

**Land Adjacent To The Mythe Water
Treatment Works, Mythe Road
Tewkesbury, Gloucestershire**

Archaeological Watching Brief

for
Costain Ltd

CA Project: 4299
CA Report: 13500

November 2013

Land Adjacent To The Mythe Water Treatment
Works
Mythe Road
Tewkesbury
Gloucestershire

Archaeological Watching Brief

CA Project: 4299
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signed	
date	14 November 2013
issue 01	

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SUMMARY

Project Name: Land Adjacent To The Mythe Water Treatment Works
Location: Mythe Road, Tewkesbury, Gloucestershire
NGR: SO 891 336
Type: Watching Brief
Date: 17 to 25 July 2013
Planning Reference: Tewkesbury Borough Council 12/00046/FUL
Location of Archive: Tewkesbury Museum
Site Code: MWT13

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology during groundworks associated with the development of flood compensation scheme at Land adjacent to The Mythe Water Treatment Works, Mythe Road, Tewkesbury, Gloucestershire.

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



1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 In July 2013 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological watching brief for Costain Ltd at Land Adjacent to The Mythe Water Treatment Works, Mythe Road, Tewkesbury, Gloucestershire (centred on NGR: SO 891 336; Fig. 1). The watching brief was undertaken to fulfil a condition (no. 16) attached to a planning consent for a flood compensation scheme (Tewkesbury Borough Council Planning ref: 12/00046/FUL). The objective of the watching brief was to ensure that the agreed impact depths were maintained on site and to record any 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 Cotswold Archaeology (CA 2013) and approved by Charles Parry, Archaeologist, Gloucestershire County Council and archaeological advisor to Tewkesbury Borough Council, the *Standard and guidance for an archaeological watching brief* (IfA 2009), 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), the *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MORPHE): Project Manager's Guide* (EH 2006) and any other relevant standards or guidance contained within Appendix B.

The site

1.3 The proposed development area encloses an area of 5.5ha, and comprises pasture fields bisected by a disused railway embankment of the Malvern and Tewkesbury Railway (Fig. 2). The site is generally level and lies at approximately 12m AOD, the only exception is the north-eastern part of the site which slopes gently downward to the south-east.

1.4 The underlying bedrock geology of the area is mapped as Rugby Limestone Member of the Jurassic Period and Branscombe Mudstone Formation of the Triassic Period overlain by Alluvium of the Quaternary Period (BGS 2013).

Archaeological background

- 1.5 A desk-based assessment (Wardell Armstrong 2011), geophysical survey, building recording and trial trenching (NP Archaeology 2011) have been undertaken and the results are summarised as follows:
- 1.6 The desk-based assessment identified that few known heritage assets dating to the prehistoric to medieval periods survive within the site (the exception being an unstratified Roman coin (HER ref. 12417) but that the free draining gravel soils in the vicinity of the confluence of Rivers Severn and Avon would have been attractive for settlement. Previous archaeological excavations (HER ref. 77 24, 33719), evaluations (HER ref. 12618, 1560 3, 19888, 2 0238, 2221 7, 27139, 3 3442-3) and watching briefs (HER ref. 21785, 22 252, 28265) have recorded Neolithic to Roman activity on land to the east and south-east of the site.
- 1.7 The Malvern and Tewkesbury Railway (HER ref. 11268) was constructed within the site between 1861 and 1864. The line was closed in 1961 and the track removed in 1964 (Wardell Armstrong 2011).
- 1.8 The three bridges within the nineteenth-century embankment within the site were subject to a programme of building recording (NP Archaeology 2011, 19-47).
- 1.9 The geophysical survey identified a number of linear anomalies of probable archaeological origin in the north-eastern part of the site (Area 1). A modern trackway was also identified in this part of the site and modern services were identified throughout the site (NP Archaeology 2011, 17-18).
- 1.10 The whole of the site was subject to trial trenching (20 trenches) but archaeological features were identified in Area 1 only. The trial trenching confirmed that a number of the linear anomalies identified during the geophysical survey represented ditches of Iron Age and/or Roman date. A number of broadly contemporary pits was also identified and one contained the disarticulated remains of an infant less than 6 months old. A possible surface, a post pad and packing stone, and a number of postholes were also identified. In the south-western part of Area 1 (Trenches 4, 7 and 8) the fills of the archaeological features were overlain by a probable buried Roman soil horizon. The archaeological remains were generally identified at a depth of c. 0.9m to 1.2m below present ground level (bpgl). It is probable that the

