

**Priestpool Farm  
Ingst Road  
Olveston  
South Gloucestershire**

*Archaeological Watching Brief*



for  
Mr Cyril Hicks

CA Project: 6259  
CA Report: 18077

February 2018



# Priestpool Farm Ingst Road Olveston South Gloucestershire

## Archaeological Watching Brief

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CA Report: 18077



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A	2 February 2018	Alison Roberts		Draft		Cliff Bateman

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## SUMMARY

<b>Project Name:</b>	Priestpool Farm
<b>Location:</b>	Ingst Road, Olveston, South Gloucestershire
<b>NGR:</b>	359177 187975
<b>Type:</b>	Watching Brief
<b>Date:</b>	6 February 2018
<b>Planning Reference:</b>	14/00798/FUL
<b>Location of Archive:</b>	To be deposited with Bristol Museums, Galleries & Archives
<b>Site Code:</b>	PRIP18

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology during groundworks associated with the conversion of an agricultural building into a dwelling at Priestpool Farm, Ingst Road, Olveston, 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 February 2018 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological watching brief for Mr Cyril Hicks at Priestpool Farm, Ingst Road, Olveston, South Gloucestershire (centred at NGR: 359177 187975; Fig. 1). The watching brief was undertaken to fulfil a condition attached to planning consent granted by South Gloucestershire Council (SGC) for the conversion of an agricultural building into a dwelling and associated works (Planning ref: 14/00798/FUL; condition 5).
- 1.2 The watching brief was carried out in accordance with a detailed *Written Scheme of Investigation* (WSI) produced by CA (2017) and approved by Dr Paul Driscoll, Archaeology and Historic Environment Record Officer, SGC. The fieldwork also followed *Standard and guidance: Archaeological watching brief* (ClfA 2014).

### ***The site***

- 1.3 The development area is approximately 0.04ha and comprises an extant agricultural building and areas of surrounding hardstanding. It is bounded to the north by Ingst Road, to the east by agricultural farmland and to the south and west by further agricultural buildings. The site lies at approximately 7m AOD with a broadly level topography.
- 1.4 The underlying bedrock geology of the area is mapped as Mudstone of the Mercia Mudstone Group-Mudstone of the Triassic Period. No superficial deposits are mapped (BGS 2017). The natural geological substrate encountered during the current works comprised compact red-brown clay.

## 2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

### *Prehistoric*

- 2.1 Evidence of early prehistoric (Mesolithic-Bronze Age) exploitation of the Avon Levels is limited to a number of chance finds of Neolithic hand axes. These include an isolated example recorded c. 1.8km to the south-east of the site (CgMs 2011).
- 2.2 The Levels were inundated by the sea by c. 450BC, following which most of the Avon Levels were mudflats and salt marshes and therefore an inhospitable environment for permanent occupation. The only find of Iron Age date within the

area is an undisclosed quantity of pottery recorded at Ingst Hill, c. 0.8km to the north west of current site (*ibid.*).

- 2.3 Cropmarks, of probable prehistoric date, have been identified by aerial photography, c. 1km to the west of the site. The cropmarks are believed to be indicative of a 250m long stretch of trackway with a number of enclosures located at the trackway's south-eastern end (SGHER 2018).

#### *Roman*

- 2.4 Find spots of Roman and Iron Age pottery have been recorded c.0.5km to the north-west of the site and provide evidence to suggest the presence of Iron Age-Roman transitional sites in the wider area (CgMs 2011). Furthermore, an evaluation undertaken at Ingst, c. 0.5km to the north-west of the site, identified a number of ditches dating to the Roman period (CA 2013).

#### *Medieval*

- 2.5 The village of Olveston itself has Saxon and medieval origins and the scheduled remains of Olveston Court (National Monument 1128927), a fortified manor of medieval date, lie 1km to the east of the site.

#### *Post-medieval/modern*

- 2.6 The current boundaries of the site appear to have been established by the latter part of the 19th-century and are shown on the 1886 First Edition Ordnance Survey (OS) map. The site itself, and the surrounding field layout, remain essentially unchanged on all later editions of OS mapping.

