

**T H A M E S      V A L L E Y**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL**

**S E R V I C E S**

**Land to the rear of Oliver's Battery Road South,  
Winchester, Hampshire**

**Archaeological Evaluation**

**by Will Attard and Andy Taylor**

**Site Code: OBW22/66**

**(SU 4579 2782)**

# **Land rear of Oliver's Battery Road South, Winchester, Hampshire**

## **An Archaeological Evaluation for Imperial Homes**

by Will Attard and Andy Taylor  
Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code OBW 22/66

**March 2022**

## Summary

**Site name:** Land rear of Oliver's Battery Road South, Winchester, Hampshire

**Grid reference:** SU 4579 2782

**Site activity:** Evaluation

**Date and duration of project:** 25th March 2022

**Project coordinator:** Tim Dawson

**Site supervisor:** Will Attard

**Site code:** OBW 22/66

**Area of site:** c.0.12 hectares

**Summary of results:** No deposits nor finds of any archaeological interest were observed. On the basis of these results, the site is considered to have very low archaeological potential.

**Location and reference of archive:** The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited with the Hampshire Cultural Trust or Archaeology Data 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 ✓ 01.03.22
	Steve Preston ✓ 01.03.22

# Land rear of Oliver's Battery Road South, Winchester, Hampshire An Archaeological Evaluation

by Will Attard and Andy Taylor

Report 22/66

## Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological field evaluation carried out on land at the rear of 93-95 Oliver's Battery Road South, Winchester, Hampshire (SU 4579 2782) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Mr Ben Olds, of Imperial Homes, Paddock View, Calcot Mount Business Park, Calcot Lane, Curdridge, Southampton, SO32 2BN.

Planning permission (app 21/03207/FUL) has been granted by Winchester City Council for the redevelopment of the site for residential use. The consent is subject to a condition (6) relating to archaeology in order to mitigate the effect of the development on heritage assets.

This is in accordance with the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government's *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF 2021), and the City Council's policies on archaeology. The field investigation was carried out to a specification approved by Ms Tracy Matthews, Historic Environment Officer (Archaeology) with Winchester City Council. The fieldwork was undertaken by Will Attard on 25th March 2022 and the site code is OBW 22/66. The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited with the Hampshire Cultural Trust or Archaeology Data Service in due course.

## Location, topography and geology

The site is located on the south western margins of Winchester (Fig. 2) and is set back from Oliver's Battery Road South on its western side, behind a parade of shops. It is bounded by residential properties on its remaining three sides. The underlying geology is mapped as Middle Chalk (BGS 1975) and the site lies at a height of c.122m above Ordnance Datum.

## Archaeological background

The archaeological potential of the site has been highlighted in planning comments submitted by Ms Tracy Matthews of Winchester City Council, and a search of the HER was carried out on 22nd March 2022. In summary, the site lies to the west of 'Oliver Cromwell's Battery', an Iron Age hillfort thought to have been re-

used as a gun battery during the Civil War (Scheduled Monument number 1008724), which may represent part of a wider Iron Age landscape.

Sites of earlier periods are also represented in the environs of the site, with several urned Bronze Age (Deverel-Rimbury) cremations recorded in the HER in an area 350m to the southeast of the site, and a (denuded and spread) Bronze Age round barrow (Scheduled Monument 1013042) located 100m to the north east. This seems to have subsequently become the focus of a Late Anglo-Saxon execution cemetery. An Anglo-Saxon burial was also found during fieldwork in the 1930s which had cut into the Iron Age hillfort rampart.

The site is located within the northern part of the footprint of a former First World War military camp and veterinary camp ('Pitt Hill Camp', monument MWC3775) which comprised five groups of buildings as shown on a war office layout plan. Remains of this complex have been identified nearby in Mount View Road, and further remains associated with these camps may be present within the current 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 the site;
- to determine if archaeological deposits of any period are present;
- to determine if any Bronze Age, Iron Age or Anglo-Saxon settlement is present;
- to determine if any deposits relating to First World War use of the site are present; and
- to provide information with which to draw up a mitigation strategy, if necessary.

It was proposed to dig four trenches, one 12m long and three at 10m, and all 1.60m wide targeting the footprints of the new housing. These were dug using a 360° type machine fitted with a toothless grading bucket, under constant archaeological supervision. Sufficient of any identified deposits would be investigated by hand to satisfy the objectives outlined above. All spoilheaps were monitored for finds.

