



Planning, Transport  
and Environment

INDEX DATA	RPS INFORMATION
Scheme Title A46 Shurdington Bypass	Details Stage 1 Archaeological Assessment
Road Number A46	Date September 1992
Contractor Charles Purry	
County Gloucestershire	
OS Reference 8091	
Single sided ✓ Double sided	
A3 5 Colour 0	

**A46 Shurdington Bypass: stage 1 archaeological assessment**

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**Gloucestershire County Council, September 1992**

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Figure 1 is based on the Ordnance Survey 1:25000 map of 1980; Figures 2 and 3 are based upon the Ordnance Survey 1:10000 map revision of 1977, with the permission of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. Licence no. LA 076627, Gloucestershire County Council

## **A46 Shurdington Bypass: stage 1 archaeological assessment**

### **1 Summary**

The following report represents a preliminary assessment of the archaeological impact of three potential routes of the A46 Shurdington Bypass. The assessment identifies sites and monuments within, and in the landscape surrounding, the area of search. The evidence is listed and discussed, and recommendations for further work are made.

### **2 Introduction**

#### **2.1 Introduction**

An assessment of the archaeological potential of the area transected by three proposed routes of the A46 Shurdington Bypass was undertaken by the Archaeology Section of Gloucestershire County Council during September 1992. The survey was commissioned by Gloucestershire Design, for, and on behalf of, Gloucestershire County Surveyor's Department.

#### **2.2 Survey design and methodology**

**2.2.1** The survey was designed to examine the archaeology of the area of search, and looked also at sites and monuments in the surrounding landscape. Two sorts of evidence were examined:

**2.2.2** Documentary sources relating to the area of interest were consulted, and the relevant information extracted. These sources were:

- Gloucestershire Sites and Monuments Record (Glos SMR) curated by the Archaeology Section, County Planning Department (Section 6: Gazetteers)
- Documents and maps curated by Gloucestershire Record Office (Section 7.1 Unpublished sources)
- Published works (Section 7.2 Bibliography)
- Aerial photographs (oblique and vertical) curated by Gloucestershire County Planning Department and the National Monument Record (RCHM(E)).

**2.2.3** A field visit to the area was undertaken during September 1992.

### **3 Description of the area of survey; former and present land use; limitations on the gathering of evidence**

#### **3.1 Description (fig 1)**

**3.1.1** Three route options for a proposed re-routing of the A46 road to bypass the village of Shurdington, located at SO 920185 some 2km south-west of the urban fringe of Cheltenham, are proposed. The route options (designated routes A, B and C on Gloucestershire County Surveyor's drawing no. C2148/1/1; dated April 1991) and their peripheries comprise an area measuring approximately 4 km long by 1.5 km wide. The majority of the survey area is in Shurdington parish: to the north route option C transects a few fields in Leckhampton parish.

**3.1.2** The village of Shurdington is situated east and west of the A46 road which, at this point, is aligned north-east to south-west at the foot of the Cotswold escarpment. West of the road, the ground is relatively flat, and within the area of search it lies between 60m-70m AOD; east of the road the ground rises up the escarpment, attaining a height of c. 90m AOD. The area of search is transected by several watercourses flowing in a north-westerly direction down the face of the escarpment: Ham brook to the north of the village and Norman's brook to the south are major examples. Geologically, the majority of the area of interest lies on solid deposits of Lower Lias clay, upon which are discrete islands of drift Fan gravels; a small area at the foot of the escarpment lies on landslide and foundered strata derived from falls of material above (OS 1972).

**3.1.3** Two of the route options, A and B, transect the flatter land to the west of the A46 road. Route A, which measures some 3.3 km long, leaves the present A46 at its junction with a minor road to Benthams, and swings c. 0.6 km west of the road before rejoining the A46 at Chargoave. Route B, measuring c. 1.5 km long, is a shorter variant of route A, leaving the A46 opposite the junction of a minor road to Yew Tree Farm. Route C, which measures c. 3.5 km long, transects the higher ground to the east of the A46 road, swinging a maximum of 0.4 km to its east: the route leaves the A46 close to its junction to a road leading to Brook Farm Villa, and rejoins the road at the roundabout north-east of Chargoave.

#### **3.2 Former and present land use (fig 2)**

**3.2.1** Former land use within the areas of search is attested by documents which allow its cultivation history to be reconstructed. The evidence, presented on fig 2, demonstrates that, since the medieval period, land use has changed from being purely arable to a more mixed, although predominantly pasture, agricultural regime.

**3.2.2** Aerial photographic evidence dating to the 1940s (RAF vertical photograph dating to 1949, curated by Gloucestershire County Planning Department) demonstrates that traces of ridges and furrows (which are characteristic of medieval arable cultivation) were visible either as surface features in fields of pasture, or could be seen as soil-marks in areas of arable. This evidence indicates that, during the medieval period, Shurdington was surrounded by extensive arable fields.

