

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

ARCHAEOLOGICAL

S E R V I C E S

**Land at HMS Daedalus Airfield Hangers East,
Lee-on-the-Solent, Hampshire**

Archaeological Evaluation

by Genni Elliott

Site Code: LSD13/177

(SU 5677 0161)

Land at HMS Daedalus Airfield Hangers East, Lee-on-the-Solent, Hampshire

**An Archaeological Evaluation
for Hampshire County Council**

by Genni Elliott

Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code LSD 13/177

September 2013

Summary

Site name: Land at HMS Daedalus Airfield Hangers East, Lee-on-the-Solent, Hampshire

Grid reference: SU 5677 0161

Site activity: Evaluation

Date and duration of project: 25th–26th September 2013

Project manager: Steve Ford

Site supervisor: Genni Elliott

Site code: LSD 13/177

Summary of results: No deposits of unambiguously archaeological origin were identified. A single linear feature was investigated but is considered possibly to be of geological origin. Some areas of modern activity were noticed. A few sherds of post-medieval pottery and fragments of Roman or medieval lava quernstone were the only artefacts of note. The site is not considered to have any archaeological potential.

Location and reference of archive: The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited with Hampshire Museum Services in due course, with accession code A2013.27.

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Report edited/checked by: Steve Ford ✓ 07.10.13 Steve Preston ✓ 07.10.13

Land at HMS Daedalus Airfield Hangers East, Lee-on-the-Solent, Hampshire An Archaeological Evaluation

by Genni Elliott

Report 13/177

Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological field evaluation carried out at HMS Daedalus Airfield Hangers East, Lee-on-the-Solent, Hampshire (SU 5677 0161) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Mr Robin Dooley of Hampshire County Council, The Castle, Winchester, SO23 8UD.

Planning permission has been granted from Fareham Borough Council (P/13/0194/FP) for the construction of a new road network from Broom Way as part of the Fareham College development. This consent is subject to an archaeological condition requiring a trenched evaluation of the area of impact, the results of which will inform any subsequent work required. This is in accordance with the Department for Communities and Local Government's *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF 2012), and the District/Borough/County Council's policies on archaeology. The field investigation was carried out to a specification approved by Dr Hannah Fluck, Senior Archaeologist for Hampshire County Council. The fieldwork was undertaken by Genni Elliott and Natasha Bennett on 25th–26th September 2013 and the site code is LSD 13/177. The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited with Hampshire Museums Service in due course, with accession code A2013.27.

Location, topography and geology

The site is located in Lee-on-Solent within the confines of HMS Daedalus Airfield, in the south-east corner at the junction with Chark Lane and Broom Way (Fig. 1). The site is a grassed area on the edge of the airfield (Fig. 2), which slopes slightly to the south-east from 8m to approximately 7m above Ordnance Datum. The underlying geology is recorded as predominantly being on the Wittering Formation whilst to the north-east it is recorded as Whitecliff Sand within the London Clay (BGS 1994). The actual geology observed consisted of brown and dark yellowish brown, sandy clay with patches of gravel. This is consistent with the Wittering Formation; no evidence of the Whitecliff Sand was observed.

Archaeological background

The archaeological potential of the site has been presented in a brief for the project prepared by Dr Hannah Fluck of Hampshire County Council. In summary, various sites and finds are recorded in the Hampshire HER (AHBR) for the environs of the site with prehistoric finds from Palaeolithic through to Bronze Age having been recorded during early 20th century gravel extraction to the south east including a ring ditch (a probable levelled round barrow). Other prehistoric flint finds have been recovered from the area in general including a tranchet axe of Mesolithic date. More recently Late Bronze Age occupation has been revealed at Grange Road, Gosport, well to the east (Hall and Ford 1994). Fieldwork on the airfield itself in advance of the construction of the new college buildings to the east revealed further prehistoric occupation. At some distance to the north east is the site of a Roman kiln. Just to the south east is the site of Cherque Farm, first documented in AD 1256 with a Medieval chapel further to the south.

