

**30-34 Oakfield Avenue, Cippenham,
Slough, Berkshire**

**An Archaeological Evaluation
for Fleetwood Homes**

by Steve Ford

Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code OAS06/11

February 2006

Summary

Site name: 30–34 Oakfield Avenue, Cippenham, Slough, Berkshire

Grid reference: SU 9556 8036

Site activity: Evaluation

Date and duration of project: 9th–10th February 2006

Project manager: Steve Ford

Site supervisor: Steve Ford

Site code: OAS 06/11

Area of site: 0.21 hectares

Summary of results: No archaeological deposits or finds were found

Monuments identified: None

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.

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Report edited/checked by: Jo Pine✓ 23.02.06 Steve Preston✓23.02.06

30–34 Oakfield Avenue, Cippenham, Slough, Berkshire An Archaeological Evaluation

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Report 06/11

Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological field evaluation carried out 30–34 Oakfield Avenue, Cippenham, Slough, Berkshire (SU 9556 8036) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Mr Hardial Sangha, of Fleetwood Homes Limited, Marshmead, Marsh Lane, Taplow, Buckinghamshire, SL6 0DE.

Planning permission (app P/12596/001) has been sought from Slough Borough Council for the demolition of some existing structures and the construction of new houses and apartments. In order to inform the planning process on the archaeological potential of the site, an investigation was to be carried out in order to provide information with which to draw up a strategy to mitigate the effects of development on the archaeological heritage if necessary.

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 Mr David Thomason, Archaeological Officer with Berkshire Archaeology, advisers to the Borough. The fieldwork was undertaken by Steve Ford, Ceri Falys, Andy Taylor and Jo Pine on 9th and 10th February 2006 and the site code is OAS06/11. 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 to the west of the centre of Slough and to the north-east of Cippenham at the end of a cul-de-sac which is Oakfield Avenue. It lies on level ground at a height of approximately 29m above Ordnance Datum. It had recently been cleared of various structures in the garden areas to the rear. The underlying geology is mapped as Taplow terrace gravel (BGS 1981) and this was encountered in all trenches.

Archaeological background

The archaeological potential of the site has been highlighted in a brief prepared by Mr David Thomason of Berkshire Archaeology. In summary, the site lies in the archaeologically rich Thames Valley with many finds and sites revealed from activities such as gravel extraction and from the air (Ford 1987; Gates 1975). The

archaeology of the environs of Slough, however, is rather less well known, but extensive excavations which took place in 1995–7, to the south-west of the proposal site prior to large scale development of the ‘Cippenham Sector’ examined a wide range of deposits of prehistoric, Roman and medieval dates (Ford *et al.* 2003). These finds included Neolithic and Bronze Age occupation, a Bronze Age ring ditch (levelled burial mound), Iron Age and Roman enclosures and field systems, and part of the medieval village of Cippenham. Excavation of a Roman site also took place to the north-west of the proposal site (Howell and Durden 2003). Other nearby evaluations and watching briefs have either recorded negative results or a relatively modest range of artefacts of prehistoric and Roman dates (Gleave 1998; Saunders 1995; Smith 1996).

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.

Four trenches were to be dug by a machine fitted with a toothless bucket under constant archaeological supervision. They were to be 17m long and 1.6m wide and all spoilheaps were to be monitored for finds.

Results

Four 1.5m wide trenches were dug ranging in length between 13m and 24.9m (Figs 3 and 4). A complete list of trenches giving lengths, breadths, depths and a description of sections and geology is given in Appendix 1.

Trench 1 (Pl. 1)

This trench was 18.2m long and revealed a stratigraphy which comprised 0.2m of turf and topsoil above 0.05m of clayey, gravelly subsoil above the natural geology which was gravel with some sand, and clayey silt patches. No archaeological deposits were revealed nor artefacts recovered.

Trench 2 (Pl. 2)

This trench was 16.6m long and revealed 0.3m of turf and topsoil above 0.15m of clayey, gravelly subsoil above the natural geology which was gravel with some and clayey silt patches. Two cut features were revealed beneath the subsoil, a linear feature and a pit or roothole both towards the northern end of the trench. Both were

investigated and both contained items of 20th century date such as modern brick and clinker. These probably reflect the position of the former (modern) property boundary between numbers 32 and 34.

Trench 3

This trench was 24.9m long and revealed a stratigraphy at the east end which comprised 0.3m of turf and topsoil directly above the natural geology which was gravel with some clayey silt patches. At the western end of the trench a deeper stratigraphy was revealed with 0.2m of turf and topsoil overlying 0.3m of dumped soil with modern artefacts such as brick above the natural geology. No archaeological deposits were revealed nor artefacts recovered.

