

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

ARCHAEOLOGICAL

S E R V I C E S

**Edgeworth House, Mill Lane,
Clewer, Windsor, Berkshire**

An Archaeological Watching-Brief

by Natasha Bennett and Tim Dawson

Site Code: EHW09/87

(SU 9550 7708)

Edgeworth House, Mill Lane, Clewer, Windsor, Berkshire

An Archaeological Watching Brief

For Hamlet Properties

by Natasha Bennett and Tim Dawson

Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

SiteCodeEHW 09/87

November 2009

Summary

Site name: Edgeworth House, Mill Lane, Clewer, Windsor, Berkshire

Grid reference: SU 9550 7708

Site activity: Watching Brief

Date and duration of project: 23rd - 24th September 2009

Project manager: Steve Ford

Site supervisor: Natasha Bennett

Site code: EHW 09/87

Area of site: 150 sq m

Summary of results: No features or artefacts of archaeological interest were discovered

Location and reference of archive: The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited at Reading Museum in due course.

This report may be copied for bona fide research or planning purposes without the explicit permission of the copyright holder

Report edited/checked by: Steve Ford ✓ 06.11.09 Steve Preston ✓ 09.11.09

Edgeworth House, Mill Lane, Clewer, Windsor, Berkshire An Archaeological Watching Brief

by Natasha Bennett and Tim Dawson

Report 09/87

Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological watching brief carried out at Edgeworth House, Mill Lane, Windsor (SU 9550 7708) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Mr Steve Pratchett of Hamlet Properties, The Orchards, Darlings Lane, Pinkneys Green, Maidenhead, SL6 6PA.

A planning consent (04/01778) has been granted by Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead to construct a new block of apartments adjacent to Edgeworth House with conversion of the existing structure to apartments. The planning consent gained is subject to a condition which requires the implementation of an archaeological watching brief during groundworks.

This is in accordance with the Department of the Environment's Planning Policy Guidance, *Archaeology and Planning* (PPG16 1990), and the Borough's policies on archaeology. The field investigation was carried out to a specification approved by Ms Fiona Macdonald, Principal Archaeologist at Berkshire Archaeology, advisers to the Royal Borough on archaeological matters. The fieldwork was undertaken by Natasha Bennett on 23rd and 24th September 2009 and the site code is EHW 09/87. The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited at Reading Museum in due course.

Location, topography and geology

The site is located in Clewer Village, a suburb immediately to the west of Windsor and just 30m south of the River Thames (Fig. 2). The site's underlying geology is mapped as river terrace floodplain gravel (BGS 1981), which was observed on site along with a blue-grey clay (alluvium?). The site lies at a height of *c.*20m above Ordnance Datum. The land is currently occupied by a large house (Edgeworth House), which has been converted to flats, with the new development being built in the grounds to the south of the main building. The topography of the area is generally flat, though the site slopes up gently from the road to the west.

Archaeological background

The archaeological potential of the site stems from its location close to the historic centre of the village of Clewer, which now forms a suburb of Windsor. Clewer has late Saxon origins and is mentioned in Domesday

Book with the parish church having medieval (12th-century) origins (Ford 1987). The parish church stands just to the north of the site. The site also lies within the archaeologically rich Thames Valley with a wealth of prehistoric and later archaeological finds and sites recorded for the area (Ford 1987; Gates 1975) and is on the opposite bank of the river to the exceptional complex of archaeology (including a Neolithic causewayed enclosure and Iron Age and Bronze Age enclosures) at Eton Wick (Ford 1986).

Objectives and methodology

The purpose of the watching brief was to excavate and record any archaeological deposits affected by the groundworks. This involved examination of all areas of intrusive groundworks, in particular any ground reduction and the digging of foundation trenches for the extension, and any related service runs. The digging was undertaken using a mechanical digger fitted with a toothless bucket. The spoil was monitored for finds.

Results

Ground reduction

The reduction of the whole 10m by 15m area of the footprint of the new building was undertaken by removal of topsoil to a depth of 0.60m below ground level (Fig. 3). The topsoil consisted of a dark brown silty sand with frequent modern inclusions. No archaeological finds or features were identified during this phase of groundworks.

Test pits

Two test pits were dug within the area to be covered by the new building to allow inspection of the underlying ground and determine the depth to which the foundations needed to be dug.

