

**Land adjacent to Kensington Park  
Magor  
Monmouthshire**

**Archaeological Watching Brief**



*for*  
**Bovis Homes**


CA Project: 3555  
CA Report: 11315

December 2011

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Magor  
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prepared by	Jonathan Hart, Publications Officer
date	13 December 2011
checked by	Richard Young, Project Manager
date	14 December 2011
approved by	Simon Cox, Head of Fieldwork
signed	
date	16 December 2011
issue	01

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## LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

Fig. 1 Site location plan (1:25,000)

Fig. 2 The site, showing location of groundworks and results of the earthwork survey (1:1000)



## SUMMARY

<b>Project Name:</b>	Land adjacent to Kensington Park
<b>Location:</b>	Magor, Monmouthshire
<b>NGR:</b>	ST 41945 87031
<b>Type:</b>	Watching brief
<b>Date:</b>	7 September to 21 October 2011
<b>Planning Reference:</b>	DC/2006/01113
<b>Location of Archive:</b>	To be deposited with the National Museum of Wales
<b>Site Code:</b>	KMM 11

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology during groundworks associated with residential development at land adjacent to Kensington Park, Magor, Monmouthshire.

Parts of a large possible quarry pit, visible as an earthwork hollow, were exposed. The feature contained 20th-century bottle glass in its upper fill. No other features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed during groundworks, and no artefactual material pre-dating the modern period was recovered.



## 1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In September and October 2011 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological watching brief for Bovis Homes at land adjacent to Kensington Park, Magor, Monmouthshire (centred on NGR: ST 4195 8703; Fig. 1). The watching brief was undertaken to fulfil Condition 12 attached to a planning consent granted by Monmouthshire County Council for a residential development (Planning ref: DC/2006/01113). The objectives of the watching brief were to observe, investigate, sample and record any archaeological remains uncovered.
- 1.2 Condition 12 required the implementation of a programme of archaeological work, and a *Written Scheme of Investigation and Project Design (WSIPD)* was formulated by Cotswold Archaeology (CA 2011a) to meet the requirements of this condition, based on advice given by Neil Maylan, Archaeological Planning Manager, Glamorgan-Gwent Archaeological Trust Curatorial, the archaeological advisor to Monmouthshire County Council. The required programme of archaeological work included an archaeological earthwork survey of visible surviving remains within the site and a watching brief during groundworks for construction. The results of the watching brief form the basis of this report, whilst those of the earthwork survey are reported on separately (CA 2011b).
- 1.3 The fieldwork also followed the *Standard and Guidance for an archaeological watching brief* (Institute for Archaeologists 2008), the *Management of Archaeological Projects 2* (English Heritage 1991) and the *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MORPHE): Project Manager's Guide* (English Heritage 2006).

### **The site**

- 1.4 The site comprises approximately 2ha of land on the south-western side of Magor, bounded to the north-west by Green Moor Lane, to the north-east by the housing of Kensington Park and to the south by a railway line (Fig. 2). The site lies at between 8m and 14m AOD. Prior to development, the site comprised pasture.
- 1.5 The underlying solid geology of the area is mapped as the Tintern Sandstone Formation of the Famennian to Tournaisian geological era, overlain by Quaternary sand and gravel river terrace deposits (BGS 2011). Red-brown clay silt, with layers of sandstone, was exposed during the watching brief.

### **Archaeological background**

- 1.6 A desk-based assessment of the site was carried out in 2004 followed by evaluation by trial trenching (GCCAS 2004; 2005). The desk-based assessment concluded that whilst prehistoric and Roman activity is recorded from the vicinity, no remains of these dates were recorded within the site itself. Evidence for later activity was identified within the site, including the earthwork remains of ridge and furrow cultivation, a possible enclosure and a large possible quarry pit. The 2005 evaluation identified including six undated linear features, one post-medieval and one undated posthole, and three quarry pits as well as other undated features. No sub-surface evidence was found for the ridge and furrow cultivation remains and no remains of the possible enclosure were identified.
- 1.7 An earthwork survey undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in 2011 recorded the ridge and furrow earthworks, along with a low bank and associated ditch interpreted as a field boundary, a large possible quarry pit and a number of smaller possible quarry pits (CA 2011).

