



**Land at Dudbridge Road
Stroud
Gloucestershire**

Archaeological Evaluation

for
Avocet Industrial Estates LLP


CA Project: 4896
CA Report: 14209

May 2014

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Gloucestershire

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CA Report: 14209

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date	5 June 2014
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signed	
date	6 June 2014
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SUMMARY

Project Name:	Land at Dudbridge Lane
Location:	Stroud, Gloucestershire
NGR:	SO 8363 0481
Type:	Evaluation
Date:	19-21 May 2014
Planning Reference:	S.14/0677/FUL
Location of Archive:	To be deposited with Museum in the Park, Stroud
Site Code:	DRS 14

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in May 2014 at Land at Dudbridge Lane, Stroud, Gloucestershire. Four trenches were excavated.

A modern pond and possible robber trench were identified. Extensive modern truncation was also recorded throughout site.



1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In May 2014 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological evaluation for Avocet Industrial Estates LLP on land at Dudbridge Road, Stroud, Gloucestershire (centred on NGR: SO 8363 0481; Fig. 1). The evaluation was undertaken to accompany a planning application to Stroud District Council (SDC (ref: S.14/0677/FUL)) for the demolition of existing buildings and the erection of a supermarket. The works were recommended by Charles Parry, Archaeologist, Gloucestershire County Council (GCC), archaeological advisor to SDC.
- 1.2 The evaluation was carried out in accordance with a detailed *Written Scheme of Investigation* (WSI) produced by CA (2014a) and approved by Charles Parry. The fieldwork also followed the *Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (IfA 2009), the *Statement of Standards and Practices Appropriate for Archaeological Fieldwork in Gloucestershire* (GCC 1995), the *Management of Archaeological Projects* (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 proposed development has an area of 3.26ha. It is located within the Avocet and Goldcrest Business Parks and is bounded by the Stroudwater Canal to the north, the River Frome to the south, Goldcrest Business Park to the south-west and Dudbridge Road to the west. The whole site is currently either covered by buildings or tarmac. The site lies at approximately 35m AOD and is generally flat.
- 1.4 The underlying bedrock geology of the area is mapped as Dyrham Formation Siltstone and Mudstone formed in the Jurassic Period (BGS 2014).

Archaeological background

- 1.5 An archaeological Desk Based Assessment (DBA) was carried out by CA in 2014 (CA 2014b). Below is a summary of its findings.
- 1.6 A series of animal remains, thought to probably be prehistoric, and a human femur were recovered from the base of the Stroud Valley between the railway and gas works, c. 150m east of the site, during the 1930s. Mesolithic flint has been recorded from an area of Third Terrace River Gravels, on slightly higher ground than the site,

located to the north of the River Frome, near Westwood Road c. 240m north-west of the site. The location of the current site on gravels adjacent to the River Frome suggests that prehistoric activity could have been present within the area (*ibid*).

- 1.7 There is limited Roman period activity recorded within the general area. There is one site of probable Romano-British occupation recorded at Cashes Green c. 500m north-west of the site on an area of higher ground (*ibid*).
- 1.8 There are no early medieval heritage assets recorded within the site or in its general vicinity area, although some later medieval evidence exists nearby. These include the bridge crossing the River Frome to the south-west of the site that dates to the medieval period; the settlement of Dudbridge developed around this crossing point. A mill is also documented at Dudbridge, south-west of the site, dating to the 12th century (*ibid*).
- 1.9 The site is located within the Stroud Industrial Heritage Conservation Area (IHCA). No heritage assets are recorded by the Gloucestershire Historic Environment Record (HER) or the English Heritage archives within the site, but remnants of the late 19th and early 20th century Dudbridge Mill complex are present within the site. The site contains part of a late 19th/early 20th century brick-built mill complex (Dudbridge Mill), which is an example of a late Gloucestershire mill. It is a relatively complete example of a late 19th / early 20th century mill complex, and represents the last phase of mill development within the area. Below ground remains of the post-medieval and modern buildings may therefore still be present. Evidence suggests these could be related to a manure works, brick works and the mill complex itself (*ibid*).

Archaeological objectives

- 1.10 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 with the *Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (IfA 2009). This information will enable SDC 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).