Trench 4

This trench was 13m long and comprised 0.25m of turf and topsoil directly the natural geology which was gravel with some clayey silt patches. No archaeological deposits were revealed nor artefacts recovered.

Finds

No finds other than material of modern date were observed. These were not retained.

Conclusion

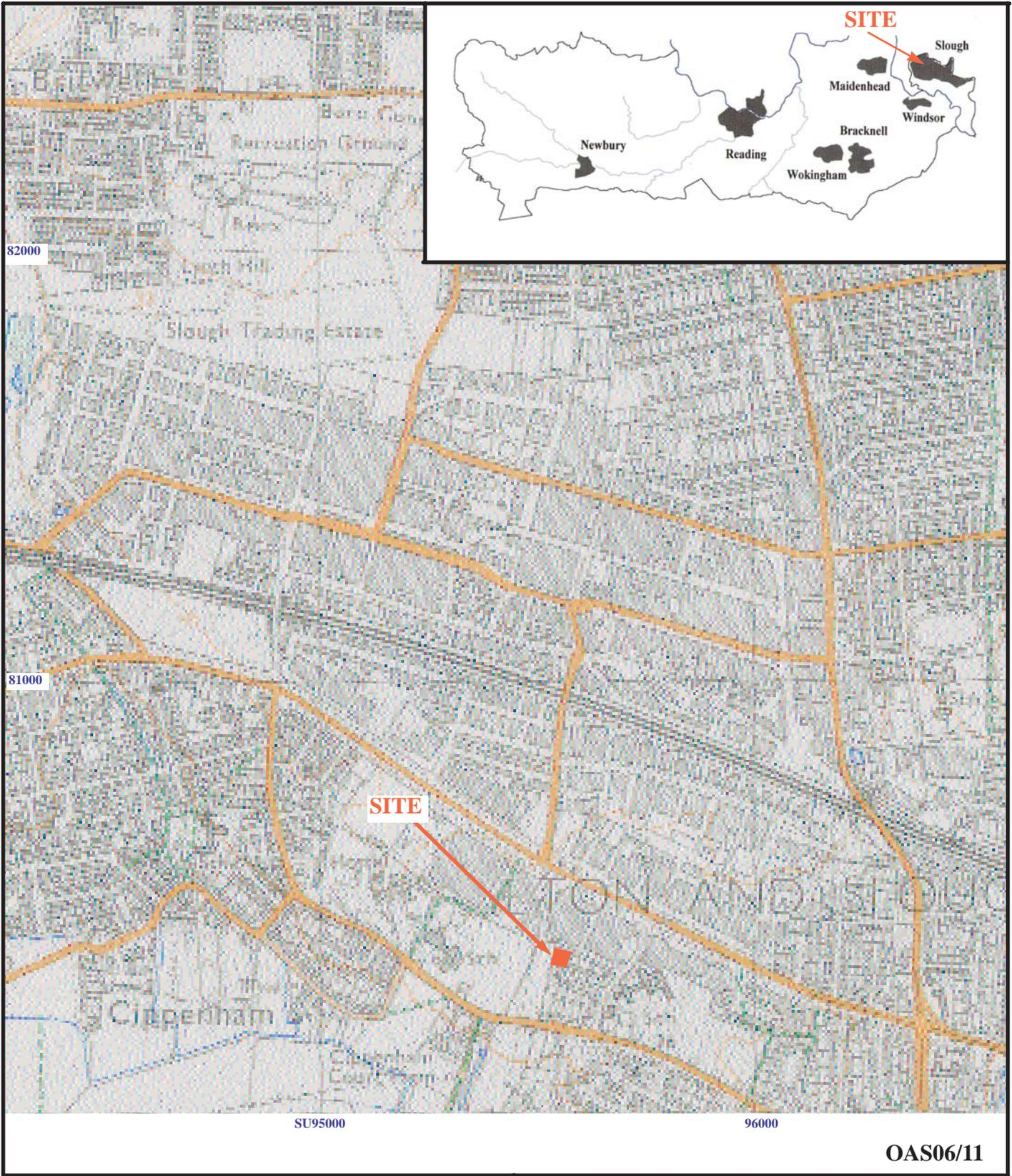
Despite the location of the site in an area from which various archaeological sites and finds have been recorded, this evaluation did not reveal any deposits or finds of archaeological interest. On the basis of these results the site does not appear to have any archaeological potential.

