

Report



Archaeological Watching Brief Report: Earthworks on land north of Lynes Barn, Temple Guiting

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Revision History

Revision	Date	Amendment

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1 Executive Summary

In March ADAS UK Ltd was commissioned by Historic England to undertake an archaeological watching brief of groundworks associated with the closure of a Badger Sett on Lynes Barn Scheduled Monument (Historic England List No. 1003328) (Figure 1). The site is centred on National Grid Reference SP 06134 27838.

The archaeological watching brief was carried out in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) prepared by Diarmuid O'Seaneachain in September 2015. Following consultations with Ms Melanie Barge the Historic England Inspector of Ancient Monuments for Gloucestershire, the WSI identified archaeological monitoring and recording to be carried out during groundworks required for the closure of a badger sett, the proofing of the northern bank of the monument to prevent further damage by badgers, and the localised repair and re-profiling of parts of the northern embankment of the Scheduled Monument. Since this work was being carried out as part of a Historic England grant funded programme of repair work, Scheduled Monument Consent was not required.

The archaeological watching brief commenced on Tuesday 23rd of February 2016 and was completed on 24th February 2016.

An archaeological excavation was undertaken with a small 'L' shaped trench measuring 2.5m x 2.1m x 0.50m wide through the top of the bank of the Lynes Barn Scheduled Monument. The earthworks consist of a three sided bank to the north of the current road with a ditch visible on the inside of the northern bank. The earthworks enclose an area approximately 1,798m² in total.

Overall the site of Lynes Barn appears to have been a probable Post Medieval livestock enclosure. The bank was constructed from the ditch fill being piled up on its outer edge, which has since slowly eroded back into the ditch through natural processes. The enclosure was probably built to shelter livestock and keep them close to the road for easy transport. It may also have been built to reduce the risk of animals straying too close to the very steep slope along the enclosure's northern boundary.

2 Acknowledgements

This archaeological watching brief was commissioned by Historic England, and thanks are due in this regard. The report and supporting illustrations were prepared by Andrew Brown, and checked by Paula Lutescu-Jones.

3 Introduction

3.1 Project Background

- 3.1.1 In March ADAS UK Ltd was commissioned by Historic England to undertake an archaeological watching brief of groundworks associated with the closure of a Badger Sett on Lynes Barn Scheduled Monument (Historic England List No. 1003328) (Figure 1). The site is centred on National Grid Reference SP 06134 27838.
- 3.1.2 The archaeological watching brief was carried out in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) prepared by Diarmuid O'Seaneachain in September 2015. Following consultations with Ms Melanie Barge the Historic England Inspector of Ancient Monuments for Gloucestershire, the WSI identified archaeological monitoring and recording to be carried out during groundworks required for the closure of a badger sett, the proofing of the northern bank of the monument to prevent further damage by badgers and the localised repair and re-profiling of parts of the northern embankment of the Scheduled Monument. Since this work was being carried out as part of a Historic England grant funded programme of repair work, Scheduled Monument Consent was not required.

3.2 The Site, Location and Geology

- 3.2.1 The Site is Lynes Barn Scheduled Monument (Historic England List No. 1003328), centred on the National Grid Reference SP 06134 27838 and is located approximately 3km west of the village of Temple Guiting, Gloucestershire (Figure 1)
- 3.2.2 The bedrock geology underlying the site is limestone of the Leckhampton Member, a sedimentary bedrock formed approximately 172-176 million years ago (BGS 2014). This geology would have been conducive to agriculture in the past due to its relatively well-drained soils. It may therefore have been expected to uncover archaeological deposits during the watching brief relating to human activity from the Prehistoric Period onwards.

4 Objectives

4.1 Aims and Scope

- 4.1.1 The aims of this watching brief were:
- 4.1.2 The archaeological watching brief is intended to ensure that any archaeological features/deposits exposed during ground works associated with the development are identified, recorded and interpreted to an acceptable standard.

