



## Emscote Road, Warwick, Trial trenches

Watching Brief Statement of Results





**EMSCOTE ROAD,  
WARWICK,  
TRIAL TRENCHES**

**Archaeological Watching Brief  
Statement of Results**

Prepared for:  
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by:  
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Report reference: 84030.01

**February 2012**

**EMSCOTE ROAD,  
WARWICK,  
TRIAL TRENCHES****Archaeological Watching Brief  
Statement of Results****Summary**

Wessex Archaeology Ltd was commissioned by Morgan Sindall Plc to undertake an archaeological watching brief to mitigate the potential loss of archaeological remains during groundworks associated with the excavation of trial trenches along Emscote Road and within St. Nicholas Park, Warwick (**Figure 1**).

The Scheme involved the excavation of seven trial trenches along Emscote Road and within St. Nicholas Park. The watching brief was carried out between January 11<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> 2012 in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (attached).

Made ground and road deposits were found along Emscote Road, with an ash and rubble deposit found within St. Nicholas Park. No archaeological features or finds were encountered during the work.

This document contains the results of the watching brief recorded and presented on *pro forma* sheets.

The project archive is currently held at Wessex Archaeology's offices in Sheffield.

**EMSCOTE ROAD,  
WARWICK,  
TRIAL TRENCHES**

**Archaeological Watching Brief  
Statement of Results**

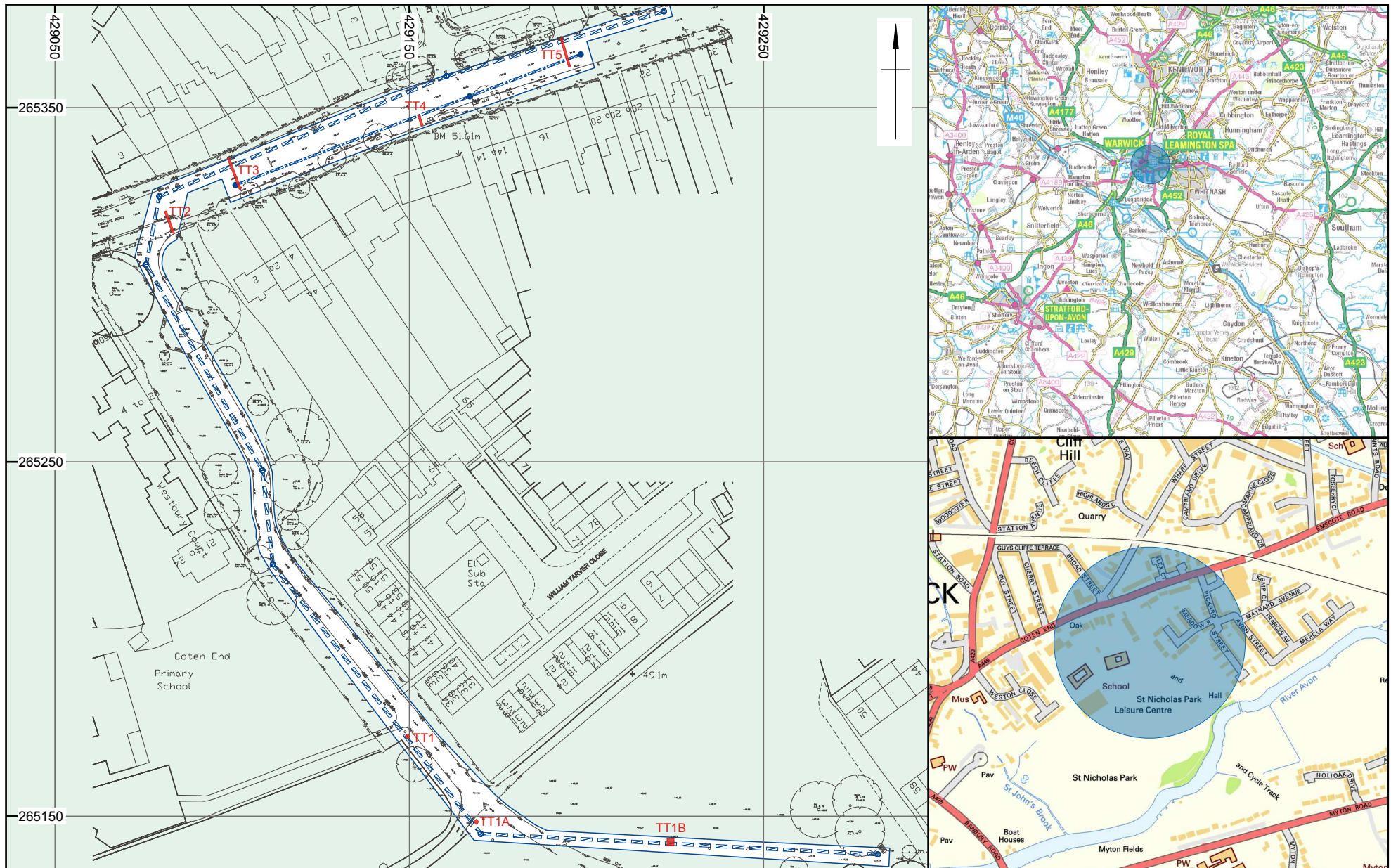
Site name	Emscote Road, Warwick		
Site address	Emscote Road, Warwick, CV34 4PH		
Site code	84030	Grid ref	429211, 265370 to 429282, 265128
Planning ref	N/A		
Dates(s) of attendance	11-01-12 – 18-01-12		
Description of construction activities monitored	The excavation of seven trial trenches along Emscote Road and within St. Nicholas Park ( <b>Figure 1</b> ).		
