

**Land off Barton Street
Gloucester
Gloucestershire**

Archaeological Watching Brief

for

Barratt Homes


CA Project: 3806
CA Report: 12310

October 2012

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Gloucester
Gloucestershire

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CA Project: 3806
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date	23 October 2012
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date	9 November 2012
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signed	
date	16 November 2012
issue	01

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

Fig. 2 The site, showing location of observed groundworks (1:200)



SUMMARY

Project Name: Land off Barton Street
Location: Gloucester, Gloucestershire
NGR: SO 8435 1741
Type: Watching Brief
Date: 24th September-22nd October 2012
Planning Reference: 11/01410/FUL
Location of Archive: To be deposited with Gloucester City Museum & Art Gallery
Accession Number: GLRCM : 2012.10
Site Code: BTS 12

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology during groundworks associated with the residential development of land off Barton Street.

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-October 2012 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological watching brief for Barratt Homes at Land off Barton Street (centred on NGR: SO 8435 1741; Fig. 1). The watching brief was undertaken to fulfil a condition attached to a planning consent for residential development of the site granted by Gloucester City Council (Planning ref: 11/01410/FUL). 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 (2012) and approved by Gloucester City Council, acting on the advice of Andrew Armstrong, City Archaeologist and archaeological advisor to GCC. 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* (GCC 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* (English Heritage 2006). It was monitored by Andrew Armstrong, including a site visit on 5th October 2012.

The site

- 1.3 The proposed development site is approximately 1.9ha in size and lies within an area that had been occupied by buildings of the former Williams and James Engineering Works immediately north of Barton Street and immediately west of the Cheltenham-Gloucester railway line (Fig. 2). This area, within the Barton district of Gloucester, lies 1.7km south-east of the historic centre of Gloucester, in the Civil Parish of Gloucester and within Gloucester City Council Planning Authority.
- 1.4 The site is bounded to the north by a high metal fence, to the east by a railway embankment, to the west by a wooden fence with metal fence behind. The southern boundary comprises a high brick wall at the eastern end and a metal fence at the western end. The site lies at approximately 21m AOD and is relatively flat.



- 1.5 The underlying solid geology of the area is mapped as Blue Lias Formation and Charmouth Mudstone Formation of the Rhaetian to Peinsbachian geological era (BGS 2012). These deposits are overlain by superficial deposits of Cheltenham sand and gravel along the course of the River Twyver and dating to the Quaternary period (*ibid*). These superficial Cheltenham sand and gravel deposits were encountered on site.

Archaeological background

- 1.6 Detailed information regarding the archaeological background of the site is contained within the Heritage Desk Based Assessment (CA 2011) and is summarised below.
- 1.7 No designated or non-designated heritage assets are recorded within the site. The site was undeveloped prior to the construction of the Williams and James engineering works from the early 20th century. The earliest industrial structures date from the inter-war period and include the former workshop buildings and associated office, which are of some local, but relatively limited, historic interest. The office block and the site boundary wall are also of some local, but again relatively limited, architectural interest. Remaining structures on the site are not considered to comprise heritage assets. The site lay approximately 1.4km outside of the Roman and medieval settlements at Gloucester, and there is generally a low demonstrated potential for pre-20th-century archaeological remains within the site. No known heritage assets or potential heritage assets of such significance as to preclude redevelopment within the site have been identified.

Methodology

- 1.8 The fieldwork followed the methodology set out within the WSI (CA 2012). An archaeologist was present during intrusive groundworks comprising removal of the concrete slab, grubbing-out of concrete obstructions below ground level and the excavation of foundation trenches in the south-east and south-west corners of the site (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). Modern finds were recovered from the made ground deposits across site but were not retained due to their recent date.

- 1.9 The archive from the Watching Brief is currently held by CA at their offices in Kemble and will be deposited with Gloucester City Museum & Art Gallery under accession number GLRCM : 2012.10. 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 removal of concrete slab 100/200/301 did not reveal deposits beyond modern gravel sub-base 101/203/302 across the site; however the grubbing-out of obstructions such as fuel tanks, concrete machine-bases and services and the excavation of foundation trenches provided numerous opportunities to view and record the site stratigraphy down to the natural sands and gravels.
- 2.2 The natural geological substrate (104/109/304) consisting of mid orange coarse sand and gravels was revealed at an average depth of 0.78m below present ground level. This was overlain by modern made ground deposits (102/107/202/303/305) ranging from 0.3m to 0.73m in thickness, which were in turn sealed by 0.15m to 0.29m of gravel sub-base 101/203/302 below 0.15m of concrete hardstanding 100/200/301. In the south-west corner of the site the concrete hardstanding was overlain by tarmac associated with a demolished garage.
- 2.3 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. The demolition of the buildings associated with the Williams and James Engineering Works revealed a section through the adjacent Railway embankment with undisturbed topsoil deposits overlying approximately 0.3m of natural sand surviving above the current ground level. This suggests that the natural sand may already have been truncated during works associated with the construction of the Engineering Works.



