

T H A M E S      V A L L E Y

ARCHAEOLOGICAL

S E R V I C E S

**Spring Cottage, Upton Park,  
Slough, Berkshire**

**Archaeological Evaluation**

**by Steve Ford**

**Site Code: SCU12/199**

**(SU 9775 7911)**

# **Spring Cottage, Upton Park, Slough, Berkshire**

**An Archaeological Evaluation**

**For Sema and Sona Builders Limited**

by Steve Ford

Thames Valley Archaeological Services

Ltd

Site Code SCU12/199

**January 2013**

## Summary

**Site name:** Spring Cottage, Upton Park, Slough, Berkshire

**Grid reference:** SU 9775 7911

**Site activity:** Archaeological Evaluation

**Date and duration of project:** 16th–17th January 2013

**Project manager:** Steve Ford

**Site supervisor:** Steve Ford

**Site code:** SCU12/199

**Summary of results:** No features or artefacts of archaeological interest were recorded. Parts of the site had been previously terraced with truncation of the archaeologically relevant horizon to form a garden or lawn. On the basis of these 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 with an appropriate repository in due course.

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[www.tvas.co.uk/reports/reports.asp](http://www.tvas.co.uk/reports/reports.asp).*

Report edited/checked by: Steve Preston✓ 22.01.13
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# Spring Cottage, Upton Park, Slough, Berkshire An Archaeological Evaluation

by Steve Ford

Report 12/199

## Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological field evaluation carried out on land at Spring Cottage, Upton Park, Slough, Berkshire (SU 9775 7911) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Mr David Raeside, Chartered Surveyor, 3 Astonville, Beaconsfield Road, Farnham Common, SL2 3HZ on behalf of Sema and Sona Builders Limited, 54 Sutton Avenue, Langley, Slough, SL3 7AW. Planning consent (app P/00475/006) has been granted by Slough Borough Council for the construction of two new detached houses and a block of apartments on a parcel of land formerly occupied by Spring Cottage. The consent is subject to a condition (15) relating to archaeology, which requires a phased programme of work to mitigate the archaeological impact of development. This was to take the form, initially, of a field evaluation to be carried out prior to groundworks. Further work might be required dependent on the results of the evaluation.

The Department for Communities and Local Government's *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF 2012), and the Borough Council's policies on the historic environment. The field investigation was carried out to a specification approved by Ms Fiona Macdonald, Principal Archaeologist with Berkshire Archaeology and archaeological adviser to Slough Borough Council. The fieldwork was undertaken by Steve Ford and Marta Buczek on 16th–17th January, 2013 and the site code is SCU12/199. The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited with an appropriate repository in due course.

## Location, topography and geology

The site lies to the south-east of the centre of Slough but is closer to the village of Upton, to the north-east. Immediately to the west is Upton Park. The site lies on the lowest (floodplain) terrace of the river Thames, which flows 1 km to the south (Fig. 1). The site is accessed via a long driveway from Upton Park Road (Fig. 2) and lies on land that slopes down to the south, at a height of *c.* 20m above Ordnance Datum. The former buildings on the site have been demolished and the garden was overgrown at the time of fieldwork. The underlying geology is mapped as floodplain terrace gravel, but with alluvium immediately to the south (BGS 1981). The main geology observed was a fine grey gravel with a brickearth outcrop in Trench 1. Trench 2 lay in a truncated area and the gravel exposed was not the original surface of this deposit.

## **Archaeological background**

The archaeological potential of the site stems from its location within the archaeologically rich Thames Valley with a wealth of prehistoric and later archaeological finds recorded in the Berkshire Archaeology Historic Environment Record for the area, coming from archaeological fieldwork, aerial photography, mineral extraction and dredging of the river Thames (Ford 1987, Foreman *et al.* 2002; Gates 1975). The site lies on the edge of Upton Park (now Hershel Park) which was a mid-19th century creation. However, it also lies to the west of the medieval village of Upton which was documented in Domesday Book in AD1086 (Williams and Martin 2002) and where the original manor house still stands along with the parish church. The church retains 12th-century elements. Other medieval activity is recorded just to the north of the site and the findspot of a Roman coin is recorded to the west.

