

**Land at Sawmill
Lydney Park Estate
Gloucestershire**

Archaeological Watching Brief

for

Smiths Gore

on behalf of

The Trustees of Lydney Park Estate


CA Project: 3447
CA Report: 11236

February 2012

Land at Sawmill
Lydney Park Estate
Gloucestershire

Archaeological Watching Brief

CA Project: 3447
CA Report: 11236

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date	8 February 2012
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Fig. 1 Site location plan (1:25,000)

Fig. 2 Site location plan, showing area of observed groundworks (1:1000)



SUMMARY

Project Name: Land at Sawmill
Location: Lydney Park Estate, Gloucestershire
NGR: SO 6203 0320
Type: Watching Brief
Date: 27 September 2011
Planning Reference: FOD/P1531/10/COU
Location of Archive: To be deposited with the Dean Heritage Museum

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology during groundworks associated with the construction of a riding arena at land at Sawmill, Lydney Park Estate, Gloucestershire.

No features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed during groundworks, and no artefactual material pre-dating the modern period was recovered.



1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 In September 2011 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological watching brief for Smiths Gore on behalf of the Trustees of Lydney Park Estate at land at Sawmill, Lydney Park Estate, Gloucestershire (centred on NGR: SO 6203 0320; Fig. 1). The watching brief was undertaken to fulfil a condition attached to a planning consent for a riding arena (planning ref: FOD/P1531/10/COU). The objective of the watching brief was to record all archaeological remains exposed during the development.

1.2 The watching brief was carried out in accordance with a detailed *Written Scheme of Investigation* (WSI) produced by CA (2011) and approved by Forest of Dean District Council (FDDC) acting on the advice of Mr Charles Parry, Senior Archaeological Officer, Gloucestershire County Council (GCC) and archaeological advisor to FDDC. The fieldwork also followed the *Standard and Guidance for an archaeological watching brief* (IfA 2008), the *Statement of Standards and Practices Appropriate for Archaeological Fieldwork in Gloucestershire* issued by Gloucestershire County Council Archaeology Section (1995), 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 located on top of the eastern edge of Red Hill, 4km west of the River Severn, and comprises c. 0.1ha of grassland with woodland immediately to the east and west (Fig. 2). It lies at c. 90m AOD and is fairly level, although beyond the edge of the site the ground falls away dramatically towards the Severn Valley floor.

1.4 The natural geological substrate is recorded as Carboniferous Blackrock Limestone (Dolostone) (BGS 2011). No superficial geology has been recorded. Red clay with limestone fragments was exposed during the watching brief.



Archaeological background

- 1.5 Archaeological interest in the site arises from its proximity to the Iron Age promontory fort known as Camp Hill, and a Roman temple complex which stands 730m to the south-west of the site. The promontory fort was established shortly before the 1st century BC and during the 2nd and 3rd centuries AD was occupied by a Romano-British population who engaged in iron mining. During the mid 4th century AD, a temple dedicated to the god Nodens was built within the fort, along with a guest house, baths and other associated structures. At the end of the 4th century, a precinct wall was erected around these structures. The final recorded phase of occupation occurred in the 5th–6th centuries AD, with the reinforcement of the prehistoric earthwork (Scheduled Monument description 28870).
- 1.6 Areas of former iron stone working, known as ‘scowles’, lie 75m to the east, 100m to the west and 250m to the north of the site (HER refs 23040, 23042 and 23034 respectively). These are undated, but could be the remains of iron working carried out by the occupants of Camp Hillfort. Undated linear earthworks were also recorded 390m north-west of the site during a LiDAR survey (HER 33256).

Methodology

- 1.7 The fieldwork followed the methodology set out within the WSI (CA 2011). An archaeologist was present during intrusive groundworks comprising the removal of the topsoil within the arena, an area 23m in width and 43m in length and the subsequent excavation of drainage trenches 0.6m in width (Fig. 2).
- 1.8 Where archaeological deposits were encountered written, graphic and photographic records were compiled in accordance with CA Technical Manual 1: *Fieldwork Recording Manual* (2007).
- 1.9 The archive is currently held by CA at their offices in Kemble and will be deposited with the Dean Heritage Museum. 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.



