

**First Time Sewerage Scheme (FTSS), Rushlake Green, East Sussex
Archaeological Watching Brief**

(NGR site centred TQ 627 184)

**Project no. 3821
ASE Report Number: 2009144**

Site Code: RUG 08



September 2009

Alice Thorne

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Abstract

An archaeological watching brief was maintained along the route of a new sewerage system in the village of Rushlake Green, East Sussex (centred NGR TQ 627 184). An undated gully terminus was identified.

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SMR Summary Sheet
OASIS Form

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Fig. 4: Plan showing location of monitored groundworks (north)

1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Archaeology South-East (ASE), the contracting division of the Centre for Applied Archaeology at the UCL Institute of Archaeology, were commissioned by Holleran Mouchel Parkman Joint Venture (HMPJV), on behalf of Southern Water, to undertake a programme of archaeological work along the route of a new sewerage system in the village of Rushlake Green, East Sussex (centred NGR TQ 627 184) (Fig. 1).
- 1.2 The site consists of a c. 15m wide pipeline easement with associated contractor's compound, pumping station and waste water treatment works situated on open pasture and within the highways throughout the village of Rushlake Green (Fig. 2).
- 1.3 Rushlake Green village lies within an *Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty* and is designated a *Conservation Area*. The British and Geological Survey Sheets (319) shows the site lies on Ashdown Beds.
- 1.4 The work is being carried out in response to a Cultural Heritage Assessment of the site by Atkins Heritage (2008) and discussions with Greg Chuter, Assistant County Archaeologist, East Sussex County Council's (ESCC).
- 1.5 Consultation between ASE and the Assistant County Archaeologist, (ESCC) in his capacity as advisor to the local planning authority on archaeological planning matters established the scope of the program of archaeological works. This was to comprise an initial geophysical survey (magnetometry) of the impact footprint of the pipeline scheme (Stratascan 2008) followed by a targeted archaeological evaluation (trial trenching) (Margetts 2009). Following this, a program of targeted watching brief was agreed between ESCC, ASE and HMPJV, designed to focus on the areas of highest archaeological potential as defined by the results of the geophysical survey and the subsequent evaluation.
- 1.6 A *Written Scheme of Investigation* (WSI) for the Watching Brief programme was prepared by Neil Griffin of Archaeology South-East (ASE 2009), and approved by Greg Chuter, ESCC.
- 1.7 The fieldwork was undertaken by Nick Garland, Giles Moxton, Kathy Grant, Andrew Margetts, Simon Stevens and Alice Thorne between 9/03/09 to the 07/09/09. The project was managed by Neil Griffin (Project Manager) and Jim Stevenson (Post-excavation Manager).

2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 A full discussion of the archaeological and historic background of the site has been prepared by Atkins Heritage (2008). The information summarised below has been compiled from the Atkins report with due acknowledgement.

2.2 Prehistoric Period (c. 500, 000 BC – AD 43)

2.2.1 Rushlake Green is situated on a high ridge-top area of the Weald, in an area known to be rich in prehistoric remains. However, only one prehistoric findspot within a 1 km radius of the site was identified during the Atkins survey. This relates to a findspot of lithic artefacts such as scrapers, knives, awls, cores, waste flakes and arrowheads dating to the Mesolithic, Neolithic and Bronze Ages found in Oakley Field, West of Rushlake Green and close to the Cuckmere stream (Atkins 2008, paragraph 3.13).

2.3 Roman Period (AD 43 – AD 410)

2.3.1 No archaeological remains dating to the Roman period have been found within the village boundaries.

2.4 Anglo –Saxon period (AD 410 – AD 1066)

2.4.1 No archaeological remains dating to the Anglo -Saxon period have been found within the village boundaries.

2.5 Medieval period (AD 1066 – AD 1485)

2.5.1 Rushlake village formed along the junction of two roads as a linear settlement during the medieval period. The village developed as one of a number of hill-top villages subsisting largely on an agricultural economy. There is also evidence for iron working within the environs of Rushlake, at the Chantry medieval watermill, where the industrial remains survive as a 2m high earth bank and channel and an (undated) pond bay. It was considered by Atkins Heritage that the site had a high potential for recovering buried remains relating to the medieval settlement (Atkins 2008, paragraph 3.30).

2.6 Post- medieval period (AD 1485 – AD 1900)

2.6.1 The village and surrounding farmland expanded in the post-medieval period as advances in agricultural practise were made and the population increased. Local iron working continued in this period with one iron bloomery site located 300m to the west of the village. It was considered by Atkins Heritage that the site also had a high potential for recovering buried remains relating to the post- medieval settlement (Atkins 2008, paragraph 3.30).

