

Former Hounslow House  
714 – 746 London Road  
Hounslow  
London



*for*  
MB Hounslow Ltd

Site Code: HSW16  
CA Project: 770392  
CA Report: 16311

July 2016



Former Hounslow House  
 714 – 746 London Road  
 Hounslow  
 London

## Archaeological Evaluation

Site Code: HSW16  
 CA Project: 770392  
 CA Report: 16311



Document Control Grid						
Revision	Date	Author	Checked by	Status	Reasons for revision	Approved by
A	13-06-16	Joe Whelan	DDR	Internal review	Edits	DDR
B	23-06-16	Joe Whelan	DDR	Draft for issue	Edits	REG
C	11-07-16	DDR	DDR	Final for Issue	Client edits	REG

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## SUMMARY

<b>Project Name:</b>	Former Hounslow House, 714 – 746 London Road,
<b>Location:</b>	Hounslow, London
<b>NGR:</b>	TQ 14450 176050
<b>Type:</b>	Evaluation
<b>Date:</b>	31 May – 2 June 2016
<b>Planning Reference:</b>	00707/714-746/P19
<b>Location of Archive:</b>	London Archaeological Archive and Research Centre
<b>Site Code:</b>	HSW16

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in May - June 2016 at the Former Hounslow House, 714 – 746 London Road, Hounslow, London. The evaluation comprised of the excavation of seven trial trenches. An eighth proposed trench could not be excavated due to the presence of a four metre pile of concrete crush material created following the recent demolition and clearance of the site

All seven excavated trial trenches demonstrated deep layers of modern material, modern disturbance and truncation in the form of service trenches and concrete foundations. This indicates that the site has been severely impacted upon by the modern development of the site. The modern material directly overlay the natural substrate, which lay at a depth of c.1.0m to 1.30m below ground level.

No archaeological features or deposits were observed within any of the excavated trenches, and no finds pre-dating the 19th century were recovered



## 1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 In May / June 2016 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological evaluation on the behalf of MB Hounslow Ltd at the Former Hounslow House, 714 – 746 London Road, Hounslow, London (hereafter referred to as the site), centred on NGR:TQ 514450 176050; Fig. 1.

1.2 Planning consent (Ref: P/2010/3461 00707/714-746/P19) for the site has been granted by the London Borough of Hounslow, the local planning authority (LPA) for redevelopment to provide retail store and ancillary uses (Use Class A1), retail unit(s) (Use Class A1/A2/A3), car and cycle parking, servicing, pedestrian and vehicular access, landscaping, public realm and associated works. The granting of consent is subject to conditions of which condition 5 relates to archaeology and states:

*No development (excluding demolition) shall take place until the applicant, their agent or successors in title has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work, in accordance with a written scheme of investigation, which has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. (Reason: In the interests of safeguarding London archaeology resources in accordance with London Plan 7.8 (Heritage assets and Archaeology)).*

1.3 A new application P/2014/3658 has been submitted for the site and is now the subject of an appeal.

1.4 The evaluation was carried out in accordance with a detailed *Written Scheme of Investigation* (WSI) produced by CA (2015) and approved by the Greater London Archaeology Advisory Service (GLAAS) / Historic England (HE) acting on behalf of the LPA prior to the commencement of any fieldwork.

1.5 This field evaluation addresses the above condition 5 and has been guided by the *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (ClfA 2014), the *Management of Archaeological Projects 2* (English Heritage 1991), the *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MORPHE): Project Manager's Guide* (English Heritage 2006) and the Greater London Archaeology Advisory Service (GLAAS): *Guidelines for Archaeological Projects in Greater London* (April 2015).

- 1.6 The fieldwork was monitored by Laura O’Gorman of GLAAS / HE on behalf of the LPA, which included a site monitoring visit on June 1 2016.