# Location

scale 1:25000

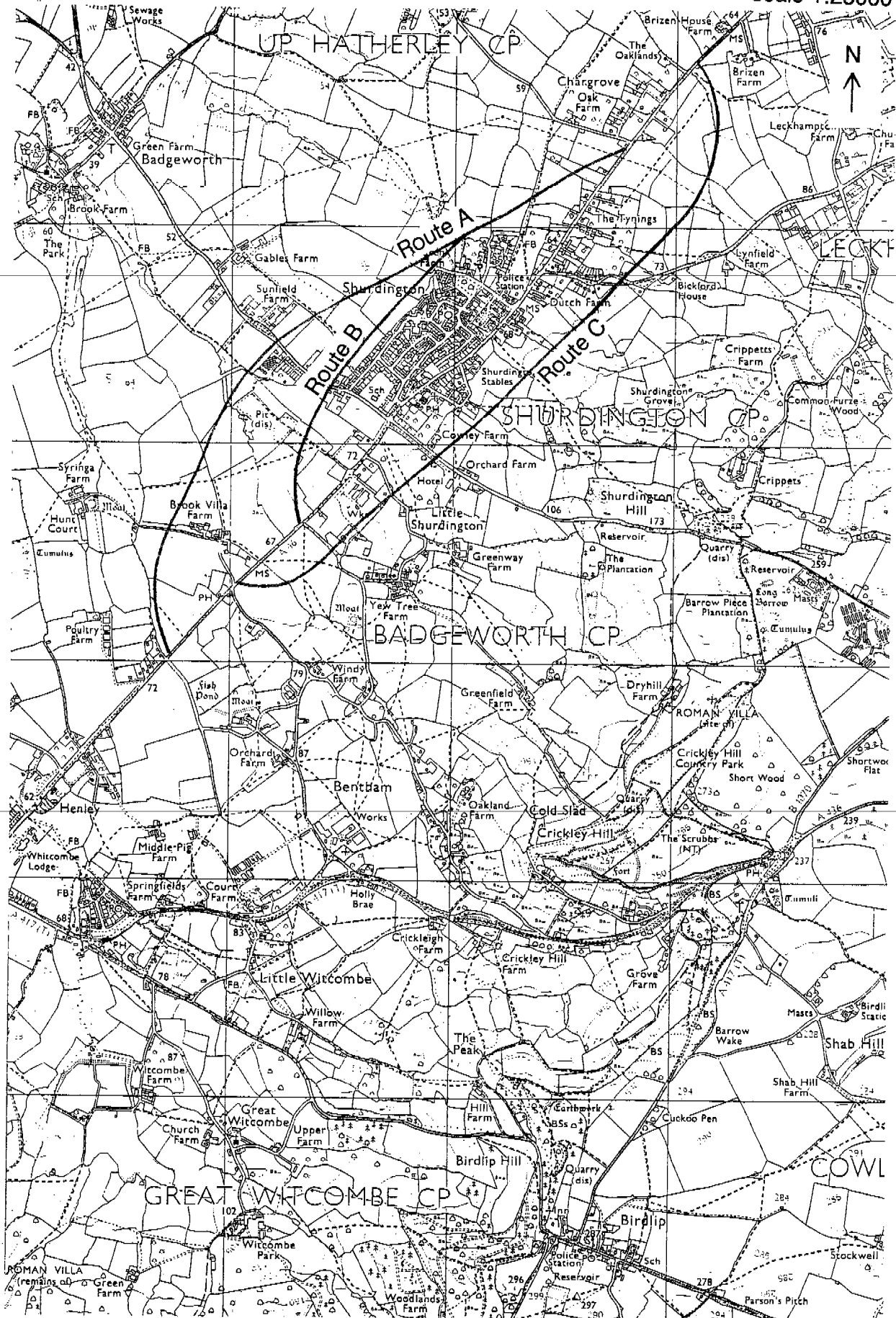


Fig 1

**3.2.3** There is documentary evidence to suggest that the medieval field system remained at least partly, if not fully, in place up until the 19th century, when land use was recorded on maps drawn up to aid the payment of ecclesiastical tithes and the enclosure of land. The Badgeworth and Shurdington Enclosure Award (Glos RO P31 SD1/1) of 1846 records that the present pattern of field boundaries was achieved by dividing large open fields into smaller holdings. Although the Enclosure Award marked the official conclusion of this process, it is evident from the parish map of 1837 (Glos RO D 1388) and the Tithe map of 1838 (Glos RO P31 SD2/1, 2) that enclosure was well under way during the 1830s. The parish map of 1837 recorded many open fields that had been enclosed when the Tithe map was compiled the following year. The maps of the 1830s and 1840s also recorded mixed land use, with large areas of arable and pasture being present.

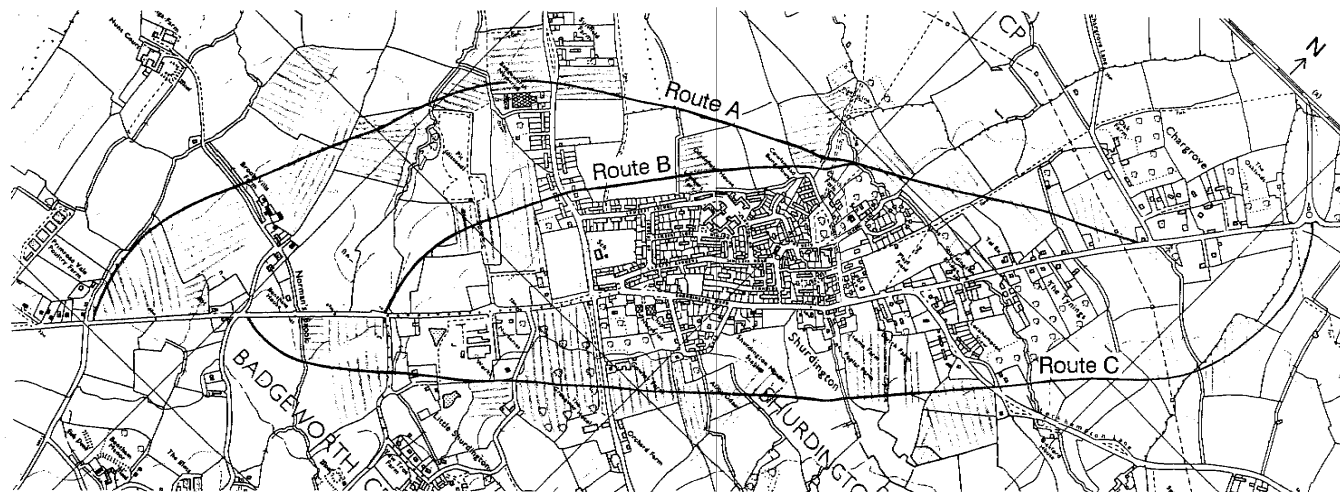
**3.2.4** The pattern of the field boundaries laid out during the 19th century has remained largely unchanged to the present. Ordnance Survey maps dating to the 1880s onwards indicate that a few field boundaries have been removed.

**3.2.5** Modern land use in the areas of interest has been dominated by pasture, with small portions of arable surviving. Records curated by Gloucestershire County Planning Department indicate that a substantial block of land extending north and south of the A46 road has been quarried in the recent past. Most of these quarried areas have been infilled and the fields restored to pasture; one quarry site is now occupied by the remains of a former tile works. Minor areas given over to nurseries, and an area of landfill, were also present in 1992.

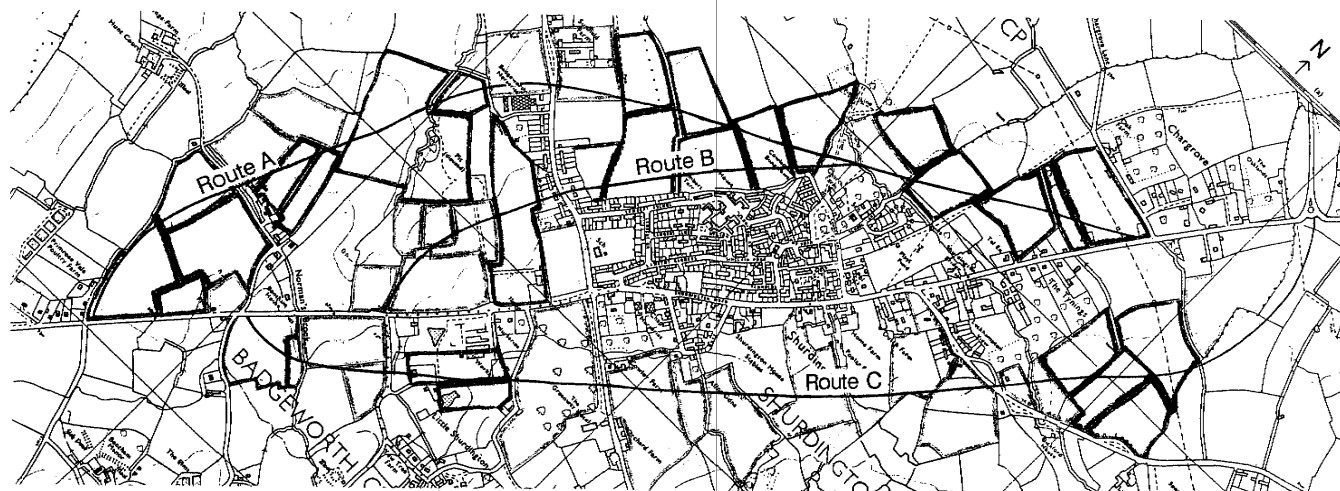
### **3.3 Limitations on the gathering of evidence**

**3.3.1** The documents relating to past land use indicate that the areas of survey have been ploughed during, or since, the medieval period. Ploughing can result in the erosion, or total removal, of surface traces of occupation, leaving only subsurface archaeological features intact. This factor implies that there is a considerable constraint on the gathering of archaeological evidence, because few sites pre-dating the medieval period would be preserved at ground level.

