

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

ARCHAEOLOGICAL

S E R V I C E S

S O U T H

**Land between 4 and 6 Springfield Road,
Crawley, West Sussex**

Archaeological Evaluation

by Andy Taylor

Site Code: SRC09/119

(TQ 2669 3635)

**Land between 4 and 6 Springfield Road,
Crawley, West Sussex**

An Archaeological Evaluation

for Mr John Mansfield

by Andy Taylor

Thames Valley Archaeological Services

Ltd

Site Code SRC 09/119

December 2009

Summary

Site name: Land between 4 and 6 Springfield Road, Crawley, West Sussex

Grid reference: TQ 2669 3635

Site activity: Evaluation

Date and duration of project: 21st December 2009

Project manager: Steve Ford

Site supervisor: Andy Taylor

Site code: SRC 09/119

Area of site: c.160 sq m

Summary of results: No deposits or finds of archaeological interest were observed.

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

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Report edited/checked by:	Steve Ford✓ 23.12.09
	Steve Preston✓ 23.12.09

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Report 09/119

Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological field evaluation carried out on land between 4 and 6 Springfield Road, Crawley, West Sussex (TQ 26690 36353) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Mr John Mansfield, c/o The Society of Vintners, Hardham Green House, Hardham, Pulborough, West Sussex, RH20 1LB. Planning permission (CR/2008/0221/FUL) has been granted by Crawley Borough Council to construct two new apartments between two existing properties. The consent was subject to a condition (5) relating to archaeology, which required that an archaeological investigation be carried out prior to the commencement of groundworks. This was to take the form, initially, of field evaluation by trial trenching, following which an archaeological mitigation strategy could be devised if required.

This is in accordance with the Department of the Environment's Planning Policy Guidance, *Archaeology and Planning* (PPG16 1990), and the Borough Council's policies on archaeology. The field investigation was carried out to a specification approved by Mr John Mills, Senior Archaeologist with West Sussex County Council, advisers to the Borough on matters relating to archaeology. The fieldwork was undertaken by Andy Taylor and Matt Gittins on 21st December 2009 and the site code is SRC 09/119. The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited at Crawley Museum in due course.

Location, topography and geology

The site is located on the south side of Springfield Road between numbers 4 and 6 and lies on the southern margins of Crawley town centre (Fig. 2). It is a flat parcel of land covered in concrete with a shed and fence towards the southern end of the site. The underlying geology consisted of Lower Tonbridge Wells sand (BGS 1972), which was observed in both trenches. The site lies at a height of c.78.8m above Ordnance Datum.

Archaeological background

The archaeological potential of the site has been highlighted by a briefing document for the planning application prepared by Mr John Mills, Senior Archaeologist with West Sussex County Council. In summary the potential

stems from its location on the fringes of the historic core of Crawley, which is regarded as being a 13th century 'new town'. The site lies close to the junction of Springfield Road with London Road (High Street) which is the main thoroughfare of the historic town and it is possible that traces of medieval occupation may be present on the site. The development of the town appears to be associated with its involvement in the medieval Wealden iron industry and a number of archaeological sites have revealed evidence of iron production taking place close to the town centre. This was revealed at works carried out in advance of the High Street relief road (Saunders 1998) and at Pegler Way (Hammond forthcoming) which also revealed medieval burgage plots. Medieval buildings have been recorded 100m to the north and iron production (slag dumps) 170m to the north-west with medieval deposits just to the north of the railway line (50m to the north of the site).

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 archaeologically relevant levels have survived on this site;
- to determine if archaeological deposits of any period are present;
- to determine if any medieval deposits are present on the site with respect to the location of the site on the fringe of the historic core of the town;
- to determine if any iron working activity is present on the site; and
- to determine if any post-medieval deposits are present on the site.

Two trenches were to be dug measuring 8m in length and 1.60m wide using a JCB-type machine fitted with a toothless ditching bucket under constant archaeological supervision. All spoilheaps were to be monitored for finds including a search made with a metal detector.

Results

The two trenches were dug as intended and measured 7.40m and 7.50m in length (Fig. 3), using a JCB type machine fitted with a toothless ditching bucket under constant archaeological supervision. All spoilheaps were monitored for finds the metal detector used was a White's, 'Amphibian 2'. A complete list of trenches giving lengths, breadths, depths and a description of sections and geology is given in Appendix 1.