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. The specific objectives for this 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 there are any early prehistoric deposits present largely or wholly represented by artefacts within the topsoil;
- to determine if the early Prehistoric features and deposits are present. If so, how they relate to the barrows and ring ditches which are found to the east and west;
- to determine if the later prehistoric and Roman features and deposits are present on site. If so how do they relate to the Iron Age/Roman enclosure complex to the east; and
- to provide sufficient information to enable an appropriate mitigation strategy to be produced if necessary.

The proposed methodology consisted of the excavation of 18 trenches between 15 and 17m long and 1.6m wide along the length of the proposed new road and the footprint of a large soakaway. Topsoil and overburden were to be removed by a 360° machine using a ditching bucket under constant archaeological supervision. Where archaeological features were present, these were to be investigated by hand to satisfy the project objectives above. Spoil heaps were searched for finds.

Results

All 18 trenches were dug as intended, ranging in length from 15m to 17.70m and in depth from 0.25m to 0.86m. A complete list of trenches giving lengths, breadths, depths and a description of sections and geology is given in Appendix 1.

The stratigraphy within the trenches was predominantly the same with only variations in the thickness of topsoil and subsoil and minor variations in the description of the natural geology due to the changeable nature of the Wittering Formation. Topsoil and turf (50) was between 0.12m and 0.34m thick and consisted of greyish brown, silty clay. The subsoil (51), below the topsoil, was between 0.12m and 0.58m thick and consisted of pale brown, silty clay with occasional stones and ceramic building materials. Within the subsoil for trench 5 were found two joining sherds of Wasterwald pottery. The natural geology varied from a strong brown to a dark yellowish brown with greyer patches, silty clay with varying amounts of gravel.

Only four trenches varied from the above description and they are detailed below.

Trench 7 (Figs. 2 and 3, Pl. 2)

Trench 7 was aligned south-west to north-east and measured 15.40m long. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.28m of topsoil above 0.34m of subsoil which was above 0.36m of dark reddish brown, silty clay (53) which contained two burnt flints and several very small fragments of Niedermendig lava, most commonly associated with quernstones. This in turn lay above the natural geology which was a mid blue grey sandy clay that appeared to run beneath the brown gravelly clay of the Wittering Formation at the north-east and south-west ends of the trench.

Trench 12 (Figs 2 and 3; Pls 3 and 4).

Trench 12 was aligned north-west to south-east and measured 15m long. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.32m of topsoil above 0.20m of topsoil above the natural geology. Midway along the trench, cut through the natural was a north-south aligned linear feature 2.1m wide and 0.50m deep. It had moderately sloping sides with a very slightly curved base. Its only fill (52) was very hard pale greyish brown, sandy clay with a moderate amount of small stones within it, similar to subsoil 51. There were no finds and sieving of soil samples produced no other evidence. It is unclear if this is a man-made or natural feature.

Trench 13

Trench 13 was aligned north-south and measured 15.40m long. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.25m of topsoil above 0.15m of ceramic building material rubble in a matrix of pale brown, silty clay which in turn was above the natural geology.

Trench 14

Trench 14 was aligned south-west to north-east and measured 17.70m long. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.12m of topsoil above 0.13m of subsoil above the natural geology. Much of the south-west end was truncated to a depth of 0.50m by modern disturbance containing ceramic building material, a service, and iron in a matrix of re-deposited natural and greyish brown, silty clay.

Finds

Pottery by Genni Elliott

Two joining sherds of pottery weighing 32g were recovered from the subsoil within trench 5. It was of Wasterwald type with raised strips of grey and cobalt blue decoration most likely from the neck of a jug or a beer mug. The pottery dates from the late 16th century with exports continuing throughout the 17th, 18th and 19th centuries.

Stone

Trench 7 contained a few small fragments of lava. The distinctive Niedermendig lava quernstones were exported from the Hunsruck-Eiffel hills region of Germany throughout the Roman and Medieval periods and by themselves cannot be dated any more closely than that.

