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Lydney Sewer Requisition, Lydney, Gloucestershire

Archaeological Watching Brief Report



WA ref: 76641.03
September 2013



Lydney Sewer Requisition, Lydney, Gloucestershire

Archaeological Watching Brief Report

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Front cover	Structure 105, viewed from the north-east



Lydney Sewer Requisition, Lydney, Gloucestershire

Archaeological Watching Brief Report

Summary

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Morgan Sindall plc. on behalf of Severn Trent Water to undertake an archaeological watching brief during work at Lydney, Gloucestershire (NGR 364588, 202934) during groundwork associated with the insertion of a gravity pipe, a new pumping station, and the creation of a site compound.

In common with the previous archaeological investigations, monitoring of the area stripped for the compound and pumping station revealed evidence for post-medieval activity. This consisted of two layers or spreads of material, one of which contained late 17th to early 18th century material. These spreads may relate to the distribution of material by post-medieval ploughing and may be deliberate attempts to enrich the soil.

Within this area, the remains of a stone-built and stone-paved building were also located, but not disturbed by the excavations. This is likely to be the remains of an outbuilding associated with the post-medieval farmstead, which lies on the north-eastern edge of the site. Arrangements were made for this to be preserved *in situ*.

The watching brief was undertaken in February 2013.



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Acknowledgements

The project was commissioned by Morgan Sindall plc. on behalf of Severn Trent Water and Wessex Archaeology would like to thank John Brear for his assistance in this regard. The assistance of Pawel Surowaniec at Morgan Sindall is also gratefully acknowledged. Wessex Archaeology would also like to thank Charles Parry for his advice during the project.

The watching brief was undertaken by Jon Powell, Simon Flaherty and Charlie Hay. This report was written and compiled by Naomi Brennan with illustrations prepared by Rob Goller. The project was managed on behalf of Wessex Archaeology by Sue Farr.



Lydney Sewer Requisition, Lydney, Gloucestershire

Archaeological Watching Brief Report

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project background

1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Morgan Sindall plc. on behalf of Severn Trent Water (hereafter 'the Client') to undertake an archaeological watching brief during work at Lydney, Gloucestershire (hereafter 'the Site') (**Figure 1**). The Site consists of agricultural land to the east of Naas Lane and within the circuit of the A48 Lydney by-pass, Lydney, Gloucestershire, centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) 364588, 202934.

1.1.2 The scheme consisted of the insertion of a gravity pipe, construction of a new pumping station, and the creation of a site compound. The work was carried out as a condition of planning consent (planning ref. 08/0059/FDMAJW) of which condition 17 states:

"Prior to any commencement of development the applicant, or their agents or successors in title, shall secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which has been submitted by the applicant and approved in writing by the Waste Planning Authority. Thereafter, the programme of archaeological work shall be implemented as approved within the submitted scheme of investigation"

1.1.3 The watching brief was undertaken on the 1st, 12th and 13th February 2013.

1.2 The Site

1.2.1 The Site is located approximately 300m to the south east of Lydney, Gloucestershire and consists of agricultural land to the east of Naas Lane and within the circuit of the A48 Lydney by-pass. The works were undertaken within fields currently under pasture and involved the construction of a new pumping station, including two control kiosks, lifting gantry, new access, areas of hard standing and associated works. The scheme also involved the insertion of a sewer rising main within the highway of Naas Lane to the south of the pumping station and within the verge of the A48.

1.2.2 The underlying geology is St. Maughans formation, Argillaceous Rocks and Sandstone, while the overlying geology is river terrace deposits of sand and gravel at the western end of the Site and tidal flat deposits of clay and silt at the eastern end (BGS 1972: sheet 233).

2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Introduction

2.1.1 A full historical and archaeological background was outlined in the Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI; Wessex Archaeology 2011), and is summarised below.