Trench 1 (Fig. 4 and Plate 1)

This trench measured 7.40m in length and was 0.60m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.2m of concrete overlying 0.2m of made ground comprising scalplings. This overlay 0.18m of a light grey/brown silty clay overlying mottled yellow sandy clay which was the natural geology. Some root disturbance was evident at the southern end of this trench, presumably a result of the garden that was previously located on the site. No archaeological deposits were observed.

Trench 2 (Plate 2)

This trench measured 7.50m in length and 0.55m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.2m of concrete overlying 0.3m of a light grey/brown silty clay overlying mottled yellow sandy clay natural geology. Again no archaeological deposits were observed.

Finds

No finds of any archaeological interest were recovered during the evaluation.

Conclusion

Despite the potential for archaeological remains surviving on the site no such deposits or finds were observed during the course of the evaluation. A small amount of root disturbance was evident at the southern end of trench one, most likely from former gardens that used to be present on the site. It therefore seems highly unlikely that any archaeological remains will be disturbed by the proposed building works on the site.

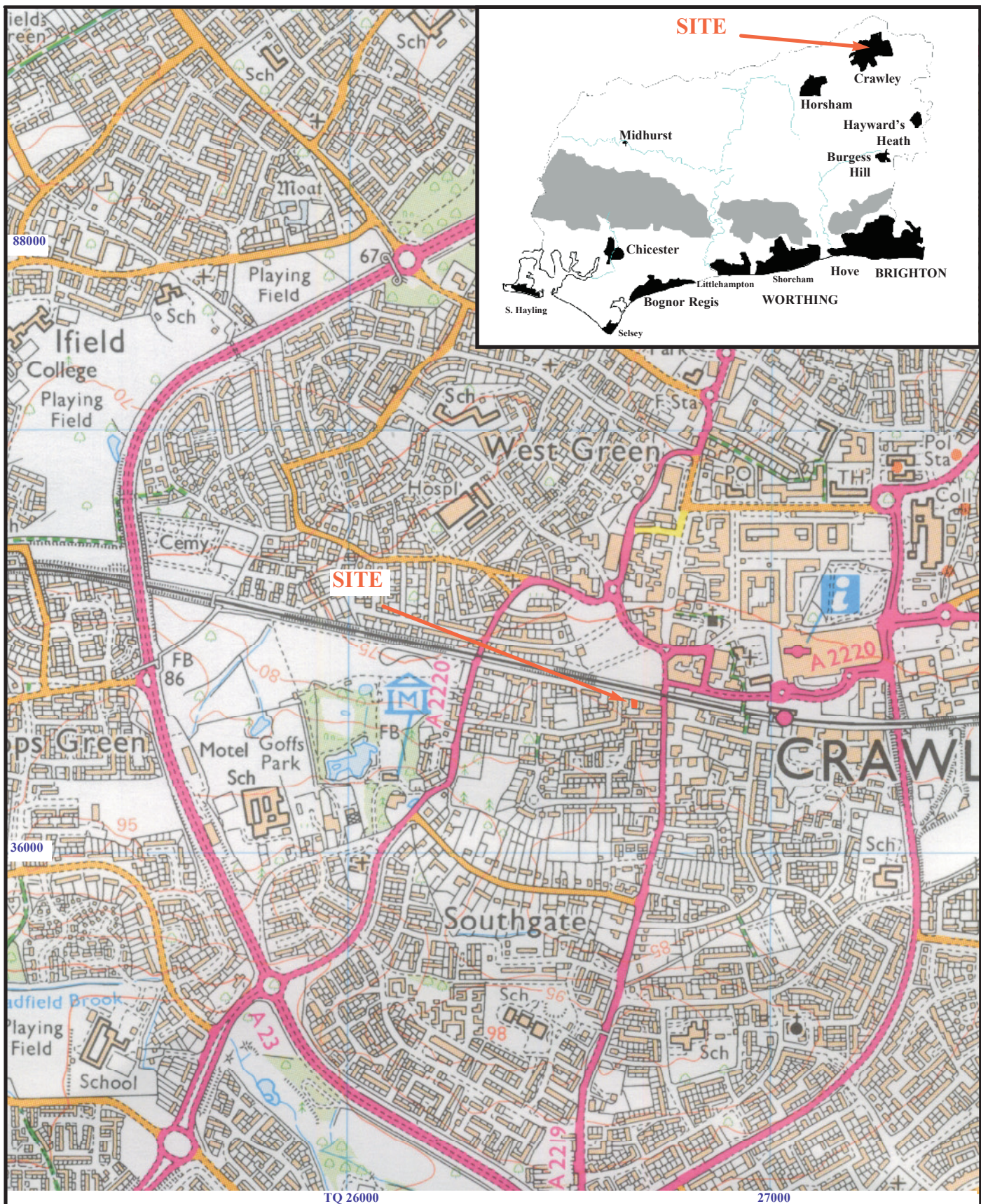
References

- BGS, 1972, *British Geological Survey*, 1:50000, Sheet 302, Solid and Drift Edition, Keyworth
- Hammond, S, forthcoming, 'Excavation of medieval burgage plots and further evidence of iron working on land off Pegler Way, Crawley, West Sussex' (Sussex Archaeol Collect)
- PPG16, 1990, *Archaeology and Planning*, Dept of the Environment Planning Policy Guidance 16, HMSO
- Saunders, M J, 1998, 'Archaeological investigations on the route of the Crawley High Street relief road, Crawley, West Sussex', *Sussex Archaeol Collect* **136**, 81–9

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	7.40	1.60	0.60	0.00–0.20m concrete; 0.20–0.40m made ground (scalpings); 0.40–0.58m light grey/brown silty clay; 0.58–0.60m+ mottled yellow sandy clay natural geology. [Plate 1]
2	7.50	1.60	0.55	0.00–0.20m concrete; 0.20–0.50m light grey/brown silty clay; 0.50–0.55m+mottled yellow sandy clay natural geology. [Plate 2]



SITE

SITE

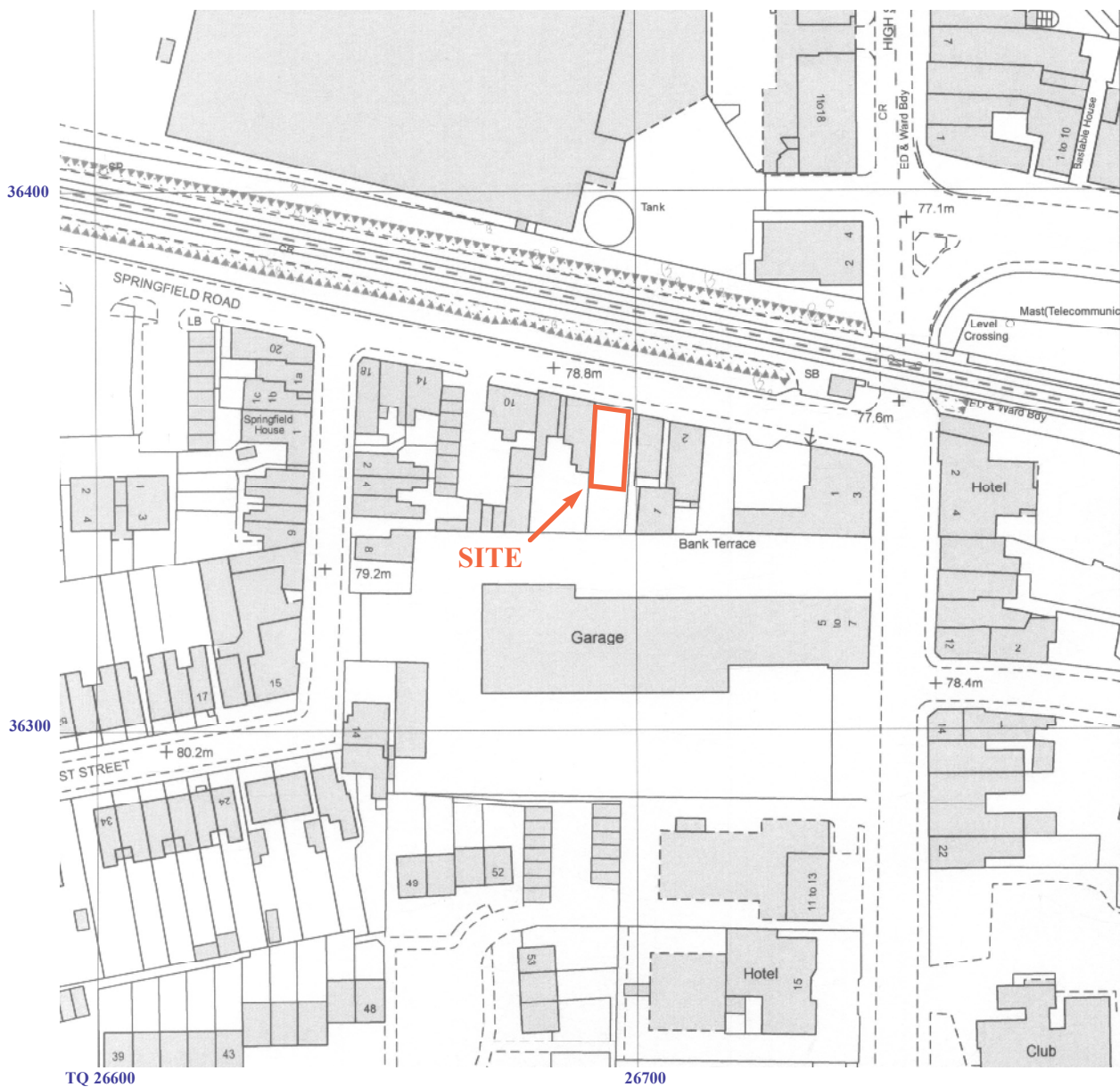
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Figure 1. Location of site within Crawley and West Sussex.

