

Berkshire

File: Monument: SMR 6030.02.000

878866

Event: ESL29

T H A M E S V A L L E Y

Source: SSL 12641

ARCHAEOLOGICAL

S E R V I C E S

Excavation of a Roman
field system and other
features at Bath Road,
Slough, Berkshire, 1995.

Excavation of a
Roman field system
and other features at
Bath Road, Slough,
Berkshire, 1995

Interim Report for
Guardian Properties

**Excavation of a Roman field system and other features
at Bath Road, Slough, Berkshire, 1995.
Interim Report**

Contents

1.....	Introduction
3.....	Archaeological background
3.....	Topography and Geology
4.....	Aims
4.....	Results
15.....	The finds
15.....	Pottery by Jane Timby
15....	Charred plant remains by John Letts
15....	Animal bone by Sheila Hamilton-Dyer
16....	Flint by Tess Durden
17....	Discussion
18....	References

Summary

A series of evaluation trenches and an excavation at Bath Road, Slough, revealed a number of ditches, pits, post holes and gullies with associated finds. A moderate assemblage of pottery datable to the 1st century AD and representing a continuation of an Iron Age pottery tradition was found. The number of finds suggest a low intensity of activity but with an occupation area probably being close by. The main features discovered may represent a ditched trackway adjacent to a paddock, and possibly aligned on an earlier field boundary.

Acknowledgments

Thanks are due to the following for their contribution towards the investigation of the site at Bath Road: EC Harris and Guardian Properties for financing the project; Wates Construction Limited for on site assistance and providing earth-moving equipment; Chris Moore, Babbie public service division; Steve Ford of TVAS and those who took part in the fieldwork and post-fieldwork; Mel Costello, Alan Ford, Isca Howell, Lou Huscroft, Jenny Mitcham, Jo Pine and Leigh Torrance.

**Excavation of a Roman field system and other features
at Bath Road, Slough, Berkshire, 1995.**

Interim Report 95/20

by Lucy Howell and Tess Durden,
with contributions from Sheila Hamilton-Dyer,
John Letts and Jane Timby.

INTRODUCTION

This report details the results of an archaeological investigation and excavation carried out prior to the redevelopment of the former Sara Lee sports ground at 225 Bath Road, Slough, Berkshire (SU 49512 18072). (Figs. 1 and 2). An earlier evaluation commissioned by Edge Properties Ltd and Guarding Properties Ltd was carried out between in April and November 1994 by the Museum of London Archaeology Service (Anon 1994b). The subsequent archaeological investigation and excavation was commissioned by EC Harris for Guardian Properties and carried out between March - May 1995 by Thames Valley Archaeological Services. The project was undertaken as a requirement of the town planning process to specifications agreed with Babbie Group, Reading who act as archaeological advisors to the local planning authority.

The proposal site was to be developed for the erection of three non-food units and car parking, with the eastern and southern area of site being evaluated in April 1994, while the western and northern area being evaluated in November 1994. The majority of the April evaluation trenches revealed no archaeological deposits except for an east-west aligned linear feature located in Trench J, situated in the south west area of the proposal site. However, the November evaluation revealed archaeological deposits: a north-south aligned linear feature in Trench Z located in the far north west area of the site and a further north-south aligned linear along with other features located in Trench W on the far western side (MOLAS 1994). As a consequence of the evaluations, areas of archaeological interest were highlighted within the development area, resulting in further archaeological excavation and recording prior

to development.

This further work was concentrated in the western half of the proposal site in the former Bowling Green (area 2), the old tennis courts (area 3) and land to the south of the tennis courts (area 1). The subsequent archaeological work took place in stages, working closely within the timetable of the ground workers. Area 1 was stripped under archaeological supervision, with three-quarters of it being taken down to the top of archaeological deposits. The remaining quarter up to the edge of area 3 was stripped under archaeological supervision but not to a level where archaeological deposits were visible, so no further archaeological investigation was possible. This strategy was in accordance with the brief prepared by the archaeological advisor to the County Council which stated that 'mechanical excavation will take place down to the limit of the proposed ground reduction or to the top of archaeological deposits, whichever is higher'.

In area 3 only the tarmac needed to be removed to reach the formation level necessary for the ground workers. This meant that the archaeological deposits were not uncovered, being located at least a further 0.30 m. below the ground. An added complication was that areas 3 and most of 1 were to be subjected to vibro-compaction. No further ground reduction was to take place, except where the foundation trenches were to be located. However, the area subject to the vibro-compaction would be compacted to a considerable extent, to be achieved by inserting a c. 0.40 m. diameter drill on a 2 m. by 1 m. grid and filled with gravel in order to compress the ground. Although this would not completely destroy all archaeological deposits, it was likely to cause damage to some of the existing features. The archaeological advisor to the county council was consulted over the area of vibro-compaction and believed that it did not warrant a further 0.30 m. below the contractors formation level being stripped in order to investigate any archaeological deposits prior to compaction. A watching brief was to be carried out during the digging of the foundation trenches in this area

and any archaeological remains encountered were to be recorded immediately.

The last area to be investigated was area 2; this was stripped under archaeological supervision to the formation level required by the contractors in accordance with the brief. All of this area was again covered by made up ground. Only to the far north and to the far east of area 2 were archaeological remains visible and therefore excavated. Any archaeological remains which were not visible here were preserved in-situ beneath the foundations.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

Relatively little archaeology is recorded in the immediate area (Ford 1987), though finds and features of varying date are known from this part of Slough (MOLAS 1994). Stray finds include flintwork ranging in date from the Lower Palaeolithic to the Late Bronze Age; a complete Iron Age pot and Neolithic, Bronze Age, Roman and Medieval pottery sherds. Bronze Age ring-ditches and pits, and Roman ditches, pits and field boundaries are also recorded in the area (Anon, 1991; 1994a). To the South a Medieval moated site and royal deer park are present in the Cippenham area, along with the possible site of the Medieval village of Cippenham. The evaluation at Bath Road by MOLAS revealed what was thought to be Late Bronze Age and Early Iron Age field boundary ditches, with some Prehistoric and Roman pottery (Anon 1994b).

TOPOGRAPHY and GEOLOGY

The site is located on the far western side of the Sara Lee sports ground, lying between number 225 Bath Road and the residential development of Westgate Crescent, Slough. The sports ground lies on the south side of Bath Road (A4) about 3 km. west of the centre of Slough. The site covers an area of roughly 0.5 ha. and was previously in use as a bowling green and tennis court, and also housed a temporary building (groundsman's hut). The topography of

the site slopes from north (29.29m OD) to south (28.83m OD) and from east (29.62 m. OD) to west (28.33 m. OD). The geology is the Taplow terrace clay, sands and gravels, sealed by brickearth (BGS 1981).

AIMS

The purpose of the evaluation was to determine the date, nature, extent and state of preservation of any archaeological deposits within the proposal area, and the excavation was designed to recover more information regarding the nature of the archaeological deposits revealed by the previous evaluations in Trenches Z, W, and J.

RESULTS

Evaluation

14 trenches were dug during the course of the evaluation and were located randomly/uniformly across the site (Fig. 2). These trenches were detailed in the evaluation report (Anon 1994b) and are not repeated here. Archaeological deposits were only located on the western side of the site, in Trenches Z, W and J.

