

Land at nos. 31-39, Gloucester Road North, Filton, South Gloucestershire

Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment



on behalf of

Pantheon West Limited

Sarah Newns

Avon Archaeology Limited

Bristol: June 2013

Land at nos. 31-39, Gloucester Road North, Filton, South Gloucestershire

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Frontispiece: Tithe map of Filton, dated 1839, copied from a parochial survey of 1825. The study site lies to the left (south) of the village, which is itself located centrally within the parish. Two possible “dole-meads”, partitioned into strips, are visible to the west and north-east of village. A cluster of fields named “Blackland”, suggestive of potential Roman settlement, lie towards the bottom left of the image.

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ABSTRACT

Avon Archaeology Limited was commissioned by Pantheon West Ltd to undertake an archaeological desk-based assessment of land on the western side of Gloucester Road North, Filton, South Gloucestershire. The site, centred on NGR ST 59883 78333, is rectangular in shape, with its long axis orientated roughly north-north-east, south-south-west. It is bounded to the east by Gloucester Road North, to the north by Broncksea Road, to the west by the garden of no.1, Broncksea Road and to the south by Cabot Court. The study site encompasses a total area of 1,860 sq.m. and is at present occupied by a Texaco petrol station.

The site is located approximately 200m to the north of the parish boundary between Filton parish, to the north, and Horfield parish to the south, which is also the current Unitary Authority boundary between the City of Bristol and the District of South Gloucestershire. The study area remained largely undeveloped until at least 1955, when it appeared to form one of the few remaining plots of open ground at the Filton end of Gloucester Road North (RAF AP 540/RAF/1530).

At Domesday, Filton formed part of the estate of Horfield, which itself fell within the Hundred of Berkeley, Gloucestershire. The first documentary reference to Filton as a separate entity occurs in 1187, although there is some suggestion that the settlement was in existence by the Early Medieval period. The settlement remained small and primarily agricultural until the early years of the 20th century, when Sir George White established a factory at Filton, building lorries and buses. Two years later, he branched into aircraft manufacturing, and his company gradually established more of a presence in Filton over the course of the twentieth century. The town itself gradually expanded, to the south and east, eventually becoming part of the urban conurbation to the north of Bristol.

Archaeologically, the most significant features listed on the South Gloucestershire HER in the immediate vicinity are two possible Roman roads, (SGHERs 1329 and 13927), one of which leads directly to a cluster of three fields, named "Blackland" on the tithe map for Filton parish, suggestive of Roman occupation. Romano-British coin hoards were recovered at Horfield Barracks, south of the site and from the boundary with Stoke Gifford parish, north-east of the parish church. Romano-British pottery has been recovered from sites in the vicinity, including the Old Colstonians Rugby Club ground, Abbey Wood, Stoke House and the site of the Bristol Business Park.

Prehistoric activity in the general area is represented by possible Iron Age field boundaries, together with a hearth, recorded at Stoke Park Hospital, an early Bronze Age ditch and finds, at Harry Stoke, and possible Bronze Age barrows located at Horfield Common, to the south.

Evidence for post-Roman activity is provided by the excavation of an important Dark Age cemetery, dated by a series of radio-carbon determinations to the 5th-7th centuries AD, located at the Hewlett Packard site, to the north-east of the study area.

There is some suggestion that air raid trenches were excavated adjacent to Broncksea Road, in the immediate pre-war period, whilst the western edge of the site itself appears to have been subject to major terracing in more recent times. For these reasons, coupled with the evident existence of petrol storage tanks beneath the garage forecourt, it is concluded that the site has some moderate to poor potential for the survival of significant buried archaeological deposits and structures.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Avon Archaeology Limited wishes to acknowledge the assistance given by the following in the production of this report: Nick Vater, of BBA Architects; Ralph Murphy of Pantheon West Limited; Paul Driscoll, HER Officer for South Gloucestershire Council; the staff of the Bristol Record Office, and the staff of the National Monuments Record at Swindon.

NOTES

Whereas Avon Archaeology Limited have taken all care to produce a comprehensive summary of the known and recorded archaeological evidence, no responsibility can be accepted for any omissions of fact or opinion, however caused.

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ABBREVIATIONS

AAL	Avon Archaeology Limited
aOD	Above Ordnance Datum
BAA	Bristol and Avon Archaeology
BGAR	Bristol and Gloucestershire Archaeological Report
BRO	Bristol Record Office
EH	English Heritage
GRO	Gloucestershire Record Office
HER	Historic Environment Record
NGR	National Grid Reference
OE	Old English
OED	The Concise Oxford Dictionary of Current English
OS	Ordnance Survey
NMR	National Monuments Record

1 INTRODUCTION

Avon Archaeology Limited was commissioned by Pantheon West Limited to undertake an archaeological desk-based assessment of land at nos. 31 to 39, Gloucester Road North, Filton (**Figures 1 and 2**). The site, centred on NGR ST 59883 78333, is roughly rectangular in shape, with its long axis aligned roughly north-south. It is bounded to the north by Broncksea Road, to the east by Gloucester Road North, to the south by Cabot Court and to the west by a concrete driveway leading to the rear of houses on Broncksea Road. The plot representing the study site encompasses 1,860 sq.m. and is currently largely occupied by a petrol station, bordered by overgrown scrubland to the north, south and west. The development proposal consists of the construction of five new commercial premises along the west and south edges of the site, with car-parking adjacent to Gloucester Road North.

The present study revealed that there are no English Heritage listed buildings, or Scheduled Ancient Monuments within a 500m radius of the site, and that the site itself was not developed until the mid-twentieth century.

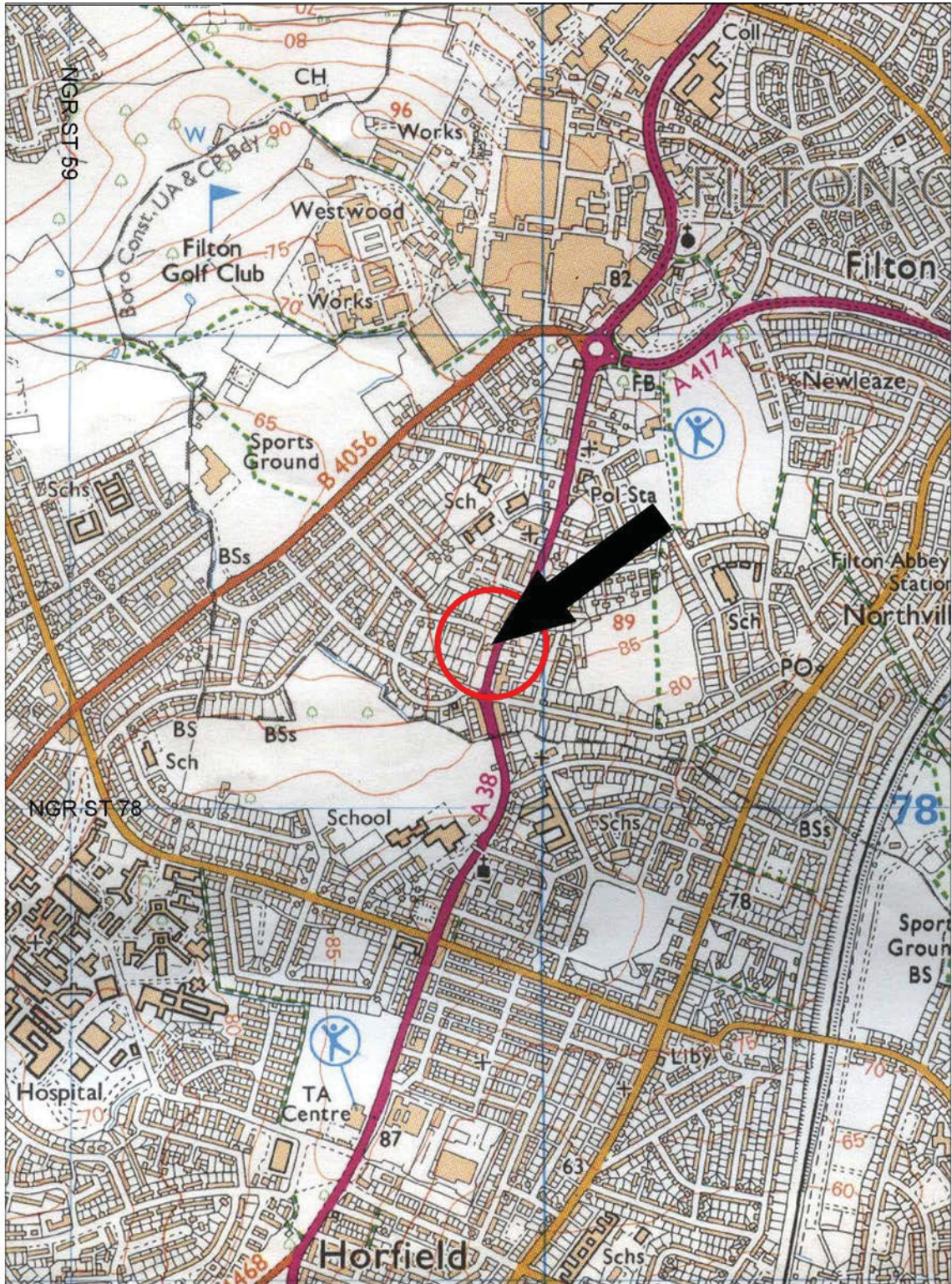
The site lies approximately 1km south-west of the historic core of the medieval settlement of Filton, and approximately 200m north of the parish boundary with Horfield parish. For much of its history, documentary evidence suggests that the site consisted of open agricultural land, at least from the point at which usable map evidence becomes available in the early 19th century.