<b>Summary of site stratigraphy</b>			
<p>The trial trenches located along Emscote Road, excavated to a maximum depth of 1.2m, revealed a number of services contained within made ground deposits below the tarmac road surface and associated bedding layers (<b>Plate 1</b>).</p> <p>Trial trenches 1, 1A and 1B, within St. Nicholas Park, were excavated to a maximum depth of 1m and revealed light brown silty sand surrounding the existing water pipe. The natural geological deposits in this area was yellow-brown sandy clay which lay below an ash and rubble layer which may be associated with the dumping of material at the park in the 1940s and 1960s (<b>Plate 2</b>).</p>			
Archaeological features	No archaeological features observed	Natural features	None
Finds observed	Modern pottery and glass		
Finds collected	None	Samples	N/A
Photography	Digital: 21 shots		
Other records	Day book, Photo register, trench record sheets		
Current archive location	Wessex Archaeology, Sheffield		
Long term archive location	Not yet known		
<b>Interpretation</b>			
No archaeological remains encountered			
<b>Other information</b>			
Form completed by	GC	Date	13-02-12
Checked by	AB	Date	15-02-12
Additional documentation attached -			
1.	Plan of monitored areas		
2.	Written scheme of investigation		



Plate 1: Trial Trench 5, east facing section



Plate 2: Trial Trench 1A, south east facing section



**Wessex Archaeology**

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- Site location
- Pipeline route
- Trial trench
- Pipeline

Date:	13/02/2012	Revision Number:	0
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Site location and plan

Figure 1



**EMSCOTE ROAD, WARWICK,  
FLOOD ALLEVIATION SCHEME**

**Written Scheme of Investigation for  
Archaeological Watching Brief**

Prepared for:  
**Morgan Sindall Plc**  
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Report reference: T15605.01

