

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

ARCHAEOLOGICAL

S E R V I C E S

**Aspire 2, Church Street,
Slough, Berkshire**

Archaeological Evaluation

by Kyle Beaverstock

Site Code: ACS17/111

(SU 9766 7968)

Aspire 2, Church Street, Slough, Berkshire

An Archaeological Evaluation for Click Herschel

by Kyle Beaverstock

Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code ACS17/111ev

May 2018

Summary

Site name: Aspire 2, Church Street, Slough, Berkshire

Grid reference: SU 9766 7968

Site activity: Evaluation

Date and duration of project: 21st - 25th May 2018

Project manager: Danielle Milbank

Site supervisor: Kyle Beaverstock

Site code: ACS17/111

Area of site: c. 0.5ha

Summary of results: The evaluation trenches revealed that the natural geology had been extensively disturbed and in some places truncated by the foundations of previous buildings on the site. No deposits nor artefacts of archaeological interest were discovered and it is considered that the site has 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 museum or repository in due course.

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Report edited/checked by:	Steve Ford✓ 29.05.18 Steve Preston✓ 29.05.18
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Aspire 2, Church Street, Slough, Berkshire An Archaeological Evaluation

by Kyle Beaverstock

Report 17/111

Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological field evaluation carried out at Church Street, Slough, Berkshire (SU 9766 7968) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Mr Brian Morris of Bowdler PM on behalf of Click Herschel Limited, 5 Technology Park, Colindeep Lane, Colindale, London, NW9 6BX.

Planning consent (P/01508/042) has been gained from Slough Borough Council for the erection of a new apartment block on the site. The consent is subject to a condition, which requires that a programme of archaeological works on the site. In this instance, a field evaluation was to be carried out in order to assess the site's archaeological potential and to inform a mitigation strategy if necessary. 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 approved by Mr Roland Smith, Archaeological Officer of Berkshire Archaeology, the archaeological adviser to the Borough. The fieldwork was undertaken by Kyle Beaverstock between the 21st and 25th May 2018 and the site code is ACS17/111. The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited with an appropriate museum or repository in due course.

Location, topography and geology

The site is located in central Slough on the north side of the Thames, to the west side of Church Street and south of Herschel Street, in an area of mainly industrial development but with St Mary's church to the south (Fig. 1). This square relatively flat parcel of land is approximately 30m above Ordnance Datum and is currently being used as a car park. It is bounded by Church Street to the east, Herschel Street to the north, a multi-storey car park to the west and St Mary's Church to the south (Fig. 2). The site lies between the boundary of the Brickearth and Floodplain Gravel (BGS 1981) however, Brickearth was seen in all the trenches.

Archaeological background

The archaeological potential of the site stems from its location in the Thames Valley area which is known to have a rich archaeological heritage with a wealth of deposits and finds recorded in the Berkshire Archaeology Historic Environment Record in the wider hinterland of Slough (Ford 1987; Foreman *et al.* 2002; Gates 1975; Platt 2017; Taylor 2012; Taylor 2017). Although relatively few sites or finds are recorded for the centre of Slough this is thought largely to be a result of the scarcity of opportunities to investigate.

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 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 determine if the site has any palaeoenvironmental potential

It was proposed to dig 5 trenches, each 25m long and 1.6m wide. They were to be excavated using a JCB-type machine fitted with a toothless ditching bucket under constant archaeological supervision. All spoilheaps were monitored for finds. Any archaeological features or deposits found were to be cleaned, and excavated using the appropriate hand tools, and recorded.

Results

Most of the trenches were dug as intended with minor adjustments made to avoid active monitoring wells and other standing obstructions (Fig. 3). Trench 1 was split to avoid deep foundations. They ranged in length from 20.5m to 26m and in depth from 0.58m to 1.28m. 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 ESE - WNW and was split into two sections due to an obstruction. The segments of trench were 13.5m and 7m long and both 0.82m deep. In both segments, the stratigraphy consisted of 0.2m of hardcore/Tarmac, 0.28m of Tarmac/concrete, 0.4m of a dark brownish grey silty clay made ground, overlying natural geology. The trench contained numerous modern truncations as well as a concrete beam and associated

footings which necessitated the splitting of the trench. No features or finds of archaeological interest were uncovered.

