

Oxford Flood Alleviation Scheme



Archaeological investigations

August 2017

Why is the Oxford Flood Alleviation Scheme doing archaeological investigations?

Understanding the local archaeology is part of the Environmental Impact Assessment that we need to submit with our planning application. Our initial archaeological surveys across the scheme area found that there may be several areas of archaeological interest.

In November and December 2016 we completed archaeological investigations beneath Old Abingdon Road, which follows the route of a medieval causeway. Our investigations have given us vital information about the ancient structure, and we can now carefully plan where flood culverts needed in this area will be located.

We will be starting a series of further archaeological investigations throughout the scheme area. We are doing this work now so that we can design the whole scheme carefully around areas of archaeological interest.

Where will the archaeological investigations take place?

We will begin work in the north of the scheme area, near Botley Road and will gradually continue our work moving south through the scheme area with our final trenches being dug during November near the Redbridge. Some areas will have more trenches than others, these include the Botley Mill area in North Hinksey and Hinksey Causeway.

What will the work look like?

We will be using 360° excavators to dig trenches between 1 and 2 metres deep, 1.5 to 4 metres wide and up to 50 metres long.

We will leave the trenches open for the archaeologists to investigate anything inside and we will fill them back in when they have completed their work. We will fence off the trenches for health and safety reasons, whilst the work takes place.



Investigation trench during works



Investigation trench after works

When we fill the trenches we will use layers of soil which we'll compact down. We will replace the topsoil and seed it using a specific grass mix which Natural England have given us advice on.

The soil on the re-instated trench will be left slightly higher than the existing ground levels to allow for settlement of the soil over time.

How will the work affect you?

You will see archaeologists carrying out their investigations throughout the scheme area. The New Hinksey Causeway, near The Fishes pub, will be closed for a short period of time towards the end of this work in the autumn. Willow Walk will remain open at all times.

Who will be doing the work?

White Young Green (WYG) will be working closely with Oxford Archaeology to carry out this work. This is the same company who managed the ground investigation works that we did earlier this year. Oxford Archaeology were involved in investigations at Old Abingdon Road.

Next steps

The information from these investigations will be included in our planning submission in spring next year, and taken into consideration in our scheme design.

Keep updated on the scheme

 Facebook at www.facebook.com/oxfordscheme

 Twitter at www.twitter.com/oxfordfas

 oxfordscheme@environment-agency.gov.uk

 <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/reducing-flood-risk-in-oxford-and-abingdon>

