

T H A M E S      V A L L E Y

ARCHAEOLOGICAL

S E R V I C E S

**Bishops Road, Slough,  
Berkshire**

**Archaeological Evaluation**

**by Lizzi Lewins and Kyle Beaverstock**

**Site Code: BRS16/25**

**(SU 9806 7962)**

# **Land at Bishops Road, Slough, Berkshire**

**An Archaeological Evaluation  
for CgMs Consulting**

by Lizzi Lewins and Kyle Beaverstock  
Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code BRS 16/25

**March 2016**

## Summary

**Site name:** Bishops Road, Slough, Berkshire

**Grid reference:** SU 9806 7962

**Site activity:** Archaeological Evaluation

**Date and duration of project:** 10th March 2016

**Project manager:** Danielle Milbank

**Site supervisor:** Kyle Beaverstock

**Site code:** BRS 16/25

**Area of site:** c. 1050 sq m

**Summary of results:** No archaeological features or finds were encountered.

**Location and reference of archive:** The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited at an appropriate designated museum or repository (to be decided by the local planning authority) in due course.

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# Land at Bishops Road, Slough, Berkshire An Archaeological Evaluation

by Lizzi Lewins and Kyle Beaverstock

**Report 16/25**

## **Introduction**

This report documents the results of an archaeological field evaluation carried out at Bishops Road, Slough, Berkshire (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Ms Sally Dicks of CgMs Consulting Ltd, 140 London Wall, London, EC2Y 5DN.

Planning permission (P/00522/020) has been granted by Slough Borough Council for the erection of a 5-storey building comprising 19 residential units with associated landscaping and amenity space. The consent is subject to a condition (10) relating to archaeology. This requires the implementation of a phased programme of archaeological investigation. This was to take the form, initially, of field evaluation by means of trial trenches, based on the results of which, further work might be required to mitigate the impact of development and ensure 'preservation by record' of any surviving archaeological deposits.

This is in accordance with the Department for Communities and Local Government's *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF 2012), and the Borough Council's policies on archaeology. The field investigation was carried out to a specification (Dicks 2016) approved by Mr Roland Smith, Archaeological Officer for Berkshire Archaeology, the archaeological adviser to the Borough Council. The fieldwork was undertaken by Kyle Beaverstock on the 10th March 2016 and the site code is BRS 16/25. The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited at an appropriate designated museum or repository (to be decided by the local planning authority) in due course.

## **Location, topography and geology**

The site is located on the south side of Bishops Road, in central Slough, between the M4 to the south and A4 to the north (Fig. 1). It is a flat parcel of land occupied by an electrical sub station and car park, in a mainly residential area, with Meridian House to the east and residences fronting Alpha Street North to the west. The underlying geology is mapped as Taplow Gravel (BGS 1981) which was observed on site as a light red brown sandy clay with gravel patches. The site lies at a height of *c.*30m above Ordnance Datum (aOD).

## **Archaeological background**

The archaeological potential of the site was summarized in a written scheme of investigation for the site (Dicks 2016) and was considered generally low. In broad terms, its potential stems from its location within the archaeologically rich Thames Valley. A number of sites and findspots have been recorded within a 1km radius of the site and include two handaxes dated to the Palaeolithic period, a mid-late Iron Age settlement, a Roman urn and coin and a possible late Saxon hunting spear. A number of recent investigations have taken place within Slough. Of these eight produced either no archaeology or modern features only (Bray 2013; Bray and McNicoll-Norbury 2013; Ford 2013; McNicoll-Norbury 2014; Pine 2010; Platt and Dawson 2013; Porter 2011; Taylor 2013). Nine unstratified struck flints were recovered from a site which only contained features from the 19th century onwards (Lewis 2009). Two sites produced evidence for four undated linear features (McNicoll 2009a, b and c); further investigation of the second site showed one of the features to be doubtful as archaeology but proved that the remaining gully dated to the Post-Medieval period (Milbank 2010). One site to the north-west, at Slough Trading Estate, produced a small number of early Medieval features (Taylor 2014).

