

T H A M E S      V A L L E Y

ARCHAEOLOGICAL

S E R V I C E S

**The Spinney, Oxford Road,  
Kingston Bagpuize, Oxfordshire**

**Archaeological Evaluation**

**by Andy Taylor**

**Site Code: KBO19/78**

**(SU 4112 9822)**

# **The Spinney, Oxford Road, Kingston Bagpuize, Oxfordshire**

**An Archaeological Evaluation  
for Kingerlee Homes**

by Andy Taylor

Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code KBO 19/78

**June 2019**

## Summary

**Site name:** The Spinney, Oxford Road, Kingston Bagpuize, Oxfordshire

**Grid reference:** SU 4112 9822

**Site activity:** Evaluation

**Date and duration of project:** 20th June 2019

**Project coordinator:** Danielle Milbank

**Site supervisor:** Andy Taylor

**Site code:** KBO 19/78

**Area of site:** 0.67 hectares

**Summary of results:** No deposits nor artefacts of archaeological interest were observed and as such 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 Oxfordshire Museum Service 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 Ford ✓ 21.06.19 Steve Preston ✓ 21.06.19
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# The Spinney, Oxford Road, Kingston Bagpuize, Oxfordshire An Archaeological Evaluation

by Andy Taylor

Report 19/78

## Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological field evaluation carried out at The Spinney, Oxford Road, Kingston Bagpuize, Oxfordshire (SU 4112 9822) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Mr David Coates, Planning Director with Kingerlee Homes, Thomas House, Langford Locks, Kidlington, Oxfordshire, OX5 1HR. Planning permission is to be sought from The Vale of the White Horse District Council to develop the site for housing after demolition of the existing property.

This is in accordance with the Department for Communities and Local Government's *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF 2018) and the District Council's policies on archaeology. The field investigation was carried out to a specification approved by Mr Hugh Coddington of Oxfordshire County Council advisers to the District on matters relating to archaeology. The fieldwork was undertaken by Andy Taylor and Ashley Kruger on the 20th June 2019 and the site code is KBO 19/78. The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited with Oxfordshire Museum Service in due course.

## Location, topography and geology

The site is located on the eastern margins of Kingston Bagpuize and on the southern side of Oxford Road. Kingston Bagpuize lies c.9.5km west of Abingdon (Fig. 1). It is located on the lawns of The Spinney and is a relatively flat parcel of land. It is bounded by Oxford Road to the north, a bowling club to the west, fields to the east and a football pitch to the south. Part of the old main road (Oxford Road) now bypassed with the current A420, still exists, only now as a back road which fronts The Spinney to the north. The underlying geology is mapped as Limestone Sand (BGS 1971), which was observed across the site and the site lies at a height of c.79.80m above Ordnance Datum.

## Archaeological background

The archaeological potential has been highlighted by a brief prepared by Mr. Hugh Coddington (Coddington 2019). In summary the site lies within a region where much modern development has led to the discovery of

many archaeological sites and finds. Construction of the A420 bypass north of the village in the 1970's was particularly informative with part of a small farmstead north of Kingston (Parrington 1976, 69; Cowell 1979, 97). Prehistoric flint scatters, particularly of Mesolithic blades and have been located in works nearby (OA 1992). Recent excavations such as Watchfield and Shrivenham (Birbeck 2001; Heawood 2004), and to a lesser extent Longcot (Pine 2017, 100) have contineude to highlight that the Corralian Ridge has been well used for Roman settlement.

The site lies immediately west of a Saxon boundary, called *Aelfriths* Dyke, which is mentioned in 10th Century charters. It survives as an adjacent low earthwork on the eastern boundary (Fig.2 and 3). The County HER also records the presence of a prehistoric flint scatter to the north east and a possible high status Roman settlement to the west, perhaps with a mosaic floor, though the latter's location is unclear (Coddington 2019).

## **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.

Specific aims of the project were;

- To determine if archaeological deposits of any period are present.
- To determine if any late prehistoric or Roman deposits are present,
- To provide information to allow the preparation of a mitigation strategy if necessary.