Eight features were located in these trenches comprising a number of ditches and a few pits. Surface finds were recorded in Trenches X, J and Z. All were partially/fully excavated as detailed in Table 1. There were no indications of any banks to accompany the ditches.

Trench J contained a north south aligned linear feature (slightly truncated) possibly dating to the Late Bronze Age or Early Iron Age, the only finds being a pot sherd and one flint flake, although a mixture of surface finds were recorded. Its function is unclear but it could be a field boundary. It would seem probable that the ditch F6 located in the excavation is a continuation of the linear feature in trench J, although complicated by a possible recut observed during the excavation.

Trench W contained six features, two of the features (1019 and 1008) excavated at the southern end of the tennis courts (area 3) appeared to be linear features on a north east - south west alignment, although the easternmost one (1800) did appear to be slightly curving towards the north west - south west and was not revealed in trench X. Both also contained material dated to the Late Bronze Age or Early Iron Age. The evaluation report speculated that all these features might be contemporary. However, the fieldwork described here was not able to examine these areas. Two roughly circular pits which contained burnt flint and flint flakes were also exposed and were possibly of Prehistoric date.

Trench Z located a single north-south aligned linear feature on the eastern side of the bowling green (area 2) with pottery dating from the Prehistoric through to the Roman and Medieval periods. The subsequent excavation relocated this feature (F8), and although only traceable a further four metres northwards, it was traced southwards for just over ten metres to its termination. Pottery from the excavation was all 1st C. AD in date with a Late Iron Age style and would suggest a likewise date for the feature, with possible later disturbances in the Medieval period.

Excavation

The excavation was conducted in several phases working within the timetable of the ground workers. The site covered an area of about 5000 sq m. and was stripped in selected areas using a 360° excavator fitted with a toothless bucket. As outlined in the introduction not all of the site was stripped, and where stripping did occur it was not always down to an archaeological level. The foundation trenches subject to a watching brief were excavated with two sizes of toothed bucket 1 m. and 0.50 m. wide. All ground disturbance was done under archaeological supervision. Where possible, archaeological features were noted and given markers as the topsoil was being removed. Where no archaeological deposits were apparent and deeper excavation allowed, slightly deeper stripping

took place to ensure that any possible features were not obscured by subsoil deposits.

The excavation located a number of ditches and gullies, along with a few post holes and pits. All except for one ditch, F6, which had a recut, F5 (the same as F7), were located at the far north east end of site. In the area to the immediate south of the tennis courts (area 3) but to the far western side, the ground was stripped much deeper than any where else on site as it had accumulated a greater depth of soil build-up. The area appeared to occupy a depression and was at a point where the gradual north-south slope of the site was most obvious, as was the east-west gradient. Colluvium up to a depth of 0.45 m. was recorded and surface finds of pottery were collected. However, deeper excavation was not carried out as the formation level had already been reached.

The only feature located in the southern area of the site appeared just below the topsoil and was a north east-south west aligned U-shaped ditch. The length was traced for 30 m. and three, 1 m. wide slots were excavated. It would appear from excavation that the ditch had possibly been recut before, with F6 being the original ditch while F5 was the recut. In the first slot excavated all traces of F6 had been removed by the recut F5. The overall depth of the ditches varied between 0.40-0.45 m. and the width between 0.50-1.75 m., with the ditch getting progressively narrower towards the north. From the results of the evaluation it would seem probable that the ditches F6, and F5 were the same ditch located in trench J in the evaluation, or, if not, they were similar ditches on the same alignment. Finds of pottery dated to the 1st C. AD.

Area 3 was not stripped but a watching brief was carried out during the digging of the foundation trenches and pads. No archaeological features were observed. The depth of the foundation trenches and pads varied between 1.60-1.90 m. deep with a variety of widths and lengths from 0.45-3 m. Generally across this area 0.40-0.60 m. was made-up ground. However, in places the

depth of made-up ground ranged up to 1.70 m. This area was where the evaluation trench W was located and where the main concentration of archaeological deposits were sited in the evaluation, but the area did not prove to be productive during the watching brief.

The final area of work concentrated on the bowling green (area 2). Only on the far east of the green were archaeological deposits visible; these consisted of pits, post holes, gullies and several ditches, mostly on the same alignment of north east-south west.

Ditches\trackway

Three ditches were excavated in this main concentration of deposits F8, F12 and F36\F14. The most complex feature was a north east - south west aligned ditch F12 (59 same as 60) [*same as F21 (76), F27 (85) and F29 (88)*], continuing for 23 m. to the south until its termination. This feature cut a dark grey spread (77), and a post hole (F30) but in turn was partially recut (F11, F13, F22 and F18). It is thought that these contexts are recuts of the partly silted ditch F12, as opposed to dumps, because of the steep incline of the strata visible.

Six slots were excavated across F12 (G-I) indicating a more complex arrangement not clearly visible in plan. The ditch was generally U-shaped and varied in size from 0.32-0.45 m. in depth and from 1.20-1.30 m. in width. Quantities of pottery and burnt clay were recovered from the fills in all of the slots and dated to the 1st C. AD. A small quantity of bone and burnt flint was also recovered. All the recuts varied; F13 (62 and 58 same as 61 and 75) had a U-shaped profile, with a width of about 1 m. and depth of about 0.46 m. It was excavated in slots D and E and traced for 7 m. with both its terminations being located. F11 (57 same as 74) was similarly U-shaped, its depth ranging from 0.25-0.35 m. and width from 0.45-1.10 m., narrowing at its termination. It was also

excavated in slots D and E, recut into the top of both F12 and F13 and traced for 4.40 m. Both terminations were dug. F22 (82 and 83) was observed in slot F but its complete length was not traced nor were its terminations. However, it was not located in slot E or G suggesting that it terminates somewhere between the two, with its maximum length being c.4 m. Its width was c. 1.15 m. and its depth c. 0.47 m. F18 (81) again had a U-shaped profile; its width was c.0.95 m. and its depth c. 0.38 m. and was recut up to the termination, *[numbered as F31 (91)]*. It is impossible to say whether the original ditch F12 ran to this length or whether the recut of F18 extended it. F18 was excavated in slots G, H and I. In slot H a separate cut F29 (88) to the west was noted. It would seem possible that this was the evidence of F12 having extended at least this far and that in the digging of F18 the rest of F12 was removed, as it was not observed in slot G to the north or in the termination slot I to the south.

A second U-shaped ditch, F8 (fills: slot A- 54, slot B- 70, slot C- 73) traced for 16 m. until its termination, was originally located in evaluation trench Z. Its depth was between 0.38-0.48 m. and its maximum width was 1.60 m., narrowing considerably further south to a width of 1 m. It was excavated in three 1 m. slots (A, B and C), producing finds of pottery dated to the 1st C. AD.

The third U-shaped ditch excavated was again aligned north east-south west and was traced for 12 m., with a width of c. 0.95 m. and a depth of about 0.45 m. It was excavated in two slots J and K, *[F36 (98) and F14 (64, 65 and 66)]*. In slot J the northern termination was just located although slightly obscured by the presence of two modern drains which had destroyed part of ditch. The ditch was cut by post hole F15. All appearances would indicate that the linear continued south into the area observed by the watching brief, but it was not visible in the foundation trench sections and its extent cannot be confirmed. Pottery of 1st C. AD. was recovered from F14, similar to finds recovered from other features

in area 2.

