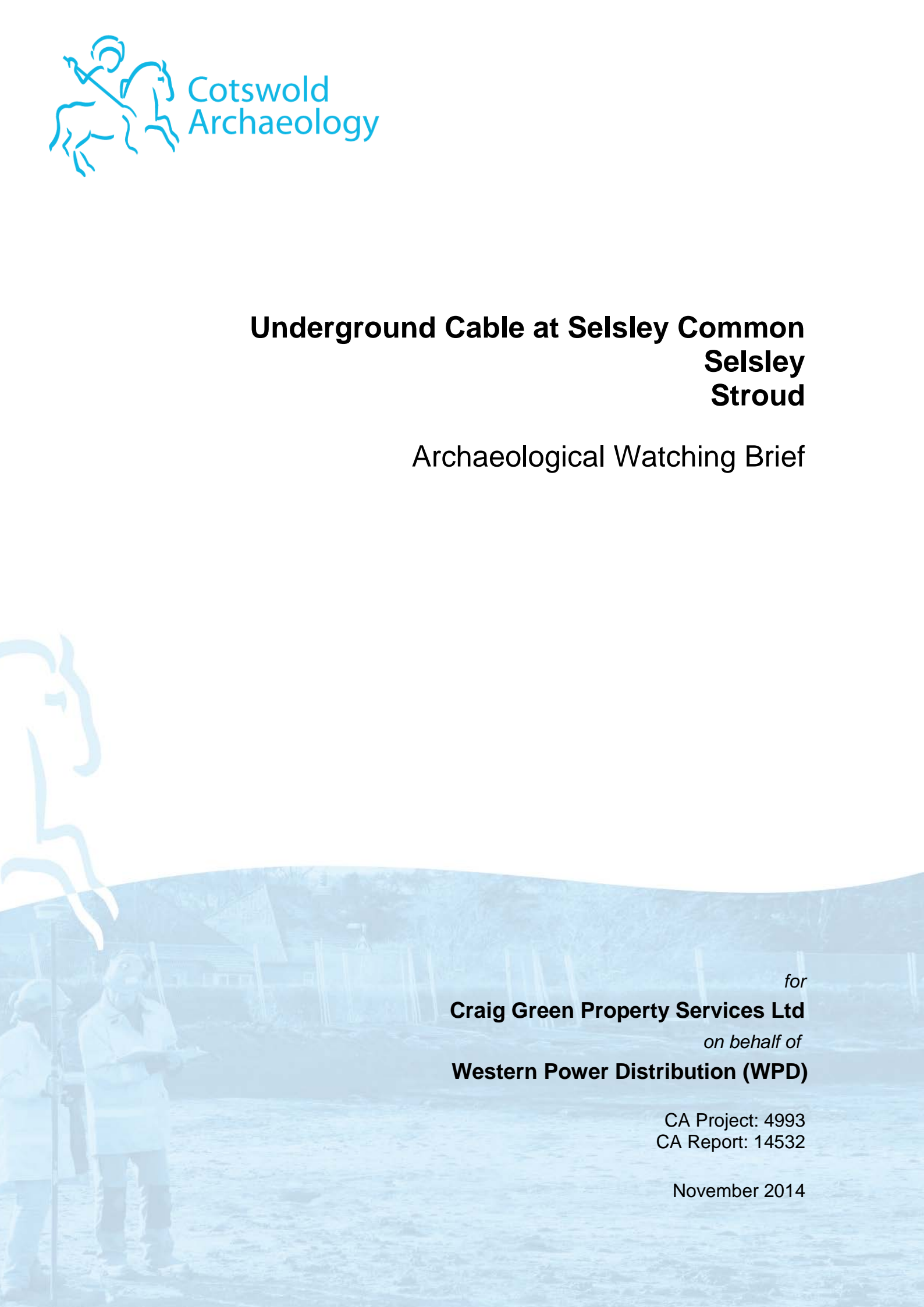


**Underground Cable at Selsley Common
Selsley
Stroud**

Archaeological Watching Brief



for
Craig Green Property Services Ltd
on behalf of
Western Power Distribution (WPD)


