

DESK-BASED ASSESSMENT
OF
ROUNDHILL ACCESS ROAD,
KINVER, SOUTH
STAFFORDSHIRE

Tom Vaughan

Illustrations by Carolyn Hunt

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Worcestershire County Council

Historic Environment and Archaeology Service,
Worcestershire County Council,
Woodbury,
University of Worcester,
Henwick Grove,
Worcester WR2 6AJ



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

Project 2870
Report 1399

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Desk-based assessment of Roundhill Access Road, Kinver, South Staffordshire

Tom Vaughan

Part 1 Project summary

A desk-based assessment was undertaken of Roundhill Access Road, Kinver, South Staffordshire (centred on NGR ref SO 8670 8335). It was undertaken on behalf of Severn Trent - Haswell, who intends to improve access to the existing SDP and sewage plant. The project aimed to determine if any significant archaeological site was present and if so to indicate what its location, date and nature were.

The aims of this assessment were to summarise the character and extent of any identified features of the historic environment, indicate their significance, the impact of the proposed development and identify mitigation measures, where appropriate.

There are no known archaeological sites within the study area, although a small number of prehistoric and Roman sites have been identified in the vicinity, including a Roman road to the north-east. The site comprises Whittington Common, north-east of the medieval village. The fields alongside the modern A449 were enclosed piecemeal and may have been put to strip farming in the medieval period, although there are no traces of ridge and furrow. The fields to the east were enclosed by Act of Parliament in the late 18th or early 19th century. In the late 19th and early 20th century the fields were taken over for use as a sewage farm. A modern sludge destruction plant (SDP) and sewage plant lie on the north side of the area. Off Whittington Hall Lane are Whittington Hall, its dovecote and barn, which are Grade II listed buildings. A World War Two decoy bunker is also located off this lane. Gibbet Lane to the north is the site of one of the last criminals in England to have been gibbeted, in the early 19th century, and the western section may form part of a holloway of medieval or earlier date.

There are ten options under review for the access road, two along existing roads; the rest across fields. The route along the east section of Gibbet Lane (Option I) and those across the fields (Option A-F) are considered not to have any significant impact on known archaeological remains; in fact one is along a route previously monitored during pipeline works and found to be archaeologically blank (Option J). That along Whittington Hall Lane (Option G) will have a moderate adverse effect on the setting of the listed buildings. And finally that along the western section of Gibbet Lane (Option H) will have a minor adverse impact on the possible holloway.

In mitigation it is recommended that a watching brief be undertaken of the easement strip and other groundworks associated with the selected option (with the exception of Option J, which is unjustified), with a contingency to allow for further investigation, should previously unknown archaeological remains be identified.

Part 2 Detailed report

1. Background

1.1 Reasons for the project

A desk-based assessment was undertaken at Roundhill Access Road, Kinver, South Staffordshire (centred on NGR ref SO 8670 8335). It was undertaken on behalf of Severn Trent-Haswell, who intends to improve access to the existing sludge destruction plant (SDP) and sewage plant. It is considered by the Curator (Staffordshire County Council) that a site of archaeological interest may be affected (SMR ref. PRN 01171, 01172 and 09262).

1.2 Project parameters

The project conforms to the *Standard and guidance for archaeological desk-based assessment* (IFA 1999), Planning Policy Guidance Notes 15 '*Planning and the Historic Environment*', and 16 '*Archaeology and Planning*' and relevant EIA guidance and Legislation.

The project also conforms to a project proposal (including detailed specification) (HEAS 2006).

1.3 Aims

The aims of this assessment were to summarise the character and extent of any identified features of the historic environment, indicate their significance, the impact of the proposed development and identify mitigation measures, where appropriate.

2. Methods

2.1 Study area

The study area included the site (Fig 1), though features of the historic environment were considered within 1km of the site to encompass the settings of scheduled ancient monuments and Listed Buildings.

2.2 Documentary search

Prior to fieldwork commencing a search was made of the Historic Environment Record (HER), Staffordshire County Records Office and the William Salt Library. The following sources are relevant to the study area.

Cartographic sources

- 1688 Map of the Estates of John Gray, esq. in Enville, Morfe, Amblecote, Whittington, part of Kinver and Kinlet (Salop), surveyed by William Deeley, scale approximately 50 perches: 6.55cm. SRO 1392/C
- 1775 Map of the County of Staffordshire from an actual survey by William Yates, engraved by John Chapman, scale 1":1 mile, Dudley Archives 1775 and 569A
- 1829-30 Plan of the Parish of Kinver in the County of Staffordshire, surveyed by William Bright, scale approximately 80 chains: 22.65cm. SRO D891/3

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- 1829-30 Reference to a Map of the Parish of Kinfare in the County of Stafford, surveyed in the years 1829 and 1830 by William Bright, to which is affixed A Valuation of the Rateable Property within the said Parish for the support of the Poor. SRO D891/4
 - 1834 Ordnance Survey, Old Series, Lichfield sheet XLII, scale 1":1 mile
 - 1850 Kinver Tithe map and award, Lichfield Record Office B/A/15/182, 553
 - 1856 Poor Rate Assessment Map for Kinver, surveyed by Oates & Perrins. SRO D1493/1
 - 1888 Ordnance Survey 1st edition, Staffordshire sheet LXX. SE, scale 6":1 mile
 - 1888 Ordnance Survey 1st edition, Staffordshire sheet LXXI. SW, scale 6":1 mile
 - 1903 Ordnance Survey 2nd edition, Staffordshire sheet LXX. SE, scale 6":1 mile
 - 1925 Ordnance Survey 3rd edition, Staffordshire sheet LXX. SE, scale 6":1 mile
 - 1921 Ordnance Survey 3rd edition, Staffordshire sheet LXXI. SW, scale 6":1 mile
 - 1948 Ordnance Survey Provisional edition, Staffordshire sheet LXXI. SW, scale 6":1 mile
 - 1999, Ordnance Survey, Wolverhampton and Dudley, Explorer Sheet 219, scale 1:25,000
 - Staffordshire Historic Landscape Characterisation maps (held by Staffordshire HER)
 - 2005, Severn Trent Water Engineering Services - Roundhill Access Road Options, Project 30808, Drg No. 400077 - W003 - 02, scale 1:10,000

Aerial photographs

- RAF/541/550, frames 4228-4321, dated 4th June 1950, vertical photos, NMR
- OS/62102, frames 010-014, dated 30th October 1962, vertical photos, NMR

Documentary sources

- Campbell, FE, 1979 *Stewponey Countryside*
- Cockin, T, 2000 *The Staffordshire Encyclopaedia*
- Duignan, WH, 1902 *Notes on Staffordshire Placenames*
- Poulton-Smith, A, 1995 *Staffordshire Place-names including the Black Country*
- Scott, W, 1832 *Stourbridge and its vicinity*
- Shaw, S, 1798-1801 (1976) *The History and Antiquities of Staffordshire, II*
- VCH II, Greenslade, MW and Jenkins, JG (eds), 1976 *Victoria History of the County of Staffordshire, II*
- VCH XX, Elrington, CR (ed), 1984 *Victoria History of the County of Staffordshire, XX*

Site archives (from earlier excavations, evaluations etc).

- Bretherton, J, 2000 *Watching brief at Cherry Tree Cottage, Kinver, Staffordshire*, Worcestershire County Council Archaeology Service, unpublished report 789, P1859, dated 6 December 1999, revised 6th January 2000
- Brown, D and Woodiwiss, S, 1992 *Kidderminster, Hagley and Blakedown bypass and A449 Link: An Assessment*, Hereford and Worcester County Council Archaeology Service unpublished report 105, dated February 1992
- Coates, G, 1999 *An Archaeological Watching Brief of the Hagley to Roundhill Water Pipeline Abandonment, Staffordshire and Worcestershire*, Birmingham University Field Archaeology Unit, Project No. **600**, unpublished report, dated September 1999
- Mould, C, 1998 *Hagley Severn Trent Engineering Abandonment, Staffordshire and Worcestershire: An Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment*, Birmingham University Field Archaeology Unit, Project No. **554**, unpublished report, dated September 1998
- Palmer, N, 2004 *Archaeological Recording on the South Staffordshire Water PLC Hagley to Hinksford 400mm Water Main*, Warwickshire Museum Field Services

The following sources have also been cited in this assessment.

