

# **Pipeline route, Thorpe Village to Chertsey Sewage Treatment Works, Surrey**

**An Archaeological Watching Brief**

**For Thames Water plc**

by Pamela Jenkins

Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code CSP 05/57

**January 2006**

## Summary

**Site name:** Pipeline route, Thorpe Village to Chertsey Sewage Treatment Works, Surrey

**Grid reference:** TQ 0250 6875 – TQ 0170 6755

**Site activity:** Watching Brief

**Date and duration of project:** 23rd June – 30th November 2005

**Project manager:** Helen Moore

**Site supervisor:** Pamela Jenkins

**Site code:** CSP 05/57

**Summary of results:** Three features were identified within the area of the sports fields. Two gullies, one of which was curvilinear and a possible shallow ditch were post medieval. A posthole of possibly prehistoric date (Neolithic – Bronze Age) was also excavated.

**Monuments identified:** Two post-medieval gullies and a possible ditch and a posthole (possibly of prehistoric date).

**Location and reference of archive:** The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited at Chertsey or another local approved Museum in due course.

*This report may be copied for bona fide research or planning purposes without the explicit permission of the copyright holder*

Report edited/checked by:	Steve Ford ✓ 27.01.06
	Steve Preston ✓ 27.01.06

# **Pipeline route, Thorpe Village, to Chertsey Sewage Treatment Works, Surrey An Archaeological Watching Brief**

by Pamela Jenkins

**Report 05/57**

## **Introduction**

This report documents the results of an archaeological watching brief carried out on a pipeline route between Thorpe village and Chertsey sewage treatment works (TQ 0250 6875 to TQ 0170 6755) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Mr Nick Clark of Thames Water plc, Clearwater Court, Vastern Road, Reading, RG1 0DB.

Thames Water has constructed two sections of new sewer from Thorpe village to Chertsey sewage treatment works in Surrey. This project was carried out under Thames Water's statutory powers, under the terms of the Town and Country Planning Acts (General Development Order). Under the Code of Practice on Conservation, Access and Recreation (Water Industry Act 1991) Thames Water plc is obliged to consider and mitigate the consequences of its activities. An assessment of the work was undertaken by Lang Hall Archaeology (Lang Hall 2005) and archaeological monitoring in the form of a watching brief was proposed as the best way to mitigate any effects that the work may have had on surviving archaeological deposits.

The field investigation was carried out to a specification approved by Mr Tony Howe, Archaeological Officer for Surrey County Council. The fieldwork was undertaken by Pamela Jenkins, Jennifer Lowe, Andy Taylor and Sean Wallis between 23rd June and 30th November 2005 and the site code is CSP 05/57.

The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited at Chertsey or another local approved museum in due course.

## **Location, topography and geology**

The pipeline route commences west of the banks of the river Thames and has been subdivided into two sections: The eastern section of the route (TQ 0340 6950 to TQ 0305 6895) crosses wasteland between the houses at Redwood and Holland Gardens, and Norlands Lane which connects the A320 to Thorpe village. This area was considered to have no surviving archaeological potential and was therefore excluded from the archaeological programme. The western section of the route (TQ 0250 6875 to TQ 0170 6755) is longer and runs broadly south-west then south then west. It crosses a school sports field west of St Ann's lake, emerging onto the east side of Mill Lane then following Mill Lane its full length before crossing through pasture adjacent to Mill Lane. On the south side of the M3 it runs parallel with a number of existing pipelines, through the woodland of St Ann's Park,

and across an arable field along the eastern border of the interchange to the west of St Ann's Hillfort. It crosses the M25 by a pipe bridge which carries several existing Thames Water pipes. West of the M25 the pipeline traverses pasture into Chertsey Sewage Treatment Works (Fig. 1).

