

Generation Compound Sudmeadow Road Gloucester

Archaeological Evaluation



for
Viridis 178

CA Project: 5666
CA Report: 16029

January 2016



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| Document Control Grid | | | | | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------|---------------------|---------------|-----------------|----------------------|-------------|
| Revision | Date | Author | Checked by | Status | Reasons for revision | Approved by |
| A | 20 January 2016 | Christopher Leonard | Cliff Bateman | Internal review | | Simon Cox |
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SUMMARY

| | |
|-----------------------------|---|
| Project Name: | Generation Compound |
| Location: | Sudmeadow Road, Gloucester |
| NGR: | SO 81900 18519 |
| Type: | Evaluation |
| Date: | 19 January 2106 |
| Planning Reference: | 15/00684/FUL |
| Location of Archive: | To be deposited with Gloucester City Museum and Art Gallery |
| Site Code: | SUD 16 |

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in January 2016 at the proposed Generation Compound, Sudmeadow Road, Gloucester. One trench was excavated.

Modern dump deposits were recorded to a depth in excess of 2.85m below the modern ground surface. No features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed within the trench.



1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In January 2016 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological evaluation for Viridis 178 at the proposed Generation Compound, Sudmeadow Road, Gloucester (centred on NGR: SO 81900 18519; Fig. 1). Planning permission has been granted for the installation of a gas powered power plant at the site conditional on a phased programme of archaeological mitigation (Gloucester City Council (GCC) planning consent 15/00684/FUL; condition 5). This report details a programme of archaeological trenching, as recommended by Andrew Armstrong, Gloucester City Archaeologist, to confirm the presence or absence of a brick kiln depicted on cartographic records (see section 2.3 below and Fig. 2).
- 1.2 The evaluation was carried out in accordance with a detailed *Written Scheme of Investigation* (WSI) produced by CA (2016) and approved by Andrew Armstrong. The fieldwork also followed *Standard and guidance: Archaeological field evaluation* (ClfA 2014), and the *Statement of Standards and Practices Appropriate for Archaeological Fieldwork in Gloucestershire* (GCC 1995). It was monitored by Andrew Armstrong, including a site visit on 19th January 2016.

The site

- 1.3 The site is approximately 0.85ha in extent and was formerly used as a recycling facility. The site is bound by Sudmeadow Road to the south-west, the River Severn to the east and industrial buildings and derelict ground to the north and south respectively.
- 1.4 The underlying bedrock geology of the area is mapped as Jurassic and Triassic Blue Lias and Charmouth Mudstone formations overlain throughout by Quaternary superficial tidal flat deposits consisting of clay, sand and silt (BGS 2016).

2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Limited evidence of Roman artefacts has previously been recovered in close proximity to Sudmeadow Road, including brooches and rings as well as pottery (Gloucester City Historic Environment Record (HER) 401). It remains undetermined whether this evidence is representative of contemporary occupation or whether this material has been deposited through alluviation.

- 2.2 The site lies in, or close to, Sud Meadow an area of former open agricultural land recorded from at least the medieval period as common meadow. Much of Sud Meadow belonged to nearby Llanthony Priory from the mid 13th century, and was inclosed in 1815.
- 2.3 Cartographic sources indicate that the current site was utilised as brickworks in the late 19th and early 20th-century, with evidence for associated clay pits, kilns and possibly drying sheds.

3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 3.1 The objectives of the evaluation are to provide information about the archaeological resource within the site, including its presence/absence, character, extent, date, integrity, state of preservation and quality, in accordance *Standard and guidance: Archaeological field evaluation* (CIfA 2014). This information will enable GCC to identify and assess the particular significance of any heritage asset, consider the impact of the proposed development upon it, and to avoid or minimise conflict between the heritage asset's conservation and any aspect of the development proposal, in line with the *National Planning Policy Framework* (DCLG 2012). It was accepted by all parties that the current evaluation works may form the first stage in a programme of archaeological work. If the brick kiln survived then it would be necessary to widen the trench to enable investigation and recording of the structure as a localized excavation. If the brick kiln does not survive then the planning condition would be discharged upon receipt of an approved report.