### ***The site***

- 1.7 The proposed development site lies to the north of the A315 London Road at 714-746 London Road, Hounslow and comprises an area c.1.2ha in size. It is bounded to the west by the Hounslow Bus Station and Garage and on the east by residential homes which face on to North Drive. The site was formally occupied by an office block which faced on to London Road with parking and extensive warehouse to the rear. The existing warehouse and office buildings have recently been demolished to ground level.
- 1.8 The site is level and lies at a height of c.18m above Ordnance Datum (aOD).
- 1.9 The solid geology of the site comprises London Clay Formation - Clay and Silt. Sedimentary Bedrock formed approximately 34 - 56 million years ago in the Palaeogene Period (BGS 2013). The superficial geology mainly comprises of Taplow Gravel Formation - Sand and Gravel. Superficial Deposits formed up to 2 million years ago in the Quaternary Period. In the northern part of the site the superficial geology also comprises Langley Silt Member - Clay And Silt.

## **2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 Having consulted [www.hounslow.gov.uk/udp\\_archaeological\\_areas.pdf](http://www.hounslow.gov.uk/udp_archaeological_areas.pdf) and <http://www.heritagegateway.org.uk/gateway/> which records data held at the NMR Excavation Index and Greater London Historic Environment Record (GLHER). A brief summary of the archaeological and historical background to the site is presented below.
- 2.2 Two Archaeological Priority Areas have been designated within 500m of the site. These include:
- DLO35691: Staines Road / London Road - Line of Roman Road; and
  - DLO33007: Hounslow.

- 2.3 During evaluation works at the Tankerville Arms, 2 Hanworth Road, to the south-west of the site, natural London Clay was encountered at 16.97m AOD. No archaeological remains were recorded at this site (MLO97898).
- 2.4 Numerous prehistoric find spots are recorded within the vicinity of the site. A series of finds have been recorded from grid reference TQ 140 760. The finds recorded at this position include Palaeolithic flints comprising 3 flakes and 1 scraper (MLO2182). However, the description given for these lithics indicates they were recovered from a field southward of Osterley Park. This park lies between the A4 and M4 and is not in close proximity to the recorded findspot, suggesting that the position given for this find may be approximate. However this is unverified and the finds could potentially have been recovered from within 500m of the site.
- 2.5 Other finds recorded from this position include 5 figurines and a small bronze wheel of Late Bronze Age to Late Iron Age date (MLO2167), found in the same field as a Late Bronze Age hoard which included axes, a palstave, gouges and spearheads (MLO 2163). These finds were all recorded in 1864. The grid reference for these finds, TQ 140 760, may not be exact given the mid-19th century date of the record, however, as with the Palaeolithic remains, this is unverified. A further socketed axe of Late Bronze Age date is also recorded in this position (MLO2152).
- 2.6 A possible barrow at Worton Way has been recorded to the north-east of the site. This record has been labelled as dubious, although no further details are given (MLO1934).
- 2.7 A single residual retouched flake of prehistoric date has also been recorded within 500m of the site, to the east. The flint was recovered from the brickearth. The evaluation which recorded the flint noted that truncated brickearth directly underlay modern make up deposits (MLO 72939).
- 2.8 Medieval remains have been recorded within the vicinity of the site, at Nos 26a-34 and 44-52 High Street, Hounslow. Archaeological evaluation recorded medieval features including a ditch aligned east-west, a pit, postholes and dumped deposits, dating to the 13<sup>th</sup>-15th centuries AD (MLO104881). Medieval soil overlay a pit within the western part of the area evaluated.



- 2.9 Post-medieval remains were recorded on the same site, and comprised robber trenches, a pit and overlying post-medieval deposits (MLO104882).
- 2.10 A landfill area is recorded within 500m of the site, to the east, and has been dated to the 19<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> centuries (MLO72701). A 20<sup>th</sup> century park lies southward of the site (MLO104442). The park opened in 1902 as Hounslow Recreation Ground, and encompassed an area which had previously been meadowland.
- 2.11 A review of Ordnance Survey (OS) mapping demonstrates the development of the site since the late 19<sup>th</sup> century. OS maps from 1874 and 1882 show buildings partly facing on to London Road notated as Cambridge Place, but the majority of the street frontage is open with the rear of the site being shown as an open space with no buildings present. The surrounding area is dominated by open fields apart from buildings facing on to London Road. The OS map of 1896 shows that the Hounslow and Metropolitan Railway had been constructed by this time to the north of the site, with a branch line extending south off the mainline with a Station (Disused) at its terminal southern end and crossing and being within the area occupied today by the bus station. The site itself still remains undeveloped. This layout is further seen on the OS map of 1920. By 1932 the railway and disused station are no longer indicated and the bus station had been constructed. Buildings are shown for the first time as occupying the rear of the site along its eastern boundary with a building extending into the centre of the site, but still with a large open access off London Road. By the OS map of 1960 buildings had been constructed along the London Road frontage narrowing the access on to the site, but there is no change to the buildings to the rear of the site, which are notated as a Builders Yard. By 1969 the current layout of the site (prior to its recent demolition) had been established with an office block (Hounslow House) facing on to London Road and warehouses to the rear.

