



Hartlebury Water Supply, Worcestershire

Archaeological Watching Brief Statement of Results

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June 2015

101412.02



Hartlebury Water Supply, Worcestershire

Archaeological Watching Brief Statement of Results

Summary

Wessex Archaeology Ltd was commissioned by Laing O' Rourke (hereafter referred to as 'the Client') on behalf of Severn Trent Water to undertake an archaeological watching brief to mitigate the potential loss of archaeological remains during groundworks associated with the insertion of a new water pipeline from Stone village to Hartlebury Industrial Estate, Worcestershire (hereafter 'the Scheme').

The Scheme started at the junction between the A448/Stone Hill and Butts Lane. Continuing south along Butts Lane crossing the A450/Worcester Road, the A442/Droitwich Road, onto Ryland Lane then turning west onto Oak Drive where the scheme terminates.

Due to the nature of land use and previous road development the area for the watching brief was limited to a 150m length of the Scheme spanning either side the A442/Droitwich Road at NGR 386577, 271655. This is the purported location of Godham Way which is dated to the 8th century. This Anglo-Saxon road is then thought to have been used as a boundary between the Royal Forests of Ombersley and Feckenham from the 11th century. The watching brief was designed to check for any archaeological remains relating to this track way.

No archaeological remains were found during the watching brief.



Hartlebury Water Supply, Worcestershire

Archaeological Watching Brief Statement of Results

Site name	Hartlebury Water Supply, Worcestershire		
Site address	Stone Village, Worcestershire.		
Site code	101412	Grid ref	386239, 274385– 386047, 269772
Planning ref	n/a		
Dates(s) of attendance	26/11/14 – 27/11/14		
Description of construction activities monitored	Monitoring of trench cutting for water pipeline.		
Summary of site stratigraphy			
The general stratigraphy along the Scheme consisted of the road surface 0 – 0.3m below ground level (bgl), beneath which is a natural layer of orange sandy soil with stone inclusions at around 30% to a depth greater than 1.5m bgl. Trenching was observed to a maximum depth of 1.5m.			
No other archaeological features or deposits were observed during groundworks.			
Archaeological features	None	Natural features	None
Finds observed	None		
Finds collected	None	Samples	None
Photography	Digital (three shots)		
Other records	Day records, trench record sheet and WSI		
Current archive location	Wessex Archaeology, Sheffield		
Long term archive location	Negative archive – see attached WSI		
Interpretation			
No archaeological features or deposits were observed.			
Other information			
N/A			
Form completed by	M. Howarth	Date	18/12/2014
Checked by	A. Grassam	Date	15/06/2015
Checked by	C. Swales	Date	15/06/2015
Additional documentation attached -			
1.	Figure 1. – Location of the Scheme and areas of mitigation		
2.	Plates		
3.	Written Scheme of Investigation		



1.

