

**Saintbridge 2 Flood Storage Reservoir  
Saintbridge  
Gloucester**

**Archaeological Watching Brief**



*for*  
**Environment Agency**


CA Project: 4755  
CA Report: 14118

April 2014

# Saintbridge 2 Flood Storage Reservoir Saintbridge Gloucester

## Archaeological Watching Brief

CA Project: 4755  
CA Report: 14118

prepared by	Tom Weavill, Project Supervisor
date	18 March 2014
checked by	Laurent Coleman, Principal Fieldwork Manager
date	6 April 2014
approved by	Cliff Bateman, Principal Fieldwork Manager
signed	
date	7 April 2014
issue	01

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<p><b>Cirencester</b> Building 11 Kemble Enterprise Park Kemble, Cirencester Gloucestershire, GL7 6BQ t. 01285 771022 f. 01285 771033</p>	<p><b>Milton Keynes</b> Unit 4 Cromwell Business Centre Howard Way, Newport Pagnell MK16 9QS t. 01908 218320</p>	<p><b>Andover</b> Stanley House Walworth Road Andover, Hampshire SP10 5LH t. 01264 347630</p>
e. <a href="mailto:enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk">enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk</a>		

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## SUMMARY

**Project Name:** Saintbridge 2 Flood Storage Reservoir  
**Location:** Saintbridge, Gloucester  
**NGR:** SO 8422 1665  
**Type:** Watching Brief  
**Date:** 10-13 and 24 February and 3 March 2014  
**Location of Archive:** To be deposited with Gloucester City Museum  
**Site Code:** SFG 14

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology during groundworks associated with the construction of a road and turning circle at Saintbridge 2 Flood Storage Reservoir, Saintbridge, Gloucester.

No features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed during groundworks, and no artefactual material was recovered.



## 1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In February and March 2014 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological watching brief for the Environment Agency at Saintbridge 2 Flood Storage Reservoir, Saintbridge, Gloucester (centred on NGR: SO 8422 1665; Fig. 1). The watching brief was undertaken following consultations with Andrew Armstrong, Gloucester City Archaeologist, Gloucester City Council (GCC) regarding the construction of a road and turning circle and other works within the site. The objective of the watching brief was to record all archaeological remains exposed during the development.
- 1.2 The watching brief was carried out in accordance with a detailed Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) produced by CA (2014) and approved by Andrew Armstrong, GCC. The fieldwork also followed the *Standard and guidance for an archaeological watching brief* (IfA 2009), the *Statement of Standards and Practices Appropriate for Archaeological Fieldwork in Gloucestershire* (GCC 1995) and the *Management of Archaeological Projects 2* (English Heritage 1991), the *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MORPHE): Project Manager's Guide* (EH 2006).

### ***The site***

- 1.3 The proposed development area encloses an area of approximately 2.25ha, and comprises an open, grassed area. The site lies at approximately 30m AOD.
- 1.4 The underlying bedrock geology of the area is mapped as Blue Lias Formation and Charmouth Mudstone Formation (Undifferentiated) of the Rhaetian Age to Pliensbachian Age (BGS 2014). This is overlain by sand and gravel river terrace 1 deposits of the Quaternary Period. Yellow clay and gravel natural substrate was revealed during the groundworks.

### ***Archaeological background***

- 1.5 The site was the subject of archaeological investigations in 1981 and 1986. Excavations in 1981 produced evidence for Neolithic/Late Bronze Age activity, a pit of Iron Age date and a series of Roman ditches that were interpreted as forming part of field system (Darvill and Timby 1986). Excavations and a subsequent watching brief in 1986 revealed late Iron Age ditched enclosures (possibly surrounding

roundhouses) that were replaced in the mid 1st to mid 2nd century AD by a ditched trackway and traces of habitation (Atkin 1987, 11-14). Three adult burials were located on the eastern edge of the site and these were interpreted as outliers of a cemetery located during works in 1974 under Redpoll Way (op. cit., 14). In addition to burials the 1974 works revealed Roman ditches, as well as a possible prehistoric building and hearth (Garrod and Heighway 1984, 24-25).

