

# Land at Goxhill, Lincolnshire Flood Alleviation Scheme



## Archaeological Watching Brief Report



October 2012

**Client: Anglian Water**

OA East Report No: 1393

OASIS No: oxfordar3-136208

NGR: TA 1048 2225

## **Land at Goxhill, Lincolnshire Flood Alleviation Scheme**

### *Watching Brief*

*Site Code:* XLIGOX12

*CHER No.* GXAR

*Date of Works:* June- October 2012

*Report No:* 1393

*Excavators:* G. Clarke, P. Moan.

*Client:* Anglian Water

*Report Date:* November 2012

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## **Summary**

*Between the months of June and October 2012, OA East carried out an archaeological watching brief at Land at Goxhill, Lincolnshire Flood Alleviation Scheme (centred on TA 1048 2225). The monitoring was carried out during the installation of a network of sewer pipes associated with the scheme along the undeveloped agricultural land in the eastern part of the site and down Willow Lane in the village itself. The archaeological desk study carried out by OA East concluded there would be a higher chance or degree of survival of archaeological remains in this part of the site.*

*The only feature of interest was a late 19th Century brick culvert seen in the trench through Willow Lane.*



## 1 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

- 1.1.1 The site is located on the north-east side of the village of Goxhill, North Lincolnshire at between 2.5m to 8mOD. The underlying geology comprises superficial deposits of Devensian Till and the bedrock geology is the Burnham Chalk formation (source: <http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain>).

## 2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1.1 A desk-based assessment was carried out by OA East for the flood alleviation scheme in March 2012 (Thatcher 2012) which details the archaeological potential of the site and should be referred to for full background. The following is a brief summary:
- 2.1.2 The site has a moderate level of archaeological potential with the most likely date of any remains being either medieval or post-medieval. The pipe route skirts the edge of the historic core of the main medieval settlement of Goxhill and the trench excavation on Willow Lane is approximately 100m from the location of a possible Manor House preserved as earthworks identified in aerial photographs. Furthermore a field located next to Willow lane had well preserved medieval earthworks identified in it, including a sunken trackway, the remains of ridge and furrow cultivation and the rear sections of two medieval enclosures, one of which contained a rectangular building platform (Dennison 1992).
- 2.1.3 There is also a possibility of encountering archaeological remains pre-dating the medieval period, with stray finds recorded on the HER dating from the Bronze Age and Roman period in the vicinity of the site.
- 2.1.4 The chance or degree of survival of any archaeological remains should be higher in the eastern part of the site, which lies on undeveloped agricultural land. In parts any deposits may have been preserved under ridge and furrow in pasture in recent centuries, resulting in a better likelihood of survival than on modern arable land. The presence of this pasture will also have precluded opportunities for chance finds to be made within the field soil, meaning any lack of HER entries does not necessarily reflect the archaeological potential of the landscape (Thatcher 2012).

## 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:
- identification and recording of all archaeological features and artefacts exposed during construction work;
  - to determine the form and function of the archaeological features encountered;
  - to recover dating evidence from the archaeological features;
  - to establish the sequence of the archaeological remains present on the site;
  - to retrieve environmental evidence relating to environment and economy of the site;
  - to interpret the archaeological features and finds within the context of the known archaeology of the site and surrounding area.



- 3.1.3 The area of investigation was located on the undeveloped agricultural land in the eastern part of the site. A further section of the route was monitored along Willow Lane which lay in the vicinity of earthworks towards the Lanes western end.
- 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 with occasional periods of heavy rain.

## 4 RESULTS

- 4.1.1 The watching brief along the flood alleviation scheme route was split into five parts:
- 4.1.2 Part I comprised the undeveloped agricultural land to the north of Ruards Lane;
- 4.1.3 Part II comprised a pasture field with ridge and furrow, running east to west, immediately to the south of Ruards Lane;
- 4.1.4 Part III comprised a field, to the north of 'The Roddings' trackway, with much hard standing associated with its previous use as part of the disused airfield to the east;
- 4.1.5 Part IV comprised the southernmost fields of undeveloped agricultural land with ridge and furrow to the south of 'The Roddings' greenway track;
- 4.1.6 Part V comprised the flood alleviation scheme route along Willow Lane with a trench being excavated that was 1m wide and between 1.5m and 3m in depth.

