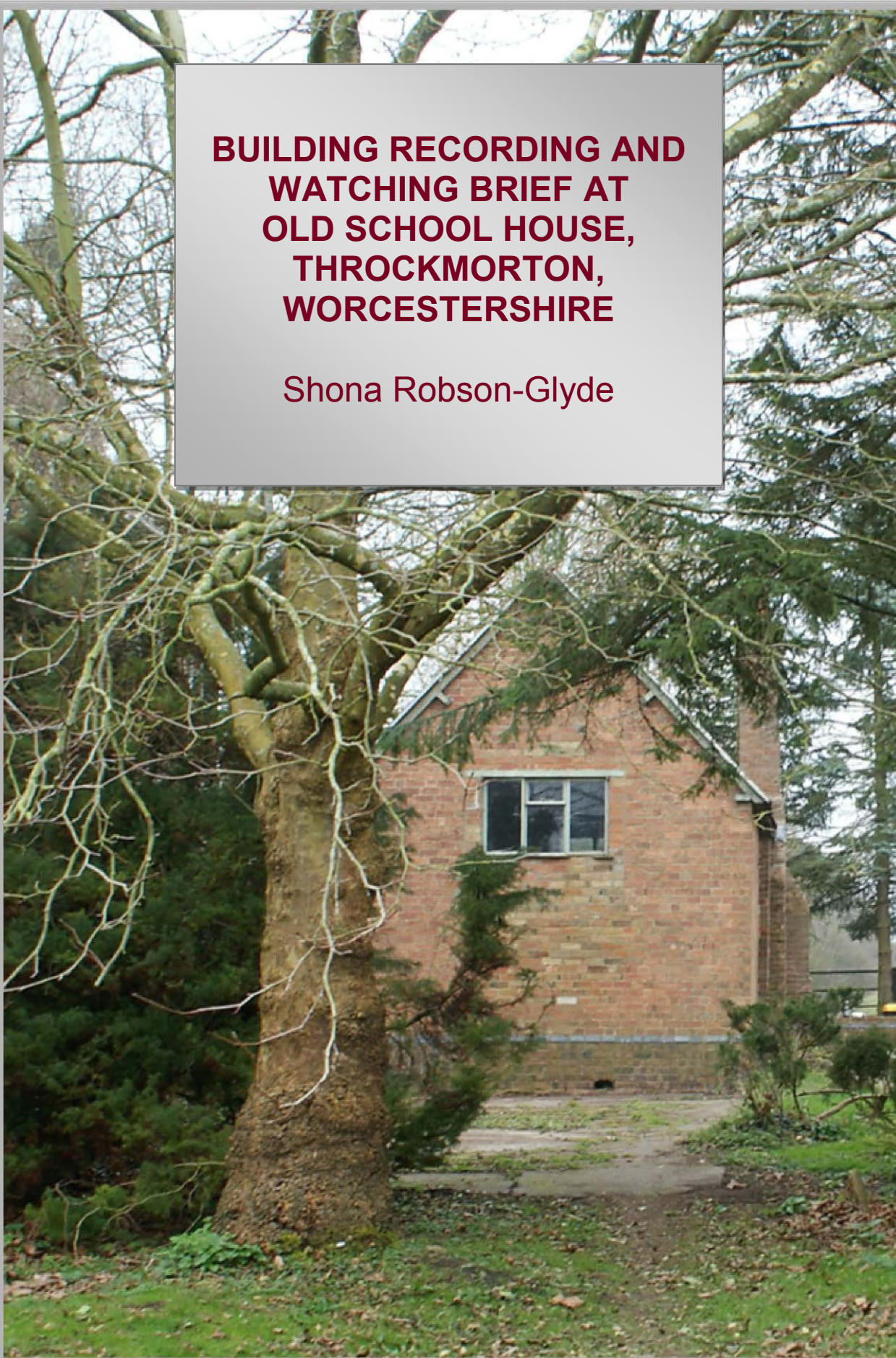


**BUILDING RECORDING AND  
WATCHING BRIEF AT  
OLD SCHOOL HOUSE,  
THROCKMORTON,  
WORCESTERSHIRE**

Shona Robson-Glyde





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## **Building recording and watching brief at Old School House, Throckmorton, Worcestershire**

Shona Robson-Glyde

With contributions by Graham Arnold and Angus Crawford

### **Summary**

Building recording and a watching brief were undertaken at the Old School House, Throckmorton, Worcestershire (NGR SO 9814 4985).

The investigations were undertaken on behalf of Neil Wicks, who intends to convert the former school building for residential use and for which a planning application was submitted and approved.

Historical evidence showed that the school was built in the 1870s on land that was given to the National Society for Promoting the Education of the Poor in the Principles of the Established Church by the Rector. The school was built at a time of reform in education with the principle of education for all, no matter what class, being the driving force. The small brick building was eventually closed in the 1940s and then sold to a local farmer for use as a storage shed in 1950. The watching brief revealed no features of archaeological interest and despite the proximity of a medieval moat and earthworks of a shrunken village, only a small number of ceramic sherds dating from the 18th century onwards were recovered.





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## Report

### 1 Background

#### 1.1 Reasons for the project

This building recording and watching brief project was commissioned by Mr Neil Wicks. The project consisted of a watching brief on drainage works and the recording of Old School House at Throckmorton (Fig 1, NGR SO 9814 4985) which it is planned to convert into residential use. A planning application has been submitted to, and approved by Wychavon District Council (07/2943). This will affect a heritage asset with archaeological interest (WSM 30710).

The project conforms to the *Standard and guidance for the archaeological investigation and recording of standing buildings or structures* (IfA 2008a), *Standard and guidance for an archaeological watching brief* (IfA 2008b) and *Standards and guidelines for archaeological projects in Worcestershire* (HEAS 2008).

The project also conforms to a brief prepared by the Planning Advisory Section of Worcestershire Historic Environment and Archaeology Service (HEAS 2011a) and for which a project proposal (including detailed specification) was produced (HEAS 2011b).

### 2 Aims

The aims of this project are:

- to describe and assess the significance of the heritage asset with archaeological interest;
- to establish the nature, importance and extent of the archaeological site;
- to assess the impact of the application on the archaeological site.

More specifically the following aims have been identified.

- to provide an illustrative and descriptive account and interpretation of the building, including discussion of its local regional and national significance

### 3 Methods

#### 3.1 Personnel

The project was undertaken by Shona Robson-Glyde (BA, Post-grad Dip Arch) and Graham Arnold (BA, MSc). The project manager responsible for the quality of the project was Tom Rogers (BA, MSc). Illustrations were prepared by Shona Robson-Glyde. Angus Crawford contributed the finds analysis.

#### 3.2 Documentary research

Prior to fieldwork commencing a search was made of the Historic Environment Record (HER) Sites. In addition to the sources listed in the bibliography the following were also consulted:

##### *Cartographic sources*

- Ordnance Survey maps of 1885, 1904, 1927 and 1969 at 1:2500 scale
- Throckmorton Manor 1784 (WAAS BA 3883)

##### *Aerial photographs*

- Google Earth aerial photography dating from 1945, 1999, 2005 and 2007

##### *Documentary sources*

- Worcestershire Archive and Archaeology Service records
  - BA 8953/20/12 Ref 834 Letters regarding closure of school 1940-42

- BA 8953/28/2 Ref 834 Letters regarding sale of school building 1949-1951
- BA 9091/2/vii/3 Ref 850FLADBURY Copy conveyance of school site by Rev. J Haviland

Published and grey literature sources are included in the bibliography (Section 10)

### **3.3 Building recording strategy**

A detailed specification was prepared by the Service (HEAS 2011b).

#### **3.3.1 Fieldwork**

Fieldwork was undertaken on 16<sup>th</sup> March 2011. The site reference number and site code is WSM 43247.

Building recording consisted of a photographic survey of the interior and exterior of the building, analysis of its development and annotation of existing survey drawings. All photographs were taken with photographic scales visible in each shot. The photographic survey was carried out with a Sony α350 digital SLR camera. All photographs were recorded on a pro-forma Photographic Record Sheet. Annotation of existing ground plans and elevations, and completion of pro-forma Building Record complemented the photographic record.

The project conformed to the specification for a level 3 survey as defined in the English Heritage document *Understanding historic buildings: a guide to good recording practice* (EH 2006). This level of survey is described as 'an analytical record' comprising of 'an introductory description followed by a systematic account of the buildings origins, development and use' (EH 2006). This required the following elements of survey:

Survey and drawings

- Plans of all main floors and elevations as existing (provided by client).

Photography

- Overall appearance of rooms and circulation areas.
- Detailed coverage of the building's external appearance.
- Any detail, structural or decorative, relevant to the building's design, development and use, which does not show on general photographs.

#### **3.3.2 Building analysis**

Analysis of the building was based on the study of the photographic record, building recording forms and annotated drawings. It was also informed by the documentary sources listed above. This allowed plans to be drawn up showing the structural development of the building.

The building as recorded is depicted in Plates 1 - 14. Ground plans, phase plans and elevations have been reproduced on Figure 4. Plate locations are also shown on Figure 4. Historical maps of the site have been reproduced as Figure 5 with further historical documents being reproduced as Figures 6-9.

### **3.4 Watching brief, by Graham Arnold**

A detailed specification has been prepared by the Service (HEAS 2011b).

#### **3.4.1 Fieldwork**

Fieldwork was undertaken on 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> March 2011. The watching brief site reference number and site code is WSM 43248.

One service trench was excavated measuring 0.35m wide, 110m in length and a maximum of 0.80m in depth. The location of the trenches is indicated in Figure 2.



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The trench was excavated with a small 360° tracked excavator, employing a toothless bucket and under archaeological supervision. Deposits were recorded according to standard Service practice (CAS 1995). All ceramic material was retained whilst any fragmentary disarticulated bone was recorded but backfilled in the trench.

### 3.4.2 Structural analysis

All fieldwork records were checked and cross-referenced. Analysis was effected through a combination of structural, artefactual and ecofactual evidence, allied to the information derived from other sources.

## 3.5 Artefacts, by Angus Crawford

### 3.5.1 Artefact recovery policy

The artefact recovery policy conformed to standard Service practice (CAS 1995; appendix 2).

