

Childswickham Trunk Mains Renewal,
Wickhamford, Worcestershire

Archaeological Watching Brief





**CHILDSWICKHAM TRUNK MAINS RENEWAL,
WICKHAMFORD, WORCESTERSHIRE**

Archaeological Watching Brief

Prepared for:
Morgan Sindall on behalf of
Severn Trent Water

by
Wessex Archaeology
Unit R6 Riverside Block
Sheaf Bank Business Park
Prospect Road
Sheffield
S2 3EN

Report reference: 75941.03

February 2011

DISCLAIMER

THE MATERIAL CONTAINED IN THIS REPORT WAS DESIGNED AS AN INTEGRAL PART OF A REPORT TO AN INDIVIDUAL CLIENT AND WAS PREPARED SOLELY FOR THE BENEFIT OF THAT CLIENT. THE MATERIAL CONTAINED IN THIS REPORT DOES NOT NECESSARILY STAND ON ITS OWN AND IS NOT INTENDED TO NOR SHOULD IT BE RELIED UPON BY ANY THIRD PARTY. TO THE FULLEST EXTENT PERMITTED BY LAW WESSEX ARCHAEOLOGY WILL NOT BE LIABLE BY REASON OF BREACH OF CONTRACT NEGLIGENCE OR OTHERWISE FOR ANY LOSS OR DAMAGE (WHETHER DIRECT INDIRECT OR CONSEQUENTIAL) OCCASIONED TO ANY PERSON ACTING OR OMITTING TO ACT OR REFRAINING FROM ACTING IN RELIANCE UPON THE MATERIAL CONTAINED IN THIS REPORT ARISING FROM OR CONNECTED WITH ANY ERROR OR OMISSION IN THE MATERIAL CONTAINED IN THE REPORT. LOSS OR DAMAGE AS REFERRED TO ABOVE SHALL BE DEEMED TO INCLUDE, BUT IS NOT LIMITED TO, ANY LOSS OF PROFITS OR ANTICIPATED PROFITS DAMAGE TO REPUTATION OR GOODWILL LOSS OF BUSINESS OR ANTICIPATED BUSINESS DAMAGES COSTS EXPENSES INCURRED OR PAYABLE TO ANY THIRD PARTY (IN ALL CASES WHETHER DIRECT INDIRECT OR CONSEQUENTIAL) OR ANY OTHER DIRECT INDIRECT OR CONSEQUENTIAL LOSS OR DAMAGE

QUALITY ASSURANCE

SITE CODE	75941	ACCESSION CODE		CLIENT CODE	N/A
PLANNING APPLICATION REF.	N/A	NGR	SP 06563 41362		

VERSION	STATUS*	PREPARED BY	APPROVED BY	APPROVER'S SIGNATURE	DATE	FILE
1	F	CH/GC	RO'N	<i>RICHARD O NEILL</i>	17-02-11	S:\SEVERN TRENT WATER PROJECTS\75941 (CHILDSWICKHAM, WORCS)\REPORTS\75941.03 WB.DOC

I= INTERNAL DRAFT E= EXTERNAL DRAFT F= FINAL

**CHILDSWICKHAM TRUNK MAINS RENEWAL, WICKHAMFORD,
WORCESTERSHIRE**

Archaeological Watching Brief

Contents

Summary.....	iv
Acknowledgements.....	v
1 INTRODUCTION.....	1
1.1 Project Background.....	1
1.2 The Site, Location and Geology.....	1
2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND.....	1
2.1 Chronology.....	1
3 METHODOLOGY.....	3
3.1 Aims and Scope.....	3
3.2 Watching Brief.....	3
3.3 Best Practice.....	3
4 RESULTS.....	4
4.1 Introduction.....	4
4.2 Stratigraphic Sequence.....	4
4.3 Archaeological Features.....	4
4.4 Finds.....	4
5 DISCUSSION.....	4
6 ARCHIVE.....	4
6.1 Location and Deposition.....	4
6.2 Copyright.....	5
7 REFERENCES.....	6
7.1 Bibliography.....	6
7.2 Cartographic.....	6
APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT DESCRIPTION.....	7
A44 VERGE TRENCH.....	7
PIT 1	
PIT 2	
PIT 3	
APPENDIX 2: ARCHIVE INDEX.....	8

Figures

Figure 1: Site location and watching brief area

Plates

Plate 1: Representative section of verge excavations

Plate 2: Representative section of drive and reception pit excavations

CHILDSWICKHAM TRUNK MAINS RENEWAL, WICKHAMFORD, WORCESTERSHIRE

Archaeological Watching Brief

Summary

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Morgan Sindall on behalf of Severn Trent Water (hereafter 'the Client') to undertake an archaeological watching brief to mitigate against the potential loss of archaeological remains during the renewal of a pipeline at Wickhamford, Worcestershire (hereafter 'the Scheme') (**Figure 1**).

