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## **Throckmorton Road, Hill, Worcestershire**

Archaeological Watching Brief

ARCUS report 1296.1(1)

July 2009

Client: Severn Trent Water

**Archaeological Watching Brief**



# Throckmorton Road, Hill, Worcestershire

Grid Reference: (centred on) 398640, 248020 (SO 9864 4802)

Archaeological Watching Brief

Report No. 1296.1(1)

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Reporting: Rob Barnett

Project manager: Richard O'Neill

Project supervisor: Rob Barnett

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Client: Severn Trent Water

Client address: 2297 Coventry Road, Birmingham B26 3PU

Location of archive: Worcestershire County Museum (accession no. to be determined)

Planning reference: 351/105556

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Checked by:	Passed for submission to client:
Date:	Date:
Rob Barnett <i>Project Archaeologist</i>	Richard O'Neill <i>Project Manager</i>

## OASIS SUMMARY FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		
OASIS identifier	Arcus2_61210	
Project title	Throckmorton Road, Hill, Worcestershire]	
Short description of the project	In May 2009, ARCUS were commissioned by Severn Trent Water to undertake an archaeological watching brief on a site at Throckmorton Road, Hill, Worcestershire, centred on NGR SO 9864 4802. The watching brief was required as a condition of planning consent for a scheme of water mains renewal at the site. The scope of works consisted of monitoring of ground breaking activity. The groundworks had the potential to affect medieval deposits associated with the deserted settlement at Hill. Due to a misunderstanding by the contractors not all of the groundworks were subject to archaeological monitoring. No archaeological remains were identified.	
Project dates	20-05-09 to 16-06-09	
Previous/future work	None	
Monument type and period	None	
Significant finds (artefact type and period)	None	
PROJECT LOCATION		
County/Parish	Worcestershire/Hill and Moor	
Site address	Throckmorton Road, Hill, Worcestershire WR 10	
Site co-ordinates	(centred on) NGR SO 9864 4802	
Site area	18 m <sup>2</sup>	
Height OD	40m to 50m AOD	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Organisation	ARCUS	
Project brief originator	Worcestershire County Council	
Project design originator	n/a	
Project supervisor	Rob Barnett	
Project manager	Richard O'Neill	
Sponsor or funding body	Severn Trent Water	
PROJECT ARCHIVES		
Archive Type	Location/Accession no.	Content (e.g. pottery, metalwork, etc)
Physical	None	None
Paper	Worcestershire County Museum Worcestershire HER	report, context sheets. report
Digital	Worcestershire HER	pdf copy of report
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
Title	Archaeological Watching Brief, Mains Renewal, Throckmorton Road, Hill, Worcestershire	
Report no	1296.1(1)	
Author	Rob Barnett	
Date	June 2009	

# CONTENTS

<b>OASIS SUMMARY FORM .....</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS AND PLATES .....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY .....</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>1 INTRODUCTION .....</b>	<b>6</b>
1.1 Scope of Report .....	6
1.2 Site Location .....	6
1.3 Archaeological Background .....	6
<b>2 AIMS AND METHODOLOGY .....</b>	<b>6</b>
2.1 Aims and Objectives.....	6
2.2 Evaluation Methodology.....	7
2.3 Fieldwork Programme.....	7
<b>3 RESULTS.....</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>4 CONCLUSION.....</b>	<b>8</b>
4.1 Summary and Discussion .....	8
4.2 Recommendations for Further Work.....	8
<b>5 ARCHIVE .....</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>6 BIBLIOGRAPHY .....</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>7 ILLUSTRATIONS AND PLATES.....</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>8 APPENDICES.....</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>APPENDIX 1: ARCHIVE CONTENTS.....</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>APPENDIX 2: LIST OF CONTEXTS .....</b>	<b>14</b>

## **LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS AND PLATES**

### **Illustrations**

- 1 Site location map
- 2 Location of trenches

### **Plates**

- 1 View of Trench B - looking east
- 2 View of Trench E - looking east

## **NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY**

*In May 2009, ARCUS were commissioned by Severn Trent Water to undertake an archaeological watching brief on a site at Throckmorton Road, Hill, Worcestershire centred on NGR SO 9864 4802. The watching brief was required as a condition of planning consent for a scheme of water mains renewal at the site. The scope of works consisted of monitoring of ground breaking activity. The groundworks had the potential to affect medieval deposits associated with the deserted settlement at Hill. Due to a misunderstanding by the contractors, not all of the groundworks were subject to archaeological monitoring. No archaeological remains were identified.*

