

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

ARCHAEOLOGICAL

S E R V I C E S

**127-139 St Leonard's Road,
Windsor, Berkshire**

**Archaeological Evaluation
Phase 3**

by Tim Dawson

Site Code: SLW10/94

(SU 9630 7570)

**127-139 St Leonard's Road,
Windsor, Berkshire**

**An Archaeological Evaluation (Phase 3)
for Shanly Homes Limited**

by Tim Dawson
Thames Valley Archaeological Services
Ltd

Site Code SLW 10/94

August 2012

Summary

Site name: 127–139 St Leonard's Road, Windsor, Berkshire

Grid reference: SU 9630 7570

Site activity: Archaeological Evaluation (Phase 3)

Date and duration of project: 8th August 2012

Project manager: Steve Ford

Site supervisor: Tim Dawson

Site code: SLW 10/94

Area of site: 0.8ha

Summary of results: The tenth and final trench was dug during this phase of work. However, no archaeological deposits were identified nor artefacts recovered. In conjunction with the earlier results, 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 at an approved local museum in due course.

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

Report edited/checked by:	Steve Ford✓ 13.08.12 Steve Preston✓ 13.08.12
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127-139 St Leonard's Road, Windsor, Berkshire An Archaeological Evaluation (Phase 3)

by Tim Dawson

Report 10/94d

Introduction

This report documents the results of the third and final phase of an archaeological field evaluation carried out at 127-139 St Leonard's Road, Windsor, Berkshire (SU 9630 7570) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Mr Duncan Gibson, for Shanly Homes, Sorbon, Aylesbury End, Beaconsfield, Bucks, HP9 1LW.

A resolution to grant planning permission (app no 10/03056/FUL) had been gained from the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead for development of the site for residential use. Any such consent would be subject to a condition relating to archaeology, as a consequence of the possibility of archaeological deposits on the site which may be damaged or destroyed by groundworks, and a field observation by means of machine dug trenching has been requested. Due to logistical and contractual constraints this took place in several phases, the first phase in open unused areas and the remainder following demolition of the current buildings on site. This report covers the third and final phase of the evaluation. The first two phases have already been reported (McNicoll-Norbury 2011; Dawson 2011).

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 Royal Borough's policies on archaeology. The field investigation was carried out to a specification approved by Mr Paul Falcini, (former) Archaeological Officer for Berkshire Archaeology and monitored by Ms Fiona Macdonald, Principle Archaeologist at Berkshire Archaeology, advisers to the Royal Borough on matters relating to archaeology. The fieldwork was undertaken by Tim Dawson and Susan Porter on the 8th August 2012 and the site code is SLW 10/94. The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading, pending identification of a suitable approved repository.

Location, topography and geology

The site is an irregular-shaped parcel of land covering 0.8ha on the southern edge of Windsor (Fig. 1) and is bounded to the west by St Leonard's Road and surrounded by residential properties with the southern tip of the site on Victor Road (Fig. 2). Most of the site had been occupied by the large buildings of a former late 19th- or early 20th-century commercial laundry in a Tarmacadamed yard, with one small area cobbled; towards the rear

is a concrete hard standing area with container cabins. A small group of terraced houses at the street frontage was demolished not long ago and the works buildings on the site had been demolished between the first two phases of evaluation. The northern portion of the site is occupied by number 127, a former public house now a nursery school, with a large single-storey structure also part of the nursery school behind this and a large area of car park to the rear. These structures had been demolished in advance of this final stage of work. The natural geology is mapped as London Clay (BGS 1981) which was observed in the trenches and the site lies between 23m and 25m above Ordnance Datum.