The Site is located to the southwest of the village of Wickhamford, Worcestershire. Works were undertaken within the northern verge of the A44 (Pitchers Hill) and in a field adjacent to the A44. Previous archaeological work has identified a possible Romano-British settlement within the fields north and south of the development. Wickhamford is also known to have been in existence during the Medieval period. Within the surrounding landscape of the Scheme are the remnants of Medieval - Post-medieval strip fields. These are in the form of fossilised field boundaries as well as ridge and furrow earthworks.

The watching brief was undertaken between the 17th January and the 2nd of February 2011 and comprised of the monitoring of the removal of topsoil and subsoil. No features of archaeological interest were encountered within the monitored area and no artefacts were recovered. Slight variations on the subsoil within the field may be attributable to past ploughing, although the size of the drive and reception pits were not large enough to explore this interpretation fully.

No archaeology was uncovered, however this is most likely the result of the small scale of excavations rather than an absence of archaeological activity. The surrounding area is known to be a rich resource of heritage assets and any future development should take this in to account. No further work is recommended in respect of this development.

The project archive is currently held at the offices of Wessex Archaeology in Sheffield, under the project code 75941 and will be deposited in due course with the relevant repository museum.

**CHILDSWICKHAM TRUNK MAINS RENEWAL, WICKHAMFORD,
WORCESTERSHIRE**

Archaeological Watching Brief

Acknowledgements

This project was commissioned by Morgan Sindall on behalf of Severn Trent Water. Wessex Archaeology would like to thank Mike Glyde, Historic Environment Planning Officer of Worcestershire County Council, for his help and guidance during the project.

This report was researched and compiled by Chris Harrison and Grace Corbett, the fieldwork was undertaken by Chris Swales, Mike Hartwell and Rob Barnett. The illustrations were prepared by Chris Breeden. The project was managed for Wessex Archaeology by Richard O'Neill.

CHILDSWICKHAM TRUNK MAINS RENEWAL, WICKHAMFORD, WORCESTERSHIRE

Archaeological Watching Brief

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project Background

- 1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Morgan Sindall on behalf of Severn Trent Water to undertake an archaeological watching brief during the renewal of a water mains pipeline at Wickhamford, Worcestershire (hereafter 'The Site').
- 1.1.2 The monitoring was required after Worcestershire County Council (WCC) had presented 'Requirements for a Programme of Archaeological Work at Wickhamford, Worcestershire' (WCC 2008) and was undertaken in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation prepared by Wessex Archaeology (2010) and submitted to Mike Glyde, Worcestershire County Council Historic Environment Planning Officer.
- 1.1.3 The watching brief was undertaken between the 17th of January and the 2nd of February 2011 and involved monitoring the removal of topsoil and subsoil within the route of the pipeline.

1.2 The Site, Location and Geology

- 1.2.1 The proposed area of works is located to the southwest of the village of Wickhamford, Worcestershire adjacent to the north edge of the A44 (**Figure 1**).
- 1.2.2 The underlying geology varies between Blue Lias and Charmouth Mudstone bedrock to alluvial clay silts sands and gravels (BGS 1974: sheet 200).
- 1.2.3 At the time of fieldwork the Site was in use as pasture fields.