**January 2012**

**EMSCOTE ROAD, WARWICK,  
FLOOD ALLEVIATION SCHEME**

**Written Scheme of Investigation for  
Archaeological Watching Brief**

**Contents**

<b>1</b>	<b>INTRODUCTION.....</b>	<b>1</b>
	1.1 Project Background.....	1
	1.2 Scheme Location and Description.....	1
<b>2</b>	<b>HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND.....</b>	<b>1</b>
	2.1 Introduction.....	1
	2.2 Archaeological and Historical Background.....	2
<b>3</b>	<b>AIMS AND METHODOLOGY.....</b>	<b>3</b>
	3.1 Aims.....	3
	3.2 Monitoring of Excavations/Groundworks.....	3
	3.3 Finds and Environmental Samples.....	4
	3.4 Environmental Samples.....	4
	3.5 Other Samples.....	4
	3.6 Treasure.....	5
<b>4</b>	<b>POST-EXCAVATION AND REPORTING.....</b>	<b>5</b>
	4.1 Report.....	5
<b>5</b>	<b>ARCHIVE.....</b>	<b>6</b>
	5.1 Preparation and Deposition.....	6
<b>6</b>	<b>PROJECT MANAGEMENT AND STAFFING.....</b>	<b>6</b>
	6.1 Personnel.....	6
<b>7</b>	<b>STANDARDS.....</b>	<b>6</b>
	7.1 Quality and Code of Practice.....	6
<b>8</b>	<b>INSURANCE AND HEALTH AND SAFETY.....</b>	<b>7</b>
	8.1 Policy and Risk Assessment.....	7
<b>9</b>	<b>REFERENCES.....</b>	<b>8</b>
	9.1 Bibliography.....	8

**Figures**

**Figure 1** Site location



## **EMSCOTE ROAD, WARWICK, FLOOD ALLEVIATION SCHEME**

### **Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological Watching Brief**

## **1 INTRODUCTION**

### **1.1 Project Background**

1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology has been commissioned by Morgan Sindall Plc (hereafter 'the Client') to undertake an archaeological watching brief to mitigate the potential loss of archaeological remains during groundworks associated with a flood alleviation scheme (FAS) at Emscote Road, Warwick (hereafter 'the Scheme'; **Figure 1**).

1.1.2 The Scheme, which will be carried out under permitted development rights, involves the excavation of seven trial trenches along Emscote Road and a footpath through St. Nicholas Park (NGR 429211, 265370 to 429282, 265128).

1.1.3 This Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) sets out the manner in which Wessex Archaeology will carry out the archaeological watching brief. This WSI has been prepared in accordance with current industry best practice and a brief provided by Warwickshire County Council (Rand 2012) and will be submitted to the Client and Warwickshire County Council (WCC).

### **1.2 Scheme Location and Description**

1.2.1 The Scheme is located 600m from the Warwick town centre, on Emscote Road. Warwick is located approximately 16km south of Coventry and 4km west of Leamington Spa. The Scheme runs for 200m along this road before turning south, entering St. Nicholas Park and extending for approximately 300m along and beside a path and cycle track.

1.2.2 The Scheme is located at approximately 52m above Ordnance Datum (aOD) and lies on sandstone of the Bromsgrove Sandstone Formation. The superficial geology is mainly river terrace deposits of sand and gravel (Geological Survey of England and Wales Sheet 184 – Warwick).

## **2 HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND**

### **2.1 Introduction**

2.1.1 A 500m Study Area was defined surrounding the Scheme. No Scheduled Monuments, Registered Parks and Gardens or Historic Battlefields are located within the Study Area. The Scheme is located within Warwick Conservation Area and contains 21 Listed Buildings.

