

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

ARCHAEOLOGICAL

S E R V I C E S

**8-10 Albert Street, Slough,
Berkshire**

Archaeological Evaluation

by Susan Porter

Site Code: ASS11/132

(SU 9748 7946)

**8-10 Albert Street, Slough,
Berkshire**

**An Archaeological Evaluation
for JKW House Builders**

by Susan Porter
Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

SiteCodeASS11/132

December 2011

Summary

Site name: 8-10 Albert Street, Slough, Berkshire

Grid reference: SU 9748 7946

Site activity: Evaluation

Date and duration of project: 16th December 2011

Project manager: Steve Ford

Site supervisor: Susan Porter

Site code: ASS 11/132

Area of site: c.800sq m

Summary of results: No deposits nor artefacts of archaeological interest were observed and the site is considered to have no archaeological potential.

Location and reference of archive: The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited with an approved local Museum in due course.

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www.tvas.co.uk/reports/reports.asp.*

Report edited/checked by: Steve Ford ✓ 19.12.11 Steve Preston ✓ 19.12.11

8-10 Albert Street, Slough, Berkshire An Archaeological Evaluation

by Susan Porter

Report 11/132

Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological field evaluation carried out at 8-10 Albert Street, Slough, Berkshire (SU 9748 7946) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Mr Harinder Ragubansi of JKW House Builders, 8 Blandfield Road, London, SW12 8BG.

A planning consent has been gained (P827-26) from Slough Borough Council for the construction of a new apartment block. The consent is subject to a condition relating to archaeology. Due to the possibility of damage to potential archaeological deposits on the site, a programme of archaeological work has been requested to provide information with which to mitigate the effects of development on archaeology, if necessary.

This is in accordance with the Department for Communities and Local Government's Planning Policy Statement, *Planning for the Historic Environment* (PPS5 2010), and the Slough Borough Council's policies on archaeology. The field investigation was carried out to a specification approved by Ms Mary Neale Archaeological Officer for Berkshire Archaeology, advisers to the Borough Council. The fieldwork was undertaken by Susan Porter and Daniel Bray on 16th December 2011 and the site code is ASS 11/132. The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited with an approved local Museum in due course.

Location, topography and geology

The site is located on the south side of Albert Street and north side of Upton Park, Slough, Berkshire on the north side of the River Thames (Fig. 1). The site comprises an irregular parcel of land and is currently occupied by a Tarmac surface of c.800sq m, at one point used as a car park, but now considerably overgrown (Fig. 2). The geology is recorded as Taplow gravel river terrace (BGS 1981) and this was the geology observed on site. The site lies on more or less level ground at approximately 26m above Ordnance Datum.

Archaeological background

The archaeological potential of the site stems from its location within the archaeologically rich Thames Valley. Archaeological fieldwork, aerial photography, mineral extraction and dredging of the nearby River Thames have

revealed a wealth of Prehistoric and later finds (Ford 1987; Foreman *et al.* 2002; Gates 1975). Little is recorded for the centre of Slough which was a hamlet in medieval times. Upton to the south-east was of more significance having a church and manor house (Ford 1987). A small number of finds are recorded in the Berkshire Historic Environment for the environs of the site comprising a few Palaeolithic hand axes and later struck flints.

Objectives and methodology

The purpose of the evaluation was to determine the presence/absence, extent, condition, character, quality and date of any archaeological deposits within the area of development. This work will be carried out in a manner which will not compromise the integrity of archaeological features or deposits which warrant preservation in situ, or might be better excavated under conditions pertaining to full excavation.

The specific research aims of this project are:

to determine if archaeologically relevant layers have survived on this site; and

to determine if archaeological deposits of any period are present.

It was proposed to dig three trenches, 10m long and 1.6m wide. The trenches were to be located to target the footprint of the new structure. The trenches were liable to be repositioned from the initial plan once details of any site services and other restrictions (such as preserved trees) were known. A contingency of 10m length of trench was included should this be required to clarify the nature of initial observations.

