

**Land at Lydney B
Lydney
Gloucestershire**

Archaeological Watching Brief

for

CgMs Consulting

on behalf of

Robert Hitchins Ltd (and its successors in title to the land)

CA Project: 5012


CA Report: 14356

August 2014

Land at Lydney B
Lydney
Gloucestershire

Archaeological Watching Brief

CA Project: 5012
CA Report: 14356

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date	26 August 2014
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date	29 August 2014
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signed	
date	29 August 2014
issue	01

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CONTENTS

SUMMARY	2
1. INTRODUCTION.....	3
<i>The site</i>	3
<i>Archaeological background</i>	3
<i>Methodology</i>	5
2. RESULTS (FIGS 2-3).....	5
3. DISCUSSION.....	6
4. CA PROJECT TEAM.....	6
5. REFERENCES.....	6
APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS	8
APPENDIX B: OASIS REPORT FORM.....	9

LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

- Fig. 1 Site location plan (1:25.000)
- Fig. 2 The site, showing location of test pits and boreholes



SUMMARY

Project Name: Land at Lydney B
Location: Lydney, Gloucestershire
NGR: SO 86429 0369
Type: Watching Brief
Date: 6-7 August 2014
Location of Archive: To be deposited with Dean Heritage Centre
Site Code: LYB 14

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology during groundworks associated with the excavation of twelve exploratory test pits and twelve boreholes on land at Lydney B, Lydney, Gloucestershire.

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



1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 In August 2014 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological watching brief for CgMs Consulting, on behalf of Robert Hitchins and its immediate successors in title to the land, at Lydney B, Lydney, Gloucestershire (centred on NGR: SO 86429 0369; Fig. 1). The objective of the watching brief was to record all archaeological remains exposed during geotechnical investigation works.

1.2 The watching brief was carried out in accordance with a detailed Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) produced by CA (2014). 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* (EH 2006).

The site

1.3 The site is located approximately 1km to the south of Lydney town centre. It is bound to the north-west by Highfield Road, to the east by A48, and to the north, south and west by agricultural land.

1.4 The underlying bedrock geology of the area is mapped as St Maughans Formation - Argillaceous Rocks and Sandstone (BGS 2014).

Archaeological background

1.5 An archaeological desk-based assessment and a subsequent programme of archaeological trenching have previously been undertaken throughout the site (CgMs 2002 and WA 2003).

1.6 The assessment noted that there were no records of Neolithic or Bronze Age activity within the current site. However, a number of archaeological sites and finds are recorded locally including an ovoid crop-mark to the south-east of the current site, a single worked flint flake 600m east of the site and a Neolithic blade and five debris flakes 300m north-west of the site (CgMs 2002).



- 1.7 Similarly, no evidence for Iron Age, Roman or Saxon/early medieval activity is evidenced within the site although a possible Roman road (Highfield Road) forms the northern boundary of the site (ibid.).
- 1.8 Both Rodley Manor and Crump Farm comprise post-medieval buildings. There is no evidence that Crump Farm is earlier than the 18th century. However, there are a number of undated earthworks surrounding Rodley Manor suggestive of medieval occupation, possibly a farmstead. Historic map evidence suggests that the general field pattern has broadly survived unchanged since the 19th century (ibid.).
- 1.9 The subsequent evaluation trenching identified limited evidence for both Roman and medieval iron working as well as evidence for possible medieval stone buildings (WA 2003).
- 1.10 Evaluation trenching and subsequent excavations undertaken approximately 1km to the south of the current site identified the remains of an unenclosed mound or barrow, containing 22 cremations, three of them contained in collared urns of Middle Bronze Age date (CA 2013). A number of other features excavated in the immediate vicinity may be contemporary with the barrow. A Late Iron Age sub-rectangular domestic enclosure containing numerous postholes and pits, probably representing a domestic farmstead, was also identified. The presence of quantities of metallurgical debris within Iron Age contexts suggests that this settlement was involved in iron production (ibid.).
- 1.11 Subsequent Roman activity included modifications to the Iron Age enclosure, with again a significant quantity of metallurgical debris suggesting that continued iron working throughout this period. Some evidence of medieval ironworking or production was also found, although there was no accompanying settlement evidence (ibid.).

