# ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF OF THE BADSEY AND WICKHAMFORD FLOOD ALLEVIATION WORKS, WORCESTERSHIRE

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31st March 2004

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Project 2415 Report 1219 WSM 33519 & 33523

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# Part 2 Detailed report

# 1. Background

## 1.1 Reasons for the project

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken of the Badsey and Wickhamford Flood Alleviation Works, Worcestershire (NGR: SP 0700 4323 and SP 0690 4207), on behalf of Severn Trent plc. Worcestershire Historic Environment and Archaeology Service consider that two sites of archaeological interest may be affected (WSM 24404 and 027046).

# 1.2 **Project parameters**

The project conforms to the Standard and guidance for an archaeological watching brief (IFA 1999).

The project also conforms to a brief prepared by WHEAS (HEAS 2003a) and for which a project proposal (including detailed specification) was produced (HEAS 2003b).

#### 1.3 Aims

The aims of the watching brief were to locate archaeological deposits and determine, if present, their extent, state of preservation, date, type, vulnerability and documentation.

More specifically the following aims have been identified:

#### Badsey

- The existence of prehistoric or Romano-British remains
- The survival of medieval/post-medieval road surfaces

#### Wickhamford

- The existence of Neolithic activity
- The existence of Romano-British farmstead and settlement activity
- The extent of the shrunken medieval settlement

#### 2. **Methods**

# 2.1 **Documentary search**

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

Cartographic sources

- Badsey:
- 1812 Inclosure Plan Badsey Village (detail) CRO BA 4370 f970.5:582
- 1891 1<sup>st</sup> edition Ordnance Survey, 6":1 mile, sheet XXXIX.50NW

- 1905 Ordnance Survey, 6":1 mile, sheet XXXIX.50NW
- 1924 Ordnance Survey, 6":1 mile, sheet XXXIX.50NW
- 1938 Ordnance Survey, 6":1 mile, sheet XXXIX.50NW
- Wickhamford:
- 1843 Tithe Plan Wickhamford Village (detail) CRO BA 1572 s760/51
- 1891 1<sup>st</sup> edition Ordnance Survey, 6":1 mile, sheet XXXIX.50NW
- 1891 1<sup>st</sup> edition Ordnance Survey, 6":1 mile, sheet XXXIX.49NE
- 1905 Ordnance Survey, 6":1 mile, sheet XXXIX.50NW
- 1903 Ordnance Survey, 6":1 mile, sheet XXXIX.49NE
- 1924 Ordnance Survey, 6":1 mile, sheet XXXIX.50NW
- 1924 Ordnance Survey, 6":1 mile, sheet XXXIX.49NE
- 1938 Ordnance Survey, 6":1 mile, sheet XXXIX.50NW
- 1938 Ordnance Survey, 6":1 mile, sheet XXXIX.49NE

#### Aerial photographs

- Badsey:
- As the site lies within the centre of the village a search of aerial photographs was not considered to be productive.
- Wickhamford:
- The site has tree cover, so was not deemed suitable for aerial photography.

#### Documentary sources

- Place-names (Mawer and Stenton 1927).
- County histories (VCH II).
- Domesday (Thorn and Thorn 1982).
- Site archives (Lockett 2000a; Lockett 2000b; Vaughan forthcoming).

## 2.2 Fieldwork

#### 2.2.1 Fieldwork strategy

A detailed specification has been prepared by the Service (HEAS 2003b).

Fieldwork was undertaken between 8th December 2003 and 13th February 2004.

Observation of the excavated areas was undertaken variously during and after machine excavation using a 360° tracked excavator. At Badsey the exposed trench sections were sufficiently clean to observe well-differentiated archaeological deposits, although access into the deep flooded trench was not made for reasons of health and safety. At Wickhamford the exposed surface of the easement strip was also sufficiently clean to allow observation of well-differentiated archaeological deposits, though any less clear may have not been identified. The location of the areas observed is indicated in Figure 2.

