

**Former Lechlade Filling Station,  
Station Road,  
Lechlade  
Gloucestershire**

Programme of Archaeological Recording

*for*

**The Midcounties Co-operative**


CA Project: 3811  
CA Report: 12249

October 2012

Former Lechlade Filling Station,  
Station Road,  
Lechlade  
Gloucestershire

Programme of Archaeological Recording

CA Project: 3811  
CA Report: 12249

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date	14 September 2012
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date	5 October 2012
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signed	
date	9 October 2012
issue	01

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## CONTENTS

SUMMARY .....	2
1. INTRODUCTION .....	3
2. RESULTS (FIGS 2).....	6
3. DISCUSSION.....	6
4. CA PROJECT TEAM .....	7
5. REFERENCES .....	7
APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS .....	9
APPENDIX B: OASIS REPORT FORM.....	10

## LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

- Fig. 1 Site location plan (1:25,000)
- Fig. 2 The site, showing location of groundworks (1:1000)
- Fig. 3 Photograph: Area 1, showing quarry pit 106 and modern pits 102 and 104, looking north-east
- Fig. 4 Photograph: Area 3, ground reduction through modern make up layers, looking north



## SUMMARY

<b>Project Name:</b>	Former Lechlade Filling Station, Station Road
<b>Location:</b>	Lechlade, Gloucestershire
<b>NGR:</b>	SP 2167 0031
<b>Type:</b>	Programme of Archaeological Recording
<b>Date:</b>	8 May-12 July 2012
<b>Planning Reference:</b>	10/01372/FUL
<b>Location of Archive:</b>	To be deposited with Corinium Museum
<b>Site Code:</b>	LCO12

The programme of archaeological recording was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology during groundworks associated with construction of a new petrol filling station and retail store at the site of the former Lechlade Filling Station, Station Road, Lechlade, Gloucestershire.

A modern quarry pit, previously recorded on the 1899 and 1923 Edition OS maps, modern refuse pits, and features associated with the former filling station were identified. No features or deposits pre-dating the modern period were observed during groundworks, and no artefactual material was recovered.



## 1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Between May and July 2012 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out a programme of archaeological recording for The Midcounties Co-operative at the site of the former Lechlade Filling Station, Station Road, Lechlade, Gloucestershire (centred on NGR: SP 2167 0031; Fig. 1). The archaeological recording was undertaken to fulfil a condition attached to planning consent for a new petrol filling station and retail store (planning ref: 10/01372/FUL). The objective was to record all archaeological remains exposed prior to development.
- 1.2 The programme of archaeological recording was carried out in accordance with a detailed Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) produced by CA (2012) and approved by Cotswold District Council (CDC), acting on the advice of Charles Parry, Senior Archaeological Officer, Gloucestershire County Council (GCC). The fieldwork also followed the *Standard and Guidance for an archaeological watching brief* (IfA 2008), *Standard and Guidance for archaeological excavation* (IfA 2008), the *Statement of Standards and Practices Appropriate for Archaeological Fieldwork in Gloucestershire* (GCC 1996), the *Management of Archaeological Projects 2* (English Heritage 1991), the *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MORPHE): Project Manager's Guide* (EH 2006). It was monitored by Charles Parry (GCC).

### ***The site***

- 1.3 The proposed development area is approximately 0.25ha, and comprises the former petrol filling station. It is bounded to the north-west by the A361 and on all other sides by fields. The solid geology is mapped as mudstone of the Oxford Clay formation of the Callovian to Oxfordian eras, overlain by superficial sand and gravel of the Summertown Radley member of the Pleistocene era (BGS 2011). The superficial sand and gravel deposits were encountered during groundworks.

### ***Archaeological background***

- 1.4 Aerial reconnaissance and archaeological investigation has revealed an area of intense archaeological activity around Lechlade, particularly to the north and west of the current town. The free draining Second Terrace Gravels north of the Thames

may have encouraged settlement and agriculture from an early date and certainly represent a good medium for cropmarks.

