

758–763 Henley Road
Slough Trading Estate
Slough
Berkshire

Archaeological Evaluation



for
CgMs Heritage

on behalf of
SEGRO plc

CA Project: 770803
CA Report: 18453

September 2018



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SUMMARY

Project Name:	758-763 Henley Road
Location:	Slough Trading Estate, Slough, Berkshire
NGR:	494552 181321
Type:	Evaluation
Date:	30–31 August 2018
Site Code:	STES 18

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in August 2018 at 758-763 Henley Road, Slough Trading Estate, Slough, Berkshire. Four trenches were excavated across the 0.76ha site with the evaluation revealing no archaeological features or deposits pre-dating the 20th-century development of the site.



1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In August 2018 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological evaluation for CgMs Heritage on behalf of SEGRO plc at 758–763 Henley Road, Slough Trading Estate, Slough, Berkshire (centred at NGR: 494552 181321; Fig. 1). The evaluation was undertaken to comply with a planning condition contained within the Simplified Planning Zone (SPZ) document (2014–2024) for Slough Trading Estate (Condition 47), which states:

Within areas defined in the Archaeology Plan shown in Plan 4 no development shall commence until a programme of archaeological work has been implemented in accordance with a written scheme of investigation (WSI) which has been submitted and approved in writing by the local planning authority. The WSI shall include details of the investigation, project design, evaluation methods and provisions for further investigation work to be implemented in the event that archaeological remains are found. In accordance with the WSI provision will be made for analysis, publication and the dissemination of results. The finds and archive will be held by the archaeological contractor until such time as this can be deposited with a suitable museum.

- 1.2 The evaluation was carried out in accordance with a detailed *Written Scheme of Investigation* (WSI) produced by CgMs Heritage (2018) and approved by Roland Smith (Archaeology Officer, Berkshire Archaeology), the archaeological advisor to Slough Borough Council (SBC). The fieldwork also followed the *Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (CifA 2014).

The site

- 1.3 The proposed development area is approximately 0.76ha, and comprises disused industrial buildings and associated yard surfaces. The site is bounded by Henley Road to the south and east and by further industrial buildings to the north and west. The site lies at approximately 30–32m AOD, on relatively flat ground.
- 1.4 The underlying bedrock geology of the area is mapped as Lambeth Group - Clay, Silt and Sand of the Palaeogene era with overlying superficial deposits of Taplow Gravel Member (BGS 2018). Orange sand and gravels were identified in all of the trenches.

2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1 A search of the Berkshire HER was undertaken by CgMs Heritage as part of this project (CgMs 2018). This revealed evidence for prehistoric activity in the vicinity of the site, including a retouched Palaeolithic flake c.350m west of the study site (HER Ref. MSL8007), a hand-axe c.550m south-west of the study site (HER MSL7942) and two hand-axes c.850m north-east of the study site (HER MSL8008). A small collection of flint flakes dating to the Mesolithic, Neolithic and Bronze Age were recovered during an archaeological evaluation at Western House School c.800m south-east of the study site (HER MRM16388). A Bronze Age hoard comprising 19 palstaves was discovered approximately 80m north-east of the site (HER MSL7943 and HER MSL149).
- 2.2 An archaeological excavation at 225 Bath Road, 680m south-east of the site, revealed potential settlement activity dating through the Bronze Age, Iron Age and early Roman periods (HER MSL6622 and MSL15508) and an Iron Age jar was found at Slough Trading estate, 500m north-east of the site (HER MSL8012).
- 2.3 Evidence for post-Roman activity in the area surrounding the site is scarce, limited to the recording of a medieval water mill 300m west of the site (HER MSL380). It is likely that the site lay within the agricultural hinterland of the villages that later became Slough until the expansion of the town after the construction of the Great Western Railway. Construction on Slough Trading Estate began in 1926, with the extant buildings on the site constructed in the 1950s and 1960s.

3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 3.1 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 (CIfA 2014). This information will enable SBC assess the particular significance of any heritage assets that are identified, consider the impact of the proposed development upon them, and avoid or minimise conflict between the conservation of those heritage assets and any aspect of the development proposal. This process is in line with policy contained in the National Planning Policy Framework (MHCLG 2018).