- DoE, 1990 *Planning Policy Guidance Note 16: Archaeology and Planning (PPG 16)*, Department of the Environment
- DoE, 1995 *Planning Policy Guidance Note 15: Archaeology and the historic Environment (PPG 15)*, Department of the Environment
- IFA 1999 *Standard and guidance for archaeological desk-based assessment*, Institute of Field Archaeologists
- HEAS, 2006 *Proposal for an archaeological desk-based assessment of Roundhill Access Road, Kinver, South Staffordshire*, Historic Environment and Archaeology Service, Worcestershire County Council, unpublished document dated 20th January 2006, **P2870**
- Solomon, P, 1990 *Ghosts of the Midlands and how to detect them*
- Soil Survey of England and Wales, 1983 *Midland and Western England, sheet 3, scale 1:250,000 + Legend for the 1:250,000 Soil Map of England and Wales (A brief explanation of the constituent soil associations)*
- South Staffordshire Archaeology and History Transactions
- Staffordshire History Collections

The following sources were not considered relevant to this project.

Illustrative sources

- 1797, Whittington Hall: engraving (Shaw 1798-1801, 376).
- 1836, Whittington Hall: pen and wash drawing, Thomas Peploe Wood, William Salt Library, SV XII.55b
- 1838, Whittington Hall: sepia drawing, John Buckler, William Salt Library, SV XII.53

2.3 Other methods

A site visit was undertaken on 27th January 2005.

A detailed specification has been prepared by the Service (HEAS 2006).

2.4 Results

The results are mapped on Figure 2 and the details of individual features of the historic environment are given in Appendix 1. Event records have been omitted where this would repeat information in other record types, and would not materially affect the assessment. HER references have been used throughout this assessment but during its preparation further historic environment features have been identified (reference numbers have been allocated with the prefix HEF) and their details are given in Appendix 2.

2.5 Impact assessment criteria

The criteria cited in Table 1 have been used.

Table 1: Significance Criteria for Cultural Heritage Issues

<p>Severe Adverse: Loss of integrity of nationally important archaeology/cultural heritage including Scheduled Ancient Monuments, Grade I/II* registered parks and gardens and registered battlefields. Demolition of a Grade I/II* Listed Building. Dramatic adverse change in the setting or visual amenity of the feature/site.</p>
<p>Major Adverse: Land take resulting in the degradation of a cultural heritage site of national importance and/or extensive change to the setting or visual amenity of such a site e.g. intrusion into the setting of a Scheduled Ancient Monument. Loss of integrity of sites of archaeological interest of regional value, or Grade II registered parks and gardens, e.g. a dramatic change in the setting or visual amenity of a regionally important site such as a Conservation Area. Widespread adverse effects on the setting or structure of a Grade I/II* Listed Building. Demolition of a Grade II Listed Building.</p>
<p>Moderate Adverse: Land take resulting in the degradation of a cultural heritage site of regional importance and/or extensive change to the setting or visual amenity of such a site. Extensive change to the setting or structure of a Grade II Listed Building. Demolition of a locally listed or other historically important building. Encroachment upon a Conservation Area, historic parkland or other historic landscapes where the quality of the setting or its amenity would be noticeably impaired. Slight change to the setting or structure of a Grade I/II* listed building. Removal of a historically important hedgerow (after the Hedgerows Regulations).</p>
<p>Minor Adverse: Loss of integrity of an area where archaeological features/areas of local importance have been identified. Slight change to the setting or structure of a Grade II Listed Building. Limited encroachment upon a Conservation Area or historic parkland or other historic landscape where intrusive views are created or slight effects upon its integrity would result.</p>

<p>Not Significant: Landscape or ecological planting on an area where locally important archaeological features have been identified but impacts are thought to have no long term effect on the resource. Removal of common hedgerows and limited damage to important hedgerows where no replacement proposed.</p>
<p>Minor Beneficial: Perceptible improvement in the setting or structure of a Grade II listed building, Conservation Area or Grade II historic parkland. Improved management of locally/regionally important archaeological site.</p>
<p>Moderate Beneficial: Perceptible improvement in the setting or structure of a Grade I/II* listed building, Conservation Area or Grade I/II* historic parkland. Improved management of nationally important archaeological site.</p>

2.6 **The methods in retrospect**

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

3. **Archaeological and historical context**

3.1 **Location and topography**

The ten options for improved access to the existing SDP and sewage plant lie within a sub-rectangular area of approximately 215 hectares, in the parish of Kinver, toward the southern boundary of Staffordshire (Fig 1). It comprises a series of fields, bounded by the A449 Kidderminster to Wolverhampton trunk road to the west, Gibbet Lane to the north and Whittington Hall Lane to the south and east. The rolling fields are largely under pasture with occasional coppices and plots left to scrub. The area is dotted with raised brick and concrete manholes connecting to buried pipelines related to the existing sewage works. The distinctive Roundhill lies to the north-east corner, at a height of over 95m AOD. The lowest point lies along the western end of the former brook, at c 50m AOD. The lanes to north and south rise up from c 60m AOD along the A449, to over 100m AOD to the east.

The road option locations below and affected fields are depicted on Fig 2.

3.1.1 **Option A**

Along the southern side of Field A off the A449, from an existing gap in the hedge, across the north-east corner adjacent to School Plantation, over a stile (HEF003) and across the northern side of Field B to the east, connecting with Gibbet Lane to the east of a stile (HEF002) and up to the south-western entrance of the existing sewage works, north of Gibbet Lane. Both fields are under pasture. A fence with occasional trees divides them; that to the west is lower than that to the east. A semi-derelict concrete pumping station with a sheet asbestos roof is located in the middle of Field B. The northern boundary of Field B is a developed hedge and fence. The former sand pit within the south-eastern corner of School Plantation is dried out and overgrown.

3.1.2 **Option B**

Along the northern boundary of Field A off the A449, from a modern stile at the corner of the field, joining with Option A at the stile (HEF003) to the south of School Plantation and continuing east as above.

3.1.3 Option C

A shorter variation of Options A and B, adjoining Gibbet Lane approximately 200m to the west.

3.1.4 Option D

Along the southern boundary of Field C off the A449 at the lay-by, and alongside the dried out brook. Diagonally across the valley floor and along the northern boundary of Fields D and E. Then along the southern boundary of Field B, beside the former brook, up to Gibbet Lane near a stile (HEF002) to the south-western entrance of the existing sewage works, north of Gibbet Lane. The field boundaries are generally fenced, with occasional trees. The fields are under pasture, although those within the base of the valley itself are under scrub. An old wooden railway goods van is located in the north-western corner of Field E. A cave-in or landslip was noted up the slope of Field D, to the south-eastern corner.

3.1.5 Option E

From the middle of Field C, off the A449, diagonally across the field to adjoin Option D to the east.

3.1.6 Option F

Along the southern boundary of Field C, across the fence and into Field B toward the southern end, connecting with Option D as above. This option lies above and north of the western valley floor.

3.1.7 Option G

Along the existing Whittington Hall Lane, where it meets the A449 to the west, up to the junction with Dunsley Road to the north-east. The existing road is largely wide, with grass verges, recessed hedges and mature trees. The road is narrowest near Whittington Hall where the hedges are tight to the lane with mature trees along both sides.

3.1.8 Option H

Along the western half of Gibbet Lane off the A449. The lane is a rough track, variously covered with degraded tarmac, earth, concrete and gravel. It is greater than 5.5m wide, and forms a Holloway (HEF006), generally 1.50m, but up to more than 2m, below the fields to north and south. It is bounded by developed hedgerows along the western half and fenced woodland along the eastern half. It has been the location of extensive illegal fly-tipping, with large quantities of building debris, domestic waste, vegetation and branches which have blocked the western end.

3.1.9 Option I

Along the eastern end of Gibbet Lane, off the junction with Dunsley Road and Whittington Hall Lane. The existing road is tarmaced and with recessed hedges along most of the length.

3.1.10 Option J

Off Whittington Hall Lane, along a gravel and earth track on the eastern edge of a pasture field bounded by mature trees. Field G to the east is a paddock. This option continues north along a hedge and fence dividing two further pasture fields (Fields H and I), up to the eastern end of Field B, where it continues up to the north-east corner to join Options A and B.

This option has been archaeologically investigated previously, during pipeline abandonment in 1999. Archaeological monitoring and recording was undertaken of the entire 12-15m wide easement strip. No archaeological features or structures were identified, and the few artefacts recovered were of post-medieval date. The topsoil was recorded as 0.3-0.4m deep, directly overlying the natural matrix of brown sand (BUFAU 1999).

