

# Flag Fen Sludge De-Watering



## Archaeological Watching Brief Report



December 2014

**Client: Anglian Water**

OA East Report No: 1701

OASIS No: oxfordar3-195702

NGR: TL 522264 298340

## **Flag Fen Sludge De-Watering**

*Watching Brief*

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*Report Date: December 2014*

**Report Number:** 1701  
**Site Name:** Anglian water sewage works, Flag Fen  
**HER Event No:** n/a  
**Date of Works:** November 2014  
**Client Name:** Anglian Water  
**Client Ref:** 4503445305  
**Planning Ref:** n/a  
**Grid Ref:** TL 522264 298340  
**Site Code:** PETFLF14  
**Finance Code:** PETFLF14  
**Receiving Body:** Peterborough Museum  
**Accession No:**  
**Prepared by:** Kathryn Nicholls  
**Position:** Acting Supervisor  
**Date:** November 2014

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**Position:** Senior project Manager  
**Date:** December 2014  
**Signed:** .....



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## **Summary**

*Oxford Archaeology East undertook a watching brief at the Anglian Water sewage works at Flag Fen, Peterborough over three days in November 2014. During this time a trench approximately 100m in length was excavated to a depth of 1m. Much of the area excavated had already previously been disturbed for service cables. A layer of peat was observed underlying the modern disturbances, however, no archaeological features were observed or recorded.*

## 1 INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Location and scope of work

- 1.1.1 An archaeological evaluation was conducted at Anglian Water Sewage Works, Flag Fen, Peterborough (Fig. 1)
- 1.1.2 This archaeological watching brief was undertaken in accordance with an instruction issued by Rebecca Casa-Hatton of Peterborough Museum, 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, in accordance with the guidelines set out in *National Planning Policy Framework* (Department for Communities and Local Government March 2012). The results will enable decisions to be made by CCC, on behalf of the Local Planning Authority, with regard to the treatment of any archaeological remains found.
- 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 This site lies on the Oxford Clay formation which is overlain by superficial peat deposits.

### 1.3 Archaeological and historical background

- 1.3.1 Approximately 1km north east lies the nationally important site of Flag Fen. A Bronze Age post alignment and a platform along with associated Bronze Age and later field systems and settlements were located here. The post alignment consisted of five rows of timber posts and at least five levels of horizontal timbers. Walkways were also identified with signs of trample and wear. A number of items were uncovered from the fen edge which were believed to have been votive deposits, these included items such as jewellery and weapons. Human remains also indicate that the fen edge may have been used for the laying of the dead. A number of other features can be seen in the form of cropmarks, such as Bronze Age barrows, Iron Age or Roman enclosures and a potential Roman temple.
- 1.3.2 Recent evaluation work at Newark Road, 1.5km north west, uncovered a number of post holes within ditched enclosures which are thought to represent post-built timber framed structures of Bronze Age date. Flint, pottery and a polished jadeitite axe fragment were found (Rees 2014). This represents the most recent of many evaluations and excavations on the Peterborough Fen Edge to the west of Flag Fen.

### 1.4 Acknowledgements

- 1.4.1 The author would like to thank the client Anglian Water for commissioning the work. Richard Mortimer managed the project.

## 2 AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

### 2.1 Aims

- 2.1.1 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 and to excavate and record it as necessary.

### 2.2 Methodology

- 2.2.1 The Brief required that excavation of the trench be monitored by an archaeologist. Areas previously disturbed did not need to be monitored due to prior excavation.
- 2.2.2 Machine excavation was carried out under constant archaeological supervision with a tracked 360 type excavator using a toothless ditching bucket.
- 2.2.3 Spoil, exposed surfaces and features were scanned with a metal detector. All metal-detected and hand-collected finds were retained for inspection, other than those which were obviously modern.
- 2.2.4 Any archaeological features and deposits would have been 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 The cable trench was approximately 100m in length and excavated to a maximum depth of 1m and a width of approximately 0.5m. Much of the pipe trench was in an area which had previously been excavated (Fig 2). At the western end of the pipe trench there was between 0.8m and 1m depth of rubble and make-up layers overlying the a layer of peat. As the pipe trench moved further east the modern layers decreased to a depth of 0.40m (Plate 1). The peat seen was typical of the area. No archaeological features, finds or deposits were uncovered.

