

# New Simplified Planning Zone

2024 - 2034

## Appendices

Appendix 7: Written Scheme of  
Investigation

Reference: SPZ-A07

For consultation July 2024

Note: If you need this information in an accessible format please  
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# Slough Trading Estate New SPZ Scheme

## Written Scheme of Investigation

On behalf of **SEGRO**



Project Ref: 33312071200/A5/P1/LK. HC | Rev: D1 | Date: June 2024

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## Document Control Sheet

**Project Name:** Slough Trading Estate New SPZ Scheme

**Project Ref:** 33312071200

**Report Title:** Written Scheme of Investigation

**Doc Ref:** 33312071200/A5/P1/LKHC

**Date:** June 2024

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<b>For and on behalf of Stantec UK Limited</b>				

Revision	Date	Description	Prepared	Reviewed	Approved
01	July 2023	Draft 01 for client review	Harry Clarke	Lorraine King	Mark Sitch
02	October 2023	Draft 02 for client review following meeting with Berkshire Archaeology	Harry Clarke	Lorraine King	Mark Sitch
03	October 2023	Final	Harry Clarke	Lorraine King	Mark Sitch
04	March 2024	Final (including Chetwoods Plan)	Harry Clarke	Lorraine King	Mark Sitch
05	June 2024	Following further meeting with Berkshire Archaeology	Harry Clarke	Lorraine King	Mark Sitch

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# 1 INTRODUCTION

## 1.1 Project Background

- 1.1.1 This Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) has been prepared to detail the overarching archaeological considerations in response to the New Simplified Planning Zone (SPZ) Scheme at Slough Trading Estate (STE) (the 'Site') (see **Figure 1**).
- 1.1.2 STE has been defined as a Simplified Planning Zone (SPZ) since 1995. The current SPZ Scheme provides a framework for regeneration and development on the Trading Estate until November 2024.
- 1.1.3 The proposal is for a New SPZ Scheme to broadly permit the same permissible uses (decked car parking facilities are now included as a permissible use in the New SPZ Scheme – see EIA Screening Report for detail)
- 1.1.4 The current 2014 SPZ WSI highlighted areas of archaeological potential, many of which have since been developed (see **Figure 2**) and archaeological investigation undertaken. The current SPZ includes the following condition in regard to archaeological remains.

***“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.”***

- 1.1.5 Following various programmes of archaeological fieldwork since 2014 certain areas across the defined Archaeology Plan have been investigated. Any remaining areas for archaeological consideration will be detailed in this WSI which will be submitted in support of the New SPZ Scheme submission.

## 1.2 Scope, Aims and Objectives

- 1.2.1 This overarching WSI sets out the fieldwork scope and methodology, reporting and archiving processes, and has been issued to Berkshire Archaeology (BA) for consultation. BA provide advice in respect of archaeology to the Slough Borough Council (SBC).
- 1.2.2 Any archaeological work is designed to preserve 'by record' (i.e., archaeological excavation and recording) the identified archaeological remains, which would be affected by the scheme. No assets warranting preservation in situ have been identified to date across the site. Consent in any case will have already been granted due to the expected adoption of the SPZ and such a strategy in the unlikely event that nationally significant remains are revealed would be full archaeological excavation and recording.
- 1.2.3 Archaeology is the study of the irreplaceable physical evidence of the human past and archaeological fieldwork within the planning process provides a public benefit as the knowledge gained from archaeology is not available through any other source. Our understanding of the archaeological record in England is continuously evolving as a direct result of development-led archaeology.
- 1.2.4 The aim of this overarching WSI is to produce a new plan showing the areas where further archaeological investigation is required within the New SPZ Scheme.

- 1.2.5 This report does not consider built heritage assets (such as Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas), these matters will be covered in a separate report.

### 1.3 Consultation

- 1.3.1 A draft of this WSI was issued to Berkshire Archaeology. The following comments (pers comm 18/01/24) we're received:

***“It is clear that the agreed appraisal method for assessing the remaining potential within the SPZ is sound, and has been successfully applied, allowing more confident elimination of sites with no residual archaeological potential, and the consequent refining of areas where future investigations will be required. I’m happy with the areas pinpointed in figure 4 and the reasonings behind the changes from the previous 2014 version. The methodologies for fieldwork investigation are in line with best practice and also afford sufficient flexibility through the use of site specific WSIs at the point of a development proposal.”***

- 1.3.2 In addition, changes have been made to section 1.2. of this document explaining the public role of archaeology within the planning process.
- 1.3.3 Following further discussions in June 2024 concerning the nature of the SPZ and its requirements this WSI has been updated to ensure further consultation with Berkshire Archaeology is not required and the required archaeological works will be undertaken in accordance with best practice. This document provides the mechanism to ensure the work is carried out in relation to the relevant plots as development comes forward across the SPZ.
- 1.3.4 Therefore, following agreement no further consultation with the LPA Archaeological Advisor (Berkshire Archaeology) will be required.

## 2 HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT BASELINE

### 2.1 Introduction and Site Location

- 2.1.1 The following section provides a summary of the historical development of the Site and its environs, compiled from sources listed in the references section. The Site (**Figure 1**) comprises various buildings including offices, industrial units, warehouses, and shops together with associated car parking, vehicular and pedestrian access.
- 2.1.2 There are no designated heritage assets of archaeological interest within the Site. The two closest Scheduled Monuments to the Site are a motte at Salt Hill, Upton-cum Chalvey (Historic England ref 1007928) and the Moated site at Cippenham Court (1013455).

### 2.2 Geology and Topography

- 2.2.1 It is beyond the scope of this report to address the geological background in detail, but the later part of the sequence may be outlined. The British Geological Survey (Sheet 255: Beaconsfield and 269: Windsor) shows the Site occupying Langley Silt (Brickearth), above Taplow Gravels. The western boundary of the Site is formed by Cippenham Brook and therefore the western edge of the Site may be underlain by alluvium. In addition, within the far south-eastern corner of the Site, close to Salt Hill Stream, the site is underlain by an outcrop of Taplow Gravels. The geology of the wider area shows the Site lying on the Taplow Gravel Terrace, with the Lynch Hill Gravel Terrace to the north and the Shepperton Gravel Terrace to the south.
- 2.2.2 The majority of Site is level at between 32 and 33m AOD (Above Ordnance Datum). However, within the south-western corner of the Site levels fall to 27m AOD in the direction of Chippenham Brook. Photographs taken of the site in the 1920's, when the site was used as a military vehicle repair depot, show vehicles sinking into the ground. It is possible that soils across the Site may have become seasonally waterlogged because of the thickness and low permeability of the underlying Brickearth (CGMS 2014).
- 2.2.3 During the 20th century the majority of the Site has been developed and redeveloped and as a result the natural topography of the Site has been significantly altered.

### 2.3 Archaeological and Historic Background

- 2.3.1 Assessment of data held on the Berkshire Historic Environment Record (HER), and published and unpublished sources, for a 1km buffer around the Site (also referred to as the study area), indicates that there are a number of sites and finds dating to the Palaeolithic, late prehistoric and Roman periods. The STE itself is noted in the HER (HER ref: MRM16302) otherwise there are no non-designated heritage assets of archaeological interest recorded on the Site. The data in the Historic Environment Record (HER) along with results from past investigations has been used to assess the overall archaeological potential of the Site.