References

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- Smith, A, 1996, 'Hill Rise Nursery, Bath Road, Slough, an archaeological watching brief', Thames Valley Archaeological Services rep 95/56-2, Reading

APPENDIX 1: Trench details
0m at S or W end

<i>Trench No.</i>	<i>Length (m)</i>	<i>Breadth (m)</i>	<i>Depth (m)</i>	<i>Comment</i>
1	18.20	1.50	0.30 (N) 0.4(S)	0.00m-0.20m turf and topsoil; 0.20m-0.25m clayey gravel subsoil; 0.25m+ Natural geology, gravel with sand and clayey silt patches. [Plate 1]
2	16.60	1.50	0.50	0.00m-0.30m turf and topsoil; 0.30m-0.45m clayey gravel subsoil; 0.45m+ Natural geology, gravel with clayey silt patches. Modern pit and gully at 13m and 15m [Plate 2]
3	24.90	1.50	0.34(E) 0.5(W)	0.00m-0.30m turf and topsoil; 0.3m+ Natural geology, gravel with clayey silt patches. Soil dump at west end.
4	13.00	1.50	0.27	0.00m-0.25m turf and topsoil; 0.25m+ Natural geology, gravel with clayey silt patches.



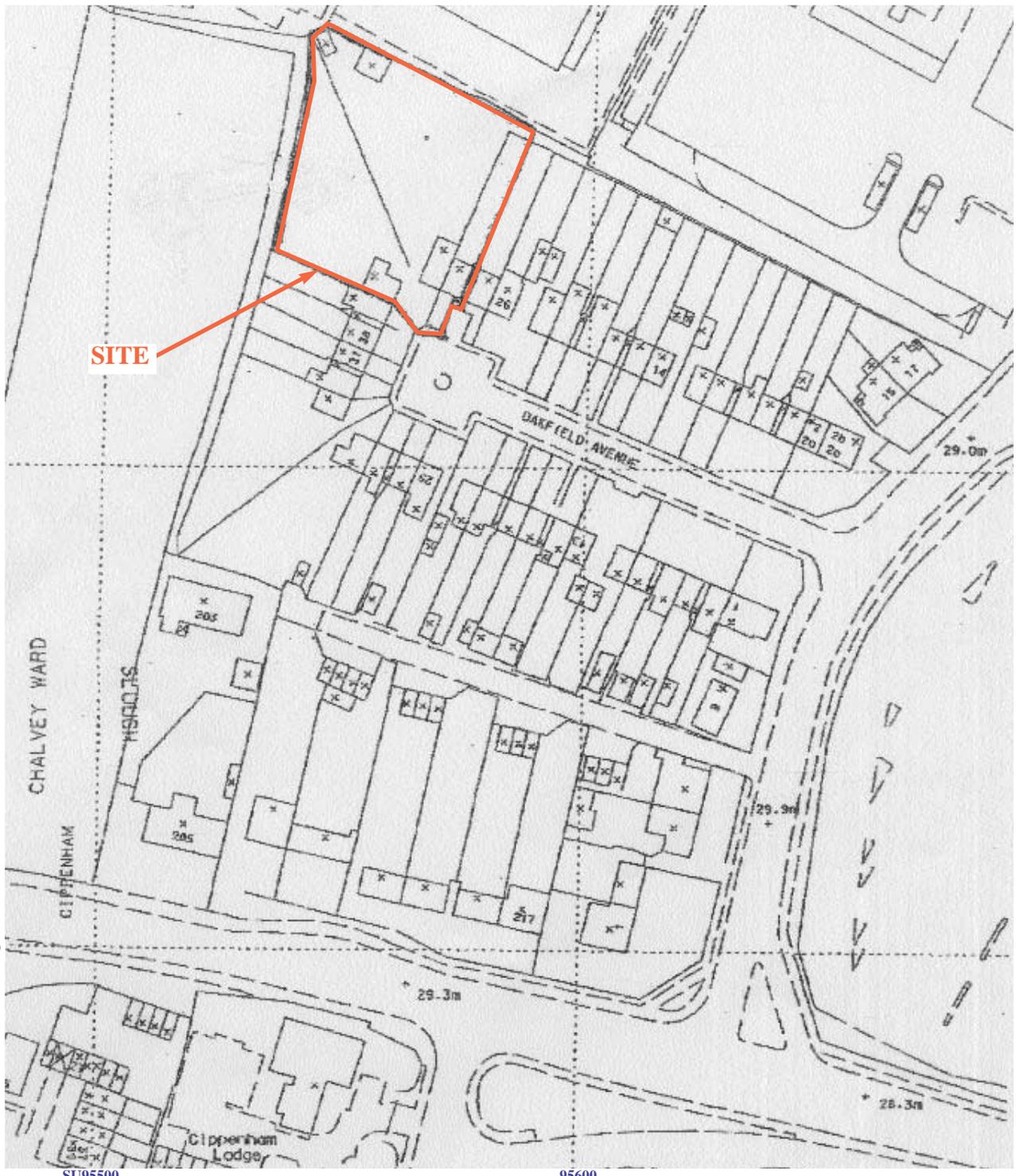
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**Land at 30-34 Oakfield Avenue, Cippenham,
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Figure 1. Location of site within Slough and Berkshire.

