

**LYDIARD PARK CULVERT,
LUDIARD PARK, LUDUARD TREGOZE,
SWINDON
WILTSHIRE.**

NGR: SU 0970 8483

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

Report No. 924
December 2013



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Quality Assurance

This Document has been compiled and authorised in accordance with AMS's Quality Procedures (BS EN ISO 9001: 2008)

Author: Dr Mark Grahame BA(Hons) PhD.

Date: 9th December 2013.

Approved: Roy King BA MifA

QA Checked: Diana King BA MifA

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SUMMARY

On 5th December 2013 Foundations Archaeology undertook an archaeological watching brief during repairs to the Lydiard Culvert, Lydiard Park, Lydiard Tregoze, Swindon, Wiltshire (NGR: SU 0970 8483). The work was commissioned by Marc Cashmore of Swindon Borough Council.

The watching brief required the culvert to be photographed prior to its replacement and the subsequent groundworks were observed. The culvert was the only archaeological feature observed during the watching brief, however, as no archaeological finds were associated with this feature, the culvert could not be dated. No other archaeological finds or features were present within the watched area. The presence of concrete beneath one of the capstones would suggest that the culvert had been repaired previously.

GLOSSARY OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL TERMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

Archaeology

For the purpose of this project archaeology is taken to mean the study of past human societies through their material remains from prehistoric times to the modern era. No rigid upper date limit has been set, but AD 1900 is used as a general cut-off point.

CBM

Ceramic building material.

Medieval

The period between the Norman Conquest (AD 1066) and *c.* AD 1500.

Natural

In archaeological terms this refers to the undisturbed natural geology of a site.

NGR

National Grid Reference from the Ordnance Survey Grid.

OD

Ordnance datum; used to express a given height above sea-level.

OS

Ordnance Survey.

Post-medieval

The period from *c.* AD 1500 onwards.

Prehistoric

The period prior to the Roman invasion of AD 43. Traditionally sub divided into; Palaeolithic – *c.* 500,000 BC to *c.* 12,000 BC; Mesolithic – *c.* 12,000 BC to *c.* 4,500 BC; Neolithic – *c.* 4,500 BC to *c.* 2,000 BC; Bronze Age – *c.* 2,000 BC to *c.* 800 BC; Iron Age – *c.* 800 BC to AD 43.

Romano-British

Term used to define the fusion of indigenous Iron Age traditions with invasive Roman culture. Traditionally dated AD 43 to *c.* AD 410.

Saxon

The period between AD 410 and AD 1066.

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 On 5th December 2013 Foundations Archaeology undertook an archaeological watching brief during repairs to the Lydiard Culvert, Lydiard Park, Lydiard Tregoze, Swindon, Wiltshire (NGR: SU 0970 8483) (Figures 1 and 2). The work was commissioned by Marc Cashmore of Swindon Borough Council.
- 1.2 The watching brief was undertaken in accordance with an approved Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI), prepared by Foundations Archaeology (2013). The WSI conformed to the principles of NPPF (2012), the *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs*, issued by the Institute for Archaeologists (2008), the *Standards for Archaeological Assessment and Field Evaluation in Wiltshire* (CAS 1995) and the Brief (2013) issued by Swindon Borough Council (TD318-01).
- 1.3 This document presents the findings of the archaeological watching brief and complies with the specification set out in MoRPHE (English Heritage, 2006).

2 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Lydiard Culvert is located in Lydiard Park at NGR: SU 0970 8483. The culvert carries a 2.5m wide gravel drive over a small watercourse. The gravel drive is owned by Swindon Borough Council, but is not public highway. The drive is used by pedestrians and occasional maintenance vehicles.
- 2.2 The project involved the replacement of a collapsing stone clapper culvert and abutments with a precast concrete pipe and headwalls constructed from stone reclaimed from the existing structure.
- 2.3 The Brief from Wiltshire Council notes that little is known with respect to archaeological records of the particular site, which is within the conserved area of the park. It is not on the HER, but is of historic interest. The area is noted as a bench mark on the 1880's OS mapping (378.8 or .3) and the SMR lists 12 sites in the Lydiard Park area.
- 2.4 The Wiltshire Council Archaeologist who advises Swindon Borough Council has stipulated that a watching brief be undertaken during site works.

3 AIMS

- 3.1 The aims of the archaeological watching brief were to gather high quality data from the direct observation of archaeological deposits in order to provide sufficient information to establish the nature, extent, preservation and potential of any surviving archaeological remains; as well as to make recommendations for management of the resource, including further archaeological works if necessary.
- 3.2 These aims were achieved through pursuit of the following specific objectives:

- i) To define and identify the nature of archaeological deposits on site, and date these where possible;
- ii) To attempt to characterize the nature of the archaeological sequence and recover as much information as possible about the spatial patterning of features present on the site;
- iii) Where possible, to recover a well dated stratigraphic sequence and recover coherent artefact, ecofact and environmental samples.

