

**The Greyhound Inn  
Letcombe Regis  
Oxfordshire**

**Archaeological Evaluation**

*for*

**Ferax Planning**

*on behalf of*

**Letcombe Greyhound Ltd.**

CA Project: 4151

CA Report: 13041

February 2013

The Greyhound Inn  
Letcombe Regis  
Oxfordshire

Archaeological Evaluation

CA Project: 4151  
CA Report: 13041

prepared by	Christopher Leonard, Project Supervisor
date	19 February 2013
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signed	
date	26 February 2013
issue	01

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## Summary

<b>Project Name:</b>	The Greyhound Inn
<b>Location:</b>	Letcombe Regis, Oxfordshire
<b>NGR:</b>	SU 38159 86518
<b>Type:</b>	Evaluation
<b>Date:</b>	4-5 February 2013
<b>Location of Archive:</b>	To be deposited with Oxfordshire County Museum
<b>Accession Number:</b>	OXCMS: 2013.27
<b>Site Code:</b>	TGR 13

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in February 2013 at The Greyhound Inn, Letcombe Regis, Oxfordshire. Two trenches were excavated.

A post-medieval boundary ditch and five post-medieval/modern refuse pits, probably associated with the Greyhound Inn, were identified during the evaluation.



## 1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In February 2013 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological evaluation for Ferax Planning, on behalf of Letcombe Greyhound Ltd. at the Greyhound Inn, Letcombe Regis, Oxfordshire (centred on NGR: SU 38159 86518; Fig. 1). The evaluation was undertaken in advance of a planning application to Vale of White Horse Council for a residential development.
- 1.2 The evaluation was carried out in accordance with a *Brief for archaeological evaluation* (OCC 2012) prepared by Hugh Coddington (Principal Archaeologist, Oxfordshire County Council), the archaeological advisor to the Vale of White Horse District Council, and with a subsequent detailed *Written Scheme of Investigation* (WSI) produced by CA (2013) and approved by Hugh Coddington. The fieldwork also followed the *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (IfA 2008), the *Management of Archaeological Projects* (English Heritage 1991) and the *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MORPHE): Project Manager's Guide* (English Heritage 2006). It was monitored by Hugh Coddington, including a site visit on 4 February 2013.

### ***The site***

- 1.3 The site encloses an area of approximately 0.2ha, and comprises part of a beer garden and car park at the rear of the Greyhound Inn. The site is bordered to the west by Main Street and is surrounded on the other sides by residential properties. The site lies at approximately 100m AOD.
- 1.4 The underlying bedrock geology of the area is mapped as West Melbury Marly Chalk Formation of the Cretaceous era, with no overlying superficial deposits (BGS 2013). Marly chalk bedrock was encountered at an average depth of 0.47m below modern ground level.

### ***Archaeological background***

- 1.5 The site is located within the historic core of the village of Letcombe Regis. The Greyhound Inn, immediately to the west of the evaluation area is a Grade II Listed building dating to the 18th century and a potentially contemporary wall encloses the

site. An archaeological excavation by John Moore Heritage Services (JMHS 2008) to the south-west of the excavation site identified later prehistoric and Roman features as well as sparse evidence of Saxon and medieval activity. The village of Letcombe Regis was established in the Saxon period and was a royal manor during the reign of Edward the Confessor. The manor maintained its royal connections into the medieval period, hence the Regis suffix.

### **Archaeological objectives**

- 1.6 The objectives of the evaluation were to provide information about the archaeological resource within the site, including its presence/absence, character, extent, date, integrity, state of preservation and quality, in accordance with the *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (IfA 2008). This information will enable Vale of White Horse District Council to identify and assess the particular significance of any heritage asset, consider the impact of the proposed development upon it, and to avoid or minimise conflict between the heritage asset's conservation and any aspect of the development proposal, in line with the *National Planning Policy Framework* (DCLG 2012).