There is no direct evidence for prehistoric activity in the immediate area, the nearest prehistoric activity in the general area being represented by possible Iron Age field boundaries, together with a hearth, recorded at Stoke Park Hospital, an Early Bronze Age ditch and finds at Harry Stoke and possible Bronze Age barrows located at Horfield Common, to the south. There is rather more evidence for Romano-British activity in the immediate vicinity, as the South Gloucestershire HER records two possible Roman trackways to the east of the site, one of which leads to a cluster of fields, suggested by place-name evidence to be in the area of a possible Roman settlement. An important Dark Age cemetery, dated by a series of radiocarbon determinations to the 5th-7th centuries A.D. date, was excavated south of the Abbey Wood development, approximately 1.5km to the east, but no associated settlement remains were revealed.

There is some possibility that air raid trenches may have been excavated adjacent to Broncksea Road, in the immediate pre-war period, and it certainly appears from the present topography that the western part of the site has been subject to terracing. Taken in conjunction with the undoubted presence of petrol storage tanks beneath the southern area of the garage forecourt, it is concluded that the site has some moderate to poor potential for the survival of significant buried archaeological remains and structures

Figure 1

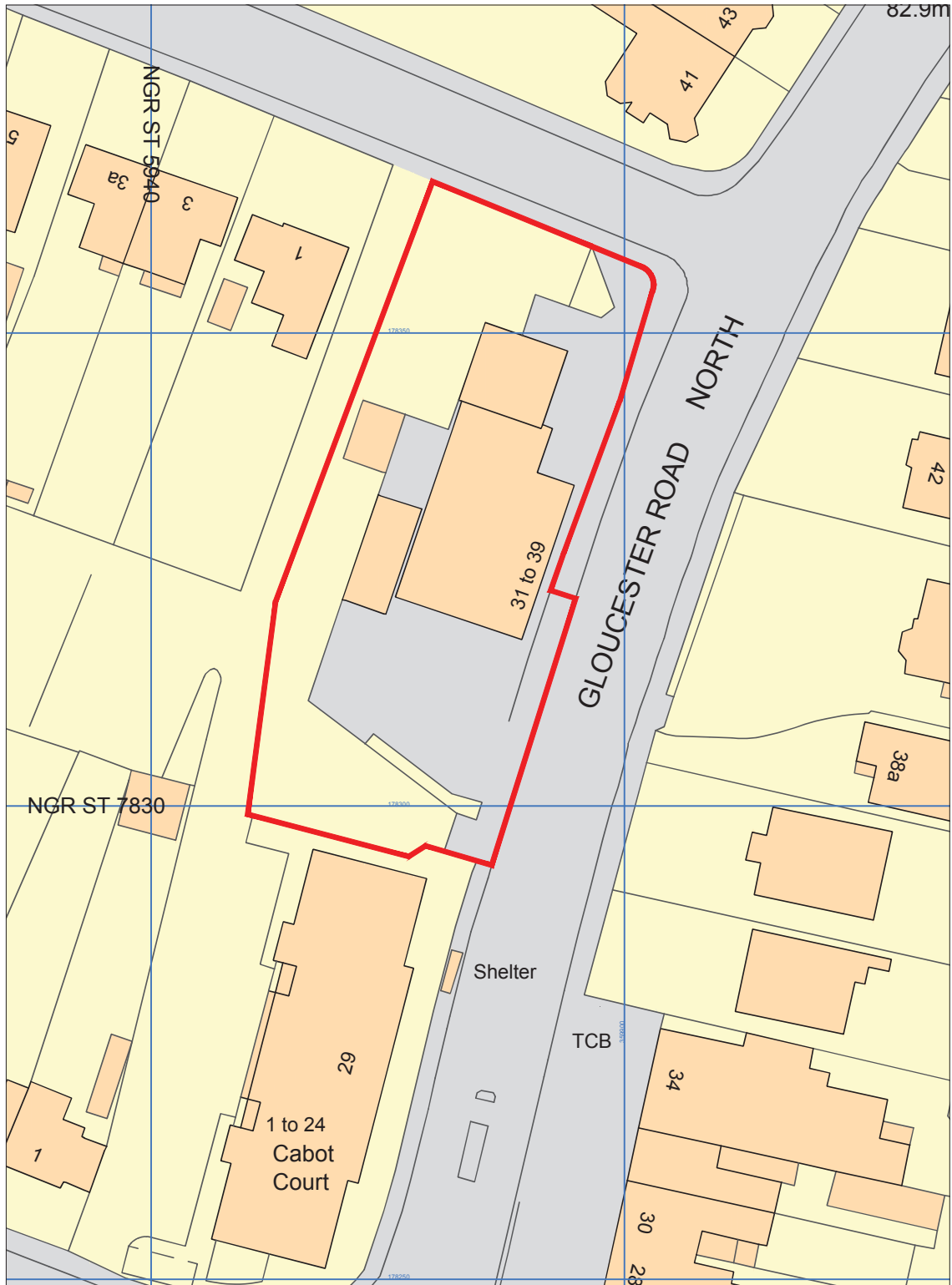
Site location plan



0 500m

Figure 2

Site Location Plan with Boundary of the Study Area outlined in red



2 METHODOLOGY

Searches were made of the indices of the collections of the Bristol Record Office, and the Access to Archives online national archival resource. A variety of online bibliographic resources, most notably COPAC, BIAB, the Archaeology Data Service, and Google Scholar, were used to identify potentially useful sources of information, whether published or otherwise¹. In addition, a trawl of the local authority HER was carried out on behalf of AAL by Paul Driscoll, HER Officer for South Gloucestershire Council, and the most salient results of that search have been incorporated in this report. A visit to the site was made by the author on Friday 31st May, 2013, and a digital photographic record was made (**Cover**, and **Plates a to d**).

3 TOPOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY

The bedrock geology description for the area of the site recorded by the British Geological Survey (BGS, site accessed 10.6.13) runs as follows:

Saltford Shale Member – Mudstone. Sedimentary Bedrock formed approximately 202 to 210 million years ago in the Jurassic and Triassic Periods. Local environment previously dominated by shallow seas.

Setting: shallow seas. These rocks were formed in shallow seas with mainly siliciclastic sediments (comprising of fragments or clasts of siliciclate minerals) deposited as mud, silt, sand and gravel.

Topographically, the site sits quite near the top of a north-south ridge, the watershed between the Rivers Frome and Trym, the ridge being situated at roughly 80m to 90m aOD (Ordnance Survey 2007). To the east, the ridge extends into a plateau, before sloping down towards Filton Brook and the railway. To the west, the ground shelves more steeply to a minimum height of 65m at the western end of Broncksea Road. Adjacent to the Gloucester Road, the site is situated at a height of approximately 82.9m aOD (spot height, location plan²), but, as noted in the **Site Visit**, the western part of the study area appears to have been terraced and may be situated some 1-2m below this height.

¹ www.copac.ac.uk; www.biab.ac.uk; <http://archaeologydataservice.ac.uk/>; www.scholar.google.com

² AAL is extremely grateful to Nick Vater, of BBA Architects, for supplying us with the CAD drawing containing the detailed location plan of the study site.