### 4.2 Part I. Fields North of Ruards Lane

- 4.2.1 No archaeological features or artefacts were encountered. The ground conditions generally comprised of firm yellowish brown sandy clay natural ground overlain by a dark grey loam topsoil up to 0.3m deep.

### 4.3 Part II. Pasture Field with Ridge and Furrow

- 4.3.1 No archaeological features or artefacts were encountered. Beneath the ridge and furrow the ground conditions generally comprised of firm orange brown sandy clay natural ground overlain by a dark grey loam topsoil. The topsoil depth varied between 0.15m and 0.30m in depth corresponding with the ridge and furrow earthworks running east to west across the site. The northern part of the field was much disturbed with a thin layer of hardcore, below the turf, extending towards the gated entrance to Ruards Lane.

### 4.4 Part III. Part of Disused Airfield

- 4.4.1 No archaeological features or artefacts were encountered. The ground conditions generally comprised of firm yellowish brown sandy clay natural ground overlain by hardcore and surfaced with tarmac.

### 4.5 Part IV. Fields to south of 'The Roddings' greenway track

- 4.5.1 No archaeological features or artefacts were encountered. The ground conditions generally comprised of mid yellowish brown sandy clay subsoil overlain by topsoil ranging from 0.1m to 0.25m in depth corresponding with the ridge and furrow., which ran east to west across site.

#### **4.6 Part V. Willow Lane**

- 4.6.1 The pipe trench being opened was 1.2m wide and between 1.5m to 3m deep, running the length of Willow Lane. The ground conditions generally comprised of mid yellowish brown sandy clay natural overlain by 0.6m to 0.8m of modern hardcore, make up layers and tarmac. Any archaeological features that may have been in the area were most likely completely truncated by the modern activity in the area.
- 4.6.2 A brick culvert was uncovered during the excavation of the trench. The culvert was 1m wide, 0.6m in height and constructed of unfrogged red bricks and a dull yellow mortar. The culvert was known to be in the area and related to road water drainage

### **5 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS**

- 5.1.1 No archaeological features or finds were observed during the excavation of the pipe trenches and top soil strip. Any features that may have been in the area of site would have been truncated by post-medieval and modern activity.
- 5.1.2 The ridge and furrow earthworks were not masking any features that may have been there, and no finds were recovered from the top soil stripping.
- 5.1.3 The brick culvert uncovered on Willow Lane was known to be in the area and relates to street water drainage throughout the village. Dating to the mid to late 19th Century it was still in good condition although heavily silted up and with some modern concrete repair work.

### **6 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

- 6.1.1 The authors 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 Alison Williams, for North Lincolnshire Council, who monitored the watching brief.

## BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Dennison, E      1992    Earthwork Survey, Ferry Road and Willow Lane, Goxhill, South Humberside
- Thatcher, C      2012    Land at Goxhill, Lincolnshire Flood Alleviation Scheme. Desk-Based Assessment. Unpublished OA East Report No: 1354.

### Electronic Sources:

<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain>

<http://www.heritagegateway.org.uk>

## APPENDIX A. OASIS REPORT FORM

All fields are required unless they are not applicable.

### Project Details

OASIS Number	oxfordar3-136208		
Project Name	Land at Goxhill, Lincolnshire Flood Alleviation Scheme Watching Brief		
Project Dates (fieldwork)	Start	01-06-2012	Finish 25-10-2012
Previous Work (by OA East)	Yes	Future Work No	

### Project Reference Codes

Site Code	XLIGOX12	Planning App. No.	
HER No.	GXAR	Related HER/OASIS No.	

### Type of Project/Techniques Used

Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPS 5
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### Please select all techniques used:

<input checked="" 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
Culvert	Post Medieval 1540 to 1901	none	Select period...
	Select period...		Select period...
	Select period...		Select period...