Archaeological objectives

- 1.12 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

- 1.13 The fieldwork followed the methodology set out within the WSI (CA 2014). An archaeologist was present during the excavation of twelve exploratory test pits which typically measured 1.5m in length and 0.7m in width. Twelve sleeved boreholes which measured 0.3m in diameter were augured during the current works but were not monitored (Fig. 2).
- 1.14 Where archaeological deposits were encountered written, graphic and photographic records were compiled in accordance with CA Technical Manual 1: *Fieldwork Recording Manual* (2013).
- 1.15 The archive from the watching brief is currently held by CA at their offices in Kemble and will be deposited with Dean Heritage Centre. 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 Excavation of the test pits was typically undertaken to a depth of between 1m and 1.5m below the present ground level (bpgl). The natural geological substrate, consisting of red clay, was revealed at an average depth of 0.4m below present ground level. It was overlain by subsoil, averaging 0.1m in thickness, which was in turn sealed by 0.3m of 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 most probably reflects the low density of such features as previously evidenced during the preceding evaluation trenching, coupled with the very limited nature of the current works.

4. CA PROJECT TEAM

Fieldwork was undertaken by Jonathan Orellana. The report was written by Jonathan Orellana. 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 Cliff Bateman.

5. REFERENCES

BGS (British Geological Survey) 2014 Geology of Britain Viewer http://maps.bgs.ac.uk/geology_viewer_google/googleviewer.html Accessed 31 July 2014

CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2014 *Land at Lydney-B, Gloucestershire: Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Watching Brief*

CA 2013 *Land South of Lakeside Avenue, Tutnalls, Lydney, Gloucestershire: Post Excavation Assessment and Updated Project Design*. CA typescript report **13128**

CgMs 2002 *An Archaeological Desk Based Assessment, Land East of Lydney, Gloucestershire*.

WA (Wessex Archaeology) 2003 *Land east of Lydney, Gloucestershire. Archaeological Evaluation*