- 1.5 The earliest activity in the area is represented by the discovery in a gravel pit in 1938 of a late Acheulian hand axe in that is now housed in the British Museum. A Neolithic or early Bronze Age *cursus* or parallel-sided enclosure is aligned north-west/south-east with its north-west end c. 325m west of the current site. Although this monument is unlikely to extend into the current site, *cursuses* often formed part of more widespread ritual landscapes including monuments such as henges, avenues and barrows or other tumuli.
- 1.6 Two Early Bronze Age burials, possibly originally marked by a barrow, were excavated at the Memorial Hall, 425m south-west of the western boundary of the site in 1995 (Thomas and Holbrook 1998).
- 1.7 Settlement and agricultural activity dating from the late Bronze Age to the Anglo-Saxon periods is well attested with concentrations at Butler's Field (Boyle *et al*, 1998) and Sherborne House (Bateman *et al* 2003) to the west of Burford Road. For instance, cropmarks of undated (but probably Iron Age or Romano-British) enclosures and ditched trackways extend over 5 acres in fields 500m to the south-east of the current site (SMR 2291) and the cropmark of a trackway is recorded in the field immediately east of the site.
- 1.8 Archaeological excavation at Roughground Farm, 650m to the north of the development area, identified an area of c. 8ha of archaeological remains (Allen *et al* 1993). It was first investigated between 1957 and 1965 in advance of gravel extraction. Excavations revealed occupation from the Late Neolithic through to the end of the Roman period. Further work was carried out ahead of a housing development in 1981-2 and 1990. This work revealed Neolithic pits and large Iron Age boundary ditches. There was little Middle and Late Iron Age activity but a settlement had been established by the early Roman period. This was subsequently replaced by a villa and associated buildings from the mid 2nd century AD.
- 1.9 A major Anglo-Saxon cemetery containing 217 inhumations and 32 cremations was excavated at Butler's Field in 1985 with evidence of broadly contemporary settlement being revealed at Sherborne House.

- 1.10 An archaeological evaluation undertaken 200m south of the current development at Lechlade Manor established that Romano-British, Anglo-Saxon and medieval activity was present although no core of activity was identified (CAT 1999).
- 1.11 Cartographic sources indicate that the majority of the current site remained as agricultural land until 1923. A gravel extraction pit is recorded to the south of the site on maps of 1899, and had been extended into the southern area of the current site by 1923 (CA 2010). The former petrol station was constructed in the later 20th century, and is first recorded on cartographic sources from 1972. Allotment gardens replaced the gravel pit to the south of the site in 1978, and extended into the southern area of the site. (ibid.)

### ***Methodology***

- 1.12 The fieldwork followed the methodology set out within the WSI (CA 2011). An archaeologist was present during intrusive groundworks comprising a topsoil strip in the area to the south-east of the former forecourt and the subsequent excavation of a retaining wall foundation trench across this area running parallel to the eastern boundary of the site (hereafter known as area 1), removal of topsoil in the area to the north of the former forecourt site (hereafter known as area 2) and the excavation of a new fuel tank trench (hereafter known as area 3) through the top of the former forecourt surface (Fig. 2).
- 1.13 Where archaeological deposits were encountered written, graphic and photographic records were compiled in accordance with CA Technical Manual 1: *Fieldwork Recording Manual* (2007).
- 1.14 The archive from the evaluation is currently held by CA at their offices in Kemble and will be deposited with Corinium 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 (FIGS 2)

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

- 2.1 Natural gravel substrate 108 was encountered at a depth of 0.35m below present ground level (bpgl). It was cut by quarry pit 106 which itself was subsequently cut by modern refuse pit 102. The latter contained modern bottles and pottery none of which were retained. A further modern refuse pit, 104, was recorded adjacent to the eastern limit of the site. The continuation of the cut for former fuel tank pit 205 and modern soakaway 203, both previously identified within Area 2, were observed.

