

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

ARCHAEOLOGICAL

S E R V I C E S

**Priory Cottage, Old Windsor,
Berkshire**

Archaeological Evaluation

by Luis Esteves

Site Code: PCW17/265

(SU 9918 7466)

Priory Cottage, Old Windsor, Berkshire

**An Archaeological Evaluation
for Mr David Farebrother**

by Luis Esteves

Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code PCW 17/265

April 2018

Summary

Site name: Priory Cottage, Old Windsor, Berkshire

Grid reference: SU 9918 7466

Site activity: Evaluation

Date and duration of project: 17th April 2018

Project coordinator: Steve Ford

Site supervisor: Luís Esteves

Site code: PCW 17/265

Area of site: c. 0.16 ha

Summary of results: No deposits of archaeological interest were revealed nor artefacts recovered in the three trenches excavated on site.

Location and reference of archive: The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited with an appropriate museum or repository in due course.

*This report may be copied for bona fide research or planning purposes without the explicit permission of the copyright holder. All TVAS unpublished fieldwork reports are available on our website:
www.tvas.co.uk/reports/reports.asp.*

Report edited/checked by: Steve Ford ✓ 24.04.18 Steve Preston ✓ 24.04.18

Priory Cottage, Old Windsor, Berkshire An Archaeological Evaluation

by Luís Esteves

Report 17/265b

Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological field evaluation carried out at Priory Cottage, Church Road, Old Windsor, Berkshire (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Mr Philip Tilbury of Herbert J. Stribling & Partners, New Inn 51, Eton Square, Eton, Windsor, Berkshire SL4 6BQ on behalf of Mr David Farebrother of Priory Cottage, Church Road, Old Windsor, Berkshire SL4 2JW. Planning permission and Scheduled Monument Consent are to be sought from the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead and Secretary of State as advised by Historic England for the construction of a new house on the site, following demolition of the existing building. As a consequence of the possibility of archaeological deposits on the site, which might be damaged or destroyed by groundworks, a field evaluation has been requested by Historic England and the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead.

This is in accordance with the *Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979* (as amended) and also with the Department for Communities and Local Government's *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF 2012), and the Royal Borough's policies on archaeology. The field investigation was carried out to a specification approved by Ms Alex Bellisario, Assistant Inspector of Ancient Monuments for Historic England. The works were conducted under the terms of Scheduled Monument Consent 00187391 issued on behalf of the Secretary of State.

The fieldwork was undertaken by Luís Esteves and David Wallace on 17th April 2018 and the site code is PCW17/265. The archive is presently held at TVAS, Reading and will be deposited with a local museum willing to accept archive material.

Location, topography and geology

Old Windsor lies to the south east of modern (new) Windsor on the west bank of the Thames (Fig 1). The site is located at the eastern extent of the modern component of Old Windsor to the south of Church Road. It comprises an irregular parcel of land covering an area of approximately 1650 sq m centred on NGR SU 9918 7466 (Fig. 2). The site is bounded by Church Road to the north, a track separating it from the Church of St Peter and St

Andrew and The Vicarage to the east, an undeveloped plot of land to the south and another undeveloped plot to the west. The underlying geology is mapped as Floodplain Gravel (BGS 1999) and in the trenches this was observed as yellowish grey gravel with light brown clay patches. The site lies at a height of approximately 17m above Ordnance Datum.