Trench 2 (Fig. 3; Pl. 3)

Trench 2 was aligned E - W and was 24.2m long and 0.58m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.07m of Tarmac, 0.18m of hardcore, 0.3m of a dark brownish grey silty clay made ground, overlying natural geology. The trench contained several modern truncations including the remains of a concrete footing and beams, a brick wall and several pipe trenches. No features or finds of archaeological interest were uncovered.

Trench 3 (Fig. 3; Pl. 4)

Trench 3 was aligned N – S and was 25.1m long and 0.83m deep. At the northern end the stratigraphy consisted of 0.08m of Tarmac, 0.21m of hardcore, 0.3m of a dark brownish grey silty clay made ground overlying the natural geology. At the southern end the stratigraphy consisted of 0.1m of Tarmac, above 0.2m of hardcore, above 0.3m of a dark brownish grey silty clay made ground; which overlay 0.09m of rubble (glass and brick), onto 0.4m of a dark brownish grey silty clay made ground, overlying natural geology. At the northern end there were several concrete slabs and beams associated with the previous building to the north. Towards the south there were the remains of a concrete footing and associated pipe as well as a hollow lined with brick with several pipes running into it, which is most likely the overflow from the drainage/sewage system. No features or finds of archaeological interest were uncovered.

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

Trench 4 was aligned N - S and was 25m long and 0.96m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.25m of Tarmac, 0.18m of hardcore, 0.15m of a black sandy clay made ground, 0.38m of a dark brownish grey silty clay made ground overlying natural geology. The trench contained several modern truncations including the remains of a concrete footing and several pipe trenches. No features or finds of archaeological interest were uncovered.

Trench 5 (Fig. 3)

Trench 5 was aligned ENE - WSW and was 26m long and 1.28m deep. At the eastern end the stratigraphy consisted of 0.6m of concrete, on 0.18m of hardcore, above 0.4m of a dark brownish grey silty clay made ground overlying the natural geology. At the western end the stratigraphy consisted of 0.22m of concrete, 0.2m of hardcore, above 0.2m of a black sandy clay made ground, onto 0.18m of a dark brownish grey silty clay made ground overlying natural geology. At the western end there were several concrete beams marking the edges of a

footing after which the natural drops (most likely truncated) around the area of a large footing on the edge of the trench with another concrete beam and footing at the far eastern end of the trench. No features or finds of archaeological interest were uncovered.

Conclusion

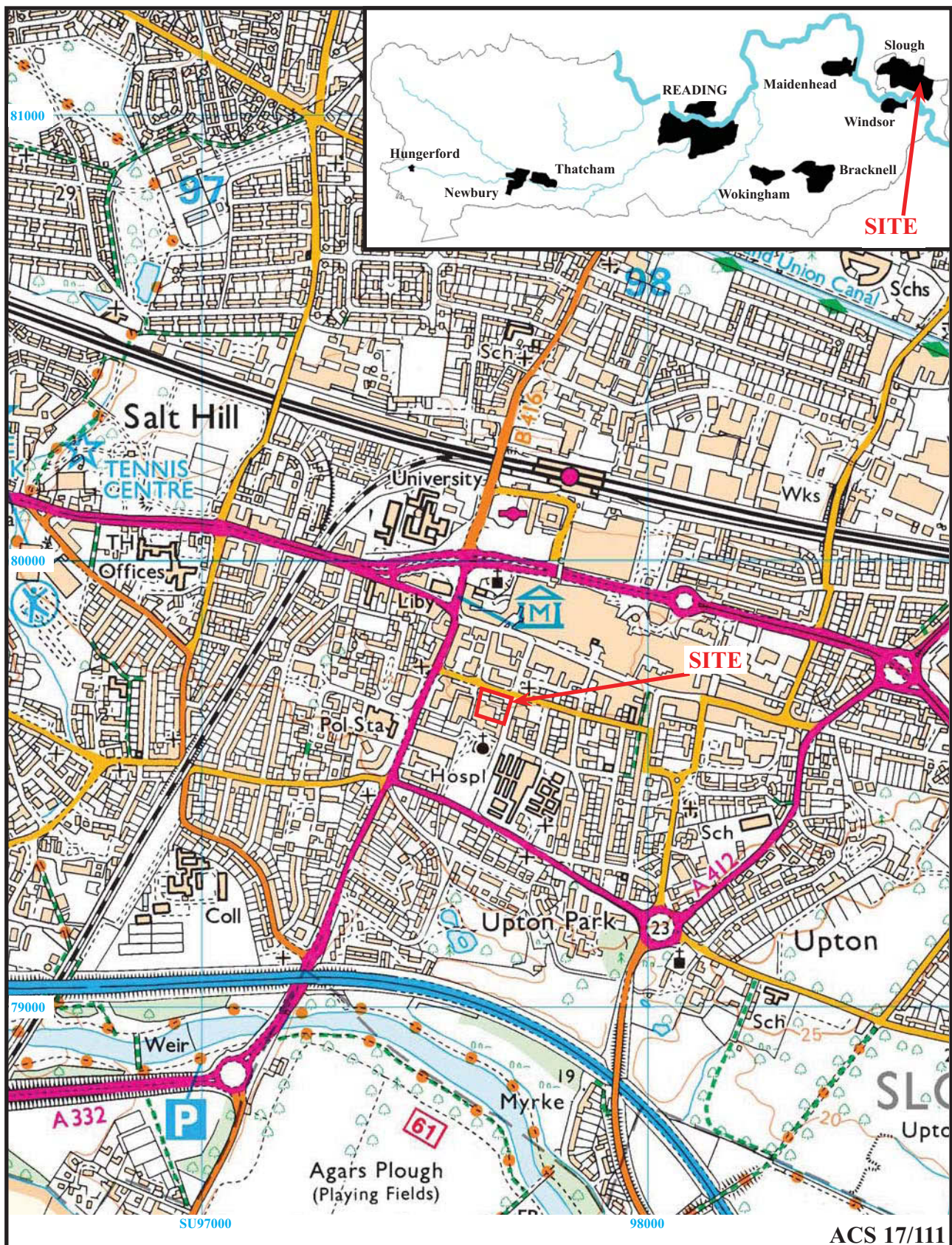
The evaluation revealed areas of the top of the natural (brickearth) geology across the site, which equates to the archaeologically relevant horizon. However, this was revealed to have been heavily disturbed by foundations and service trenches representing several phases of construction (all of 20th-century date) and in some instances wholesale truncation. In the undisturbed areas, no archaeological deposits were revealed. The site is considered to have no archaeological potential.