### **Area 2 (Figs 2)**

- 2.4 Natural gravels 206 were encountered 0.45m bpgl and were cut by former fuel tank pit 205 that was also observed extending into Areas 1 and 3. Modern soak away 203, identified centrally within Area 2, extended into the northernmost extent of trench 1.

### **Area 3 (Figs 2 & 5)**

- 2.5 Natural gravel substrate 306 was encountered at a depth of 1.20m bpgl. This was sealed by dark grey clay make up layer 303, which was itself overlain by redeposited gravels 302. This was itself sealed by a further dark grey clay make up layer, 301 which was cut by pit 305 for the former fuel tanks.

## 3. DISCUSSION

- 3.1 Despite the archaeological potential of the application area, no archaeological remains pre-dating the late 19th/20th century were revealed during the current works.
- 3.2 The gravel extraction pit attested to in paragraph 1.11 above, is most probably represented by quarry pit 106, and if so, the area of extraction extends further into the southern extent of the site than is recorded on the 1923 Ordnance Survey map. The eastern limit of the site appears have recently served as a dumping ground for



much of the 20th century, with refuse pit 104 containing modern bottles and pottery. To the west, modern made ground associated with the former petrol station forecourt, and the area of former fuel tanks were observed. It is therefore concluded that any archaeological remains which may have been present prior to the modern period have most probably been truncated.

#### 4. CA PROJECT TEAM

Fieldwork was undertaken by Tom Weavill and Donal Lucey. The report was written by Tom Weavill. The illustrations were prepared by Jon Bennett. The archive has been compiled by Tom Weavill, and prepared for deposition by James Johnson. The project was managed for CA by Cliff Bateman.

#### 5. REFERENCES

Allen, T G., Darvill T C, Green L S., Jones M U., 1993, *Excavations at Roughground Farm, Lechlade, Gloucestershire: a prehistoric and Roman landscape*. Thames Valley Landscapes: the Cotswold Water Park, Volume 1. Oxford Archaeological Unit.

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CAT (Cotswold Archaeological Trust) 1996 *Land to the Rear of Sherburne House, Lechlade, Gloucestershire: Archaeological Evaluation*. CA Report No. **96366**

CAT 1999 *Lechlade Manor, Lechlade Gloucestershire: Archaeological Evaluation* CA Report No. **991049**



**APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS**

## Trench 1

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
100	Layer	Topsoil: Dark grey silty clay			0.35	
101	Fill	Fill of 102: Dark brownish black silty clay with occasional brick, stone and timber fragments	11.52	9.40	0.32	Modern
102	Cut	Cut of modern refuse pit	11.52	9.40	0.32	Modern
103	Fill	Fill of 104: Dark brownish black silty clay with occasional brick and stone fragments. Contained large amount of modern refuse including pottery and glass bottles	33.10	10.25	1.00	Modern
104	Cut	Cut of modern refuse pit	33.10	10.25	1.00	Modern
105	Fill	Fill of 106: Mid yellowish brown clayey silt with frequent gravel flecks	>26.31	14.30	>1.25	Modern
106	Cut	Cut of gravel quarry pit	>26.31	14.30	>1.25	Modern
107	Layer	Subsoil: Dark greyish brown			0.26	
108	Layer	Natural substrate: Mid yellow sand and gravel				

