

# Sewage Treatment Works Great Welnetham Suffolk



## Archaeological Watching Brief Report



November 2011

**Client: Anglian Water**

OA East Report No: 1315  
OASIS No: oxfordar3-115315  
NGR: TL 876 602

## **Sewage Treatment works, Great Welnetham, Suffolk**

### *Archaeological Watching Brief*

*Site Code:* WLG026

*Date of Works:* November 2011

*Report No:* 1315

*Excavator:* Tom Lyons

*Client:* Anglian Water

*Report Date:* December 2011

## Table of Contents

Summary.....	5
1 Geology and Topography.....	7
2 Archaeological Background .....	7
3 Methodology.....	7
4 Results.....	7
5 Discussion and Conclusions.....	8
6 Acknowledgements.....	8
Appendix A. OASIS Report Form .....	9

## List of Figures

Fig. 1 Site location map



## **Summary**

*During November 2011 OA East carried out an archaeological watching brief at the Anglian Water sewage treatment works at Great Welnetham, Suffolk (TL 876 602). The monitoring was carried out ahead of installation of new infrastructure at the site; this included the excavation of a deep storm tank. No in-situ archaeological deposits or soil horizons were observed as much of the ground had been disturbed during the initial construction of the site; however, artefacts were recovered during the ground works including a sherd of Roman pottery and some worked lithics.*



## 1 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

- 1.1.1 The site is located on Lowestoft Formation chalky till geology and situated in the valley of the River Lark on a west facing slope, less than 100m from the river.
- 1.1.2 The site of the sewage treatment works had clearly been levelled during construction of the existing compound and hard standing ground. This had involved significant truncation of the hillside and disturbance of the existing soil horizons.

## 2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1.1 The sewage treatment works is located in an area of archaeological potential, with several sites or find spots recorded on the Heritage Environment Record in the immediate vicinity. A Roman settlement is recorded at Sicklesmere (WTG005) with other Roman artefacts recorded close by (WLG018; WLG016).
- 2.1.2 It may be significant that the sewage treatment works is situated on the slopes of a river valley, near to a confluence, as this is a location typically utilised in later prehistory.

## 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 works be monitored by an archaeologist as the proposed ground works could potentially damage any archaeological features or deposits.
- 3.1.3 The area of investigation was concentrated in the northern part of the sewage treatment works. A new pumping station was due to be installed towards the north-east corner of the compound; in the central northern part of the compound a new storm tank was proposed.
- 3.1.4 Manual excavations were undertaken in the north-east corner of the site ahead of ground works in order to locate existing pipes and cables.

## 4 RESULTS

- 4.1.1 Hand excavation in the north and north-east corner of the site revealed a recent mixed topsoil horizon which was at least 1m deep; natural geology was not seen. This contained modern ceramic and building material but also yielded a single sherd from a Roman storage vessel.
- 4.1.2 Installation of the new storm tank, located in the central northern part of the site, involved deep excavation of an area measuring approximately 5m x 5m. No archaeological features or deposits were seen during machine stripping of the ground surface. The upper levels of what appeared to be natural geology were visible at approximately 0.35m beneath the ground level, although this might have been colluvial material.
- 4.1.3 Inspection of the spoil heaps from the excavations for the storm tank yielded four pieces of worked flint, including a broken retouched blade, and one fragment of burnt flint. These are likely to date from the Late Neolithic or Bronze Ages c. 2500-1500BC.



## 5 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION

- 5.1.1 Considering the proximity of the sewage treatment works to known Roman archaeology any significant ground works are likely to encounter residual Roman pottery, especially where ground has already been disturbed.
- 5.1.2 The recovery of prehistoric lithics at the site attests to the significance of the location in prehistory.
- 5.1.3 As the artefacts recovered during monitoring of the ground works were from secondary contexts, it is possible they were moved from their original point of deposition. With this in mind it is more appropriate to consider these artefacts as indicators of general later prehistoric and Roman activity in the vicinity, rather than direct evidence.

## 6 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- 6.1.1 The author would like to thank Anglian Water who commissioned and funded the archaeological work. Thanks are also due to Stuart Hall of Black & Veach for his cooperation on site. The project was managed by James Drummond Murray.
- 6.1.2 The brief for archaeological works was written by Sarah Poppy of Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service.

## APPENDIX A. OASIS REPORT FORM

All fields are required unless they are not applicable.