Archaeological background

The archaeological potential of the site has been highlighted in a desk-based assessment (Baljkas 2017). In summary this potential stems from its location within the Scheduled Ancient Monument that is the site of Edward the Confessor's palace complex at Old Windsor (1006995) (Astill 1978; Preston 2005). The scheduled complex comprises cropmarks visible from the air which indicate the presence of enclosures and boundaries (Gates 1975 map 30). Fieldwork in the 1950's examined parts of the site and established its high status although only the briefest interim reports were produced (Wilson 1958). The late Saxon royal palace complex declined in importance in the 12th century with the establishment of Windsor Castle upstream at (New Windsor) but ordinary settlement continued. Fieldwork to the east of the proposal site had previously revealed components of a Medieval and early post-medieval manorial complex (Hindmarch and Ford 2005) and Medieval occupation is recorded to the west (Mudd 1987). Various fieldwork projects on nearby areas have revealed earlier Saxon and Roman artefacts, though as yet without corresponding subsoil deposits. An inhumation burial was recorded within the property during an earlier development (Drewett 1972). It is likely that there was a significant Roman settlement in the same general area and there is also early Saxon evidence for occupation, mainly in the form of stray pottery finds. Prehistoric occupation is mainly represented only by worked flint.

More generally, this part of the Thames Valley is rich in archaeological sites and remains of all periods (Gates 1975; Ford 1987; Foreman *et al.* 2002; Preston 2005; 2012).

Objectives and methodology

The purpose of the evaluation was to determine the presence/absence, extent, condition, character, quality and date of any archaeological or palaeoenvironmental deposits within the area of proposed development.

Specific aims of the project were:

- to determine if archaeologically relevant levels have survived on this site;
- to determine if archaeological deposits of any period are present; and
- to determine if any deposits relating to the schedule monument complex are present on the site.

Three trenches were to be dug, each measuring 5m long and 1.60m wide. These were to be dug using a JCB-type machine fitted with a toothless ditching bucket under constant archaeological supervision. Where archaeological features were certainly or probably present, the stripped areas were to be cleaned using appropriate hand tools. Sufficient of the archaeological features and deposits exposed were then to be excavated or sampled by hand to satisfy the aims of the project, without compromising the integrity of archaeological features or deposits which might warrant preservation *in situ*, or might better be excavated under conditions pertaining to full excavation.

Results

The trenches were dug in the locations intended (Fig. 3) measuring 5m long, 1.6m wide and with depths between 0.95m and 1m. 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 5m long and 0.95m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.4m of topsoil and 0.5m of dark brown silt with roots and some ceramic building material (possible made ground) overlying a yellowish grey gravel natural geology. The only disturbance of the natural geology was from a modern soakaway. No finds were recovered.

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

Trench 2 was aligned W - E and was 5m long and 1m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.5m of topsoil and 0.45m of mid brown clayey silt subsoil overlying a grey gravel with light brown clay patches natural geology. No features were present and no finds were recovered.

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

Trench 3 was aligned S - N and was 5m long and 1m deep. Due to two modern pipes (still in use from the house on site) the south of the trench was only 0.8m deep and the north of the trench 0.4m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.5m of topsoil and 0.4m of mid brown clayey silt subsoil overlying a grey gravel natural geology (observed in the middle of the trench). No finds were recovered.

Conclusion

No deposits of archaeological interest were revealed nor artefacts recovered with the only disturbances observed being caused by modern soakaways and pipes.

