

**Plot M2, Kings Weston Lane  
Avonmouth  
Bristol**

**Archaeological Watching Brief**

*for*  
**Sita UK**


CA Project: 3638  
CA Report: 12003  
BCC HER Event No: 25074

April 2012

Plot M2, Kings Weston Lane  
Avonmouth  
Bristol

Archaeological Watching Brief

CA Project: 3638  
CA Report: 12003  
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date	13 April 2012
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date	30 April 2012
approved by	Simon Cox, Head of Fieldwork
signed	
date	30 April 2012
issue	01

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## CONTENTS

SUMMARY .....	2
1. INTRODUCTION .....	3
2. RESULTS (FIG. 2) .....	5
3. DISCUSSION.....	6
4. CA PROJECT TEAM .....	6
5. REFERENCES .....	6
APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS .....	7
APPENDIX B: OASIS REPORT FORM.....	7

## LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

Fig. 1 Site location plan (1:25,000)

Fig. 2 The site, showing location of groundworks (1:2000)



## SUMMARY

**Project Name:** Plot M2, Kings Weston Lane  
**Location:** Avonmouth, Bristol  
**NGR:** ST 5260 7987  
**Type:** Watching Brief  
**Date:** 12 December 2011 to 20 January 2012  
**Planning Reference:** 09/00608/F  
**Location of Archive:** To be deposited with Bristol City Museum and Art Gallery  
**Site Code:** KLA 12

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology during groundworks associated with the development of a resource park to enable the recycling and sorting of waste materials and generation of renewable/low carbon energy at Plot M2, Kings Weston Lane, Avonmouth, Bristol.

No features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed during groundworks, and no artefactual material was recovered. Modern disturbance was noted across the site.



## 1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Between December 2011 and January 2012 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological watching brief for Sita UK at Plot M2, Kings Weston Lane, Avonmouth, Bristol (centred at NGR: ST 5260 7987; Fig. 1). The watching brief was undertaken to fulfil conditions 13 and 14 attached to a planning consent for change of use, from an approved industrial building to the development and operation of a resource park to enable the recycling and sorting of waste materials and generation of renewable/low carbon energy (Planning ref: no. 09/00608/F). The objective of the watching brief was to record all archaeological remains exposed during the development.

1.2 The watching brief was carried out following a recommendation by Mr Bob Jones, City Archaeologist, Bristol City Council (BCC) and with a subsequent detailed Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) produced by CA (2011) and approved by Mr Jones. The fieldwork also followed the *Standard and guidance for an archaeological watching brief* (IfA 2008), the *Management of Archaeological Projects 2* (English Heritage 1991) and the *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MORPHE): Project Manager's Guide* (EH 2006).

### **The site**

1.3 The site is bounded to the north by industrial units of the Rockingham Works, to the east by a reservoir and further industrial units, to the south by Kings Weston Road and to the west by open land, formerly occupied by industrial units (Fig. 2). The site lies at approximately 7m AOD, on relatively flat ground.

1.4 The proposed development encloses an area of approximately 6ha, and currently comprises open ground following demolition of previous buildings on the site.

### **Background**

1.5 The archaeological background is outlined within the WSI and is summarised below.

1.6 The development area is situated on the Avonmouth Levels, which lie within the Severn Estuary Levels. These comprising flat low-lying estuarine alluvial deposits laid down during the British Quaternary period. The pattern of alluvial deposition is the result of fluctuating sea levels, with layers of clay settling during times of high

sea level, or marine transgressions, and peats being formed during times of low sea level (EH *et al* 2008b). The Avonmouth Levels extend from the River Avon to the islands upstream at Aust and Ingst (Rippon 1997, 36). A broad depositional model has been devised for these zones, dividing the sediments (mainly derived from saltmarshes) into several horizons, summarised in the table below:

Unit	Description
I	Topsoil
II	Desiccated layer/brown clay
III	Upper blue clay (upper part of Wentlooge Formation)
IV	Peat/clay layer (middle part of Wentlooge formation)
V	Lower blue clay (lower part of Wentlooge Formation)
VI	Basal sands/gravels/peats
VII	Bedrock

- 1.7 A desk-based assessment of the site and surrounding area was undertaken by Glamorgan-Gwent Archaeological Trust in 1994 (*Archaeological Assessment of the Severngate Development Area, Avonmouth*) and the report is included within the *Environmental Statement* submitted with the planning application and reference should be made to that document for the archaeological background. In summary, only one recorded site lay within the area of this development, part of a bank and ditch of early medieval origin, entirely sealed below ground level.
- 1.8 A total of 32 trial pits and trenches was excavated at the Lakeside area, 500m north of the site. These works again recorded a uniform sequence of alluvial deposits across the area. This sequence included a possible buried land surface, although this was identified only through the species of molluscs recorded, with no stratigraphic evidence of the surface surviving. Two attenuated horizons of peat were also recorded, from approximately 2.5m bpgl. The attenuated nature of the peat horizons recorded in these trenches has been interpreted as indicative of a potential floodplain or tidal inlet, and may be related to the palaeochannel that formed the Salt Rhine to the north-east. The possible buried land surface identified from molluscs is also of interest, and has been tentatively suggested as being of Roman date, although this is not confirmed (GGAT 1994).
- 1.9 In addition, evaluation at Rockingham Farm, to the north of the site recorded two shallow bands of organic material at approximately 5.20m AOD, potentially

indicative of intermittent flooding during the Roman period (GGAT 1997a and 1997b; Locock 1999). Residual Roman pottery was also recorded during the evaluation.

### **Methodology**

- 1.10 The fieldwork followed the methodology set out within the WSI (CA 2011). An archaeologist was present during intrusive groundworks, comprising the removal of foundations, floor surfaces, paths, roadways and areas of hardstanding (Fig. 2).
- 1.11 Where archaeological deposits were encountered written, graphic and photographic records were compiled in accordance with CA Technical Manual 1: *Fieldwork Recording Manual* (2007).
- 1.12 The archive from the evaluation is currently held by CA at their offices in Kemble and will be deposited with Bristol City Museum and Art Gallery, along with the site archive. A summary of information from this project, set out within Appendix B, will be entered onto the OASIS online database of archaeological projects in Britain (OASIS ref: cotswold2-114192).

## **2. RESULTS (FIG. 2)**

- 2.1 Redeposited dark grey brown clay silt deposit 101 was identified across the site at depths of between 0.3m and 0.5m bpgl. This deposit contained modern building debris, slag, topsoil and charcoal; evidence for recent widespread disturbance during development and redevelopment of the site. The intrusive ground works did not penetrate beneath this deposit, which was overlain throughout the site by concrete, tarmac or areas of gravel hardstanding, 100, measuring between 0.3m and 0.5m in thickness.
- 2.2 No features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed during groundworks and, despite visual scanning of spoil, no artefactual material pre-dating the modern period was recovered.



### 3. DISCUSSION

- 3.1 The intrusive groundworks did not penetrate below a maximum of 1m bpgl, they were therefore located above the level at which Roman or prehistoric archaeology would be expected to be encountered.

### 4. CA PROJECT TEAM

Fieldwork was undertaken by Alexandra Webster and Stuart Joyce. The report was written by Stuart Joyce. The illustrations were prepared by Jonathan Bennett. The archive has been compiled by Stuart Joyce, and prepared for deposition by James Johnson. The project was managed for CA by Laurent Coleman.