**3.3.2** A substantial portion of the areas of interest is currently under pasture, which is not conducive to the detection of archaeological features as cropmarks from the air - one of the most useful sources of archaeological information. Similarly, surface collection of artefacts, which in arable fields can indicate the presence of archaeological sites, would be prevented in areas of pasture.



Ridge & Furrow

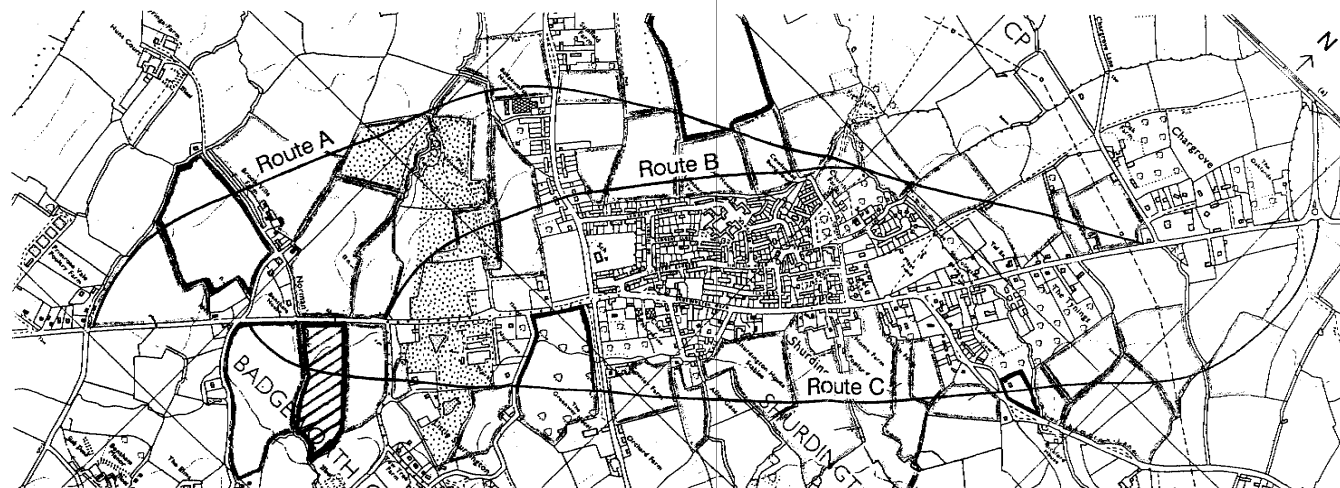


1838

Key

pasture

arable



1992

Key

pasture

arable

nursery

quarried

landfill

0 1km

Fig 2



#### 4 General discussion

##### 4.1 Archaeological background (fig 3)

- 4.1.1 Aerial photographic evidence relating to the gravel terraces forming the river valleys of the Severn and Upper Thames and their tributaries has demonstrated that these landscapes were densely occupied during the prehistoric and Romano-British periods (Webster and Hobley 1964; Leech 1977): survey on the Cotswolds and its escarpment (RCHM(E) 1976; Saville 1980) has similarly emphasized the large number of such sites, many of them surviving as substantial earthworks.
- 4.1.2 The area of interest lies within a locality famous for the richness of its prehistoric archaeology, with a notable range of monuments located along the lip of the escarpment some 2 km east of the area of search. Belonging to the neolithic in this group are the long barrow on the crest of Shurdington Hill (O'Neil and Grinsell 1960, 76; Coberley I) and the important causewayed enclosure located on Crickley Hill (Dixon and Borne 1977). Both Crickley Hill (Dixon 1976) and Leckhampton Hill (Champion 1976) were occupied by hillforts which excavation has shown were occupied during the early iron age.
- 4.1.3 Although the scarp-edge sites discussed above form a notable group of closely-clustered field monuments, the density of activity within the Severn Vale may be as great. The evidence, however, is fragmentary, having been gained piecemeal from chance discoveries of buried sites disturbed by modern quarrying and construction. One such group of prehistoric and Romano-British sites has been found during development along the margins of the A417 road where it runs through the parishes of Barnwood, Hucclecote and Brockworth (summarized in Parry 1991). Perhaps the best documented evidence for the intensive nature of prehistoric and Roman activity in the Severn Vale was recovered during construction of the M5 motorway (which lies c. 1 km west of the area of search) during 1969-70, when many new sites were discovered (Fowler 1977).
- 4.1.4 There is sparse evidence for early prehistoric (neolithic and bronze age) activity within Shurdington parish: no long barrows or round barrows - the most common monument type for this period - have been recorded in recent surveys (O'Neil and Grinsell 1960; Darvill and Grinsell 1989). The presence of a large and well-preserved round barrow (Darvill and Grinsell 1989, 70: Badgeworth 1) only 300m south-west of Hunt Court on the western periphery of the area of search, suggests that other, ploughed-down, examples may conceivably lie close by. Indeed, the antiquary Samuel Rudder (1779, 657-8), writing in the latter half of the 18th century, described the discovery and excavation of one such example in the parish, although its whereabouts were not mentioned by him (but see O'Neil and Grinsell 1960, 76, who state that Rudder's report refers to the long barrow mentioned above, Coberley I).
- 4.1.5 Evidence for later prehistoric (iron age) activity is similarly lacking in the immediate locality of the area of search. Chance discoveries elsewhere suggest, however, that this area of the Severn Vale would have been occupied by numerous settlements of farmstead type. One such excavated example lies c. 3 km to the north-west of the area of interest, at the foot of the escarpment at Sandy Lane,

Leckhampton (Purnell and Webb 1950), and another site has recently been discovered underlying Chester Walk, Cheltenham (Wills 1987).

