

# New Rising Main and SPS Extension Ampney St Peter Gloucestershire

*Archaeological Watching Brief*



for  
eight<sub>2</sub>O

on behalf of  
Thames Water Utilities Ltd

CA Project: 6425  
CA Report: 18050

March 2018



# New Rising Main and SPS Extension Ampney St Peter Gloucestershire

## Archaeological Watching Brief

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A	16 March 2018	Andrew Donald	Steven Sheldon	Final LPA Issue		Laurent Coleman

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## SUMMARY

<b>Project Name:</b>	New Rising Main and SPS Extension
<b>Location:</b>	Ampney St Peter, Gloucestershire
<b>NGR:</b>	408281 200985
<b>Type:</b>	Watching Brief
<b>Date:</b>	8 November 2017 to 26 January 2018
<b>Location of Archive:</b>	The Corinium Museum, Cirencester
<b>Site Code:</b>	AMP 17

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology during groundworks associated with the installation of a new rising main and extension of an existing sewerage pumping station at Ampney St Peter, Gloucestershire.

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



## 1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Between November 2017 and January 2018 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological watching brief for eight<sup>2</sup>0, on behalf of Thames Water Utilities Ltd, during groundworks associated with the installation of a new Rising Main and Sewerage Pumping Station (SPS) extension at Ampney St Peter, Gloucestershire (centred at NGR: 408281 200985; Fig. 1). The watching brief comprised Permitted Development for the installation of a new Rising Main and SPS extension but is governed by Thames Water's responsibilities under the *Code of Practice on Conservation, Access and Recreation*.
- 1.2 Following consultation between Claire Hallybone, Senior Archaeologist, Thames Water Utilities Ltd. and Charles Parry, Archaeologist, Gloucestershire County Council (GCC), it was agreed that a watching brief was required during all groundworks associated with the installation of the new Rising Main and SPS extension. The watching brief was carried out in accordance with a subsequent detailed *Written Scheme of Investigation* (WSI) produced by CA (CA 2017) and approved by Mr Parry. The fieldwork also followed *Standard and guidance: Archaeological watching brief* (ClfA 2014).

### **The site**

- 1.3 The new rising main route and existing SPS are located within three agricultural fields, situated immediately to the south of the village of Ampney St. Peter, Gloucestershire. The areas subject to watching brief are bounded to the west by Ampney Brook and an unnamed road, to the north by a residential property and to the south and east by farmland. The new rising main route lies at approximately 98m AOD and is broadly level.
- 1.4 The underlying bedrock geology of the area is mapped as Forest Marble Formation Mudstone of the Jurassic Period (BGS 2018). The natural substrate, comprising compact grey-yellow limestone brash with occasional patches of blue-grey clay, was revealed throughout the areas of observed groundworks.



## 2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The new rising main route and existing SPS are located in an area of known archaeological potential. The following is a summary of publically available information pertinent to the site:
- 2.2 The existing SPS is located c. 500m to the west of Scheduled Monument *Ranbury Ring* (National Monument 1003322), an upstanding Iron Age ringwork. An archaeological excavation undertaken immediately to the west of this monument revealed an irregular alignment of five pits, a pit containing the flexed skeleton of a child between 9 and 13 years old and a posthole containing a small quantity of burnt animal bone (Mudd 2012). No artefacts were recovered from these features; however radiocarbon dates obtained from the skeleton date it to the middle Neolithic period (*ibid.*).
- 2.3 The remains of a Romano-British villa, an associated field system and two outbuildings, one of which may represent the site of a Roman-Celtic temple, are located c. 250m to the south-west of the existing SPS and form part of a further Scheduled Monument (National Monument 1021448). The Scheduled area also appears to contain several separate sites of possible earlier settlement, including a number of cropmarks seemingly indicating the presence of Iron Age enclosed farmsteads. Further cropmarks, possibly representing a later prehistoric trackway, are recorded c. 100m to the south of the existing SPS by the Gloucestershire Historic Environmental Record (HER 37905).
- 2.4 Earthworks, indicative of former water meadows, are recorded immediately to the west of Ampney Brook (HER 3313), c. 10m to the west of the new rising main route. The earthworks remain undated but comprise a system of interrelated water channels and drainage ditches, seemingly constructed in several phases. The 1884 First Edition Ordnance Survey (OS) map shows the site of the new rising main and existing SPS occupied by two agricultural fields, similarly arranged to those seen today. These fields remain essentially unchanged on all subsequent editions of the 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 (see Fig. 2 for location and extent) comprising; areas of ground reduction undertaken prior to the extension of the existing SPS compound (Areas 1 and 2) and the excavation of open cut trenches for the new rising main (Area 3). Non-archaeologically significant deposits were removed by the contractors under archaeological supervision. Where mechanical excavators were used, these were equipped with a toothless bucket.