Conclusion

The evaluation has revealed little of archaeological interest. One possible linear feature was considered to be a ditch but was sterile and it is possibly a natural feature such as a small palaeochannel. The overlying subsoil in the same trench contained a few pieces of burnt flint and some small fragments of lava quernstone. Only two sherds of pottery were found for the whole site and were conjoining sherds of late post-medieval stoneware pottery. It is considered that the site has no archaeological potential.

References

BGS, 1994, *British Geological Survey*, 1:50 000, Sheet 331, Solid and Drift Edition, Keyworth
Hall, M and Ford, S, 1994, 'Archaeological excavations at Grange Road, Gosport, Hampshire, 1992', *Proc Hampshire Fld Club Archaeol Soc* **50**, 5–34
NPPF, 2012, *National Planning Policy Framework*, Dept Communities and Local Govt, London

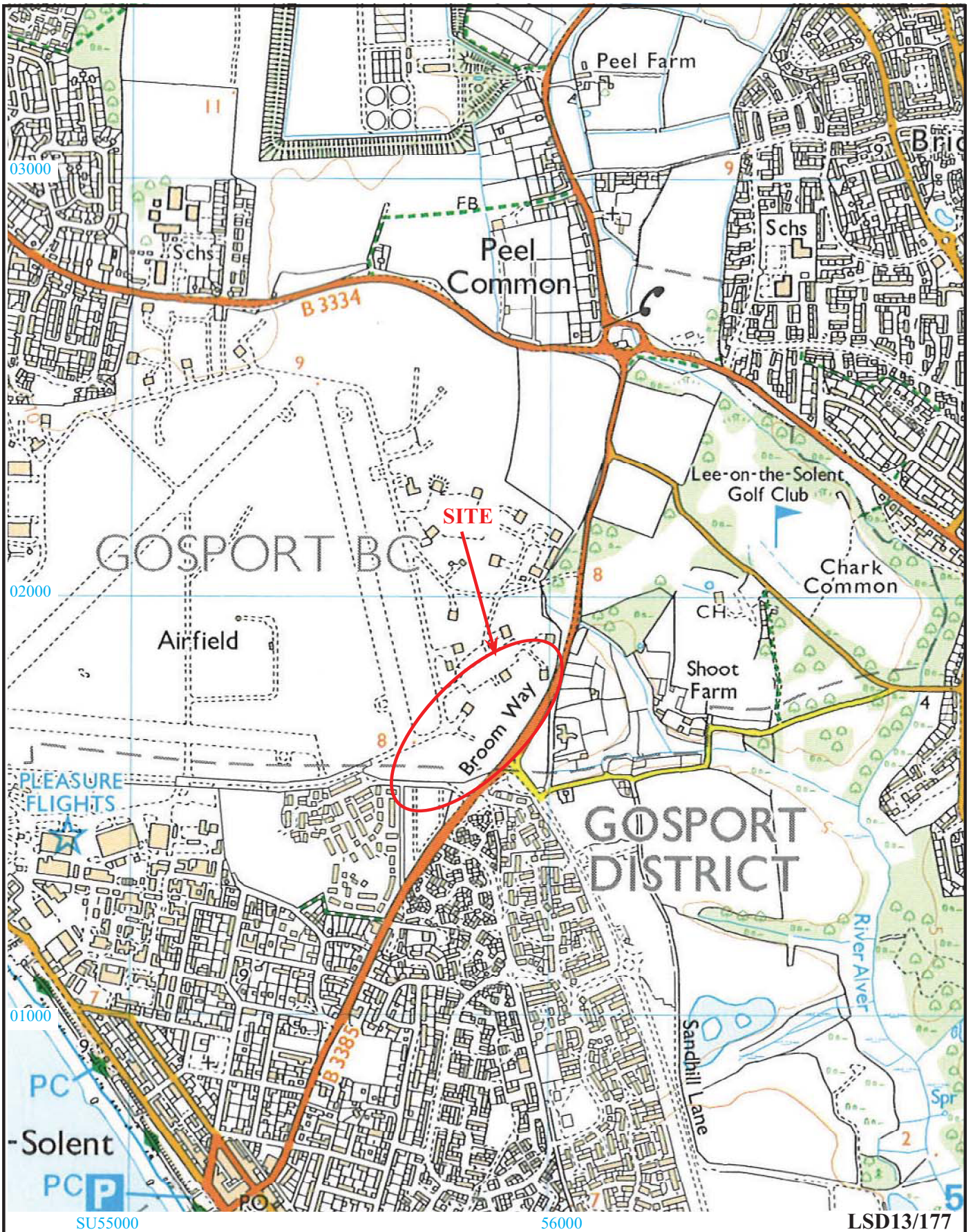
APPENDIX 1: Trench details

0m at south and west end

<i>Trench</i>	<i>Length (m)</i>	<i>Breadth (m)</i>	<i>Depth (m)</i>	<i>Comment</i>
1	15.8	1.6	0.75	0-0.28m Turf and topsoil, greyish brown, silty clay loam; 0.28-0.63m subsoil, - pale brown, silty clay, occasional building material and stones; 0.75m + natural geology, brown, sandy clay with some stony patches and some leached patches. Modern service trenches [PI. 1]
2	15.5	1.6	0.63	0-0.28m Turf and topsoil; 0.28-0.63m subsoil; 0.63m+ natural geology.
3	15.3	1.6	0.62	0-0.30m Turf and topsoil ; 0.30 – 0.62m subsoil; 0.62-m+ natural geology.
4	15.0	1.6	0.60	0-0.34m Turf and topsoil; 0.34-0.54m subsoil; 0.54+ natural geology.
