

**BUILDINGS 200B AND 210
AIRBUS TECHNOLOGY PARK
FILTON
SOUTH GLOUCESTERSHIRE**

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

For

AIRBUS

CA REPORT: 06155

SEPTEMBER 2006



BUILDINGS 200B AND 210
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FILTON
SOUTH GLOUCESTERSHIRE

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CA PROJECT: 2119
CA REPORT: 06155

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Issue: 01		Date: 25 September 2006

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CONTENTS

SUMMARY	3
1. INTRODUCTION	4
<i>The site</i>	4
<i>Archaeological background</i>	4
<i>Archaeological objectives</i>	5
<i>Methodology</i>	5
2. RESULTS	6
<i>Building 200B (Fig. 2)</i>	6
<i>Building 210 (Fig. 2)</i>	7
3. DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION	7
4. CA PROJECT TEAM	7
5. REFERENCES	7
APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS.....	9

LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

- Fig. 1 Site location plan (1:25,000)
Fig. 2 Site of proposed buildings 200B and 210, showing location of trenches (1:2500)
Fig. 3 Photograph, showing Trench 3
Fig. 4 Photograph, showing Trench 4

SUMMARY

Site Name: Buildings 200B and 210, Airbus Technology Park
Location: Filton, South Gloucestershire
NGR: ST 6012 7973 & ST 5983 7994
Type: Evaluation
Date: 10 April-24 May 2006
Location of Archive: Bristol City Museum and Art Gallery
Site Code: AIR 06

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in April-May 2006 at the request of Airbus on land at the sites of the proposed Buildings 200B and 210, at the Airbus Technology Park, Filton, South Gloucestershire. Thirteen trenches of various dimensions were excavated within the footprints of the proposed buildings.

The evaluation has characterised the archaeological potential of the study area, and has indicated that made ground resulting from the demolition of earlier industrial buildings, some associated with the construction of aircraft during WWII, survives at a depth of 0.2m below the modern ground surface. Modern demolition deposits were observed directly overlying the natural substrate and the absence of any earlier ground surfaces suggests that the area had previously been truncated, in some cases to a considerable depth. The only structures to survive consisted of a series of brick walls forming narrow chambers and a concrete slab floor revealed in trench 4. These probably represent basements or machine inspection/maintenance pits associated with a former industrial building which stood on the site.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 In April-May 2006 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological evaluation for Airbus on land at the Airbus Technology Park, Filton, South Gloucestershire (centred on NGR: ST 6012 7973 & ST 5983 7994; Fig. 1). The evaluation was undertaken in accordance with a condition (condition 31) attached to outline planning approval requiring a programme of archaeological investigation prior to the construction of two buildings, building 200B and 210.

1.2 The evaluation was carried out in accordance with a brief for archaeological recording prepared by Mr David Haigh, County Archaeologist for South Gloucestershire County Council, the archaeological advisor to the Local Planning Authority (LPA), and with a subsequent detailed WSI produced by CA (2006) and approved by the LPA acting on the advice of Mr David Haigh. The fieldwork also followed the *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* issued by the Institute of Field Archaeologists (1999), and the *Statement of Standards and Practices Appropriate for Archaeological Fieldwork in Gloucestershire* (GCC 1995). It was monitored by Mr Haigh, including a site visit on 12 May 2006.

The site

1.3 The sites lie within the Filton industrial centre (the Airbus works) bounded to the north by Filton airfield and to the east by the A38 (Fig. 2). The sites lie on flat ground at approximately 60m AOD.

1.4 The underlying geology of the area is mapped as Lower Lias Clay of the Jurassic period, overlying beds of limestone (BGS 1974).

Archaeological background

1.5 Archaeological interest in the site has been summarised in an Environmental Statement (ES) which details the known and potential cultural heritage resource within the site and its immediate environs (Atkins, 2005, Chapter 11). It is not intended to repeat the findings of the ES in full here; instead a summary of the archaeological interest in the area is offered below.