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. It will be deposited with Corinium 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 2-3)

5.1 Within Areas 1-3 the natural substrate, comprising compact grey-yellow limestone brash with occasional patches of blue-grey clay, was identified at a depth of between 0.34m and 0.5m below present ground level (bpgl). The natural substrate

was sealed by subsoil, measuring between 0.2m and 0.35m in thickness, which was in turn sealed by topsoil, measuring between 0.12m and 0.15m in thickness.

- 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. DISCUSSION

- 6.1 Despite the archaeological potential of the application area (see *archaeological background* above), the watching brief identified no archaeological remains within the areas of observed groundworks. The absence of archaeological deposits may indicate that features associated with the nearby former water meadows either do not extend as far as, or were not exposed by, the development.

## 7. CA PROJECT TEAM

- 7.1 Fieldwork was undertaken by Noel Boothroyd and Andrew Donald. The report was written by Andrew Donald and Sian Reynish. The illustrations were prepared by Aleksandra Osinska. The archive has been compiled and prepared for deposition by Hazel O'Neill. The project was managed for CA by Steven Sheldon.

## 8. REFERENCES

BGS (British Geological Survey) 2018 *Geology of Britain Viewer* <http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html> Accessed 28 February 2018

CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2017 *New Rising Main and SPS Extension, Ampney St Peter, Gloucestershire: Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Watching Brief*

Mudd, A. 2012 'A Neolithic Burial and Pit Alignment near Ranbury Ring, Ampney St Peter: Excavations in 2008/9', *Trans. Bristol Gloucestershire Archaeol. Soc.* **130**, 25-88

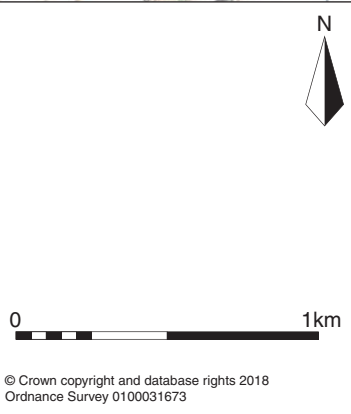
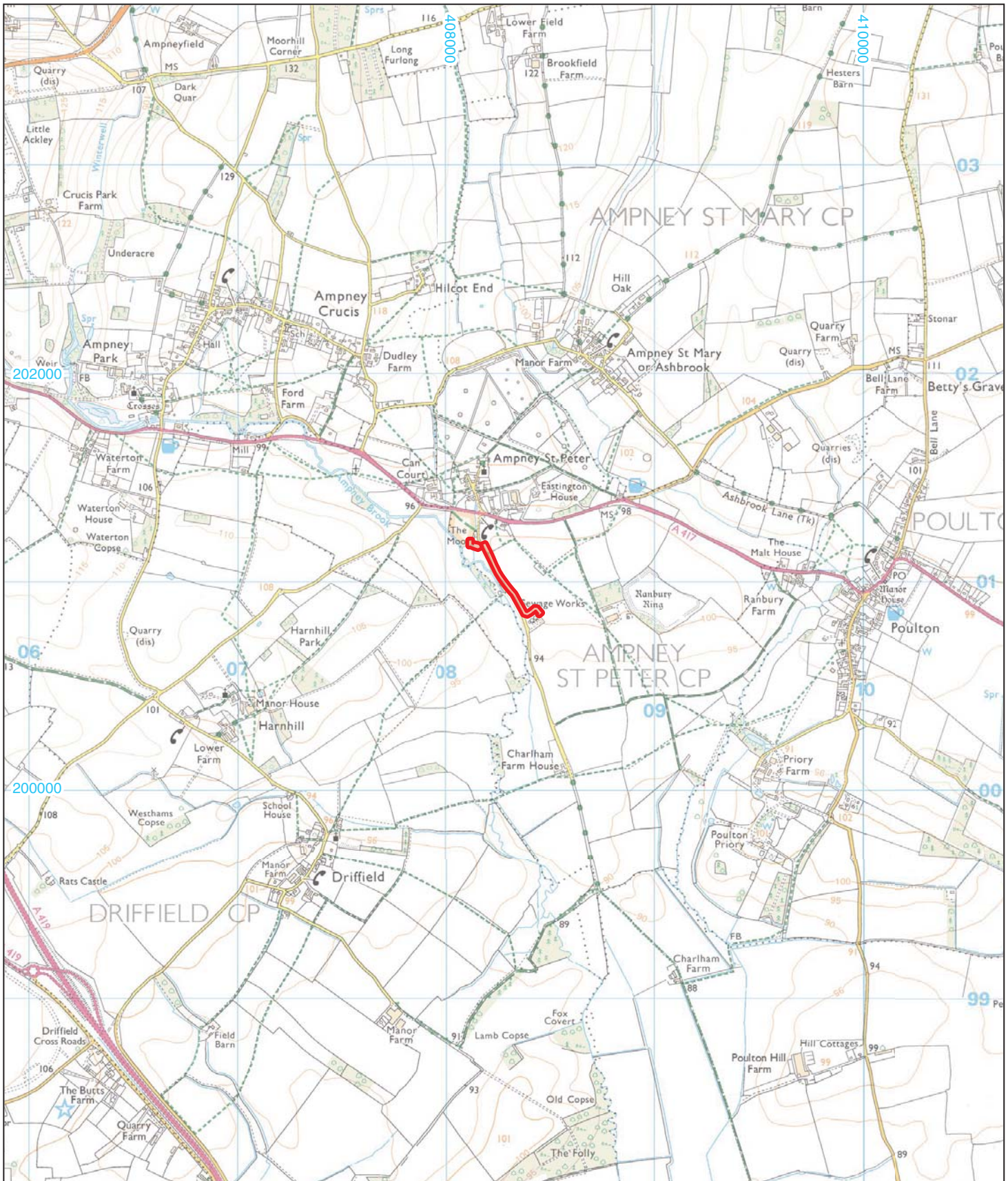


**APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS**

Area	Context No.	Type	Context interpretation	Description	L (m)	W (m)	Depth/ thickness (m)
1	100	Layer	Topsoil	Dark grey brown sand clay	>25	>12.5	0.12
1	101	Layer	Subsoil	Mid to light brown sand clay with occasional limestone fragment inclusions	>25	>12.5	0.22
1	102	Layer	Natural substrate	Compact grey-yellow limestone brash with occasional patches of blue-grey clay	>25	>12.5	>0.06
2	200	Layer	Topsoil	Dark grey brown sand clay	>30	>12.5	0.15
2	201	Layer	Subsoil	Mid to light brown sand clay with occasional limestone fragment inclusions	>30	>12.5	0.23
2	202	Layer	Natural substrate	Compact grey-yellow limestone brash with occasional patches of blue-grey clay	>30	>12.5	>0.09
3	300	Layer	Topsoil	Dark grey brown sand clay	>300	>8	0.15
3	301	Layer	Subsoil	Mid to light brown sand clay with occasional limestone fragment inclusions	>300	>8	0.35
3	302	Layer	Natural substrate	Compact grey-yellow limestone brash with occasional patches of blue-grey clay	>300	>0.6	>0.1

**APPENDIX B: OASIS REPORT FORM**

<b>PROJECT DETAILS</b>		
Project Name	New Rising Main and SPS Extension, Ampney St Peter, Gloucestershire	
Short description	An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology during groundworks associated with the installation of a new rising main and extension of an existing sewerage pumping station at Ampney St Peter, Gloucestershire.  No features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed during groundworks, and no artefactual material was recovered.	
Project dates	8 November 2017 – 26 January 2018	
Project type	Watching brief	
Previous work	None	
Future work	Unknown	
<b>PROJECT LOCATION</b>		
Site Location	New Rising Main and SPS Extension, Ampney St Peter, Gloucestershire	
Site co-ordinates	408281 200985	
<b>PROJECT CREATORS</b>		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Manager	Steven Sheldon	
Project Supervisor	Noel Boothroyd and Andrew Donald	
<b>MONUMENT TYPE</b>		
	None	
<b>SIGNIFICANT FINDS</b>		
	None	
<b>PROJECT ARCHIVES</b>		
	Intended final location of archive:	Content:
Paper	Corinium Museum, Cirencester	Trench recording forms and digital photographic registers
Digital	Corinium Museum, Cirencester	Digital photographs
<b>BIBLIOGRAPHY</b>		
CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2018 New Rising Main and SPS Extension, Ampney St Peter, Gloucestershire: <i>Watching Brief</i> . CA typescript report <b>18050</b>		