4 HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

There is currently no volume of the *Victoria County History* for Gloucestershire which covers Filton. Instead, one may turn to the late 18th century antiquarian, Samuel Rudder, for a useful basic overview of the parish (Rudder 1779). A further secondary source, which gives a comprehensive history, is W.L.Harris' *Filton, Gloucestershire, some account of the village and parish*, 1981. Modern editions of later medieval documents, most of which were produced by the Gloucestershire Record Society, were also consulted³.

At the time of Domesday, Rudder records that Filton formed part of the estate of Horfield, which itself formed one of several detached portions of the Hundred of Lower Berkeley (Moore 1982, 163a,b). Filton itself is not mentioned by name in Domesday, but is quite likely to have existed as a separate entity before the Norman Conquest, as both elements of the place-name are of Old English origin (pers.comm. N.Corcus, June 2013)⁴. Although the earliest elements of the fabric of the local parish church of St Peter are of early 14th century date (Verrey 1970, 184-5), the HER suggests that it almost certainly stands on an earlier, possibly Saxon site (SGHER 11045).

Rudder records that, on the foundation of St Augustine's Abbey, in Bristol, in 1142, Robert Fitzharding included six messuages in Filton as a part of the endowment (Rudder 1779, 448; Harris 1981, 18)⁵. What is not clear from either Harris' or Rudder's accounts, is whether these six messuages constituted the totality of Filton parish at this period. It is possible that these six messuages were just a part of a larger entity, as Harris suggests that, pre-Reformation, the parish existed as three separate holdings, viz. Filton, Hay (see below) and the above lands held by the Abbey. Berkeley Hundred itself was held by the crown pre-Domesday, and Rudder gives a detailed account of the descent of the moiety of Filton parish in secular hands up until 1649 (Rudder 1779, 448)⁶. Rudder also notes that the churches of Filton and Elberton (within Berkeley Hundred) came under the jurisdiction of Almondsbury (another detached portion of Berkeley Hundred) as their mother church (Rudder 1779, 224).

Hay is mentioned by Rudder as a hamlet within the parish of Filton, still in existence in 1779 (Rudder 1779, 448). It is not mentioned in Domesday, but Smith (*Place-names of Gloucestershire*) records the first instance of its use as *Haga* in the Pipe Rolls of 1175 (Smith 1964, 103)⁷. The name suggests that Hay, too, may have pre-Conquest origins, and that Filton may have originated as a dispersed, rather than nucleated, settlement (pers.comm. N.Corcus, June 2013). Harris writes that it was only after the decline of the above hamlet that

³ Gloucestershire Record Society vols. 10, 16, 17, 18 and 20; and Bristol and Gloucestershire Archaeological Society Monograph, *The Berkeley Estate, 1281-1417* (for details, see **Bibliography**).

⁴ *Filethe + tun*, "farm or estate where hay is made" (Mills 2011, 188).

⁵ *Messuage*, "dwelling-house with outbuildings and land assigned to its use" (OED, 1964).

⁶ *Moiety*, "half, esp. in legal use" (OED, 1964).

⁷ *Haga*, "enclosure", OE (Smith 1963, 134).

the village became clustered around the parish church, as it appears on the tithe of 1839 (Harris 1981, 36).

Harris records a mortgage deed of 1594, by which the manor of Filton is mortgaged to Sir Raulfe Horsey, of Clifton, which suggests that the parish at this time consisted of some twelve tenements and cottages, not including the manor house, the rectory and lands belonging to Sir Richard Berkeley and those of a certain Elizabeth Nashe (see **Appendix 1**). Each tenement held a certain amount of land (less than fifty acres), usually meadow or pasture, but two held sizeable arable fields. It is very likely that this pattern of small farms would have remained the norm into the 19th century, and the advent of the rail and tram network, linking Filton to the more industrialised areas of Bristol, to the south and Gloucester, to the north. It is perhaps significant that the Enclosure Act for Filton is very late, dating to 1856-8 (Tate 1943, 64), and applies to two of the larger fields illustrated on the tithe of 1839 (Broad Mead and West Mead; see **Frontispiece** and **Historic Map Evidence**, below).

Remaining pre-19th century landscape features of historic interest within the parish are the field name, “Windmill Tutt” (located on the tithe at the extreme north-east of the parish; BRO EP/A/32/18), and the name, “Conygre Road”, from *coninger*, “warren”, first documented as “the Cuniger” in 1678 (Smith 1964, 103), and located just to the north-east of the parish church.

Construction of the railway, under the auspices of the Bristol and South Wales Union Company, running roughly north-south, to the east of the settlement, was begun in 1858 (Harris 1981, 281). Census returns show a marked increase in population, from a total of 245 people in 1851, to 317 in 1861, with the advent of railway workers. The population then decreased to 290 in 1871 (*ibid.*). This first branch was opened in 1863, with further branches to Badminton (in 1903) and to Avonmouth (the east-west line) in 1910 (*op.cit.* 282).

The first documented non-agricultural industries in Filton consisted a laundry company, founded in 1869 (Hudson 1988, 36), and Phillips’ Coach and Carriage Works, opened in the 1880s (Harris 1981, 268). The Carriage Works was later taken over by the Bristol Aeroplane Company, founded by Sir George White in 1910, which began life in premises of the Bristol Tramways Company northern terminus, in the centre of Filton, and gradually expanded to the north and south over the course of the twentieth century (Barnes 1964, *passim*). For a more detailed discussion of the development of the aircraft and aero-engine industries in Filton, the reader is referred to the above work and to *The Bristol Aeroplane Company*, James 2001 (**Bibliography**).

The history of the site itself is recorded in more detail below (**Historic Map Evidence and Aerial Photographic Evidence**). At the time of the tithe, in 1839 (BRO EP/A/32/18), it formed part of a pasture field known as *Far Wicketts*, and thereafter appears to have remained as a largely undeveloped plot, surrounded by a spread of domestic housing, into the 1960s. Broncksea Road, to the north, appears to have been laid out by 1903 (OS 2nd edition, 25”, 1903; **Figure 5**)

and built, with houses to the north, by 1915 (OS 3rd edition, 25", 1915; **Figure 6**).

The only other historical record to have a direct bearing on the immediate study area is a note in Harris (Harris 1981, 297) to the effect that air raid shelter trenches, dug at the top of Broncksea Road in 1939, "quickly began to deteriorate". Unfortunately, it is not clear from the above information whether the trenches were excavated to the south or the north of Broncksea Road. A small enclosure is visible to the north of the road on the OS 25" map of 1948, (**Figure 7**), suggesting a possible location for the trenches, but this is by no means conclusive.

5 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

The strict remit of this study is to consider the evidence for archaeological survival in the vicinity of the study site, based on current knowledge as expressed in the South Gloucestershire Historic Environment Record. This specific aspect of this review, therefore, is underpinned by the results of a trawl of the HER carried out on behalf of AAL by Paul Driscoll, HER officer for South Gloucestershire Council. As the site itself lies within 200m of the county boundary, the Bristol HER was also accessed, via the "knowyourplace" website.

For a wider overview of archaeology in the general area, the BIAB website was accessed, for publications relating to Filton. This highlighted a number of recent archaeological interventions in the wider area, including desk-top studies, excavations and watching-briefs.

Potential for prehistoric activity in the wider area was highlighted in a number of the works cited on BIAB, including a desk-top study centred around Cribbs Causeway (Buckley 2002) and an excavation at Harry Stoke, which revealed a Bronze Age ditch and associated finds (AC Archaeology 2005). A further desk-top study centred around Horfield Barracks (Etheridge 2002) suggested the possible existence of Bronze Age round barrows on Horfield Common, approximately 900m south of the study site, but their identification as such has been queried by the Bristol HER (see "knowyourplace" website). Evidence for Iron Age activity was revealed in an archaeological evaluation undertaken at the former Stoke Park Hospital, 2.5km to the south-west (Wessex Archaeology 1999 in BGAR 4, 52).

There is substantially more evidence for Romano-British activity, both in the wider area and in the immediate vicinity of the site. The SGHER records two roads of potential Roman date (SGHERs 13927 and 1329), both running roughly north-south, approximately 400m and 500m respectively, to the east of the study area. SGHER 1329 is visible on the tithe as a trackway, leading directly to the cluster of three fields named "Blackland", a potential Roman site (**Historic Map Evidence**, below). The track skirts Field 215 ("Blackland") and comes to an abrupt stop, in an area which in 1825 consisted of open pasture,

but which may formerly have been an area of settlement⁸. Further evidence of Romano-British activity in the wider area is suggested by the presence of two Roman coin hoards, one to the north of the site, at a point north-east of the parish church, along the boundary with Stoke Gifford (Nicholls 1880, 385-8) and one to the south, in the vicinity of the former Horfield Barracks (Etheridge 2002). Roman pottery was revealed during an evaluation at Abbey Wood, 2.5km to the east and a Romano-British stone structure, together with ditches of Romano-British date, during an excavation at Stoke House (2.5km to the south-east; BGAR 4, 52).