Methodology

- 1.11 The fieldwork comprised the excavation of four trenches in the locations shown on the attached plan (Fig. 2). Trench 1 measured 30m in length and 1.7m in width, Trench 2 measured 23m in length and 1.7m in width, Trench 3 measured 8.5m in length and 1.7m in width and Trench 4 measured 10m in length and 1.7m in width. All trenches were relocated on site to avoid buried services. A proposed trench in the south-west of site and a trench within the building footprint of the 19th-century manure factory ('F' on Fig. 2) were not excavated due to the presence of buried services. Trenches were set out on OS National Grid (NGR) co-ordinates using Leica and surveyed in accordance with CA Technical Manual 4 *Survey Manual* (2012).
- 1.12 All 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: *Fieldwork Recording Manual* (2013).
- 1.13 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). No deposits were identified that required sampling. No artefacts were retained due to their exclusively modern date.
- 1.14 The archive from the evaluation is currently held by CA at their offices in Kemble and will be deposited with The Museum in the Park, Stroud. A summary of information from this project, set out within Appendix C, will be entered onto the OASIS online database of archaeological projects in Britain.

2. RESULTS (FIGS 2-3)

- 2.1 This section provides an overview of the evaluation results; detailed summaries of the recorded contexts and finds are to be found in Appendices A and B.

- 2.2 The natural geological substrate was broadly similar throughout site and consisted of light brown-yellow clayey silt and blue-grey clay. These deposits were encountered at 0.9m below present ground level (bpgl) in the south and west, 0.6m bpgl in the north and at approximately 3.2m bpgl in the east. It was directly overlain by a series of modern landscaping and consolidation layers that were, in turn, sealed by tarmac. A possible pond, 404, was partially exposed within Trench 4 and had been backfilled with modern material including car parts. The pond doesn't correspond with any feature depicted on the cartographic evidence and is likely modern in date. Modern trench 303 was identified within Trench 3 and was backfilled with gravel. The feature could relate to the mechanical removal of footings associated with a building first identified on the 1st Edition Ordnance Survey map of 1885 and which was still recorded on cartographic sources until 1984.

3. DISCUSSION

- 3.1 Despite the archaeological potential of the site (see archaeological background), no features or deposits of archaeological significance were recorded. Modern material directly sealing the natural substrate was encountered throughout site, with no evidence for soils associated with the allotment gardens recorded on the cartographic sources. The clear horizons between the modern material and the natural substrate suggests that the site had been mechanically stripped, most probably during landscaping associated with the construction of the current buildings, with the stripped material deposited to the east of site in the vicinity of Trench 2, to create a level surface for parking.

4. CA PROJECT TEAM

Fieldwork was undertaken by Daniel Sausins, assisted by Sian Reynish, Franco Vartuca and Sikko Van Der Brug. The report was written by Daniel Sausins. The illustrations were prepared by Jonathon Bennett. The archive has been compiled by Daniel Sausins, and prepared for deposition by Hazel O'Neil. The project was managed for CA by Richard Young.

5. REFERENCES

BGS (British Geological Survey) 2014 *Geology of Britain Viewer*
http://maps.bgs.ac.uk/geology_viewer_google/googleviewer.html Accessed 14 May
2014

CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2014a *Land at Dudbridge Road, Stroud, Gloucestershire:
Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Evaluation*

CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2014b *Land at Dudbridge Road, Stroud, Gloucestershire,
Heritage Desk-Based Assessment* CA typescript report **14054**