#### 2.2.2 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

#### 2.3 Artefacts

#### 2.3.1 Artefact recovery policy

The artefact recovery policy conformed to standard Service practice (CAS 1995; appendix 2). In the event, no finds were recovered during the project.

#### 2.4 **Environment**

#### 2.4.1 **Sampling policy**

The environmental sampling strategy conformed to standard Service practice (CAS 1995; appendix 4). In the event no deposits or layers were identified which were determined to be suitable for environmental analysis.

#### 2.5 The methods in retrospect

The methods adopted allow a high degree of confidence that the aims of the project have been achieved.

# 3. Topographical and archaeological context

The site comprises two distinct areas – a new sewer pipe along High Street, Badsey and a pumping station on land adjacent to Elms Farm, Manor Road, Wickhamford.

Badsey

The village lies on the south-east side of the county. It is within a relatively low lying area, at a height of 33-40m AOD, and is situated on the west bank of the Badsey Brook, a tributary of the River Avon, which flows through Evesham, 3km to the east.

The soils of the area belong to the Drayton series (411) comprising typical calcareous pelosols of slowly permeable clayey soils that crack deeply in dry seasons (Soil Survey of England and Wales, 1986).

Evidence of Late Iron Age and Roman activity has been identified both within the present village and in the surrounding fields. Most of these have been stray finds of 2<sup>nd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> century date (Vaughan forthcoming; WSM 02739, 30329, 30142, 30143, 32616 and 32626), although a coin of the Emperor Vespasian (AD 69-79) was recovered from fields to the south-west (WSM 02720) and one of the Dubunnic King Antedrigus (*c* 25-0 BC) was recovered in fields to the north (WSM 02740). An area of archaeological interest has been

identified off Bretforton Road, north of the village (WSM 29068), while further afield Black Bank Ground and Black Bank Meadow have revealed Roman material and possible Iron Age potsherds, indicative of potential intensive occupation activity (WSM 07207, 29151 and 30854). As yet no systematic intrusive archaeological investigations have been undertaken.

The settlement was first recorded as: *Baddeseia* in 709, when Offa and Kenred granted five and a half *mansæ* to bishop Egwin for the foundation of Evesham Abbey, and subsequently under a number of variations, such as *Baddesege*, in 714, *Badsetenagemære*, *c* 850, *Baddesig*, *c* 860, *Badesei*, in 1086, *Baddesha*m, in 1251, *Baddesheye*, in 1275, and *Baddeseye*, in 1291 before it settled in its present form in 1535. It is thought to derive from the diminutive of the Old English forename *Beadu*-, and meant 'Bæddi's well-watered land' or 'Island, or dry ground in marsh, of a man called Bæddi' (WSM 24404; Nash 1795, 52; Mawer and Stenton 1927, 260-1; VCH II, 353; Mills 1991, 20).

The Domesday Survey of 1086 noted the estate within the Saxon Hundred of Fishborough as part of the lands of Evesham Abbey. It contained 6½ hides prior to the Norman Conquest of 1066. In addition the records state that the lordship held 2 ploughs, there were 12 villagers with 8 ploughs, 4 slaves and 1 widow. The value was £6, but had fallen to £3 10 shillings (Thorn and Thorn 1982, 10, 175c/d).

Throughout the medieval period the manor generally descended in association with the manor in the hamlet of Aldington, situated to the north-west. Two mills are known to have existed along the Badsey Brook from at least the 12<sup>th</sup> century when they were held of Evesham Abbey by Phillip the Steward for an annual rent of 1 mark. By the time of the Reformation in 1539 this had risen to 24 shillings (WSM 02850 and 21249). Seyne House at the south end of High Street is recorded as an infirmary for sick monks of the abbey until its suppression in 1539. Thereafter it was granted to Sir Phillip Hoby in 1545 who also held the manor at Abbot's Morton 11km north of Evesham (WSM 03601). Although much restored, the Manor House toward the north end of the village is considered to be of national significance. It is two-storey with timber frame and tiled roof (WSM 03602) (VCH II, 353-6).