- 4.1.3 The archaeological watching brief will also ensure that any significant discoveries of artefactual evidence are recorded and analysed to an acceptable standard.
- 4.1.4 The general aim of the fieldwork will be to record and analyse any archaeological remains that are revealed during the course of the works.
- 4.1.5 The specific aim of the fieldwork will be to identify artefacts present in material removed from around the badger setts on the northern side of the Scheduled Monument as they are being closed.
- 4.1.6 The specific aim of the fieldwork will also be to clean up and record a section on the northern side of the Scheduled Monument where the bank has been worn down by animal activity. This section will aim to provide further information on the stratigraphy of the bank and the overall morphology of the earthwork.
- 4.1.7 The fieldwork takes place within, and will contribute to the goals of, the South West Archaeological Research Framework (SWARF).

5 Methodology

5.1 Introduction

- 5.1.1 A detailed methodology was outlined in the 2015 WSI. The watching brief was carried out in accordance with the WSI, and in accordance with industry best practice as described by the Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief (Chartered Institute for Archaeologists 2014), The Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment: The MoRPHE Projects Managers' Guide (English Heritage 2006).

5.2 Archaeological Watching Brief

- 5.2.1 Following consultations with Ms Melanie Barge the Historic England Inspector of Ancient Monuments for Gloucestershire, archaeological monitoring and recording was carried out during groundworks required for the closure of a badger sett, the proofing of the northern bank of the monument to prevent further damage by badgers and the localised repair and re-profiling of parts of the northern embankment of the Scheduled Monument. A follow up site meeting was also arranged with Mr Daniel Bashford the Historic England Heritage at Risk Officer during late October 2015 where the scope and scale of the proposed groundworks was agreed. Since this work was carried out as part of a Historic England grant funded programme of repair work, it was understood that Scheduled Monument Consent was not required.

5.3 Recording System

5.3.1 A small trench was excavated through the top bank of the Scheduled Monument under archaeological supervision. A section was recorded in accordance with the terms of the WSI at an appropriate scale.

5.3.2 A comprehensive photographic record was maintained throughout the course of the watching brief with a digital colour camera. This forms part of the project archive.

5.4 Artefacts, Human Remains, Treasure and Environmental Sampling

5.4.1 No archaeological artefacts, treasure (according to the Treasure Act (2006) or human remains were encountered during the watching brief. Due to the absence of archaeological deposits from both areas, no environmental sampling was undertaken.

5.5 Post-Excavation Analysis

5.5.1 No archaeological artefacts were encountered during the watching brief, and therefore no post-excavation analysis was necessary.

5.6 Archives and Deposition

5.6.1 The archive includes this report, the stratigraphic record and the photographic record for the WSI. This archive is currently held at the ADAS UK Ltd. Milton Park office, Oxfordshire. In due course the archive will be offered to the London Archaeological Archive and Research Centre (LAARC) in consultation with the various stakeholders in the project. An OASIS form (Online Access to the Index of archaeological investigations) will be submitted at the time of deposition.

5.7 Reporting

5.7.1 This report has been compiled in accordance with standards and guidance for watching brief issued by the ClfA and Historic England.

5.8 Copyright

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5.9 Watching Brief Project Team

- 5.9.1 The watching brief was carried out by ADAS UK Ltd. The fieldwork project team consisted of Andrew Brown PCIfA and Paula Lutescu-Jones. The project was managed by David Middleditch. The watching brief report was compiled by Andrew Brown and checked by Paula Lutescu-Jones.

6 Archaeological and Historical Context

6.1 Introduction

- 6.1.1 An archaeological and historical context of the Site was presented by the 2015 WSI. This has been summarized below.