It seems plausible from the evidence obtained that the parallel alignment of ditches F8 and F12 which are about 4 m. apart, is suggestive that they functioned together as a ditched trackway, with an entrance being located in the gap formed between the two terminations of F31 and F36. The southerly continuation of the eastern ditch suggests that the trackway may have been a later addition to an old field boundary which is part of a wider field system complex.

Gullies

Two gullies were excavated. F35 was aligned west-east and located at the southeast of the area containing archaeological deposits. It was traced for 7 m., to the east until it disappeared into disturbed ground. F33 was an isolated curved linear on the western edge of the the main concentration of archaeological features.

Pits/post holes

Two pits were located, F10 and F34. Both were half-sectioned and sampled. F10 was rounded with a flat bottom, truncated to the north-east by a modern soakaway, and contained a considerable amount of 1st C. AD pottery. F34 was an irregular oval in shape with an irregular base containing similar pottery. Eleven post holes were excavated (F9, F15, F16, F17, F19, F20, F24, F25, F28, F30, F32); all were of varying size and shape, all were half-sectioned and three were sampled (Fig. 3). Seven of the post holes were located on the edge of various ditches with some of their relationships being unclear. Five of the post holes cut through a silty spread (77). The other three were isolated, with none of the eleven forming any structural pattern. While the main features on the site were the ditches, several of these cut or were cut by other features providing stratigraphical relationships (eg. F30 is cut by ditch F18, F15 cuts

ditch F14, and possibly F16 cuts ditch F8 in slot B). The relationship between F16 and F17 is unclear. Similarly, the relationship between F24 and F28 is uncertain but they both cut through a silty spread (77). F25 and F26 were also cut through layer (77) as was F32, although it is not connected with any other feature. F19 and F20 are just to the northwest of the spread (77); their relationships are again unclear.

Spreads

A dark grey spread (77), about 8 m. wide and 5 m. long containing pottery dated to the 1st C. AD., covered part of the main concentration of features. All the features in the area near ditch F12, and post holes F24-26, F28, and F32 appeared to be cut through this deposit. It was not until all excavation of the later features had been completed that the spread could be investigated (slot F) and removed, revealing no further features beneath the spread.

A further spread (99) was located to the south west of the exposed brick earth in area 2. What was visible of the layer appeared to be about 8 m. wide and 13 m. in length with surface pottery dating to the 1st C. AD. AD and possibly continuing through to the 2nd C. AD., being recorded. No further investigation was possible as the formation level had already been reached and clear visibility of the spread could not be obtained.

TABLE 1
Features (evaluation)

Context	Trench	Type	Dug	Date
1013 (1012)	Z	Linear	Y	Roman
1008 (1002)	W	Linear	Y	Iron Age
1019 (1017)	W	Linear	Y	Roman?
1016 (1015)	W	aligned feature	Y	Prehistoric
1018 (1017)	W	aligned feature	Y	Prehistoric
1022 (1021)	W	aligned feature	Y	modern C18th
1026 (1025)	W	aligned feature	N	modern C20th
32 (33)	J	Linear	Y	Bronze Age\Iron Age

Features (excavation)

Context	Type	Date
F5 (50)	recut of F6	LIA/Roman
F6 (51)	ditch	LIA/Roman
F7 (52,53)	recut of F6	LIA/Roman
F8 (54,70,73)	ditch	LIA/Roman
F9 (55)	post hole	LIA/Roman
F10 (56)	pit	LIA/Roman
F11 (57,74)	recut of F12	LIA/Roman
F12 (59,60)	ditch	LIA/Roman
F13 (58,61,62,75)	recut of F12	LIA/Roman
F14 (64,65,66)	ditch	LIA/Roman
F15 (67)	post hole	LIA/Roman
F16 (68)	post hole	LIA/Roman
F17 (69)	post hole	LIA/Roman
F18 (81)	recut of F12	LIA/Roman
F19 (71)	post hole	LIA/Roman
F20 (72)	post hole	LIA/Roman
F21 (76)	same as F12	LIA/Roman
F22 (82,83,84)	same as F12	LIA/Roman
F24 (78)	gully	LIA/Roman
F25 (79)	post hole	LIA/Roman
F26 (80)	post hole	LIA/Roman
F27 (85)	recut of F12	LIA/Roman
F28 (87)	post hole	LIA/Roman
F29 (88)	recut of F12	LIA/Roman
F30 (89,90)	post hole	LIA/Roman
F31 (91)	same as F18	LIA/Roman
F32 (92)	post hole	LIA/Roman
F33 (93)	gully	LIA/Roman
F34 (94,95)	pit	LIA/Roman
F35 (96)	gully	LIA/Roman
F36 (98)	same as F14	LIA/Roman

THE FINDS

Pottery by Jane Timby

Summary

The following assessment is based on a quick visual appraisal of the submitted pottery to determine its likely chronology and potential for further work. A moderately large assemblage of some 370 sherds of pottery was recovered. The material was of variable condition with some very abraded small sherds and other larger well-preserved pieces, in one case with several sherds evidently from a single vessel. With the exception of a single Late Medieval/Post Medieval sherd the material is all likely to derive from a single period of occupation dating to the 1st C. AD., possibly extending into the early second century. The majority of the wares are handmade, with grog-tempered fabrics predominating. The typological range was extremely limited, the most commonly occurring types being beaded rim and storage jars. The majority of the wares belonged to a Late Iron Age tradition which could well have continued up to the second century. Roman influence is shown by a small number of sandy wares, some of which may be Alice Holt products not likely to have reached the site much before AD 60. Two sherds of imported samian were also present. A small number of flint-tempered 'Silchester ware' sherds were present, likely to be of mid- 1st C. AD. date. Apart from these, the fabric range did not show any similarities with contemporary wares from Silchester indicating different potting traditions operating in the Slough locality. The preponderance of jars, lack of tablewares and low incidence of imports suggest the assemblage derives from a fairly modest establishment of native origins. The material is catalogued in Table 2.