- 1.6 In summary, archaeological interest in the site is primarily focussed upon the potential for the medieval settlement of Filton extending into the current site. Cartographic evidence from the 19th century indicates the survival of medieval/post-medieval farmsteads in the immediate vicinity.
- 1.7 Evidence of prehistoric activity has not previously been identified within the Filton area, however Roman settlement is postulated by the recovery of a Roman quern from Filton Rectory, and the chance discovery of a Roman coin hoard in the banks of Filton Brook in the late 19th century.
- 1.8 Demolition of the earlier industrial buildings throughout the current site has been completed. Geotechnical information from the site indicates that made ground immediately seals the natural Lias clays at depths varying from 0.2m to 1.2m+ below the current ground surface.

Archaeological objectives

- 1.9 The objectives of the evaluation were to establish the character, quality, date, significance and extent of any archaeological remains or deposits surviving within the site. This information will assist the Local Planning Authority in making an informed judgement on the likely impact upon the archaeological resource by the proposed development.

Methodology

- 1.10 The fieldwork comprised the excavation of six archaeological trenches, in addition to which geotechnical test pits excavated by on-site contractors were monitored and recorded. Trenches 1 to 4 varied in size from 3.1m x 2.5m to 8.1m x 3.1m and were excavated within the proposed footprint of building 200B. Geotechnical test pits 5 to 11, measuring 2.0m x 0.6 in plan, were also recorded within this area. Within the footprint of Building 210 trenches 12 and 13 measuring 8.0m x 3.5m and 10.0 x 1.7m respectively were excavated.
- 1.11 All archaeological trenches were excavated by mechanical excavator equipped with a toothless grading bucket. All machine excavation was undertaken under constant archaeological supervision to the top of the first significant archaeological horizon or the natural substrate, whichever was encountered first. Where archaeological

deposits were encountered they were excavated by hand in accordance with CA Technical Manual 1: *Excavation Recording Manual* (1996).

- 1.12 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* (2003) but no deposits were identified that required sampling. No artefactual material was recovered during the course of these works.
- 1.13 The archive from the evaluation is 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 City Museum and Art Gallery.

2. RESULTS

- 2.1 This section provides an overview of the evaluation results; detailed summaries of the recorded contexts are to be found in Appendix 1.

Building 200B (Fig. 2)

- 2.2 A broadly similar stratigraphic sequence was identified within the majority of the archaeologically excavated and monitored trenches and test pits, with the natural Lias clay being revealed at depths of between 0.58m and 2m below present ground level (BPGL) immediately overlain by modern dump/levelling deposits (see Fig.3). This was in turn sealed by sub-base material for the existing car parks, with the exception of Test pits 9 and 11 which were sealed by topsoil and turf.
- 2.3 Within trench 4 a series of brick walls and a concrete slab floor (403 and 404 respectively) were revealed, forming narrow chambers infilled with demolition rubble 402 (see Fig. 4). Within Test pit 10 a solid concrete slab was identified at 0.38m BPGL.

Building 210 (Fig. 2)

- 2.4 A broadly similar stratigraphic sequence was identified within trenches 12 and 13, with the natural Lias clay being revealed at a depth of between 0.95m and 1.35m BPGl respectively. The natural substrate was directly overlain by modern dump/levelling deposits which in turn were sealed topsoil.

3. DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION

- 3.1 Despite the archaeological potential of the sites, no archaeological remains pre-dating the modern period were revealed by the evaluation trenches. Whilst archaeological remains may likely survive in the wider vicinity of the sites, modern demolition/levelling material was revealed to a considerable depth throughout the sites, directly overlying the natural substrate. This, plus the fact that no buried topsoil, ploughsoil or subsoil horizons survive suggests that the original ground levels have been greatly truncated, probably during the construction and certainly during demolition of the former industrial buildings that occupied both sites.
- 3.2 It is also noteworthy that only limited evidence of the former twentieth century-buildings that previously occupied the site were identified. The series of brick walls forming narrow chambers and a concrete slab floor revealed in trench 4 probably represent basements or machine inspection/maintenance pits associated with a former industrial building.

4. CA PROJECT TEAM

Fieldwork was undertaken by Steve Sheldon and Franco A. Vartuca. The report was written by Franco A. Vartuca and the illustrations were prepared by Lorna Gray. The archive has been compiled by Franco A. Vartuca, and prepared for deposition by Teresa Gilmore. The project was managed for CA by Cliff Bateman.