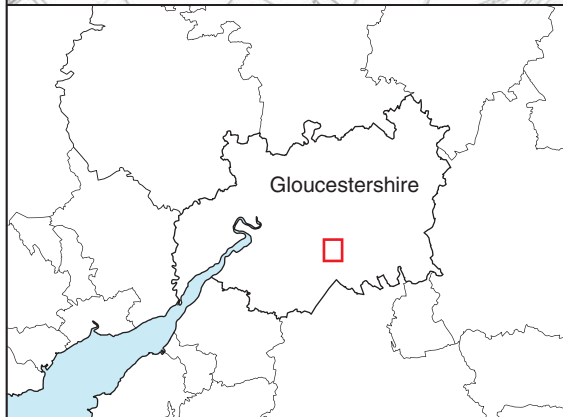
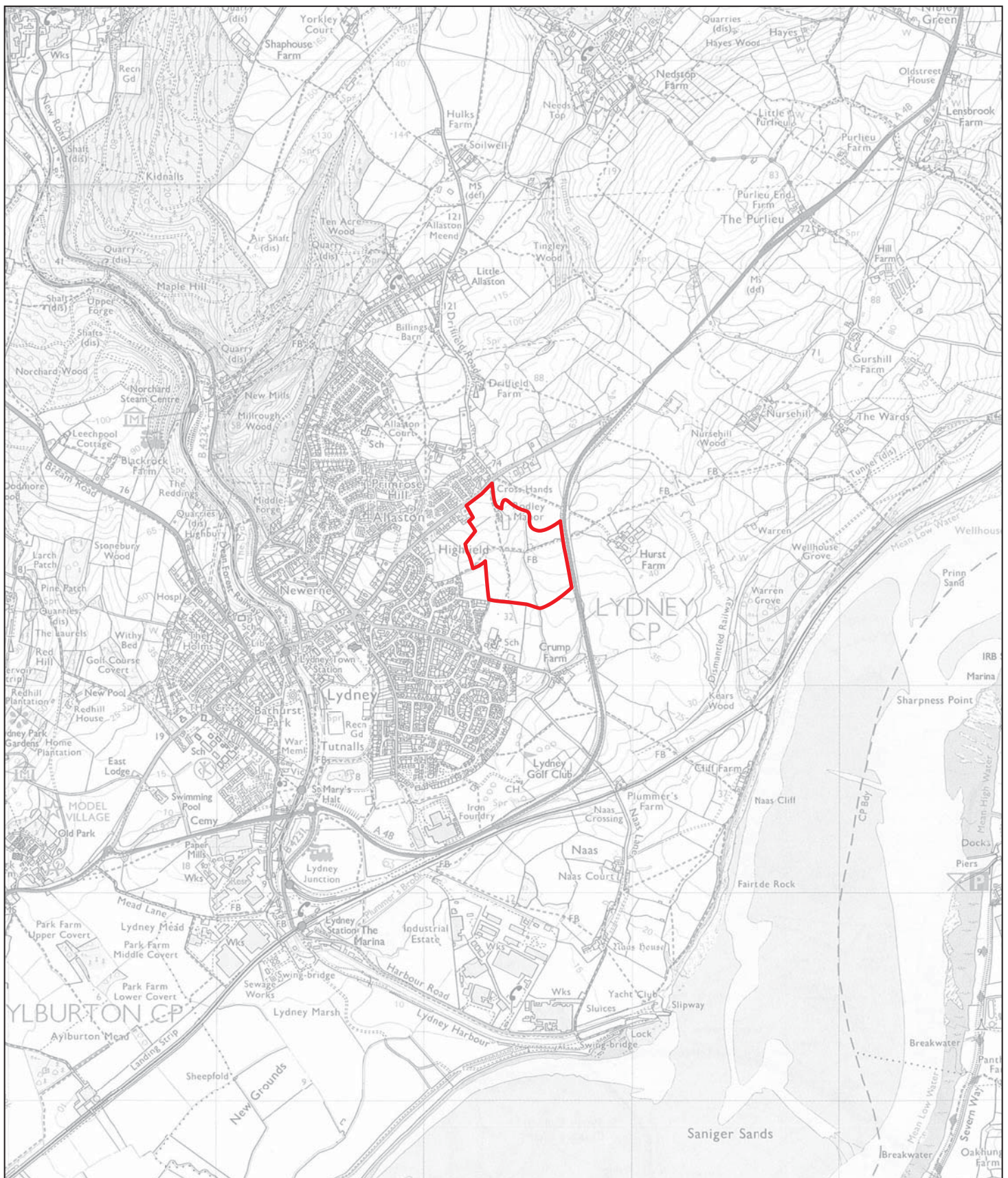


APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Test Pit	Context No.	Type	Context interpretation	Description	L (m)	W (m)	Depth /thickness (m)
1	100	Layer	Topsoil	Dark brown sandy silt	1.5	0.7	0.25
1	101	Layer	Subsoil	Mid red brown silty clay	1.5	0.7	0.1
1	102	Layer	Natural substrate	Firm mid brown red clay	1.5	0.7	
2	200	Layer	Topsoil	Same as 100	1.7	0.7	0.1
2	201	Layer	Subsoil	Same as 101	1.7	0.7	0.1
2	202	Layer	Natural substrate	Same as 202	1.7	0.7	
3	300	Layer	Topsoil	Same as 100	1.7	0.7	0.25
3	301	Layer	Subsoil	Same as 101	1.7	0.7	0.1
3	302	Layer	Natural Substrate	Same as 102	1.7	0.7	
4	400	Layer	Topsoil	Same as 100	1.5	0.7	0.3
4	401	Layer	Subsoil	Same as 101	1.5	0.7	0.15
4	402	Layer	Natural Substrate	Same as 102	1.5	0.7	
5	500	Layer	Topsoil	Same as 100	1.7	0.7	0.2
5	501	Layer	Subsoil	Same as 101	1.7	0.7	0.1
5	502	Layer	Natural Substrate	Same as 102	1.7	0.7	
6	600	Layer	Topsoil	Same as 100	1.6	0.7	0.2
6	601	Layer	Subsoil	Same as 101	1.6	0.7	0.2
6	602	Layer	Natural Substrate	Same as 102	1.6	0.7	
7	700	Layer	Topsoil	Same as 100	1.7	0.7	0.25
7	701	Layer	Subsoil	Same as 101	1.7	0.7	0.1
7	702	Layer	Natural Substrate	Same as 102	1.7	0.7	
8	800	Layer	Topsoil	Same as 100	1.5	0.7	0.25
8	801	Layer	Subsoil	Same as 101	1.5	0.7	0.15
8	802	Layer	Natural Substrate	Same as 102	1.5	0.7	
9	900	Layer	Topsoil	Same as 100	1.4	0.7	0.3
9	901	Layer	Subsoil	Same as 101	1.4	0.7	0.1
9	902	Layer	Natural Substrate	Same as 102	1.4	0.7	
10	1000	Layer	Topsoil	Same as 100	1.5	0.7	0.2
10	1001	Layer	Subsoil	Same as 101	1.5	0.7	0.1
10	1002	Layer	Natural Substrate	Same as 102	1.5	0.7	
11	1100	Layer	Topsoil	Same as 100	1.6	0.7	0.35
11	1101	Fill	Fill of 1102	Dark grey silty clay with modern metal, wood and CBM	1.6	0.7	0.5
11	1102	Cut	Cut of a modern pond	Flat base	1.6	0.7	0.5
11	1103	Layer	Natural Substrate	Same as 102	1.6	0.7	
12	1200	Layer	Topsoil	Same as 100	1.4	0.7	0.25
12	1201	Layer	Subsoil	Same as 101	1.4	0.7	0.15
12	1202	Layer	Natural Substrate	Same as 102	1.4	0.7	

APPENDIX B: OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project Name	Land at Lydney B, Gloucestershire	
Short description	An archaeological watching brief was undertaken during groundworks associated with the excavation of 12 geotechnical test pits and 12 boreholes on land at Lydney B, Lydney. No features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed during the groundworks, and no artefactual material was recovered.	
Project dates	6-7 August 2014	
Project type	Watching Brief	
Previous work	CgMs 2002 <i>An Archaeological Desk Based Assessment, Land East of Lydney, Gloucestershire.</i> WA (Wessex Archaeology) 2003 <i>Land east of Lydney, Gloucestershire. Archaeological Evaluation</i>	
Future work	Unknown	
PROJECT LOCATION		
Site Location	Lydney, Gloucestershire	
Study area (M ² /ha)		
Site co-ordinates	SO 86429 0369	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Brief originator	-	
Project Design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Manager	Cliff Bateman	
Project Supervisor	Jonathan Orellana	
MONUMENT TYPE		
	None	
SIGNIFICANT FINDS		
	None	
PROJECT ARCHIVES		
	Intended final location of archive	Content
Physical	-	-
Paper	Dean Heritage Centre	Context sheets
Digital	Dean Heritage Centre	Database, digital photos
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2014 Land at Lydney B, Gloucestershire: <i>Archaeological Watching Brief</i> . CA typescript report 14356		