St James' church is thought to have  $11^{\text{th}}/12^{\text{th}}$  century elements although the earliest surviving record of its dedication, by the bishop of St Asaph, dates to the feast of St John in 1295. The nave is from c 1120, when the church is thought to have had a simple plan with a short narrower chancel and no aisles. The present chancel is in the decorated gothic style of the late  $13^{\text{th}}$  century, the rebuilding of which may have been the reason behind the aforementioned dedication. The north transect was added c 1330, the west tower was rebuilt c 1450 and the south aisle with associated porch was added in 1885 during extensive restoration (WSM 02747; VCH II, 356-7; Pevsner 1968, 74).

Cartographic sources indicate the nature of the pipeline route over the last 190 years. The Inclosure Plan of 1812 indicates the village to have comprised a narrow linear development along High Street with extensive orchards adjacent and fields further out. The 1891 Ordnance Survey map reveals little change. By 1905 there had been development on the outskirts of the village, but no apparent alteration to High Street. The census return of 1901 recorded 165 houses in the parish (VCH II, 353). By 1924 the village had expanded further, particularly on the south-east side while a number of the orchards appear to have been grubbed up. This trend continued through 1938, down to the present day. During this time the alignment and approximate width of High Street remained static. Although it is assumed that the road surface was periodically repaired and metalled.

#### Wickhamford

The site lies 1.25km north of the centre of the modern settlement of Wickhamford and 2km south of Badsey village. It is within a relatively low lying area, at a height of 34m AOD, situated between the Badsey Brook and a smaller stream which are both tributaries of the River Avon.

The soils on the western side of the area belong to the Lodgegrove series (411) comprising typical calcareous pelosols of slowly permeable clayey soils that crack deeply in dry seasons. Along the brook to the east they are of the Fladbury series (813) comprising pelo-alluvial gley non-calcareous alluvial clays, prominently mottled, permeable or moderately permeable, periodically waterlogged by fluctuating groundwater. The parent material is clay (Soil Survey of England and Wales, 1986).

A small number of archaeological investigations have been undertaken within the parish, although not in the immediate vicinity of the present site (Lockett, 2000a; Lockett 2000b), while a number of chance finds have been found within the village and surrounding parish. The only find of prehistoric date was a Neolithic axe, recovered due north of the site in the grounds of The Cottage (WSM 02746). Evidence of Roman occupation has been identified between Field Farm and Wickham Farm to the south of the study area (Reynolds, 1971; WSM 02734, 02736, 29165, 29880 and 30866), along the line of a Roman Road aligned east-north-east by west-south-west (WSM 30622 and 30623).

The settlement was first recorded as: Wicwona in 709, Wigorne 714, Wycweoniga gamære c 860, in Domesday as Wiquene, Wichwana c 1086, Wikkewan 1251, Wike Waneford 1255, Wikewone 1327, Wikewane 1332, Wykewane 1397, Wykeword 1346, Wyk(e)wansford 1389, Wikewanford 1471, Wycanford 1550, Wikenford 1577, Wic(k)hamford 1593, Wicconford 1634 and Wickwanford 1657. It is thought to derive from Childs Wickham which lies 2.5km upstream to the south (Mawer and Stenton 1927, 273).

From the early 8<sup>th</sup> century the manor of Wickhamford was in the possession of the monastery at Evesham. At the time of the Domesday Survey it contained 3 hides of land. After the Reformation the rights were taken over by the Crown until 161-2 when it was granted to Thomas Throckmorton. In 1594 the manor was conveyed to Samuel Sandys within whose family it descended until the 20<sup>th</sup> century (VCH II, 427-8).