References

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APPENDIX 1: Trench details

<i>Trench</i>	<i>Length (m)</i>	<i>Breadth (m)</i>	<i>Depth (m)</i>	<i>Comment</i>
1a	13.5	1.6	0.82	0–0.2m of hardcore/tarmac; 0.2–0.48m of Tarmac/concrete; 0.48–0.82m of a dark brownish grey silty clay made ground and 0.82m+ of a mid yellowish red sandy clay natural geology.
1b	7	1.6	0.8	0–0.2m of hardcore; 0.2–0.48m of Tarmac/concrete; 0.48–0.82m of a dark brownish grey silty clay made ground and 0.82m+ of a mid yellowish red sandy clay natural geology. [Pl. 1]
2	24.2	1.6	0.58	0–0.07m of tarmac; 0.07–0.28m of hardcore; 0.28–0.58m of a dark brownish grey silty clay made ground and 0.82m+ of a mid yellowish red sandy clay natural geology. [Pl. 3]
3	25.1	1.6	1.09	Northern End: 0–0.08m of Tarmac; 0.07–0.28m of hardcore; 0.28–0.58m of a dark brownish grey silty clay made ground and 0.58m+ of a mid yellowish red sandy clay natural geology. Southern End: 0–0.1m of Tarmac; 0.1–0.3m of hardcore; 0.3–0.6m of a dark brownish grey silty clay made ground; 0.6–0.69m of rubble (glass and brick); 0.69–1.09 of a dark brownish grey silty clay made ground and 0.58m+ of a mid yellowish red sandy clay natural geology. [Pl. 4]
4	25	1.6	0.96	0–0.25m of concrete; 0.25–0.43m of hardcore; 0.43–0.58m of black sandy clay made ground; 0.58–0.96m of a dark brownish grey silty clay made ground and 0.96m+ of a mid yellowish red sandy clay natural geology. [Pl. 2]
5	26	1.6	1.28	Eastern End: 0–0.6m of concrete; 0.6–0.78m of hardcore; 0.78–1.28m of a dark brownish grey silty clay made ground and 1.28m+ of a mid yellowish red sandy clay natural geology. Western End: 0–0.22m of Tarmac; 0.22–0.42m of hardcore; 0.42–0.62m of a black silty clay made ground; 0.62–0.8m of a dark brownish grey silty clay made ground and 0.8m+ of a mid yellowish red sandy clay natural geology.