- 4.1.6 The Roman period is well attested in the Severn Vale. Shurdington lies some 7 km due east of the important Roman town of Glevum (Gloucester), and only 2 km north of Ermin Street (now the A417 road), a major route connecting Glevum with Corinium (Cirencester). Numerous settlements dotted this landscape. A Roman villa adjacent to Ermin Street in Hucclecote (Clifford 1961), and an agricultural settlement at a similar location in Brockworth (Rawes 1981), have been examined in detail by excavation. Many other sites in the parishes neighbouring Shurdington are attested from surface scatters of artifacts: the site closest to the area of search is, perhaps, the villa situated near Dryhill Farm on the Cotswold escarpment (RCHM(E) 1976, 5).
- 4.1.7 There is no evidence for early medieval occupation in the locality of the survey area. Conclusive evidence for the presence of settlement sites relates to the centuries late within the medieval period. Place name evidence indicates that Shurdington was occupied by c. 1150, if not earlier: the derivation of the name is uncertain (Smith 1964, 156-7). Badgeworth is first documented in the 9th century; Leckhampton in the 11th century (Smith 1964, 115 and 109). The earliest dateable features in the parish church date to the 13th century (Verrey 1980, 336-7): it may be assumed, perhaps, that the church formed a focus for settlement in the parish at this time, although other settlement foci may be represented in the locality by moated sites, several of which are attested on the peripheries of the areas of interest. At the turn of the 18th century (Atkyn 1712, 241), Shurdington parish contained only eight houses (some of which were presumably outlying farmhouses), and its small size may explain why it was then considered a hamlet of Badgeworth. Rudder (1779, 657-8) noted Shurdington as a distinct parish with 15 houses. A close association with Badgeworth is indicated by the fact that the two parishes were documented together during the Tithe and Enclosure surveys of the early 19th century.
- 4.1.8 The subordinate nature of Shurdington may, perhaps, be explained by its small size and relative isolation during the medieval and early modern periods, for the Cheltenham to Painswick (A46) road was newly constructed as a turnpike route in 1820 (Sheils 1976, 57), a fact confirmed by its absence from the Leckhampton Enclosure map of 1778 (Glos RO P198a SD1/1, 2). Thus, access from Shurdington to the Gloucester to Cirencester road, and to the small town of Cheltenham, would have been limited to minor tracks and pathways.
- 4.1.9 The medieval nucleus indicated by the site of the parish church lay some 200m west of the turnpike route. Ordnance Survey maps indicate that this area remained isolated well into the 20th century, development being concentrated alongside the A46 road. The village, remained essentially rural until the construction of post-war housing to the south of the parish church.

## **4.2 The archaeology transected by route options A, B and C**

### **4.2.1 Route option A**

Route option A transects two areas where archaeological potential may be suggested by field names recorded during the early 19th century. At the extreme southern end of the route the name 'Stanish' (Glos 8522) might suggest the former presence of a masonry structure. Near the junction of route options A and B, the 'berry' element in the names 'Berry Piece' and 'Berry Mead' (Glos 13966) might indicate the former presence of an earthwork.

### **4.2.2 Route option B**

No known areas of archaeological interest are transected by route option B.

### **4.2.3 Route option C**

Evidence for the presence of significant archaeological deposits along route option C is represented by Glos 6856, a scatter of Romano-British pottery, which may indicate an area of occupation, although the nature, date and extent of this is uncertain. Route option C also transects the edge of a land parcel where a sherd of prehistoric pottery (Glos 3799) and a Romano-British coin (Glos 6850) have been found during quarrying for gravel. It is uncertain whether these represent stray losses of no great significance: they may be indicative of some form of occupation, although it can be presumed that any archaeology that may once have been contained in the quarried area has been destroyed.

## **4.3 Archaeology in the landscape surrounding route options A, B, and C**

Seven sites and areas of archaeological significance can be identified in the landscape surrounding route options A, B and C. Of three cropmark sites, one (Glos 4432) is demonstrably recent in origin and of no archaeological significance, another (Glos 6854) is a possible prehistoric or Roman enclosure, whilst a third (Glos 7581) is of a highly uncertain nature. The significance of a find of a single Roman coin dating to the later Roman period (Glos 6384) is uncertain. Three earthwork complexes (Glos 4234, Glos 4705 and Glos 7665) represent two moats and a fishpond interpretable as monuments dating to the medieval period, although none has been tested by excavation.

## **4.4 Archaeological potential**

### **4.4.1 Prehistoric and Roman**

In view of the extensive evidence for prehistoric and Romano-British activity in the Severn Vale, there is potential for the survival of such deposits within the areas affected by the route options. Evidence to support this conclusion is present in the form of a dense scatter of Romano-British pottery (Glos 6856), and also, perhaps, from the individual finds of prehistoric pottery (Glos 3799) and a Roman coin (Glos 6850), the sites of which are all transected by route option C.

#### **4.4.2 Post-Roman**

The potential presence of significant post-Roman deposits within the areas affected by the route options is uncertain. The extent of medieval agriculture in these areas (fig 2: ridge and furrow) might imply that, by the later medieval period at least, the majority of the affected land was given over to arable crops, with areas of settlement located elsewhere. There can, however, be no certainty that this picture reflects the arrangement of the early medieval period, whose settlements or cemeteries could lie beneath later medieval ploughsoils.

- 4.4.3** It is, however, not possible to assess the full impact that construction would have upon the archaeology of areas affected by route options A, B and C with the evidence presently to hand. The limitations on the gathering of evidence (3.3 above) are such that it is uncertain whether the full range of archaeological sites and monuments present within the areas affected by the route options have been detected. Whilst the distribution of sites identified during this survey appears limited, the undisturbed nature of the grassland which has covered the majority of the land in recent years (fig 2) has given little opportunity to observe archaeological deposits of any date. It is, therefore, not possible at this stage to recommend amelioration of the impact of construction by identifying any route option in preference to another.

## **5 Recommendations for further work**

**5.1** This survey represents a preliminary assessment of the archaeological implications of road construction in the three potential route corridors. In order to make a full assessment of the implications of construction, to record any archaeological evidence which will be destroyed by construction, and to bring the results to publication, the following four further stages of work can be defined.

### **5.2 Stage 2: completion of the assessment**

To complete the assessment begun in Stage 1, a second stage of work is recommended to provide a detailed study of the areas to be affected by construction, to prospect for, and to evaluate in detail, all significant archaeological sites. A range of prospection methods could be utilised, including aerial reconnaissance, geophysical survey, artifact retrieval by field walking, and trial excavations (see Section 8 below). The Stage 2 programme of work should attempt to locate and evaluate the full range of archaeological features within the affected area, to determine their extent, date, and level of preservation. On this evidence, informed decisions could then be made regarding preservation of the archaeological resource should the quality of deposits merit this, or for appropriate levels of recording which would need to be undertaken at any site affected by construction. Within this stage of work, it is recommended that any ground investigations undertaken in advance of the proposed development should be observed.

### **5.3 Recording in advance of construction**

Using the Stage 1 and Stage 2 assessments, suitable project designs should be drawn up for individual sites affected by construction which do not merit preservation, and an appropriate level of recording undertaken at each. This would consist of partial, or full, survey and excavation. Recording could take place in advance of, or could be phased within, the construction process.

**5.4** It is recommended that Stages 2 and 3 are undertaken well in advance of construction, to allow detailed project designs for both phases of work to be drawn up and implemented. Additionally, the work would need to be integrated into the farming cycle, as some operations (such as fieldwalking over newly-ploughed fields) would be dependent on this.

### **5.5 Stage 4: Observation and recording during construction**

All ground disturbance during development should be observed to record information concerning sites and monuments not selected for excavation during Stage 3, and to record evidence not predicted during Stages 1, 2 and 3.

#### **5.6 Stage 5: Post-excavation archive preparation, analysis, and publication**

To complete Stages 1-4, it would be necessary to prepare an archive of the field data, to analyze this data, and to publish the results of this analysis.

## **6 Gazetteers**

**6.1** The following gazetteers list in brief the sites and monuments within, and in the landscape surrounding, the three route options of the proposed A46 Shurdington Bypass by order of Gloucestershire Sites and Monuments Record number, located by National Grid reference.

A gazetteer of Listed Buildings in the landscape surrounding the route options concludes the gazetteers.

