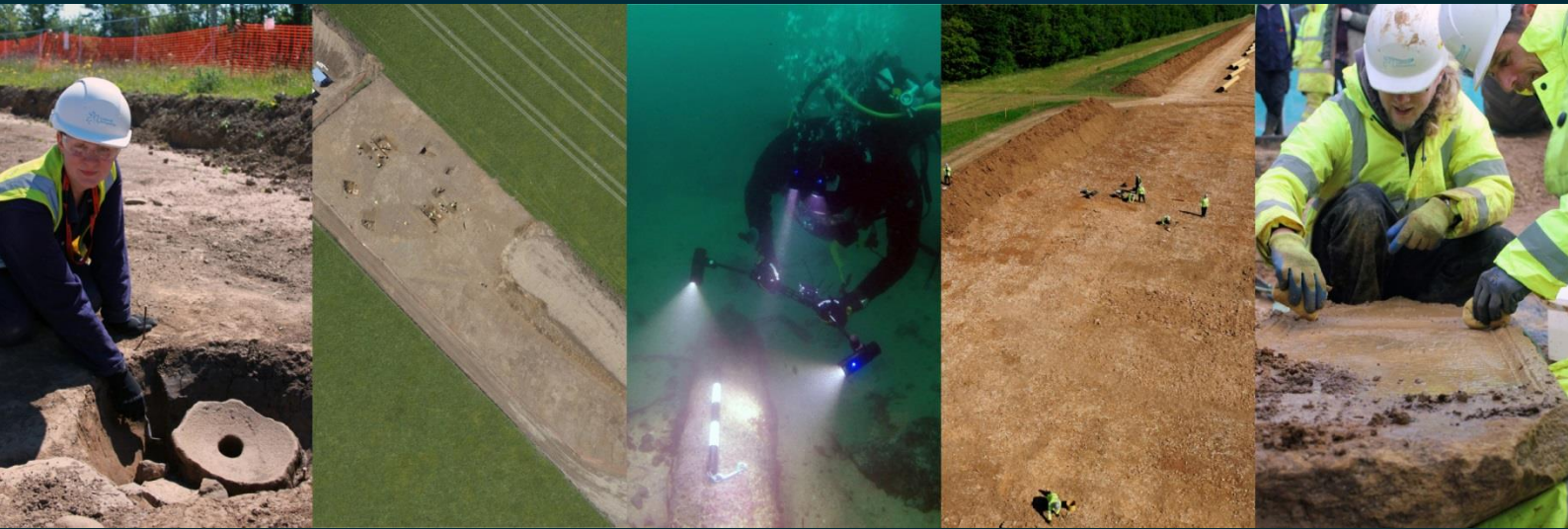


# Wild Place, Bristol Zoo Gardens Hollywood Park, Almondsbury South Gloucestershire

*Archaeological Watching Brief*



for  
Bristol, Clifton and West of England  
Zoological Society

CA Project: 5340  
CA Report: 15145

March 2015



Wild Place, Bristol Zoo Gardens  
Hollywood Park, Almonsbury  
South Gloucestershire

Archaeological Watching Brief

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CA Report: 15145

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Revision	Date	Author	Checked by	Status	Reasons for revision	Approved by
A	24 March 2015	Christopher Leonard	Richard Young	Internal review		

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- Fig. 2 The site, showing location of observed groundworks and previous evaluation trenches (1:4000).



## SUMMARY

**Project Name:** Wild Place, Bristol Zoo Gardens  
**Location:** Hollywood Park, Almondsbury, South Gloucestershire  
**NGR:** ST 5745 8161  
**Type:** Watching Brief  
**Date:** 19 March 2015  
**Location of Archive:** To be deposited with Bristol Museum  
**Site Code:** ZOO 15

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology during groundworks associated with the development of a wildlife park at Wild Place, Bristol Zoo Gardens, Hollywood Park, Almondsbury, South Gloucestershire.

