

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

ARCHAEOLOGICAL

S E R V I C E S

**143-145 Slough Road, Datchet,
Slough, Berkshire**

Archaeological Evaluation

by Luis Esteves

Site Code: SRD16/72

(SU 9828 7819)

**143-145 Slough Road, Datchet,
Slough, Berkshire**

**An Archaeological Evaluation
for Meade Developments**

by Luis Esteves

Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code SRD16/72

August 2016

Summary

Site name: 143-145 Slough Road, Datchet, Slough, Berkshire

Grid reference: SU 9828 7819

Site activity: Evaluation

Date and duration of project: 9th – 10th August 2016

Project manager: Steve Ford

Site supervisor: Luís Esteves

Site code: SRD 16/72

Area of site: c. 0.38 ha

Summary of results: No finds or deposits of archaeological relevance were discovered during the course of the fieldwork. 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 in an appropriate designated museum in due course.

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

Report edited/checked by: Steve Ford ✓ 16.08.16 Steve Preston ✓ 15.08.16

143-145 Slough Road, Datchet, Slough, Berkshire An Archaeological Evaluation

by Luís Esteves

Report 16/72

Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological field evaluation carried out at 143-145 Slough Road, Datchet, Slough, Berkshire (SU 9828 7819) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Mrs Eleanor Smith of Danks Badnell Architects Ltd, 3-4 Osborne Mews, Windsor SL4 3DE on behalf of Meade Developments, Mead House, Church Rd, Smeeth, Ashford, Kent, TN25 6SA.

Planning permissions (app no 13/01649 and 14/03392) have been gained from the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead for the construction of new apartment blocks along with car park and access, following demolition of the existing buildings on the site. The consents are subject to conditions (10 and 11) relating to archaeology.

This is in accordance with the Department for Communities and Local Government's *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF 2012), and the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead's policies on archaeology. The field investigation was carried out to a specification approved by Mr Roland Smith, Archaeological Officer for Berkshire Archaeology, advisers to the Royal Borough. The fieldwork was undertaken by Luís Esteves and Benedikt Tebbit between 9th and 10th August 2016 and the site code is SRD 16/72. The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited in an appropriate designated museum in due course.

Location, topography and geology

Datchet is located on the north bank of the Thames, south-east of Slough and Windsor in eastern Berkshire (Fig. 1). The site is located on the west side of Slough Road in two parcels of land divided by an access road, on the northern outskirts of Datchet (Fig. 2). The site is generally flat and is currently occupied by two houses, which are due to be demolished, and gardens. The underlying geology is described as flood plain gravel (BGS 1981) and on site it was observed a sandy silt (brickearth?) with occasional gravel. The site lies at 20m above Ordnance Datum.

Archaeological background

The archaeological potential of the site stems from its location in the archaeologically rich Thames Valley with a range of sites recorded (Ford 1987; Gates 1975). A number of sites are recorded in the surrounding area with, for example, an extensive cropmark complex at Southlea Farm (Martin 2010), a Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age site at Eton Road, Datchet (Grassam 2008) and extensive multi-period landscapes at Horton (Taylor *et al.* 2010; WA 2006). A single medieval ditch was recorded at Horton Place to the south (Ford 2008). Recent small scale projects in Datchet, however, have mainly revealed nothing of archaeological interest (Lowe 2008; Oram 2006, including one on the adjacent plot (McNicoll-Norbury 2014).

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 was to be carried out in a manner which would not compromise the integrity of archaeological features or deposits which might warrant preservation *in situ*, or might better be excavated under conditions pertaining to full excavation.

The specific research aims of this project are:

- to determine if archaeologically relevant levels have survived on this site;
- to determine if archaeological deposits of any period are present; and
- to collect information with which to prepare a mitigation strategy if necessary.

It was proposed to dig eight trenches, each 15m long and 1.6m wide targeting areas of the new buildings. These were dug using a JCB-type machine fitted with a ditching bucket to expose archaeologically sensitive areas. Any archaeological features identified would be then hand excavated accordingly.

Results

The trenches were excavated as intended (Fig. 3) except Trench 5 (just 6m dug due to the presence of a electrical cable) and a small difference on the orientation of Trenches 7 and 8. Measuring between 10m and 17m long and between 0.54m and 1.33m deep, with a stratigraphy consisted of topsoil/Tarmac above subsoil above the natural geology, which was a light yellow brown sandy silt (brickearth) with occasional gravel (Fig. 4). No archaeological features or finds were encountered.