Topsoil and overburden were removed by a JCB-type or 360° machine with a ditching bucket under supervision of an archaeologist. Where archaeological features are present they were to be cleaned by hand using appropriate hand tools. Spoil heaps would be searched for finds and checked with a metal detector

Results

All three trenches were dug as intended, although the orientation of trench three was changed due to the presence of various dumped rubbish on the site (Fig 3). Trenches ranged in length from 9.70m to 13.10m and in depth from 0.60m to 0.80m All spoil heaps were monitored for finds. A complete list of trenches giving lengths, breadths, depths and a description of sections and geology is given in Appendix 1.

Trench 1 (Fig. 3; Pl.1)

Trench 1 was aligned SW-NE and was 10.60m long and 0.65m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.05m of Tarmac, above 0.15m of made ground consisting of Tarmac and brick rubble above 0.45m of a subsoil

comprising mid orange/brown sandy clay with gravel patches. This overlay natural geology which was an orangey brown clay sand with frequent gravel. No archaeology was observed

Trench 2 (Figs 3 and 4; Pl. 2)

Trench 2 was aligned E-W and was 9.70m long and 0.80m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.08m of Tarmac above 0.25m made ground, consisting of Tarmac and brick rubble, above 0.23m of further made ground comprising mid orangey brown sandy clay with frequent gravel patches and some brick fragments above 0.20m of subsoil comprising mid brownish grey sandy clay with frequent gravel overlying natural geology, as in Trench 1. No archaeology was observed.

Trench 3 (Fig. 3)

Trench 3 was aligned SSE-NNW and was 13.10m long and 0.60m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.08m of Tarmac above 0.12m of made ground comprising Tarmac and brick rubble above 0.36m of subsoil comprising mid brownish grey silty clay overlaying natural geology. The natural geology in Trench 3 was transitional with light yellow grey sandy clay at the south end and orangey brown clay sand with frequent gravel at the north end. No archaeology was observed.

Conclusion

The three trenches were located within the footprint of the proposed building, to determine the presence/absence, extent, condition, character, quality and date of any archaeological deposits within the area of development. The natural geology was reached in all three trenches, however, nothing of archaeological significance was observed and no artefacts were recovered. As such the site is considered to have no archaeological potential.