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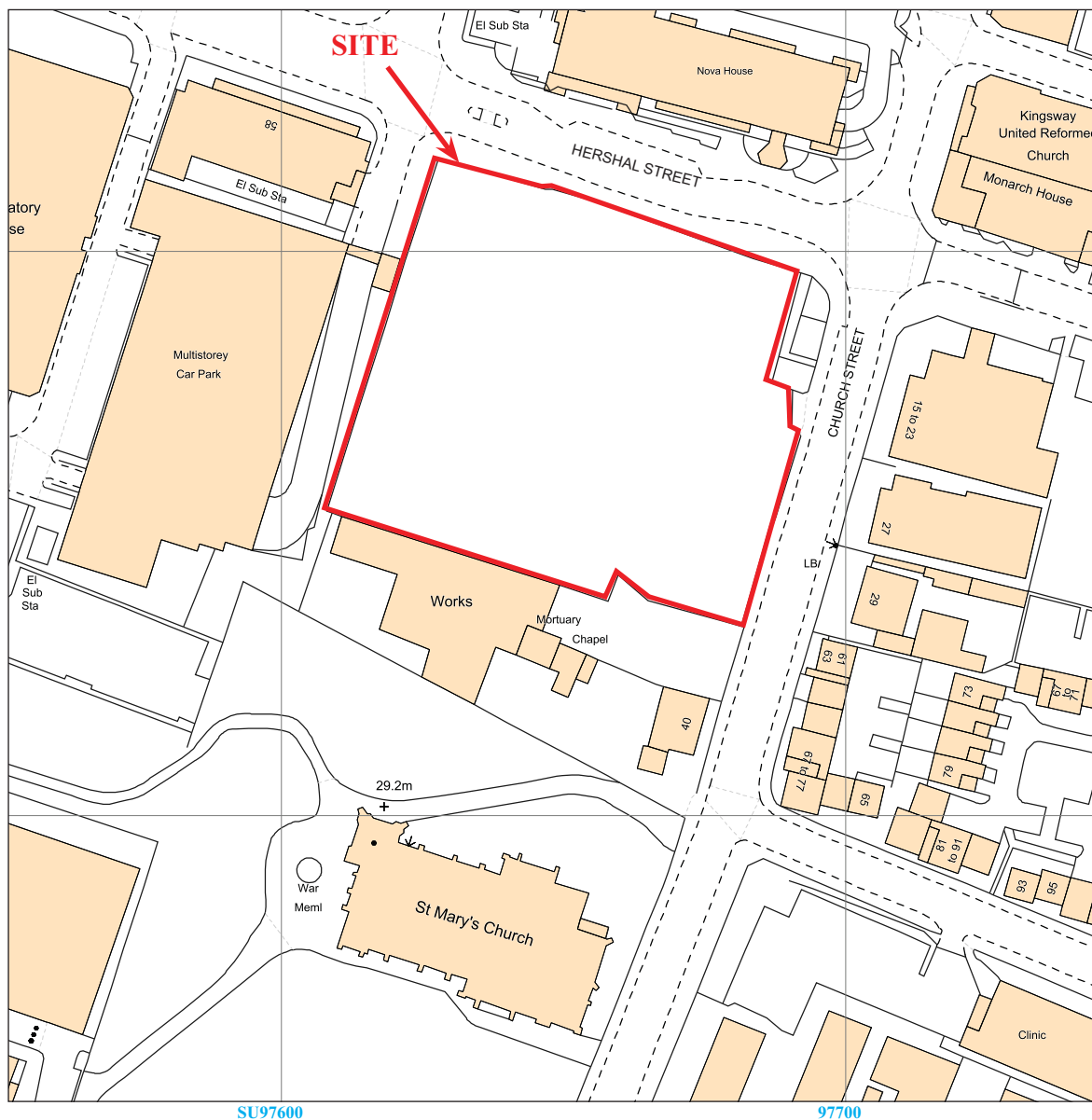
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Figure 1. Location of site within Slough and Berkshire.