More significantly, two sites to the west, at Cippenham and Lower Cippenham Lane, produced evidence for multi period occupation of the land. Lower Cippenham Lane was mainly utilised in the Medieval period although a small amount of prehistoric flint and Roman pottery recovered from the site show a low level of earlier activity (Taylor 2012b). The site at Cippenham produced evidence dating from the Neolithic, Bronze Age, Iron Age and Roman periods into the post-medieval and modern period, with some evidence for continuity (Taylor 2012a).

Cartographic evidence (Dicks 2016, appendix 2) shows that the site itself was undeveloped (except as gardens) until the late 19th century but has had a variety of 20th-century buildings

## **Objectives and methodology**

The general aims of the project as outlined in the WSI (Dicks 2016) were:

- to determine the existence or absence of any archaeological remains;
- to determine or confirm the approximate date or date range of the remains, by means of artefactual or other evidence;
- to determine or confirm the approximate extent of the remains;
- to determine the condition and state of preservation of the remains;
- to determine the degree of complexity of the horizontal and/or vertical stratigraphy present;

to assess the associations and implications of any remains encountered with reference to the historic landscape;

to determine, as far as is possible, the implications of the remains with reference to economy, status, utility and social activity;

to determine or confirm the likely range, quality and quantity of the artefactual evidence present; and

to determine the potential of the site to provide palaeo-environmental and/or economic evidence and the forms in which such evidence may be present; and

to determine the sequence and dating of Made Ground deposits to enable an understanding of the recent history of the site and its impact on archaeological remains;

To summarize, the specific aims of this project were:

to establish in more detail the date, character and extent of the archaeological remains on the site;

to seek to clarify the nature and extent of existing disturbance and intrusions and hence assess the degree of archaeological survival of buried deposits and any surviving structures of archaeological significance.

to clarify the recent development history of the site and its impact on the site's archaeological significance.

to inform the design of suitable mitigation measures and the production of a written scheme of investigation for zoned excavation or an archaeological watching brief if archaeology is identified.

It was proposed to excavate two trenches, each 15m long and 1.8m wide. The trenches were excavated by a JCB-type machine fitted with a toothless ditching bucket. The excavation was conducted under archaeological supervision at all times and all spoilheaps were monitored for finds. Any archaeological features encountered were to be hand cleaned, appropriately excavated and recorded.

## **Results**

Trench 1 could not be dug to the full length due to the presence of a drain/service, Trench 2 was dug as intended (Fig. 3). Both trenches were 1.8m wide. A complete list of trenches giving lengths, breadths, depths and a description of sections and geology is given in Appendix 1.

### Trench 1 (Pl. 1)

Trench 1 was 10.5m long and 1m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.06m of brick paving overlying 0.14m of sand overlying 0.64m of hoggin overlying 0.16m of a mid orange brown sandy clay subsoil overlying light brown red sandy clay natural geology with gravel inclusions (Fig. 4). No archaeological features or finds were encountered.

### Trench 2 (Pl. 2)

Trench 2 was 15.2m long and 1.18m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.06m of brick paving overlying 0.14m of sand overlying 0.46m of hoggin overlying 0.52m of subsoil overlying light red brown sandy clay natural geology with gravel inclusions (Fig. 4). No archaeological features or finds were encountered.

## **Finds**

No finds of archaeological interest were recovered.

## **Conclusion**

Below a considerable depth of modern made ground, the subsoil was notably deeper in trench 2 (to the south), so it is possible that some truncation had occurred in the northern part of the site prior to its being levelled up (the natural topography slopes slightly down to the south). Nevertheless, sufficient depth of subsoil survived in both trenches to suggest that, had any archaeological deposits existed they would have survived. Despite this, no finds or features of archaeological interest were revealed. On the basis of these results it is therefore considered that the site has no archaeological potential.