2. RESULTS (FIG. 2)

- 2.1 The natural geological substrate (103) consisting of red clay with carboniferous limestone fragments, was revealed within the bases of the drainage trenches at an average depth of 0.4m below present ground level. This was overlain by 0.4m thickness of subsoil 102 and topsoil 101.
- 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 Despite the archaeological potential of the application area (see archaeological background above), the watching brief identified no archaeological remains within the area of observed groundworks. The absence of archaeological deposits suggests that archaeological remains either do not exist within the site or were not exposed by the development.

4. CA PROJECT TEAM

Fieldwork was undertaken by Jonathan Hart. The report was written by Jonathan Hart with illustrations prepared by Jon Bennett. The archive has been compiled by Jonathan Hart and prepared for deposition by James Johnson. The project was managed for CA by Laurent Coleman.

5. REFERENCES

BGS (British Geological Survey) 2011 Geology of Britain Viewer http://maps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyviewer_google/googleviewer.html viewed 28/09/11

CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2011 *Land at Sawmill, Lydney Park Estate, Lydney, Gloucestershire: Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Watching Brief*

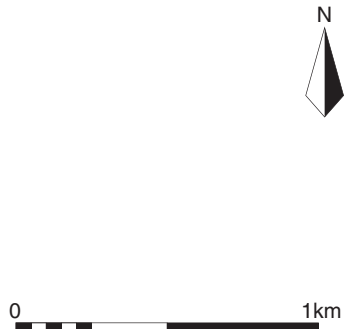
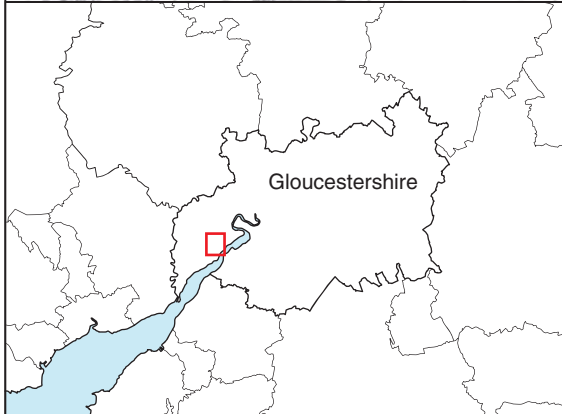
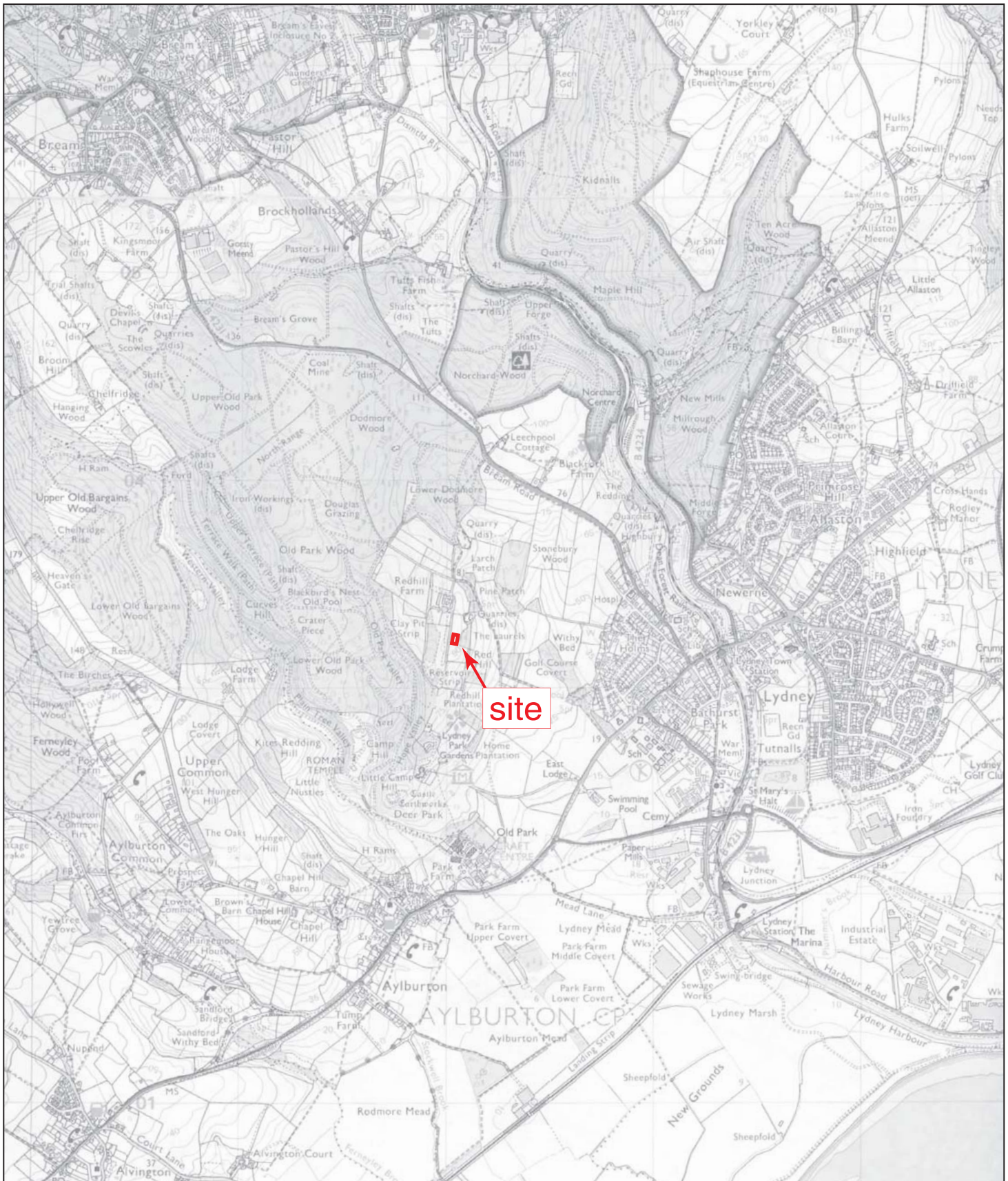
APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Trench 1

