

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

ARCHAEOLOGICAL

S E R V I C E S

**Kings Worthy Primary School, Church Lane,
Kings Worthy, Winchester, Hampshire**

Archaeological Recording Action

by Genni Elliott

Site Code: KPS13/121

(SU 4915 3284)

**Kings Worthy Primary School, Church Lane,
Kings Worthy, Winchester, Hampshire**

An Archaeological Recording Action

For Hampshire County Council

by Genni Elliott

Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code KPS 13/121

October 2013

Summary

Site name: Kings Worthy Primary School, Church Lane, Kings Worthy, Winchester, Hampshire

Grid reference: SU 4920 3294

Site activity: Recording Action

Date and duration of project: 29th August 2013 – 3rd September 2013

Project manager: Steve Ford

Site supervisor: Genni Elliott

Site code: KPS 13/121

Summary of results:

Monuments identified:

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

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Report edited/checked by:	Steve Ford✓ 11.12.13 Steve Preston✓ 12.12.13
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Kings Worthy Primary School, Church Lane, Kings Worthy, Winchester, Hampshire

An Archaeological Recording Action

by Genni Elliott

Report 13/121

Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological recording action carried out at Kings Worthy Primary School, Church Lane, Kings Worthy, Winchester, Hampshire, NGR SU 4920 3294 (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Mr Steve Matthews of Hampshire County Council, The Castle, Winchester, Hampshire, SO23 8UJ.

Planning permission has been granted from Hampshire County Council to add two extensions to the school and create a new car park. This consent is subject to a condition requiring an archaeological recording action and an initial trial trench. This is in accordance with the Department for Communities and Local Government's *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF 2012) and the County'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 Dan Strachan between 29th August and 3rd September 2013 and the site code is KPS 13/121.

The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited at Hampshire County Museum Service in due course.

Location, topography and geology

The site is located within the grounds of Kings Worthy Primary School, off Hinton Fields and Church Lane within the village of Kings Worthy, which itself is located to the north of Winchester (Fig. 1). The land is currently part of a school and consists of either grassed areas or a Tarmac covered playground (Fig. 2). The site slopes up from south-east to north-west from *c.* 67m to *c.* 70m above Ordnance Datum. The underlying geology is recorded as Upper Chalk (BGS 1975) and this is what was found throughout the excavated area.

Archaeological background

The archaeological potential of the site has been highlighted in a briefing document prepared by Dr Hannah Fluck of Hampshire County Council. In summary, the site lies within an archaeologically rich landscape within the hinterland of historic Winchester City. For example, to the north-west lies a Roman villa and Iron Age

enclosure visible from the air and recent fieldwork has revealed further Iron Age enclosure (Platt and Castle 2012; Taylor 2013). More specifically, various phases of construction of the school and other developments nearby have been archaeologically monitored and have revealed an Iron Age occupation site including a post-built roundhouse along with Roman deposits and a medieval trackway (WMS 1994; 1995; Hawtin 2008; Hopkinson 2011).

Objectives and methodology

The purpose of the recording action was to:

Excavate and record all archaeological deposits and features within the areas threatened by the proposed development.

Produce relative and absolute dating and phasing for deposits and features recorded on the site.

Establish the character of these deposits in attempt to define functional areas on the site such as industrial and domestic, etc.

Produce information on the economy and local environment and compare and contrast this with the results of other excavations in the region.

Specific research objectives for the areas were:

When was the site first utilised and when was it abandoned?

What activities were taking place on the site?

What is the layout and organisation of the site?

If an enclosure is present is this used for occupation, or for some agricultural function?

What is the palaeoenvironmental setting of the area?

There were two components to the work, two evaluation trenches (1 and 2); one with possible follow-up work, in the car park zone at the south-western end of the school, and two areas (3 and 4) for a recording action located at either end of the eastern wing of the school building. Topsoil and other overburden were to be removed by a machine fitted with a toothless ditching bucket to expose archaeologically sensitive levels, under constant archaeological supervision. Where archaeological features were certainly or probably present, the stripped areas were to be cleaned using appropriate hand tools. Sufficient of the archaeological features and deposits exposed were to be excavated or sampled by hand to satisfy the aims of the brief. A programme of environmental sampling was to take place where sufficient well-stratified subsoil deposits were located.

Results

Evaluation trenches

The two trenches were excavated as proposed (Fig. 3), one in the area of the car park area (Trench 1) and one to the east of the school buildings (Trench 2); both contained archaeological features. After consultation with Dr Fluck, the trench within the car park area was enlarged to cover the entire area to be developed. The two areas for the recording action were stripped down to the chalk as intended (Trenches 3 and 4) (Fig. 3). In general for all trenches the stratigraphy consisted of topsoil above subsoil, except Trench 4, which was within the playground and consisted of Tarmac and hardcore directly above the chalk. In all trenches the chalk was encountered approximately 0.44m below the existing ground level.

A total of eight features were identified within Trenches 1, 2 and 4 (Appendix 1). No features of archaeological significance were present within Trench 3. The features were predominantly undated but one was certainly medieval in date.