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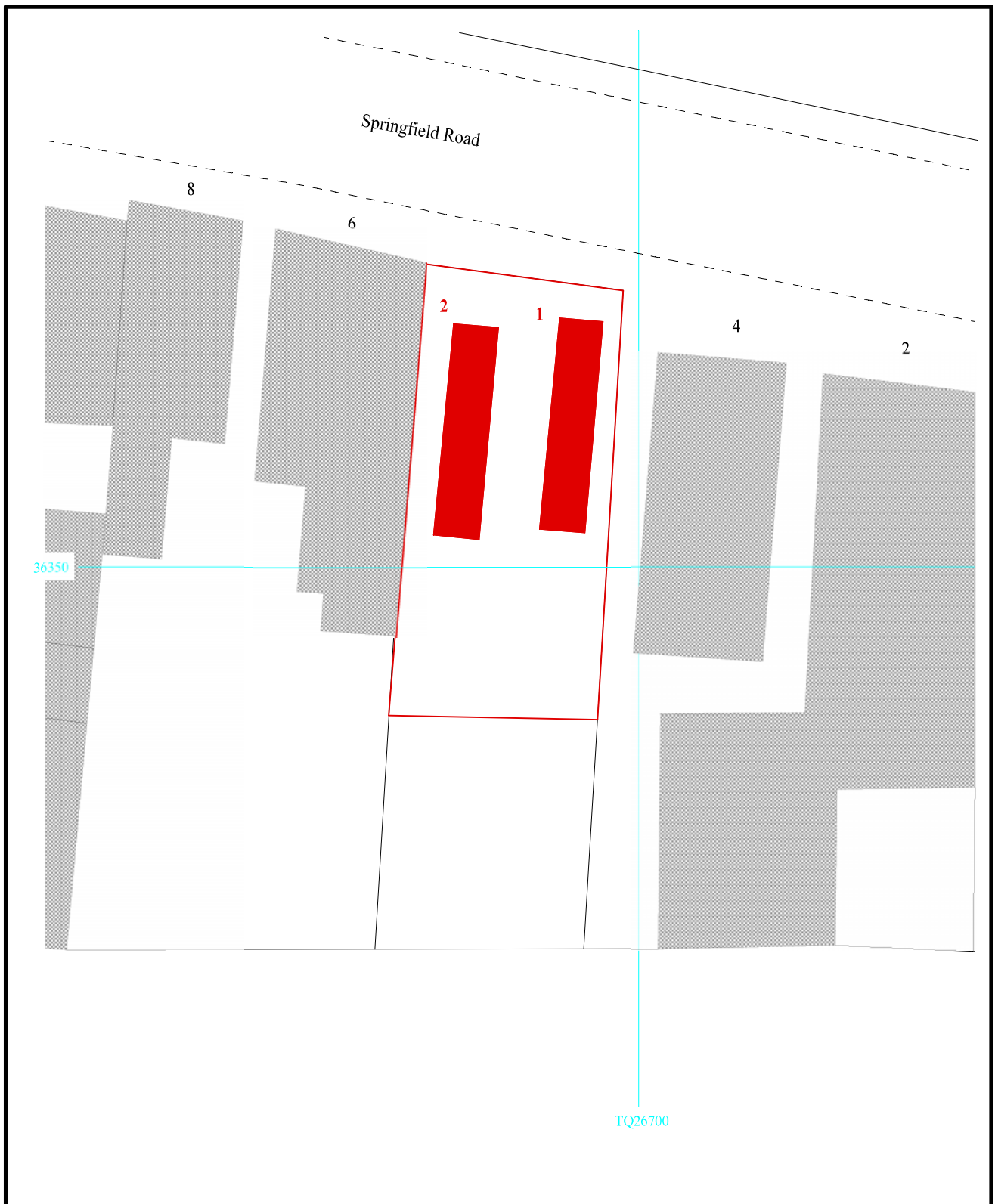
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Figure 2. Location of site off Springfield Road.

