

**Weir Point, Ham Island, Old Windsor.**  
**An Archaeological Watching Brief During the Laying of**  
**Electricity and Telephone Cables.**

For Mr. Gordon Spice

December 1996

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**Report 96/77**

by Graham Hull

**Introduction**

This report documents the results of an archaeological watching brief commissioned by Mr. G. Spice of Weir Point, Ham Island, Old Windsor, Berkshire, SL4 2JT. The watching brief was a requirement of the granting of Scheduled Monument Consent for the excavation of a telephone and electricity trench. The Scheduled Monument Consent was granted by I. Newton with authorisation from the Secretary of State, Department of National Heritage, 2/4 Cockspur Street, London, SW1Y 5DH. The project specifications were approved by Mr. R. Thomas of English Heritage, Fortress House, 23 Savile Row, London, W1X 1AB; advisors to the Department of National Heritage.

The watching brief took place in December 1996 and was carried out by Graham Hull.

The site code is WPHI 96

**Site Location, Topography and Geology**

The site is in the north west of Ham Island (SU 992 753) and extends behind the properties Weir Point, Weir Bungalow, Shellwood House, Bear Shack and the plot Zimmia (Fig. 1). The local geology is flood plain gravel (BGS 1978).

## **Archaeological and Historical Background**

The site lies on the immediate periphery of the Scheduled Ancient Monument (Bk79). The cropmarks in the vicinity are thought to be of an 11th century palace (Edward the Confessor). Other cropmarks may be of Roman or Prehistoric date. The line of the electricity and telephone trench (Fig. 2) closely follow the line of a water pipe trench dug for Mid Southern Water in 1995 which was also subject to a watching brief. This watching brief was carried out by Thames Valley Archaeological Services (Saunders 1995) and revealed two undated ditch sections which form part of an enclosure visible as cropmarks.

## **Objectives and Methodology**

The aim of the fieldwork was to excavate and record any archaeological deposits located during the digging of the cable trench. This was achieved by observation of the groundworks by an archaeologist and monitoring the spoil for unstratified artefacts.