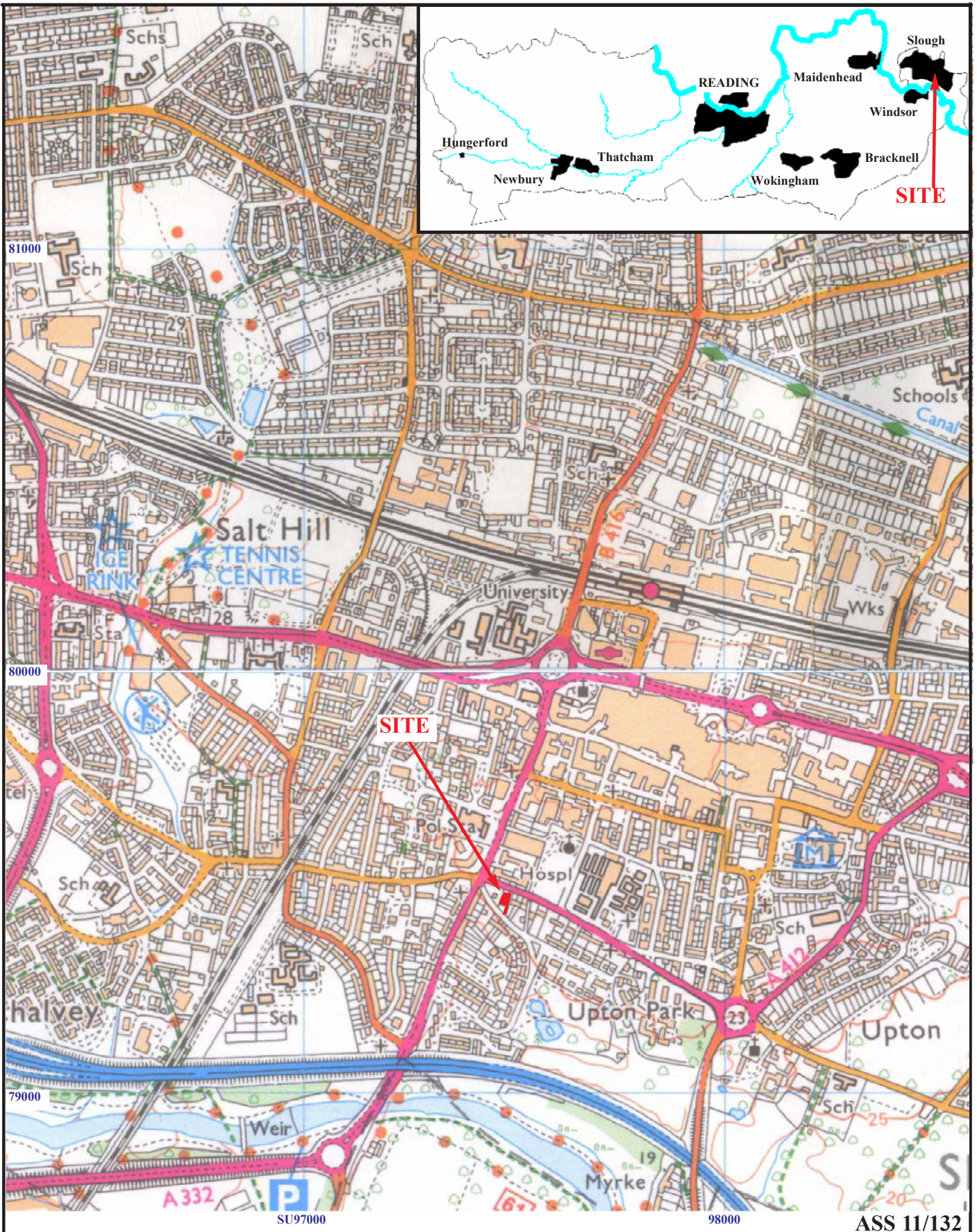
References

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- Foreman, S, Hiller, J and Petts, D, 2002, *Gathering the people, settling the land, the archaeology of a middle Thames landscape, Anglo-Saxon to Post-Medieval*, Oxford Archaeol Thames Valley Landscapes monogr **14**, Oxford
- Gates, T, 1975, *The Thames Valley; an archaeological survey of the River Gravels*, Berkshire Archaeol Comm Publ **1**, Reading
- PPS5, 2010, *Planning for the Historic Environment*, The Stationery Office, Norwich