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)

This trench was aligned NW - SE and was 6m long and 0.54m deep. This trench length was not totally dug due to the presence of a live electrical service. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.32m of Tarmac above 0.22m of subsoil above the natural sandy silt with gravel geology.

Trench 2 (Fig. 3)

This trench was aligned SE - NW and was 14m long and 0.75m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.21m of topsoil and 0.52m of subsoil overlaying natural geology. No archaeological deposits were identified.

Trench 3 (Fig. 3)

This trench was aligned SE - NW and was 17m long and 0.91m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.03m of Tarmac, 0.35m of made ground and 0.51m of subsoil overlaying natural geology. A modern soakaway was observed along with a pipe and concrete plinth. No archaeological deposits were identified.

Trench 4 (Fig. 3; PL 3)

This trench was aligned S - N and was 12m long and 0.90m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.03m of tarmac, 0.31m of made ground and 0.54m of subsoil overlaying natural geology. Two modern pipes were observed. No archaeological deposits were identified.

Trench 5 (Fig. 3; PL 2)

This trench was aligned SE - NW and was 10m long and 1.33m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.50m of paving and made ground and 0.80m of subsoil overlaying natural geology. This trench was not totally dug due to live services in the area. No archaeological deposits were identified.

Trench 6 (Fig. 3; PL 4)

This trench was aligned NW - SE and was 15m long and 0.92m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.27m of topsoil and 0.63m of subsoil overlaying natural geology. No archaeological deposits were identified.

Trench 7 (Fig. 3)

This trench was aligned SE - NW and was 14.5m long and 0.92m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.24m of topsoil and 0.66m of subsoil overlaying natural geology. A modern soakaway and pipe were observed. No archaeological deposits were identified.

Trench 8 (Fig. 3)

This trench was aligned NNW - SSE and was 15.3m long and 1.13m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.28m of topsoil and 0.80m of subsoil overlaying natural geology. A modern soakaway and oval brick plinth were observed. No archaeological deposits were identified.

Finds

No finds of archaeological interest were recovered.

Conclusion

Despite the site's potential no archaeological features or finds were encountered. On the basis of these results, the site can be considered to have no archaeological potential

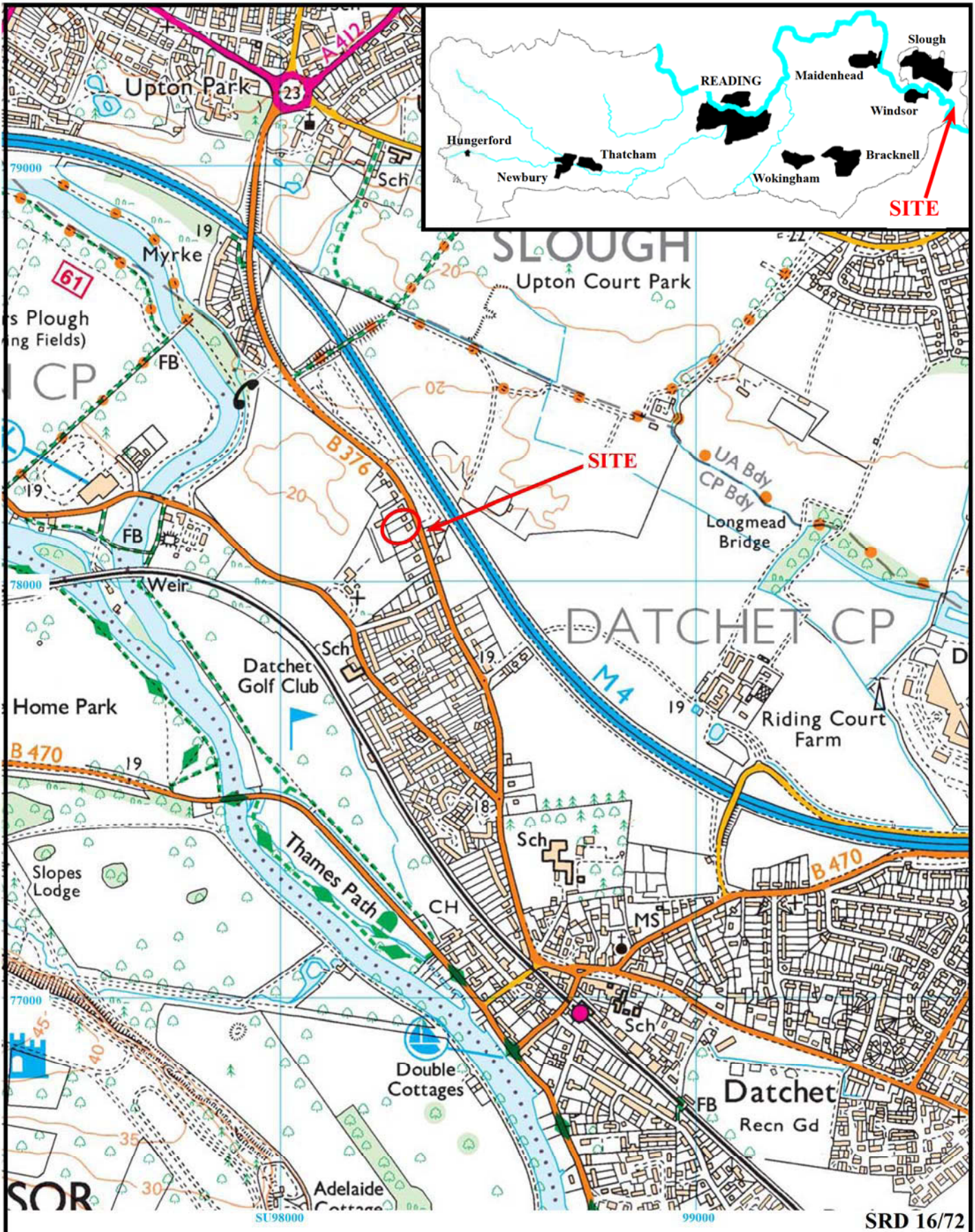
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APPENDIX 1: Trench details