CA Project: 4993
CA Report: 14532

November 2014

Underground Cable at Selsley Common
Selsley
Stroud
Gloucestershire

Archaeological Watching Brief

CA Project: 4993
CA Report: 14532

prepared by	Tom Weavill, Project Supervisor
date	12 November 2014
checked by	Cliff Bateman, Principal Project Manager
date	27 November 2014
approved by	Simon Cox, Head of Fieldwork
signed	
date	27 November 2014
issue	01

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SUMMARY

Project Name: Underground Cable at Selsley Common
Location: Selsley, Stroud, Gloucestershire
NGR: SO 8257 0242
Type: Watching Brief
Date: 15 28 October 2014
Location of Archive: To be deposited with Museum in the Park, Stroud
Site Code: CARS 14

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology during groundworks associated with the installation of a 33KV underground cable on Selsley Common, Selsley, Stroud, Gloucestershire.

A quarry pit of probable post-medieval or modern date was identified at the northern end of the cable trench which appeared to relate to extant quarry earthworks. No artefactual material was recovered.



1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In October 2014 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological watching brief for Craig Green Properties Ltd, on behalf of Western Power Distribution (WPD), at Selsley Common, Selsley, Stroud, Gloucestershire (centred on NGR SO 8257 0242; Fig. 1). Charles Parry, Archaeologist, Gloucestershire County Council requested that an archaeological watching brief was undertaken during groundwork activity along the proposed cable route. 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 (2014) and approved Charles Parry, archaeological advisor to Stroud District Council. The fieldwork also followed the *standard and guidance for an archaeological watching brief* (IfA 2009), the *Statement of Standards and Practices Appropriate for Archaeological Fieldwork in Gloucestershire* (GCC 1996), 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). It was monitored by Charles Parry.

The site

- 1.3 The cabling route is located close to the western extent of Selsley Common and adjacent to the B4066 road. The site comprises common land and lies at approximately 200m AOD. The underlying geology of the area is mapped as Salperton Limestone Formation (BGS 2014). A combination of limestone brash and yellow sandy clay was encountered during the watching brief.

Archaeological background

- 1.4 Archaeological interest in the site arises from its location on Selsley Common. Although little systematic archaeological work has been undertaken on Selsley Common itself, previous investigations on neighbouring Rodborough and Minchinhampton Common have identified multiple phases of earthworks and associated activity dating from the prehistoric period through to modern period. However, re-appraisal of this evidence suggests that the majority of the earthworks may be of medieval rather than prehistoric construction and previously divided the woodland of the commons from adjoining areas of land use (Parry 1996, 150).

- 1.5 A scheduled Neolithic long barrow (The Toots, Long Barrow, Selsley Common; National Monument 1102131) lies approximately 1km north of the proposed cabling route. Immediately to the south of the proposed route Boundary Court Cottage and adjacent agricultural buildings associated with Boundary Court Farm are Grade II listed (1172078 and 1340674).

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 2014). An archaeologist was present during intrusive groundworks comprising the excavation of a trench measuring 245m in length, 0.7m in width and to a depth of 1.6m below present ground level (bpgl) (see Fig. 2 for location and extent).
- 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 Museum in the Park, Stroud. 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 The natural geological substrate, 104, comprising limestone brash and yellow sandy clay, was revealed throughout the trench at an average depth of 0.7m bpgl. This was overlain by subsoil 101 averaging 0.5m in thickness. At the northern end of the trench the subsoil was cut by quarry pit 103 that measured at least 19.5m in length and 0.7m in depth. The quarry pit was infilled by a sterile brown silty sand, 102, which was covered by topsoil 100 averaging 0.3m in thickness. 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 significant archaeological features or deposits. The identified quarry pit appears to relate to extant earthworks and, given it was identified cutting the subsoil, is most probably of post-medieval or modern date.