2.2 Archaeological background

- 2.2.1 The earliest evidence for human activity within the study area dates to the Neolithic period. A number of struck flints which may date to this period have been recovered during a previous archaeological evaluation (Wessex Archaeology 2003; HER 22448). Bronze Age material has also been identified during archaeological work in the area. Directly to the south-west of the Site an area of Bronze Age activity comprising circular pits containing pottery and quartz was identified (HER 33997).
- 2.2.2 A possible Iron Age camp is located to the south at Naas Cliff (HER 6500) and an Iron Age hillfort is known on Camp Hill. A number of Roman buildings are also recorded at Camp Hill along with evidence of iron mining. Further Roman remains have been identified to the south-east of the Site during excavations in 2009 (Cotswold Archaeology 2009; HER 33998). This included pits with evidence of small-scale iron working.
- 2.2.3 During the Saxon period Burgred, King of Mercia 852-74, granted an estate at Lydney to Ethelred. No archaeological evidence dating to this period has been found within the study area. The tithing of Naas, within which the Site is located, was settled by 1066 and contained a manor house and hamlet.
- 2.2.4 There were apparently two or three mills on the Newerne stream at Lydney in the medieval period, probably at sites which were later occupied by ironworking forges. Evidence of small scale iron-smelting was recovered during evaluation work (HER 22448).
- 2.2.5 During the post-medieval period Lydney was largely agricultural, and the modern landscape has changed little since this time. A large number of undated linear features are located within the study area, many of which may correspond to former field boundaries or agricultural drainage ditches. The main expansion of Lydney took place during the 20th century.

2.3 Previous investigations

- 2.3.1 An archaeological evaluation was undertaken in 2003 (Wessex Archaeology 2003) which focused on a much wider area, but included a number of trenches on or near the Site (**Figure 1**). In one of these an undated ditch was located. Further trenches were excavated within the Site and immediate area (Cotswold Archaeology 2009), which identified two further linear features, one of which was dated to the 17th century. Beyond the Site, but still within the vicinity, were some possible areas of Romano-British activity.

3 METHODOLOGY

3.1 Aims and objectives

- 3.1.1 The objective of the watching brief was to observe and establish within the monitored excavations the presence or absence, location, extent, date, character, condition, and depth of any surviving remains.
- 3.1.2 The general aims of the project were:
- *to determine the extent, condition, character, importance and date of any archaeological deposits encountered;*
 - *to provide information that will enable the archaeological remains to be placed with their local, regional and national contexts;*
 - *to produce an accurate and comprehensive record and report of any archaeological deposits disturbed by the site works.*



3.2 Fieldwork methodology

- 3.2.1 The full detailed methodology of the archaeological works was set out in a Written Scheme of Investigation (Wessex Archaeology 2011).
- 3.2.2 The fieldwork consisted of the observation and monitoring of initial groundwork associated with a new pumping station and site compound area as well as the western portion of the pipe run.
- 3.2.3 Any archaeological deposits were recorded using Wessex Archaeology's *pro forma* record sheets with a unique numbering system for individual contexts. Archaeological features and deposits were hand-drawn at either 1:10 or 1:20 as appropriate. Monitored works were referenced to OS mapping.
- 3.2.4 A full photographic record was compiled using digital images. The record illustrates both the detail and the general context of the principal features, finds excavated, and the Site as a whole. Digital images have been subject to a managed quality control and curation process which has embedded appropriate metadata within the image and ensures the long term accessibility of the image set.
- 3.2.5 A unique site code **76641** was allocated to the Site, and was used on all records.

3.3 Best practice

- 3.3.1 The watching brief was carried out in accordance with the relevant guidance given in the Institute for Archaeologist's *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs* (IfA 2008).

4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS

4.1 Pumping station and compound area

- 4.1.1 The general stratigraphic sequence observed comprised 0.24m of modern topsoil (**101**), overlying c. 0.12m of underdeveloped subsoil (**102**) which in turn overlay the sandy clay natural (**103**).
- 4.1.2 Within the northern part of the area stripped for the pumping station and compound (**Figure 1**), a spread of material (**107**) was recorded beneath the topsoil (**101**) and overlying the subsoil (**102**) deposits. This may either represent a deliberate dump of material or possible erosion from upslope. No definite dating evidence was found for this deposit but rare small fragments of ceramic building material (CBM) suggest a post-medieval date.
- 4.1.3 Just to the south-west of this deposit, another spread of material was recorded (**Plate 1**). Within this dark humic deposit (**104**) was late 17th to early 18th century refuse material, likely to be associated with a post-medieval farmstead. Although the current farmhouse is mid to late 18th century it is thought that an earlier 17th century house may have stood on the Site (LB entry 1392842). Such a wide spread of material may indicate the deposit was distributed by earlier ploughing and represent the remains of a manuring scatter. This deposit is likely to be the same spread encountered during the 2009 evaluation, where it had accumulated alongside the edge of a north-west – south-east 17th century ditch (Cotswold Archaeology 2009). This ditch was not identified during the observation of the compound strip though the slightly higher level of stripping in this area is likely to have obscured the feature. No further continuation of a shallow north-east – south-west linear