### **Methodology**

- 1.8 The fieldwork followed the methodology set out within the WSIPD (CA 2011a). An archaeologist was present during intrusive groundworks comprising a geotechnical trail hole within the large possible quarry pit (Fig. 2; Trench 2), ground reduction and the subsequent excavation of foundation and service trenches within the footprints of the new builds (Trenches 1 and 4–6) and ground reduction for an access road (Trench 3).
- 1.9 Where archaeological deposits were encountered written, graphic and photographic records were compiled in accordance with CA Technical Manual 1: *Fieldwork Recording Manual* (2007).
- 1.10 The archive from the watching brief is currently held by CA at their offices in Kemble and will be deposited with the National Museum of Wales. 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.



## 2. RESULTS (FIG. 2)

- 2.1 The natural red-brown clay silt substrate (103, 204, 302, 402, 502 and 602) was exposed within trenches across the site. In places it was overlain by a thin subsoil. Parts of the presumed quarry pit were exposed within Trenches 2, 5 and 6 (203, 504 and 604). These exposures were limited in extent and the feature remained largely unexcavated. Its upper fill contained 20th-century bottle glass. Modern dumped deposits 102 and 403 were recorded along the edge of the site closest to the recent Kensington Park residential development, and this material is likely to represent construction debris/levelling from the previous modern residential construction works immediately to the east.
- 2.2 Stripping in the location of the ridge and furrow earthworks revealed no evidence for sub-surface remains of these features and no further quarry pits were exposed.

## 3. DISCUSSION

- 3.1 The watching brief results correspond with those of previous investigations within the site. No evidence for prehistoric or Roman activity was identified and, as was the case with the evaluation, the ridge and furrow earthworks were shown not to survive as sub-surface features. The nature of the putative quarry pit remains undetermined; its form is consistent with the suggested interpretation of a quarry pit, although an alternative possibility is that it was a dew pond. Its date is unclear, since whilst the upper fill is recent, the feature itself may be earlier.

## 4. CA PROJECT TEAM

Fieldwork was undertaken by Peter Davenport, Jonathan Hart and Diarmuid O' Seaneachain. This report was written by Jonathan Hart with illustrations prepared by Jon Bennett. The archive has been compiled by Jonathan Hart and prepared for deposition by James Johnson. The project was managed for CA by Richard Young.



## 5. REFERENCES

BGS (British Geological Survey) 2011 Geology of Britain Viewer. Online resource at <http://www.bgs.ac.uk/discoveringGeology/geologyOfBritain/viewer.html> accessed 13 Decemeber 2011

CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2011a *Land Adjacent to Kensington Park, Magor, Monmouthshire: Written Scheme of Investigation and Project Design for an Archaeological Earthwork Survey and Watching Brief*

CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2011b *Land Adjacent to Kensington Park, Magor, Monmouthshire: Archaeological Earthwork Survey*. CA typescript report **11220**

GCCAS (Gloucestershire County Council Archaeology Service) 2004 *An Archaeological Desk Based Assessment of Land adjacent to Kensington Park, Magor, Monmouthshire*. GCCAS typescript report

GCCAS (Gloucestershire County Council Archaeology Service) 2005 *An Archaeological Evaluation of Land adjacent to Kensington Park, Magor, Monmouthshire*. GCCAS typescript report





**APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS**

## Trench 1

No.	Type	Description	Depth (m)
101	Layer	Topsoil: mid brown sandy silt	0.15
102	Layer	Modern dumped layer from previous residential development	Not fully excavated
103	Layer	Natural: sandstone	-
104	Layer	Subsoil	0.15

## Trench 2

No.	Type	Description	Depth (m)
201	Layer	Topsoil: mid brown sandy silt	0.15
202	Fill	Fill of 203: mid red-brown sandy silt with frequent stone fragments	2.45+
203	Cut	Quarry pit visible as earthwork. Only partial exposure within geotechnical trench but edge seen to be 45° and stepped, with a flat base	2.45+
204	Layer	Natural: mid red-brown clay silt	-