2.7 Recent Archaeological Investigation

2.7.1 A detailed geophysical survey (magnetometry) was undertaken on 8th and 9th September 2008 on the site (Stratascan 2008). The results of this survey indicated that the southern area had a moderate level of archaeological potential, with six pits identified, several cut features, possible earthworks and a single thermoremnant feature which may relate to a former area of burning

such as a bonfire. There was also evidence for areas of probable made or disturbed ground.

2.7.2 A moderate level of potential archaeological activity was also observed in the northern area. Some possible pits were identified, but the interpretation of potential archaeological features was made difficult by a significant level of magnetic disturbance. There was also evidence for a limited amount of made or disturbed ground in this part of the site.

2.7.3 The subsequent archaeological evaluation (trial trenching) undertaken by ASE (2009) was targeted on the identified geophysical anomalies and apparently blank areas to fully assess the archaeological potential of the pipeline scheme. The investigation succeeded in identifying ten archaeological linear features, two discreet postholes and two pits. The features were distributed throughout the site, with a concentration of activity in trenches 15 and 10. Generally there was little dating evidence associated with these features, but the ditches were thought to relate to water management.

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

- 3.1 The general aim of the archaeological work was to ensure that any features, artefacts or ecofacts of archaeological interest that were affected by the groundwork were recorded and interpreted to appropriate standards.
- 3.2 The specific aim was to ascertain whether there was any evidence within the site of activity relating to iron working associated with the Glazier's Forge foundry.
- 3.3 The areas subject to the programme of watching brief are shown on Fig.2. Those areas along the pipeline route highlighted (in red) were originally to represent a continual programme of watching brief along the line of the open cut gravity sewer. However, the scheme was changed to a programme of directional drilling and therefore the manholes associated with the new drill sequence were monitored (as outlined in an email from Neil Griffin to Greg Chuter dated 22/04/09). The results are summarised below (section 4). An intermittent watching brief was also maintained in those areas of the plan highlighted in blue.
- 3.4 The site archive is currently housed at the Archaeology South East offices in Portslade and will be deposited with a suitable museum in due course. The contexts of the site archive are outlined in the Table below.

Number of Contexts	5
No. of files/paper record	1 file
Plan and sections sheets	Sketch section sheet
Bulk Samples	-
Photographs	36
Bulk finds	1 box
Registered finds	-
Environmental flots/residue	-

Table 1: Quantification of site archive

4.0 RESULTS

4.1 The results of the watching brief have been described by area below.

4.2 Compound Area (Fig. 3)

4.2.1 The topsoil strip within the area of the compound and associated access road was monitored on the 9/09/09. In this area the depth of excavation removed the surface topsoil deposit only, exposing the surface of the underlying subsoil. As a result, no archaeological finds or features were exposed and following agreement with Greg Chuter, the programme of archaeological monitoring was halted in respect to this phase of ground work at the site.

4.3 Manholes (Figs. 3 & 4)

4.3.1 MH 1.6

The excavation of manhole 1.6 was monitored on the 7/05//09. This pit measured 2.m² x 1m deep. 250mm of a mid greyish brown silt topsoil was noted to overlie a 250mm deep greyish brown silty clay subsoil. Below this the natural orange clay with white mottling was partially exposed.

No archaeological finds or features were observed within the manhole.

4.3.2 MH 1.7

The excavation of manhole 1.7 was monitored on the 7/05//09. This pit measured 2.m² x 1m deep. 250mm of a mid greyish brown silt topsoil was noted to overlie a 250mm deep greyish brown silty clay subsoil. Below this the natural orange clay with white mottling was partially exposed. A connection pit was also monitored adjacent to MH1.7. This revealed the same sequence of deposits.

No archaeological finds or features were observed within the manhole or connection pit.

4.3.3 MH 1.8

The excavation of manhole 1.8 measuring 1m x 2m by 1m depth and an adjacent open cut section of pipe trench measuring 1m x 9m in length by 1.5m in depth was monitored on the 8/05//09. Both phases of groundwork revealed the same sequence of deposits, with 250mm of topsoil overlying 250mm of subsoil. Below this the natural geology was exposed.

No archaeological finds or features were observed.

4.3.4 MH 3.10

The excavation of manhole 3.10 was monitored on the 20/04/09. This pit measured 2.5m² x 3m deep. 200mm of a mid greyish brown silt topsoil was noted to overlie a 300mm deep greyish brown silty clay subsoil. Below this the natural orange clay with white mottling was partially exposed.

