

Proposed Energy Plant Honda Swindon

Archaeological Watching Brief



for
EDP

CA Project: 4762
CA Report: 16236

August 2016



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

Fig. 2 The site, showing location of groundworks (1:750)



SUMMARY

Project Name: Proposed Energy Plant,
Location: Honda, Swindon
NGR: SU 1843 8863
Type: Watching Brief
Date: 19 February 2014
Location of Archive: To be deposited with Swindon Museum and Art Gallery
Accession Number: SWIMG B2014.57
Site Code: PEP 14

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology during groundworks associated with the development of a new energy centre at Honda.

No features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed during groundworks, and no artefactual material was recovered.



1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In February 2014 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological watching brief for EDP at Honda, Swindon (centred at NGR: SU 1843 8863; Fig 1). The watching brief was undertaken following consultation with Melanie Pomeroy-Kellinger, County Archaeologist, Wiltshire Council (archaeological advisor to Swindon Borough Council, SBC).
- 1.2 The watching brief was carried out in accordance with a detailed Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) produced by CA (2014) and approved by Melanie Pomeroy-Kellinger. The fieldwork also followed *Standard and guidance: Archaeological watching brief* (ClfA 2014).

The site

- 1.3 The proposed development is approximately 1.1ha in extent, and comprises part of the Honda Motor works, Swindon currently in use as a car park adjacent to Wellington Road. The site lies at approximately 105m AOD.
- 1.4 The underlying bedrock geology of the area is mapped as Ampthill Clay Formation – Mudstone of the Jurassic Period with no superficial deposits recorded (BGS 2016). The natural substrate of clay was observed during the watching brief.

2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The wider Honda development has been subject to an archaeological desk-based assessment (DBA) by EDP (2010), which has been supplemented with recent data from the Wiltshire and Swindon Historic Environment Record. The following is a summary of pertinent aspects of that document.
- 2.2 There are no known archaeological sites or artefacts recovered within the site. Isolated early prehistoric work flint has been noted to the north-west of the site and adjacent to the A417 to the south. Immediately to the east of the site, archaeological evaluation and excavation has recovered evidence of a possible Iron Age/Roman settlement. Iron Age activity has also been noted to the south and east (EDP 2010).

2.3 Three inhumations recorded in the Honda development area could be of medieval date (or potentially earlier), and evidence of agricultural activity has been recorded elsewhere across the plant. South Marston itself is considered to have Saxon origins, and was considered to have been a substantial settlement in the medieval period. The plant area specifically is known to have been a farmstead in that period (EDP 2010).

3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

3.1 The objectives of the archaeological works were:

- to monitor groundworks, and to identify, investigate and record all significant buried archaeological deposits revealed on the site during the course of the development groundworks;
- at the conclusion of the project, to produce an integrated archive for the project work and a report setting out the results of the project and the archaeological conclusions that can be drawn from the recorded data.

4. METHODOLOGY

4.1 The fieldwork followed the methodology set out within the WSI (CA 2014). An archaeologist was present during intrusive groundworks comprising three trial pits, each measuring 3m by 0.7m (Fig. 2 for locations).

4.2 Where archaeological deposits were encountered written, graphic and photographic records were compiled in accordance with CA Technical Manual 1: *Fieldwork Recording Manual*.

4.3 The archive from the watching brief is currently held by CA at their offices in Kemble and will be deposited with Swindon Museum and Art Gallery under accession number SWIMG B2014.57. 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 (FIG 2)

- 5.1 The stratigraphy noted was consistent between all three test pits. The natural geological substrate consisting of clay was revealed at a typical depth of 0.75m below present ground level. This was overlain by made ground (the car park sub-base), typically 0.4m in thickness, which was in turn sealed by c.0.2m of tarmac.
- 5.2 No features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed during groundworks and, despite visual scanning of spoil, no artefactual material was recovered.

6. DISCUSSION

- 6.1 Despite the archaeological potential of the application area (see archaeological background above), the watching brief identified no archaeological remains within the area of observed groundworks. The stratigraphic sequence observed suggests that the car park construction led to high levels of truncation, precluding the observation of archaeological deposits.

9. CA PROJECT TEAM

Fieldwork was undertaken by Tom Weavill. The report was written by Alison Roberts. The illustrations were prepared by Sam O'Leary. The archive has been compiled by Alison Roberts, and prepared for deposition by Hazel O'Neill. The project was managed for CA by Ian Barnes.