4. METHODOLOGY

- 4.1 The fieldwork comprised the excavation of a single trench, measuring 20m by 2m, that targeted the location of a former brick kiln (Fig. 2). The trench was set out on OS NGR co-ordinates using Leica GPS and surveyed in accordance with CA Technical Manual 4 *Survey Manual*.
- 4.2 The trench was excavated by mechanical excavator equipped with a toothless grading bucket. All machine excavation was undertaken under constant archaeological supervision to a depth of 2.85m below present ground level (bpgl)

without encountering deposits pre-dating the modern era. At this depth, following consultation with Andrew Armstrong, the excavation was halted.

- 4.3 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* but no deposits were identified that required sampling.
- 4.4 The archive from the evaluation 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.

5. RESULTS (FIGS 2-4)

- 5.1 This section provides an overview of the evaluation results; detailed summaries of the recorded contexts are to be found in Appendix A.
- 5.2 Three successive modern dump deposits were identified during the current works (Fig. 4). The earliest encountered deposit, 102, comprised a dark grey silt containing lenses of ashy material. This was sealed by deposit 101, typically 2.2m in thickness that largely comprised mixed dark blue-grey clay with lenses of grey silts and other materials. This was in turn covered by a 0.25m thick layer of brick rubble, 100, constituting an informal yard surface. Modern materials, including plastic bags, concrete blocks, metal cables, wooden panels and ceramic building material (CBM) were observed in all of the encountered layers, in addition to modern pottery and glass bottle fragments. None of this material has been retained.

6. DISCUSSION

- 6.1 The results of the evaluation demonstrate that modern dumped deposits, probably from industrial sources, extend to depths in excess of 2.85m bpgl in this part of the site and that no archaeological remains survive above that depth.
- 6.2 No structural remains or deposits associated with the brick kilns depicted on historic mapping of the site were identified during the evaluation. Although it is possible that

the modern landfill activity may have truncated or removed any trace of the kilns, visual inspection of the land surrounding the site revealed that the ground level within the development area is considerably higher than that in the neighbouring properties. It is therefore probable that the kilns remain preserved *in situ* beneath the modern build-up.

7. CA PROJECT TEAM

Fieldwork was undertaken by Christopher Leonard and Juan Moreno. The report was written by Christopher Leonard and the illustrations were prepared by Leo Heatley. The archive has been compiled and prepared for deposition by Hazel O'Neill. The project was managed for CA by Cliff Bateman.

8. REFERENCES

BGS (British Geological Survey) 2016 *Geology of Britain Viewer*
<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html> Accessed 20 January 2016

CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2016 *Generation Compound, Sudmeadow Road, Gloucester: Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Evaluation*

DCLG (Department of Communities and Local Government) 2012 *National Planning Policy Framework*

