

**Sites B and C  
225 Bath Road  
Slough  
Berkshire**

*Archaeological Evaluation*



*for*  
CgMs Consulting

*on behalf of*  
SEGRO plc

CA Project: 770815  
CA Report: 18454

September 2018



Sites B and C  
225 Bath Road  
Slough  
Berkshire

Archaeological Evaluation

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## SUMMARY

<b>Project Name:</b>	Sites B and C
<b>Location:</b>	225 Bath Road, Slough, Berkshire
<b>NGR:</b>	495275 180588
<b>Type:</b>	Evaluation
<b>Date:</b>	3–4 September 2018
<b>Planning Reference:</b>	P/00730/087
<b>Site Code:</b>	BATH 18

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in September 2018 at Sites B and C, Bath Road, Slough, Berkshire. Five trenches were excavated across the 2.84ha development area.

Buried soil layers were identified underlying modern made ground in one trench at the east of the site; however the remainder of the site had been heavily truncated by 20th-century development and no features or deposits pre-dating the modern period were recorded.



## 1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In September 2018 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological evaluation for CgMs Heritage on behalf of SEGRO plc at Sites B and C, Bath Road, Slough, Berkshire (centred at NGR: 495275 180588; Fig. 1). The investigations on Site B were carried out to inform the need for an archaeological condition prior to the determination of planning permission. The investigations on Site C were carried out to inform the archaeological requirements of the site prior to the submission of a planning application.
- 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 2.84ha, and comprises two contiguous areas (Sites B and C) within a larger development. Previous industrial buildings have been demolished and the site cleared. The site is bounded to the north by the A4 Bath Road, to the west by Westgate Retail Park, to the east by Guru Maneyo Granth Gurdwara Sikh Temple and to the south by a school and residential buildings. The site lies at approximately 30m AOD, sloping slightly from north to south.
- 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- Sand and Gravel (BGS 2018). Orange sand and gravel was revealed 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 settlement and activity in the vicinity of the site, including a retouched Palaeolithic flake c.1km north-west of the study site (HER Ref. MSL8007), a hand-axe c.600m west of the study site (HER

MSL7942) and two hand-axes c.1.5km north 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.200m west of the study site (HER MRM16388). A Bronze Age hoard comprising 19 palstaves was discovered approximately 800m north-west of the site (HER MSL7943 and HER MSL149).

- 2.2 An archaeological excavation immediately to the west of the site revealed ditches forming part of a 1st century AD field system. The course of one of the ditches has been projected to run into the western part of the site.
- 2.3 There is little evidence for post-Roman activity in the area of the site, suggesting that it lay within the agricultural hinterland of Slough throughout the medieval and post-medieval periods. The site was first developed in the 1940s, when a sports ground including two tennis courts was constructed. A pharmaceutical factory was constructed in the eastern part of the site in the 1960s. The western part of the site underwent further development during the 20th century, finally becoming a training centre and car park.

### 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* (ClfA 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 5 trenches, each 30m long by 1.8m wide, in the locations shown on the attached plan (Fig. 2). 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 The reinforced concrete slabs covering Trenches 3–5 were removed prior to the start of the evaluation. All trenches were then 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, whichever was encountered first. Where archaeological deposits were encountered they were excavated by hand in accordance with CA Technical Manual 1: *Fieldwork Recording Manual*.
- 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 in Kemble and will be stored there until they 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.

### *Site B (Trenches 1–4)*

- 5.2 The natural geological substrate, comprising orange sand and gravel, was identified at an average depth of 1.15m below present ground level (bpgl) in Trenches 1, 2 and 4. It was overlain by up to 1.2m of brownish orange made ground, which contained fragments of modern CBM. This was in turn sealed by bedding for a tarmac car park surface in Trenches 1 and 2 and a reinforced concrete slab in Trench 4.
- 5.3 In Trench 3 the natural substrate was encountered at 0.3m bpgl and was overlain by compacted orange gravel made ground, which was sealed by the concrete slab.



### *Site C (Trench 5)*

- 5.4 The natural geological substrate was covered by a 0.6m thick buried subsoil, 502, which was sealed by 0.3m of buried topsoil 501. This was in turn covered by made ground 500, which was the bedding for the reinforced concrete slab.