No.	Type	Description	Depth (m)
101	Layer	Topsoil/turf	0.1
102	Layer	Subsoil	0.3
103	Layer	Natural: red clay with carboniferous limestone fragments	-

APPENDIX B: OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project Name	Land at Sawmill, Lydney Park Estate, Gloucestershire: Archaeological Watching Brief	
Short description	An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology during groundworks associated with the construction of an riding arena at land at Sawmill, Lydney Park Estate, Gloucestershire. No features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed during groundworks, and no artefactual material pre-dating the modern period was recovered.	
Project dates	27 September 2011	
Project type	Archaeological Watching Brief	
Previous work	None	
Future work	Unknown	
PROJECT LOCATION		
Site Location	Land at Sawmill, Lydney Park Estate, Lydney, Gloucestershire	
Study area (M ² /ha)		
Site co-ordinates	SO 6203 0320	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Brief originator	n/a	
Project Design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Manager	Laurent Coleman	
Project Supervisor	Jonathan Hart	
MONUMENT TYPE		
	None	
SIGNIFICANT FINDS		
	None	
PROJECT ARCHIVES		
	Intended final location of archive	Content
Physical	n/a	n/a
Paper	Dean Heritage Museum	Trench sheet
Digital	Dean Heritage Museum	Site report
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2011 <i>Land at Sawmill, Lydney Park Estate, Gloucestershire: Archaeological Watching Brief</i> CA typescript report 11236		