### 3.5.2 Method of analysis

All hand-retrieved finds were examined. They were identified, quantified and dated to period. A *terminus post quem* date was produced for each stratified context where possible. The date was used for determining the broad date of phases defined for the site. All information was recorded on *pro forma* sheets.

The pottery and ceramic building material was examined under x20 magnification and recorded by fabric type and form according to the fabric reference series maintained by the service (Hurst and Rees 1992 and [www.worcestershireceramics.org](http://www.worcestershireceramics.org)).

## 3.6 Statement of confidence in the methods and results

The methods adopted allowed the aims of the watching brief to be fulfilled successfully. The recording of the building, however, was only completed successfully on the exterior given that work on the interior had already commenced on arrival at site. The wooden floor had been removed and the walls were in the process of being lined. The building was described in 1950, after it had closed, and no internal fittings were mentioned. Since that time it had been used for storage only, therefore the interior of the building would have yielded little, if any, architectural fabric of note.

## 4 Context

Old School House is located in the village of Throckmorton to the immediate north of Throckmorton Church (Fig 1).

Throckmorton is a village situated around 5 miles north east of the town of Pershore. It is a small settlement that was historically part of Fladbury with the church being a chapelry of Fladbury (until 1974). The village was not mentioned in the Domesday survey as a result of this relationship with Fladbury, although it was mentioned as having three manors in a charter of 1020 – '*Archiepiscopi de tribus Mansis in Throcmortune*' (Hearne 1723, 580, 15). The village is therefore believed to have been well-established prior to the Norman Conquest. The name Throckmorton is believed to mean 'farm by the pond'. It may be Saxon in origin and relate to the existence of the manorial moat (Mawer and Stenton 1927, 169). The name was *Throcmortune* in the 11<sup>th</sup> century; *Trocmaretona*, *Throkemerton*, *Trokemareton*, *Trochmarton*, *Trokemarton* and *Throkemarton* in the 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> centuries. In the 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> centuries the settlement was called *Throgmerton*, *Throgmarton* and *Throkmorton*. In the 17<sup>th</sup> century the village was known as *Frogmorton* (Mawer and Stenton 1927, 169).

The Historic Environment Record search revealed records in the area surrounding Old School House, (Fig 3 and Appendix 1), including those relating to the medieval settlement of Throckmorton. Large areas of the village are part of a Scheduled Monument (SAM 31946). This includes the remains of the moat to the immediate north of the church and Old School House. The

trapezoidal ditched structure (WSM 2694) is believed to be the primary manorial site. To the south and east of the church, the Scheduled Monument includes fields of medieval and post-medieval ridge and furrow (WSM 2385 and 2386). There is a holloway to the south of this (WSM 3079). To the south west of the church are areas of building platforms, enclosures and holloways (WSM 4594) which probably represent some of the original planned closes of the village (EH 2014a). There are further fields of ridge and furrow and settlement around Court Farm to the west (EH 2011a) but outside the search area for the site. Archaeological activity in the area of the Scheduled Monument has included the uncovering of cobbles in a field close to the moat (WSM 33662) and the discovery of 18<sup>th</sup> bowls and other finds in a garden (WSM 32739). There was also an evaluation on land adjacent to the Parish Room (WSM 34279). Despite the close proximity of the earthworks, the evaluation revealed no significant archaeological features (Miller 2005). A watching brief was also carried out on an extensive sewerage scheme in 2002 (WSM 31742, 31743, 31744, 31745 and 31913). These trenches revealed evidence of ridge and furrow, post-medieval settlement and a post-medieval cobbled road surface (Goad, Darch and Mann 2002). The decommissioning of the former sewerage works was also subject to a watching brief (WSM 32422) but this revealed no remains of archaeological interest (Goad 2003).

Throckmorton church dates mainly to the 13th century and is recorded on the HER as WSM 1294. It is also a grade II\* listed building (EH 2014b) described in the listing information as '*13<sup>th</sup> century chancel, south arcade and two lower stages of central tower. 14<sup>th</sup> century north and south doorways. South aisle 1894. 15<sup>th</sup> century belfry stage of tower, embattlements to pinnacles. 12<sup>th</sup> century font*' (EH 2014b).

Old School House, to the north of the church, is also recorded on the HER as WSM 30710. The description on the record says 'small Victorian school, now redundant, used as store'. Old School House stands on a plot of land owned by The Glebe, to the north west of the building. The Glebe is also recorded on the HER as WSM 45153. It is described as a '19th century outfarm, extended and converted to domestic dwelling'. It was an outfarm to Church Farm to the south west of the church, a number of buildings of which are also recorded on the HER. The farmhouse (WSM 45155) is an unlisted 19th century farmhouse which has two associated farm buildings (WSM 45156) to its south and east. These are also both of 19th century date. Other 19th century farm buildings at Church Farm have since been demolished and the sites of them are recorded on the HER (WSM 45158).

## **5 Building recording results**

### **5.1 Building description**

Old School House is a small single cell Victorian School building. It is roughly rectangular in plan and is aligned east-west. The construction is brick with a chamfered brick plinth. The roof is gabled and is covered with slates. The north elevation (Plate 1) of the building has only one window, with a segmental head, and also has two projecting walls of red brick. The east gable (Plate 2) of the building has a single large window with segmental head. The south elevation (Plate 3) has a small window with segmental head and a chimney stack. There is also a segmental headed doorway and two short projecting walls. The west gable (Plate 4) of the building has a segmental head window.

### **5.2 Historical information**

Historical information relating to Old School House is varied. The plot of land on which the building stands is shown on a 1784 map of Throckmorton Manor. It is marked as 'Church Yard' suggesting it belonged to the church (Fig 5).

The building itself is not mentioned in any published documents until the 1879 Directory which mentions it as '*national school for boys and girls*' and names Miss Hunt as Schoolmistress (Littlebury 1879, 676). Miss Hunt is also named as Mistress in the 1884 directory which has a longer entry for the school '*Church School, erected in 1872, for 50 children; average attendance 24; Miss Amy Hunt, Mistress*' (Kelly 1884, 1200). This entry is repeated in the 1888 directory (Kelly

1888, 204). Miss Hunt is also recorded in the 1881 census. At this time she was only 21 years old and was lodging at Court House Farm (NA 2014a, Page 1.)

The schoolmistresses change through time with Miss Sumner being recorded in the 1892 directory (Kelly 1892, 215). Martha E Burman is recorded as a 'Certified School Teacher' in the 1901 census (NA 2014b, Page 15). The 1908 directory has a Miss Stead as Mistress and Miss Kate Smith as Assistant Mistress. Miss Stead is living at School House at this time (Littlebury 1908, 675-676). The school is described in this directory as an 'Elementary School' (ibid). Miss Ethel Stead is shown as the Mistress in the 1912 directory when the school had an average attendance of 31 (Kelly 1912, 274). The 1924 directory shows that Miss Harris was Mistress (Kelly 1924, 282) and the directories have no more entries for the school after this point.

Education of children in England can be dated back to the 7<sup>th</sup> century in Cambridge but this was restricted to the upper classes. The industrialisation of the country from the late 18<sup>th</sup> century onwards created a greater division between the landed and rich of society and the poor workers, many of which were children. The Church of England decided that the education of all children, whatever class they were from, was desirable. They formed the 'National Society for Promoting the Education of the Poor in the Principles of the Established Church' (known as the National Society) in 1811. Its aim was 'to provide a school in every parish' (Gillard 2011, Ch 2). The local clergy took this idea on wholeheartedly, with or without the benefit of donations, and many schools were formed to teach reading, writing, 'rithmetic and religion, the four Rs' (ibid). They were empowered by the School Sites Acts of the 1840s and 1850s. The 1870 Elementary Education Act provided for the founding of 'Elementary Schools', which included no element of religious education, and also allowed up to 50% grant funding for the founding of Church Schools (Gillard 2011, Ch 3). The 1880 Education Act finally made schooling for ages 5 to 10 compulsory.

### 5.3 Building development

#### 5.3.1 1870s

In 1874 a brick structure (Fig 4) was built to the north of Throckmorton Church (Plate 5) on a plot of land called 'Church Yard' (Fig 5). The land was part of the Church lands in Throckmorton and therefore under the control of the Rector of Fladbury. The creation of the school is documented in a conveyance document of 1874 drawn up by the Rector of Fladbury, Reverend John Haviland. The conveyance states '*under the authority of an Act passed in the fifth year of the reign [1841] of Her Majesty Queen Victoria intituled "An Act to afford further facilities for the Conveyance of School Sites" ... do hereby freely and voluntarily and without valuable consideration grant and convey unto the Archdeacon of Worcester ... All that plot or parcel of land part of a close of Glebe Land ... for the purposes of the said Act ... and used as and for a School for the education of Children or Adults or children only of the labouring manufacturing and other poorer classes in the Chapelry of Throckmorton ... such School to be always conducted on the principles of the Established Church*' (WAAS BA 9091/2/vii/3 Ref 850FLADBURY; Figure 6). The conveyance included a plan of the plot of land to be used for the school (Figure 6).

The school building was small and simple. It was constructed in four different types of brick of slightly different types and styles. The west end of the building, slightly smaller than the rest of the structure, was built of bricks coursed in Flemish Stretcher Bond and measuring 8 $\frac{7}{8}$ " by 3" by 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ ". The east end of the structure was built of bricks coursed in Flemish Garden Wall Bond and measuring 9" by 2 $\frac{7}{8}$ " by 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ ". A blue brick chamfer course topped the plinth which was built of bricks coursed in Flemish Garden Wall Bond and measuring 8 $\frac{7}{8}$ " by 3" by 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ ". The chimney was built of bricks measuring 9" by 2 $\frac{5}{8}$ " by 4" by 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ " and coursed in Flemish Garden Wall Bond. These are all depicted on Figure 4.