#### Prehistoric Period (800,000 BC – AD 43) and Romano-British Period (AD 43 – 410)

- 2.3.2 The Lower (800,000–250,000 BC) and Middle (250,000–40,000 BC) Palaeolithic period saw alternating warm and cold phases and intermittent (seasonal) occupation. During the Upper Palaeolithic (40,000–10,000 BC), after the last glacial maximum (after approx. 13,000 BC), further warming of the climate took place and the environment altered from steppe-tundra to birch and pine woodland. It was at this time that England first saw continuous occupation. Erosion has removed much of the Palaeolithic land surfaces however and finds are typically residual.
- 2.3.3 Within the Thames Valley, Lower Palaeolithic material is restricted to the stone tools or waste chippings or bones and teeth of contemporary fauna. Rarely are these remains found in situ,



- for the majority have been moved by floodwaters and have been incorporated in deposits of gravel and sand, which represent ancient courses of the Thames or its tributaries. Sometimes, however, silt and clay have been deposited in slack water and can contain buried ancient land surfaces.
- 2.3.4 Gravel extraction at various sites in Eton and Slough has revealed a range of artefacts, some in a sharp condition which suggests they came from in situ deposits. The most prolific site in this area is at Bakers Farm (HER Ref. 00303.00.000) where several hundreds of palaeoliths have been found many of which were in sharp condition. Bakers Farm lies c.500m north of the Site and is on Boyl Hill gravels.
- 2.3.5 There are two Palaeolithic HER entries recorded within the study area. One of the entries relates to the discovery of two pointed handaxes, both heavily rolled and stained, recovered from the Taplow Gravels (MSL8086). However, the second HER entry (MSL8088) relates to the discovery of Lower Palaeolithic handaxes from the general Slough area and therefore has less relevance to the assessment of the Palaeolithic potential of the Site. The Berkshire HER records the discovery of Palaeolithic flint artefacts at another 15 sites within the study area. Much of the Palaeolithic material recorded within the study area comes from the Lynch Hill Terrace gravels to the north of the Site. The Site itself occupies the Taplow Terrace which is overlain by Brickearth. The Solent Thames Research Framework for the Palaeolithic in Berkshire established that only small numbers of Lower Palaeolithic artefacts have been recovered from Taplow Terrace in east Berkshire and as indicated by their rolled and abraded states, they are derived from the higher terraces (see CGMS 2014).
- 2.3.6 The Mesolithic hunter-gatherer communities of the post-glacial period (c. 10,000–4000 BC) inhabited a still largely wooded environment. The river valleys and coast would have been favoured due to predictable sources of food and water, as well as due to transport and communication. Evidence of activity in this period is characterised by flint tools rather than structural remains. There are no finds of Mesolithic date recorded within the Site. Within the study area the HER records the discovery of Mesolithic/early Neolithic flint flakes from unstratified contexts and spoil heaps at Western House School c.350m south of the Site (M16388). In addition, a Mesolithic tranche axe head and a flake was found during construction work at Chalvey Middle School (MSL7873) and archaeological excavations at Cippenham Sector c.1.26km south of the Site recorded a Mesolithic or early Neolithic ditch (MRM15912). Most of the Mesolithic sites and finds recorded on the HER are located on the Shepperton Gravels overlooking the Thames floodplain to the south of the Site. Here, as elsewhere in lowland Britain, Mesolithic sites tend to occur close to rivers or other water sources. Based on the available evidence, a low-moderate potential is identified for Mesolithic activity within the western part of the Site, in the vicinity of Cippenham Brook.
- 2.3.7 While the presence of Palaeoliths cannot be precluded, the potential for in situ material within the Taplow Terrace gravels underlying the Site is considered to be low. **Overall, therefore it is considered that the Site has a low archaeological potential for the Palaeolithic and Mesolithic periods.**
- 2.3.8 The Neolithic (4000–2000 BC), Bronze Age (2000–600 BC) and Iron Age (600 BC–AD 43) are traditionally seen as times of technological change, with settled communities and the construction of communal monuments. Farming was established and therefore forest cleared for cultivation. An expanding population put pressure on available resources and necessitated the utilisation of previously marginal land.
- 2.3.9 From around 4000 BC the mobile hunter-gathering economy of the Mesolithic gradually gave way to a more settled agriculture-based subsistence. The pace of woodland clearance to create arable and pasture-based agricultural land varied regionally and locally, depending on a wide variety of climatic, topographic, social, and other factors. The trend was one of a slow, but gradually increasing pace of forest clearance. Only a single Neolithic HER entry is recorded within the Site. This HER entry relates to the discovery of a Neolithic axe 'somewhere in Slough' and has been randomly located within STE. Therefore, the findspot is

considered to have little bearing on an assessment of the Site's potential for the Neolithic period. Within the study area, sub-surface remains evidencing Neolithic activity have been recorded during excavations at three sites off Wood Lane, Slough c.1km south of the Site (MSL6351, MSL15499 and MSL15500).

- 2.3.10 The HER records the discovery of Neolithic flint material at another 5 sites within the study area, the nearest being the findspot of a Neolithic flint scraper found at Chalvey Pit c.430m south of the Site (Chalvey Pit flint scraper: MSL7680, Chalvey hand axe: MSL7679, Cippenham flint axe: MSL7942, flintwork: MSL5117: Chalvey Grove flint axe: MSL7675). The distribution of Neolithic sites and finds suggests that occupation in the area occurs on the drier gravel terrace overlooking the Thames floodplain to the south of the Site. **Overall, the Site is considered to have a low potential for Neolithic sub-surface features.**
- 2.3.11 By the 1st millennium, i.e., 1000 BC, the landscape was probably a mix of extensive tracts of open farmland, punctuated by earthwork burial and ceremonial monuments from distant generations, with settlements, ritual areas and defended locations reflecting an increasingly hierarchical society. The overall picture locally is of sporadic Neolithic occupation, continuing into the Middle Bronze Age, with settlement evidence first occurring during the Late Bronze Age.
- 2.3.12 Within the study area Bronze Age occupation and burial evidence appears to concentrate on the gravels overlooking the Thames floodplain over 1km south of the Site at Cippenham (see Appendix 5). Archaeological excavations at several sites off Wood Lane, Cippenham have recorded Bronze Age sub-surface features and stray finds. Features have included a Bronze Age ring ditch and several tree throws containing Bronze Age material (ESL7), Middle Bronze Age pits (MSL6352) and a palaeochannel with fills containing firecracked flint and Bronze Age pottery (MSL15496). In addition, a number of Late Bronze Age flints were recovered during archaeological investigations at the site of a proposed ASDA store, also on Wood Lane (MSL5118). Further evidence for Bronze Age burial at Cippenham has been identified for aerial photographic survey. Three cropmarks ring ditches, evidencing the remains of Bronze Age burial monuments, were identified c. 1.25km south of the Site (MSL146, MSL147 and MSL149).
- 2.3.13 The HER records the discovery of a Bronze Age hoard at STE. The HER locates the find on Henley Road within the western part of the Site (MSL7943, MSL149). The hoard comprised 19 palstaves and was discovered 2ft beneath the ground surface. As with earlier periods, the majority of Bronze Age sites within the study area appear to be located on the Shepperton Gravels overlooking the Thames Floodplain to the south of the Site. However, based on the discoveries made at 225 Bath Road, a potential for Bronze Age occupation on the Taplow Terrace cannot be precluded, particularly in areas close to known water sources such as Cippenham Brook and Salt Hill Stream.
- 2.3.14 Therefore, based on the available evidence, a moderate potential is identified for Bronze Age sub-surface features within the western and southern parts of the Site.**
- 2.3.15 During the Romano-British period (AD 43 to AD 410) there was a change towards a pastoral economy, with evidence of more livestock centred management practices. The archaeological investigations associated with the Horley Northwest Development also found evidence of Roman field systems, which were superimposed over the earlier field enclosures.
- 2.3.16 Within the study area evidence of Iron Age and Roman activity again appears to concentrate on the gravels at Cippenham, with Iron Age and Roman features being found at several sites off Wood Lane (MSL15503, MSL15504, MSL15493, MSL15496, MSL15503, MRM15907, MRM15909, MSL6353, MRM16282).
- 2.3.17 However, within a short distance of the southern boundary of the Site, archaeological investigations at 225 Bath Road and Hill Rise Nursery have recorded Iron Age and Roman sub-surface features (225 Bath Road: MSL622 and MSL15508 and Hill Rise Nursery