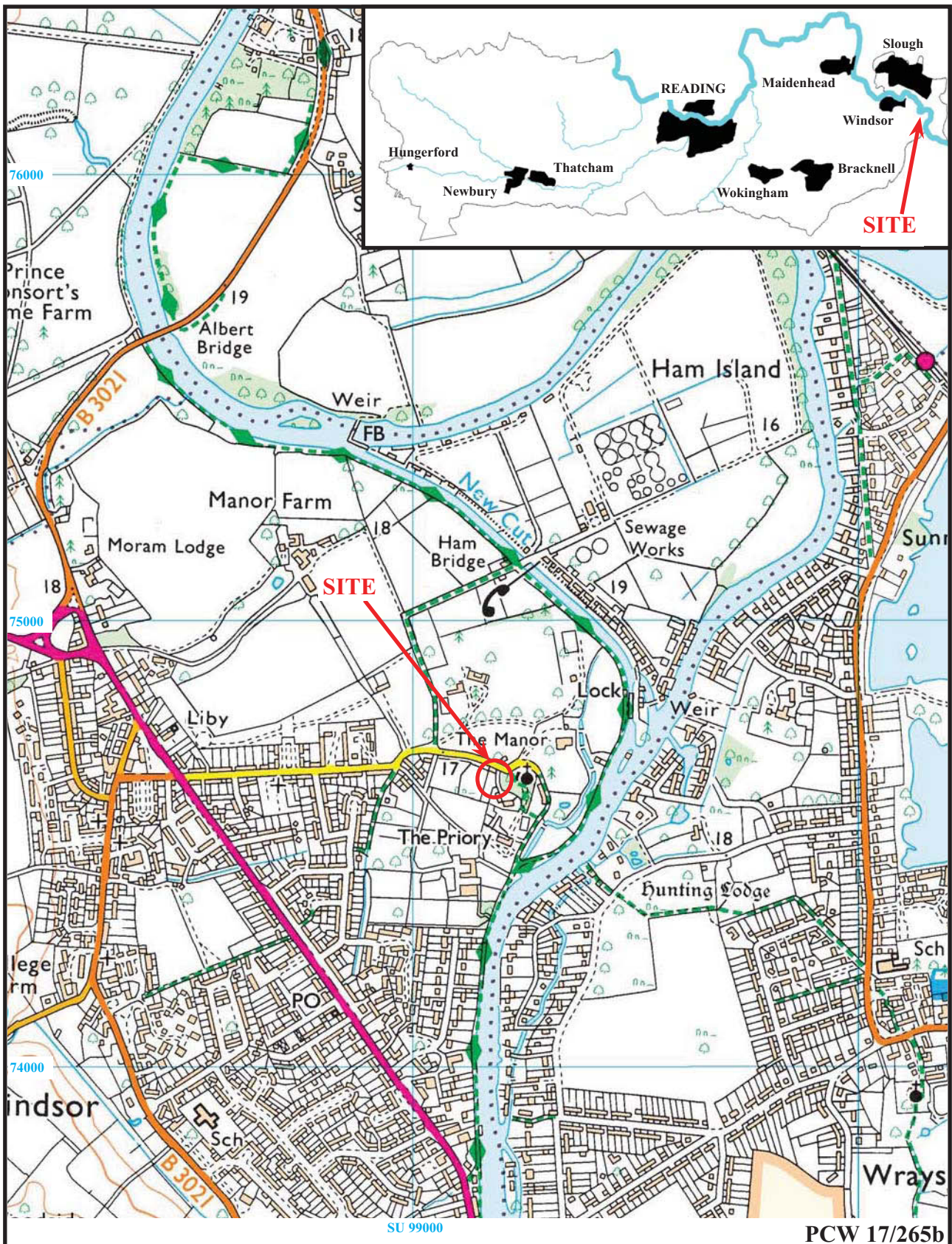
References

- BGS, 1999, *British Geological Survey*, 1:50000, Sheet 269, Solid and Drift Edition, Keyworth
- Drewett, P L, 1972, 'Note on a human skeleton from Old Windsor', *Berkshire Archaeol J* **66** (for 1971–2), 61–3
- Ford, S, 1987, *East Berkshire Archaeological Survey*, Berkshire County Council Dept Highways and Planning Occas Pap **1**, Reading
- Ford, S, and Hindmarch, E, 2005, 'Roman, late Saxon and early Medieval features and Victorian buildings at The Manor, Old Windsor', in S Preston (ed), *Reading and Windsor: Old and New. Excavations 1995–2002*, TVAS Monogr **7**, Reading, 151–72
- Foreman, S, Hillier, J and Petts, D, 2002, *Gathering the people and settling the land, the archaeology of a middle Thames landscape, Anglo-Saxon to post-medieval*, Oxford Archaeology Monogr **14**, Oxford
- Gates, T, 1975, *The Thames Valley, An archaeological Survey of the River Gravels*, Berkshire Archaeol Comm Pubn **1**, Reading
- Mudd, A, 1987, 'The Paddock, off Church Road, Old Windsor, Archaeological assessment', Oxford Archaeological Unit, Oxford
- NPPF, 2012, *National Planning Policy Framework*, Dept Communities and Local Govt, London
- Preston, S (ed), 2005, *Reading and Windsor, Old and New*, TVAS Monogr **7**, Reading
- Preston, S (ed), 2012, *Settlement and Landscape Archaeology in the Middle Thames Valley: Slough and Environs*, TVAS Monogr **12**, Reading
- Wilson, D M, 1958, 'Berkshire: Old Windsor', 183–5 in (eds) D M Wilson and J G Hurst, 'Medieval Britain in 1957', *Medieval Archaeol* **2**, 183–213