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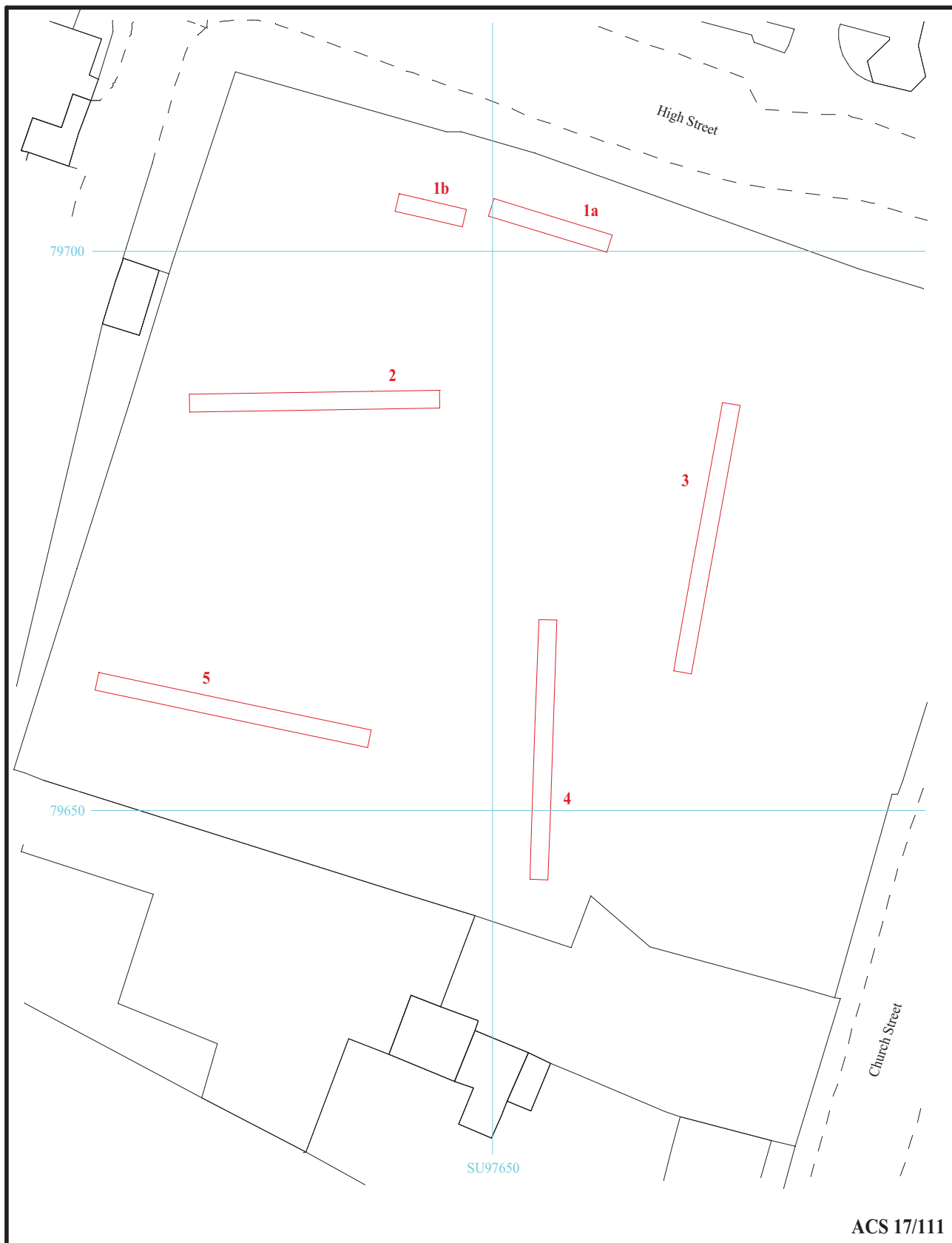


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Figure 2. Detailed location of site off Church Street.

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Figure 3. Location of trenches.

0 25m



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Trench 1a

WNW

ESE

30.27maOD

Hardcore

Tarmac mixed with concrete

Dark brown grey silty clay (made ground)

Yellowish red sandy clay (Natural geology)

Trench 4

S

N

29.39m

Concrete

Hardcore

Black sandy clay (made ground)

Brown grey silty clay (made ground)

Natural geology

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Figure 4. Representative sections.

0 1m

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



Plate 2. Trench 4, looking south west, Scales: horizontal 2m and 1m, vertical 0.5m.

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Plates 1 and 2.**

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Plate 3. Trench 2, looking north west,
Scales: 2m, 1m and 0.5m.



Plate 4. Trench 3, looking north east,
Scales: 2m, 1m and 0.5m.