5. REFERENCES

Atkins 2005 *Airbus Technology Park: Environmental Statement*

BGS (British Geological Survey) 1974 *Geological Survey of England and Wales. Sheet 264: Bristol 1:50,000*

CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2006 *Building 200B, Airbus Technology Park, Filton, South Gloucestershire: Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Evaluation*

CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2006 *Building 210, Airbus Technology Park, Filton, South Gloucestershire: Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Evaluation*

APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Trench 1

100	Concrete slab floor: 0.22m thick.
101	Sub-base deposit for 100: crushed modern building rubble. 0.58m thick.
102	Natural substrate: compact, light yellow-orange Lias clay. Not excavated.

Trench 2

200	Concrete slab floor: 0.18m thick.
201	Sub-base deposit for 200: crushed modern building rubble. 0.35m thick.
202	Dump/levelling deposit: firm, mid yellow-brown silty clay mixed with occasional modern building rubble. 0.35m thick.
203	Dump/levelling deposit: firm, mid to dark grey-brown silty clay mixed with very occasional small fragments and flecks of modern building rubble. 0.32m thick.
204	Natural substrate: compact, light olive-grey Lias clay with occasional bands of limestone. Not excavated.

Trench 3

300	Concrete slab floor: 0.18m thick.
301	Sub-base deposit for 300: compacted, coarse sandy gravel. 0.25m thick.
302	Dump/levelling deposit: compact, mid olive-green silty clay mixed with occasional small fragments of modern building rubble. 0.3m thick.
303	Dump/levelling deposit: compact, with alternating bands of mid to dark olive-green clay and dark grey-brown silty clay mixed with cindery/sooty material and modern building rubble. Tip lines visible throughout deposit. 1.07m thick.
304	Natural substrate: compact, light olive-grey to mid blue-grey Lias clay. Not excavated.

Trench 4

400	Concrete slab floor: 0.18m thick.
401	Sub-base deposit for 400: compacted, coarse sandy gravel. 0.15m thick.
402	Demolition rubble backfill: firm, mid grey clay mixed with frequent modern building rubble and industrial waste. 1.65m+ thick (not bottomed).
403	Brick walls: constructed using red brick bonded with a mixture of mortar and concrete. Walls approximately 0.4m thick, up to 1.9m in height.
404	Concrete slab floor: not excavated.
405	Natural substrate: compact, light yellow-orange Lias clay. Not excavated.

Trench 5

500	Concrete slab floor: 0.15m thick.
501	Sub-base deposit for 500: firm, mid olive-grey clay mixed with frequent crushed modern building rubble. 0.5m thick.
502	Dump/levelling deposit: compact, light to mid olive-yellow silty clay mixed with occasional modern building rubble and industrial waste. 0.85m thick.
503	Natural substrate: compact, mid yellow-brown and blue-grey Lias clay. Excavated to a depth of 0.3m (not bottomed).

Trench 6

600	Concrete slab floor: 0.18m thick.
601	Sub-base deposit for 600: firm, mid olive-grey clay mixed with frequent crushed modern building rubble. 0.25m thick.
602	Dump/levelling deposit: compact, mid yellow-brown gritty sandy silt mixed with abundant industrial waste

	(mainly scrap metal) and occasional modern building rubble. 0.6m thick.
603	Dump/levelling deposit: firm, mid grey-green silty clay mixed with occasional modern building rubble. 0.75m thick.
604	Natural substrate: compact, mid olive-green Lias clay with occasional limestone bands. Excavated to a depth of 0.4m (not bottomed).

Trench 7

700	Concrete slab floor: 0.18m thick.
701	Sub-base deposit for 700: compacted, coarse sandy gravel. 0.1m thick.
702	Dump/levelling deposit: compact, dark grey-brown sandy gravel mixed with occasional modern building rubble. 0.3m thick.
703	Natural substrate: compact, mid olive-green Lias clay with occasional limestone fragments. Excavated to a depth of 0.17m (not bottomed).

