

ARCHAEOLOGICAL
MONITORING AT BISHAMPTON
AND THROCKMORTON PARISH
ROOM, LONG LANE,
THROCKMORTON,
WORCESTERSHIRE

Tom Vaughan

Illustrated by Carolyn Hunt

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INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

Project 2837
Report 1469
WSM 35616

Archaeological monitoring at Bishampton and Throckmorton Parish Room, Long Lane, Throckmorton, Worcestershire

Tom Vaughan

Background information

| | |
|---|---|
| <i>Client</i> | Bishampton and Throckmorton Parish Council |
| <i>Site address</i> | Bishampton and Throckmorton Parish Room, Long Lane, Throckmorton, Worcestershire |
| <i>National Grid reference</i> | SO 9804 4967 |
| <i>Sites and Monuments Record reference</i> | WSM 35616 |
| <i>Planning authority reference</i> | Wychavon District Council W/04/1744 |
| <i>Brief</i> | HEAS 2004a |
| <i>Project design</i> | HEAS 2004b |
| <i>Project parameters</i> | IFA 1999 |

Previous archaeological work on and adjacent to the site

The Service has previously undertaken an archaeological evaluation on the site, involving trial trenching and earthwork survey (WSM 34279; Miller 2005). Within the trench a single linear feature was recorded, aligned east-west, which was determined to be an 18th/19th century land drain. An irregular hollow adjacent was conjectured to be a partially in-filled quarry pit for the extraction of clay for building materials; and a curving scarp to the north may represent an abandoned tenement plot fronting onto Long Lane. The majority of the artefact assemblage recovered during the project was of 18th century date, indicating that the site was probably largely put to pasture or orchards prior to this time.

The site lies within a Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM 31946), forming a landscape of earthworks representing the buried remains of the shrunken village of Throckmorton. The settlement is known to have expanded during the medieval period to the south of the parish church, but that it subsequently declined, particularly from the late 15th to 18th centuries. The larger field, within which the parish building is situated, is known as Church Field.

Aims

The aim of the watching brief was to observe and record archaeological deposits, and to determine their extent, date, type and state of preservation as far as reasonably possible.

Methods

| | |
|--|--|
| General specification for fieldwork | CAS 1995 |
| Sources consulted | HER Sources cited by the HER Miller 2005 |
| Date(s) of fieldwork | 25 th August 2006 |
| Area of site | c 87m ² Indicated on Fig 2 |
| Dimensions of excavated areas observed | Foundations length 14.50m Width 6m |

Depth 0.30m

Access to or visibility of deposits

Observation of the excavated areas was undertaken after machine excavation by a 360° tracked machine utilising a toothed bucket. The exposed surfaces were sufficiently clean to observe well-differentiated archaeological deposits, although any less clear may not have been identified. The spoil was also scanned for artefacts.

Statement of confidence

Access to, and visibility of, deposits allowed a high degree of confidence that the aims of the project have been achieved.

Deposit description

| Context | Classification | Description | Depth below ground surface |
|---------|----------------|---|----------------------------|
| 1000 | Topsoil | Compact dark brownish grey clay loam, with occasional charcoal flecks, very occasional building debris and medium sub-rounded pebbles. Slightly diffuse and irregular boundary with 1001 below. | 0.00-0.30m |
| 1001 | Natural | Compact light yellowish brown clay. | 0.30m + |

Discussion

No archaeological deposits, horizons, features or structures were identified, nor any artefacts recovered. A small amount of residual building debris was observed within the soil and determined to be of modern date. None was retained.

The shallow topsoil was observed to lie directly over the undisturbed natural clay. There was no defined subsoil.

Conclusions

The lack of archaeological remains, either structural or artefactual, indicates that the site lay undeveloped through to the post-medieval period and probably until the construction of the Parish Room in the early 20th century. This is unusual given the site's location close to the centre of the medieval village. As discussed previously, this dearth of activity may be argued to indicate that the ownership of the site was tied to an adjacent tenement, the owners of which had no need to utilise the area for anything other than low intensity pasture for example (Miller, 2005).