This section of the pipeline route was considered to cross several areas with the potential of surviving archaeological deposits. These were: the sports fields at Thorpe village and the Site of Special Scientific Interest directly to the north-east; the field adjacent to Mill Lane; and the section of woodland at the base of St Ann's Hill to the south. The geology for this route is described as Flood plain gravel and alluvium to the north of the M25 and Bagshot beds to the south (BGS 1981). The alluvium was observed as a fine orangey brown clay. The height above Ordnance Datum is 15m in the village of Thorpe rising to 30m at the Chertsey sewage treatment works which lies at the base of St Ann's Hill.

## **Archaeological background**

The archaeological background has been detailed in a desk-based assessment for the site (Lang Hall 2005). The route of the pipeline does not traverse any known sites or find spots although there are several in the vicinity: Neolithic occupation sites at Thorpe Lea Nurseries to the north; scattered find spots of Bronze Age tools and weapons, Neolithic and Mesolithic flints, Roman pottery and metalwork; and medieval and post-medieval occupation sites. Iron Age settlement and activity in the area have been investigated through various nearby excavations many discovered during mineral extraction, The site traverses the fringes of the medieval village of Thorpe and the later history of the village has also recently been documented (Williams 2002).

## **Objectives and methodology**

The purpose of the watching brief was to excavate and record any archaeological deposits affected by the digging of the pipeline trench and easement. All spoilheaps were monitored for finds and all possible archaeological deposits were hand cleaned and excavated.

## **Results**

The pipe trench was excavated with a toothed bucket and was 0.60m wide, with the exception of the sports field where it was 1.80m wide, whilst its depth varied throughout its length according to the topography, typically around 2m deep. Where easements were created (up to 5.60m wide) none was stripped consistently deep enough

to reveal any of the natural geology of yellowish orange clay and sand. Only four features were observed, all of which were located in the sports field north of Mill Lane (Figs. 2 and 3).

The pipe trench within the sports field was excavated initially to a depth of approximately 0.40m onto the natural clay to facilitate archaeological observation. Full excavation took place at a later date once all archaeological recording had taken place. Easements were stripped either side up to 1.80m wide but these did not exceed subsoil depth. Only one post-medieval feature (3) was observed within the easement strip as mentioned below.

Two features (1 and 2) were recorded in the section of the pipeline adjacent to The Moat (Figs. 2 and 3). Gully 1 appeared as a curvilinear feature, 0.90m wide and 0.25m deep. Its fill (52) was compacted rounded and sub-rounded flint gravel in a thin layer of fine, dry yellowish/brown silty sand silty sand. It contained frequent fragments of post-medieval brick and tile and some glass. Feature 2 was a shallow linear 1.60m wide aligned NW–SE across the width of the trench. It was 0.40m deep and contained a compacted yellowish/brown fine sand with frequent sub-rounded and sub-angular flint gravel and occasional post-medieval brick and tile (53).

Further west another very slight post-medieval gully (3) aligned east–west was observed cutting the subsoil (51) within the easement strip. Its fill (54) was a very firm greyish orange silty clay containing charcoal, burnt brick and tile, and pieces of coal. It may be no more than a plough furrow. Further west within this same section at the turning point towards Mill Lane (TQ 0236 6839) a posthole (4) was seen cutting the natural clay. It was 0.30m in diameter and 0.05m deep filled with firm mottled dark brownish grey and orange clay. A flint flake was retrieved from its surface. Two more flakes were recovered from the surface of the stripped area close by. It is possible that this is a prehistoric feature but positive dating was not forthcoming.

For the remainder of the pipeline where archaeological observation was required no further deposits of archaeological interest were seen.

## **Finds**

### *Struck flint by Steve Ford*

A small collection comprising just 3 struck flints was recovered during the course of the watching brief. All three are flakes. The pieces are not closely datable other than to Neolithic–Bronze Age times.