## **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.

The specific research aims of this project were:

- to determine if archaeologically relevant levels had survived on the site;
- to determine if archaeological deposits of any period were present; and
- to determine if there are any Medieval deposits present reflecting components of medieval Upton on the site.

It was proposed to excavate two trenches both measuring 10m long and 1.6m wide. The trenches were positioned to target the footprints of the proposed two new detached houses. The apartment block was to occupy the same footprint as the recently demolished structure. A contingency for up to a further 5m of trenching was included if advised by Berkshire Archaeology.

Overburden was to be removed using a JCB-type machine equipped with a ditching bucket to expose the archaeologically sensitive levels. This work was to be supervised at all times by an archaeologist and spoil heaps were to be monitored for finds. Where archaeological features were exposed they were to be cleaned and excavated by hand.

## Results

Both trenches were dug more or less as intended, with a slight adjustment needed to avoid mature shrubs on the site (Fig. 3). They ranged in length from 10.9m to 11.0m and in depth from 0.65–0.9m. A complete list of trenches giving lengths, breadths, depths and a description of sections and geology is given in Appendix 1.

### Trench 1 (Figs 3 and 4; Pl. 1)

Trench 1 was aligned W–E and was 10.9m long and 0.65m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.4m of rooty topsoil above 0.2m of brown silty clay subsoil with gravel. To the east this overlay a brown silty clay (brickearth) natural geology whereas to the west this gave way to a fine grey sandy gravel. Two cut features were recorded. Both were straight-sided c. 0.4m wide and both contained modern brick or tile. The features are considered to be drains. No artefacts were recovered and no features of archaeological interest were recorded.

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

Trench 2 was aligned W–E and was 11m long. At the east end the trench was 0.4m deep whereas it was 0.9m deep at the west end. This difference was caused by the trench traversing a terraced area partly defined by a brick-built retaining wall to the north. The stratigraphy at the east end consisted of 0.3m of topsoil above 0.1m of brown clayey redeposited subsoil, above brown gravel natural geology. A natural yellow brown clay 'crescent' was present in the gravel. At the western end the stratigraphy was similar but deeper where the terrace was crossed. The subsoil at that end overlay a patch of charcoal. No archaeological features or finds were observed.

## Conclusion

Despite the archaeological potential of the site, the trenches revealed no features or finds of archaeological interest. One of the trenches lay within a terraced area and it is likely that the archaeologically relevant horizon had been truncated along with any shallow archaeological features, if originally present. Apart from two late post-medieval or modern drains, no cut features nor artefacts of archaeological interest were recorded. The site is considered to have no archaeological potential.