The conveyance intended the school building to also be '*a residence for the Teacher or Teachers of the said School*' (WAAS BA 9091/2/vii/3 Ref 850FLADBURY). Internally it is possible that there was a division to separate the living area from that of the schooling area. That it was intended to be

a residence is evidenced by the inclusion of a chimney (Plate 6) and fireplace. The exterior of the chimney included the decorative detail of tipping-in brickwork (Plate 7). There was a single entrance into the building (Plate 8) which must have served for the entrance of both boys and girls and for the entrance to the residence. According to the Ordnance Survey maps (Fig 5), the building appears to have had a porch over the doorway which is likely to have been original to the structure, although a possible building break on the east elevation (Plate 9) suggests that it may have been altered at some point. The east elevation still retained its original large segmental head window opening (Plate 10) with six lights within a pegged wooden frame. Around the building, particularly on the gables, were small cast-iron vents (Plate 11) to allow ventilation into the building

### 5.3.2 Early 20<sup>th</sup> century

At some point in the early 20th century, a ground plan of the building (Fig 7) was produced by a J W Jarvis ARIBA. This plan must have been produced after the earth closet block was built to the north west of the school building around 1900. The earth closet block is not shown on the 1885 Ordnance Survey map but is on the 1904 map (Fig 5). It is possible that the plan was drawn later, but J W Jarvis is referenced in the Royal Institute of British Architects 'Directory of British Architects 1834-1914' (Brodie, Felstead et al 2001, 975) and is therefore likely to be working at the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century rather than any later.

The plan (Fig 7) shows that the building was a single open room with no internal divisions but had a porch, used as a cloak room, and on the north elevation of the building there was a coal store (Plate 12) against the north elevation. This coal store is constructed of bricks the same as parts of the school building itself and therefore is likely to be the same date.

### 5.3.3 1940s and 1950s

In the 1940, the then teacher of the school, Miss Harris, retired and the education board decided to close the school. A series of letters regarding this is available in the archives (WAAS BA 8953/20/12 Ref 834). The first of the letters is from the Reverend D K Sylvester, the then Rector of Fladbury, and details that at the time of the teacher retiring Throckmorton School had only nine pupils, only one of which was from Throckmorton itself, the others being from Bishampton, which had no school (Fig 8). The school was closed at the end of September 1940 by the County Local Education Authority without any consultation with the Church Education Society or the National Society. Following the closure, a number of letters passed between the various parties in order to ascertain who actually owned the building now that it was closed. It appears that the ownership passed to the Archdeacon of Worcester as being the last surviving of the trustees mentioned in the 1874 conveyance (ibid).

A further series of letters regarding the school is available in the archives (WAAS BA 8953/28/2 Ref 834) which detail the sale of the school. The first of these letters is dated November 1949 and mentions that a family was living in the property at the time, although with permission and without paying rent. A letter later in the month from J W Holmes, Building Surveyor, of Pershore Rural District Council shows that the school was unsuitable for living accommodation and the family living there were being re-housed by the Council (ibid).

Another of the letters from January 1950, shows that the school was subject to a survey (Fig 9) by Maurice Jones, Chartered Architect, with a view to selling the school building. This survey detailed the appearance and condition of the school describing it as *'a very small site ... with access by footpath a considerable distance from the road across a large pasture field'* (WAAS BA 8953/28/2 Ref 834; Fig 9). The building itself is described as *'consists of a classroom 16'-0" x 32'-0" with a small entrance porch 6'-0" x 8'-0" and lean-to coal house on the north side 6'-0" x 9'-0"'. It is brick built and tiled with a boarded floor. There is no damp proof course in the walls. The roof is in fair order but the verge tiles and the barge rafter on the east end are coming away. The walls are built of poor quality common bricks and there is a fracture on the north side running from the roof to the ground. The lean-to coal house is falling away from the main block. The eaves gutters and downpipes need repair and most of the glass in the windows has been broken. There is a small*



*brick and tiled detached closet block standing near the northern boundary of the playground with three old earth closets and an ash bay. The roof and the rear wall are in a dilapidated condition'* (ibid; Fig 9). The surveyor also notes that *'there is no water supply and no gas or electricity'* and he values the whole site at £150 stating that *'the property has a very limited sale value owing to its position, the lack of services and its poor structural quality. It would not doubt serve as a storeroom for the nearby farm but it is not considered suitable for conversion into a small dwelling'* (ibid; Fig 9). It seems that a number of repairs were carried out at this time to stabilise the structure. The west end window was completely replaced with a smaller opening and window, the larger one being bricked up (Plate 13). The north side of the building also had some repairs, possibly to the crack mentioned in the survey report (Plate 14). It is likely that the closet block was also demolished at this time as it does not appear on the 1969 Ordnance Survey map. Following the repairs the Diocesan Education Committee decided to sell the building and approached a local landowner who owned the adjoining land, Mr James F Bomford, offering him the building and land for £200 before they advertised it for sale. Mr Bomford was happy to have the building and the sale was agreed with the Education Committee and the Ministry of Education. The documents were eventually signed and exchanged in October 1951 (ibid).

From 1951, the building appears to have been used as store. It was never converted and still had no water, gas or electricity at the time it was recorded.

## 6 Watching brief results by Graham Arnold

### 6.1 Structural analysis

The trench location is shown in Fig 2. The results of the structural analysis are presented in Appendix 2. Photographs from the watching brief are included as Plates 15-24.

#### 6.1.1 Phase 1: Natural deposits

The natural stratum of clays was observed overlain by the subsoil and topsoil. It consisted of compact light yellowish brown clay with occasional lenses of orange and grey clays. The natural stratum was encountered throughout the base of the length of the service trench.

#### 6.1.2 Phase 2: Modern deposits

To the northwest of The Glebe an area of modern made ground was present where the ground had been raised and previous drainage works had taken place. A modern layer of pea grit and gravels was also observed close to the concrete surfacing to the west of the Old School House, either as a level hardcore base for the concrete surfacing or from an old path alongside the concrete surfaced area. Modern material was also observed within the topsoil as the area is at present a garden and orchard. No other deposits were observed.

### 6.2 Artefact analysis by Angus Crawford

The artefactual assemblage recovered is summarised in Tables 1 and 2. The pottery assemblage retrieved from the excavated area consisted of five sherds of pottery weighing 38g. In addition fragments of roof tile and brick were recovered. The group (see Table 1) came from a single context dated to the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Level of preservation was generally good with the sherds displaying only minimal levels of abrasion.

period	material class	count	weight(g)
modern	ceramic	17	970
post-medieval	ceramic	1	4

*Table 1: Quantification of the assemblage*

### 6.2.1 Pottery

All sherds have been grouped and quantified according to fabric type (Table 2). All sherds could be dated to their general period or production span.

The recovered pottery assemblage consisted entirely of later post-medieval and modern pottery. Of these, the earliest was a single sherd of 18<sup>th</sup> century buff ware from a fine cup with an overall yellow slip and external brown feathered decoration (fabric 91). The remaining pottery sherds consisted of wares typically produced from around the mid 19<sup>th</sup> century and into the early 20<sup>th</sup>. These included a porcelain rim sherd from a cup with a fluted body, a fragment of a china tureen (or similar) lid with under-glaze band and line decoration in red, and a plate rim with moulded spear points and applied blue transfer print decoration. The last china sherd was a partial base with moulded footring from either a deep plate or small bowl.

period	fabric code	Fabric common name	count	weight(g)
modern	83	porcelain	1	4
modern	85	china	3	30
post-medieval	91	post-medieval buff wares	1	4

*Table 2: Quantification of the pottery by period and fabric-type*

### 6.2.2 Other artefacts

The remaining material from the finds assemblage consisted of fragments of flat roof tile and a single piece of brick. The general appearance and condition of the material makes a post-World War II date of manufacture very likely.

### 6.2.3 Overview of artefactual evidence

The artefact assemblage was of limited archaeological significance and indicative of general rubbish discard from the 18<sup>th</sup> century onwards. These pottery types were of a higher status than the general wares of household use of the time.

## 7 Synthesis

The archaeological evidence recovered from the watching brief suggest that there has been little activity on the site with no features being uncovered and only manuring or residual ceramic sherds being recovered. Taken by itself this would suggest that this area of Throckmorton has not been settled in the past. However, the close proximity of the primary medieval moat and the adjoining earthworks shows that this is not true. The lack of artefactual evidence is therefore unusual and may be because the site is in close proximity to the medieval church and also was historically Glebe land, land farmed by the Rector of the parish.

The construction of the school on former Glebe land came at a time when education provision in Britain was increasing amidst the belief that the poorer classes should also be educated. As a result of the 1870 Elementary Education Act, each school district was to have sufficient schools to accommodate all the children resident in the district. As well as this, the National Society was aiming to have a school in each parish. The school in Throckmorton was built a short time after that of Fladbury, which Reverend Haviland had conveyed the land for in the 1860s, and both were built and managed by the National Society.

## 8 Publication summary

Worcestershire Archaeology has a professional obligation to publish the results of archaeological projects within a reasonable period of time. To this end, Worcestershire Archaeology intends to use this summary as the basis for publication through local or regional journals. The client is requested to consider the content of this section as being acceptable for such publication.

*Archaeological works were undertaken on behalf of Neil Wicks at Old School House, Throckmorton, Worcestershire (NGR SO 9814 4985). Historical evidence showed that the school was built in the 1870s on land that was given to the National Society for Promoting the Education of the Poor in the Principles of the Established Church by the Rector. The school was built at a time of reform in education with the principle of education for all, no matter what class, being the driving force. The small brick building was eventually closed in the 1940s and then sold to a local farmer for use as a storage shed in 1950. The watching brief revealed no features of archaeological interest and despite the proximity of a medieval moat and earthworks of a shrunken village, only a small number of ceramic sherds dating from the 18th century onwards were recovered.*

## 9 Acknowledgements

Worcestershire Archaeology would like to thank Mr. Neil Wicks, the client, Poole Phillips Associates, the agent, and Mike Glyde Historic Environment Planning Officer, the curator, for their kind assistance in the successful conclusion of this project.