### **6.2 Gazetteer of sites and monuments transected by route options A, B and C**

**Glos 3799**

**SO 916176**

#### **Prehistoric beaker**

A base-sherd from a prehistoric pottery beaker was found during quarrying in 1935 (Clifford 1938, 260) within OS land parcel no. 7159. The sherd, dating from around the turn of the 2nd millennium BC, may denote an area of occupation, but similar finds are frequently associated with interment. The present location of the pottery is uncertain.

**Glos 6850**

**SO 916176**

#### **Roman coin**

A Roman coin dating to the first century AD was found during quarrying within OS land parcel no. 7159 in 1959: the find is now in Cheltenham Museum.

**Glos 6856**

**SO 92371826**

#### **Roman pottery scatter**

A dense scatter of Romano-British pottery has been located within OS parcel no. 4235 (Saville 1980, 18: site no 567). The scatter may indicate the presence of an area of occupation. The finds are now in Cheltenham Museum.

**Glos 8522**

**SO 908172**

#### **Fieldname 'Stanish'**

The Badgeworth and Shurdington Tithe map and apportionment of 1838 (Glos RO P31 SD2/1, 2: plots 374 and 375) records that two fields now contained within OS land parcel no. 7620 were allotments from a large, pre-enclosure, field called 'Stanish'. The name may be interpreted as deriving from 'stoney', perhaps indicating the former existence of a masonry structure in the vicinity.

Glos 13966

SO 921190

**Fieldnames 'Berry Mead' and 'Berry Piece'**

The field names 'Berry Mead' and 'Berry Piece' are recorded on the Badgeworth and Shurdington Tithe map and apportionment of 1838 (Glos RO P31 SD2/1,2: plots 1045 and 1046 respectively). The names relate to the modern OS land parcel no.s 0004 and 0001. The 'berry' element of the place name could derive from the Old English beorh, which can describe a either a natural mound, such as a hill, or alternatively an artificial mound, such as a barrow: many such examples of the latter meaning in Gloucestershire have been cited (O'Neil and Grinsell 1960, 39-45). Another possible derivation is from the Old English burgh 'fortified place'. The significance of the 'berry' element attested by the Tithe evidence is uncertain, but the place names may indicate the possibility that an earthwork of some description was once present.

**6.3 Sites and monuments in the landscape surrounding route options A, B and C**

Glos 4234

SO 91061678

**Moat and fishpond, Bentham Manor**

Earthworks situated north and east of Bentham Manor indicate the presence of a medieval moated site and an associated fishpond. The features are plotted on recent OS 1:2500 scale maps. Only the northern portion of the moat is visible, the remainder having been obscured by the present Manor. The features were first described by Cardew (1898, 65).

Glos 4432

SO 906167

**Cropmarks**

Aerial photographs dating to 1982 record the presence of cropmarks of uncertain significance within OS parcel no. 6676. Gravel extraction took place within this field during the 1960s, and it can be assumed that the cropmarks are associated with variations in composition of the material used to landfill the site. No significant archaeological deposits would, therefore, appear to be present at this location.

Glos 4705

SO 9155178

**Moated site**

Moated site documented on the Badgeworth and Shurdington Tithe map and apportionment of 1838 (Glos RO P31 SD2/1,2). The feature is no longer visible on the surface. The moat can be interpreted as an area of settlement dating to the medieval period.



**Glos 6384**

**SO 912167**

**Roman coin**

A find of a coin dating to the later Roman period is recorded by Gloucester Museum: the exact location of the find and the circumstances of the discovery are uncertain, and its significance is unknown.

**Glos 6854**

**SO 914189**

**Cropmark**

An oval cropmark recorded on aerial photographs dating to 1959 (RAF/1959:6/58-2958-721-0109). The significance of the feature is uncertain, although similar cropmarks are interpreted as settlement enclosures of prehistoric or Romano-British date.

**Glos 7581**

**SO 91601806**

**Cropmark**

A cropmark, possibly indicating the presence of an enclosure is visible on a vertical aerial photograph dating to 1947 (RAF 1947, scale 1:10000). The significance of the feature is uncertain.

**Glos 7655**

**SO 92101767**

**Fishpond**

Fishpond documented on the Badgeworth and Shurdington Tithe map and apportionment of 1838 (Glos RO P38 SD2/1, 2). A pond is documented at the same location on recent OS maps.

## **6.4 Listed buildings in the landscape surrounding the area of search**

### **Badgeworth**

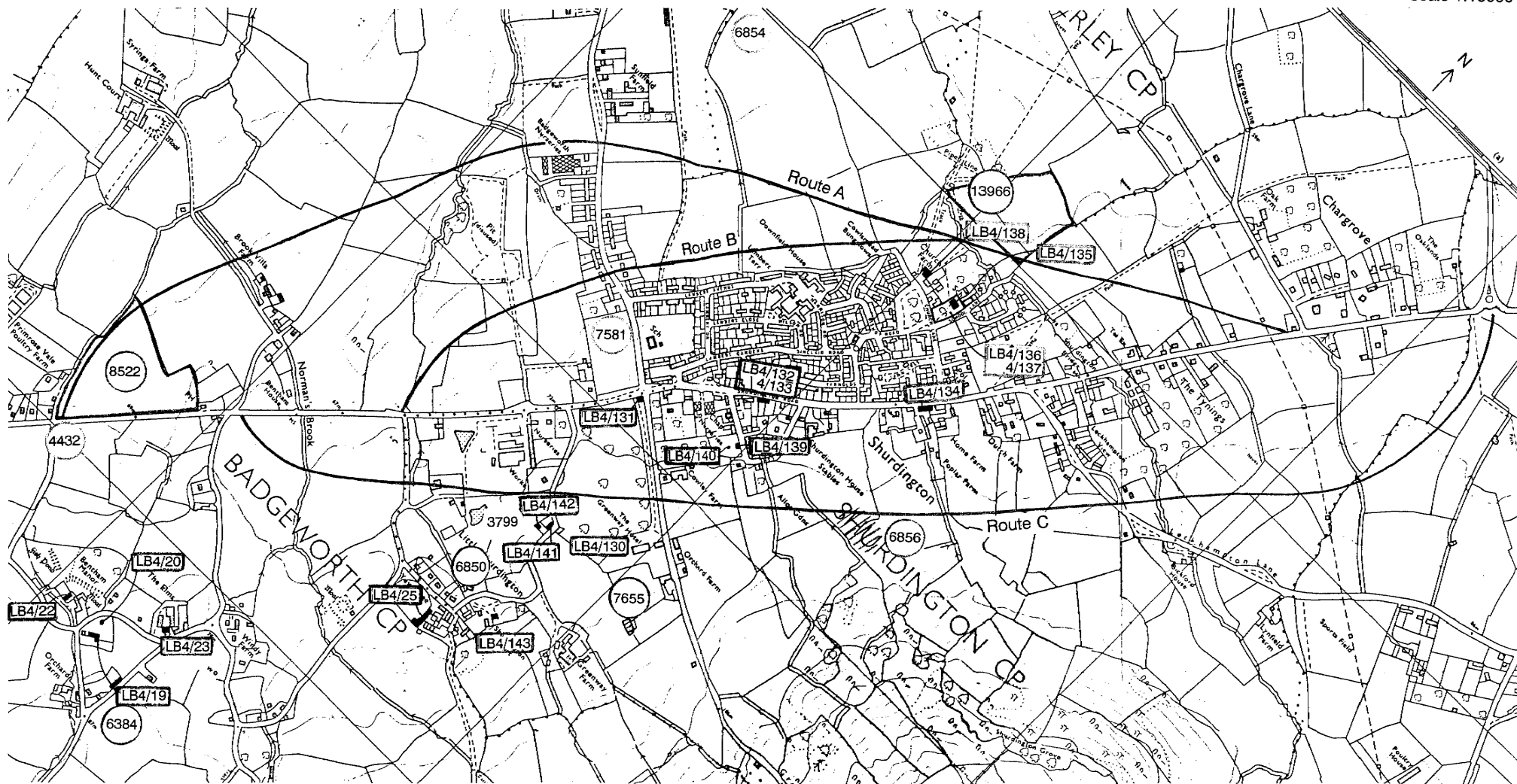
4/19	Grade II	Bridge House, Bentham
4/20	Grade II*	Dovecote at Bridge House
4/22	Grade II	Bentham Manor
4/23	Grade II	The Elms, Bentham
4/25	Grade II	Yew Tree Farmhouse, Little Shurdington