The manor house (WSM 01826) is situated at the north end of the village. The present building is of 16<sup>th</sup> century date, with a 17<sup>th</sup> century wooden chimneypiece (Pevsner 1968, 290). The associated grange, fishpond and dovecotes are of medieval date (WSM 02748, 02749 and 07672). The present church of St John the Baptist (WSM 01827) lies adjacent to the manor. It has a 13<sup>th</sup> century chancel and 14<sup>th</sup> century nave along with 17<sup>th</sup> century west tower and a late 17<sup>th</sup> century window. Sympathetic restoration was undertaken in the mid 20<sup>th</sup> century (Pevsner 1968, 289-90; VCH II, 428-9).

Detailed cartographic sources indicate the layout and changes within the village over the last 160 years. The 1843 Tithe Plan reveals the present site to have comprised part of a larger sub-rectangular orchard owned by The Elms (WSM 12982) farm situated immediately to the south. The 1<sup>st</sup> edition Ordnance Survey map of 1891 and subsequent editions through to 1938 reveal no changes, except to the rear boundaries of the properties off Manor Road to the north-west. It is unclear when the orchard was grubbed up, although construction of a new farmhouse adjacent was undertaken in the 1980s.development

# 4. **Description**

The trenches recorded are shown in Figures 1 and 2.

#### 4.1 Phase 1 Natural deposits

In both areas the natural matrix was a sterile clay without inclusions – at Badsey it was blue/grey with mottled bands and at Wickhamford it was fawn/brown but grey with depth.

No subsoil horizon was identified at Badsey. A full soil sequence was noted at Wickhamford

## 4.2 Phase 2 Undated/modern deposits

Along Badsey High Street a sequence of compacted gravel, pea gravel and clay layers lay directly over the natural matrix. No finds were recovered in association, although a modern red brick drain with concrete capping cut through from below the make-up for the existing road surface.

At Wickhamford no archaeological features or horizons were identified. However a modern brick horse exercise ring was noted, cut into the natural clay, on the south side of the area; and redeposited clay was recorded on the north side. In addition a silver penny of Edward I (1272-1307) was recovered from the spoil during machining.

## 5. **Discussion**

# 5.1 **Badsey**

It is not surprising that there was no subsoil or any features cut into the natural clay along the line of Badsey High Street. The manor was first recorded in the early 8<sup>th</sup> century, and the road lies within the historic core of the village, such that the road has probably held the same alignment throughout this time. Unfortunately it was not possible to date the sequence of gravels, which may date back to the earliest establishment of the village in the Saxon period, or may even relate to the Roman activity, which has been identified in the immediate vicinity.

#### 5.2 Wickhamford

Although the site off Manor Road also lies toward the historic core of Wickhamford village, cartographic sources indicate its horticultural function as part of Elms Farm. The site has probably therefore been part of an undeveloped field within the farm since its establishment, and the find of a stray medieval coin is not unexpected.

# 6. **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.

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken on behalf of Severn Trent Water Plc of the flood alleviation works at Badsey and Wickhamford, Worcestershire (NGR: SP 0700 4323 and SP 0690 4207; HER: WSM 33519 and 33523). The project comprised two separate phases of investigation – within High Street, Badsey: the observation of the trench excavated for a new sewage pipe; and on land adjacent to Elms Farm, Manor Road, Wickhamford: the observation of ground works associated with the new pumping station. No archaeological features or finds were recorded along Badsey High Street. However a sequence of compacted gravel layers was noted, overlying the natural clay. They may represent earlier road surfaces or hardcore foundation and levelling deposits, although they are undated. These deposits had been cut through by a red brick drain along the west side of the street. No archaeological features or horizons were recorded at Wickhamford, although a single residual silver penny of Edward I (1272-1307) was recovered from the spoil and a modern brick horse exercise ring was noted cut into the natural clay.