archaeological remains identified in Area 1 represent the remains of Iron Age and/or Roman field system and/or enclosure ditch es and occupation activity (NP Archaeology 2011, 48-56).

Archaeological objectives

1.11 The objectives of the archaeological works were:

- To ensure that the agreed impact depths were maintained on site for the spoil storage areas, haul roads, and land drainage;
- to monitor groundworks, and to identify, investigate and record all significant buried archaeological deposits revealed on the site during the course of the development groundworks;
- At the conclusion of the project, to produce an integrated archive for the project work and a report setting out the results of the project and the archaeological conclusions that can be drawn from the recorded data.

Methodology

1.12 The fieldwork followed the methodology set out within the WSI (CA 2013). An archaeologist was present during intrusive groundworks to ensure that the agreed depths of ground reduction were adhered to. The works consisted of ground reduction within Areas 1 and 2 (Fig. 2) for spoil storage, the construction of haul roads (both to a depth of 200mm bpgl), and the construction of land drains (to a depth of 600mm bpgl). Mechanical excavators used toothless buckets during all groundworks. The drainage trenching was done using a trenching machine and a single mechanical excavator using a 0.7m wide toothless trenching bucket was used to set the correct depth for drainage excavations.

1.13 If archaeological deposits were encountered, a written, graphic and photographic record was to be compiled in accordance with CA Technical Manual 1: *Fieldwork Recording Manual* (2007).

1.14 The archive from the watching brief is currently held by CA at their offices in Kemble. It will be deposited with Tewkesbury Museum. A summary of information from this project, set out within Appendix A, will be entered onto the OASIS online database of archaeological projects in Britain.

2. RESULTS (FIG 2)

- 2.1 Groundwork was monitored in the north-western part of Area 1 and in the southern part of Area 2. Depths of groundwork did not go below the previously agreed depths.
- 2.2 Natural geological substrate 102 consisted of yellow grey brown clay. It was exposed at 0.4m bpgl in the southern part of Area 2 during drainage excavations only. It was not exposed elsewhere on the site because groundwork did not reach a sufficient depth of excavation.
- 2.3 Overlying the natural geological substrate was subsoil 101 which consisted of orange grey brown sand clay. It was exposed at 0.2m bpgl in all parts of the site where groundwork was monitored but was only fully excavated to depth in the drainage excavations within Area 2, previously mentioned.
- 2.4 Subsoil 101 was overlain by topsoil 100 which consisted of dark brown silty clay up to 0.2m thick and was present across the entire site. It contained very occasional pottery fragments of modern date and these were not collected.

3. DISCUSSION

- 3.1 No archaeological features or deposits were observed during groundworks and, despite visual scanning of spoil, no artefactual material pre-dating the modern period was recovered. The agreed depths of ground reduction were adhered to and the known archaeological deposits situated in Area 1 were not disturbed. All observations of topsoil, subsoil, and natural geology conformed to what had been previously recorded during the archaeological evaluation.

4. CA PROJECT TEAM

Fieldwork was undertaken by Greg Crees. The report was written by Greg Crees. The illustrations were prepared by Lorna Gray. The archive has been compiled by Greg Crees, and prepared for deposition by James Johnson. The project was managed for CA by Laurent Coleman.

