



## EBLEY ROAD, STROUD, GLOUCESTERSHIRE

### Archaeological Watching Brief Statement of Results





**EBLEY ROAD, STROUD,  
GLOUCESTERSHIRE**

**Archaeological Watching Brief  
Statement of Results**

Prepared for:  
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Report reference: 85130.01

**May 2012**

**EBLEY ROAD, STROUD,  
GLOUCESTERSHIRE****Archaeological Watching Brief  
Statement of Results****Summary**

Wessex Archaeology has been commissioned by Morgan Sindall (hereafter 'the Client') to undertake an archaeological watching brief to mitigate against the potential loss of archaeological remains during the insertion of a sewer at Ebley, Stroud, Gloucestershire (hereafter 'the Scheme') (**Figure 1**).

The Scheme involved the stripping of topsoil and excavation of a pipe trench within a greenfield to the south of the B4008, Ebley Road, Stroud. The watching brief was carried out between April 10<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> 2012 in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (attached).

The natural geology lay below a bank of made ground at the southern end of the Site, stretching from the canal 15m northwards. The remainder of the Site was covered in 0.25m of topsoil. No other 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.

**EBLEY ROAD, STROUD,  
GLOUCESTERSHIRE**

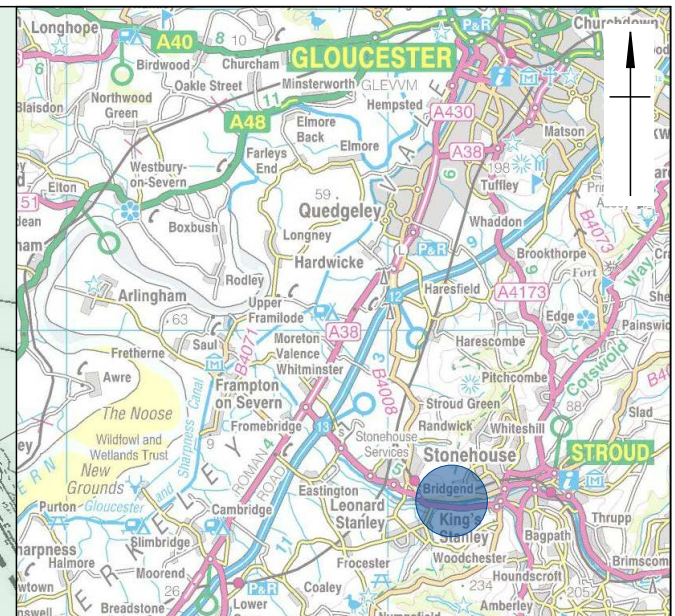
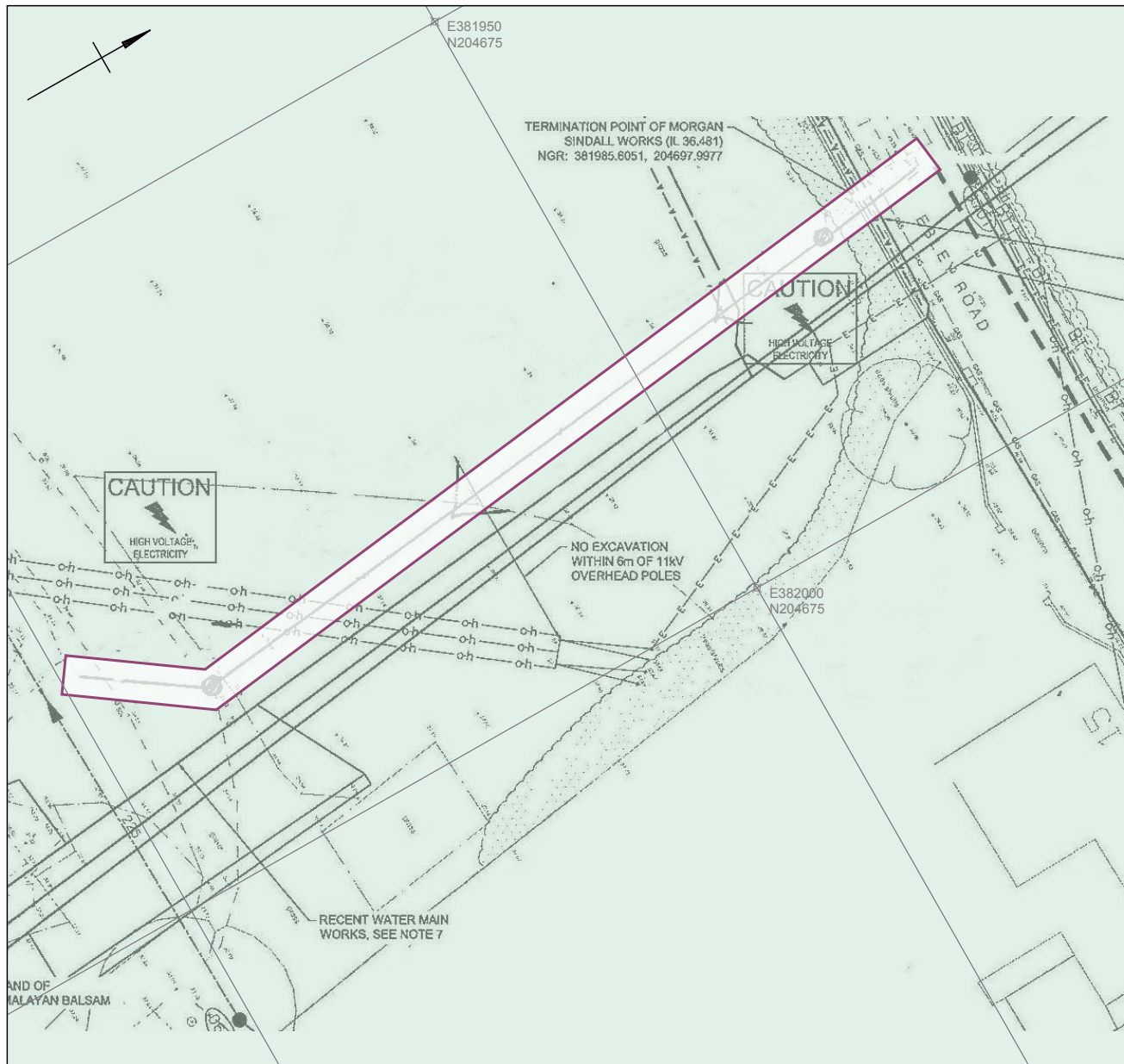
**Archaeological Watching Brief  
Statement of Results**