4. CA PROJECT TEAM

Fieldwork was undertaken by Tom Weavill who also wrote the report. The illustrations were prepared by Leo Hartley. The archive has been compiled by Tom Weavill, 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 01 April 2014

Parry, C. 1996 'An earthwork on Rodborough Common, Gloucestershire: A review of the evidence', *Trans. Bristol Gloucestershire Archaeol. Soc.* **114**, 143-157

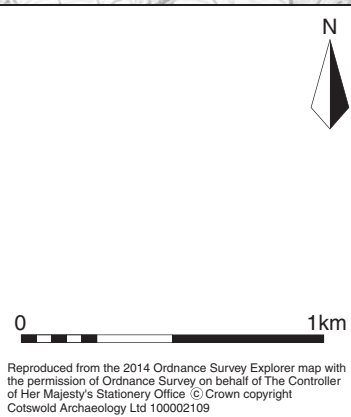
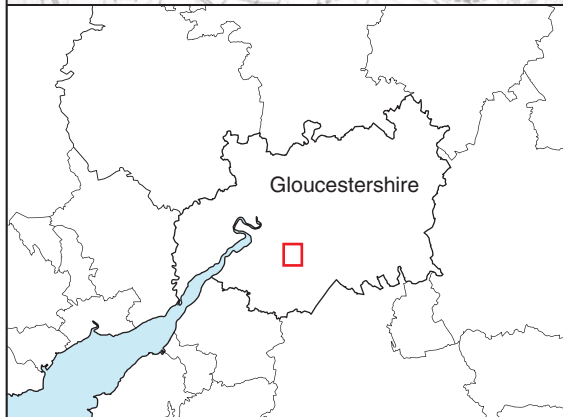
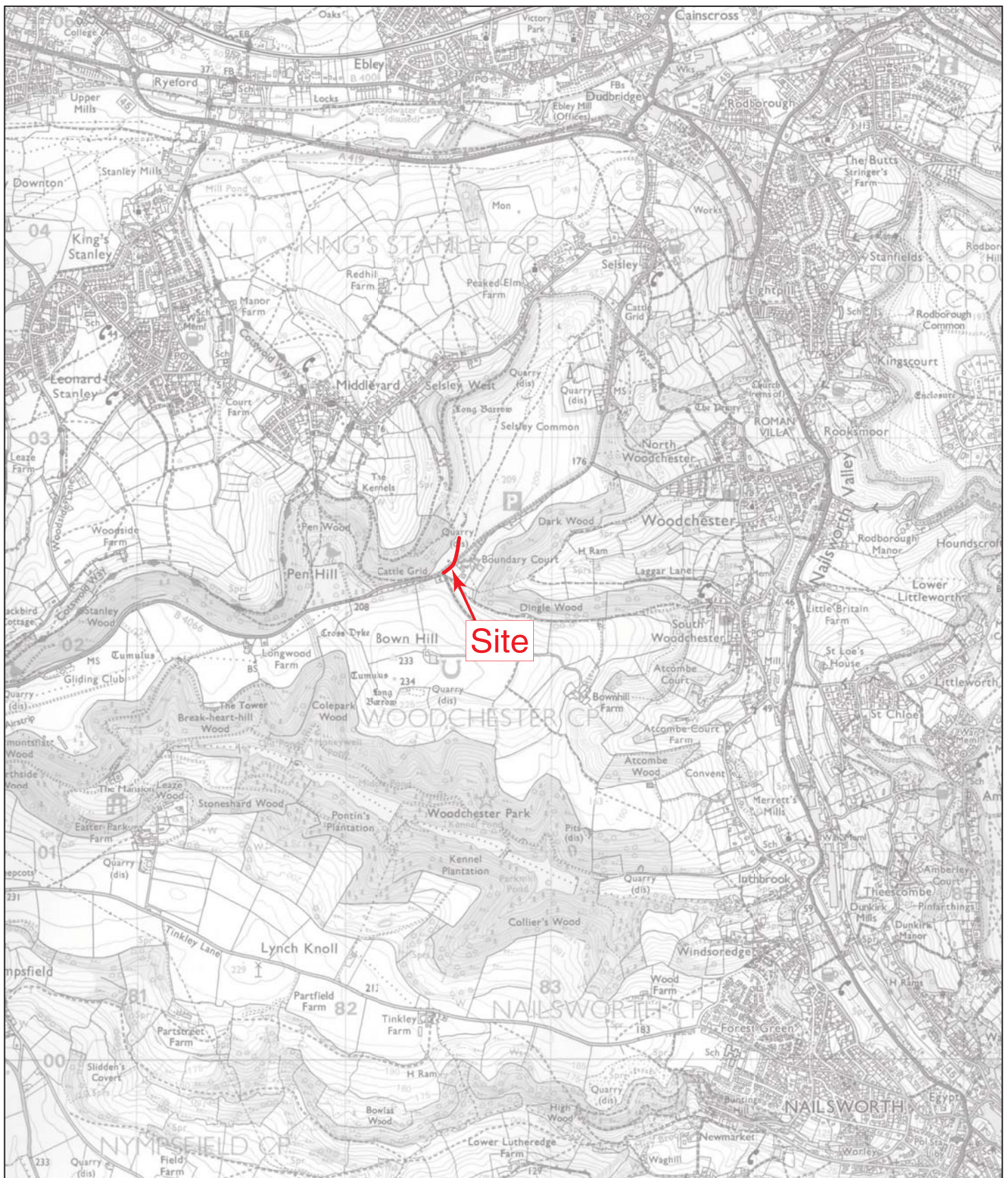


APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Context No.	Type	Fill of	Context interpretation	Description	L (m)	W (m)	Depth/thickness (m)	Spot-date
100	Layer		Topsoil	Black sandy silt	>245	>0.7	0.3	
101	Layer		Subsoil	Dark orangey brown clayey sand	>245	>0.7	0.5	
102	Fill	103	Quarry pit fill	Light yellowish brown silty sand	>0.7	19.5	0.7	
103	Cut		Quarry pit	U-shaped cut	>0.7	19.5	0.7	
104	Layer		Natural substrate	Limestone brash and light yellow sandy clay				

APPENDIX B: OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project Name	Underground Cable at Selsley Common, Selsley, Stroud, Gloucestershire	
Short description	<p>An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology during groundworks associated with the installation of a 33KV underground cable on Selsley Common, Selsley, Stroud, Gloucestershire.</p> <p>A quarry pit of probable post-medieval or modern date was identified at the northern end of the cable trench which appeared to relate to extant quarry earthworks. No artefactual material was recovered.</p>	
Project dates	15-28 October 2014	
Project type	Watching Brief	
Previous work	None	
Future work	Unknown	
PROJECT LOCATION		
Site Location	Selsley Common, Selsley, Stroud, Gloucestershire	
Study area (M ² /ha)	171.5m ²	
Site co-ordinates (8 Fig Grid Reference)	SO 8257 0242	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Brief originator	None	
Project Design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Manager	Cliff Bateman	
Project Supervisor	Tom Weavill	
MONUMENT TYPE	None	
SIGNIFICANT FINDS	None	
PROJECT ARCHIVES		
	Intended final location of archive	Content
Physical	None	None
Paper	Museum in the Park	Trench sheets, photo register
Digital	Museum in the Park	Digital photos
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
<p>CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2014 <i>Underground Cable at Selsley Common, Selsley, Stroud, Gloucestershire: Archaeological Watching Brief</i>. CA typescript report 14532</p>		