## Trench 2

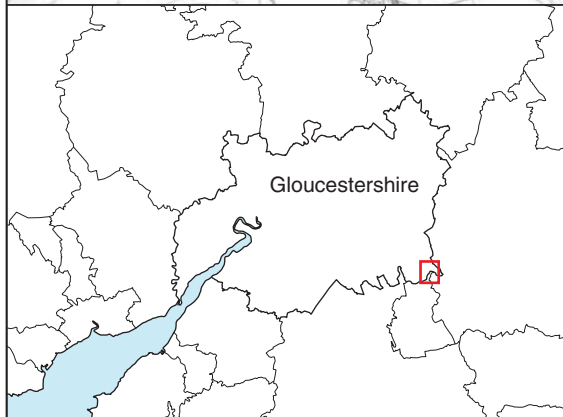
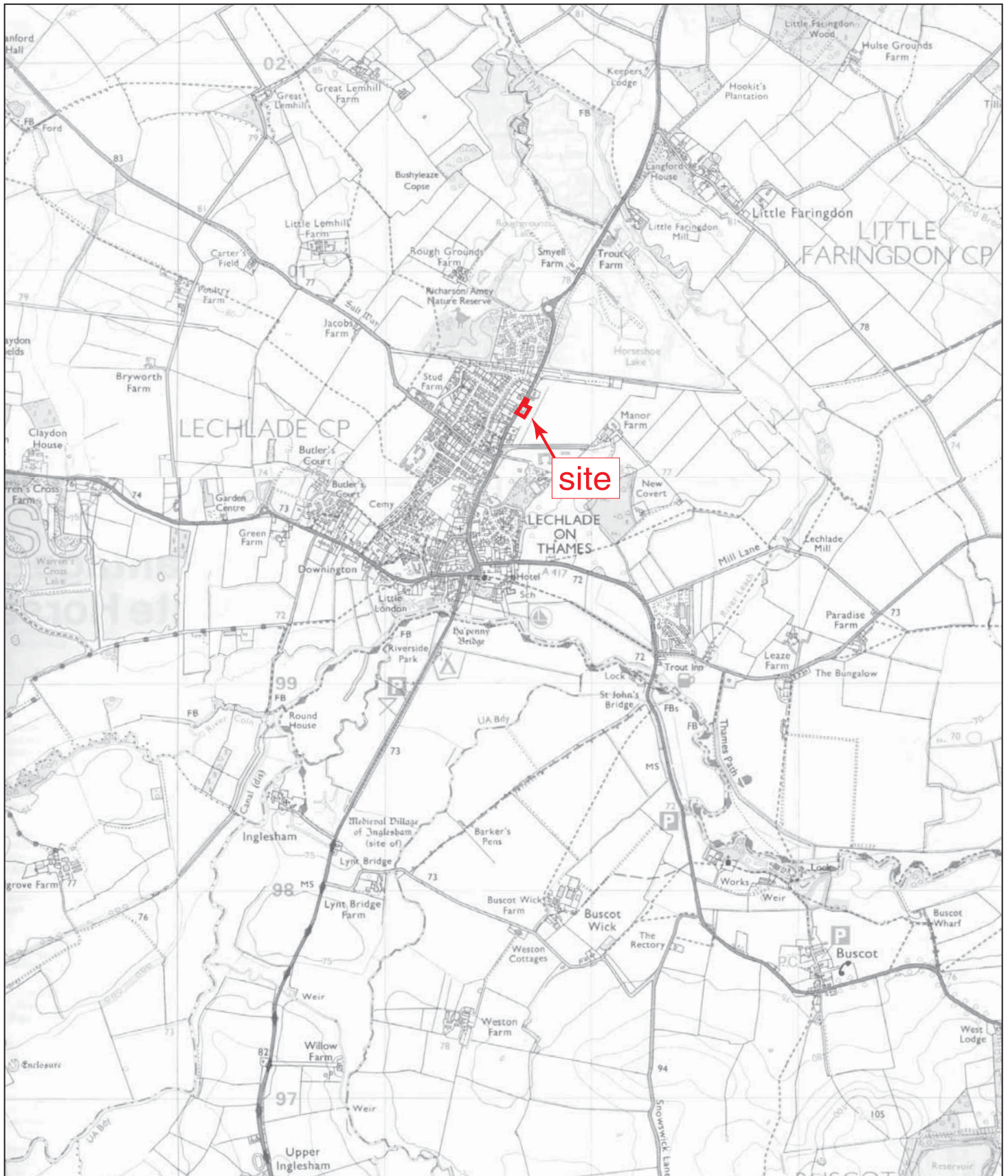
No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
200	Layer	Topsoil: Same as 100			0.45	
201	Layer	Subsoil: Mid orangey brown clayey silt			0.57	
202	Fill	Fill of 203: Rubble and concrete fragments	7.25	2.65	>1.25	Modern
203	Cut	Cut of modern soak away	7.25	2.65	>1.25	Modern
204	Fill	Fill of 205: Mid grey sandy silt with frequent brick, stone and plastic inclusions.	>4.70	>1.80	>1.25	Modern
205	Cut	Cut of former fuel tank trench	>4.70	>1.80	>1.25	Modern
206	Layer	Natural substrate: same as 108				

