

Archaeology at KP256

GPS: 115m AOD 8654382 4502913 (KP256, Weld 10)

The watching brief archaeologist (Mikhail) reported archaeology in a bell hole at KP256 on 11th April 2005.

Claire Angus visited the site on 12th April 2005 with Peter Bayliss and Mikhail.

Archaeological Deposits

Human bone was visible in the trench at a depth of approx 0.70m below the stripped surface. A possible cultural layer consisting of ash rich material was also visible at a depth of c1m below the surface. Pottery dating to both the Antique and medieval period has been found here. Although there are not vast quantities of material in the area, it is thought that this represents a settlement site.

Excavation Proposal

The pipe was already in the ground when the site was discovered. The tie-in was waiting to be coated.

It was decided that the usual procedure for late finds would be adopted. The initial backfill would be deposited into the trench and the area made safe for entry into the trench to enable archaeological excavations to be carried out. A small team of labourers would be deployed here and work under the supervision of a BTC archaeologist and the watching brief archaeologist.

This procedure would enable the site to be dealt with in an effective and efficient manner, minimising delay to construction and the need to bring machinery back to the area at a later date. CCIC will continue to work in the area for the next few days, therefore as long as the archaeology is completed quickly, the machines will be available to fully backfill the area.

Coating was completed and the initial backfill put into the trench 10.45 and 12.30 today. The area is now available for archaeological work to commence.

IoAE

The IoAE feel that, as this is a settlement area, it cannot be dealt with in the same way as other late finds (ie jar burials) have been dealt with in the past.

Goshgar would like a full team to be deployed to the area and has suggested the following options:

- redeploy one of the current teams from KP405 or KP408
- mobilise a third team

He says that he will raise this site at the meeting he is due to attend with Richard Kingham later in the week.

The above options are both problematic:

Redeploying current team

This option is problematic for the following reasons:

- given the sensitive nature of the excavations at KP405 (Kasaman), now it has been agreed with the local community that the burials can be excavated, it may be detrimental to community relations to halt excavation and return at a later date
- to demobilise and remobilise a team on a site will result in additional, non-productive days
- delay the overall archaeological programme of works
- detrimental effect of weathering on archaeology that has already been exposed and opened to the elements

Mobilising a third team

A third team would provide a valuable resource that could respond to other late finds found throughout the remaining construction programme. It would enable the archaeological programme to continue without additional delay. For the site at KP256 however it would be problematic:

- time taken to mobilise a third team (especially hiring the necessary labourers and supplying them with PPE) would result in a significant delay before this site could be excavated

Options

- 1) Excavate the site immediately with a small team of labourers and a single member of the IoAE (either WB archaeologist or one of those already on site) and a BTC archaeologist.
- 2) As the site is not on the critical path, backfill the entire site, barricade the area and take GPS locational information, and return at a later date.
- 3) Mobilise a third team to excavate the site – depending on the timescale in which this can be achieved it may be better to fully backfill the site and re-excavate at a later date
- 4) Re-deploy team from KP405 or KP408.8 to work on this site