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



## 1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 In March 2015 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological watching brief for Bristol, Clifton and West of England Zoological Society (centred on NGR: ST 5745 8161; Fig. 1). The watching brief was undertaken to fulfil a condition attached to a planning consent for a wildlife park.

1.2 The watching brief was carried out in accordance with detailed *Written Scheme of Investigation* (WSI) produced by CA (2015) and approved by South Gloucestershire Council (SGC), acting on the advice of Paul Driscoll, Archaeology and Historic Environment Record Officer, SGC. The fieldwork also followed *Standard and guidance: Archaeological watching brief* (ClfA 2014), the *Management of Archaeological Projects 2* (English Heritage 1991) and the *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MORPHE): Project Manager's Guide* (English Heritage 2006).

### ***The site***

1.3 The development site is approximately 54ha in area and is situated immediately north of Junction 17 of the M5 motorway, to the north-west of the city of Bristol. It comprises Hollywood Park Estate, centred on Hollywood House and can be divided into three topographic zones: at the south-east is a plateau comprising parkland, fields and woodland; at its centre, running north-east/south-west, is a north-west facing wooded scarp and at the north-west limit are seven low lying fields comprising pasture and young plantation forest. The plateau lies at approximately 65m AOD, dropping away to the pasture fields that lie between 22m and 33m AOD.

1.4 The underlying bedrock geology of the area is mapped as Wilmcote Limestone Member (Limestone and Mudstone, Interbedded) of the Jurassic and Triassic Periods (BGS 2015).

## 2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 The archaeological background of the site is detailed within previous desk-based assessments (BaRAS 2001; CA 2008a), and is briefly summarised below.



- 2.2 The line of a putative Roman road crosses the site on a south-west/north-east alignment and is represented by slight linear earthwork, in all likelihood a former field boundary, situated to the east of Hollywood House. The line of the Roman road from Sea Mills to Gloucester lies immediately beyond the south-eastern edge of the site (ibid.).
- 2.3 Medieval settlement in the immediate vicinity appears to have been focused to the north at Compton Greenfield, although two potential sites of medieval activity, a toft and tenement, have previously been identified within the northern part of proposed development area. The tenement site was also identified as the site of a post-medieval cottage (ibid.).
- 2.4 Parkland associated with Hollywood Park Estate is situated in the south-western part of the application area. It was originally laid out in the early 19th century, with subsequent changes in the early 20th century included alterations to the gardens and the construction of a model farm, as well as the expansion of the estate to the north and east in the 1920s. The site includes the 19th-century Grade II Listed buildings Hollywood House and attached buildings, the Tower and Entrance Way (ibid.).
- 2.5 A geophysical survey, comprising magnetic susceptibility and targeted magnetometry, was undertaken in February and March 2008 as Stage 2 of the evaluation process (AS 2008). The magnetic susceptibility survey indicated zones of relatively high enhancement on the higher ground within the south eastern part of the site with significantly lower values on the lower lying agricultural land to the north-west. Detailed magnetometry survey, targeted upon ten separate areas, revealed a number of positive linear and discrete anomalies although none could be confidently interpreted as archaeological in origin (ibid.).
- 2.6 An archaeological evaluation of the site was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in April and May 2008 (CA 2008b). A total of 44 trenches were excavated. The evaluation established an absence of pre-modern archaeological features and deposits across the site. Trenches placed across the projected line of a Roman road found no evidence for any Romano-British features or deposits. Evidence for modern agricultural activity was noted across the site along with a small number of undated, irregularly-shaped discrete features. A small number of Romano-British, medieval, post medieval and modern pottery sherds were recovered from the topsoil

and subsoil during machining. Trenches 27–29, which were located in the area immediately surrounding the monitored groundworks contained no archaeological features or deposits.

### 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). The groundworks comprised the machine stripping of an area to the south-east of an existing car park and the excavation of drainage trenches (Fig. 2).

4.2 Where archaeological deposits were encountered written, graphic and photographic records were compiled in accordance with CA Technical Manual 1: *Fieldwork Recording Manual*.