### **Shurdington**

4/130	Grade II	The Greenway Hotel
4/131	Grade II	Lodge to Greenway Hotel
4/132	Grade II	Linden Cottage
4/133	Grade II	Queenshill
4/134	Grade II	Poplar Farmhouse
4/135	Grade II*	St Paul's church
4/136	Grade II	Group of four monuments, St Paul's churchyard
4/137	Grade II	Ellyates monument
4/138	Grade II	Church Farmhouse
4/139	Grade II	The Manor House
4/140	Grade II	Cider House
4/141	Grade II	Oak View
4/142	Grade II	Rose Cottage
4/143	Grade II	Shurdington Court

## Sites & Monuments

scale 1:10000



### Key

## Prehistoric

 Crop marks

☐ Roman

○ Fieldname

☐ Medieval

☐ Listed buildings

Fig 3

## 7 List of unpublished sources and bibliography

### 7.1 List of unpublished sources

The sources listed below are curated by Gloucestershire Record Office. The references quoted below should be prefixed Glos RO.

Leckhampton	1778	Enclosure map	P198a SD1/1, 2
Badgeworth & Shurdington	1837	Parish map	D1388
Badgeworth & Shurdington	1838	Tithe map and apport.	P31 SD2/1, 2
Badgeworth & Shurdington	1846	Enclosure map	P31 SD1/1

### 7.2 Bibliography

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Cardew, G.A.	1898	The moats or waterfronts of the Vale of the Severn <u>TBGAS</u> 21, 58-69
Champion, S.T.	1976	Leckhampton Hill, Gloucestershire, 1925 and 1970. In D.W. Harding (ed), <u>Hillforts: later prehistoric earthworks in Britain and Ireland, 177-90</u> and 430-35. London
Clifford, E.M.	1938	The beaker phase in Cotswold. <u>PCNFC</u> 26(3), 256-64
Clifford, E.M.	1961	The Hucclecote Roman villa. <u>TBGAS</u> 80, 42-6
Darvill, T. & Grinsell, L.	1989	Gloucestershire barrows: supplement 1961-88. <u>TBGAS</u> 107, 39-106
Dixon, P.W.	1976	Crickley Hill, 1969-72. In D.W. Harding (ed), <u>Hillforts: later prehistoric earthworks of Britain and Ireland, 161-75, 424-29, 507-8.</u> London

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#### Ordnance Survey Maps

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- OS 1887 Scale 1:10560, Sheet 26 SE
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Scale 1:50000, Sheet 234, Gloucester
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Gloucestershire County Council typescript report
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## 8 Appendix

### Stages of archaeological assessment, recording, and analysis of results for construction schemes

The following procedure is followed by the Archaeology Section of Gloucestershire County Planning Department to assess the archaeological implications of construction in order to secure the preservation or recording of significant archaeological deposits, as appropriate. Five stages of assessment, recording and analysis can be defined.

#### Stage 1 Preliminary assessment

During this stage the objective is to identify sites and areas of archaeological interest to enable a preliminary assessment of the impact of the proposed construction. The assessment is effected using documentary information from: Gloucestershire County Sites and Monuments Record; Gloucestershire Record Office; Gloucester Library (Local History Collection); aerial photographic libraries, and published archaeological literature. This evidence is considered together with the information gathered during a field visit to the area of proposed construction.

#### Stage 2 Detailed assessment

To complete the assessment made in stage 1, a second stage using more intensive methods of survey is usually necessary to evaluate the significance of the archaeological evidence identified during Stage 1, and to prospect for new sites. This programme of work should attempt to locate and evaluate the full range of archaeological deposits within the area of proposed construction, to determine the extent, nature, and degree of preservation. A range of prospection and sampling methods can be utilised to bring the Stage 2 assessment to a satisfactory conclusion;

- fieldwalking can predict the existence of archaeological sites not visible on the ground surface as surface scatters of artifacts. Fieldwalking is most effective in areas of arable, where it is best undertaken between ploughing and replanting
- geophysical survey can detect certain types of below ground features. This technique can be used at any time of year, except when a crop may be vulnerable to damage
- aerial survey can detect sites from the air in late summer (for buried sites under arable crops) or winter (for earthwork sites revealed by low winter sun or frost/snow cover)
- small scale excavation can test the results of the above survey methods, to establish the character and level of preservation of archaeological deposits

The report on the results of the Stage 2 assessment might include recommendations for the preservation of individual sites or landscapes, and recommendations for an appropriate level of recording to be undertaken at those sites not selected for preservation.

### **Stage 3 Archaeological recording in advance of construction**

Using the evidence of the Stage 1 and Stage 2 assessments, levels of recording for significant sites not selected for preservation can be determined. This would consist of partial or full survey and excavation, undertaken in advance of, or phased within, a construction programme.

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### **Stage 4 Observation**

Observation of earthmoving associated with construction is undertaken, to enable a record to be made of any significant evidence not predicted by previous stages of work.

### **Stage 5 Archive preparation and publication**

To complete Stages 1-4, analysis of the results of all preceding stages is undertaken. This entails preparing an archive of the information gathered, analysis of the archive, and publication of significant results. The programme of work is completed with the deposition of the entire archive, both paper records and artifacts, in an appropriate museum.



## **9 Abbreviations; acknowledgements**

### **9.1 Abbreviations**

AOD	Above Ordnance datum
Apport	Apportionment
CRAAGS	Committee for Rescue Archaeology in Avon, Gloucestershire and Somerset
Glos	Gloucestershire Sites and Monuments Record
Glos RO	Gloucestershire Record Office
km	kilometre
m	mile
NMR	National Monuments Record Royal Commission on Historical Monuments (England)
OS	Ordnance Survey
PCNFC	Proceedings of the Cotteswold Naturalists' Field Club
RAF	Royal Air Force
RCHM(E)	Royal Commission on Historical Monuments (England)
TBGAS	Transactions of the Bristol and Gloucestershire Archaeological Society

### **9.2 Acknowledgements**

Thanks are due to: Gloucestershire County Council's Archaeology Section for access to the County Sites and Monuments Record; Gloucestershire Record Office for access to unpublished documents; Gloucestershire County Planning Department and RCHM(E) for access to aerial photographs.