3.2 **Geology**

The predominant soils within the study area belong to the Bridgnorth Soil Association (551a), comprising well-drained sandy and coarse loamy soils over soft sandstone, occasional deeper soils, with some risk of water and wind erosion. The parent material is Permo-Triassic and Carboniferous reddish sandstone. To the north and south are soils of the Newport 4 Soil Association (551g) comprising deep well drained sandy soils, some acid soils with bleached sub-surface horizon especially under heath or in woodland, with a risk of wind erosion. The parent material is glaciofluvial drift. The predominant soils along the River Stour to the west are of the Conway Soil Association (811b) of deep stoneless fine silty and clayey soils variably Affected by groundwater, on flat land with a risk of flooding, over river alluvium (Soil Survey of England and Wales 1983).

3.3 **Historic environment**

3.3.1 **Prehistoric**

In the 19th century, Round Hill, to the north-east corner of the study area, was conjectured to be a tumulus or prehistoric burial chamber. However it is now considered to be a natural geological formation, of bunter pebble beds (PRN 01173; Scott 1832, 339). 1km south of Whittington, west of the A449, an enclosure of has been identified via cropmarks. It's date is unclear, although it is conjectured to be of prehistoric or possible Roman origin (WSM 00135; Brown and Woodiwiss 1992, 6). A single axe of Neolithic date has been found south of Pedmore Common 2.5km to the south-east. Further south, at West Hagley a group of tumuli (burial mounds) were investigated in the later 18th century and found to be of Bronze Age date (Mould 1998, 5, 9 and figure 2)

There are otherwise no recorded archaeological sites or finds of this date either within or immediately adjacent to the study area.

3.3.2 **Roman**

A Roman road aligned north-north-west to south-south-east is located to the east of the study area, between Greensforge and Droitwich (PRN 01725, WSM 03149 and 03152). Sections of the road are traceable as a modern lane, a holloway, footpath and the administrative boundary between Staffordshire, Worcestershire and Dudley Borough. An excavation was undertaken in 1971 of a section of the road. Unfortunately the exact location and findings are unclear as the report was never completed. Investigations in 1999 at Cherry Tree Cottage 0.3km to the north-east of the site revealed a later holloway and adjacent ditch with an undated degraded earlier surface which may represent the Roman road (Bretherton 2000, 1-5). Evaluation trenches excavated in 2004 south of Yewtree Farm, 2.5km north of the site, and at Little Iverley Covert, 0.6km to the east, revealed no trace of the road, which is thought to have been destroyed by deep ploughing (Palmer 2004).

A possible farmstead site of Roman date has been identified adjacent to Barratt's Farm, 0.75km north of the study area (PRN 01724). There are no other recorded archaeological sites or finds of this date within or adjacent to the study area.

3.3.3 Early medieval / medieval

Whittington lies within the Hundred of Seisdon, at the southern extremity of Staffordshire, one of only five in the county. The Hundreds were land divisions drawn up in the Saxon period. It is conjectured that those in Staffordshire were named after the meeting places of the Hundred Moots, *c* 985 or 1007 (Shaw 1798-1801, xvii).

The road to Whittington Bridge over the Stour is known as 'Windsor Holloway' (VCH XX, 125). The western end of Gibbet Lane is another holloway, at some depth below the surrounding fields (HEF 006). Holloways are often ancient tracks, in use since the early medieval period, if not before.

The name is conjectured to derive from 'Wita's Town'. The first recorded lord of the manor was William de Whittenton, *c* 1307. The Whittenton / Whittenton / Whittington family held it until 1351/2; it then passed to the Lowes, who held it until 1475 when it passed to the Greys (Shaw 1798-1801, 267; Duignan 1902; Cockin 2000, 660).

Two mills are recorded at Whittington in the Domesday Survey of 1086. The village is known to have been inhabited by the 1180s, and *c* 1200 it was separated and became a sub-manor of Kinver, when one mill was documented on the Stour here. The mill/s descended with the manor until the 15th century. In 1423, Edmund Lowe, lord of Whittington, exchanged land in Kinver with William Everdon. In 1458 a mill here and Dunsley Manor passed to his son Thomas. In 1515 Humphrey Everdon, lord of Dunsley sold a corn mill and a fulling mill on the Stour to Sir Edward Grey, lord of Whittington (VCH XX, 125, 141, 142 and 144, Cockin 2000, 659).

There is reference to other industrial activity in the village. In 1327 a 'William the Walker' is recorded, which may refer to cloth working (VCH XX, 148).

It has been suggested that earthworks within the field south of Whittington Hall may represent traces of deserted former dwellings of a larger settlement of the village. It is more likely that they form one arm of a moat and are part of an earlier phase of the medieval manor (PRN 01171; South Staffordshire Archaeology and History Society Transactions 1982-3, 44; Cockin 2000, 660).

A church is recorded in medieval documents in Whittington, but is no longer mentioned by 1563 or later (Staffordshire History Collections 1915, 107). The location of the church is at present unknown.

Whittington Inn, on the west side of the A449 north of the village, is thought to have been built by William de Whittenton in 1310. His grandson is locally reputed to be the famous Dick Whittington, who became Lord Mayor of London in the 1390s. However most stories relate to his having been the son of the lord of Pauntley manor in Gloucestershire. This then appears to be a myth, along with the rumours that he haunts the inn, along with Lady Jane Grey and an unknown medieval monk (Ghosts of the Midlands and how to detect them 1990, 2b). The core of the building contains 14th/15th century elements although it was substantially rebuilt in the late 16th century (PRN 09260).

Dunsley manor to the north-west, is similarly documented. The name is thought to derive from 'Dane's Lea', indicating possible Danish occupation; plus 'Leah' from the Old English meaning 'woodland clearing'. It was created as a sub-manor of Kinver by *c* 1200 and in 1293 the lord of Kinver had nine tenants there. In the early 14th century Robert Throckmorton of Throckmorton, near Fladbury, Worcestershire, owned a house, one virgate, a 4 acre meadow and a water mill in Dunsley estate. By *c* 1479 Humphrey Everdon was in possession, presumably the father of the aforementioned Humphrey (VCH XX, 124 and 134; Poulton-Smith 1995, 72).

3.3.4 Post-medieval and modern

In 1581 John Grey, grandson of Sir Edward, held three water mills at Whittington. In 1619 one of the mills was converted into a forge, producing three different grades of iron: merchant bar, best mill and general mill. It remained in production until at least 1717 or 1725 (VCH II, 117 and 118; VCH XX 125 and 144).

Monks Green in Whittington, may be named after Comberton abbey in Cheshire, which is recorded in 1574 as owning 1 virgate (approximately 30 acres or 12 hectares) in the area (VCH XX, 137).

In the early 17th century most of Kinver estate was under copyhold. In Whittington in 1623 six were freehold, five were copyhold and 10 holdings were on leases of three lives (VCH XX, 141). In 1662 18 people in Whittington owed suit to Kinver Manor Court, this figure was 19 in 1755 and 28 in 1789. In addition Lord Stamford is recorded in *c* 1790 as owning 584 acres (236 hectares) within Whittington, although where exactly his holding was is unclear. The settlement is reckoned to have been focussed along the Kidderminster to Wolverhampton Road (VCH XX, 125, 141).

A warren is recorded within Whittington, which was ‘destroyed in 1681 after inclosure of the open fields’ (VCH XX, 142). Although its exact location is unknown, it was probably located somewhere on the common land and thus potentially lies within the study area. This date for enclosure is somewhat early, and probably relates to piecemeal enclosure, which is thought to have been undertaken of the fields alongside the modern A449, rather than the systematic Parliamentary enclosure of the later 18th and early 19th century, when the rest of the common land was taken in. The fields on the western side may have been taken into cultivation under the strip-farming method, although there are no traces of ridge and furrow earthworks (Historic Landscape Characterisation maps; NMR aerial photographs).

The almshouses on the south side of Horse Bridge Lane were endowed in 1717. The Wolverhampton to Kidderminster road was turnpiked *c* 1760. The Staffordshire and Worcestershire canal was constructed later in the same decade (VCH XX, 125 and 151).

