NEW PUMPING STATION
BOROUGHBRIDGE ROAD, YORK

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

for
EARTH TECH - MORRISON
on behalf of
YORKSHIRE WATER SERVICES LTD

NAA 02/39
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NEW PUMPING STATION
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Summary

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken during the turf and topsoil stripping and the ground levelling for the construction of a new water pumping station. This was located on the north-eastern corner of the junction of Boroughbridge Road, Poppleton Road and Landing Lane to the west Severus Bridge (SE 5808 5222) No archaeological features or finds were encountered during the watching brief.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 This report presents the results of an archaeological watching brief of the excavation of the site of a proposed booster pumping station close to the junction of Boroughbridge Road and Poppleton Road and to the south-east side of Severus Bridge (Figures 1 and 2), in the City of York (SE 58085222).

1.2 The area excavated was c.5 x 5.2m, at c.20m AOD and located some 18.5m north east of the junction of Boroughbridge Road, Poppleton Road and Landing Lane and 6.2m north west of the boundary wall of Poppleton School (Figure 2).

1.3 The watching brief was carried out according to the programme set out in the Archaeological Scheme of Investigation: Watching Brief supplied by the City of York Archaeologist (Oxley 2002), this was in order to comply with condition 4 of the Planning Permission Notice issued by York City Council ref: 01/01899/FUL. The watching brief was conducted by Northern Archaeological Associates (NAA) for Earth Tech - Morrison on behalf of Yorkshire Water Services Ltd. and took place on 6 March 2002.

2.0 BACKGROUND

2.1 The site lies alongside one of the major routes into and out of the City of York, which possibly has its origins in the Roman period and therefore has a potential for archaeological remains to survive in association with it. The local planning authority, as part of planning consent, required a programme of archaeological monitoring of the groundworks to be undertaken, with provision for more extensive archaeological work if this revealed anything of significance (Oxley 2002).
3.0 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

3.1 The principal objective of the watching brief was to identify and record remains and artefacts of archaeological interest during the groundworks for the new pumping station. The specific aims were:

- to locate areas of archaeological interest on the site
- to record features of archaeological interest and to recover associated artefacts
- to establish the date and nature of any areas and artefacts of archaeological interest
- to sample any appropriate deposits for specialist analysis

4.0 METHODOLOGY

4.1 The archaeological monitoring took place at all times while excavation by machine and by hand was undertaken by the contractors. A written, drawn and photographic record was made of the results of the works.

4.2 The turf and topsoil was removed to a maximum depth of 0.30m from the area of the foundations by machine and the underlying subsoils examined for archaeological features. The bank on the north-west side of the trench was then excavated by machine in order to create a level site for the foundations. This produced a maximum depth at the north-western edge of the trench of 0.75m, while at the south-eastern edge it was 0.30m.

4.3 Two deeper slots, c.0.70m wide, were cut into the subsoil, in the north eastern and south eastern parts of the site to maximum depth of 1m below the level of the foundations in order to receive the various pipework serving the station. These slots where cut into the same subsoil as the main body of the trench.

4.4 An overall plan of the site was produced, at a scale of 1:250, showing the location of the excavations for the new pumping station (Figure 2). A detailed plan and section drawings where produced at a scale of 1:50 of the excavated trench, (Figure 3).

4.5 The spoil heaps were also monitored for any artefactual material.

5.0 RESULTS

5.1 Below the turf and topsoil (101) the subsoil (103) across the site was an almost uniform...
orange/red compacted clay with occasional sandstone fragments.

5.2 In the south western corner of the trench, immediately beneath the topsoil, a layer of stony concrete (102), c1.0 x 1.5m in extent, was recorded which extending beyond the edge of the excavation. Its position suggests that it is part of the make up layers for the Severus Bridge approach road (Figure 3).

5.3 At the northern end of the trench a recent back-filled excavation was encountered (104), which was part of the lead-in activity for the present work.

5.4 No further deposits or artefacts of archaeological significance were encountered.

6.0 CONCLUSION

6.1 The construction of the new pumping station at the junction of Boroughbridge Road and Poppleton Road did not encounter any significant archaeological remains. This is probably due to the depth of made up ground for the approach to Severus Bridge.

6.2 As the site is located approximately 18.5m back from the probable Roman road it is possible that there are archaeological remains closer to the roadside.
Figure 1 Boroughbridge Road, York: site location
Figure 2 Boroughbridge Road, York: Trench location plan
Figure 3 Boroughbridge Road, York: trench plan and sections
Plate 1  view of partially excavated trench facing north