

Watching Brief at Eight Ash Green Colchester Essex



Archaeological Watching Brief Report



March 2010

Client: Anglian Water

OA East Report No: 1166

OASIS No:

NGR: TL 9504 2620

Watching Brief at Eight Ash Green, Colchester, Essex

Watching Brief

Site Code: XEXWIN09

Date of Works: February 2010

Report No: 1166

Excavator: Tom Lyons

Client: Anglian Water

Report Date: March 2010

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Summary

In January and February 2010, OA East carried out an archaeological watching brief on land east and south of Eight Ash Green, Colchester, Essex (TL 95042 26208). The monitoring was carried out during the stripping of topsoil in advance of the laying of a water pipe between existing infrastructure at Argents Lane, Eight Ash Green and Tollgate, Colchester. No archaeological features or artefacts were revealed during the excavation.

1 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

- 1.1.1 The underlying natural geology consisted of mostly London clays with occasional sands and gravels. In places the gravels were coarse and dense. The northern half of the route was located in gently undulating topography while the southern part was relatively flat.

2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

The route of the pipeline is outside and to the north and west of the Roman town of Colchester. Colchester was an important Roman town and has been the subject of much archaeological excavation and many chance finds. It lies within a densely populated ancient landscape. One section of the pipeline passes through a known cropmark site (EHER11940) although no archaeological investigation has taken place on this site to date. This cropmark site, which lies to the east of Eight Ash Green, appears to show evidence of tracks, pits, ditches and enclosures.

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 all ground excavations were to be monitored by an archaeologist.
- 3.1.3 The area of investigation was located to the south and east of Eight Ash Green, west of Colchester.
- 3.1.4 All archaeological features and deposits were recorded using OA East's *pro-forma* sheets. Trench locations, plans and sections were recorded at appropriate scales digital photographs were taken of all relevant features and deposits.
- 3.1.5 Site conditions were generally good apart from the bottom of slopes which became very waterlogged.

4 RESULTS

- 4.1.1 No archaeological features, deposits or artefacts were observed or recovered along the length of the easement during the ground works. The Fieldwalking survey found almost nothing (three sherds of pottery)

5 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

- 5.1.1 Although a geophysical survey located possible ditched enclosures to the east of Eight Ash Green, upon excavation these results were shown to be as a result of geological variation rather than buried archaeological features. This part of the easement contained a high proportion of gravel.

6 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- 6.1.1 The author would like to thank Anglian Water who commissioned and funded the archaeological work as well as the staff of Balfour Beatty who provided cooperation on site. The project was managed by James Drummond Murray.
- 6.1.2 The brief for archaeological works was written by Martin Winter of Colchester Borough Council.

APPENDIX A. OASIS REPORT FORM

All fields are required unless they are not applicable.

Project Details

OASIS Number	<input type="text" value="oxfordar3-72809"/>			
Project Name	<input type="text" value="Anglian Water Pipeline, Eight Ash Green, Colchester"/>			
Project Dates (fieldwork)	Start	<input type="text" value="27-01-2010"/>	Finish	<input type="text" value="17-02-2010"/>
Previous Work (by OA East)	<input type="text" value="Yes"/>	Future Work	<input type="text" value="No"/>	

Project Reference Codes

Site Code	<input type="text" value="XEXWIN09"/>	Planning App. No.	<input type="text" value="none"/>
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 checked="" 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
<input type="text" value="none"/>	<input type="text" value="None"/>	<input type="text" value="none"/>	<input type="text" value="None"/>
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text" value="Select period..."/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text" value="Select period..."/>
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text" value="Select period..."/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text" value="Select period..."/>

Project Location

County	Essex	Site Address (including postcode if possible)
District	Colchester	Winstree Rd Colchester Essex CO3 0PZ
Parish	Eight Ash Green	
HER	Essex	
Study Area	39,500 sqm	National Grid Reference TL 9504 2620

Project Originators

Organisation	OA EAST
Project Brief Originator	Martin Winter
Project Design Originator	Aileen Connor
Project Manager	James Drummond-Murray
Supervisor	Tom Lyons

Project Archives

Physical Archive	Digital Archive	Paper Archive
none	OA EAST	OA EAST
	XEXWIN09	XEXWIN09

