

# birmingham archaeology



UNIVERSITY OF  
BIRMINGHAM

**Yardley Wood Road,  
Birmingham**

**An Archaeological  
Watching Brief 2007**

Checked by

Supervisor..... date.....

Project Manager..... date.....



Project No. 1586  
March 2007

**Yardley Wood Road, Birmingham**  
**An Archaeological Watching Brief**

By

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For

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## **Yardley Wood Road, Birmingham: AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF, 2007.**

### **SUMMARY**

*An archaeological watching brief was observed at Yardley Wood Road, Birmingham in the West Midlands. The site is located to the east of Yardley Wood Road and is centred on NGR SP 408605 280064. The work was commissioned by Seven Trent Water in advance of the proposed construction of an underground storage tank.*

*Two test trenches were excavated on the location of the underground storage tank and these were observed on the 13<sup>th</sup> March 2007. Although the two trenches were monitored, no significant archaeological features, deposits or finds were observed.*

### **1 INTRODUCTION**

In March 2007 Birmingham Archaeology carried out an archaeological watching brief at Yardley Wood Road, Birmingham, West Midlands. The archaeological work, which was commissioned by Seven Trent Water, was in the form of monitoring test trenches which were to be excavated in advance of an underground storage tank. The site is located within the local vicinity of an identified burnt mound of probable Bronze Age date. The close proximity of the Chinn brook provided potential for further such features to be present within the development area.

The project adhered to a written scheme of investigation prepared by Birmingham archaeology (2007), which itself was based on a brief issued by Alex Jones (Archaeological Consultant) on behalf of Seven Trent Water (2007) and followed the requirements for watching briefs set down by the Institute of field Archaeologists.

### **2 LOCATION AND GEOLOGY**

The site is currently under grass and lies to the east of Yardley Wood road with Firth drive to the north and the Chinn Brook to the south. The site is centred on NGR SP 40865 280064 (fig.1).

The underlying geology consists of Pleistocene Sands and Gravels overlying Keuper Marl of the Triassic period.

### **3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES**

- To establish the presence/absence of archaeological remains within the development area.
- To determine the extent, condition, nature, character, quality and date of any archaeological remains encountered.
- To contribute to the existing corpus of academic knowledge.
- To make available to interested parties the results of the investigation subject to any confidentiality restrictions.



## 4 METHODOLOGY

Test trenches one (TP1) and two (TP2) were monitored by a qualified archaeologist (fig.2). The topsoil was stripped and the lower deposits removed by a mechanical excavator using a toothless ditching bucket. The trenches were excavated to a depth of 2.0m making them unsafe to enter. However, detailed sections and plans were reconstructed from the trench edges.

Recording was by means of pre-printed pro formas for contexts and features, supplemented by plans (1:50) and sections (1:50) and digital photography.

## 5 RESULTS

The stratigraphy and underlying geology in both trenches TP1 and TP2 was sufficiently similar that only the contexts recorded in TP2 will be discussed (fig.3). The natural (2004) was encountered at a depth of 0.6m and comprised of pale orange gravel over undulating dark pink clay. The natural was sealed by a 0.45m deep deposit of dark brown sandy clay loam (2003) containing flecks of charcoal and ash. This was overlain by a thin lense of modern ash, grit and broken bricks (2002) which was intern sealed by the topsoil 2001, which had a depth of 0.1m.

The two trenches excavated did not reveal and archaeological features or deposits.

## 6 ACKNOWLEDEMENTS

The Project was managed for Birmingham Archaeology by Kevin Colls and the archaeological Consultant was Alex Jones. Fieldwork was carried out by Matt Edgeworth and Samantha Porter who also wrote this report. The illustrations were prepared by Nigel Dodds. Thanks to Jo Kelsey (Seven Trent Water) for her support.

## 7 REFERENCES

Birmingham Archaeology 2007 *Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Watching Brief at Yardley Wood Road, Birmingham.*

Birmingham Archaeology 2007. *Seven Trent Water Archaeology Framework for Yardley Wood Road, Birmingham.*