ditch identified in the 2009 evaluation in the south-western part of the Site was observed. This feature was undated in the previous evaluation (Cotswold Archaeology 2009).

- 4.1.4 In the central part of the compound strip a stone-built structure (**105**) was identified (**Plate 2**). This consisted of a stone flag floor and the remains of a drystone wall. At the north-west end was a possibly secondary phase of construction which appeared to be the remains of a raised area or plinth. No further more extensive excavation was necessary within this area and following discussions with the client it was agreed that the structure would be preserved *in situ*. The early Ordnance Survey maps depict this area of the Site as an orchard and show no structures in this location. It is however most likely to be an outbuilding associated with the 17th or 18th century farmstead.

5 ARTEFACTUAL EVIDENCE

5.1 Finds

- 5.1.1 A small quantity of finds were recovered, all from context **104**, and comprised 26 sherds of pottery (959g), one fragment of vessel glass (146g), and one fragment of CBM (45g).
- 5.1.2 The pottery consists largely of coarse redwares, and these included six sherds of North Devon gravel-tempered ware, 13 sherds of plain, glazed redwares, and three slip-coated redwares. Two vessel forms were represented by rim sherds, both shallow dishes. In addition, there were four sherds of Staffordshire-type trailed slipware. Three of these sherds join to form part of a press-moulded dish, with a polychrome slip design, while the fourth belongs to a closed form, either a cup or posset pot, with vertical trailed slip bands. These slipwares have a date range of late 17th to early 18th century. The coarse redwares are not closely datable, but on association can be assigned to a similar date range.
- 5.1.3 The single fragment of CBM is from a roof tile of medieval or early post-medieval date. There is a suggestion of curvature, and this could therefore be a ridge tile.
- 5.1.4 The single piece of glass derives from the base of a wine bottle in dark olive-green glass. This is a free-blown bottle, probably of 'onion' form, dating c. 1680-1730.

6 CONCLUSIONS

6.1 Discussion

- 6.1.1 In common with the previous archaeological investigations, monitoring of the area stripped for the compound and pumping station revealed evidence for post-medieval activity. These consisted of two layers, one of which contained late 17th to early 18th century material. These spreads may relate to the distribution of material by post-medieval ploughing and may be deliberate attempts to enrich the soil.
- 6.1.2 Within this area the remains of a stone-built and stone paved building were located. This is likely to be the remains of an outbuilding associated with the 17th and 18th century farmstead. Arrangements were made for this to be preserved *in situ*.

7 STORAGE AND CURATION

7.1 Museum

- 7.1.1 It is recommended that the project archive resulting from the fieldwork be deposited with Dean Heritage Museum under the accession code **SOYDH: 2013.8**. The Museum has agreed in principle to accept the project archive on completion of the project.



7.2 Preparation of archive

- 7.2.1 The complete Site archive, which will include paper records, photographic records and graphics, will be prepared following the standard conditions for the acceptance of excavated archaeological material by Dean Heritage Museum, and in general following nationally recommended guidelines (SMA 1995; IfA 2009; Brown 2011; ADS 2013).

7.3 Discard Policy

- 7.3.1 Wessex Archaeology follows the guidelines set out in Selection, Retention and Dispersal (Society of Museum Archaeologists 1993), which allows for the discard of selected artefact and ecofact categories which are not considered to warrant any future analysis. Any discard of artefacts will be fully documented in the project archive.
- 7.3.2 The discard of environmental remains and samples follows nationally recommended guidelines (SMA 1993; 1995; English Heritage 2002).