4 METHODOLOGY

- 4.1 Prior to excavation, a brief photographic survey was undertaken to provide a record of the culvert.
- 4.2 All groundworks associated with the culvert's replacement were mechanically excavated, whilst under archaeological observation. Spoil tips were visually scanned for finds.
- 4.3 All excavation and recording work was undertaken in accordance with the WSI and the Foundations Archaeology Technical Manual 3: Excavation Manual.

5 RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

- 5.1 A series of 20 scaled colour photographs were taken with a high resolution digital camera in order to record the culvert and to set it into context prior to the groundworks. Photographs were taken at both the culvert's north and south entrances (Figure 3) along with details of its interior. General views of the track over the culvert were also taken to set the culvert in context. A measured sketch of the culvert's south elevation is shown in Figure 4.
- 5.2 The track on top of the culvert was machine stripped with a toothless grading bucket down to the capstones (103), which were 0.21m below the Modern ground surface. The track comprised a compact layer of grey-green gravel (109) of between 0.03-0.04m in depth, which sealed a layer of yellow-brown gravel (108) up to 0.17m thick. An area of approximately 3.2m by 3.2m (10.24m²) was then stripped over the location of the culvert. Gravel (108) sealed a sheet of terram (106), which in turn sealed further deposits of yellow-brown gravel, each side of the culvert (104) and (105), which appeared to be packing/bedding material for the culvert's walls. The limit of this packing material was not established during the watching brief.
- 5.3 Two capstones (103): 1.7m by 0.60m and 0.90 by 0.83m made from roughly shaped blocks of limestone covered the culvert. Above the capstones a rusted metal plate (107) was removed during the machine stripping. Concrete was

observed on the stones of the culvert's west wall (101), which possibly indicated a repair.

- 5.4 The culvert was measured and photographed after the removal of the capstones. The culvert's channel was 0.39m wide with walls (101) and (102) composed of roughly faced stones. The stones varied in width between 0.25 and 0.50m and were visible for approximately four to five courses. This gave the culvert a total width of 1.10m and a depth of 0.66m.
- 5.5 The culvert's side walls were dismantled with stones for the headwall reclaimed from the existing structure. During the groundworks no archaeological features were observed other than the culvert. No finds were present.

6 CONCLUSIONS

- 6.1 The watching brief photographed the culvert prior to its replacement and all subsequent groundworks were observed. No archaeological features were observed and no finds were present within the watched area. It would appear from the presence of concrete beneath one of the capstones and the west wall (101) that the culvert had been repaired previously.
- 6.2 The excavation of the culvert did not penetrate into the underlying soils, and no archaeological finds or features associated with the culvert were identified or disturbed during these groundworks. Therefore the culvert could not be dated.
- 6.3 The archive is currently held at the offices of Foundations Archaeology, but will be deposited within 12 months with Swindon Museum. A short note will be submitted for publication in the relevant journal and an OASIS form will also be submitted to ADS.

