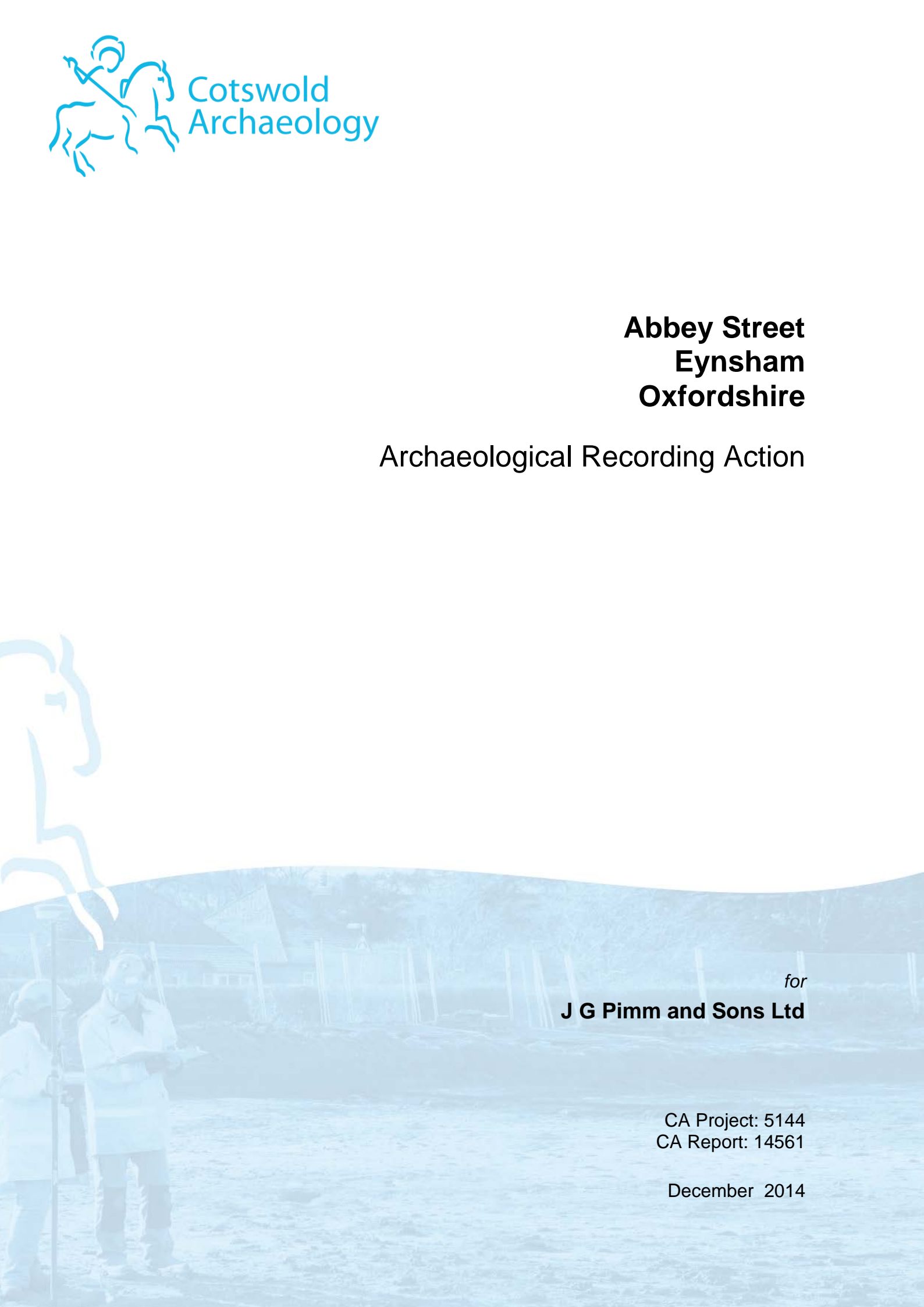


**Abbey Street
Eynsham
Oxfordshire**

Archaeological Recording Action



for
J G Pimm and Sons Ltd


CA Project: 5144
CA Report: 14561

December 2014

Abbey Street
Eynsham
Oxfordshire

Archaeological Recording Action

CA Project: 5144
CA Report: 14561

prepared by	Tom Weavill, Project Supervisor
date	28 November 2014
checked by	Cliff Bateman, Principal Fieldwork Manager
date	4 December 2014
approved by	Laurent Coleman, Principal Fieldwork Manager
signed	
date	4 December 2014
issue	01