Archaeological background

The archaeological potential of the site has been highlighted in a desk-based assessment (Preston 2011). In summary the site lies within an area of high archaeological potential due to its position in the general vicinity of the site of the medieval leper hospital of St Peter. The precise location of the hospital is unknown but it gives its name to the area (Spital) and is thought to have been in the near vicinity of the site. It has been considered that it was likely to have stood on the borough boundary; one suggested location is at the junction of St Leonard's Road and Bolton Road (Astill 1978, 62), although perhaps a more isolated spot would have been preferred. Research undertaken for the desk-based assessment suggested a location further south and west (Preston 2011). The hospital was first mentioned in AD1168. Windsor itself expanded southwards during the medieval period, away from the chalk hill on which the castle stands, but the site is well beyond the edge of the medieval growth of the town, and a leper hospital would have been located well away from the settlement.

Until relatively recently little archaeological investigation has been carried out within Windsor. An important exception to this was the excavation at Jennings Yard close to the Thames (Hawkes and Heaton 1993), which revealed extensive evidence of buildings spanning the 12th to 17th centuries. Recent work has emphasized the extent to which medieval and early post-medieval remains do survive below modern development (Pine 2005; Taylor and Preston 2005; Weaver and Hull 2005). However, a recent watching brief very close to the proposal site at 16A Victor Road revealed nothing of archaeological interest (Mundin 2002). Phases 1 and 2 of the evaluation of the site itself (McNicoll-Norbury 2011; Dawson 2011) also found nothing of archaeological interest.

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 and to inform further mitigation measures which may be necessary, in line with national and local planning policy.

The specific aims of the project are:

- to determine if archaeologically relevant levels have survived on the site;
- to determine if archaeological deposits relating to buildings on 19th century maps are present;
- to determine if archaeological deposits of any period are present; and
- to determine if any deposits relating to the medieval hospital (buildings, graveyard) are to be found on the site.

Ten trenches were to be dug in total, between 15 and 25m long and all 1.6m or 2m wide (5% of the site) using a JCB or 360°-type machine fitted with a ditching bucket. Trenches in open unused areas were dug in Phase 1 with the subsequent ones dug after the demolition of the structures on site. Six trenches were in fact dug for Phase 1 (one proposed trench having to be subdivided to avoid live services) and a further three in Phase 2. This report details the excavation of the tenth and final trench. Archaeological features and deposits were to be excavated by hand and all finds retained.

Results

During this phase a single trench was dug: it had to be located 5m to the north of its intended position to preserve access to the site (Fig. 3). The trench was 20m long and 1.6m wide.

Details of the trench giving length, breadth, depth and a description of section and geology are given in Appendix 1.

Trench 10 (Pl. 1)

Trench 10 was aligned WNW–ESE and measured 20m long and 1.54m deep at the western end and 0.71m deep at the eastern end. The stratigraphy (Fig. 4) consisted of a maximum of 1.54m of rubble made ground mixed with pockets of redeposited natural clay, which included several items of modern metal and plastic waste as well as Victorian drainage pipes, which covered the natural mid reddish yellow clay. No features of archaeological interest were present.

Finds

No finds of archaeological interest were recovered from the site.

Conclusion

The final stage of the evaluation has shown that archaeologically relevant levels have been heavily damaged or truncated by development in the modern period in the north-western area of the site. No deeper archaeological deposits were identified in the trench and only modern artefacts were noted. Based on the results of the three phase of evaluation, the site has no archaeological potential.