## 2.2 Archaeological and Historical Background

- 2.2.1 Prehistoric remains have been located within the Study Area consisting of Palaeolithic flints found close to Vine Lane, to the north of the Scheme, and two pieces of worked flint dating to the Neolithic or Bronze Age period, found in Waterloo Terrace, to the west of the Scheme. A Neolithic settlement was also identified outside of the Study Area, at Brook Street. Excavations here revealed structures, pits, pottery and flints (Kelleher 2007, 2). As yet, there is no evidence for Iron Age activity within Warwick.
- 2.2.2 Although there is no settlement evidence dating to the Roman period within Warwick, evidence for Roman activity has been found on Priory Road, west of the Study Area, where a Romano-British cemetery has been found (Kelleher 2007, 2).
- 2.2.3 Warwick has been continuously settled since the Anglo-Saxon period. It is recorded in the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle that in AD914, Ethelfelda Lady of the Mercians and sister of King Edward the Elder of Wessex, established a fortified settlement, or 'burgh', here. It is thought that this location was chosen due to its proximity to the important transport routes of the Fosse Way and the River Avon. The settlement was one of ten such settlements which served to defend the Kingdom of Mercia against the Danes. In 1050, however, the Danes invaded Mercia and burned much of Warwick to the ground. The name Warwick derives from the Saxon *wara* or *waering* and *wic*, which means 'dwellings by the weir or river dam' (Kelleher 2007, 3).
- 2.2.4 Warwick Castle, located 850m southwest of the Scheme, was founded by William the Conqueror in 1068; the medieval town grew up around this. A royal mint is said to have been located at the town during the medieval period and at this time the town was controlled by the various Earls of Warwick, most notably the Beauchamp family.
- 2.2.5 The Scheme is located within the medieval agricultural settlement outside of the historic core of the town, a medieval cemetery is known from the western end of the Study Area, with a medieval hospital also known from this area. Evidence for the medieval occupation of the area has been recovered from excavations at 22 Coton End and 6-14 Coventry Road, both to the west of the Study Area.
- 2.2.6 Much of the medieval town was destroyed by fire in 1694, during which over 250 houses were destroyed. This resulted in the outlawing of timber-framed and thatch buildings in the town, thus changing the appearance of the town from then on (Kelleher 2007, 3).
- 2.2.7 Modern expansion in Warwick is almost entirely outside of the old town, which retains much of its former aspect. The majority of Listed Buildings within the Study Area date to the post-medieval period. None of these will be affected by the Scheme.

### **3 AIMS AND METHODOLOGY**

#### **3.1 Aims**

3.1.1 The principal aim of the watching brief is to allow for the collection and assessment/analysis of archaeological data impacted upon during groundworks associated with the Scheme.

3.1.2 The general aims of the project are:

- to identify any archaeological remains along the Scheme;
- to accurately record the location and stratigraphy of areas excavated during groundworks;
- 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 within their local, regional and national contexts;
- to recover artefacts disturbed by the site works, and
- to produce an accurate and comprehensive record and report of any archaeological deposits disturbed by the site works.

#### **3.2 Monitoring of Excavations/Groundworks**

3.2.1 It is proposed here that the programme for the archaeological watching brief will be carried out, subject to prior and adequate notification being given by the Client, on all groundworks that may have an impact on archaeological features and deposits.

3.2.2 A watching brief will be carried out on the excavation of all open cut trenches along the route of the pipeline (**Figure 1**). All works will be monitored by a suitably qualified archaeologist from Wessex Archaeology. Any archaeological remains that may be revealed during the watching brief will be observed and recorded in accordance with current industry best practice (IfA 2008).

3.2.3 The Client/Contractor will afford reasonable access in order that all archaeological features and deposits revealed during excavations and groundworks can be investigated and recorded. Depending upon the nature of any remains found further archaeological excavation may be necessary in consultation with Warwickshire County Council.

3.2.4 All archaeological deposits will be recorded using Wessex Archaeology's *pro forma* recording system. Each context record will fully describe the location, extent, composition and relationship of the subject and will be cross-referenced to all other assigned records. Context numbers used in the evaluation will not be repeated. Each excavated context will appear on at least one detailed plan at 1:50 or 1:20 scale and one section at 1:10 and co-ordinated on to the overall site plan. A digital photographic record will be maintained to illustrate both the detail and the general context of the principal features. Photography using colour transparencies and black and white negatives (on 35mm film) will be used as appropriate.