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SUMMARY

Project Name: Abbey Street
Location: Eynsham, Oxfordshire
NGR: SP 4322 0911
Type: Archaeological Recording Action
Date: 24 November 2014
Planning Reference: 14/1172/P/FP
Location of Archive: To be deposited with Oxfordshire Museums Service
Accession Number: OXCMS:2014.245
Site Code: ABSE 14

A programme of archaeological recording action was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in November 2014 at Abbey Street, Eynsham, Oxfordshire. One trench was excavated.

Two modern pits were identified at the southern end of the trench overlain by a former gravel road surface. No archaeological features or deposits pre-dating the modern period were revealed during the evaluation.



1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In November 2014 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out a programme of archaeological recording action for J G Pimm and Sons at Abbey Street, Eynsham, Oxfordshire (centred on NGR: SP 4322 0911; Fig. 1). Planning consent for the construction a two storey building was granted by West Oxfordshire District Council (WODC) conditional on an archaeological watching brief being maintained during all intrusive groundworks (Planning reference: 14/1172/P/FP). As the construction works were undertaken prior to suitable archaeological works being implemented, Hugh Coddington, Principal Archaeologist, Oxfordshire County Archaeological Services (OCAS), the archaeological advisor to WODC requested that a single trench should be excavated adjacent to the new dwellings to record any archaeological features.
- 1.2 The programme of archaeological recording action was carried out in accordance with a *Design Brief for Archaeological Recording Action* (OCAS 2014) prepared by Hugh Coddington (OCAS), the archaeological advisor to WODC, and with a subsequent detailed *Written Scheme of Investigation* (WSI) produced by CA (2014) and approved by Hugh Coddington. The fieldwork also followed the *Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (IfA 2009), the *Management of Archaeological Projects* (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 Hugh Coddington.
- The site**
- 1.3 The development area is located on the west side of Abbey Street, Eynsham and is bounded to north-east by residential properties, to the east by St Peter's Church car park and to the west by existing barn conversions. To the south Abbey Street continues towards Abbey Park House. The trench was excavated within Abbey Street.
- 1.4 The underlying geology of the site comprises Oxford Clay overlain by superficial deposits of Summertown-Radley Sands and Gravels (BGS 2014). The later was encountered during the evaluation.

Archaeological background

- 1.5 The site lies approximately 130m west of Eynsham Abbey, a Scheduled Monument (National Monument 1006332, formerly Oxfordshire Monument 118). Archaeological excavations previously undertaken adjacent to St Peter's Church, outwith the Scheduled Monument, revealed substantial surviving parts of the Abbey, including the kitchen, the cloisters and the fraternity. The western limit of the Abbey precinct has been not defined and may extend as far as the current site (OCAS 2014).

Archaeological objectives

- 1.6 The objectives of the programme of archaeological recording action were to provide information about the archaeological resource within the site, including its presence/absence, character, extent, date, integrity, state of preservation and quality. This information will enable WODC to identify and assess the particular significance of any heritage asset and to consider any impact the development has had upon it.

Methodology

- 1.7 The fieldwork comprised the excavation of a single trench measuring 20m in length by 1.5m in width, in the location shown on the attached plan (Fig. 2). With the approval of Hugh Coddington, the trench was moved to the east of its original position, shortened by 3m from the north and split into two parts to avoid buried services. Trenches were set out on OS National Grid (NGR) co-ordinates using Leica GPS and surveyed in accordance with CA Technical Manual 4 *Survey Manual* (2012).
- 1.8 The trench was excavated by mechanical excavator equipped with a toothless grading bucket. All machine excavation was undertaken under constant archaeological supervision to the top of the first significant archaeological horizon or the natural substrate, whichever was encountered first. Where archaeological deposits were encountered they were excavated by hand in accordance with CA Technical Manual 1: *Fieldwork Recording Manual* (2013).
- 1.9 Deposits were assessed for their palaeoenvironmental potential in accordance with CA Technical Manual 2: *The Taking and Processing of Environmental and Other Samples from Archaeological Sites* (2003) but no deposits were identified that required sampling.

