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**Mattersey Priory Gilbertine Monastery
Scheduled Monument 1012495
Nottinghamshire**

Archaeological Watching Brief



Ref: 89180.01
July 2013



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Scheduled Monument 1012495
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Archaeological Watching Brief

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Plate 1: Inspection pit following hand excavation down to natural deposits

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Archaeological Watching Brief

Summary

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by P.A. Dust Chartered Architects to undertake a scheme of archaeological monitoring during groundworks associated with the insertion of a new drainage and sewage system at Gilbertine House, Abbey Road, Mattersey.

The Site lies within the Scheduled Monument of Mattersey Priory, which was founded in the late 12th century by the Order of St Gilbert of Sempringham. The priory church was destroyed by fire in 1279 and the monastery was one of the first to be affected by the dissolution in 1538.

Visible remains within the Scheduled area include part of the 12th century church, three partly blocked arches of the refectory, the south wall, the foundations of the 14th century kitchen and, to the north of the church, a 15th century tower.

Also within the Scheduled area are Abbey Farmhouse, dating to the late 18th century, and Priory Farmhouse, dating to the late 17th to early 18th century; both are Grade II Listed Buildings.

No significant archaeological deposits, features or artefacts were encountered during the monitoring of an inspection pit.

The Client provided photographs of the original installation of the sewage and drainage system which show significant ground disturbance. The observed stratigraphic evidence and photographs of previous groundworks indicate that the new drainage and sewage system impacted only on previously disturbed ground.

The archive is currently held at the offices of Wessex Archaeology in Sheffield, under the project code **89190**. The archive will be deposited with Bassetlaw Museum under an accession number to be determined.



Mattersey Priory Gilbertine Monastery Scheduled Monument 1012495 Nottinghamshire

Archaeological Watching Brief

Acknowledgements

This project was commissioned by P.A. Dust Chartered Architects on behalf of Mr David Tyas and Wessex Archaeology is grateful to them in this regard.

The watching brief was carried out by Phil Roberts. The report was compiled by Andrea Burgess and the illustrations produced by Chris Swales. The project was managed for Wessex Archaeology by Andrew Norton.



Mattersey Priory Gilbertine Monastery Scheduled Monument 1012495 Nottinghamshire

Archaeological Watching Brief

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project background

1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by P.A. Dust Chartered Architects on behalf of Mr David Tyas (hereafter 'the Client'), to undertake an archaeological watching brief during all groundworks associated with the insertion of a new drainage and sewage system at Gilbertine House, Abbey Road, Mattersey, Nottinghamshire (hereafter 'the Site'; **Figure 1**).

1.1.2 The Site lies within the Scheduled Monument of Mattersey Priory (National Heritage List of England No. 1012495). Scheduled Monument consent was granted for the works by the Secretary of State, as advised by English Heritage (ref. S00048028). The consent states:

A) The works to which this consent relates shall be carried out to the satisfaction of the Secretary of State, who will be advised by English Heritage. A least 1 weeks' notice (or such shorter period as may be mutually agreed) in writing of commencement of work shall be given to Mr Jon Humble, English Heritage, 44 Derngate, Northampton, NN1 1UH; email jon.humble@english-heritage.org.uk, in order that an English Heritage representative can inspect and advise on the works and their effects in compliance with this consent.

B) No ground works shall take place until the applicant has confirmed in writing the commissioning of a programme of archaeological work before and/or during the development in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which has been submitted to and approved by the Secretary of State advised by English Heritage.

C) Equipment and machinery shall not be used or operated in the scheduled area in conditions or in a manner likely to result in damage to the monument/ground disturbance other than that which is expressly authorized in this consent.

1.1.3 The project involved the construction of a sewage treatment plant, to a depth of 2.15m below ground level (bgl), associated drainage (depth 0.60-0.80m bgl) and inspection chambers (depth 0.80m bgl) to replace an existing system that had become redundant. The new treatment plant is located as close as possible to the existing. New drainage and associated inspection chambers were also positioned as near as possible to the existing structures.

1.1.4 A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI; Wessex Archaeology 2013), outlining how the archaeological aims of the work would be met, was prepared in accordance with current industry best practice (IfA 2008, 2010) and approved by the Client and English Heritage.