4. METHODOLOGY

- 4.1 The fieldwork comprised the excavation of 4 trenches in the locations shown on the attached plan (Fig. 2). A large number of modern services on site led to the alteration of the layout of all of the trenches from those set out in the WSI (CgMs 2018; Figs 2 and 3). Trench 1 was shortened to measure 10m long and moved to the east, Trench 2 was shortened to a length of 7m and was moved slightly north. WSI Trench 3 was split into two trenches to avoid a service (evaluation Trenches 3 and 4), each of which were 10m long. WSI Trench 4 at the north-east of the site, could not be excavated. All alterations to the trench layout were undertaken with the approval of CgMs Heritage and Roland Smith. 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 equipped with a toothless grading bucket. All machine excavation was undertaken under constant archaeological supervision to the top of the natural substrate.
- 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*; no deposits were identified that required sampling.
- 4.4 The site archive from the evaluation is currently held by CA at their offices and will be stored there until it can be deposited in a suitable repository. 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 2–3)

- 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 The natural geological substrate, comprising orange sand and gravel was encountered in all of the trenches at an average depth of 0.33m below present ground level (bpgl).

- 5.3 In Trench 2 a linear feature, 203, was revealed cutting through the natural substrate. The feature was 1.6m wide with vertical sides and contained modern fragments of ceramic building material (CBM) within its fill. It is probable that the feature was a machine dug trench associated with construction of the site in the middle of the 20th century.
- 5.4 In all of the trenches the natural substrate was covered by up to 0.3m of made ground containing CBM fragments and rubble, which was in turn sealed by the current reinforced concrete yard surface.

6. DISCUSSION

- 6.1 Despite the archaeological potential noted in the Archaeological Background (Section 2, above), no features or deposits of archaeological interest were revealed within the evaluation.
- 6.2 The evaluation revealed no evidence for any stratigraphy pre-dating the construction of the extant buildings and their associated surfaces and it is probable that the site was benched to provide a level surface for the buildings. This process may have removed any archaeology on the site.

7. CA PROJECT TEAM

Fieldwork was undertaken by Christopher Leonard and Bethany Hardcastle. The report was written by Christopher Leonard. The illustrations were prepared by Tom Brown. The archive has been compiled and prepared for deposition by Hazel O'Neill. The project was managed for CA by Adrian Scruby.



8. REFERENCES

BGS (British Geological Survey) 2018 *Geology of Britain Viewer*
<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html> Accessed 7 September 2018

CgMs (CgMs Heritage) 2018 *758–763 Henley Road, Slough Trading Estate, Slough, Berkshire: Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Evaluation*. CgMs report **SD/24788**

MHCLG (Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government) 2018 *National Planning Policy Framework*

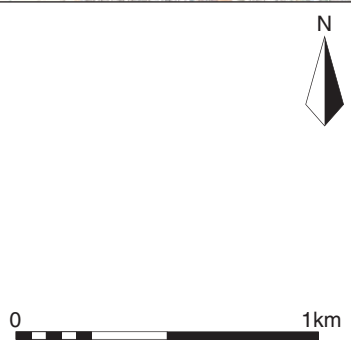
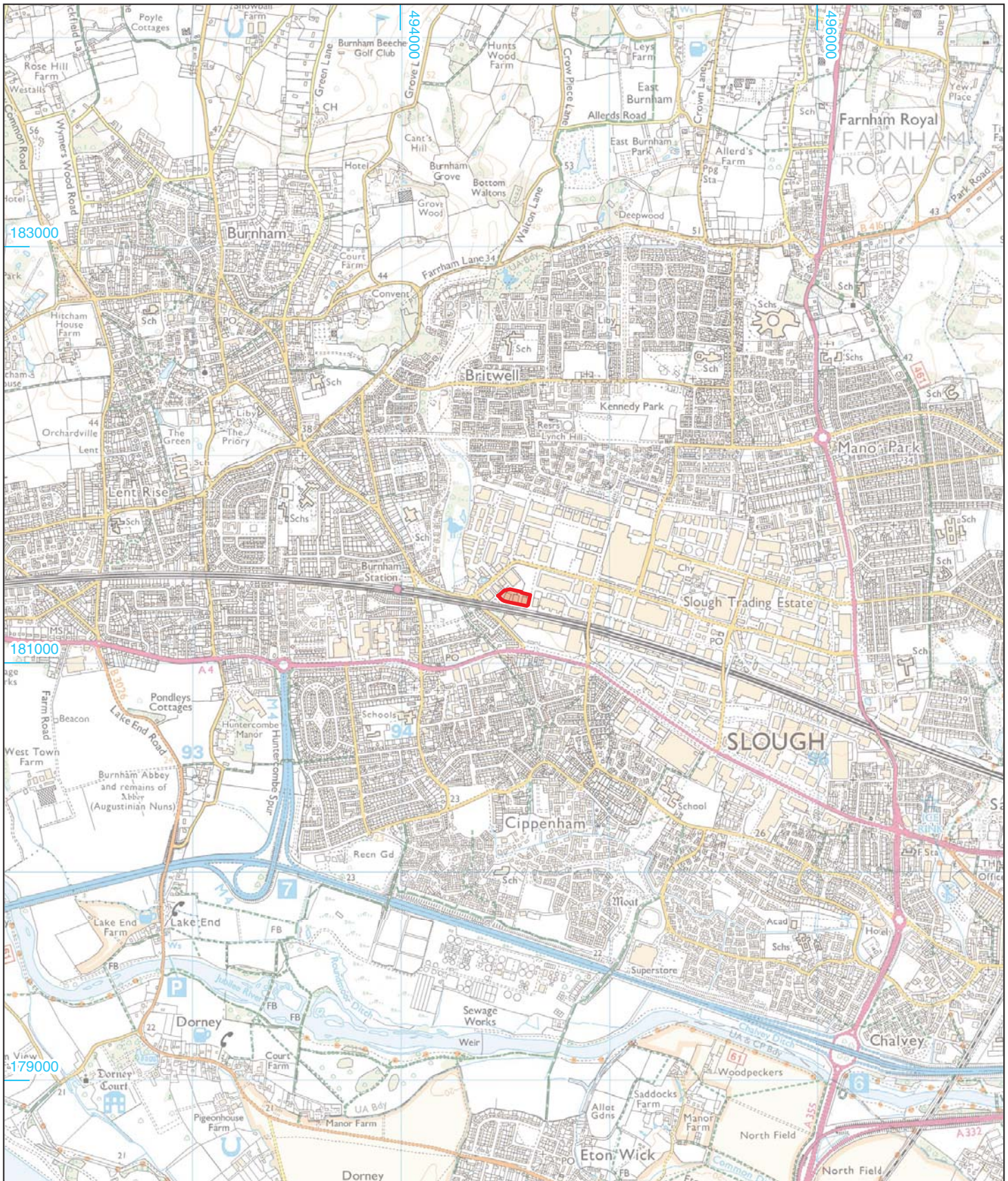


APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Tr	Context	Type	Fill of	Interpretation	Description	L (m)	W (m)	D (m)
1	100	Layer		Yard surface	Reinforced concrete surface	10	1.6	0.1
1	101	Layer		Made ground	Mid orange brown silty sand. Occasional small stones. Modern CBM and metal objects	10	1.6	0.28
1	102	Layer		Natural	Orange sand and gravel	10	1.6	
2	200	Layer		Yard surface	Same as 100	7	1.6	0.08
2	201	Layer		Made ground	Same as 101	7	1.6	0.12
2	202	Layer		Natural	Same as 102	7	1.6	
2	203	Cut		Modern trench	NE/SW aligned with vertical sides	>1.8	1.6	>0.7
2	204	Fill	203	Trench fill	Mid orange brown silty sand. Frequent gravel. Modern CBM fragments	>1.8	1.6	>0.7
3	300	Layer		Yard surface	Same as 100	9.5	1.6	0.11
3	301	Layer		Made ground	Same as 101	9.5	1.6	0.3
3	302	Layer		Natural	Same as 102	9.5	1.6	
4	400	Layer		Yard surface	Same as 100	10.5	1.6	0.09
4	401	Layer		Made ground	Same as 101	10.5	1.6	0.2
4	402	Layer		Natural	Same as 102	10.5	1.6	

APPENDIX B: OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project Name	758-763 Henley Road	
Short description	An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in August 2018 at 758-763 Henley Road, Slough Trading Estate, Slough, Berkshire. Four trenches were excavated across the 0.76ha site with the evaluation revealing no archaeological features or deposits pre-dating the 20th-century development of the site.	
Project dates	30–31 August 2018	
Project type	Evaluation	
Previous work	None	
Future work	Unknown	
PROJECT LOCATION		
Site Location	Slough Trading Estate, Slough, Berkshire	
Study area	0.76ha	
Site co-ordinates	494552 181321 SU 94552 81321	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Brief originator	-	
Project Design (WSI) originator	CgMs Consulting	
Project Manager	Adrian Scruby	
Project Supervisor	Christopher Leonard	
MONUMENT TYPE	None	
SIGNIFICANT FINDS	None	
PROJECT ARCHIVES		
	Intended final location of archive	Content
Physical	-	-
Paper	TBC	Context sheets
Digital	TBC	Database, digital photos
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2018 758–763 Henley Road, Slough Trading Estate, Slough, Berkshire: <i>Archaeological Evaluation</i> . CA typescript report 18453		