### Project Location

County	North Lincolnshire	Site Address (including postcode if possible)
District		Goxhill Lincolnshire DN19
Parish	Goxhill	
HER	GXAR	
Study Area		National Grid Reference TA 1048 2225

## Project Originators

Organisation	OA EAST
Project Brief Originator	Alison Williams (North Lincs Unitary Council)
Project Design Originator	N/A
Project Manager	James Drummond-Murray
Supervisor	G. Clarke, P. Moan

## Project Archives

Physical Archive	Digital Archive	Paper Archive
N/A	Oxford East Office	North Lincolnshire Museum Service
N/A	XLIGOX12	GXAR

## 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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Other	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

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	<input type="checkbox"/> Sections
	<input type="checkbox"/> Survey

### Notes:

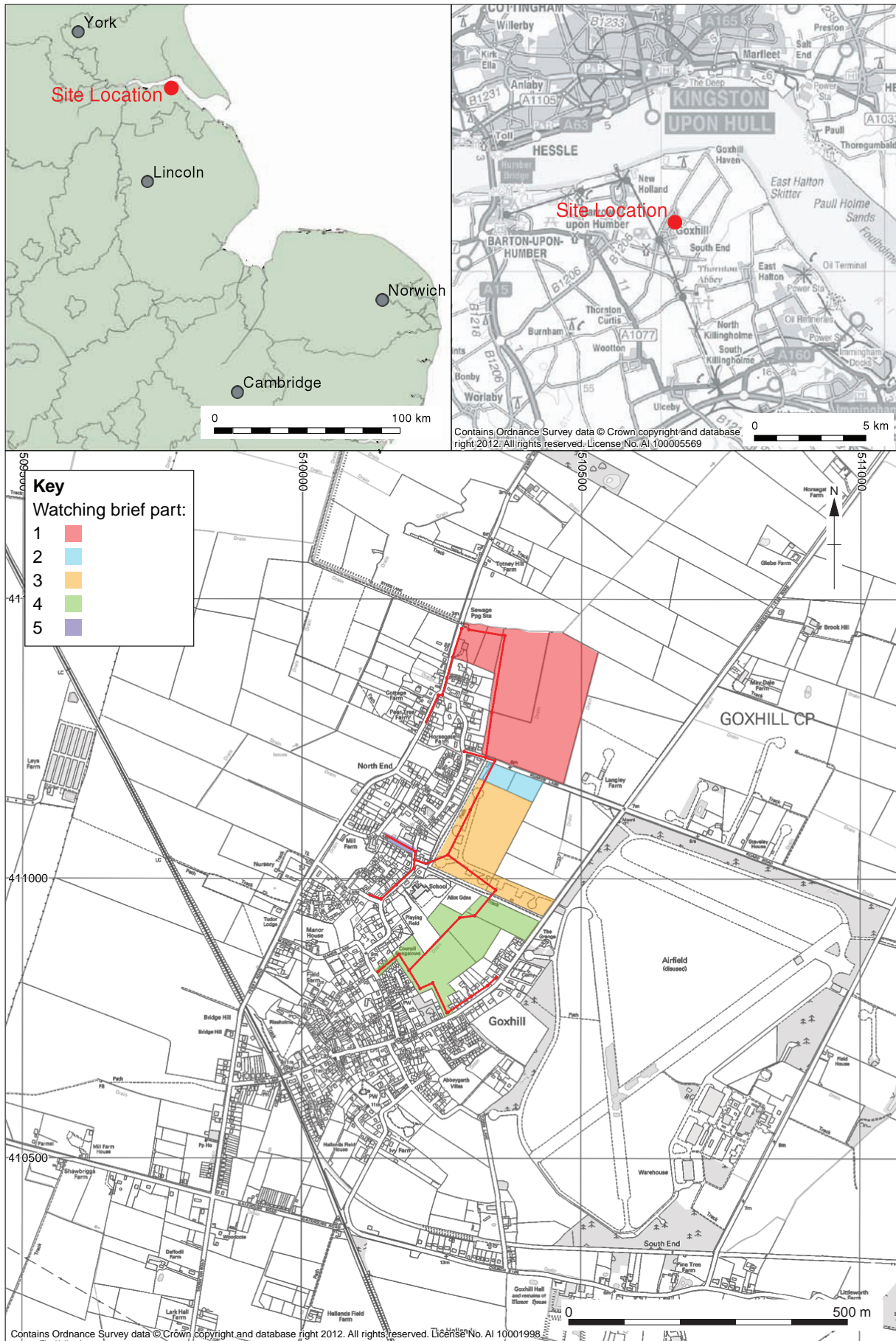


Figure 1: Site location showing route of alleviation scheme (red)





Plate 1: Stripped field at northern end of flood alleviation scheme looking south



Plate 2: Stripped route across the disused airfield looking south





Plate 3: Pipe trench down Willow Lane showing 19th Century Culvert in section





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