

# Tempsford Water Treatment Works



## Archaeological Watching Brief Report



March 2009

Client: Anglian Water

OA East Report No: 1093

OASIS No: 57588

NGR: TL 1680 5450

## **Tempsford Water Treatment Works**

*Watching Brief*

*Site Code: XBD TTW 08*

*HER No. N/A*

*Date of Works: February 2009*

*Report No: 1093*

*Excavator: Jon House*

*Client: Anglian Water*

*Report Date: March 2009*

**Report Number:** 1093  
**Site Name:** Tempsford Water Treatment Works

**HER Event No:** N/A  
**Date of Works:** Feb 2009

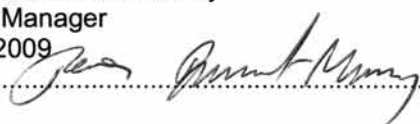
**Client Name:** Anglian Water  
**Client Ref:** N/A  
**Planning Ref:** N/A

**Grid Ref:** 51680 25450  
**Site Code:** XBDTTW08  
**Finance Code:** XBDTTW08

**Receiving Body:** Bedford Museum

**Accession No:** BEDFM 2008.315

**Prepared by:** Jon House  
**Position:** Supervisor  
**Date:** March 2009

**Checked by:** James Drummond-Murray  
**Position:** Project Manager  
**Date:** March 2009  
**Signed:** 

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**Oxford Archaeology East,**  
15 Trafalgar Way,  
Bar Hill,  
Cambridge,  
CB23 8SQ

t: 01223 850500  
f: 01223 850599  
e: oaeast@thehumanjourney.net  
w: <http://thehumanjourney.net/oaeast>

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### **Summary**

*On the dates of 24<sup>th</sup> and the 25<sup>th</sup> February 2009, OA East carried out an archaeological watching brief at Tempsford water treatment works (TL 1680 5450). The monitoring was carried out during the machine excavation of area in the Northwest corner of the water treatment compound. No archaeology remains or material was observed on the site.*

## 1 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

- 1.1.1 The site is located to the North of Tempsford village, with the A1 running North South to the West and the Great Ouse on a similar alignment also to the West.
- 1.1.2 The ground is relatively flat in the area, with a slight rise in the ground to the North of the site. The site is on the northern side of a spur of river terrace deposits, with mixed silt, sand and gravels.

## 2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1.1 The site lies north of the village of Tempsford, in an area of known archaeological sensitivity (HER 1671) and surrounded by fields in which cropmarks to the north (HER16799 - MBD16754) indicate the presence of a Roman settlement. Indeed evidence of Roman occupation was uncovered during the construction of the water treatment works.
- 2.1.2 A number of stone tools and other artefacts dating from the Palaeolithic, Mesolithic and Neolithic periods have been found around Tempsford. Five ring ditches from Bronze Age Barrows have been excavated at Roxton (HER 617) and further ring ditches have been identified from cropmarks south of Tempsford Church End (HER 1776).
- 2.1.3 The excavation at Roxton also produced evidence of a Romano-British farmstead dating from the 1<sup>st</sup> century BC to the 1<sup>st</sup> century AD (HER 617) in the form of a rectilinear enclosures. Similar cropmarks have been plotted in the area around, all lying close to the Romano-British villa excavated in 1962 (HER 801) and further cropmarks of enclosures from this period have been identified to the north-east and south of Tempsford Park.
- 2.1.4 Of particular note was an excavation immediately to the north of treatment works for the St Neots to Duxford Gas pipeline in 1994 (HER16799) which produced evidence of Roman settlement from the 1<sup>st</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> centuries AD.
- 2.1.5 The medieval cores of Tempsford lie to the south of the current site at Langford End and Church End, though cropmarks of medieval earthworks lie to the north of Langford End (HER1848).
- 2.1.6 There are a range of medieval moated sites in the area, though none close to the Treatment Works. At Tempsford Park a moat was excavated in 1999 (Maul & Chapman 2005) c 1km to the south

### 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 if archaeology features/remains were uncovered appropriate methodologies and suitable resourcing levels would be considered for excavation and recording..
- 3.1.3 Site conditions were very good, on site contractors were very helpful, and nothing was observed that could inhibit the objectives of the watching brief.