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Plates 3 and 4.**

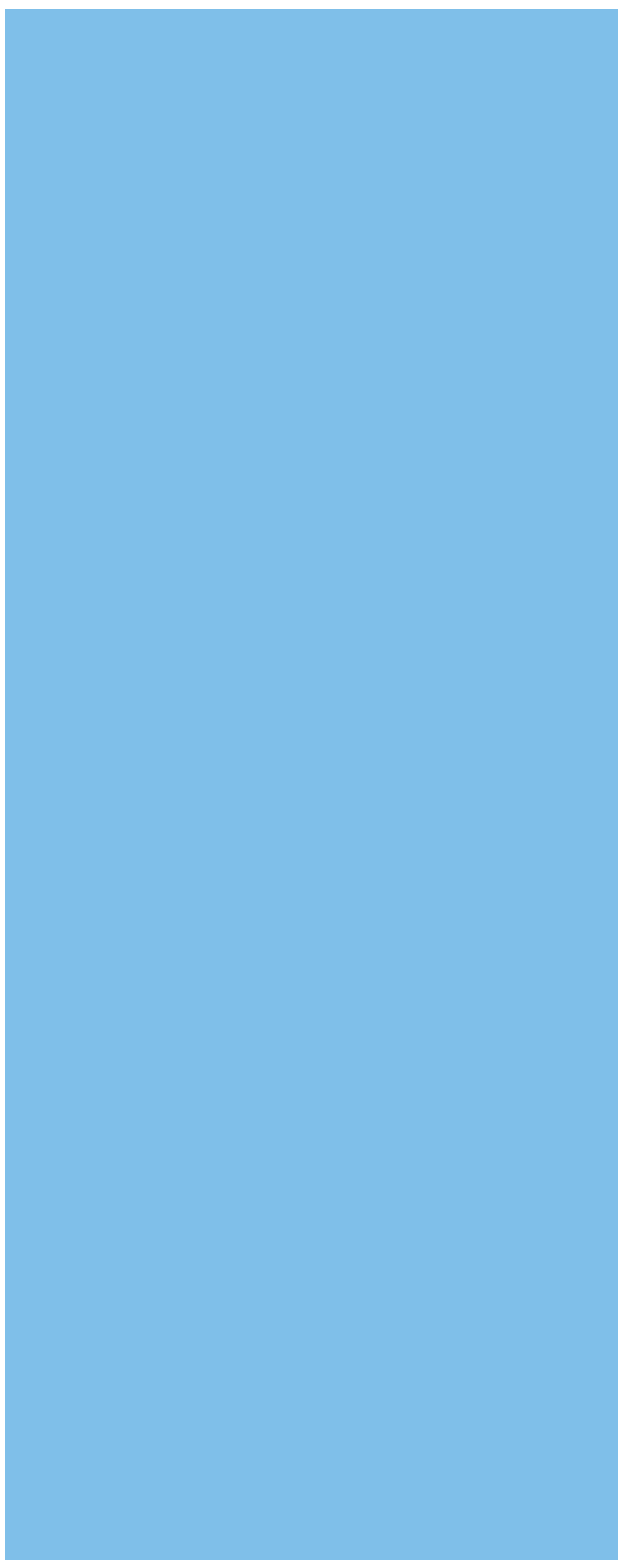
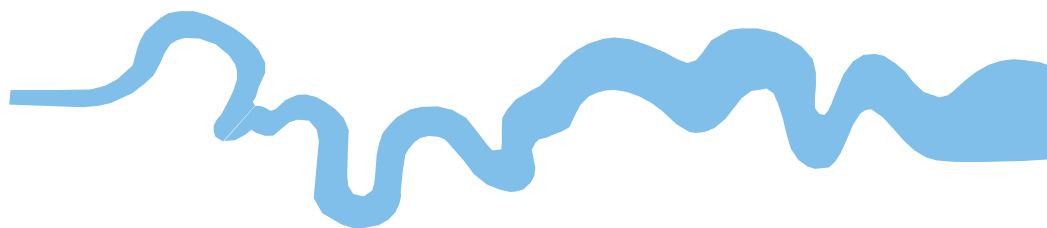
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TIME CHART

Calendar Years

Modern _____	AD 1901
Victorian _____	AD 1837
Post Medieval _____	AD 1500
Medieval _____	AD 1066
Saxon _____	AD 410
Roman _____	AD 43
	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





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