Table 2. Catalogue of pottery

FEATURE CONTEXT		SLOT/NGR	FABRIC ANALYSIS
F5	(50)	Slot 3	5 sherds, Fabric: sand.
F5	(50)	81E/34N	1 rim, Fabric: sand; 4 sherds-pot/fired clay.
F5	(50)	82E/22N	8 sherds, Fabric: grog; 5 crumbs- pot/fired clay.
F5	(50)	Slot 1	28 sherds, Fabric: grog, sand; 1 rim= 1 vessel, 2 sherds, Fabric: grog, sand.
F8	(54)	Slot A	1 (abraded) sherd, Fabric: samian; 5 sherds Fabric: sand, organic; 1 sherd Fabric: White sandy ware; 1 sherd, Fabric: grog; 5 sherds, Fabric: sand.
F8	(70)	Slot B	23 sherds, Fabric: grog, sand, flint; 2 sherds, Fabric: grog, sand; 1 sherd, Fabric: grog; 3 sherds, Fabric: sand.
F8	(73)	Slot C	1 rim (bowl), 4 sherds, 1 rim (jar), Fabric: grog, sand.
F9	(55)		2 sherds, Fabric: grog; 14 sherds, Fabric: grog, sand, 1 rim; 6 sherds, Fabric: sand, organic, 1 rim; 2 sherds, Fabric: sand; 1 sherd, Fabric: grog, sand, flint.
F10	(56)		6 sherds, Fabric: grog; 3 sherds, Fabric: sand; 1 sherd, Fabric: White slipped oxidised.
F11	(57)	Slot D	44 sherds, Fabric: grog; 6 rims (jars), 14 sherds, Fabric: grog, Flint, 2 rims (jar), 1 sherd, Fabric: grog, sand; 2 sherds, Fabric: sand, organic; 19 sherds, Fabric: grog, sand, flint, 6 rims, 8 sherds, Fabric: White sandy ware; 12 sherds, Fabric: sand; 1 sherd, Fabric: sand, flint; 21 sherds, Fabric: sand, organic, 5 rim (jars).
F11	(74)	Slot E	3 sherds, 1 rim, Fabric: grog; 3 sherds, Fabric: grog, sand.
F12	(60)		1 sherd, Fabric: shell; 1 sherd, Fabric: flint; 1 sherd, Fabric: sand, flint; 1 sherd, Fabric: sand.
F13	(58)	Slot D	3 sherds, Fabric: grog; 2 sherds, Fabric: grog, sand.
F13	(61)	Slot D	1 sherd, Fabric: grog, sand; 1 rim (jar), Fabric: grog.
F13	(75)	Slot E	1 sherd, Fabric: flint; 1 sherd, Fabric: shell; 1 sherd, Fabric: shell, flint; 2 sherds, Fabric: grog, flint; 3 sherds, Fabric: grog, sand; 2 sherds, Fabric: grog, 1 rim, (necked globular bowl); 1 sherd, Fabric: sand.

Table 2. Catalogue of pottery (continued)

FEATURE CONTEXT	SLOT/NGR	FABRIC ANALYSIS
F14 (64)		1 rim Fabric: flint; 2 sherds, Fabric: grog; 6 sherds, 1 rim, Fabric: grog, sand.
F16 (67)	Slot B	1 sherd, Fabric: grog; 1 sherd, Fabric: sand, organic.
F17 (69)		1 sherd, Fabric: samian.
F18 (81)	surface	2 sherds, Fabric: grog, sand; 7 sherds, 2 = 1 rim (jar), Fabric: grog; 1 sherd, Fabric: grog, flint.
F18 (81)	Slot H	3 sherds, Fabric: sand, flint; 1 sherd, Fabric: grog; 1 sherd, Fabric: grog, sand.
F22 (82)	Slot F	1 sherd, Fabric: samian
F24 (78)		2 sherds, Fabric: sand; 1 sherd, Fabric: grog.
F25 (79)		2 rims, Fabric: sand, organic.
F26 (80)		2 sherds, Fabric: grog.
F29 (88)		4 = 1 sherd, Fabric: grog, sand, flint; 1 sherd, Fabric: flint; 1 sherd, Fabric: sand.
F31 (91)	Slot I	1 sherd, Fabric: grog, sand, flint; 6 sherds, Fabric: grog.
F33 (93)		1 rim (storage jar), Fabric: grog, sand, flint.
F34 (95)		2 = 1 rim, Fabric: grog, sand, flint.
C77		4 sherds, Fabric: grog, sand, 1 rim, 1 sherd, Fabric: sand, organic; 1 sherd, Fabric: grog.
C99		1 rim, Fabric: grog, sand, flint; 1 sherd, Fabric: flint; 6 sherds, Fabric: grog; 1 sherd, Fabric: grog, flint; 1 sherd, Fabric: sand, organic; 2 sherds, Fabric: grog, sand; 9 fragments.
Surface finds		5 sherds, Fabric: grog, sand; 1 sherd, Fabric: grog; 1 sherd, Fabric: grog, sand.
58E/44N		1 sherd, Fabric: grog, sand.
62E/44.60N		1 sherd, Fabric: flint; 10 pieces fired clay/ pot sherd
66.20E/163.20N		1 sherd, Fabric: flint.
66.30E/159.60N		1 sherd, Medieval/Post-Medieval glazed
66.70E/162.60N		1 sherd, Fabric: grog, sand, flint.
74E/31N		1 sherd, Fabric: grog.
74.40E/32.8N		1 rim, Fabric: grog.
76E/32N		2 sherds, Fabric: grog.
U/S		1 sherd, Fabric: flint; 1 rim, Fabric: fired clay

Plant remains by John Letts

Samples taken from the site were subjected to flotation to remove plant materials. Only two grains were recovered and as such cannot be used for dating purposes. However, spelt wheat was used prior to the Saxon period, when bread wheat was grown in preference.

F12 (59/60) cf. *Triticum spelta* - spelt wheat (1 grain).

F14 (65) tipline cf. *Hordeum vulgare* - barley (1 grain).

Animal bone by Sheila Hamilton-Dyer

These few bones are for the most part well preserved but brittle. Several were recovered in a fragmentary state. The 19 bones are composed of eleven cattle, two cattle-sized, two sheep/goat, a dog, and three calcined fragments which could only be identified as mammalian. Material from ditches is often biased in favour of the large bones of cattle.

Two cattle jaw fragments, from F11 slot D (57) and F13 slot D (58), fit together to form a single bone, these contexts are therefore related.

Butchery marks were observed on three cattle bones. The femur has a chop mark below the caput, perhaps made during disarticulation of the hip joint. The metacarpus has a knife mark across the front, probably associated with skinning. The jaw from the two contexts has marks caudally, probably made when removing the jaw from the skull.

The measurement of the distal cattle tibia, at 52.4 mm. is small. It is similar to measurements from Iron Age sites in the Upper Thames Valley (Wilson 1993).

Table 4 Details of faunal remains recovered

FEATURE CONTEXT	SLOT	IDENTIFICATION
F11	(57) D	1 cattle femur proximal, fused, butchered 2 cattle jaw, small fragment 1 cattle jaw, half, molar 3 erupting 1 cattle metacarpus, proximal, cut, gnawed 1 cattle pelvis, small fragments acetabulum 1 cattle-sized vertebra fragment 1 sheep/goat femur shaft 1 sheep/goat lower molar
F11	(74) E	1 cattle-sized limb shaft fragment
F13	(58) D	1 cattle jaw, rear part, fits context 57, cut 2 cattle pelvis, part, much fragmented, fused 1 cattle tibia, almost complete, distal fused 1 cattle upper molar, fragment
F13	(75) E	1 dog jaw, fragment, no teeth
F14	(64) K	1 mammalian fragment, highly calcined

Flint by Tess Durden

A small collection of flints, consisting of ten flakes and one nodule, were recovered during the course of the excavation, both from the stripped surface and from layers and features. Unfortunately none of the flints are themselves diagnostic of any particular period in Prehistory.

Table 3 Catalogue of struck flint

Surface finds

50.40E, 160.60N intact flake.
68.10E, 161.20N broken flake.
69.00E, 158.80N struck nodule.
76.10E, 163.40N intact flake.

F5 (50) slot A	1 intact flake, 1 broken flake.
F5 (51) slot 2	intact flake.
F8 (73) slot C	intact flake.
F11 (57) slot A	intact flake.
C99	2 intact flakes.