### **Archaeological objectives**

1.6 The objectives of the archaeological works were:

- to monitor groundworks, and to identify, investigate and record all significant buried archaeological deposits revealed on the site during the course of the development groundworks;
- at the conclusion of the project, to produce an integrated archive for the project work and a report setting out the results of the project and the archaeological conclusions that can be drawn from the recorded data.

### **Methodology**

1.7 The fieldwork followed the methodology set out within the WSI (CA 2014). An archaeologist was present during intrusive groundworks comprising the excavation for the construction of a road (Trenches 1 and 2) and turning circle (Trench 3) in the southern and eastern part of the site (Fig. 2).

1.8 Where archaeological deposits were encountered written, graphic and photographic records were compiled in accordance with CA Technical Manual 1: *Fieldwork Recording Manual* (2013).

1.9 The archive from the watching brief is currently held by CA at their offices in Kemble and will be deposited with Gloucester City Museum. A summary of information from this project, set out within Appendix B, will be entered onto the OASIS online database of archaeological projects in Britain.



## 2. RESULTS (FIGS 2-3)

- 2.1 The natural geological substrate, 1003, consisting of yellow clay and gravel was revealed in Trench 1 only, at an average depth of 0.4m below present ground level (bpgl). This was overlain by subsoil, 1001, averaging 0.15m in thickness which was present in all three trenches. This was in turn sealed by topsoil 1000, averaging 0.1m which was also present in all three trenches and modern bank material present in Trench 1 only. The subsoil in the eastern part of Trench 1 and within Trench 2 was overlain by 0.3m modern bank material, 1003, which formed the eastern bund of the flood reservoir. Trenches 2 and 3 did not penetrate any deeper than the subsoil.
- 2.2 No features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed during groundworks and, despite visual scanning of spoil, no artefactual material pre-dating the modern period was recovered.

## 3. DISCUSSION

- 3.1 Despite the archaeological potential of the application area (see archaeological background above), the watching brief identified no archaeological remains within the areas of observed groundworks. The absence of archaeological deposits may indicate that remains associated with the Neolithic, Late Bronze Age, Iron Age and Roman activity identified during archaeological investigations in 1981 (Darvill and Timby 1986) and 1986 (Atkin 1987, 11-14) and the cemetery and prehistoric buildings identified during the 1974 works under Redpoll Way (Garrod and Heighway 1984, 24-25) either do not extend as far as, or were not exposed by, the development, or that they may have been removed during the construction of the flood storage reservoir. However, given the presence of subsoil within each of the three trenches it appears that very little truncation has occurred within these areas and it is therefore more likely to be the former explanation rather than the latter.

## 4. CA PROJECT TEAM

Fieldwork was undertaken by Charlotte Haines, Rebecca Riley and Chris Leonard. The report was written by Tom Weavill. The illustrations were prepared by Lucy Martin. The archive has been compiled by Tom Weavill, and prepared for deposition



by Hazel O'Neill. The project was managed for CA by Richard Young and Laurent Coleman.

## 5. REFERENCES

Atkin, M. 1987 'Excavations in Gloucester: an interim report' *Glevensis* **21**, 7-17

BGS (British Geological Survey) 2011 Geology of Britain Viewer. Online resource at [http://maps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyviewer\\_google/googleviewer.html](http://maps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyviewer_google/googleviewer.html) accessed 6 February 2014

CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2014 *Saintbridge 2 Flood Storage Reservoir, Saintbridge, Gloucester: Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Watching Brief*

Garrod, A. O. and Heighway, C. 1984 *Garrod's Gloucester*

Darvill, T.C. and Timby, J. 1986 'Excavations at Saintbridge, Gloucester, 1981', *Trans. Bristol Gloucestershire Archaeol. Soc.* **104**, 49-60





## APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Trench No.	Context No.	Type	Fill of	Context interpretation	Description	L (m)	W (m)	Depth /thickness (m)
1	1000	Layer		Topsoil	Dark greyish brown silty clay	>111	>1.75	0.06
1	1001	Layer		Subsoil	Light greyish brown silty clay	>111	>1.75	0.06
1	1002	Layer		Natural substrate	Light yellow clay and gravel			
1	1003	Layer		Extant bank	Mixed redeposited clay natural and subsoil	>4.65	>21	0.3
1	1004	Cut		Extant path	Cut of extant concrete footpath	>111	3.15	0.4
1	1005	Structure	1004	Surface	Asphalt surface of extant path	>111	3.15	0.4