### 3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 3.1 The purpose of the evaluation was to provide information to determine the date, nature, extent and state of preservation of any archaeological deposits within the area of the proposed redevelopment. The fieldwork can be employed to provide the detailed information necessary to mitigate the effects of development.



- 3.2 The specific research aims of the project were;
- a) to determine if archaeologically relevant levels have survived at the site
  - b) to determine if archaeological deposits of any period are present
  - c) to provide information in order to draw up an appropriate mitigation strategy if required, for further stages of archaeological work to fulfil Condition 5
  - d) the potential and significance of any such deposits located will be assessed according to the research priorities such as set out in English Heritage Research Agenda (English Heritage 2005) or any more local or thematic research priorities such as A Research Framework for London's Archaeology (MoLAS 2003) as necessary.
- 3.3 The information gathered will enable GLAAS / HE acting on behalf of the LPA to identify and assess the particular significance of the site's heritage resource, consider the impact of the proposed development upon that significance, and develop plans to avoid or minimise conflict between heritage resource conservation and any aspect of the development proposal, in line with the *National Planning Policy Framework* (DCLG 2012). These plans may include a requirement for further stages of archaeological work in order to satisfy Condition 5.

#### 4. METHODOLOGY

- 4.1 The fieldwork methodology and its approach was agreed in consultation with GLAAS / HE and comprised the excavation of 7 trenches (30m in length by 2.2m in width) in the locations shown on the attached plan (Fig. 2). An eighth proposed trench could not be excavated due to the presence of a large store of crushed demolition materials up to 4m high stored in the far north of the site. The locations of trenches 1, 2 and 3 were also slightly altered on site to avoid the locations of services identified on a site utility plan. The GLAAS / HE archaeological advisor was made aware of this during the site monitoring visit of 1 June 2016. 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*.
- 4.2 All trenches were excavated by mechanical excavator. Due to the compacted nature of the site, the ground was initially broken using a toothed bucket, with this being exchanged for a toothless grading bucket for the removal of all soft material. All machine excavation was undertaken under constant archaeological supervision.

- 4.3 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* and as a consequence no deposits were identified that required sampling. The artefacts recovered were processed in accordance with Technical Manual 3 *Treatment of Finds Immediately after Excavation*.
- 4.4 The archive and artefacts from the evaluation are currently held by CA at their offices in Andover. Subject to the agreement of the legal landowner the archive will be deposited with the London Archaeological Archive and Research Centre under the unique site code HSW16. 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.

## 5. RESULTS (FIGS 2-7)

- 5.1 This section provides an overview of the evaluation results; detailed summaries of the recorded contexts are to be found in Appendix A.
- 5.2 All seven trenches were excavated through a modern surface of crushed demolition materials composed chiefly of abraded concrete and bricks up to a maximum depth of 0.50m. This modern surface was a layer of crushed material that had been levelled back across the site following the recent demolition of Hounslow House and other buildings and areas of hardstanding that formerly occupied the site. Within trenches 1 and 2 this modern surface overlaid a mixed clay and modern rubble layer also likely to be associated with the demolition of Hounslow House which formerly faced on to the London Road street frontage. In trenches 3 to 7 a compacted and heavily contaminated (smelling of bitumen/hydrocarbon) layer of gritty black heavily compacted crushed ash, industrial waste and brickearth, mixed with red brick and concrete lay up to a metre in depth. Modern services and footing foundations were encountered within all trenches, cutting into the natural gravels and sandy clay. The natural geology was revealed at a depth of between 1.0m to 1.30m below ground level across the site.
- 5.3 No archaeological features were encountered within any of the trenches.