### **3.3 Finds and Environmental Samples**

- 3.3.1 Finds will be treated in accordance with the relevant guidance given by the IfA (2008), the UKIC (1990), the MGC (1992), and English Heritage (2005), and the requirements of the repository museum excepting where they are superseded by statements made below.
- 3.3.2 All artefacts from excavated contexts will be retained (except unstratified modern material) and taken to Wessex Archaeology offices in Sheffield for further work.
- 3.3.3 All retained artefacts will, as a minimum, be washed, weighed, counted and identified. Any artefacts requiring conservation or specific storage conditions will be dealt with immediately in line with *First Aid for Finds* (Watkinson and Neal 1998). Ironwork from stratified contexts will be X-rayed and stored in a stable environment along with other fragile and delicate material. The X-raying of objects and other conservation needs will be undertaken by the staff of an appropriately approved conservation centre.
- 3.3.4 Information will be obtained from WCC concerning conditions and arrangements for the deposition of finds. Arrangements for archive deposition will be made with Warwickshire museum.
- 3.3.5 In the event of the discovery of any human remains, it is proposed that they will be left and recorded *in situ*, then covered, protected and reburied. The Client and WCC will be informed. Where the redevelopment works will unavoidably disturb such remains, these will be fully recorded, excavated and removed from the site, subject to compliance with the relevant Ministry of Justice Licence, which will be obtained by Wessex Archaeology.
- 3.3.6 Should human remains be excavated, all excavation and post-excavation will be in accordance with the standards set out in IfA Technical Paper 13: 'Excavation and Post-excavation Treatment of Cremated and Inhumed Remains.' Appropriate specialist guidance/site visits will be undertaken by Jackie McKinley of Wessex Archaeology. Following analysis, the final placing of human remains will be subject to the requirements of the Ministry of Justice licence. Contingency sums for specialist site visits will be agreed as required.

### **3.4 Environmental Samples**

- 3.4.1 Bulk environmental soil samples for plant macro-fossils, small animal and fish bones and other small artefacts will be taken from appropriate well-sealed and archaeological deposits, in accordance with English Heritage guidelines (2011). The residues and sieved fractions of the bulk environmental soil samples will be recorded and retained with the project archive. For charred material, bulk samples of 40-60 litres will be taken for processing by flotation, using Wessex Archaeology's flotation system and processing methods. All samples will be floated through a 500µm mesh.

### **3.5 Other Samples**

- 3.5.1 Other samples will be taken, as appropriate, in consultation with Wessex Archaeology specialists and the English Heritage Regional Science Advisor

(e.g. dendrochronology, soil micromorphology, monolith samples, C14, etc). Samples will be taken for scientific dating where necessary.

### **3.6 Treasure**

3.6.1 In the event of discovery of artefacts covered or potentially covered by The Treasure Act 1996 (and amendments), their excavation and removal will be undertaken following notification of the Client, Coroner and WCC.

## **4 POST-EXCAVATION AND REPORTING**

### **4.1 Report**

4.1.1 On completion of all archaeological monitoring, a report detailing the results of work will be produced and forwarded to the Client and WCC within three months of completion of all fieldwork.

4.1.2 The watching brief report will be prepared in accordance with the Institute for Archaeologists' (2008) *Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief*, except where superseded by statements below.

4.1.3 The report may include;

- a non-technical summary;
- plans and sections at an appropriate scale locating the Site, location of works, known archaeological structures and deposits and their extent;
- tabulation of finds data by context and by material type;
- a summary by category of the material types recovered;
- a summary of the palaeo-environmental evidence recovered;
- preliminary phasing of any archaeological structures, features and deposits encountered;
- a consideration of the archaeological evidence from within the Site set in its broader landscape and historic setting.

