

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING
BRIEF
AT
MAIN STREET, LENCHWICK,
WORCESTERSHIRE

Adam Lee

Illustrated by Carolyn Hunt

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Worcestershire County Council



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

Historic Environment and Archaeology Service,
Worcestershire County Council,
Woodbury,
University of Worcester,

Project 2979

Henwick Grove,
Worcester WR2 6AJ

Report 1509
WSM 35801

Archaeological watching brief at Main Street, Lenchwick, Worcestershire.

Adam Lee

Background information

<i>Client</i>	Severn Trent Water Limited
<i>Site address</i>	Main Street, Lenchwick, Worcestershire.
<i>National Grid reference</i>	SP 0375 4750
<i>Historic and Environmental Record reference</i>	WSM 35801
<i>Project parameters</i>	IFA 1999

Previous archaeological work on the site

The excavation of a pipeline, the Honeybourne, Bretford and Pebworth supply main, was observed in 1996, which crosses the line of the present pipeline excavated in October 2006 (to the southwest of the Church of St Egwin's). The 1996 pipeline excavation yielded unstratified post-medieval finds consisting of pottery, tile and bone (WSM 30180).

Archaeological background

The pipeline runs between Lenchwick and Norton (Fig 1). The northeast end of the pipeline runs through the graveyard of St Egwin's Church, Norton (WSM 02691). The earliest known church on the site is of medieval date *c* 1200 and the extent of the medieval graveyard is unknown. It may have extended further than the current churchyard, which was enclosed in 1844 (VCH II, 418; Pevsner 1968, 225). An archaeological watching brief was carried out within the church in 1993 and revealed a medieval tiled floor and a 19th century vault (WSM 29910).

Aims

The aim of the watching brief was to observe and record archaeological deposits, and to determine their extent, state of preservation, date and type, as far as reasonably possible.

Methods

General specification for fieldwork	CAS 1995
Sources consulted	HER Sources cited by the HER
Date of fieldwork	12 th October 2006
Total area of the 10 trenches observed	<i>c</i> 44.80m ²

Dimensions of excavated areas observed

Trench	Length	Width	Depth
1	2.2m	1.6m	1.4m
2	3m	2m	1.7m
3	2m	2m	1.6m
4	3m	1.4m	1.6m
5	3.4m	1.7m	1.6m
6	3m	1.6m	1.2m
7	3m	1.5m	1.6m
8	3m	1.6m	1.6m
9	2m	1.8m	1.6m
10	3m	1.2m	1.5m

Access to or visibility of deposits

Observation of the excavated areas was undertaken after machine excavation. The exposed surfaces were sufficiently clean to observe well-differentiated archaeological deposits, although any less clear may have not been identified. Selected sections within the trenches were cleaned by hand.

Statement of confidence

Although four of the 14 trenches were not observed, access to, and visibility of, deposits within those recorded allowed a high degree of confidence that the aims of the project have been achieved.

Deposit description

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s)
100	Topsoil	Firm, dark brown grey, sandy silt.	0.00–0.50m
101	Subsoil	Firm, greenish brown, sandy silt.	0.40–0.80m
102	Natural	The natural deposits varied across the site, two main types were observed, a firm, light greenish brown, clay and a loose mid red brown, sand and gravel.	0.70m +

All of the above deposits were observed in all trenches but at varying depths.

Discussion

Fourteen trenches were excavated in order to lay a pipeline between Lenchwick and Norton (Figs 2 and 3). The pipe was laid using a boring machine and therefore no open cut trenches were excavated between the main trenches. Four of the trenches were not observed and it is therefore unknown if archaeological deposits were present. No significant archaeological deposits were identified in the ten trenches observed, nor were any artefacts recovered.

The lack of any archaeological features or deposits within the trenches does not mean that this area does not contain any archaeological features. The sample area was too small to assess the true archaeological potential of the site.

Trenches 9 and 10 were excavated to the southeast of St Egwin's church. As the trenches did not uncover any human remains it is unlikely that the earlier, medieval graveyard extended this far (Fig 2).

Conclusions

None of the observed trenches contained significant archaeological features or deposits. However the sampled area is too small to make any definitive statement regarding the presence or absence of archaeological features elsewhere within the development area.

Publication summary

The Service has a professional obligation to publish the results of archaeological projects within a reasonable period of time. To this end, the Service intends to use this summary as the basis for publication through local or regional journals. The client is requested to consider the content of this section as being acceptable for such publication.

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken on behalf of Severn Trent Water Limited at Main Street, Lenchwick, Worcestershire (NGR SP 0375 4750; HER ref. WSM 35957). 14 trenches were excavated in order to lay a pipeline between Lenchwick and Norton. Ten of the trenches were observed, none of which contained significant archaeological features or deposits and no artefacts were recovered.

Acknowledgements

The Service would like to thank the following for their kind assistance in the successful conclusion of this project, Severn Trent Water Limited, Neil Bradley (Carl Bro UK) and Mike Glyde (Worcestershire County Council Historic Environment Planning Advisor).

Personnel

Fieldwork was undertaken by Alvaro Mora-Ottomano. Report preparation was led by Adam Lee. The project manager responsible for the quality of the project was Tom Vaughan.

Bibliography

CAS 1995 (as amended) *Manual of Service practice: fieldwork recording manual*, County Archaeological Service, Hereford and Worcester County Council, report, **399**

IFA, 1999 *Standard and guidance for an archaeological watching brief*, Institute of Field Archaeologists

Pevsner, N, 1968 *The Buildings of England: Worcestershire*

VCH II, Page, W (ed), 1906 *Victoria History of the County of Worcestershire*, **II**

Appendix 1 Technical information

The archive

The archive consists of:

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|----|--------------------------------|
| 1 | Fieldwork progress records AS2 |
| 1 | Photographic records AS3 |
| 10 | Digital Photographs |
| 1 | Trench Records AS41 |
| 2 | Scale drawings |

The project archive is intended to be placed at:

Worcestershire County Museum
Hartlebury Castle
Hartlebury
Near Kidderminster
Worcestershire DY11 7XZ
Tel. Hartlebury (01299) 250416

