

**Rea Lane
Hempsted
Gloucester**

Archaeological Watching Brief

for
The Environment Agency


CA Project: 4944
CA Report: 14282

August 2014

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Gloucester

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date	7 August 2014
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signed	
date	7 August 2014
issue	01

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SUMMARY

Project Name: Rea Lane
Location: Hempsted, Gloucester
NGR: SO 8082 1672
Type: Watching Brief
Date: 18 June 2014
Location of Archive: To be deposited with Gloucester City Museum and Art Gallery
Site Code: RLH 14

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology during groundworks associated with the excavation of six exploratory test pits at Rea Lane, Hempsted, Gloucester.

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



1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 In June 2014 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological watching brief for the Environment Agency at Rea Lane, Hempsted, Gloucester (centred on NGR: SO 8082 1672; Fig. 1). The objective of the watching brief was to record all archaeological remains exposed during the groundworks.

1.2 The watching brief was carried out in accordance with a detailed Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) produced by CA (2014a) and approved by Andrew Armstrong, City Archaeologist, Gloucester City Council (GCC). The fieldwork also followed the *Standard and guidance for an archaeological watching brief* (IfA 2009), 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).

The site

1.3 The site is approximately 0.75ha in extent, and comprises agricultural arable land. The site was bounded to the west by the River Severn and to the north, south and east by agricultural land. The site was located at approximately 9m AOD; existing flood defences were located adjacent to the river but the ground was otherwise flat.

1.4 The underlying bedrock geology of the area was mapped as Blue Lias Formation and Charmouth Mudstone Formation of the Jurassic and Triassic Periods. Superficial clay, silt, and sand Tidal Flat Deposits were also present (BGS 2014).

Archaeological background

1.5 Medieval earthwork remains of pillow mounds associated with the Llanthony Priory estate were located c. 900m to the north-east of the site at Newark Farm. There was also evidence for the remains of a Roman settlement (including burials) present beneath these later earthworks (CA 2013, 4). Archaeological evaluations in 2013 and 2014 in the vicinity of Newark Farm revealed Roman ditches, a pillow mound, a medieval boundary ditch and the remains of ridge and furrow earthworks (CA 2013, 8 and CA 2014a, 12). A Roman ditch has also been identified during archaeological evaluation c. 350m to the south east of the site (Gloucester City Council HER reference: 1302).

Archaeological objectives

- 1.6 The objectives of the archaeological works were:
- 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

- 1.7 The fieldwork followed the methodology set out within the WSI (CA 2014a). An archaeologist was present during the excavation of six exploratory test pits which measured 2.5m in length and 0.5m 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* (2013).
- 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 and Art Gallery. 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 2-3)

- 2.1 Excavation of the test pits was halted at between 2.9–3.9m below present ground level (bpgl) in all of the pits due to collapse of the sides. The natural clay substrate was not reached at this depth in any of the pits. The earliest layer in the stratigraphic sequence was a deposit of grey sandy silt alluvium containing snail shell fragments. This layer was encountered at an average depth of 2.56m bpgl (5.44m to 5.94m AOD) and had a maximum excavated thickness of 1.6m. Overlying this was a layer of yellow-brown silty clay alluvium, averaging 1.6m in thickness, which was in turn overlain by an orange-brown sandy silt alluvial deposit, typically 0.55m thick. The uppermost alluvial layer was sealed by a 0.3m thick layer of dark red-brown topsoil.

2.2 No features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed during groundworks and, despite visual scanning of spoil, no artefactual material 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 may indicate that the Roman and medieval activity previously recorded in Hempsted did not extend as far as the river banks.

4. CA PROJECT TEAM

Fieldwork was undertaken by Christopher Leonard. The report was written by Christopher Leonard. The illustrations were prepared by Aleksandra Osinska. The archive has been compiled and prepared for deposition by Hazel O'Neill. The project was managed for CA by Laurent Coleman.