Trench 8

800	Concrete slab floor: 0.05m thick.
801	Dump/levelling deposit: compact, mid grey-green silty clay mixed with occasional modern building rubble. 0.7 m thick.
802	Natural substrate: compact, mid olive-green Lias clay with occasional bands of limestone. Excavated to a depth of 0.4m (not bottomed).

Trench 9

900	Topsoil and turf: firm, mid yellow-brown silty clay. 0.1m thick.
901	Dump/levelling deposit: firm, mid grey silty clay mixed with occasional small fragments of modern building rubble. 0.25 m thick.
902	Dump/levelling deposit: firm, light brownish-yellow silty clay mixed with occasional small fragments of modern building rubble. Approximately 2.75m thick.
903	Natural substrate: compact, mid olive-green Lias clay with occasional limestone fragments. Excavated to a depth of 0.1m (not bottomed).

Trench 10

10100	Concrete slab floor: 0.08m thick.
10101	Sub-base deposit for 10100: compacted, coarse sandy gravel. 0.3m thick.
10102	Concrete slab: not excavated.

Trench 11

11100	Dump/levelling deposit: firm, mid olive-grey silty clay mixed with frequent small fragments of modern building rubble. 0.4m thick.
11101	Dump/levelling deposit: firm, mid yellow-brown silty clay mixed with occasional small fragments of modern building rubble. Excavated to a depth of 0.3m then abandoned due to the presence of live power lines.

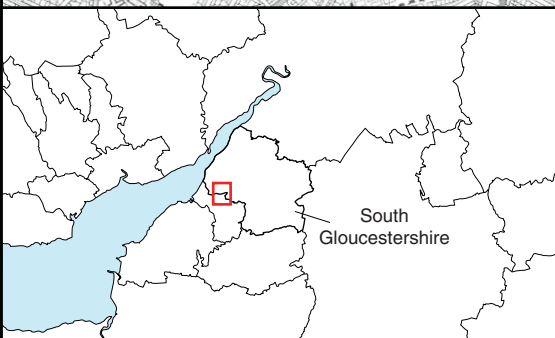
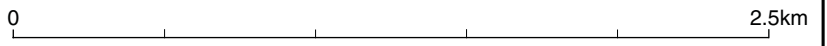
Trench 12

12100	Topsoil: firm, mid to dark brown sandy silt. 0.3m thick.
12101	Dump/levelling deposit: compact, light greyish-brown silty clay mixed with frequent modern building rubble and very occasional industrial waste. 0.65m thick.
12102	Dump/levelling deposit: loose, mid grey to black ash/clinker deposit (industrial waste). 0.1m thick.
12103	Dump/levelling deposit: firm, very dark brown sandy silt mixed with very occasional flecks of red brick. 0.3m thick.
12104	Natural substrate: compact, mid brown-grey to mid blue-grey Lias clay. Not excavated.