Three trenches were to be dug measuring between 1.60m and 2m wide and 20m long. These were dug as close as possible to their intended positions, although large tree stumps resulted in some slight repositioning. A sufficient amount of any identified archaeological deposits would be investigated. These were dug with a 360° type machine fitted with a toothless grading bucket under constant archaeological supervision. All spoilheaps were monitored for finds.

## **Results**

Three trenches were excavated measuring between 19.90m and 21.30m long and between 0.47m and 0.62m deep. 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 and 4; Pl.1)

This trench was 21.3m long and excavated to 0.47m deep. It was 2.1 wide. The upper layer was turf, with topsoil to a depth of 0.2m deep. Under the topsoil was subsoil, a light reddish brown clayey sandy silt with very occasional stone inclusions. At the base of the trench, the natural geology was encountered, a red-brown silty sand mottled with light red-yellow patches of silt. No archaeological deposits were encountered and no finds were located within the excavated soils nor on the spoilheaps.

#### Trench 2 (Fig.3 and 4)

The trench was 20.8m long and excavated to a depth of 0.62m deep. This trench was 1.9m wide. Beneath 0.27m of turf and topsoil, was subsoil similar as before, which was excavated to a depth of 0.62m. Natural geology was exposed at the base of the trench. No archaeological deposits nor finds were encountered.

#### Trench 3 (Fig.3; Pl.2)

This trench was the closest located to the possible earthwork in the south east end of the property. Trench 3 was 19.9m long and excavated to 0.58m deep. It was 2.1m wide. Beneath the turf/topsoil to a depth of 0.2m deep was subsoil, as before. This reached a depth of 0.58m. Natural geology was exposed at the base of the trench. No deposits nor finds were encountered.

### **Conclusion**

No deposits nor finds of an archaeological nature were observed. As a result the site is considered to have no archaeological potential.

## References

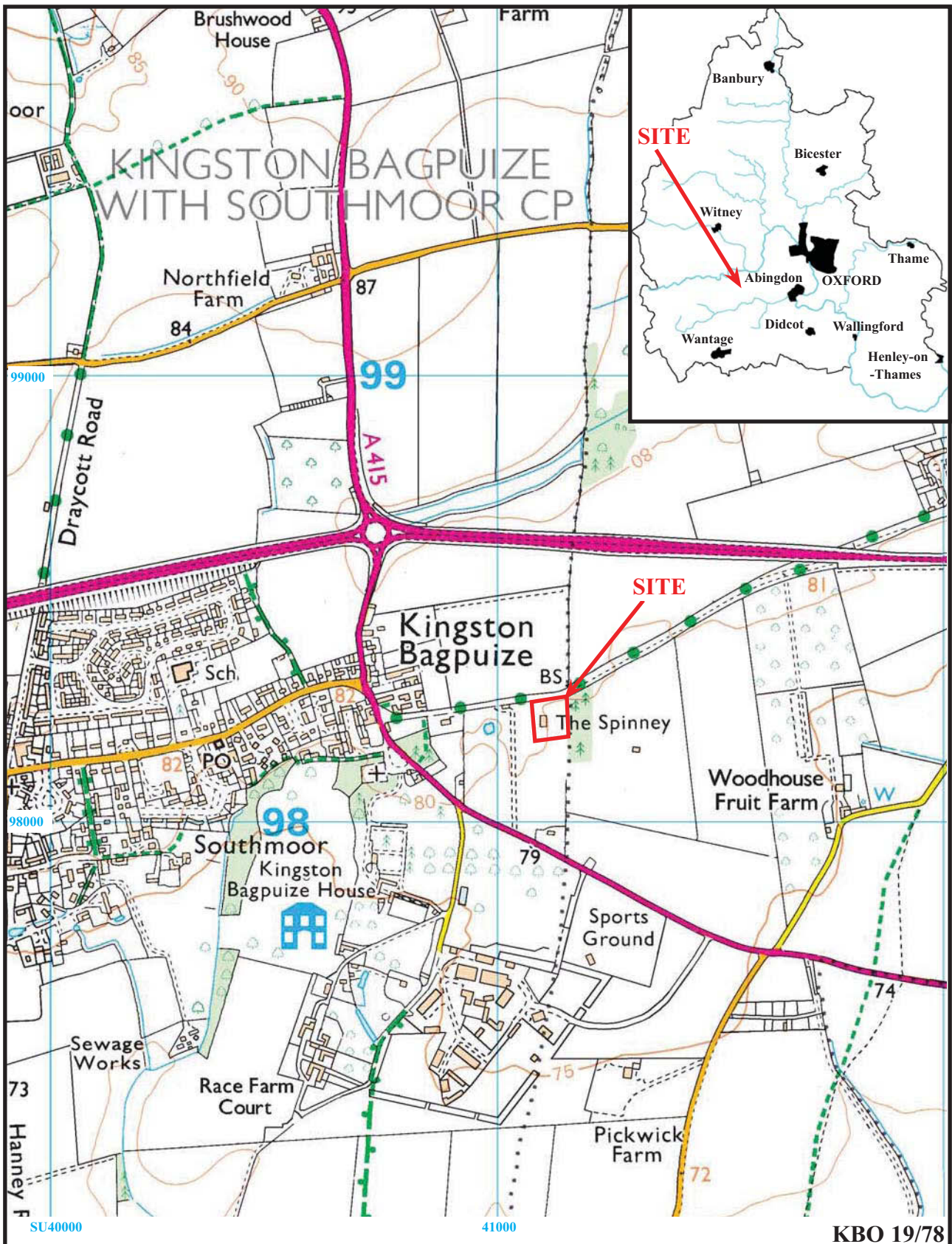
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## APPENDIX 1: Trench details