Post-Roman activity in the area is represented by an isolated cemetery of fifty-one burials, excavated at the Hewlett Packard site, approximately 1.5km south-east of the study area (BGAR no.4). The cemetery was dated by radio-carbon dating to between 5th and 7th centuries AD, and no associated settlement remains were revealed. It is important to note that the cemetery lay in the south-west corner of Stoke Gifford parish, close to the parish boundary, and that burial on or near parish boundaries seems to be a recognised feature of some pagan Saxon sites (op.cit.90).

Three features dating to the medieval period were recorded on the HER, a possible medieval boundary bank, separating Horfield and Filton parishes (SGHER 14012), 500m south-east of the site; the parish church, whose fabric dates to the 14th century, but which has potentially early medieval origins (SGHER 11045, above) and a farm (SGHER 14022), at Westwood, to the north of the site, which is said to be “almost certainly medieval”.

The remaining HER records in the immediate vicinity of the site are of post medieval and modern date, and include locally listed buildings (SGHERs 13334, 14024, 15117 and 15120) and a boundary stone. Twentieth century features comprise largely buildings (SGHERs 13935, 15117, 15131, 15251, 19310, 919465 and 19473, including the cinema to the south of the site, a World War II decontamination centre and a domestic air raid shelter). The air raid trenches bordering Broncksea Road are, unfortunately, not recorded.

6 HISTORIC MAP EVIDENCE

The maps consulted for the project consisted of the usual run of large-scale Ordnance Survey maps, accessible in the Bristol Record Office and the Bristol Central Library, together with the 19th century tithe map for Filton.

The first historic map reproduced here (**Figure 3** and **Frontispiece**; BRO EP/A/32/18) is an extract from the tithe map for Filton parish, produced in 1839, copied from a parish map of 1825. The study site forms part of Plot 171, which is recorded in the accompanying schedule as “Far Wicketts”,

⁸ The term “Blackland” refers to the darker soil often found over areas of former settlement, and particularly associated with Romano-British sites. For a full discussion of this topic and examples of “Blackland” sites, see N.Corcros, www.wikiarc.org/fieldnames.

amounting to 7 acres, 1 rood and 35 perches of pasture. It was owned by Robert Clerk and Henry Fowler, and leased to William Bennett, who also leased a number of the neighbouring fields. The apportionments for these and the surrounding fields are listed in **Appendix 2**, below.

The name, "Wicketts" is possibly related to the prefix, "wic" (OE "earlier Romano-British settlement; dwelling, specialised farm or building, dairy farm; trading or industrial settlement, harbour", Mills 2011, 525), or may simply be associated with the location of a farm-gate ("wicket", meaning "small door or gate", OED).

The extract shows the main road from Bristol to Gloucester (Gloucester Road North), running roughly north-south, and the parish boundary between Filton and Horfield, (also the boundary between Gloucestershire and Bristol) to the south. It is worth mentioning that the boundary at this point shows a certain amount of "interdigitation" between the two parishes, where land from Filton sticks out in a peninsula, almost entirely surrounded by land within Horfield parish. There are also at least two completely detached portions of Filton parish within the bounds of Horfield. Winchester ("Discovering Parish Boundaries" 2000, 59,60) suggests that such features may be the result of the later division of an area of shared resource, such as woodland, or may simply be due to a later boundary following pre-existing field patterns (ibid.). It highlights, in any case, the close links between the two parishes, as suggested by their relationship at Domesday and immediately after, and flags up the slight anomaly that the two are now separated by the county boundary.

The apportionment (**Appendix 2**) lists the total area of the parish as 1,030 acres, comprising 162 acres of arable, 389 of pasture, 33 of common land, 26 of woodland, 21 of orchards, gardens and houses, and 20 of roads and waste. The total of 26 acres of woodland represent what is probably a significant reduction since medieval times. Harris records a deed of 1609, listing Westwood and Wallshut Wood, as each encompassing 22 acres of woodland (Harris 1981, 18). Wallshut Wood is recorded on the First Edition OS map (below), and Westwood as a small area of woodland at Cherry Rock Farm, (west of the village), no longer wooded by 1903 (OS 1903-4). The OS first Edition shows the village of Filton as bordered on all sides by enclosed areas of managed woodland, probably orchards (OS 1881). Harris also references a 19th century author, Samuel Seyer, who describes Horfield Wood, located "beyond Horfield Common, going towards Filton, on both sides of the road" (probably encompassing the present study area; op.cit., 15).

The most important feature revealed by the examination of the tithe and award is the identification of the small cluster of fields (nos. 215, 216 and 217), each named "Blackland", a field-name which is often linked with Romano-British occupation (see article by N.Corcus, "Field-names and Archaeology, a review and guide for archaeologists", **Bibliography**). The "Blacklands" fields lie approximately 500m to the east of the study site,

centred at NGR ST 60400 78310, at the southern end of a small lane, which leads south from Filton village (SGHER 1329; see **Archaeological Background**, above).

Outside the immediate study area, the tithe (see **Frontispiece**) is also noteworthy primarily for the depiction of two large common fields, Broadmead and Westmead, on the eastern and western edges of the parish, which are clearly divided into numbered strips. Broadmead, of 40 acres, was shared amongst sixteen proprietors, and Westmead, of 31 acres, amongst nine proprietors. Rather than, as Harris suggests, being a relic of a common arable field system, it is more likely that the fields constitute “dole meads”, or common pasture meadows, particularly as they both appear to be located adjacent to streams, which would have provided lush pastures (pers.comm. N.Corcus, June 2013). For a detailed account of the custom of “doling out” the strips in shared hay or pasture meadows such as these, see Gardner, “Apples in the Landscape: the Puxton Dolmoors”, BAA 4, 1985, 13-20.

Figure 4, depicting the First Edition Ordnance Survey map, 25”, surveyed in 1880, shows no change at all in the immediate study area. The small farmhouse to the east of the Gloucester Road, labelled “175”, is no longer depicted (see **Appendix 2**). Further afield, Filton Laundry is depicted, to the south of the village, and the north-south line of the Great Western Railway (Bristol and South Wales Union) now runs to the east, with Filton station just north of Wallshut Wood.

By the time of the Second Edition Ordnance Survey, which was surveyed in 1901 (**Figure 5**), some minor development has taken place along the west side of Gloucester Road. The land parcel of which the study site formed a part has by this date been sub-divided, with the outline of Broncksea Road sketched in for development. Two apparently semi-detached houses, with a possible outbuilding, have been erected in the angle between the proto-Broncksea Road and Gloucester Road North (see **Figure 5**).

Only twelve years later, by the time of the Third Edition Ordnance Survey, (**Figure 6**), a significant amount of development had taken place along the west side of Gloucester Road North and to the south-east of the study site, along Northville Road. Filton village is by this time dominated by the large buildings, labelled, “Aeroplane Works”, between Westwood and the parish church. The Blackland site has by this time been built over by the houses of Third Avenue. On the study site itself, the Ordnance Survey record a small outbuilding, probably too small for a house, immediately adjacent to the Gloucester Road, with three further buildings, at least one of which may be a house, just outside the study area, to the west.

The 1935-6 Edition Ordnance Survey map (not shown) shows the further development of the housing to the east and north-west of the site, including the construction of Charborough Road School. The county boundary to the south-east has been slightly straightened, following the course of house plot boundaries to the north of Eden Grove. The study site itself has been sub-

divided, with an L-shaped area to the west and south, labelled “Nursery”, showing two greenhouses and a couple of small outbuildings. The majority of the study area remains, for some reason, the only undeveloped plot amongst a spread of domestic housing. The cinema to the south (SGHER 13935) has been constructed by this date.

The Ordnance Survey Edition of 1948 (**Figure 7**) shows little change in the study area itself, apart from the addition of a further small outbuilding along the southern boundary (within the area marked “Nursery”). In the wider area, further housing development has taken place to the south-west of the site and to the east, with much infilling west of the railway.