# 1 INTRODUCTION

## 1.1 Scope of Report

This report presents the results of an archaeological watching brief on a site at Throckmorton Road, Hill, Worcestershire. This was required by Worcestershire County Council as a condition of planning consent on an application for redevelopment at the site consisting of water mains replacement (Planning Reference 351/105556). The watching brief was undertaken in line with Worcestershire County Council's Policy CTC 16-18 in the County Structure Plan–June 2001 and by Policy CB18 in the Wychavon District Local Adopted Plan–January 1998, and with the government's planning guidelines set down in PPG16 (1990). As the works had commenced prior to ARCUS being contacted no project design was prepared for the work, but archaeological monitoring was undertaken in accordance with the brief provided by Worcester County Council. ARCUS were commissioned by Severn Trent Water to undertake the watching brief.

## 1.2 Site Location

The site (centred on NGR SO 9864 4802), is located to the northeast of Wyre Piddle around the hamlet of Hill at 40 to 50m AOD (**Illustration 1**).

## 1.3 Archaeological Background

The groundworks associated with the water main renewal were mostly within the existing carriageway but had the potential to affect medieval deposits associated with the deserted settlement at Hill, recorded on the County Historic Environment Record (reference WSM03083). The site is registered as a site of archaeological interest (Statutory Instruments 1988 no. 1813). The site consists of earthworks of a medieval or later village shrinkage. Iron Age pottery has also been recovered at NGR SO 9881 4800 (Archaeology Data Service). Medieval ridge and furrow earthworks survived in the field to the south and east of Aston Cottage on Throckmorton Road.

# 2 AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

## 2.1 Aims and Objectives

The general aim of the watching brief was to mitigate the impact of the development on the archaeological resource, through preservation by record of any archaeology encountered during the groundworks.

The specific aims were:

- to identify, record and, where possible, characterise any archaeological remains encountered during the groundworks;
- to identify the state of preservation of archaeological remains and inform procedure during further groundworks that will impact on the archaeological record.
- to provide information that will enable the remains to be placed within their local and regional context and for an assessment of the significance of archaeology within the proposal area to be made.

## 2.2 Evaluation Methodology

All site work was carried out in accordance with the methodology outlined in the project brief (Glyde 2008). This was based on IfA guidelines (2008), health and safety regulations (SCAUM 2007) and current industry best practice.

The watching brief comprised monitoring of ground breaking activities along the water main pipeline route. Both machine and hand excavated trenches were monitored.

All deposits were recorded using the standard ARCUS recording system. Pro-forma trench and context records were completed and a digital photographic record made. Depths of deposits are given below present ground surface level.

The Worcestershire Archaeological Service HER fieldwork reference number is WSM 40831.

## 2.3 Fieldwork Programme

The project was managed by Richard O'Neill, ARCUS Project Manager.. Fieldwork was undertaken between 20<sup>th</sup> May and 16<sup>th</sup> June 2009 by Rob Barnett, ARCUS Project Archaeologist.

## 3 RESULTS

Five trenches A to E, were subject to monitoring along the pipeline route. The locations are shown on **Illustration 2**. All exposed deposits were recorded and the stratigraphic sequences of each are given by context number below. Due to a misunderstanding by the contractors, the area adjacent to the medieval village earthworks, and most of the pipe trench between Warren's Cottage and Throckmorton Road were not subject to archaeological monitoring.

### 3.1 Trench A

(7.5m x 0.4m x 0.85m)

Trench A was situated at the junction of the minor roads in Hill adjacent to Warren's Cottage. The trench was aligned northeast to southwest.

(100) Black tarmac road surface to 0.12m depth

(101) Grey tarmac road surface to 0.22m depth

(102) Greyish-brown silty clay substrate to base of excavation at 0.7m depth

(103) A deposit of rounded pebbles below (101) and filling a hollow in (102) in the central area of the trench

### 3.2 Trench B

(18m x 0.6m x 1.35m)

Trench B was situated on the southern side of the minor road leading from Throckmorton Road to Hill. The trench was aligned east to west (**Plate 1**).