6.2 Statutory and Local Heritage Designations

- 6.2.1 The area where the proposed groundworks are to be carried out is located along the northern bank of an earthwork north of Lynes Barn is included in the National Heritage List for England as a Scheduled Monument (Historic England No. 1003328). It is centred on the National Grid Reference SP 06134 27838. Ground level across the Site is approximately 234m AOD (Figure 1).
- 6.2.2 There are no other World Heritage Sites, Conservation Areas, Listed Buildings, Registered Parks and Gardens or Registered Battlefields recorded by Historic England the Gloucestershire Historic Environment Record (HER) within 500m of the Scheduled Monument (Figure 2).
- 6.2.3 There is very little information contained in the National Heritage List for England entry for the Scheduled Monument as the entry in this database was generated from an 'old county number' (National Heritage List for England 2015). According to the Gloucestershire Historic Environment Record (HER) the Scheduled Monument is a Medieval or later rectangular probable stock enclosure. Its position relative to drove roads suggests that it may be a drover's halt, although it has also been interpreted as a Civil War earthwork with embrasures (Heritage Gateway 2015). The earthwork does appear to be located on a strategically significant position, controlling access to the Gloucestershire and Winchcombe Way and the road between Sudeley Castle and Pinnock village.
- 6.2.4 The rectangular enclosure is visible as an earthwork on aerial photographs: an interrupted linear bank, measuring up to 3m wide, forms an incomplete rectangular enclosure, partially enclosing an area to its south that measures 50m long by at least 32m wide. The southern side is open to the junction of probable former droveways that are now minor roads, including Campden Lane, and the western side has been damaged by use of a modern trackway. It is also situated at the head of a valley which extends to the north-west, over which the site probably has a good view and the site could be defensive (Heritage Gateway 2015).

- 6.2.5 During a site visit carried out by the Historic England Inspector Melanie Barge it was observed that the northern bank of the earthwork was likely to have been subjected to quarrying in the past. The movements of sheep and horses across the earthwork have also created scars or breaks in the northern embankment (Melanie Barge pers. comm. July 2015). Ms Barge observed during her recent visit to the site that the earthwork may originally have been a natural geological feature, which was subsequently enhanced by man-made embankments. More subtle earthen embankments of uncertain function and date were observed in the interior of the earthwork (ibid, July 2015).
- 6.2.6 The Gloucestershire HER records a further five non-designated heritage assets within 500m of the Scheduled Monument. One record is for Medieval and later cultivation terraces known as strip lynchets, which are visible as earthworks on aerial photographs to the north-west of the Scheduled Monument (327775). The four parallel terraces are centred at SP 0598 2788 and measure between 7m and 10m wide. They extend for up to 243m in a single curve between SP 0590 2797 and SP 0608 2785, along the north-facing flank of a valley. Their eastern end may be obscured by the modern use of a trackway and they may continue beneath the Scheduled Monument. The adjacent ridge and furrow cultivation initially included in this record extends significantly further north (Heritage Gateway 2015).
- 6.2.7 A second HER entry is for a Post Medieval quarry visible as an earthwork on aerial photographs to the south of the Scheduled Monument (1408296). The site is centred at SP 0617 2748 and comprises an amorphous quarry which measures a maximum of 68m long by 50m wide and is orientated east / west, and a curvilinear area of disturbed ground measuring 55m in diameter conjoined to its north. The site is marked as "quarry" on the 1884 Ordnance Survey map of the area, which suggests that it may still have been in use at that time. The quarry was probably dug for limestone and /or Cotswold sand, as shown on the geology map at this location (Heritage Gateway 2015).
- 6.2.8 The third HER record is for a 'tuer' (drovers road) which has been identified at Brookfield Farm running up the hillside in the form of a long (50-70m) grass covered mound (28656). It would have been a drystone wall construction used to allow the movement of sheep often to water. The remaining HER entry is a deleted record (8083). In addition to the HER entries, Historic England's Pastscape Database records a scatter of Romano-British pottery and possibly some coins which was recorded at Lynes Barn to the south of the Scheduled Monument (763607) as well as a flint scatter at Pinnock Warren (763426). Although the agricultural earthworks around the Scheduled Monument indicate that the earthwork may have primarily functioned as a stock enclosure during the medieval period, the findspots of Romano-British and Prehistoric artefacts in the surrounding landscape indicate that the site may have had earlier phases of use.

- 6.2.9 There are no records for previous archaeological investigations having been carried out on the Scheduled Monument or within 500m of the Scheduled Monument (Heritage Gateway 2015).