2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Chronology

- 2.1.1 The following archaeological and historical background is summarised from the WSI (Wessex Archaeology 2010).
- 2.1.2 The archaeological periods mentioned in the text are broadly defined by the following date ranges:
- Modern 1900-present
 - Nineteenth century 1800-1900
 - Post-medieval 1500-1799
 - Medieval AD 1066-1499
 - Saxon AD 410-1066
 - Post-Roman AD410-650
 - Romano-British AD 43-410

- Iron Age 700 BC- AD 43
 - Bronze Age 2400-700 BC
 - Neolithic 4000-2400 BC
 - Mesolithic 8500-4000 BC
 - Palaeolithic 500000-10000 BP
- 2.1.3 A Neolithic polished stone axe was uncovered during the creation of a garden at 'The Cottage' Wickhamford. Field walking and archaeological excavation within the vicinity of the pipeline has produced isolated prehistoric flints of varying dates. Aerial photographs suggest possible later prehistoric field systems within fields to the south of the pipeline.
- 2.1.4 Surface artefact scatters, excavation and geophysical survey suggest an extensive Romano-British settlement site extending along the line of Badsey Brook. The Scheme appears to avoid the densest area of activity as revealed by geophysics, but is close to where Roman building material has been recorded.
- 2.1.5 An alleged Roman Road is thought to run through the site, although it is likely to have been an 18th century turnpike.
- 2.1.6 Roman artefacts have been unearthed in the area to be disturbed during the Scheme. It is likely that the Scheme will in some way impact upon Roman Archaeology.
- 2.1.7 The settlement of Wickhamford is mentioned in the Domesday Book (Wiquene). The settlement belonged to the Abbey at Evesham which built a grange on land currently occupied by a 16th century Manor House.
- 2.1.8 The eastern end of the site of the site contains preserved medieval ridge and furrow, indicating that this area has not been disturbed by ploughing for centuries.
- 2.1.9 The church at Wickhamford, dedicated to St John the Baptist, was built in the 13th century. After Wickhamford Manor House was built by the Sandys the church was restored and elaborated. The church contains two alter tombs to the Sandys family who patronised much of the building work and restoration of the church throughout its history.
- 2.1.10 The Manor House has a half-timbered east front, with gables facing east at each end. No features appear to be older than the 16th century, though parts of the walls may be earlier. It stands on the site of a grange of the monastery of Evesham built in the early 13th century. A circular, rubble dovecote was erected circa 1220 by Abbot Randolph of Evesham followed by a large fishpond in the 14th century. Between the house and the church stood a 14th century stone barn, now destroyed.
- 2.1.11 The fishpond and dovecote are visible as extant features on aerial photographs, and have been recorded by EH's Gloucestershire NMP along with an adjacent formal sunken garden and terraces of a garden.
- 2.1.12 Within the surrounding landscape of the Scheme are the remnants of Medieval-Post Medieval strip fields. These are in the form of fossilised field

boundaries as well as ridge and furrow. By 1812 the land around Wickhamford was subject to the Badsley Inclosure Act which saw the last of the open field systems enclosed.

- 2.1.13 Within 2km of the Scheme is the crash site of a British World War II (WWII) Handley Page Hampden aeroplane. The aircraft crashed on 14th August 1941 and has been identified as AD935 of number 83 squadron. Other WWII moments located around the Scheme include sites of road blocks, guard posts and pillboxes. None are located within the extents of the current scheme.

3 METHODOLOGY

3.1 Aims and Scope

- 3.1.1 The principal aim of the watching brief was to identify and record any archaeological remains that were disturbed or destroyed during groundworks.

- 3.1.2 The specific aims of the project were:

- To accurately record the location and stratigraphy of excavated areas;
- to investigate the possible Romano-British settlement situated within and around the development area
- To record all archaeological remains disturbed by the groundworks;
- To determine the extent, condition, character, importance and date of any archaeological deposits encountered;
- To provide information that will enable the archaeological remains to be placed with their local, regional and national contexts;
- To recover artefacts disturbed by the site works;
- To produce an accurate and comprehensive record and report of any archaeological deposits disturbed by the site works.

3.2 Watching Brief

- 3.2.1 The excavations can be split into two areas: excavations within the verge of the A44 and excavation of drive and reception pits for directional drilling in a field north of the A44.

- 3.2.2 The watching brief was undertaken by a suitably qualified member of Wessex Archaeology staff between the 17th of January and the 2nd of February 2011. Excavation of the ploughsoil was undertaken by a mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket and monitored by an archaeologist. All recording was undertaken using Wessex Archaeology's *pro forma* recording system, supported by a photographic record.

3.3 Best Practice

- 3.3.1 The watching brief was carried out in accordance with current industry best practice and national guidelines (IfA 2008; English Heritage 1991).

4 RESULTS

4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 The following section provides a summary of the information held in the site archive. Observed contexts are tabulated as **Appendix 1**.