## **References**

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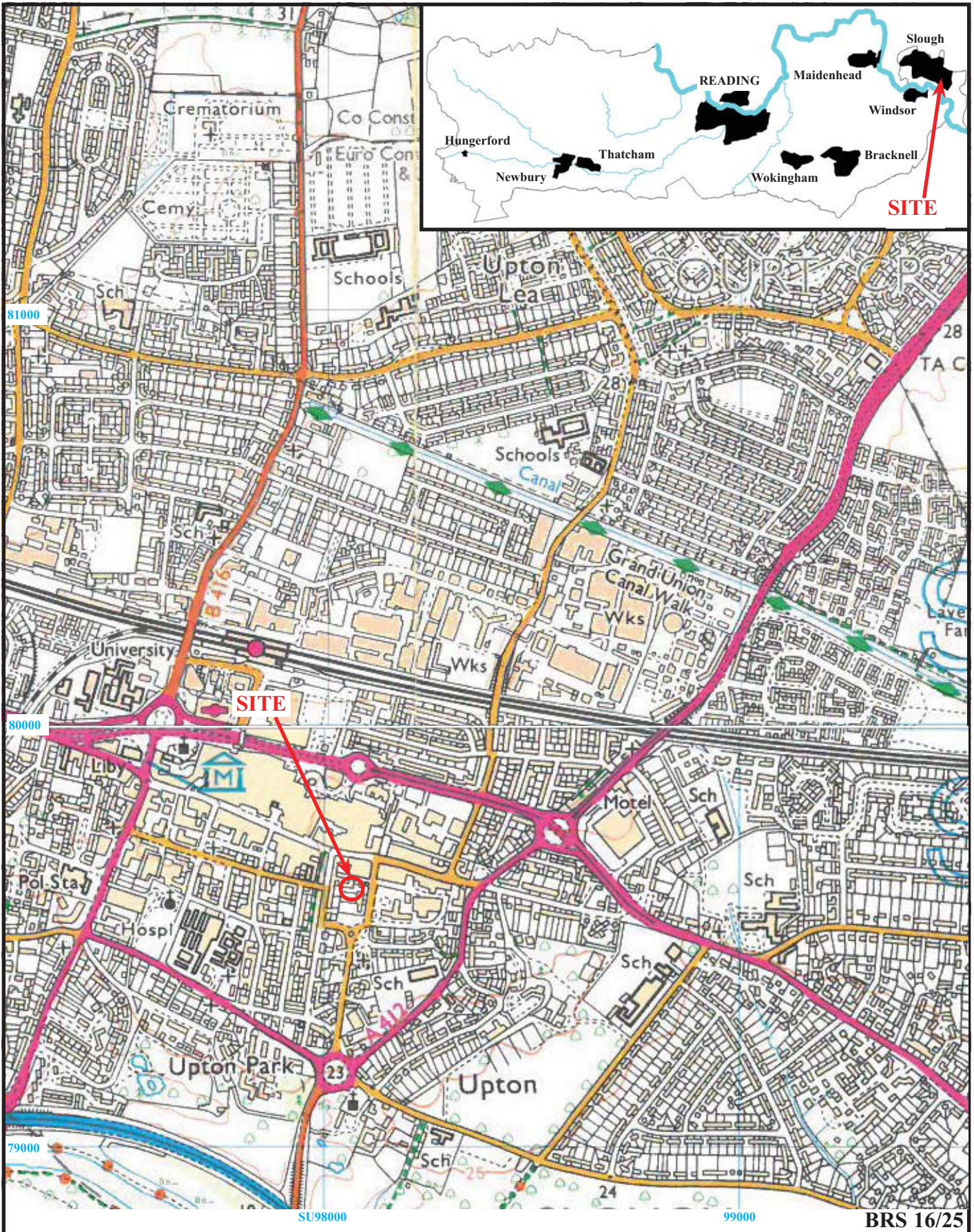
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## APPENDIX 1: Trench details

0m at NW and E ends.