### 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	21.3	2.1	0.47	0–0.2 topsoil, 0.2-0.47m subsoil, 0.47m+ red-brown clay sandy silt with mottled light red-yellow silt natural geology.
2	20.8	1.9	0.62	0-0.27m topsoil, 0.27-0.62m subsoil, 0.62m+ natural geology.
3	19.9	2.1	0.58	0.-0.24m topsoil, 0.24-0.58m subsoil, 0.58m+ natural geology.





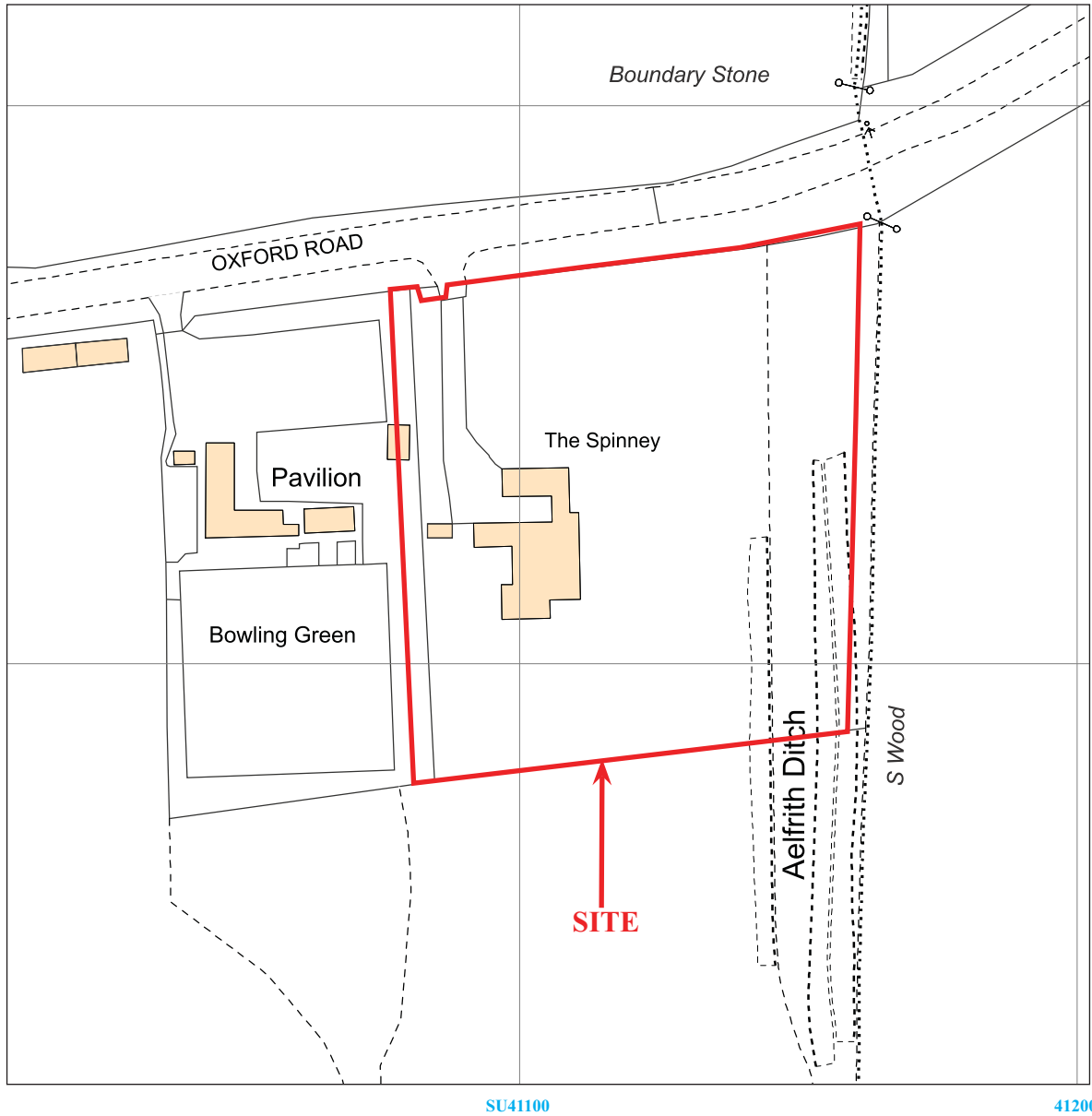
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Figure 1. Location of site within Kingston Bagpuize and Oxfordshire.