MSL6675). Within the Site, the HER records the discovery of an Iron Age jar near STE (HER Ref. MSL8012). The findspot is located within the far north-western corner of the Site. No other evidence of Iron Age activity is recorded within the study area.

**2.3.18 Based on the available evidence, a low-moderate potential is identified for evidence of Iron Age and Roman activity within the south-western part of the Site and a low potential is identified for this period within the other part of the Site.**

**Early (Saxon) and Later Medieval Period (AD 410 – 1540)**

2.3.19 During this time, the Site is likely to have remained in agricultural use and is shown as open land on modern OS mapping. Little is known of the character, extent, and location of Post-Roman/Saxon settlement in the area. The settlement and communication pattern that replaced the Roman one remains obscure. There are no Saxon, Early Medieval and Medieval sites or finds recorded on the HER within the Site.

2.3.20 Medieval settlement evidence has been recorded at a number of sites to the south of the Site at Cippenham. At Brook Farm Area A c.600m south of the Site archaeological investigations recorded Early Medieval/Medieval occupation in the form of pits and ditches (MSL15520) and nearby at 41-47 Lower Cippenham Lane a number of 12th century ditches and gullies were recorded (MRM16203). In addition, the earthworks of a Medieval moated site are recorded at Cippenham Court c. 800m south of the Site (HE ref 1013455: HER ref MSL163).

2.3.21 A mill at Cippenham was given to Burnham Abbey in the 13th century (MSL380). In the grant were included the dam, fishponds and also the water course. Documentary sources dated to 1638 associated with the mill mention a place called Ay Mill. Later cartographic sources record the site of Ay Mill just beyond the western boundary of the Site.

**2.3.22 Overall, the archaeological potential of the Site for this period can be defined as low. However, evidence of agricultural activity and land division could be present.**

**Post-Medieval and Modern Period (AD 1540 – Present)**

2.3.23 Early maps show the Site occupying an area of agricultural land bisected by the parish boundary (see CGMS 2014). These maps also show a road crossing the western part of the Site, running from a junction with Bath Road in the south to Farnham Court in the north. In 1770 Jefferys Map shows Ah Mill (also known as Ay Mill) just beyond the western boundary of the Site. The early 19th century maps (not reproduced) show minor change to the layout of the Site, however the road to Farnham Mill appears to have been reduced to a trackway and Ay or Ah Mill is shown as Burnham Mill on the 1825 Ordnance survey.

2.3.24 The 1897/1900 Ordnance Survey (not reproduced) shows the Site occupying 3 large fields bisected (built 1845) by the railway line and a number of smaller fields within the northern part of the Site. With the exception of the removal of field boundaries, minor changes to the layout of the Site.

2.3.25 In 1918 the 'Slough Project' was approved by government and 668 hectares of agricultural land was purchased by the War Office for the development of a central military vehicle repair depot. The intention was to repair vehicles for government use or sell them on to the private sector and make a profit. However, progress was slow and the waterlogged site, full of rusting vehicles, was known as 'The Dump'.

2.3.26 In 1920 the government sold the 'Slough Project' to a private investor and the Slough Trading Company Ltd was formed. The Trading Estate's passenger station was opened in the early 1920's. The 1926 Ordnance Survey (not reproduced) shows the early layout of STE. By 1926 Liverpool Road, Bedford Avenue and Buckingham Avenue had been laid out. The buildings on the estate included a Post Office, Restaurant, Bank, and railway station. In 1929 Slough Urban District Council extended its boundary to include 312 acres of the Trading Estate which

were in the parish of Farnham Royal and parts of Burnham, Stoke Poges and Langley Marsh. The 1938 Ordnance Survey (not reproduced) shows the trading estate under construction on the newly acquired land. Later Ordnance Survey map shows the Site fully developed within industrial and commercial units. The Site was redeveloped in the 1920's and parts of the Site have been redeveloped during the 1970's, 80's and 90's to the present day.

## 2.4 Factors effecting archaeological survival

- 2.4.1 The development at STE in the early 20th century will have caused a moderate/severe widespread below ground impacts through topsoil stripping and the cutting of foundations and services. The redevelopment of the Site in the 1970's, 80's and 90's, along with more recent redevelopment, will have caused a severe below ground impact through machine stripping and the cutting of foundations and services. Where mass excavations have been undertaken, for the construction of underground car parking, a power station, a pond and railway cuttings, any archaeological potential will have been removed entirely.
- 2.4.2 The interpretation of the severity of these impacts is based on the number of times an area has been developed and redeveloped as well as the scale of construction related below ground impacts (see **Figure 3**).
- 2.4.3 Where areas have been subject to a single phase of development, construction will have caused a moderate widespread below ground disturbance. Where areas have been subject to two or more phases of development and redevelopment, it is likely that below ground impacts have been substantial and widespread. Overall, it is anticipated that areas that may have retained an archaeological potential, within the footprint of the proposed developments, will be localised and likely to have been truncated by previous machine stripping for access, car parking and landscaping.
- 2.4.4 Comparing the previous 2014 SPZ plan (**Figure 2**) of areas where further archaeological investigation was identified as being required, the following plots have been subject to two or more phases of redevelopment and are therefore considered to have poor archaeological survival judging by the nature of expected archaeological remains (see **Figure 3** for previous development impacts and previous areas of archaeological evaluation).
- Plot 670 in the south-eastern corner of the SPZ.
  - Plot 724-729 in the north of the SPZ
  - Plot 2, Plot 762a/3a and Plots 750 to 755 in the south of the SPZ
  - Plot 61/105 in the far south-eastern part of the Site which was highlighted as an area of Early Medieval potential
- 2.4.5 Agricultural use of the Site prior to development will have caused moderate, widespread truncation, however this is unlikely to be a factor in assessment of archaeological survival when compared to the various phases of development impact.