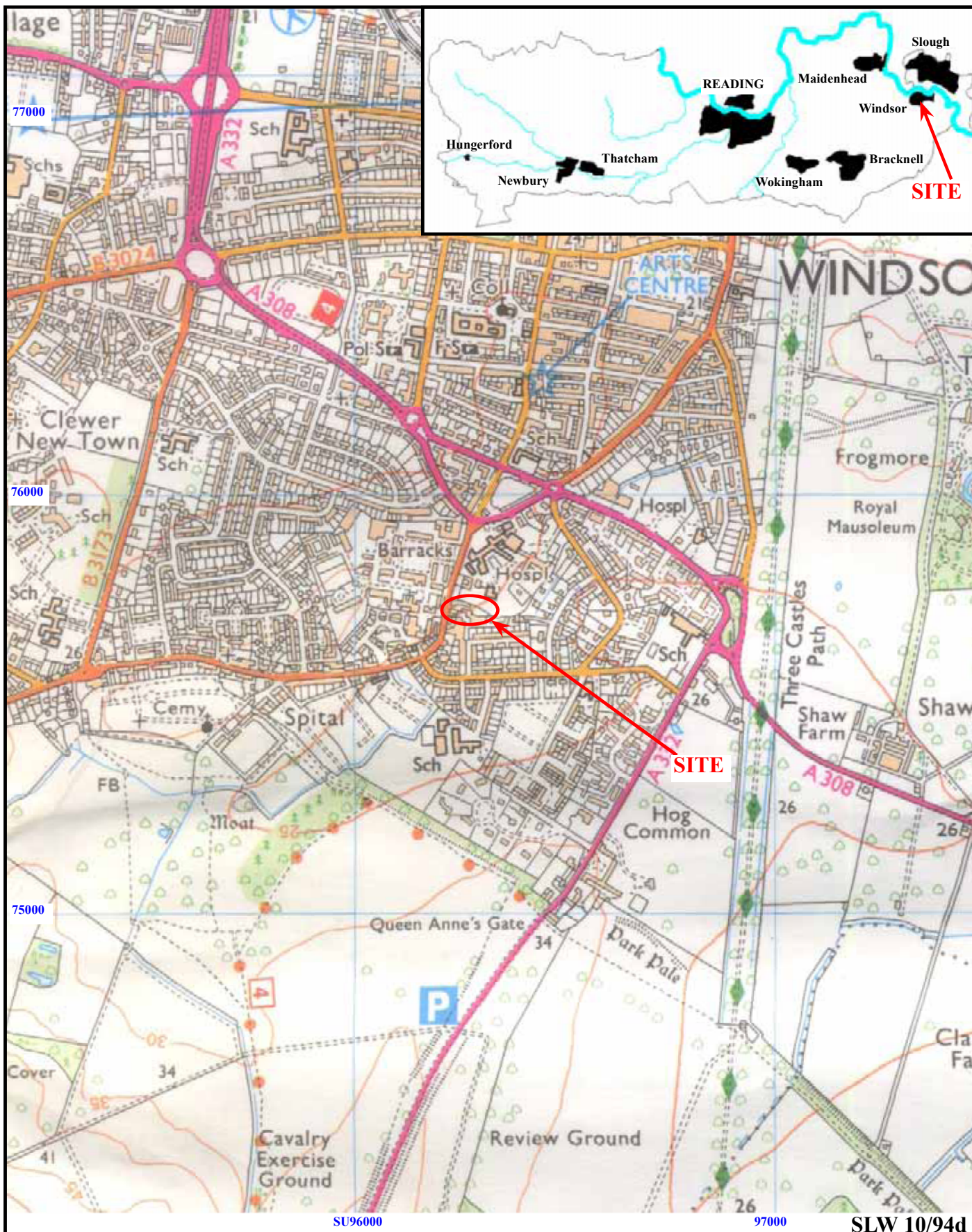
References

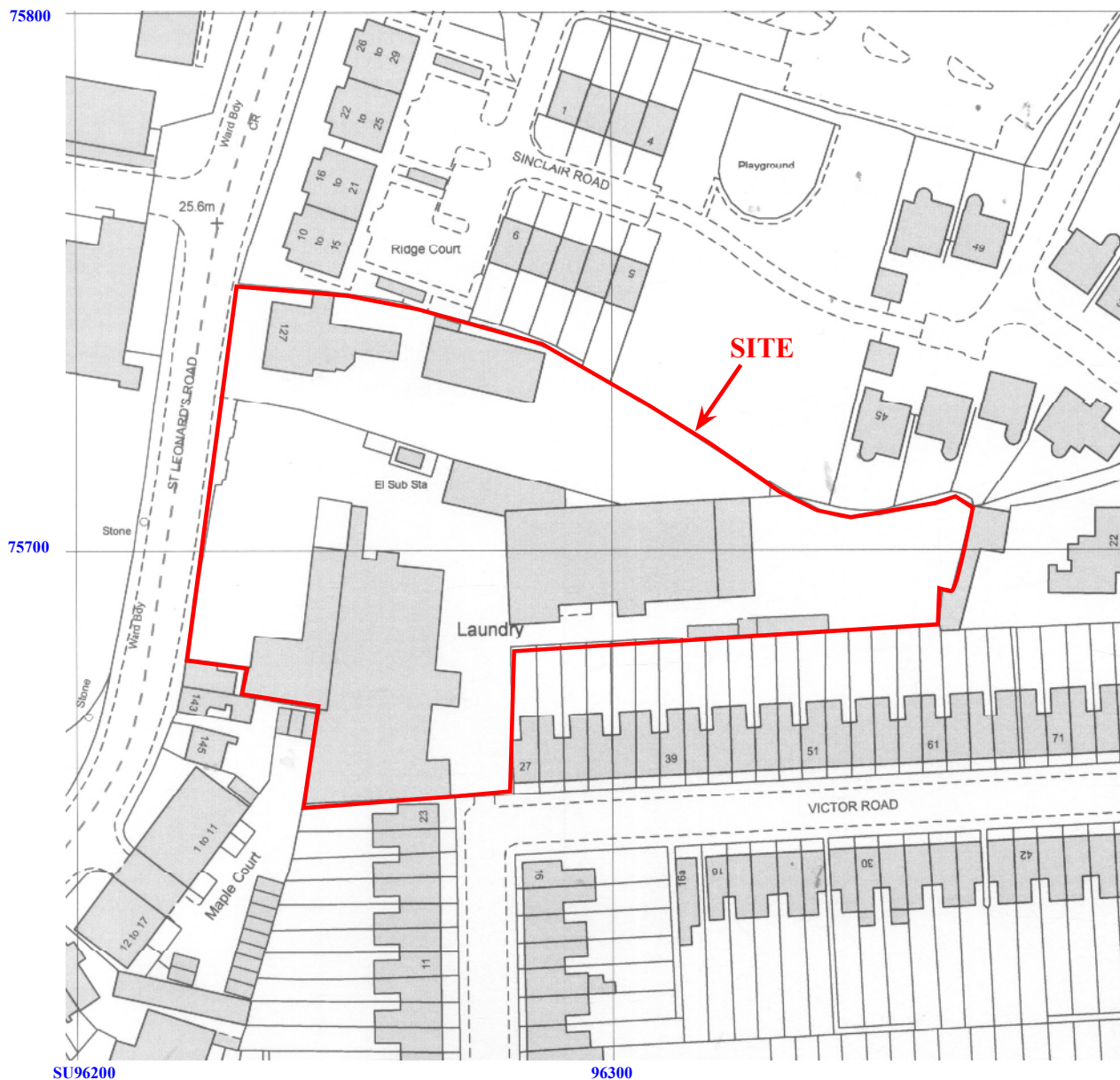
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APPENDIX 1: Trench details

0m at S or W end

<i>Trench</i>	<i>Length (m)</i>	<i>Breadth (m)</i>	<i>Depth (m)</i>	<i>Comment</i>
10	20.0	1.6	WNW 1.54 ESE 0.71	0–1.54/m demolition rubble; 1.54m+ clay natural geology. [Pl. 1]