Trench 13

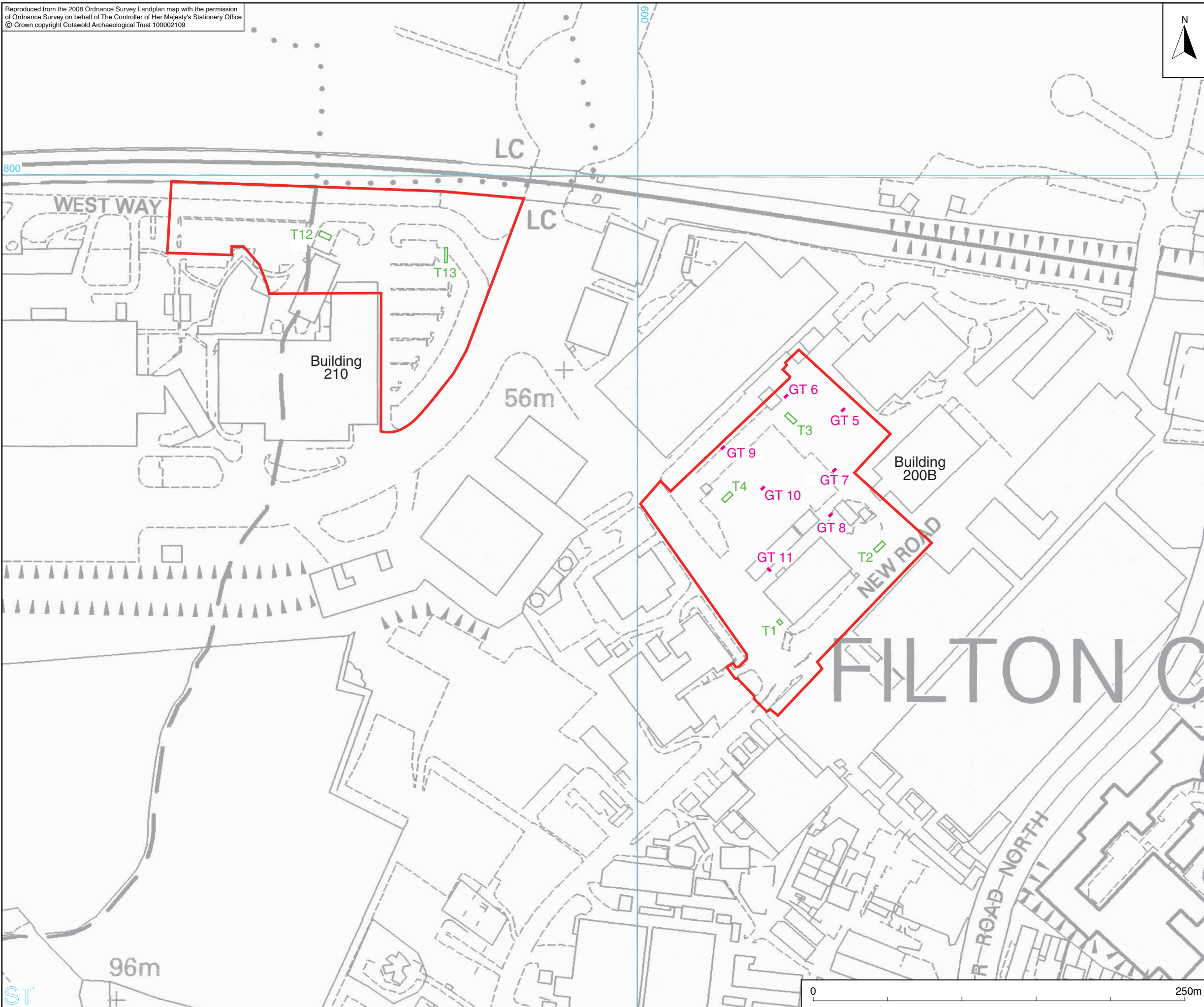
13100	Topsoil: firm, mid to dark brown sandy silt. 0.45m thick.
13101	Dump/levelling deposit: compact, light greyish-brown silty clay mixed with frequent modern building rubble and occasional industrial waste. 0.65m thick.
13102	Dump/levelling deposit: firm, mid to dark brown sandy silt mixed with very occasional small fragments and flecks of red brick, charcoal and greyish-white mortar. 0.12m thick.
13103	Natural substrate: compact, mid brown-grey to mid blue-grey Lias clay. Not excavated.

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 sites

 COTSWOLD ARCHAEOLOGY			
PROJECT TITLE Buildings 200b and 210, Airbus Technology Park, Filton, South Gloucestershire			
FIGURE TITLE Site location plan			
DRAWN BY	SCALE	PROJECT NO.	FIGURE NO.
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- ▭ site
- ▭ archaeological trench
- observed geotechnical pits

 **COTSWOLD ARCHAEOLOGY**

PROJECT TITLE
Buildings 200b and 210, Airbus Technology Park, Filton, South Gloucestershire

FIGURE TITLE
Site of proposed buildings 200B and 210, showing location of trenches

<small>DRAWN BY</small>	<small>SCALE</small>	<small>PROJECT NO.</small>	<small>FIGURE NO.</small>
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COTSWOLD ARCHAEOLOGY

PROJECT TITLE

Buildings 200b and 210, Airbus Technology Park, Filton, South Gloucestershire

FIGURE TITLE

Photographs, showing Trenches 3 and 4

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2119

FIGURE NO.

3 & 4