0m at S, SE, NW end

<i>Trench</i>	<i>Length (m)</i>	<i>Breadth (m)</i>	<i>Depth (m)</i>	<i>Comment</i>
1	6	1.6	0.54	0-0.32m Tarmac, 0.32-0.54m subsoil. This trench was not totally dug due to live services in the area (live electrical cable). [Pl. 1]
2	14	1.6	0.75	0-0.21m topsoil, 0.21-0.73m subsoil, 0.73m+ natural geology
3	17	1.6	0.91	0-0.03m Tarmac, 0.03-0.38m made ground, 0.38-0.89m subsoil, 0.89m+ natural geology
4	12	1.6	0.90	0-0.03m Tarmac, 0.03-0.34m made ground, 0.34-0.88m subsoil, 0.88m+ natural geology [Pl. 3]
5	10	1.6	1.33	0-0.50m paving and made ground, 0.50-1.30m subsoil, 1.30m+ natural geology. [Pl. 2]
6	15	1.6	0.92	0-0.27m topsoil, 0.27-0.90m subsoil, 0.90m+ natural geology [Pl. 4]
7	14.5	1.6	0.92	0-0.24m topsoil, 0.24-0.90m subsoil, 0.90m+ natural geology
8	15	1.6	1.13	0-0.28m topsoil, 0.28-1.08m subsoil, 1.08m+ natural geology