4.3 The archive from the watching brief is currently held by CA at their offices in Kemble and will be deposited with Bristol Museum. 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)

5.1 The ground level of an area measuring 60m long and 23m wide was reduced by 0.1m. The ground reduction did not exceed the depth of the topsoil. Five drainage

trenches, each measuring 0.5m wide and 0.5m deep were dug from the reduced ground level in the locations shown on Fig. 2.

- 5.2 No features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed during groundworks and, despite visual scanning of spoil, no artefactual material pre-dating the modern period was recovered.

## 6. CA PROJECT TEAM

Fieldwork was undertaken by Christopher Leonard. The report was written by Christopher Leonard. The illustrations were prepared by Jon Bennett. The archive has been compiled and prepared for deposition by Hazel O'Neill. The project was managed for CA by Richard Young.

## 7. REFERENCES

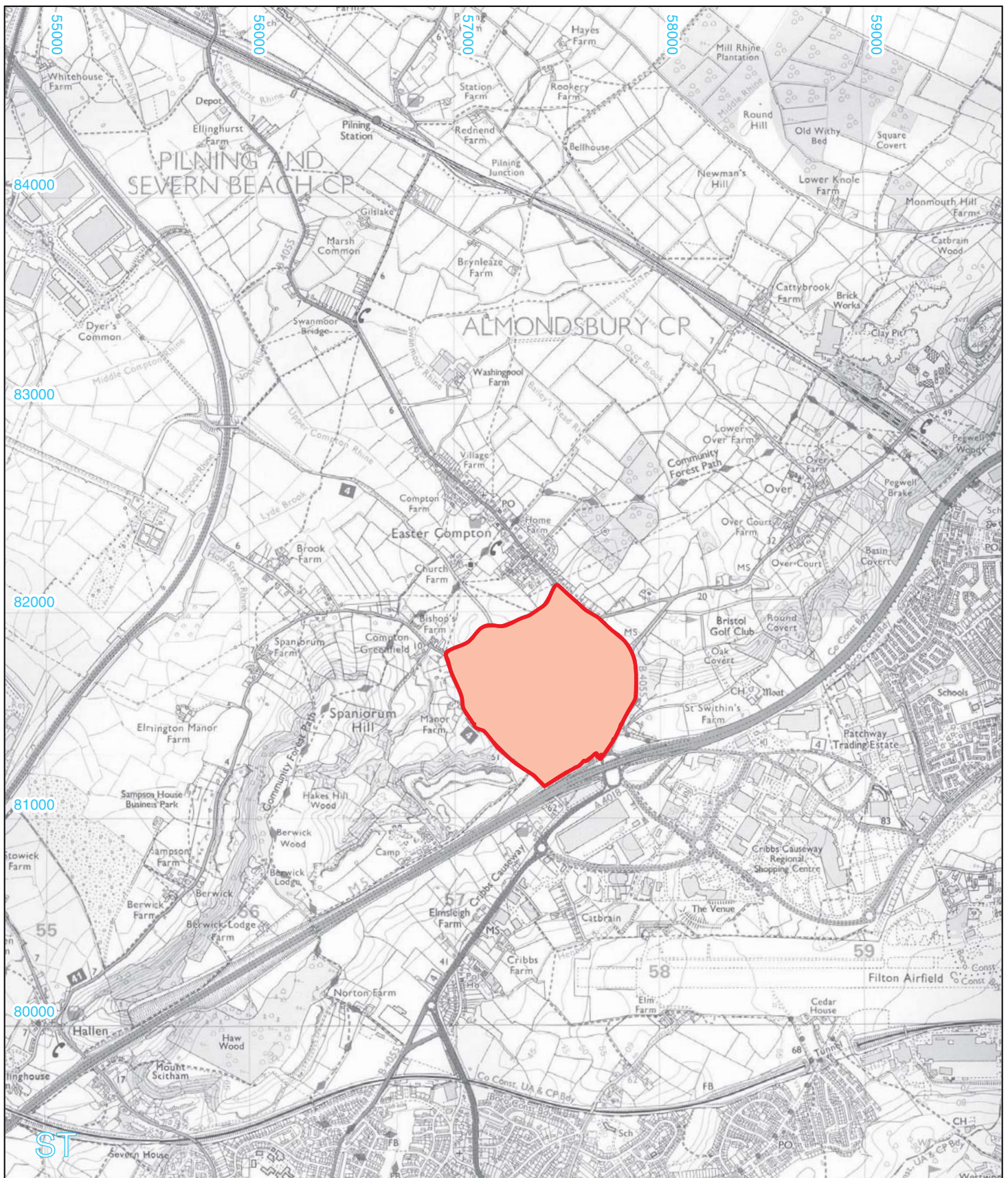
- BGS (British Geological Survey) 2015 *Geology of Britain Viewer* <http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html> Accessed 24 March 2015
- CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2008a *Land at Hollywood Park, Almondsbury, South Gloucestershire: Desk-based Assessment*. CA typescript report **08034**
- CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2008b *Land at Hollywood Park, Almondsbury, South Gloucestershire: Archaeological Evaluation*. CA typescript report **08103**
- CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2015 *Wild Place, Bristol Zoo Gardens, Hollywood Park, Almondsbury, South Gloucestershire: Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Watching Brief*