5. REFERENCES

BGS (British Geological Survey) 2014 *Geology of Britain Viewer* <http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html> Accessed 26 June 2014

CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2013 *Newark Farm, Hempsted, Gloucester: Archaeological Evaluation*. CA Typescript Report **13575**

CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2014a *Rea Lane, Hempsted, Gloucester: Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Watching Brief*

CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2014b *Land at Newark Farm, Hempsted, Gloucester: Archaeological Evaluation*. CA Typescript Report **14240**

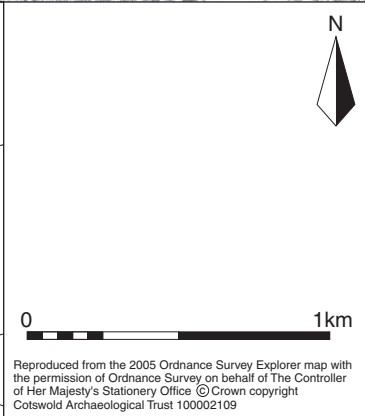
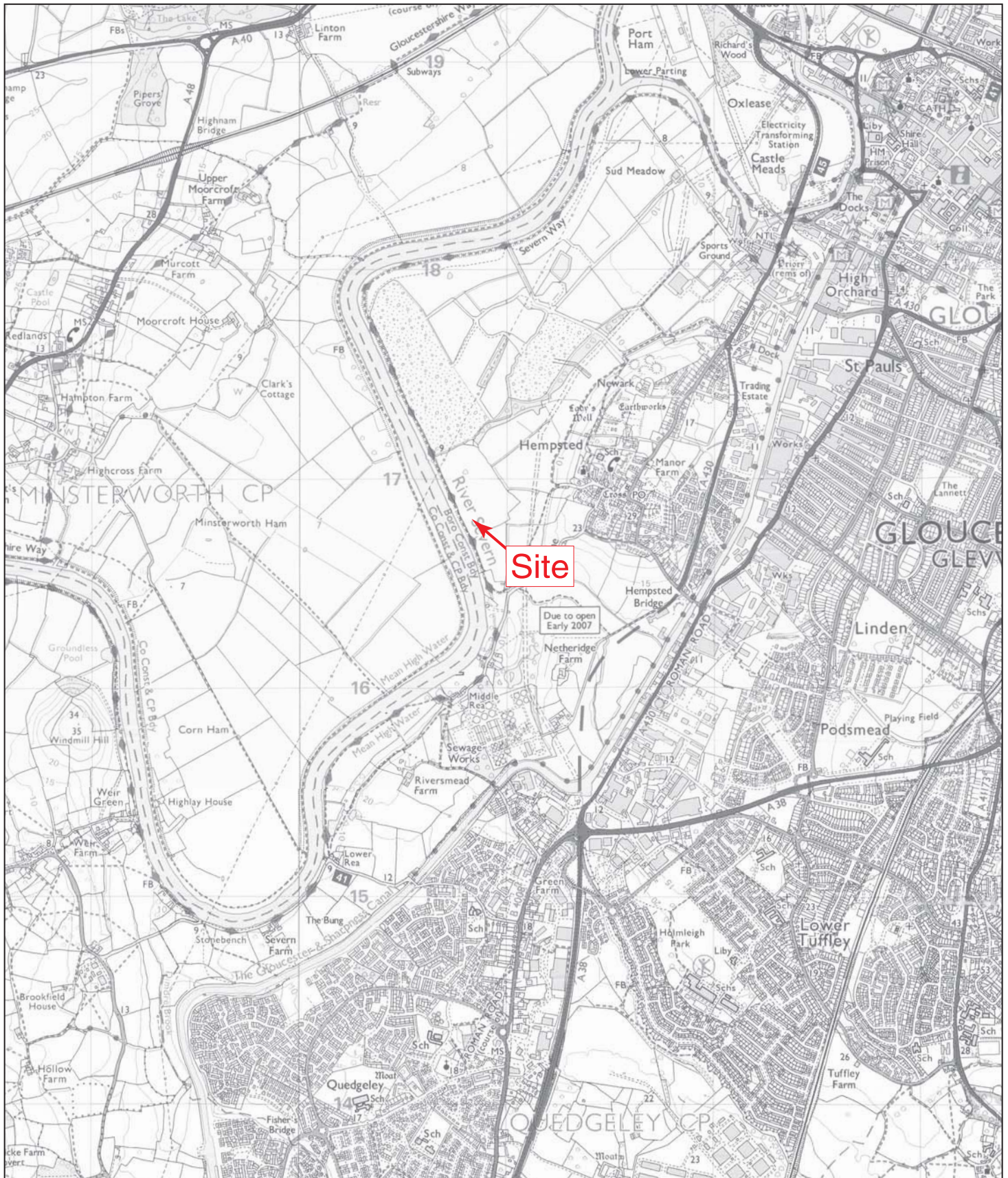


APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Test Pit	Context No.	Type	Context interpretation	Description	L (m)	W (m)	Depth /thickness (m)
1	100	Layer	Topsoil	Dark red-brown sandy silt	2	0.4	0.6
1	101	Layer	Alluvium	Mid orange-brown sandy silt	2	0.4	0.19
1	102	Layer	Alluvium	Mid yellow-brown silty clay	2	0.4	1.59
1	103	Layer	Alluvium	Grey sandy silt	2	0.4	>0.2
2	200	Layer	Topsoil	Same as 100	2	0.4	0.3
2	201	Layer	Alluvium	Same as 101	2	0.4	0.65
2	202	Layer	Alluvium	Same as 102	2	0.4	1.45
2	203	Layer	Alluvium	Same as 103	2	0.4	>0.6
3	300	Layer	Topsoil	Same as 100	2	0.4	0.28
3	301	Layer	Alluvium	Same as 101	2	0.4	0.52
3	302	Layer	Alluvium	Same as 102	2	0.4	1.9
3	303	Layer	Alluvium	Same as 103	2	0.4	>0.5
4	400	Layer	Topsoil	Same as 100	2	0.4	0.3
4	401	Layer	Alluvium	Same as 101	2	0.4	0.9
4	402	Layer	Alluvium	Same as 102	2	0.4	1.1
4	403	Layer	Alluvium	Same as 103	2	0.4	>1.6
5	500	Layer	Topsoil	Same as 100	2	0.4	0.3
5	501	Layer	Alluvium	Same as 101	2	0.4	0.55
5	502	Layer	Alluvium	Same as 102	2	0.4	2.05
5	503	Layer	Alluvium	Same as 103	2	0.4	>0.1
6	600	Layer	Topsoil	Same as 100	2	0.4	0.3
6	601	Layer	Alluvium	Same as 101	2	0.4	0.5
6	602	Layer	Alluvium	Same as 102	2	0.4	1.9
6	603	Layer	Alluvium	Same as 103	2	0.4	>0.2

APPENDIX B: OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project Name	Rea Lane, Hempsted, Gloucester	
Short description (250 words maximum)	An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology during groundworks associated with the excavation of six exploratory test pits at Rea Lane, Hempsted, Gloucester. No features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed during groundworks, and no artefactual material pre-dating the modern period was recovered.	
Project dates	18 June 2014	
Project type	Watching Brief	
Previous work	None	
Future work	Unknown	
PROJECT LOCATION		
Site Location	Hempsted, Gloucester	
Study area	0.75ha	
Site co-ordinates	SO 8082 1672	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Brief originator	Gloucester City Council	
Project Design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Manager	Laurent Coleman	
Project Supervisor	Christopher Leonard	
MONUMENT TYPE	None	
SIGNIFICANT FINDS	None	
PROJECT ARCHIVES		
	Intended final location of archive	Content
Physical	-	-
Paper	Gloucester City Museum and Art Gallery	Context sheets, Site drawings etc
Digital	Gloucester City Museums and Art Gallery	Database, digital photos etc
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2014 <i>Rea Lane, Hempsted, Gloucester: Archaeological Watching Brief</i> . CA typescript report 14282		