## 6. THE FINDS

- 6.1 Artefactual material from evaluation was hand-recovered from one subsoil deposit. The recovered material dates to the post-medieval/modern periods. Quantities of the artefact types recorded are given in Appendix B. The pottery has been recorded according to sherd count/weight per fabric. Fabric corresponds to the London pottery type series codes as defined by MOLA (2014).

### *Pottery*

- 6.2 A rimsherd from a bowl or dish in transfer-printed refined whiteware (TPW), of late 18th to 19th century date, was recovered from subsoil 701, a compacted and heavily contaminated (smelling of bitumen/hydrocarbon) layer.

### *Other finds*

- 6.3 Subsoil 701 also produced a fragment of clay tobacco pipe stem, which is broadly dateable to the late 16th to late 19th centuries.

## 7. DISCUSSION

- 7.1 Late nineteenth and early twentieth century mapping of the site shows the neighbouring Hounslow Bus Station / garage to be a railway terminus. The compacted, black made-ground recorded in the northern most trenches (trenches 3-7) is dateable to this period and likely represents marshalling yards etc associated with the railway.
- 7.2 All seven trenches demonstrated deep modern disturbance and truncation in the form of service trenches and concrete foundations. This indicates that the site has been severely impacted upon by the modern development of the site and the potential for the presence or survival of any archaeological remains can be considered to be very low.
- 7.3 No archaeological features or deposits were observed within any of the excavated trenches and no finds pre-dating the 19<sup>th</sup> century were recovered.

## 8. CA PROJECT TEAM

Fieldwork was undertaken by Joe Whelan, assisted by Francesco Catanzaro, Ed Grenier and Emily Stynes. The report was written by Joe Whelan. The finds report was written by Jacky Sommerville. The illustrations were prepared by Rosanna Price. The archive has been compiled by Andy Donald and prepared for deposition by Jessica Cook. The project was managed for CA by Damian De Rosa.

## 9. REFERENCES

BGS (British Geological Survey) 2015 *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 27 May 2016

CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2016 Hounslow House, 714 – 746 London Road, Hounslow, London: *Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Watching Brief*

MOLA 2014 *Medieval and Post-medieval Pottery Codes*. London. Museum of London Archaeology.



## APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Trench No.	Context No.	Type	Context interpretation	Description	L (m)	W (m)	Depth/ thickness (m)
1	100	Layer	Modern surface	Modern crushed demolition materials; mainly composed of concrete and brick	>30	>2.2	0.50
1	101	Layer	Deposit	Light grey silty clay, modern rubble with mortar and brick, occasional concrete	>30	>2.2	0.50
1	102	Layer	Deposit	Dark brownish grey silty clay, modern rubble with occasional red brick	>30	>2.2	0.30
1	103	Layer	Natural	Orangey brown, sandy gravelly clay, abundant well sorted sub-angular stone (0.005-0.01m diameter), with pockets of dark grey contaminated natural	>30	>2.2	
2	200	Layer	Modern surface	Modern crushed demolition materials; mainly composed of concrete and brick	>30	>2.2	0.35
2	201	Layer	Deposit	Light grey, silty clay, modern rubble with mortar and brick, occasional concrete	>30	>2.2	0.40
2	202	Layer	Deposit	Dark brownish grey silty clay, modern rubble with occasional red brick	>30	>2.2	0.55
2	203	Layer	Natural	Orangey brown, sandy gravelly clay, abundant well sorted sub-angular stone (0.005-0.01m diameter), with pockets of dark grey contaminated natural	>30	>2.2	
3	300	Layer	Modern surface	Modern crushed demolition materials; mainly composed of concrete and brick	>30	>2.2	0.50
3	301	Layer	Deposit	Black compacted crushed ash/industrial waste/ brick earth, modern common red brick and concrete.	>30	>2.2	0.50
3	302	Layer	Natural	Orangey brown, sandy gravelly clay, abundant well sorted sub-angular stone (0.005-0.01m diameter), with pockets of bluish grey clay elements	>30	>2.2	
3	303	Layer	Mod disturbance	Disturbance at North end of trench. Composed of concrete and brick debris. Corresponds with length of surviving wall along east perimeter of site.	10	>2.2	unexcavated
4	400	Layer	Modern surface	Modern crushed demolition materials; mainly composed of concrete and brick	>30	>2.2	0.50
4	401	Layer	Deposit	Black compacted crushed ash/industrial waste/ brick earth, modern common red brick and concrete.	>30	>2.2	0.60
4	402	Layer	Natural	Orangey brown, gravelly clay sand, abundant well sorted sub-angular stone (0.005-0.01m in diameter)	>30	>2.2	
5	500	Layer	Modern surface	Modern crushed demolition materials; mainly composed of concrete and brick	>30	>2.2	0.50
5	501	Layer	Deposit	Black compacted crushed ash/industrial waste/ brick earth, modern common red brick and concrete.	>30	>2.2	0.70
5	502	Layer	Natural	Brownish orange gravelly clayey sand, abundant well-sorted stones, (0.01-	>30	>2.2	