|   |  |                  |                                     |
|---|--|------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Site name   | Ebley Road, Stroud   |                  |                                     |
| Site address  | Ebley Road, Stroud, Gloucestershire  |                  |                                     |
| Site code   | 85130  | Grid ref         | 381984, 204701<br>to 381980, 204627 |
| Planning ref  | N/A  |                  |                                     |
| Dates(s) of attendance  | 10-04-12 – 12-04-12  |                  |                                     |
| Description of construction activities monitored  | The stripping of topsoil and excavation of a pipe trench within a green field ( <b>Figure 1</b> ). |                  |                                     |
| Summary of site stratigraphy  |  |                  |                                     |
| <p>Topsoil was stripped within a 12m easement (<b>Front Cover</b>) revealing the natural geology consisting of yellow clay at 0.25m below ground level.</p> <p>At the southern end of the Site made ground consisting of humic loam with inclusions of brick fragments, rubble and concrete was encountered beneath the topsoil. This material extended from the canal 15m northwards. This material appeared to form the bank of the canal (<b>Plate 1</b>) which was a maximum of 1.05m high.</p> |  |                  |                                     |
| Archaeological features   | The bank of the Stroudwater Canal  | Natural features | None                                |
| Finds observed  | None   |                  |                                     |
| Finds collected   | None   | Samples          | None                                |
| Photography   | Digital: 8 shots   |                  |                                     |
| Other records   | Day book, Photo register, trench record sheet  |                  |                                     |
| Current archive location  | Wessex Archaeology, Sheffield  |                  |                                     |
| Long term archive location  | Not yet known  |                  |                                     |
| Interpretation  |  |                  |                                     |
| The bank of the Stroudwater Canal extended 15m northwards from the canalside. No other archaeological features were observed.   |  |                  |                                     |
| Other information   |  |                  |                                     |
| Form completed by   | GC   | Date             | 17-04-12                            |
| Checked by  | AB   | Date             |                                     |
| Additional documentation attached -   |  |                  |                                     |
| 1.  | Plan of monitored areas  |                  |                                     |
| 2.  | Written scheme of investigation  |                  |                                     |



Plate 1: Pipe trench through canal bank, view from east





|  |  |   |                    |
|--|--|---|--------------------|
| <p>Wessex Archaeology</p> <p>Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown Copyright and database right 2010<br/>Additional digital mapping provided by Severn Trent Water<br/>This material is for client report only © Wessex Archaeology. No unauthorised reproduction.</p> | <p>● Site location    ■ Pipeline route</p> | Date: 02/04/2012  | Revision Number: 0 |
|  |  | Scale: Main graphic - 1:500 @ A4  | Illustrator: CS    |
|  |  | Path: Y:\Tenders\T15597_Ebley Rs_Stroud\Drawing Office\Report Figs\WSly-m-d\T15597_WSI figs.dwg |                    |