Post hole 4 (55)	Broken flake
4m west of feature 4	Intact flake
13m south of turning point	Intact flake

## **Conclusion**

The watching brief on the digging of this pipeline has led to the discovery of only a small amount of archeology. Easement stripping, where it took place was usually shallow and the archaeologically relevant levels were rarely exposed. Excavation of the pipe trench took place with a toothed bucket and the trench was only 0.60m wide (with the exception of the sports field where it was 1.80m wide) whilst being more than 2m deep in most areas. This limited visibility of the strata revealed but still did not lead to the discovery of many cut features in the trench sides.

Only the sports field to the north of Mill Lane revealed deposits of any interest. The posthole (4) which contained a broken flint flake may have been prehistoric whilst the other three features were clearly post-medieval. Two further flint flakes were recovered from the surface of the natural clay close to the posthole.

## **References**

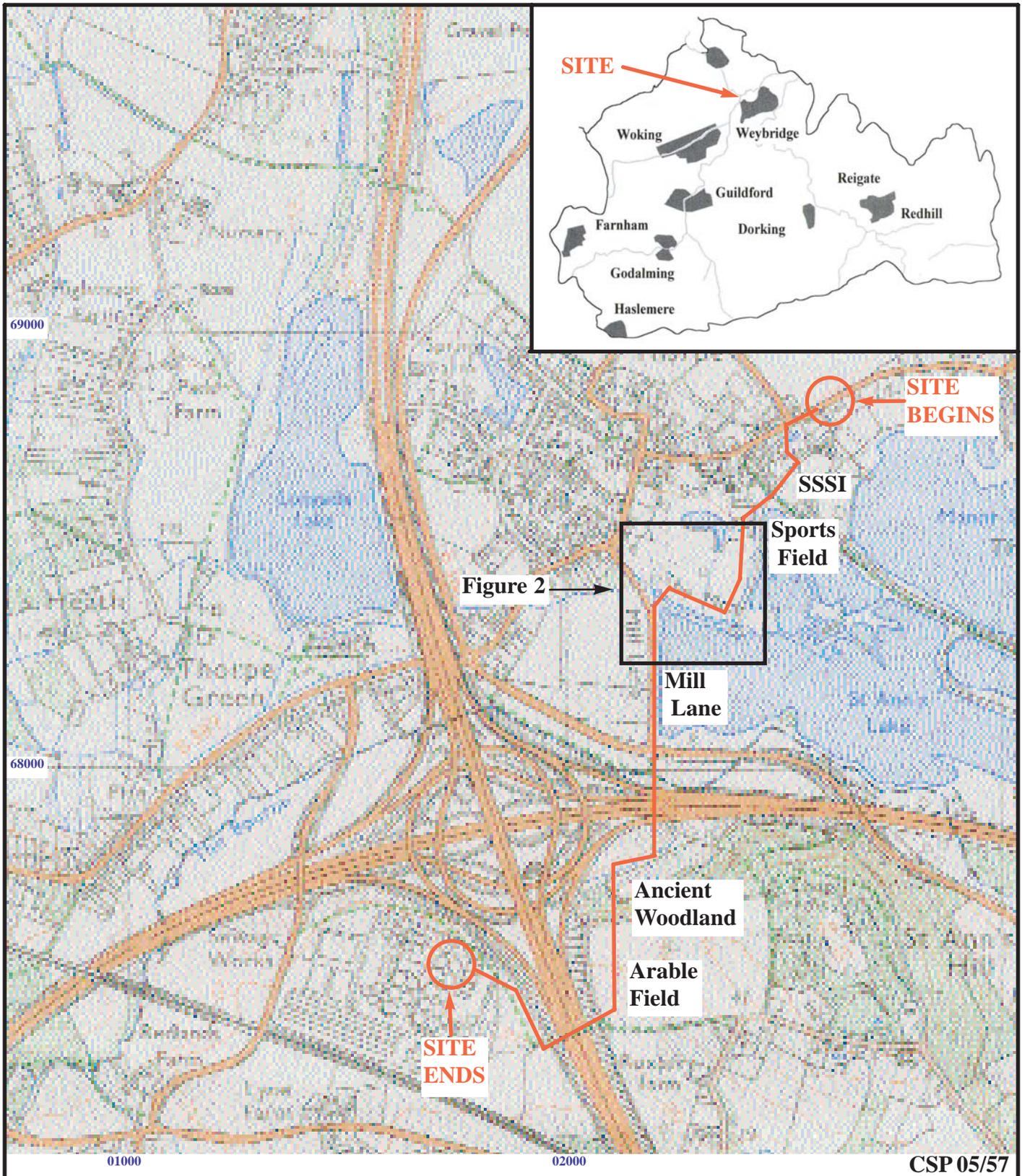
- BGS, 1981, *British Geological Survey*, 1:50 000, Sheet 269, Solid and Drift Edition, Keyworth
- Lang Hall, 2005, "Chertsey Lane Sewer: Surrey. An Assessment of the Archaeological implications", Lang Hall Archaeology
- PPG 16, 1990, *Archaeology and Planning*, Dept of the Environment Planning Policy Guidance 16, HMSO
- Williams, J, 2002, *Thorpe; A Surrey village in maps*, Egham-by-Runnymede Historical Society and Surrey Archaeological Society, Guildford