0 1km

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PROJECT TITLE

Land at Lydney B, Gloucestershire

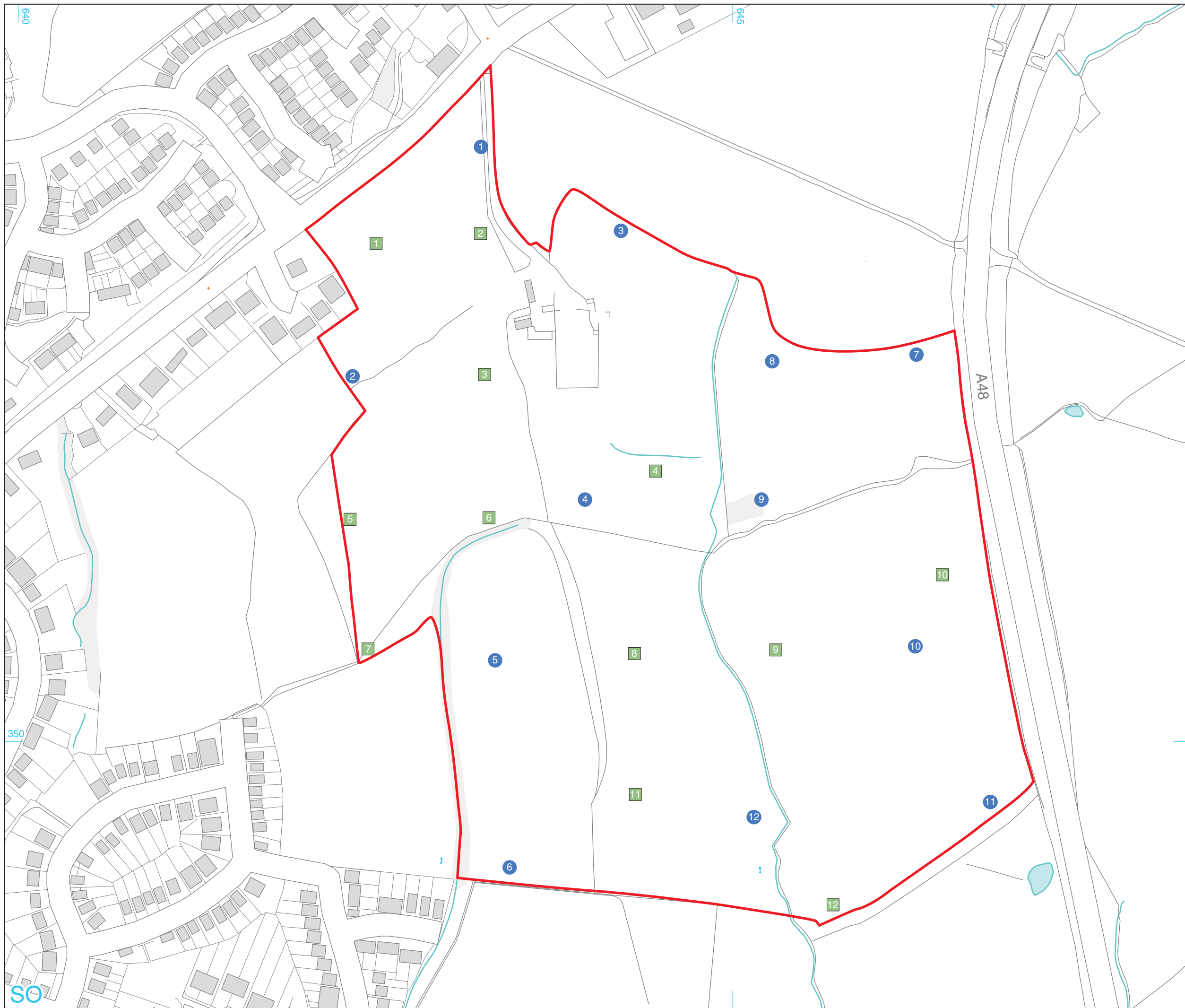
FIGURE TITLE

Site location plan

PROJECT NO. 5012 DATE 18/08/2014
DRAWN BY LM REVISION 00
APPROVED BY LM SCALE@A4 1:25,000

FIGURE NO.

1



- site boundary
- test pit
- borehole



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PROJECT TITLE
Land at Lydney B, Gloucestershire

FIGURE TITLE
The site showing location of test pits and boreholes

PROJECT NO. 5012	DATE 20-08-2014	FIGURE NO. 2
DRAWN BY LM/DJB	REVISION 00	
APPROVED BY LM	SCALE@A4 1:2,500	

640

645

350

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