7.4 Oasis record form

- 7.4.1 An OASIS online record <http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/projects/oasis/> has been initiated (Appendix 2) and key fields completed on Details, Location and Creators Forms. All appropriate parts of the OASIS online form will be completed for submission to the HER. This will include an uploaded .pdf version of the entire report (a paper copy will also be included with the archive).
- 7.4.2 All archive elements will be marked with the accession code, and a full index will be prepared.

7.5 Copyright

- 7.5.1 The full copyright of the written/illustrative archive relating to the Site will be retained by Wessex Archaeology Ltd under the *Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988* with all rights reserved. The recipient museum, however, will be granted an exclusive licence for the use of the archive for educational purposes, including academic research, providing that such use shall be non-profitmaking, and conforms with the *Copyright and Related Rights regulations 2003*.
- 7.5.2 This report may contain material that is non-Wessex Archaeology copyright (e.g. Ordnance Survey, British Geological Survey, Crown Copyright), or the intellectual property of third parties, which WA are able to provide for limited reproduction under the terms of the company copyright licences, but for which copyright itself is non-transferrable by Wessex Archaeology. The client is reminded that they remain bound by the conditions of the *Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988* with regard to multiple copying and electronic dissemination of the report.

7.6 Security Copy

- 7.6.1 In line with current best practice (e.g. Brown 2011), on completion of the project a security copy of the written records will be prepared, in the form of a digital PDF/A file. PDF/A is an ISO-standardised version of the Portable Document Format (PDF) designed for the digital preservation of electronic documents through omission of features ill-suited to long-term archiving.



8 REFERENCES

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9 APPENDIX 1: STRAIGRAPHIC SUMMARY

bgl= below ground level

Context	Description	Depth (m)
101	<i>Topsoil</i> Modern topsoil. Dark red-brown sandy loam. 5% stone, sub-rounded, <1-6cm. Humic within upper part of deposit. Homogeneous. Fairly loose and friable. Bioturbated. Under grass. Overlies 102.	0.00-0.24 bgl
102	<i>Subsoil</i> Modern subsoil. Mid red-brown sandy loam. 5% stone, sub-rounded, <1-9cm. Homogeneous. Moderately compact. Some bioturbation. Overlies 103.	0.24-0.40 bgl
103	<i>Natural</i> Natural geology. Mid red-brown sandy clay. 15% stone, sub-rounded, <1-12cm. Fairly homogeneous. Compact	0.40+ bgl
104	<i>Layer</i> Spread of material. Dark grey-black silty clay. 15% stone, sub-angular – sub-rounded, <1-15cm. Slightly mixed. Within subsoil 102.	-
105	<i>Structure</i> Stone built structure. Stone flagstone floor, drystone wall. Possible secondary phase on north-west end consisting of raised area/plinth base. Left <i>in situ</i> .	-
106	<i>Layer</i> Infilling of material in and around building. Dark red-brown silty clay. 5% stone, sub-rounded, <1-9cm. Occasional coal/ clinker fragments. Fairly homogeneous. Overlies 105.	0.30 deep
107	<i>Layer</i> Spread of material. Dark red-brown silty clay. 5% stone, sub-rounded, <1-18cm. Rare CBM fragments. Slightly mixed. Within subsoil 102.	-



10 APPENDIX 2: OASIS FORM

Lydney Sewer Requisition - Wessex Archaeology

OASIS ID - wessexar1-158469

Versions

View	Version	Completed by	Email	Date
View 1	1	Sue Farr	s.farr@wessexarch.co.uk	4 September 2013