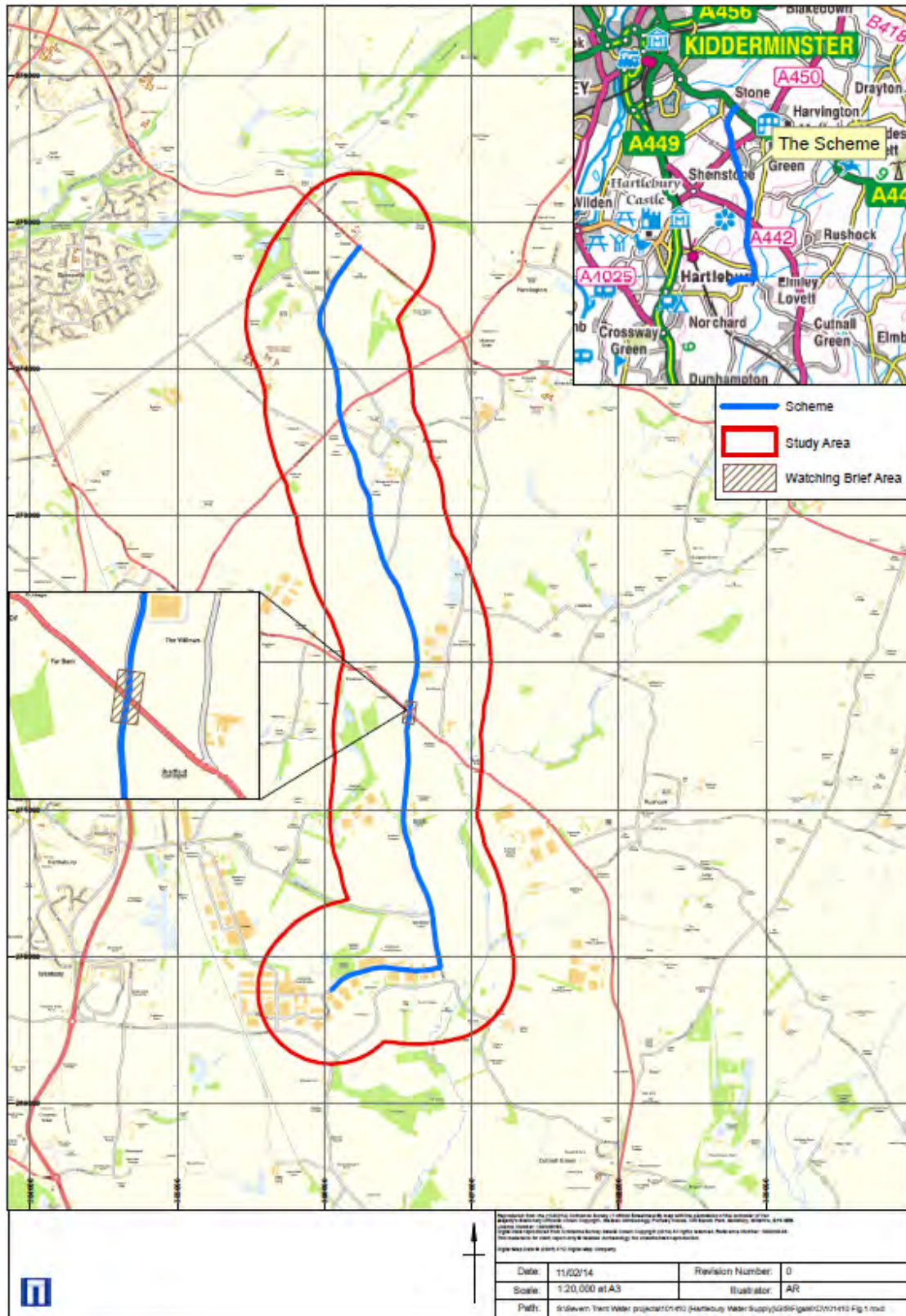


Figure 1: Map showing scheme and location of watching brief.

2.



Plate 1: Trenching to south of crossroads



Plate 2: Trench cutter continuing South



3. Written Scheme of Investigation



**Hartlebury Water Supply,
Worcestershire**

Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological Watching Brief

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February 2014

101411.01



Quality Assurance

Project Code	101411	Accession Code	n/a	Client Ref.	n/a
Planning Application Ref.	n/a	Ordnance Survey (OS) national grid reference (NGR)	386239 275835 to 386047 269772		

Version	Status*	Prepared by	Checked and Approved By	Approver's Signature	Date
v01	I	AR	RJO	Richard O'Neill	12.02.14
File:	S:\Severn Trent Water projects\101411 (Hartlebury Water Supply)\WSI				
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* I = Internal Draft; E = External Draft; F = Final

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Hartlebury Water Supply, Worcestershire

Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological Watching Brief

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Figure 1 Scheme location and watching brief area



Hartlebury Water Supply, Worcestershire

Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological Watching Brief

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project Background

- 1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology have been commissioned by Laing O Rourke (hereafter 'the Client') to prepare a Written Scheme of Investigation for an archaeological watching brief during the insertion of a new water pipeline from Stone village to the Hartlebury Industrial Estate, Worcestershire (hereafter 'the Scheme' from NGR 386239, 274835 to 386047, 269772).
- 1.1.2 This Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) details how the archaeological requirements of the Scheme will be met and has been prepared in accordance with current industry guidance (IfA 2008a and 2008b), in accordance with IfA Codes of Conduct (2010) and Worcestershire Archive and Archaeology Service (WAAS) guidelines (2010); it will be submitted to the Client and the WAAS for information.