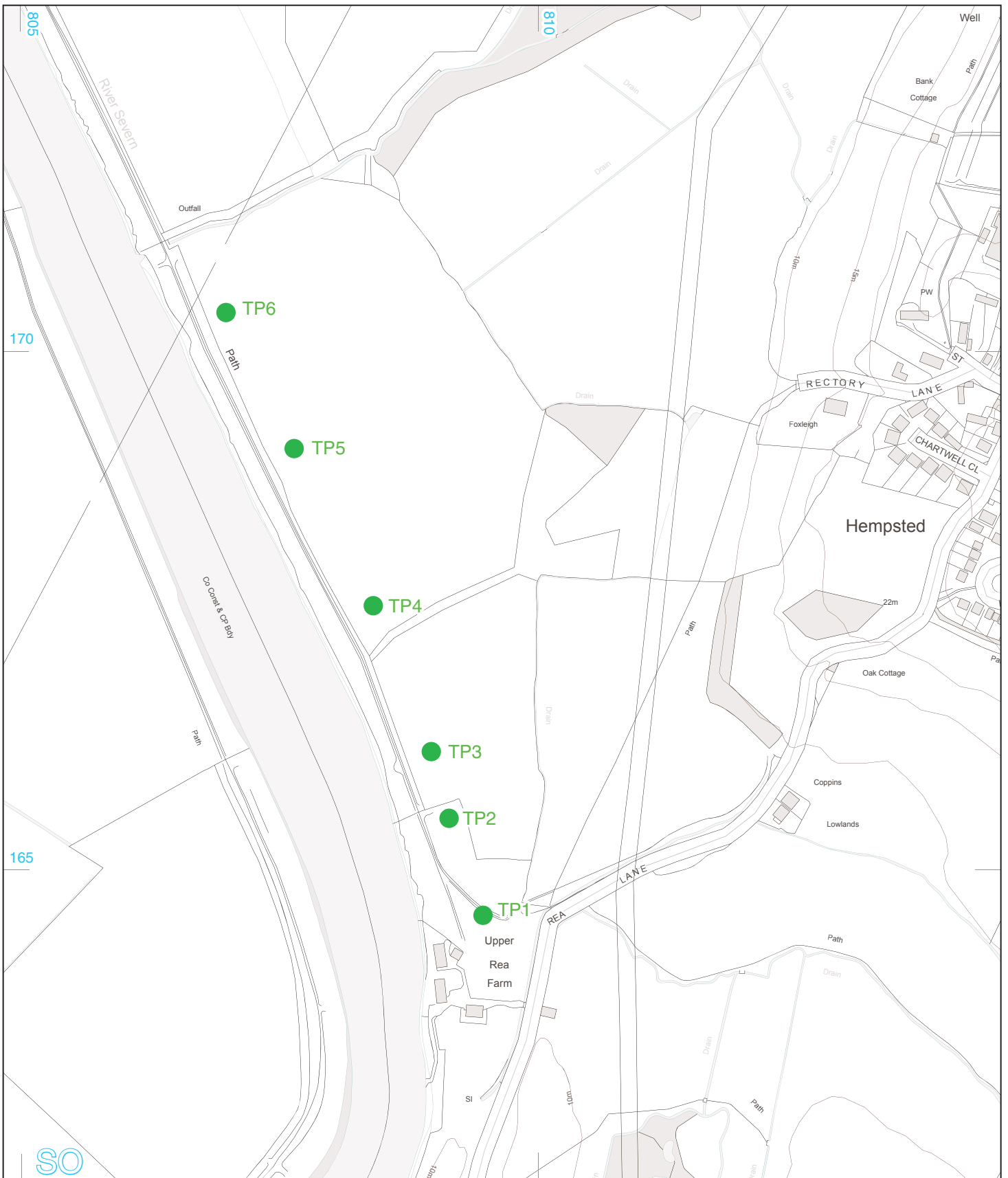

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PROJECT TITLE
 Rea Lane, Hempested, Gloucester

FIGURE TITLE
 Site location plan

PROJECT NO. 4944	DATE 26/06/2014	FIGURE NO.
DRAWN BY AO	REVISION 00	1
APPROVED BY LM	SCALE@A4 1:25,000	

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 Test Pit (2.5m x 0.5m)



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PROJECT TITLE

Rea Lane, Hempsted, Gloucester

FIGURE TITLE

The site, showing location of test pits





3 Photograph of south-east facing section of Test Pit 6 (1m scale)



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PROJECT TITLE

Rea Lane, Hempsted, Gloucester

FIGURE TITLE

Photograph

PROJECT NO.	4944	DATE	26/06/2014	FIGURE NO.
DRAWN BY	AO	REVISION	00	3
APPROVED BY	LM	SCALE@A4	N/A	