**A46 Shurdington Bypass: stage 1 archaeological assessment  
Amended Route A and Route D**

**Addition to report issued September 1992**

**1 Introduction**

1.1 In September 1992 a Stage 1 archaeological assessment of route alternatives A, B and C of the proposed A46 Shurdington Bypass was undertaken by Gloucestershire County Council's Archaeology Section for Gloucestershire Design. Subsequently, additional information relating to two further route alternatives (an amendment to Route A and a new route, Route D) has been requested by Gloucestershire Design.

1.2 The two routes in question are shown on the attached plans supplied by Gloucestershire Design, which have been annotated with relevant information. The majority of land parcels transected by the new route alternatives were studied in the assessment of Routes A, B and C; only two new land parcels are involved for the amendment to Route A, and approximately seven new land parcels are involved for Route D.

1.3 This report presents the information relating to the land parcels not studied previously, illustrated by the following figures:

- **Figure 1: Ridge and Furrow.** The plot shows ridge and furrow within the land parcels not previously examined, and supplements the distribution shown on Fig 2 of the report issued in 1992; Sections 3.2, 3.3.1 and 4.4.2 of the 1992 report discuss the significance of the ridge and furrow, and the archaeological implications of its presence.

- **Figure 2: Land Use 1993.** The plot shows the present land use within the land parcels not previously examined, and supplements the distribution of land use shown on Fig 2 of the report issued in 1992; Section 3 of the 1992 report discusses the implications of present land use for the Stage 1 archaeological assessment.

- **Figure 3: Sites and Monuments.** The plot shows Sites and Monuments affected by the amended Route A and Route D, and in the adjacent landscape. Some of these are also shown on Fig 3 of the report issued in 1992.

1.4 A gazetteer of the Sites and Monuments shown on Figure 3 accompanies this report. The gazetteer duplicates some entries contained in Section 6 of the report issued in September 1992, where these are also affected by the new route alternatives. Below is a brief discussion of the archaeology relating to the amended Route A and Route D, which should be added to Section 4.2 of the 1992 report.

1.5 Recommendations for further archaeological work contained in the report issued in September 1992 (Section 5) also apply to amended Route A and Route D.

## **2 The archaeology transected by amended Route A and Route D**

### **2.1 Amended Route A**

To the south, the amended Route A transects a large field which is archaeologically sterile, having been quarried for gravel during the 1960s (Glos 4432): cropmarks seen subsequently in the area (Glos 11102) relate to more recent drainage installed after the area was restored. On the north side of the present A46 road, a field name 'Stanish' may indicate the presence of a former structure (Glos 8522).

### **2.2 Route D**

Route D transects one area of potential interest, where the fieldnames 'Berry Piece' and 'Berry Mead' (Glos 13966) might indicate the former presence of an earthwork. The route also transects a modern pipeline (Glos 15092) of no archaeological interest.

### **2.3 Archaeology in the adjacent landscape**

In the landscape adjacent to the central portion of Route D, a cropmark site (Glos 6854) may indicate the presence of late prehistoric or Romano-British occupation, and a ruined brick structure (Glos 15091) of modern date is also present.

### **2.4 Scheduled Ancient Monuments and Listed Buildings**

No Scheduled Ancient Monuments or Listed Buildings lie within the areas affected by amended Route A or Route D. Listed Buildings within the vicinity of Routes A-D of the proposed A46 Shurdington Bypass are shown on Fig 3 of the report issued in 1992.

### 3 Gazetteers

#### 3.1 Gazetteer of sites and monuments transected by amended Route A and Route D

Glos 4432

SO 90701680

##### Quarry

Quarrying of OS land parcel no. 6676 for sand and gravel took place during the 1960s (inf. ex. Minerals Officer, Gloucestershire County Planning Department). The land can be presumed to be archaeologically sterile.

Glos 8522

SO 908172

##### Fieldname 'Stanish'

The Badgeworth and Shurdington Tithe map and apportionment of 1838 (Glos RO P31 SD2/1, 2: plots 374 and 375) records that two fields now contained within OS land parcel no. 7620 were allotments from a large, pre-enclosure, field called 'Stanish'. The name may be interpreted as deriving from 'stoney', perhaps indicating the former existence of a masonry structure in the vicinity.

Glos 11102

SO 90701680

##### Cropmarks

Linear, parallel cropmarks interpretable as drainage features are visible within OS land parcel no. 6676 on an aerial photograph dating to 1983 (NMR SO 9016\2). The cropmarks post-date restoration of an area quarried during the 1960s (see Glos 4432 above) and probably represent a drainage system installed since then.

Glos 13966

SO 921190

##### Fieldnames 'Berry Mead' and 'Berry Piece'

The field names 'Berry Mead' and 'Berry Piece' are recorded on the Badgeworth and Shurdington Tithe map and apportionment of 1838 (Glos RO P31 SD2/1,2: plots 1045 and 1046 respectively). The names relate to the modern OS land parcel no.s 0004 and 0001. The 'berry' element of the place name could derive from the Old English beorh, which can describe either a natural mound, such as a hill, or alternatively an artificial mound, such as a barrow: many such examples of the latter meaning in Gloucestershire have been cited (O'Neil and Grinsell 1960, 39-45). Another possible derivation is from the Old English burgh 'fortified place'. The significance of the 'berry' element attested by the Tithe evidence is uncertain, but the place names may indicate that an earthwork was once present.

**Glos 15092**

**SO 9182219063 - SO 9193919095**

**Pipeline**

A length of modern pipeline aligned approximately east - west within OS land parcel no.s 8300 and 9008. The pipeline is visible as a surface feature where it runs across a low-lying area, being supported on brick pillars. The pipeline was not present when the OS map of 1923 was compiled: it was documented on a vertical aerial photograph taken by the RAF in 1949, a copy of which is held by Gloucestershire County Council's Planning Department (1:10000 scale view of SO 91 NW).