## 4 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

### 4.1 Discussion and conclusion

- 4.1.1 No archaeological features, finds or deposits were noted within the pipe trench. Much of the ground excavated had already been previously disturbed by 20<sup>th</sup> century structures, service cables and pipes. Excavation only extended to a depth of 1m which was not deep enough into the peat layer for archaeology to be uncovered. Archaeology may exist within the area at depths greater than that reached by the pipe trench.

## APPENDIX A. BIBLIOGRAPHY

Rees, Gareth (2014) *A prehistoric settlement and fieldsystem at the Perkins Engines site, Fengate, Peterborough*. Project Report. Oxford Archaeological Unit Ltd

### Online resources

Heritage Gateway: [www.Heritagegateway.org.uk/gateway](http://www.Heritagegateway.org.uk/gateway) (Accessed 10/11/14)

British Geological Survey: <http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html> (Accessed 10/11/14)

## APPENDIX B. OASIS REPORT FORM

All fields are required unless they are not applicable.

### Project Details

OASIS Number	<input type="text" value="oxfordar3-195702"/>			
Project Name	<input type="text" value="Watching Brief at Anglian Water Sewage Works, Flag Fen"/>			
Project Dates (fieldwork)	Start	<input type="text" value="05-11-2014"/>	Finish	<input type="text" value="07-11-2014"/>
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="PETFLF14"/>	Planning App. No.	<input type="text" value="N/A"/>
HER No.	<input type="text"/>	Related HER/OASIS No.	<input type="text" value="N/A"/>

### Type of Project/Techniques Used

Prompt	<input type="text" value="Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPG15"/>
Development Type	<input type="text" value="Pipelines/Cables"/>

### Please select all techniques used:

<input type="checkbox"/> Aerial Photography - interpretation	<input type="checkbox"/> Grab-Sampling	<input type="checkbox"/> Remote Operated Vehicle Survey
<input type="checkbox"/> Aerial Photography - new	<input type="checkbox"/> Gravity-Core	<input type="checkbox"/> Sample Trenches
<input type="checkbox"/> Annotated Sketch	<input type="checkbox"/> Laser Scanning	<input type="checkbox"/> Survey/Recording Of Fabric/Structure
<input type="checkbox"/> Augering	<input type="checkbox"/> Measured Survey	<input type="checkbox"/> Targeted Trenches
<input type="checkbox"/> Dendrochronological Survey	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Metal Detectors	<input type="checkbox"/> Test Pits
<input type="checkbox"/> Documentary Search	<input type="checkbox"/> Phosphate Survey	<input type="checkbox"/> Topographic Survey
<input type="checkbox"/> Environmental Sampling	<input type="checkbox"/> Photogrammetric Survey	<input type="checkbox"/> Vibro-core
<input type="checkbox"/> Fieldwalking	<input type="checkbox"/> Photographic Survey	<input type="checkbox"/> Visual Inspection (Initial Site Visit)
<input type="checkbox"/> Geophysical Survey	<input type="checkbox"/> Rectified Photography	

### 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="N/A"/>	<input type="text" value="Select period..."/>	<input type="text" value="N/A"/>	<input type="text" value="Select period..."/>
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<input type="text"/>	<input type="text" value="Select period..."/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text" value="Select period..."/>

### Project Location

County	<input type="text" value="Peterborough"/>	Site Address (including postcode if possible)
District	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text" value="Anglian Water Sewage Works&lt;br/&gt;Third Drove&lt;br/&gt;Flag Fen"/>
Parish	<input type="text" value="Fengate"/>	
HER	<input type="text" value="Peterborough"/>	
Study Area	<input type="text" value="100m"/>	National Grid Reference <input type="text"/>

### Project Originators

Organisation	<input type="text" value="OA EAST"/>
Project Brief Originator	<input type="text" value="Rebecca Casa-Hatton"/>
Project Design Originator	<input type="text"/>
Project Manager	<input type="text" value="Richard Mortimer"/>
Supervisor	<input type="text" value="Kathryn Nicholls"/>