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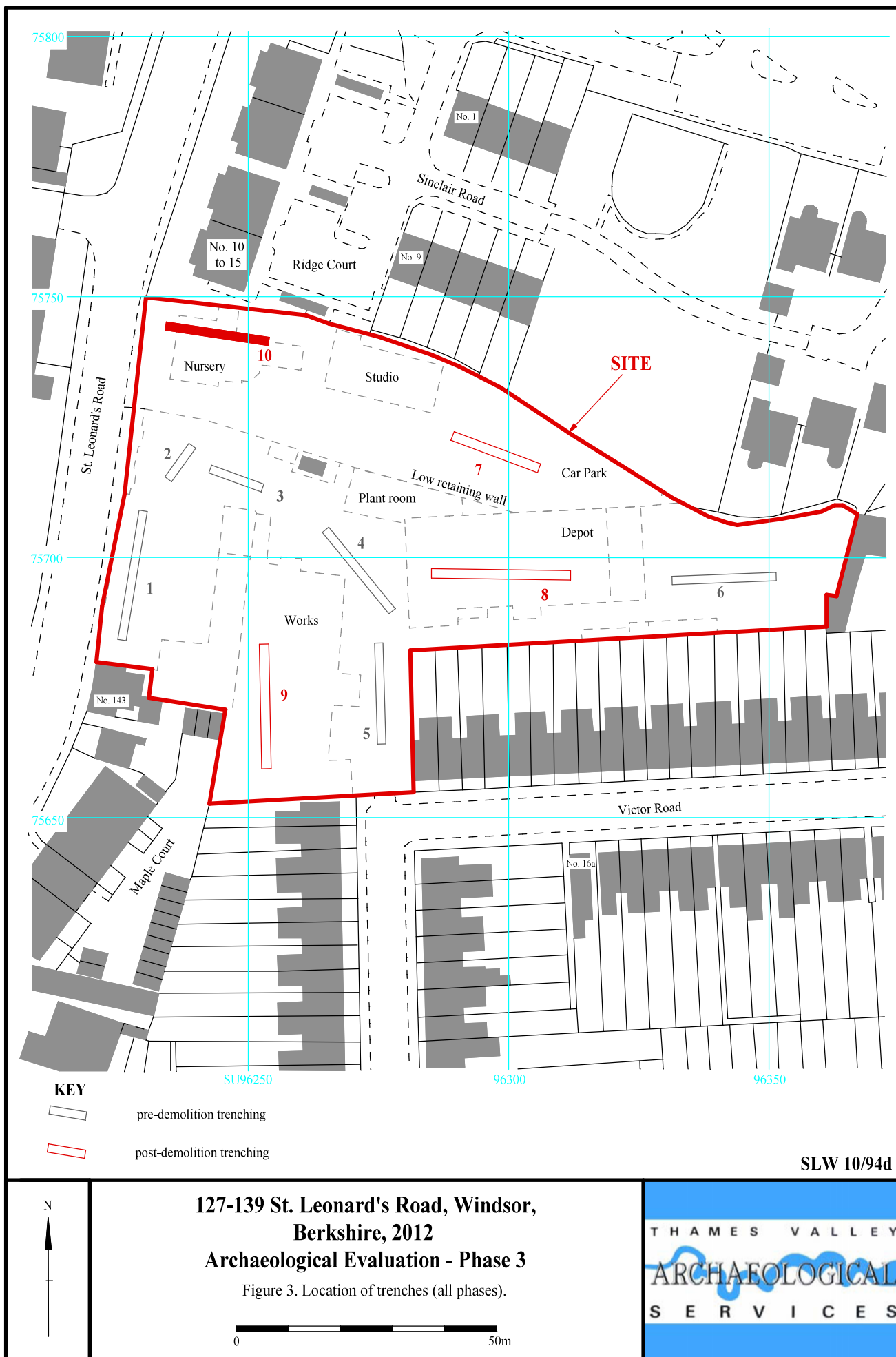
**127-139 St. Leonard's Road, Windsor,
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Figure 2. Detailed location of site off St. Leonard's Road, prior
to demolition.

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25.41m aOD

Mixed modern rubble/redeposited natural geology

Base of trench
natural geology (London Clay)

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Figure 4. Representative section of trench 10.

0 1m

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Plate 1. Trench 10, looking northwest, Scales: 2m, 1m and 0.5m.