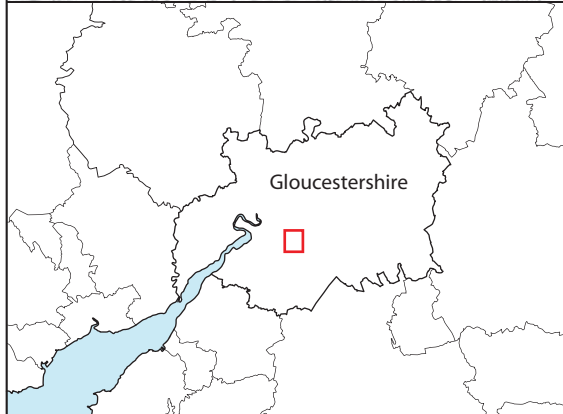


APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Trench No.	Context No.	Type	Fill of	Context interpretation	Description	L (m)	W (m)	Depth /thickness (m)	Spot-date
1	100	layer		surface	tarmac			0.1	
1	101	layer		consolidation	red gravel with mortar and limestone fragments			0.24	
1	102	layer		hardcore	limestone and brick rubble			0.3	
1	103				VOID				
1	104	layer		natural substrate	mid orange-brown with abundant iron pan				
1	105	layer		natural substrate	pale brown-yellow clay silt with blue grey clay				
1	106	layer		made ground	dark grey-brown clay silt with clinker fragments			0.1	
1	107	layer		made ground	mid blue-grey clay silt			0.15	
2	200	layer		surface	tarmac			0.1	
2	201	layer		consolidation	red gravel with mortar and limestone fragments			0.15	
2	202	layer		hardcore	limestone and brick rubble			0.2	
2	203	layer		made ground	blue-grey clay silt			0.25	
2	204	layer		made ground	mid orange-brown clay silt with CBM			0.6	
2	205	layer		made ground	dark grey-brown clay silt with red brick rubble			0.8	
2	206	layer		made ground	mid red-brown clay silt with CBM			0.9	
2	207	layer		natural substrate	pale brown-yellow clay silt				
2	208	cut		landscaping	horizontal truncation				
3	300	layer		surface	tarmac			0.1	
3	301	layer		consolidation	red brick rubble and limestone fragments			0.3	
3	302	layer		made ground	mid grey-brown clay silt			0.45	
3	303	cut		trench cut	aligned NW/SE, irregular profile	>1.7	2.5	0.4	
3	304	fill	303	trench cut fill	loose light grey gravel	>1.7	2.5	0.4	
3	305	layer		natural substrate	pale brown-yellow clay silt				
3	306	cut		irregular feature	partially exposed in plan				
3	307	fill	306	feature fill	mid grey brown clay silt				
4	400	layer		surface	tarmac			0.1	
4	401	layer		consolidation	pale orange-brown sandy gravel			0.2	
4	402	fill	404	pond backfill	loose dark grey-black sandy silt with building material, glass, car parts			0.5	
4	403	fill	404	pond fill	mid orange-yellow and mid blue-grey silty clay			>0.1	
4	404	cut		pond	partially exposed in plan, exposed edge aligned NE/SW	>3.0	>1.7		
4	405	fill	406	pit fill	loose dark grey-black sandy silt with building material, glass, metal	1	0.5	0.06	
4	406	cut		pit	rectangular in plan	1	0.5	0.06	
4	407	mason		service chamber	constructed from concrete blocks				
4	408	layer		natural substrate	pale brown-yellow clay silt				

APPENDIX B: OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project Name	Land at Dudbridge Lane, Stroud, Gloucestershire	
Short description	An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in May 2014 at Land at Dudbridge Lane, Stroud, Gloucestershire. Four trenches were excavated. A modern pond and possible robber trench were identified. Extensive modern truncation was also recorded throughout site.	
Project dates	19-21 May 2014	
Project type	Evaluation	
Previous work	Desk Based Assessment (CA 2014)	
Future work	Unknown	
PROJECT LOCATION		
Site Location	Dudbridge Lane, Stroud, Gloucestershire	
Study area	3.26ha	
Site co-ordinates	SO 8363 0481	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Brief originator	None	
Project Design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Manager	Richard Young	
Project Supervisor	Daniel Sausins	
MONUMENT TYPE	none	
SIGNIFICANT FINDS	none	
PROJECT ARCHIVES		
	Intended final location of archive	Content
Physical	n/a	none
Paper	Museum in the Park, Stroud	Trench Sheets
Digital	Museum in the Park, Stroud	Digital photographs
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2014 <i>Land at Dudbridge Lane, Stroud, Gloucestershire: Archaeological Evaluation</i> . CA typescript report 14209		