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# 7. The archive

The archive consists of:

- 9 Fieldwork progress report sheets AS2
- 1 Photographic record sheets AS3
- 29 Digital photographs
- 1 Context number catalogue sheets AS5
- Scale drawings
   Computer disk

The project archive is intended to be placed at:

Worcestershire County Museum

Hartlebury Castle

Hartlebury

Near Kidderminster

Worcestershire DY11 7XZ

Tel Hartlebury (01299) 250416

# 8. Acknowledgements

The Service would like to thank the following for their kind assistance in the successful conclusion of this project, D. Crawford (freelance metal detectorist), M. Oliver (Severn Trent Water Plc), Ian Ferris (Severn Trent Water Archaeological Consultant) and Mike Glyde (Worcestershire Historic Environment Planning Advisor).

#### 9. **Personnel**

The fieldwork and report preparation was led by Tom Vaughan. The project manager responsible for the quality of the project was Simon Woodiwiss. Fieldwork was also undertaken by James Goad and Chris Patrick and illustration by Carolyn Hunt.

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# 11. **Abbreviations**

HER Historic Environment Record

NMR National Monuments Record.

SMR Sites and Monuments Record.

WCRO Worcestershire County Records Office.

WSM Numbers prefixed with 'WSM' are the primary reference numbers used by

the Worcestershire County Historic Environment Record.

# Appendix 1 Trench descriptions

# Trench 1: Badsey

Site area: Brewers Lane to School Lane, High Street, Badsey

Maximum dimensions: Length: 115.50m Width: 2.80m Depth: 2.40m

Orientation: north-south

Main deposit description

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
100	Surface	Tarmac road surface. Overlies [101].	0.00-0.12m
101	Layer	Dark grey gravel chips, black/brown clinker and gravel dust. Sealed by [100]. Overlies [102, 105, 109 and 112].	0.08-0.24m
102	Layer	Light fawn/yellow/grey large gravel chunks in mid fawn/beige/yellow clay. Sealed by [101]. Directly overlies [103, 105, 106, 107 and 110].	0.16-0.85m
103	Layer	Mid grey grit with small light fawn/grey gravel chips. Sealed by [102 and 109]. Directly overlies [104 and 110].	0.29-0.46m
104	Layer	Light grey large gravel chunks and round pebbles in light grey clay, mottled with iron stain. Occasional small red brick flecks and frags. Sealed by [103, 107 and 114]. Directly overlies [105 and 108].	0.34-1.12m
105	Natural	Light blueish/grey and yellow mottled clay with greenish/grey bands but without inclusions. Below [102, 104, 106, 108 and 111].	0.34m +
106	Structure	Red ?machine-made bricks laid in a light mortar. Three courses with ?concrete capping. Aligned north-south within west section. Bedded directly on [105]. Sealed by [102].	0.46-0.84m
107	Layer	Grey gravel with ?tarmac. Sealed by [102]. Overlying [104].	0.23-0.37m
108	Layer	Pinkish brown sub-angular medium gravel. Below [104]. Overlies [105].	0.72-0.97m

109	Layer	Light blue-grey gravel. Below [101]. Overlies [103].	0.17-0.30m
110	Layer	Fawn/yellow pea gravel. Below [103]. Overlies [111].	0.42-0.56m
111	Layer	Mid fawn/brown clay with pea gravel. Below [110]. Overlies [105].	0.53-0.73m
112	Layer	Pinkish brown small-medium sub- angular gravel. Same as [108]. Below [101]. Overlies [113].	0.13-0.25m
113	Layer	Mid/dark grey small sub-angular gravel. Diffuse boundary with [114] below. Overlain by [112].	0.24-0.33m
114	Layer	Light grey clay with frequent small sub-angular gravel. Compact. Diffuse boundary with [104] below. Overlain by [113].	0.33-0.43m