Test Pit A was located just east of the centre of the plot and was 1.70m long, 0.70m wide and 2.30m deep. It exposed a stratigraphic sequence consisting of 0.60m of topsoil overlying a modern levelling layer made of dark yellow-grey silty clay with frequent modern inclusions which extended to the bottom of the pit. No natural geology or archaeological features were identified.

Test Pit B was dug with a diameter of 1.68m and depth of 2.00m in the south-east corner of the plot. It was dug through a modern soakaway and therefore the observed stratigraphy was 0.90m of topsoil over a dark red-grey silty sand with frequent modern inclusions, the fill of the soakaway, which extended to the bottom of the test pit. The soakaway was lined with bricks to a depth of 1.10m. No natural geology or archaeological features were identified.

Foundation trenches

The digging of all foundation trenches, both the exterior and interior walls, was observed. They were all 0.80m wide and between 1.10m and 1.90m deep (Fig. 4). There were two main stratigraphic sequences observed during the excavations. In the western, northern and eastern foundation trenches it consisted of 0.60m of topsoil overlying 0.15m of brown gravel with modern brick and tile inclusions followed by 0.35m of red-grey silty clay (alluvium), which, in turn, capped the natural geology comprising red-brown gravel. In the southern foundation trench the stratigraphy comprised 0.90m of topsoil with frequent modern inclusions on top of 0.20m of orange-brown gravel with brick and tile inclusions. This covered a layer 0.60m deep of yellow-grey silty clay which overlay the natural geology of red-brown gravel. In addition to this slight variation, there appeared to be a change in the natural geology, from red-brown gravel to blue-grey clay, in the southwest corner of the site.

No archaeological finds or features were identified during this phase of the groundworks although a modern pit was uncovered in the southernmost foundation trench. This was 1.23m wide and 0.53m deep and contained finds including brick, tile and modern pottery (not retained).

Finds

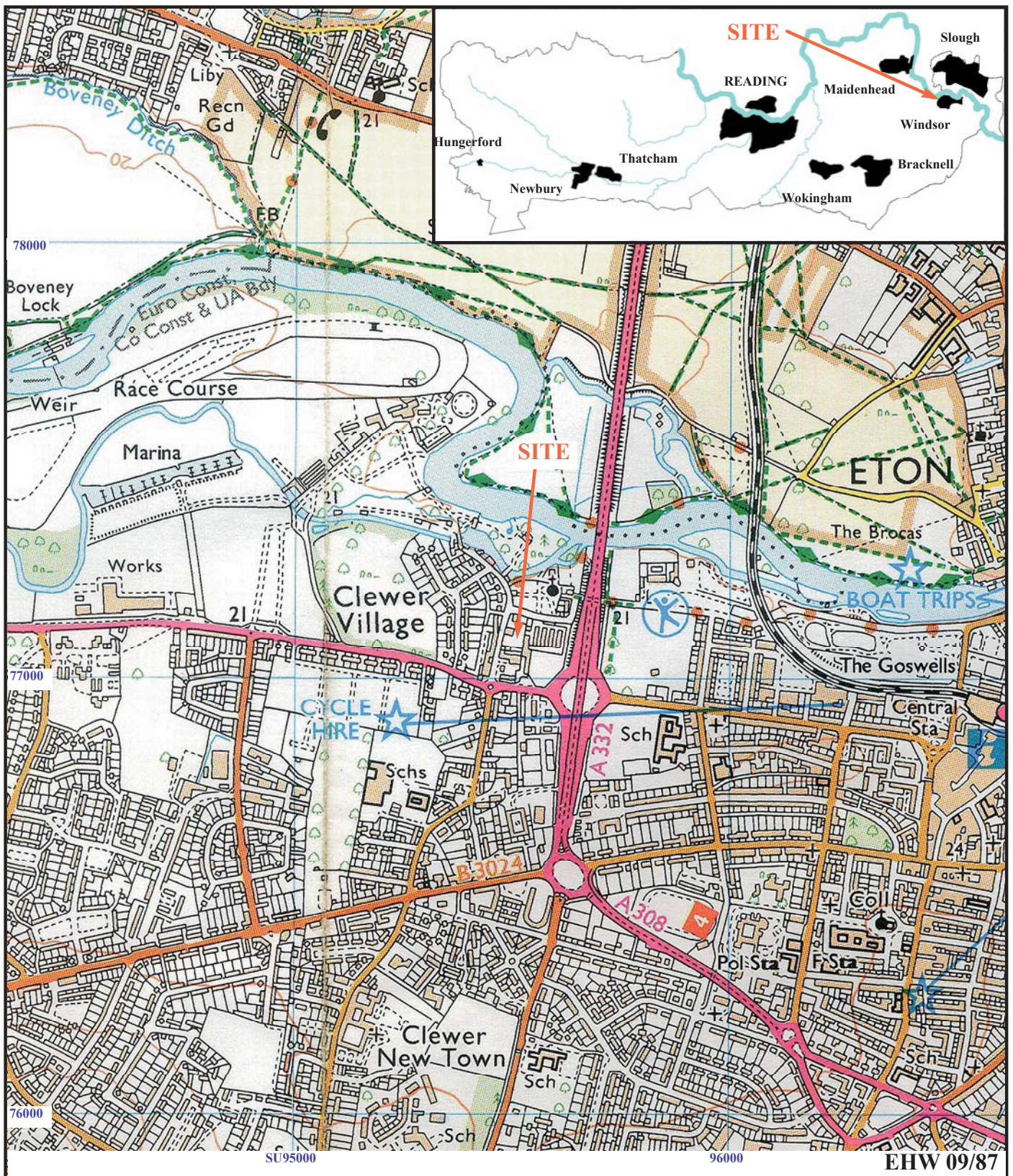
No finds of archaeological significance were discovered.