In Dunsley six people owed suit to the lord of Kinver in 1662, 9 in 1755 and 17 in 1789. Dunsley Manor has one range dating to the late 16th century. It is timber framed and encased in brick and the interior remodelled by the early 19th century. In the mid/late 19th century it was then substantially rebuilt and remodelled in the Tudor style. Dunsley Manor Farm adjacent has extant buildings from the 18th and 19th centuries. Dunsley Common was enclosed by act of parliament by 1780. The settlement, along with Halfcot to the north-east, was distinguished as a separate township from 1830 until the mid 19th century (VCH XX, 124, 138 and 149).

There is some confusion regarding the age of the present Whittington Hall. There are references to it having been medieval, others that it was constructed by the 17th century, and still others that it was built by the Earl of Stamford in 1788. These dates probably relate simply to phases of reconstruction or renovation. In 1688 it was a timber-framed building. The present hall is a brick house with a tiled roof, dating to the early 18th century. The frontage comprises an impressive three storeys and seven bays with a first floor band and plain parapet (PRN 09262). It is approached along a tree-lined avenue off the A449. A dovecote or pigeon house lies to the south. This is a conical red brick building on a high stone plinth. It is of medieval date, with 18th century additions (PRN 09263). There is also a timber-framed barn. It has brick infill and is of 15th or 16th century date (PRN 01172). The hall, barn and dovecote are Grade II Listed. The hall is also known as Whittington Hall Farm or Whittington Manor Farm (VCH XX, 125 and 136; Cockin 2000, 660).

Three illustrations of 1797-1838 of Whittington Hall held at the William Salt Library are considered to relate to the manor near Lichfield of the same name, and not that adjacent to the study area.

Whittington Inn to the north has been proposed as the seat of the manor under the Earl of Stamford prior to 1788. The present building is a late 16th century (Elizabethan) rebuilding of a medieval timber framed dwelling. It is a Listed Building (PRN 09260; Cockin 2000, 661).

Gibbets Wood and Lane between Dunsley and Stourbridge, on the north side of the study area are named after William Howe. At Fir Tree Hill on this lane Howe, also known as John Wood, held up and shot Benjamin Robins, a tenant farmer of Dunsley Hall, in December 1812. Robins died of his wounds a few days later and Howe was eventually arrested in London. He was hung at Stafford and his corpse then gibbeted at the place of his crime for 12 months. He was the second-to-last person to be gibbeted in the country, and one of the first to be hung using the trap-door method. The gibbet remained for years after, and is said to have subsequently been made into a stile and used in a nearby field. It was reportedly in a good condition in 1979, although the three stiles noted during the site visit off Gibbet Lane were all of modern origin (HEF 001-003). Alleged ghost sightings have been common within the vicinity; the last recorded having been in 1990 (VCH XX, 125; Campbell 1979, 8; Cockin 2000, 232).

The earliest known map of the area is the 1688 Estate map of John Gray. Unfortunately this only covers the south-western extremity of the study area, adjacent to Whittington Hall and the road to the west (Fig. 3). The details are recorded as:

<u>name</u>	<u>tenant</u>	<u>area: a / r / p</u>
John Jones	Over Close	1 / 3 / 16
John Hillman's Peece (sic)	-	5 / 1 / 9
William Southall	The Hall Hill	2 / 1 / 23

Yates' map of 1775, although lacking in local detail as it is at large scale, depicts the eastern two-thirds of the study area as unenclosed rough common land, accessed by what is now Whittington Hall Lane to the south and bisected by what later became known as Gibbet Lane to the north. The western third is similarly marked as one open expanse, with a number of buildings along the road to the south (Fig. 4).

The 1829-30 map of the parish of Kinver, drawn up as an assessment of rateable value to provide for the parish poor, lists the size and name of each plot of land (Fig. 5). Those plots within the study area are listed below:

<u>number</u>	<u>name</u>	<u>area: a / r / p</u>
<i>Whittington division</i>		
1261	Sandpit Piece	29 / 3 / 17
1261a	Sandpit Piece	no data
1269	Middle Land Piece	5 / 3 / 15
1270	Little Sand Piece (or Little Land Piece?)	3 / - / 18
1271	The Four Acres	3 / 2 / 33
1272	Horse Close	6 / 2 / 30
1273	Lower Hall Close	5 / - / 36
1274	Middle Hall Close	5 / - / 35
1275	Further Hall Close	4 / 2 / 11
1276	Little Footway Piece	4 / 2 / 37
1277	Middle Hampton Highway	3 / 2 / 31
1278	Near Hampton Highway	3 / - / 35
1279	The Shop Leasow	3 / 2 / 32
1280	The Sling	2 / 3 / 4
1281	Park Piece	5 / 5 / 12
1282	Yew Tree Piece	3 / 2 / 30
1283	Park Meadow	2 / 1 / 7
1284	House, buildings, fold, garden & hemp butt	- / 4 / 21
1285	Tenement & garden	- / - / 32
1286	Barn & foldyard	- / - / 19
1300	Far Hampton Highway	5 / 2 / 15
1301	Middle Footway Piece	8 / - / 39
1302	Pool Piece	8 / - / 13

1303	Footway Sand Piece	8 / 3 / 26
1304	Near Footway Piece	11 / 2 / 14
1305	Upper Common Piece	12 / 3 / 8
1306	Far Common Piece	11 / 1 / 38
1307	Far Footway Piece	12 / 3 / 30
1308	Footway Common Piece	22 / 1 / 9
1309	Triangular Piece	25 / - / 31
1310	Flat Common Field	19 / 1 / 19
1311	Near Common Field	20 / 1 / 2
1312	Middle Common Field	18 / 2 / 18
1313	Far Common Field	26 / 2 / 24

Dunsley & Halfcot division

1465	Plantation	12 / 3 / 10
1466	Inclosure	30 / 1 / 18
1467	House & garden	2 / - / 21
1468	Watering place	- / - / 30
1469	Plantation	24 / - / 10
1470	Gibbet Field Allotment	21 / 1 / 11
1471	Allotment	15 / - / 12
1472	Allotment or Small Poney	3 / - / 23
1473	Allotment	1 / 1 / 32
1474	Shootland	14 / 3 / 21
1475	Upper Pit Field or Croft Road Field	15 / 2 / 33
1476	Middle Pit Field	11 / 1 / 37
1477	Lower Pit Field or Foot Road Piece	14 / 3 / 7
1478	Grover Common Field	5 / 3 / 26
1479	Pit Field	5 / 2 / 30
1480	Pit Field with Allotment	17 / 3 / 26
1481	Pool in Pit Field	17 / 3 / 26
1482	Public watering place near Lavender's Cottages	- / - / 18
1483	Garden	- / - / 26
1484	Garden	- / - / 29

The utilitarian nature of the field names, the references to allotments and plantations, and their regular grid pattern confirm that the study area had previously comprised of common land, which had only recently been enclosed by Act of Parliament. The reference to pits and pools also indicates that areas had been used for quarrying, probably of sand. The houses within Whittington hamlet are recorded, as is The Hole, a property along the west side of the road north towards Stewponey. The aforementioned lanes have been formalised and two footpaths are noted, one aligned approximately east-west to the north, and another aligned north-east to south-west to the south.

The 1834 1 inch Ordnance Survey map is somewhat confusing. It notes Whittington Common and depicts the area to be unenclosed, with the exception of wooded plots to the north-east. This lack of detail may be due to the large scale or its having been based on earlier surveys, prior to full enclosure. It is worth noting that what became known as Gibbet Wood by the late 19th century is still recorded as Lower Dunsley Bank and Gorse Cover (Cockin 2000, 232).

The 1856 map is based on the 1850 Tithe. It notes very few changes since 1829-30, simply the expansion of School Plantation off Gibbet Lane to the north, and the subdivision of the enclosure and construction of Roundhill Farm to the north-east. There is also more detail. Three ponds are noted and a brook forms the boundary between Whittington to the south and Dunsley and Halfcot to the north.

The 1st edition Ordnance Survey map (Fig. 6) of 1888 again indicates little change to the layout of the landscape. Although long enclosed, the area is still known as Whittington Common. A number of the smaller fields have been amalgamated and the location of the plantations have changed. All other changes may simply be improvements in detail, such as the notation of a sand pit off Whittington Hall Lane, an additional footpath off the Kidderminster to Wolverhampton Road, a perambulation around School Plantation and areas of heath.