7 Results

7.1 Introduction

- 7.1.1 The watching brief was carried out from 23rd to the 24th February 2016. Each soil horizon is referred to by a unique context number (001, 002, etc.), and is described below and in Appendix A.
- 7.1.2 A small archaeological trial-trench was excavated through the top of the bank of the Lynes Barn Scheduled Monument and with a section drawing to show the results.
- 7.1.3 A rapid and basic site survey using Digiterria Explorer Version 7 was also conducted of the visible earthworks and the area of the proposed groundworks.

7.2 Discussion and Conclusions

- 7.2.1 An archaeological excavation was undertaken with a small 'L' shaped trench measuring 2.5m x 2.1m x 0.50m wide through the top of the bank of the Lynes Barn Scheduled Monument. The earthworks consist of a three sided bank to the north of the current road with a ditch visible on the inside of the northern bank. The earthworks enclose an area approximately 1,798m² in total.
- 7.2.2 The northern edge of a cut [004] of an approximately East-West aligned ditch was visible in the east facing section (Section 1). The ditch has straight near vertical sides with a moderate break of slope and flat base. The ditch is at least 1.04m wide and approximately 0.60m deep and 98m long. It is aligned approximately east- west along the northern bank of the Scheduled Monument.
- 7.2.3 The primary fill of ditch cut [004] consisted of a firm, mixed orange and brown gravelly clay with 60% sub-angular stone inclusions (005). This fill is approximately 0.20m thick, and probably results from the initial erosion of the bank through wind and rain run-off soon after it was first dug-out.
- 7.2.4 The secondary fill consists of a loose mixed orange and brown clay gravel with some larger sub-angular boulders present (006). This fill is approximately 0.32m thick and approximately 0.50m wide. It is probably the result of later erosion of the bank with the larger stones having tumbled into the sides and base of the ditch over an unknown length of time.
- 7.2.5 The uppermost fill consists of a loose reddish brown loamy clay with no inclusions (007). This fill is approximately 0.38m thick and approximately 1.58m wide. This fill is probably the result of the final natural silting up of the ditch over an extended period of time. This fill is the same as (001) topsoil on the northern side of the bank and monument and probably represents the natural weathering of the ditch and bank of the enclosure over time.

7.2.6 Overall the site of Lynes Barn appears to have been a probable Post Medieval livestock enclosure. The bank was constructed from the ditch fill being piled up on its outer edge which then slowly eroded back into the ditch through natural processes. The enclosure was probably built to shelter livestock and keep them close to the road for easy transport. It may also have been built to reduce the risk of animals straying too close to the very steep slope along the enclosure's northern boundary.

8 References

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8.2 Online Resources

British Geological Survey (BGS) [Accessed 03.03.2016]

<http://www.bgs.ac.uk/discoveringGeology/geologyOfBritain/viewer.html>

Appendix A: Context Descriptions

No.	Type	Description	Thickness / Depth (m)
001	Layer	Topsoil. Dark reddish brown loamy clay with no inclusions.	0-0.40m
002	Layer	Subsoil. Mid orangey-brown, loose gravelly clay. 70% sub-angular stones averaging 30mm- 40mm x 10mm.	0.12m
003	Layer	Natural. Firm mid-orangey brown clay. 50% sub-angular stones averaging 20mm-100mm x 20mm.	0.14m+
004	Cut	Ditch cut. Sharp break of slope at top with straight, near vertical sides. Moderate break of slope at bottom with an irregular flat base. Approximately 1.5m wide in plan and 0.60m deep.	N/A
005	Fill	Primary Fill. Firm orangey brown clay with 60% sub-angular stones 20mm-40mm x 20mm.	0.14m
006	Fill	Secondary Fill. Loose orangey brown gravelly clay with 70% stones 30mm- 200mm x 200mm in size.	0.32m
007	Fill	Uppermost Fill. Same as (001) topsoil	0.38m

Plates



Plate 1: East facing section photo of Section 1 looking west.



Plate 2: General shot of the earthworks at Lynes Barn looking east.



Plate 3: General shot of the northern bank looking west.



Plate 4: General shot of the eastern bank looking south.



Plate 5: General shot of the view from the northern bank looking north.



Plate 6: General shot of the completed badger netting on the northern bank looking west.

List of Illustrations

See following pages.