### Project Archives

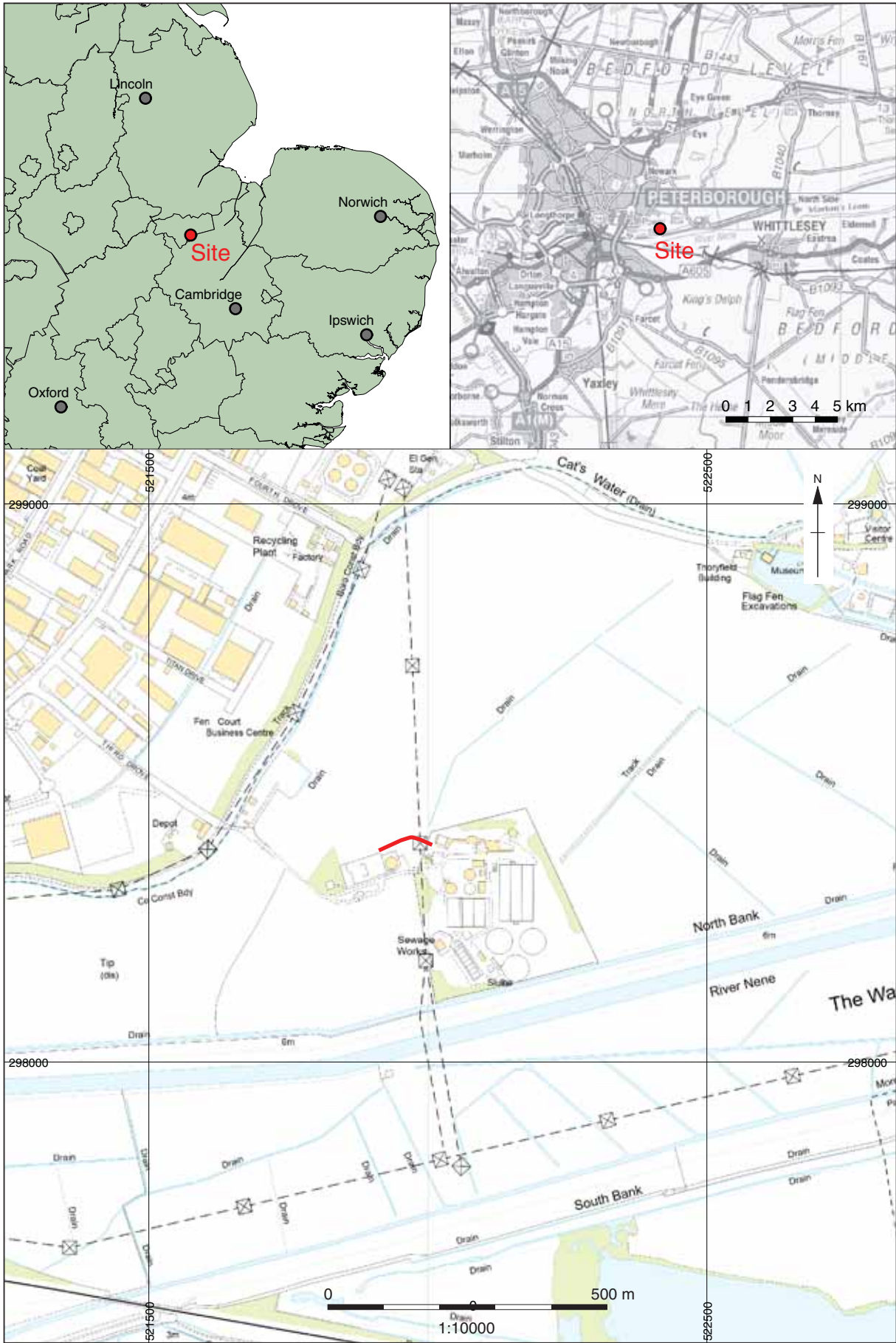
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### Archive Contents/Media