APPENDIX 1: Trench details

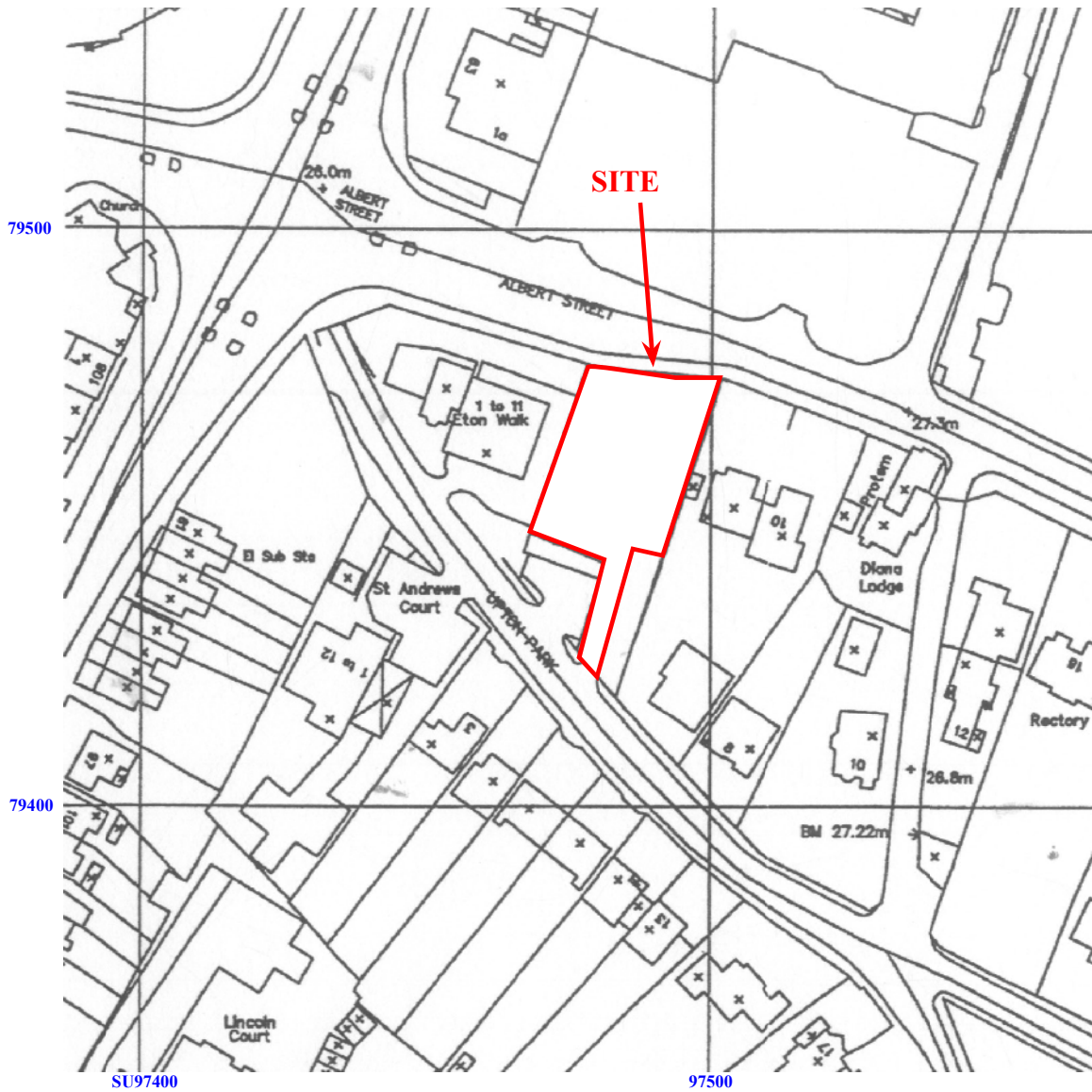
0m at South or West end

Trench	Length (m)	Breadth (m)	Depth (m)	Comment
1	10.60	1.60	0.65	0-0.05m Tarmac; 0.05-0.20m brick and rubble made ground; 0.20-0.65m mid orange/brown sandy clay with gravel subsoil; 0.65m+ orangey/brown clayey sand with frequent gravel natural geology [PI. 1]
2	9.70	1.60	0.80	0-0.08m Tarmac; 0.08-0.33m brick and rubble made ground; 0.33-0.56m mid orangey sandy clay with gravel patches made ground; 0.56-0.76m subsoil, mid brownish grey sandy clay with gravel; 0.76m+ orange/brown clayey sand with frequent gravel natural geology. [PI. 2]
3	13.10	1.60	0.60	0-0.08m Tarmac; 0.08-0.20m made ground; 0.20-0.56m subsoil, mid brownish grey silty clay; natural transitional, south end light yellow grey sandy clay, north end orangey brown clay sand with frequent gravel natural geology



**Land adjacent to 8-10 Albert Street, Slough,
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Figure 1. Location of site within Slough and Berkshire.