IFA 2001 *Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief.*

Geological Survey of Great Britain (England and Wales) DRIFT. Sheet 16





Site

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Fig.1



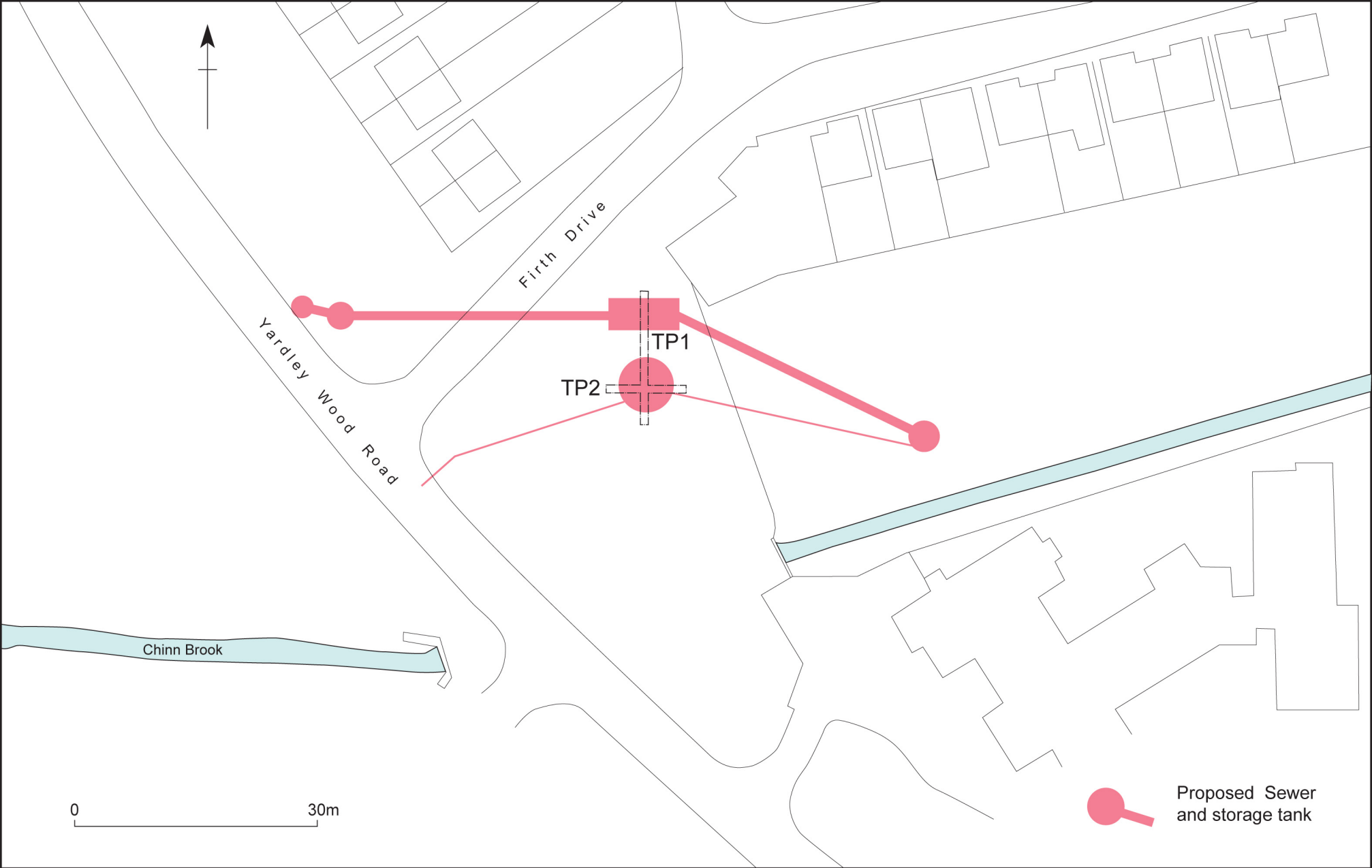
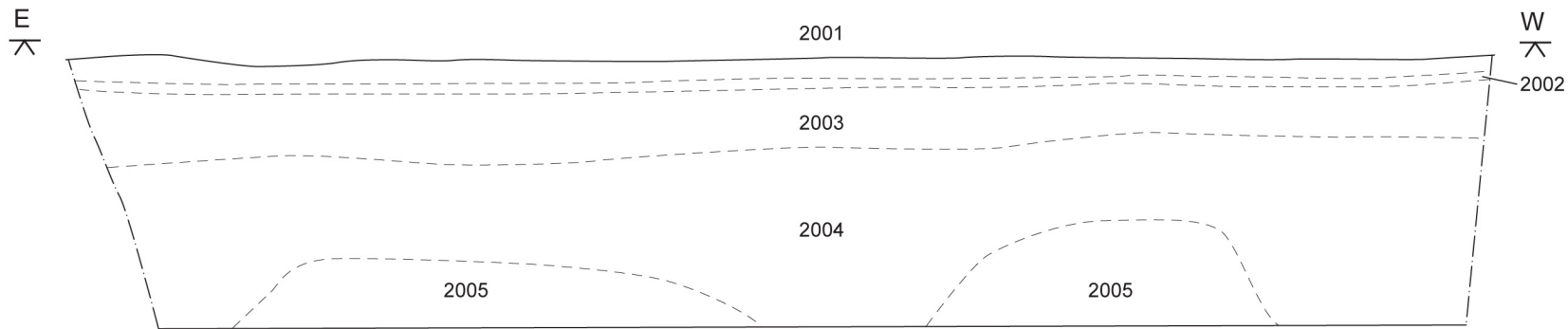


Fig.2

TP2 Section



0 2m

Fig.3