Publication summary

The Service has a professional obligation to publish the results of archaeological projects within a reasonable period of time. To this end, the Service 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 monitoring was undertaken on behalf of Bishampton and Throckmorton Parish Council at Bishampton and Throckmorton Parish Room, Long Lane, Throckmorton, Worcestershire (NGR SO 9804 4967; HER ref. 35616). An strip of c 87m² was observed, within the area of the previous parish building. Undifferentiated soils were recorded, directly overlying the natural clay matrix. No archaeological deposits, horizons, structures or features were identified, nor artefacts recovered. As determined during previous investigations to the north within the same plot, the area is considered to have remained undeveloped at least until the 18th century and probably down to the construction of the former parish building in the early 20th century. This is unusual given the site's location toward the centre of the medieval village, and has been argued to indicate that it may have been tied to an adjacent tenement, whose owners maintained it as pasture throughout the medieval and post-medieval periods.

Archive

| | |
|--------------------------------|---|
| Fieldwork progress records AS2 | 1 |
| Digital photographs | 4 |
| Drawings | 1 |
| Computer disks | 1 |

| | |
|--|--|
| The project archive is intended to be placed at: | Worcestershire County Museum Hartlebury Castle, Hartlebury Near Kidderminster Worcestershire DY11 7XZ |
| telephone | 01299 250416 |

Acknowledgements

The Service would like to thank the following for their kind assistance in the successful conclusion of this project: Charles Tucker, Paul Hyett and Mike Glyde.

Bibliography

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HEAS 2004b *Proposal for an archaeological evaluation on land to the rear of the Parish Room, Long Lane, Throckmorton, Worcestershire*, Historic Environment and Archaeology Service, Worcestershire County Council, unpublished document dated 27th September 2004, **P2645**

IFA, 1999 *Standard and guidance for an archaeological watching brief*, Institute of Field Archaeologists

Miller, D, 2005 *Archaeological Evaluation behind the Bishampton and Throckmorton Parish Room, Throckmorton, Worcestershire*, Historic Environment and Archaeology Service, Worcestershire County Council, unpublished document, dated 11th May 2005, P2645, report **1337**