## 2.5 Previous archaeological investigations

- 2.5.1 Since the current 2014 SPZ was granted, certain areas of the Site have been subject to archaeological investigations under the current 2014 SPZ these are shown on **Figure 3** and include.
- **Land at 820-821 Yeovil Road (ERM1950)**

Four trenches excavated in 2016 by Thames Valley Archaeological Services (TVAS) revealed only a natural feature and an undated ditch or gully. A single struck flint was the only find.

It therefore considered that Plots 820 and 821 in the southwestern corner of the SPZ have been evaluated and to not constitute Plots where further archaeological investigation is required.

■ **758-763 Henley Road (ERM2190)**

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in August 2018 at 758-763 Henley Road, STE, 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.

It therefore considered that Plots 776 – 779 and 759 – 763 in the southwestern corner of the SPZ have been evaluated and do not constitute Plots where further archaeological investigation is required.

As an extension due to trial trench coverage and negative evidence from this area (as it is probable that the site was benched to provide a level surface for the buildings) it is also judged that Plots 780/1 do not constitute Plots where further archaeological investigation is required.

2.5.2 These areas, due to the lack of mitigation required, have been removed from areas where further archaeological evaluation is required within the New SPZ Scheme.

## 2.6 Archaeological potential

2.6.1 This report has assessed the archaeological potential based on an examination of HER data for a wider study area alongside a consideration of the Sites geological and topographical position within the wider study area. Based on the available evidence, it is considered that the majority of the Site was unattractive for settlement because of heavy clay soils. Indeed, settlement within the wider study area appears to focus on the well-draining gravel terraces close to the resource-rich Thames floodplain to the south of the Site.

2.6.2 However, two sites containing late prehistoric and Roman settlement evidence have been recorded within 200m of the south-western part of the Site (225 Bath Road and Hill Rise Nursery), where the Site lies close to Cippenham Brook. It is considered that because of the proximity of late prehistoric and Roman settlement and the presence of a nearby water source, the south-western part of the Site continues to have archaeological potential for remains dating from the late prehistoric and Roman periods.

2.6.3 However, previous archaeological investigations have yielded limited archaeological information and the evaluation at 758-763 Henley Road revealed no evidence for any stratigraphy pre-dating the construction of the extant buildings and their associated surfaces and it is probable that in these locations, the development sites were benched to provide a level surface for the buildings. This process may have removed any archaeology within these areas of the Site.

2.6.4 Overall, this assessment, taking direction from the previous methodology has established that any future development within the Site will not impact on any designated heritage assets of archaeological interest. It is considered that the south-western part of the Site has a low-moderate archaeological potential for late prehistoric and Romano-British remains.

- 2.6.5 Any future development within this part of the STE has the potential to impact on late prehistoric and Roman remains of no more than local significance. Therefore, it is anticipated that the local authority's archaeological advisor will recommend a programme of targeted archaeological works prior to any future redevelopment within the area identified as having an archaeological potential and that this could be secured by an appropriately worded condition on the future SPZ. It is considered that this assessment provides a suitable strategy for addressing archaeological issues as part of the replacement STE SPZ Scheme.
- 2.6.6 This assessment and sifting exercise identified areas where further archaeological investigation is required and a new plan showing the locations of these areas is enclosed at **Figure 4**.
- 2.6.7 Archaeological fieldwork will only be implemented should development come forward in the areas identified on **Figure 4** and would be secured by condition as part of the New SPZ Scheme. The wording of the condition will reflect the current wording (see Section 1.1.4).

## 3 OVERARCHING METHODOLOGY

### 3.1 Introduction

- 3.1.1 This section sets out the fieldwork scope and methodology, reporting and archiving processes. This overarching methodology will only be implemented should development come forward in the areas identified on **Figure 4** and would be secured by condition as part of the New SPZ Scheme.
- 3.1.2 The archaeological work set out in this WSI comprises a staged programme of work, to reflect varied archaeological potential across distinct parts of the SPZ:
- **Stage 1 – archaeological trial trench evaluation.** This will be undertaken pre-construction and will clarify the potential of this part of the Site. Human remains, if present, would not be disturbed and the location noted. The results will inform the mitigation strategy for this area, if required (e.g., excavation or watching brief).
  - **Stage 2 – archaeological mitigation at the start of the construction phase.** If archaeological remains of significance are found in Stage 1 further archaeological fieldwork (archaeological mitigation) may be required. Three strategies would be undertaken based on archaeological potential. The appointed Principal Contractor will manage the Site, and will be responsible for Health and Safety, Site security and welfare, in accordance with CDM Regulations. The archaeological fieldwork subcontractor will work in accordance with the Health and Safety requirements of the Principal Contractor and/or the client. The strategies comprise:
    - Archaeological ‘strip, map and sample.’ This strategy will mitigate the impact where complex/deep archaeological remains are not anticipated, without causing significant delays to the construction programme. If complex remains are encountered as the hardstanding is stripped back, sufficient time will be allowed for recording.
    - Archaeological watching brief. This will monitor preliminary ground works and record remains exposed, in an area of low potential.
- 3.1.3 The results of the Stage 1 trial trench evaluation will be presented in a separate evaluation fieldwork report and may inform an archaeological mitigation strategy.
- 3.1.4 The results of the Stage 2 archaeological mitigation will be set out in a fully illustrated Post-Excavation Assessment upon completion of the fieldwork. The report will be submitted to BA for informational purposes and the finds and final project archive stored at a suitable repository. The post-excavation assessment report will form part of the project archive. It will include a statement of the quantity and perceived quality of the data in the Site archive, a statement of the archaeological potential of the data to answer the project research aims, and recommendations on further analysis and data storage and curation requirements.
- 3.1.5 Where appropriate, the results will be further disseminated at a level appropriate to the significance of the remains recorded. This might be either a summary notes or an article in a local or period-based archaeological journal.
- 3.1.6 All work will follow the Standards and Code of Practice laid down by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA 2023), Historic England Archaeological Guidance (HE 2009, 2022).
- 3.1.7 Following agreement of this overarching WSI, A location specific WSI/RAMS (Risk Assessment and Method Statement) to be produced by the archaeological fieldwork

subcontractor which would detail the specialist team who will conduct the fieldwork. All (archaeological fieldwork) mitigation would be conducted by a suitably qualified archaeological organisation (ClfA registered), before being released for construction.

- 3.1.8 Due to the proposed period of operation of the New SPZ Scheme it is considered that planning policy relating to archaeology and relevant methodologies may need to be updated should the policy or guidance from the governing bodies change.