1.2 Site location and description

- 1.2.1 The Site is located to the west of Gilbertine House, Abbey Lane, Mattersey at National Grid Reference 470224 389565 (**Figure 1**). The Site lies within the Scheduled Monument of Mattersey Priory, 50m to the northwest of the remains of the priory. It is located within the garden of Gilbertine House and is bordered to the north by a greenfield area and by an arable field to the west.
- 1.2.2 The Site is located at 10m AOD and the geology comprises sandstone of the Nottingham Castle Sandstone Formation (BGS Sheet 101 – East Retford).

2 HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Prehistoric and Romano-British

- 2.1.1 The majority of early prehistoric evidence within Nottinghamshire comes from stray finds and material recovered during fieldwalking. Much evidence has been found within the Trent Valley; however, this reflects a bias towards archaeological work in that area (Bishop 2006a, 1-2).
- 2.1.2 Aerial reconnaissance has revealed extensive prehistoric and Romano-British settlement and activity within Nottinghamshire but only limited investigations have taken place (Bishop 2006b). To the south of the Site, particularly surrounding Lound, a number of prehistoric and Romano-British settlements and features have been excavated prior to quarry extensions and other developments (Eccles *et al.* 1988; Garton, *et al.* 2000; Garton and Salisbury 1995; Morris and Garton 1998).
- 2.1.3 The Site is located within a landscape containing Romano-British ‘brickwork’ field systems and enclosures that dominate the archaeological landscape in this part of Nottinghamshire. Several prehistoric and Romano-British enclosures and field systems are located within the surrounding landscape (Garton 2008).

2.2 Anglo-Saxon and medieval

- 2.2.1 In the 6th century Nottinghamshire was border country and one of the battlegrounds between Northumbria and other kingdoms, particularly Mercia. Although Mercia’s boundaries were relatively fluid the River Trent appeared to form the eastern limits of the territory for much of its history (Kaye 1987, 25). At this time it is thought that northern Nottinghamshire belonged to a grouping called ‘*Bernet-seatte*’, inhabitants of burnt land. This description lasted in to the 11th century and is reflected in the name of the wapentake which covered that area at that time, ‘*Bernesedelaue*’, or ‘Bassetlaw’ (Anon 2006, 10).
- 2.2.2 The period between the 10th and 13th centuries was one of significant population growth within Nottinghamshire (Bishop 2006c, 1). Settlement during this period was largely nucleated with villages and towns developing. Mattersey, meaning ‘Maethhere’s island’, is recorded in the Domesday Book as a medium settlement under the Lordship of King William.
- 2.2.3 Mattersey Priory is situated on the west bank of the River Idle, 1.2km northeast of the village of Mattersey. The priory was founded by Roger, son of Ranulph de Mattersey, in the late 12th century for six canons of the Order of St. Gilbert of Sempringham. The priory was never prosperous however, and suffered badly when the church was destroyed by



fire in 1279. It was one of the first to be affected by the dissolution of the monasteries and was suppressed in 1538, when its estate was granted to the Neville family.

2.2.4 Visible remains within the Scheduled area include part of the 12th century church, three partly blocked arches of the refectory, the south wall, the foundations of the 14th century kitchen and, to the north of the church, a 15th century tower. Partial excavation of the monument in 1914 revealed the buried foundations of the east and south ranges of the cloister. The foundations of the west range also survive beneath the present ground surface, and the remains of ancillary buildings such as barns, a bakehouse and an infirmary will lie along with remains of stock-pens and enclosures, within the area of the outer precinct and under the farm buildings and yards of Abbey Farm.

2.3 Post-medieval and modern

2.3.1 To the south of the Site, Abbey Farmhouse and associated farm buildings date to the late 18th century while Priory Farmhouse, to the southeast of the Site, dates from the late 17th to early 18th century. Both are Grade II Listed Buildings also located within the Scheduled area. Gilbertine House appears on Ordnance Survey maps from 1886 onwards.

2.3.2 The surrounding landscape had been entirely enclosed by the time of the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map in the late 19th century; the process of enclosure was started in the late 18th century and continued throughout the 19th century.