## **Results**

The four trenches were opened as close as possible to their intended locations (Fig. 3) and these measured between 8.50m and 15.50m long and between 0.50m and 0.66m deep. 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 aligned approximately NNE-SSW and measured 15.50m long and 0.60m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.10m of scalpins and rubble overlying 0.38m of subsoil overlying chalk natural geology.

#### Trench 2 (Pl. 2)

This trench was aligned approximately N-S and measured 14m long and 0.66m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.20m of scalpins overlying 0.16m of redeposited chalk. This overlay 0.20m of subsoil overlying chalk natural geology. A test pit was dug between 2m and 4.50m to confirm the interpretation of the chalk as natural and confirmed that it extended at least to a depth of 0.85m. The trench was traversed by a pipe drain.

#### Trench 3 (Pl. 3)

This trench was aligned N-S and measured 10.30m long and 0.65m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.30m of demolition rubble overlying 0.20m of subsoil. This overlay 0.15m of degraded chalk overlying chalk natural geology. A test pit was dug to 1.20m at the northern end to confirm the depth of a foundation/service trench.

#### Trench 4

This trench was aligned E-W and measured 8.50m long and 0.50m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.12m of demolition rubble overlying 0.35m of subsoil overlying chalk natural geology.

### **Finds**

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

### **Conclusion**

Despite the potential for archaeology to be present on the site no deposits or finds of any archaeological significance were observed on the course of the watching brief.

### **References**

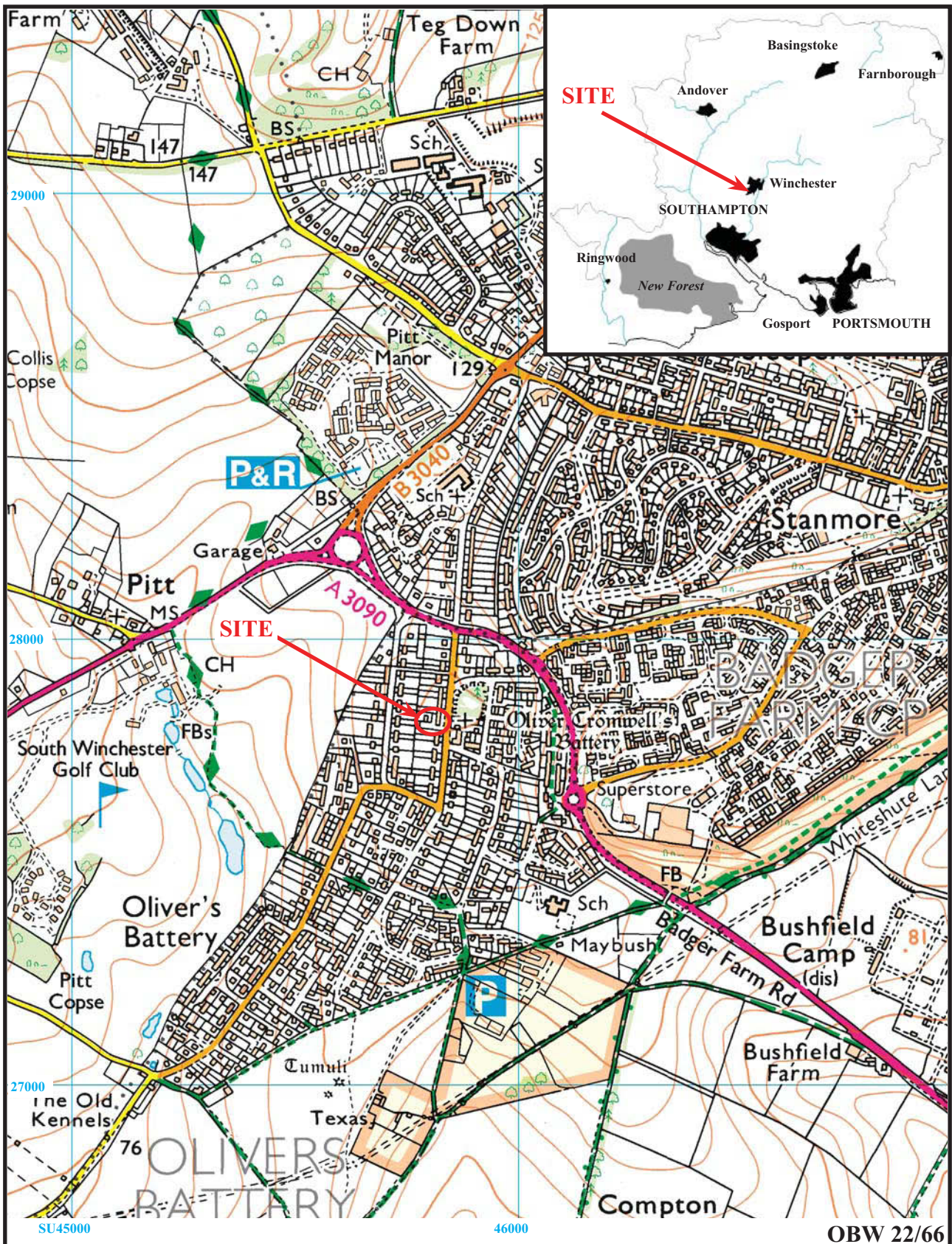
BGS, 1975, *British Geological Survey*, 1:50,000, Sheet **299**, Solid and Drift Edition, Keyworth  
CIfA, 2020, *Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation*, Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, Reading  
NPPF, 2021, *National Planning Policy Framework*, Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, London

