

Bylaugh Sewage Treatment Works, Watching Brief



Archaeological Watching Brief Report



March 2012

Client: Anglian Water

OA East Report No: 1331

OASIS No: oxfordar3-121123

NGR: TG 0639 1829

Bylaugh Sewage Treatment Works

Watching Brief

Site Code: ENF127927

Date of Works: 12/12/2011-14/12/2011, 26/1/2012-30/1/2012

Report No: 1331

Excavator: Anthony Haskins

Client: Anglian Water

Report Date: March 2012

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Summary

On the 12th to 14th December 2011 and 26th to 30th January 2012, OA East carried out an archaeological watching brief at Bylaugh Sewage Treatment Works (TG 0369 1829). The monitoring was carried out during the construction of a new dosing slab, storm drain tank and associated pipework. No archaeological features were uncovered during the course of the works.

1 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

- 1.1.1 Bylaugh Sewage Treatment works lies in a depression south of Bylaugh Hall to the East of St Mary the Virgin church. The site is located just north of the current course of the River Wensum. The site is situated on glacial sand and gravels that have in the past been extracted in nearby Swanton Morley. The site is at c.20m AoD.

2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1.1 Within the area of Bylaugh Sewage treatment works a number of undated crops marks have been identified. These are generally presumed either Roman or Medieval.
- 2.1.2 The Sewage treatment works is located to the East of the small parish church of St Mary the Virgin. The earliest element of the church is the 11th to 12th century tower, which has a later 14th century belfry. The church of St Mary the Virgin was abandoned to the point of collapse and then underwent a major reconstruction in 1809-1810 under the designs of Sir John Lombe.
- 2.1.3 A medieval chapel was located nearby to the North West. The deserted medieval village of Bylaugh is believed to be situated to the North of the sewage works.
- 2.1.4 The majority of the archaeological sites of interest around the sewage treatment works are to the north side of the road on higher ground.

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 the areas to be machined were monitored in case archaeological deposits were uncovered.
- 3.1.3 The area of investigation was located within the sewage treatment works. The works were primarily to the North and West of the trickle filter beds.
- 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. The work was carried out by two 360 mechanical excavators using ditching buckets.

4 RESULTS

4.1 Slab

- 4.1.1 The area of the slab was located towards the North of the sewage treatment works. No archaeological features were located within the area excavated.
- 4.1.2 The only deposits identified in this area were the topsoil, a modern drain cut, which was part of the sewage works, and redeposited material from the construction of the sewage works. The modern redeposited material contained a large number of plastic

capped glass bottles, including one labelled Optrex, and a number of fragments of glazed pottery that were not recovered.

4.2 Storm tank

4.2.1 An area 9m in diameter was excavated to the west of the trickle filter beds. This area was dug to a depth of 1.15m. Again two deposits were located within the area. These were a mix of topsoil and modern redeposited material from the construction of the sewage plant.

4.3 Pipework and Ducting

4.3.1 Three small trenches were excavated for the ducting and pipework. Two trenches, one for pipework and one for ducting were excavated on an approximate N-S alignment from the new dosing slab towards the storm drain. The ducting was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.8m and was 1m in width. The pipework was also excavated to a maximum depth of 0.8m and was 0.45m in width. Neither of the trenches cut into deposits other than the modern build up layers and topsoil.

4.3.2 A third trench was excavated for a drain running across the south of the sewage works to the north of the old sludge tanks. The drain was excavated with a 0.45m ditching bucket to a maximum depth of 1.2m. A number of modern services for the sewage works were uncovered during the excavation of this drainage run.

5 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

5.1.1 No archaeological features were found, although a number of modern pipe trenches and pipes were seen, within the areas investigated. In all areas investigated only modern build up and levelling deposits were seen.

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 James Drummond-Murray.

6.1.2 The brief for archaeological works was written by James Albone of the Norfolk County Council Historic Environment Service.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Albone, J. (2011) '*Brief for the monitoring works under archaeological supervision and control: By laagh STW P Removal Scheme*' Unpublished

APPENDIX A. OASIS REPORT FORM

All fields are required unless they are not applicable.