5. REFERENCES

BGS (British Geological Survey) 2013 <http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>
accessed 23 April 2013

CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2013 *Land Adjacent To The Mythe Water Treatment Works:
WSI for Archaeological Watching Brief*

NP Archaeology 2011 *Mythe Flood Alleviation Scheme, Tewkesbury, Gloucestershire:
Geophysical Survey, Building Recording and Preliminary Evaluation Report*, NP
Archaeology Report No. **CP10054**

Wardell Armstrong 2011 *Proposed Flood Compensation Works at Mythe Water Treatment
Works, Tewkesbury: Archaeological Assessment Report*, Wardell Armstrong Report
No. **ST11597/01**

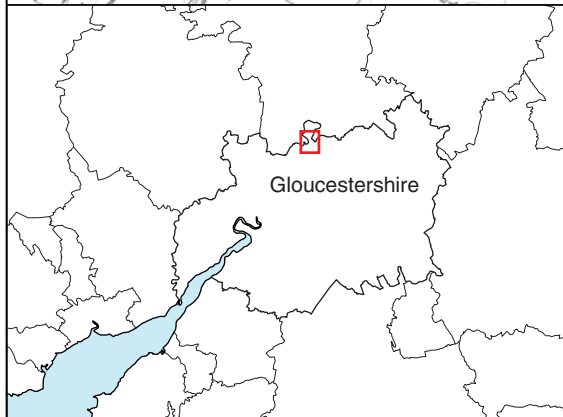
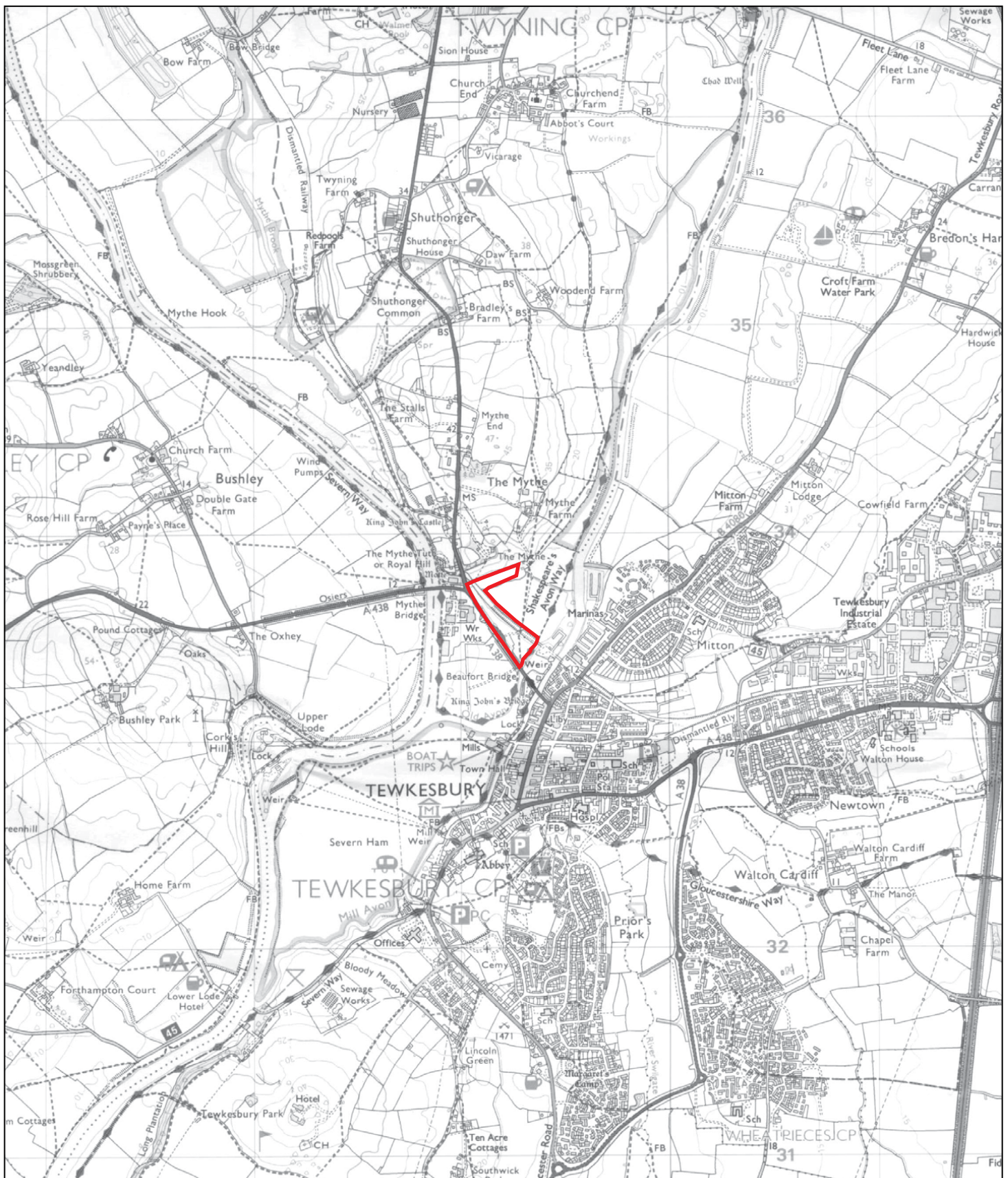


APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Context No.	Type Fill	of	Context interpretation	Description L	(m)	W (m)	Depth /thickness (m)	Spot-date
100	Layer		topsoil	dark brown silty clay			0.20	
101	Layer		subsoil	orange grey brown sand clay			0.20	
102	Nat		natural geology	yellow grey brown clay				

APPENDIX B: OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS	
Project Name	Land Adjacent to The Mythe Water Treatment Works, Mythe Road, Tewkesbury, Gloucestershire
Short description	An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology during groundworks associated with the development of flood compensation scheme at land adjacent to Mythe Water Treatment Works, Mythe Road, Tewkesbury. No archaeological features or deposits were observed during groundworks, and no artefactual material pre-dating the modern period was recovered.
Project dates	
Project type	Watching Brief
Previous work	Geophysical survey, field evaluation and building recording NP Archaeology 2011 Report No. CP10054 Archaeological assessment report Wardell Armstrong 2011 ST11597/01
Future work	None
PROJECT LOCATION	
Site Location	Mythe Road, Tewkesbury, Gloucestershire
Study area (M ² /ha) 5.5ha	
Site co-ordinates (8 Fig Grid Reference)	SO 891 336
PROJECT CREATORS	
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology
Project Brief originator	N/A
Project Design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology
Project Manager	Laurent Coleman
Project Supervisor	Greg Crees
MONUMENT TYPE	
None	
SIGNIFICANT FINDS	
None	
PROJECT ARCHIVES	
Intended final location of archive Tewkesbury Museum	Content (e.g. pottery , animal bone etc) None
Physical	None
Paper	Trench Recording Form
Digital	Digital photos
BIBLIOGRAPHY	
CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2013 <i>Land Adjacent To The Mythe Water Treatment Works: Archaeological Watching Brief</i> CA Report 13500	