5	15.9	1.6	0.25	0-0.25m Turf and topsoil; 0.25-0.60m subsoil; 0.60m+ natural geology.
6	15.5	1.6	0.66	0-0.28m Turf and topsoil; 0.28-0.66m subsoil; 0.66m+ natural geology.
7	15.4	1.6	0.86	Both ends of trench: 0-0.28m Turf and topsoil; 0.28-0.80m subsoil; 0.80m+ natural geology. Middle of trench: 0-0.28m Turf and topsoil ; 0.28-0.52m subsoil; 0.52-0.90m dark reddish brown, silty clay. 0.90m+ natural geology – mid blue grey sandy clay. [PI. 2]
8	16.0	1.6	0.37	0-0.12m Turf and topsoil; 0.12-0.37m subsoil; 0.37m+ natural geology.
9	16.0	1.6	0.38	0-0.23m Turf and topsoil; 0.23-0.38m subsoil; 0.38m+ natural geology.
10	15.2	1.6	0.35	0-0.17m Turf and topsoil; 0.17-0.35m subsoil; 0.35m+ natural geology, gravel and yellowish brown silty clay.
11	16.2	1.6	0.40	0-0.27m Turf and topsoil; 0.27-0.40m subsoil; 0.40m+ natural geology.
12	15.0	1.6	0.52	0-0.32m Turf and topsoil; 0.32-0.52m subsoil; 0.52m+ natural geology. Feature 1. [PIs 3 and 4]
13	15.4	1.6	0.55	0-0.25m Turf and topsoil; 0.25-0.40m subsoil, pale brown silty clay with abundant brick rubble; 0.40m+ natural geology.
14	17.7	1.6	0.25	0-0.12m Turf and topsoil; 0.12-0.25m subsoil; 0.25m+ natural geology. Modern disturbance at SW end.
15	15.8	1.6	0.42	0-0.23m Turf and topsoil; 0.23-0.42m subsoil; 0.42m+ natural geology.
16	15.4	1.6	0.44	0-0.26m Turf and topsoil; 0.26-0.44m subsoil; 0.44m+ natural geology.
17	16.6	1.6	0.36	0-0.24m Turf and topsoil; 0.24-0.36m subsoil; 0.36m+ natural geology.
18	15.2	1.6	0.30	0-0.18m Turf and topsoil; 0.18-0.30m subsoil; 0.30m + natural geology.