No archaeological finds or features were observed within the manhole.

4.3.5 MH 3.20

The excavation of manhole 3.20 was monitored on the 20/04/09. This pit measured 2.5m² x 2.5m deep. This revealed that 200mm of a mid greyish brown silt topsoil overlay a 300mm deep greyish brown silty clay subsoil. Below this the natural orange clay with chalk mottling was exposed.

No archaeological finds or features were observed within the manhole.

4.3.6 MH 3.30

The excavation of manhole 3.30 was monitored on the 20/04/09. This revealed that 200 - 300mm of a mid greyish brown silt topsoil overlay the natural orange clay with white mottling.

No archaeological finds or features were observed within the manhole.

4.3.7 MH 3.40

The excavation of manhole 3.40 was monitored on the 20/04/09. This revealed that 200mm of a mid greyish brown silt topsoil overlay a 300mm deep greyish brown silty clay subsoil. Below this the natural orange clay with white mottling was exposed.

No archaeological finds or features were observed within the manhole.

4.3.8 MH 3.50

The excavation of manhole 3.50 was monitored on the 23/04/09. This pit measured 2.5m x 3m x 0.85m deep. This revealed that 200mm of a mid greyish brown silt topsoil overlay a 300mm deep greyish brown silty clay subsoil. Below this the natural geology was exposed.

No archaeological finds or features were observed within the manhole.

4.3.9 MH 3.60

Two test pits were excavated within the vicinity of evaluation trench 7. The first (MH3.60A) was a shallow excavation within the line of the evaluation trench, which exposed only the trench backfill deposit overlying the natural geology. The second test pit (MH3.60B) was located adjoining trench 7 to the south-west, and identified the gully noted during the evaluation (Context [7/004]). This linear feature comprised a 1.6m long gully. It had a concave profile measuring by 0.35m wide by 0.15m deep, with a rounded terminus [context 103]. It was filled by a mid greyish brown firm silty clay, from which no finds were observed [context 104]. No further detail can be added to the evaluation interpretation of a 'gully terminus of unknown date or function' (Margetts, 2009, 8).

4.3.10 MH 4.00

The excavation of manhole 4.00 was monitored on the 7/04/09. This pit measured 2m x 3m x 2m deep. This revealed that 200mm of a mid greyish brown silt topsoil overlay a 300mm deep greyish brown silty clay subsoil. Below this the natural bright orange clay natural was exposed.

No archaeological finds or features were observed within the manhole.

4.3.11 MH 4.20

The excavation of manhole 4.20 was monitored on the 8/04/09. This pit measured 2m x 3m x 2.5m deep. This revealed that 200mm of a mid greyish brown silt topsoil overlay a 200 - 300mm deep greyish brown silty clay subsoil. Below this the natural bright orange clay natural was exposed.

No archaeological finds or features were observed within the manhole.

4.4 Entry pit

4.4.1 The excavation of a directional drilling pit was monitored on the 14/05/09. This pit measured 1.5m² by 1.8m deep. This revealed that 360mm of a mid greyish brown silt topsoil overlay a 220mm deep yellowish brown silty clay subsoil. Below this the brownish- orange yellowish-grey sandy clay natural was exposed.

No archaeological finds or features were observed within the pit.

4.5 Tank pits

4.5.1 The excavation of an area for two tank pits was monitored on the 7/09/09. TP1 encompassed an area of 1.8m x1.4m by 0.40m deep and TP2 encompassed an area of 1.8m x 0.8m by 0.40m deep. Both pits contained the same sequence of deposits. Approximately 160mm of a mixed modern hardcore surfacing deposit was found to overly a 170mm thick layer of compact mid orangish brown silt subsoil, which continued occasional modern fragments of china and evidence of substantial root disturbance. Below this the mid orangish brown sandy clayey silt natural containing ferrous stained sandstone blocks and chips was encountered.

No archaeological finds or features were observed within the pits.

4.6 Container pits (Fig. 2)

4.6.1 The excavation of an area for three concrete containers was monitored on 13/08/09. The excavations revealed 0.15m of light grey clay silt topsoil over the mid orange sandy clay natural.