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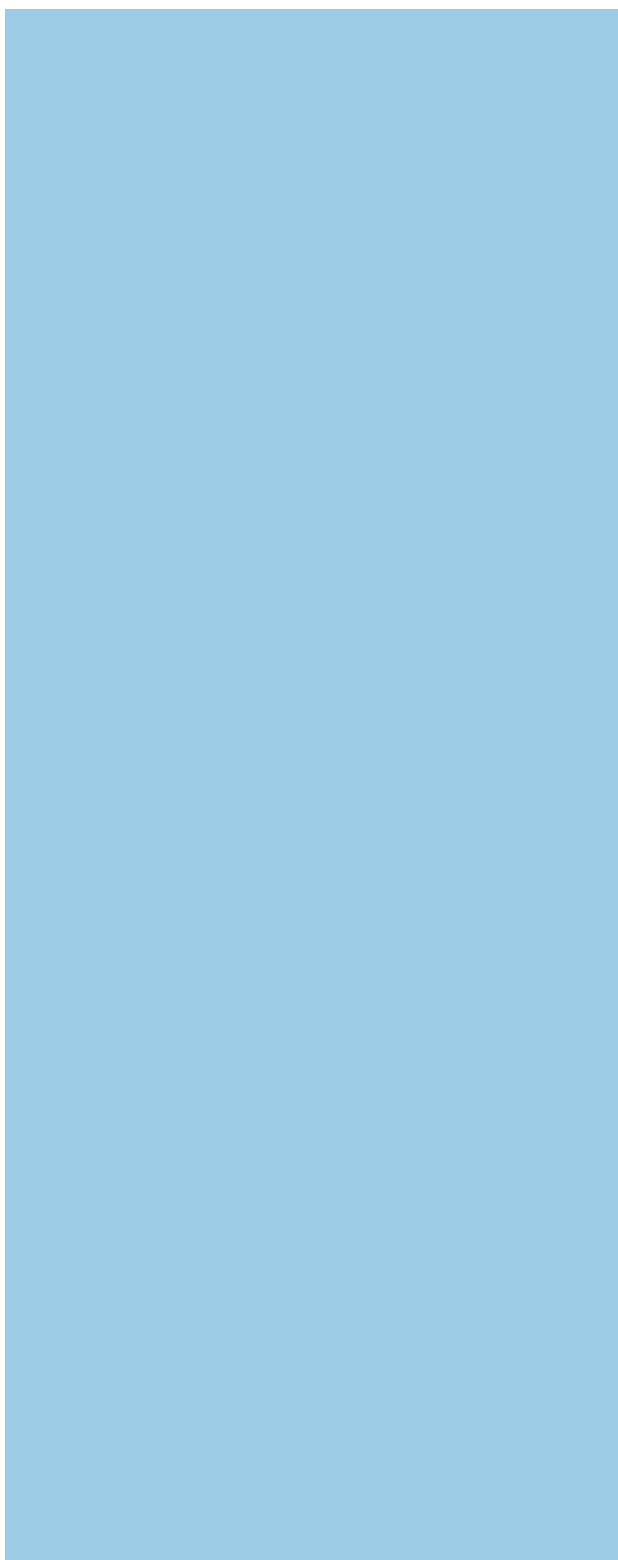
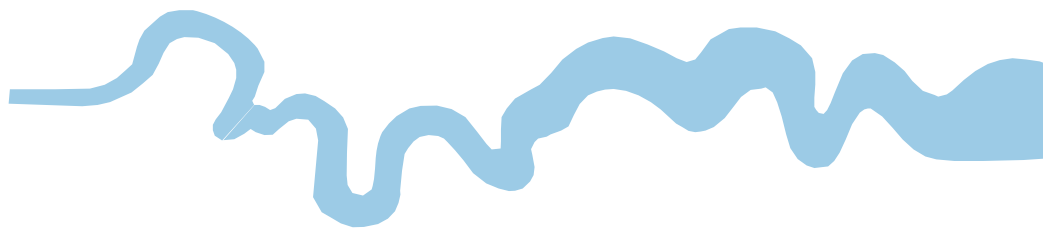
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Plate 1.

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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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