‘...The open country east of Whittington was used for laying out three sewage farms in the late 19th century and early 20th century’ (VCH XX, 125-6). Unfortunately the 1903 Ordnance Survey map of the eastern side of the study area was unavailable. However within the western half, the southern area is noted as Whittington (House) Sewage Farm, under the auspices of The Upper Stour Valley Main Sewage Board, Stourbridge and Amblecote Urban District Councils. It is unclear exactly what the infrastructure of the sewage farm comprised, although a tank is noted in the corner of one field, and the site visit identified numerous brick manholes dotted over the fields, presumably allowing access to underground sewage pipelines. Also notable is the name of the sand pit of Whittington Hall Lane has changed to Old Sand Pit, indicating that it was no longer in use by this time.

The Ordnance Survey map of 1921/5 further reveals that the south-western part of the study area had been acquired by the Upper Stour Valley Main Sewage Board for use as Whittington House Sewage Farm; the south-eastern part had become Whittington Sewage Farm, operated by Stourbridge and Amblecote Urban District Councils; while the area north of the brook had been acquired as Roundhill Sewage Farm by Kingswinford Rural District Council. The only plots remaining outside the sewage plant were two fields within the north-west corner of the area, and the adjacent School Plantation, wherein a second old sand pit is noted. Whittington Farm (as distinct from Whittington Manor or Hall Farm) and a series of cottages had been constructed half way along Whittington Hall Lane by 1921.

Handwritten comments made on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey held at Staffordshire Record Office indicate that the area north of the brook was under-drained and that land was acquired north of Gibbets Lane in 1929 for the construction of the present sewage plant and SDP.

There are two further features of the historic environment of note. Both relate to the defences constructed during World War Two. Southwards along the A449 are two extant concrete blocks which were positioned as blockades to delay the movement of enemy convoys along the road in the event of invasion (WSM 17125). The second is a bunker with associated service track holloway (HEF 004 and 005) nestled in the corner of a field toward the south side of the study area. The brick bunker was originally disguised under a mound of earth. It contains two rooms, one for the RAF crew, and the other to house a Austin 7hp generator. This powered a lighting rig laid out over the surrounding fields, replicating marshalling yards and factory lighting, known as decoy lighting or ‘QL’. In addition there were contraptions to replicate furnace glow, and other decoy fires or ‘QF’. They were in use up to at least March 1943 and their intention was to lure Luftwaffe bombers away from the nearby vulnerable conurbations such as Stourbridge and Wolverhampton (pers comm Mick Wilkes).

Aerial photographs of site taken in 1950 and 1962 indicate that the existing sewage plant and SDP had not been built by this time. The irregular ‘flowing’ nature of the soil marks notable within a number of the fields are probably the result of a combination of the underlying natural geology and the spreading of sewage from underground pipes. They are not thought to relate to archaeological remains. The present layout and condition of the study area is given in Section 3.1 above.

3.4 **Statutory and other designations**

There are three listed buildings at Whittington Hall (PRN 01172, 09262 and 9263), along the south side of Whittington Hall Lane (Option G). The WWII decoy bunker (HEF 004) lies approximately 100m north of this lane.

The site of the 19th century gibbet post reused as a stile probably lies along Gibbet Lane, although its location is unclear (HEF 001-003).

There are no other recorded archaeological sites within the study area.

4. **Potential impacts**

Options A to F, within existing fields would have **No Significant** effect as there is no known archaeology, although the boundaries along Fields A-E may have late medieval origins.

Option G, along the south-western section of Whittington Hall Lane would have a **Moderate Adverse** effect on the setting and visual amenity of the listed buildings at Whittington Hall and the hedgerows either side of the existing lane. Along the north-eastern section of Whittington Hall Lane, the road scheme is considered to have **No Significant** impact, as the road is wide with recessed hedges.

Option H, along Gibbet Lane, would have a **Minor Adverse** effect on the existing holloway track at the western end and the hedgerows either side.

Option I would have **No Significant** effect on the archaeology or hedgerows, as it is at present a wide, tarmaced road.

Option J would have **No Significant** effect on the archaeology, as this route has previously been the subject of archaeological investigation (BUFAU 1999), which identified nothing of significance.

5. **Mitigation**

In order to mitigate the impacts identified above, the following actions are recommended.

It is recommended that, with the exception of Option J, a project of archaeological investigation of the selected access road option be undertaken. This will allow for the identification of potential archaeological remains, which are presently unknown. It should take the form of a watching brief of the easement strip and all other groundworks associated with the road scheme. Should archaeological deposits, structures or artefacts be identified, then sufficient time should be allowed for subsequent works in the form of excavation to sample and record the remains to determine their type, nature and date.

The scope and specification of mitigation works should be agreed with the curator, Stephen Dean (Staffordshire County Council Historic Environment Officer (Archaeology)).

Any site investigation works or watching briefs required, would be concluded by production of an archaeological report (and appropriate publication) to be deposited for public consultation with the Staffordshire Historic Environment Record and a project archive to be deposited at a local museum.

6. **Residual effects**

Implementation of the mitigation proposed above should ensure that there are no residual effects on the historic environment and archaeological resource from the proposed development. Mitigation should ensure that adverse impacts are restricted in scope to *not significant*.

The historic environment is a non-renewable resource and therefore cannot be directly replaced. However mitigation through recording and investigation also produces an important research dividend that can be used for the better understanding of the county's history and contribute to local and regional research agendas.

7. **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.

A desk-based assessment was undertaken on behalf of Severn Trent - Haswell of Roundhill Access Road, Kinver, South Staffordshire (centred on NGR ref SO 8670 8335). There are no known archaeological sites within the study area, although a small number of prehistoric and Roman sites have been identified in the vicinity, including a Roman Road to the north-east. The site comprises Whittington Common, north-east of the medieval village. The fields alongside the modern A449 were enclosed piecemeal and may have been put to strip farming in the medieval period, although there are no traces of ridge and furrow. The fields to the east were enclosed by Act of Parliament in the late 18th or early 19th century. In the late 19th and early 20th century the fields were taken over for use as a sewage farm. A modern sludge destruction plant (SDP) and sewage plant lie on the north side of the area. Off Whittington Hall Lane are Whittington Hall, its dovecote and barn, which are Grade II listed buildings. A World War Two decoy bunker is also located off this lane. Gibbet Lane to the north is the site of one of the last criminals in England to have been gibbeted, in the early 19th century, and the western section may form part of a holloway of medieval or earlier date.

There are ten options under review for the access road, two along existing roads; the rest across fields. The route along the east section of Gibbet Lane and those across the fields are considered not to have any significant impact on known archaeological remains; in fact one is along a route previously monitored during pipeline works and found to be archaeologically blank. That along Whittington Hall Lane will have a moderate adverse effect on the setting of the listed buildings. And finally that along the western section of Gibbet Lane will have a minor adverse impact on the possible Holloway.

In mitigation it is recommended that a watching brief be undertaken of the easement strip and other groundworks associated with the selected option, with a contingency to allow for further investigation, should previously unknown archaeological remains be identified.

8. **Acknowledgements**

The Service would like to thank the following for their kind assistance in the successful conclusion of this project, Chris Jones and Nigel Watts (Severn Trent - Haswell), Suzy Blake (Historic Environment Records Officer, Staffordshire County Council), Mick Wilkes (Defence of Britain project). Mr Munday (Whittington Hall Farm) and Mr Needham (Whittington Farm).

