



New Sewage Scheme at Tilbury, Grays, Essex

Archaeological Watching Brief Report

November 2018

Client: Anglian Water Services

Site Code: THAW18

OASIS No: oxfordar3-329928

NGR: TQ 62504 77556 – TQ 62977 77238



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New Sewage Scheme at Tilbury, Grays, Essex

Archaeological Watching Brief Report

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Summary

Between the 5th and 8th of November 2018, Oxford Archaeology East (OA East) were commissioned to undertake a watching brief along the route of a new rising main in Tilbury, Grays, Essex (TQ 62504 77556 to TQ 62977 77238). No archaeological remains or artefacts were encountered during the monitoring works.

Acknowledgements

OA East would like to thank Amber Cloughton of Anglian Water Services for commissioning this project. Thanks are also extended to Richard Havis who monitored the work on behalf of Essex County Council Historic Environment Team (ECC HET). The project was managed for OA East by the author and the fieldwork undertaken by Lindsey Kemp.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Scope of work

- 1.1.1 OA East was commissioned by Anglian Water Services to undertake an archaeological watching brief on a new rising main which ran from the southern edge of Churchill Road in Tilbury (TQ 62804 77556; Plate 1) south-east to the edge of Tilbury's commercial zone (TQ 62977 77236). The route was approximately 370m long and passes through an area of known heritage assets (Fig. 1).
- 1.1.2 A Brief was set by Richard Havis of ECC HET (Havis 2018) and a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) was produced by OA East (Bush 2018) detailing the Local Authority's requirements.

1.2 Location, topography and geology

- 1.2.1 The site is located on the southern side of Tilbury, on land to the immediate west of Dock Approach Road (A1089) and just north of Tilbury Dock. It is around 1km north-east of the River Thames.
- 1.2.2 The proposed rising main is situated on a bedrock geology of Lewes Nodular Chalk Formation, Seaford Chalk Formation and Newhaven Chalk Formation, with superficial alluvial deposits of clay, silt, sand and peat. The route cuts across a fairly flat meadow and is situated at between c.0.1m and 0.5m OD.

1.3 Archaeological and historical background

- 1.3.1 The following section provides a brief description of the known heritage assets in the vicinity of the proposed rising main, based on information obtained from the Essex Historic Environment Record (EHER). Pertinent heritage assets in the immediate vicinity are illustrated on Figure 1.

Prehistoric

- 1.3.2 A geoarchaeological assessment on the land to the immediate east revealed three peat horizons ranging in date from the Mesolithic through to the Early Iron Age period (EHER 48384).
- 1.3.3 A small number of findspots are also recorded within the environs of the site and consist of three Mesolithic flint scrapers (EHER 1774 and 47276) recovered from land 0.8km to the north and a cache of flintwork comprising nine axes, 97 retouched flakes, 10 unretouched flakes and one miscellaneous worked fragment (EHER 1780) from c.0.3km north-west of the site.

Post-medieval and modern

- 1.3.4 The rising main cuts through an area of known cropmarks (EHER 18882) containing WWII anti-aircraft ditches. These cropmarks cover an area approximately 180ha in size. Other WWII remains within the vicinity include a (now destroyed) spigot mortar (EHER 10268), where around 0.8km to the south-east and c.1km south-west on the

bank of the River Thames are two basins for the construction of Mulberry Harbour caissons (EHER 10260).

- 1.3.5 The proposed rising main also cuts through one of the historic ditched trackways which lead from the gravel terraces down to the Thames foreshore. These are known to pre-date the post-medieval period but may be significantly older.
- 1.3.6 A trial trench evaluation (EHER 48692) undertaken approximately 0.8km west of the new rising main identified made ground to a depth of at least 1.2m below the modern ground level.

Undated

- 1.3.7 Beneath the residential development to the immediate east of the northern end of the water main, aerial photographs have recorded a circular ditched enclosure c.10m in diameter along with a circular mound with central depression (EHER 14568). These may have related to the WWII remains (see above).