Pre-Medieval

Feature 2 (trench 1) (Figs 4 and 6; Pl. 2) was a SE–NW aligned ditch with steep sides and a rounded base 1.73m wide and 0.88m deep. It contained four fills 55 (top fill) to 58 (primary fill) which were primarily a pale brown silty clay containing differing amounts of chalk and small-medium flint inclusions. The only finds were worked flint from context 57, animal bone from context 58 and burnt flint from contexts 56 and 58. Feature 2 was cut by feature 4.

Medieval

Feature 4 (trench 1) (Figs 4 and 6; Pl. 4) was a large NE–SW aligned linear hollow, more than 4m wide and 0.56m deep. It had gently sloping sides with a stepped profile and four narrow cuts arranged in two pairs within the flat base. It is considered that the latter are wheel ruts and that Feature 4 is a hollow way. The ruts were filled with deposit 62; a pale brown silty clay and flint conglomerate which was like concrete. Above this were deposits 60 and 61; pale brown, silty clay with varying quantities of flint inclusions. Animal bone was found within context 60.

Feature 6 (trench 4) (Figs 5 and 6; Pl. 3) was a semi-circular gully with steep sides and a rounded base, 6.8m long by 0.40m wide by 0.26m deep. Its only fill was pale brown silty clay (64) with occasional chalk and common flint inclusions. Finds included animal bone, burnt flint and pottery of both Iron Age and Medieval dates.

Undated

Feature 1 (trench 2) (Figs 5 and 6) was a ditch terminal (or elongated pit) aligned south east – north west with steep sides and a fairly flat base. It was 0.94m wide by 0.27m deep. Its only fill, 53, was pale brown, silty clay with some medium-large flint nodules within it. There were no finds.

Feature 3 (trench 1) (Figs 4 and 6) was a northeast–southwest aligned linear cut through ditch 2. It was approximately 2m long by 0.74m wide by 0.28m deep with a u-shaped profile and a rounded terminus. Its only fill, 59, was mid-dark grey, silty clay containing chalk inclusions. There were no finds.

Feature 5 (trench 1) (Fig. 4) was possibly a continuation of feature 3, being of a similar width and alignment although substantially shallower with a depth of 0.05m. Its only fill, 63, was pale brown, silty clay containing chalk inclusions. There were no finds.

Features 7 and 8 (trench 4) (Figs 5 and 6) were a pair of postholes of a similar size and depth, approximately 0.46m in diameter by 0.20m deep. Both were sub-circular in shape with steep sides and a rounded base and contained a single fill of pale brown, silty clay with chalk flecks. A single fragment of burnt flint was found in each.

Finds

Pottery by Malcolm Lyne

This small quantity of pottery represents two periods, Middle Iron Age (16 sherds) and Medieval (8 sherds) (Appendix 2). All came from a single feature, 6 (fill 64).

Fabrics

Middle Iron Age

MIA.1. Handmade brown fired smooth black with profuse ill-sorted <1.00 mm. calcined-flint filler.

Medieval

M.1. Carbon-soaked black fired smooth brown with profuse <0.10 mm. quartz-sand filler and occasional <0.50 mm. flint inclusions.

Animal Bone by Genni Elliott

A small assemblage of animal bone was recovered from four stratified contexts within the features of trenches 1 and 4. In all, 22 fragments were recorded, weighing a total of 310g (Appendix 3). Overall the bones were in a reasonable condition but with some surface erosion and no distal ends remaining for identification. Therefore it was only possible to categorize the elements as ‘large mammal’ (horse and cattle) or ‘mammal’ where the pieces

were too small to distinguish between different sizes of mammal. None of the bones showed any signs of butchery.

Struck Flint by Steve Ford

A single struck flint came from ditch 2 (57). It was a broken narrow flake (but not a blade) and was heavily patinated. It is not closely datable other than to a broad Neolithic or Bronze Age date.

Burnt Flint by Genni Elliott

A total of 21 fragments of burnt flint were recovered from five contexts from four different features. Sixteen of these fragments came from gully 6.

Conclusion

Archaeologically significant features were found in Trenches 1, 2 and 4 with nothing found in Trench 3. The majority of the features were undated except for a gully within Trench 4 which contained both Iron Age and medieval pottery. Two postholes were found in the vicinity of the gully but could not be securely related to it. A single undated ditch terminus was found within Trench 2. The majority of features were found within Trench 1. None of the features could be dated via artefacts but stratigraphically ditch 2 was earlier than both gully 3 and trackway 4.

A continuation of trackway 4 also appears to have been found during a watching brief to the south-west near Morton House (WMS 1994) where it had broadly the same ditched profile with parallel wheel ruts. A similar feature was also recorded at Eversley Park Recreation Ground to the north-east of the school (WMS 1995). Within the school site, fieldwork in 2008 (Hawtin 2008) located an area containing parallel wheel ruts which contained medieval nails but no hollowing (Fig. 3). Nevertheless, it is considered that all four locations have identified the same medieval trackway.