9. **Personnel**

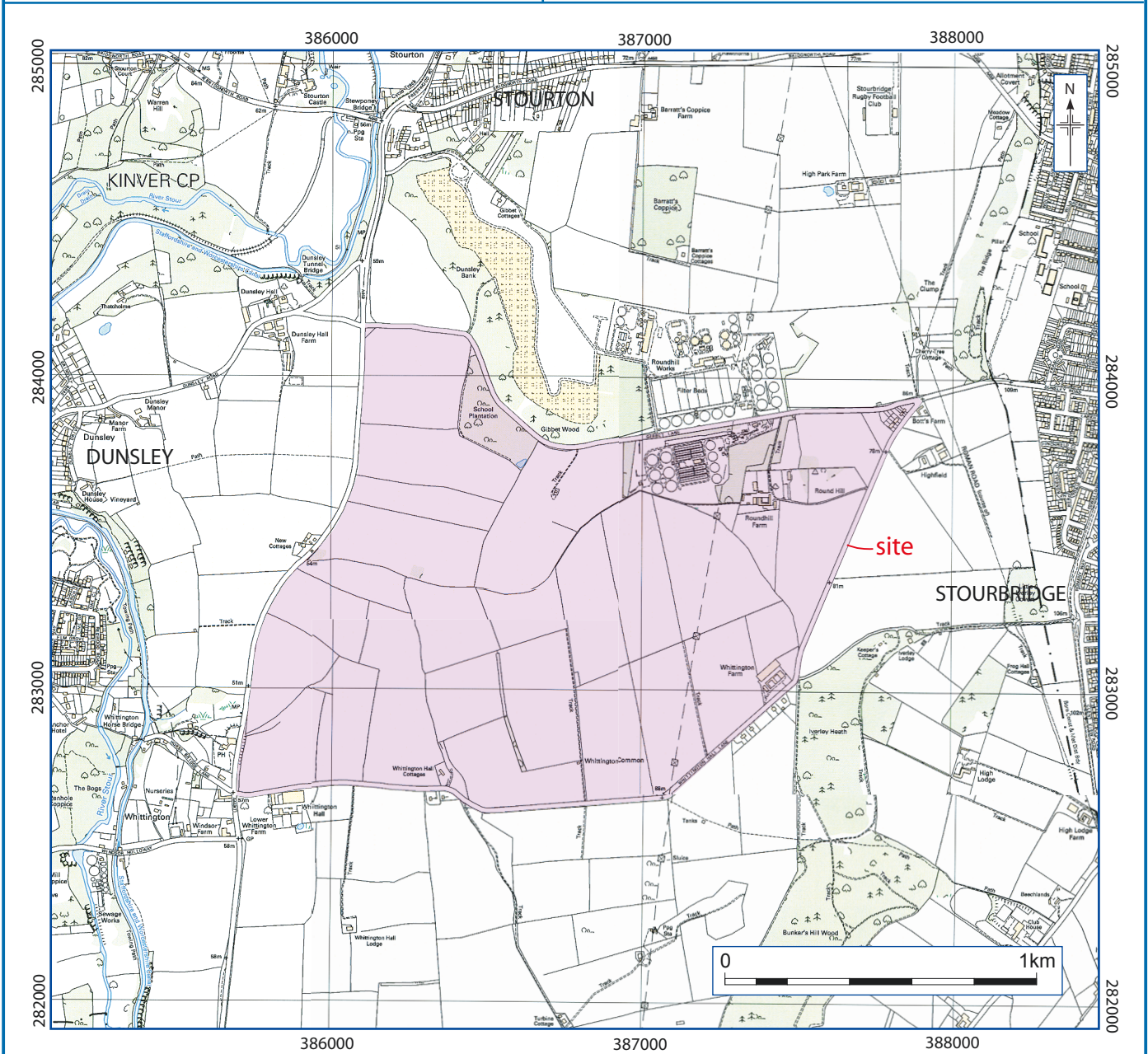
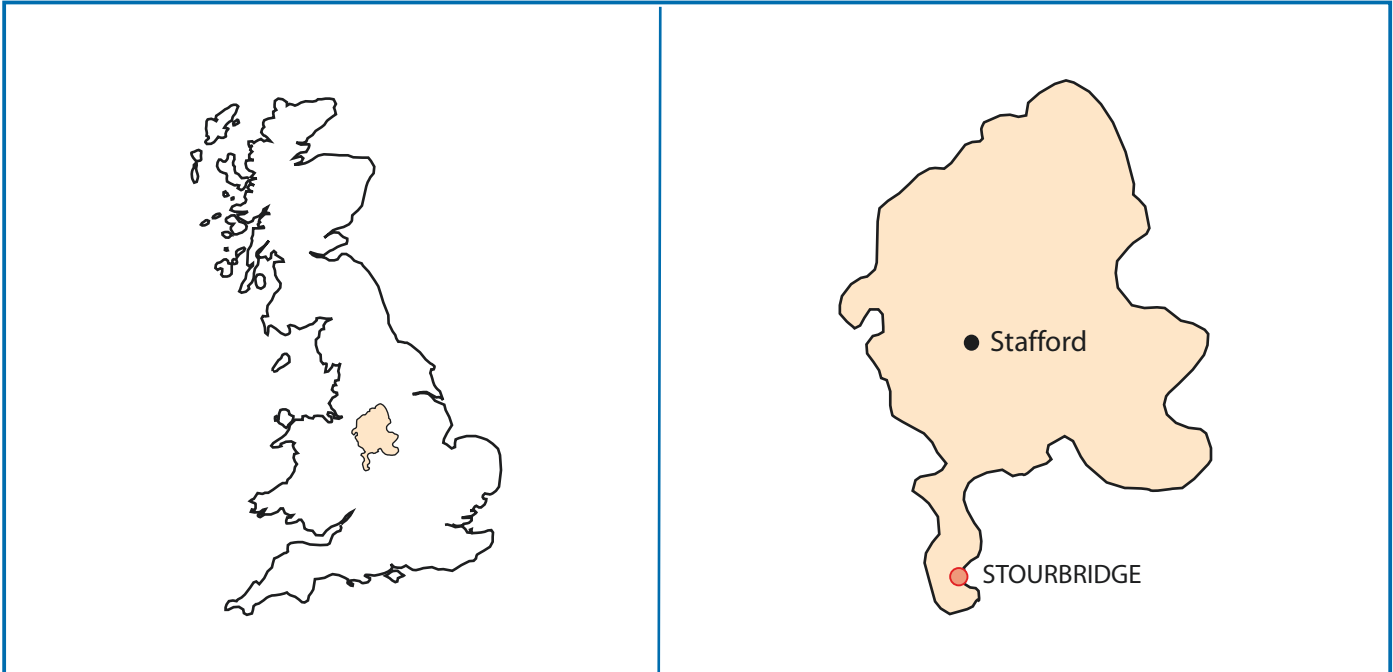
The assessment was undertaken by Tom Vaughan. The project manager responsible for the quality of the project was Simon Woodiwiss. Illustrations were prepared by Carolyn Hunt.

Appendix 1 Features of the historic environment registered with Staffordshire HER (PRN) and Worcestershire HER (WSM)

Reference # & status	Site name	Grid reference	Record type	Date	Description
PRN 01171	Whittington Hall Moated Site	SO 85874 82585	Monument	Norman - post medieval	Two small ponds and shallow earthwork
PRN 01172 LB II	Barn at Whittington Hall Farm	SO 85867 82633	Building	Medieval - post medieval	Close studded timber framed barn largely rebuilt in brick
PRN 01173	Round Hill	SO 87550 83700	Monument	Natural feature	Suspected tumulus, probable natural knoll
PRN 01724	Possible settlement adj. to Barrat's Coppice	SO 8685 8452	Monument	Roman	Cropmarks of possible field system and small farmstead or villa
PRN 01725	Greensforge to Droitwich Roman Road	SW 29222 94914	Monument	Roman	Roman Road later used as medieval saltway
PRN 09260 LB II*	The Whittington Inn	SO 85676 82821	Building	Medieval	Late 16 th C rebuilding of medieval house, inc 14 th /15 th C elements
PRN 09262 LB II	Whittington Hall	SO 85852 82604	Building	post medieval	Early 18 th C farm house, red brick, plain tile roofs, brick ridge stack
PRN 09263 LB II	Whittington Hall Dovecote	SO 85829 82567	Building	Medieval - post medieval	Medieval with 18 th C additions, red brick on high stone plinth
WSM 00135	Enclosure, Wolverley	SO 8563 8166	Monument	Prehistoric / Roman ?	Cropmark of crook shaped ditch enclosure
WSM 03149	Greensforge to Droitwich Roman Road	SO 893 792 - 887 817	Monument	Roman	Roman Road section between Lodge Farm and Hackman's Gate
WSM 03152	Greensforge to Droitwich Roman Road	SO 893 792 - 887 817	Monument	Roman	Roman Road section between Hackman's Gate and Brake Farm
WSM 17125	Road block, Whittington	SO 8567 8220	Monument	WWII	2 cylindrical concrete blocks 2'6" diameter 4' long on verge