APPENDIX 2: Feature details

<i>Trench</i>	<i>Cut</i>	<i>Fill (s)</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Dating evidence</i>
12	1	52	Ditch or channel	undated	none

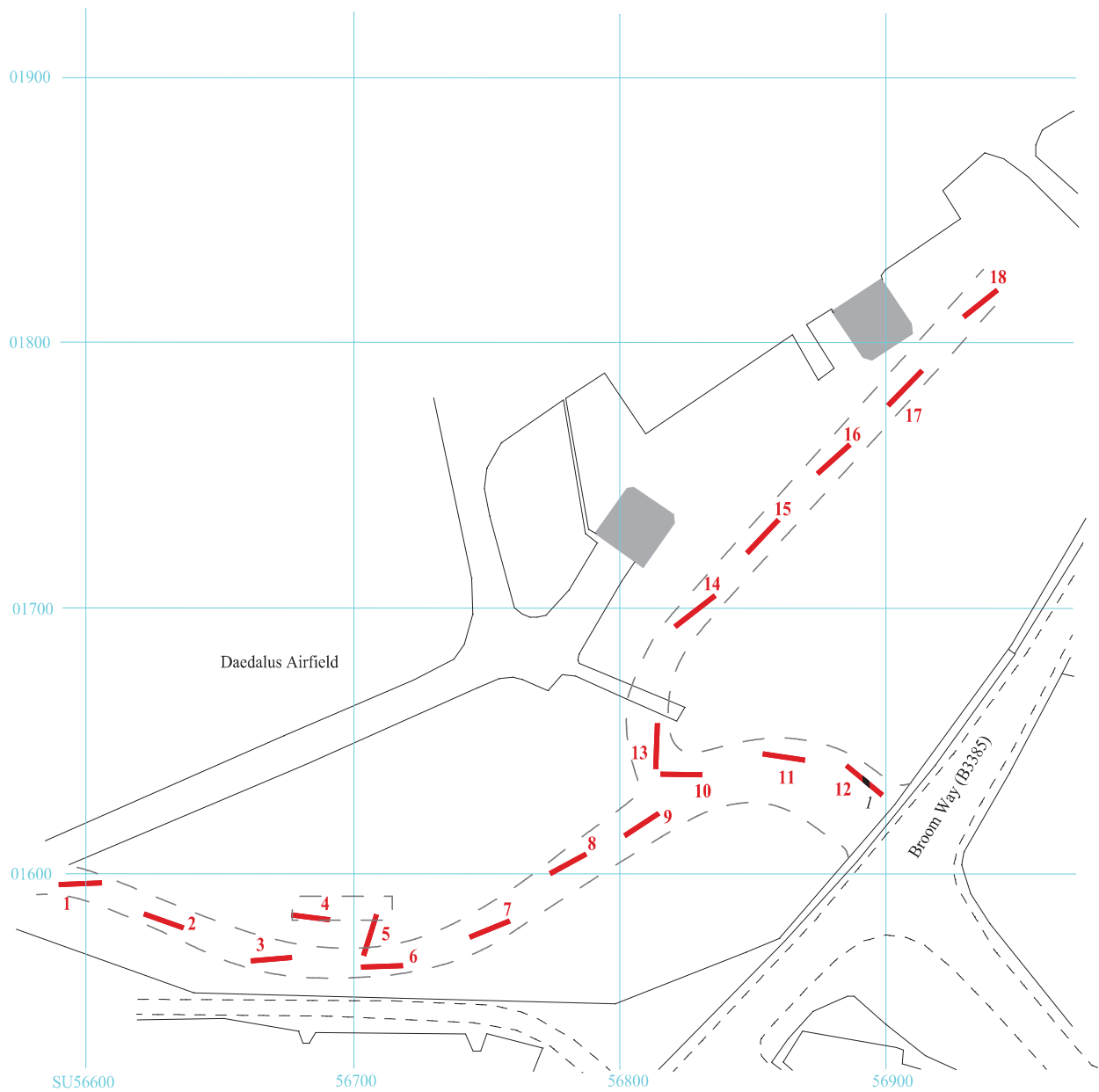


**HMS Daedalus hangers east, Broom Way, Lee-on-Solent,
Gosport, Hampshire, 2013
Archaeological Evaluation**

Figure 1. Location of site within Gosport and Hampshire.