## **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 investigations on Site B demonstrated that the site has been heavily truncated by 20th-century development. The evaluation identified no evidence for the survival of any features pre-dating this activity.
- 6.3 Trench 5 on Site C was located between the pad foundations of the former building. Disturbance had been caused by the installation of services within the northern end of the trench. No archaeological remains were identified within the trench.

## **7. CA PROJECT TEAM**

Fieldwork was undertaken by Christopher Leonard and Luke Bateson. 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 *Sites B and C, Bath Road, Slough, Berkshire: Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Evaluation*. CgMs report **SD/24795**



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



## APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Tr	Context	Type	Interpretation	Description	L (m)	W (m)	D (m)
1	100	Layer	Car park surface	Tarmac surface and associated bedding	30	1.8	0.45
1	101	Layer	Made ground	Mid brownish orange clay silt. Occasional small stones. Modern CBM fragments	30	1.8	0.6
1	102	Layer	Natural	Orange sand and gravel	30	1.8	
2	200	Layer	Car park surface	Same as 100	30	1.8	0.25
2	201	Layer	Made ground	Same as 101	30	1.8	0.9
2	202	Layer	Natural	Same as 102	30	1.8	
3	300	Layer	Made ground	Mid brownish grey clay silt. Occasional small stones. Modern CBM and stone rubble	30	1.8	0.1
3	301	Layer	Made ground	Mid brownish orange sand and gravel	30	1.8	0.2
3	302	Layer	Natural	Same as 102	30	1.8	
4	400	Layer	Made ground	Same as 101	30	1.8	1.2
4	401	Layer	Natural	Same as 102	30	1.8	
5	500	Layer	Made ground	Mixed yellow, black and brown silty sand. Frequent small and medium stones. Modern CBM and stone rubble	30	1.8	0.2
5	501	Layer	Buried topsoil	Mid brownish grey silty sand. Occasional small-medium stones	30	1.8	0.3
5	502	Layer	Buried subsoil	Mid brownish orange clay sand. Common small-medium stones	30	1.8	0.6
5	503	Layer	Natural	Same as 102	30	1.8	

**APPENDIX B: OASIS REPORT FORM**

<b>PROJECT DETAILS</b>		
Project Name	Sites B and C	
Short description	<p>An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in September 2018 at Sites B and C, Bath Road, Slough, Berkshire. Five trenches were excavated.</p> <p>Buried soil layers were identified underlying modern made ground in one trench at the east of the site; however the remainder of the site had been heavily truncated by 20th-century development and no features or deposits pre-dating the modern period were recorded.</p>	
Project dates	3–4 September 2018	
Project type	Evaluation	
Previous work	None	
Future work	Unknown	
<b>PROJECT LOCATION</b>		
Site Location	Bath Road, Slough, Berkshire	
Study area	2.84ha	
Site co-ordinates	495275 180588 SU 95275 80588	
<b>PROJECT CREATORS</b>		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Brief originator	-	
Project Design (WSI) originator	CgMs Consulting	
Project Manager	Adrian Scruby	
Project Supervisor	Christopher Leonard	
<b>MONUMENT TYPE</b>	None	
<b>SIGNIFICANT FINDS</b>	None	
<b>PROJECT ARCHIVES</b>		
	Intended final location of archive	Content
Physical	-	-
Paper	TBC	Context sheets
Digital	TBC	Database, digital photos
<b>BIBLIOGRAPHY</b>		
<p>CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2018 Sites B and C, Bath Road, Slough, Berkshire: <i>Archaeological Evaluation</i>. CA typescript report <b>18454</b></p>		