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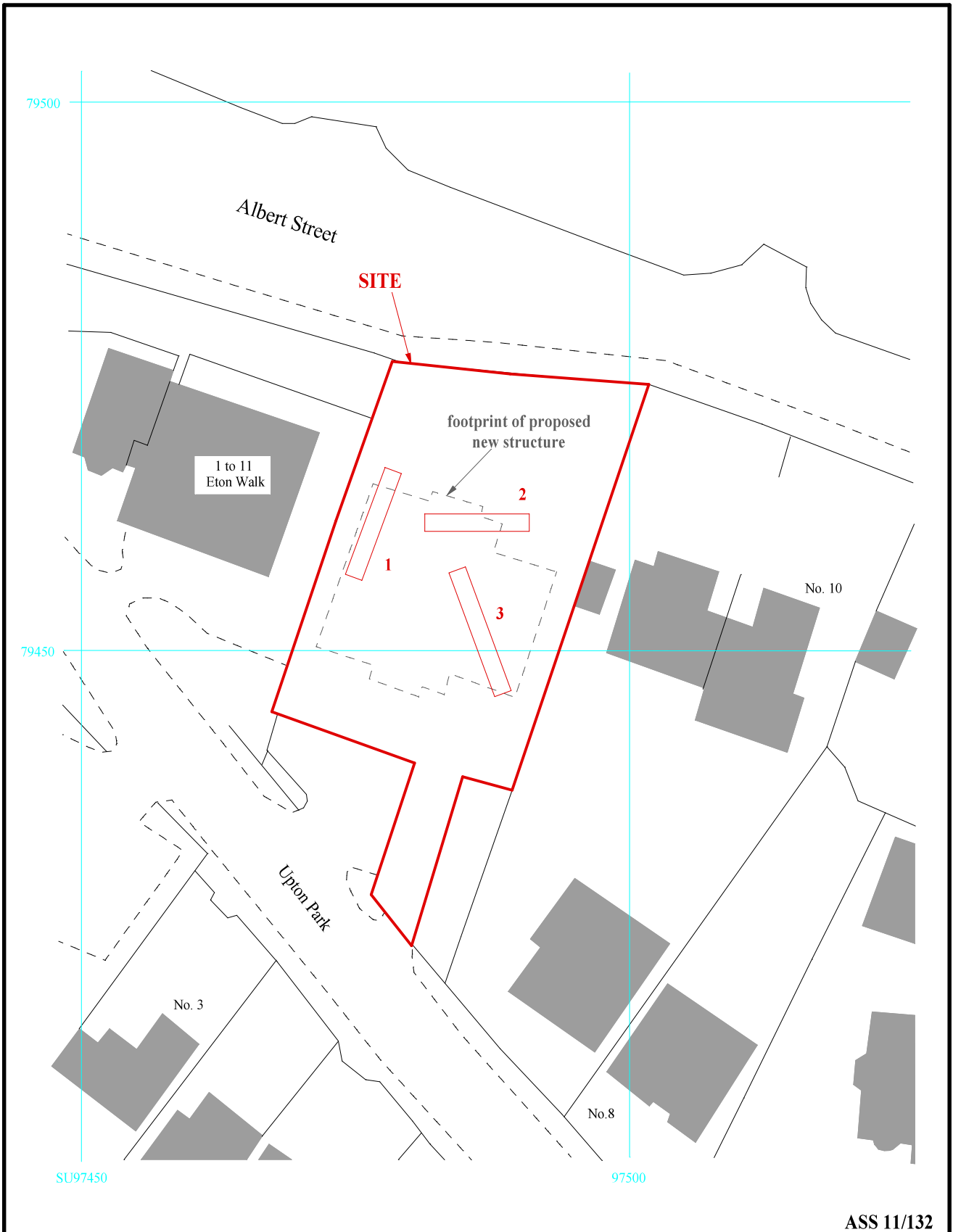


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Figure 2. Detailed location of site off Albert Street.

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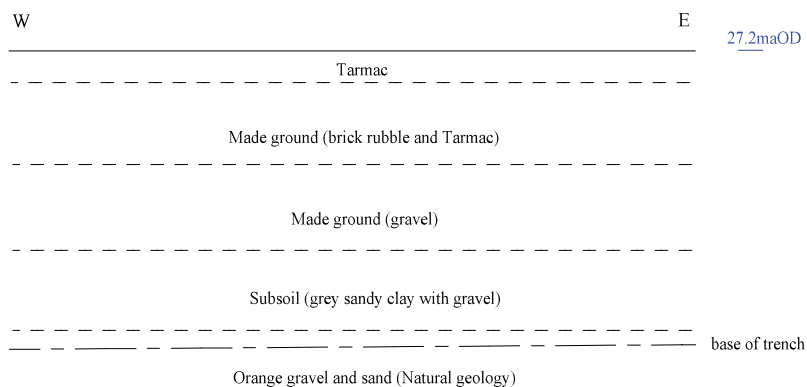
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Figure 3. Location of trenches.



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Figure 4. Representative section (Trench 2).





Plate 1. Trench 1, looking north. Scales: 2m, 1m and 0.5m.



Plate 2. Trench 2, looking east, Scales: 2m, 1m and 0.5m.