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PROJECT TITLE

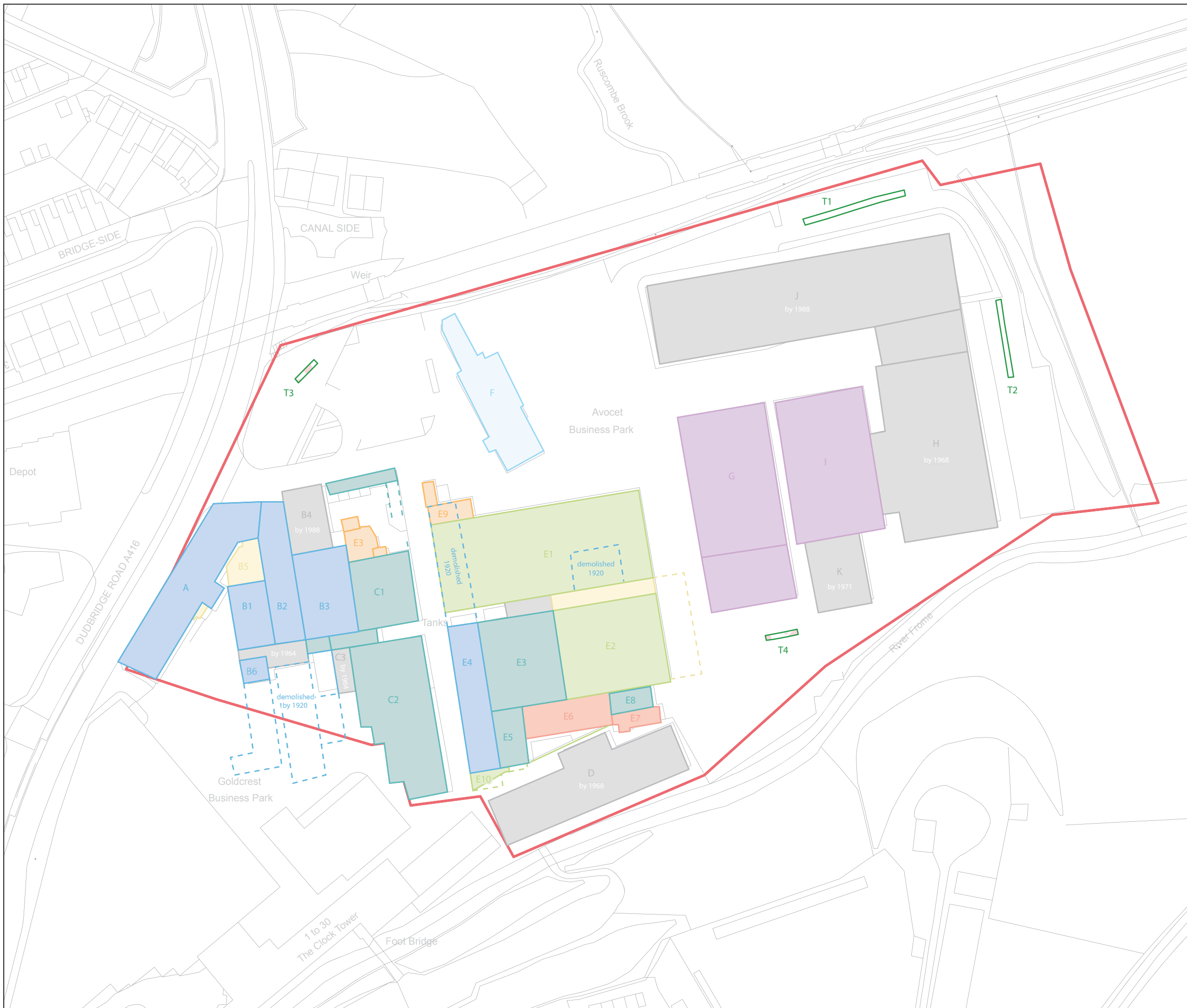
Land at Dudbridge Road, Stroud
 Gloucestershire

FIGURE TITLE

Site location plan

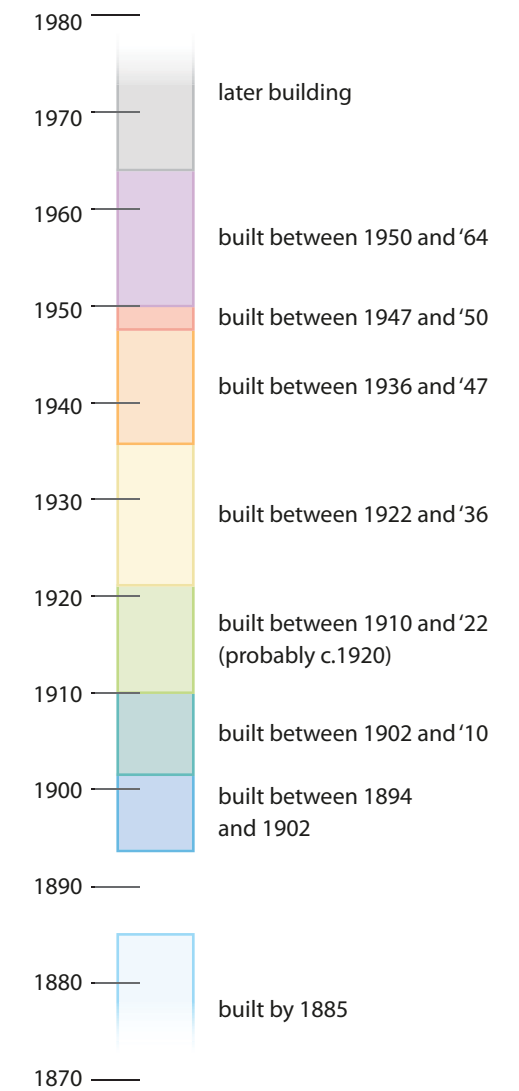
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APPROVED BY	LM	SCALE@A4	1:25,000	