### 3.2 Stage 1 – archaeological trial trench evaluation

- 3.2.1 Trial trench evaluation as defined by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (ClfA) is to 'determine, as far as is possible, the nature of the archaeological resource within a specified area using appropriate methods and practices' (ClfA, 2014). The results will inform any Stage 2 mitigation strategy for this area, if required (e.g., excavation or watching brief).
- 3.2.2 This is further explained as 'a limited programme of non-intrusive and/or intrusive fieldwork which determines the presence or absence of archaeological features, structures, deposits, artefacts or ecofacts within a specified area or site.... If such archaeological remains are present field evaluation defines their character, extent, quality, and preservation, and enables an assessment of their worth in a local, regional, national, or international context as appropriate.'
- 3.2.3 Para 3.2.12 of the ClfA guidelines states that '*the archaeologist must be mindful that the purpose of evaluation is to determine the presence, or not, of archaeological deposits and to assess their nature, extent etc, and must not unnecessarily interfere with archaeological remains. The archaeologist must make every effort to ensure that field evaluation is minimally intrusive and minimally destructive to archaeological remains in both the design and execution of work.*'

#### Research aims and objectives

- 3.2.4 The aim of the evaluation is to clarify the presence, nature, date, and extent of any archaeological remains that might be present in areas of the Site which not been investigated previously. The following research questions can be outlined:
- Is there any evidence for a prehistoric presence within the investigation areas? If so, what is its context and the date range? How does it relate to other evidence of this period in the wider archaeological landscape?
  - If present, how does archaeological evidence from the investigation areas modify or enhance our understanding of human occupation in this area?
  - What are the nature and levels of natural deposits, and what is the extent of the modern disturbance (if applicable)?

#### Archaeological Trial Trench Investigation

- 3.2.5 The archaeological investigation is to comprise of a set of archaeological trenches. The scope of the trial trench investigation will be dependant on the ground conditions and nature of the proposed development within the specific plot.
- 3.2.6 Geotechnical investigations may provide further information of the below ground deposits across the specific plots reducing the need for archaeological investigation.
- 3.2.7 Health and Safety will be the highest priority for the archaeological fieldwork. The location of the trenches has been defined by archaeological potential and non-archaeological constraints, including the presence of known live services. At the time of the evaluation current service



plans will be consulted, and the Site will be inspected prior to the commencement of any machine excavation, including the examination of any available exposures. The area will be CAT scanned before any excavation to confirm that no previously unidentified electrical cables are present.

- 3.2.8 The trenches will be excavated by a mechanical excavator equipped with a toothless grading bucket. All machining will be conducted under archaeological supervision. Topsoil and subsoil will be stored separately adjacent to each trench. This will be done by the Attendance Contractor under archaeological supervision by the archaeological Site Supervisor, who will decide when remains of archaeological significance requiring recording are revealed.
- 3.2.9 Machine excavation will be undertaken under the direction of a suitably experienced archaeologist. Trenches will be excavated by machine using a toothless ditching bucket to reveal archaeological remains or, where these are absent, undisturbed natural horizons.
- 3.2.10 Following exposure of archaeological horizons, investigation by the archaeological fieldwork subcontractor may continue by machine excavation or be by hand, including cleaning, examination, sampling and recording in the appropriate manner. Archaeological hand dug investigation and recording will proceed only when significant archaeological levels have been reached and will be sufficient to allow the nature, extent, survival, and significance of archaeological remains to be identified. The trench will be cleaned sufficiently to enhance the definition of any features, unless it is certain that there are no archaeological remains present.
- 3.2.11 The levels at which all sampling excavation and/or mechanised excavation will cease will be determined by the archaeological fieldwork subcontractor. This will typically entail a Site visit. Where the evaluation has revealed no significant archaeological remains digital photographs may be sufficient.

#### **Sampling Strategy**

- 3.2.12 To obtain sufficient information on the nature, date, extent, survival and significance of any potential archaeological features and deposits identified, these will be sample excavated by hand. It is not the objective of the evaluation to archaeologically excavate features in their entirety as this would form part of a future mitigation strategy for preservation by record.
- 3.2.13 Where necessary, a supplementary strategy for sampling of environmental deposits may be developed by the Project Team in accordance with Historic England and ClfA guidelines (Historic England 2011).

#### **Archaeological Recording**

- 3.2.14 Standard archaeological recording methods comprise a written record (both description and interpretation with annotated sketches where appropriate), scaled drawings both in plan and in section, photographic record, and retrieval and annotation of archaeological finds and samples. Written records will be produced using either pro-forma context or trench record sheets and by the single context planning method (if appropriate).

#### **Archaeological Finds**

- 3.2.15 All recovery, retention, and treatment of finds and samples will be conducted mindful of the overall purpose of the exercise, i.e., to evaluate for further decision making, as expressed in ClfA (2014) para 3.2.12 and 3.3.8. To this end, all artefactual and ecofactual material will be reviewed on Site for its capability to inform the evaluation report.
- 3.2.16 Identified archaeological finds and artefacts will be carefully recovered by hand and bagged or boxed according to the type of artefact (i.e., pottery, ceramic building material/CBM, bone, worked flint, metal) archaeological context from which they came, with a label indicating the Site code, find type and context reference number).

- 3.2.17 All relevant finds will be washed and then marked in accordance with the project archive repository guidelines. Records of artefact assemblages will clearly state how they were recovered, sub-sampled and processed.
- 3.2.18 All finds of gold and silver, or other objects definable as ‘treasure’ under the Treasure Act 1996, will be removed to a safe place and reported to the local Coroner according to the procedures of the Treasure Act 1996 and the Treasure (Designation) Order 2002.
- 3.2.19 Whereas ownership of any finds on the Site lies with the landowner, it is necessary that the landowner gives the necessary approvals, licences, and permissions to donate any finds recovered from the Site to the project archive repository, to enable that body to carry out its obligations to curate the finds, in perpetuity, as part of the archaeological archive from this Site.

### Human Remains

- 3.2.20 Human remains are unlikely to be present. If any finds of human remains are exposed, these will be left in situ, covered, and protected. If removal is essential, it can only take place with a Burial Licence as issued by the Ministry of Justice (Coroner’s Division). It will be necessary to ensure that adequate security is provided.

### Reporting

- 3.2.21 A fully illustrated archaeological evaluation report will be made publicly available following completion of fieldwork. In accordance with the ClfA standards and guidance (2014) This will include as a minimum, the following:
- Non-technical summary. One-page summary outlining project background and circumstance, the principal reason for the work and when it was undertaken and by whom, its objectives, main results, and where appropriate, recommendations.
  - Introduction. This will set out the circumstances of the project such as planning background and the reason for the work and will include the aims and specific research objectives reflected or reiterated in this WSI.
  - Archaeological and historical background. A summary with the Site description (including size, geology and topography, location) and background. In most cases this will be derived from the desk-based assessment.
  - Fieldwork methodology. The methods used. This will include the detail of any variation to the agreed WSI and the reasons for such.
  - Results. This will present a series of summary objective statements, organised clearly in relation to the methods used, and describing both structural data and associated finds and/or environmental data recovered. Descriptive material will be clearly separated from interpretative statements. It will place the evidence in a local and regional context, highlighting any research priorities which it addresses. Technical terminology (including dating or period references) will be explained.
  - Conclusions. Summary and interpretation of the results and their significance. Other elements might include a confidence rating on the results and limitations (e.g., weather or problems of access). Recommendations on further work may also be included.
  - References and bibliography. A list of all sources used. The destination of the archive (records and finds) will be noted in the report along with the Site code assigned by the relevant project archive repository.