Conclusion

No finds or features of archaeological interest were discovered during the groundworks. The test pits and foundation trenches that were excavated revealed that the site has been subjected to a significant amount of modern disturbance with various soakaways and pits being dug into it and large numbers of modern objects being found in the topsoil and the gravel layer beneath.

References

- BGS, 1981, *British Geological Survey*, 1:50 000, Sheet 269, Solid and Drift Edition, Keyworth
- Gates, T, 1975, *The Thames Valley; an archaeological survey of the River Gravels*, Berkshire Archaeol Comm Publ 1, Reading
- Ford, S, 1986, 'A newly discovered causewayed enclosure at Eton Wick, near Windsor, Berks', *Proc Prehist Soc* 52, 319–20
- Ford, S, 1987, *East Berkshire Archaeological Survey*, Berkshire County Council Dept Highways and Planning Occas Pap 1, Reading
- PPG 16, 1990, *Archaeology and Planning*, Dept of the Environment Planning Policy Guidance 16, HMSO



**Edgeworth House, Mill Lane, Clewer,
Windsor, Berkshire, 2009
Archaeological Watching Brief**

Figure 1. Location of site within Clewer and Berkshire.

Reproduced from Ordnance Survey Explorer 160 at 1:12500.
Ordnance Survey Licence 100025880

THAMES VALLEY
ARCHAEOLOGICAL
SERVICES



EHW 09/87

**Edgeworth House, Mill Lane, Clewer,
Windsor, 2009
Archaeological watching brief**

Figure 2. Detailed location of site off Mill Lane.

Reproduced from Ordnance Survey digital mapping under licence.
Crown copyright reserved. Scale: 1:1250