10. REFERENCES

BGS (British Geological Survey) 2016 *Geology of Britain Viewer* <http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html> Accessed 4 May 2016

CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2007 *Honda, Swindon, Wiltshire- Archaeological Evaluation CA Report No. 07177*

CA 2014 *Proposed Energy Plant, Honda, Swindon, Wiltshire: Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Watching Brief*

APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Trench No.	Context No.	Type	Fill of	Context interpretation	Description	L (m)	W (m)	Depth /thickness (m)	Spot-date
1	100	Layer		Tarmac	Compact tarmac surface	2.6	0.7	0.2	Modern
1	101	Layer		Made ground	Limestone rubble	2.6	0.7	0.35	Modern
1	102	Layer		Natural substrate	Blue-green clay	2.6	0.7	>1.35	
2	200	Layer		Tarmac	Same as 100	2.9	0.7	0.2	Modern
2	201	Layer		Made ground	Same as 101	2.9	0.7	0.4	Modern
2	202	Layer		Made ground	Black gravel	2.9	0.7	0.15	Modern
2	203	Layer		Natural substrate	Same as 102	2.9	0.7	>2.05	
3	300	Layer		Tarmac	Same as 100	3	0.7	0.25	Modern
3	301	Layer		Made ground	Same as 101	3	0.7	0.5	Modern
3	302	Layer		Natural substrate	Same as 102	3	0.7	>2.05	

APPENDIX B: OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project Name	Proposed Energy Plant, Honda, Swindon	
Short description	An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology during groundworks associated with the development of a new energy centre at Honda. No features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed during groundworks, and no artefactual material was recovered.	
Project dates	19 February 2014	
Project type	Watching Brief	
Previous work	Evaluation	
Future work	Unknown	
PROJECT LOCATION		
Site Location	Honda, Swindon, Wiltshire	
Study area	1.1 ha	
Site co-ordinates	SU 1843 8863	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Brief originator		
Project Design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Manager	Ian Barnes	
Project Supervisor	Tom Weavill	
MONUMENT TYPE	None	
SIGNIFICANT FINDS	None	
PROJECT ARCHIVES		
	Intended final location of archive (museum/Accession no.)	Content (e.g. pottery, animal bone etc)
Physical	N/A	N/A
Paper	Swindon Museum and Art Gallery	Trench recording forms
Digital	N/A	N/A
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2016 <i>Proposed Energy Plant, Honda, Swindon: Archaeological Watching Brief</i> . CA typescript report 16236		