- Appendices. Essential technical and supporting detail, including for example lists of artefacts and contexts or details of measurements, gazetteers etc. Pottery reports will be expected to refer to the appropriate type series for Roman, medieval, and post-medieval pottery.
- Illustrations. Location plans and sections at appropriate scales showing location and position of trenches dug and features located and selective photography. Section drawing will include heights Ordnance Datum (OD); plans should include OD spot heights for all principal strata and features.

### **Publication, dissemination, and copyright**

- 3.2.22 Copies of the report should be deposited with the Berkshire Historic Environment Record (HER), on the understanding that it will be made available as a public document after an appropriate period. A concise summary of the results of the work will be submitted to the HER, and National Record for the Historic Environment (NHRE), as maintained by Historic England, via a standard OASIS archaeological report form.
- 3.2.23 Copyright will remain with the archaeological fieldwork contractor under the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 with all rights reserved. An exclusive licence will be provided to the client, or their appointed representative, for use of all project records and reports in all matters relating to the project.

### **Archiving**

- 3.2.24 The Site archive will contain all the data collected during the fieldwork, including records and finds, and all reports. The archaeological fieldwork subcontractor will ensure that the archive is quantified, ordered, indexed and internally consistent, and adequate resources will be provided to ensure that all records are checked. Archive consolidation will be undertaken immediately following the conclusion of fieldwork.
- 3.2.25 The archive will be compiled in accordance with the guidelines in the Historic England procedural document, Management of Research Projects in the Historical Environment (MoRPHE) (HE 2015). All finds will be cleaned, catalogued, and prepared for storage in accordance with the guidelines contained in ClfA (2014), Walker (1990) and Watkinson and Neal (2001).
- 3.2.26 Any finds of archaeological interest should be appropriately conserved and deposited in an appropriate institution: any finds which cannot be so deposited should be fully analysed and published.
- 3.2.27 Finds and records will be assembled and curated by a single organisation, and be available for public consultation in a project archive repository compatible with other archaeological archives in the county, and adhering to professional guidelines and standards.
- 3.2.28 Copyright of the written archive will be vested in the project archive repository, which will be clearly identified in the evaluation report. The site archive will be deposited following the issuing the evaluation report.

## **3.3 Stage 2 – archaeological mitigation**

- 3.3.1 Stage 2 archaeological mitigation may comprise the following strategies and will be dependent on the results of the Stage 1 evaluation. This section provides overarching methodology that potentially may be used. The strategies comprise:
- Open area archaeological excavation.

- Archaeological watching brief. This will monitor preliminary ground works and record remains exposed, in an area of low potential.

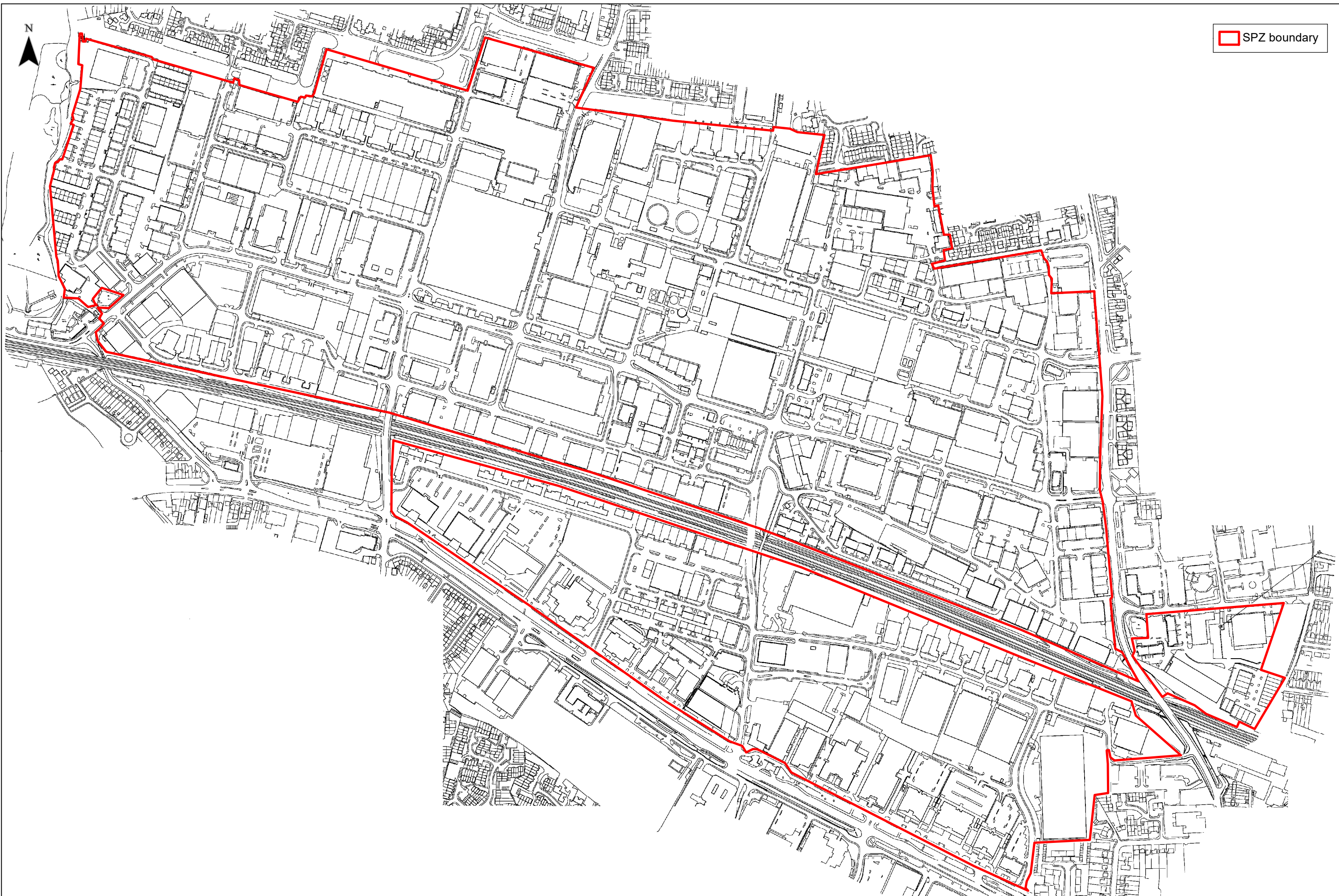
3.3.2 It is proposed that if Stage 2 archaeological mitigation is required, the methodology will be detailed in a Stage 2 WSI.

### **3.4 Project Assurance and Health and Safety**

3.4.1 The work will be undertaken by an archaeological fieldwork subcontractor that is a Registered Organisation with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA).

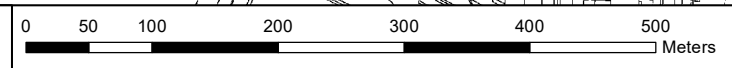
3.4.2 Health and Safety will take priority over all other requirements. A conditional aspect of all archaeological work is both safe access to the area of work and a safe working environment. The project will be conducted in accordance with safe working practices.