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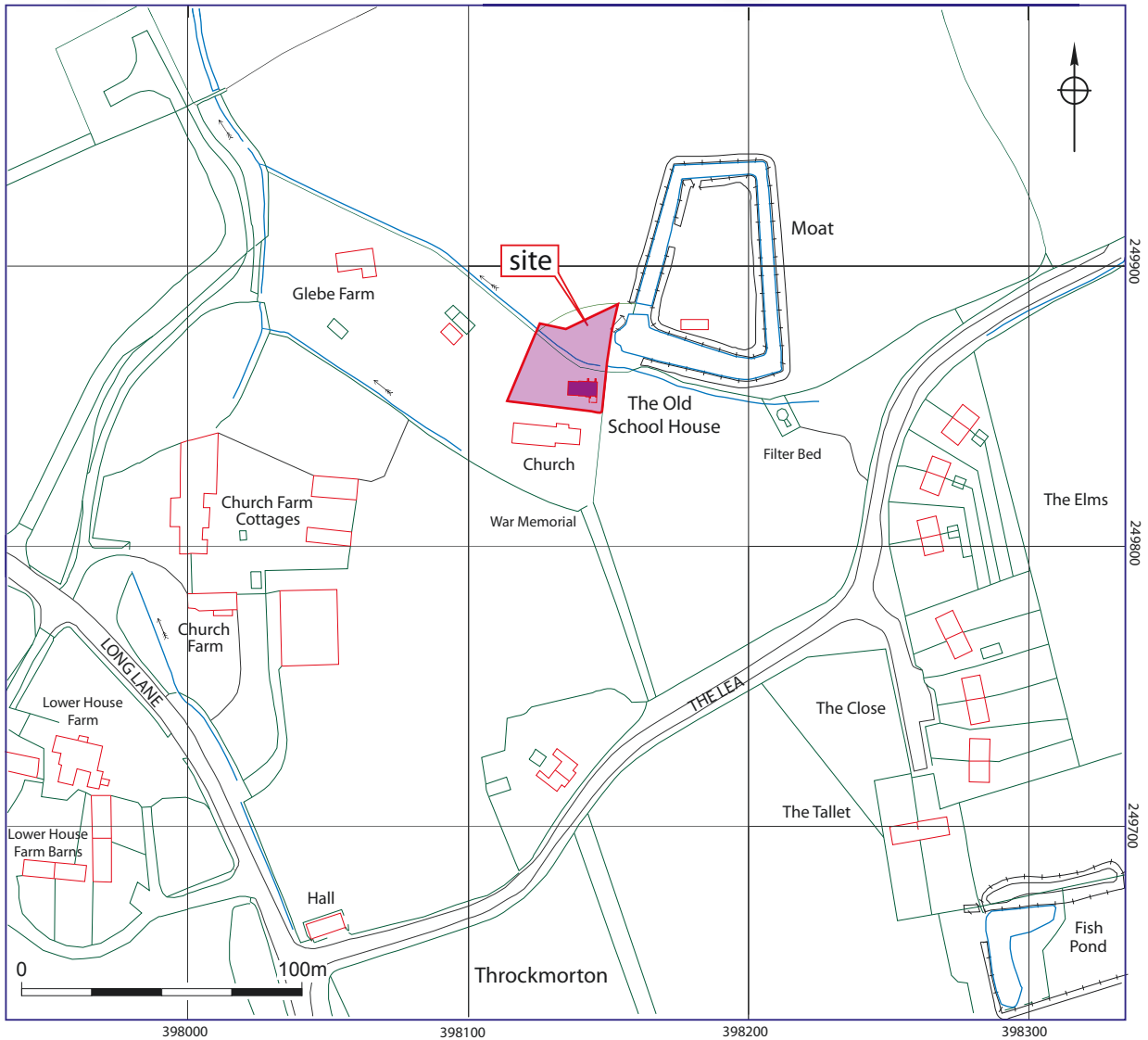
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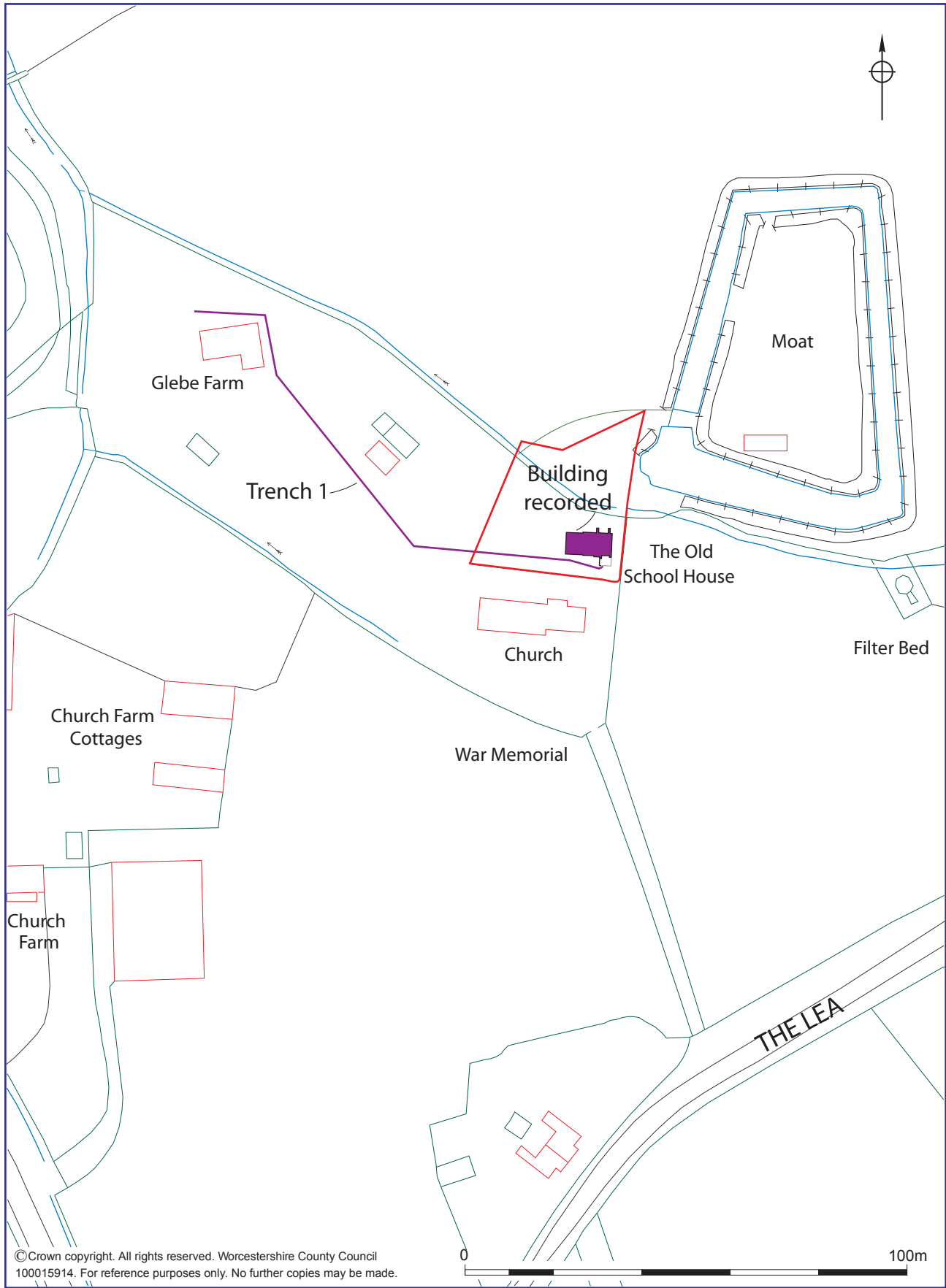
**Figures**



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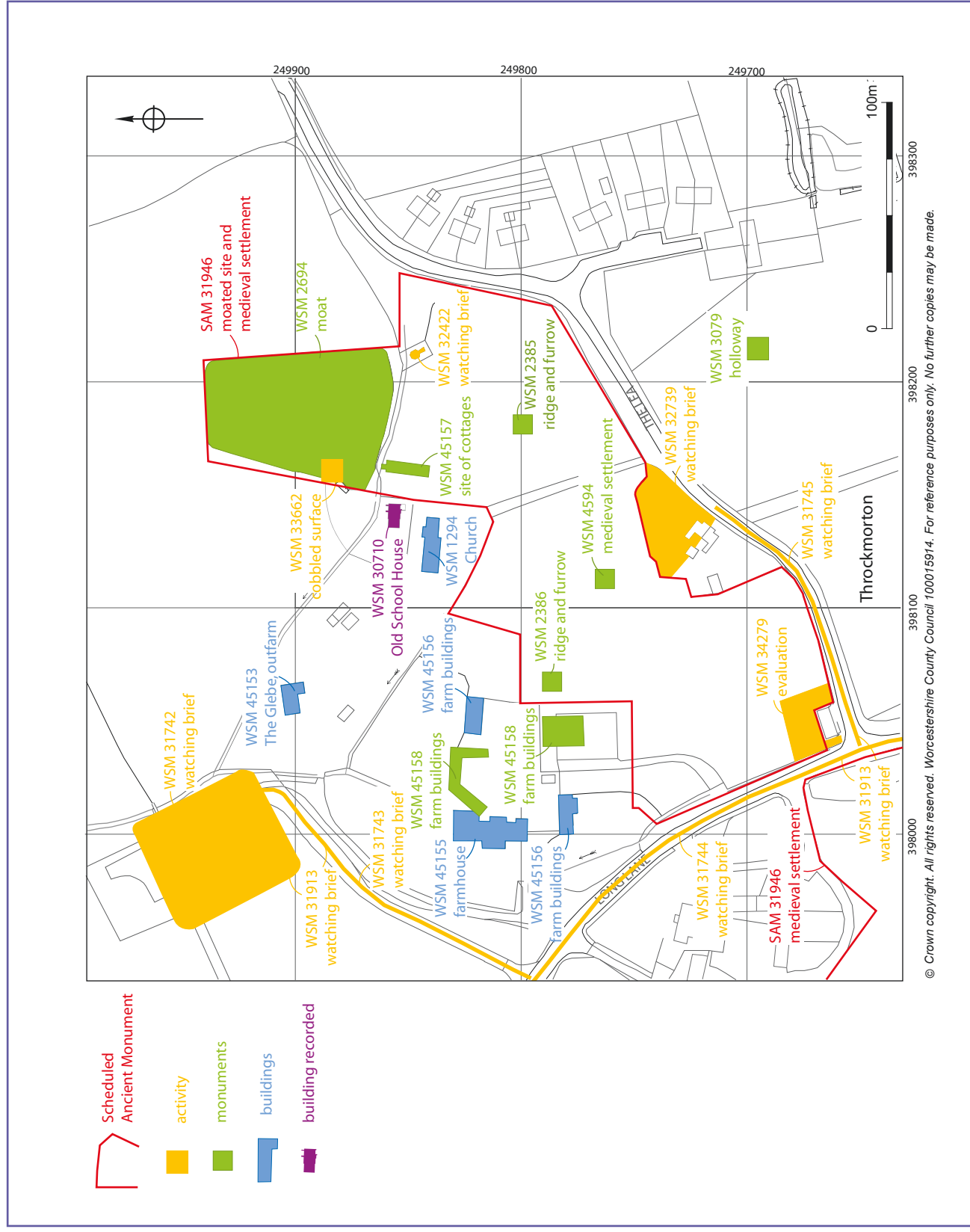
Location of the site