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 may indicate that structural remains associated with the Roman and medieval settlements at Gloucester do not extend as far as or were not exposed by the development, or more likely, that they may have been removed during the construction of the Williams and James Engineering Works.

4. CA PROJECT TEAM

Fieldwork was undertaken by Rebecca Riley and Dan Sausins. The report was written by Rebecca Riley. The illustrations were prepared by Lorna Gray. The archive has been compiled by Rebecca Riley, and prepared for deposition by James Johnson. The project was managed for CA by Richard Young.

5. REFERENCES

BGS (British Geological Survey) 2012 <http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>
accessed 23 October 2012

CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2011 *Land at Barton Street, Gloucester, Gloucestershire: Heritage Desk-Based Assessment*, CA Report No. **11250**

CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2012 *Land off Barton Street, Gloucester, Gloucestershire: Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Watching Brief*

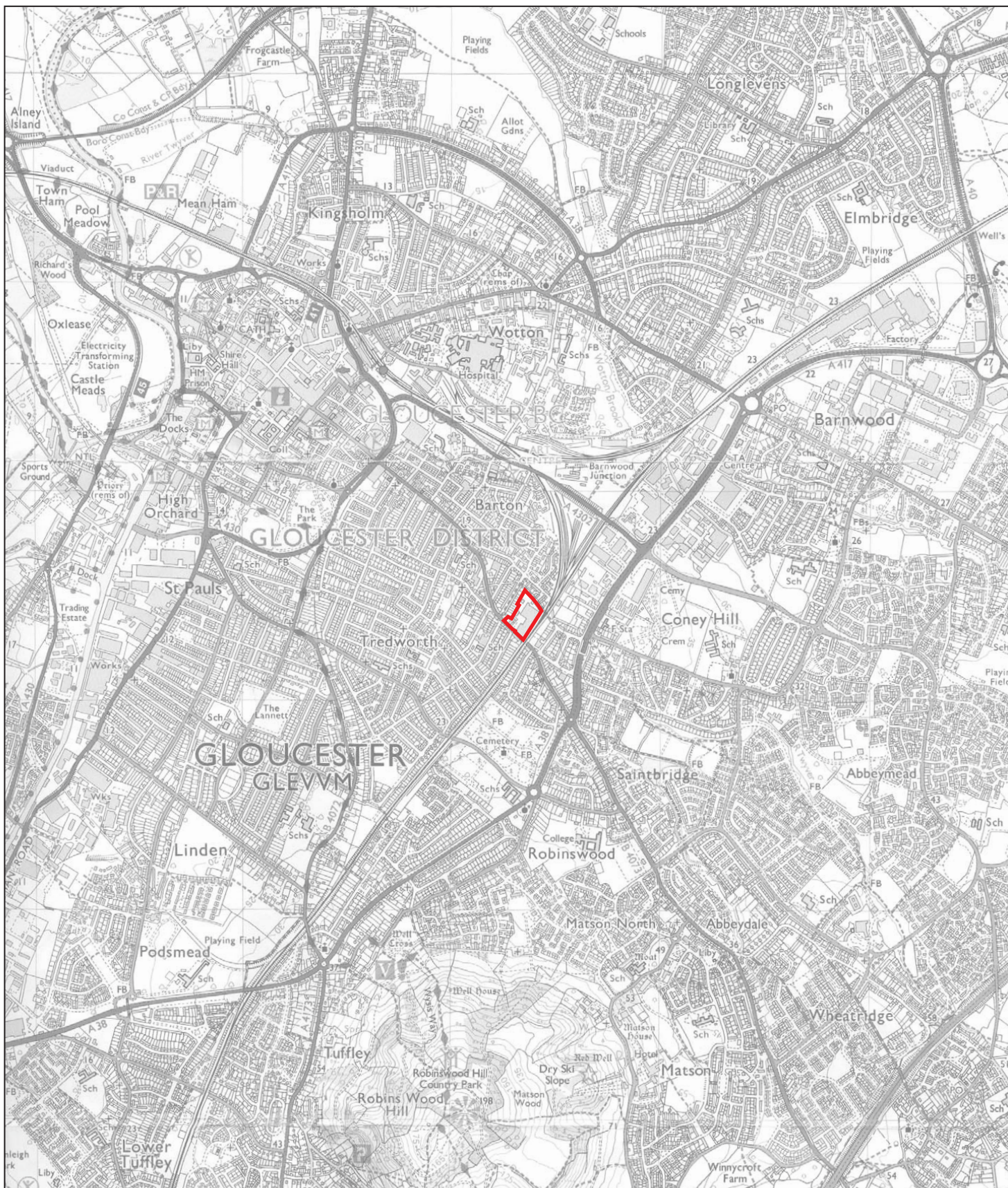


APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
100	Layer	Concrete hardstanding			0.15	Modern
101	Layer	Gravel sub-base for concrete 100			0.20	Modern
102	Layer	Made ground deposit associated with construction of factory; dark yellowish grey silty sand with common coal/clinker fragments			0.30	Modern
103	Deposit	Topsoil deposit from Railway embankment; dark grey humic silty sand			≤0.40	Modern
104	Natural substrate	Mid orange coarse sand and gravels, very friable				
105	Deposit	Spoil from Badger sett; mid orangey brown fine silty sand			≤0.20	Modern
106	Layer	Made ground; clinker/ slag deposit below 100 in southern part of Area 1			n/k	Modern
107	Layer	Mixed grey and yellow silty sand with common coke/ charcoal flecks			≤0.23	Modern
108	Layer	Rubble backfill of service trench			≤0.32	Modern
109	Natural substrate	Dark orangey yellow sandy clayey silt			n/k	
200	Layer	Concrete hardstanding			0.15	Modern
201	Layer	Tarmac			0.11	Modern
202	Deposit	Modern rubble containing concrete, bricks etc beneath polythene			0.29	Modern