No archaeological finds or features were observed with the area

5.0 FINDS

5.1 THE FINDS by Elke Raemen

5.1.1 A small assemblage of finds was recovered from topsoil [100]. An overview can be found in Table 2.

Context	Pottery	Wt (g)	CBM	Wt (g)	Glass	Wt (g)
MH 3.50 [100]	5	82	7	830		
MH 3.60 [100]	1	10	2	66	1	6
Total	6	92	9	896	1	6

Table 2. Quantification of the finds

5.2 The Pottery

5.2.1 A blue transfer printed pearlware plate rim fragment was recovered from MH 3.60 [100] and dates to the first half of the 19th century. MH 3.50 [100] contained a Bristol-glazed stoneware jar fragment, a fragment of plain white china and two blue transfer printed china fragments. A white English porcelain possible egg-cup base was also recovered. All date to the later 19th to early 20th century.

5.3 The Glass

5.3.1 A green glass wine bottle fragment was recovered from MH 3.60 [100]. The body fragment is of mid 18th- to 19th-century date.

5.4 The Ceramic Building Material by Sarah Porteus

5.4.1 A small assemblage of ceramic building material (CBM) was recovered from two contexts and appears to be of post-medieval date. Context [100] from MH3.50 contained 3 fragments of brick in a pinkish orange fabric with moderate cream silt streaks and sparse to moderate red iron rich inclusions. One of the fragments measured 115mm in breadth by 59mm thickness and was unfrogged with uneven edges, the brick is of broad 17th to 19th century date. An abraded fragment of brick in the same fabric was also recovered from context [100] of MH3.60. Three peg tile fabrics were identified within the assemblage. Peg tile fabric T2 recovered from MH3.50 is of similar fabric type and date to the brick recovered from site. Fabric T1, an orange fabric with sparse to medium red and black iron rich inclusions and sparse cream silt, was recovered from both MH3.50 and MH3.60. Fabric T3 from MH3.50 is orange with moderate red iron rich inclusions and sparse fine calcareous inclusions. All peg tile is likely to be of 17th to 19th century date.

5.5 Potential

5.5.1 The assemblage is too small to have any potential for further analysis. No further work is required.

6.0 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

- 6.1 As the original open cut form of groundwork was changed to a programme of directional drilling the watching brief targeted manholes and other groundwork within the established watching brief zones.
- 6.2 One archaeological feature was identified during the course of this watching brief. This comprised a gully which had been identified within trench 7 during the evaluation stage of works. This feature produced no dating evidence. However, in view of the characteristics of its fill and its location close to Cuckmere stream (the course of which has produced prehistoric lithic findspots) it has been suggested that the feature may have a prehistoric origin (Margetts, 2009, 17). It is thought to represent a drainage gully.
- 6.3 Despite the high potential of the site for producing evidence of the medieval settlement at Rushlake Green, no finds or features of this date were uncovered. However, the continuation and expansion of the settlement in the post-medieval period is represented by the small assemblage of finds recovered from the topsoil.
- 6.4 A specific aim of the watching brief was to ascertain whether there was any evidence within the site of activity relating to iron working associated with the Glazier's Forge foundry. Glaziers Forge is located at Dallington, some 3 km to the east of Rushlake Green, and no associated remains were encountered.

References

ASE 2009a. *An Archaeological Evaluation at Rushlake Green, East Sussex, ahead of a First Time Sewerage Scheme*. Unpublished grey literature report ASE 2009035.

ASE 2009b. *First Time Sewerage Scheme, Rushlake Green, East Sussex; Archaeological Watching Brief, (Stage 2) Written Scheme of Investigation*, Unpublished ASE document.

Atkins Heritage 2008, *Cultural Heritage Assessment*, unpublished grey literature report.

Stratascan. 2008 *Results of a Geophysical Survey on the route of the Rushlake Green First Time Sewerage Scheme*. Unpublished grey literature report.

SMR Summary Form

Site Code	RUG 08					
Identification Name and Address	First Time Sewerage Scheme (FTSS), Rushlake Green, East Sussex Archaeological Watching Brief					
County, District &/or Borough	East Sussex					
OS Grid Refs.	TQ 627 184					
Geology	Ashdown Beds.					
Arch. South-East Project Number	3821					
Type of Fieldwork	Eval.	Excav.	Watching Brief ✓	Standing Structure	Survey	Other
Type of Site	Green Field ✓	Shallow Urban	Deep Urban	Other		
Dates of Fieldwork	Eval.	Excav.	WB. 09/03/09 – 07/09/09	Other		
Sponsor/Client	Holleran Mouchel Parkman					
Project Manager	Neil Griffin					
Project Supervisor	Nick Garland, Giles Moxton, Kathy Grant, Andy Margetts, Simon Stevens and Alice Thorne					
Period Summary	Palaeo.	Meso.	Neo.	BA	IA	RB
	AS	MED	PM	Other Modern		
<p>100 Word Summary.</p> <p><i>An archaeological watching brief was maintained along the route of a new sewerage system in the village of Rushlake Green, East Sussex (centred NGR TQ 627 184). An undated gully terminus was identified.</i></p>						