<i>Trench</i>	<i>Length (m)</i>	<i>Breadth (m)</i>	<i>Depth (m)</i>	<i>Comment</i>
1	10.5	1.8	1.0	0-0.06m Brick paving; 0.06m-0.20m Sand; 0.20m-0.84m Hoggin; 0.84m-1m mid orange brown sandy clay subsoil; 1m+ light brown red sandy clay natural geology with gravel inclusions. <b>[Pl. 1]</b>
2	15.2	1.8	1.18	0-0.06m Brick paving; 0.06m-0.20m Sand; 0.20m-0.66m Hoggin; 0.66m-1.18m mid orange brown sandy clay subsoil; 1.18m+ light red brown sandy clay natural geology with gravel inclusions. <b>[Pl. 2]</b>

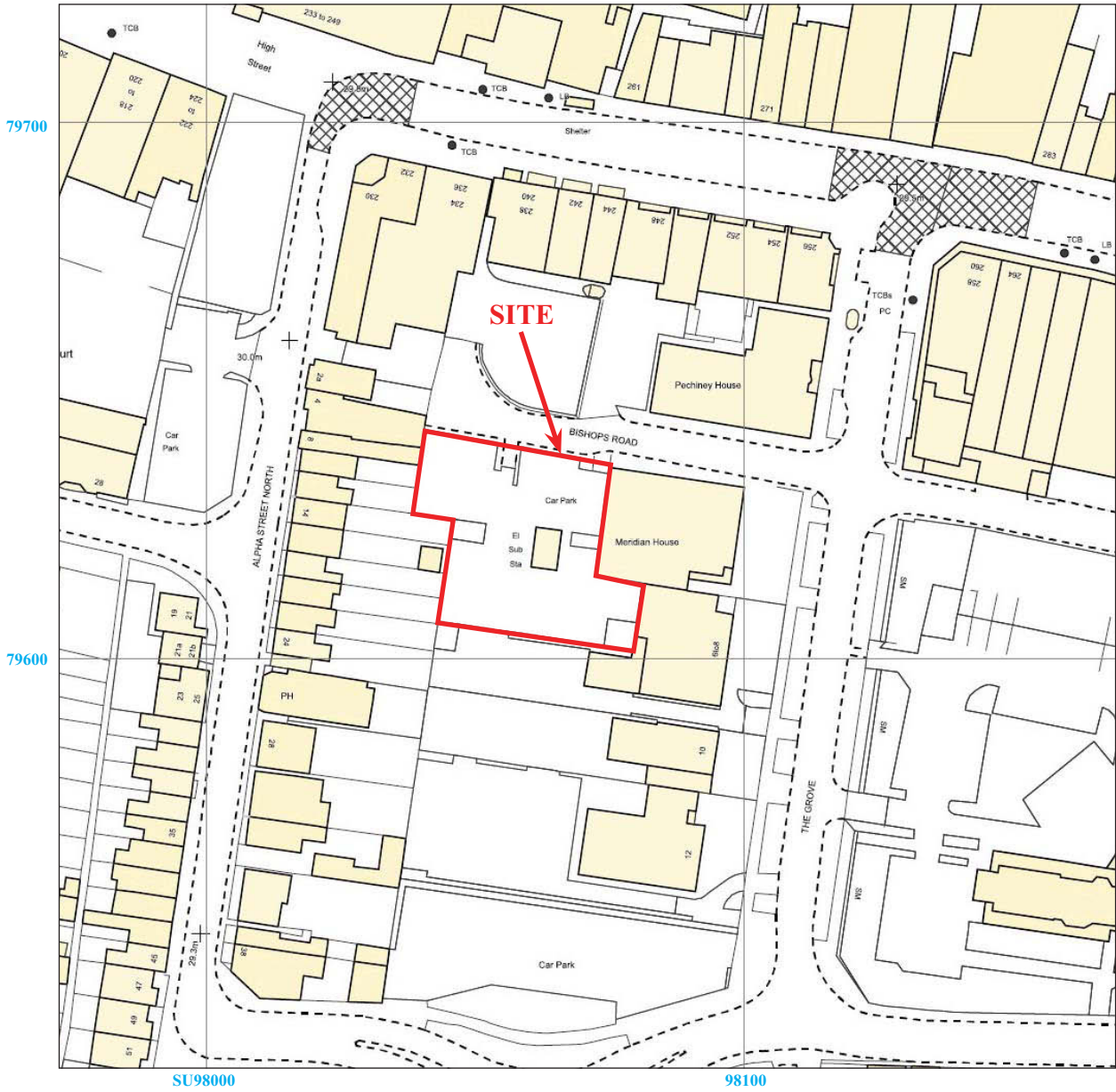


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Figure 1. Location of site within Slough and Berkshire.

