

Late Find Archaeology at KP316

Received a phone call from Paul Walton at approximately 11am on Friday 24 September to say that CCIC had found human bones during machining in this area. I then spoke with the on site supervisor at approximately 11.30am to find out the full details. The bones had been found at a depth of 1.5m during trenching in an area of known archaeology. I told them to stop work here until an archaeologist had assessed the site.

I visited the site at approximately 11am on Saturday 26th September. Three skulls and an assortment of long bones, a broken pelvis and some vertebrae were sat on the side of the trench. We arranged to have these reburied in the adjacent cemetery by a local labourer who had worked at the site during the original excavations here earlier in the year.

The bones had been found in the area that had been excavated prior to construction, but were at a depth of 1.5m, and had not therefore been discovered during the original work at this site. It cannot be determined whether these bones were recovered from a single grave as the site supervisor said or if they represent three separate graves. One of the skulls was that of a child, as the bone was not completely fused.

A GPS reading was taken at the approximate location of these bones. 8609696 4526007 (elevation 178m). (accuracy 4m)

Trenching was allowed to continue under archaeological supervision at approximately 11.30am on Saturday 26th September. The material was removed gradually (with a toothed bucket) to enable any human remains to be detected and removed.

A single skeleton was found during the excavation of the trench under supervision. This grave was located close to the southern edge of the pipe trench and appeared to run parallel with it, therefore giving an approximate orientation of south-west to north-east. The bones were quite large and appeared to represent those of an adult male.

A GPS reading was taken on this skeleton: 8609696 4526008 (elevation 179m). This body lay 1.55m below the stripped surface. (accuracy 4m)

No evidence of a grave cut was visible for any of these burials. They were located within the trench that had been excavated by the archaeologists, but even the interface between the previously disturbed and backfilled material could not be distinguished due to the soft silty nature of this material.

Further work will be required in this area in advance of SCP. Due to the depth of the deposits viewed in the trench at this point, it will be necessary to excavate the trench to a similar depth here to ensure that all burials are located prior to trenching.