## APPENDIX 1: Pipe trench details

<i>Location</i>	<i>Breadth (m)</i>	<i>Depth (m)</i>	<i>Comment</i>
Site of Special Scientific Interest (TQ 0244 6870)	0.60m	2.50m	0m-0.10m roots and topsoil; 0.10m-1.75m mid brownish orange fine silty sand made up ground with occasional flint gravel and flecks of modern brick and tile; 1.75m-2.50m (variable) made up layers of dark blueish grey sandy clay with angular flint (probably material excavated from adjacent man made lake) onto natural yellow orange sand with flint gravel.
Sports field (TQ 0230 6840) Easement strip	1.80m  up to 1.50m either side of pipe trench up	c.0.40m  up to 0.20m	0m-0.20m pale yellowish orangey brown dry slightly clayey fine sand topsoil (50) and turf with frequent small angular gravel; 0.20-0.40m pale yellowish brown dry slightly clayey sand subsoil (51) with frequent sub angular and sub rounded small and medium sized flint gravel containing post medieval brick and tile onto mottled dark brownish orange and pale brownish grey clay /sand natural with frequent patches of angular and sub angular and sub rounded gravel. Root disturbed by mature trees along field boundary
Mill Lane (TQ0220 6820)	0.60m	1.0m-1.90m	Crosses east-west ditch of sports field to follow eastern side of Mill Lane up to culvert: 0m-0.50m scrub/roots; 0.5m-1.0m road surface of Tarmac layers (earlier route of Mill Lane); 1.0m-1.90m various layers of modern made up ground. Crosses to centre of Mill lane and dug along middle of road: 0m-0.1m Tarmac; 0.1m- 0.52m various make up layers for road; 0.52m-0.88m orange brown gravel natural; 0.88m-1.50m orange brown clay natural
Woodland (TQ0206 6770)	0.60m	1.20m-2.0m	0m-0.15m topsoil and bracken; 0.15m-1.20m natural sand layers. As trench emerges from northern edge of woodland the section reveals the made up layers relating to motorway construction containing modern rubbish to 2m deep
Arable field (TQ 0210 6750) Easement strip	0.60m  c.15m wide	1.20m-1.60m  0.20m	0m-0.20m mid greyish orange fine slightly clayey sand ploughsoil (already stripped); 0.20m-1.20m+ orangey grey sand and clay natural. The easement strip did not exceed the ploughsoil depth. At the south end of the trench before it crossed the motorway bridge a rectangular hole 3.5mx4.50mx1m was excavated revealing only made ground and modern pipework
Pasture to pumping station (TQ 0190 6740)	0.60m	0.80m (south) 2.0m (north)	0m-0.20m turf and topsoil (already stripped); 0.20m-0.40m mid greyish taupe sand subsoil onto natural sand.