OASIS ID: archaeol6-64627

Project details

Project name	First Time Sewerage Scheme, Rushlake Green, East Sussex, Watching Brief
Short description of the project	An archaeological watching brief was maintained along the route of a new sewerage system in the village of Rushlake Green, East Sussex (centred NGR TQ 627 184). An undated gully terminus was identified.
Project dates	Start: 09-03-2009 End: 07-09-2009
Previous/future work	Yes / No
Any associated project reference codes	2009144-3821 - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	RUG 08 - Sitecode
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB)
Site status	Conservation Area
Current Land use	Grassland Heathland 2 - Undisturbed Grassland
Monument type	GULLY Uncertain
Significant Finds	POTTERY Post Medieval
Significant Finds	GLASS Post Medieval
Significant Finds	CBM Post Medieval
Investigation type	'Watching Brief'
Prompt	Planning condition

Project location

Country	England
Site location	EAST SUSSEX WEALDEN WARBLETON Rushlake Green
Postcode	TN21 9
Study area	4900.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	TQ 627 184 50.9414718828 0.316109856694 50 56 29 N 000 18 58 E Point

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Archaeology South East
Project brief originator	East Sussex County Council
Project design originator	Archaeology South-East
Project	Neil Griffin

director/manager

Project supervisor Kathryn Grant

Type of
sponsor/funding body Southern Water

Project archives

Physical Archive local museum
recipient

Physical Contents 'Ceramics', 'Glass'

Digital Archive Local Museum
recipient

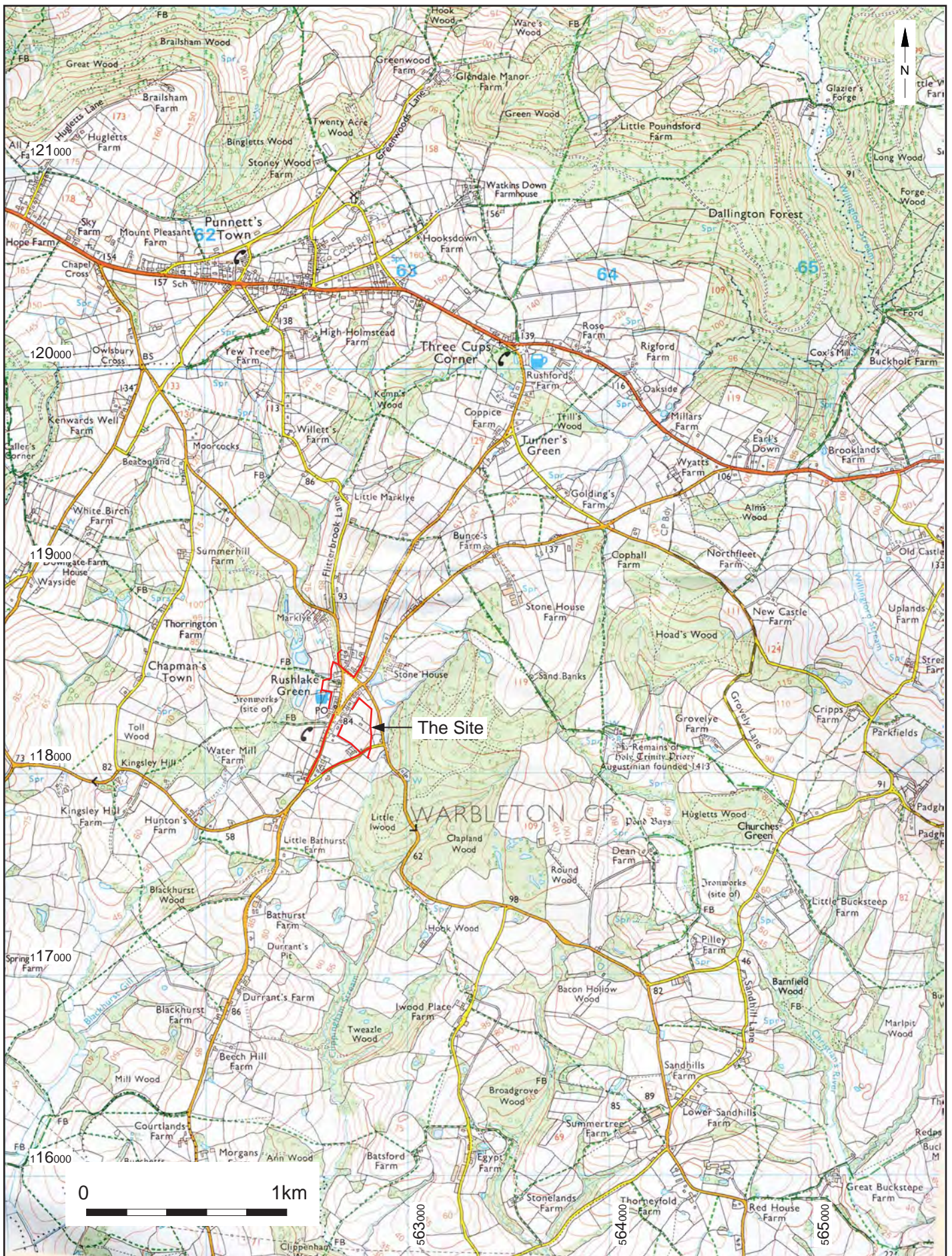
Digital Contents 'other'