## Trench 3

No.	Type	Description	Depth (m)
301	Layer	Topsoil: mid brown sandy silt	0.2
302	Layer	Natural: mid red-brown clay silt	-

## Trench 4

No.	Type	Description	Depth (m)
401	Layer	Topsoil: mid brown sandy silt	0.2
402	Layer	Natural: mid red-brown clay silt	-
403	Layer	Dumped layer = layer 102	1.0

## Trench 5

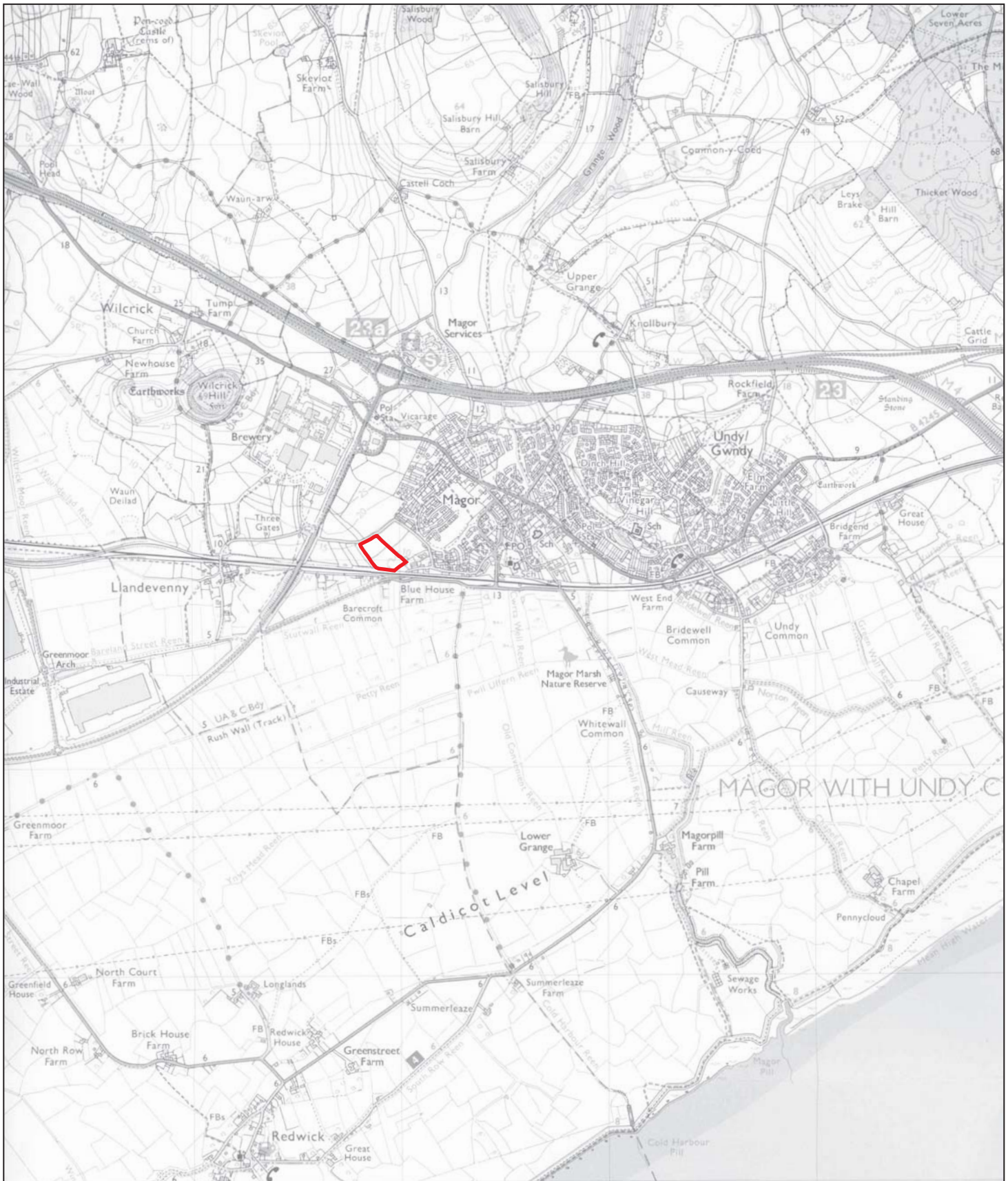
No.	Type	Description	Depth (m)
501	Layer	Topsoil: mid brown sandy silt	0.2
502	Layer	Natural: mid red-brown clay silt	-
503	Fill	Fill of 504: dark grey-brown sandy silt with frequent 20th-century bottle glass	-
504	Cut	Quarry pit (= 203). Topsoil stripped across top but feature not excavated	-

