

24 London Road King's Lynn Norfolk



Archaeological Watching Brief Report



February 2013

Client: Anglian Water Services

OA East Report No: 1445

OASIS No: oxfordar3-144745

NGR: TF 66259 19492

24 London Road, King's Lynn, Norfolk

Archaeological Watching Brief

Site Code: XNFLRK13

NHER No.: ENF 131090

Date of Works: 26th – 27th February 2013

Report No: 1445

Excavator: Louise Bush

Client: Anglian Water Services

Report Date: February 2013

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Summary

On the 26th to the 27th February 2013, Oxford Archaeology East carried out an archaeological watching brief at 24 London Road, King's Lynn (TF 66259 19492). The monitoring was carried out during the excavation of a new pumping station and rising main.

The watching brief did not uncover anything of archaeological significance. The 3m by 3m trench for the pumping station revealed layers of modern make up to a depth of approximately 1.1m below present ground level. Sealed (and potentially truncated) beneath this was a layer of Victorian topsoil, approximately 0.2m in thickness, which contained fragments of white glazed porcelain, brick and oyster shell. This came straight down onto natural silts and clays.

1 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

- 1.1.1 King's Lynn is situated on Kimmeridge Clay Formation Mudstone, overlain by Tidal Flat Deposits of clays and silts (BGS 2013). The town is located in a broadly flat fen landscape at around 6m OD. The site itself is located within the medieval walls, on the southern side of the town in the car park of the London Road Veterinary Centre (Fig. 1).

2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1.1 King's Lynn is a major medieval and post-medieval centre of the East Anglian region. It was originally founded as the settlement of Lynn sometime before 1086, and is listed in the Domesday Book as a number of salt houses (Brown 1984). It later became Bishop's Lynn, when it was taken under the wing of the Bishop of Norwich in the late 11th century. The town's importance as a centre of commerce steadily increased during the 13th century, especially after the diversion of the Great Ouse via Lynn which served to connect the port with the surrounding fenland (Parker 1971).
- 2.1.2 By the 14th century, the town ranked as the third port of England. It still retains two buildings that were warehouses of the Hanseatic League that were in use between the 15th and 17th centuries. When Henry VIII took over the lordship of the town it was renamed King's Lynn (Alsford 2009).
- 2.1.3 The town defences are based on a series of natural earthwork banks which were formed in the salt marsh that once surrounded the town. Stone walls were constructed in the late 13th and early 14th centuries. These were strengthened in the 16th century, and were replanned during the civil war, largely following the medieval defences, the line of which is fossilised by modern streets and property boundaries. In the 18th century several sections of the walls were demolished, but some stretches of the wall are still standing, as well as the town gates, including South Gate (NHER 5486).

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 provision be made for monitoring the development, including, where appropriate, all areas of below ground disturbance, including excavations, foundation trenches, service trenches, drains, soakaways, pipeline and cable trenches.
- 3.1.3 All archaeological features and deposits were recorded using OA East's *pro-forma* sheets. Trench locations, plans and sections were recorded at appropriate scales digital photographs were taken of all relevant features and deposits.
- 3.1.4 Site conditions were grey and overcast.

4 RESULTS

- 4.1.1 The ground works consisted of a 3m by 3m trench being excavated to a depth of 4m below ground level for a new pumping station, along with a narrow pipe trench excavated to a depth of 2m below ground level.
- 4.1.2 The monitoring of the pumping station trench revealed various layers of modern make up beneath the present day tarmac (Plate 1). These layers of build up were present to a depth of c. 1.1m below modern ground level. Sealed (and possibly truncated) beneath this was a layer of Victorian topsoil, approximately 0.2m in thickness, which

contained fragments of white glazed porcelain, brick and oyster shell. This deposit came down directly onto natural silts and clays (Plate 2).

5 CONCLUSION

- 5.1.1 The monitoring of the ground works did not reveal anything of archaeological significance.
- 5.1.2 As a result of the lack archaeological deposits in the pumping station trench, it was deemed unnecessary to monitor the two short, deep pipe trenches.

6 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- 6.1.1 The author would like to thank Jason Swatman of Anglian Water Services who commissioned and funded the work. Thanks also go to Mark Gray of Claret Civil Engineering Ltd. for his on site cooperation.
- 6.1.2 The project was managed by Richard Mortimer. The brief for archaeological works was written by Ken Hamilton and James Albone of Norfolk Landscape Archaeology.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Alsford, S. 2009 *Medieval English Towns* <http://users.trytel.com/~tristan/index.html> (accessed 28 February 2013)
- BGS 2013 <http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html> (accessed 28 February 2013)
- Brown, P. 1984 *Domesday Book 33. Norfolk*
- Hamilton, K. 2012 *Generic Brief for the monitoring of works under archaeological supervision and control*
- Parker, V. 1971 *The Making of King's Lynn*

APPENDIX A. OASIS REPORT FORM

All fields are required unless they are not applicable.