Appendix 2 Additional features of the historic environment within the site

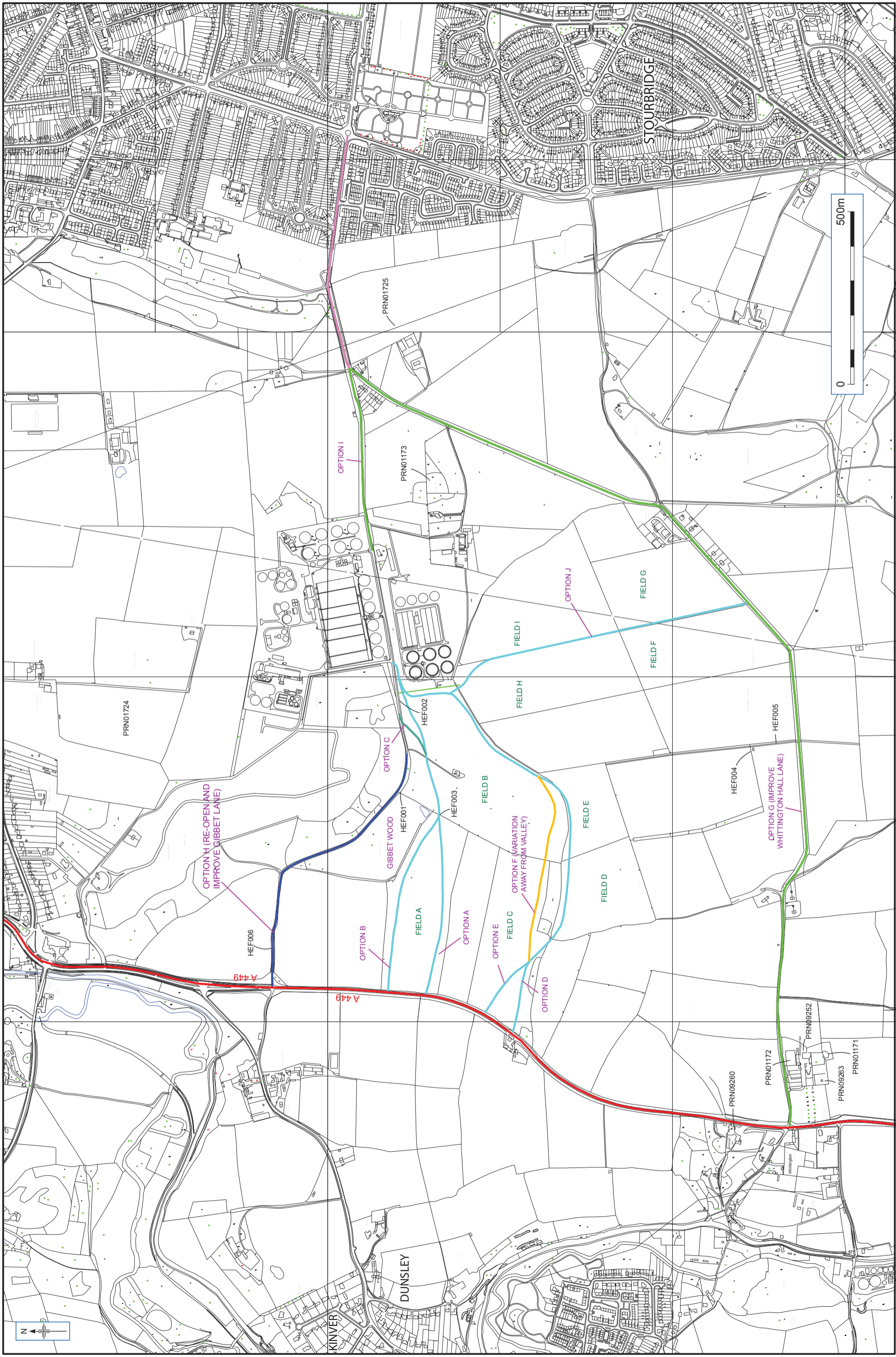
Reference #	Site name	Grid reference	Source	Date	Description
HEF 001	Stile off Gibbet Lane	SO 8665 8379	Site visit	Post-medieval	Modern stile - possible location of former 1813 gibbet post reused as stile, reportedly in good condition in 1979
HEF 002	Stile off Gibbet Lane	SO 8698 8380	Site visit	Post-medieval	Modern stile - possible location of former 1813 gibbet post reused as stile, reportedly in good condition in 1979
HEF 003	Stile off Gibbet Lane	SO 8659 8368	Site visit	Post-medieval	Modern stile - possible location of former 1813 gibbet post reused as stile, reportedly in good condition in 1979
HEF 004	Decoy bunker off Whittington Hall Lane	SO 8677 8275	Site visit	WWII	Brick bunker with concrete roof and earth/turf cover; generator room and crew room; associated with hallway below; Site C4(k) Stourbridge QL/QF
HEF 005	Holloway off Whittington Hall Lane	SO 8679 8270	Site visit	WWII	Holloway service track off Whittington Hall Lane associated with bunker above
HEF 006	Gibbet Lane	SO 8615 8416 - 8643 8411	Site visit	Medieval?	Holloway track along western end of Gibbet Lane



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Location of the site.