## Trench 6

No.	Type	Description	Depth (m)
601	Layer	Topsoil: mid brown sandy silt	0.2
602	Layer	Natural: mid red-brown clay silt	-
603	Fill	Fill of 504: dark grey-brown sandy silt with frequent 20th-century bottle glass	-
604	Cut	Quarry pit (= 203). Topsoil stripped across top but feature not excavated	-

**APPENDIX B: OASIS REPORT FORM**

<b>PROJECT DETAILS</b>		
Project Name	Land Adjacent to Kensington Park, Magor, Monmouthshire: Archaeological Watching Brief	
Short description	An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology during groundworks associated with residential development at land adjacent to Kensington Park, Magor, Monmouthshire. Parts of a large possible quarry pit, visible as an earthwork hollow, were exposed. The feature contained 20th-century bottle glass in its upper fill. No other features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed during groundworks, and no artefactual material pre-dating the modern period was recovered.	
Project dates	7 September to 21 October 2011	
Project type	Watching brief	
Previous work	Desk-based assessment and evaluation (Gloucestershire County Council Archaeological Services); earthwork survey (Cotswold Archaeology)	
Future work	Unknown	
<b>PROJECT LOCATION</b>		
Site Location	Land Adjacent to Kensington Park, Magor, Monmouthshire	
Study area	2ha	
Site co-ordinates	ST 4195 8703	
<b>PROJECT CREATORS</b>		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Brief originator	Glamorgan Gwent Archaeological Trust	
Project Design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Manager	Richard Young	
Project Supervisor	Peter davenport, Jonathan Hart and Diarmuid O' Seaneachain	
<b>MONUMENT TYPE</b>	None	
<b>SIGNIFICANT FINDS</b>	None	
<b>PROJECT ARCHIVES</b>		
	Intended final location of archive	Content
Physical	n/a	n/a
Paper	National Museum of Wales	Context records, plan
Digital	National Museum of Wales	Digital photos, report
<b>BIBLIOGRAPHY</b>		
CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2011 <i>Land Adjacent to Kensington Park, Magor, Monmouthshire: Archaeological Watching Brief</i> . CA typescript report <b>11315</b>		