THAMES VALLEY
ARCHAEOLOGICAL
 SERVICES

Edgeworth House, Mill Lane, Clewer, Windsor, Berkshire, 2009

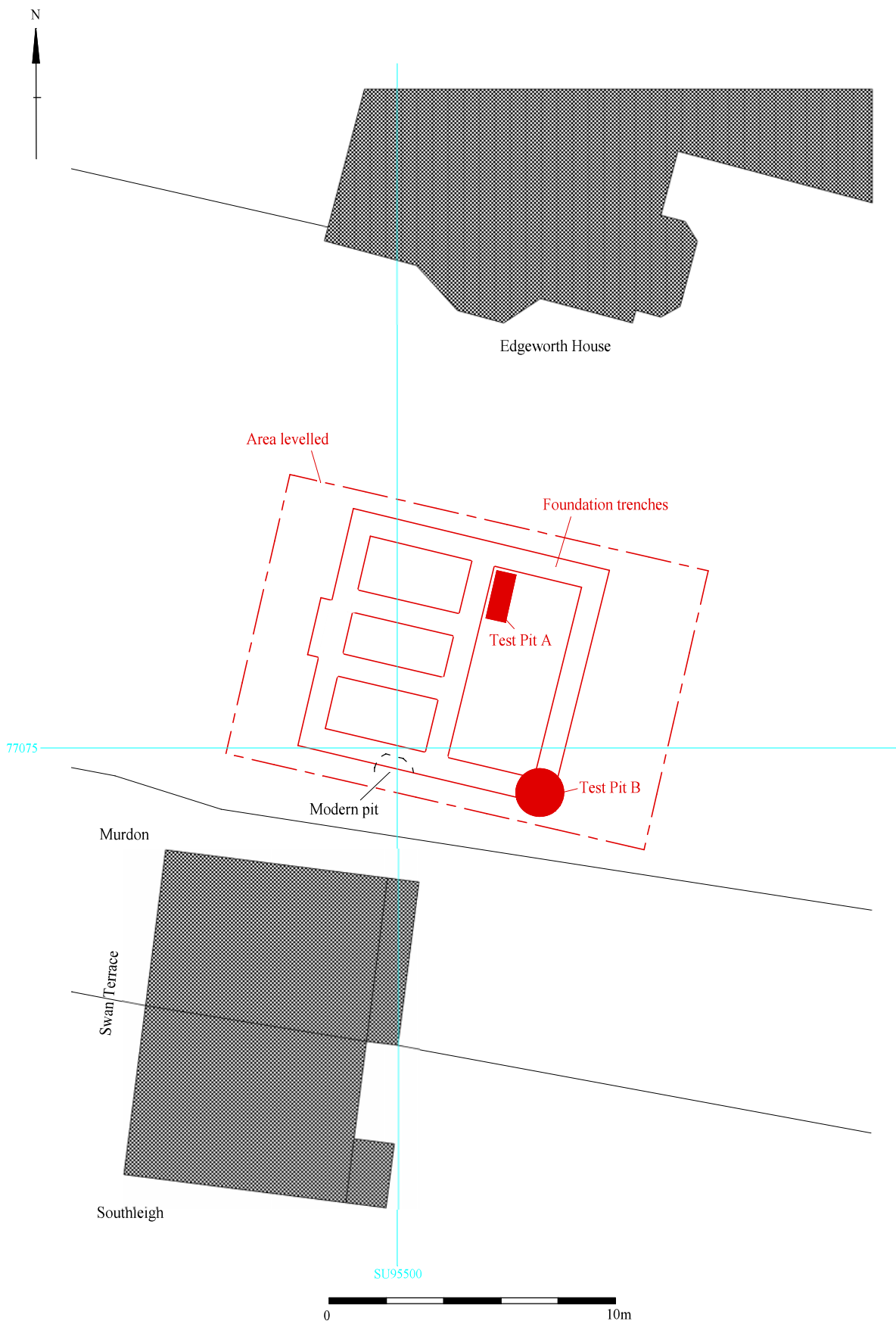


Figure 3. Plan of the site showing position of foundation trenches and test pits

Edgeworth House, Mill Lane, Clewer, Windsor, Berkshire, 2009

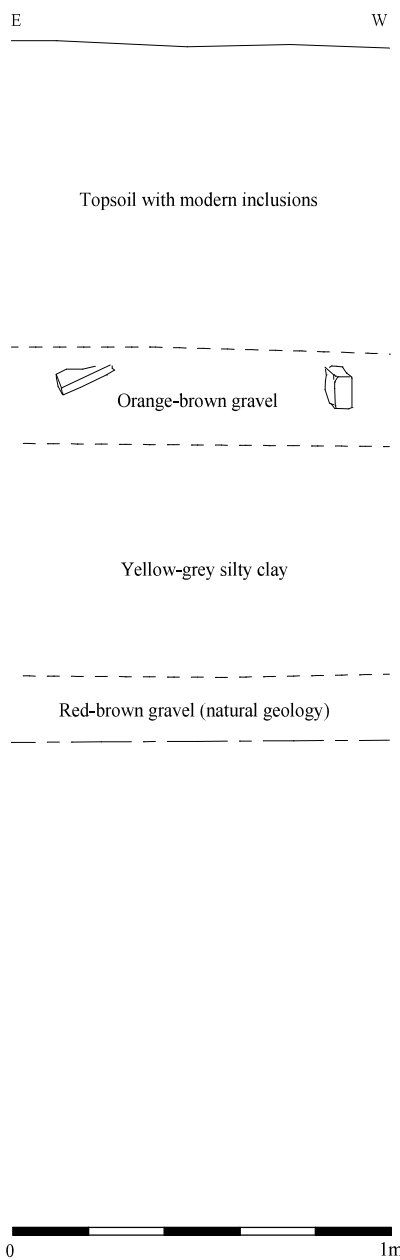