### **Methodology**

- 1.7 The fieldwork comprised the excavation of two trenches (22m by 1.5m), in the locations shown on the attached plan (Fig. 2). The trenches were shorter than the intended 25m length due to the confined nature of the site.
- 1.8 All trenches were excavated by mechanical excavator equipped with a toothless grading bucket. All machine excavation was undertaken under constant archaeological supervision to the top of the first significant archaeological horizon or the natural substrate, whichever was encountered first. Where archaeological deposits were encountered they were excavated by hand in accordance with CA Technical Manual 1: *Fieldwork Recording Manual* (2007).
- 1.9 Deposits were assessed for their palaeoenvironmental potential in accordance with CA Technical Manual 2: *The Taking and Processing of Environmental and Other Samples from Archaeological Sites* (2003) and no deposits were identified that required sampling. All artefacts recovered were processed in accordance with Technical Manual 3 *Treatment of Finds Immediately after Excavation* (1995).

- 1.10 The archive and artefacts from the evaluation are currently held by CA at their offices in Kemble. Subject to the agreement of the legal landowner the artefacts will be deposited with Oxfordshire County Museum under accession number OXCMS: 2013.27, along with the site archive. A summary of information from this project, set out within Appendix C, will be entered onto the OASIS online database of archaeological projects in Britain.

## 2. RESULTS (FIGS 2 & 3)

- 2.1 This section provides an overview of the evaluation results; detailed summaries of the recorded contexts and finds are to be found in Appendices A and B respectively.
- 2.2 A shallow post-medieval boundary ditch was identified in Trench 1. Trench 2 contained five large post-medieval/modern pits.

### ***Trench 1 (Figs 2 & 3)***

- 2.3 The natural marly chalk was encountered at 0.45m below the present ground level in this trench. Ditch 103 was cut into the natural substrate. It was orientated north-east/south-west and contained single fill 104. Post-medieval pottery, ceramic building material (CBM), animal bone and a fragment of clay pipe stem were recovered from the fill. Ditch fill 104 was sealed by subsoil layer 101, which was in turn overlain by topsoil 100.

### ***Trench 2 (Fig. 2)***

- 2.4 The natural geological substrate was encountered at 0.49m below present ground level in this trench and was overlain by subsoil layer 201, into which all of the archaeological features were cut. Five post-medieval/modern pits (203, 205, 207, 209 and 211) were identified, but not excavated due to their date. Modern pottery was recovered from the top of fill 202 (which filled pit 203) and post-medieval and residual medieval pottery was recovered from fill 206 (which filled pit 207). Modern pottery, CBM, glass and animal bone were noted in the top of fills 204, 208 and 210 (which filled pits 205, 209 and 211 respectively), and were left *in situ* or discarded on site.

## **The finds**

- 2.5 The finds recovered from the evaluation are summarised in Appendix B. The pottery assemblage consisted of seven sherds of pottery weighing 242g. In addition, ceramic building material, a clay tobacco pipe stem, flint flakes and an animal bone was recovered. The finds were retrieved from three stratified contexts and could be dated to the prehistoric, medieval, post-medieval and modern periods.

### Pottery

#### Medieval

The medieval pottery assemblage consisted of two residual sherds retrieved from ditch fill 104 and pit fill 206. Both sherds were unfeatured, were limestone-tempered, and could only be broadly dated to the 12th to 14th century.

#### Post-medieval

A small quantity of glazed earthenware sherds of likely 18th-century date were recorded from fills 104 and 206.

#### Modern

A refined whiteware plate, with a blue 'Asiatic Pheasants' transfer print, was recovered along with a partial tureen body from pit fill 202. Both were mass produced wares typical of the mid to late 19th century.

#### Other finds

Three flint flakes were recovered as residual artefacts from ditch fill 104. All could only be broadly dated to the prehistoric period.

A clay tobacco pipe stem of 17th or 18th-century date was recorded from fill 104. Ceramic building material was retrieved from fills 104 and 206. The material from ditch fill 104 was typical of brick and tile produced in the later post-medieval period. While the tile fragment from pit fill 206 was of small size, it retained the edge of a circular peg hole. This would suggest that the tile is of medieval date.





### 3. DISCUSSION

3.1 The earliest feature on site was ditch 103 in Trench 1. The north-east/south-west alignment of this ditch does not respect the present property boundaries of the Greyhound Inn, which were laid out in the Victorian period when the inn was renovated and extended. It is therefore possible that the ditch related to an early 19th century, or earlier, plot boundary. However, the 1877 Ordnance Survey map shows a small enclosed area, possibly a garden, to the rear of the Greyhound Inn with a north-east/south-west aligned boundary and it is also feasible that ditch 103 is the remnant of this boundary.