2 EVALUATION AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

2.1 Aims

2.1.1 The general aim of the watching brief was to preserve by record any archaeological evidence revealed within the pipe trench. If archaeology was encountered, the investigation had the following aims:

- i. Establish the form, date and purpose of any archaeological deposits
- ii. Establish the impact of past land uses, and the possible presence of masking colluvial/alluvial deposits
- iii. Recover artefacts to assist in the development of a type series within the region.

2.2 Methodology

2.2.1 Ground works associated with excavation of the rising main were monitored by a suitably qualified and experienced archaeologist, followed by the investigation and recording of all deposits revealed, where safe to do so.

2.2.2 Mechanical excavation was undertaken by a 13-ton 360° excavator using a 0.5m wide toothed bucket. The entire route of the rising main was excavated to a depth of 1.2m below the modern ground level.

2.2.3 Spoil arising from the ground penetrating works was scanned visually and with a metal detector to aid recovery of artefacts. The depth, nature and potential artefact content of deposits were also investigated and recorded.

3 RESULTS AND CONCLUSIONS

- 3.1.1 No archaeological remains or artefacts were identified during the monitoring works.
- 3.1.2 Two layers of overburden were identified as overlying the natural alluvial blue grey clay geology. The upper layer, which varied in thickness from 0.25m to 0.7m, consisted of a mid grey silty clay containing high levels of modern debris including bricks and other building waste, curb stones, sections of old electric cabling and large pieces of plastic (Plate 2). This sealed a layer of very dark brown peat which measured 0.1m in thickness, which overlay the natural geology (Plate 3).
- 3.1.3 Overall it is clear that this location has been utilised in the past either for groundworks associated with the construction of the docks and industrial estate or as a general disposal area for modern debris. No evidence for the WWII remains recorded in the EHER were seen (see paragraph 1.3.4). The similar findings during an evaluation to the west (EHER 14568) which identified made ground to a depth of 1.2m would indicate that this entire area has been disturbed to a considerable depth.

APPENDIX A BIBLIOGRAPHY

Bush, L.	2018	<i>New sewage scheme at Tilbury, Grays, Essex. Written Scheme of Investigation.</i> OA East. Unpublished
Havis, R.	2018	<i>Brief for archaeological monitoring and excavation on a new sewage scheme at Tilbury, Grays, Essex.</i> Essex County Council. Unpublished

APPENDIX B OASIS REPORT FORM

Project Details

OASIS Number	oxfordar3-329928		
Project Name	New Sewage Scheme at Tilbury, Grays, Essex		
Start of Fieldwork	5/11/18	End of Fieldwork	8/11/18
Previous Work	No	Future Work	No

Project Reference Codes

Site Code	THAW18	Planning App. No.	N/A
HER Number		Related Numbers	N/A

Prompt	NPPF
Development Type	Pipeline
Place in Planning Process	Not known/Not recorded

Techniques used (tick all that apply)

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| <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"/> Full excavation (100%) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Annotated Sketch | <input type="checkbox"/> Laser Scanning | <input type="checkbox"/> Open-area excavation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Augering | <input type="checkbox"/> Measured Survey | <input type="checkbox"/> Targeted Trenches |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dendrochronological Survey | <input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Watching Brief |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Geophysical Survey | <input type="checkbox"/> Rectified Photography | |

Monument	Period	Object	Period
None	None	None	None

Project Location

County	Essex	Address (including Postcode) Land off Churchill Road Tilbury Grays Essex RM17 6TW
District	Thurrock	
Parish	Tilbury	
HER office	Thurrock	
Size of Study Area	370m long	
National Grid Ref	TQ 62504 77556 – TQ 62977 77238	

Project Originators

Organisation	OA East
Project Brief Originator	Richard Havis
Project Design Originator	OA East
Project Manager	Louise Moan
Project Supervisor	Lindsey kemp

Project Archives

	Location	ID
Physical Archive (Finds)	Thurrock Museum	THAW18
Digital Archive	OA East	XEXTGT18
Paper Archive	Thurrock Museum	THAW18