APPENDIX 1: Trench details

0m at W an S end

<i>Trench</i>	<i>Length (m)</i>	<i>Breadth (m)</i>	<i>Depth (m)</i>	<i>Comment</i>
1	5	1.6	0.95	0–0.4m topsoil, 0.4m-0.9m possible made ground, 0.9m+ yellowish grey gravel natural geology. [Pl. 1]
2	5	1.6	1	0–0.5m topsoil, 0.5m-0.95m subsoil, 0.95m+ grey gravel with clay patches natural geology. [Pl. 2]
3	5	1.6	1	0–0.5m topsoil, 0.5m-0.9m subsoil, 0.9m+ grey gravel natural geology. [Pl. 3]

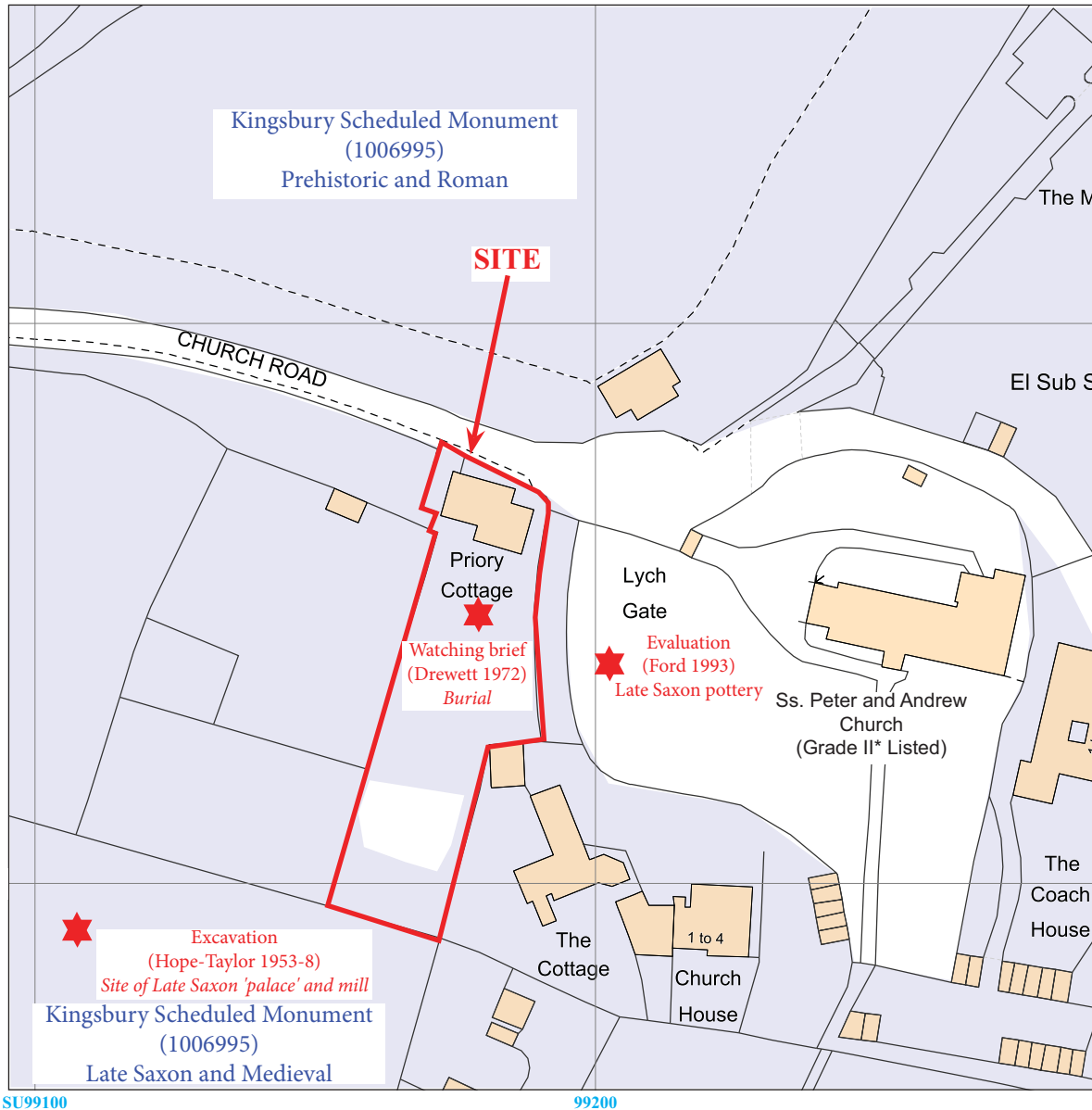


**Priory Cottage, Church Road,
Old Windsor, Berkshire, 2018
Archaeological Evaluation**

Figure 1. Location of site within Old Windsor and Berkshire.

Reproduced under licence from Ordnance Survey Explorer Digital mapping at 1:12500
Crown Copyright reserved