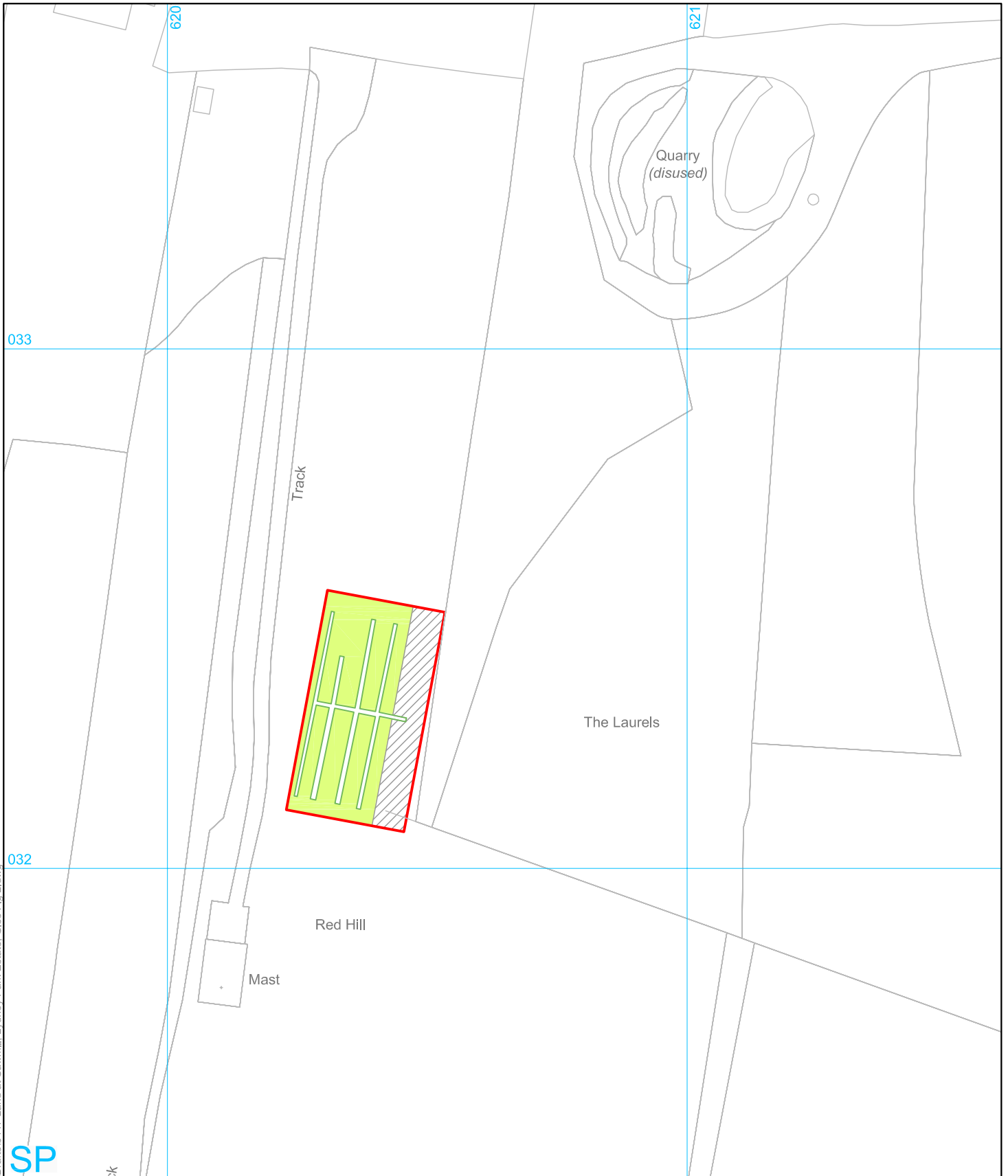

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PROJECT TITLE
 Land at Sawmill, Lydney Park Estate
 Gloucestershire

FIGURE TITLE
 Site location plan

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PROJECT NO. 3447	DATE 10-11-2011	FIGURE NO.
DRAWN BY JB	REVISION 00	1
APPROVED BY PJM	SCALE@A4 1:25,000	



- site
- area stripped to natural
- area stripped to subsoil
- area not stripped



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PROJECT TITLE
**Land at Sawmills, Lydney Park Estate
 Gloucestershire**

FIGURE TITLE
**Site location plan, showing area of
 observed groundworks**

PROJECT NO. 3447 DATE 10-11-2011
 DRAWN BY JB REVISION 00
 APPROVED BY PJM SCALE@A4 1:1000

FIGURE NO.

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