4.2 Stratigraphic Sequence

The A44 Verge

4.2.1 The pipeline was stripped of tarmac or topsoil (**Plate 1**). This revealed grey silty clay subsoil above natural. No archaeological features were identified.

Field Drive and Reception Pits

4.2.2 Excavations in the fields north of the A44 removed topsoil to reveal yellowish-brown clay subsoil above the natural (**Plate 2**). In some parts the subsoil was slightly more stony (frequent small rounded stone fragments averaging 0.04m in diameter), probably representative of past ploughing. The scale of the excavations did not allow for these accumulations to be mapped or interpreted fully.

4.3 Archaeological Features

4.3.1 No archaeological features were encountered within the monitored area.

4.4 Finds

4.4.1 No finds were recovered from site.

5 DISCUSSION

5.1.1 No archaeological remains were identified during the watching brief. However, the Site does lie within an area with high archaeological potential and the negative results from this watching brief are likely to reflect the small scale nature of the works rather than an absence of archaeological activity in this part of Wickhamford.

5.1.2 Slight variations on the subsoil within the field may be attributable to past ploughing, although the size of the drive and reception pits were not large enough to explore this interpretation fully. It is possible that previous ploughing of the Site has removed evidence of historic activity in the area.

6 ARCHIVE

6.1 Location and Deposition

6.1.1 The project archive has been compiled into a stable, fully cross-referenced and indexed archive in accordance with Appendix 6 of *Management of*

Archaeological Projects (2nd Edition, English Heritage 1991) and *Archaeological archives – a guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation* (Brown 2007). The archive is currently held at the offices of Wessex Archaeology in Sheffield, under the project code **75941**. The full list of the contents of this archive is detailed in **Appendix 2** of this report. It is proposed that the archive will be deposited in due course with the repository museum.

6.2 Copyright

- 6.2.1 This report, and the archive generally, may contain material that is non-Wessex Archaeology copyright (e.g. Ordnance Survey, British Geological Survey, Crown Copyright), or the intellectual property of third parties, which we are able to provide for limited reproduction under the terms of our own copyright licences, but for which copyright itself is non-transferrable by Wessex Archaeology. Users remain bound by the conditions of the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 with regard to multiple copying and electronic dissemination of the report.

7 REFERENCES

7.1 Bibliography

Brown, D. H. 2007, *Archaeological Archives: A Guide to Best Practice in Creation, Compilation, Transfer and Curation*.

English Heritage 1991 *Management of Archaeological Projects*, (2nd ed.) London; English Heritage.

Institute for Archaeologists 2008 *Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief*

Wessex Archaeology 2010 *Childswickham Trunk Mains Renewal, Wickhamford, Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Watching Brief*. Unpublished Client Report 75940.01

Worcestershire County Council, 2008, *Requirements for a Programme of Archaeological Work at Wickhamford, Worcestershire*.

7.2 Cartographic

British Geological Survey (BGS) 1974: Sheet 200, Stratford upon Avon 1:50000 scale

APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT DESCRIPTION
A44 VERGE TRENCH

Context	Description	Interpretation
001	Dark greyish brown silty clay	Topsoil
002	Mid yellowish-brown silty clay with frequent various sized sandstones.	Subsoil
003	Yellowish brown clay	Natural
004	Tarmac	Road surface
005	Stony subsoil, similar to 002, possible evidence of ploughing	Subsoil
006	Silty blue clay	Natural
007	Stone crush levelling below 004	Levelling
008	Grey clay made ground for road/verge/path	Made ground/disturbance.

PIT 1

Context	Description	Interpretation
101	Mid brown silty clay	Topsoil
102	Light orangey-yellow silty clay with frequent various sized sandstones.	Subsoil
103	Yellowish grey clay	Natural