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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"/>
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	<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 map, Anglian water sewage works, Third drove, Flag Fen, Peterborough

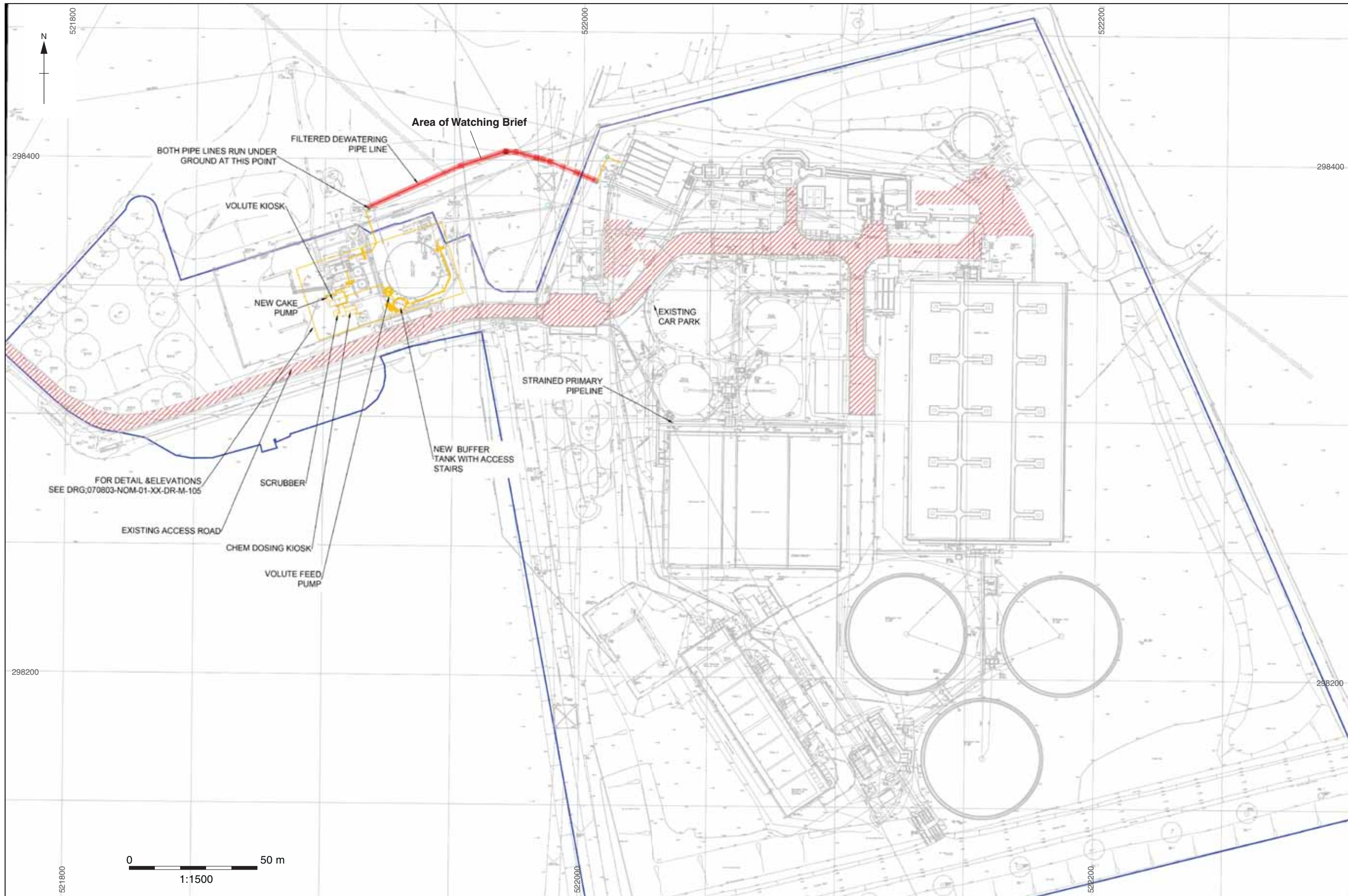


Figure 2: Pipe Trench plan





Plate 1: Photo of Trench Section



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