## Trench 3

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
300	Layer	Gravel surface	>12.50	>10.50	1.00	
301	Layer	Make up layer: Mid grey clay	>6.50	>3.00	0.90	Modern
302	Layer	Make up layer: Mid yellowish brown gravel	>6.00	>4.00	0.70	Modern
303	Layer	Make up layer: Dark grey clay	>6.00	>10.50	1.00	Modern
304	Fill	Fill of 305: Same as 204	>9.50	>7.50	3.00	Modern
305	Cut	Same as 205	>9.50	>7.50	3.00	Modern
306	Layer	Natural substrate: Same as 108				

**APPENDIX B: OASIS REPORT FORM**

<b>PROJECT DETAILS</b>		
Project Name	Former Lechlade Filling Station, Station Road, Lechlade, Gloucestershire	
Short description	<p>An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology during groundworks associated with construction of a new petrol filling station and retail store at the site of the Former Lechlade Filling Station, Station Road, Lechlade, Gloucestershire.</p> <p>A modern quarry pit, previously recorded on the 1899 and 1923 Edition OS maps, modern refuse pits and features associated with the former filling station were identified. However, no features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed during groundworks, and no artefactual material was recovered.</p>	
Project dates	8 May – 12 July 2012	
Project type	Watching brief	
Previous work	Unknown	
Future work	Unknown	
<b>PROJECT LOCATION</b>		
Site Location	Former Lechlade Filling Station, Station Road, Lechlade, Gloucestershire	
Study area	0.26ha	
Site co-ordinates	SP 2167 0031	
<b>PROJECT CREATORS</b>		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Brief originator	None	
Project Design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Manager	Cliff Bateman	
Project Supervisor	Tom Weavill	
<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	Corinium Museum	Trench sheets, context sheets
Digital	Corinium Museum	Digital photos
<b>BIBLIOGRAPHY</b>		
<p>CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2012 <i>Former Lechlade Filling Station, Station Road, Lechlade, Gloucestershire</i>. CA typescript report <b>09158</b></p>		