3.2 The large pits in Trench 2 were likely to have been extraction pits excavated to remove the chalk marl bedrock, which were subsequently backfilled with refuse associated with residential and commercial activity at the public house. Despite the location of the site within the medieval core of Letcombe Regis and the high potential for medieval activity on site, no features of this date were identified during the evaluation. The two sherds of residual medieval pottery recovered from the fills of ditch 103 and pit 207, potentially attest to medieval settlement on or near the site, which, if ever present, has been removed by later activity related to the Greyhound Inn.

### 4. CA PROJECT TEAM

Fieldwork was undertaken by Christopher Leonard, assisted by Roy Poulter. The report was written by Christopher Leonard. The illustrations were prepared by Ian Atkins. The archive has been compiled by Christopher Leonard, and prepared for deposition by James Johnson. The project was managed for CA by Richard Young.

### 5. REFERENCES

BGS (British Geological Survey) 2013 *Geology of Britain Viewer* [http://maps.bgs.ac.uk/geology\\_viewer\\_google/googleviewer.html](http://maps.bgs.ac.uk/geology_viewer_google/googleviewer.html) Accessed 6 February 2013



CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2013 *The Greyhound Inn, Letcombe Regis, Oxfordshire: Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Evaluation*

DCLG (Department of Communities and Local Government) 2012 *National Planning Policy Framework*

JMHS (John Moore Heritage Service) 2008 *An Archaeological Excavation at Letcombe Laboratories, Letcombe Regis, Oxfordshire. JMHS Project No. 1823*

OCC (Oxfordshire County Council) 2012 *Land at the Greyhound PH: Brief for Archaeological Field Evaluation*



## APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

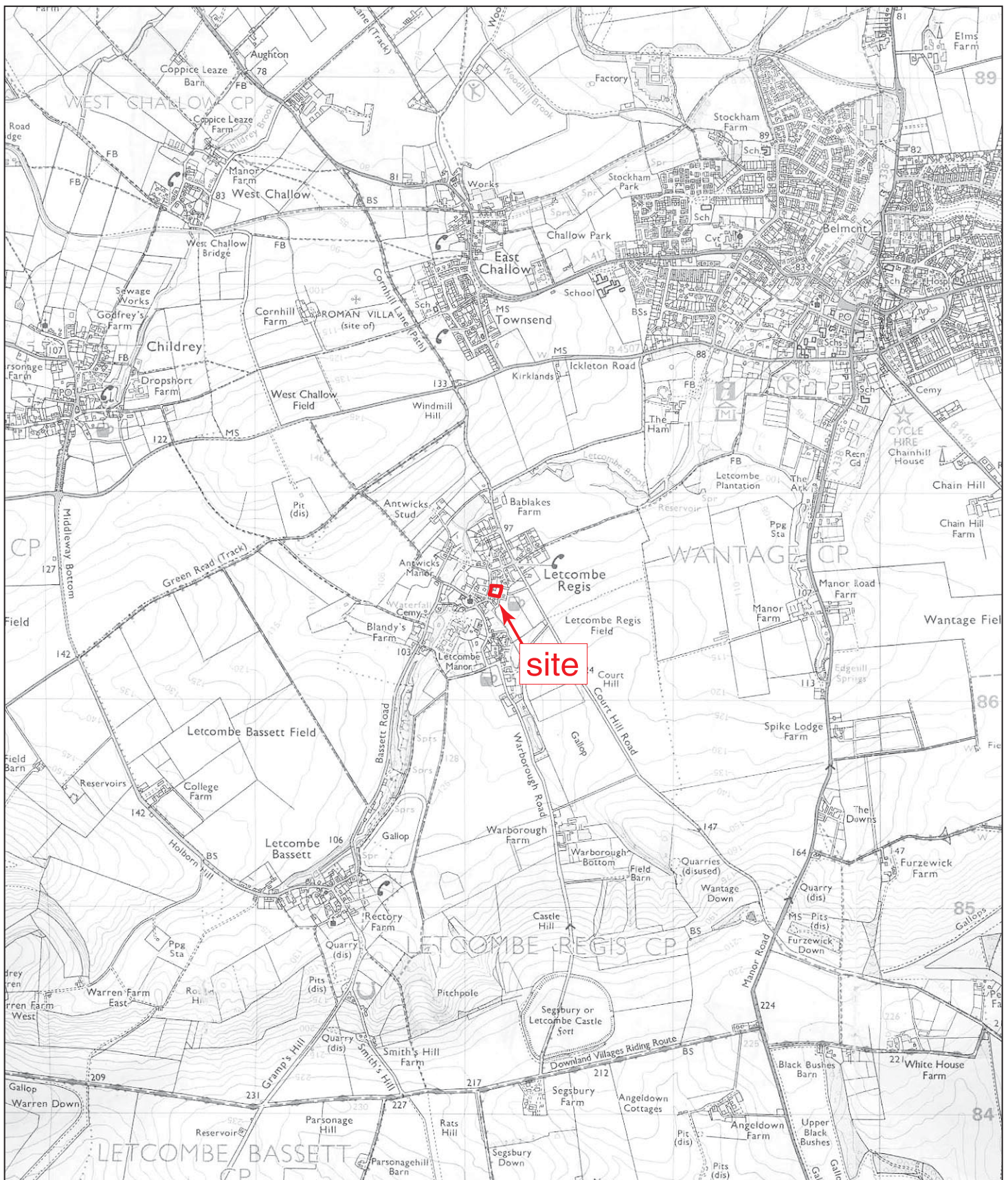
Trench No.	Context No.	Type	Fill of	Context Interpretation	Description	L (m)	W (m)	Depth /Thickness (m)	Spot-date
1	100	Layer		Topsoil	Firm, dark greyish brown sandy silt	22	1.5	0.25	Modern
1	101	Layer		Subsoil	Firm, light brownish grey sandy silt	22	1.5	0.2	-
1	102	Layer		Natural	Chalk marl	22	1.5	-	-
1	103	Cut		Ditch	North-east/south-west ditch	>1.7	1.65	0.25	
1	104	Fill	103	Ditch fill	Firm, mid brownish grey sandy silt with occasional chalk flecks	>1.7	1.65	0.25	Post-medieval
2	200	Layer		Topsoil	Firm, dark greyish brown sandy silt	22	1.5	0.26	Modern
2	201	Layer		Subsoil	Firm, light brownish grey sandy silt	22	1.5	0.23	-
2	202	Fill	203	Fill of pit	Dark brownish grey sandy silt	>1.5	>3.8	-	Modern
2	203	Cut		Cut of pit	Unexcavated pit	>1.5	>3.8	-	
2	204	Fill	205	Fill of pit	Dark brownish grey sandy silt	>1.35	1.85	-	Post-medieval
2	205	Cut		Cut of pit	Unexcavated pit	>1.35	1.85	-	
2	206	Fill	207	Fill of pit	Dark brownish grey sandy silt	>1	1.97	-	Post-medieval
2	207	Cut		Cut of pit	Unexcavated pit	>1	1.97	-	
2	208	Fill	209	Fill of pit	Dark brownish grey sandy silt	>1.2	5	-	Modern
2	209	Cut		Cut of pit	Unexcavated pit	>1.2	5	-	
2	210	Fill	211	Fill of pit	Dark brownish grey sandy silt	>1.1	4.9	-	Modern
2	211	Cut		Cut of pit	Unexcavated pit	>1.1	4.9	-	
2	212	Layer		Natural	Chalk marl	22	1.5	-	-

**APPENDIX B: THE FINDS**

Context	Description	Ct.	Wt.	Date
104	Post-medieval pottery: glazed earthenwares	2	9	C18
	Medieval pottery: limestone-tempered	1	2	
	Ceramic building material: brick and tile	8	152	
	Clay tobacco pipe stem	1	3	
	Flint: flakes	3	21	
	Bone: animal	1	253	
202	Modern pottery: refined whitewares	2	261	M-LC19
206	Post-medieval pottery: glazed earthenware	1	3	C18
	Medieval pottery	1	17	
	Ceramic building material: tile	1	26	