Digital Media 'Images raster / digital photography'
available

Paper Archive Local Museum
recipient

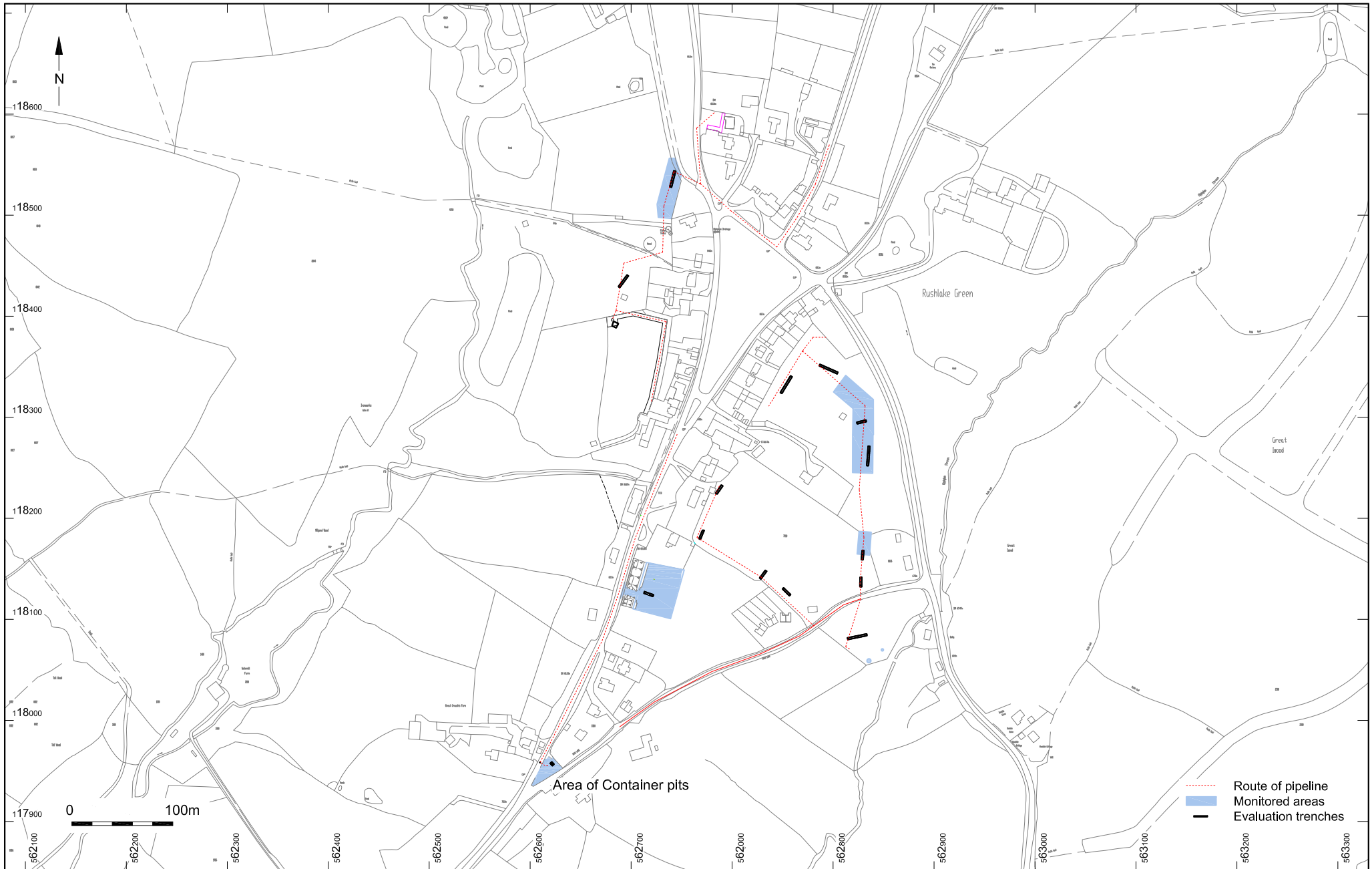
Paper Contents 'other'