## APPENDIX 2: Feature details

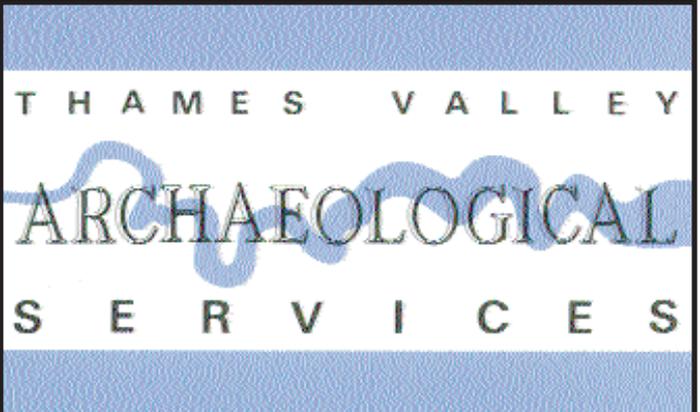
<i>Cut</i>	<i>Fill (s)</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Dating evidence</i>
1	52	Gully	Post medieval	Brick and tile; glass (not retained)
2	53	Gully	Post medieval	Brick and tile (not retained)
3	54	Gully or furrow	Modern	Brick and tile (not retained)
4	55	Posthole	Neolithic-Bronze Age	Flint flake



**Pipeline route, Thorpe Village to Chertsey Sewage Treatment Works, Surrey, 2005  
An Archaeological recording action**

Figure 1. Location of site areas along the pipeline within Thorpe and Surrey.

Reproduced from Ordnance Survey Pathfinder 1190 TQ06/16 at 1:12500 Ordnance Survey Licence 100025880