Figure 1



Building and trench location plan

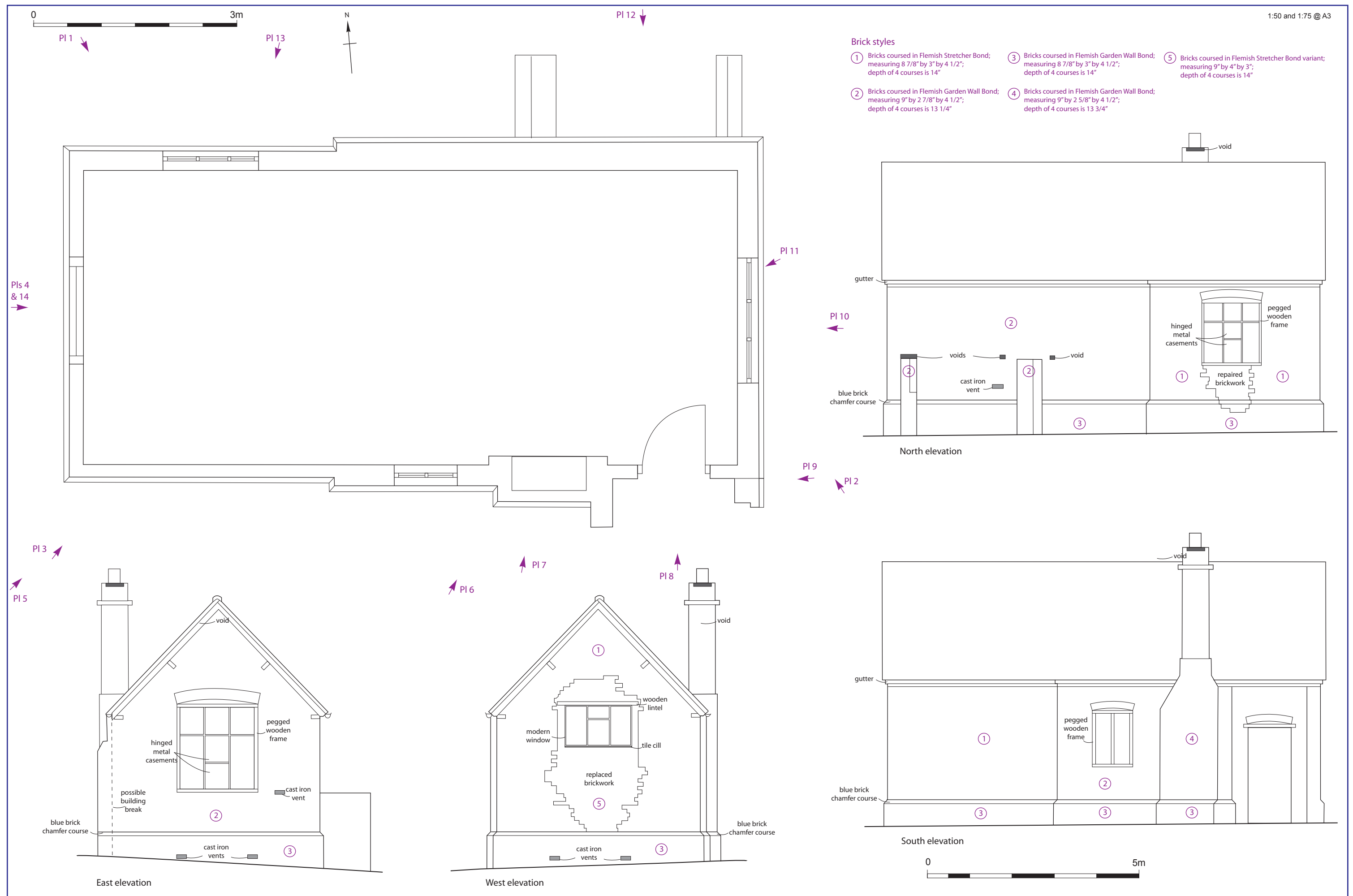
Figure 2



## Historic Environment Record information

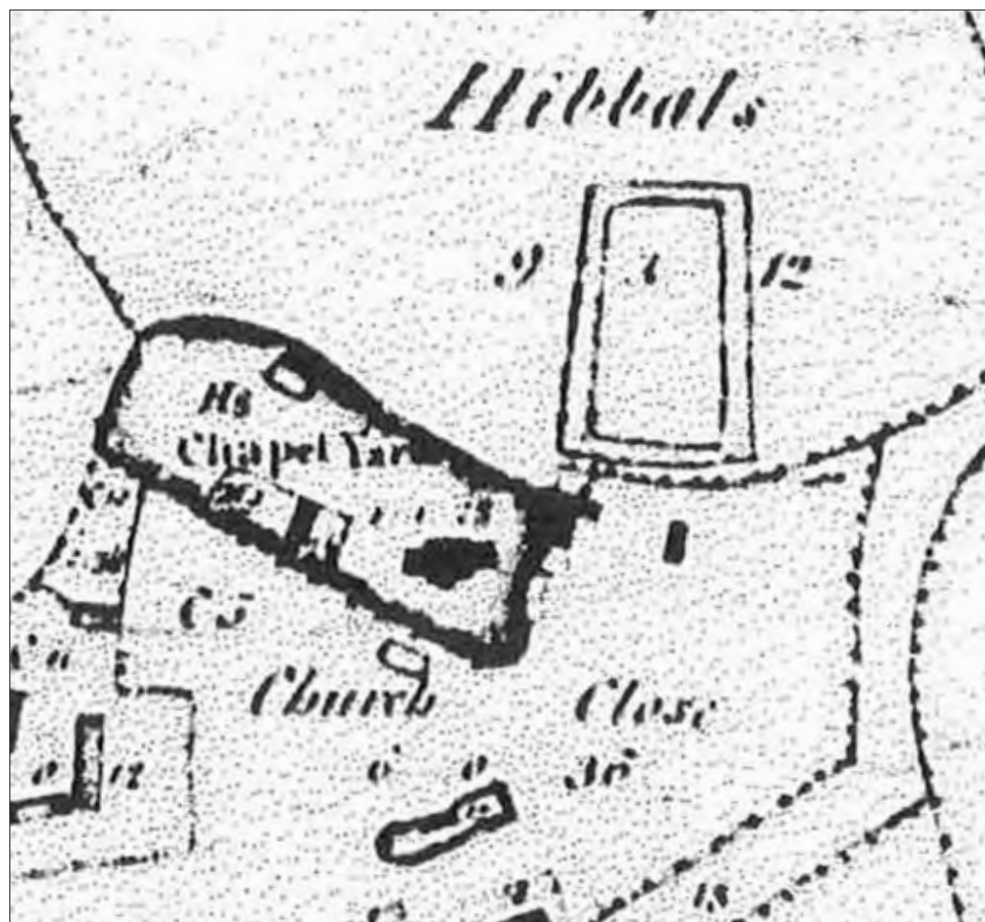
*Figure 3*



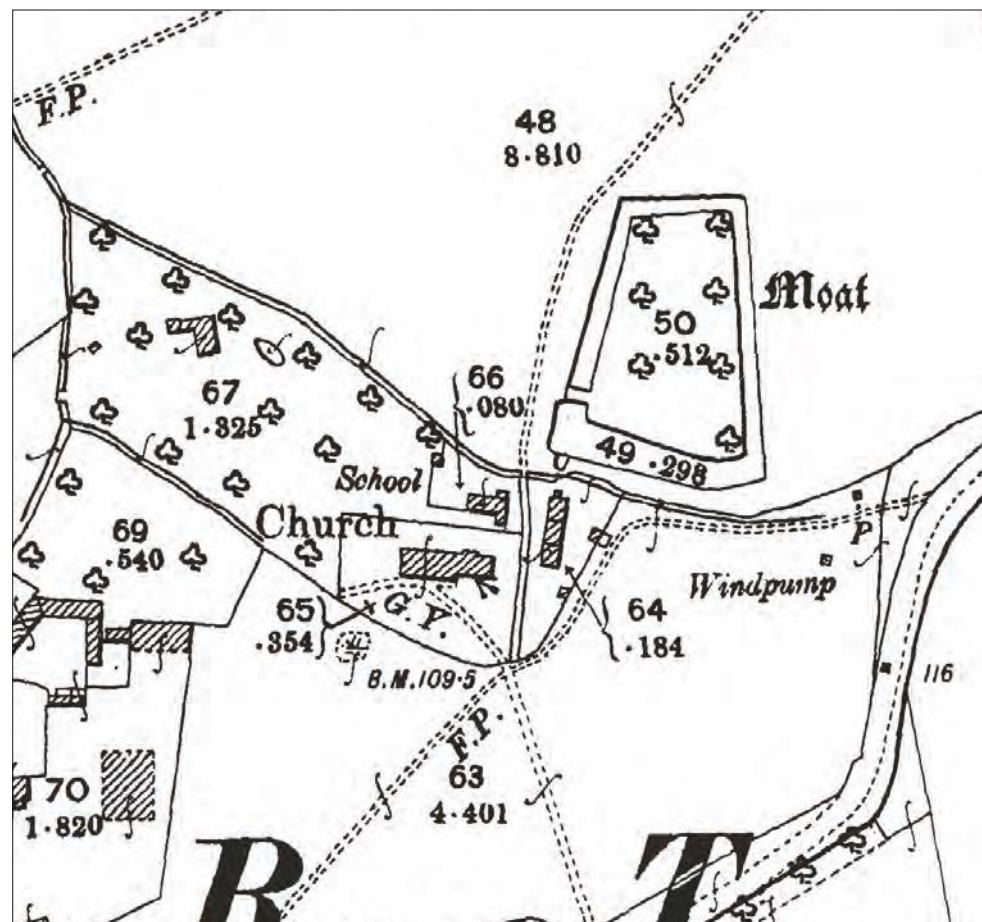


*Phased ground plan and annotated elevations of the Old School House*