Project Details

OASIS Number	<input type="text" value="oxfordar3-121123"/>		
Project Name	<input type="text" value="Bylaugh Sewage Treatment Works, Watching Brief"/>		
Project Dates (fieldwork) Start	<input type="text" value="12-12-2011"/>	Finish	<input type="text" value="30-01-2012"/>
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="ENF127927"/>	Planning App. No.	<input type="text"/>
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 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
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Project Location

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District	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text" value="Bylaugh Sewage Treatment Works
Dereham
NR20 4QE"/>
Parish	<input type="text" value="Bylaugh"/>	
HER	<input type="text"/>	
Study Area	<input type="text" value="100 sq.m"/>	National Grid Reference <input type="text" value="TG 0369 1829"/>

Project Originators

Organisation	OA EAST
Project Brief Originator	James Albone
Project Design Originator	James Drummond-Murray
Project Manager	James Drummond-Murray
Supervisor	Anthony Haskins

Project Archives

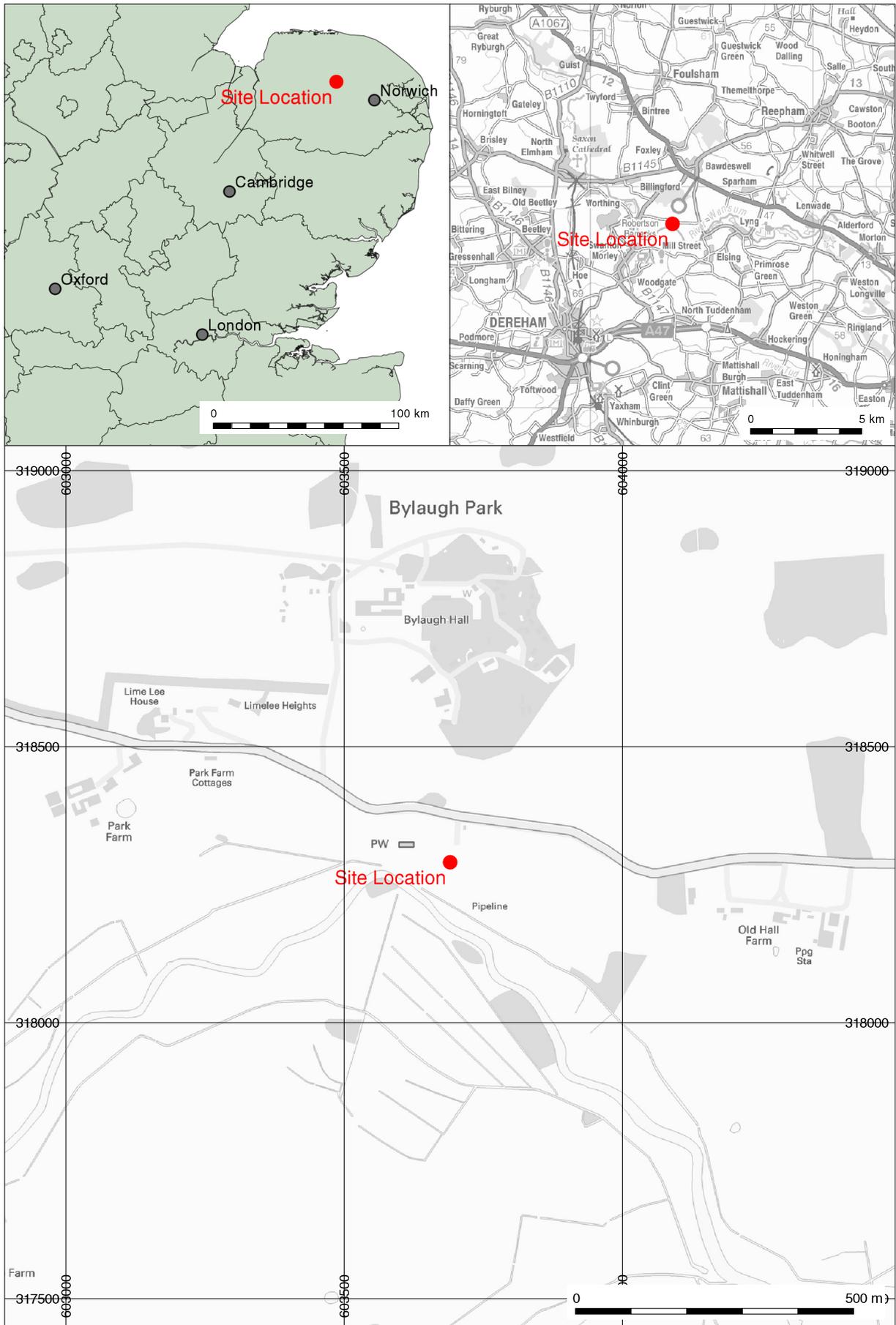
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Location ...	Location ...	Location ...
Accession ID ...	Accession ID ...	Accession ID ...

Archive Contents/Media

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	<input type="checkbox"/> Survey

Notes:



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Figure 1: Site location



Plate 1: Slab area



Plate 2: Storm drain tank area



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