4.1.4 The preparation of the report may involve the following elements:

- the conservation of appropriate material, including the X-raying of ironwork;
- the spot-dating of all pottery from excavated contexts. Spot-dating will be corroborated by scanning of other categories of material;
- a statement on each category of material, including reference to quantity, provenance, range and variety and condition;
- the selection and prioritisation of bulk soil samples taken for environmental and artefactual data in the light of preliminary phasing. Sieving, processing and scanning of selected soil samples will be undertaken and an assessment statement on charred food and plant remains; and
- a statement of potential for each material category and for the data collection as a whole will be prepared, including specific questions that can be answered and the potential value of the data to local, regional and national investigation priorities.

## 5 ARCHIVE

### 5.1 Preparation and Deposition

- 5.1.1 The complete project archive will be prepared in accordance with Wessex Archaeology's Guidelines for Archive Preparation and in accordance with standard guidelines for the preparation of excavation archives (UKIC 1990; Brown 2007). The Archive will be deposited with Warwickshire Museum. As part of the post excavation work an OASIS form will be completed and submitted to the Archaeological Data Service (ADS).

## 6 PROJECT MANAGEMENT AND STAFFING

### 6.1 Personnel

- 6.1.1 The fieldwork will be carried out by an experienced archaeologist from Wessex Archaeology's Sheffield office staff, who will be on Site at all times for the length of monitoring. The overall responsibility for the conduct and management of the project will be held by one of Wessex Archaeology's project managers, who will visit the fieldwork as appropriate to monitor progress and to ensure that the scope of works is adhered to. The appointed project manager and experienced archaeologist will be involved in all phases of the project through to its completion. The following staff are likely to be utilised on the project:

Andrea Burgess BSc MIfA	Project Manager
Mike Hartwell	Project Archaeologist

## 7 STANDARDS

### 7.1 Quality and Code of Practice

- 7.1.1 Wessex Archaeology is a registered archaeological organisation with the Institute for Archaeologists.
- 7.1.2 Wessex Archaeology endorses the Code of Practice and the Code of Approved Practice for the Regulation of Contractual Arrangements in Field Archaeology of the Institute for Archaeologists.
- 7.1.3 All core staff would be of a standard approved by Wessex Archaeology, be employed in line with The Institute for Archaeologists Codes of Practice and be members of the Institute for Archaeologists or be appropriately qualified.
- 7.1.4 Wessex Archaeology operates a *Project Management System*. All projects are undertaken under the direction of the Project Manager who is responsible to a Regional Manager, who ensures the maintenance of quality

standards within the organisation. The Chief Executive has ultimate responsibility for all of the Company's work.

- 7.1.5 All work will be carried out in line with current industry best practice (IfA 2008).

