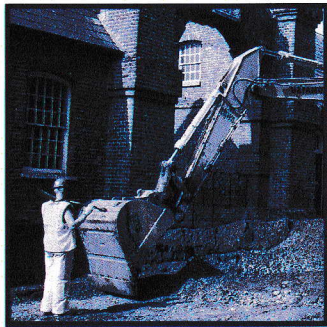


New Sewerage Works Kenilworth Warwickshire



Archaeological Watching Brief Report



Oxford Archaeology

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New Sewerage Works Kenilworth, Warwickshire

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF REPORT

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SUMMARY

On 19th and 27th of September 2005 Oxford Archaeology (OA) carried out an archaeological watching brief in Kenilworth, Warwickshire (NGR: SP 2915 7264 and SP 2951 7245). The work was commissioned by Haswell in advance of the laying of new sewers. The watching brief revealed the presence of a 18th century brick arched culvert spanning the old course of a millrace branching off the Finham Brook in Manor Road, and a 19th century brick capped well in land off Glendale Avenue.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Scope of work

- 1.1.1 On the 19th and 27th of September 2005 Oxford Archaeology (OA) carried out an archaeological watching brief on sites located in Manor Road (SP 2915 7264) and land off Glendale Avenue (SP 2951 7245) within the town of Kenilworth, Warwickshire (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Haswell on behalf of Severn Trent in advance of the installation of a new main sewer.
- 1.1.2 The work was undertaken as part of the mitigation strategy agreed with Ed Wilson, the Warwickshire County Planning Archaeologist (WCPA). This is in line with PPG 16 and local planning policies.

1.2 Location, geology and topography

- 1.2.1 The sites were located in Manor Road on the northern edge of Kenilworth, immediately to the south-west of the bridge spanning the Finham Brook, and in land sited to the north-west of Glendale Avenue within the centre of Kenilworth. The sites are located at approximately 84 m and 88 m above OD respectively. The underlying geology is Alluvium over the Kenilworth Sandstone Formation (British Geological Survey England and Wales Sheet 184).

1.3 Archaeological and historical background

- 1.3.1 A Desk Based Assessment (DBA) chronicling the archaeological background to the watching brief had been prepared prior to the start of the sewerage works within Kenilworth (OA, 2003), and an abridged form is reproduced below.
- 1.3.2 Palaeolithic flint artefacts have been recovered from the alluvium and gravels associated with the Finham Brook, although nothing of this period has been recovered from within the immediate area of the works. Only two finds of Neolithic or Bronze age date have been discovered within the area. This thin scatter of prehistoric finds is typical of the known distribution of archaeological remains across Warwickshire as a whole, however this is thought to be a reflection of the low level of past archaeological investigations in Warwickshire rather than a genuine absence of activity.

- 1.3.3 Kenilworth lies approximately 9 km west of the Fosse Way on which the major Roman settlements lay. The Roman fort at Baginton is 5 km to the north-east. Few villas have been identified in Warwickshire, but there is a distribution of rural settlements. The known sites on the east side of Kenilworth conform to this regional pattern.
- 1.3.4 A settlement was recorded at Kenilworth in the Domesday Book of 1086. By the early medieval period it formed part of the royal manor of Stoneleigh. In the 1120s Henry I granted a manor of Kenilworth to Geoffrey de Clinton who divided it between his castle and St Mary's Priory (later Abbey) which he founded. A town grew up around these foundations in two locations; a ribbon development on the north side and along the Warwick Road to the south. The town was granted a borough charter in 1125, with the right to a market and fair granted in 1268.
- 1.3.5 The later medieval town of Kenilworth developed on the northern boundary of the sites of the castle and abbey. The area of the current works is to the east of the historic town and lies on land which was used for agriculture during the late medieval period.
- 1.3.6 Agriculture has always formed the main industry for Kenilworth which did not expand far beyond its medieval core until the later 19th century, following construction of the railway. Some small scale tanning and horn comb industries were established, but these have disappeared. During the 20th century residential developments led to the expansion of the town towards the south and east.
- 1.3.7 Away from the medieval core of the town the archaeological potential for all periods appears to be generally low.

2 PROJECT AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

2.1 Aims

- 2.1.1 To identify and record the presence or absence, extent, condition, quality and date of archaeological remains in the areas affected by the development.
- 2.1.2 To preserve by record any archaeological deposits or features that may be damaged or destroyed during the course of the development.
- 2.1.3 To make available the results of the archaeological investigation.

2.2 Methodology

- 2.2.1 The watching brief was conducted as a series of site visits when deposits or features of archaeological significance were observed.
- 2.2.2 The sections were drawn at a scale of 1:20 or 1:50 as appropriate. All features and sections were photographed using colour slide and black and white print film. A general photographic record of the work was also made. Recording followed procedures detailed in the *OA Field Manual* (ed D Wilkinson, 1992).