Site location

Figure 1



**EBLEY ROAD, STROUD,  
GLOUCESTERSHIRE**

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

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Report reference: T15597.01

**April 2012**

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**EBLEY ROAD, STROUD,  
GLOUCESTERSHIRE**

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

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Figure 1: Site Location



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## **EBLEY ROAD, STROUD, GLOUCESTERSHIRE**

### **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 (hereafter 'the Client') to undertake an archaeological watching brief to mitigate against the potential loss of archaeological remains during the insertion of a sewer at Ebley, Stroud, Gloucestershire (hereafter 'the Scheme') (**Figure 1**).

1.1.2 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 will be submitted to the Client and Gloucestershire County Council (GCC) for information in line with current government planning policy (DCLG 2012).

##### **1.2 Scheme location and description**

1.2.1 The proposed area of works is located 2.5 km to the west of Stroud, Gloucestershire. The works will be undertaken within a greenfield currently under pasture, directly south of the B4008 Ebley Road and involves the construction of a 200m long sewer within the greenfield, connecting a sewer in Ebley Road to the Stroudwater Canal.

1.2.2 The underlying geology is Blue Lias and Charmouth Mudstone while the overlying geology is river terrace deposits of sand and gravel (BGS 1972: sheet 234). The Scheme lies at 40m aOD and slopes towards the canal at the south, to a height of 35m aOD.

#### **2 HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND**

##### **2.1 Introduction**

2.1.1 The area surrounding Stroud is rich in archaeological remains including finds from prehistory and the medieval and post-medieval periods. The following information has been collected from online resources.

##### **2.2 Background**

2.2.1 The Scheme does not impact upon any Scheduled Monuments, Listed Buildings, Registered Parks and Gardens, Registered Battlefields or Conservation Areas.

2.2.2 Within the surrounding area there is evidence for Mesolithic settlement, including 100 worked flints, with Neolithic and Roman material also identified.

- 2.2.3 Neither Ebley nor Stroud are mentioned in the Domesday Book, however, a number of mills in the area are mentioned. These mills were located along the River Frome, which flows to the south of the Scheme. In 1477 ten houses were recorded at Stroud and by 1563 the estimated population of the parish had risen to 130 households. Stroud development greatly during the 17<sup>th</sup> century, its growth being linked to the cloth industry, by the mid-18<sup>th</sup> century the population of the town was recorded at 2,024 inhabitants. Gloucestershire had a thriving wool trade, and the Cotswolds had been used for sheep farming since ancient times. It was this industrial and mercantile basis, rather than a strictly agrarian one, which was to play the major role in the town's expansion and changing fortunes. By the early 17<sup>th</sup> century, textile production was the dominant industry within the area. Stroud town became known as the centre of this industry, supporting the cloth-production of the surrounding valleys.
- 2.2.4 Evidence for the medieval occupation of Ebley has been found at Westward Road. A possible small farmstead dating from the 11<sup>th</sup> to the 15<sup>th</sup> century was found during excavations here.
- 2.2.5 A number of post-medieval mills are also found within the surrounding area. The Stroudwater Canal, in to which the sewage pipe discharges, was promoted by clothiers in the Stroud valley in order to obtain coal more cheaply than by road. It was completed in 1779.
- 2.2.6 The surrounding landscape contains archaeological sites dating from the prehistoric to the modern period. The majority of evidence dates to the medieval and post-medieval industrial activity in the area and any remains encountered during the ground works are likely to date to this period.

### **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 with 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 the commencement of groundworks that may have an impact on archaeological features and deposits.
- 3.2.2 All works will be undertaken by a suitably qualified archaeologist from Wessex Archaeology. All excavations will be carried out by a tracked machine fixed with a toothless bucket. 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 will afford reasonable access in order that all archaeological features and deposits revealed during excavations and groundworks can be investigated and recorded.
- 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 excavation 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.

## **4 FINDS AND ENVIRONMENTAL SAMPLING**

### **4.1 Finds and environmental samples**

- 4.1.1 Finds will be treated in accordance with the relevant guidance given in the Institute for Archaeologist's Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Brief (revised 2008), the UK Institute of Conservators Guidelines "Conservation Guideline No 2" (1990), the Museums and Galleries Commissions "Standards in the Museum Care of Archaeological Collections (1992)", English Heritage (2005), and the requirements of the repository Museum excepting where they are superseded by statements made below.
- 4.1.2 All artefacts from excavated contexts will be retained (except unstratified modern material) and taken to Wessex Archaeology offices in Sheffield for further work.
- 4.1.3 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 & 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.