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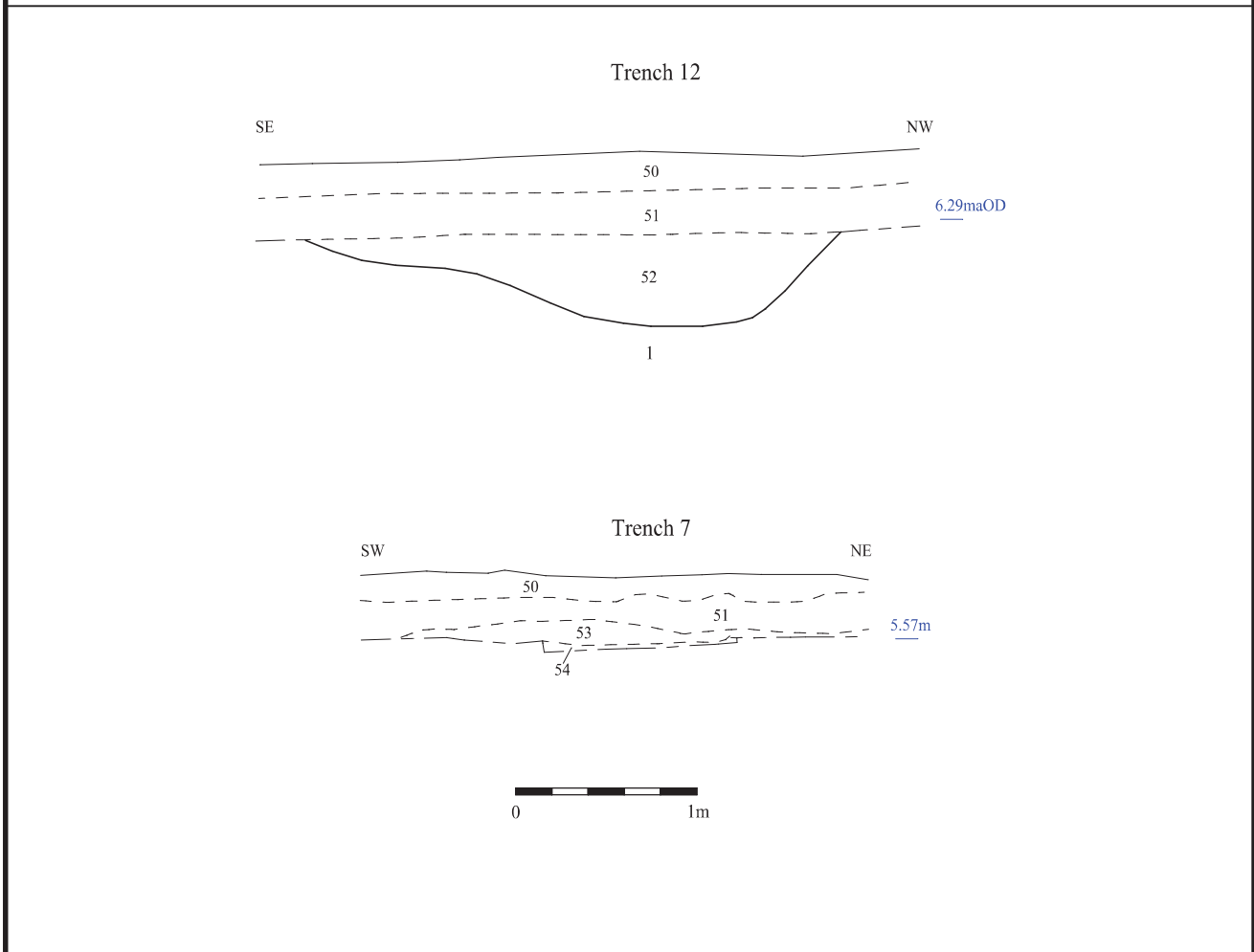