### **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 2017). An archaeologist was present during intrusive groundworks associated with the conversion of an agricultural building into a dwelling comprising excavations for a septic tank (Trench 1) and for an associated drainage run (Trench 2: see Fig. 2 for locations and extent). No other intrusive groundworks were required during the conversion works.
- 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 and artefacts from the evaluation are currently held by CA at their offices in Kemble. Subject to the agreement of the legal landowner the site archive will be deposited with Bristol Museums, Galleries & Archives. 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 2-3)

- 5.1 The natural geological substrate, consisting of compact red-brown clay, was revealed within Trench 1 at an average depth of 0.6m below present ground level (bpgl). This was overlain by made-ground deposits, comprising modern rubble in a red-brown silt clay matrix through which an existing water supply had been laid, averaging 0.4m in thickness, which was in turn sealed by topsoil.
- 5.2 Within Trench 2, the natural geological substrate was encountered at a typical depth of 0.4m bpgl. This was overlain by made ground, comprising mid grey-brown silt clay, averaging 0.3m in thickness, which in turn was sealed by 0.1m of concrete.
- 5.3 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. 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 groundworks. The observation of modern made-ground deposits immediately sealing the natural substrate is noteworthy, and suggests that the area has been subject to a preceding episode of groundworks, presumably during construction of the extant buildings and associated hardstanding. However, from the current, albeit limited, evidence it remains undetermined whether any pre-existing archaeological features/deposits may have been truncated during these previous works or whether the currently observed absence of archaeological deposits is an accurate reflection of the paucity of archaeological remains.

## 7. CA PROJECT TEAM

Fieldwork was undertaken by Alison Roberts. The report was written by Alison Roberts. The illustrations were prepared by Aleks Osinska. The archive has been compiled by Alison Roberts, and prepared for deposition by Hazel O'Neill. The project was managed for CA by Cliff Bateman.

## 8. REFERENCES

- BGS (British Geological Survey) 2018 *Geology of Britain Viewer* <http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html> Accessed 6 February 2018
- CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2013 *M48/M4 Windfarm, Ingst, South Gloucestershire: Archaeological Evaluation* CA typescript report 13079
- CA 2017 *Priestpool Farm, Ingst Road, Olveston, South Gloucestershire: Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Watching Brief*
- CgMs Consulting 2011 *Archaeological Desk Based Assessment – M48/M4 Windfarm, Ingst, South Gloucestershire*
- SGHER (South Gloucestershire Historic Environment Record Online) 2018 <http://maps.bristol.gov.uk/kyp/?edition=southglos> Accessed 6 February 2018