THAMES VALLEY
ARCHAEOLOGICAL
SERVICES



PCW 17/265b

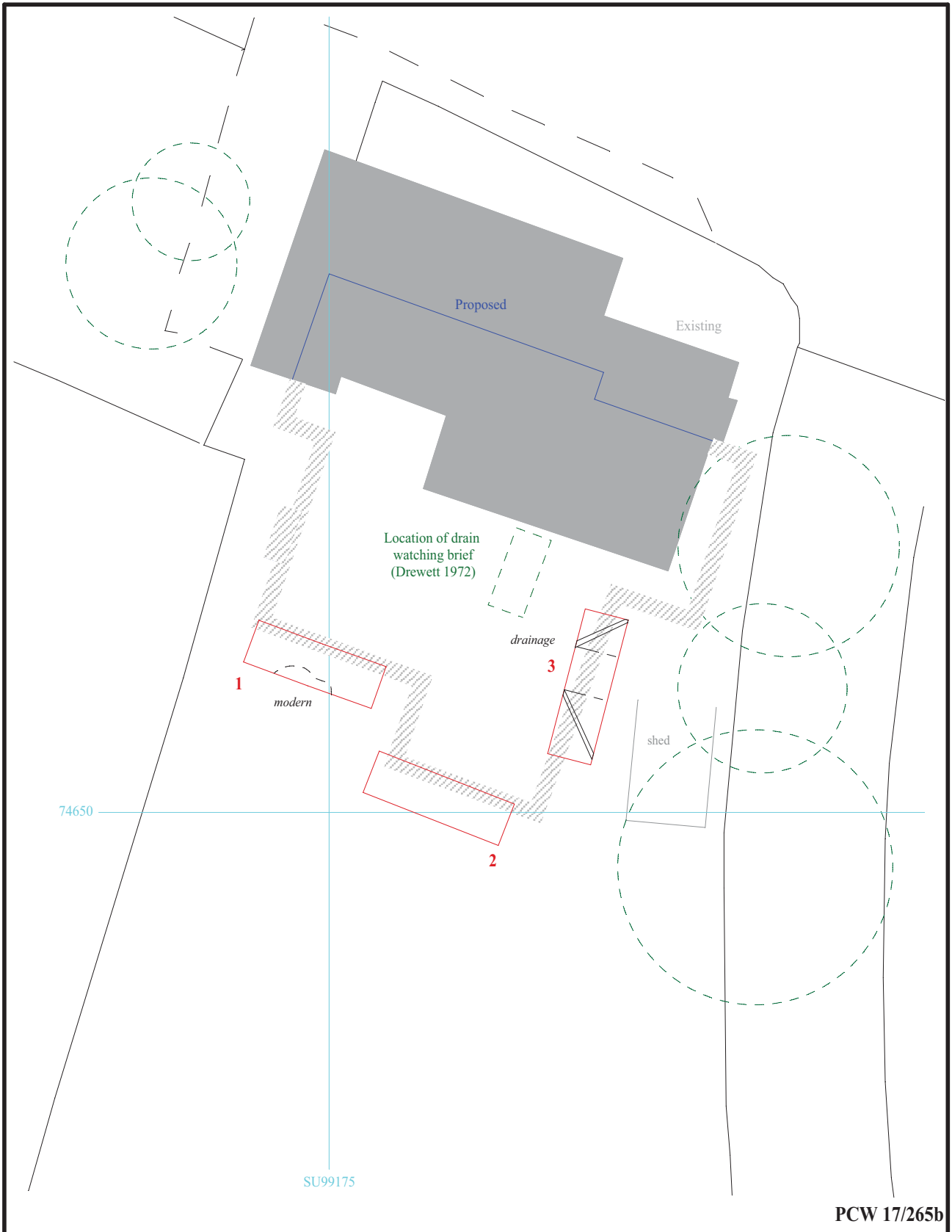


**Priory Cottage, Church Road,
Old Windsor, Berkshire, 2018
Archaeological Evaluation**

Figure 2. Detailed location of site off Church Road,
highlighting SAM boundary and adjacent investigations.

Reproduced from Ordnance Survey Digital Mapping under licence.
Crown copyright reserved. Scale 1:1250