3 AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

3.1 General

3.1.1 The general aims of the project were:

- to identify any archaeological remains within the Site;
- to accurately record the location and stratigraphy of areas excavated during groundworks;
- to record all archaeological remains disturbed by the groundworks;
- 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 within their local, regional and national contexts;
- to integrate the results into the wider cultural and environmental context and with specific research aims;
- to recover artefacts disturbed by the site works; and
- to produce an accurate and comprehensive record and report of any archaeological deposits disturbed by the site works.

3.2 Fieldwork

3.2.1 The excavation of an inspection pit was monitored by an archaeologist. Topsoil and subsoil was removed by hand in a series of level spits. Any potential archaeological remains were investigated and recorded in accordance with current industry best practice



(IfA 2008). All deposits were recorded using Wessex Archaeology *pro forma* recording sheets and a continuous unique numbering system. A photographic record was kept of all work.

3.3 Finds and environmental samples

- 3.3.1 Strategies for finds and environmental sampling strategy were included in the Written Scheme of Investigation (Wessex Archaeology 2013) but were not required during fieldwork.

4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS

4.1 Introduction

- 4.1.1 The following section provides a summary of the information held in the site archive. A full list of context numbers and descriptions is included in **Appendix 1**. One inspection pit measuring 1.8m square was excavated on the 8th April 2013 (**Figure 1**).

4.2 General site stratigraphy

- 4.2.1 The stratigraphy observed in the inspection pit consisted of natural deposits overlain by subsoil and topsoil (**Plate 1**). The natural (**1003**) was loose mid orange-brown sand containing occasional rounded stone. The subsoil (buried soil **1002**) and topsoil (**1001**) were mid grey-brown sandy silts; the topsoil contained some complete and fragmented handmade red bricks. The topsoil was 0.25m deep and the base of the subsoil was 0.55m below ground level. Hand excavation and archaeological monitoring ceased at a depth of 0.70m below ground level. No archaeological deposits, features or artefacts were present.

5 DISCUSSION

5.1 Summary

- 5.1.1 The original installation of the sewage system had clearly caused significant ground disturbance; this was evident from the bricks observed in the topsoil and from the stratigraphy of the excavated trench. The extent of this previous disturbance was visible in two photographs taken during those works, provided by the Client during fieldwork (**Plates 2 and 3**). The original ground disturbance appeared to cover the whole area that was to be affected by the construction of the new sewage and drainage system.
- 5.1.2 No archaeological finds, features or deposits were identified during the excavation of the inspection pit. Given the extent of previous disturbance indicated by the photographs, the proposed works impacted only on previously disturbed ground.

5.2 Conclusions

- 5.2.1 Monitoring ensured that no archaeological remains were disturbed by the hand excavation of an inspection pit. The observed stratigraphic evidence and photographs of previous groundworks both indicate that the new drainage and sewage system impacted only on previously disturbed ground.



6 STORAGE AND CURATION

6.1 Archive

6.1.1 The archive will be prepared in accordance with Wessex Archaeology's Guidelines for Archive Preparation and in accordance with national guidelines (Brown 2007; UKIC 2001).

6.1.2 All work has been carried out under the Wessex Archaeology site code **89180**. The archive is currently stored in the Wessex Archaeology Sheffield office. The archive will be deposited with Bassetlaw Museum under an accession number to be determined. An OASIS form will be completed at the time of deposition.

6.2 Copyright

6.2.1 Wessex Archaeology retains full copyright of any report under the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 with all rights reserved; excepting that it hereby provides an exclusive licence to the Client for the use of the report by the Client in all matters directly relating to the project as described in the specification. Any document produced to meet planning requirements can be copied for planning purposes by the Local Planning Authority.

