roman*

- 2.5.1 Although there is more evidence of the Romano-British period it is largely limited to finds recovered from metal detecting. Twenty sites are listed from which Roman artefacts were found. The finds include coins, items of personal adornment (brooches, pins, finger rings and a bracelet) and toilet instruments. Pottery and tile has also been recovered. This evidence has been interpreted as indicating the presence of Roman settlement in this area.

### 2.6 *Saxon*

- 2.6.1 The Saxon period is represented by six metal finds and a few sherds of Middle and Late Saxon pottery. A wrist clasp and an unidentified object have been dated to the Early Saxon period, an 'Ansate' brooch from the Middle Saxon period is recorded and three objects of Late Saxon date; a disc brooch, a mount and a strap end.

### 2.7 *Medieval*

- 2.7.1 The main medieval site within the study area is Flitcham Abbey. This was an Augustinian Priory founded in 1217 as a dependant cell of the priory at Walsingham. The majority of other evidence from this period is in the form of isolated finds including coins, buckles, belt-fittings and brooches. One concentration is notable to the south (23492) where a number of such finds were made.

### 2.8 *Post-medieval*

- 2.8.1 Monuments of this period consist of several buildings, including a farm built amid the ruins of Flitcham Abbey, the construction of Hillington Park and all its associated buildings such as gatehouses, ice house and other outbuildings, and other farmhouses and barns. Isolated metal finds have also been recorded across the study area.

### 2.9 *Site 25915 – Possible Roman settlement and mult-period finds*

- 2.9.1 The watching brief was within the bounds of site 25915 at Hillington pumping station. Finds from this site included twenty-four Roman coins, an Iceni 'gold' stater, part of a Roman brooch and pottery sherds of Roman, Middle Saxon and Late Saxon date. A number of finds of similar dates have also been made from the broader area immediately around this site.

### 3 METHODOLOGY

- 3.1.1 The objective of this watching brief was to determine as far as reasonably possible the presence/absence, location, nature, extent, date, quality, condition and significance of any surviving archaeological deposits within the development area.
- 3.1.2 The Brief required that an archaeologist was in attendance during the excavation of new below ground tanks.
- 3.1.3 Site conditions were not ideal since the watching brief was carried out following periods of heavy snow and rain. The local water-table was also relatively high leading to the flooding of the trenches which required constant pumping. Access into the trench was not possible and all recording was carried out from the edge of the trench.
- 3.1.4 All removed deposits were scanned both visually and with a metal detector for the retrieval of finds.

### 4 RESULTS

- 4.1.1 The topsoil removal and the excavation of an area c.3m x 8m were monitored. This area was located to the south of the present buildings on the site. The natural chalk was revealed at a depth of c. 1.2m. A very coarse flinty gravel in a matrix of orange sand graduating to a mid brown silty sand towards the top overlay the natural.
- 4.1.2 Over this was a layer of re-deposited chalk, above which an orange gravelly silty sand was noted. These deposit were relatively modern, probably resulting from the works undertaken at the pumping station in the 1990s.
- 4.1.3 No archaeological features were noted during the excavation of the trench and no finds were recovered from the excavated material.

### 5 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

- 5.1.1 Although located in an area in an area where several archaeological finds have been made this work revealed no further evidence for human activity.

### 6 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- 6.1.1 The author would like to thank Anglian Water who commissioned and funded the archaeological work and Biwater the site contractors who helped to enable the works.
- 6.1.2 The project was managed by James Drummond-Murray on behalf of OA East.
- 6.1.3 The brief for archaeological works was written by Edwin Rose. Further advice from Ken Hamilton of Norfolk Landscape Archaeology was also appreciated.

## APPENDIX A. OASIS REPORT FORM

All fields are required unless they are not applicable.

### Project Details

OASIS Number	Oxfordar3-57754.		
Project Name	Watching brief at Anglian Water Pumping Station, Hillington, Norfolk		
Project Dates (fieldwork) Start	16-12-2008	Finish	09-02-2009
Previous Work (by OA East)	No	Future Work	No

### Project Reference Codes

Site Code	XNFHIT08	Planning App. No.	n/a
HER No.	25915	Related HER/OASIS No.	n/a

### 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 checked="" 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
n/a	Select period...	n/a	Select period...
	Select period...		Select period...
	Select period...		Select period...

### Project Location

County	Norfolk	Site Address (including postcode if possible)	Anglian Water Pumping Station Hillington Norfolk
District	Kings Lynn & W Norfolk		
Parish	Hillingotn		
HER	Suffolk		
Study Area	20 sq m	National Grid Reference	TG 7429 2618



## Project Originators

Organisation	OA EAST
Project Brief Originator	Norfolk Landscape Archaeology
Project Design Originator	OA East
Project Manager	James Drummond Murray
Supervisor	Heather Wallis

## Project Archives

Physical Archive	Digital Archive	Paper Archive
Location ...	OA EAST	OA EAST
Accession ID ...	Accession ID ...	Accession ID ...