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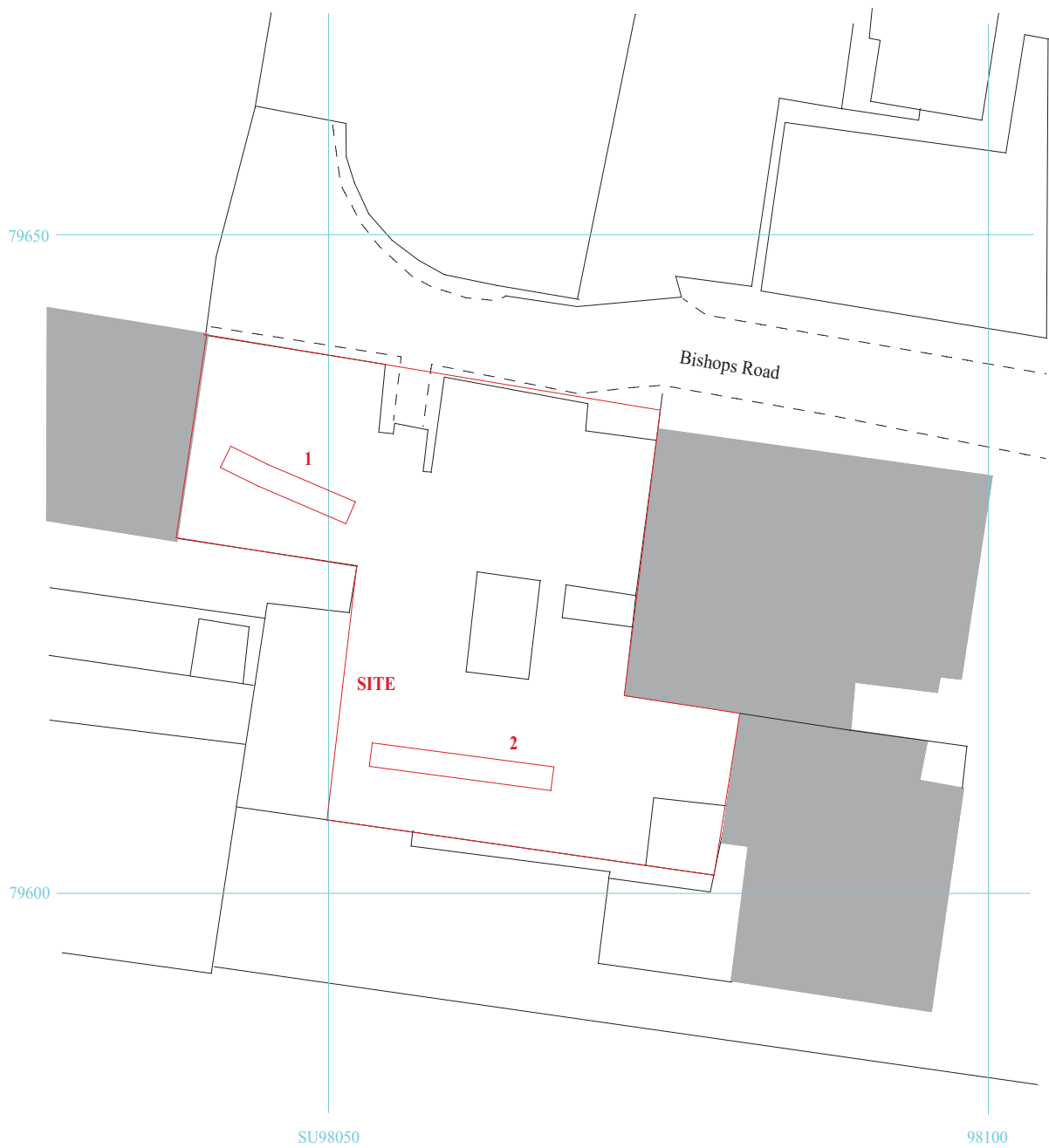


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Figure 2. Detailed location of site off Bishops Road.