Plates



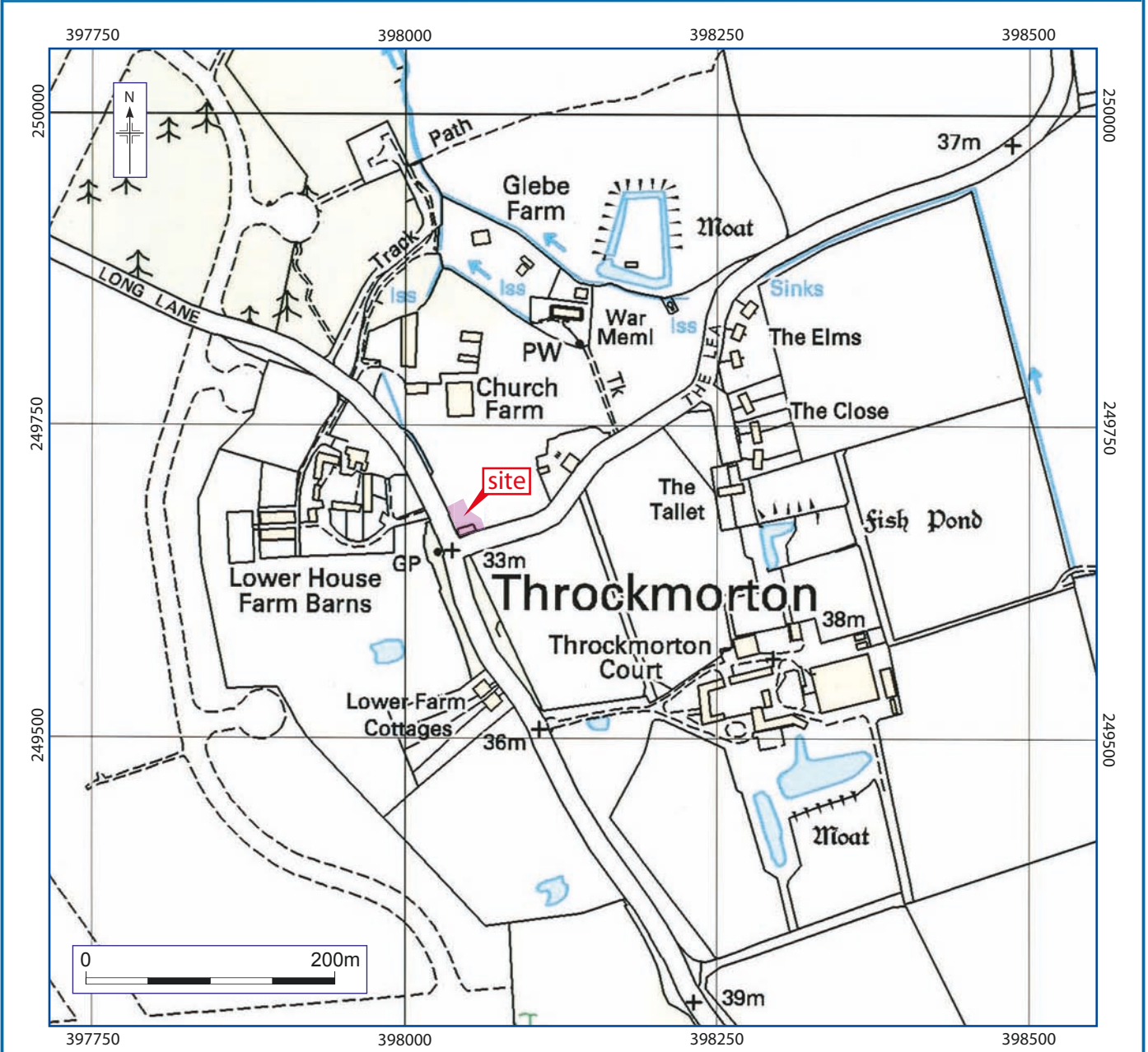
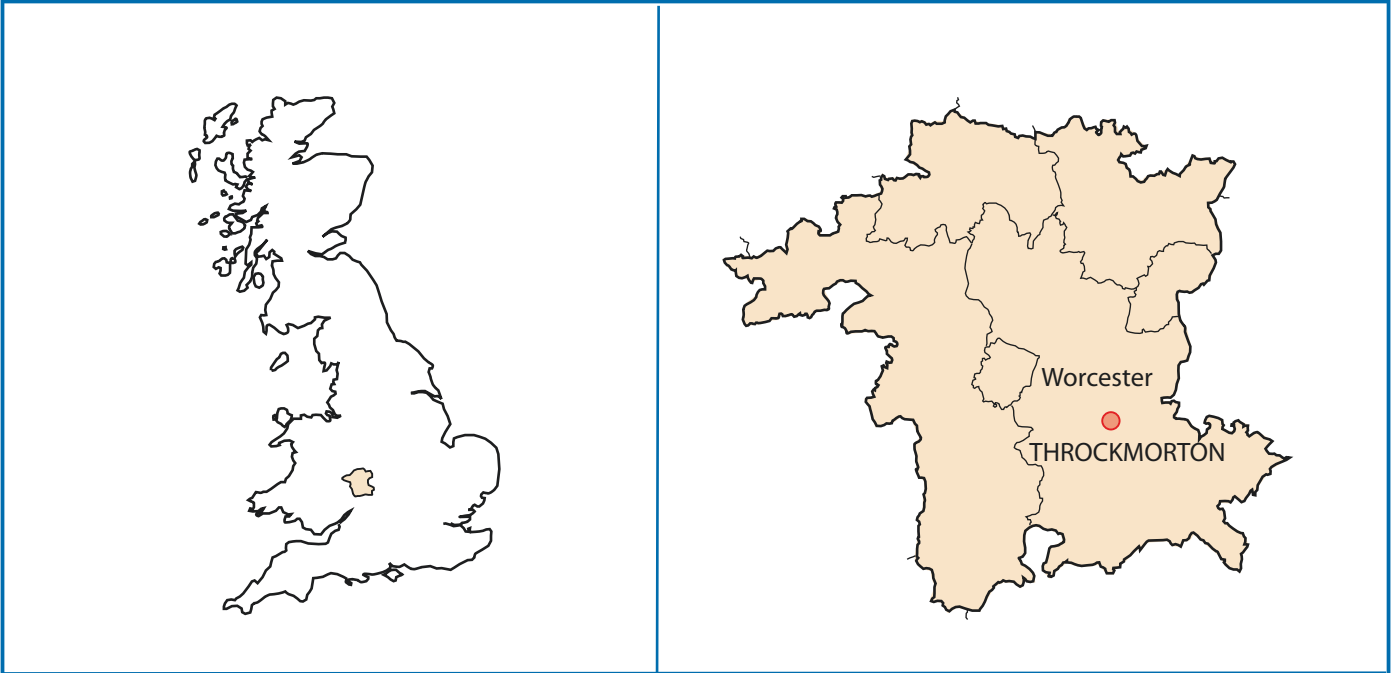
Plate 1, General view west of stripped area