DISCUSSION

Finds from the evaluation and excavation at Bath Road suggest a 1st C. AD. date for the site. The deposits comprise ditches, pits and postholes. Two of the ditches may represent a trackway, with a small section of ditch running perpendicular to these possibly being part of a paddock or field boundary. The excavated features appear to reflect part of a rural landscape; the pottery found may be the result of manuring or may indicate a settlement nearby.

The area to the north of the Thames in which Slough is situated has previously revealed little evidence for Iron Age and Roman activity (Ford 1987). Iron Age deposits are most often recorded to the west on the gravels and chalk in the Maidenhead area to the west of the Thames, while Roman settlement and find spots cluster on the chalk between Maidenhead and Reading (Ford 1987, figs 28 and 29).

The deposits found on this site are fairly typical of small farmsteads and rural landscapes of this period in Berkshire and other parts of south east England. A number of similar sites within the County have been reported on recently. At Little Lea Farm, Reading an evaluation revealed linear boundary features representing field or settlement enclosures of Late Iron Age and Roman date (Howell and Ford 1994). Roman ditched field boundaries of 1st and 2nd C. AD. date were also found during excavation at Pingewood, near Reading (Lobb and Mills 1993) and at Horton, near Colnbrook, a Roman field system and possible small occupation site overlay a Neolithic mortuary enclosure (Ford, forthcoming). Close to the present site, an evaluation at Cippenham (Anon 1991; 1994a) discovered a number of Late Iron Age and Roman ditches, gullies and pits, probably representing field boundaries and settlement.

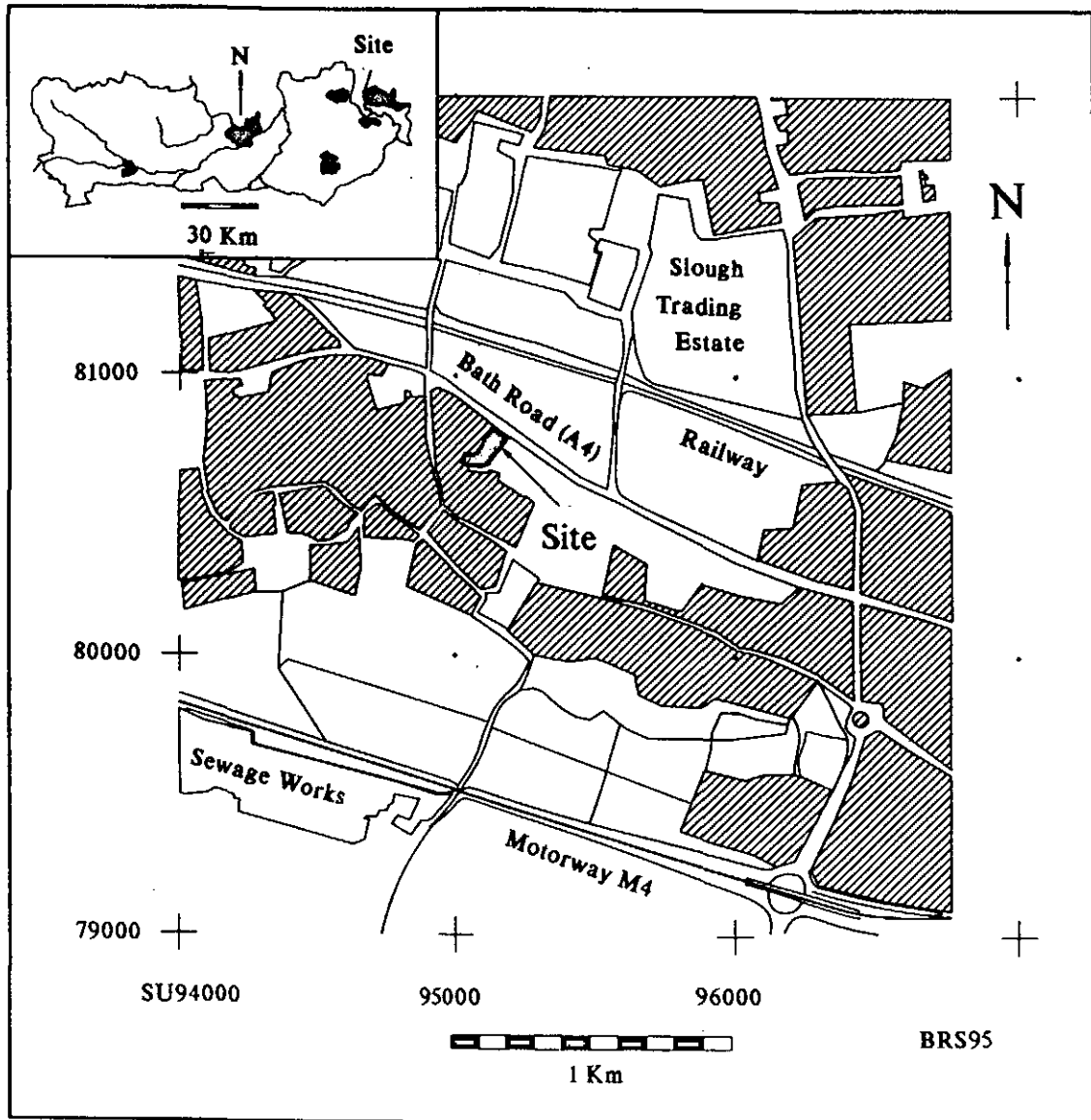
The excavation at Bath Road has provided valuable information on the settlement of Berkshire in the Late Prehistoric and Roman periods. Although the

conditions for excavation were far from ideal, evidence for Iron Age and Roman activity, possibly a field system and occupation site, has been recovered and as such demonstrates settlement of an area and geology previously lacking in such evidence.