## References

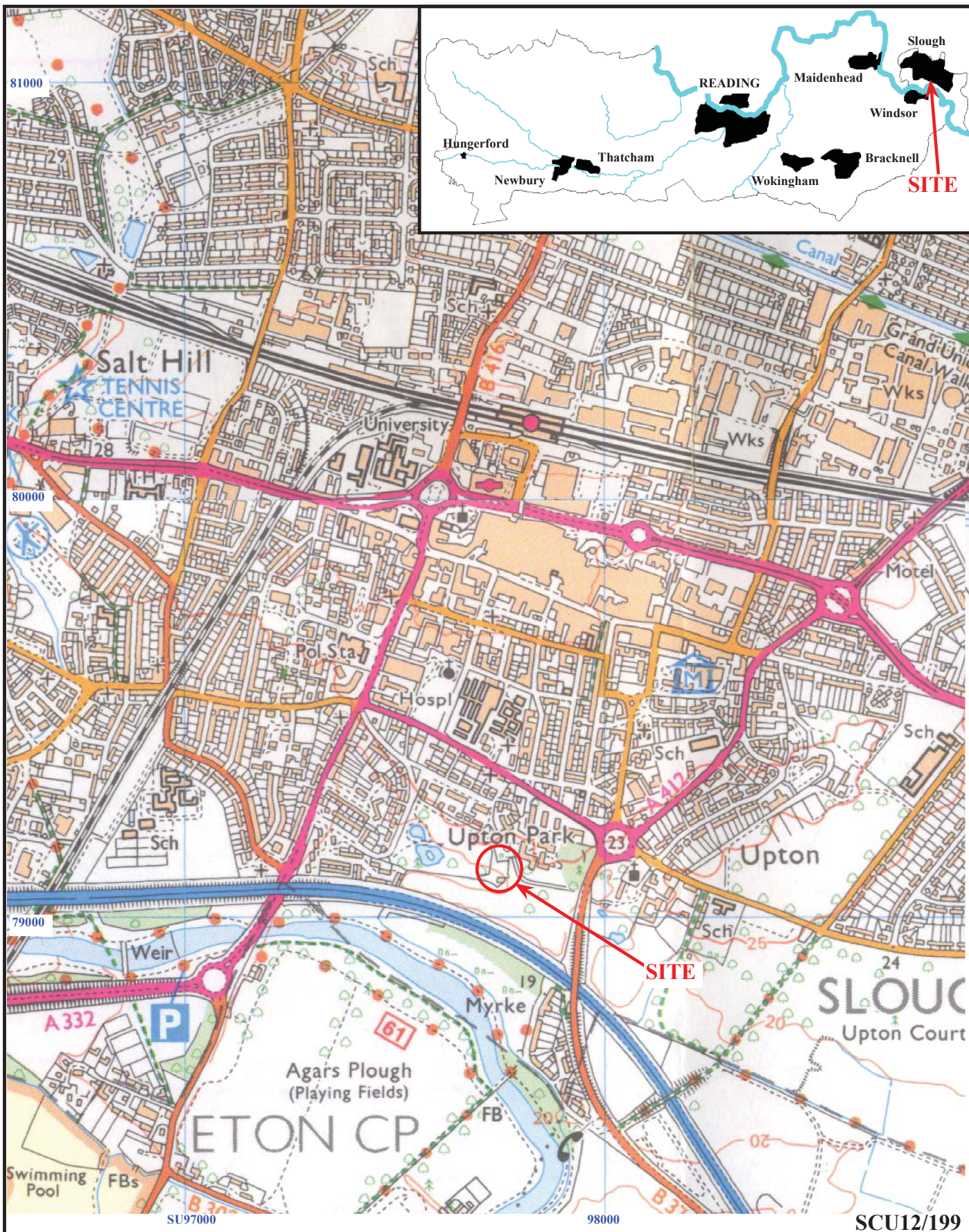
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Gates, T, 1975, *The Thames Valley; an archaeological survey of the River Gravels*, Berkshire Archaeol Comm  
Publ 1, Reading  
NPPF 2012, *National Planning Policy Framework*, Dept Communities and Local Government, London (TSO)  
Williams, A and Martin, G H, 2002, *Domesday Book, a complete translation*, London

**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>
1	10.9	1.60	0.65	0–0.4m Topsoil; 0.4–0.60m brown silty clay with gravel subsoil; Natural geology - East end: 0.60+ yellow brown silty clay (brickearth); West end 0.60m+ grey brown sandy gravel (fine). Modern drains at 3m and 9m. <b>[Pl. 1]</b>
2	11.0	1.60	0.4–0.9	East end: 0–0.3m Topsoil; 0.3–0.4m brown silty clay with gravel subsoil (redeposited) ; 0.4m+ brown gravel with clay patch (natural geology) West end: 0-0.5m Topsoil; 0.5-0.9m brown silty clay with gravel subsoil; 0.9m+ brown gravel natural geology. <b>[Pl. 2]</b>



