

Sewerage Treatment Works Upgrade Highworth Wiltshire

Archaeological Watching Brief



for
Costain Limited and Atkins
Limited

on behalf of
Thames Water Utilities Ltd

CA Project: 5686
CA Report: 15854

January 2016



Sewerage Treatment Works Upgrade Highworth Wiltshire

Archaeological Watching Brief

CA Project: 5686
CA Report: 15854



Document Control Grid						
Revision	Date	Author	Checked by	Status	Reasons for revision	Approved by
A	08/12/2015	Paolo Guarino	Steven Sheldon	Internal review		Cliff Bateman

This report is confidential to the client. Cotswold Archaeology accepts no responsibility or liability to any third party to whom this report, or any part of it, is made known. Any such party relies upon this report entirely at their own risk. No part of this report may be reproduced by any means without permission.

CONTENTS

SUMMARY	2
1. INTRODUCTION.....	3
2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND.....	3
3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES.....	4
4. METHODOLOGY	4
5. RESULTS (FIG. 2)	5
6. DISCUSSION.....	5
7. CA PROJECT TEAM.....	6
8. REFERENCES.....	6
APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS	7
APPENDIX B: OASIS REPORT FORM.....	8

LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

- Fig. 1 Site location plan (1:25,000)
- Fig. 2 The site, showing location of groundworks (1:2000)



SUMMARY

Project Name: Sewerage Treatment Works Upgrade
Location: Highworth, Wiltshire
NGR: SU 19887 93472
Type: Watching Brief
Date: 17 November–2 December 2015
Location of Archive: Swindon Museum & Art Gallery
Accession Number: SWIMG: 2015.077
Site Code: STWU15

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology during groundworks associated with the upgrading of the existing sewerage treatment works at Highworth Wiltshire.

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

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Between November and December 2015 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological watching brief for Costain Limited and Atkins Limited, on behalf of Thames Water Utilities Ltd, at Highworth Sewerage Treatment Works (STW), Highworth, Wiltshire (centred NGR: SU 19887 93472; Fig. 1).
- 1.2 The watching brief was undertaken following consultation with Melanie Pomeroy-Kellinger, County Archaeologist, Wiltshire County Council (WCC). It was carried out in accordance with a subsequent detailed *Written Scheme of Investigation* (WSI) produced by CA (CA 2015) and approved by Melanie Pomeroy-Kellinger. The fieldwork also followed *Standard and guidance: Archaeological watching brief* (ClfA 2014).

The site

- 1.3 The proposed development area is approximately 1.88ha in extent and is contained within the existing STW. The site is bounded by the Blackworth Industrial Estate to the north, Pentylands Lane to the west, residential properties to the south and farmland to the east. The site lies at approximately 83m AOD and is broadly level.
- 1.4 The underlying bedrock geology of the area is mapped as Oxford Clay Formation Mudstone of the Jurassic period (BGS 2015). The natural substrate, comprising clay, was encountered in the north-eastern part of the site. In south-western part of the site the natural substrate was not revealed due to the limited depth of the groundworks undertaken.

2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The site has not been subject to previous archaeological assessment, although Highworth itself has been subject to archaeological assessment (WCAS 2004). The following is a summary of publically available information pertinent to the site:
- 2.2 No prehistoric finds or features are recorded within the site. However, a small number of isolated prehistoric finds are noted within the immediate area. These comprise a Mesolithic flint core c. 600m to the east of the site and a Bronze Age

arrowhead and worked flint flakes c. 500m to the south-east of the site (WCAS 2004).

2.3 A number of Roman sites have been identified in the immediate vicinity. These include an area of Roman settlement identified during the 1970s, c. 200m to the north of the site, and the remains of four Romano-British buildings excavated in 1980 c. 400m to the south of the site (WCAS 2004).

2.4 Two archaeological trench evaluations have been conducted in the immediate vicinity of the site during development at the Blackworth Industrial Estate. An undated pit and an irregular linear slot were excavated during an evaluation in 1999 (Foundations Archaeology 1999). A second archaeological evaluation identified no archaeological features or deposits (CAT 1999).

3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

3.1 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.

4. METHODOLOGY

4.1 The fieldwork followed the methodology set out within the WSI (CA 2015). An archaeologist was present during intrusive groundworks (see Fig. 2 for location and extent) comprising:

Area 1: a topsoil strip to enable the construction of a temporary car park

Area 2: a topsoil strip to enable the siting of temporary offices and welfare facilities

Area 3: ground reduction in the location of new storage/processing tanks

Area 4: ground reduction to identify the location of existing services

- 4.2 The archive from the watching brief is currently held by CA at their offices in Kemble and will be deposited with Swindon Museum & Art Gallery under accession number 2015.077. 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.