- 1.10 The archive from the evaluation is currently held by CA at their offices in Kemble and will be deposited with Oxfordshire Museums Service under accession number OXCMS:2014.245. 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 Natural geological substrate 103, comprising orange sand and gravel, was revealed at 0.45m below present ground level (bpgl). This was directly overlain by a former gravel road surface, 102, in the northern part of the trench and was cut by modern pit 107 in the southern part of the trench. Pit 107 contained gravel fill 108 within modern brick fragments were observed (but not retained). Fill 108 was cut by pit 104 which rubble and topsoil derived fills 106 and 105. Both pits were excavated to a depth of 0.7m; however the instability of the trench edges and lack of space to store spoil prevented any further excavation, consequently the pits were not excavated to their full depth.
- 2.2 The former road surface 102 and pit fill 105 were both overlain by the current gravel road surface, 101, in the eastern half of the trench and topsoil, 100, in the western half.

3. DISCUSSION

- 3.1 No archaeological features or deposits were revealed during the programme of archaeological recording action despite the potential for remains associated with Eynsham Abbey surviving at this location. It remains undetermined whether the western boundary of the Abbey precinct lay to the west of Abbey Street.

4. CA PROJECT TEAM

Fieldwork was undertaken by Tom Weavill, assisted by Noel Boothroyd. The report was written by Tom Weavill. The illustrations were prepared by Rosanna Price. 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 06
November 2014

CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2014 *Land off Abbey Street, Eynsham, Oxfordshire:
Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Evaluation*

OCAS (Oxfordshire County Archaeological Service) 2014 *Land off Abbey Street,
Eynsham; Design Brief for Archaeological Recording Action*



APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Trench No.	Context No.	Type	Fill of	Context interpretation	Description	L (m)	W (m)	Depth /thickness (m)
1	100	Layer		Topsoil	Dark brown sandy silt			0.15
1	101	Layer		Road surface	Current gravel road surface			0.2
1	102	Layer		Road surface	Former gravel road surface			0.2
1	103	Layer		Geological substrate	Orangey brown sand and gravel			
1	104	Cut		Pit	Modern pit	>3.5	>0.4	>0.7
1	105	Fill	104	Pit fill	Upper fill: Rubble and topsoil	>3.5	>0.4	0.3
1	106	Fill	104	Pit fill	Lower fill: Grey brown sandy clay topsoil	>3.5	>0.4	>0.4
1	107	Cut		Pit	Modern pit: Vertically sided	>6.43	>1.5	>0.7
1	108	Fill	107	Pit fill	Light yellowish brown sand and gravel with modern brick fragment inclusions	>6.43	>1.5	>0.7

APPENDIX B: OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project Name	Abbey Street, Eynsham, Oxfordshire	
Short description	<p>An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in November 2014 at Abbey Street, Eynsham, Oxfordshire. One trench was excavated.</p> <p>Two modern pits were identified in the southern end of the trench overlain by a former gravel road surface.</p> <p>No archaeological features or deposits were revealed during the evaluation.</p>	
Project dates	24 November 2014	
Project type	Evaluation	
Previous work	None	
Future work	Unknown	
PROJECT LOCATION		
Site Location	Abbey Street, Eynsham, Oxfordshire	
Study area (M ² /ha)	30m ²	
Site co-ordinates (8 Fig Grid Reference)	SP 4322 0911	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Brief originator	Oxfordshire County Archaeological Service	
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	N/A	None
Paper	Oxfordshire Museums Service OXCMS:2014.245	Trench record sheet, digital photo register
Digital	Oxfordshire Museums Service OXCMS:2014.245	Digital photos
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
<p>CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2014 <i>Abbey Street, Eynsham, Oxfordshire: Archaeological Evaluation</i>. CA typescript report 14561</p>		



