



Cotswold  
Archaeology

# Land East Of St Nicholas Vale of Glamorgan

## Archaeological Evaluation

*for*

**Harmers Ltd**

*on behalf of*

**Redrow Homes Ltd**


CA Project: 5133  
CA Report: 14551

December 2014

# Land East of St Nicholas Vale of Glamorgan

## Archaeological Evaluation

CA Project: 5133  
CA Report: 14551

prepared by	Tom Weavill, Project Supervisor
date	24 November 2014
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date	3 December 2014
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signed	
date	9 December 2014
issue	01

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

Fig. 2 Trench location plan (1:1000)



## SUMMARY

<b>Project Name:</b>	Land East of St Nicholas
<b>Location:</b>	Vale of Glamorgan
<b>NGR:</b>	ST 0923 7447
<b>Type:</b>	Evaluation
<b>Date:</b>	19-21 November 2014
<b>Location of Archive:</b>	To be deposited with the National Museum of Wales
<b>Site Code:</b>	NIC 14

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in November 2014 of land to the east of St Nicholas, Vale of Glamorgan. A total of six trenches were excavated.

A single furrow was identified in Trench 6 on an east/west alignment. No other archaeological features or deposits were identified during the evaluation.



## 1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In November 2014 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological evaluation for Harmers Ltd, on behalf of Redrow Homes Ltd, of land to the east of St Nicholas, Vale of Glamorgan (centred on NGR: ST 0923 7447; Fig. 1). The evaluation was undertaken to inform a forthcoming planning application for proposed residential development at the site.
- 1.2 The evaluation was carried out in accordance with a detailed *Written Scheme of Investigation* (WSI) produced by CA (2014) and approved by Judith Doyle, Acting Archaeological Planning Manager, Glamorgan-Gwent Archaeological Trust Ltd (GGAT), the archaeological advisor to Vale of Glamorgan Council (VGC). The fieldwork also followed the *Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (IfA 2009), 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). It was monitored by Judith Doyle.

### ***The site***

- 1.3 The proposed development site is approximately 3.5ha in extent and comprises agricultural fields immediately to the east of the historic core of the village of St Nicholas. The site is bound by residential housing to the south and west, and by further agricultural land to the north and east.
- 1.4 The underlying geology of the site comprises Friars Point Limestone Formation that is overlain by Devensian Till (BGS 2014). Light orange-brown sand and gravels was encountered during the evaluation.

### ***Archaeological background***

- 1.5 The site has been the previous subject of an archaeological appraisal (GGAT 2012) the results of which are summarised below.
- 1.6 The appraisal noted that there are no known designated or non-designated heritage assets currently recorded within the current site, but did highlight the prehistoric and Roman potential within the immediate vicinity. In particular, it noted that evidence for Neolithic and Bronze Age funerary monuments is widely distributed throughout the Vale of Glamorgan. The course of the Roman road from Bridgend to Cardiff lies

immediately to the south of the proposed development area, along the line of the modern A48 (Margary 1967; Road 60c). Medieval settlement at St Nicholas is demonstrated by the construction of the stone church, which is first mentioned in the latter 12th century.

### **Archaeological objectives**

- 1.7 The objectives of the evaluation were 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 VGC 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**

- 1.8 The fieldwork comprised the excavation of six trenches each measuring 20m in length and 1.8m in width, in the locations shown on the attached plan (Fig. 2). The trenches were set out on OS National Grid (NGR) co-ordinates using Leica GPS and surveyed in accordance with CA Technical Manual 4 *Survey Manual* (2012).
- 1.9 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).
- 1.10 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. If artefacts were recovered they were to be processed in accordance with Technical Manual 3 *Treatment of Finds Immediately after Excavation* (1995).

- 1.11 The archive from the evaluation are currently held by CA at their offices in Kemble and will be deposited with The National Museum of Wales.

## 2. RESULTS (FIG 2)

- 2.1 An analogous stratigraphic sequence was encountered throughout the site. The natural geological substrate, comprising orange sand and gravel, was revealed within all trenches at an average depth of 0.58m below present ground level. It was overlain by subsoil, averaging 0.4m in thickness, which was overlain by topsoil, averaging 0.18m in thickness. An east/west aligned furrow was identified within Trench 6 cutting the subsoil

## 3. DISCUSSION

- 3.1 No archaeological features or deposits, excepting a single furrow, were revealed during the evaluation despite potential for prehistoric, Roman and medieval remains within the area.

## 4. CA PROJECT TEAM

Fieldwork was undertaken by Tom Weavill, assisted by Noel Boothroyd. The report was written by Tom Weavill. The illustrations were prepared by Rosanna Price. The archive has been compiled by Tom Weavill, and prepared for deposition by Hazel O'Neill. The project was managed for CA by Cliff Bateman.