PIT 2

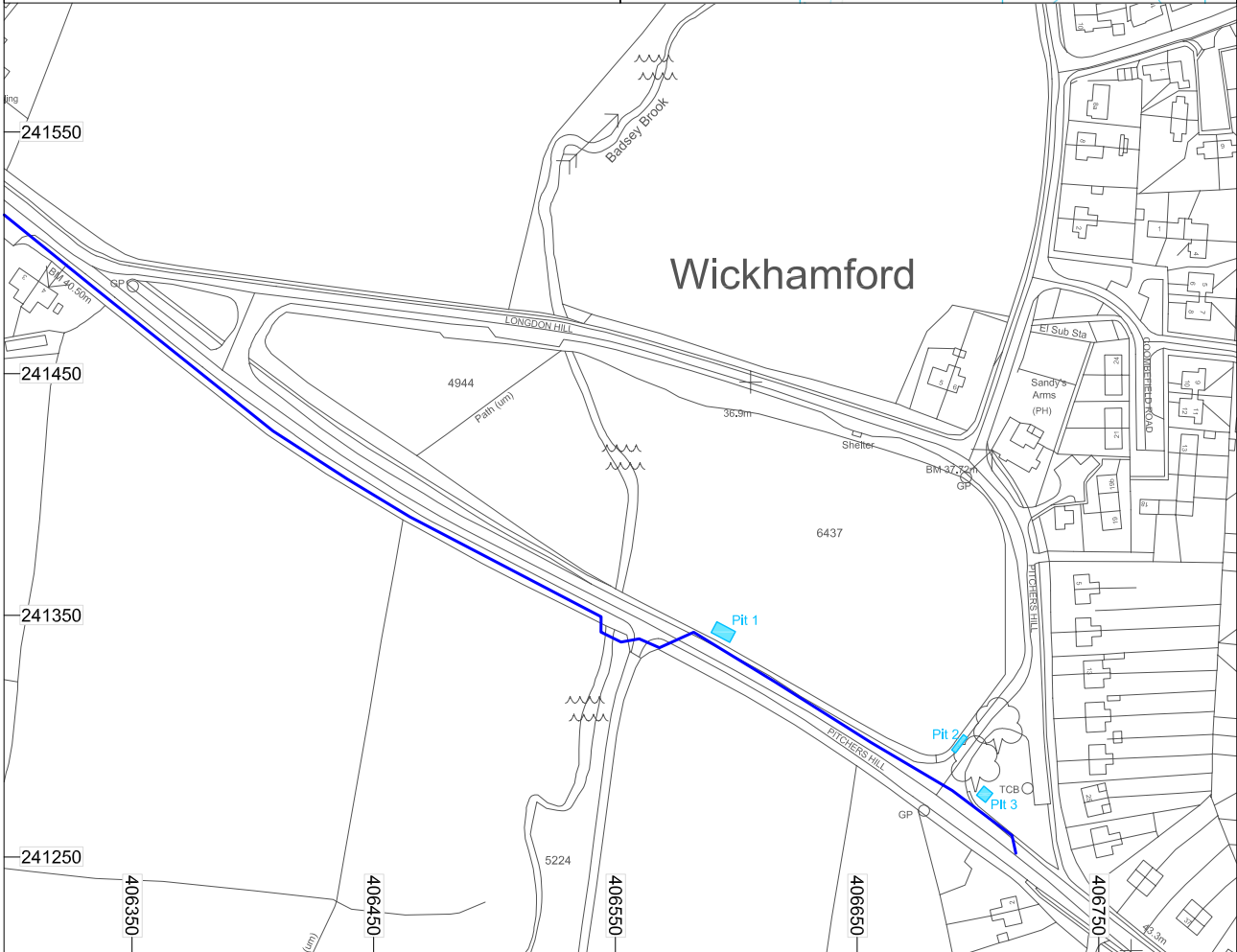
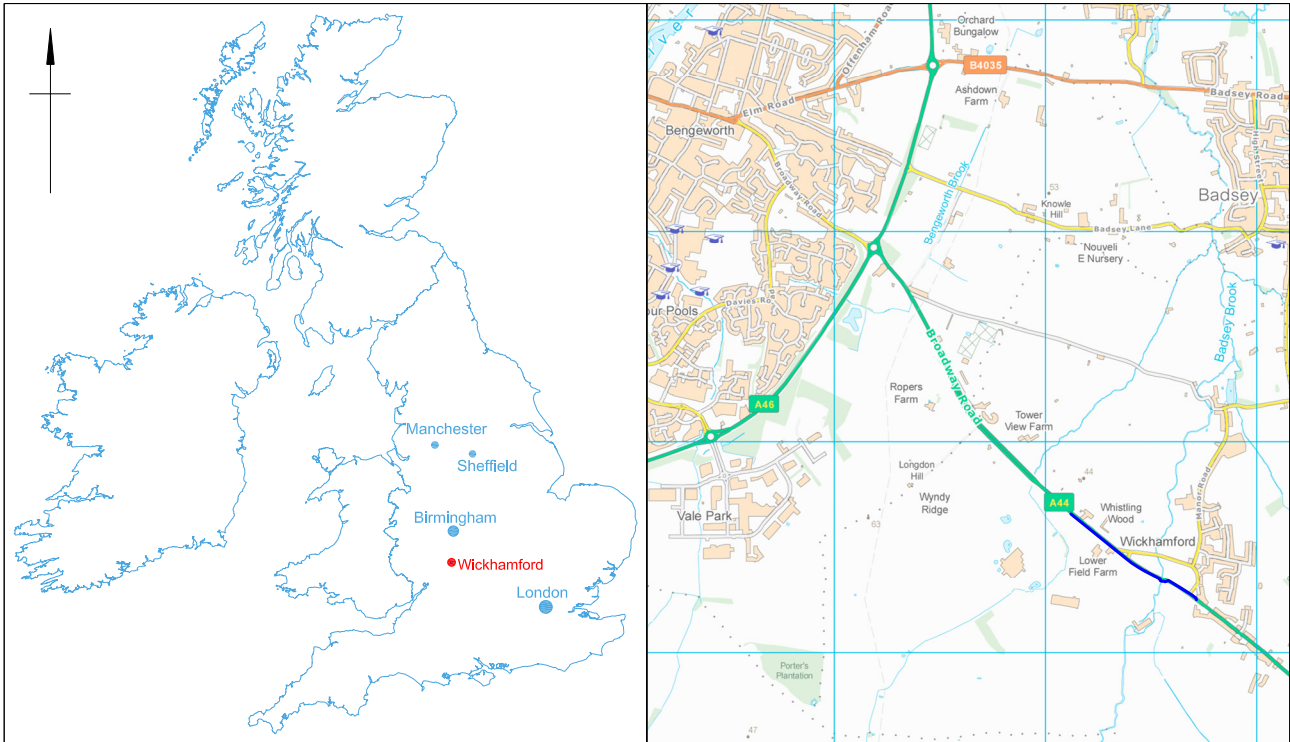
Context	Description	Interpretation
201	Dark greyish brown silty clay	Topsoil
202	Backfill	Redeposited natural
203	Stone hardcore	Stone hardcore