Paper Media 'Context sheet', 'Report', 'Unpublished Text'
available

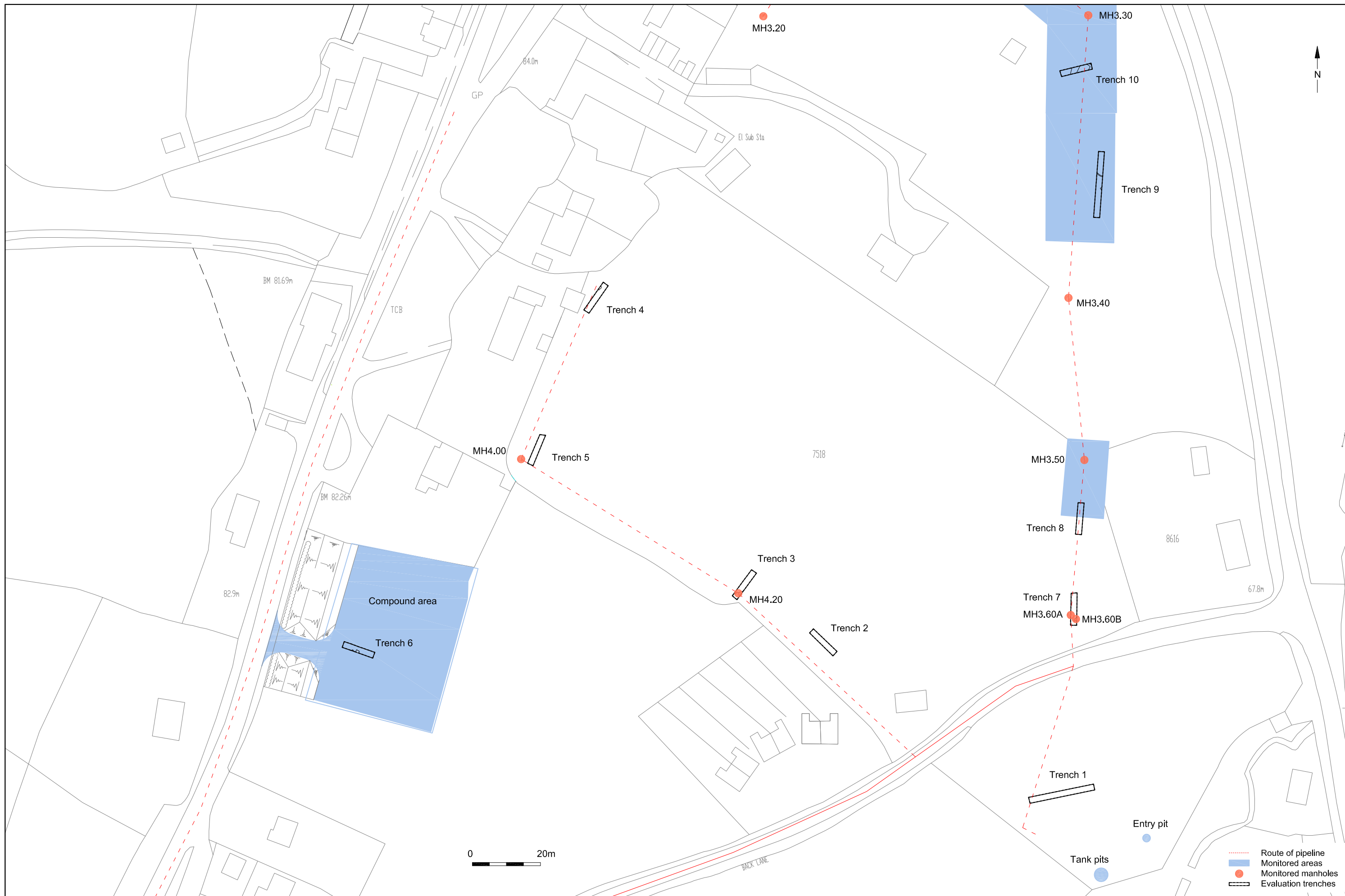


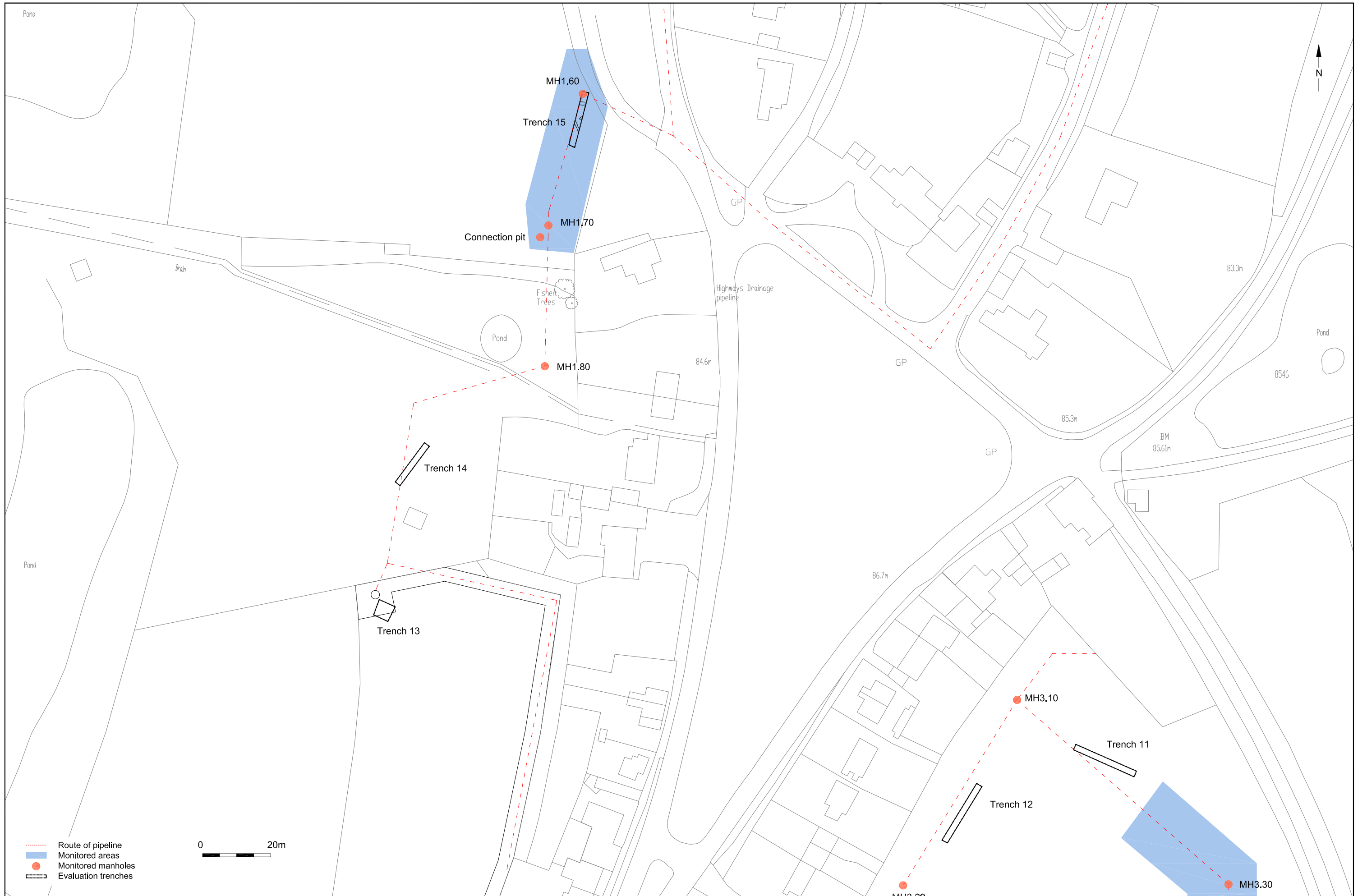
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Project Ref: 3821	Sept 2009	Site location		
Report Ref: 2009144	Drawn by: JLR			

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Project Ref: 3821	Sept 2009	Site plan		
Report Ref: 2009144	Drawn by: JLR			





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