**3.2 Sites and monuments in the landscape adjacent to amended Route A and Route D**

**Glos 6854**

**SO 914189**

**Cropmark**

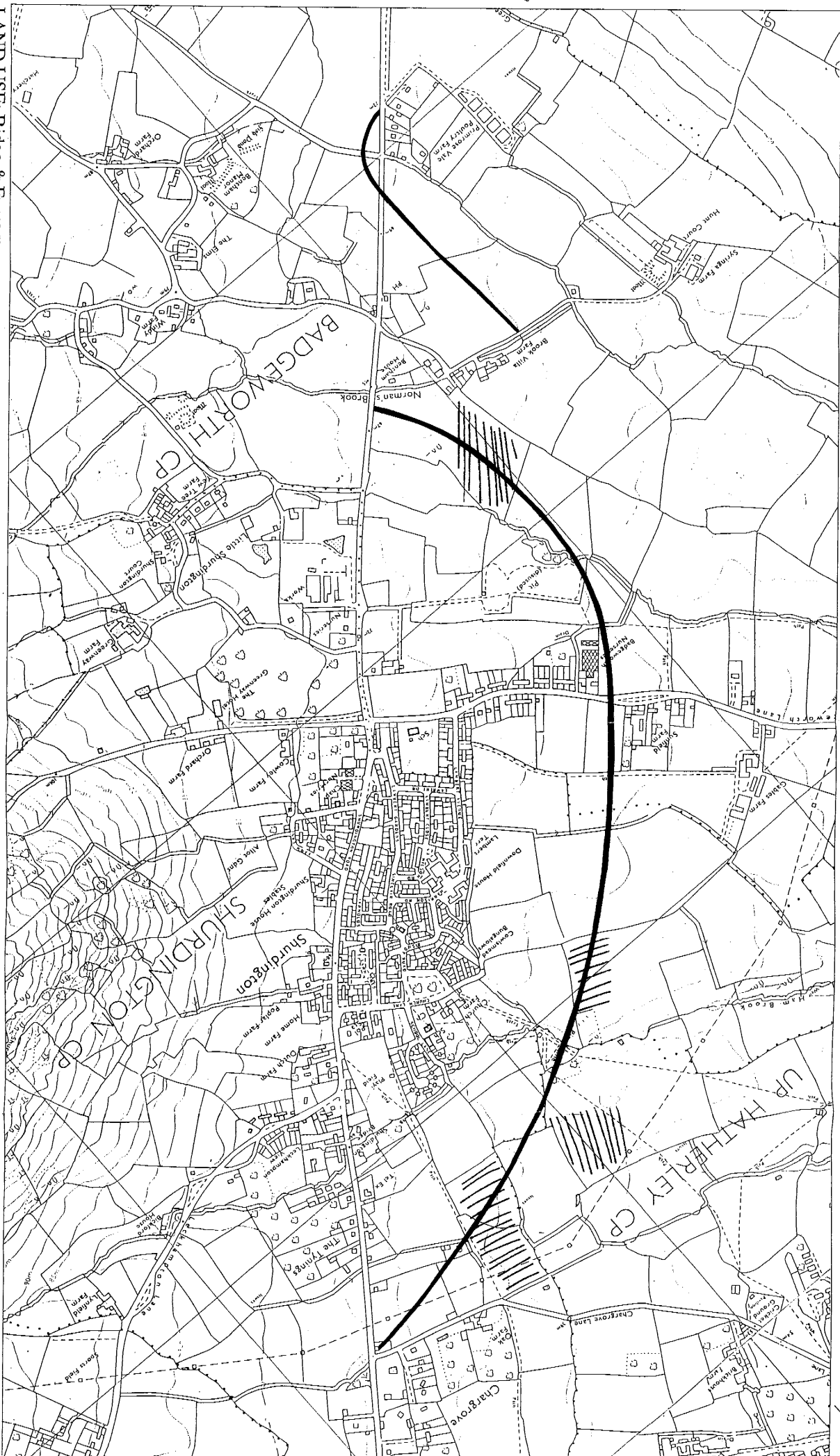
An oval cropmark recorded on aerial photographs dating to 1959 (RAF/1959:6/58-2958-721-0109). The significance of the feature is uncertain, although similar cropmarks are interpreted as settlement enclosures of prehistoric or Romano-British date.

**Glos 15091**

**SO 9175419069**

**Structure**

A brick-built structure located in the south-western corner of OS land parcel no. 7909. The structure does not appear on the OS map of 1923; its function, and its precise date of construction, are uncertain. When visited in 1993 the structure was roofless and in a ruinous condition.



LAND USE: Ridge & Furrow

(within land parcels not previously examined)

Route alternative D

Amended route A

FIGURE 1

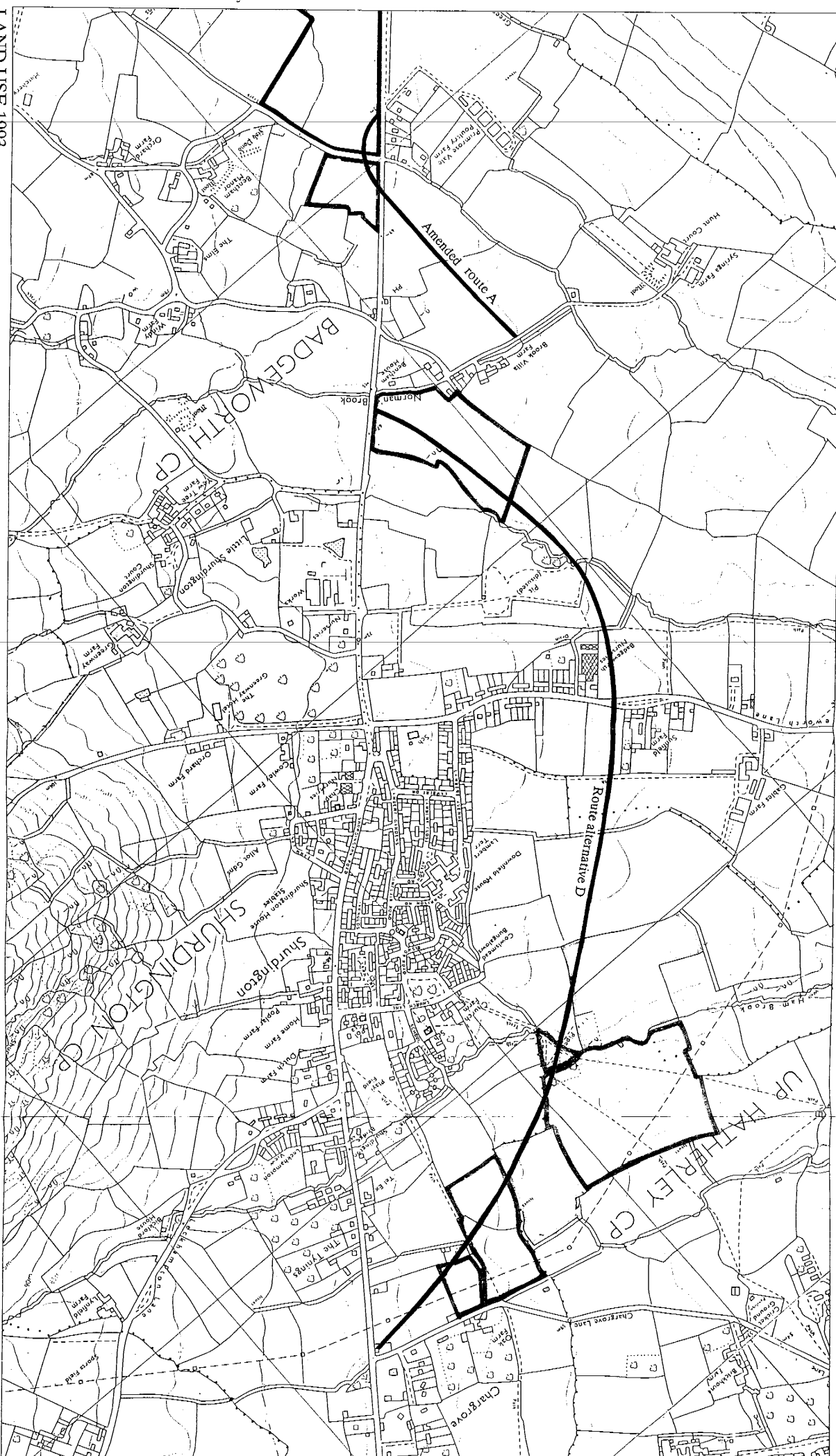


FIGURE 2