# Pipeline route, Thorpe Village to Chertsey Sewage Treatment Works, Surrey, 2005

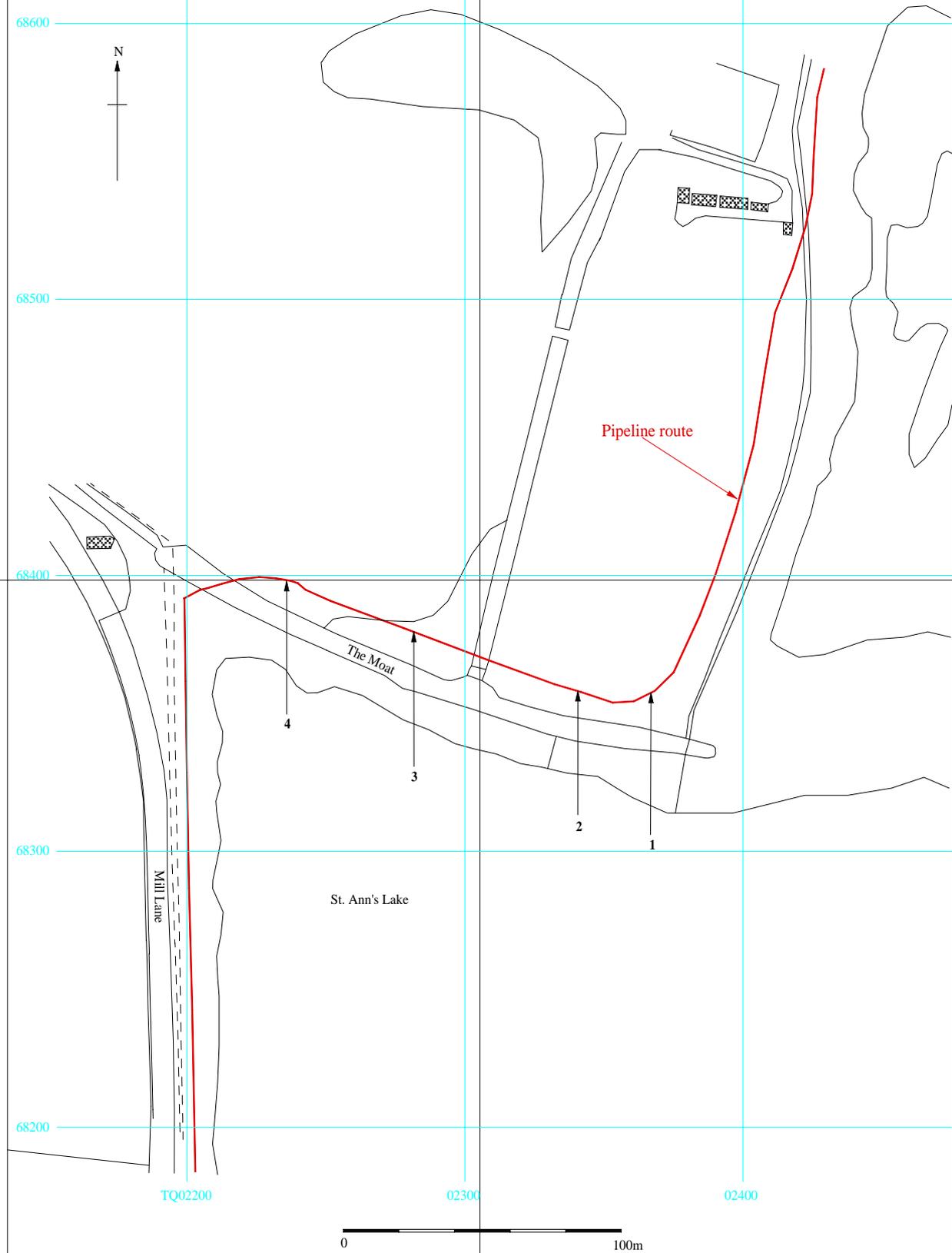


Figure 2. Location of features