## APPENDIX C: OASIS REPORT FORM

<b>PROJECT DETAILS</b>		
Project Name	The Greyhound Inn, Letcombe Regis, Oxfordshire	
Short description	<p>An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in February 2013 at The Greyhound Inn, Letcombe Regis, Oxfordshire. Two trenches were excavated.</p> <p>A post-medieval boundary ditch and five post-medieval/modern refuse pits, probably associated with the Greyhound Inn, were identified during the evaluation.</p>	
Project dates	04-05 February 2013	
Project type	Field Evaluation	
Previous work	None	
Future work	Unknown	
<b>PROJECT LOCATION</b>		
Site Location	The Greyhound Inn, Letcombe Regis, Oxfordshire	
Study area	0.2ha	
Site co-ordinates	SU 38159 86518	
<b>PROJECT CREATORS</b>		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Brief originator	Oxfordshire County Council	
Project Design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Manager	Richard Young	
Project Supervisor	Christopher Leonard	
<b>MONUMENT TYPE</b>		
	None	
<b>SIGNIFICANT FINDS</b>		
	None	
<b>PROJECT ARCHIVES</b>		
	Intended final location of archive (museum/Accession no.)	Content (e.g. pottery, animal bone etc)
Physical	The Oxfordshire County Museum (Acc. No. OXCMS: 2013.27)	Ceramics, animal bone, CBM etc
Paper	The Oxfordshire County Museum (Acc. No. OXCMS: 2013.27)	Context sheets, matrices etc
Digital	The Oxfordshire County Museum (Acc. No. OXCMS: 2013.27)	Database, digital photos etc
<b>BIBLIOGRAPHY</b>		
CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2013 <i>The Greyhound Inn, Letcombe Regis, Oxfordshire: Archaeological Evaluation</i> . CA typescript report <b>13041</b>		



0 1km

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**PROJECT TITLE**

The Greyhound Inn, Letcombe Regis  
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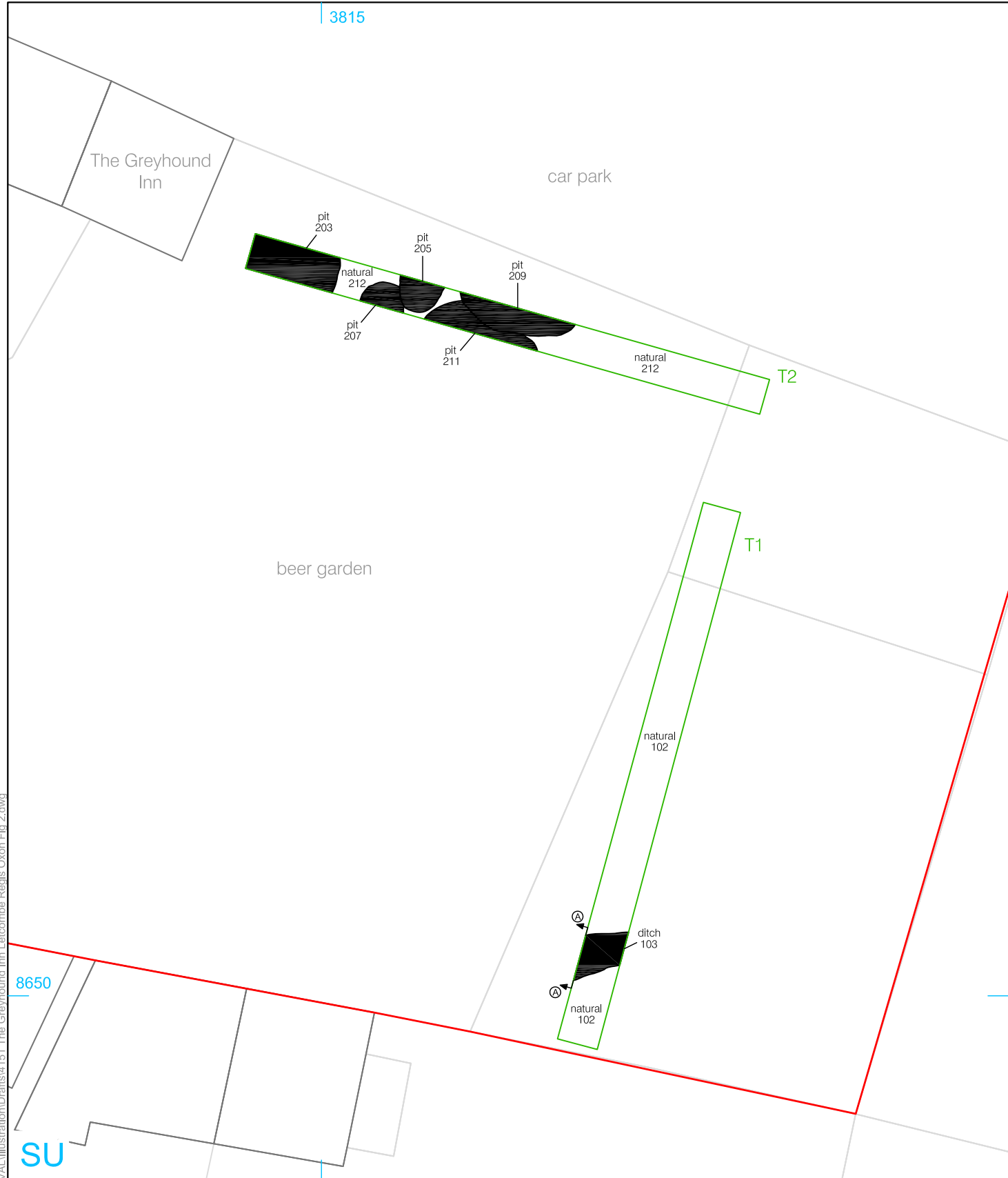
**FIGURE TITLE**