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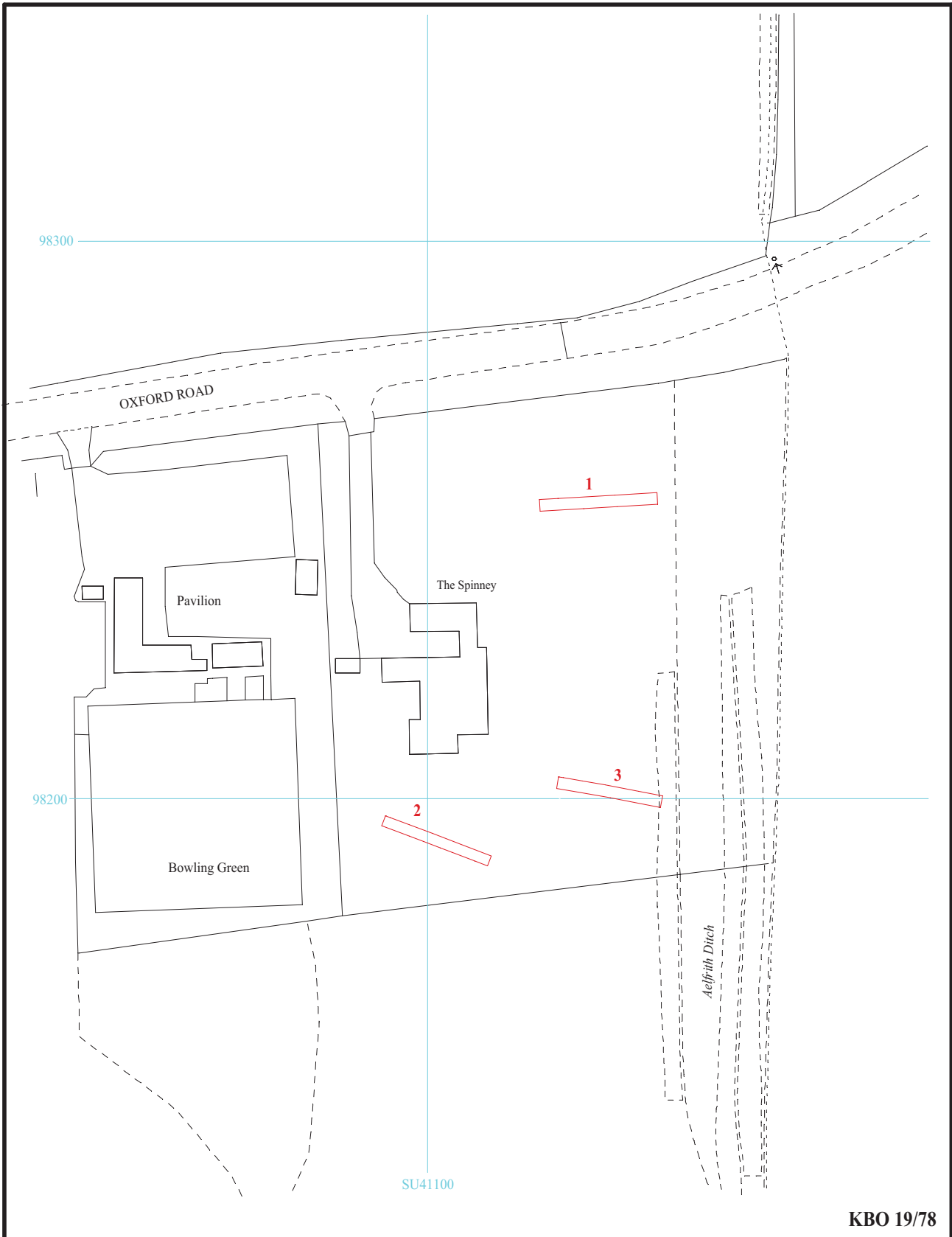
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Figure 2. Detailed location of site.