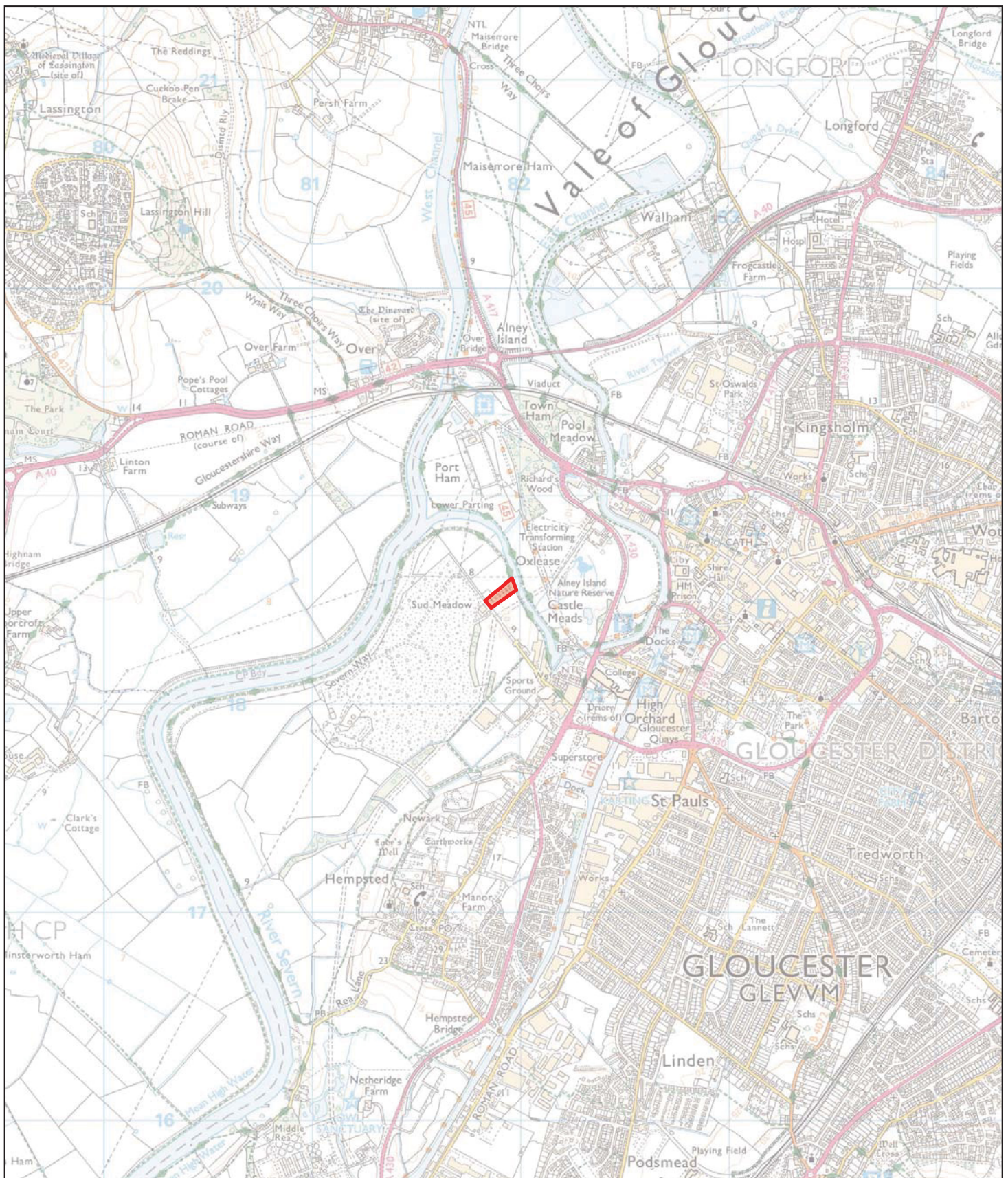


APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

| Trench No. | Context No. | Type | Context interpretation | Description | D (m) | Spot-date |
|-------------------|--------------------|-------------|-------------------------------|--|--------------|------------------|
| 1 | 100 | Layer | Dump deposit | Rubble brick and hardcore yard surface. Modern glass, pottery, plastic and metal | 0.25 | Modern |
| 1 | 101 | Layer | Dump deposit | Blue-grey clay. Modern glass, pottery, plastic, metal and CBM | 2.2 | Modern |
| 1 | 102 | Layer | Dump deposit | Dark grey silt with lenses of ash. Modern glass, pottery, plastic, metal and CBM | >0.4 | Modern |

APPENDIX B: OASIS REPORT FORM

| PROJECT DETAILS | | |
|--|--|------------------------------|
| Project Name | Generation Compound, Sudmeadow Road, Gloucester | |
| Short description | An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in January 2016 at Generation Compound, Sudmeadow Road, Gloucester. One trench was excavated. Modern dump deposits were recorded to a depth in excess of 2.85m below the modern ground surface. No features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed within the trench. | |
| Project dates | 19 January | |
| Project type | Field evaluation | |
| Previous work | None | |
| Future work | Unknown | |
| PROJECT LOCATION | | |
| Site Location | Sudmeadow Road, Gloucester | |
| Study area (M ² /ha) | 0.85 ha | |
| Site co-ordinates | SO 81900 18519 | |
| PROJECT CREATORS | | |
| Name of organisation | Cotswold Archaeology | |
| Project Brief originator | Gloucester City Council | |
| Project Design (WSI) originator | Cotswold Archaeology | |
| Project Manager | Cliff Bateman | |
| 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 | Trench sheets |
| Digital | Gloucester City Museum and Art Gallery | Database, digital photos etc |
| BIBLIOGRAPHY | | |
| CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2016 <i>Generation Compound, Sudmeadow Road, Gloucester: Archaeological Evaluation</i> . CA typescript report 16029 | | |



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PROJECT TITLE
 Generation Compound
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FIGURE TITLE
 Site location plan