### 5. REFERENCES

CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2011 Plot M2, Kings Weston Lane, Avonmouth, Bristol: *Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Watching Brief*

English Heritage *et al* 2008 *Severn Estuary Rapid Coastal Zone Appraisal*

GGAT (Glamorgan-Gwent Archaeological Trust) 1994 *Lakeside, Avonmouth: Archaeological Field Evaluation Final Report* GGAT Ref: **94/059**

GGAT (Glamorgan-Gwent Archaeological Trust) 1997a *Rockingham Farm, Avonmouth East Extension: Archaeological Field Evaluation* GGAT Ref: **94/003**

GGAT (Glamorgan-Gwent Archaeological Trust) 1997b *Rockingham Farm, Avonmouth Site 2: Archaeological Excavation and Evaluation of Building Footprint* GGAT Ref: **97/045**

Locock, M. 1999 'Cabot Park, Avonmouth, Bristol: excavations on Later Bronze Age and medieval sites at Kites Corner and Moorend Farm, 1999' in *Archaeology in the Severn Estuary 1999* Volume **10**

Rippon, S. 1997 *The Severn Estuary: Landscape Evolution and Wetland Reclamation*



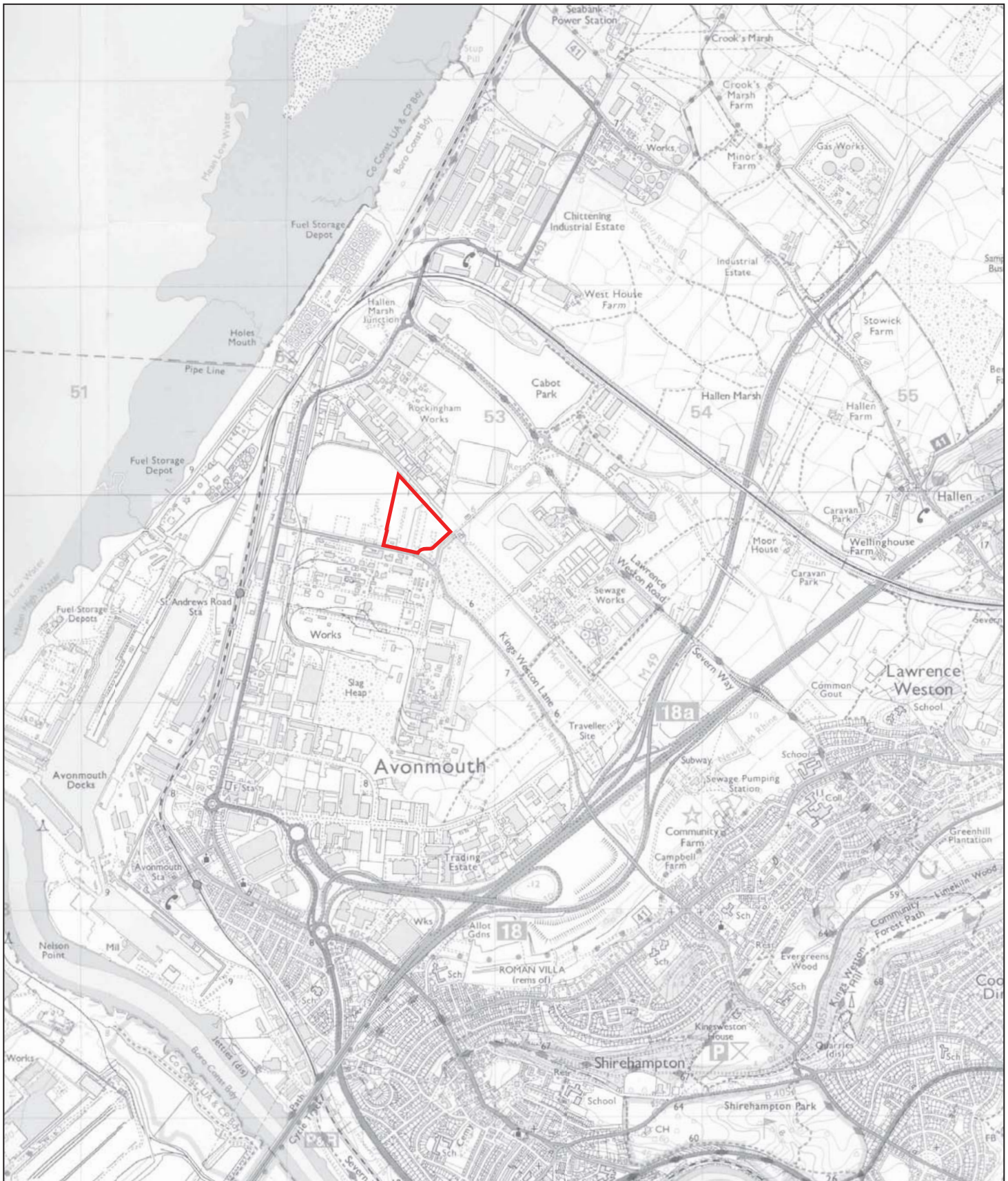


**APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS**

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
100	Layer	Concrete, tarmac, gravel hardstanding			0.3–0.5	Modern
101	Deposit	Dark grey brown clay silt.				

**APPENDIX B: OASIS REPORT FORM**

<b>PROJECT DETAILS</b>		
Project Name	Plot M2, Kings Weston Lane, Avonmouth, Bristol	