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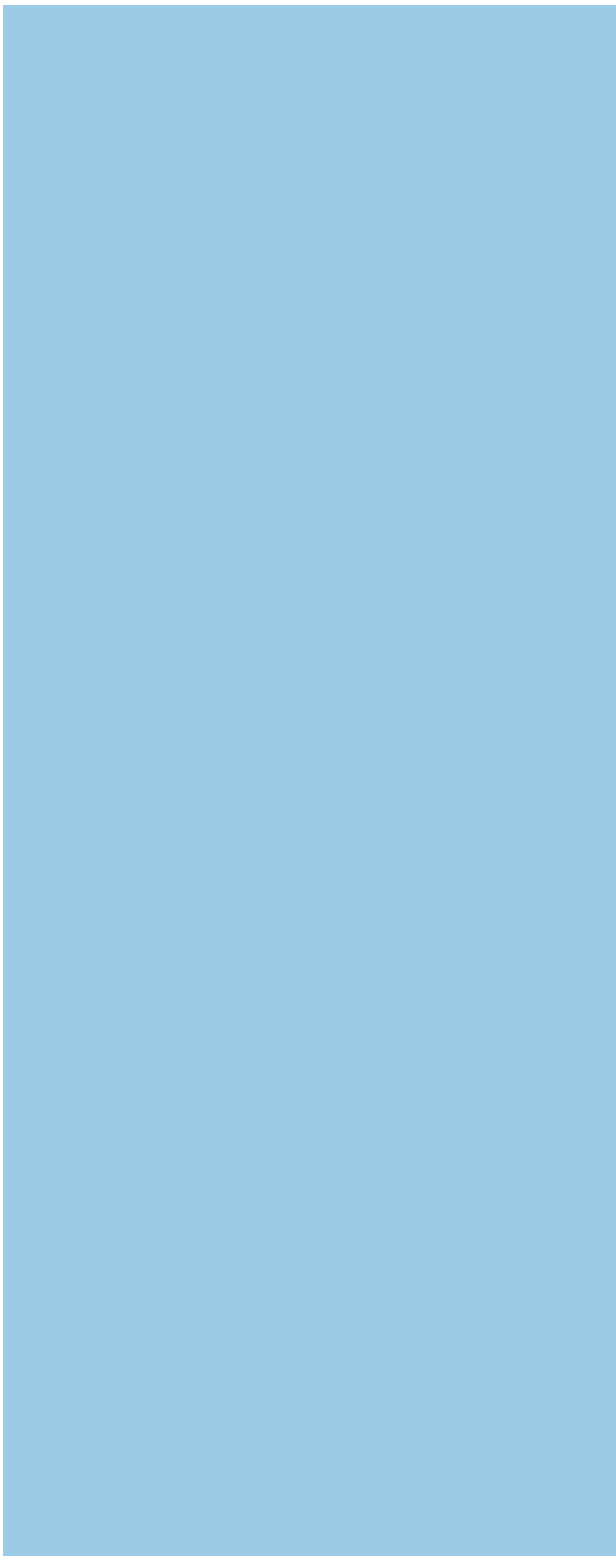
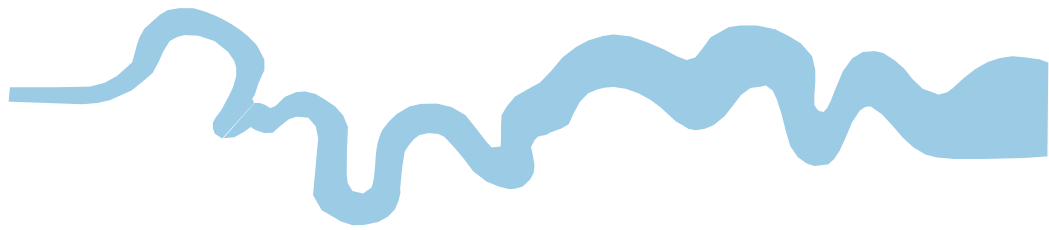
**Land adjacent to 8-10 Albert Street, Slough,
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Plates 1 and 2.**

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TIME CHART

	Calendar Years
Modern _____	AD 1901
Victorian _____	AD 1837
Post Medieval _____	AD 1500
Medieval _____	AD 1066
Saxon _____	AD 410
Roman _____	AD 43
Iron Age _____	BC/AD 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	10000 BC
Palaeolithic: Upper	30000 BC
Palaeolithic: Middle	70000 BC
Palaeolithic: Lower	2,000,000 BC





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