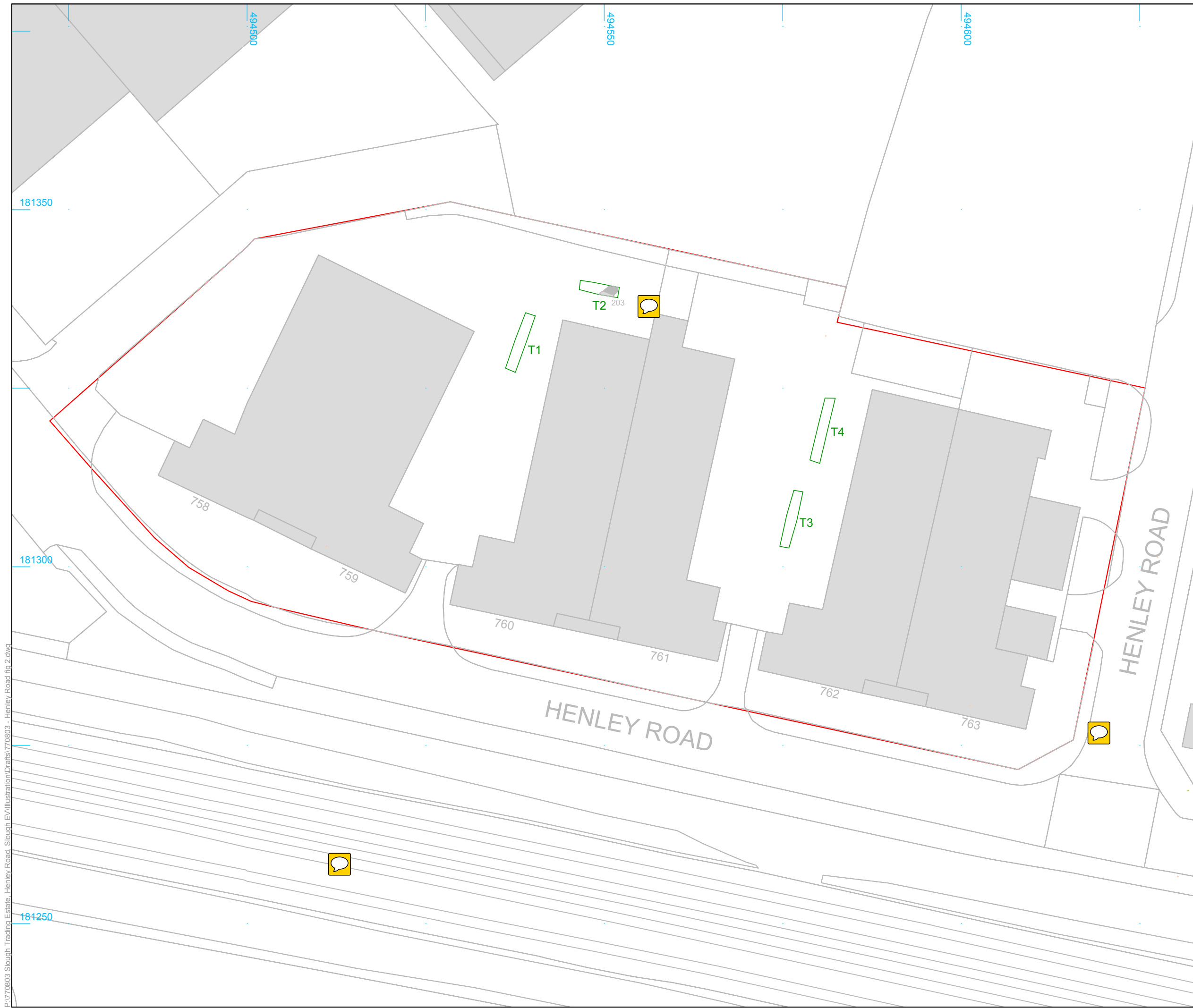

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PROJECT TITLE
 758 - 763 Henley Road, Slough Trading estate, Slough, Berkshire

FIGURE TITLE
 Site location plan

DRAWN BY	TB	PROJECT NO.	770803	FIGURE NO.
CHECKED BY	DJB	DATE	12.09.18	1
APPROVED BY	AS	SCALE@A4	1:25,000	

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Ordnance Survey 0100031673



- site boundary
- evaluation trench
- excavated intervention
- modern



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PROJECT TITLE
758 - 763 Henley Road, Slough Trading Estate, Slough, Berkshire

FIGURE TITLE
Trench location plan

DRAWN BY TB	PROJECT NO. 770803	FIGURE NO.
CHECKED BY DJB	DATE 12.09.18	2
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P:\770803 Slough Trading Estate, Henley Road, Slough EV\Illustration\Drafts\770803 - Henley Road fig 2.dwg



Trench 1, looking north (2x1m scales)



Trench 2, looking west (2x1m scales)



Trench 3, looking south (2x1m scales)



Trench 4, looking north (2x1m scales)


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PROJECT TITLE
758 - 763 Henley Road, Slough Trading estate, Slough, Berkshire

FIGURE TITLE
Photographs

DRAWN BY	TB	PROJECT NO.	770803	FIGURE NO.
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