### Project Details

OASIS Number	<input type="text" value="oxfordar3-115315"/>			
Project Name	<input type="text" value="Archaeological Watching Brief at sewage treatment works, Gt Welnetham, Suffolk"/>			
Project Dates (fieldwork)	Start	<input type="text" value="01-11-2011"/>	Finish	<input type="text" value="30-11-2011"/>
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="XSFWET11"/>	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
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text" value="Select period..."/>	<input type="text" value="ceramic"/>	<input type="text" value="Roman 43 to 410"/>
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text" value="Select period..."/>	<input type="text" value="lithics"/>	<input type="text" value="Bronze Age -2.5k to -700"/>
<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="Suffolk"/>	Site Address (including postcode if possible)
District	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text" value="Stanningfield Road, Sicklesmere, Suffolk"/>
Parish	<input type="text" value="Gt Welnetham"/>	
HER	<input type="text" value="Suffolk"/>	
Study Area	<input type="text"/>	National Grid Reference <input type="text" value="TL 876 602"/>

## Project Originators

Organisation	OA EAST
Project Brief Originator	Sarah Poppy
Project Design Originator	
Project Manager	James Drummond Murray
Supervisor	Tom Lyons

## Project Archives

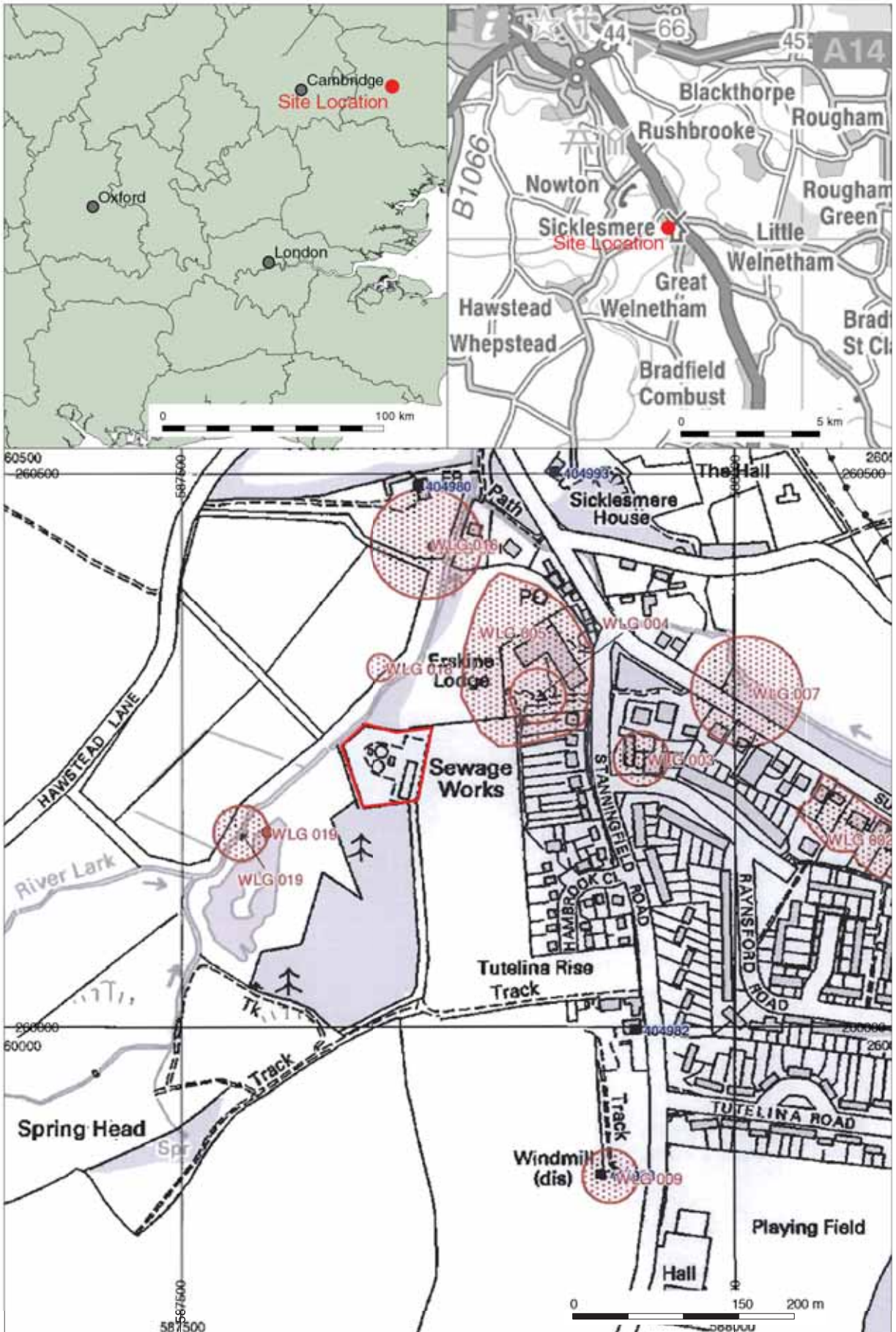
Physical Archive	Digital Archive	Paper Archive
OA East	OA East.	Location ...
XSFWET11	XSFWET11	Accession ID ...

## 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 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 type="checkbox"/> Geophysics	<input type="checkbox"/> Correspondence
<input checked="" 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

### Notes:



Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and database right 2011  
 HER Map: Suffolk County Council Licence No. 10023395

Figure 1: Site location



**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](mailto: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

*Oxford Archaeology Ltd is a  
Private Limited Company, N<sup>o</sup>: 1618597  
and a Registered Charity, N<sup>o</sup>: 285627*