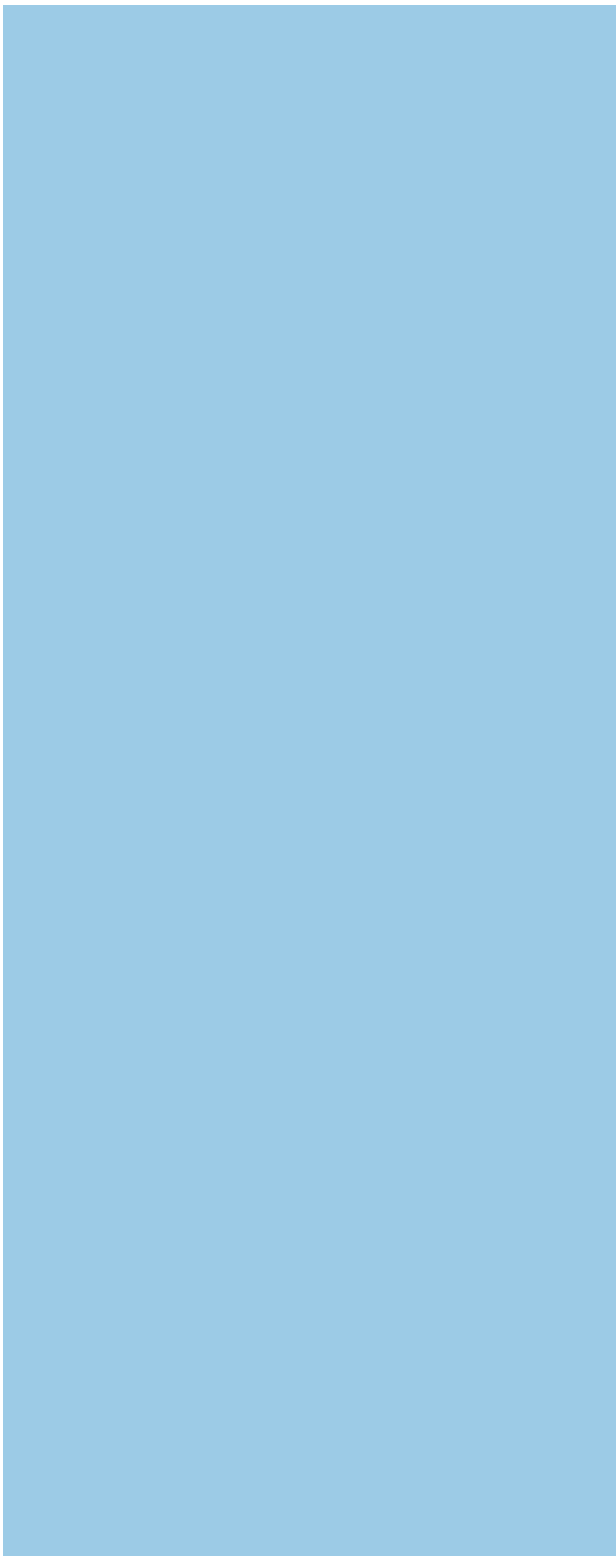
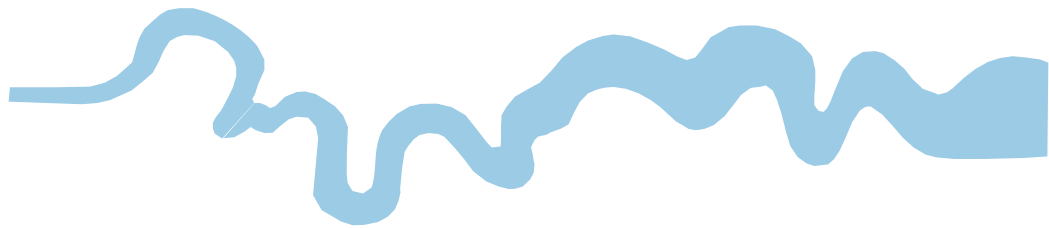


Figure 4. Representative section of footing trench showing stratigraphy.

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
↓	↓



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

**Tel: 0118 9260552
Fax: 0118 9260553
Email: tvas@tvas.co.uk
Web: www.tvas.co.uk**