THAMES VALLEY
ARCHAEOLOGICAL
SERVICES



PCW 17/265b

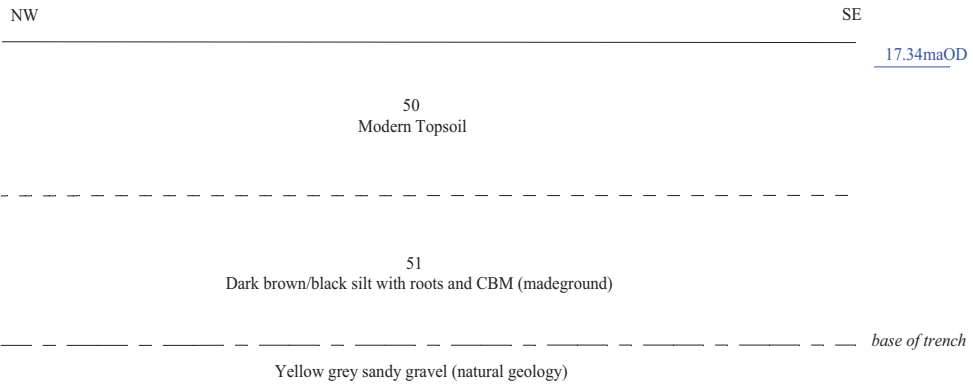


**Priory Cottage, Church Road,
Old Windsor, Berkshire, 2018
Archaeological Evaluation**

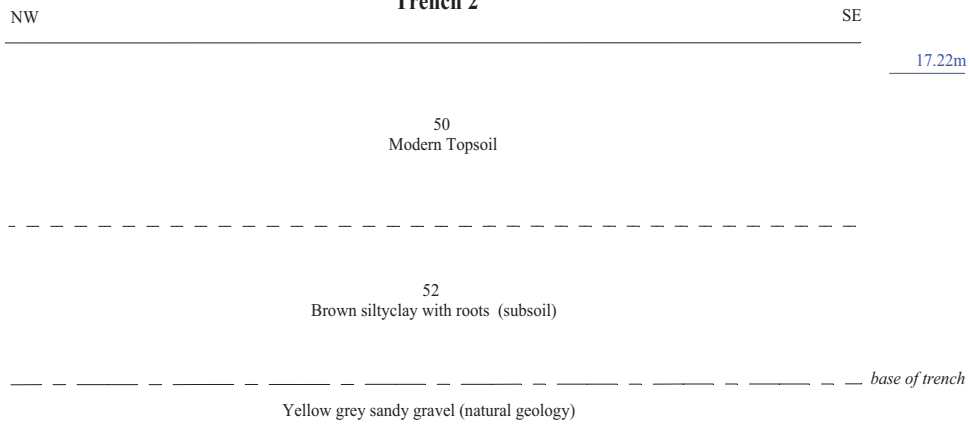
Figure 3. Location of trenches.



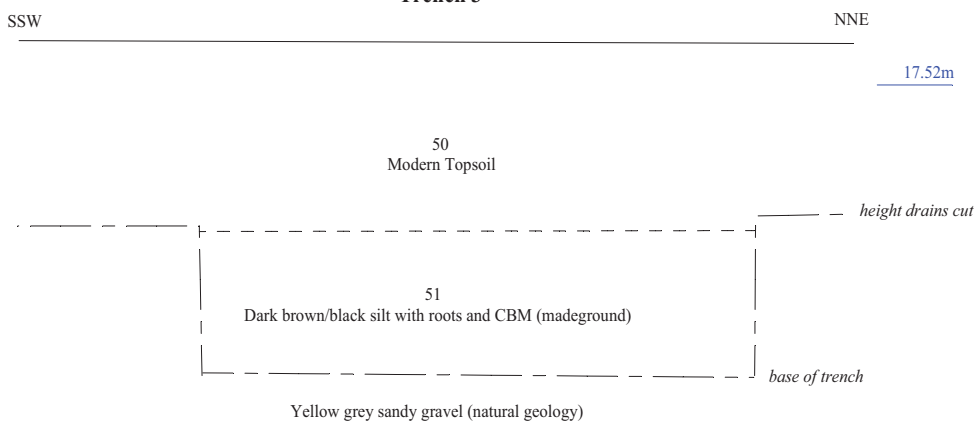
Trench 1



Trench 2



Trench 3



PCW 17/265b

**Priory Cottage, Church Road,
Old Windsor, Berkshire, 2018
Archaeological Evaluation**

Figure 4. Representative sections.



THAMES VALLEY
ARCHAEOLOGICAL
SERVICES



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



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



Plate 3. Trench 3, looking south east, Scales: horizontal 2m and 1m, vertical 0.5m.