203	Layer	Gravel sub-base			0.29	Modern
300	Layer	Tarmac				0.08
301	Layer	Concrete Hardstanding				0.17
302	Layer	Gravel sub-base for concrete 301				0.15
303	Layer	Made ground deposit associated with construction of factory; dark yellowish grey silty sand with common coal/clinker fragments				0.30
304	Natural Substrate	Mid orange coarse sand and gravels, very friable				-
305	Layer	Below 303; mid orangey yellow sandy clay with lenses of mid greyish brown – probably associated with construction of garage or installation of fuel tanks				0.38

APPENDIX E: OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project Name	Land off Barton Street	
Short description (250 words maximum)	<p>An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology during groundworks associated with the residential development of land off Barton Street.</p> <p>No features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed during groundworks, and no artefactual material pre-dating the modern period was recovered.</p>	
Project dates	24th September-22nd October 2012	
Project type	Watching Brief	
Previous work	Desk-Based Assessment, CA 2011	
Future work	Unknown	
PROJECT LOCATION		
Site Location	Gloucester, Gloucestershire	
Study area (M ² /ha)	1.9ha	
Site co-ordinates (8 Fig Grid Reference)	SO 8435 1741	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Brief originator	None	
Project Design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Manager	Richard Young	
Project Supervisor	Rebecca Riley	
MONUMENT TYPE		
None		
SIGNIFICANT FINDS		
None		
PROJECT ARCHIVES		
	Intended final location of archive (museum/Accession no.)	Content (e.g. pottery, animal bone etc)
Physical	n/a	None
Paper	Gloucester City Museum & Art Gallery; GLRCM : 2012.10	Trench Recording Forms, Context sheets, Photographic Registers
Digital	Gloucester City Museum & Art Gallery; GLRCM : 2012.10	Digital photos, Geomatics data
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
<p>CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2012 <i>Land off Barton Street, Gloucester, Gloucestershire: Archaeological Watching Brief</i> CA typescript report 12310</p>		