PIT 3

Context	Description	Interpretation
301	Dark greyish brown silty clay	Topsoil
302	Mid brown mottled clay	Subsoil
303	Orangey brown clay	Natural

APPENDIX 2: ARCHIVE INDEX

Paper archive			
Folder no.	Folder type	Item(s)	No.
1	A4 ring binder	Risk Assessment	1
		Day Register	1
		Day Book (copied A4 sheets)	2
		Test Pit/Trial Trench Record	4
		A4 Drawing	1
		Photographic Record	1
		Colour slides	0
		Contact sheets	0
		Bound copy of final report	1



	<p>Digital Map Data © (2005) XYZ Digital Map Company Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown Copyright and database right 2011 Additional digital data provided by Severn Trent Water This material is for client report only © Wessex Archaeology. No unauthorised reproduction.</p>		
	<p>Date: 14/02/2011</p>	<p>Revision Number: 0</p>	
	<p>Scale: 1:3000 @ A4</p>	<p>Illustrator: CS</p>	
	<p>Path: Y:\Projects\75940_Childswickham\Drawing Office\Report Figs\WB reportly-m-d\75941_figs.dwg</p>		

Site location and watching brief area

Figure 1



Plate 1: Representative section of verge excavations.



Plate 2: Representative section of drive and reception pit excavations. Pit 1.

This material is for client report only © Wessex Archaeology. No unauthorised reproduction.



Date: 15/02/2011

Revision Number: 0

Scale: N/A

Illustrator: CS

Path: Y:\Projects\75940_Childswickham\Drawing Office\Report Figs\WB report\y-m-d\plates 1_2.cdr



WESSEX ARCHAEOLOGY LIMITED.

Registered Head Office: Portway House, Old Sarum Park, Salisbury, Wiltshire SP4 6EB.

Tel: 01722 326867 Fax: 01722 337562 info@wessexarch.co.uk

With regional offices in **Maidstone** and **Sheffield**

For more information visit www.wessexarch.co.uk