1.2 Site Location and Description

- 1.2.1 The Scheme (**Figure 1**) is located in northern Worcestershire, beginning in the village of Stone, approximately 3.3km southeast of the centre of Kidderminster, and finishing within the Hartlebury Trading Estate, approximately 1.9km southeast of Hartlebury.
- 1.2.2 The Scheme is routed along existing roads starting at the junction between the A448/Stone Hill and Butts Lane. It continues south along Butts Lane crossing the A450/Worcester Road, the A442/Droitwich Road, onto Ryland Lane Before turning west onto Oak Drive where it terminates. The Scheme is bounded on both sides primarily by agricultural land.
- 1.2.3 The Scheme begins at its northern end at an elevation of 53m above Ordnance Datum (aOD). Moving south the land slowly rises to 78m aOD in the vicinity of the hamlet of Shenstone where the land plateaus before gradually falling to 59m aOD just north of the A442/Droitwich Road. The land gently rises back to 66m aOD, finishing on Oak Drive at 53m aOD.
- 1.2.4 The underlying geology of the Scheme is mapped as extending over the Wildmoor Sandstone Formation in the north around Stone village, moving south over the Broomsgrove Sandstone Formation and ending over the Mercia Mudstone Group around the village of Elmley Lovett. The bedrock geology is overlain by patches of alluvium, glaciofluvial deposits of gravel and sand, and blown sand (British Geological Survey Sheet 182 – Droitwich).
- 1.2.5 The Archaeological Desk Bases Assessment (Wessex 2013) recommended that watching brief is to be undertaken within a 150m long section of the Scheme where it crosses the A44s/Droitwich Road at NGR 386557, 271665.



2 HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 General

2.1.1 Recorded heritage assets within a 500m Study Area around the Site were considered in order to provide a context for the discussion and interpretation of the known and potential historic recourses surrounding the Site. The following information is summarised from a desk-based assessment carried out in 2013 (Wessex Archaeology).

2.2 Prehistoric and Romano-British

2.2.1 The earliest archaeological evidence from the Study Area includes a collection of unstratified flints, including arrow heads and scrapers, of uncertain date. No settlement evidence dating to this period was found in association with these artefacts.

2.2.2 There is no evidence relating to Romano-British activity within the Scheme or Study Area, although a Roman coin hoard consisting of 57 Denarii was uncovered approximately 2km west of the Scheme on Oak Drive.

2.3 Anglo-Saxon and Medieval

2.3.1 Running through the Scheme and the Study Area along the route of the A442/Droitwich Road is the conjectural route of Godham Way, a road purported to be of Saxon origin which ran from Wychbold to Kidderminster and may have later been used as a boundary between the Royal Forests of Ombersley and Feckenham in after the 11th century. The area as a whole is likely to have been settled during this time with many of the surrounding settlements listed within the Domesday Book.

2.3.2 The Scheduled Monument Elmley Lovett Deserted Medieval Village (DMV), approximately 110m south of the Scheme where it turns west on Oak Drive, contains several medieval features and buildings including the Grade II* Listed Church of St Michael with its 14th century tower, the ruins of a former mill and its associated cottages and earthworks relating to ridge and furrow agriculture.

2.3.3 The Grade II Listed cross 10m south of St Mary's Church is dated to the medieval period with surviving sketches of the former church building indicating its origins in the 12th century.

2.4 Post-Medieval to Modern

2.4.1 The location of the Scheme and Study Area remained essentially rural throughout the post-medieval period and the 19th century with indications of development within the villages of Elmley Lovett and Stone indicated by the number of Grade II Listed Buildings within these settlements which trace their origins to these periods.

2.4.2 The most apparent changes within the Study Area take place during the 20th century with the establishment of a Royal Air Force (RAF) supply depot during the Second World War. Along with facilities for storing aircraft engines and other parts a network of defences including road blocks, an air strip, a firing platform and an air raid shelter were constructed within the Study Area. The site of a crashed Vickers Wellington Bomber located approximately 200m northwest of the Scheme where it turns to the west.