# APPENDIX 1: FIGURES

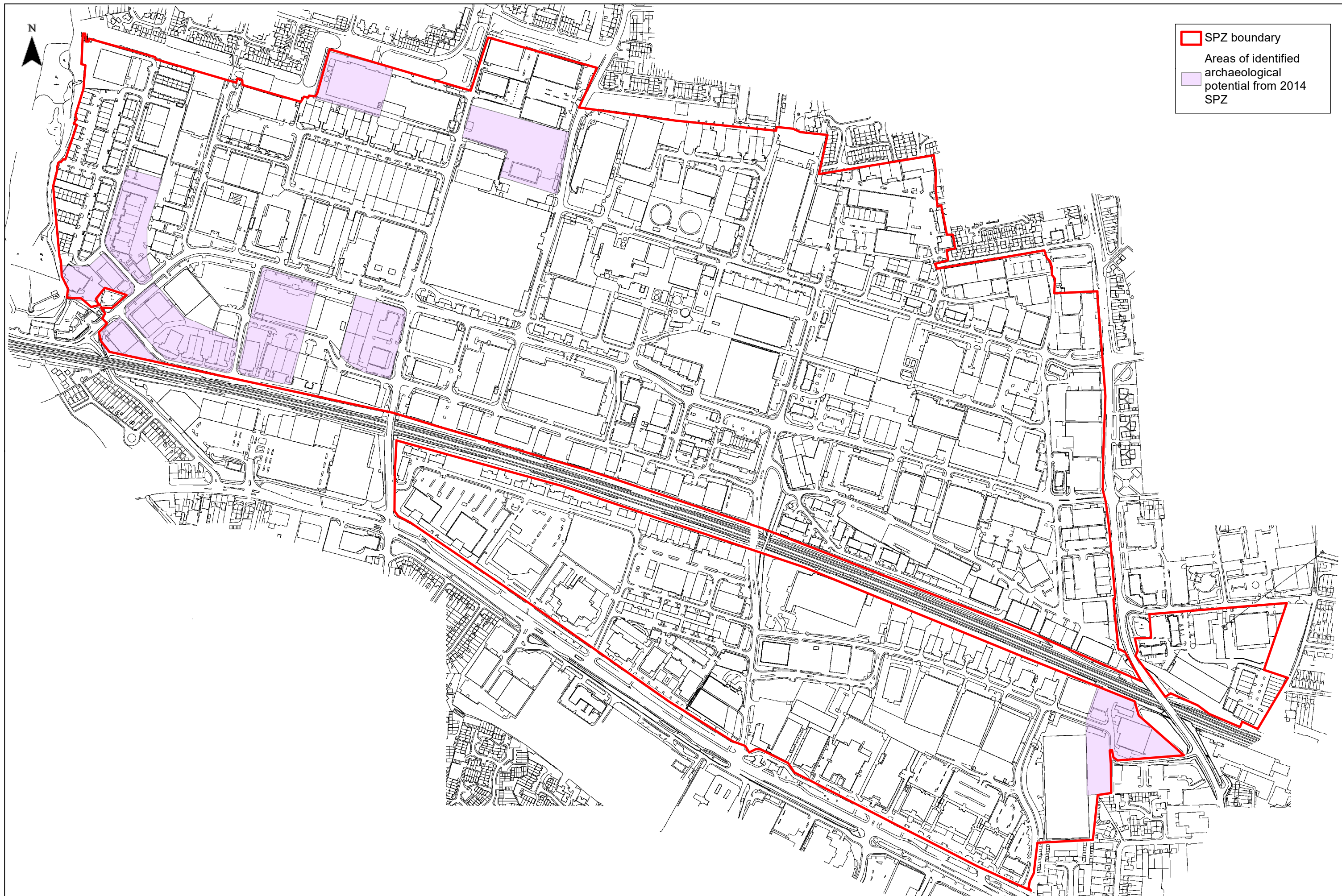


**Slough Trading Estate New SPZ Scheme Written Scheme of Investigation**

Figure 1: Site location



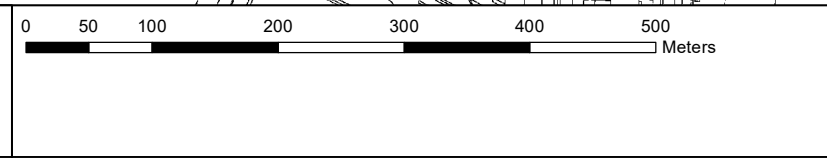
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Drawn: HC	Checked: LK
Figure 02	Rev A



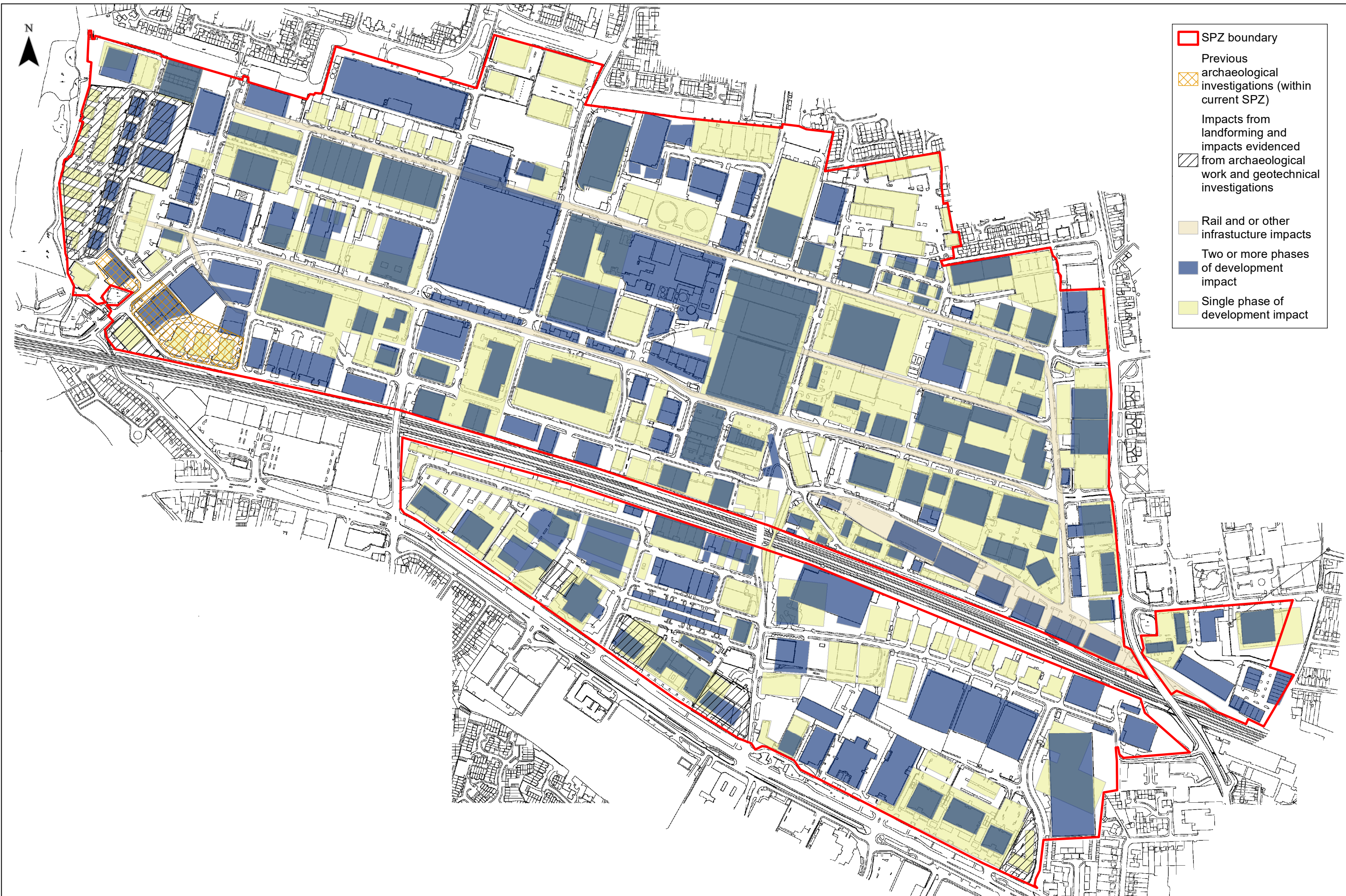
SPZ boundary  
 Areas of identified archaeological potential from 2014 SPZ