7 REFERENCES

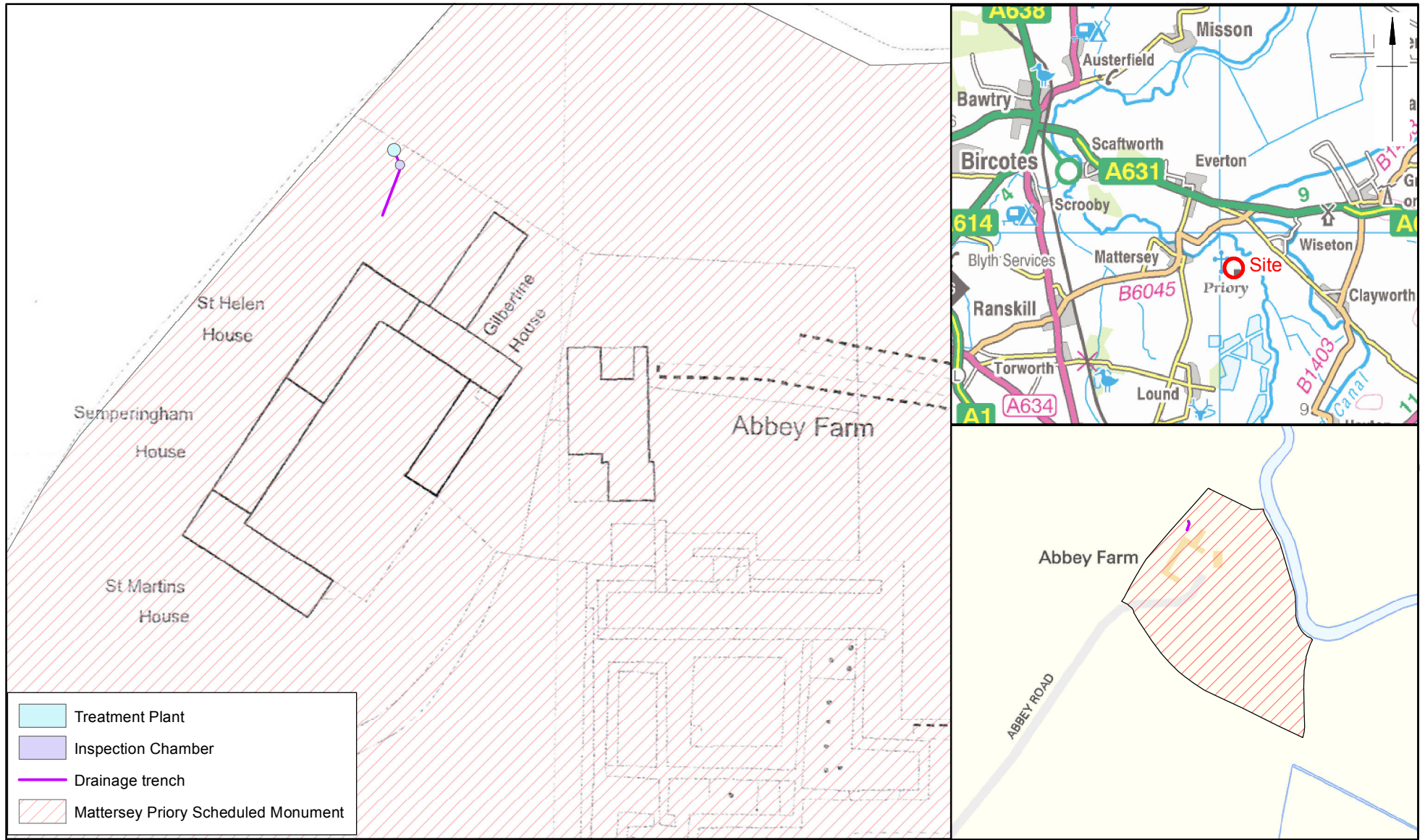
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APPENDIX 1

Context descriptions

	Trench 1: 1.8m x 1.8m	Max depth: 0.7m
Context	Description	Depth (m)
1001	Topsoil: Mid grey brown sand silt. Frequent rooting. Somewhat loose and friable. occasional small stone inclusions (rounded). Red brick fragments and whole bricks found.	0 – 0.25m
1002	Subsoil: Mid grey brown sandy silt. Very similar to 1001 but no rooting and far more homogenous and clean. Occasional small round stone inclusions.	0.25-0.55m
1003	Natural: Mid orangey brown sand. Very loose and friable. Occasional medium well-rounded stone inclusions.	0.55-0.7+m



- Treatment Plant
- Inspection Chamber
- Drainage trench
- Mattersey Priory Scheduled Monument



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Site Location

Figure 1



Plate 1: Remains of Mattersey Priory refectory



Plate 2: Site during construction of original sewage and drainage system, looking northwest



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Plate 3: Site during construction of original sewage and drainage system, looking northeast

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