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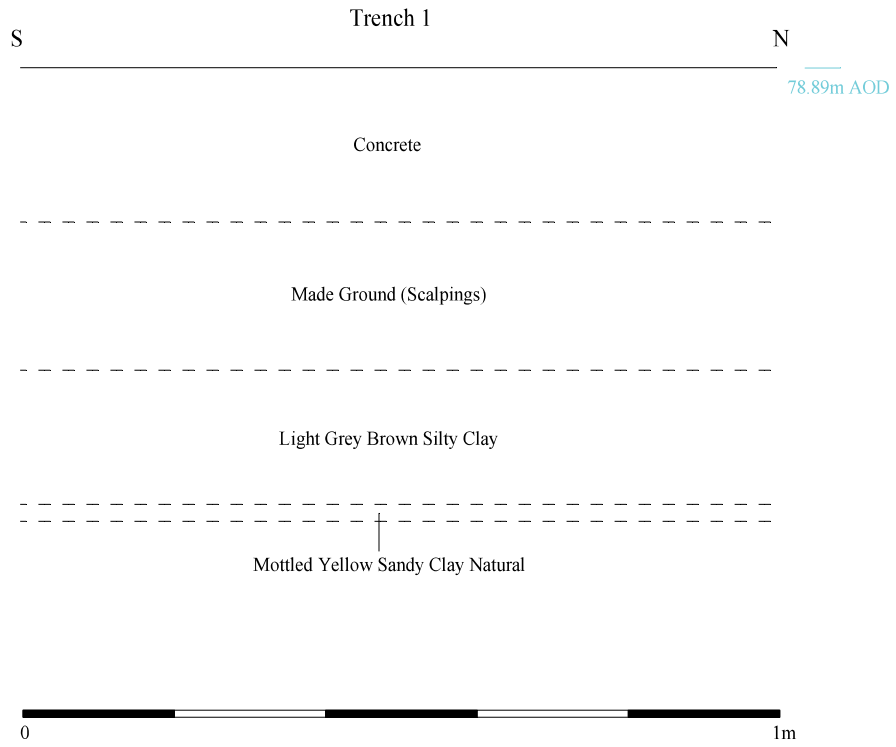
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Figure 3. Trench Plan



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Figure 4. Representative Section



