

MOUNTFIELD FIRST TIME SEWERAGE SCHEME

Southern Water Services Ltd

Planning application for a change of use of land on which to construct & operate a wastewater pumping station & a treatment works:

Clarification on archaeological assessment & evaluation

Background

1. The report that accompanied Southern Water's request for an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Screening Opinion (December 2013) noted:
 - Two miles north-west of Mountfield are the overgrown vestigial remains of Glottenham Castle Schedule Monument, a 12th century fortified manor house, surrounded by a moat.
 - There are no Conservation Areas in Mountfield.
 - There are numerous listed buildings, including the Grade II* listed Mountfield Court in Church Lane.
2. No significant impacts on heritage were predicted, and the County Council screening opinion confirmed that EIA is not required.
3. The Design & Access Statement (incorporating planning statement), which was submitted with the planning application, reported that the proposed locations for the pumping station and WwTW have not previously been developed. It noted that within the surrounding area evidence has been found of a large medieval farmstead on the north bank of the River Line, a Neolithic polished stone axe at Hoath Hill, and a flint scatter near the railway line south of Solomon's Lane. There is therefore a risk of encountering previously unknown archaeology during construction of the Mountfield first time sewerage scheme.

Archeological assessment & evaluation

4. In accordance with East Sussex and Brighton & Hove Waste & Mineral Plan Policy WMP27 and Rother Local Plan emerging Core Strategy Policy EN2, appropriate archaeological research and investigation is proposed to avoid adverse impacts on heritage assets.
5. Specialist sub-contractors Archaeology South East (ASE) have, on behalf of Southern Water, consulted with the East Sussex County Archaeologist (Casper Johnson) regarding the scope of this archaeological work.

6. The following programme of archaeological survey and assessment has been agreed with the County Archaeologist:
- **A site/scheme-focussed archaeological desk-based assessment, including:**
 - Study of historic maps, air photos and secondary sources held by the East Sussex Record Office (The Keep);
 - Consultation of the East Sussex Historic Environment Record and further consultation with the County Archaeologist;
 - Consultation of the National Heritage List and other databases held by English Heritage and Local Planning Authority;
 - Comprehensive walkover survey of all parts accessible, and
 - Collation of other relevant background and site-specific information (including geotechnical reports).
 - **A magnetometer survey of the southern area of the scheme/site of the waste water treatment works (WwTW), including:**
 - An interpretative plan on the results of the magnetometry survey, and
 - The results of the walkover survey
 - **Trial trenching and/or borehole survey in the area proposed for the WwTW and any other areas highlighted by the desk-based assessment and/or the results of the geophysical survey, including:**
 - mechanical excavation of a 5% sample of the area of the proposed WwTW, which equates to approximately 140 linear metres of 1.8m wide trenching.
7. The extent to which any recording/observations are considered practical or necessary during construction, will depend upon the extent and importance of any archaeological remains recorded during the evaluation. The evaluation process will also consider the geo-archaeological and palaeoenvironmental potential of the WWTW site.
8. We note that the scope of archaeological assessment and reporting proposed are matters capable of being addressed through a planning condition.
9. Additionally, the construction team will be briefed during site induction and environmental tool-box training on the procedures to be implemented if archaeological remains are uncovered during construction. Should any previously unknown undisturbed archaeological features be found then work will cease immediately in that area and a qualified archaeologist will be consulted on appropriate measures to be implemented.