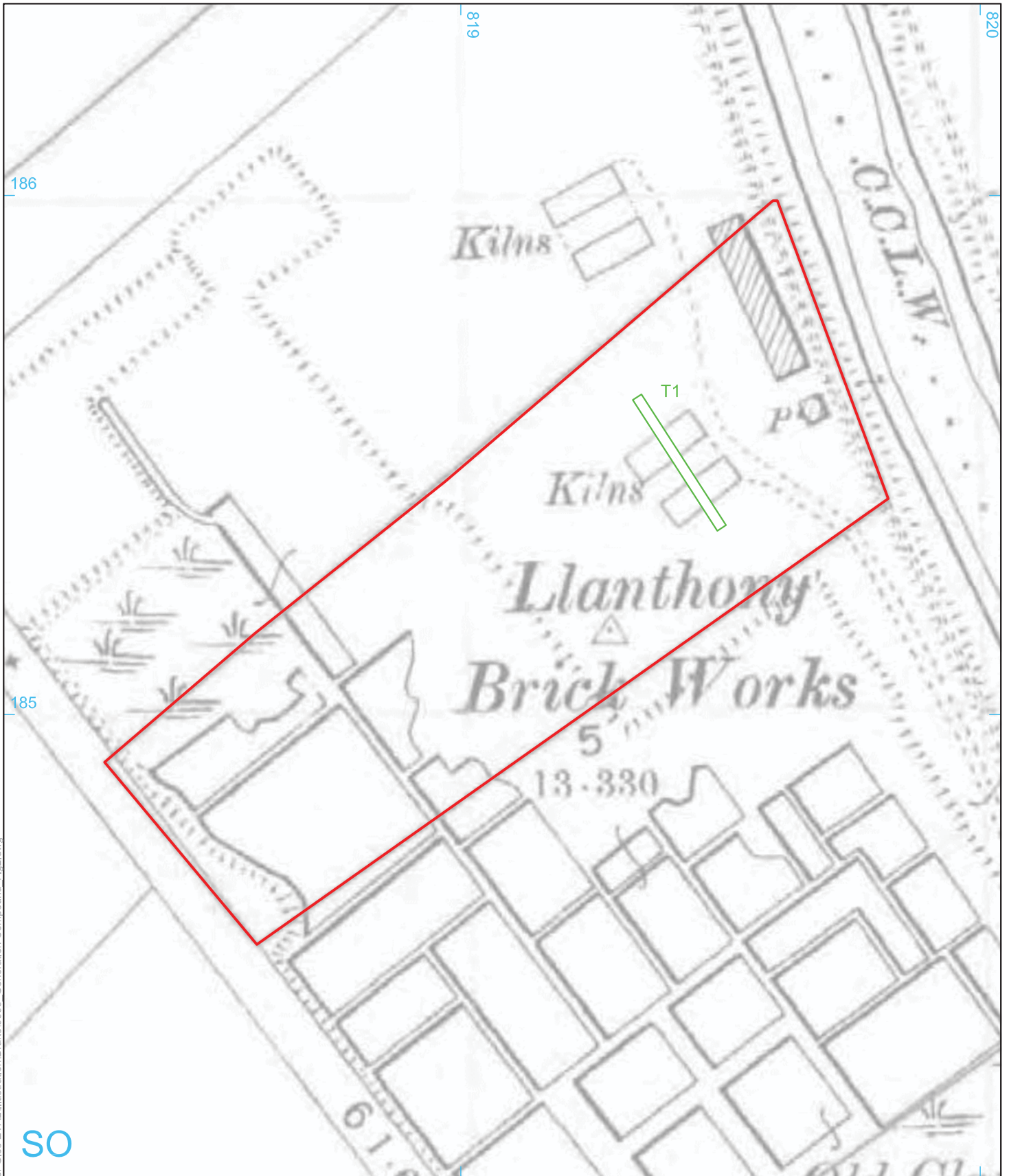
0 1km

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FIGURE NO.

1



- site boundary
- evaluation trench



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PROJECT TITLE
 Generation Compound
 Sudmeadow Road, Gloucester

FIGURE TITLE
**Trench location plan with OS 1902
 county series map in background**

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 CHECKED BY DJB DATE 21/01/2016
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FIGURE NO.

2





3



4

3 Trench 1, looking south-east (1m scale)

4 Trench 1 section showing modern dump deposits looking south-west (1m scale)



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PROJECT TITLE

Generation Compound
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FIGURE TITLE

Photographs

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FIGURE NOS.

3 & 4

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