(104) Tarmac surface/grass verge and grey silt loam topsoil to 0.18m depth

(105) Orange sandy clay sub soil to 0.35m depth

(106) Greyish-brown silty clay substrate to base of excavation at 1.35m depth



### **3.3 Trench C**

(3m x 0.4m x 1.1m)

Trench C was situated on the western side of Throckmorton Road carriageway at the entrance to Briars Farm. The trench was aligned east to west.

(107) Black tarmac road surface to 0.12m depth

(108) Limestone chippings in a mid grey gritty sand matrix to 0.95m depth

(109) Yellow silty clay substrate to base of excavation at 1.1m depth

### **3.4 Trench D**

(1m x 0.6m x 0.7m)

Trench D was situated in the garden of Aston Cottage. The trench was aligned east to west.

(110) Turf and dark greyish brown silty loam topsoil to 0.2m depth

(111) Dark yellowish brown silty clay loam containing ash, cinder and brick fragments to base of excavation at 0.7m depth

### **3.5 Trench E**

(1.2m x 0.5m x 0.7m)

Trench E was situated in the garden 5m to the southeast of Trench D. The trench was aligned east to west (**Plate 2**).

(112) Turf and dark greyish-brown silty clay loam topsoil to 0.16m depth

(113) Yellowish-brown silty clay substrate to base of excavation at 0.7m depth

### **3.6 Trench F**

(1.1m x 0.5m x 0.65m)

Trench F was situated in the garden 6m to the southeast of Trench E. The trench was aligned east to west and rapidly filled with water from an existing main within.

(114) Turf and dark greyish-brown silty clay loam topsoil to 0.15m depth

(115) Yellowish-brown silty clay substrate to base of excavation at 0.65m depth

## **4 CONCLUSION**

### **4.1 Summary and Discussion**

The watching brief was undertaken in good conditions, and ground surface visibility was good. No archaeological remains were identified in any of the monitored trenches. The overall reliability of the watching brief is considered to be good.

### **4.2 Recommendations for Further Work**

The areas monitored during the watching brief are considered to be of low archaeological potential, and, therefore, no further work is recommended.

## 5 ARCHIVE

The project archive will be deposited with Worcestershire County Museum, the accession number to be determined. The archive will be prepared by ARCUS staff in accordance with the requirements specified in Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (English Heritage 2006) and with UKIC guidelines (1990). In addition, copies of this report will be deposited with the Worcestershire HER, circulated to the client, and retained in the offices of ARCUS.

## 6 BIBLIOGRAPHY

Archaeology Data Service <[www.ads.ahds.ac.uk](http://www.ads.ahds.ac.uk)> accessed 24/09/2009

Glyde, M. 2008. *Requirements for an Archaeological Watching Brief Along the Route of the Throckmorton Road, Hill, Mains Renewal, Worcestershire*. Worcestershire County Council document