2.4.3 Cartographic evidence suggests little change within the Study Area save for the removal of field boundaries and the addition of new ones. Most of the land has been enclosed by parliamentary act or private agreement with the road along the route of the Scheme having been present since at least the mid-19th century.



3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

3.1 Aims

3.1.1 The general aims of the project are:

- *to identify any archaeological remains within a 150m long section of the Scheme where it crosses the A442 at NGR 386557, 271655;*
- *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 integrate the results into the wider cultural and environmental context and with specific research aims;*
- *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.*

4 METHODOLOGY

4.1 General

4.1.1 An archaeological watching brief will be carried out by Wessex Archaeology, subject to prior and adequate notification being given by the Client, on the groundworks along specific areas along the Scheme (**Figure 1**). Those areas not monitored are located directly adjacent to an existing water main and have most likely been disturbed.

4.1.2 Groundworks will be monitored by a suitably qualified archaeologist from Wessex Archaeology. Any archaeological remains that may be revealed during the watching brief will be recorded in accordance with current industry best practice (IfA 2008a) and WAAS (2010) guidelines.

4.1.3 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.

4.2 Machine Excavation

4.2.1 All excavation areas will be scanned by the client using a CAT to check for uncharted services.

4.2.2 Topsoil or overburden will be removed using a mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket, working under the continuous direct supervision of a suitably experienced archaeologist. Topsoil will be removed in a series of level spits down to the level of the upper archaeological horizon, or the level of the natural geology, whichever is reached first.



4.3 Hand Excavation of Archaeological Remains

- 4.3.1 Where archaeological features and deposits are encountered, excavation will be carried out by hand. A sufficient sample of each layer/feature type will be excavated in order to establish the date, nature, extent and condition of the archaeological remains.
- 4.3.2 Archaeological features and deposits will be investigated and stratigraphically excavated by hand. The percentage of any feature or group of features to be excavated will be dependent on a number of factors. These include the achievement of the aims and objectives, the significance or potential of the archaeological features/deposits, the stratigraphic record, health and safety considerations, and the requirements of the local planning archaeologist.

4.4 Standard Methodologies

- 4.4.1 All excavation and recording will be undertaken by qualified archaeologists employed by Wessex Archaeology. Any archaeological remains encountered will be recorded, and where necessary excavated in accordance with current industry best practice (IfA 2008a). Features of whatever origin requiring clarification will be cleaned by hand and recorded in plan at an appropriate scale.

4.5 Recording

- 4.5.1 All archaeological features and deposits encountered will be recorded using Wessex Archaeology *pro forma* recording sheets and a continuous unique numbering system. A stratigraphic matrix will be compiled to record the relationships between features and deposits (including those within 'blank' trenches).
- 4.5.2 All trenches will be located in relation to the OS grid, and other plans, sections and elevations of archaeological features and deposits will be drawn as necessary at 1:10, 1:20 and 1:50 as appropriate. All drawings will be made in pencil on permanent drafting film.
- 4.5.3 The spot height of all principal features and levels will be calculated in metres relative to Ordnance Datum, correct to two decimal places. Plans, sections and elevations will be annotated with spot heights as appropriate.
- 4.5.4 Photographs will be taken of all archaeological features to produce a photographic record consisting of 35mm monochrome prints and digital images (at least 10 megapixel).

4.6 Finds

- 4.6.1 Finds will be treated in accordance with the relevant guidance (UKIC 2001; MGC 1992; English Heritage 2005 and 2006), and the requirements of WAAS (2010).
- 4.6.2 All artefacts from excavated contexts will be retained, except those from features or deposits of obviously modern date.
- 4.6.3 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. Other conservation needs will be assessed by Wessex Archaeology's Conservator.



- 4.6.4 Animal bone recovered by hand during excavation will be processed as part of the finds assemblage. Animal bone recovered from bulk samples will also be retained for analysis.
- 4.6.5 All artefacts will be recorded by context, with summary listing of artefacts by category to provide simple quantification. Artefacts will be analysed and reported by specialists.
- 4.6.6 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 Curator.