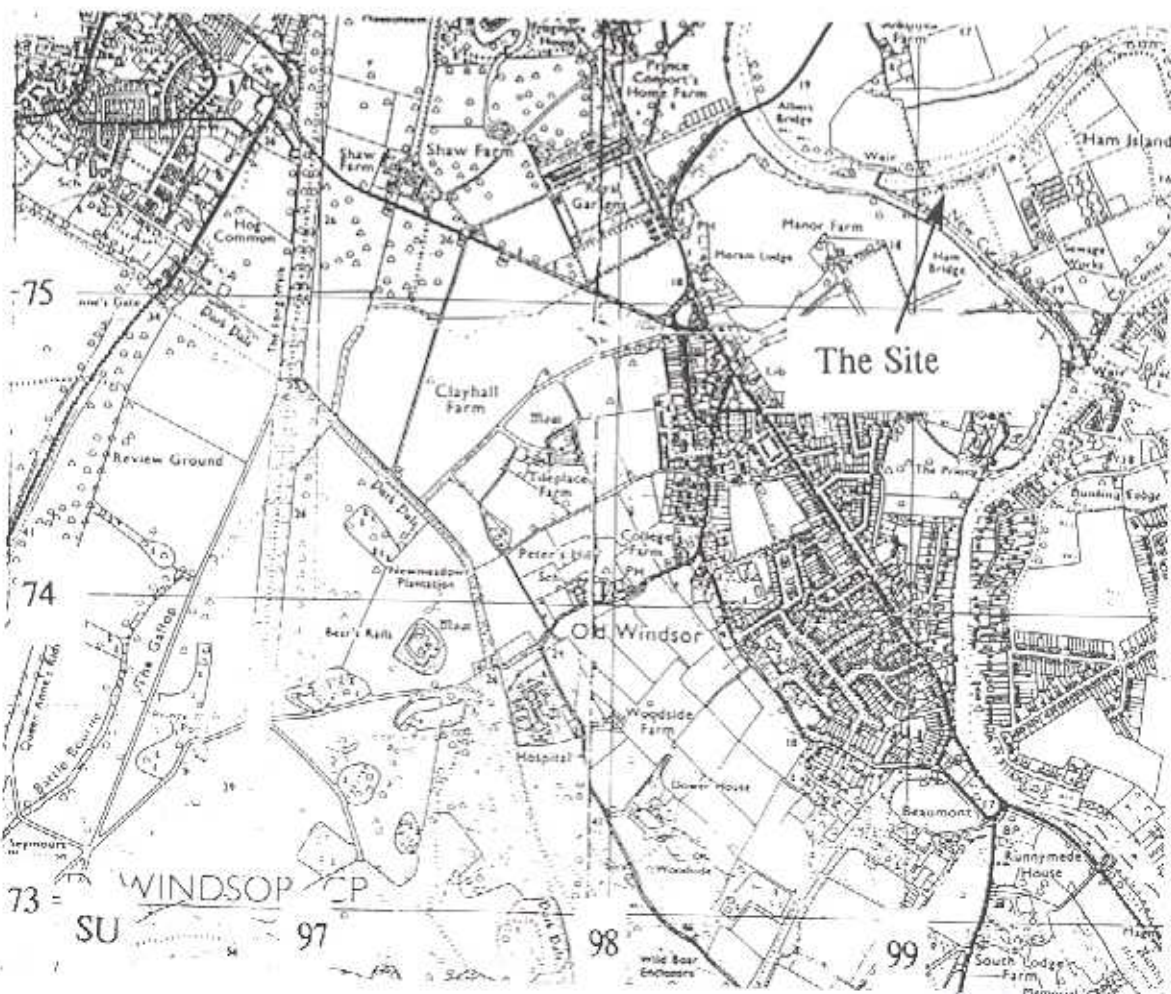
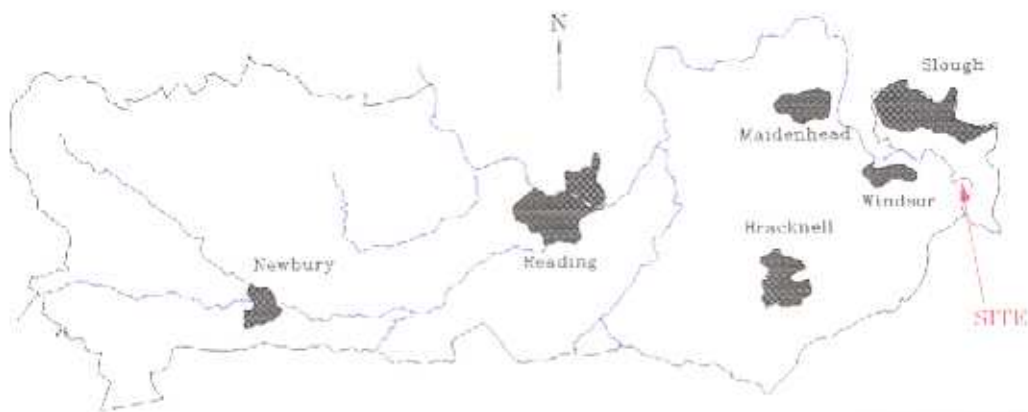
## **Results**

A branched trench was excavated by a JCB type machine using a 0.45 m. wide toothed bucket (Fig. 2). The trench running parallel to the roadway was 0.60 m. wide and typically 0.90 m. deep. The trench branches crossing the roadway at a right angle were 0.50 m. wide and 0.55-0.60 m. deep. The observed stratigraphy was 0.25-0.30 m. of topsoil overlying 0.40 m. of subsoil onto yellow/orange sandy gravel starting at 0.70-0.80 m. below the modern surface. No archaeological features or artefacts were observed at any stage of the groundworks.

## References

- BGS 1978: **British Geological Survey.** Sheet 269. Solid and Drift Edition.  
Scale: 1:50 000. Keyworth.
- SAUNDERS, M. Ham Island, Old Windsor. Archaeological watching brief. Thames  
1995 Valley Archaeological Services report 95/18. Reading.