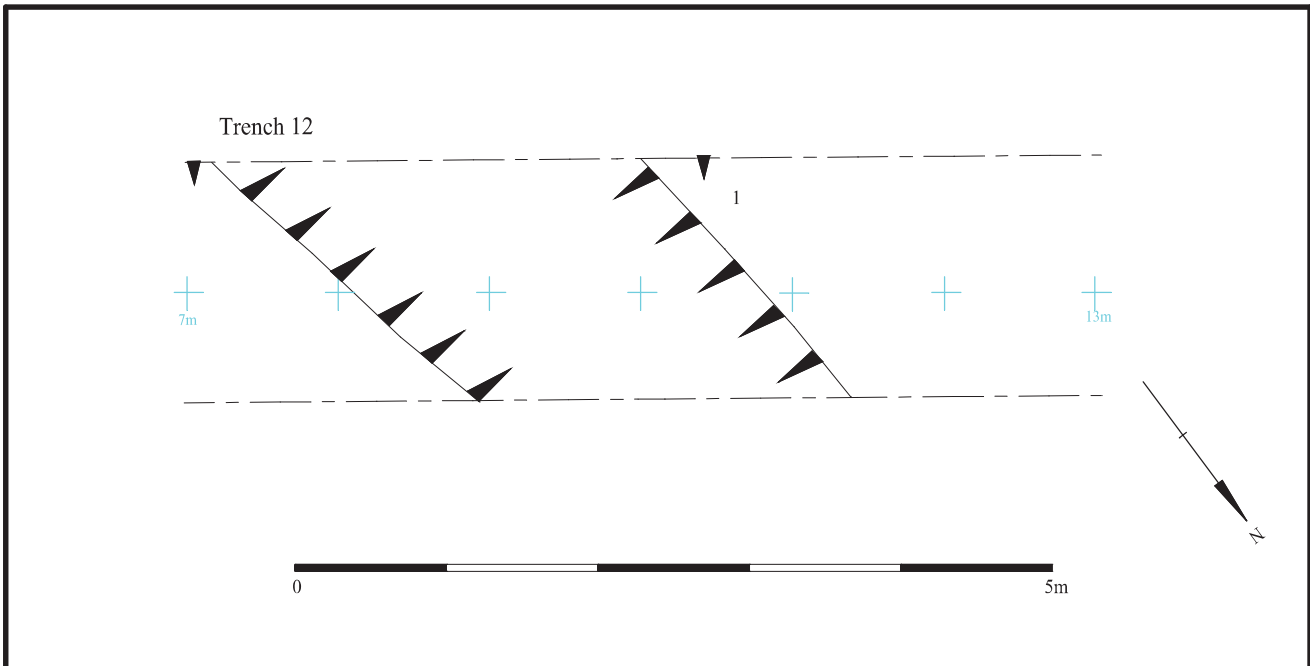
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Figure 2. Location of trenches.