For the later history of the site, and the construction of the petrol station, see **Aerial Photographic Evidence**, below).

7 SITE VISIT

The **Cover** photograph and **Plates a to d** represent part of a photographic record made by the author during a site visit conducted on Friday, 31st May, 2013. The majority of the study area is taken up by the present Texaco petrol station, which consists of the usual shop, forecourt with canopy, car-wash facility and small building to rear. The petrol storage tanks appear to be located at the south side of the forecourt. To the south, west and north of the petrol station is a small area of overgrown scrubland, which, to the south, has been planted with a row of tall evergreens.

Possibly the most significant topographical feature revealed during the visit was that the present ground surface shelves steeply down towards the west, and that immediately to the rear of the shop and the brick building to the south-west, the ground has been terraced, leaving a drop of between 1 and 2m (**Plate c**).

Due to the presence of the scrub and the wall and fence surrounding the land to the rear, it was not possible to ascertain whether there were any surviving remains of the possible air raid trenches in this location.

The large building to the south of the site, “Cabot Court”, obviously formed a modern replacement (pre-1999) for the cinema constructed at some time between 1915 and 1936 (SGHER 13935).

8 AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHIC EVIDENCE

Appendix 3 lists the historic aerial images which were identified by staff at the NMR from among their main archive, as covering the study site itself and its immediate environs.

Photographs of 1946 are the first to show the site in any detail, and show both the cinema building to the south and a couple of sheds or greenhouses on the

site itself, suggesting that at least part of the site may have been used for market gardening (see OS 1948, **Figure 7**). By the following year, these sheds have disappeared, and the site appears more overgrown. Photographs of 1955 are the last to show the site as an undeveloped piece of land (Feb 1955, 540/RAF/1530, 268-9; 540/RAF/1576, 172-4).

It is not until aerial photographs of 1968 (MAL/68068, 2-3; /68066, 12) that the first permanent buildings appear on the site. These are located in approximately the same position as the present petrol station buildings, and may very well have performed the same function. Photographs of 1970 (MAL/70058, 2, 3, 4, 109-111) show the buildings roughly as they appeared in 1968. These photographs also illustrate how the study area itself had been partitioned, as it appears to have been since at least 1935 (OS 25", 1935), with a possible plant nursery occupying ground to the south and west between 1935 and at least 1948 (OS 25", 1948).

No major changes are evident in the photographic record until 1989, when the buildings shown on the vertical (OS 89300, 1) appear to correspond to those present on the site today. The area which is at present scrub, to the north-west, appears relatively clear, and possibly under grass, although fenced off from the petrol station proper. By 1990 (OS 90030, 488-9, 525-6), the cinema to the south has been demolished, and the layout of the site is almost identical to that existing today, with a smaller triangular fenced off area of scrubland existing to the south-west of the garage forecourt, and a fenced off border of scrub to the west. Unfortunately, it was not possible to tell from these historic aerial photographs at what date the site was terraced.

In the wider area of the site, the photographs revealed little of significance which would not have been recorded on contemporary maps. No ridge and furrow or other earthwork or soil features were observed in the nearby open spaces of the Northville Millenium Green to the east, or the playing field of the Orchard (former Monks Park) School to the south. The earliest photograph viewed (dating to 1945, RAF/106G/LA/93, 2007) does, however, show an intriguing sub-circular enclosure approximately 1.5km north-west of the study area, in the area of Pen Park (BHER 2484). The enclosure appears to have been wooded and appears on maps dating between 1888 and 1955 (www.oldmaps.co.uk). The Bristol HER describes Pen Park as a large house, of at least 18th century date, now demolished and beneath housing (BHER 2484).

9 NATIONAL PLANNING POLICY FRAMEWORK, MARCH 2012, AND LOCAL PLANNING POLICIES

Between March 2010 and March 2012, national planning guidelines as they related specifically to the historic environment, were outlined in the document known as PPS (Planning and Policy Statement) 5, *Planning for the Historic Environment*. However, in March 2012, PPS5, and indeed all the other planning policy guidance and statements which underpinned the operation of the national planning process, was replaced by a single, greatly simplified, overarching and

integrated document known as the *National Planning Policy Framework* (Dept for Communities and Local Government). Within this document, matters relating to archaeology and the historic environment generally are dealt with in Section 12 (pages 30-32), *Conserving and enhancing the historic environment*. A detailed examination of the implications of the new framework for the specific site being reported on here is outside the scope of this study. Section 12 of the NPPF is by definition a much shorter excursus on national planning policy as it relates to the historic environment, than was contained in its predecessor PPS5, although it is at least in principle underpinned by many of the same basic tenets.

By far the majority of the document consists of guidance to local authorities in how they should handle matters relating to the historic environment in their own areas, and some local authorities have already, as a matter of conscious policy, chosen to take the explicit position of interpreting the provisions of the NPPF as devolving directly to them, at the local level, all decision-making in matters of planning as they relate specifically to the historic environment, including, of course, archaeology.

It is certainly not the remit of the present report to attempt to second-guess how local authorities may interpret the detail of, and still less how they may actually apply in practice, the provisions set out in the new document, and each case must of course be taken on its own merits. In any event, although the NPPF underpins and guides local planning policies, it is the latter which establish the detail and the practical procedures and guidelines through which the national policies are expressed at local level, and by which they are adapted to local conditions. Specifically in the case of South Gloucestershire, these provisions, then, need to be considered in the light of existing policy guidance in relation to archaeology, as currently framed in the local authority's own *Local Plan*, which was adopted in January 2006, supplemented by the more recent Core Strategy. Policy L11 of the Local Plan states that:

Development which would not physically preserve sites of national archaeological importance, whether scheduled or not, or would have a significant impact on the setting of visible remains, will not be permitted. planning permission will not be granted for development on sites or landscapes of archaeological interest or of high archaeological potential without an archaeological assessment and if necessary a field evaluation. where the assessment indicates that the proposed development would harm a site, structure or landscape of archaeological or historic importance or its setting, development will not be permitted unless applicants can demonstrate a satisfactory scheme indicating how the impact of the proposal on the archaeological resource can be mitigated. the council will negotiate agreements to preserve and manage archaeological remains.

In the core strategy document, Policy CS9 (1) deals with archaeology and other related, environmental issues, which states that development within the local authority area will be expected to

ensure that sites, areas and landscapes of archaeological, historical, ecological, arboricultural and geological importance are protected and, where appropriate, improved and enhanced (South Glos. 2010, 63).

10 CONCLUSIONS

The settlement of Filton probably originated as a tithing of Horfield parish, and does not enter the documentary record until 1187 (Smith 1964, 103), although place-name evidence suggests that the settlement, together with the hamlet of Hay, may have been in existence since the early medieval period. The earliest surviving parts of the fabric of the parish church date from c.1340, by which time Filton must have become a separate entity, with its own burial rights.

The study site lies at the southern edge of the parish, adjacent to Gloucester Road North, and is currently largely occupied by a Texaco petrol station.

Documentary evidence suggests that the study site was formerly agricultural land, until at least the mid-twentieth century, and that it may have formed part of a market garden/nursery until the construction of the petrol station, at some point post-1955. It is possible that air raid trenches may have been excavated over the part of the site adjacent to Broncksea Road, immediately prior to World War II, whilst the western edge of the site appears to have been subject to major terracing in more recent times.

Although the South Gloucestershire HER records very few entries of medieval or earlier date in the vicinity, field-name evidence suggests that there may have been a significant area of Romano-British settlement some 500m due east of the present site. The HER also records the routes of two possible Roman roads or trackways, 300m and 500m east of the site, one of which leads directly to the above settlement. The site is also equidistant between the locations of two Roman coin hoards, one at Horfield barracks, to the south, and one to the north-east of the parish church, at Filton Brook, on the border with Stoke Gifford parish.

In the general area of the study site, prehistoric activity is represented by possible Iron Age field boundaries, together with a hearth, recorded at Stoke Park Hospital, an early Bronze Age ditch and finds, at Harry Stoke, and possible Bronze Age barrows located at Horfield Common, to the south. Archaeological excavation in the vicinity of Stoke House revealed a stone structure of Romano-British date, together with ditches containing Roman pottery. A major excavation at the Hewlett Packard site, approximately 1.5km to the south-east of the study area, revealed an important Dark Age cemetery, dated by a series of radiocarbon determinations to the 5th-7th centuries AD, although no associated settlement remains were recovered.