Plate 1. Trench 1 looking south. Horizontal scales 2m, 1m, vertical 0.50m

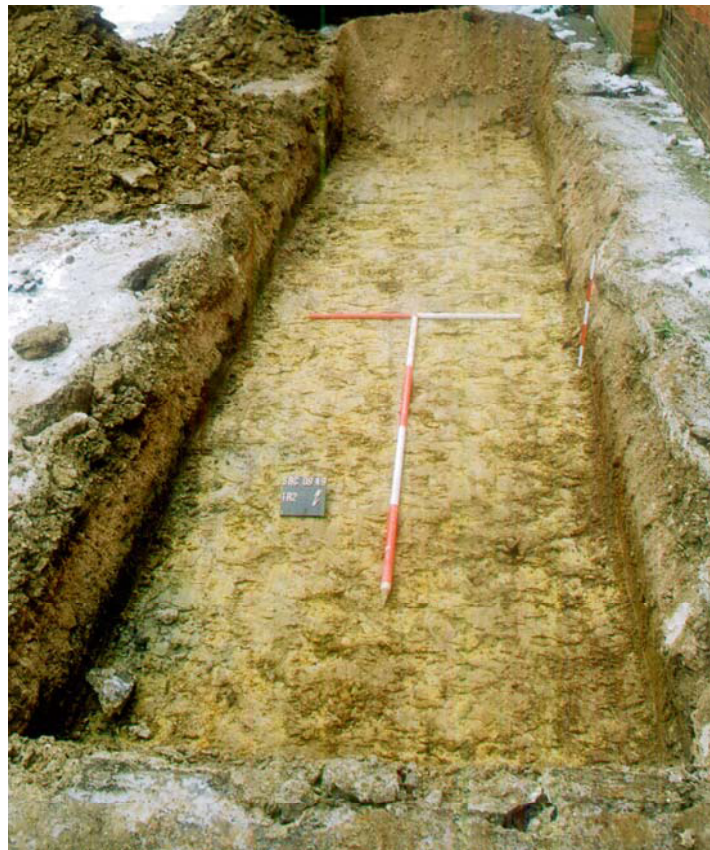


Plate 2. Trench 2, looking south. Horizontal scales 2m, 1m, vertical 0.50m

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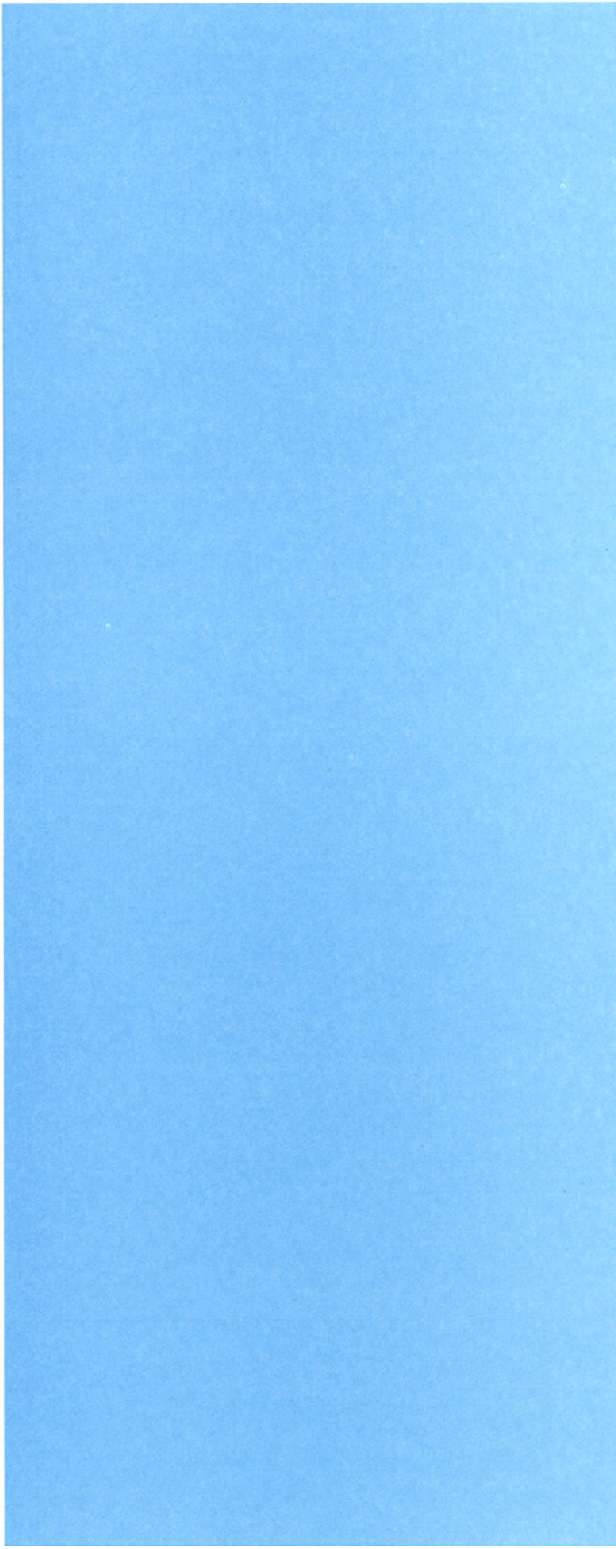
**Land between 4 and 6 Springfield Road,
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Plates 1 and 2**

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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
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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