

Drill Pit Excavations  
Trumpington Meadows  
S98



**Archaeological  
Watching Brief Report**



August 2013

**Client: Anglian Water**

OA East Report No: 1513  
OASIS No: oxfordar3-156738  
NGR: TL 4440 5530

## **Drill Pit Excavations, Trumpington Meadows S98**

### *Watching Brief*

*Site Code: CAMTMS13*

*CHER No. ECB 3951*

*Date of Works: 08/08/13*

*Report No: 1513*

*Excavator: Pat Moan*

*Client: Anglian Water*

*Report Date: 08/08/13*

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### **Summary**

*On the 8th August 2013, OA East carried out an archaeological watching brief at Trumpington Meadows (TL 4440 5530). The monitoring was carried out during the machine excavation of 3 drill pits in preparation for the drilling of a new sewer main. One undated ditch was recorded within a drill pit in the grounds of Anstey Hall Farm, 60m to the west of Trumpington church. The other two drill pits were devoid of archaeology.*



## 1 LOCATION, GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

- 1.1.1 The development is for a new Rising Main sewer pipe, extending to the west and north of the historic village of Trumpington, in the southern part of the City of Cambridge, aligned in an approximately north-east to south-west direction (Fig. 1).
- 1.1.2 Geological sources show that the site extends across a north to south orientated band of West Melbury Marly Chalk Formation, with a capping of 1st and 2nd River Terrace Deposits to the west and 3rd Terrace Deposits to the east (British Geological Society 2002).
- 1.1.3 The level of the land gently rose from the south-west at Trumpington Meadows (15m AOD), to 22m AOD at Grantchester Road, before sloping down to 19m AOD by High Street, Trumpington. Approximately 500m of the pipeline runs through the lands of Trumpington Estate, a 1300 hectare privately owned estate.

## 2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1.1 The northern part of the route passes through a landscape with extensive evidence for Bronze Age, Iron Age and Roman activity. Excavations covering nearly 20ha at Clay Farm, under 1km to the east, have revealed extensive Middle Bronze Age field systems and settlement, with further occupation throughout the Iron Age and Roman periods. (Phillips and Mortimer 2012).
- 2.1.2 To the west, cropmarks indicate a series of enclosures and boundaries of probable later prehistoric and Roman date on the gravel terraces overlooking the river Cam (Historic Environment Record Number 08966). There is also some evidence of medieval and post medieval roadside settlement along Trumpington Road (eg HER 16298).
- 2.1.3 The area to the south of Trumpington has been subject to archaeological works in connection with the current Trumpington Meadows development. This investigation identified circular funerary monuments dating from the Neolithic period, along with areas of dense Iron Age pitting, Romano-British field systems, Saxon settlement and a small Saxon cemetery, which included a high status bed burial (R. Patten pers. comm.; Cambridgeshire Historic Environment Record MCB17990).

## 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 sewer pipe was drilled underground rather than laid in an open trench. This method required the opening of drill pits at specific intervals so the pipe could be drilled between them. The watching brief monitored all machine excavated drill pits, which, following amendments to the original scheme, totalled three. These pits measured approximately 2m x 2m in size, and were excavated to the geological horizon, or the upper interface of archaeological deposits.
- 3.1.3 The area of investigation was located within Trumpington Meadows and the western part of Trumpington itself.
- 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 dry and sunny, with little cloud cover. Ground conditions were very dry and compacted.



## 4 RESULTS

### 4.1 Drill pit A

4.1.1 Drill pit A was located approximately 60m west of St Mary & St Michael Church, Grantchester Road (544132, 254914). It measured 2.5m in length, 2.2m in width and 0.75m deep. The natural geology encountered was a mid brownish yellow loamy clay. One archaeological feature was seen, a small undated ditch (**1**). The ditch was aligned north north-east to south south-west, and had a bowl profile. The feature was 0.57m wide and 0.21m deep. Fill 2 was a light greyish brown sandy silt with small gravel inclusions. No finds were recovered. A small area of bioturbation was investigated, to the east of ditch **1**. It was of no archaeological significance. Ditch **1** was sealed by 0.35m of subsoil. Topsoil completed the sequence, measuring 0.4m thick. The drill pit was then to be excavated to 4m in depth for the installation of the pipe.