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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Geophysics	<input type="checkbox"/> Correspondence
<input type="checkbox"/> Images	<input type="checkbox"/> Diary
<input type="checkbox"/> Illustrations	<input type="checkbox"/> Drawing
<input type="checkbox"/> Moving Image	<input type="checkbox"/> Manuscript
<input type="checkbox"/> Spreadsheets	<input type="checkbox"/> Map
<input type="checkbox"/> Survey	<input type="checkbox"/> Matrices
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Text	<input type="checkbox"/> Microfilm
<input type="checkbox"/> Virtual Reality	<input type="checkbox"/> Misc.
	<input type="checkbox"/> Research/Notes
	<input type="checkbox"/> Photos
	<input type="checkbox"/> Plans
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Report
	<input type="checkbox"/> Sections
	<input type="checkbox"/> Survey

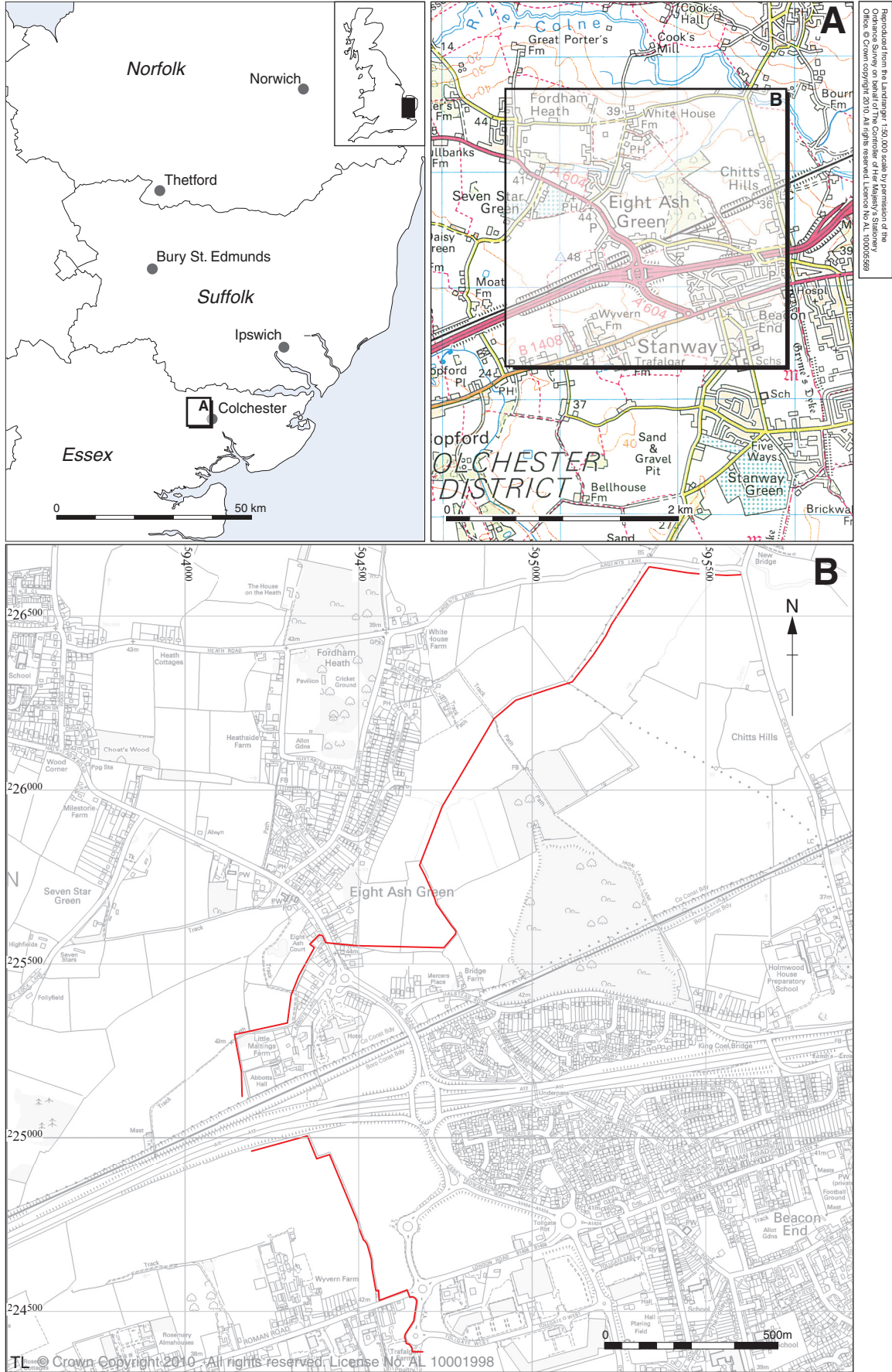


Figure 1: Location of pipeline (red)



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