## 5. REFERENCES

BGS (British Geological Survey) 2014 *Geology of Britain Viewer* [http://maps.bgs.ac.uk/geology\\_viewer\\_google/googleviewer.html](http://maps.bgs.ac.uk/geology_viewer_google/googleviewer.html) Accessed 30 October 2014

CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2014 *Land east of St Nicholas, Vale of Glamorgan: Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Watching Brief*

DCLG (Department of Communities and Local Government) 2012 *National Planning Policy Framework*

GGAT (Glamorgan Gwent Archaeological Trust) 2012 *St Nicholas, Vale of Glamorgan; Initial Archaeological Appraisal*. Report No. **2012/026**

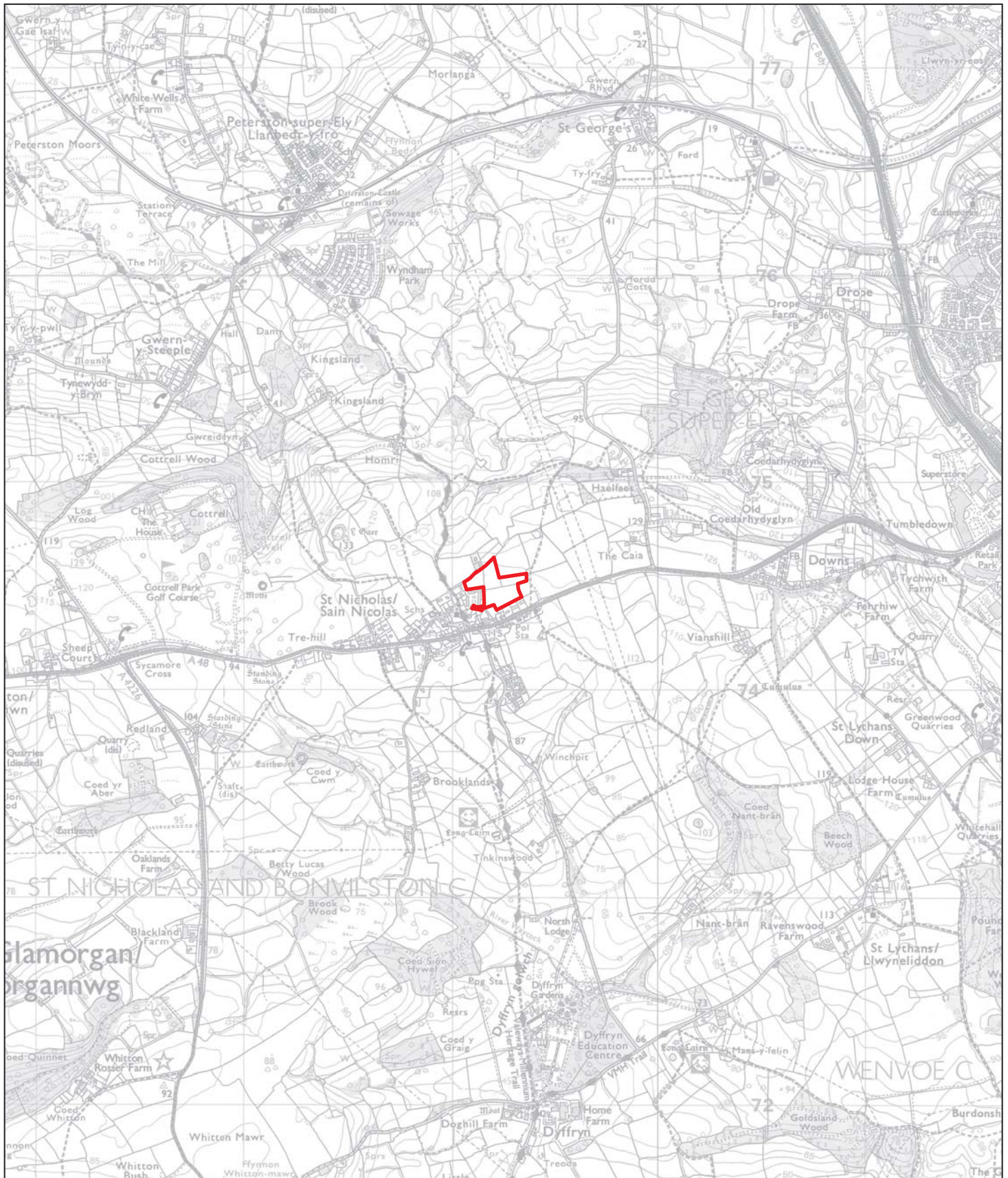
Margary, I. D., 1967 *Roman Roads in Britain*





## APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Trench No.	Context No.	Type	Fill of	Context interpretation	Description	L (m)	W (m)	Depth /thickness (m)
1	100	layer		topsoil	dark greyish brown clayey sand	>30	>1.8	0.15
1	101	layer		subsoil	mid reddish brown clayey sand	>30	>1.8	0.5
1	102	layer		geological substrate	light orangey brown sand and gravels			
2	200	layer		topsoil	same as 100	>30	>1.8	0.2
2	201	layer		subsoil	same as 101	>30	>1.8	0.35
2	202	layer		geological substrate	same as 102			
3	300	layer		topsoil	same as 100	>30	>1.8	0.2
3	301	layer		subsoil	same as 101	>30	>1.8	0.5
3	302	layer		geological substrate	same as 102			
4	400	layer		topsoil	same as 100	>30	>1.8	0.2
4	401	layer		subsoil	same as 101	>30	>1.8	0.4
4	402	layer		geological substrate	same as 102			
5	500	layer		topsoil	same as 100	>30	>1.8	0.15
5	501	layer		subsoil	same as 101	>30	>1.8	0.3
5	502	layer		geological substrate	same as 102			
6	600	layer		topsoil	same as 100	>30	>1.8	0.2
6	601	layer		subsoil	same as 101	>30	>1.8	0.35
6	602	layer		geological substrate	same as 102			
6	603	cut		furrow	east/west aligned furrow	>11	0.85	0.15
6	604	fill	603	furrow infill	mid greyish brown silty sand	>11	0.85	0.15