- 4.1.4 Information will be obtained from GCC concerning conditions and arrangements for the deposition of finds. Arrangements for archive deposition will be made with the relevant museum.
- 4.1.5 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 GCC 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.
- 4.1.6 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.

## **4.2 Environmental Samples**

- 4.2.1 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. 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 10 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.

## **4.3 Other Samples**

- 4.3.1 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.

## **4.4 Treasure**

- 4.4.1 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 GCC.

# **5 POST-EXCAVATION AND REPORTING**

## **5.1 Report**

- 5.1.1 On completion of all archaeological monitoring, a report detailing the results of work will be produced and forwarded to the Client and GCC within three months of completion of all fieldwork.
- 5.1.2 Following approval of the report the required number of hard copies will be issued to the Client and GCC.

- 5.1.3 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.
- 5.1.4 The report will comply with the requirements of GCC and in any case 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.
- 5.1.5 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;
  - 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;

## **6 ARCHIVE**

### **6.1 Preparation and Deposition**

- 6.1.1 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 the local repository museum. As part of the post excavation work an OASIS form will be filled out and submitted to the Archaeological Data Service (ADS).



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## 7 PROJECT MANAGEMENT AND STAFFING

### 7.1 Personnel

7.1.1 The fieldwork will be directed and supervised by an experienced archaeologist from Wessex Archaeology's core 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 may be utilised on the project:

|                  |                       |
|------------------|-----------------------|
| Andrea Burgess   | Project Manager       |
| Sam Fairhead BSc | Project Archaeologist |

## 8 STANDARDS

### 8.1 Quality and Code of Practice

- 8.1.1 Wessex Archaeology is a registered archaeological organisation with the Institute for Archaeologists.
- 8.1.2 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.
- 8.1.3 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
- 8.1.4 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 Trust's work.
- 8.1.5 All work will be carried out in line with current industry best practice (IfA 2008).

## 9 INSURANCE AND HEALTH AND SAFETY

### 9.1 Policy and Risk Assessment

- 9.1.1 Health and safety considerations will be of paramount importance in conducting all fieldwork. Safe working practises will override archaeological considerations at all times.

- 9.1.2 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.
- 9.1.3 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.
- 9.1.4 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.
- 9.1.5 Wessex Archaeology has both public liability (£10,000,000) and professional indemnity insurance (£5,000,000).
- 9.1.6 Wessex Archaeology will ensure that all work is carried out to within the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974 and the Management of Health and Safety Regulations 1992, and in accordance with the SCAUM (Standing Conference of Archaeological Unit Managers) health and safety manual *Health and Safety in Field Archaeology* (1997).

## **10 REFERENCES**

### **10.1 Bibliography**

- Brown, D.H. 2007. *Archaeological Archives: A guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation.*
- Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG). 2012. *National Planning Policy Framework*; Department for Communities and Local Government.
- English Heritage. 2005. *A Strategy for the Care and Investigation of Finds.*
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- SCAUM (Standing Conference of Archaeological Unit Managers). 1997. *Health and safety in field archaeology*, London; Standing Conference of Archaeological Unit Managers.
- United Kingdom Institute of Conservation (UKIC). 1990. *Guidelines for the Preparation of Excavation Archives for Long Term Storage.*

Watkinson, D. and Neal, V. (eds). 1998. First Aid for Finds: practical guide for archaeologists. United Kingdom Institute for Conservation of Historic & Artistic Works, Archaeology Section; 3rd Revised Edition.