# Pipeline route, Thorpe Village to Chertsey Sewage Treatment Works, Surrey, 2005

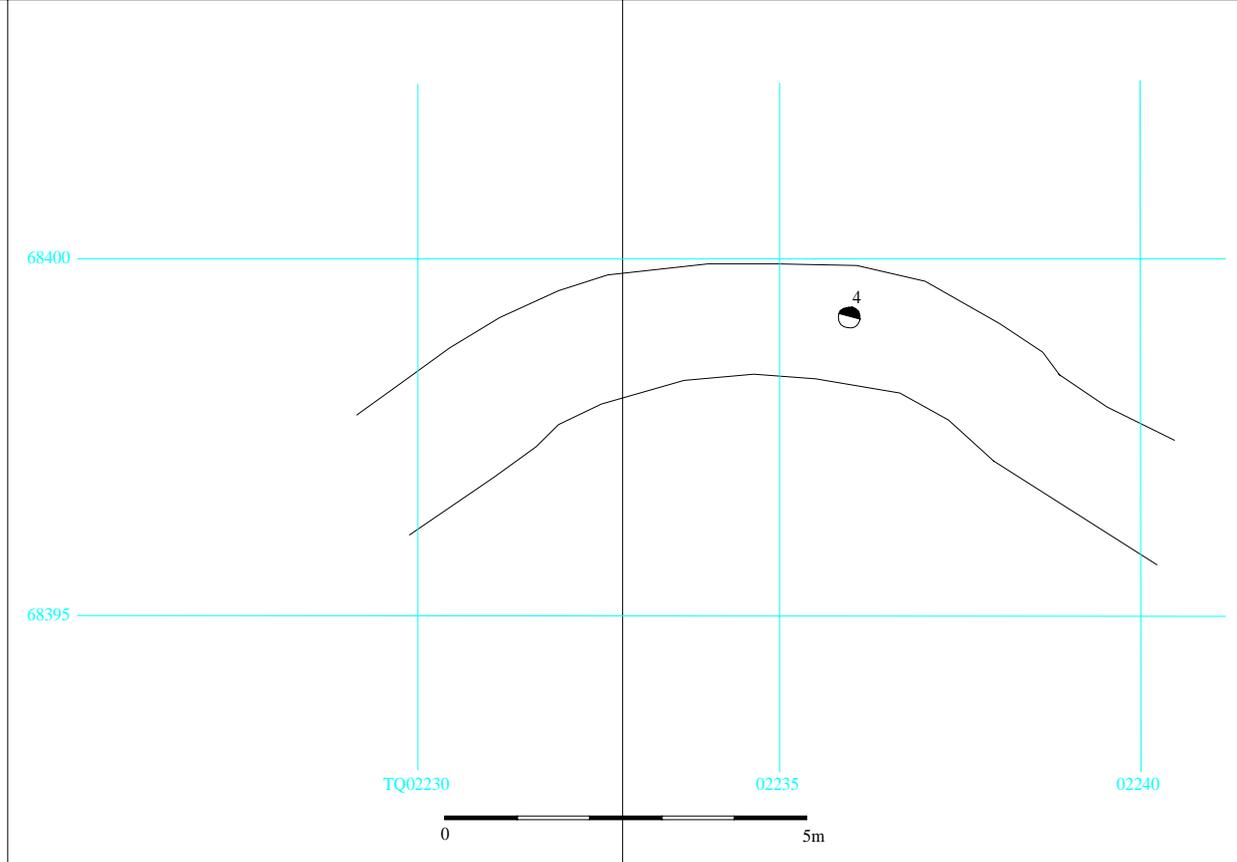
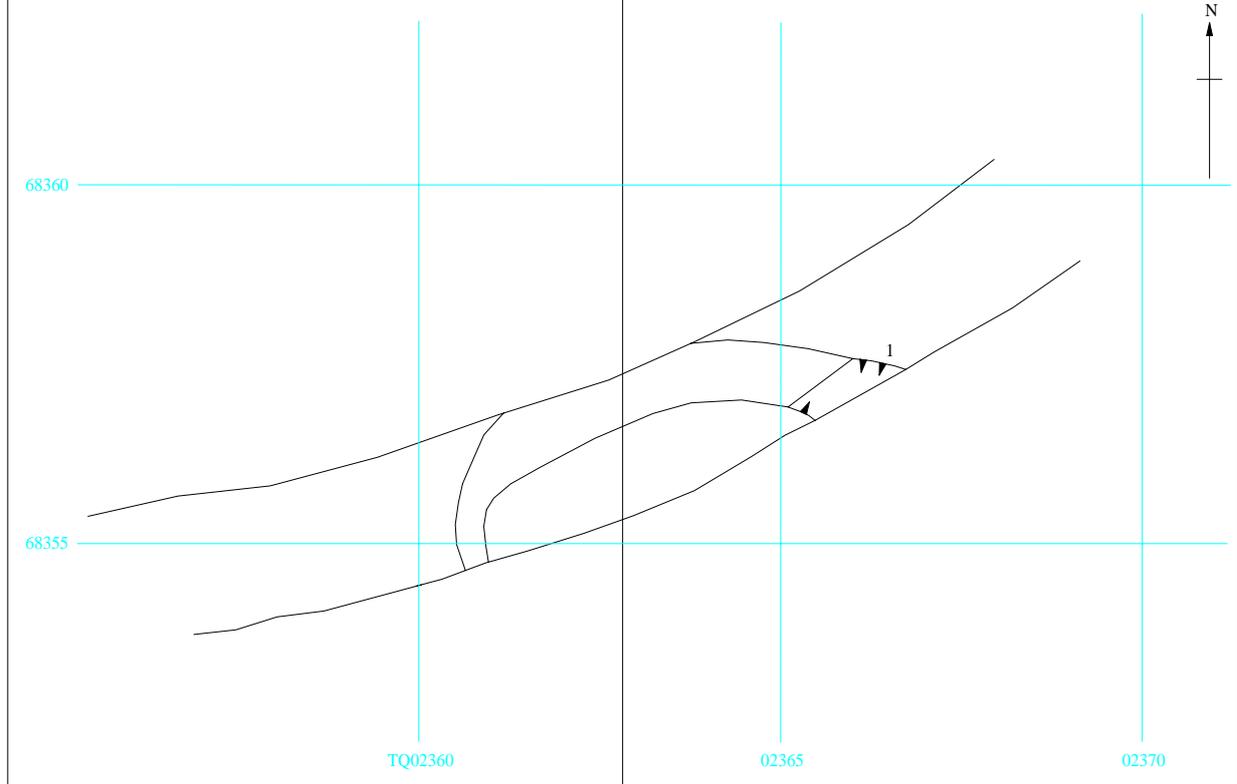