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# Trench 2: Wickhamford

Site area: Field adjacent to Elms Farm, Manor Road, Wickhamford

Maximum dimensions: Length: 58m Width: 26m Depth: 0.30m

Orientation: north-south and east-west

# Main deposit description

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
200	Topsoil	Mid brown turfed clayey silt. Moderately compact and cohesive.	c 0.00-0.20m
201	Subsoil	Mid brown silty clay. Moderately compact and cohesive.	c 0.15-0.30m
202	Natural	Mid fawn/brown clay. Cut by [204]. Grey with depth.	c 0.25m+
203	Layer	Grey clay. North side of site only. Dumped during construction of adjacent farmhouse c 1980s.	c 0.15-0.30m
204	Structure	Circular brick structure. c 15m diameter. Machine made red brick bedded in cement. Horse exercise ring. Sealed by [100].	c 0.15m+

# Archaeological Watching Brief of the Badsey and Wickhamford Flood Alleviation Works, Worcestershire

# Tom Vaughan

# Part 1 Project summary

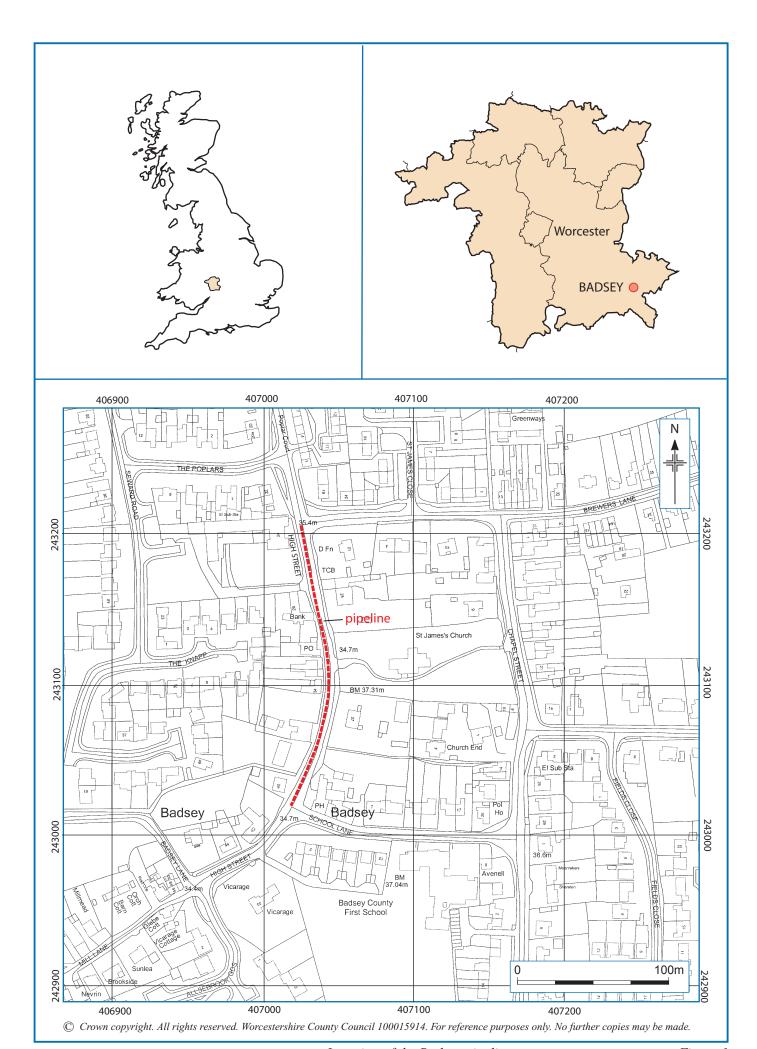
An archaeological watching brief was undertaken of the Badsey and Wickhamford Flood Alleviation Works, Worcestershire (National Grid Reference: SP 0700 4323 and SP 0690 4207). It was undertaken on behalf of Severn Trent Water plc. The project aimed to determine if any archaeological remains were present and if so to indicate the nature, date and location.

The project comprised two separate phases of investigation – within High Street, Badsey: the observation of the trench excavated for a new sewage pipe; and on land adjacent to Elms Farm, Manor Road, Wickhamford: the observation of ground works associated with the new pumping station.