7 BIBLIOGRAPHY

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8 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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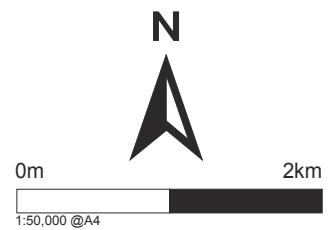
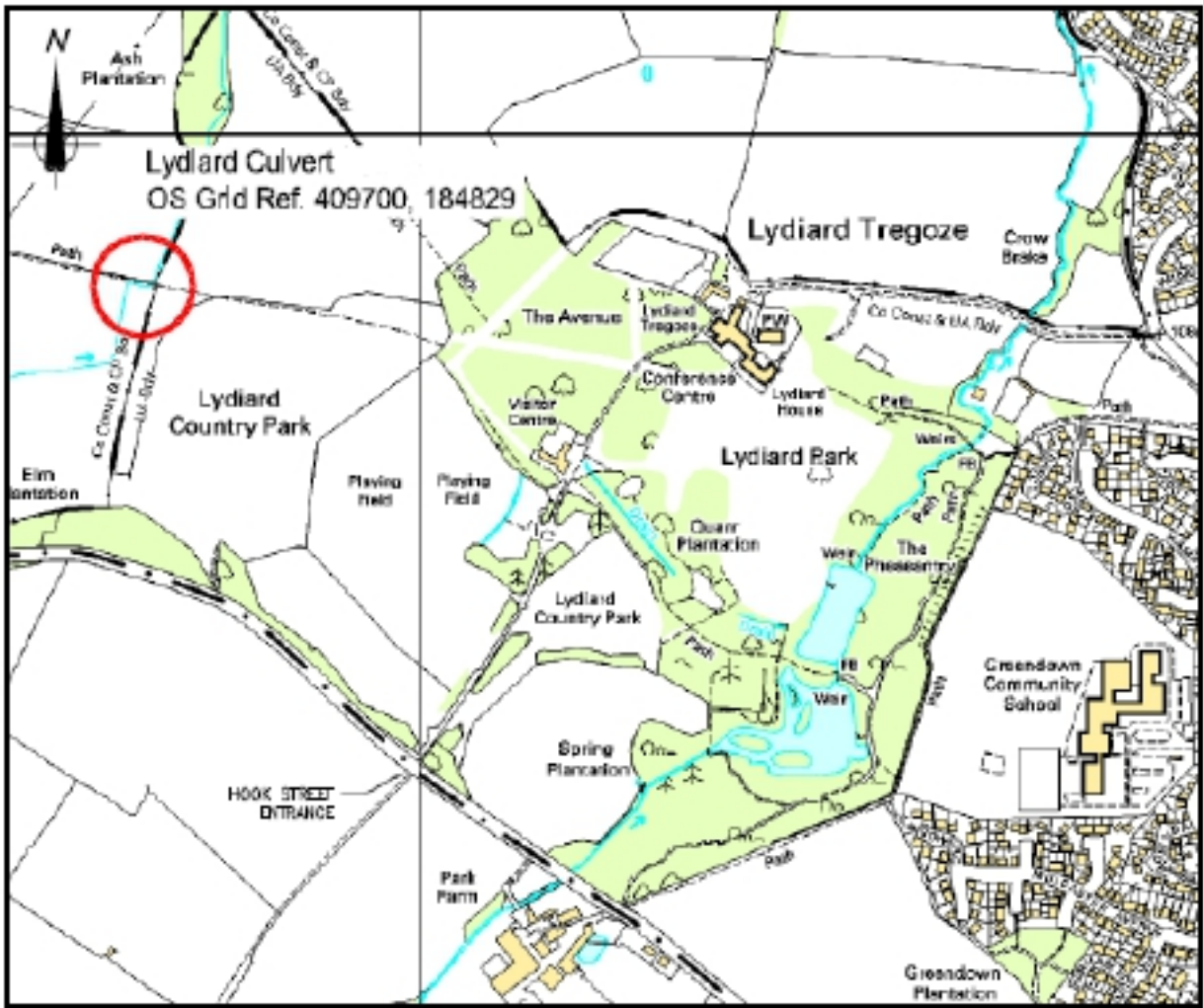


FIGURE 1: Site Location



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N

0m 0.2km

APPROXIMATE SCALE

FIGURE 2: Study Area



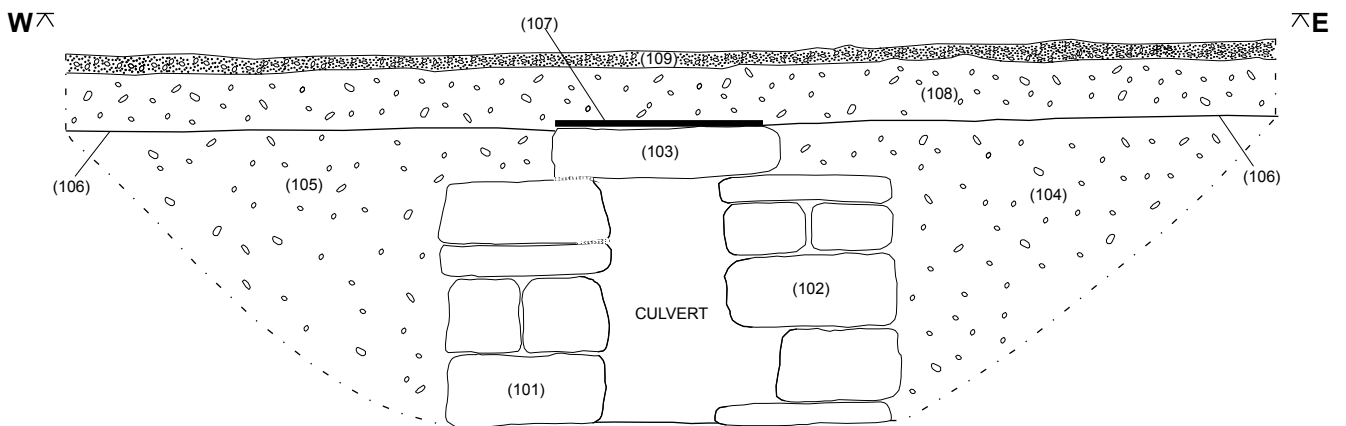
CULVERT NORTH ELEVATION



CULVERT SOUTH ELEVATION

Site Code: LPC13 Accession Code:
FIGURE 3: Photographs

SOUTH ELEVATION OF CULVERT



Site Code: LPC13
Accession Code:

 CONCRETE

0m  1m

APPROXIMATE SCALE

FIGURE 4: Measured Sketch Section