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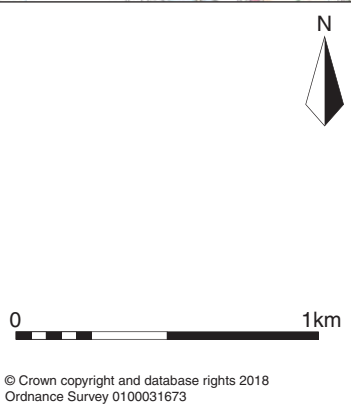
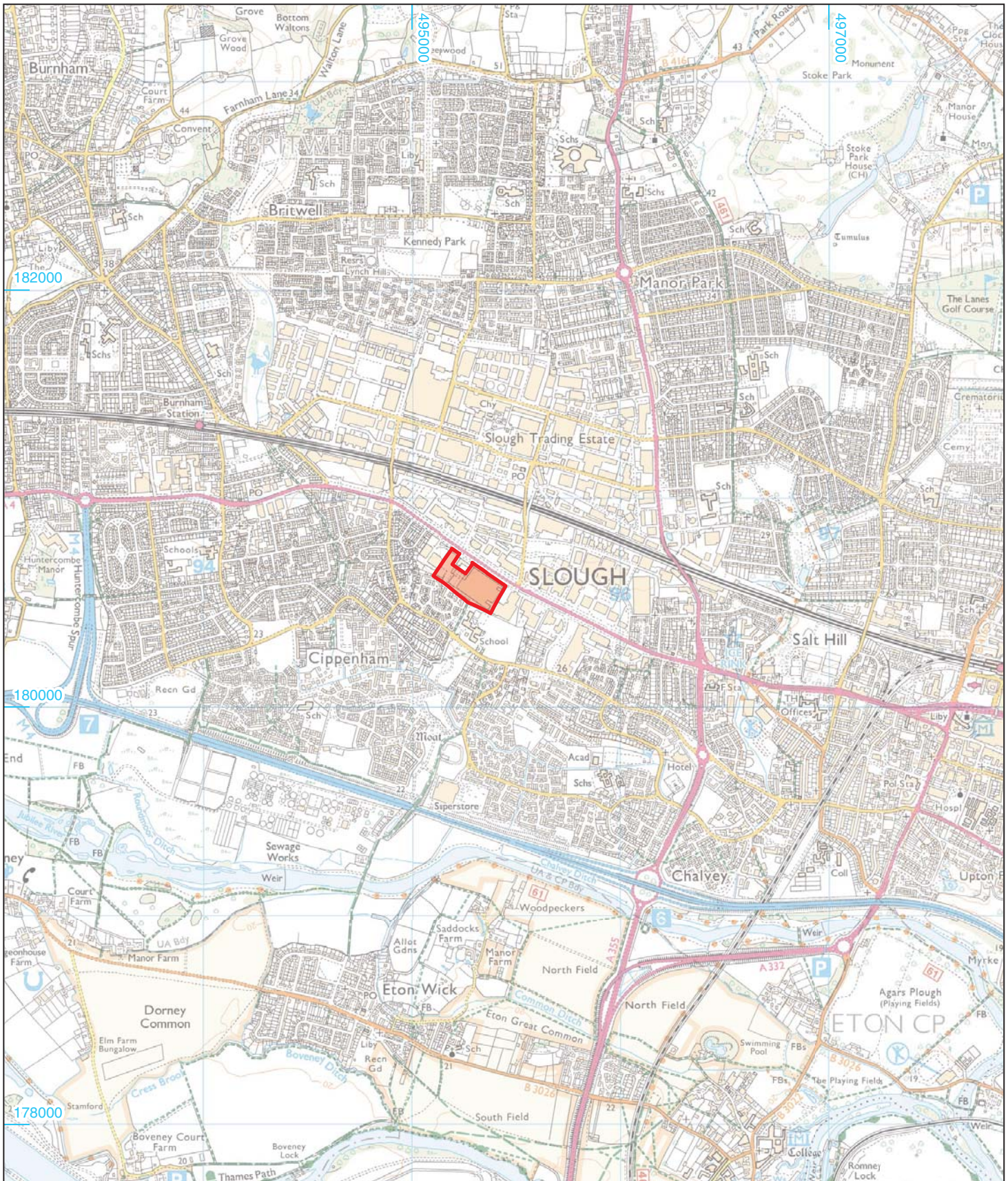
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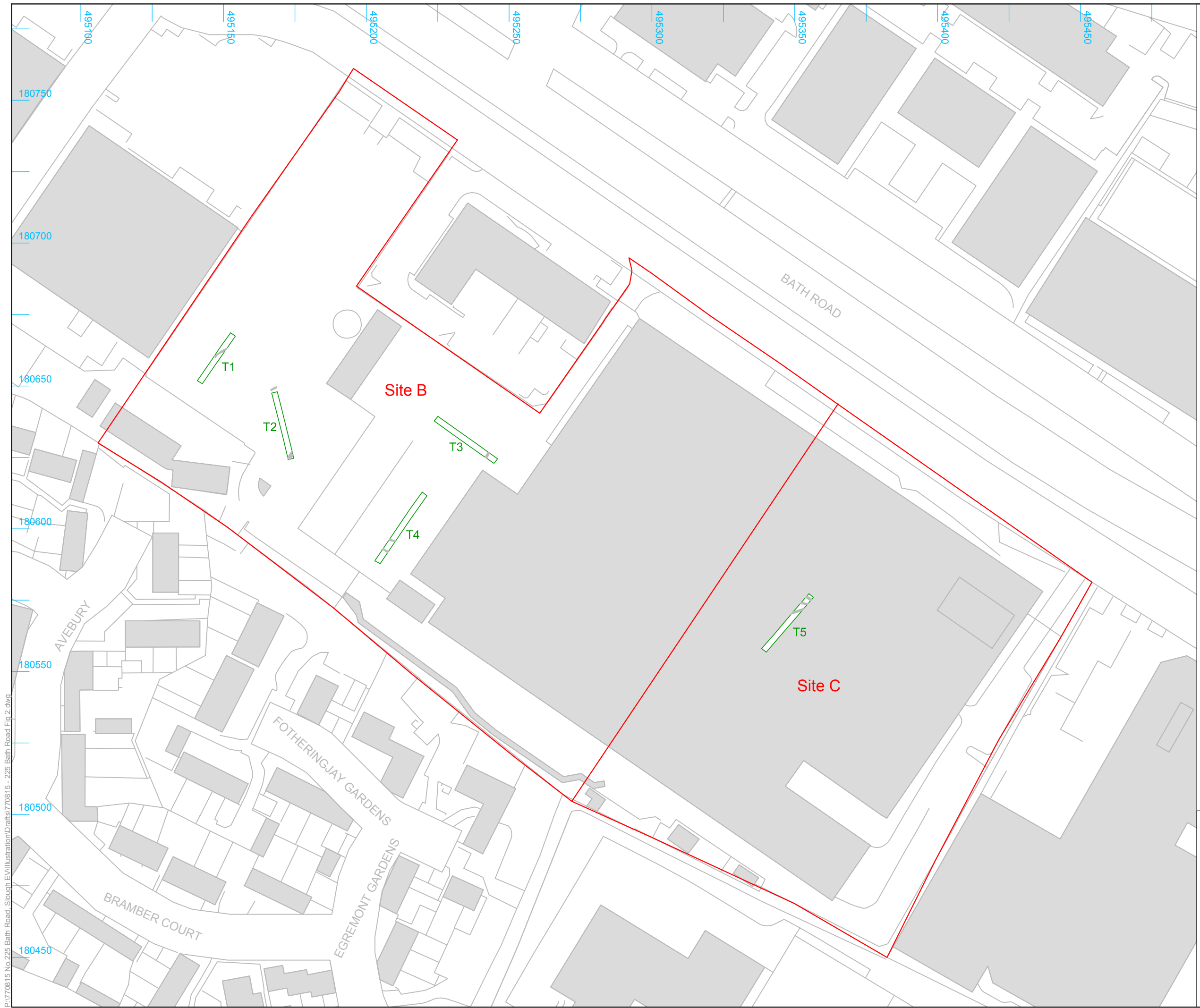
**PROJECT TITLE**  
 Sites B & C, 225 Bath Road, Slough,  
 Berkshire

**FIGURE TITLE**  
 Site location plan

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

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- site boundary
- evaluation trench
- modern services



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PROJECT TITLE  
**225 Bath Road, Slough, Berkshire**

FIGURE TITLE  
**Trench location plan**

DRAWN BY	TB	PROJECT NO.	770815	FIGURE NO.
CHECKED BY	DJB	DATE	12.09.18	<b>2</b>
APPROVED BY	AS	SCALE@A3	1:1250	

P:\770815 No.225 Bath Road - Slough EV\Illustration\Drawings\770815 - 225 Bath Road Fig 2.dwg





Trench 2, looking north-west (2x1m scales)



Trench 3, looking NW (2x1m scales)



Trench 5, looking north-east (2x1m scales)



Trench 2, representative section (1m scale)



Trench 5, representative section (1m scale)


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PROJECT TITLE  
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FIGURE TITLE  
**Photographs**

DRAWN BY	TB	PROJECT NO.	770815	FIGURE NO.
CHECKED BY	DJB	DATE	12.09.18	3
APPROVED BY	AS	SCALE	@A3 NA	