

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING
BRIEF ON THE
DECOMMISSIONING OF THE OLD
SEWAGE WORKS AT
THROCKMORTON,
WORCESTERSHIRE

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Illustrated by Carolyn Hunt

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Project 2074
Report 1152
WSM 32422

Archaeological watching brief on the decommissioning of the old sewage works at Throckmorton, Worcestershire

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Background information

<i>Client</i>	Severn Trent Water
<i>Site address</i>	The Lea, Throckmorton, Worcestershire
<i>National Grid Reference</i>	SO 98210 49840
<i>Sites and Monuments Record reference</i>	WSM 32422
<i>Project design</i>	AS 2001
<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

A large part of the present village is subject to protection under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979, as three separate areas are scheduled as ancient monuments (SAM 31946). These remains are largely from the medieval village settlement (Hurst 2000).

Previous archaeological groundworks in the area has been limited to a single watching brief on a new sewerage plant and pipeline. This work identified ditches dating to the post-medieval period in the area of the new pumping station along with the remains of a wall (undated). The original cobbled surface to Long Lane and The Lea was seen in the section of the pipe trench in the modern roadway (Goad 2002).

The site lay approximately 10 metres south of a moated enclosure (WSM 02694) and within a field with a variety of sites within it, including a post-medieval cottage (WSM 02998), ridge and furrow agriculture (WSM 02385), a deserted medieval village (WSM 04594) and a possible holloway (WSM 03079). Still upstanding in this part of the village is the local church (WSM 01294) which dates to the 13th century (Hurst 2000).

The variety of medieval archaeology in this area is exceptional, thereby necessitating a watching brief on the groundworks taking place.

Aims

The aim of the watching brief was to observe the groundworks and to inspect all deposits and determine whether they were archaeological, as well as trying to determine their extent, state of preservation, date and type, as far as reasonably possible.

Methods

General specification	CAS 1995
Sources consulted	SMR Sources cited by the SMR Ordnance Survey map, 1:10000 Ordnance Survey map, 1 st edition, 1887

	Previous fieldwork reports and assessments
Date(s) of fieldwork	4 th -6 th March 2003
Area observed	Indicated on Figure 2
Dimensions of area observed	Services length 17m width 7m

Access to and works on the structure

Observation of the area was possible after machine excavation. Groundworks took the form of fence removal around the perimeter of the sewage works, along with the removal, by JCB wheeled excavator, of the visible upstanding octagonal-shaped brick wall enclosing the central area of the filter bed. A length of pipe was installed in the works structures for water drainage which was no deeper than the original works structure. After work was completed on the site, photographs were taken of the area and a record made of the extent of the groundworks.

Statement of confidence

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

Discussion

The scope of the groundworks were limited to the immediate confines of the filter bed, which was a structure sunk into the ground. After completion the space between the outside of the bed and the edge of the area were backfilled with the excavated material. The soil strata in the sides of the filter bed that were exposed during decommissioning works with the removal of the brick wall was, therefore, redeposited and not liable to reveal archaeology. The subsequent laying of a new water pipe within the existing structure did not disturb any archaeology.

Conclusions

Whilst the location of the old sewage works was within a highly sensitive archaeological area, the scope of the work meant alterations were limited to the confines of the filter bed, which was within an area of re-deposition. Consequently no remains of archaeological interest were exposed or disturbed by the decommissioning of the sewage works.

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.

A watching brief was undertaken on behalf of Severn Trent Water at the Old Sewage Works, Throckmorton, Worcestershire (NGR SO 9821049840; WSM 32422). The decommissioning of the old filter bed did not disturb any archaeological deposits, the work being limited to an area of modern disturbance.

Archive

Fieldwork progress records AS2	3
Photographic records AS3	1
Colour transparency films	1
Black and white films	1
Computer disks	1

The project archive is intended to be placed at: Worcester's County Museum
Hartlebury Castle, Hartlebury
Near Kidderminster
Worcestershire DY11 7XZ

telephone 01299 250416

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Bibliography

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