Trench No.	Context No.	Type	Context interpretation	Description	L (m)	W (m)	Depth/ thickness (m)
				0.03m in diameter), areas of modern brick and concrete disturbance			
6	600	Layer	Modern surface	Modern crushed demolition materials; mainly composed of concrete and brick	>30	>2.2	0.35
6	601	Layer	Deposit	Brownish black, silty clay, compacted ash/industrial waste/brick earth, occasional red brick and concrete	>30	>2.2	0.95
6	602	Layer	Natural	Orangey brown, gravelly clay sand, abundant well sorted sub-angular stone (0.005-0.01m in diameter)	>30	>2.2	
7	700	Layer	Modern surface	Modern crushed demolition materials; mainly composed of concrete and brick	>30	>2.2	0.32
7	701	Layer	Deposit	Black compacted crushed ash/industrial waste/ brick earth, modern common red brick and concrete inclusions	>30	>2.2	1.08
7	702	Layer	Natural	Brownish orange, gravelly clayey sand, abundant well sorted sub-angular stones (0.01-0.03m in diameter) with pockets of grey contaminated natural.	>30	>2.2	

**APPENDIX B: FINDS**

<b>Context</b>	<b>Category</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Fabric Code</b>	<b>Count</b>	<b>Weight (g)</b>	<b>Spot-date</b>
701	Post-medieval/modern pottery	Transfer-printed refined whiteware	TPW	1	17	LC18-C19
	Clay tobacco pipe	Stem		1	3	