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**PROJECT TITLE**

**Former Lechlade Filling Station, Station Road, Lechlade, Gloucestershire**

**FIGURE TITLE**

**Site location plan**

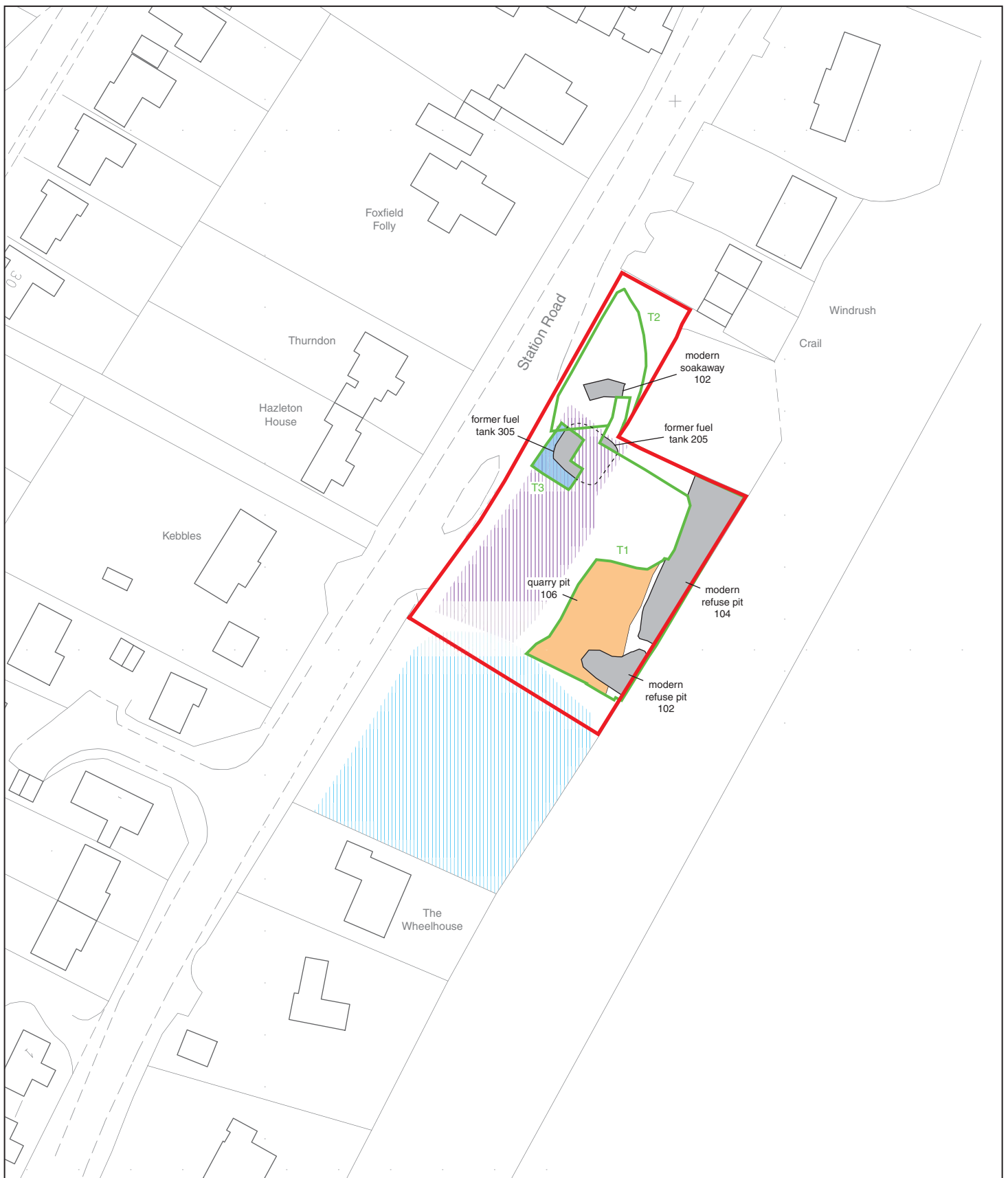


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APPROVED BY PJM SCALE@A4 1:25,000

FIGURE NO.

**1**



- Site
- area of observed groundworks
- quarry pit
- modern feature
- modern made ground deposits

- Extent of gravel quarry recorded on map of 1923
- Former petrol station forecourt made ground



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**FIGURE TITLE**

The site, showing location of observed groundworks



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 APPROVED BY PJM    SCALE@A4 1:1000

FIGURE NO.  
**2**



3



4

**3 Area 1, showing quarry pit 106 and modern pits 102 and 104, looking north-east (scales 1m)**

**4 Area 3, ground reduction through modern make-up layers, looking north**



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FIGURE TITLE

**Photographs**

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FIGURE NO.

**3 & 4**