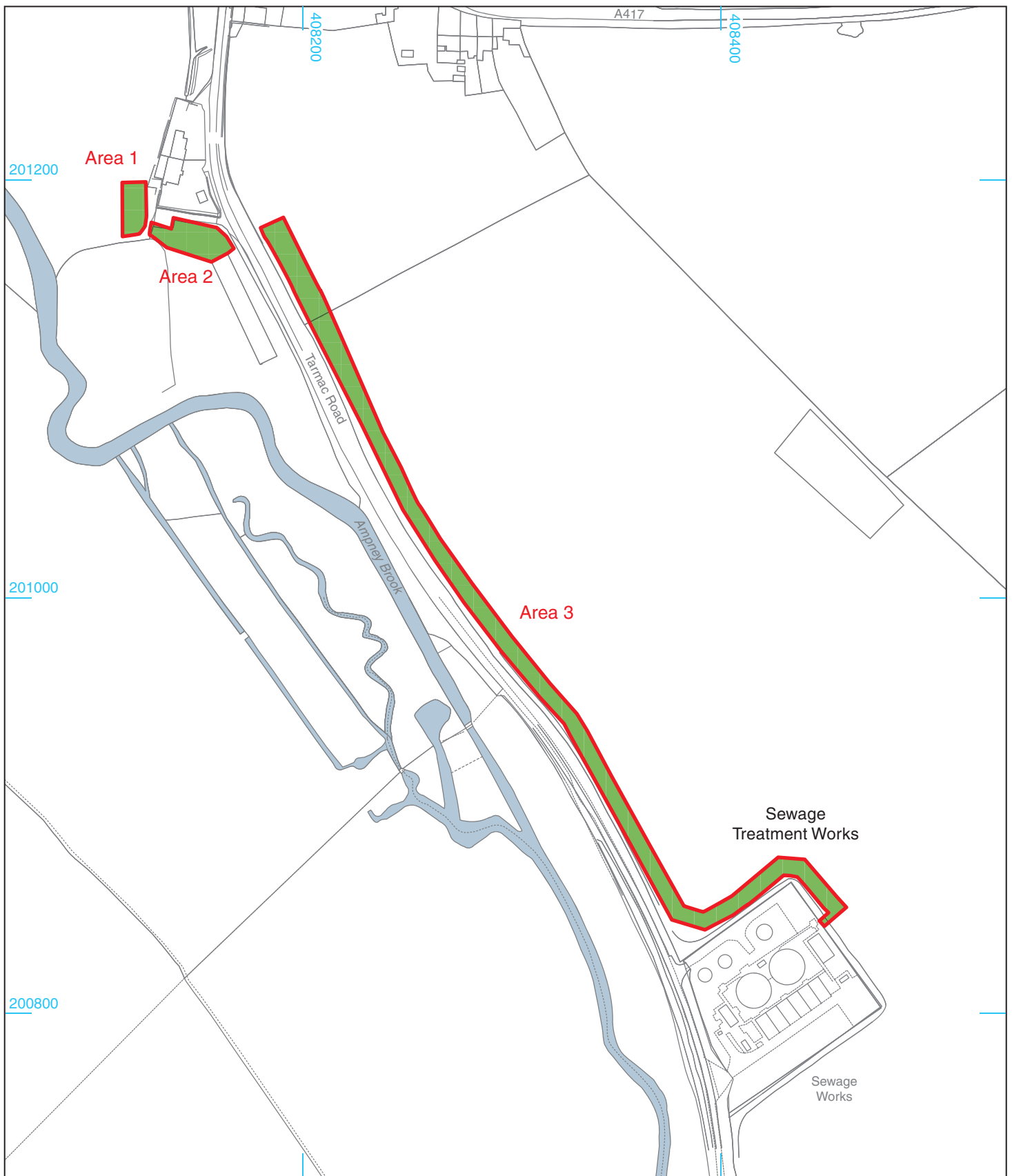

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PROJECT TITLE  
**New Rising Main and SPS Extension,  
 Ampney St Peter, Gloucestershire**

FIGURE TITLE  
**Site location plan**

DRAWN BY	AO	PROJECT NO.	6425	FIGURE NO.
CHECKED BY	DJB	DATE	12/02/2018	<b>1</b>
APPROVED BY	SS	SCALE@A4	1:25,000	

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Ordnance Survey 0100031673



- Site boundary
- Area of observed groundworks



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**PROJECT TITLE**

**New Rising Main and SPS Extension,  
Ampney St Peter, Gloucestershire**

**FIGURE TITLE**

**The site, showing location of observed  
groundworks**

DRAWN BY AO PROJECT NO. 6425  
 CHECKED BY DJB DATE 12/02/2018  
 APPROVED BY SS SCALE@A4 1:2500

**FIGURE NO.**

**2**

0 1:2,500 100m



Area 3 (New Rising Main Route), looking north-west



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PROJECT TITLE

New Rising Main and SPS Extension,  
Ampney St Peter, Gloucestershire

FIGURE TITLE

**Photograph**

DRAWN BY AO PROJECT NO. 6425  
CHECKED BY DJB DATE 12/02/2018  
APPROVED BY SS SCALE@A4 N/A

FIGURE NO.

**3**

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