4.7 Human Remains

- 4.7.1 If human remains are encountered a Ministry for Justice Licence for the removal of human remains will be obtained. Further excavation and recording will be carried out in accordance with the conditions of the licence. All excavation and post-excavation will be in accordance with the standards set out in McKinley & Roberts (1993). Appropriate specialist guidance and/or 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.

4.8 Environmental Samples

- 4.8.1 The development of an appropriate sampling strategy will depend upon the survival and condition of the deposits identified. The English Heritage Regional Science Advisor will be consulted for Site-specific guidance at the earliest possible opportunity if appropriate.
- 4.8.2 In general terms, it is anticipated that the following strategies will be followed:
- *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 dated/datable archaeological deposits. The collection and processing of environmental samples will be undertaken in accordance with English Heritage guidelines (English Heritage 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 in volume will be taken for processing by flotation. All samples will be floated on a 250-300µm mesh and the heavy residues washed over a 0.5-1mm mesh. The heavy residues will be scanned with a magnet to recover micro-slugs.*

4.9 Other Samples

- 4.9.1 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 for the development of subsequent mitigation strategies, and/or as required by WAAS.

4.10 Treasure

- 4.10.1 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 and English Heritage. All discoveries covered by the Act will be notified to the Coroner within 14 days.



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 within six weeks of completion of all fieldwork.

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

5.1.3 The report may include;

- *a non-technical summary;*
- *plans and sections at an appropriate scale locating the Scheme, 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.*

5.1.4 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.*

5.1.5 As a minimum a note on the results of the work will be published in a suitable local journal.

5.2 OASIS

5.2.1 An OASIS (Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations) record will be created at the start of the evaluation fieldwork and will be updated after each stage of work.



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 2001; Brown 2011).
- 6.1.2 The archive will likely be deposited with the County Museum. All archive material will be prepared to the Museum's requirements and guidelines and will be marked with the Museum's accession number. If necessary, the paper records of the Site archive will be security microfilmed prior to deposition. Archive deposition will be arranged in consultation with the recipient museum following the completion of fieldwork.

7 PROJECT MANAGEMENT AND STAFF

7.1 Personnel

- 7.1.1 The fieldwork will be directed and supervised by experienced archaeologists from Wessex Archaeology's core contract staff. The overall responsibility for the conduct and management of the project will be held by Wessex Archaeology's Project Manager (Richard O'Neill), who will visit the Site as appropriate to monitor progress and to ensure that the fieldwork adheres to the scope of works.

- 7.1.2 The following key project staff are proposed.

Richard O'Neill BSc MifA Senior Project Manager

Lorraine Mephram BA MifA FSA Senior Technical Manager

- 7.1.3 Personnel and contact details will be confirmed to WAAS prior to the commencement of fieldwork.

- 7.1.4 The processing and analysis of the finds and environmental data will be undertaken by Wessex Archaeology core staff or external specialists. Information on Wessex Archaeology and external finds and environmental specialists can be provided on request for agreement by the Curator. Specialists likely to be engaged on the project include:

Dr Matt Leivers Prehistoric Pottery (early)

Lorraine Mephram Prehistoric Pottery (later)/ Medieval Pottery/ Glass

Rachael Seager Smith Romano-British Pottery

Jacqueline McKinley Osteology

Rachael Seager Smith CBM & Other Ceramics

Dr Matt Leivers Worked Flint

Phil Andrews Metalworking debris

Lorrain Higbee Animal Bone

Lynne Wootton Conservation

Sarah Wyles/ Ellen Simmons Palaeoenvironmental



- 7.1.5 Overall the Project Manager will retain responsibility for the project. All communication between Wessex Archaeology and the Client will be directed through the Project Manager in the first instance.

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 Company's work.
- 8.1.5 All work will be carried out in line with current industry best practice (IfA 2008a and b).