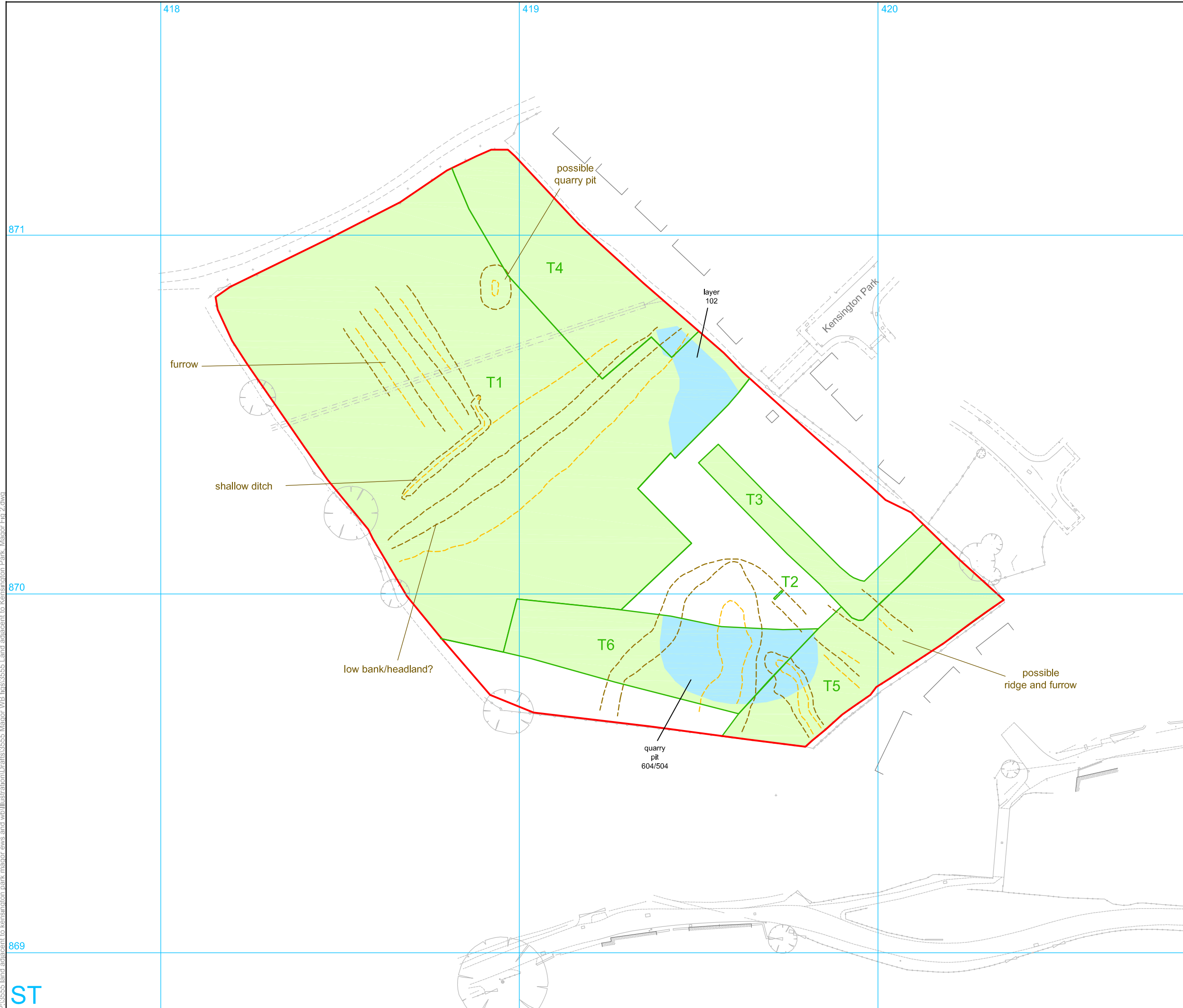
t 01285 771022  
 f 01285 771033  
 w [www.cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk](http://www.cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk)  
 e [enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk)

**PROJECT TITLE**  
 Land adjacent to Kensington Park, Magor  
 Monmouthshire

**FIGURE TITLE**  
 Site location plan

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PROJECT NO.	3555	DATE	05-09-2011	FIGURE NO.
DRAWN BY	JB	REVISION	00	1
APPROVED BY	PJM	SCALE@A4	1:25,000	



- site
  - area of groundworks
  - modern dumped deposits
  - top of slope
  - bottom of slope
- results of earthwork survey (CA 2011)



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Cotswold Archaeology  
 t 01285 771022  
 f 01285 771033  
 www.cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk  
 enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk

**PROJECT TITLE**  
 Land adjacent to Kensington Park  
 Magor, Monmouthshire

**FIGURE TITLE**  
 The site, showing location of  
 groundworks and results of the  
 earthwork survey

PROJECT NO.	3555	DATE	26-11-2012	FIGURE NO.
DRAWN BY	JB	REVISION	00	<b>2</b>
APPROVED BY	PJM	SCALE@A3	1:1000	

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