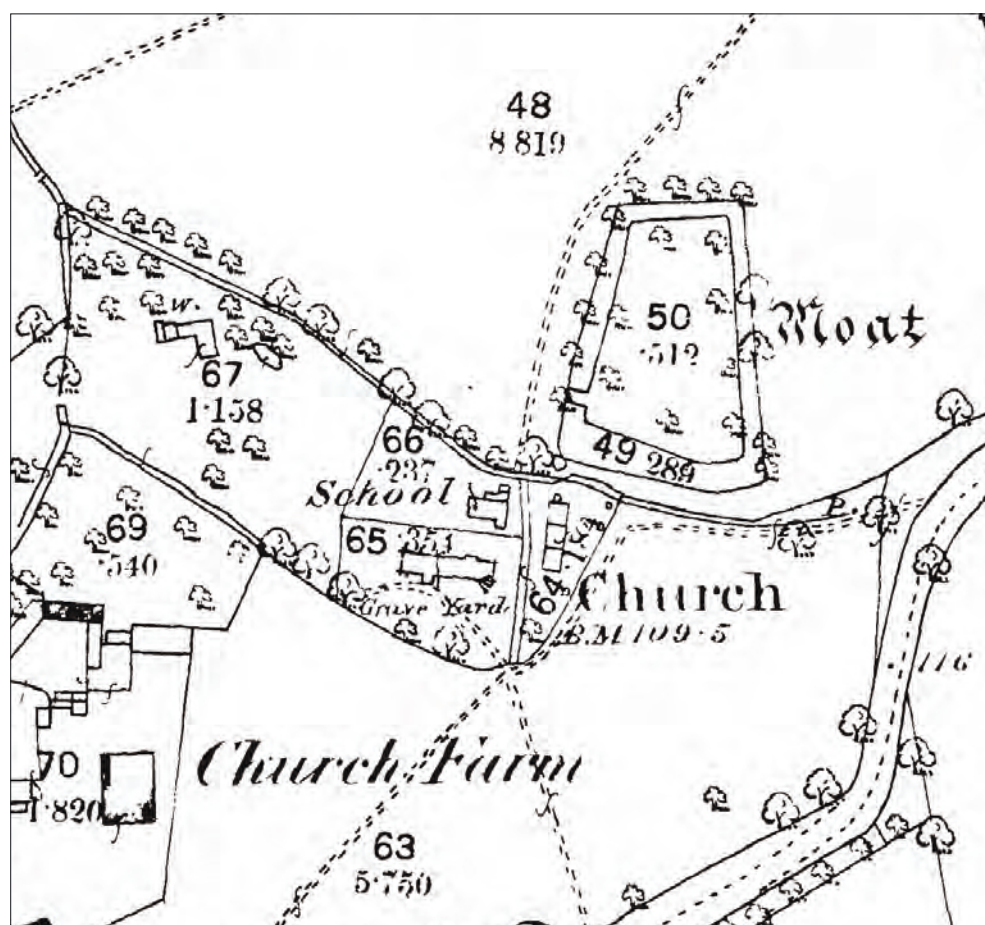
Figure 4



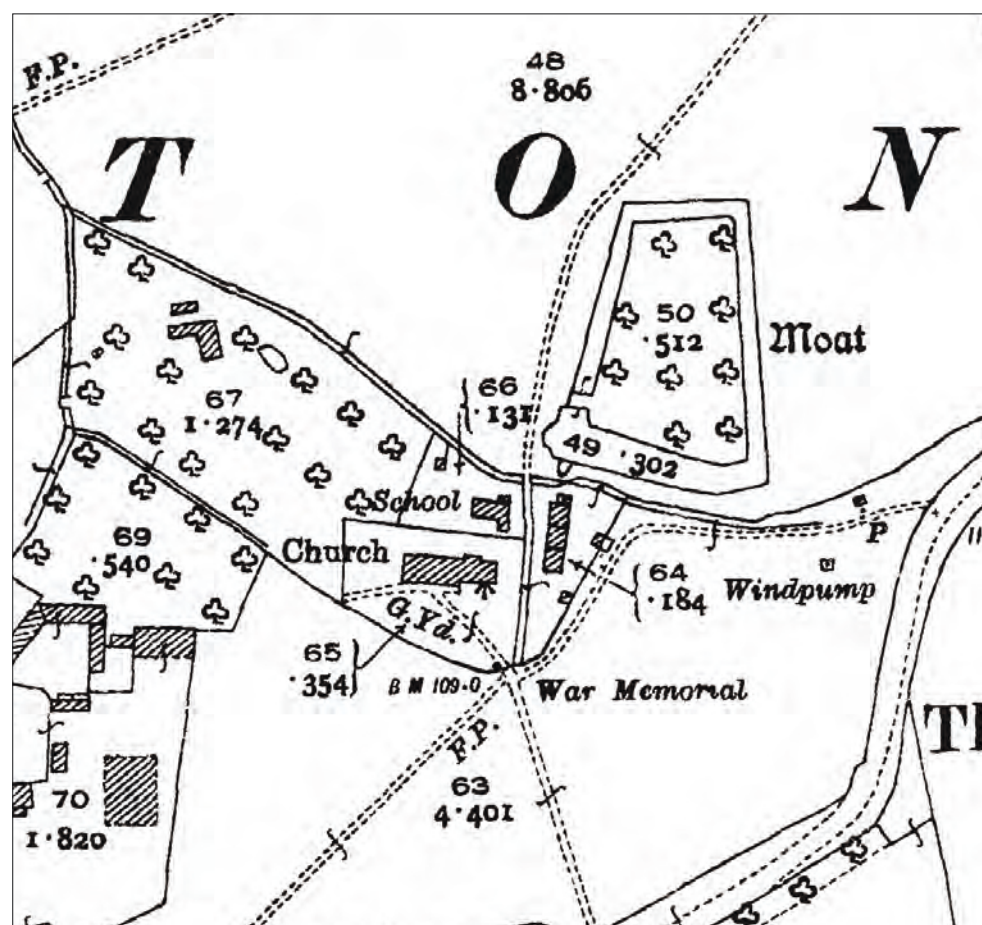
1784 map of Throckmorton manor (WRO BA 3883)



1904 Ordnance Survey map of Throckmorton



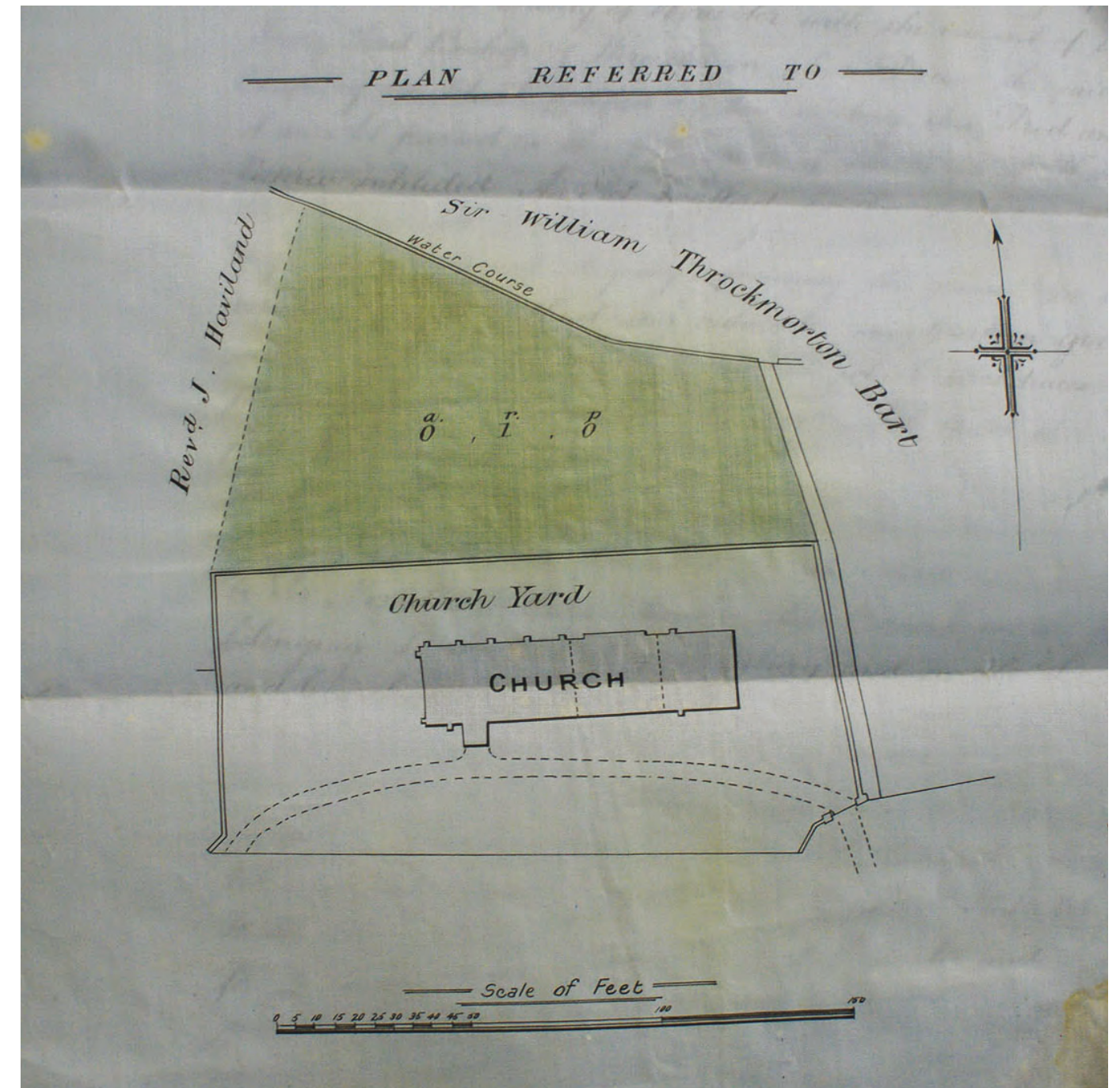
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1927 Ordnance Survey map of Throckmorton