In conclusion, and on the basis of the documentary and other evidence reviewed for this project, the study area is considered to offer some moderate to poor potential for the survival of significant buried archaeological deposits and structures.

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APPENDIX 1

Extract from mortgage document of 1594, listing components of the manor of Filton (Harris 1981, 26-7)

- the manor house, with all barns, stables, buildings, orchards, gardens and backsides thereunto belonging, together with 32 acres of meadow and pasture and 22 acres of wood;*
- three tenements with garden and orchard thereunto belonging, one cottage, a Barton and 52 acres of meadow and pasture, copyhold, and in the tenure of Johane Astall, widow;*
- 29 acres of meadow and pasture, parcel of the demesne lands, in tenure of Thomas Astell;*
- tenement, garden, orchard, backside and 28 acres of meadow and pasture, copyhold, in tenure of Robert Nashe;*
- cottage, garden, orchard, barton and 34 acres of meadow and pasture, copyhold, in tenure of John Prigge;*
- one tenement with garden with backside, and 12 acres of meadow and pasture, copyhold, in tenure of Thomas Stallard;*
- tenement called Church House, backside and half an acre of ground called the Burys in tenure of Thomas Astell, John James and Thomas Richards or some of them;*
- one tenement, orchard, garden, backside and 24 acres of meadow and pasture in tenure of one William;*
- one tenement and cottage, two orchards, garden, Barton and Backside and 45 acres of arable, meadow and pasture land in tenure of Christopher Mabbott;*
- one tenement, one cottage, garden, Barton, and 35 acres of arable, meadow and pasture in tenure of Arnold Atkins;*
- fower (sic) acres of arable land, part of the demesne, in tenure of Arnold Atkins aforesaid;*
- 12 acres of pasture and meadow, part of the demesne, in tenure of Arnold Atkins and Agnes his wife;*
- 8 acres in tenure of John Lardge;*
- 16 acres of meadow and pasture in tenure of Richard Wade;*
- 18 acres of meadow and pasture, demesne lands, in tenure of Thomas Richards;*
- 12 acres of meadow and pasture, demesne lands, in tenure of Margaret Malett, widdowe;*
- the rectorie and Glebe lands;*
- lands of Sir Richard Berkely;*
- messuages, lands, tenement lands, hereditaments late in tenure of Roger Nashe, deceased, now in tenure of his widow Elizabeth or his son.*

APPENDIX 2

Extract from Filton Tithe Award (BRO/EP/A/32/18)

A – acres; R – Roods; P – Perches¹

Ar – Arable; Pa – Pasture

Landowner	Occupier	No.	Name & Description	Cultivation	A	R	P
Henry Eugene Shadwell	William Bennett	161	Great Harleys	Ar	6	3	11
Robert Clerk Henry Fowler	William Bennett	162	Stockwell	Ar	8	1	2
Henry Eugene Shadwell	Pharoah Weston	165	Putley Hill	Ar	5	2	36
Sarah Williams	Herself	166	Putley Hill	Ar	3	2	12
Robert Clerk Henry Fowler	William Bennett	170	Wicketts	Pa	5	1	7
Robert Clerk Henry Fowler Study Site	William Bennett	171	Far Wicketts	Pa	7	1	35
Robert Clerk Henry Fowler	William Bennett	172	Little Stockwell	Ar	4	1	13
John Mitchell Shadwell Eugene Taylor	James Bennett	173	Three Acres or Little Harleys	Ar	2	3	6
Sarah Williams	Herself	174	Lye	Ar	5	2	25
Thomas Hillier	Mary Reeves John Tops	175	Houses and gardens	Homestead	4	1	12
Thomas Hillier	John Gayner	176	The Lye	Ar	4	1	26
Sarah Williams	Herself	177	Stallards	Pa	8	2	16
Robert Clerk Henry Fowler	William Bennett	182	Little Hill	Pa	13	1	8
John Mitchell Shadwell Eugene Taylor	James Bennett	215	Blackland	Pa	3	2	5
John Mitchell Shadwell Eugene Taylor	James Bennett	216	Blackland	Pa	5	2	26
Henry Eugene Shadwell	Pharoah Weston	217	Blackland	Pa	4	3	26

¹Customary measure allowed four roods to the acre, and 40 perches to the rood. An acre is about 4,050m², so that a rood is equivalent to 1,012.5m², and a perch is therefore about 25m².

APPENDIX 3

List of aerial images of study area arising from trawl of NMR archive

Full single listing - Verticals, Standard order
Customer enquiry reference: 78856

Sortie number	Library number	Camera position	Frame number	Held	Centre point	Run	Date	Sortie quality	Scale 1:	Focal length (in inches)	Film details (in inches)	Film held by
RAF/106G/JUK/1288	234	Vp1	5121	P	ST 598 789	4	25 MAR 1946	A	6500	14	Black and White 8.25 x 7.5	NMR
RAF/106G/JUK/1288	234	Vp1	5122	P	ST 602 789	4	25 MAR 1946	A	6500	14	Black and White 8.25 x 7.5	NMR
RAF/106G/JUK/1288	234	Vp2	5264	P	ST 599 778	6	25 MAR 1946	A	6500	14	Black and White 8.25 x 7.5	NMR
RAF/106G/JUK/1416	277	RS	4194	P	ST 595 790	8	14 APR 1946	A	10000	20	Black and White 8.25 x 7.5	NMR
RAF/106G/JUK/1416	277	RS	4195	P	ST 602 790	8	14 APR 1946	A	10000	20	Black and White 8.25 x 7.5	NMR
RAF/106G/JUK/1681	439	RP	3014	P	ST 603 791	2	01 AUG 1946	AB	10000	20	Black and White 8.25 x 7.5	NMR
RAF/106G/JUK/1681	439	RP	3015	P	ST 597 791	2	01 AUG 1946	AB	10000	20	Black and White 8.25 x 7.5	NMR
RAF/CPE/JUK/1869	526	RS	4019	P	ST 605 782	20	04 DEC 1946	AB	9840	20	Black and White 8.25 x 7.5	NMR
RAF/CPE/JUK/1869	526	RS	4020	P	ST 597 782	20	04 DEC 1946	AB	9840	20	Black and White 8.25 x 7.5	NMR
RAF/CPE/JUK/2026	622	V	5161	P	ST 597 781	5	26 APR 1947	A	4800	14	Black and White 8.25 x 7.5	NMR
RAF/CPE/JUK/2026	622	V	5162	P	ST 601 781	5	26 APR 1947	A	4800	14	Black and White 8.25 x 7.5	NMR
RAF/CPE/JUK/2095	667	V	5218	P	ST 601 783	19	28 MAY 1947	A	4800	14	Black and White 8.25 x 7.5	NAW
RAF/CPE/JUK/2095	667	V	5219	P	ST 597 783	19	28 MAY 1947	A	4800	14	Black and White 8.25 x 7.5	NAW
RAF/CPE/JUK/2144	675	V	5228	P	ST 596 783	24	10 JUN 1947	A	5500	14	Black and White 8.25 x 7.5	NMR
RAF/CPE/JUK/2144	675	V	5229	P	ST 599 783	24	10 JUN 1947	A	5500	14	Black and White 8.25 x 7.5	NMR
RAF/CPE/JUK/2144	675	V	5230	P	ST 602 783	24	10 JUN 1947	A	5500	14	Black and White 8.25 x 7.5	NMR
RAF/540/1576	1640	F22	172	P	ST 596 780	7	31 MAR 1955	A	5000	20	Black and White 8.25 x 7.5	NMR