### 4 RESULTS

#### 4.1 Excavation Area

- 4.1.1 The work was carried out by a 360° excavator and graded down using a toothless bucket. The excavation area was approximately 6m by 15m.
- 4.1.2 The trench was excavated to roughly the archaeological grade, features would certainly have been visible, however no features of archaeological interest were observed. In the area closest to the compound road, there had been much modern ground disturbance, either relating to the construction of the road, or the construction of the site in the 1960's.
- 4.1.3 The area itself had a thin gravel surface, overlying 0.19m topsoil, which contained modern construction materials, a 0.37m silty clay subsoil was also present. Modern features could be seen cutting into both layers and the underlying geology.
- 4.1.4 No finds were recovered from the site.

### 5 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

#### 5.1 Excavation Area

- 5.1.1 No archaeological remains were observed, with the only visible remains being associated with the sites 1960's construction or later site improvements. It would be possible that the high extent of ground disturbance could have truncated archaeological remains, or masked features, however no unstratified material was seen in the excavation.

### 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 Lesley Anne Mather.

## BIBLIOGRAPHY

British Geological Survey, 2001, Biggleswade, England and Wales Sheet 204, Solid and Drift Geology. 1:50 000, (Keyworth, Nottingham: British Geological Survey)

Maul, A and Chapman A, 2005 A Medieval Moated Enclosure in Tempsford Park Bedfordshire Archaeology Monograph 9



## APPENDIX A. OASIS REPORT FORM

All fields are required unless they are not applicable.

### Project Details

OASIS Number	<input type="text" value="57588"/>		
Project Name	<input type="text" value="Tempsford Water Treatment Works"/>		
Project Dates (fieldwork) Start	<input type="text" value="24-02-2009"/>	Finish	<input type="text" value="25-02-2009"/>
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="XBD TTW 08"/>	Planning App. No.	<input type="text"/>
HER No.	<input type="text" value="BEDFM 2008.315"/>	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 checked="" 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" value="Sewage Works"/>	<input type="text" value="Modern 1901 to Present"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text" value="Select period..."/>
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text" value="Select period..."/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text" value="Select period..."/>
<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="Bedfordshire"/>	Site Address (including postcode if possible)
District	<input type="text" value="Tempsford"/>	<input type="text"/>
Parish	<input type="text" value="Tempsford"/>	
HER	<input type="text" value="Bedford"/>	
Study Area	<input type="text" value="10 sq m"/>	National Grid Reference <input type="text" value="TL 1680 5450"/>

### Project Originators

Organisation	OA EAST
Project Brief Originator	Lesley Anne Mather
Project Design Originator	James Drummond Murray
Project Manager	James Drummond Murray
Supervisor	Jonathan House

### Project Archives

Physical Archive	Digital Archive	Paper Archive
Location	Location ...	Bedford Museum
Accession ID ...	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"/>
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	<input type="checkbox"/> Survey