5. RESULTS (FIG. 2)

- 5.1 Within Areas 1 and 2 subsoil deposits were revealed between 0.45m and 0.5m below the present ground level (bpgl) and were overlain by topsoil. Excavation ceased at the top of these deposits.
- 5.2 The natural geological substrate was identified within Areas 3 and 4 at a typical depth of 0.7m bpgl. Its surface showed signs of being heavily disturbed in places by modern activity, presumably during the previous development of the STW. No archaeological features or deposits were identified. The natural substrate was sealed by subsoil, typically 0.2m in depth, which was in turn sealed by topsoil.
- 5.2 No features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed during the groundworks and, despite visual scanning of spoil, no artefactual material was recovered.

6. DISCUSSION

- 6.1 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 features/deposits in Areas 3 and 4 may indicate that remains associated with previously identified Roman settlement activity to the north and east of the site either do not extend as far as the current site or that they may have been removed during previous development associated with the existing STW. In Areas 1 and 2 it remains possible that archaeological features/deposits survive but were not revealed by the current works due to the depth of excavation undertaken.

7. CA PROJECT TEAM

Fieldwork was undertaken by Paolo Guarino. The report was written by Paolo Guarino. The illustrations were prepared by Leo Heatley. The archive has been compiled by Paolo Guarino, and prepared for deposition by Hazel O'Neill. The project was managed for CA by Steven Sheldon.

8. REFERENCES

BGS (British Geological Survey) 2015 *Geology of Britain Viewer*
<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html> Accessed 16 December 2015

CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2015 *Sewerage Treatment Works Upgrade, Highworth, Wiltshire: Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Watching Brief.*

CAT (Cotswold Archaeological Trust) 1999 *Brinkworth Industrial Estate, Highworth, Wiltshire: Archaeological Evaluation*, CA Report No. **001148**

FA (Foundations Archaeology) 1999 *Brinkworth Industrial Estate, Highworth, Wiltshire: Archaeological Evaluation*

WCAS (Wiltshire County Archaeology Service) 2004 *The Archaeology of Wiltshire's Towns. An Extensive Urban Survey: Highworth*

APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Area No.	Context No.	Type	Fill of	Context interpretation	Description	L (m)	W (m)	Depth/thickness (m)
1	100	Layer		Topsoil	Dark grey brown silt clay	>61	>10	0.5
1	101	Layer		Subsoil	Light grey brown clay silt	>61	>10	>0.01
2	200	Layer		Topsoil	Dark grey brown silt clay	>26	>14	0.45
2	201	Layer		Subsoil	Light grey brown clay silt	>26	>14	>0.01
3	300	Layer		Topsoil	Dark grey brown silt clay	>120	>23	0.47
3	301	Layer		Subsoil	Light grey brown clay silt	>120	>23	0.23
3	302	Layer		Natural Substrate	Sterile mid blue grey clay	>120	>23	>0.2
3	303	Fill	304	Fill	Mid-dark grey brown sand silt with frequent modern concrete, red brick and metal inclusions	>17	>2	>0.8
3	304	Cut		Modern truncation	Modern truncation associated with construction of previous STW.	>17	>2	>0.8
4	400	Layer		Topsoil	Dark grey brown silt clay	>44	>11	0.51
4	401	Layer		Subsoil	Light grey brown clay silt	>44	>11	0.19
4	402	Layer		Natural Substrate	Sterile mid blue grey clay	>44	>11	>0.5
4	403	Fill	404	Fill	Mid-dark grey brown sand silt with frequent modern concrete, red brick and metal inclusions	>7	>1.8	>1
4	404	Cut		Modern truncation	Modern truncation associated with construction of previous STW.	>7	>1.8	>1

APPENDIX B: OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project Name	Sewerage Treatment Works Upgrade, Highworth, Wiltshire	
Short description	An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology during groundworks associated with the upgrading of the existing sewerage treatment works. No features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed during groundworks, and no artefactual material was recovered.	
Project dates	17 November-2 December 2015	
Project type	Watching Brief	
Previous work	None	
Future work	Unknown	
PROJECT LOCATION		
Site Location	Sewerage Treatment Works, Highworth, Wiltshire	
Study area (M ² /ha)	1.88ha	
Site co-ordinates	SU 19887 93472	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Manager	Steven Sheldon	
Project Supervisor	Paolo Guarino	
MONUMENT TYPE	None	
SIGNIFICANT FINDS	None	
PROJECT ARCHIVES		
	Intended final location of archive	Content
Physical	N/A	N/A
Paper	Swindon Museum & Art Gallery/SWIMG: 2015.077	Trench recording forms, digital photographic register
Digital	Swindon Museum & Art Gallery/SWIMG: 2015.077	Digital photographs
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2015 <i>Sewerage Treatment Works, Highworth, Wiltshire: Archaeological Watching Brief</i> . CA typescript report 15854		