2	2000	Layer		Topsoil	Dark greyish brown silty clay	>38	>3.5	0.07
2	2001	Layer		Subsoil	Light greyish brown silty clay	>38	>3.5	0.1
2	2002	Layer		Extant bank	Mixed redeposited clay natural and subsoil (unexcavated)	>38	>3.5	0.3

3	3000	Layer		Topsoil	Dark greyish brown silty clay	>10	>3.5	0.1
3	3001	Layer		Subsoil	Light greyish brown silty clay	>10	>3.5	>0.22

**APPENDIX B: OASIS REPORT FORM**

<b>PROJECT DETAILS</b>		
Project Name	Saintbridge 2, Flood Storage Reservoir, Saintbridge, Gloucester	
Short description	<p>An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology during groundworks associated with the construction of a road and turning circle at Saintbridge 2, Flood Storage Reservoir, Saintbridge, Gloucester.</p> <p>No features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed during groundworks, and no artefactual material was recovered.</p>	
Project dates	10-13 and 24 February and 3 March 2014	
Project type	Watching brief	
Previous work		
Future work	Unknown	
<b>PROJECT LOCATION</b>		
Site Location	Saintbridge 2, Flood Storage Reservoir, Saintbridge, Gloucester	
Study area (M <sup>2</sup> /ha)	2.25ha	
Site co-ordinates (8 Fig Grid Reference)	SO 8422 1665	
<b>PROJECT CREATORS</b>		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Brief originator	None	
Project Design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Managers	Richard Young and Laurent Coleman	
Project Supervisors	Charlotte Haines, Chris Leonard and Rebecca Riley	
<b>MONUMENT TYPE</b>	None	
<b>SIGNIFICANT FINDS</b>	None	
<b>PROJECT ARCHIVES</b>		
	Intended final location of archive	Content
Physical	None	None
Paper	Gloucester City Museum	Trench sheets, digital photo registers
Digital	Gloucester City Museum	Digital photos
<b>BIBLIOGRAPHY</b>		
<p>CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2014 <i>Saintbridge 2 Flood Storage Reservoir, Saintbridge, Gloucester: Archaeological Watching Brief</i>, CA typescript report <b>14118</b></p>		





**Cotswold  
Archaeology**

Cirencester 01285 771022  
 Milton Keynes 01908 218320  
 Andover 01264 347630  
 www.cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk  
 enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk

**PROJECT TITLE**  
 Saintbridge 2 Flood Storage Reservoir  
 Gloucester, Gloucestershire

**FIGURE TITLE**  
 Site location plan




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**PROJECT NO.** 4755     **DATE** 27-03-2014  
**DRAWN BY** LM     **REVISION** 00  
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**FIGURE NO.**  
**1**





-  site boundary
-  observed groundworks
-  location and direction of photograph



Cirencester 01285 771022  
 Milton Keynes 01908 218320  
 Andover 01264 347630  
[www.cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk](http://www.cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk)  
[enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk)

**PROJECT TITLE**

Saintbridge 2 Flood Storage Reservoir  
Gloucester, Gloucestershire

**FIGURE TITLE**

**The Site, showing location of groundworks**

PROJECT NO. 4755    DATE 27-03-2014  
 DRAWN BY LM    REVISION 00  
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**FIGURE NO.**

**2**

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3

**3 Trench 1, looking South-east**



Cirencester 01285 771022  
 Milton Keynes 01908 218320  
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 www.cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk  
 enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk

*PROJECT TITLE*

**Saintbridge 2 Flood Storage Reservoir  
 Gloucester, Gloucestershire**

*FIGURE TITLE*

**Photograph**

PROJECT NO. **4755** DATE **28/03/2014**  
 DRAWN BY **LM** REVISION **00**  
 APPROVED BY **LM** SCALE@A4 **N/A**

*FIGURE NO.*

**3**