Short description (250 words maximum)	<p>An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology during groundworks associated with the development of a resource park to enable the recycling and sorting of waste materials and generation of renewable/low carbon energy at Plot M2, Kings Weston Lane, Avonmouth, Bristol.</p> <p>No features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed during groundworks, and no artefactual material was recovered.</p>	
Project dates	12 December 2011 to 20 January 2012	
Project type	Watching Brief	
Previous work	None	
Future work	Unknown	
<b>PROJECT LOCATION</b>		
Site Location	Plot M2, Kings Weston Lane, Avonmouth, Bristol	
Study area (M <sup>2</sup> /ha)	6ha	
Site co-ordinates (8 Fig Grid Reference)	ST 5260 7987	
<b>PROJECT CREATORS</b>		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Brief originator	N/A	
Project Design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Manager	Laurent Coleman	
Project Supervisor	Stuart Joyce	
<b>MONUMENT TYPE</b>		
	None	
<b>SIGNIFICANT FINDS</b>		
	None	
<b>PROJECT ARCHIVES</b>		
	Intended final location of archive	Content
Physical	N/A	N/A
Paper	Bristol City Museum and Art Gallery	WSI, pro forma registers, recording forms and photographs
Digital	Bristol City Museum and Art Gallery	Digital photographs
<b>BIBLIOGRAPHY</b>		
<p>CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2012 <i>Plot M2, Kings Weston Lane, Avonmouth, Bristol: Archaeological Watching Brief</i>. CA typescript report <b>12003</b></p>		