APPENDIX 3

List of aerial images of study area arising from trawl of NMR archive

Sortie number	Library number	Camera position	Frame number	Held	Centre point	Run	Date	Sortie quality	Scale 1:	Focal length	Film details (in inches)	Film held by
(in inches)												
RAF/540/1576	1640	F22	173	P	ST 599 780	7	31 MAR 1955	A	5000	20	Black and White 8.25 x 7.5	NMR
RAF/540/1576	1640	F22	174	P	ST 602 779	7	31 MAR 1955	A	5000	20	Black and White 8.25 x 7.5	NMR
RAF/543/2332	2166	1F21	75	P	ST 607 780	38	26 JUL 1963	AB	10100	36	Black and White 8.25 x 7.5	MOD
RAF/543/2332	2166	1F21	76	P	ST 600 780	38	26 JUL 1963	AB	10100	36	Black and White 8.25 x 7.5	MOD
RAF/543/2332	2166	1F21	77	P	ST 592 780	38	26 JUL 1963	AB	10100	36	Black and White 8.25 x 7.5	MOD
RAF/58/2180	2521	F43	68	P	ST 591 785	20	27 MAY 1957	AC	15333	36	Black and White 8.25 x 7.5	MOD
RAF/58/2180	2521	F43	69	P	ST 605 784	20	27 MAY 1957	AC	15333	36	Black and White 8.25 x 7.5	MOD
RAF/540/1734	2774	F22	27	P	ST 603 781	10	25 OCT 1955	AC	20000	20	Black and White 8.25 x 7.5	NMR
RAF/540/1530	2842	F22	268	P	ST 597 786	10	11 FEB 1955	AB	5000	36	Black and White 8.25 x 7.5	MOD
RAF/540/1530	2842	F22	269	P	ST 599 786	10	11 FEB 1955	AB	5000	36	Black and White 8.25 x 7.5	MOD
MAL/68068	5101	V	2	P	ST 602 778	1	15 OCT 1968	A	10000	6	Black and White 9 x 9	NMR
MAL/68068	5101	V	3	P	ST 603 786	1	15 OCT 1968	A	10000	6	Black and White 9 x 9	NMR
MAL/68066	5140	V	12	P	ST 602 782	2	10 OCT 1968	AB	10000	6	Black and White 9 x 9	NMR
MAL/70058	5716	V	2	P	ST 598 781	1	01 JUL 1970	A	3000	6	Black and White 9 x 9	NMR
MAL/70058	5716	V	3	P	ST 599 784	1	01 JUL 1970	A	3000	6	Black and White 9 x 9	NMR
MAL/70058	5716	V	4	P	ST 599 786	1	01 JUL 1970	A	3000	6	Black and White 9 x 9	NMR
MAL/70058	5717	V	109	P	ST 598 781	3	02 JUL 1970	A	3000	6	Black and White 9 x 9	NMR
MAL/70058	5717	V	110	P	ST 598 784	3	02 JUL 1970	A	3000	6	Black and White 9 x 9	NMR
MAL/70058	5717	V	111	P	ST 598 786	3	02 JUL 1970	A	3000	6	Black and White 9 x 9	NMR
RAF/106G/LA/93	8336	FS	2007	P	ST 594 789	4	05 JAN 1945	A	15000	8	Black and White 5 x 5	NMR

APPENDIX 3

List of aerial images of study area arising from trawl of NMR archive

Sortie number	Library number	Camera position	Frame number	Held	Centre point	Run	Date	Sortie quality	Scale 1:	Focal length	Film details (in inches)	Film held by
(in inches)												
OS/69311	11680	V	49	P	ST 597 791	2	30 JUN 1969	A	7000	12	Black and White 9 x 9	NMR
OS/80156	12471	V	559	P	ST 601 784	7	12 OCT 1980	A	5300	12	Black and White 9 x 9	NMR
OS/80156	12471	V	560	P	ST 597 784	7	12 OCT 1980	A	5300	12	Black and White 9 x 9	NMR
OS/89300	13557	V	1	P	ST 595 792	1	18 JUN 1989	A	8100	12	Black and White 9 x 9	NMR
OS/90030	13654	V	488	P	ST 597 786	7	26 MAR 1990	A	5100	12	Black and White 9 x 9	NMR
OS/90030	13654	V	489	P	ST 602 786	7	26 MAR 1990	A	5100	12	Black and White 9 x 9	NMR
OS/90030	13654	V	525	P	ST 603 779	8	26 MAR 1990	A	5100	12	Black and White 9 x 9	NMR
OS/90030	13654	V	526	P	ST 599 779	8	26 MAR 1990	A	5100	12	Black and White 9 x 9	NMR
ADA/083	26121	V	50	N	ST 597 778	2	25 APR 1982	A	10000	6	Black and White 9 x 9	NMR
ADA/083	26121	V	51	N	ST 605 777	2	25 APR 1982	A	10000	6	Black and White 9 x 9	NMR
Total sorties											21	
Total images											47	

Figure 3

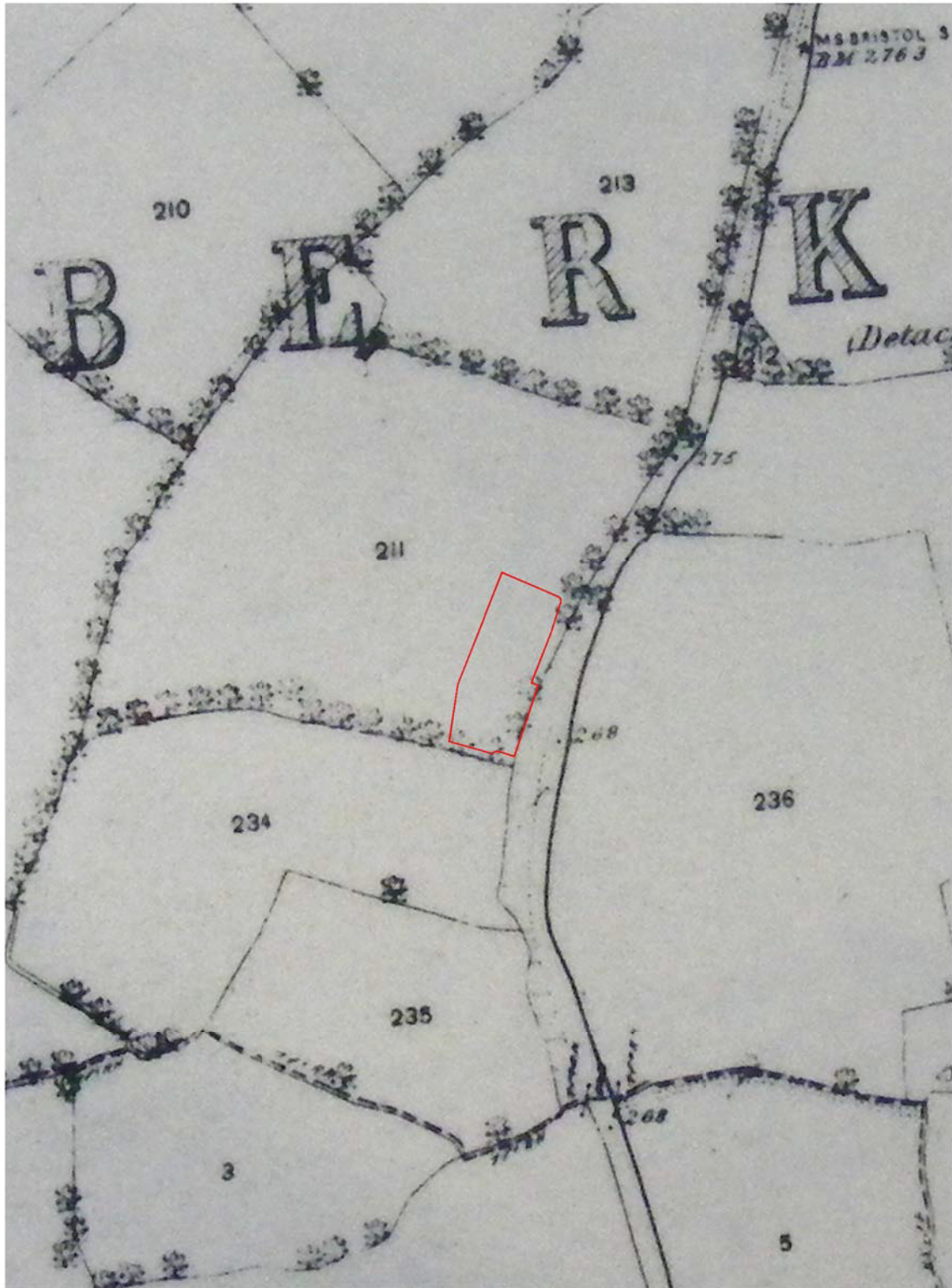
Extract from 1839 tithe map for Filton parish copied from parochial map of 1825. BRO EP/A/32/18. Approximate location of Study Site outlined in red.