3 RESULTS

3.1 Description of deposits

Manor Road

- 3.1.1 During the trenching along the southern edge of Manor Road, the crown of a brick arch was encountered approximately 12 m south-east of the bridge spanning the Finham Brook. Subsequent excavation showed this to be the top of a culvert (Fig. 2).
- 3.1.2 The underlying solid geology, the top of the Kenilworth sandstone (10) was reached at a depth of 1.3 m below the current road surface. This had been cut by the vertically sided 3.0 m wide channel (11), which could be seen in section to be in excess of 1.0 m deep. Constructed on ledges cut into the sandstone was the brick and stone arched culvert (12). Forming the base of the arch were five courses of dressed sandstone blocks measuring 0.4 m x 0.22 m x 0.15 m, while the central part of the arch was constructed using unfrogged red bricks measuring 0.22 m x 0.105 m x 0.052 m. All the materials were bonded using a hard lime mortar. The culvert could be seen to be blocked 3 m to the south-west and 2 m to the north-west respectively. The top of the arch had been covered with a layer of compacted reddish brown sandy clay (12) to a depth of between 0.65 m and 1.4 m which formed the base for the tarmac surface (14), Manor Road.

Land off Glendale Avenue

- 3.1.3 During the trenching alongside the eastern side of the viaduct carrying Park Hill Road over the railway line, the top of a brick constructed well cap was encountered in a former school playground accessed off Glendale Avenue (Fig. 3).
- 3.1.4 The top of the sandstone formation (10) could be observed 6.8 m below the current ground level. This had been cut by a vertical 1.1 m diameter circular shaft (15), which could be seen to continue down to the water table at 10.5 m below the current ground level.
- 3.1.5 Constructed directly on top of the sandstone formation was a circular brick lined shaft (16) measuring 1.1 m internally, 1.25 m externally and 4.1 m high. This had been constructed using unfrogged hand moulded red bricks measuring 0.222 m x 0.108 m x 0.075 m. These had been laid tangentially in an overlapping pattern without using any mortar. At a depth of 1.0 m below the top of the shaft voids measuring 0.1 m square could be observed within the north-east and south-west sides of the shaft.
- 3.1.6 This shaft had been capped by a hemispherical dome of bricks bonded in a lime mortar. These bricks were of an identical size and form to those in the shaft except being cut in half to facilitate the construction of the arching. A void approximately 0.12 m by 0.8 m had been left in the top of the dome. This had been sealed below a layer of made ground composed of a friable dark brown sandy silt and sandstone

fragments (17), which could be seen to be in excess of 3 m deep within the section of the sewer trench. This made ground appears to have been deposited after the construction of the top of the well shaft and brick capping since no construction cut for the well could be observed.

3.2 Finds

3.2.1 No dating evidence other than examples of the bricks was recovered during the course of the watching brief.

3.3 Palaeo-environmental remains

3.3.1 No deposits suitable for palaeo-environmental sampling were encountered during the course of the watching brief.

4 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

4.1.1 The brick culvert observed in Manor Road appears have been constructed to support the embankment leading up to the bridge spanning Finham Brook. The size and form of the bricks suggests a late 18th century date. The width of the channel cut into the sandstone would be too narrow to contain a road or tramway and it is suggested that it contained a mill race branching off from the Finham Brook, and which ran along the southern edge of the valley leading to a mill to the west of the site. The presence of a road known as Mill End approximately 400 m to the west of the site would support this suggestion. The subsequent widening of the embankment leading to the bridge for modern traffic appears to have sealed off either end of the culvert.

4.1.2 The brick lined well located off Glendale Avenue can be dated to the mid 19th century by the brick size and may be associated with the small workshops built under the arches of the viaduct. The presence of the voids within the brick lining would indicate the presence of a wooden beam supporting the lead suction pipe which exited via the void left in the centre of the brick cap. This may have lead to an external hand pump or possibly lead into one of the workshops. The made ground was probably deposited during the construction of the viaduct in order to raise the ground level and provide a level surface.

APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1 ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONTEXT INVENTORY

<i>Context</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Depth/ Height</i>	<i>Width</i>	<i>Comments</i>	<i>Finds</i>	<i>Date</i>
10	Layer	> 3.7 m	-	Kenilworth sandstone formation	-	-
11	Cut/ Channel	> 0.8 m	3.0 m	Vertical sided channel cut in sandstone	-	C18th
12	Structure	1.2 m	3.4 m	Stone and brick arched culvert	Brick	C18th
13	Layer	1.8 m	> 8.0 m	Made ground forming the embankment carrying Manor road	-	C18th/ C19th
14	Layer	0.18 m	5.5 m	Modern tarmac road surface	-	C20th
15	Cut/ Shaft	> 3.7 m	1.1 m diameter	Vertical sided circular shaft cut into the sandstone	-	C19th
16	Structure	4.7 m	1.3 m diameter	Brick built well with hemispherical well cap	Brick	C19th
17	Layer	> 3.0 m	-	Made ground	-	C19th

APPENDIX 2 BIBLIOGRAPHY AND REFERENCES

IFA, 2001 *Standard and Guidance for archaeological evaluations*

OA, 2000 *OA Environmental Guidelines for sampling*

OAU, 1992 *Field Manual* (ed. D Wilkinson)

OA, 2003 *Kenilworth Sewerage Strategy (Phase 3): Archaeological Desk Based Assessment for Severn Trent Water*

APPENDIX 3 SUMMARY OF SITE DETAILS

Site name: Manor Road and Glendale Avenue, Kenilworth, Warwickshire

Site code: KESEW05

Grid reference: SP 2915 7264, Manor Road, SP 2951 7245 Glendale Avenue

Type of watching brief: Machine excavation of new sewer trenching

Date and duration of project: 19th and 27th September 2005, 2 days

Area of site: Approximately 0.6 hectares

Summary of results: A 18th century brick and stone culvert were observed running under Manor Road, while a 19th century brick lined and capped well were encountered in land off Glendale Avenue.

Location of archive: The archive is currently held at OA, Janus House, Osney Mead, Oxford, OX2 0ES, and will be deposited with Warwickshire County Museums Service in due course, under the following accession number: T/1085