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Figure 2. Location of site on Oakfield Avenue.

Scale: 1:1250

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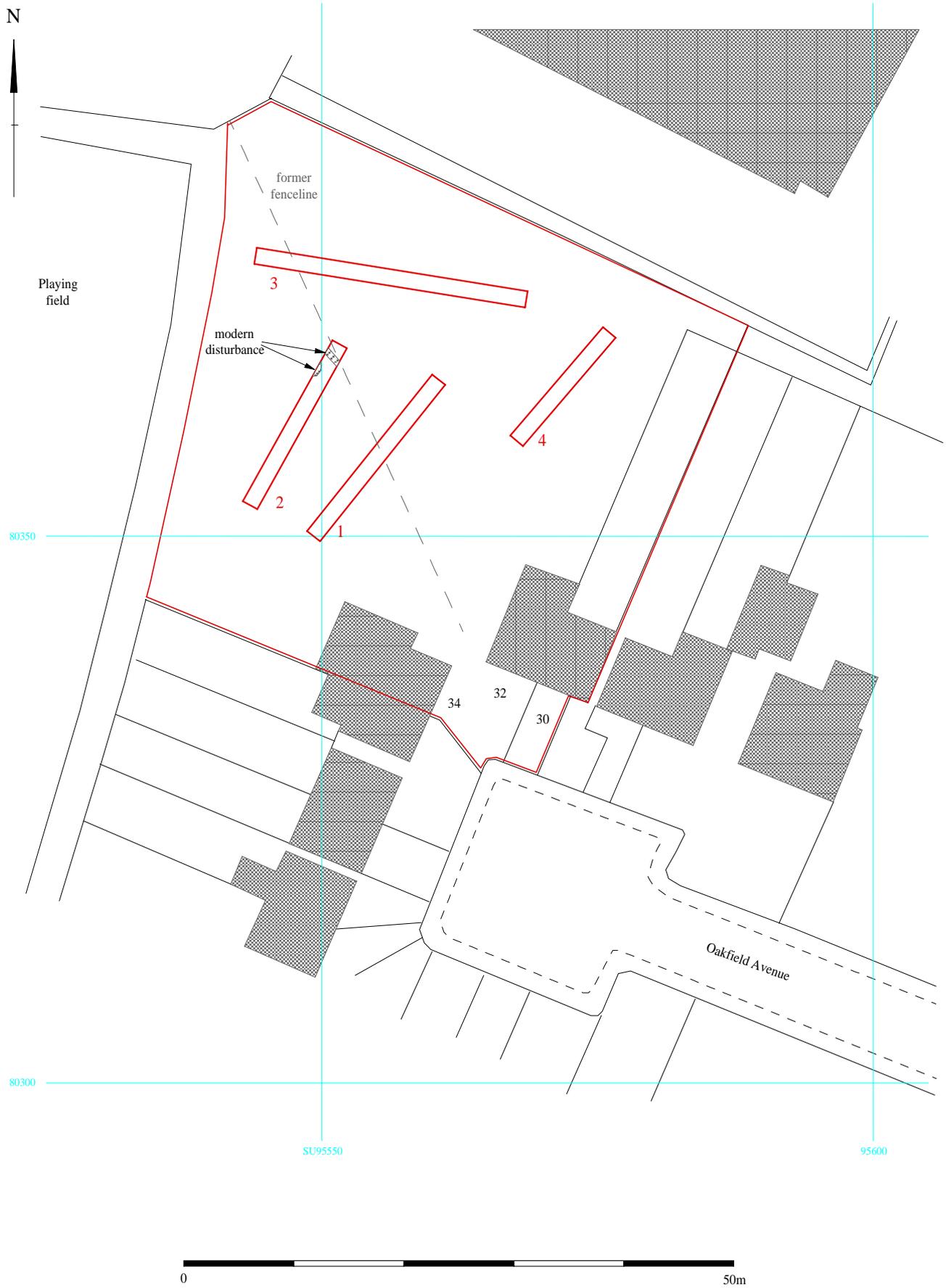


Figure 3. Trench Locations.