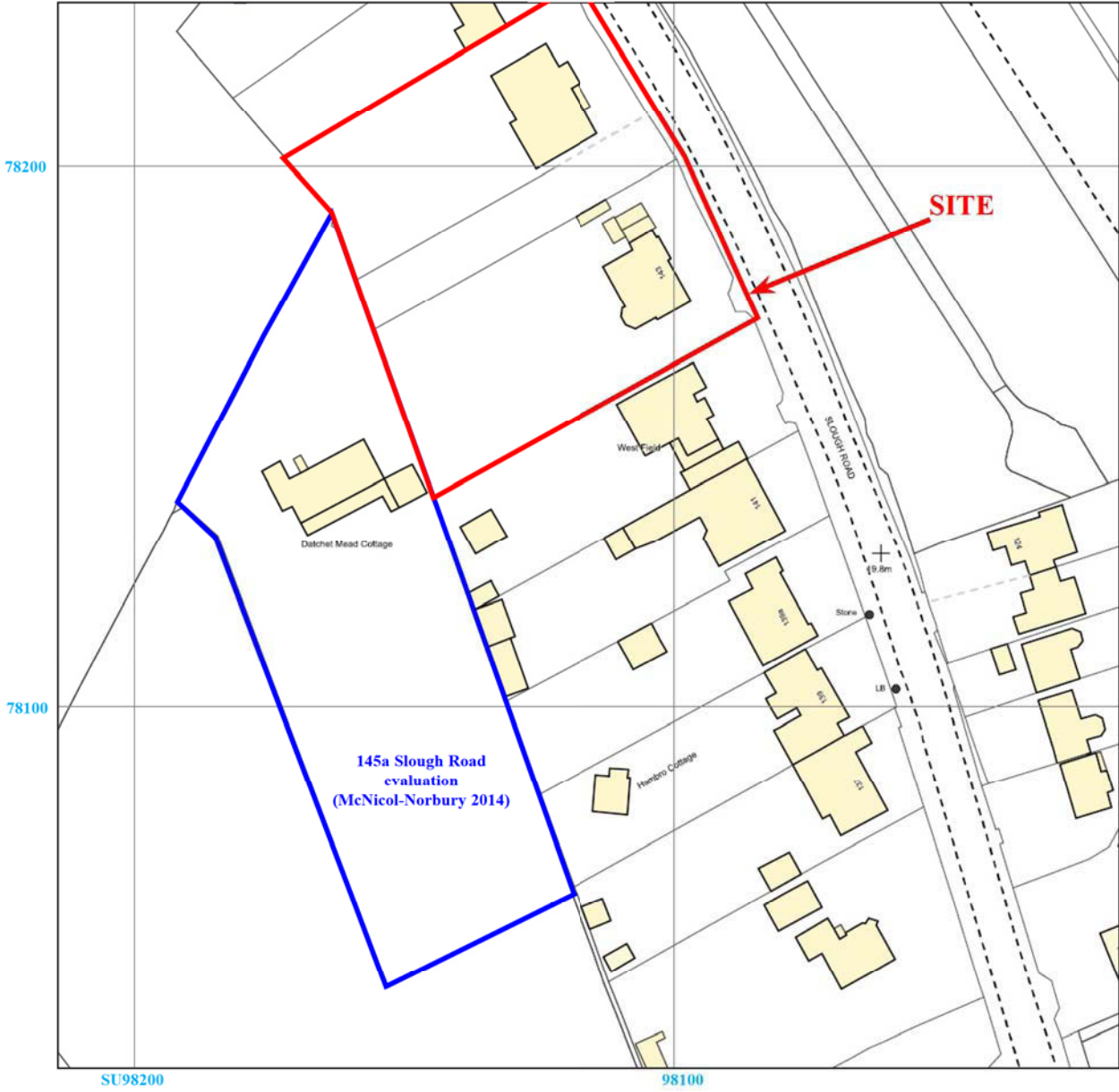


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Figure 1. Location of site within Datchet and Berkshire.