**Notes:**

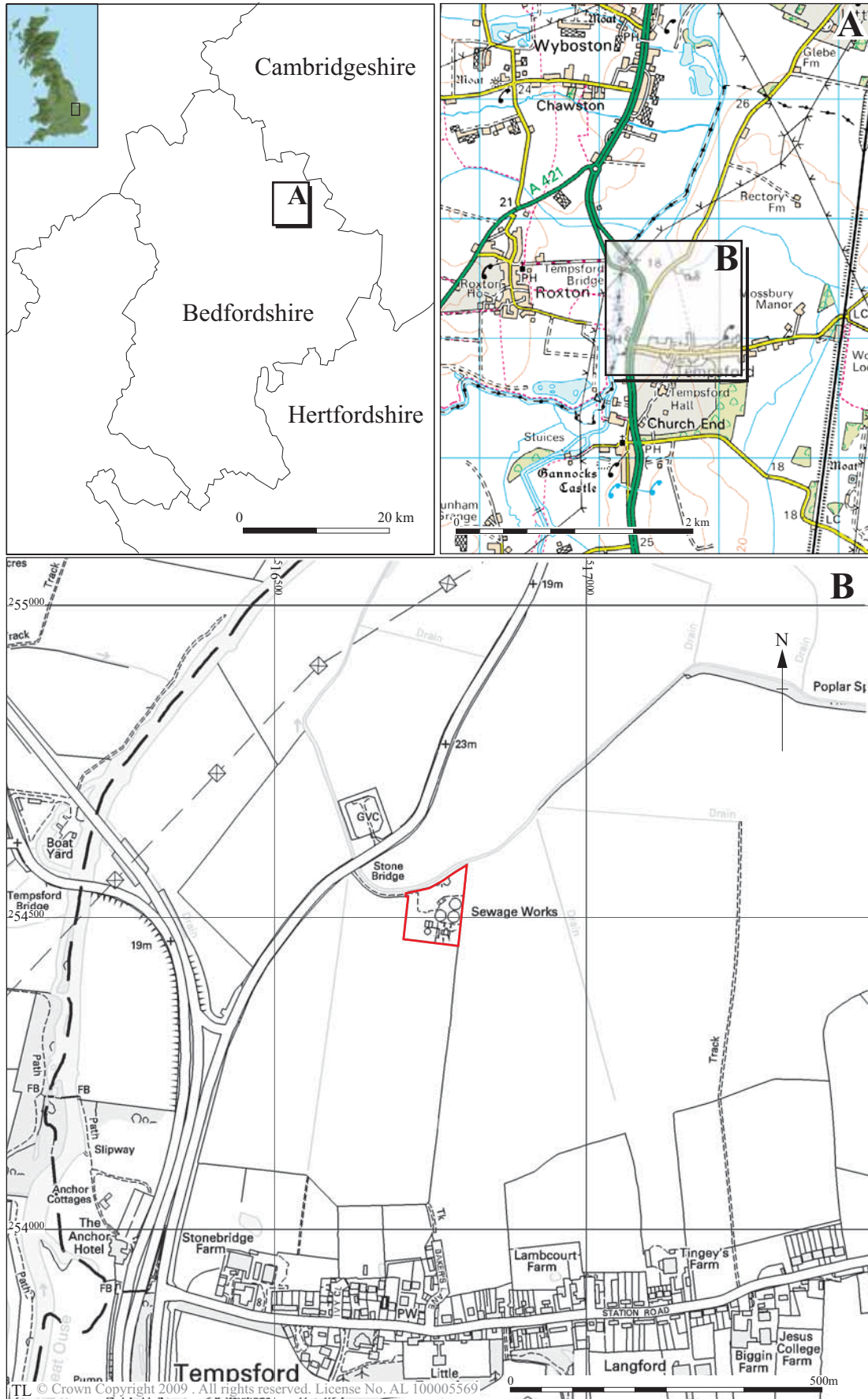


Figure 1: Location of development area (red)