## 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	15.50	1.60	0.60	0-0.10m scalpings and brick rubble; 0.10m-0.48m subsoil; 0.48m-0.60m+ chalk natural geology. <b>PI.1</b>
2	14.00	1.60	0.66	0.0.20m scalpings; 0.20m-0.36m redeposited chalk; 0.36m-0.56m subsoil; 0.56m-0.66m+ chalk natural. <b>PI.2</b>
3	10.30	1.60	0.65	0-0.30m demolition rubble; 0.30m-0.50m subsoil; 0.50m-0.65m degraded chalk; 0.65m+ chalk natural geology. <b>PI.3</b>
4	8.50	1.60	0.50	0-0.12m demolition rubble; 0.12m-0.47m subsoil; 0.47m-0.50m+ chalk natural geology.





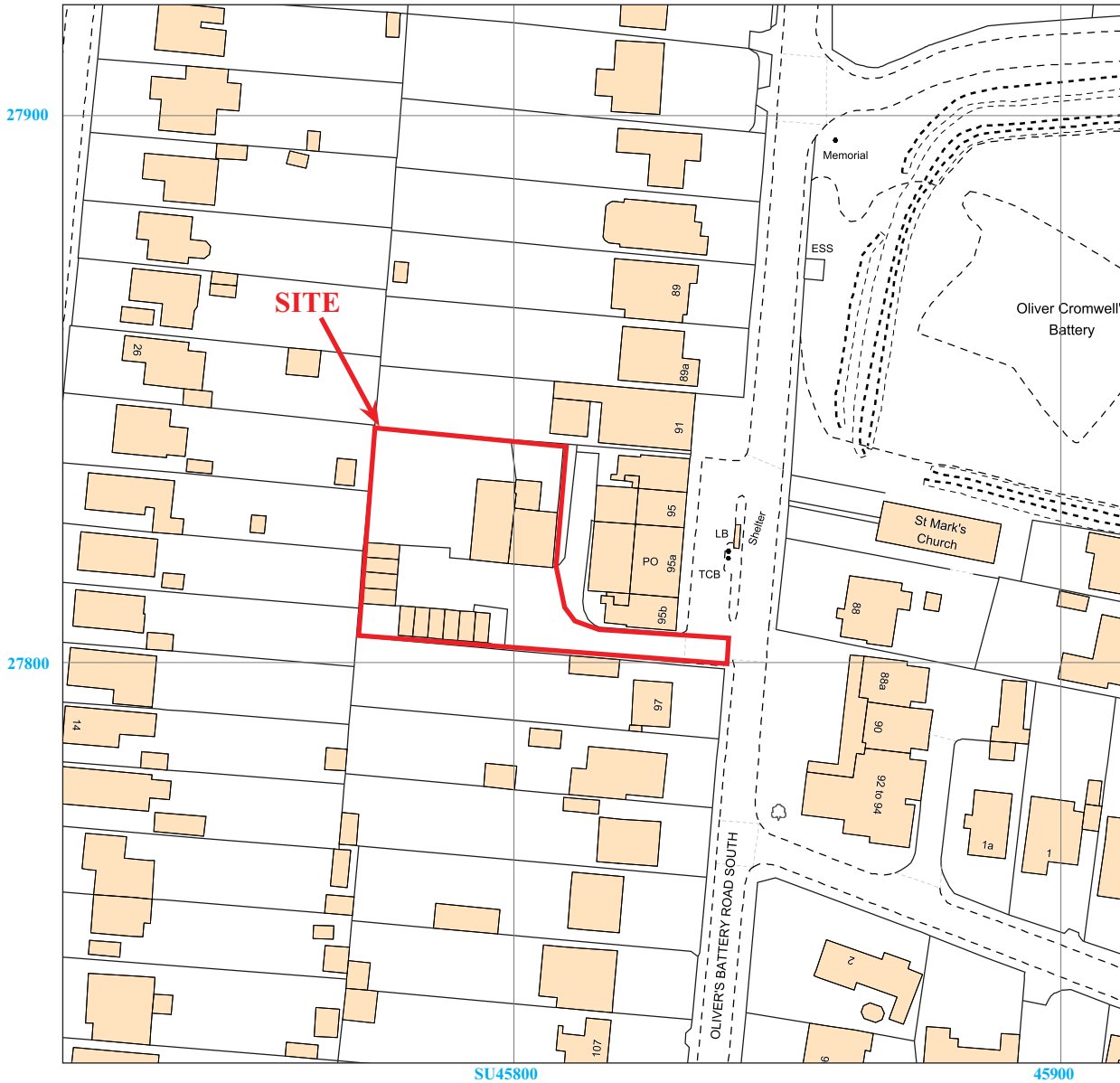
**Land west of Olivers Battery Road South,  
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Figure 1. Location of site within Winchester and Hampshire.