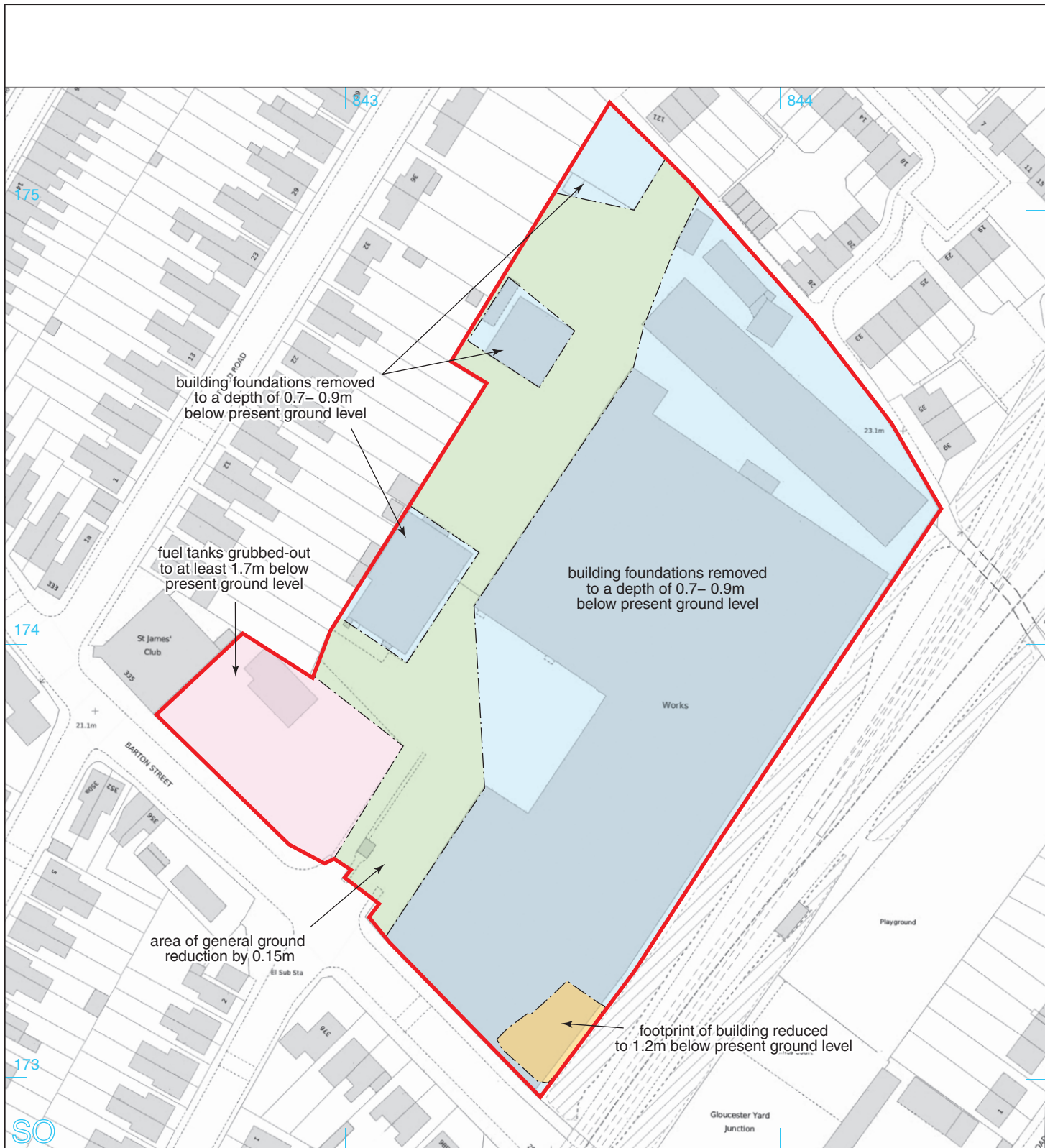
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PROJECT TITLE
 Land off Barton Street, Gloucester
 Gloucestershire

FIGURE TITLE
 Site location plan

PROJECT NO.	3806	DATE	23-10-2012	FIGURE NO.
DRAWN BY	LG	REVISION	00	1
APPROVED BY	PJM	SCALE@A4	1:25,000	

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site



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PROJECT TITLE

Land off Barton Street, Gloucester
 Gloucestershire

FIGURE TITLE

The site, showing location of
 observed groundworks



3



4

3 View looking north-east, showing general ground reduction

4 View looking north-east, showing ground reduction in the centre of the site



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PROJECT TITLE

Land off Barton Street, Gloucester
 Gloucestershire

FIGURE TITLE

Photographs

PROJECT NO. 3806 DATE 23-11-2012
 DRAWN BY LG REVISION 00
 APPROVED BY PJM SCALE@A4 N/A

FIGURE NO.

3 & 4



5



6

5 View looking south-west, showing grubbing-out of petrol tanks in the south-west corner of the site

6 View looking south-west, showing foundations in the south-east corner of the site



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PROJECT TITLE

Land off Barton Street, Gloucester
 Gloucestershire

FIGURE TITLE

Photographs

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FIGURE NO.

5 & 6