## **8 INSURANCE AND HEALTH AND SAFETY**

### **8.1 Policy and Risk Assessment**

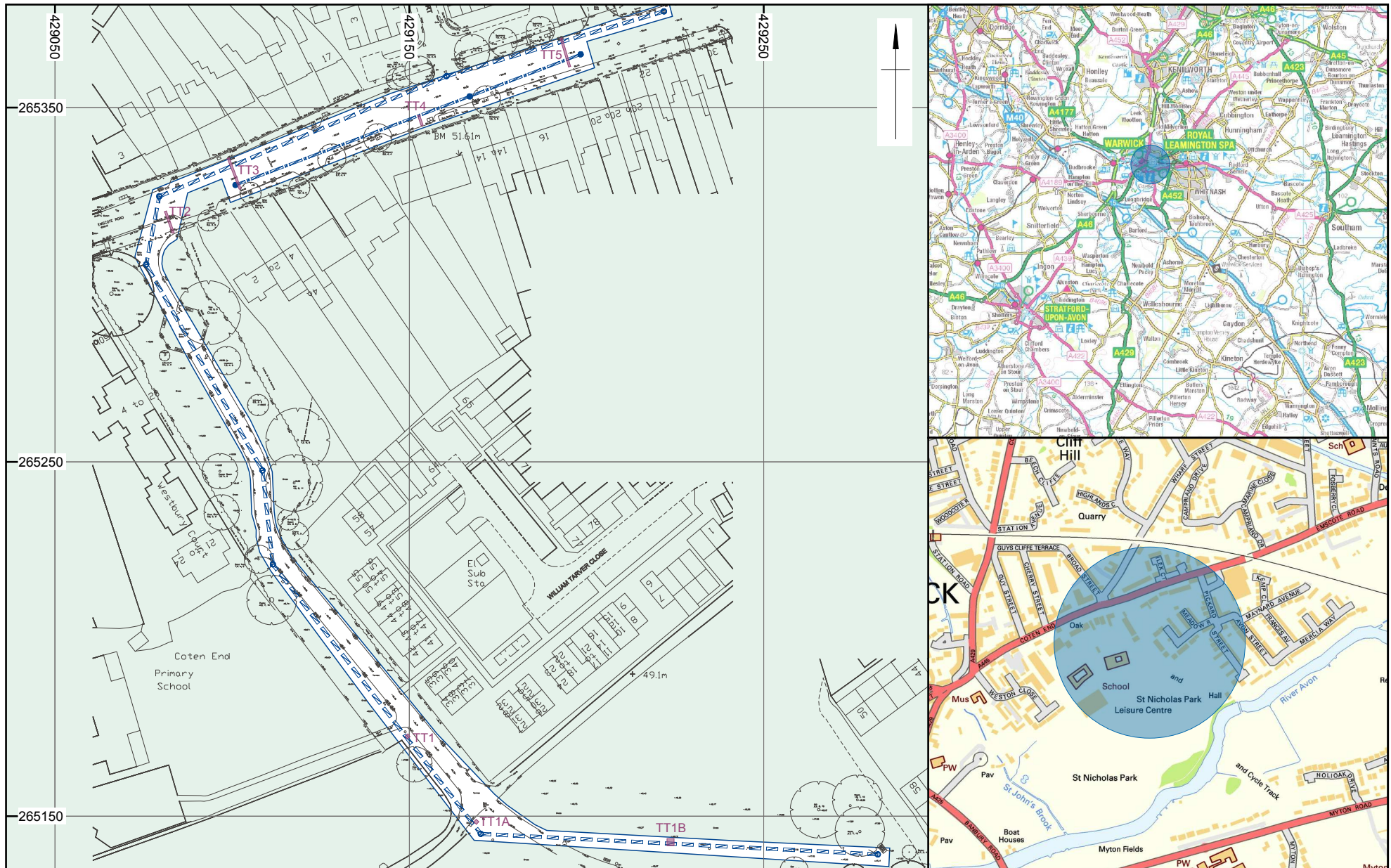
- 8.1.1 Health and safety considerations will be of paramount importance in conducting all fieldwork. Safe working practises will override archaeological considerations at all times.
- 8.1.2 All work will be carried out in accordance with the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974 and the Management of Health and Safety Regulations 1992, and all other relevant Health and Safety legislation, regulations and codes of practice in force at the time and in accordance with the SCAUM (Standing Conference of Archaeological Unit Managers) health and safety manual *Health and Safety in Field Archaeology* (1997).
- 8.1.3 Wessex Archaeology will supply a Risk Assessment to the Main Contractor before the commencement of any fieldwork. The Risk Assessment will have been read and understood by all staff attending the Site before any groundwork commences, and a copy will be kept on Site at all times. A copy of Wessex Archaeology Health and Safety Policy is available on request.
- 8.1.4 All Wessex Archaeology staff will comply with any requests by the Main Contractor concerning health and safety, including requirements to attend site induction prior to the commencement of fieldwork.
- 8.1.5 Wessex Archaeology has both public liability (£10,000,000) and professional indemnity insurance (£5,000,000).

## 9 REFERENCES

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Date:	10/01/2012	Revision Number:	0
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● Site location   
 ▭ Pipeline route   
 ▭ Proposed trial trench   
 --- Pipeline

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Site location and plan

Figure 1



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