Andover Office

Stanley House
Walworth Road
Andover
Hampshire
SP10 5LH

t: 01264 347630

Cirencester Office

Building 11
Kemble Enterprise Park
Cirencester
Gloucestershire
GL7 6BQ

t: 01285 771022

Exeter Office

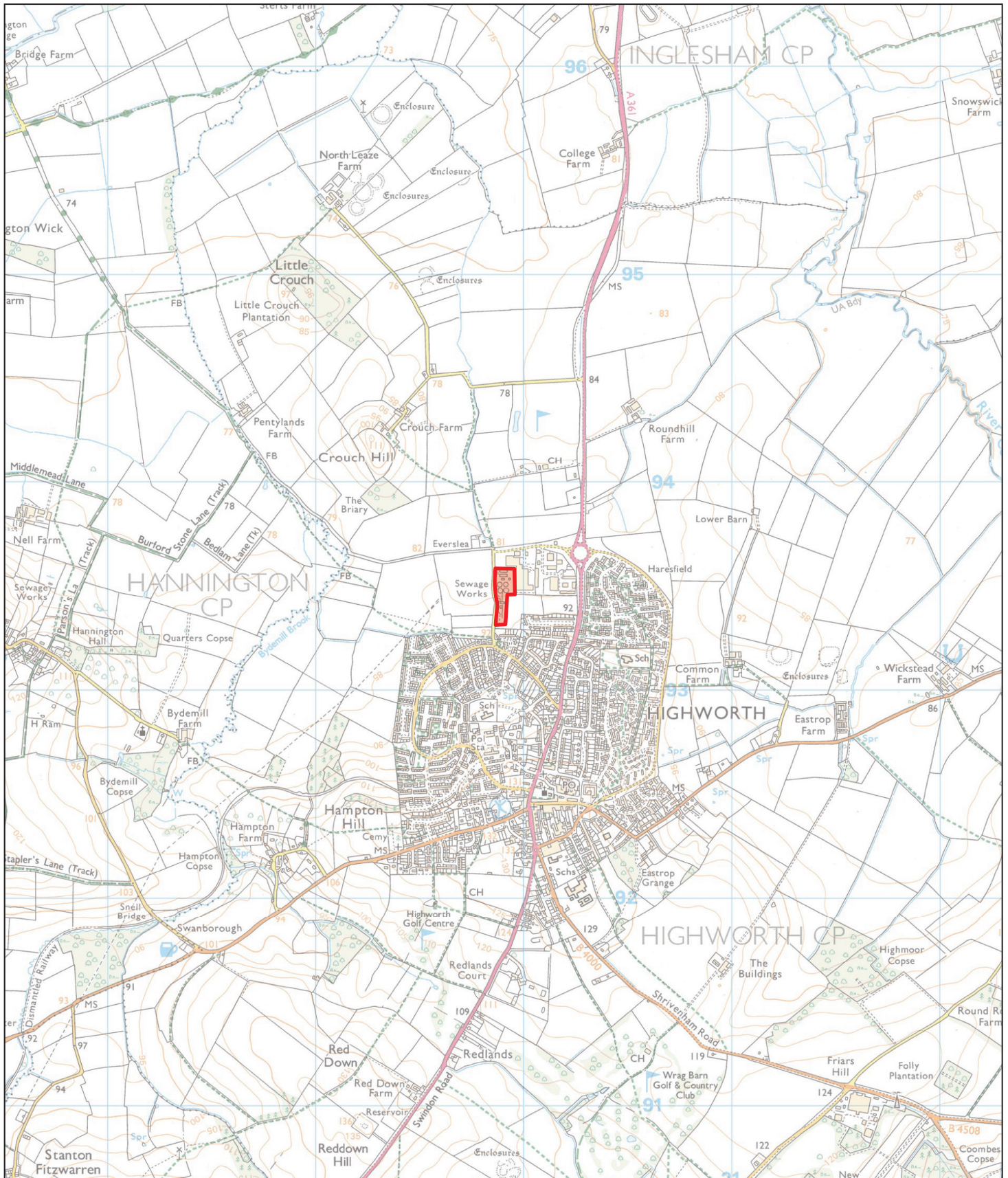
Unit 53
Basepoint Business Centre
Yeoford Way
Marsh Barton Trading Estate
Exeter
EX2 8LB

t: 01392 826185

Milton Keynes Office

41 Burners Lane South
Kiln Farm
Milton Keynes
Buckinghamshire
MK11 3HA

t: 01908 564660



Andover 01264 347630
 Cirencester 01285 771022
 Exeter 01392 826185
 Milton Keynes 01908 564660
www.cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk
enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk

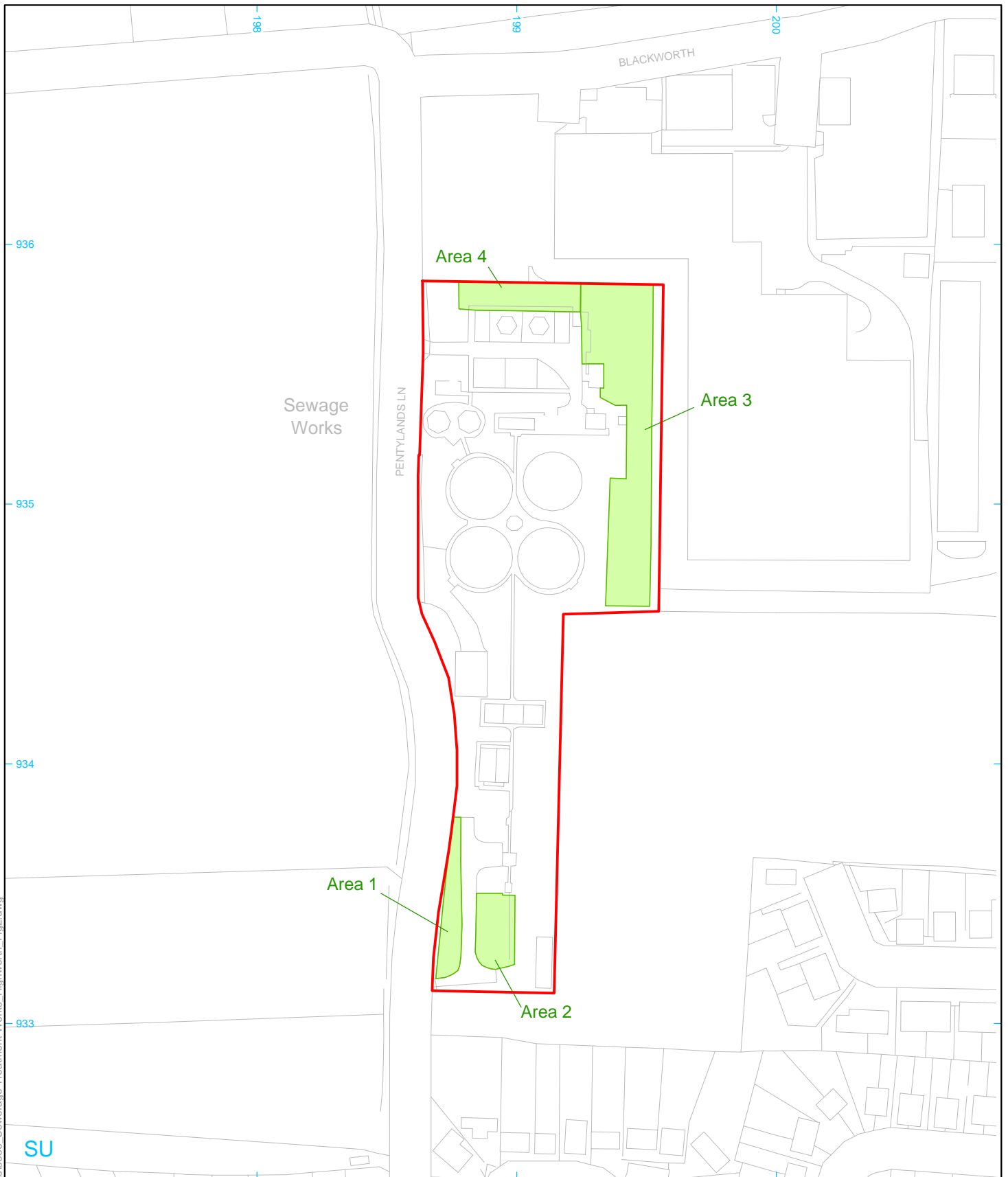
PROJECT TITLE
 Sewerage Treatment Works Upgrade
 Highworth, Wiltshire

FIGURE TITLE
 Site location plan



Reproduced from the 2015 Ordnance Survey Explorer map with the permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office © Crown copyright Cotswold Archaeology Ltd 100002109

DRAWN BY	LJH	PROJECT NO.	5686	FIGURE NO.
CHECKED BY	DJB	DATE	18/12/15	
APPROVED BY	SS	SCALE@A4	1:25,000	1



- site boundary
- area of observed groundworks



Andover 01264 347630
 Cirencester 01285 771022
 Exeter 01392 826185
 Milton Keynes 01908 564660
 w www.cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk
 e enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk

PROJECT TITLE
**Sewerage Treatment Works Upgrade
 Highworth, Wiltshire**

FIGURE TITLE
**The site, showing location of
 groundworks**

DRAWN BY L J H PROJECT NO. 5686
 CHECKED BY D J B DATE 18/12/2015
 APPROVED BY S S SCALE@A3 1:2000

FIGURE NO.
2