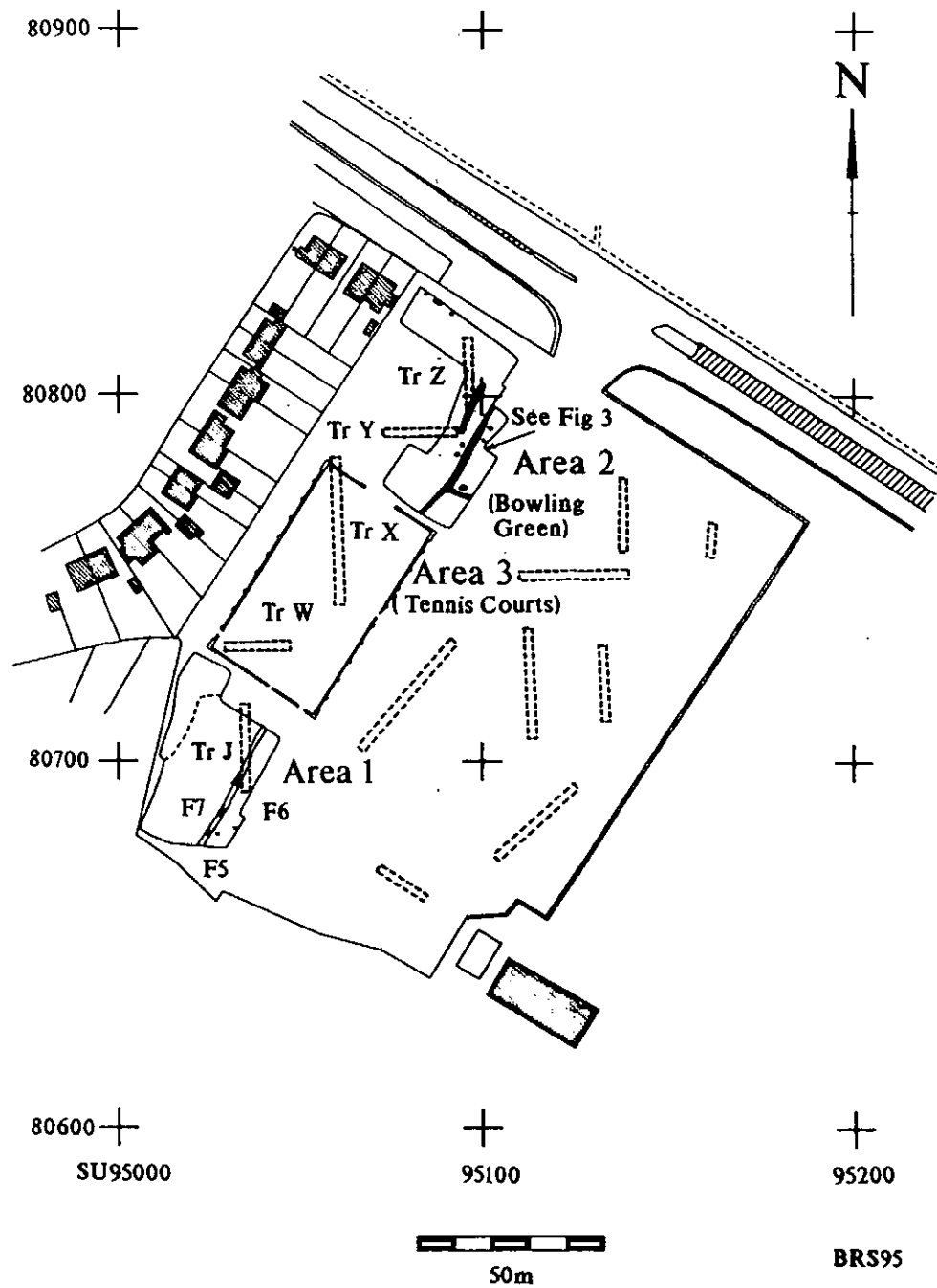
REFERENCES

- ANON, 1991: Cippenham, Slough, Archaeological Evaluation. Oxford Archaeological Unit. Oxford.
- ANON, 1994a: Cippenham, Slough, Archaeological evaluation report (part 2). Oxford Archaeological Unit. Oxford.
- ANON, 1994b: 225 Bath Road, Slough, Berkshire. An Archaeological Evaluation. Museum of London Archaeology Service. London
- FORD, S. 1987: **The East Berkshire Archaeological Survey.** Berkshire County Council. Dept. of Highways and Planning occ. pap. 1. Reading.
- FORD, S. (forthcoming) Report on the excavation of a Neolithic ring-ditch and Roman features at Manor Farm Lower Horton, Berkshire.
- HOWELL, I. J. and FORD, S. 1994: Little Lea Farmhouse, Reading, Berkshire. Archaeological Evaluation. Thames Valley Archaeological Services Report 94/42. Reading.
- LOBB, S. J. and MILLS, J. M. 1993: Observations and excavations in the Pingewood area - Bronze Age, Romano-British and medieval features. **Berkshire Arch. J.** 74, 85-94.
- PPG16, 1990: **Archaeology and planning.** DoE Planning Policy Guidance note 16. (HMSO).
- WILSON, B. 1993: Reports on the bones and oyster shell, in T.G. ALLEN and M. A. ROBINSON **The Prehistoric landscape and Iron Age enclosed settlement at Mingies Ditch, Hardwick with Yelford, Oxon.,** Oxford University Committee for Archaeology. Oxford.