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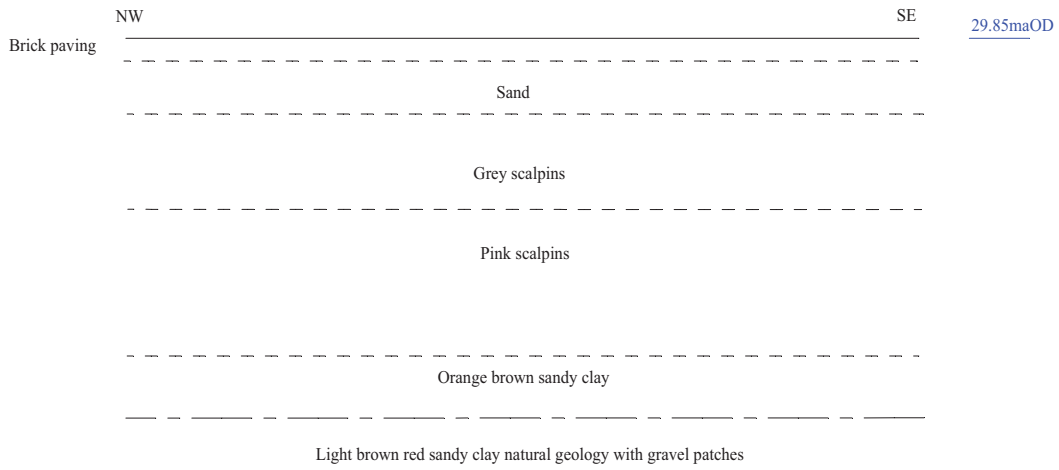
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Figure 3. Location of trenches.

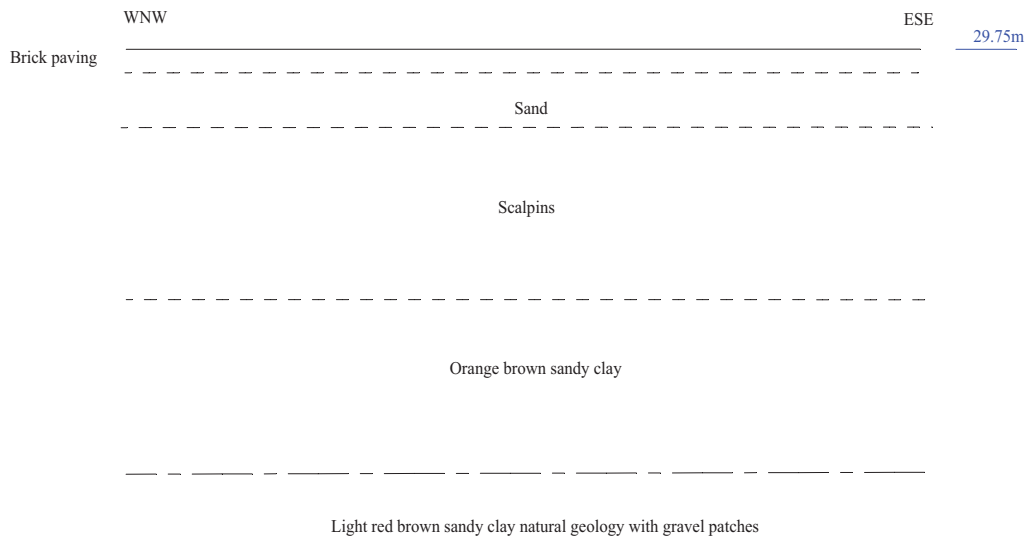


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Trench 1



Trench 2



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Figure 4. Representative sections.





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



Plate 2. Trench 2, looking west, Scales: horizontal 2m and 1m, vertical 0.5m.