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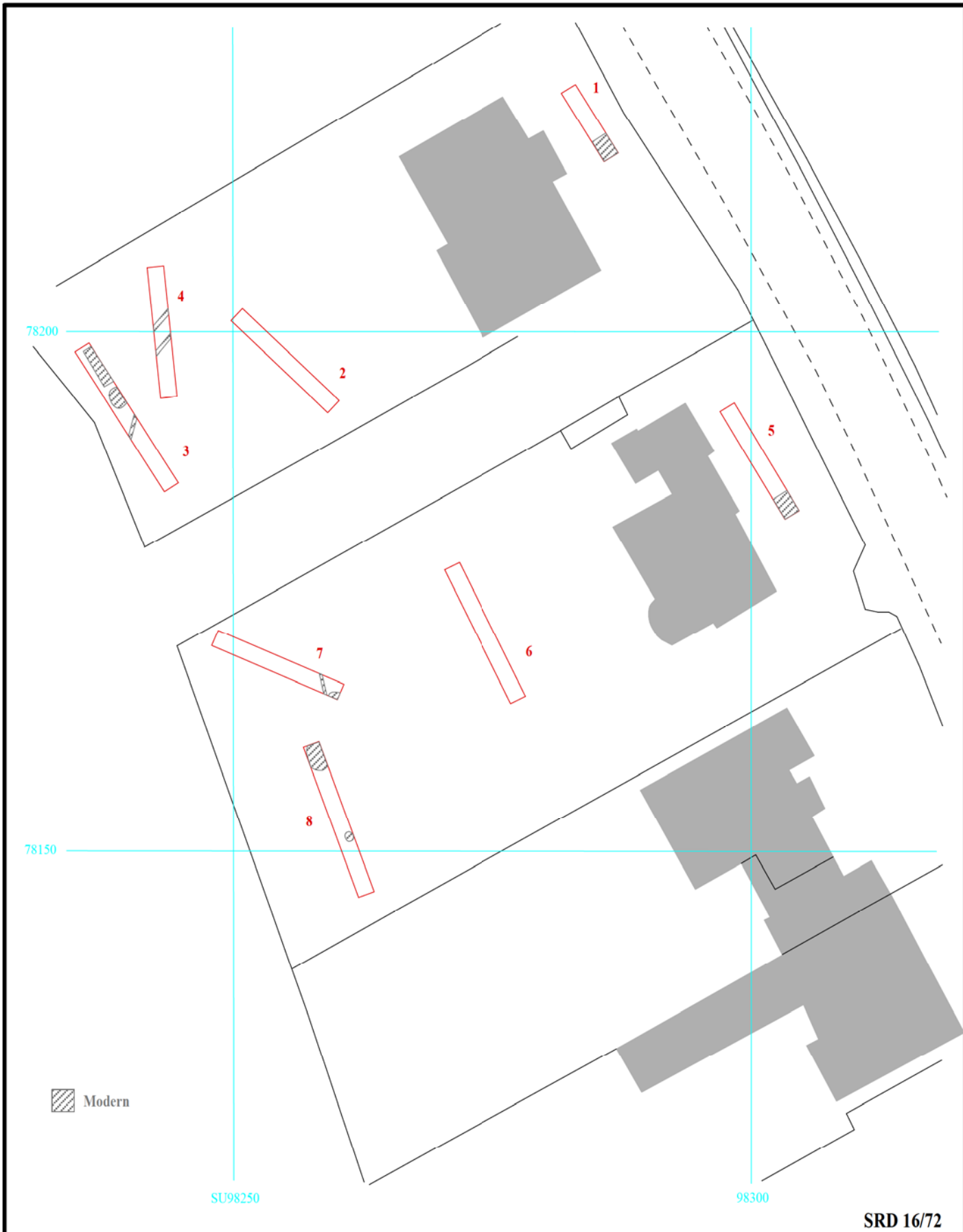


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Figure 2. Detailed location of site off Slough Road.

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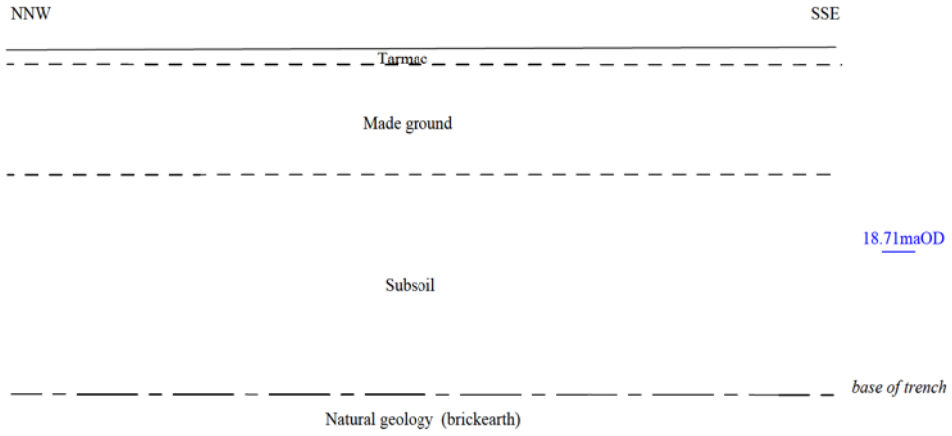
Figure 3. Location of trenches.