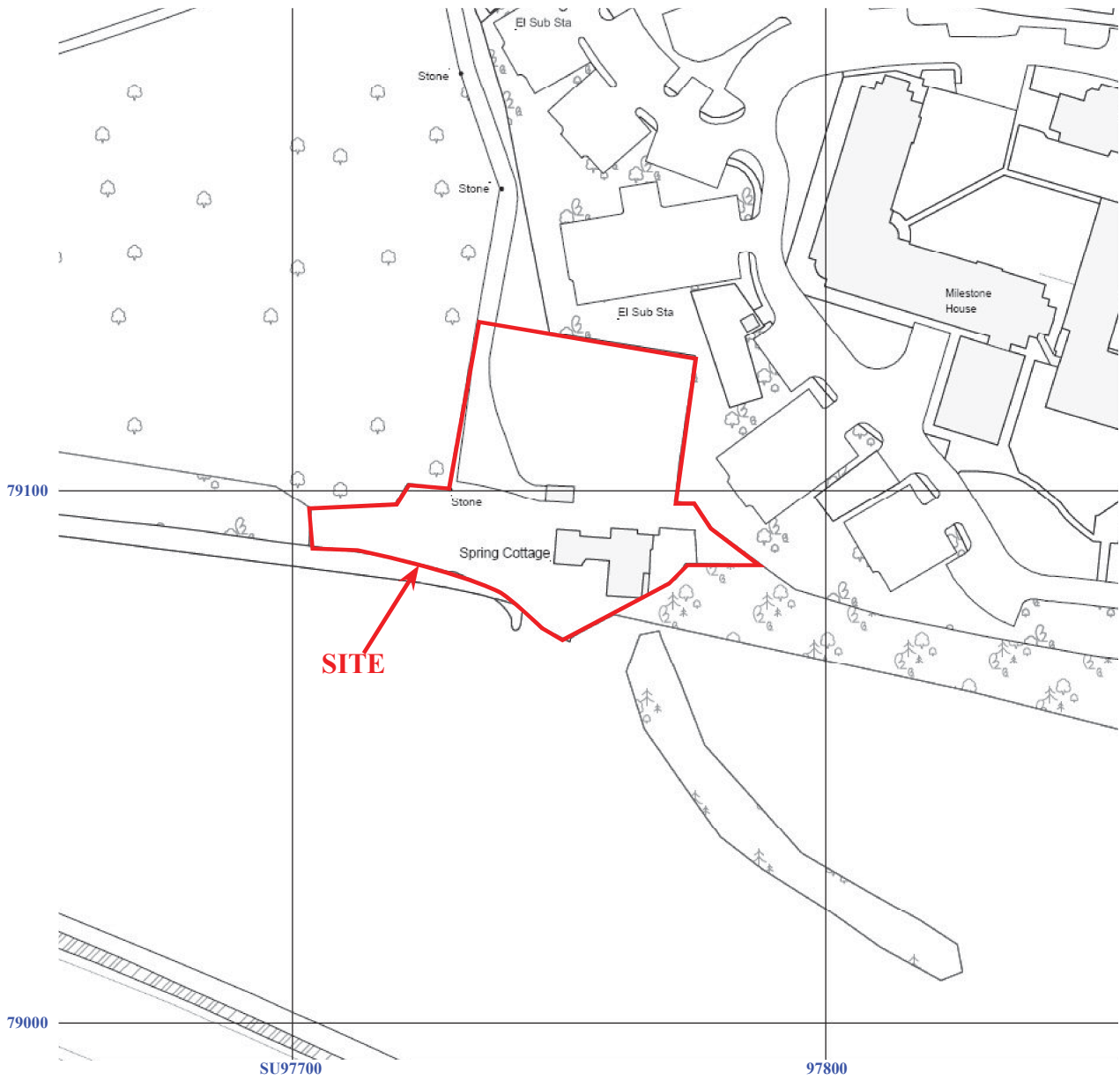


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Figure 1. Location of site within Slough and Berkshire.