0 100m

Figure 4

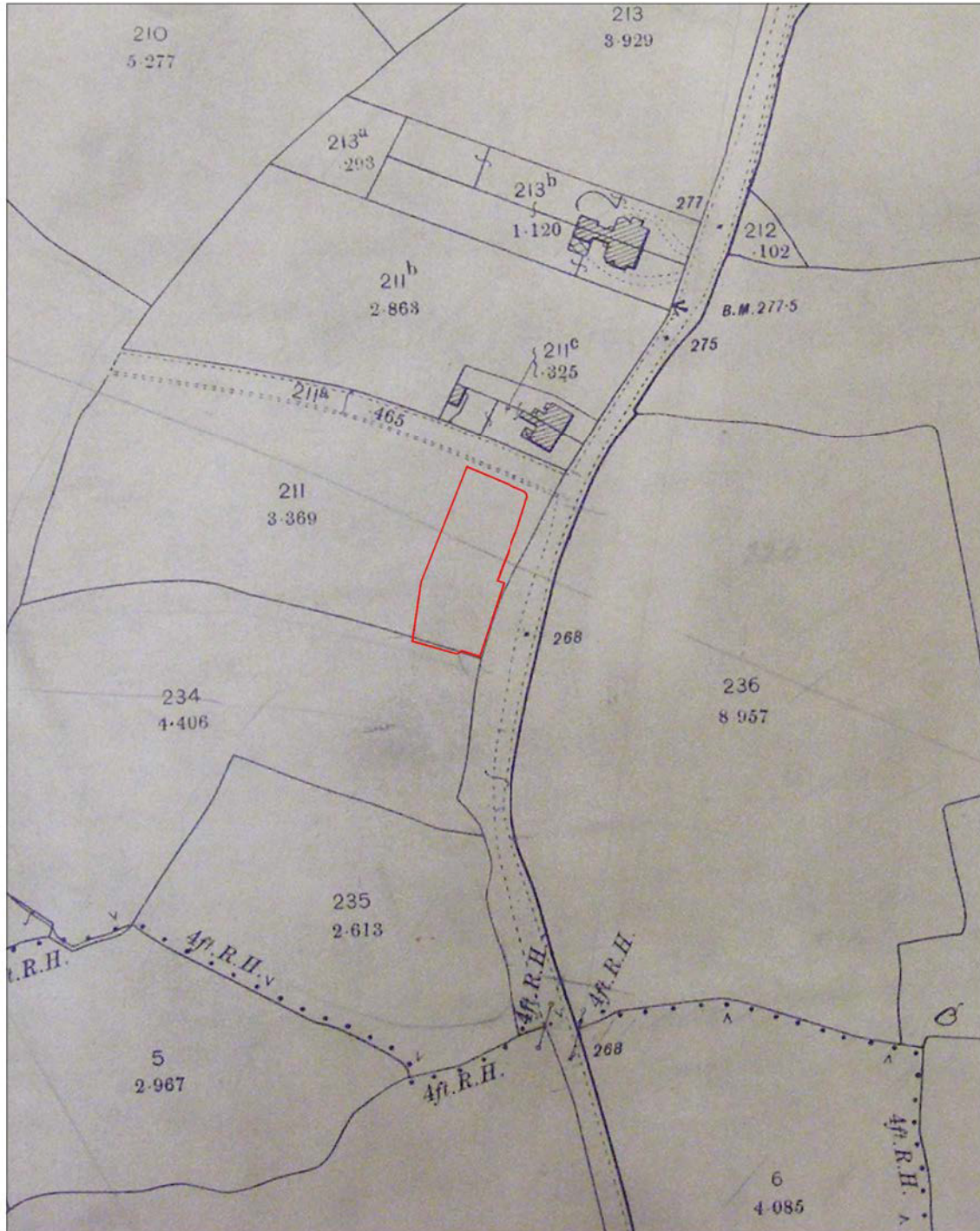
Extract from First Edition OS 25" map, Gloucestershire Sheet LXXII.I
Surveyed 1880, published 1881. Approximate location of Study Site
outlined in red.



0 100m

Figure 5

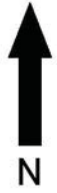
Extract from Second Edition OS 25" map, Gloucestershire Sheet LXXII.I, revised 1901, published 1903. Shows outline of Broncksea Road. Approximate location of Study Site outlined in red.



0 100m

Figure 6

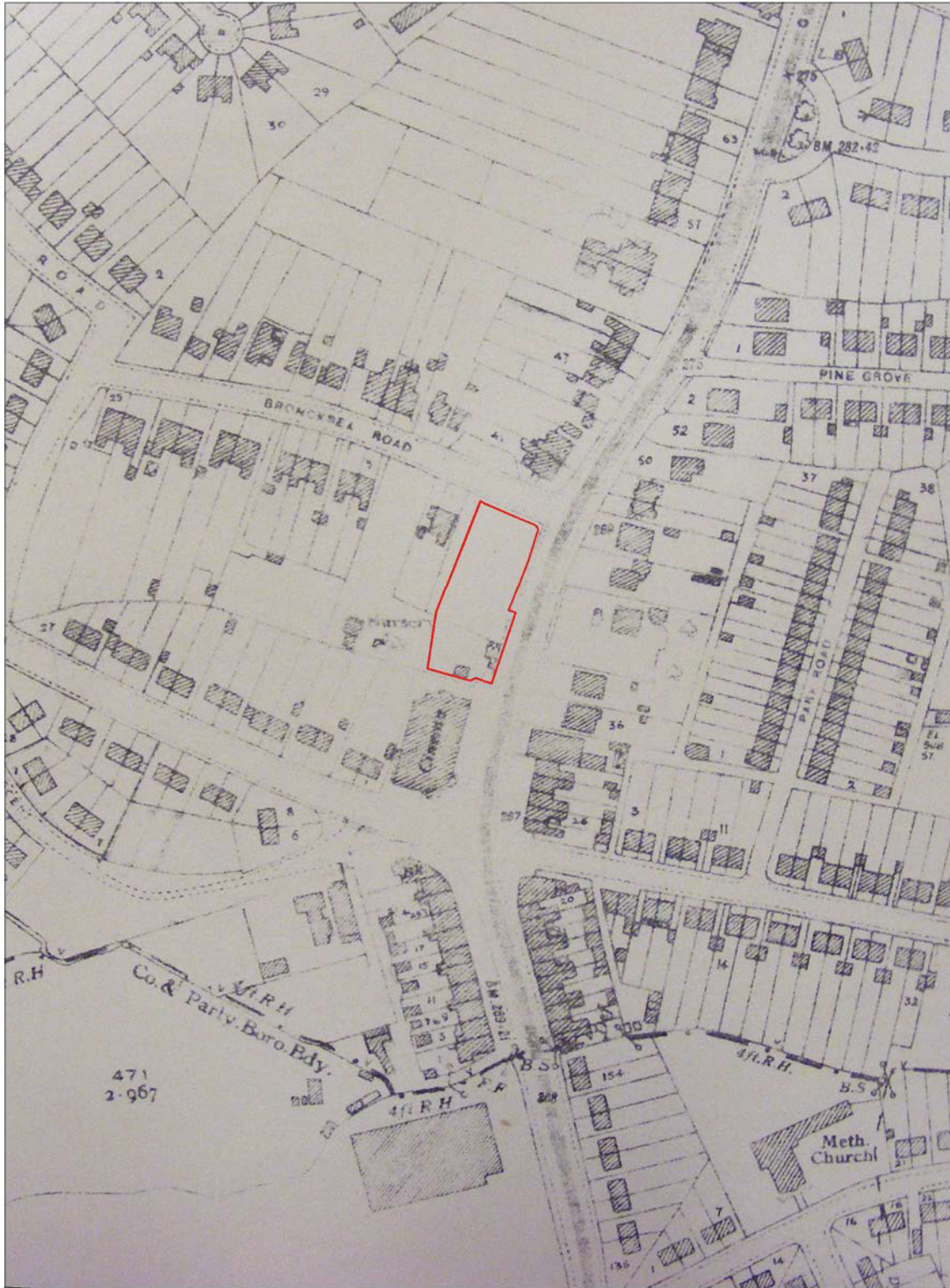
Extract from Third Edition OS 25" map, Gloucestershire Sheet LXXII.I revised 1912, published 1915. Shows small building on Study Site. Approximate location of Study Site outlined in red.



0 100m

Figure 7

Extract from OS 25" map, Gloucestershire Sheet LXXII.I, published 1948. Shows two small buildings on Study Site. Approximate location of Study Site outlined in red.



0 100m

Plates



a) General view of study site from south, showing location of access to underground storage tanks to left of frame, house on Broncksea Road in background.



b) Row of evergreens bordering south side of study area, garage in background, looking north-east.



c) Access lane to rear (west) of site, from south, showing drop of 1-2m in ground level to west of garage.



d) Building to rear (west) of site, with overgrown scrub in foreground, from north-west.