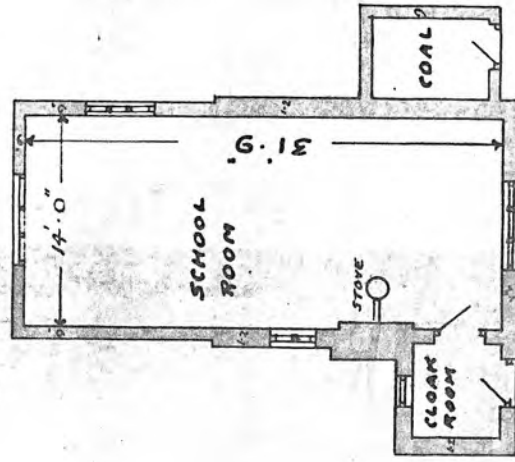


I, The Reverend John Haviland, Clerk, Master of Arts  
 Rector of the Parish of Fladbury with the Chapelry of Throckmorton  
 annexed in the County of Worcester with the consent of the Right Reverend  
 Henry Lord Bishop of Worcester in whose Diocese the said Parish and  
 Chapelry are situate notified by his executing this Deed and under the authority  
 of an Act passed in the fifth year of the reign of Her Majesty Queen  
 Victoria intituled "An Act to afford further facilities for the conveyance  
 and Endowment of School Sites" and of the Act of the eighth year of the  
 reign of Her present Majesty explaining the same Do hereby freely and  
 voluntarily and without any valuable consideration grant and convey  
 unto the Archdeacon of Worcester (in which Archdeaconry the said Parish  
 is situate) and his successors for ever) All that plot or parcel of land  
 part of a close of Glebe Land called  
 situate in the Chapelry of Throckmorton aforesaid containing by admeasurement  
 one rood or thereabouts bounded on the North and East by Land belonging  
 to Sir Nicholas William Throckmorton Baronet on the West by Glebe Land  
 belonging to the Rectory of Fladbury and on the South by the Church  
 and Churchyard of Throckmorton aforesaid which said plot of land is  
 delineated in the Map drawn in the margin hereof and is therein colored  
 Green Together with all covenants appurtenances and hereditaments corporeal or  
 incorporeal belonging thereto or connected therewith And all my whole right  
 title and interest in or to the said premises To hold the same unto and  
 To the use of the said Archdeacon of Worcester and his successors for ever  
 for the purposes of the said act and Upon trust to permit the said premises  
 and all buildings thereon erected or to be erected to be for ever hereafter  
 appropriated and used as and for a School for the education of Children or  
 Adults or children only of the labouring manufacturing and other poorer  
 classes in the Chapelry of Throckmorton aforesaid and as a residence for  
 the Teacher or Teachers of the said School and for no other purpose such  
 School to be always conducted on the principles of the Established Church  
 and under the management and control of the Rector and Churchwardens of  
 the Parish of Fladbury and Chapelry of Throckmorton aforesaid In  
 witness whereof the said Right Reverend Henry Lord Bishop of Worcester hath  
 hereunto affixed his Episcopal Seal and the conveying and other parties have  
 hereunto set their hands and seals this 9<sup>th</sup> day of June 1871.  
 H. (S) Worcester — John (S) Haviland  
 Signed Sealed and Delivered by the within named Lord Bishop



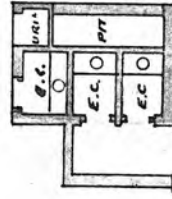


# — THROCKMORTON SCHOOL —

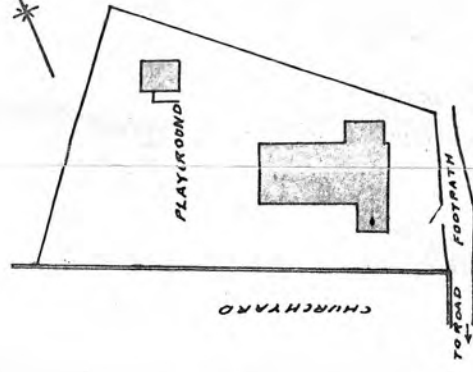


— GROUND FLOOR PLAN —

— SCALE - EIGHT FEET TO AN INCH. —



— OUTBUILDINGS —



— BLOCK PLAN —

— SCALE - 32 FEET  
TO AN INCH —

SURVEYED BY  
J.W. JARVIS A.R.I.O.A.  
WYRE, PERSHORE.

Probable early 20th century plan of Throckmorton School

Figure 7

Fladbury Rectory,  
Partridge.

Tel. No. Capthorne 56.

Sept 3rd 1940.

A  
SEP 1940  
C. 5828

Dear Miss Blackwell

As you may know I have been  
(4 still am) on the sick list since Whitmonday &  
have not been allowed to have anything to do  
with the affairs of the parish. This accounts for  
the fact that until I met the school-teacher,  
Miss Harris, of Throckmorton, I had no idea  
that she had sent in her resignation to take  
effect at the end of this month (September).  
I told me last Sunday that she expected

that Throckmorton school would be closed when  
she retired. Before writing to the Director of Education  
on the subject, or getting someone else to, can you  
tell me how we stand in the matter? There are only  
9 children at the school, one from Throckmorton & 8  
from Bickington, which has no school. Am I  
right in thinking that we cannot prevent the  
school from being closed, if the Director of Education  
desires to do so, since there are not 20 children on  
the books.

(730. See Section  
19. 2. 1921 Act.)

& a matter for consideration is that there is a  
large acre of home being built at Throckmorton & if  
this includes married quarters, I do not know if it  
will, the child population will presumably increase.

Yours sincerely

J. W. Spence.



MAURICE W. JONES L.R.I.B.A.  
CHARTERED ARCHITECT

*Surveyor in the Diocese of Worcester  
Residential Surveyor in the Diocese of Worcester*

1 College Yard,  
Worcester  
Telephone No. 2222

31st. January, 1950.

Throckmorton School, Worcester Diocese.

Report and Valuation.

Site.

It is a very small site about 450 square yards in extent, extending on the north side of the Churchyard and adjoining it, with access by footpath a considerable distance from the road, across a large pasture field.

The subsoil is heavy clay.

Buildings.

The main block consists of a classroom 16'-0" x 32'-0" with a small entrance porch 6'-0" x 8'-0" and a lean-to coal house on the north side 6'-0" x 9'-0".

It is brick built and tiled with a boarded floor. There is no damp proof course in the walls.

The roof is in fair order but the verge tiles and the barge rafter on the east end are coming away.

The walls are built of poor quality common bricks and there is a fracture on the north side running from the roof to the ground. The lean-to coal house is falling away from the main block.

The eaves gutters and downpipes need repair and most of the glass in the windows has been broken.

There is a small brick and tiled detached closet block standing near the northern boundary of the playground with three old earth closets and an ash bay. The roof and the rear wall are in a dilapidated condition.

Boundaries.

The paled fencing on the east side is in poor order and much of it is missing.

Services.

There is no water supply and no gas or electricity.

Valuation.

The property has a very limited sale value owing to its position, the lack of services and its poor structural quality. It would no doubt serve as a storehouse for the nearby farm but it is not considered suitable for conversion into a small dwelling.

Under these circumstances I do not think it is likely to fetch more than £150.

*W. J. Jones*  
Diocesan Surveyor.

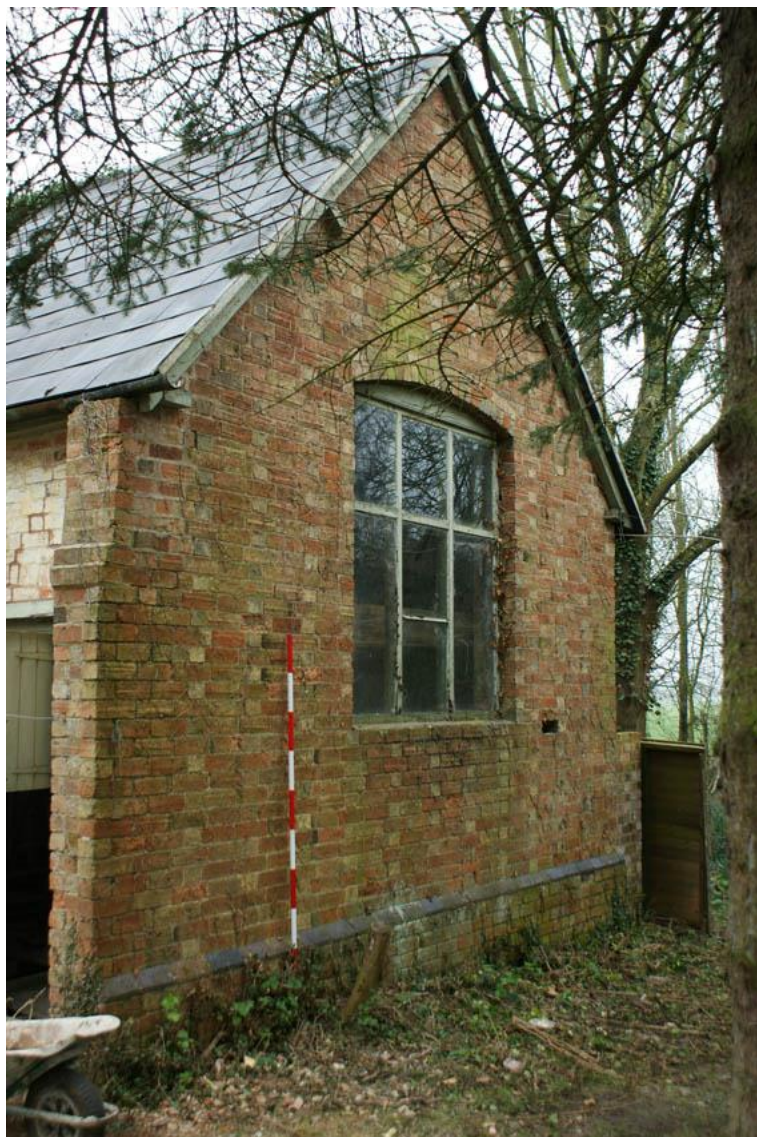


**Plates**

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*Plate 1: North elevation of building*



*Plate 2: East elevation of building*

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*Plate 3: South elevation of building*



*Plate 4: West elevation of building*

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*Plate 5: School building with Throckmorton Church*