Plate 2, General view east of stripped area



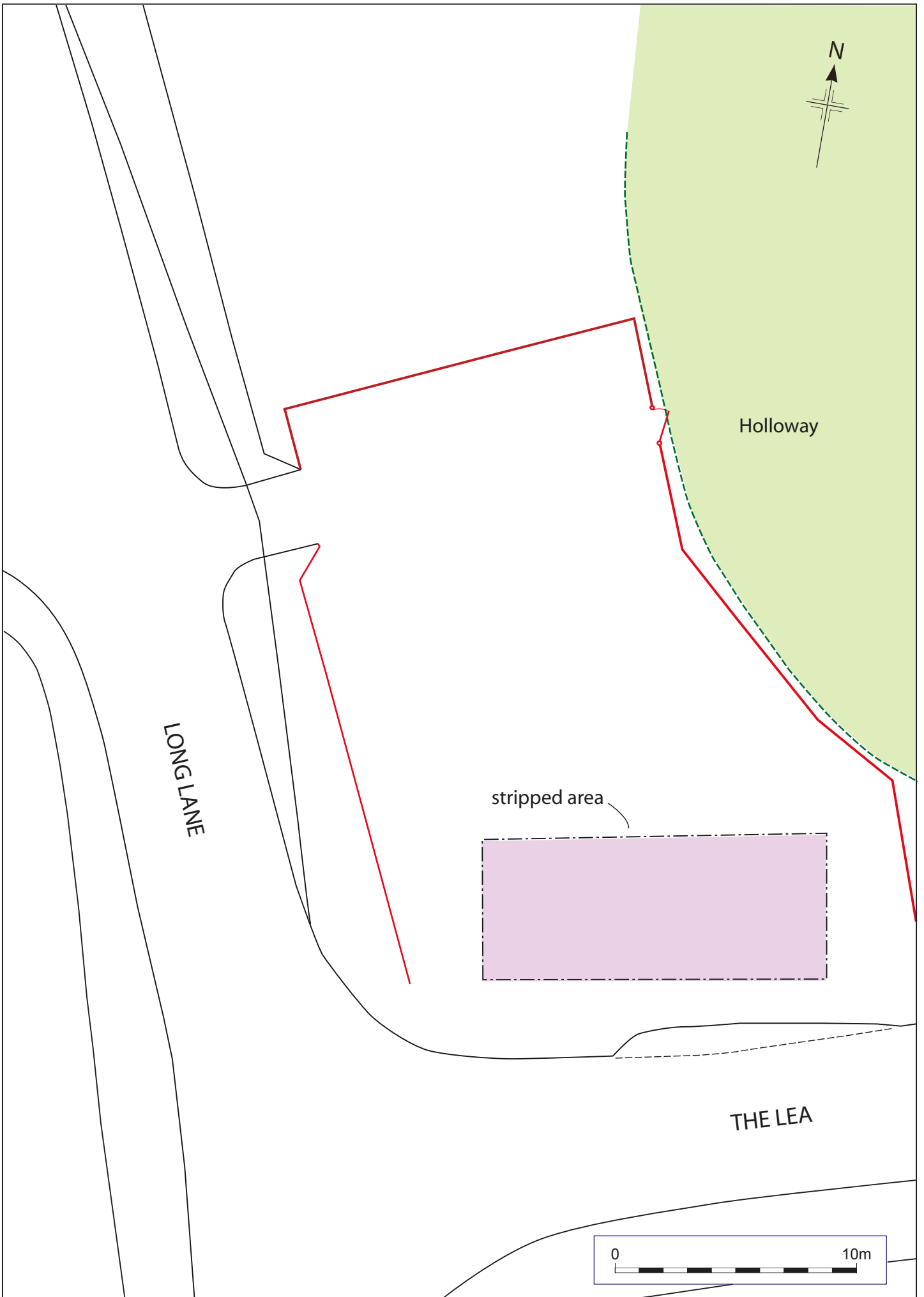
Plate 3, General view north of stripped area



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Location of the site.

Figure 1



Location of stripped area

Figure 2