9 INSURANCE AND HEALTH AND SAFETY

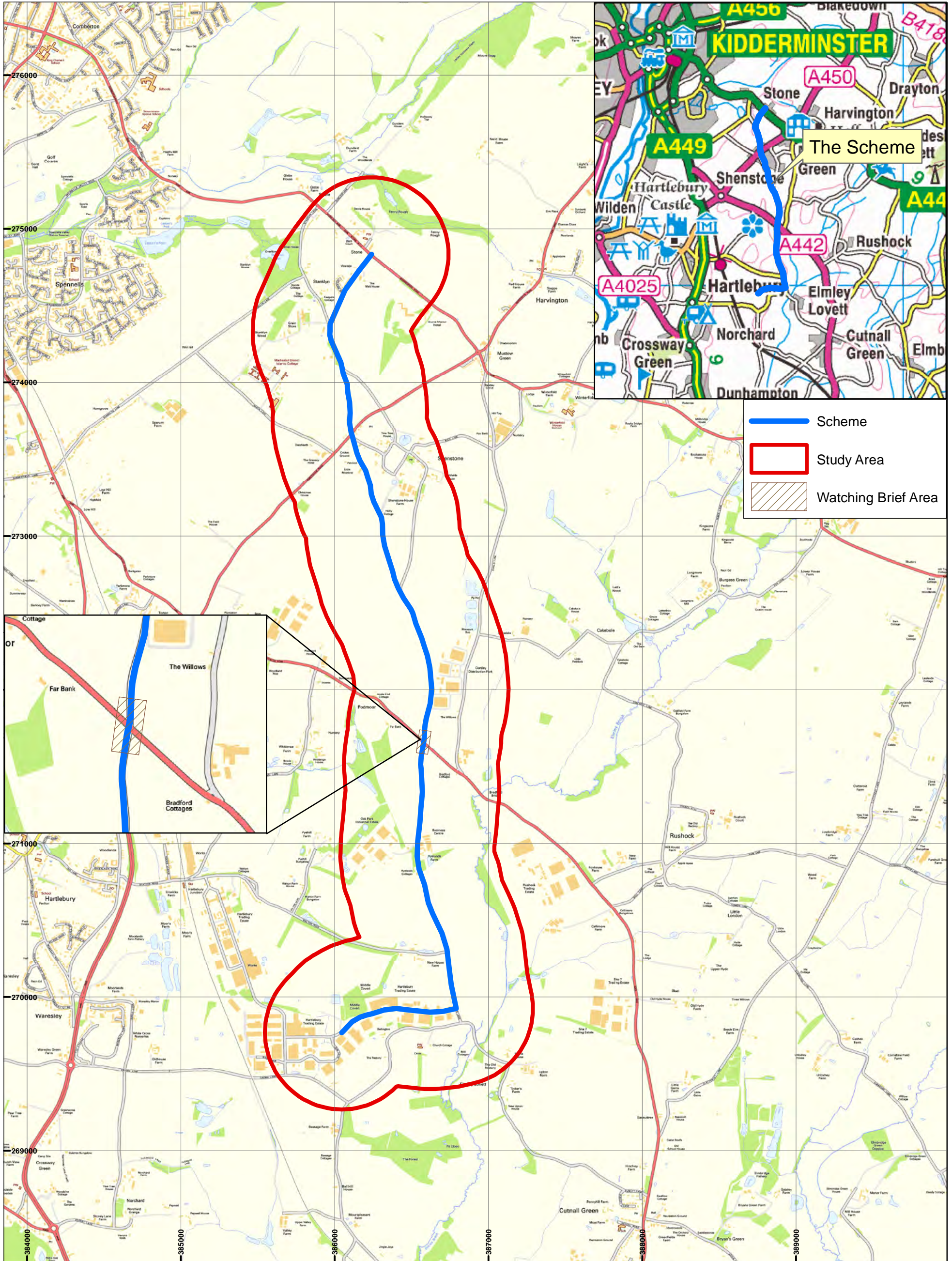
9.1 Policy and Risk Assessment

- 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 and in accordance with the SCAUM (Standing Conference of Archaeological Unit Managers) health and safety manual *Health and Safety in Field Archaeology* (1997).
- 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).



10 BIBLIOGRAPHY

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— Scheme
 Study Area
 Watching Brief Area

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Date:	11/02/14	Revision Number:	0
Scale:	1:20,000 at A3	Illustrator:	AR
Path:	S:\Severn Trent Water projects\101410 (Hartlebury Water Supply)\GIS\Figs\MXD\101410 Fig.1.mxd		



Scheme Location and Watching Brief Area

Figure 1