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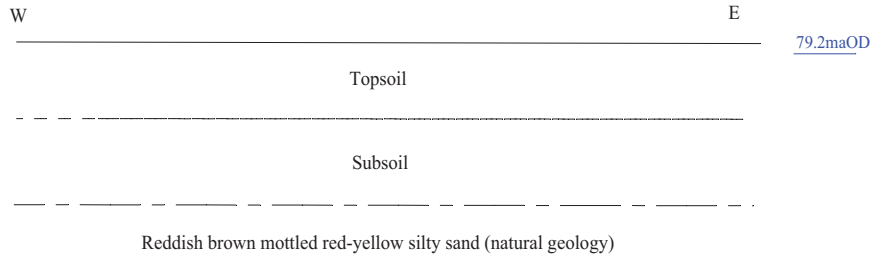
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Figure 3. Location of trenches.

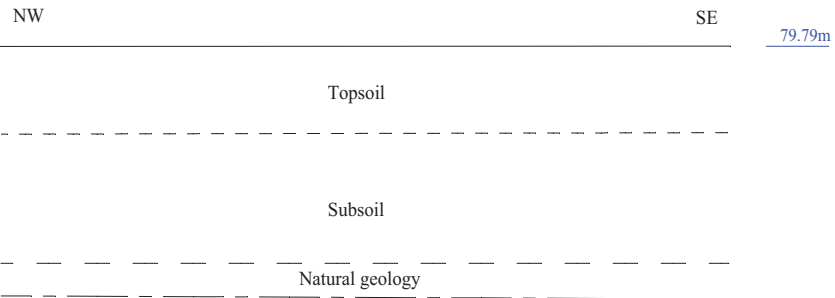


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*Trench 1*



*Trench 2*



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Figure 4. Representative sections.



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



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

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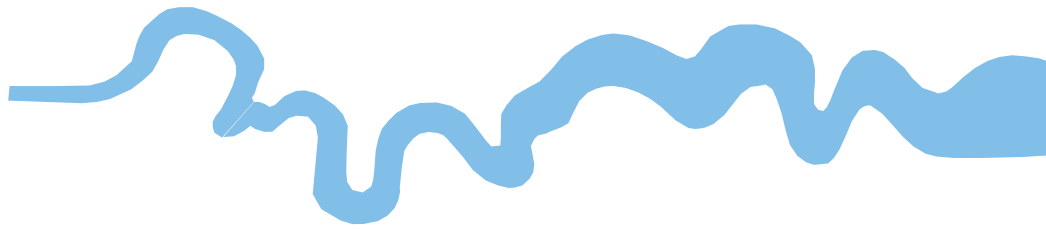
**The Spinney, Oxford Road,  
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Plates 1 and 2.**

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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 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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