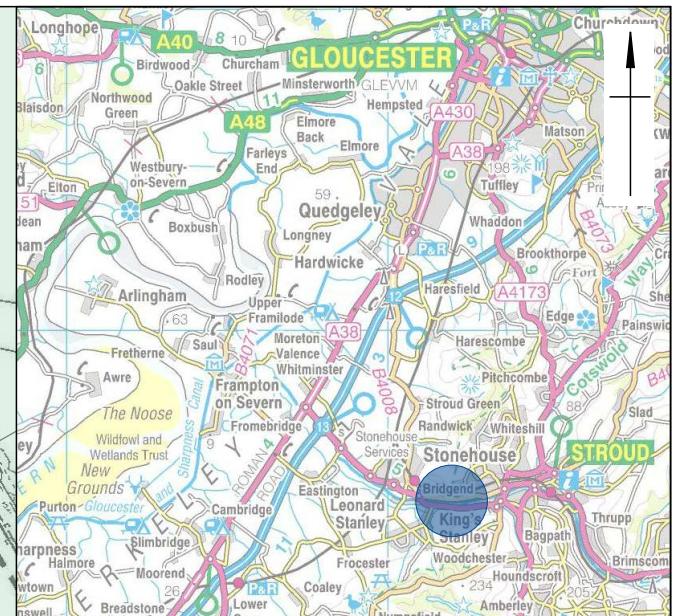
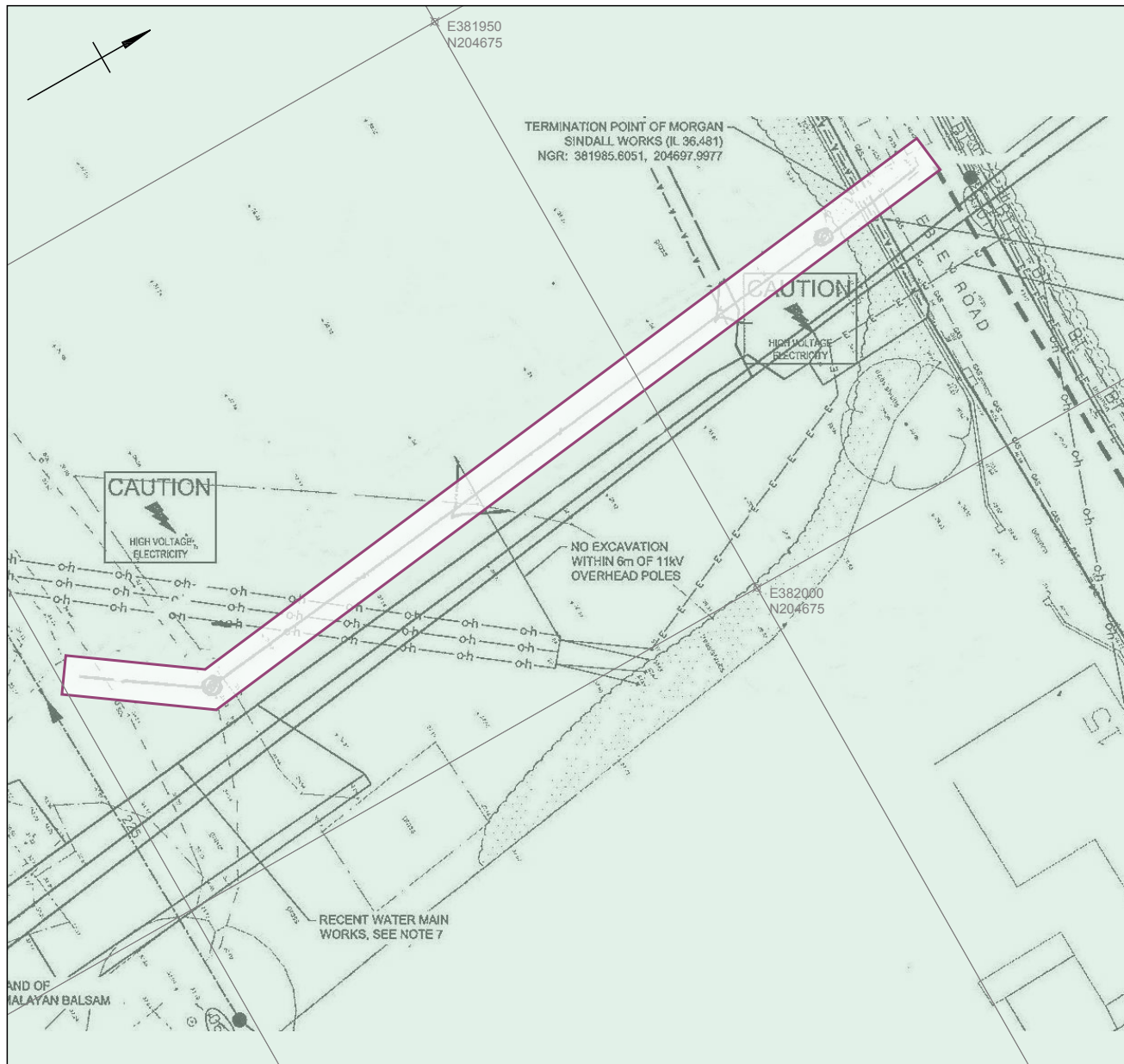
## **10.2 Websites Consulted**

Archaeological Data Service: <http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/>

Old Maps: <http://www.old-maps.co.uk/>

## **10.3 Cartographic**

British Geological Survey (BGS) 1972: Sheet 234, Gloucester 1:50000 scale



|  |   |   |                    |
|--|---|---|--------------------|
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Site location

Figure 1



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