**Slough Trading Estate New SPZ Scheme Written Scheme of Investigation**  
 Figure 2: Areas where further archaeological investigation is required (SPZ 2014-2024)

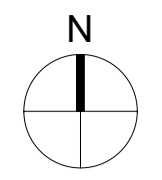


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Figure 02	Rev A

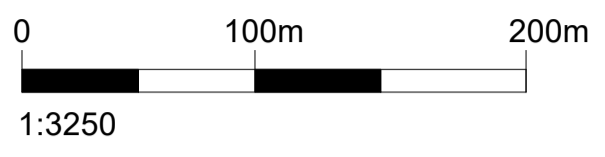


- SPZ boundary
- Previous archaeological investigations (within current SPZ)
- Impacts from landforming and impacts evidenced from archaeological work and geotechnical investigations
- Rail and or other infrastucture impacts
- Two or more phases of development impact
- Single phase of development impact

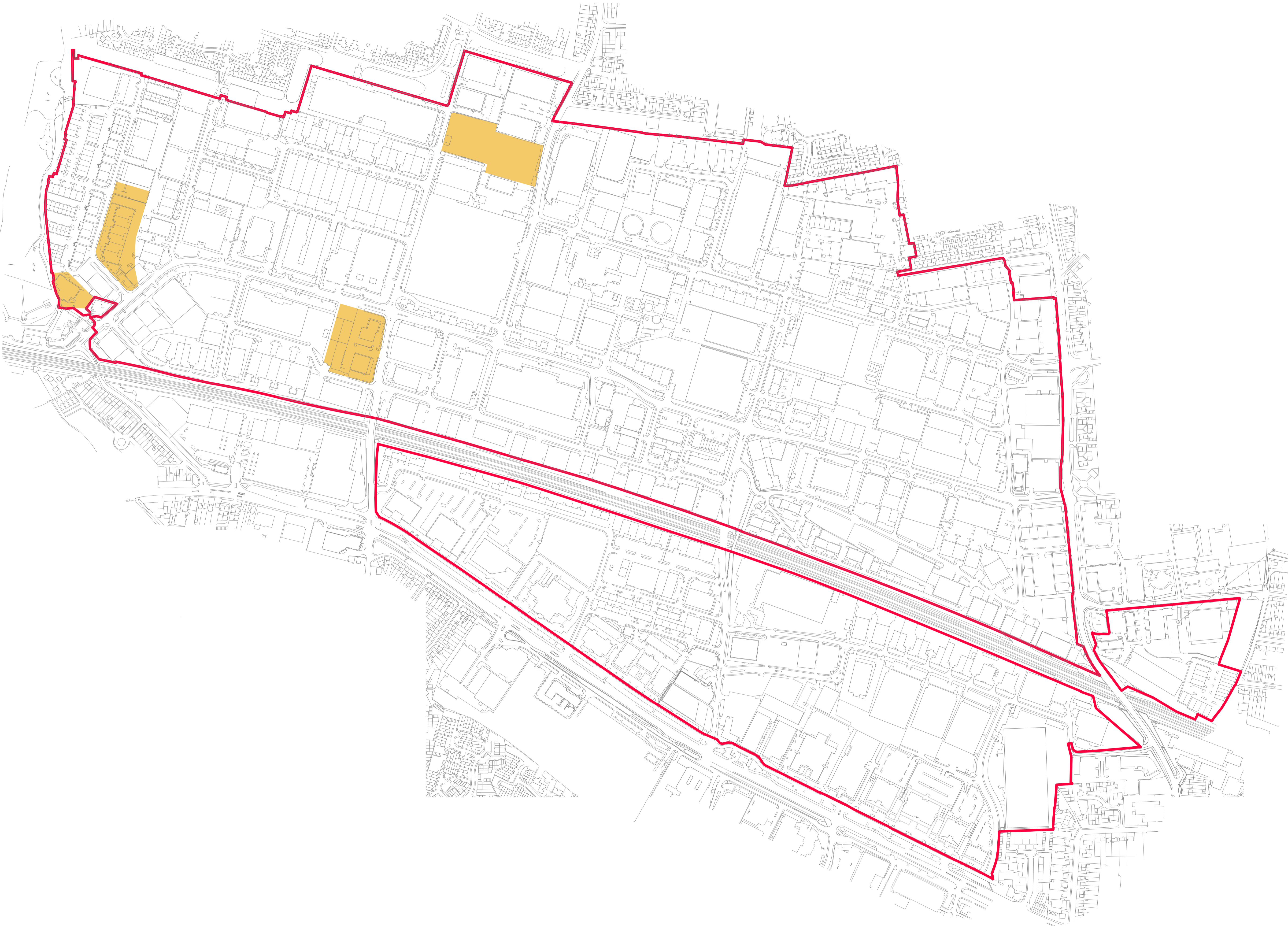




NOTES:  
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 Contractors must verify all dimensions on site before commencing any work or stop drawings. This drawing is not to be scaled. Use figured dimensions only.  
 Building areas are liable to adjustment over the course of the design process due to the ongoing construction detailing developments.  
 Please note the information contained within this drawing is solely for the benefit of the employer and should not be relied upon by third parties.  
 The CDM hazard management procedures for the Chetwoods aspects of the design of this project are to be found on the "Chetwoods - Hazard Analysis and Design Risk Assessment" and/or drawings. The full project design teams comprehensive set of hazard management procedures are available from the Principle Designer appointed for the project.



- SPZ Boundary
- Areas of remaining archaeological potential



01	Inclusion of SPZ boundary to key	29/01/24	SL
00	First Issue	29/01/24	SL

Rev	Revision Description	Date	Author/Reviewer

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 London, EC1R 0QJ

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 www.chetwoods.com



Project  
**SPZ**

Client  
**SEGRO**

Drawing Title  
**Figure 4 Archaeology Written Scheme for Investigation (WSI) Locations**

Scale	Size	Drawn	Checked	Date
As indicated	A1	SL	LF	29/01/24

Project	Originator	Zone	Level	Type	Role	Number	Rev
5120	CA	00	ZZ	DR	A	05028	01