Site location plan

PROJECT NO. 4151 DATE 08-02-2013  
DRAWN BY IA REVISION 00  
APPROVED BY PJM SCALE@A4 1:25,000

FIGURE NO.

1



- site
- evaluation trench
- archaeological feature



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PROJECT TITLE  
**The Greyhound Inn, Letcombe Regis  
 Oxfordshire**

FIGURE TITLE  
**Trench location plan, showing  
 archaeological features**

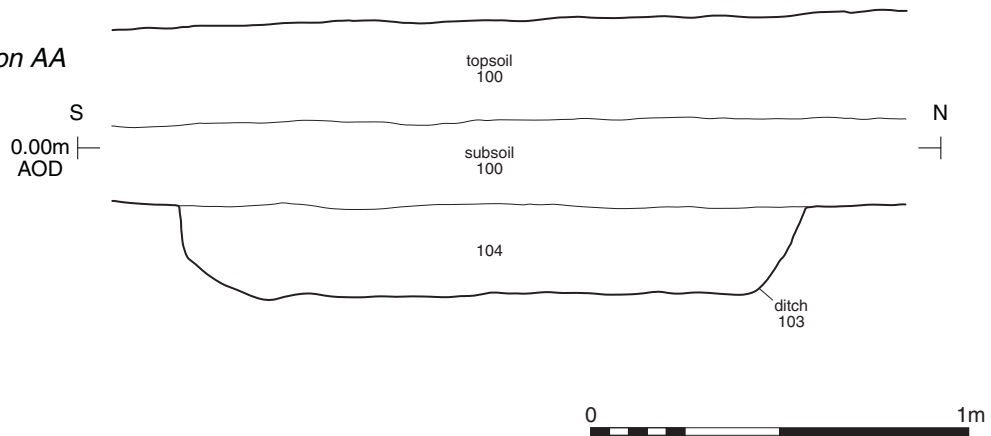
PROJECT NO. 4151    DATE 08-02-2013  
 DRAWN BY IA    REVISION 00  
 APPROVED BY PJM    SCALE@A4 1:500

FIGURE NO.

**2**



Section AA



Ditch 103, looking north-west (scale 1m)



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PROJECT TITLE

The Greyhound Inn, Letcombe Regis  
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FIGURE TITLE

Trench 1; section AA and photograph

PROJECT NO.	4151	DATE	08-02-2013	FIGURE NO.
DRAWN BY	IA	REVISION	00	3
APPROVED BY	PJM	SCALE@A4	1:20	