Project Details

OASIS Number	<input type="text" value="oxfordar3-144745"/>			
Project Name	<input type="text" value="Watching Brief at 24 London Road, King's Lynn"/>			
Project Dates (fieldwork)	Start	<input type="text" value="26-02-2013"/>	Finish	<input type="text" value="27-02-2013"/>
Previous Work (by OA East)	<input type="text" value="No"/>	Future Work	<input type="text" value="No"/>	

Project Reference Codes

Site Code	<input type="text" value="XNFLRK12"/>	Planning App. No.	<input type="text"/>
HER No.	<input type="text" value="ENF 131090"/>	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 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"/>	<input type="text" value="None"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text" value="None"/>
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text" value="Select period..."/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text" value="Select period..."/>
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Project Location

County	<input type="text" value="Norfolk"/>	Site Address (including postcode if possible)
District	<input type="text" value="Kings Lynn & West Norfolk"/>	<input type="text" value="24 London Road
King's Lynn
PE30 5PY"/>
Parish	<input type="text" value="King's Lynn"/>	
HER	<input type="text" value="Norfolk Museum"/>	
Study Area	<input type="text" value="3x3m"/>	National Grid Reference <input type="text" value="TF 66259 19492"/>

Project Originators

Organisation	OA EAST
Project Brief Originator	Ken Hamilton
Project Design Originator	N/A
Project Manager	Richard Mortimer
Supervisor	Louise Bush

Project Archives

Physical Archive	Digital Archive	Paper Archive
Norfolk Museum	OA East	Norfolk Museum
ENF 131090	XNFLRK13	ENF 131090

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

Digital Media	Paper Media
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<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

Notes:



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Figure 1: Site location



Plate 1: Pumping station trench showing modern make up

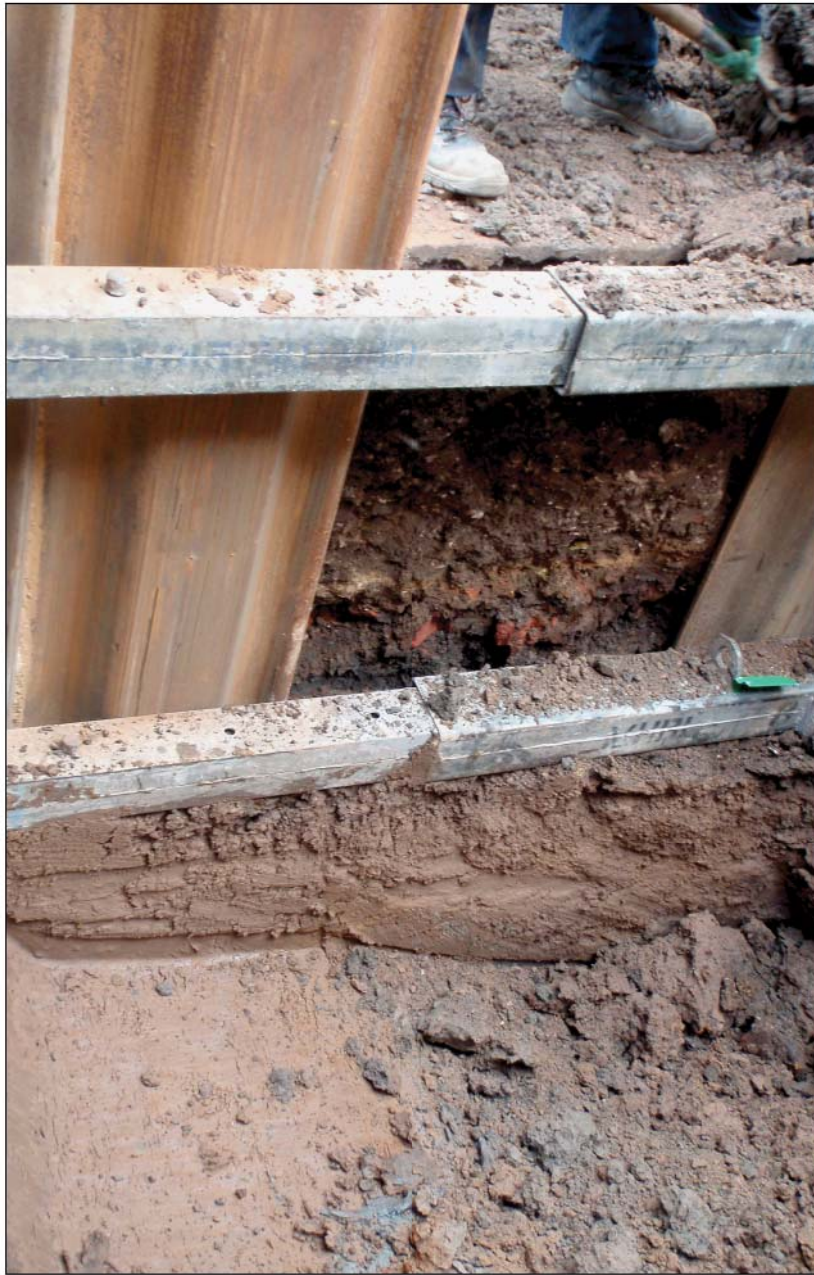


Plate 2: Pumping station trench with shoring



**Head Office/Registered Office/
OA South**

Janus House
Osney Mead
Oxford OX2 0ES

t: +44 (0) 1865 263 800
f: +44 (0) 1865 793 496
e: info@oxfordarch.co.uk
w: <http://thehumanjourney.net>

OA North

Mill 3
Moor Lane
Lancaster LA1 1GF

t: +44 (0) 1524 541 000
f: +44 (0) 1524 848 606
e: [oanorth@thehumanjourney.net](mailto: oanorth@thehumanjourney.net)
w: <http://thehumanjourney.net>

OA East

15 Trafalgar Way
Bar Hill
Cambridgeshire
CB23 8SQ

t: +44 (0) 1223 850500
f: +44 (0) 1223 850599
e: [oaeast@thehumanjourney.net](mailto: oaeast@thehumanjourney.net)
w: <http://thehumanjourney.net>



Director: David Jennings, BA MIFA FSA

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