Figure 3. Plans

# Pipeline route, Thorpe Village to Chertsey Sewage Treatment Works, Surrey, 2005

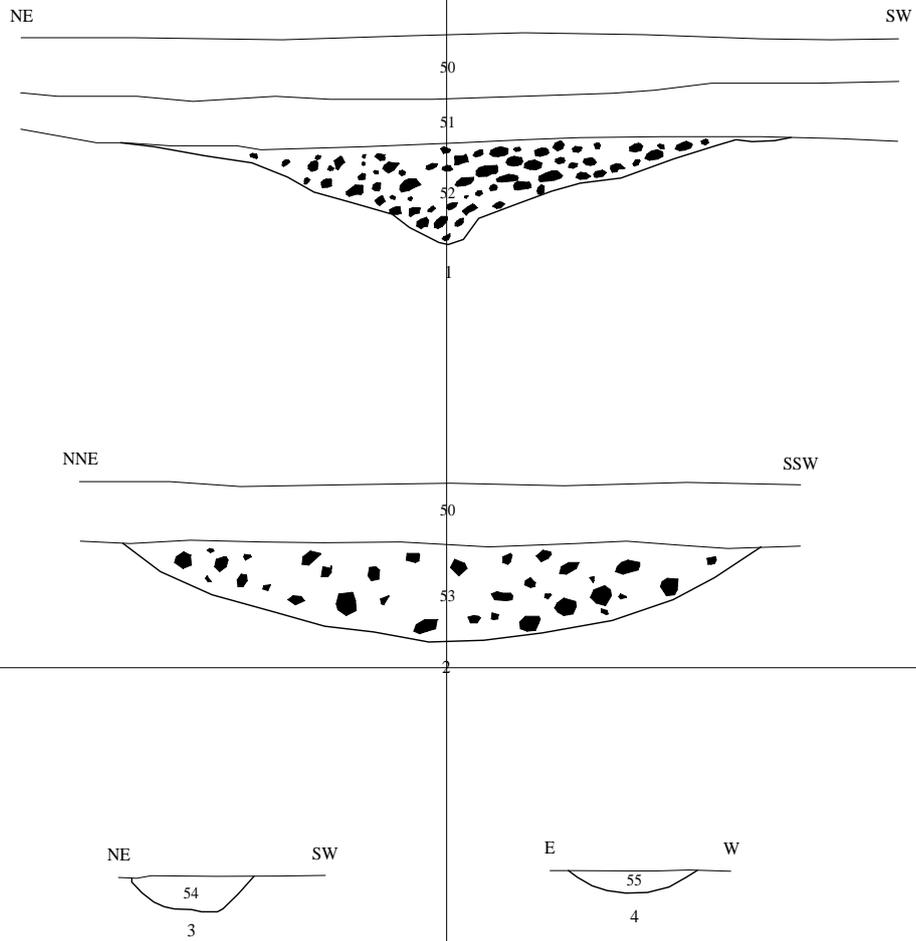


Figure 4. Sections