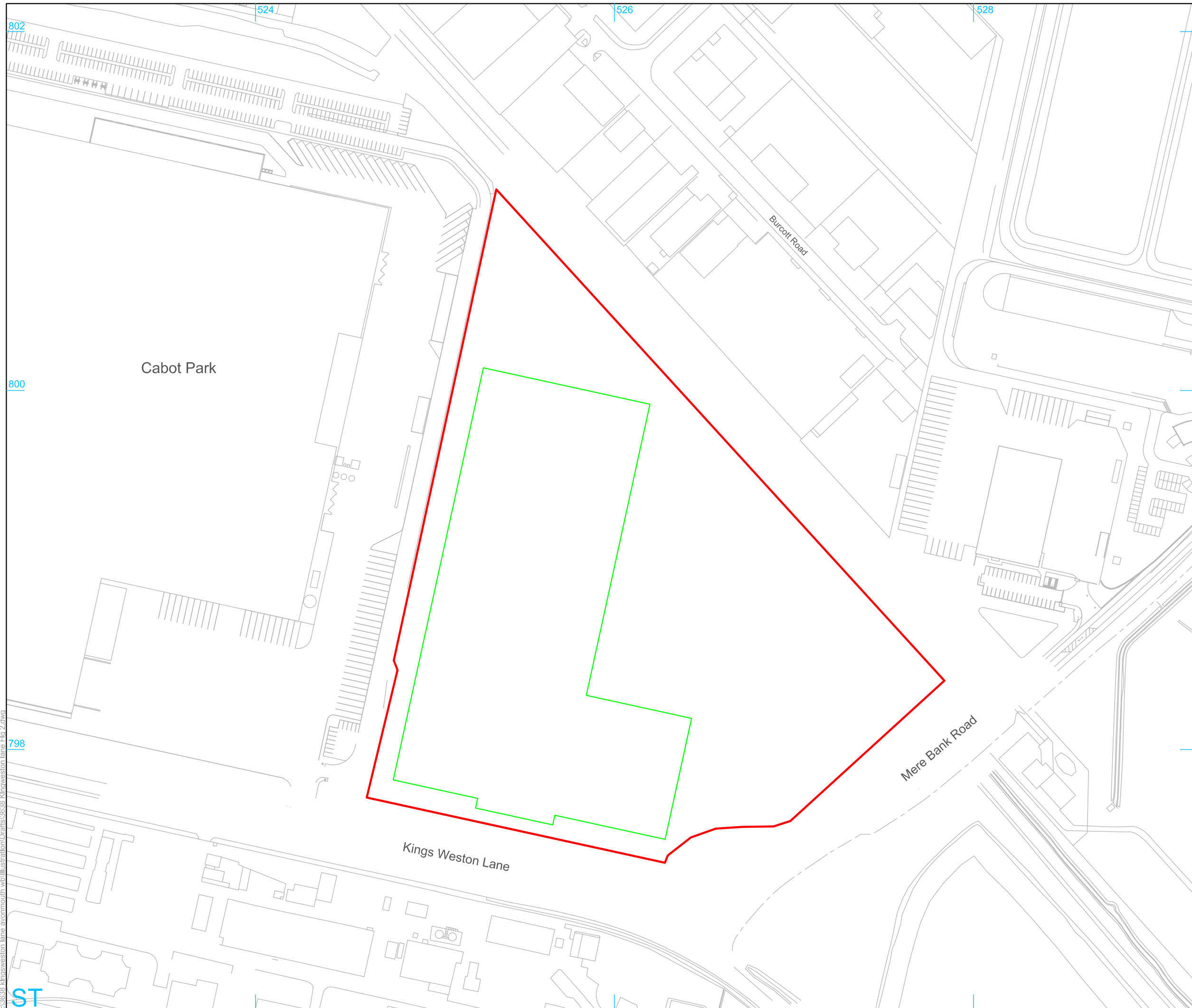
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**PROJECT TITLE**  
 Plot M2, Kings Weston Lane, Avonmouth  
 Bristol

**FIGURE TITLE**  
 Site location plan

Reproduced from the 2005 Ordnance Survey Explorer map with the permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office © Crown copyright Cotswold Archaeology Ltd 100002109

<b>PROJECT NO.</b> 3638	<b>DATE</b> 26-01-2012	<b>FIGURE NO.</b>
<b>DRAWN BY</b> JB	<b>REVISION</b> 00	<b>1</b>
<b>APPROVED BY</b> PJM	<b>SCALE@A4</b> 1:25,000	



- site
- area of observed groundworks



Client mapping - Balfour Beatty



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**PROJECT TITLE**  
 Plot M2, Kings Weston Lane  
 Avonmouth, Bristol

**FIGURE TITLE**  
 The site, showing area of observed  
 groundworks

PROJECT NO.	3638	DATE	26-01-2012	FIGURE NO.
DRAWN BY	SRJJB	REVISION	00	<b>2</b>
APPROVED BY	3638	SCALE@A3	1:2000	

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