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Figure 3. Detailed plans and sections



Plate 1. Trench 1, looking east, Scales: horizontal scales 2m and 1m, vertical scale 1m.



Plate 2. Trench 7, looking east, Scales: horizontal 2m and 1m, vertical scale 1m.

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Plates 1 - 2.

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Plate 3. Trench 12, looking south east, Scales: horizontal scales 2m and 1m, vertical scale 1m.



Plate 4. Trench 12, possible feature 1, looking south west, Scales: 2m and 1m.

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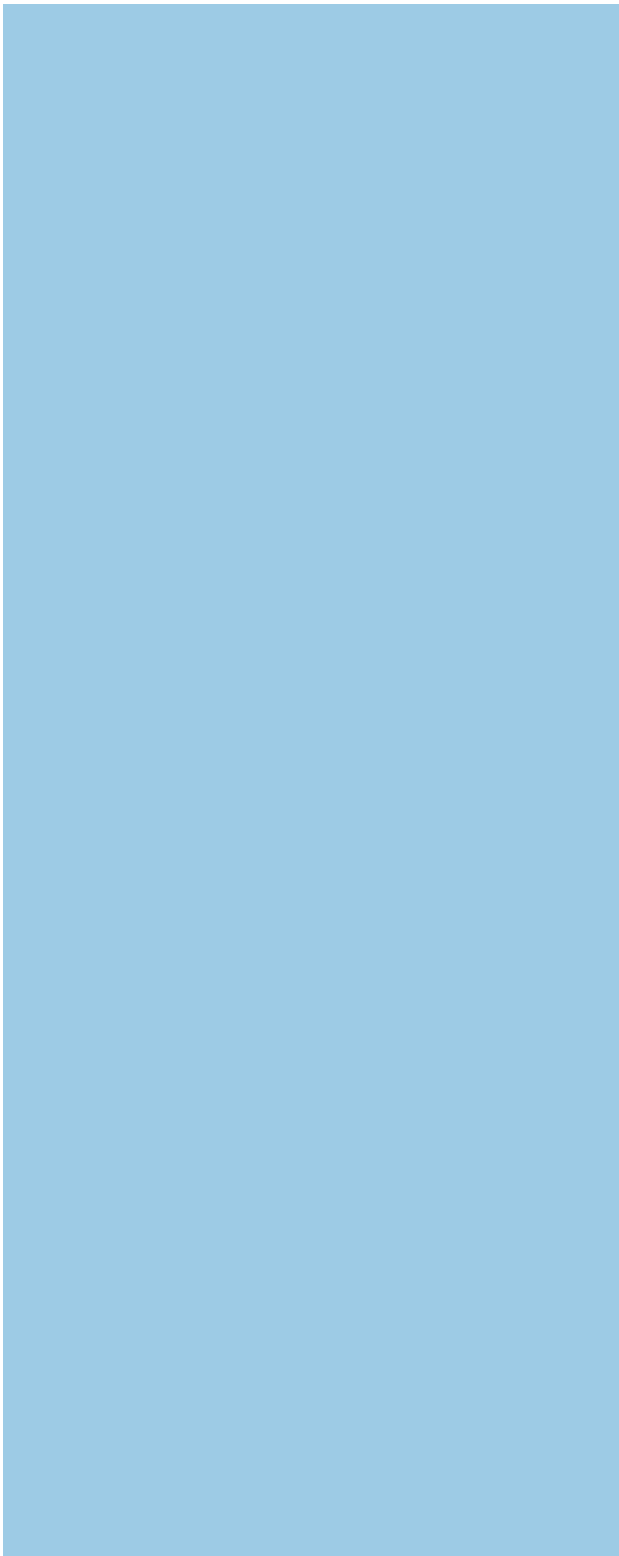
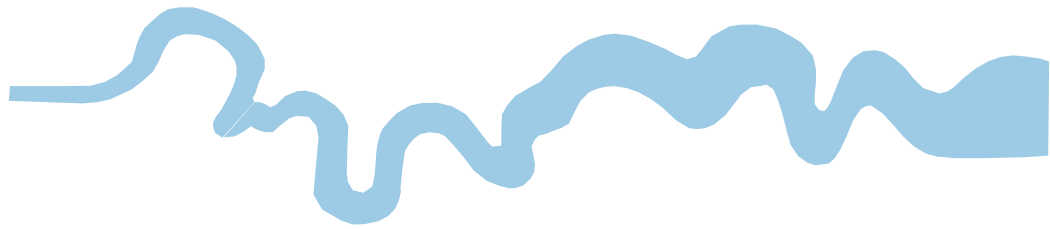
Plates 3 - 4.

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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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