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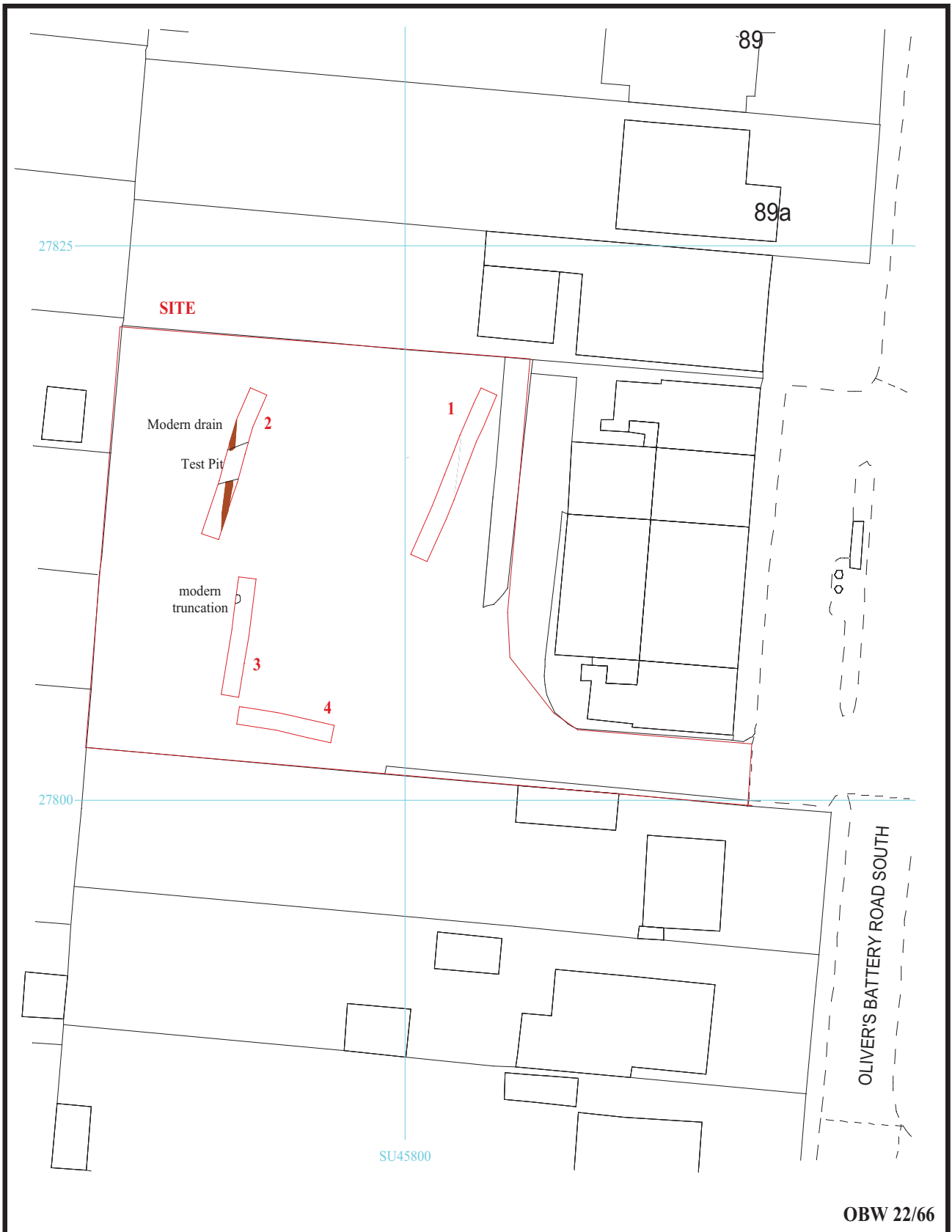
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Figure 2. Detailed location of site.