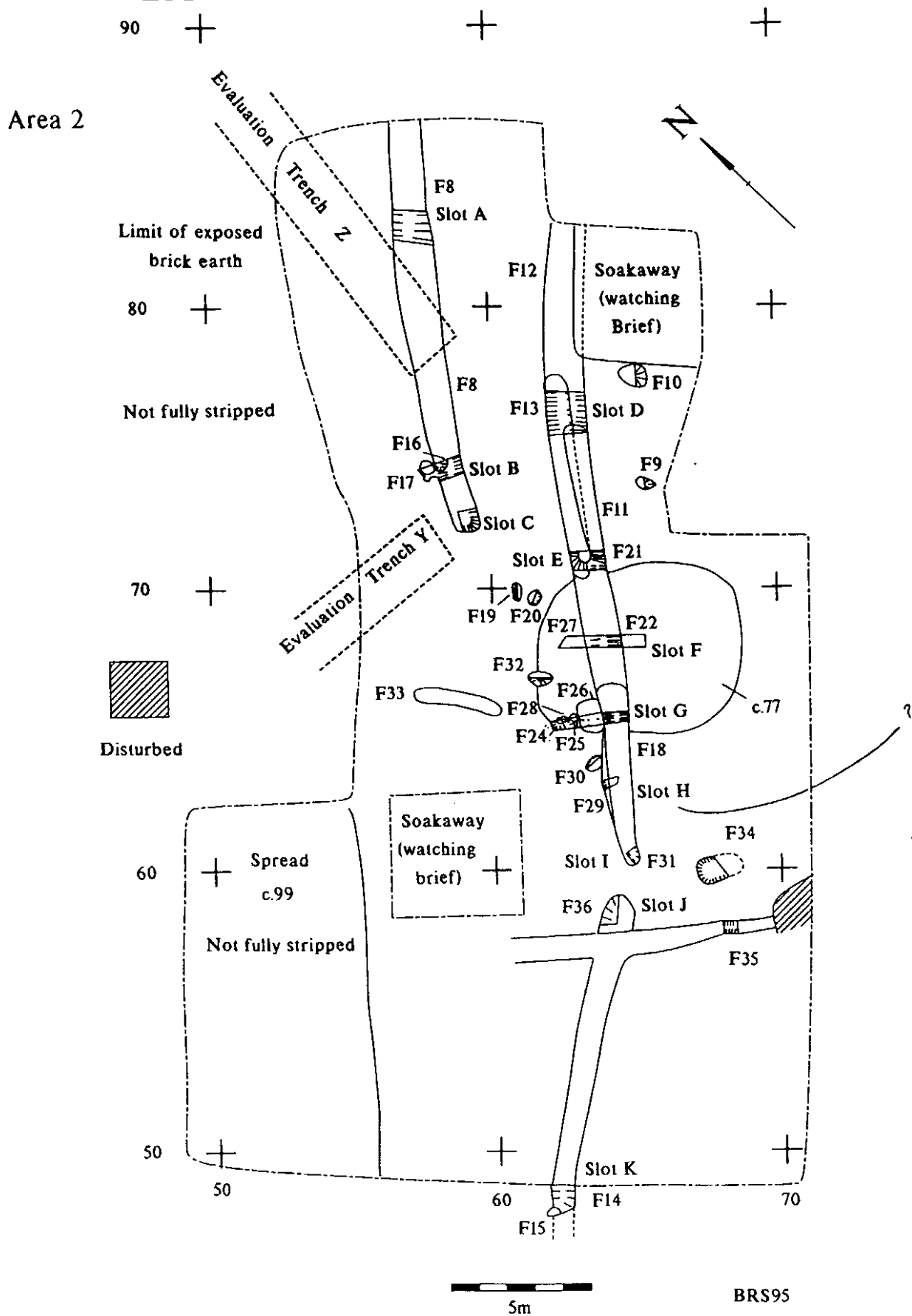
BATH ROAD. SLOUGH. BERKSHIRE 1995



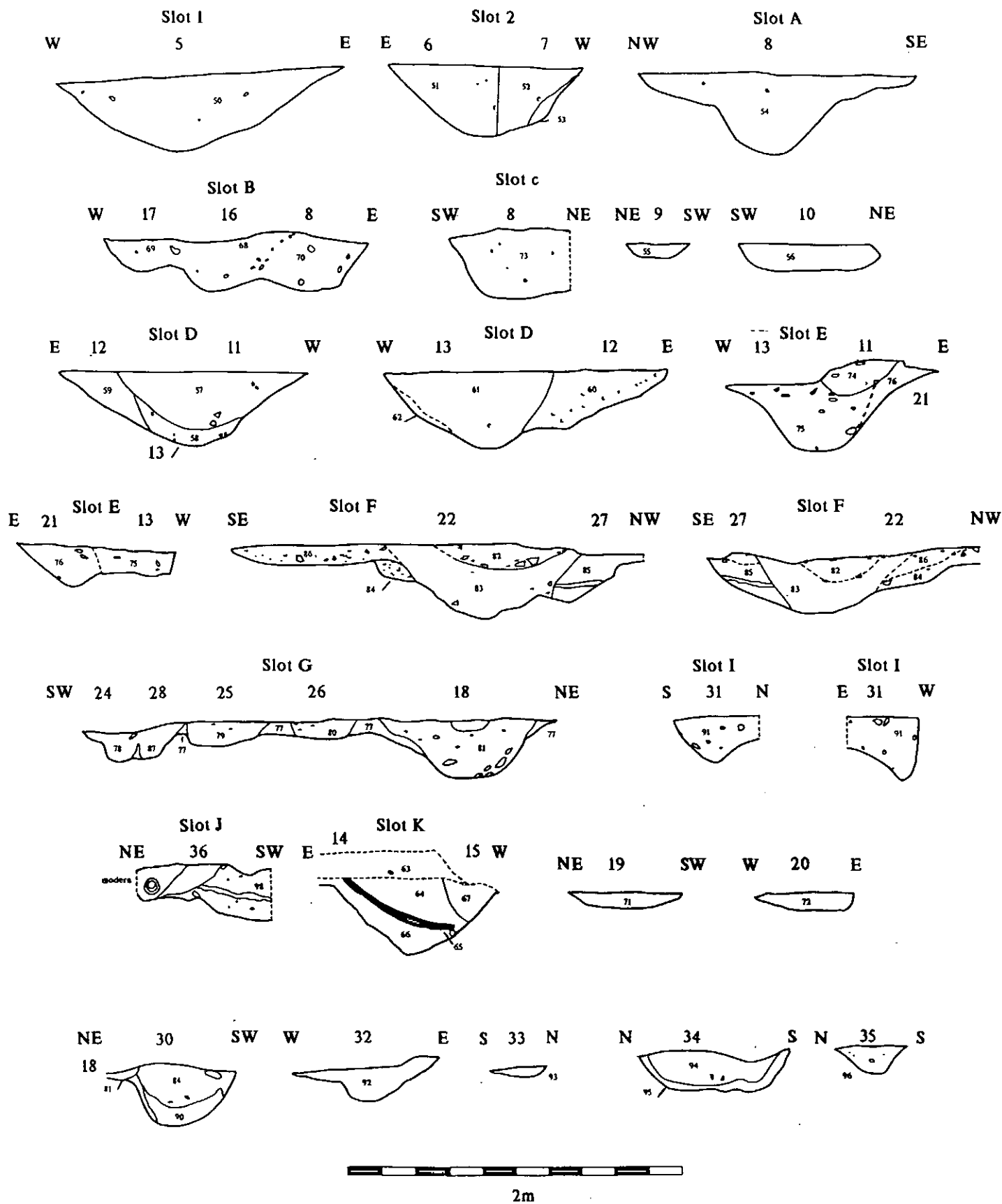
BATH ROAD. SLOUGH. BERKSHIRE 1995



BATH ROAD. SLOUGH. BERKSHIRE 1995



BATH ROAD. SLOUGH. BERKSHIRE 1995



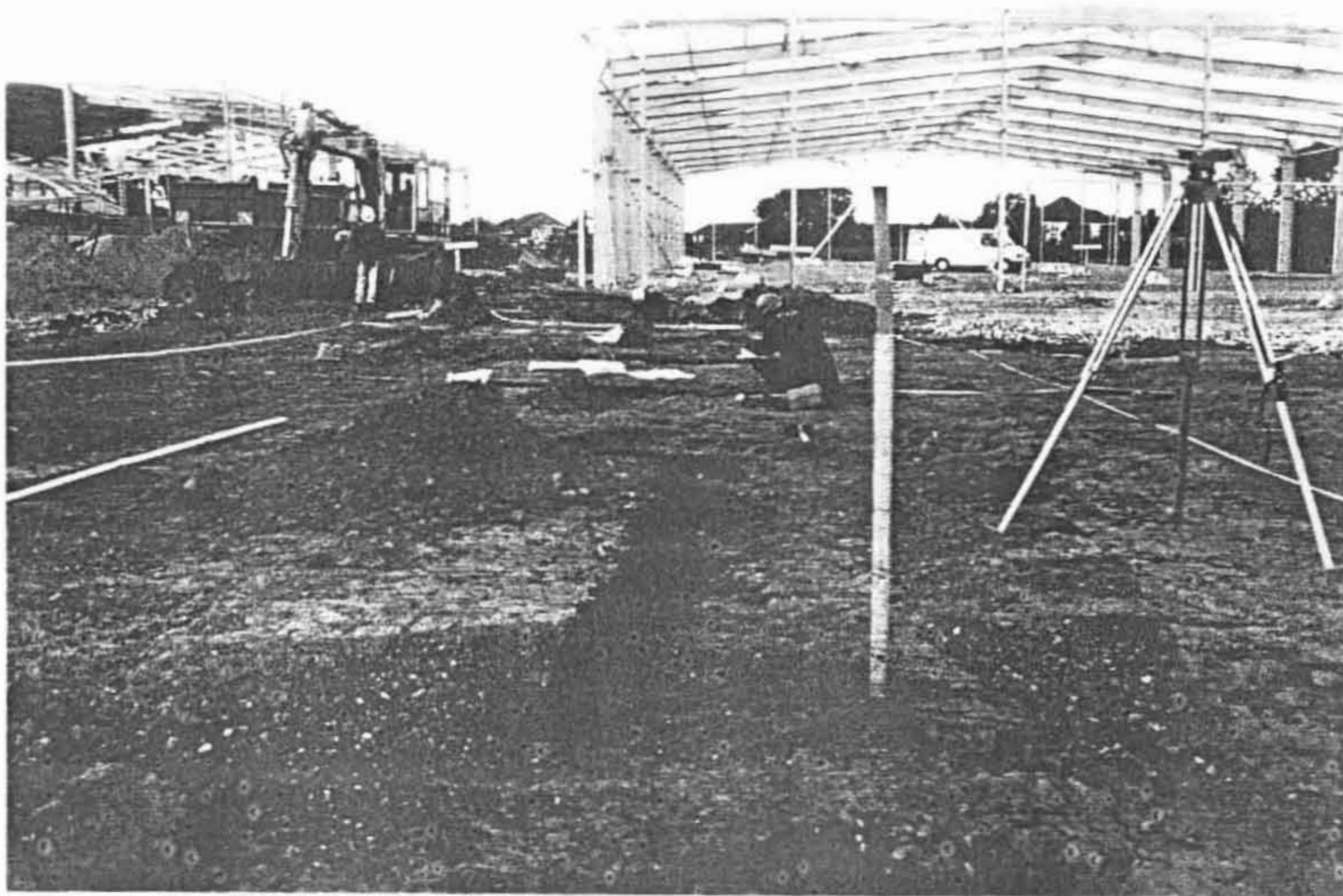


Plate 1. Bath Road, Slough. General shot, looking south.

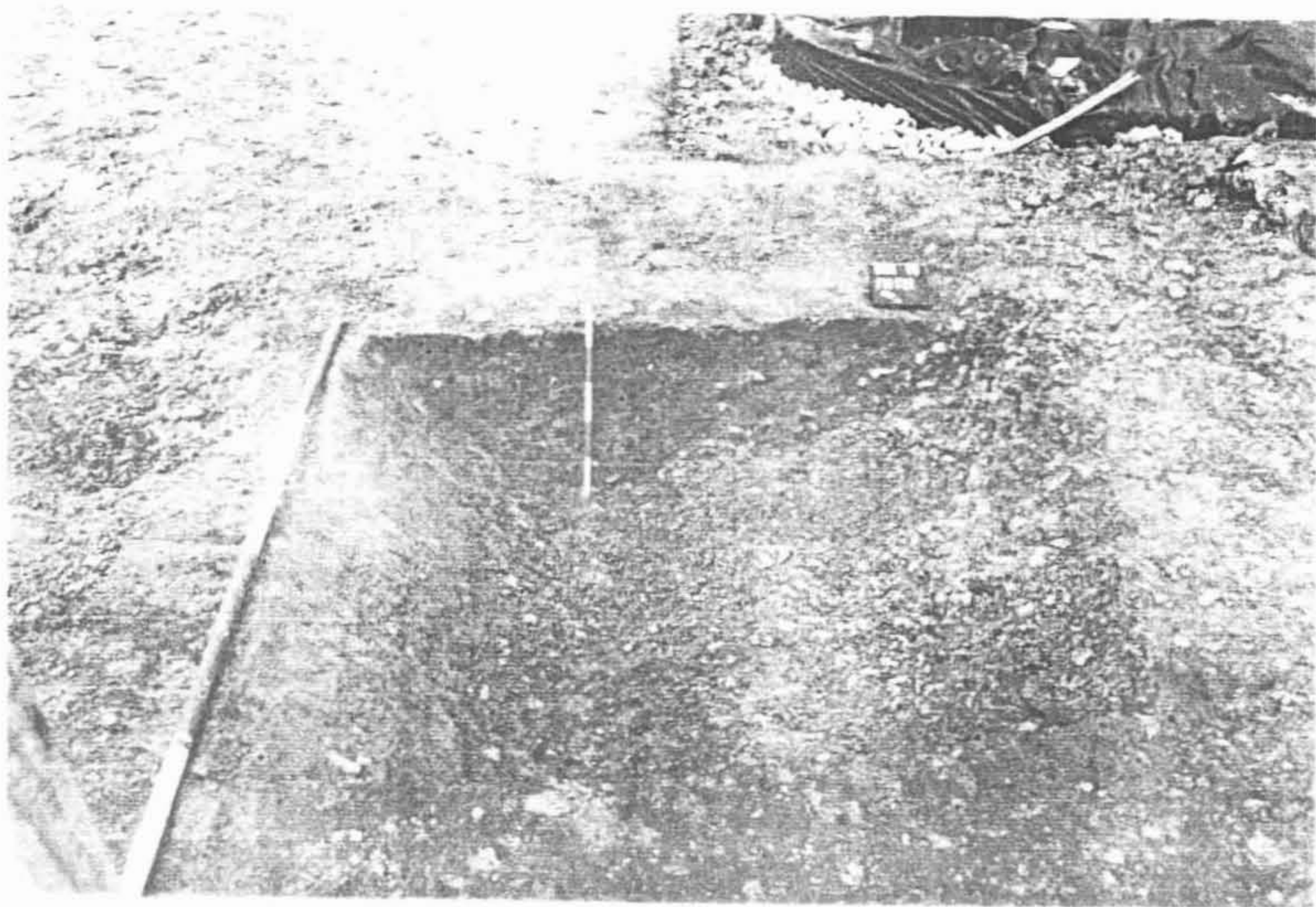
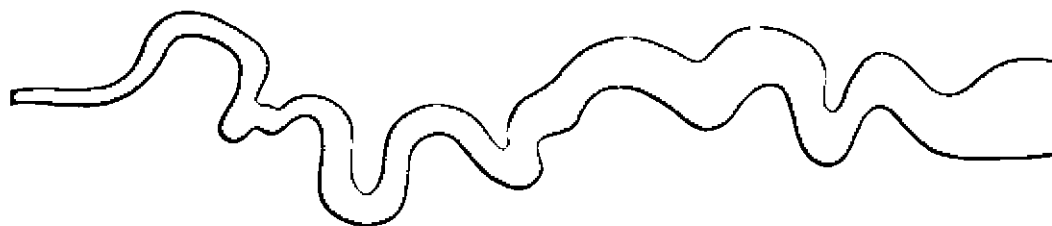


Plate 2 Bath Road, Slough. Ditches F12 and F13, looking northeast, scale 1 x 2 m and 1 x 0,50 m

TIME CHART

	Calendar Years
Post Medieval _____	AD 1500
Medieval _____	AD 1066
Saxon _____	AD 410
Roman _____	AD 43
	AD 0 BC
Iron Age _____	750 BC
 Bronze Age: Late	 1300 BC
Bronze Age: Middle	1700 BC
Bronze Age Early	2100 BC
 Neolithic: Late	 3300 BC
Neolithic: Early	4300 BC
 Mesolithic: Late	 6000 BC
Mesolithic: Early	10,000 BC
 Palaeolithic: Upper	 50,000 BC
Palaeolithic: Middle	70,000 BC
Palaeolithic: Lower	2,000,000 BC





Thames Valley Archaeological Services prides itself on a totally professional, yet fully flexible, approach to each individual project. It exists as an efficient and cost-effective answer to all your archaeological needs, bridging the gap between commercial and academic interests.

77 WATLINGTON STREET, READING, BERKS RG1 4RQ. TELEPHONE (0734) 597701