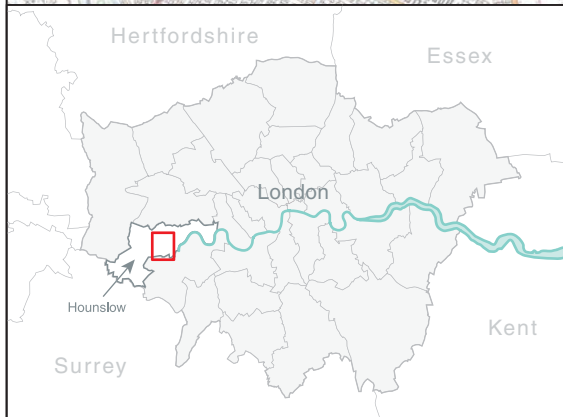
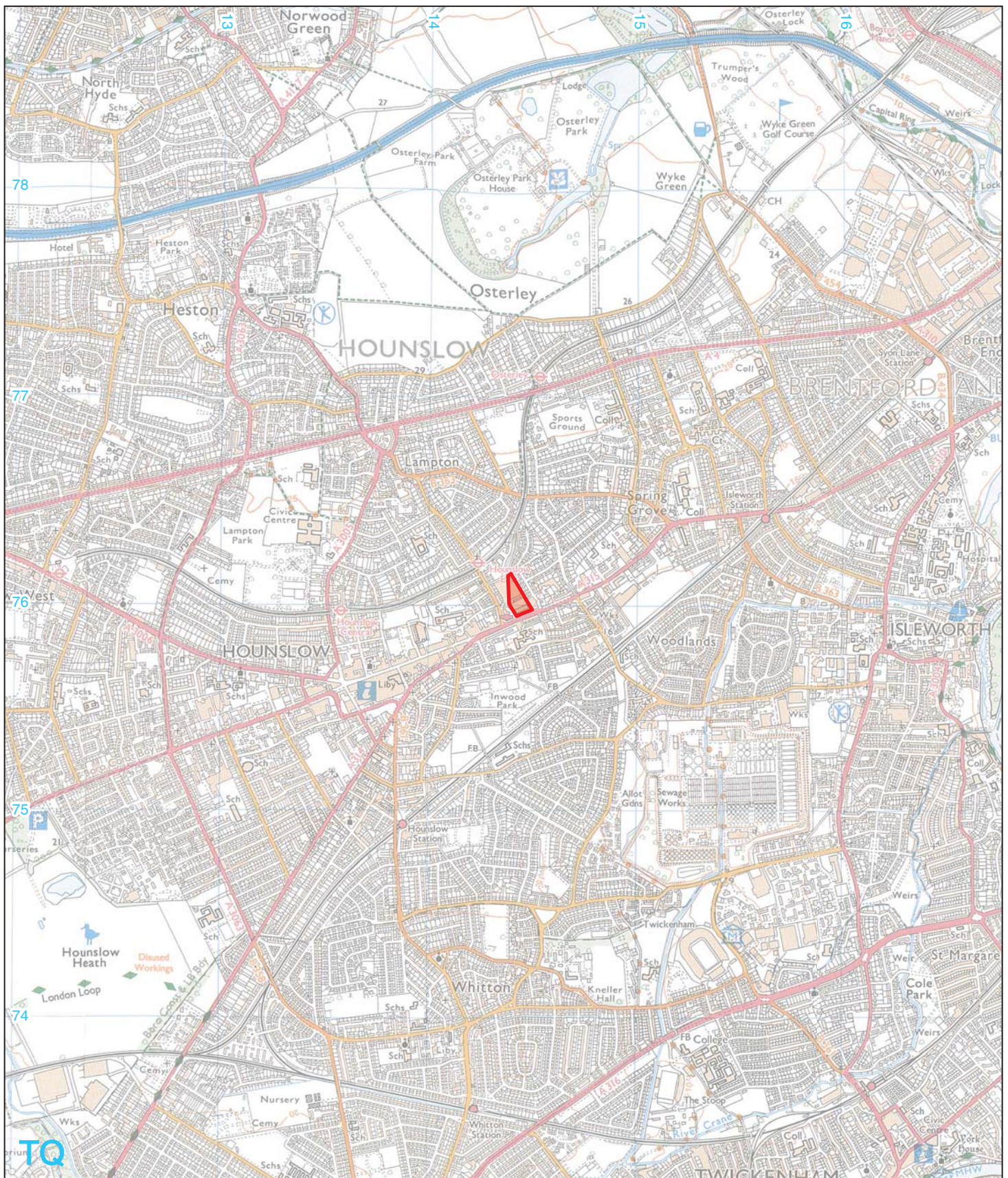
## APPENDIX C: OASIS REPORT FORM