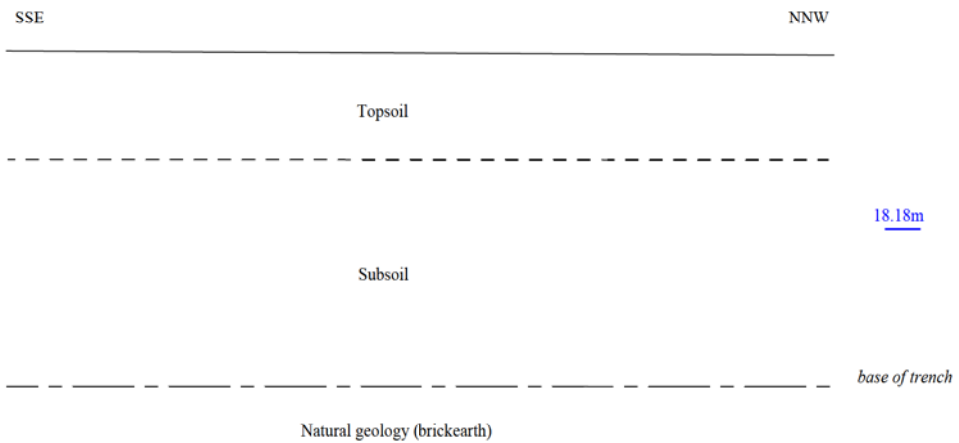
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Trench 3



Trench 6



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Figure 4. Representative sections.



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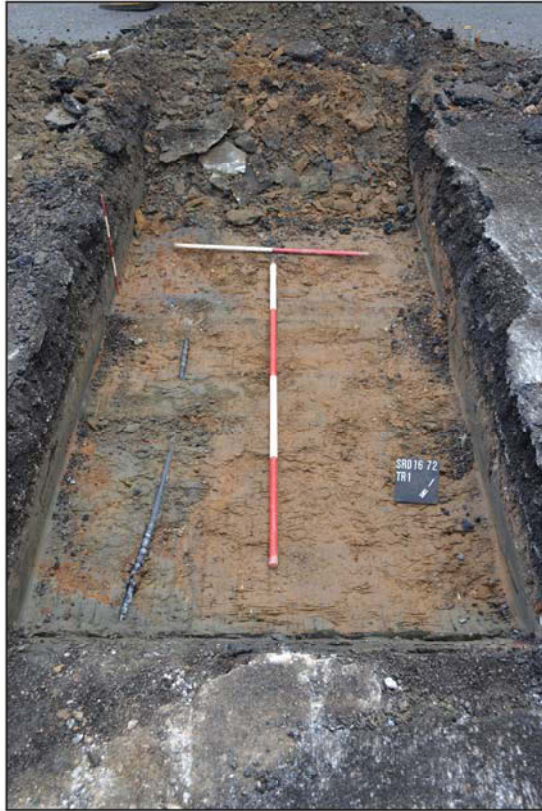


Plate 1. Trench 1, looking south east, Scales: 2m, 1m and 0.5m.



Plate 2. Trench 5, looking north west, Scales: 2m, 1m and 0.5m.

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Plates 1 - 2.

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Plate 3. Trench 4, looking north, Scales: 2m and 1m.



Plate 4. Trench 6, looking south east, Scales: 2m and 1m.

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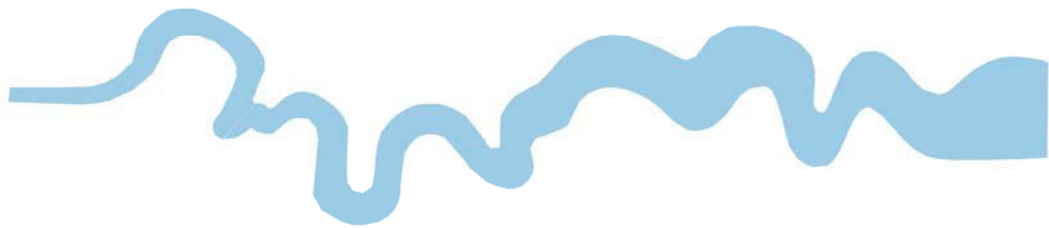
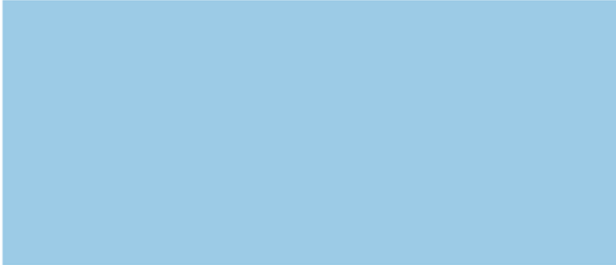
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Plates 3 - 4.

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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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