0 1km

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PROJECT TITLE

Abbey Street, Eynsham, Oxfordshire

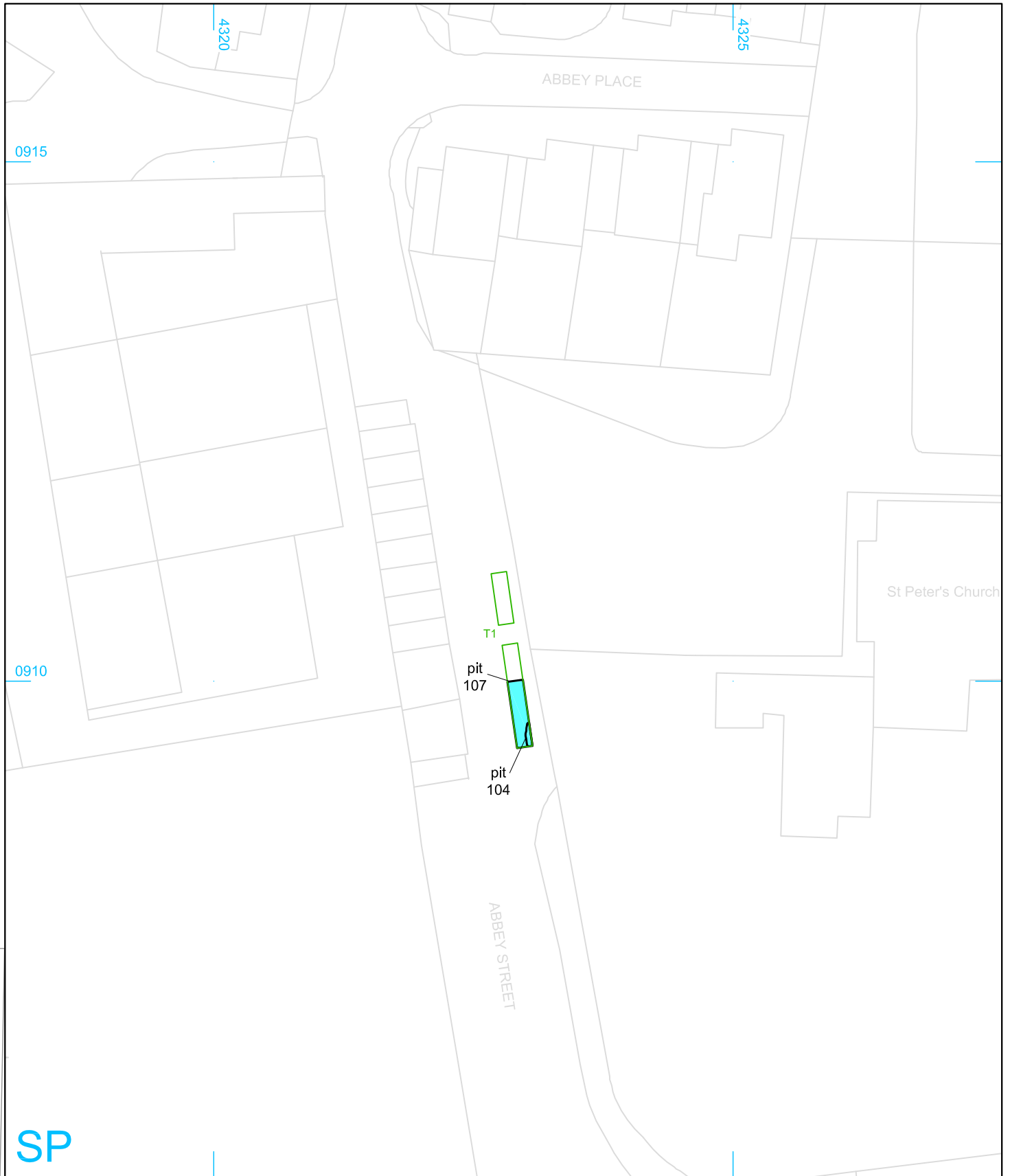
FIGURE TITLE

Site location plan


PROJECT NO. 5144 DATE 03.12.14
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FIGURE NO.

1



 evaluation trench

 modern



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PROJECT TITLE
 Abbey Street, Eynsham, Oxfordshire

FIGURE TITLE
Trench location plan showing location of modern pits



PROJECT NO. 5144 DATE 03.12.14
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FIGURE NO.

2



3

3 Modern pitting in southern end of trench, facing north-east (scale 1m)



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PROJECT TITLE

Abbey Street, Eynsham, Oxfordshire

FIGURE TITLE

Photograph

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FIGURE NO.

3