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PROJECT TITLE

Land adjacent to the Mythe Water Treatment Works

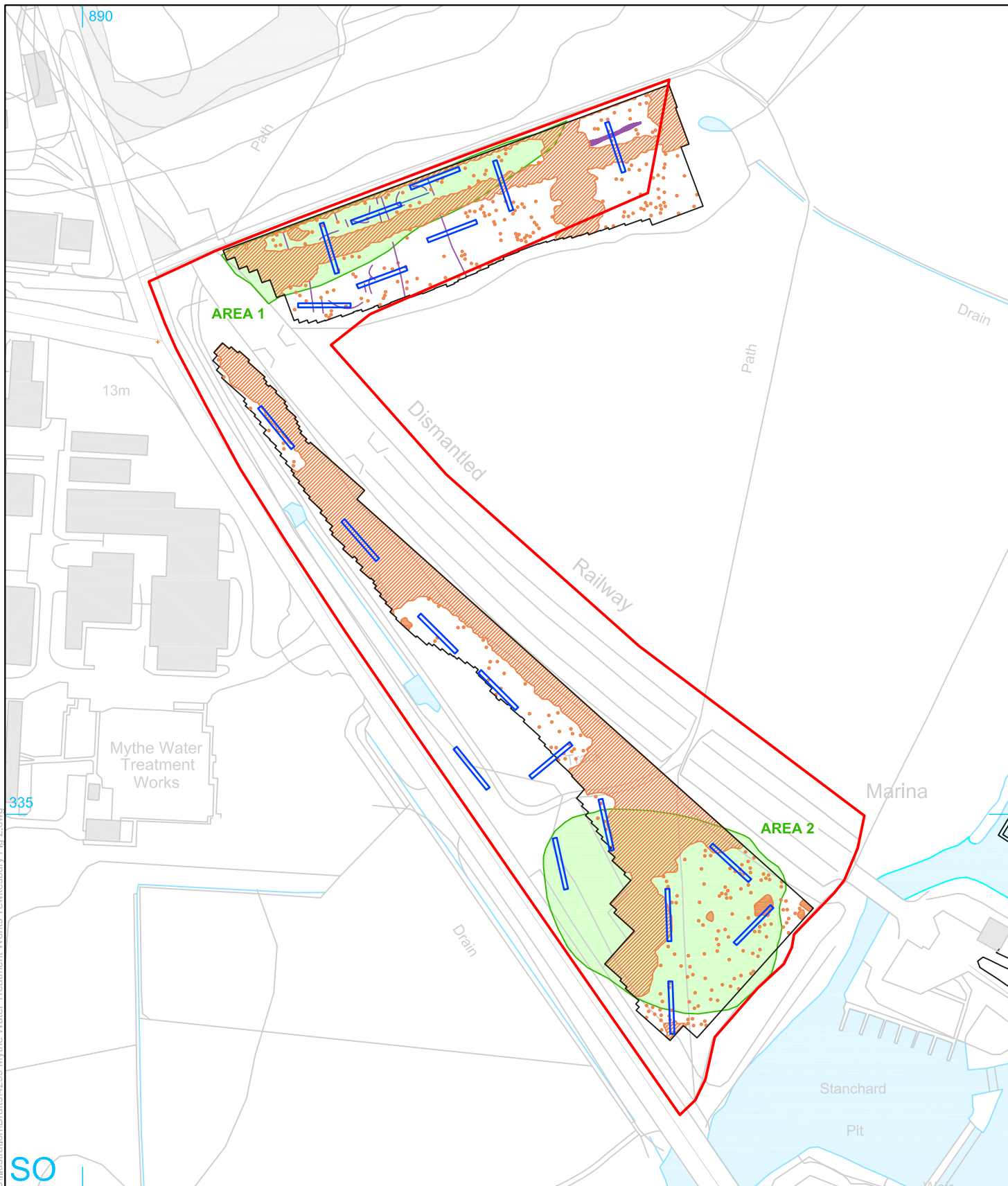
FIGURE TITLE

Site location plan

PROJECT NO. 4299 DATE 28-08-2013
DRAWN BY LG REVISION 00
APPROVED BY PJM SCALE@A4 1:25,000

FIGURE NO.

1



- site
- area of observed groundworks
- previous evaluation trench (NP Archaeology 2011)

- Geophysical Survey Interpretation Results**
- outline of geophysical survey area
 - negative magnetic anomaly
 - positive magnetic anomaly
 - dipolar magnetic anomaly



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PROJECT TITLE
 Land adjacent to the Mythe Water Treatment Works

FIGURE TITLE
 The site, showing location of groundworks, previous archaeological works and geophysical survey results

PROJECT NO.	4299	DATE	14-11-2013	<i>FIGURE NO.</i>
DRAWN BY	LG	REVISION	00	2
APPROVED BY	PJM	SCALE@A4	1:2500	