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- site boundary
- evaluation trench
- modern

timeline



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PROJECT TITLE
 Land at Dudbridge Road, Stroud
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FIGURE TITLE
 Trench location plan, showing modern
 features and phased building plan

PROJECT NO. 4896 DATE 23-05-14 FIGURE NO.
 DRAWN BY JB REVISION 00 2
 APPROVED BY LM SCALE@A3 1:1000



3



4

3 Modern disturbance over natural, Trench 1

4 Modern disturbance over natural, Trench 2 (scale 1m)



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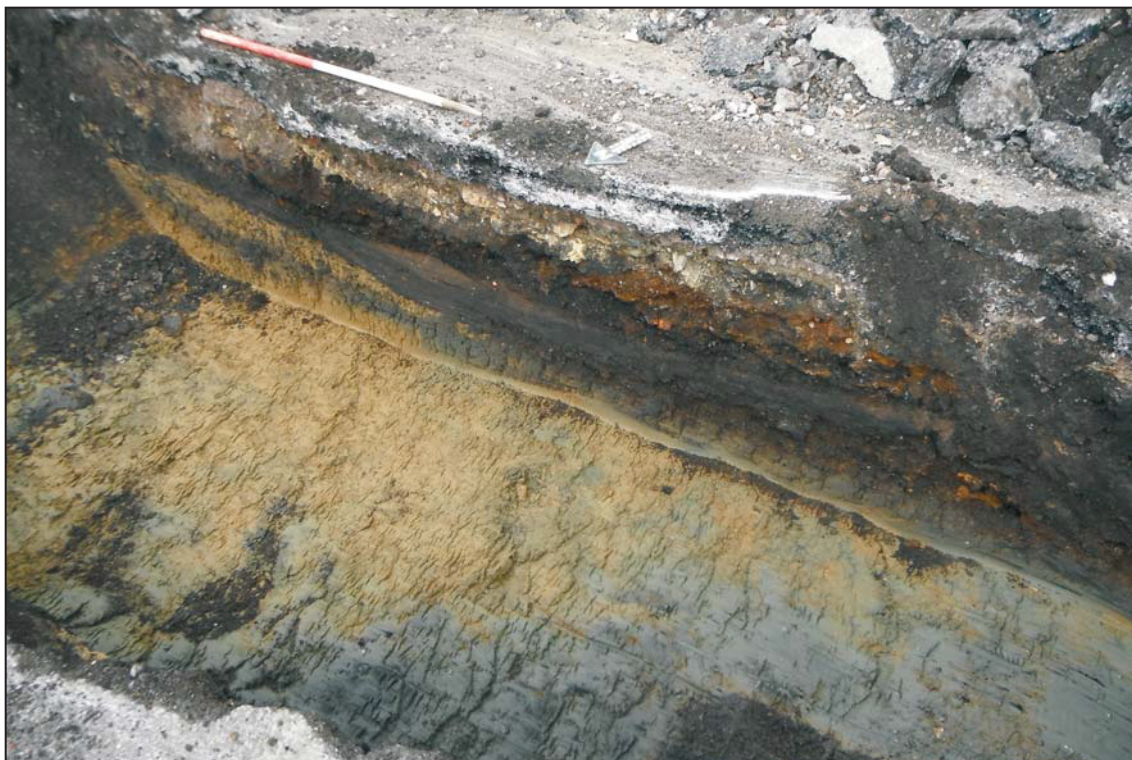
FIGURE TITLE

Photographs

PROJECT NO. 4896 DATE 23-05-14
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 APPROVED BY LM SCALE@A4 N/A

FIGURE NO.

3 & 4



5

5 Pond 404 (scale 1m)



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PROJECT TITLE

Land at Dudbridge Road, Stroud
 Gloucestershire

FIGURE TITLE

Photograph

<i>PROJECT NO.</i>	4896	<i>DATE</i>	23-05-14	<i>FIGURE NO.</i>
<i>DRAWN BY</i>	JB	<i>REVISION</i>	00	5
<i>APPROVED BY</i>	LM	<i>SCALE@A4</i>	N/A	