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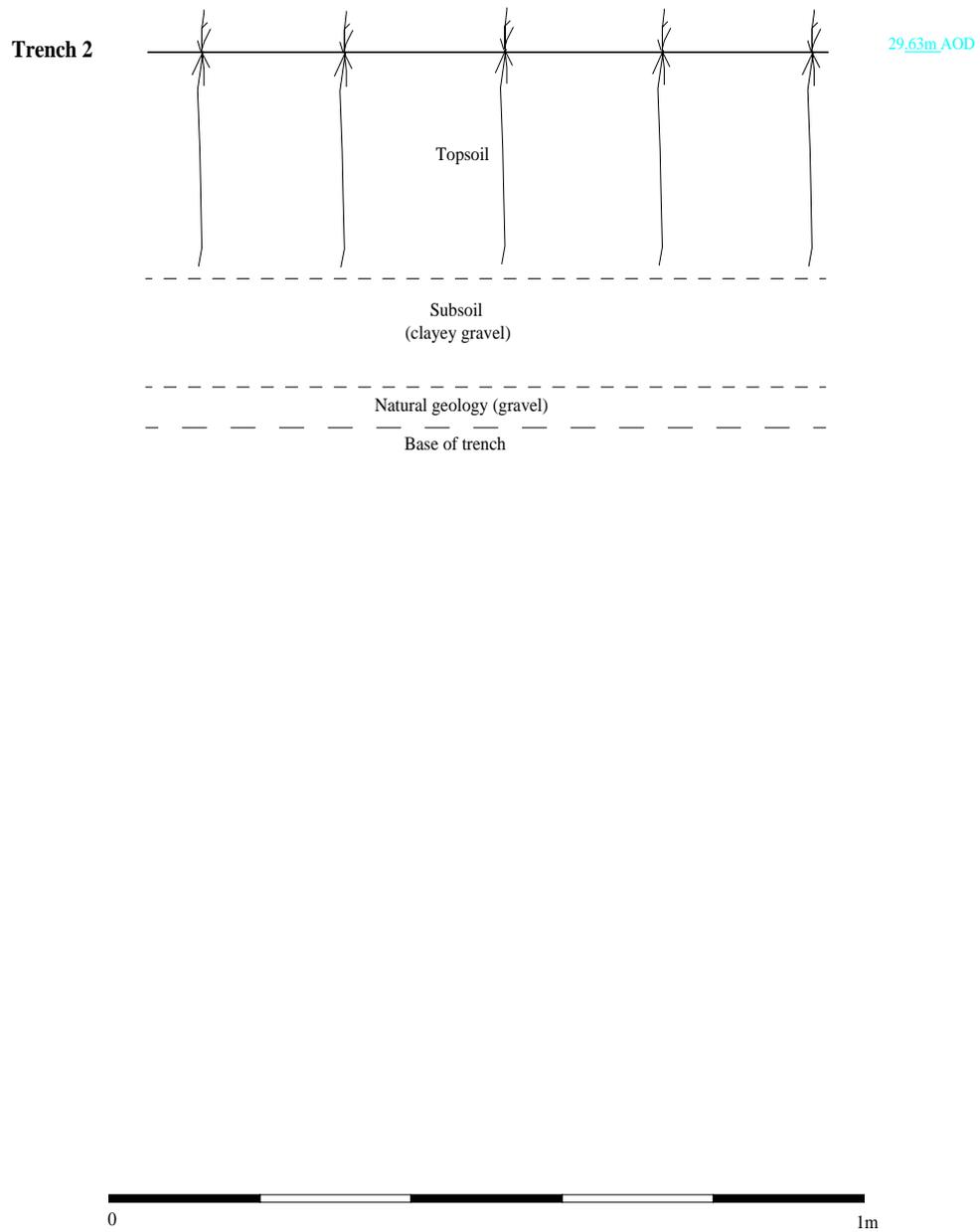


Figure 4. Representative section



Plate 1. Trench 1 Looking north-east. Scales 1m and 2m.



Plate 2. Trench 2 Looking south-west. Scales 1m and 2m.