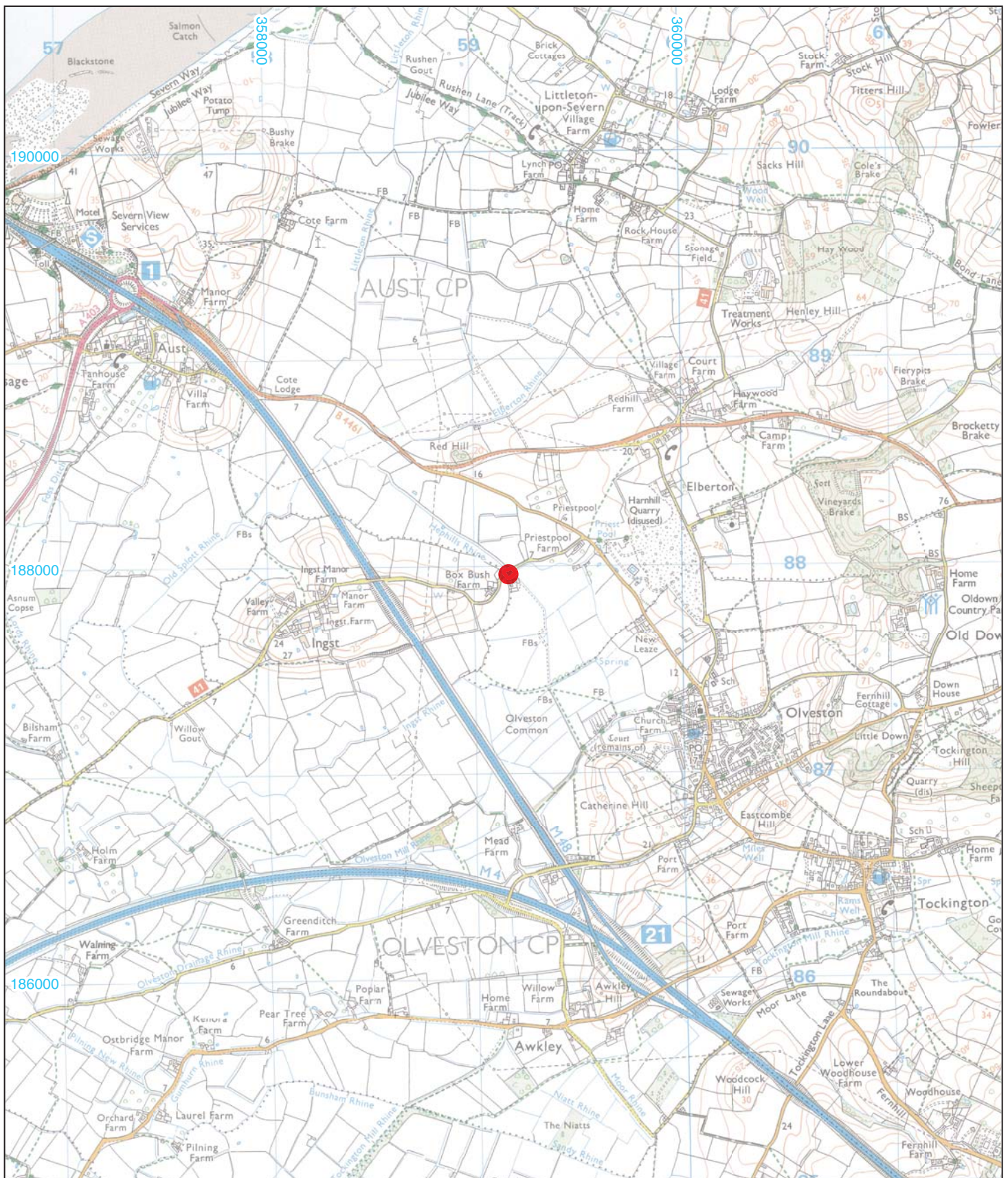


**APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS**

Trench No.	Context No.	Type	Fill of	Context interpretation	Description	L (m)	W (m)	Depth /thickness (m)
1	100	Layer		topsoil	mid grey brown silty clay	5.04	0.9 - 1.8	0.2
1	101	Layer		made ground	mid red-brown silty clay with modern rubble within including offcuts of pipe, metal and plastic	5.04	0.9 – 1.8	0.4
1	102	Layer		natural substrate	mid red-brown clay	5.04	0.9 – 1.8	>1.65
2	200	Layer		concrete	concrete hardstanding	18	0.9	0.1
2	201	Layer		made ground	mid grey-brown silt clay with frequent rubble used as a bedding layer for 200	18	0.9	0.3
2	202	Layer		natural substrate	same as 102	18	0.9	>0.4

**APPENDIX B: OASIS REPORT FORM**

<b>PROJECT DETAILS</b>		
Project Name	Priestpool Farm, Ingst Road, Olveston, South Gloucestershire	
Short description	An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology during groundworks associated with the conversion of an agricultural building into a dwelling at Priestpool Farm, Ingst Road, Olveston, 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	6 February 2018	
Project type	Watching Brief	
Previous work	None	
Future work	Unknown	
<b>PROJECT LOCATION</b>		
Site Location	Priestpool Farm, Ingst Road, Olveston, South Gloucestershire	
Study area (M <sup>2</sup> /ha)	0.04 ha	
Site co-ordinates	359177 187975	
<b>PROJECT CREATORS</b>		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Manager	Cliff Bateman	
Project Supervisor	Alison Roberts	
<b>MONUMENT TYPE</b>		
None		
<b>SIGNIFICANT FINDS</b>		
None		
<b>PROJECT ARCHIVES</b>		
	Intended final location of archive	Content
Paper	Bristol Museums, Galleries and Archives	Trench recording forms, photographic registers
Digital	Bristol Museums, Galleries and Archives	Digital photographs
<b>BIBLIOGRAPHY</b>		
CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2018 <i>Priestpool Farm, Ingst Road, Olveston, South Gloucestershire: Archaeological Watching Brief</i> . CA typescript report <b>18077</b>		



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**PROJECT TITLE**  
 Priestpool Farm, Ingst Road, Olveston,  
 South Gloucestershire

