

WATCHING BRIEF ON THE
HINTON MAINS
REHABILITATION SCHEME AT
GRAFTON, WORCESTERSHIRE

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Illustrated by Carolyn Hunt

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Project 2406
Report 1185
WSM 32956

Watching brief on the Hinton Mains rehabilitation scheme at Grafton, Worcestershire

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Background information

<i>Client</i>	Severn Trent Water
<i>Site address</i>	Grafton Worcestershire
<i>National Grid reference</i>	SO 9901 3700
<i>Sites and Monuments Record reference</i>	WSM 32956
<i>Brief</i>	HEAS 2003a
<i>Project design</i>	HEAS 2003b
<i>Project parameters</i>	IFA 1999

Previous archaeological work on the site

There has been no previous archaeological work undertaken on site.

Previous archaeological work on associated sites

No archaeological work has been undertaken on the site in question but an evaluation was conducted just over 1km to the east at Carrant Brook Farm in Ashton-under-Hill (WSM 05503). The evaluation succeeded in identifying features from the prehistoric, Roman and medieval periods. A cluster of post and stakeholes were attributed to the Bronze Age and Iron Age along with a substantial boundary ditch. The Roman period revealed a series of ditches, thought to be enclosure/boundary ditches, along with some later Roman postholes. The features located also included medieval ridge and furrow agriculture (Jackson 1991).

Aims

The aims of the project were as described in the brief. These were to record any deposits exposed by the groundworks and to determine their extent and significance (HEAS 2003a).

Methods

General specification for	CAS 1995
Sources consulted	SMR Sources cited by the SMR Jackson 1991 Ordnance Survey 1 st edition 1:2500, 1887 OS 2 nd epoch 1:2500, 1902 OS 3 rd epoch 1:2500, 1923
Date(s) of fieldwork	8 th September 2003
Area of deposits observed	c 2m ² . Indicated on Fig 2
Dimensions of excavated areas observed	Access trench length 2m width 1m depth 1m

Access to or visibility of structure

Observation of the excavated areas took place during and after excavation by mini digger using a toothed bucket. The exposed surfaces were suitably clear to record the sections of the trenches.

Statement of confidence

Access to, and visibility of, deposits allowed a high degree of confidence that the aims of the project have been achieved.

Deposit description

Context	Type Colour Texture	Interpretation	Depth (below ground level)
100		Machine cut	
101	Friable grey brown sandy silt	Topsoil	0-0.34m
102	Firm mid brown sandy clay	Subsoil	0.34-0.70m
103	Firm light grey brown clay	Natural	0.70-1.0m

Discussion

The expected open trench to be cut across the field was ultimately not necessary, the groundworks being confined to a couple of small test-pit size machine-excavated holes. These small excavations were confined to the ground disturbance of the existing water pipe and were to grant access to the mains for machinery to pipe-burst in situ. The trenches observed showed no significant archaeological features, layers or artefacts.

Conclusions

Despite the presence of Roman pottery in this field approximately 250m to the south (WSM 26759), the groundworks showed no sign of any archaeological deposits. However, this is not significant, as the area of groundworks observed are tiny compared to the size of the field, and the lack of archaeological deposits here doesn't mean there aren't any anywhere else in the field. This north-western portion of the field, however, would appear to have always been used for agricultural purposes.

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 on the Hinton Mains rehabilitation scheme at Grafton, Worcestershire (NGR SO 9901 3700; WSM 32956). Although the location of the groundworks was in an area of archaeological sensitivity, no archaeological deposits, features or artefacts were found. The eventual absence of open trenching across this field limited the watching brief to two small areas of trenching to access the existing water mains in order to pipe-burst.