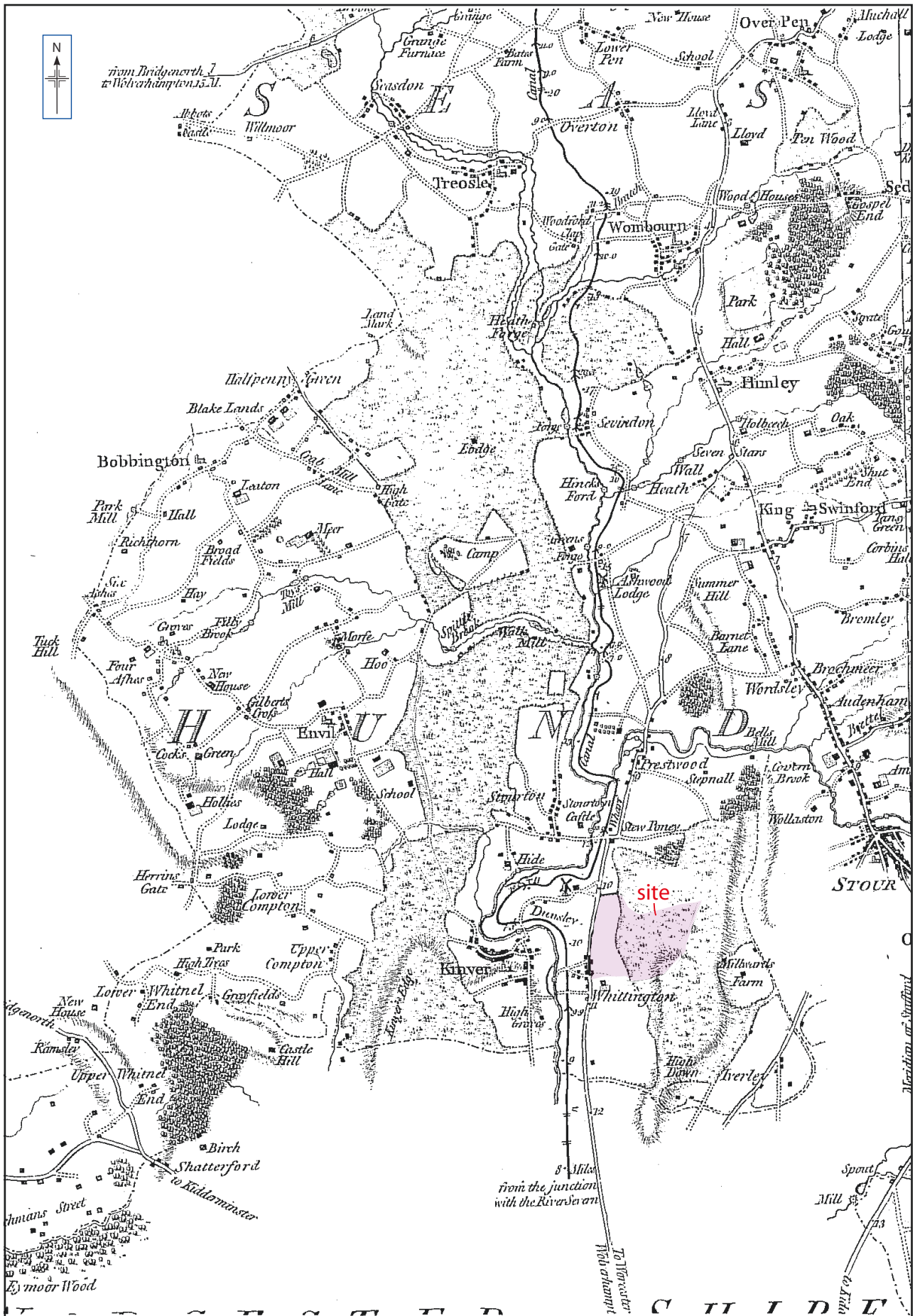
Figure 1



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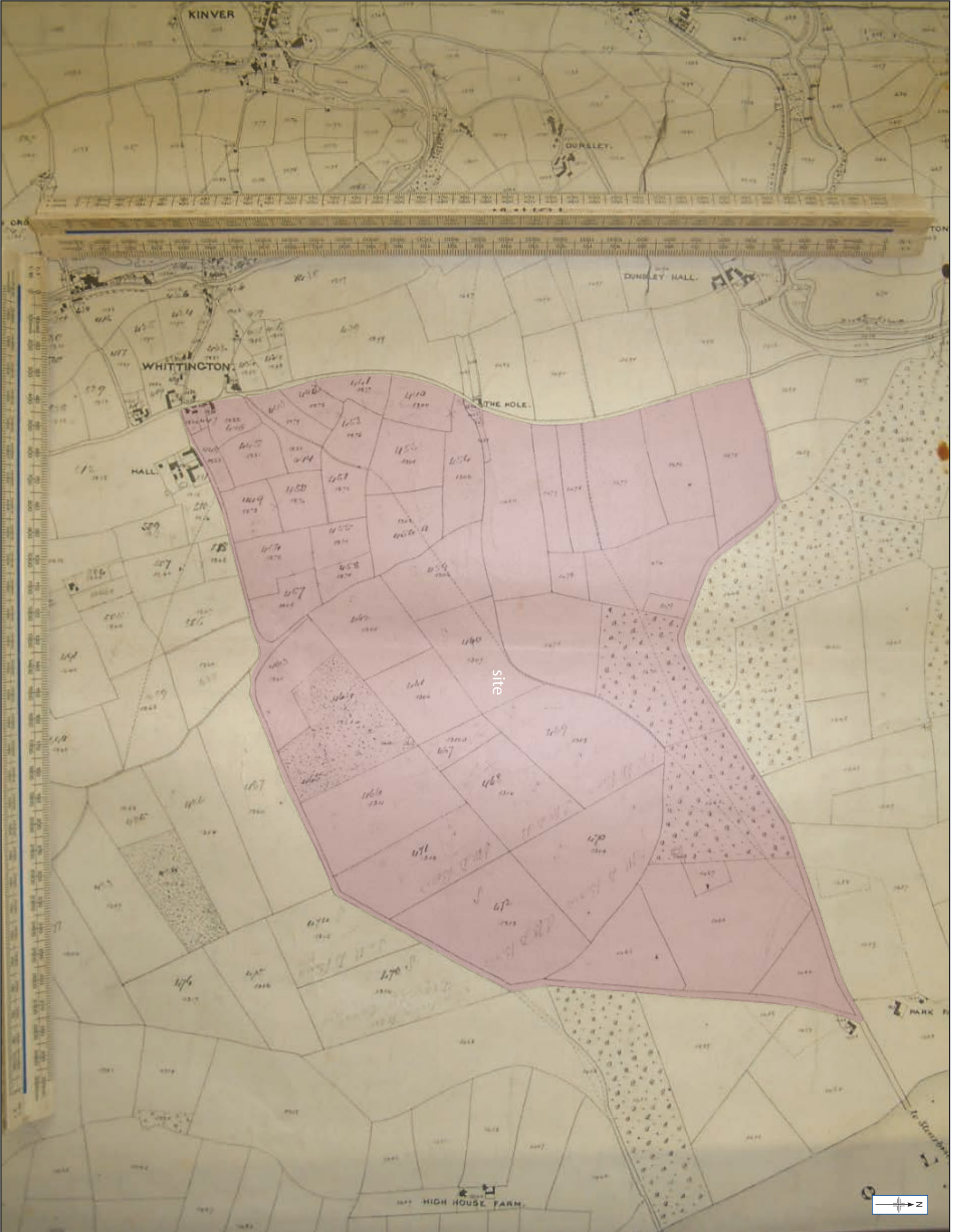
Access road options, Historic Environment Features and affected fields

Figure 2



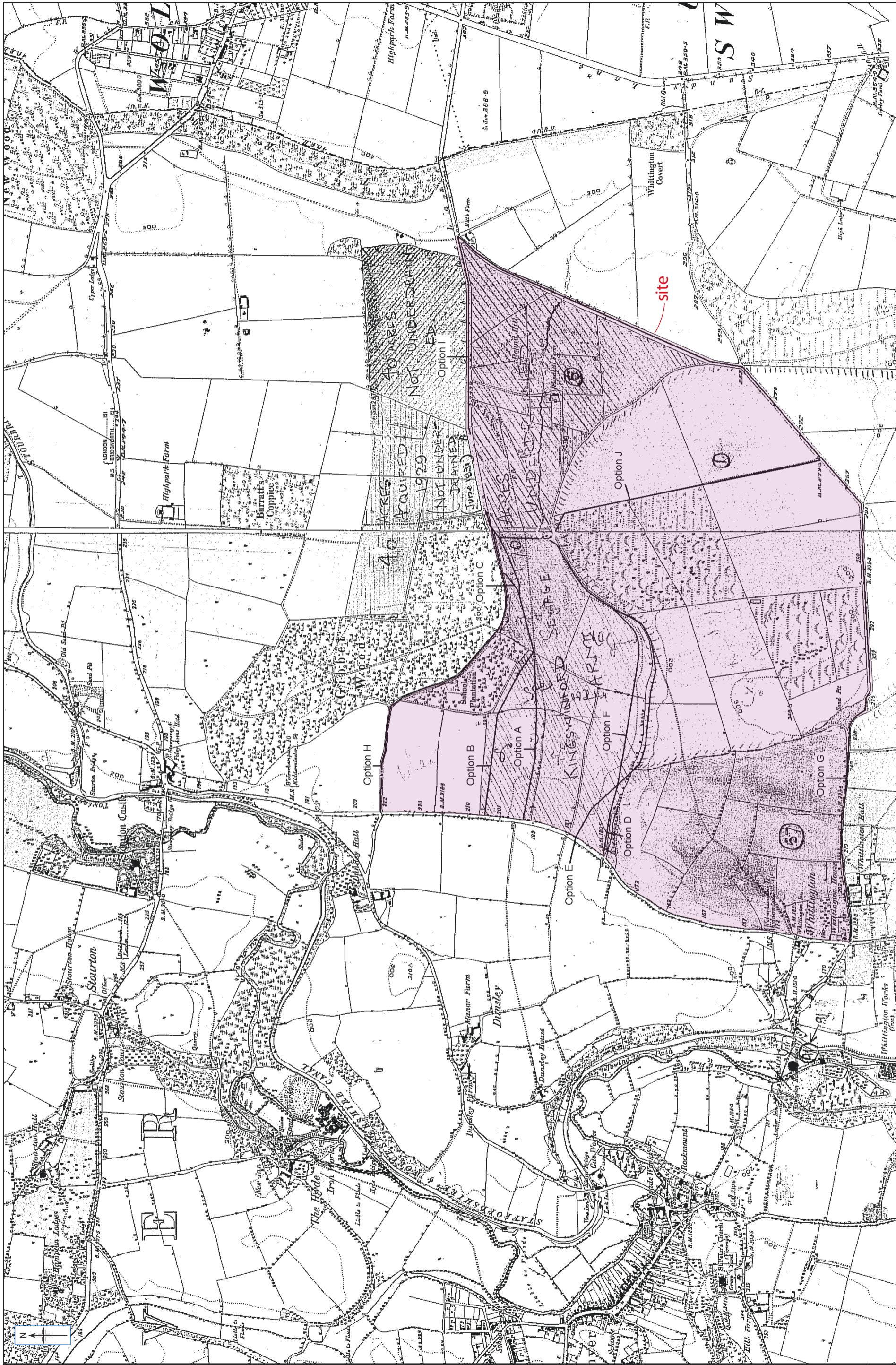
Map of the County of Staffordshire by William Yates, 1775

Figure 4



Plan of the Parish of Kinver in the County of Staffordshire by William Bright, 1829-30

Figure 5



Extract from 1st Edition Ordnance Survey map, 1888

Figure 6