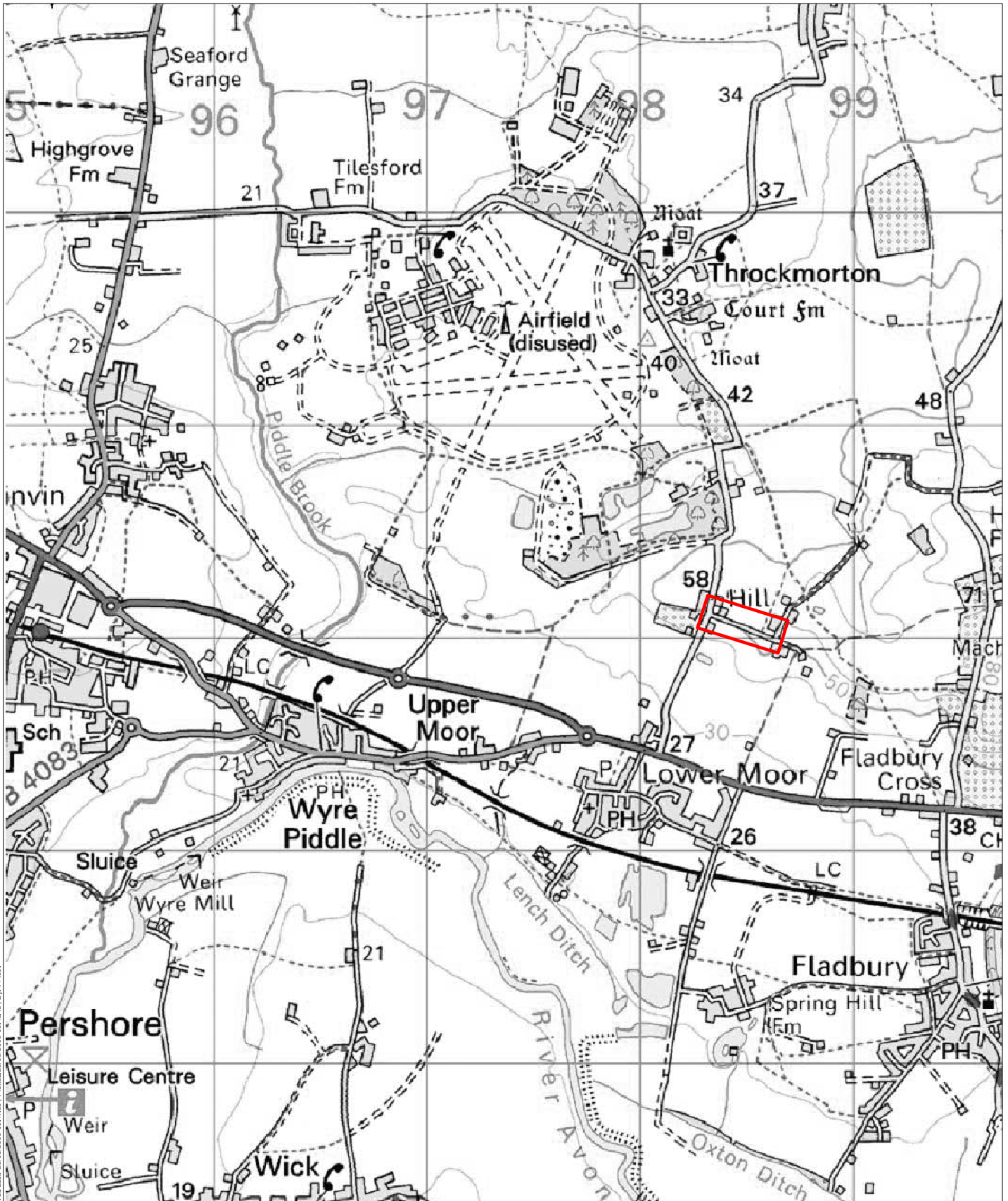
English Heritage. 2006. *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment*. English Heritage: Swindon.

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SCAUM. 2007. *Health and Safety in Field Archaeology*. Standing Conference of Archaeological Unit Managers.

UKIC. 1990. *Guidelines for the Preparation of Excavation Archives for Long Term Storage*. United Kingdom Institute of Conservation. London.

**7 ILLUSTRATIONS AND PLATES**



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number 100020449. Plotted Scale - 1:35000