*Plate 6: Chimney on south elevation*

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*Plate 7: Tipping-in brickwork on chimney*





Plate 8: South elevation doorway



Plate 9: Possible building break on east elevation



*Plate 10: Original window on east elevation*





*Plate 11: Example of cast iron vents, west elevation*



*Plate 12: Lean-to against north elevation, probably a coal or wood store*

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Plate 13: Window of north elevation

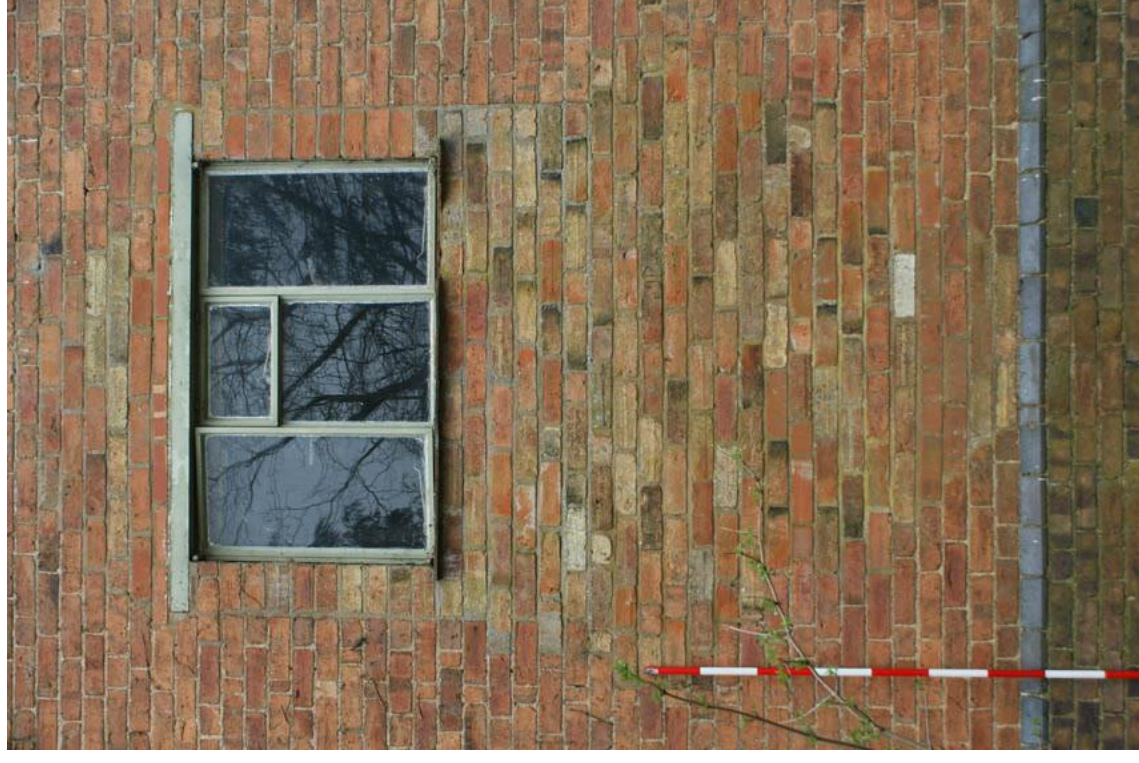


Plate 14: Window of west elevation, showing rebuilding





*Plate 15: Service trench into the existing drain North of the Glebe looking east with spoil removed to the side of the trench*



*Plate 16: Trench sections showing topsoil, subsoil and natural ground encountered.*





*Plate 17: The service trench location looking northwest towards the Glebe*

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*Plate 18: The service trench running through the small fruit orchard looking northwest*



*Plate 19: Service trench into the existing drain North of the Glebe looking east with spoil removed to the side of the trench*

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*Plate 20: Service trench showing tree roots running through the topsoil and subsoil looking north*



*Plate 21: Service trench along the side of the concrete surface to the west of the Old School House looking east*





*Plate 22: Service trench showing pea grit and gravel layer (105) in south-facing section*



*Plate 23: Service trench along the South side of the Old School House looking west*

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*Plate 24: Service trench excavated up to the brick built foundation of Old School House porch (106) looking north*



## Appendix 1 HER information

HER no.	Site name	Grid Ref	Date	Type	Notes
<b>Buildings</b>					
WSM 1294	Parish Church	SO 9812 4984	13 to 15 <sup>th</sup> centuries	Church	Chancel, lower tower and south arcade 13 <sup>th</sup> century. 14 <sup>th</sup> century north and south doors and windows. 15 <sup>th</sup> century upper tower. Restorations of 1880s and 1890s.
WSM 30710	Old School Building	SO 9814 4985	19 <sup>th</sup> century	School	Victorian school built 1874. Now redundant.
WSM 45153	The Glebe	SO 9806 4990	19 <sup>th</sup> century	Outfarm	Unlisted outfarm, extended and converted to domestic dwelling.
WSM 45155	Church Farmhouse	SO 9800 4980	19 <sup>th</sup> century	Farmhouse	Unlisted farmhouse shown on OS 1880s map.
WSM 45156	Church Farm	SO 9813 4980	19 <sup>th</sup> century	Farm buildings	Unlisted farm buildings shown on OS 1880s map.
<b>Monuments</b>					
WSM 2385	South east of Church	SO 9818 4980	Medieval	Ridge and furrow	Running west to east in east part of field. Seen on aerial photos.
WSM 2386	South west of Church	SO 9806 4978	Medieval	Ridge and furrow	Running east to west. Seen on aerial photos.
WSM 5694	North east of Church	SO 9818 4989	Medieval	Moat	Trapezoidal moat forming part of medieval settlement.
WSM 3079	South of The Lea	SO 9821 4969	Medieval	Holloway	Leads from Throckmorton to Bishampton road. Seen on aerial photos.
WSM 4594	Church Close	SO 9811 4977	Medieval	Shrunken village	Shrunken medieval settlement. Seen on aerial photos.
WSM 45157	East of Church	SO 981 498	Post-medieval	Houses	Post-medieval timber-frame houses called Pudding Row. Demolished in 1930s.
WSM 45158	Church Farm	SO 9813 4980	19 <sup>th</sup> century	Farm buildings	Farm buildings shown on OS 1880s map now demolished.
<b>Landscape</b>					
WSM 3073	Throckmorton	SO 98 49	Medieval	Shrunken settlement	Shrunken medieval settlement known from documents until at least 1490.
<b>Activities</b>					
WSM 31742	Throckmorton sewerage scheme	SO 9798 4992	Medieval Post-medieval	Watching brief	Carried out in 2002. Revealed ridge and furrow, wall and ditch
WSM 31743		SO 9796 4984	Modern		Carried out in 2002. Modern deposits only.
WSM 31744		SO 9803 4965	19 <sup>th</sup> century		Carried out in 2002. Revealed cobbled road
WSM 31745		SO 9812 4968	19 <sup>th</sup> century		Carried out in 2002. Revealed cobbled road
WSM 31913		SO 9799 4972	Medieval to modern		Carried out in 2002 along pipe route and for treatment plant. Revealed ridge and furrow, settlement evidence and cobbled surface.
WSM 32422	Throckmorton Sewage Works	SO 9822 4984	-	Watching brief	Carried out in 2003 on decommissioning of Sewage Works. Revealed no deposits of interest.
WSM 32739	10 Throckmorton	SO 9813 4973	18 <sup>th</sup> century	Unstratified finds	Found in garden. Five large conical bowls, horse shoe and field drain. Bowls of 18 <sup>th</sup> century.

## Old School House, Throckmorton

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WSM 33662	North east of Church	SO 9818 4989	Poss 20 <sup>th</sup> century	Photographs	Cobbled surface shown in photographs taken in 2000
WSM 34279	Parish Hall	SO 9806 4966	18 <sup>th</sup> to 20 <sup>th</sup> century	Evaluation	Carried out in 2005. Revealed no significant deposits. Post-med field drain and 18 <sup>th</sup> century manuring artefacts.
Scheduled monuments					
SAM 31946	Throckmorton	SO 981 496	Medieval	Moated site and settlement remains	Buried and earthwork remains of moated site and medieval settlement in three areas of protection.

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## Appendix 2 Trench descriptions

### Trench 1

Site area: See Figure 2

Maximum dimensions: Length: 110m Width: 0.35m Depth: 0.40-0.80m

Orientation: See Figure 2

### Main deposit description

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
101	Layer	Compact light greyish yellow clay and mixed dark brown silty clay. Re-deposited natural and topsoil.	0 -0.20m
102	Topsoil	Moderately compact dark blackish brown silty clay with frequent root action and worm sorting. Contains occasional small rounded pebbles, occasional tile, rare porcelain, general modern garden waste and very rare fragmentary, disarticulated animal and human bone. Cut by frequent modern service trenches.	0-0.30m
103	Subsoil	Moderately compact light grey silty clay with occasional large rounded river gravels and tree roots. Also cut by modern service trenches.	0.20 – 0.40m
104	Natural	Compact light yellowish brown clay with occasional lenses of orange and grey clays. Cut by modern service trenches.	0.40m – 0.50m +
105	Layer	Modern pea grit and gravels as a levelling base of path alongside concrete surface to the west of the Old School House.	0.20 – 0.30m
106	Wall Foundation	Brick footings of Old School House porch area	0 – 0.30m



## **Appendix 3 The archive**

### **The building recording archive (WSM 43247)**

The archive consists of:

- 1 Fieldwork progress records AS2
- 1 Photographic records AS3
- 50 Digital photographs
- 2 Scale drawings
- 1 CD-Rom/DVDs
- 1 Copy of this report (bound hard copy)

### **The watching brief archive (WSM 43248)**

The archive consists of:

- 2 Field progress reports AS2
- 1 Photographic records AS3
- 21 Digital photographs
- 1 Drawing number catalogues AS4
- 1 Scale drawings
- 1 Trench record sheets AS41
- 1 Box of finds
- 1 CD-Rom/DVDs
- 1 Copy of this report (bound hard copy)

The project archive is intended to be placed at:

Worcestershire County Museum

Hartlebury Castle

Hartlebury

Near Kidderminster

Worcestershire DY11 7XZ

Tel Hartlebury (01299) 250416

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