Physical Contents	Present?	Digital files associated with Finds	Paperwork associated with Finds
Animal Bones	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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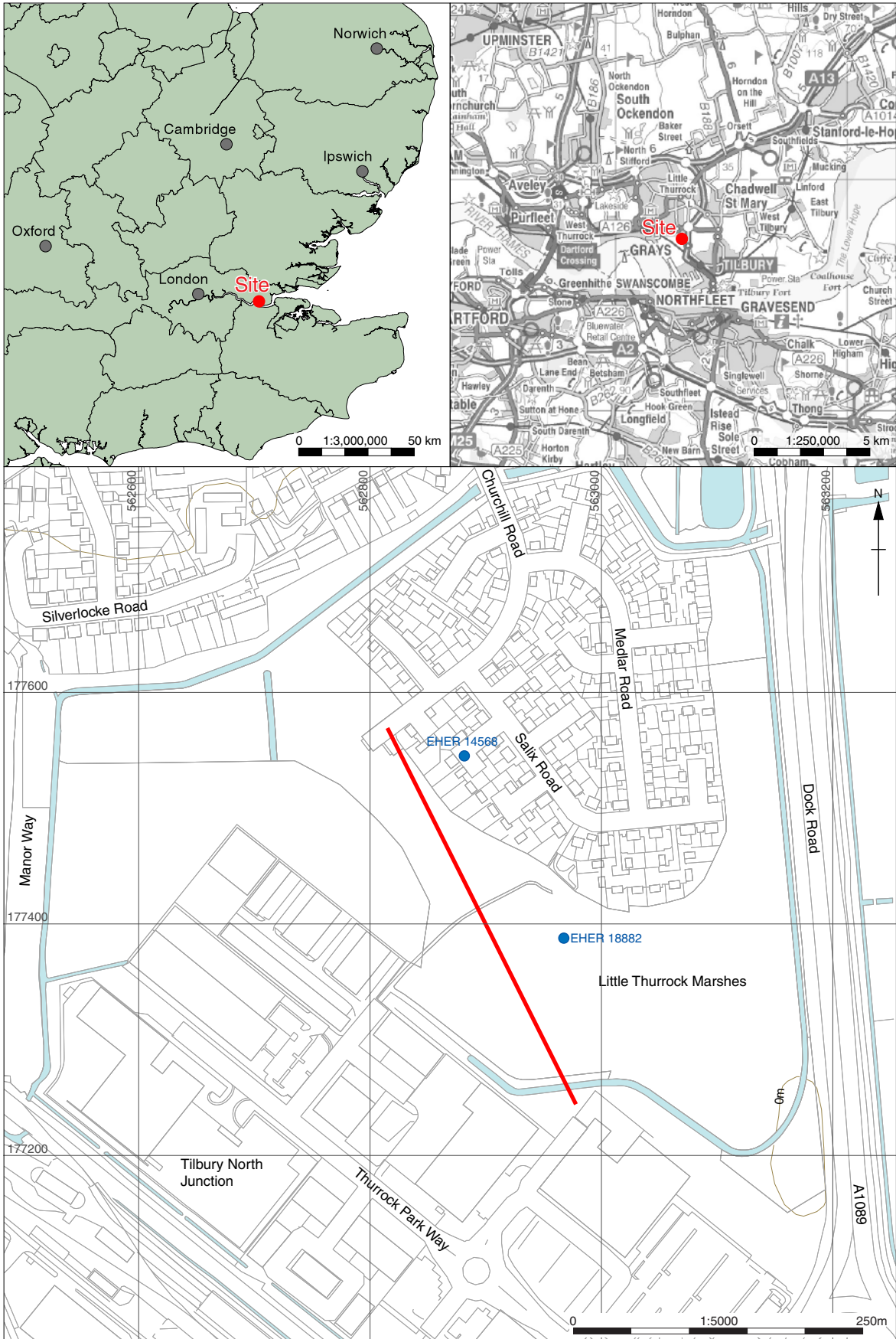
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Survey	<input type="checkbox"/>

Further Comments



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Figure 1: Site location showing route of new rising main (red)



Plate 1: View north-west into Churchill Road at the start of the pipe trench



Plate 2: View south-east down the pipe trench, with modern debris evident in the spoil



Plate 3: Section of pipe trench showing the peat layer



Plate 4: View north-west across backfilled pipe trench



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