Andover Office

Stanley House
Walworth Road
Andover
Hampshire
SP10 5LH

t: 01264 347630

Cirencester Office

Building 11
Kemble Enterprise Park
Cirencester
Gloucestershire
GL7 6BQ

t: 01285 771022

Exeter Office

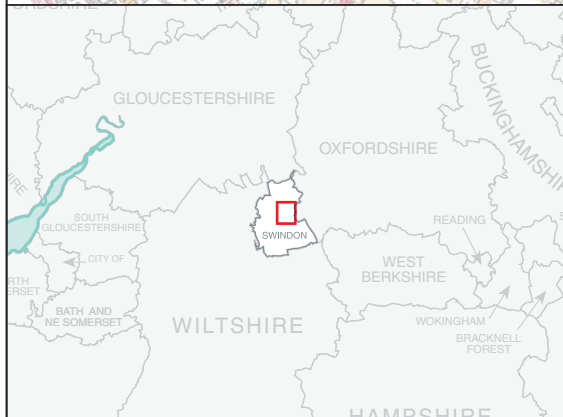
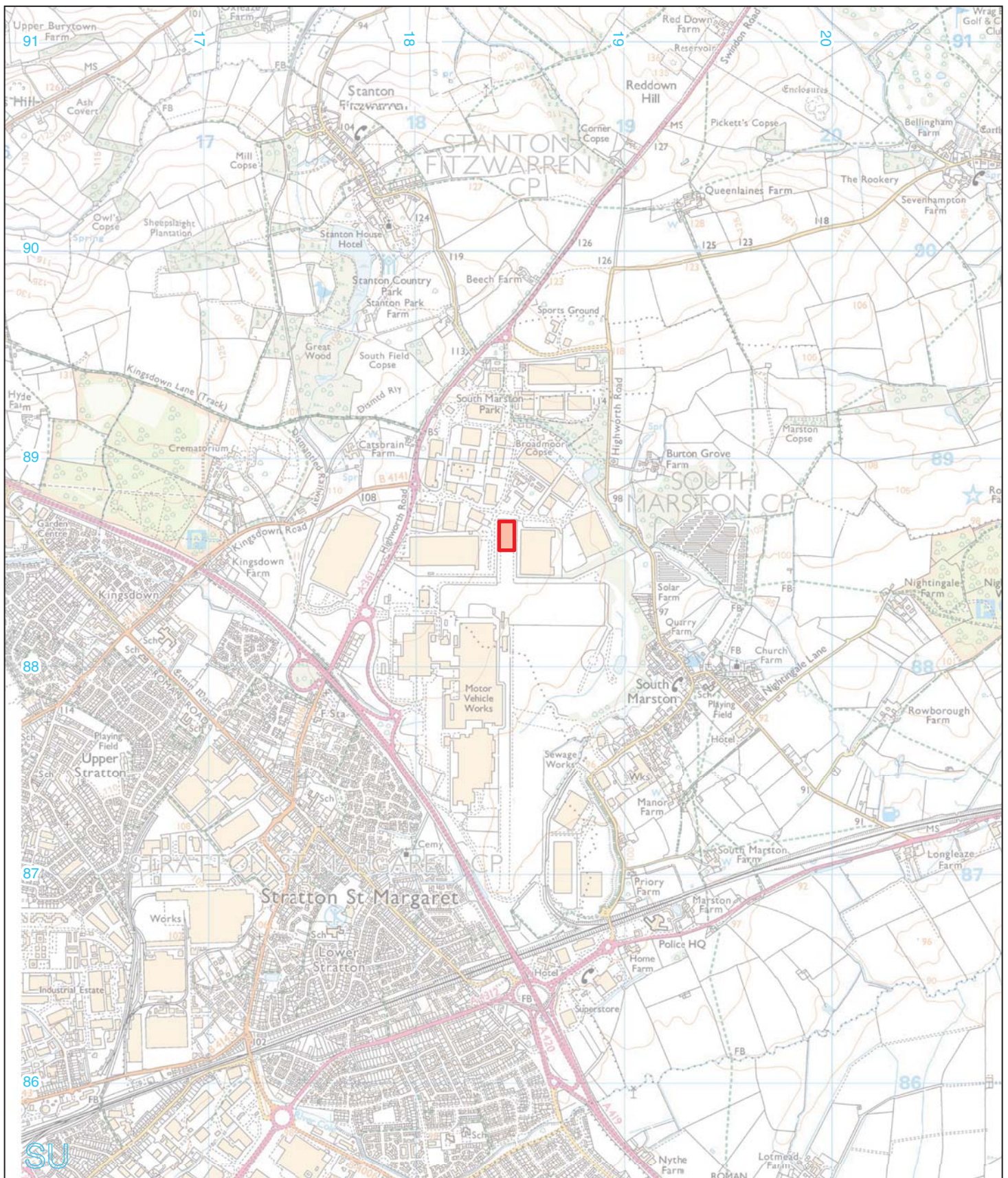
Unit 53
Basepoint Business Centre
Yeoford Way
Marsh Barton Trading Estate
Exeter
EX2 8LB

t: 01392 826185

Milton Keynes Office

41 Burners Lane South
Kiln Farm
Milton Keynes
Buckinghamshire
MK11 3HA

t: 01908 564660



Cotswold Archaeology

Andover 01264 347630
 Cirencester 01285 771022
 Exeter 01392 826185
 Milton Keynes 01908 564660
www.cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk
enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk

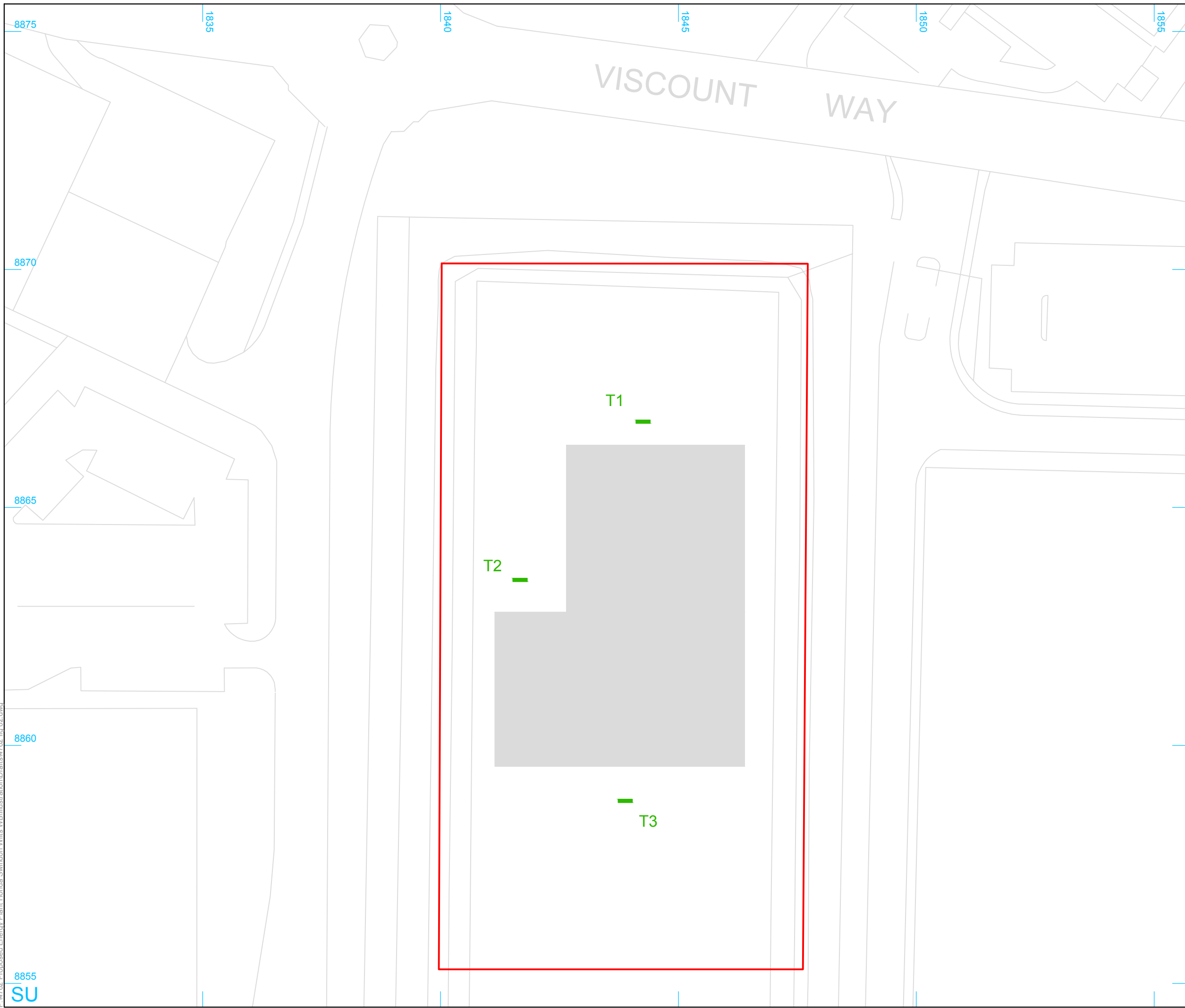
PROJECT TITLE
 Proposed energy plant, Honda, Swindon
 Wiltshire

FIGURE TITLE
 Site location plan



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DRAWN BY	SO	PROJECT NO.	4762	FIGURE NO.
CHECKED BY	LM	DATE	10/05/2016	1
APPROVED BY	IB	SCALE@A4	1:25,000	



- site boundary
- area of observed groundworks
- proposed structure



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 **Cotswold Archaeology**

Andover 01264 347630
 Cirencester 01285 771022
 Exeter 01392 826185
 Milton Keynes 01908 564660
 www.cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk
 enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk

PROJECT TITLE
Proposed energy plant, Honda, Swindon
Wiltshire

FIGURE TITLE
Location of observed groundworks

<small>DRAWN BY</small> SO	<small>PROJECT NO.</small> 4762	<small>FIGURE NO.</small>
<small>CHECKED BY</small> LM	<small>DATE</small> 10/05/2016	2
<small>APPROVED BY</small> IB	<small>SCALE@A3</small> 1:750	

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