### 4.2 Drill pit B

4.2.1 Drill pit B was located along the avenue leading to Trumpington Hall (544349, 255121). It was 2.2m long, 2.1m wide and 1.18m deep. The natural geology encountered was a light brownish grey sandy clay. No archaeological features were observed. The geological horizon was sealed by 0.7m of homogeneous light brown silts, which was in turn overlaid by 0.13m of a mid brownish yellow sandy gravel. Above it was topsoil, measuring 0.2m thick and this was sealed by 0.15m of clay, which had presumably been dumped on the topsoil during an episode of landscaping. The drill pit was then to be excavated to 4m for the installation of the pipe.

### 4.3 Drill pit C

4.3.1 Drill pit C was located within a paddock to the west of High Street, Trumpington (544469,255318). It was 2.1m long, 2m wide and 0.4m in depth. The geology encountered was a mid yellowish brown loam. No archaeological features were seen. The geological horizon was sealed by 0.15m of subsoil and 0.25m of topsoil. The drill pit was then to be excavated to 4m for the installation of the pipe.

## 5 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

- 5.1.1 The limited amount of archaeology observed within the drill pits was not unexpected, due to the scope of the work being very small. Drill pit A was located to the north of the Saxon remains discovered during excavations at Trumpington Meadows and to the west of the historic core of Trumpington village. Ditch **1** may relate to early development of the village but without any dating evidence it is impossible to be certain.
- 5.1.2 The depth of drill pit B is most likely due to the land being heavily landscaped within recent history. The drill pit was located very close to the driveway leading to Trumpington Hall, and much of the made up ground probably related to the construction of the road.

## 6 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- 6.1.1 The author would like to thank Anglian Water who commissioned and funded the archaeological work. The project was managed by Richard Mortimer.
- 6.1.2 The brief for archaeological works was written by Andy Thomas.

## BIBLIOGRAPHY

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Phillips, T. and Mortimer, R., 2012, *Clay Farm, Trumpington, Cambridgeshire. Post-excavation assessment and updated project design.* Unpub. OA East PXA Report no. 1294

Phillips, T. and Mortimer, R., 2013, *Trumpington Meadows S98: Specification for Archaeological Watching Brief*

## APPENDIX A. OASIS REPORT FORM

All fields are required unless they are not applicable.

### Project Details

OASIS Number	oxfordar3-156738		
Project Name	Drill Pit Excavations, Trumpington Meadows S98		
Project Dates (fieldwork)	Start	08-08-2013	Finish
Previous Work (by OA East)	No	Future Work	Unknown

### Project Reference Codes

Site Code	CAMTMS13	Planning App. No.	-
HER No.	ECB 3951	Related HER/OASIS No.	

### Type of Project/Techniques Used

Prompt: Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPG15

### Please select all techniques used:

<input checked="" 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
Boundary Ditch	Uncertain		Select period...
	Select period...		Select period...
	Select period...		Select period...

### Project Location

County	Cambridgeshire	Site Address (including postcode if possible)
District	Cambrdige	Hauxton Rd Cambridge, Cambridgeshire
Parish	Trumpington	
HER		
Study Area		National Grid Reference TL 4440 5530

### Project Originators

Organisation	OA EAST
Project Brief Originator	Andy Thomas
Project Design Originator	Tom Phillips and Richard Mortimer
Project Manager	Richard Mortimer
Supervisor	Pat Moan

### Project Archives

Physical Archive	Digital Archive	Paper Archive
CCC Stores	OA East, Bar Hill	CCC Stores
CAMTMS13	CAMTMS13	CAMTMS13

### 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"/>
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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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Digital Media	Paper Media
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<input type="checkbox"/> GIS	<input type="checkbox"/> Context Sheet
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	<input type="checkbox"/> Photos
	<input type="checkbox"/> Plans
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Report
	<input type="checkbox"/> Sections
	<input type="checkbox"/> Survey

**Notes:**



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Figure 1: Site location showing drill pits and pipeline route







Plate 1: Section of ditch 1, drill pit B



Plate 2: Section of Drill pit E, indicating heavy landscaping





Plate 3: Drill Pit E location



Plate 4: Drill Pit G Location





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