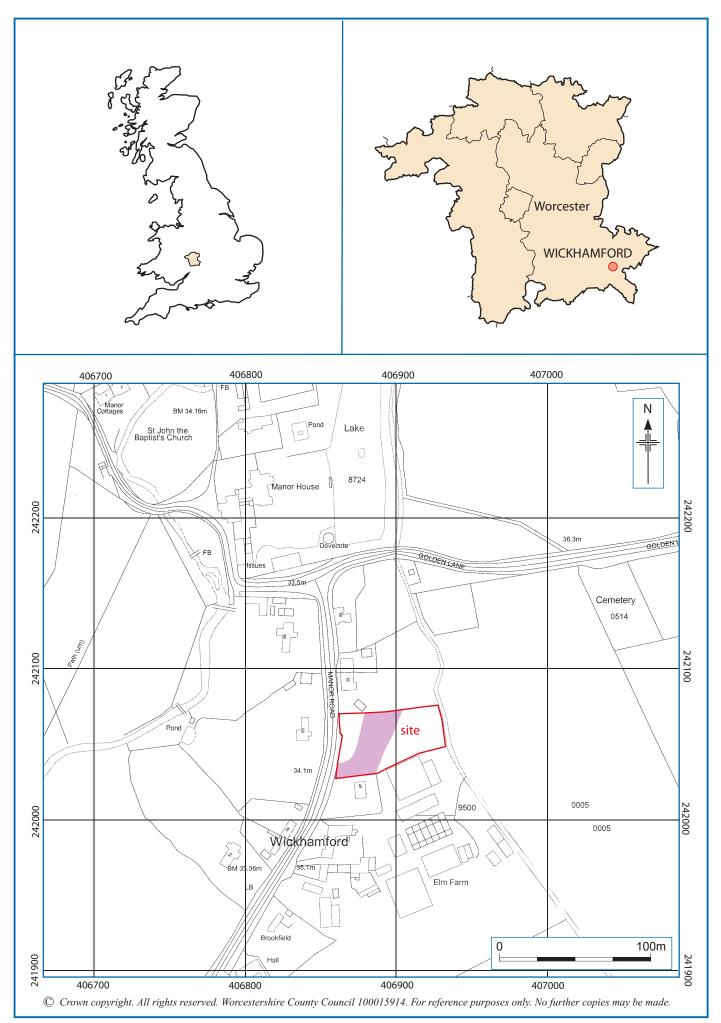
No significant archaeological features or finds were recorded along Badsey High Street. However a sequence of compacted gravel layers was noted, overlying the natural clay. They may represent earlier road surfaces or hardcore foundation and levelling deposits, although they are undated. These deposits had been cut through by a red-brick drain along the west side of the street.

No significant archaeological features or horizons were recorded at Wickhamford, although a single residual silver penny of Edward I (1272-1307) was recovered from the spoil and a modern brick horse exercise ring was noted, cut into the natural clay.