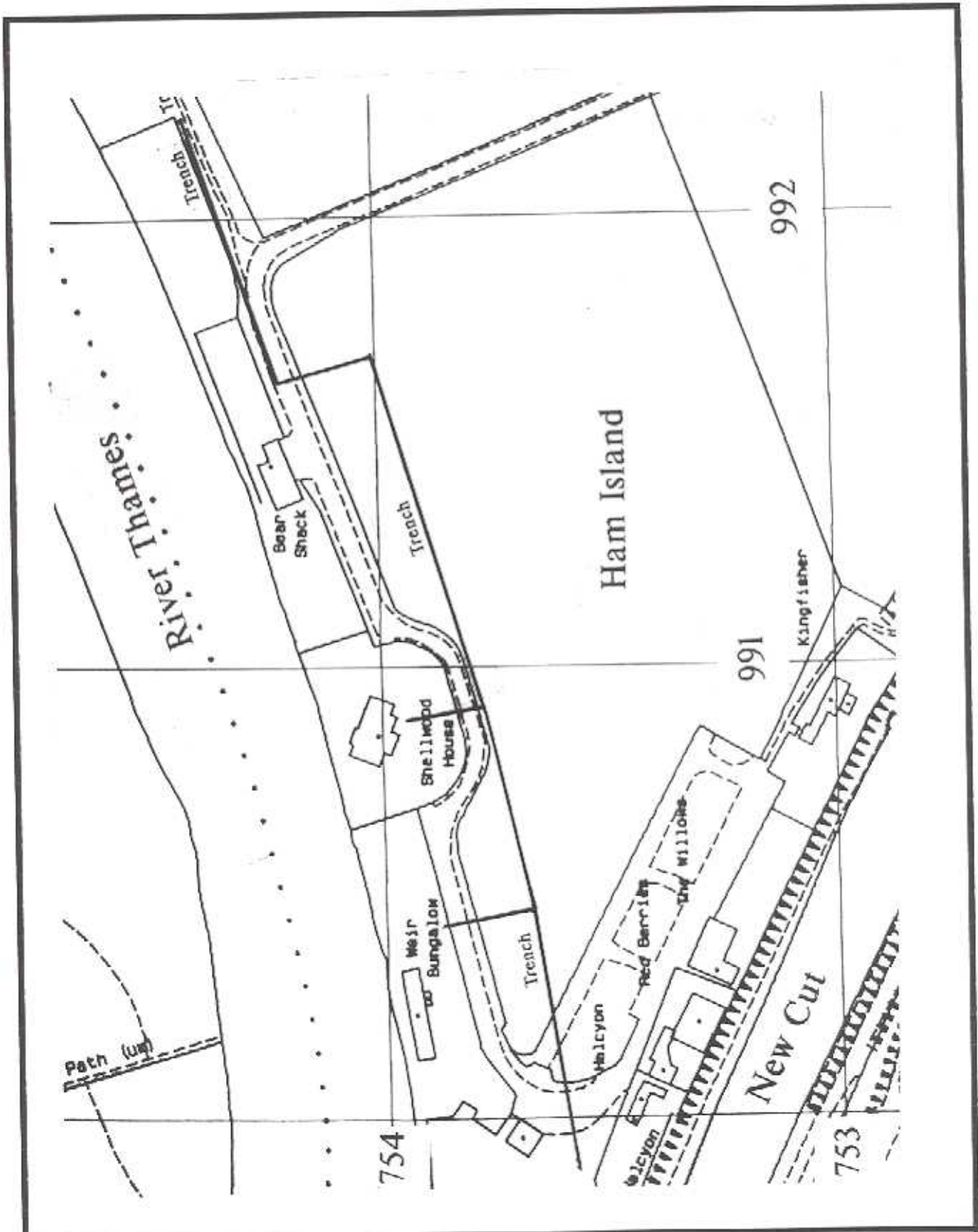




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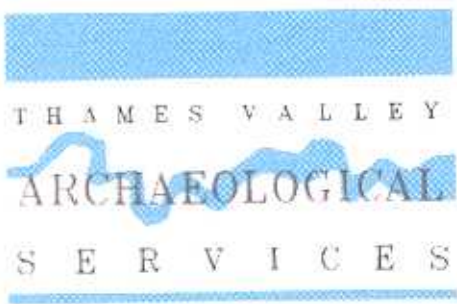
Figure 1. Location of site in Windsor  
and Berkshire.





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Figure 2. Location of site on Ham Island.



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