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Scale 1:25,000

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Figure 1: Site location

Section 1

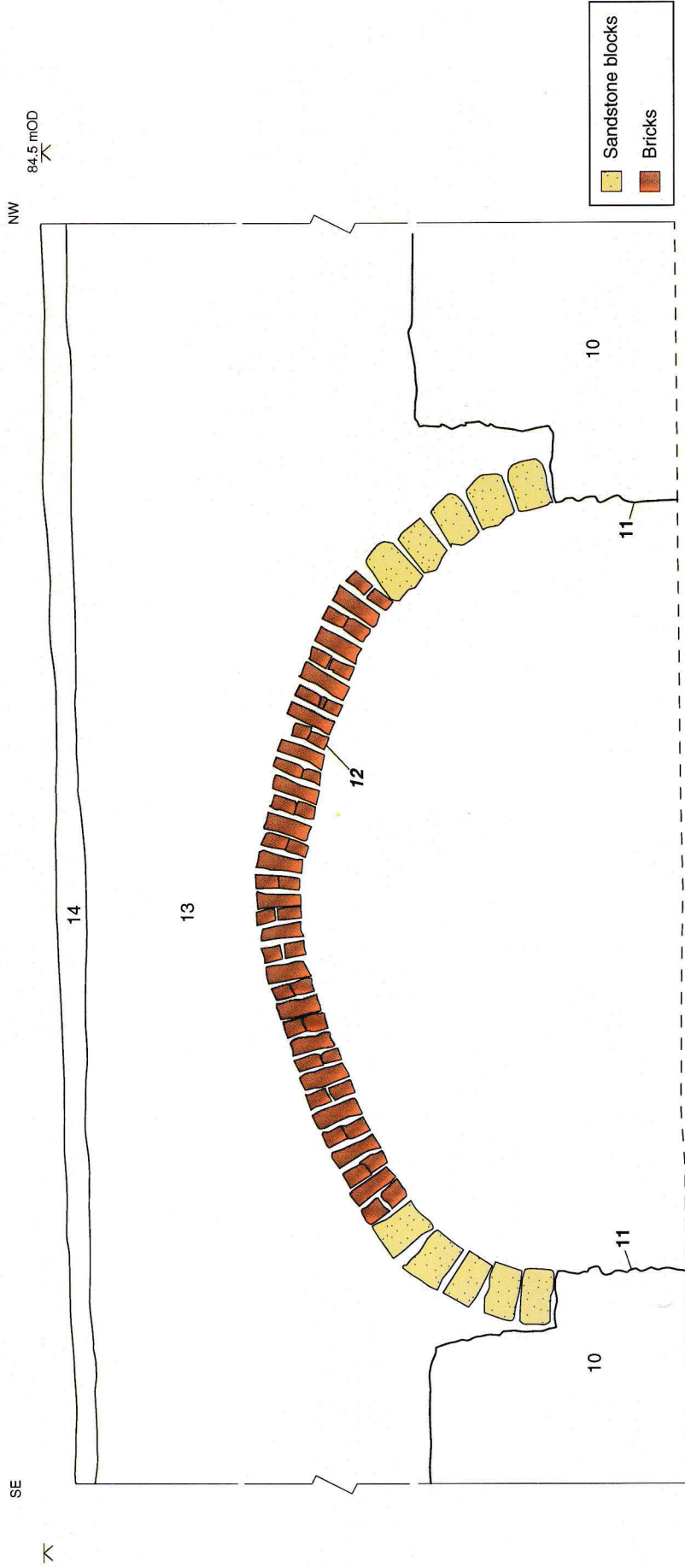


Figure 2: Detail of brick arch exposed in side of sewer trench

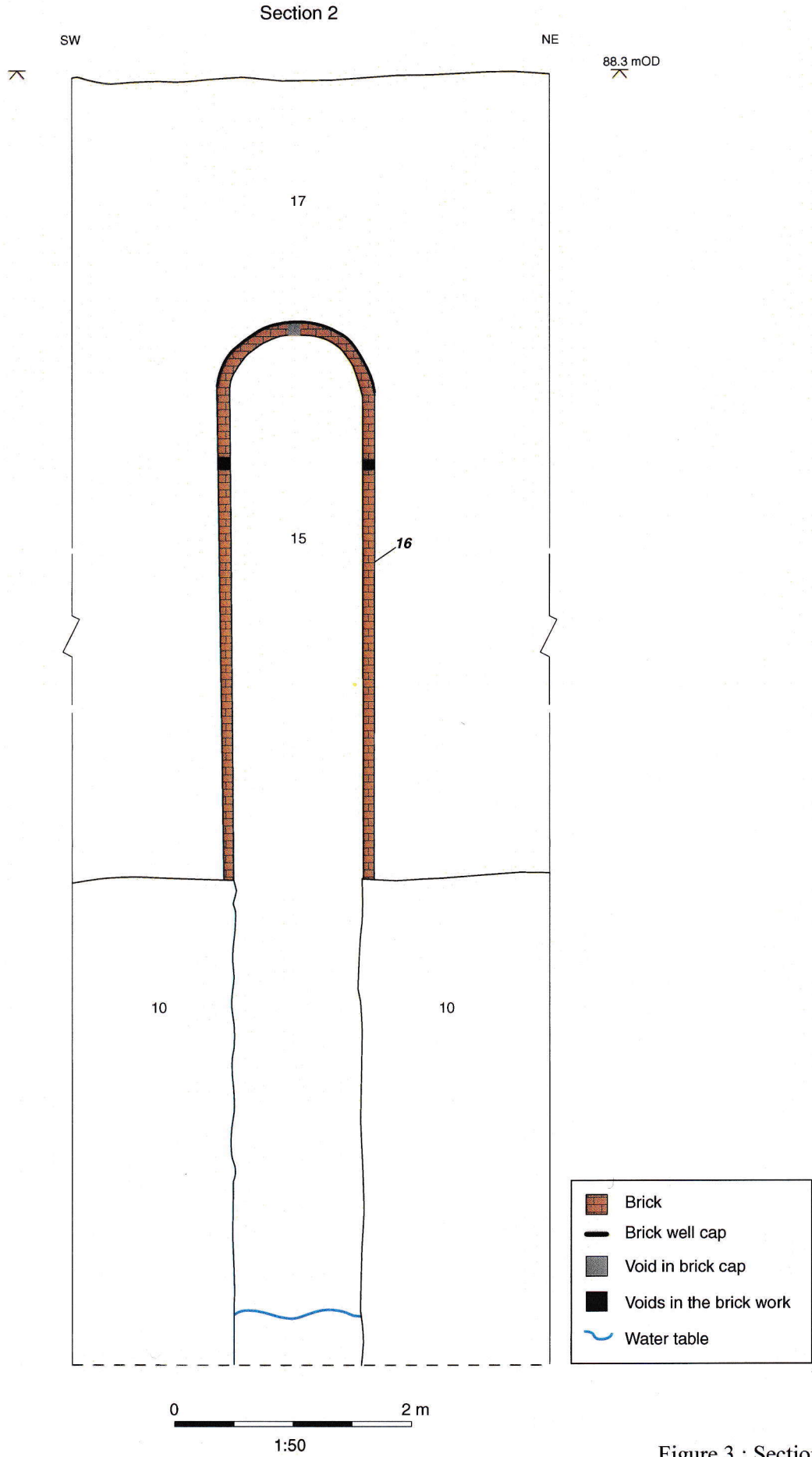


Figure 3 : Section 2



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