<b>PROJECT DETAILS</b>		
Project Name		
Short description (250 words maximum)	<p>An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in May - June 2016 at Hounslow House, 714 – 746 London Road, Hounslow, London. The evaluation comprised of the excavation of seven trial trenches. An eighth proposed trench could not be excavated due to the presence of a four metre pile of concrete crush material created following the recent demolition and clearance of the site</p> <p>All seven excavated trial trenches demonstrated deep layers of modern material, modern disturbance and truncation in the form of service trenches and concrete foundations. This indicates that the site has been severely impacted upon by the modern development of the site The modern material directly overlay the natural substrate, which lay at a depth of c.1.0m to 1.30m below ground level.</p> <p>No archaeological features or deposits were observed within any of the excavated trenches and no finds pre-dating the 19th century were recovered.</p>	
Project dates	31 May - 2 June 2016	
Project type (e.g. desk-based, field evaluation etc)	Field evaluation	
Previous work (reference to organisation or SMR numbers etc)	none	
Future work	Unknown	
<b>PROJECT LOCATION</b>		
Site Location	Hounslow House, 714 – 746 London Road, Hounslow, London	
Study area (M <sup>2</sup> /ha)	1.2ha	
Site co-ordinates (8 Fig Grid Reference)	TQ 14450 176050	
<b>PROJECT CREATORS</b>		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Brief originator	GLAAS/HE	
Project Design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Manager	Damian De Rosa	
Project Supervisor	Joe Whelan	
<b>MONUMENT TYPE</b>		
	none	
<b>SIGNIFICANT FINDS</b>		
	none	
<b>PROJECT ARCHIVES</b>		
	<p>Intended final location of archive (museum/Accession no.) HSW16 <i>Recipient of each type of archive</i> London Archaeological Archive and Research Centre</p>	<p>Content (e.g. pottery, animal bone etc) Indicate the contents of each archive box</p>
Physical		None
Paper		Trench sheets, Context sheets, Registers
Digital		Database, digital photos

<b>BIBLIOGRAPHY</b>	
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CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2016 <i>Hounslow House, 714 – 746 London Road, Hounslow, London: Archaeological Evaluation</i> . CA typescript report 16311. Project No. 770392. Site Code: HSW16
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**PROJECT TITLE**

Hounslow House, 714-46 London Road,  
Hounslow, London

**FIGURE TITLE**

Site location plan

0 1km

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DRAWN BY RP  
 CHECKED BY LM  
 APPROVED BY DDR

PROJECT NO. 770392  
 DATE 08.06.16  
 SCALE@A4 1:25,000

FIGURE NO.

1





- site boundary
- evaluation trench
- unexcavated evaluation trench
- crush material
- services
- 5m services buffer
- modern



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**PROJECT TITLE**  
Hounslow House, 714-46 London Road, Hounslow, London

**FIGURE TITLE**  
**Trench location plan**

<b>DRAWN BY</b>	RP	<b>PROJECT NO.</b>	770392	<b>FIGURE NO.</b>
<b>CHECKED BY</b>	LM	<b>DATE</b>	08.06.16	<b>2</b>
<b>APPROVED BY</b>	DDR	<b>SCALE@A3</b>	1:800	

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3



4

3 General site view, from the north

4 Trench 5, view from the north-east, showing disturbance and the presence of services (scales 1m and 2m)



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PROJECT TITLE

Hounslow House, 714-46 London Road,  
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FIGURE TITLE

Photographs

DRAWN BY	RP	PROJECT NO.	770392	FIGURE NO.
CHECKED BY	LM	DATE	08.06.16	3 & 4
APPROVED BY	DDR	SCALE@A4	N/A	





5

**5 Trench 6, view from the south-east, showing heavily disturbed ground with deep concrete footings surviving (scales 1m and 2m)**



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*PROJECT TITLE*

Hounslow House, 714-46 London Road,  
 Hounslow, London

*FIGURE TITLE*

**Photograph**

<i>DRAWN BY</i>	RP	<i>PROJECT NO.</i>	770392	<i>FIGURE NO.</i>
<i>CHECKED BY</i>	LM	<i>DATE</i>	08.06.16	<b>5</b>
<i>APPROVED BY</i>	DDR	<i>SCALE@A4</i>	N/A	



6

6 Trench 7, view from east



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PROJECT TITLE

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FIGURE TITLE

**Photograph**

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7

**7 Section of Trench 7 from south-east, showing levels of disturbed ground (1m scale)**



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*PROJECT TITLE*

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*FIGURE TITLE*

**Photograph**

<i>DRAWN BY</i>	RP	<i>PROJECT NO.</i>	770392	<i>FIGURE NO.</i>
<i>CHECKED BY</i>	LM	<i>DATE</i>	14.06.16	
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