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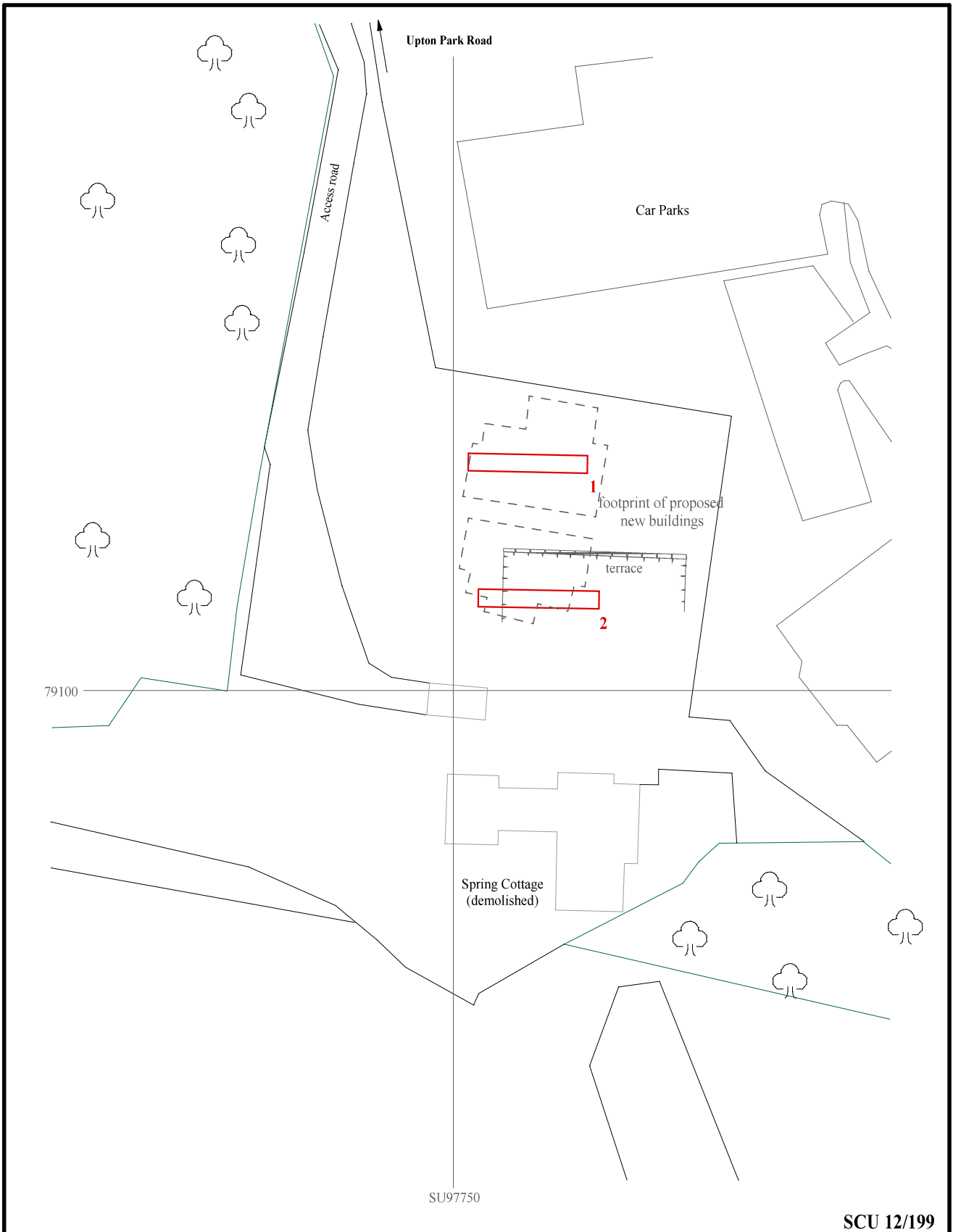
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Figure 2. Detailed location of site.

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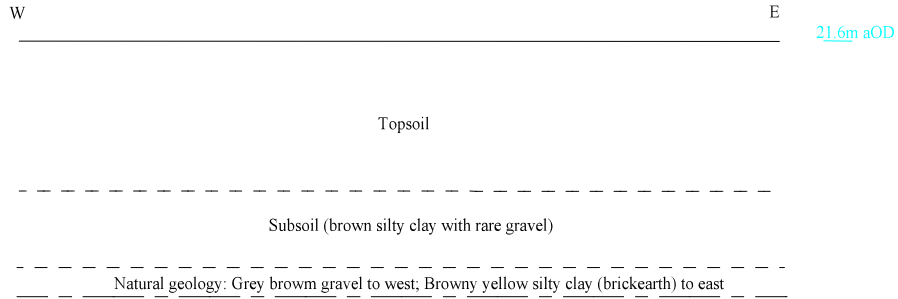
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Figure 3. Location of trenches.

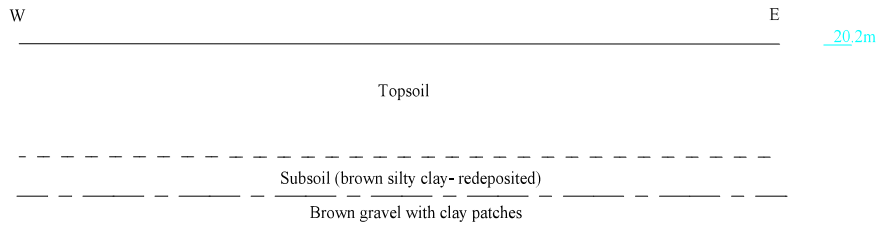


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**Trench 1**



**Trench 2**



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Figure 4. Representative sections.