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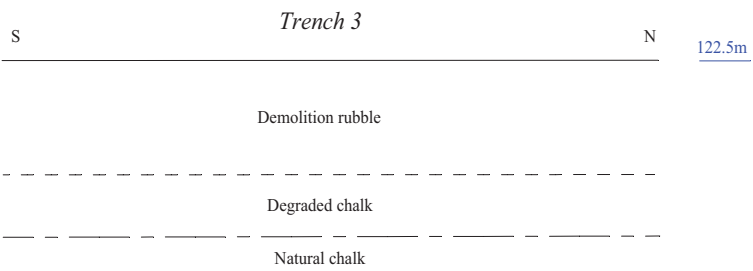
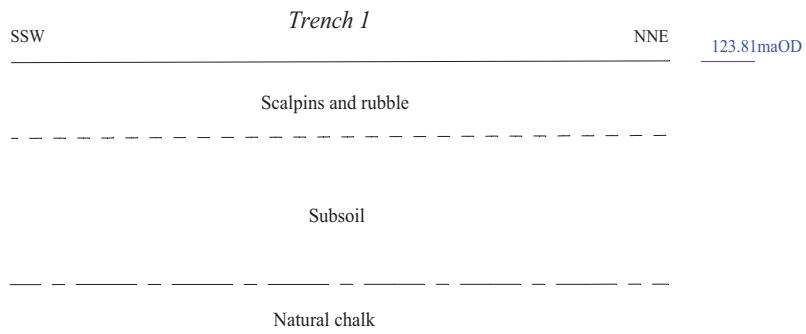
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Figure 3. Location of trenches.





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Figure 4. Representative sections.





Plate 1. Trench 1, looking North East,  
Scales: horizontal 2m and 1m, vertical 0.3m.



Plate 2. Trench 2, looking North East,  
Scales: horizontal 2m and 1m, vertical 0.5m.



Plate 3. Trench 3, looking North, Scales: 2m and 1m.

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**Land west of Olivers Battery Road South,  
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Archaeological Evaluation  
Plates 1 and 2.**

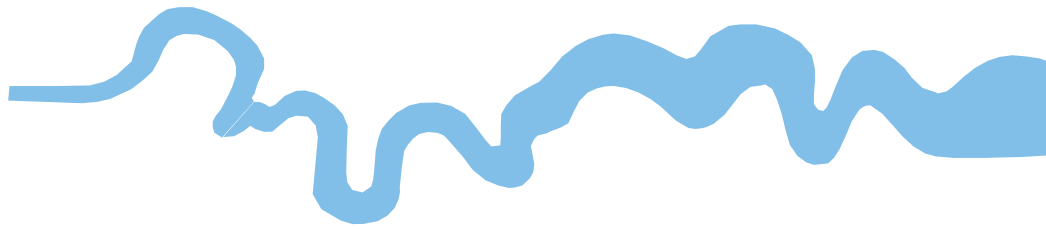
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## TIME CHART

	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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