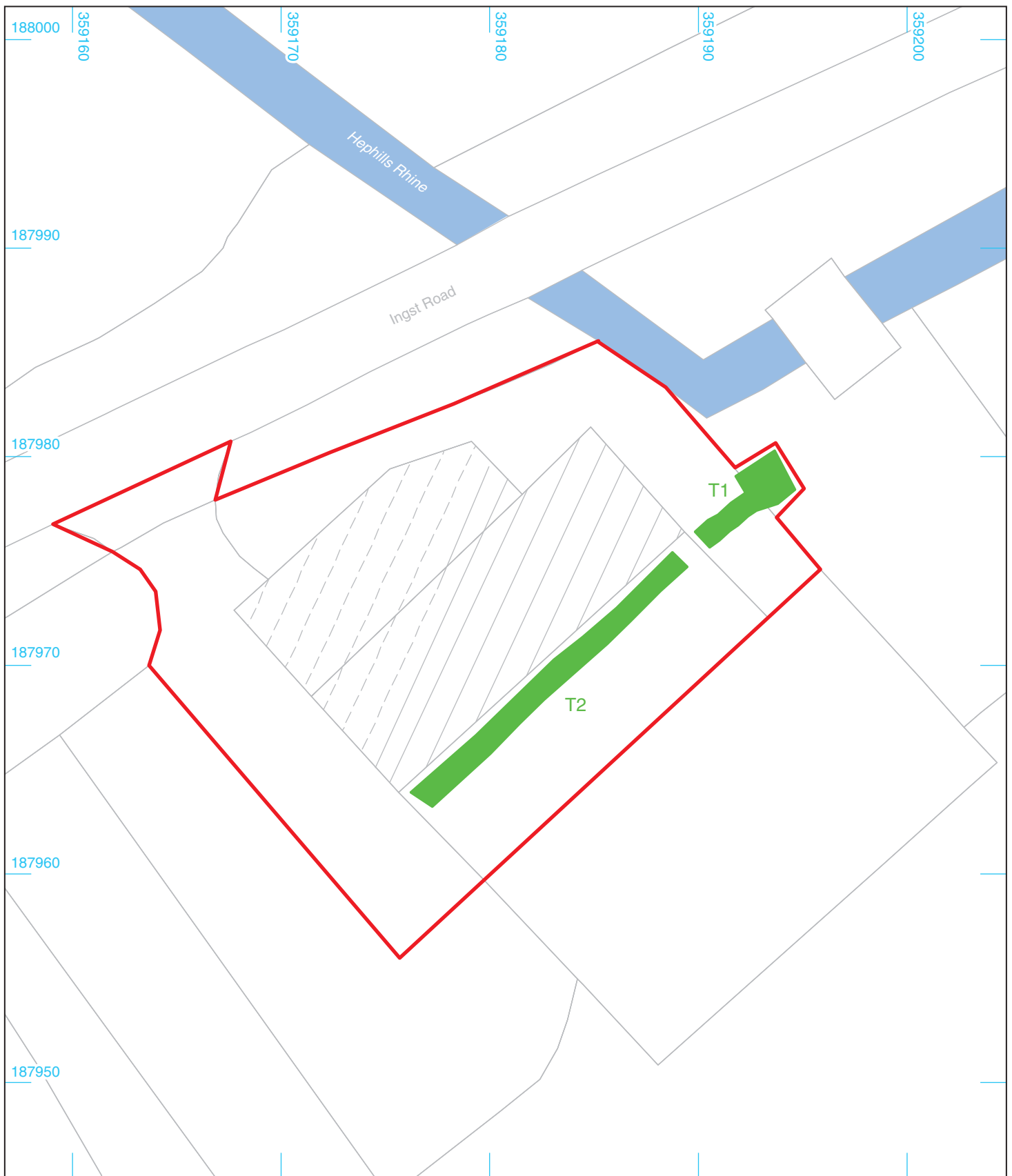
**FIGURE TITLE**  
 Site location plan




0 1km

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 Ordnance Survey 0100031673

DRAWN BY	AO	PROJECT NO.	6259	FIGURE NO.
CHECKED BY	DJB	DATE	13/02/2018	
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-  Site boundary
-  Area of observed groundworks
-  Extant building subject to conversion



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**PROJECT TITLE**

Priestpool Farm, Ingst Road, Olveston,  
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**FIGURE TITLE**

**The site, showing observed  
groundworks**

0 1:250 10m

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**FIGURE NO.**

**2**



Trench 1, looking north-east (1m scale)



Trench 2, looking south-west (1m scale)



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PROJECT TITLE

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FIGURE TITLE

Photographs

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FIGURE NO.

3



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