**APPENDIX A: OASIS REPORT FORM**

<b>PROJECT DETAILS</b>		
Project Name	Wild Place, Bristol Zoo Gardens, Hollywood Park, Almondsbury, South Gloucestershire	
Short description	An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology during groundworks associated with the development of a wildlife park at Wild Place, Bristol Zoo Gardens, Hollywood Park, Almondsbury, South Gloucestershire.  No features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed during groundworks, and no artefactual material pre-dating the modern period was recovered.	
Project dates	19 March 2015	
Project type	Watching Brief	
Previous work	DBA (Bristol and Region Archaeological Service 2001) DBA (CA 2008) Geophysical Survey (Archaeological Services 2008) Evaluation (CA 2008)	
Future work	Unknown	
<b>PROJECT LOCATION</b>		
Site Location	Hollywood Park, Almondsbury, South Gloucestershire	
Study area	54ha	
Site co-ordinates	ST 5745 8161	
<b>PROJECT CREATORS</b>		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Brief originator	South Gloucestershire Council	
Project Design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Manager	Richard Young	
Project Supervisor	Christopher Leonard	
<b>MONUMENT TYPE</b>		
	None	
<b>SIGNIFICANT FINDS</b>		
	None	
<b>PROJECT ARCHIVES</b>		
	Intended final location of archive	Content
Physical	-	-
Paper	Bristol Museum	Context sheets
Digital	Bristol Museum	Database, digital photos
<b>BIBLIOGRAPHY</b>		
CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2015 <i>Wild Place, Bristol Zoo Gardens, Hollywood Park, Almondsbury, South Gloucestershire: Archaeological Watching Brief</i> . CA typescript report <b>15145</b>		



 Site Location



0  1km

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**PROJECT TITLE**  
Wild Place, Giraffe House, Bristol Zoo  
Gardens, Hollywood Park, Almondsbury,  
South Gloucestershire