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**PROJECT TITLE**

Land east of St Nicholas, Vale of Glamorgan

**FIGURE TITLE**

Site location plan

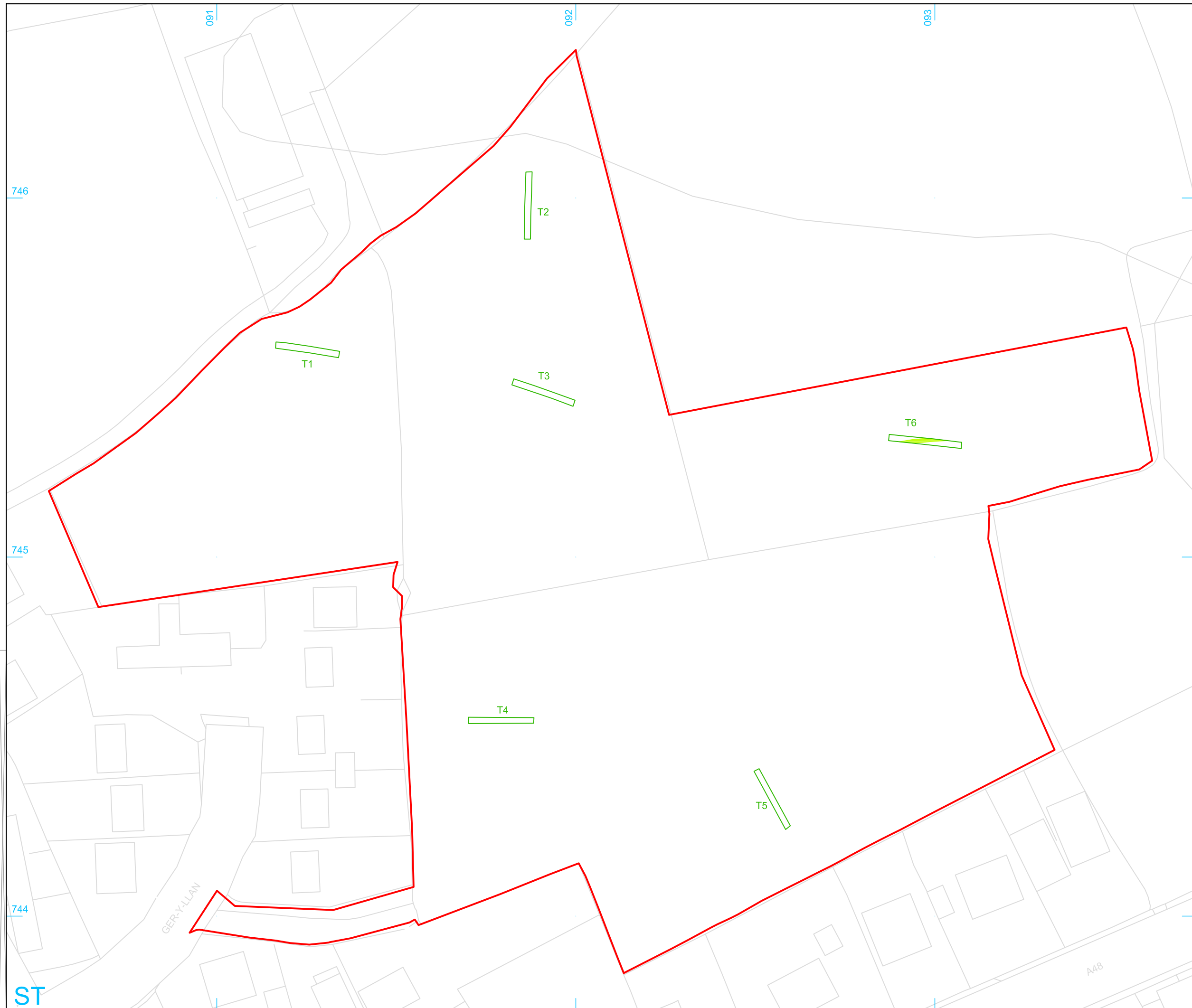
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FIGURE NO.

1



- site
- evaluation trench
- furrow



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**PROJECT TITLE**  
 Land east of St Nicholas, Vale of Glamorgan

**FIGURE TITLE**  
 Trench location plan

PROJECT NO. 5133	DATE 03.12.14	FIGURE NO.
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