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



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

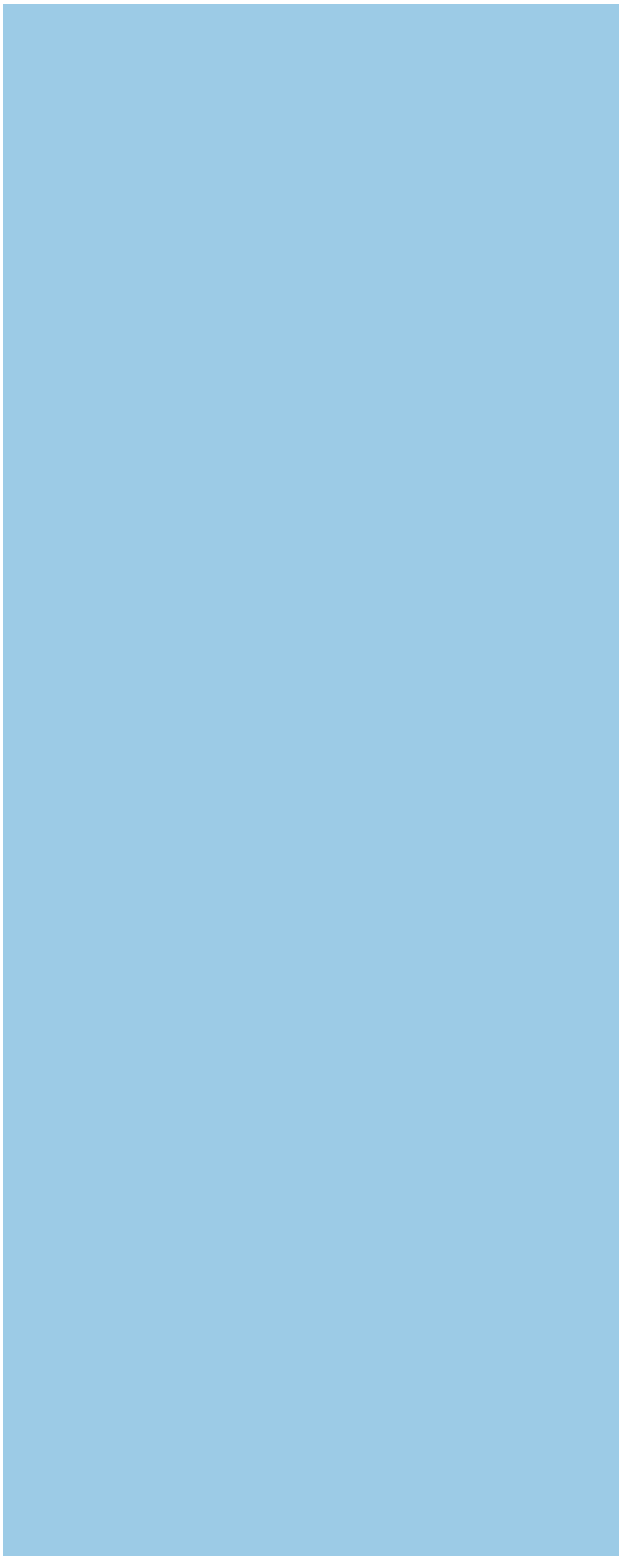
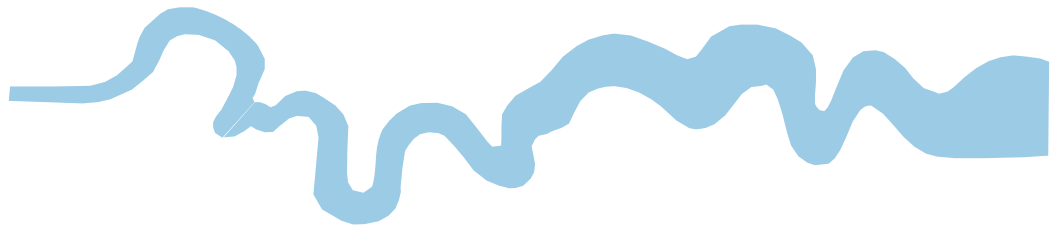
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Plates 1 and 2.

## 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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