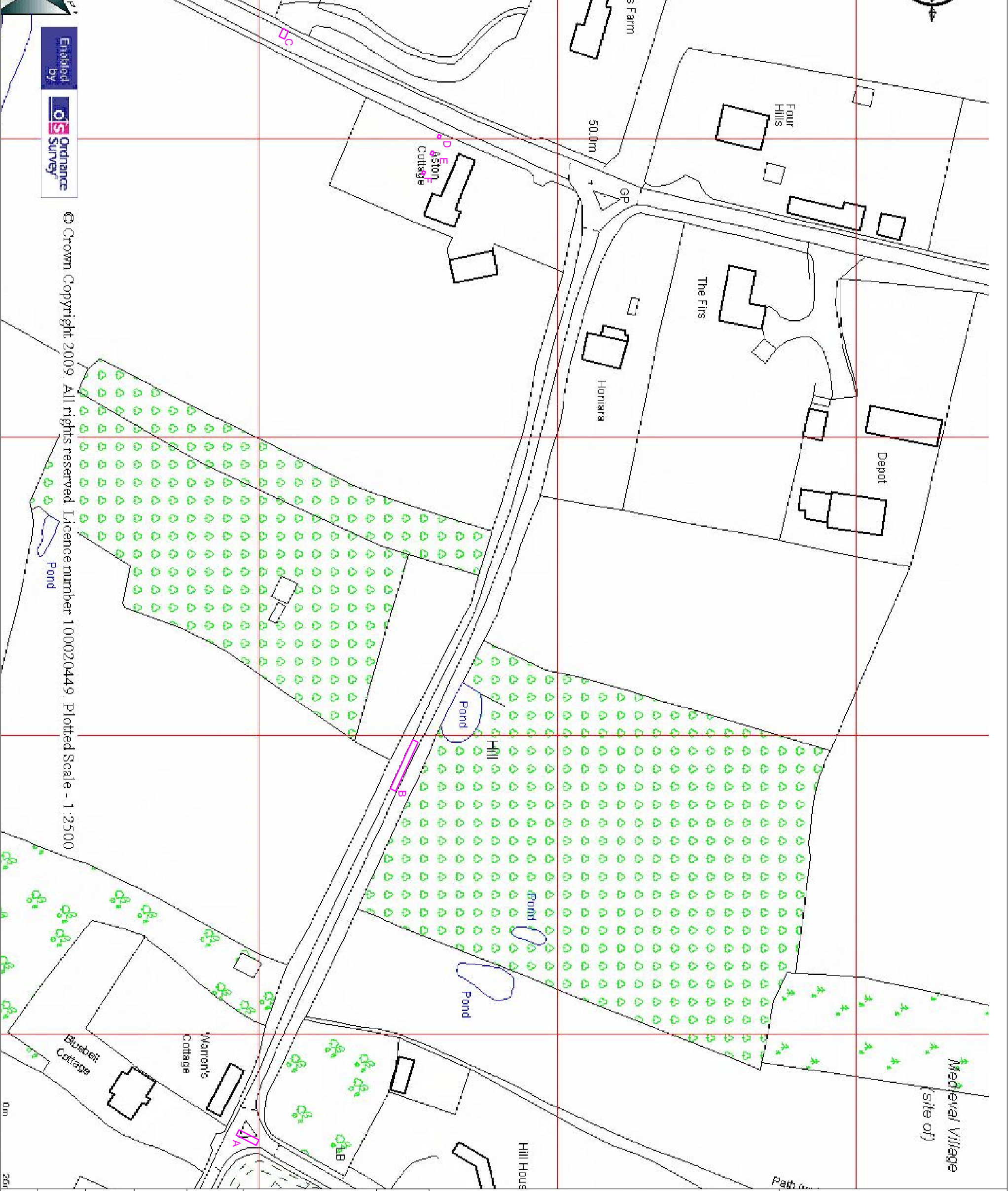
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Project:	<b>Throckmorton Road, Hill</b>
Title	<b>Site location</b>

Scale	1:25000	Date	June 2009
NGR	SO 9864 4802	Drawn	CS
Project No.	<b>1296</b>	Illustration No.	<b>1</b>

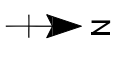
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Project:		<b>Throckmorton Road, Hill</b>	
Title			
<b>Trench location</b>			
Scale	1:1250	Date	June 2009
NGR	SO 9864 4802	Drawn	CS
Project No.	<b>1296</b>	Ill. No.	<b>2</b>



## PLATES



Plate 1 – View of Trench B looking east



Plate 2 – View of Trench E looking east

**8 APPENDICES**

Appendix 1	Archive Index
Appendix 2	List of Contexts

## APPENDIX 1: ARCHIVE CONTENTS

The archive will be deposited with Worcestershire County Museum (the accession number is to be determined).

Summary:

Paper Archive

Description	Number of sheets
Photographic register	1
Context sheets	17
Context register	1
Trench record sheets	6
Copy report	1

Photographic Archive

Description	Number of pictures
Digital photographs (1 CD)	12



## APPENDIX 2: LIST OF CONTEXTS

Site sub-division	Context No	Context type	Description
Trench A	100	Structure	Tarmac surface
Trench A	101	Structure	Tarmac surface below [100]
Trench A	102	Deposit	Clay substrate
Trench A	103	Deposit	Pebble layer between [101] and (102)
Trench B	104	Structure/deposit	Tarmac surface/grass and topsoil verge
Trench B	105	Deposit	Sandy clay subsoil
Trench B	106	Deposit	Clay substrate
Trench C	107	Structure	Tarmac surface
Trench C	108	Deposit	Backfill of pipe connection trench
Trench C	109	Deposit	Clay substrate
Trench D	110	Deposit	Turf and topsoil
Trench D	111	Deposit	Made ground below (110)
Trench E	112	Deposit	Turf and topsoil
Trench E	113	Deposit	Clay substrate
Trench F	114	Deposit	Turf and topsoil
Trench F	115	Deposit	Clay substrate

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