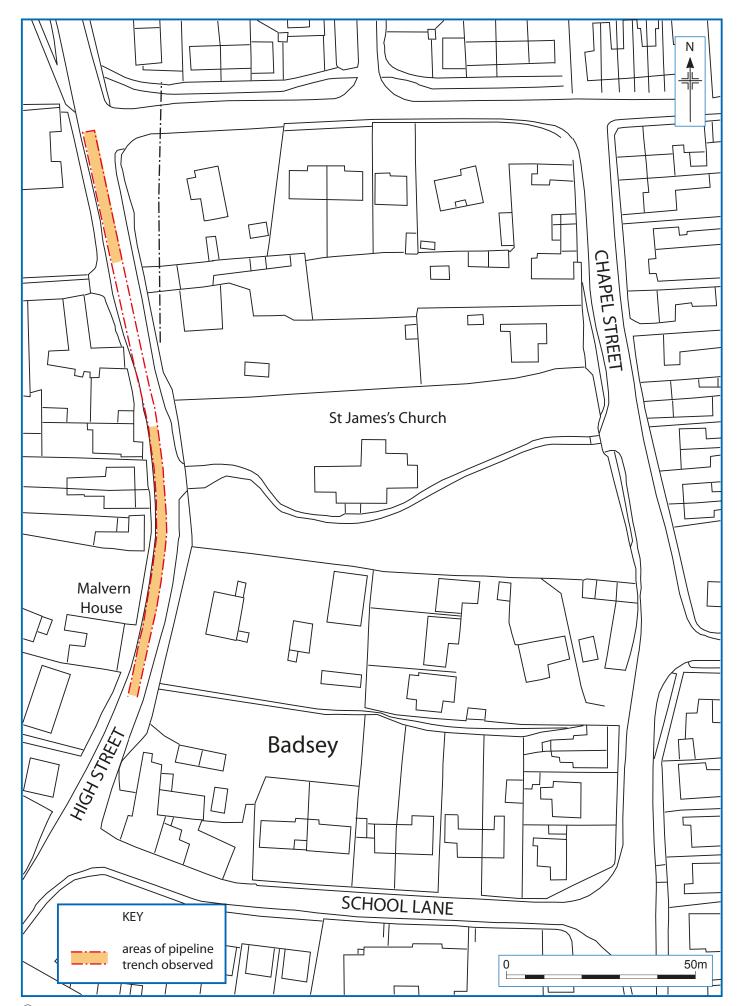
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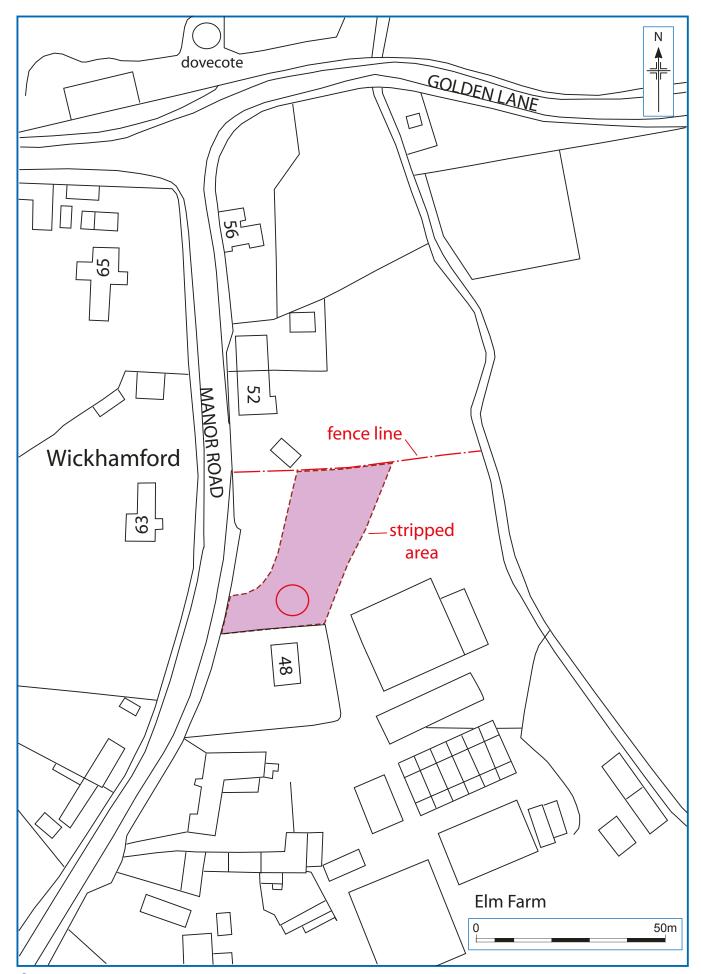
Location of the Badsey pipeline.



Location of Wickhamford pumping station site.



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