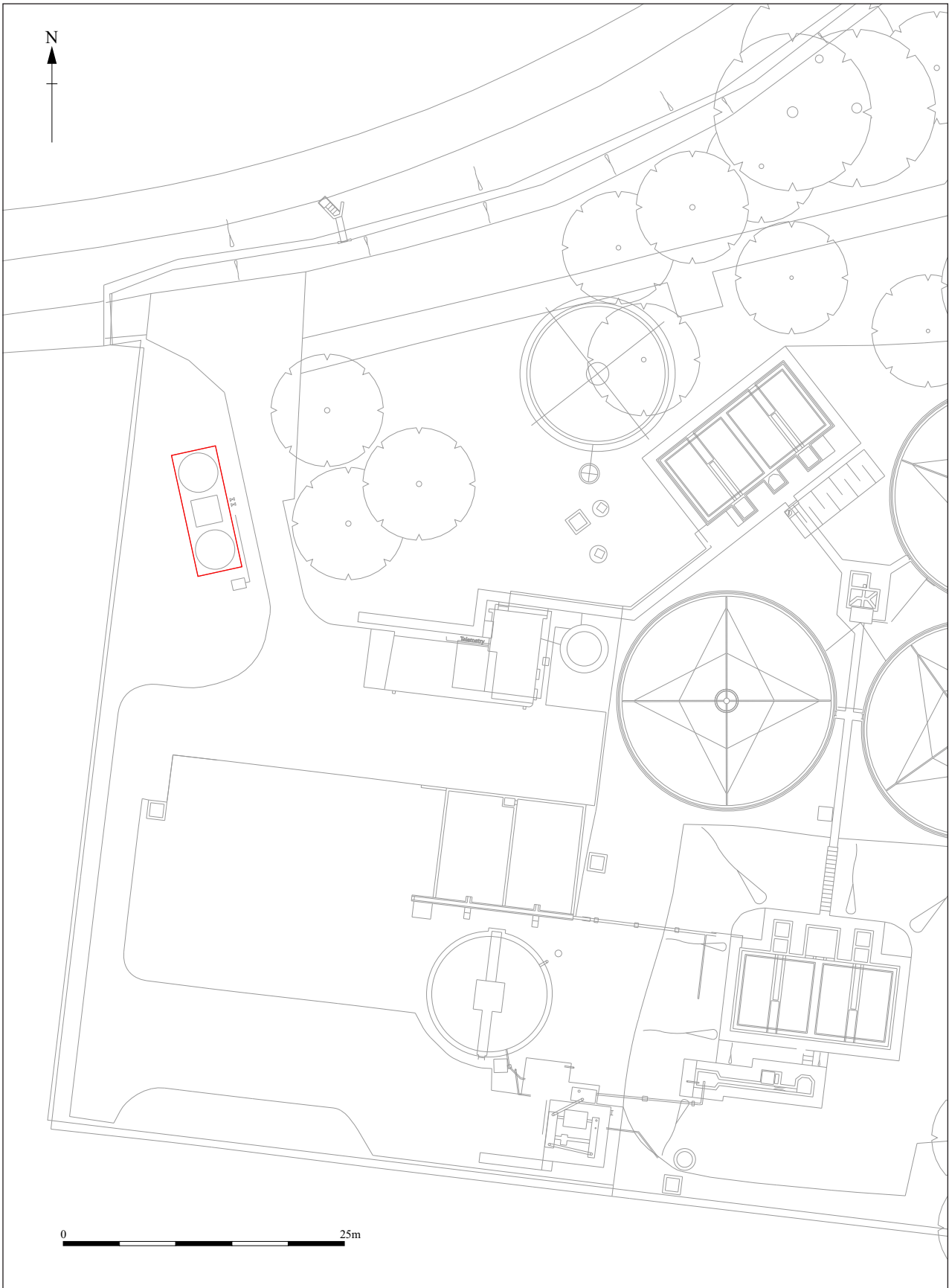


Figure 2: Site plan at 1:500 scale, showing excavated area (red)



*Plate 1: General site shot*



*Plate 2: General site shot*





### **Head Office/Registered Office**

Janus House  
Osney Mead  
Oxford OX2 0ES

t: +44 (0) 1865 263 800  
f: +44 (0) 1865 793 496  
e: [info@thehumanjourney.net](mailto:info@thehumanjourney.net)  
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/oaeast>

### **OA Méditerranée**

115 Rue Merlot  
ZAC La Louvade  
34 130 Mauguio  
France

t: +33 (0) 4.67.57.86.92  
f: +33 (0) 4.67.42.65.93  
e: [oamed@oamed.fr](mailto: oamed@oamed.fr)  
w: <http://oamed.fr/>



**Director:** David Jennings, BA MIFA FSA

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