PCW 17/265b

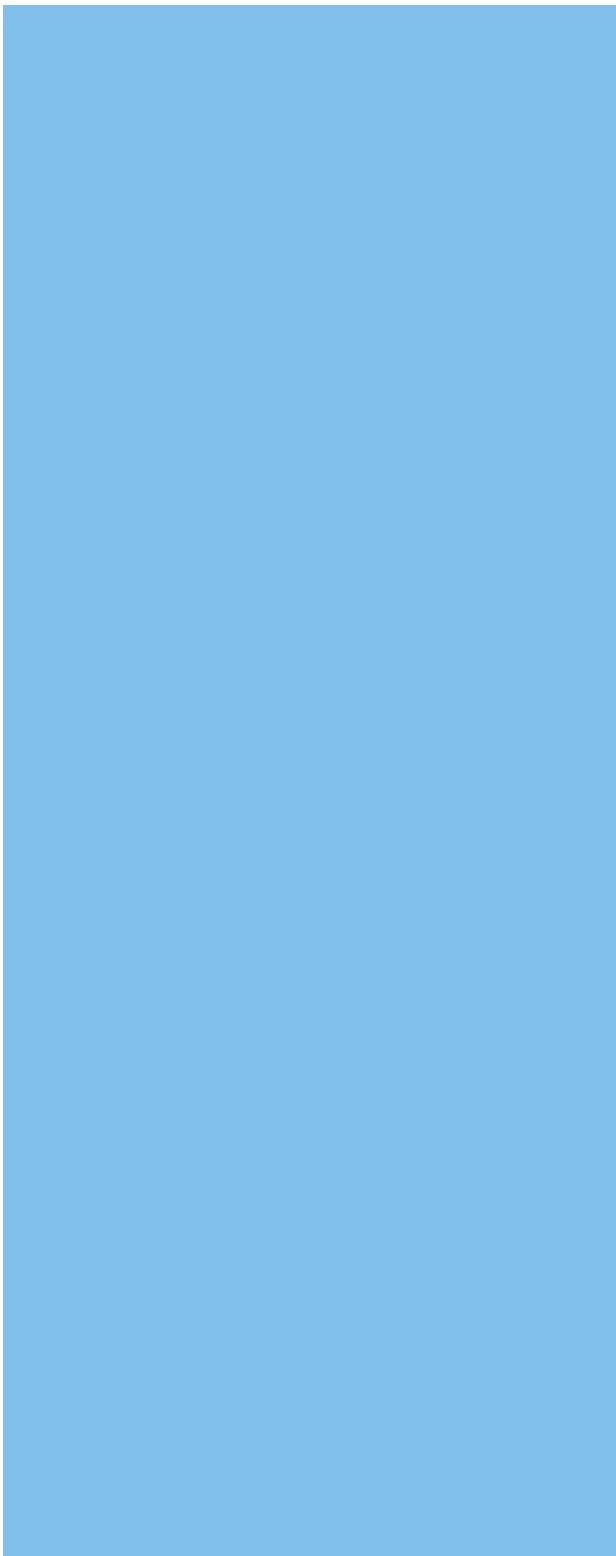
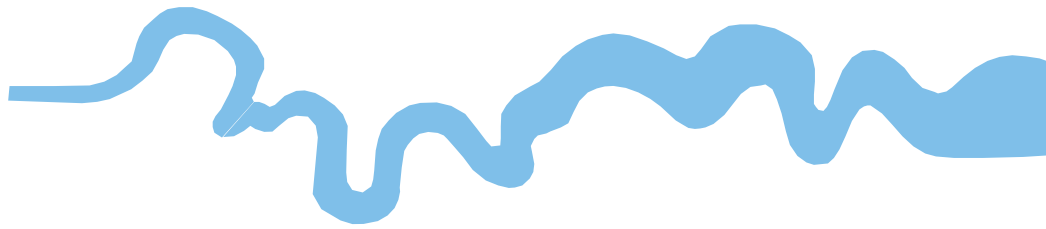
**Priory Cottage, Church Road,
Old Windsor, Berkshire, 2018
Archaeological Evaluation
Plates 1 - 3.**

THAMES VALLEY
ARCHAEOLOGICAL
SERVICES

TIME CHART

	Calendar Years
Modern _____	AD 1901
Victorian _____	AD 1837
Post Medieval _____	AD 1500
Medieval _____	AD 1066
Saxon _____	AD 410
Roman _____	AD 43 AD 0 BC
Iron Age _____	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





**Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd,
47-49 De Beauvoir Road,
Reading RG1 5NR**

**Tel: 0118 9260552
Email: tvas@tvas.co.uk
Web: www.tvas.co.uk**

***Offices in:
Brighton, Taunton, Stoke-on-Trent and Ennis (Ireland)***