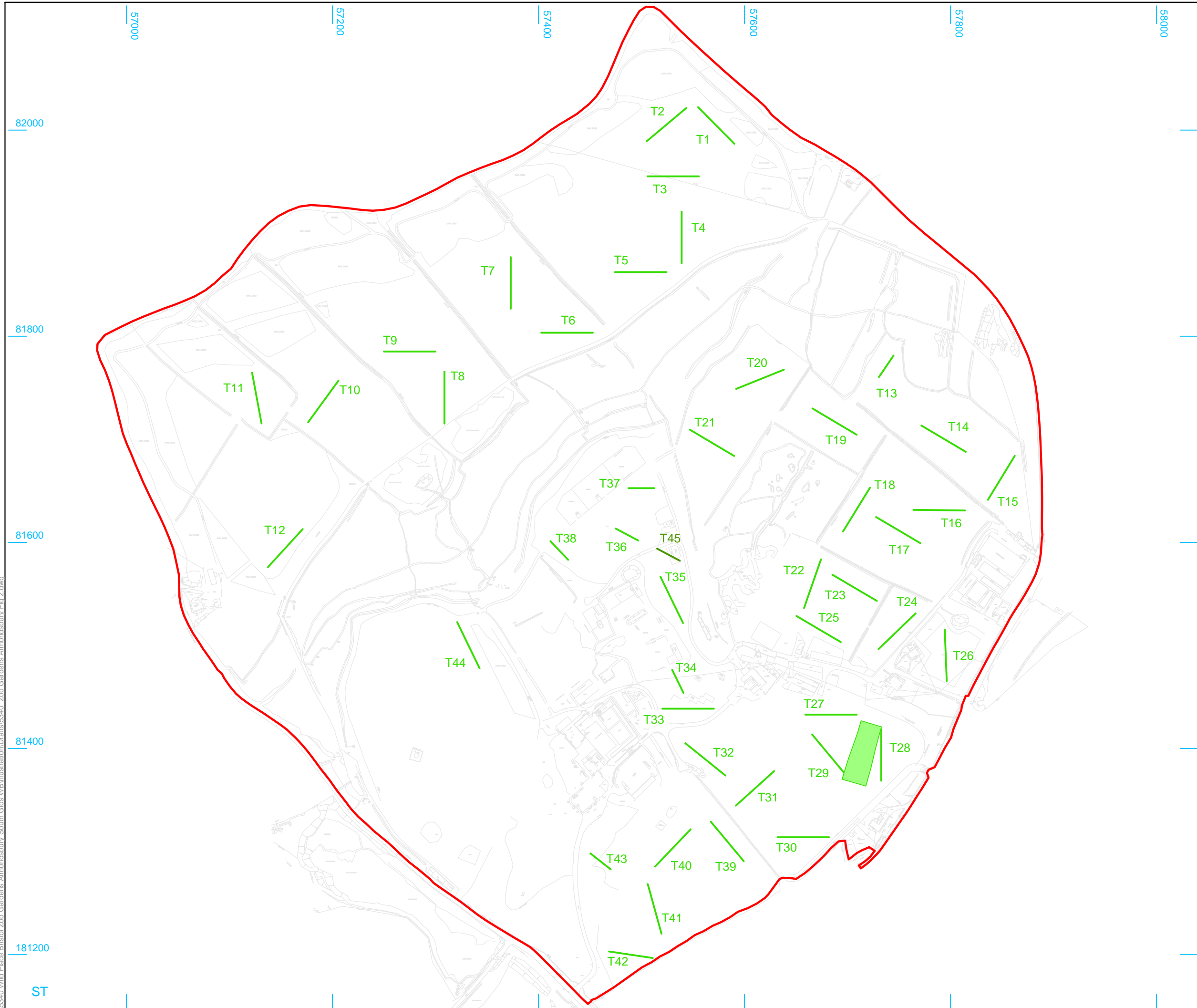
**FIGURE TITLE**  
Site location plan





**DRAWN BY** TC  
**CHECKED BY** DB  
**APPROVED BY** RY

**PROJECT NO.** 5340  
**DATE** 24/01/2017  
**SCALE** @A4  
1:25,000

**FIGURE NO.**  
**1**





-  site location
-  area of observed groundworks: Giraffe House (CA 2017)
-  area of observed groundworks: (CA 2015)
-  evaluation trench (CA 2008)



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**PROJECT TITLE**  
 Wild Place, Giraffe House, Bristol Zoo Gardens, Hollywood Park, Almondsbury, South Gloucestershire

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

DRAWN BY	TC	PROJECT NO.	5340	FIGURE NO.
CHECKED BY	DB	DATE	24/01/2017	
APPROVED BY	RY	SCALE@A3	1:3500	<b>2</b>

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