Completed sections in current version

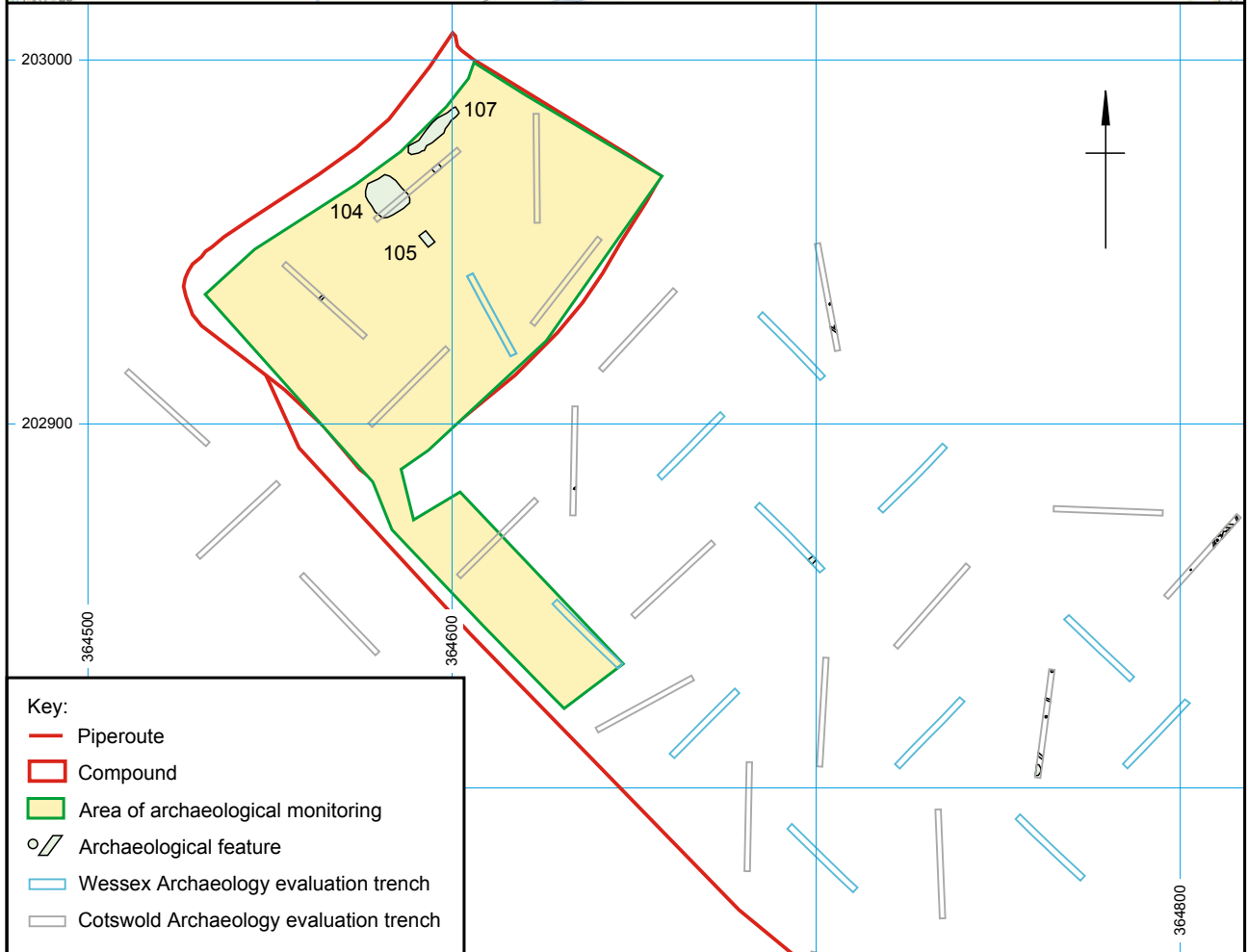
Details	Location	Creators	Archive	Publications
Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	1/1

Validated sections in current version

Details	Location	Creators	Archive	Publications
No	No	No	No	0/1

File submission and form progress


Grey literature report submitted?	No	Grey literature report filename/s	
Report release delay specified?	Yes	Release delay	Release into ADS library once signed off
Images submitted?	No	Image filename/s	
Boundary file submitted?	No	Boundary filename	
HER signed off?		NMR signed off?	




Key:

- Piperoute
- Compound
- Area of archaeological monitoring
- Archaeological feature
- Wessex Archaeology evaluation trench
- Cotswold Archaeology evaluation trench

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Location of Site, monitored areas and previous evaluation trenches


Figure 1



Plate 1: Spread 104, viewed from the west



Plate 2: Structure 105, viewed from north-west

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