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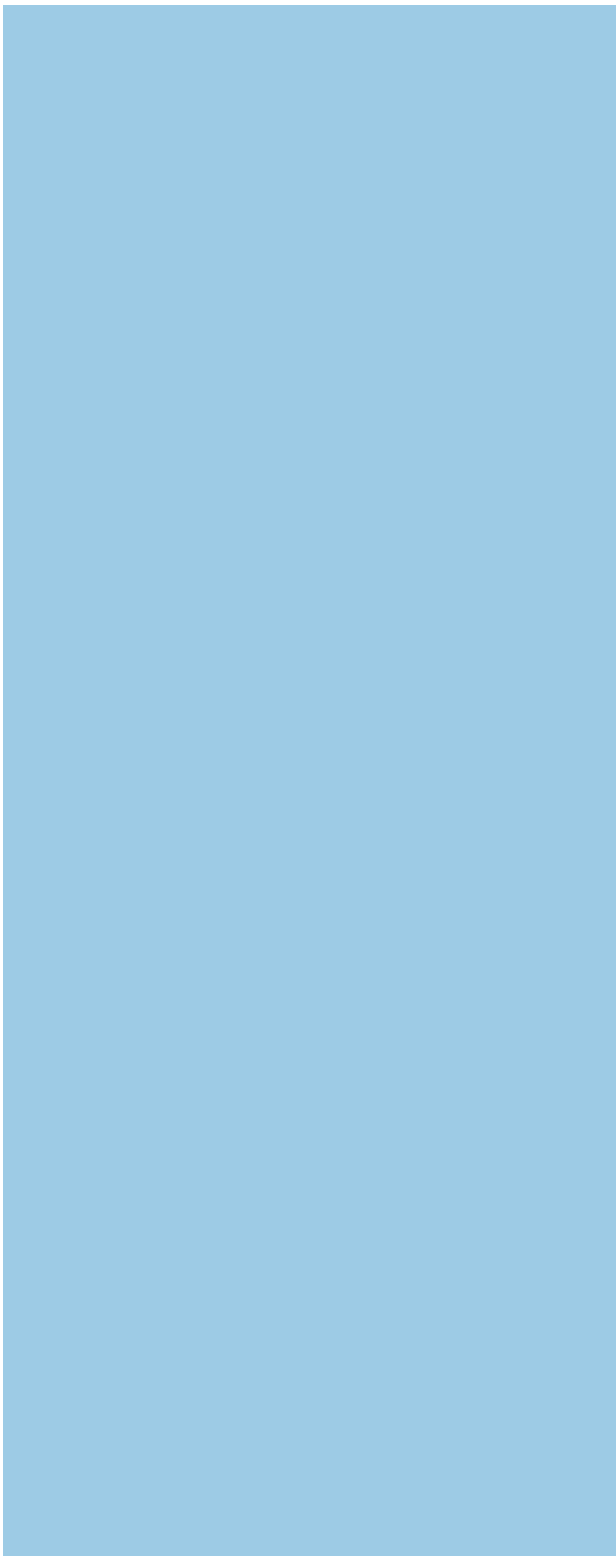
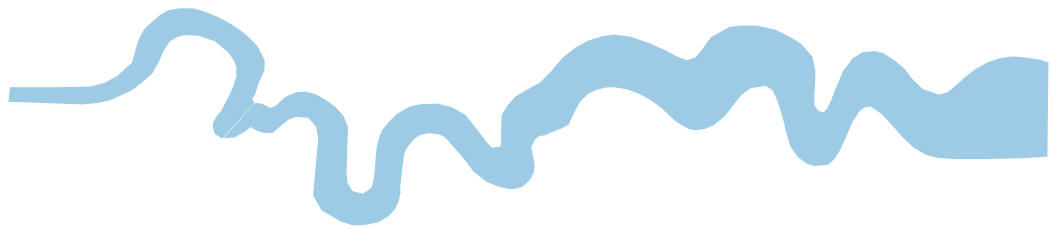
**Land at Bishops Road, Slough,  
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Plates 1 - 2.**

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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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