## Archive Contents/Media

	Physical Contents	Digital Contents	Paper Contents
Animal Bones	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ceramics	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Environmental	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Glass	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Human Bones	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Industrial	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Leather	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Metal	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Stratigraphic		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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
<input type="checkbox"/> Database	<input type="checkbox"/> Aerial Photos
<input type="checkbox"/> GIS	<input type="checkbox"/> Context Sheet
<input type="checkbox"/> Geophysics	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Correspondence
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	<input type="checkbox"/> Survey

### Notes:

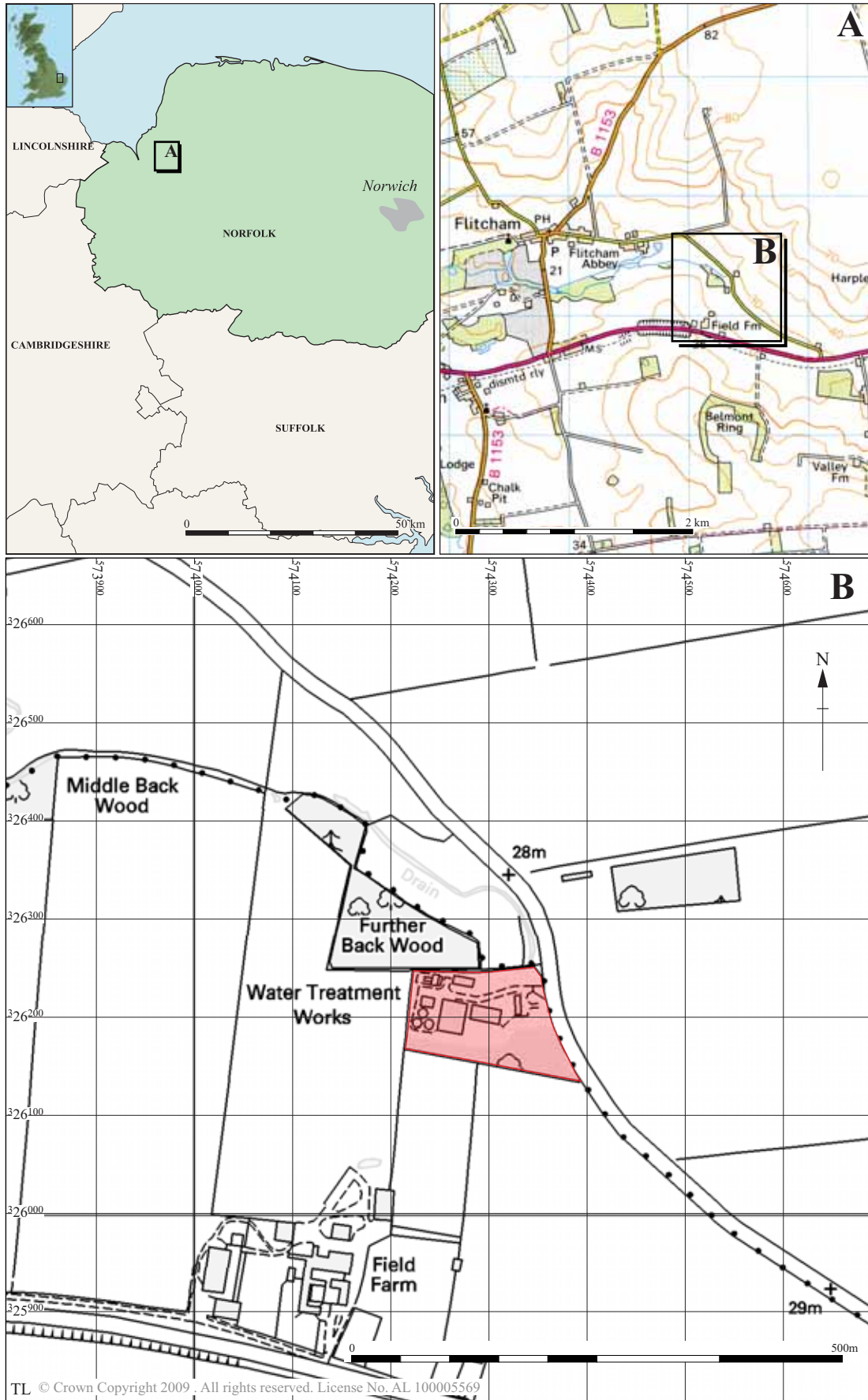


Figure 1: Location of the development area (highlighted red)



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