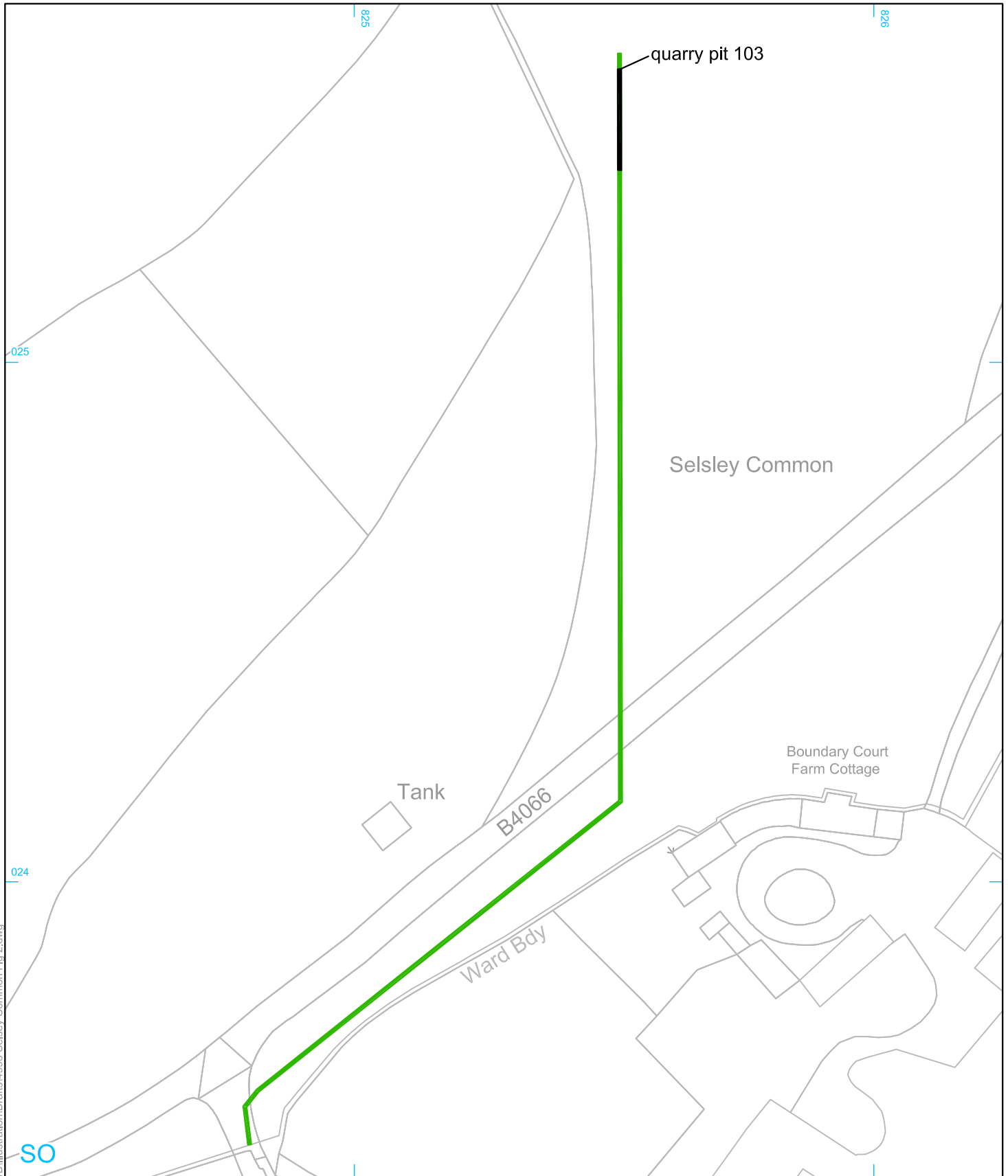
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PROJECT TITLE
 Underground cable at Selsey Common
 Selsey, Stroud, Gloucestershire

FIGURE TITLE
 Site location plan

PROJECT NO. 4993	DATE 17/11/2014	FIGURE NO.
DRAWN BY LJH	REVISION 00	
APPROVED BY JB	SCALE@A4 1:25,000	1

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-  location of groundworks
-  archaeological feature



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PROJECT TITLE

Underground cable at Selsley Common, Selsley, Stroud, Gloucestershire

FIGURE TITLE

Site location plan, showing location of groundworks and archaeological feature

PROJECT NO.	4993	DATE	17-11-2014	FIGURE NO.
DRAWN BY	TWLJH	REVISION	01	2
APPROVED BY	JB	SCALE@A4	1:1000	



3a



3b

3a West facing section of quarry pit 103

3b Extant quarry earthworks, facing west



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PROJECT TITLE

Underground cable at Selsey Common,
 Selsey, Stroud, Gloucestershire

FIGURE TITLE

Photographs

PROJECT NO. 4993 DATE 13/11/2014
 DRAWN BY LJH REVISION 00
 APPROVED BY JB SCALE@A4 N/A

FIGURE NO.

3