The Iron Age pottery which actually formed the majority of the pottery from gully 6 must be redeposited in that feature but does indicate a continuation of the Iron Age occupation already noted close to Trench 3.

References

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- Hawtin, T, 2008, 'An Archaeological Watching Brief at Kings Worthy Primary School, Winchester, Hampshire', Archaeology South East, Portslade
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- Taylor, A, 2013, 'A Late Iron Age enclosure and cremation cemetery on land off Hookpit Farm Lane, Kings Worthy, Winchester, Hampshire', Thames Valley Archaeological Services draft publication report, 12/106c, Reading
- WMS, 1994, 'Morton House, Kings Worth, Archaeological Watching Brief', Winchester Museum Service, Winchester
- WMS, 1995, 'Eversley Park Recreation Ground, Loveden Lane, Kings Worth, Archaeological Watching Brief and excavation', Winchester Museum Service, Winchester

APPENDIX 1: Feature details

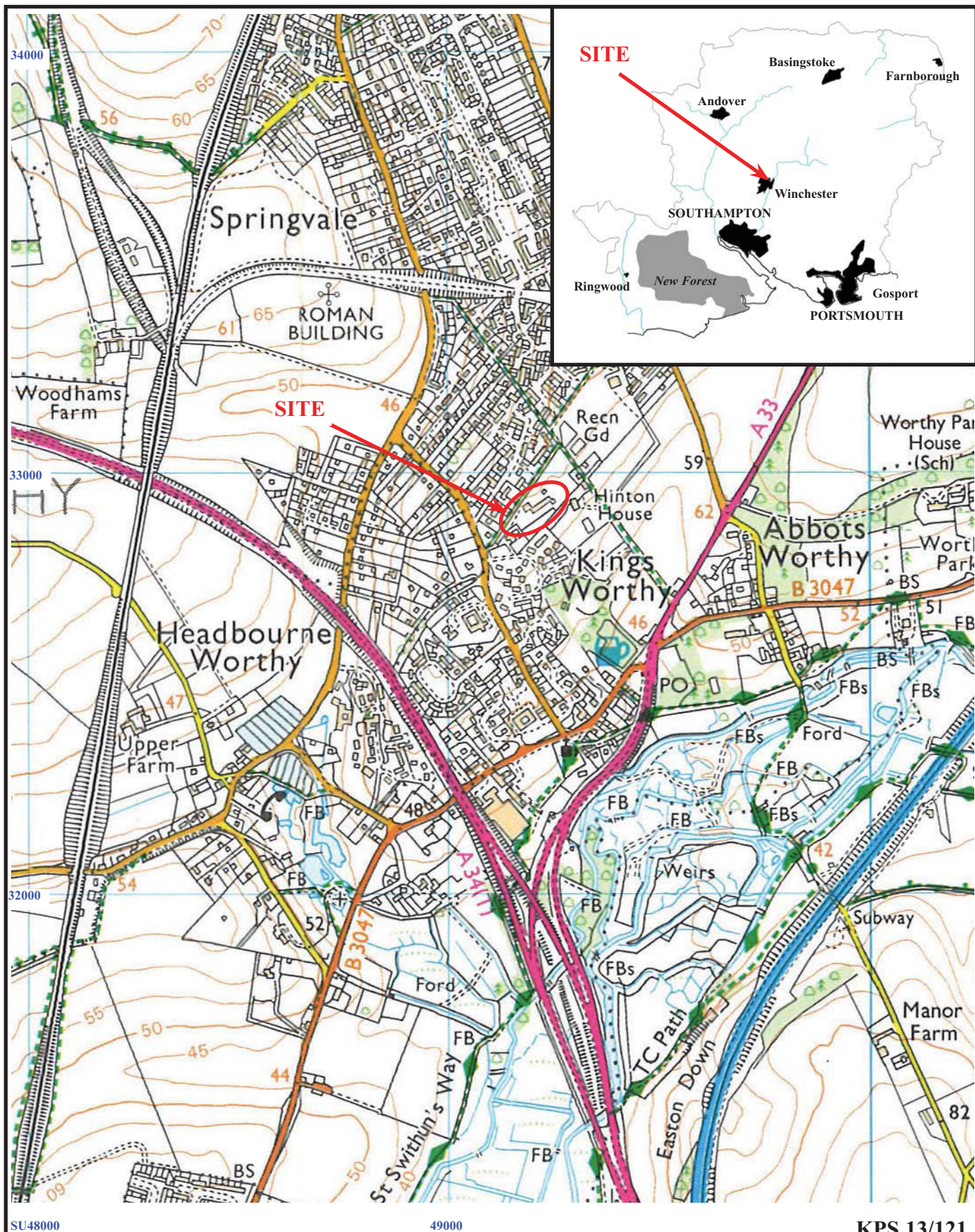
<i>Cut</i>	<i>Deposit</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Trench</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Dating evidence</i>
	50	Topsoil	1–3		
	51	Subsoil	1–3		
	52	Natural	All		
1	53	Ditch terminus	2		
	54	Re-deposited chalk	2		
2	55	Ditch	1		
2	56	Ditch	1		
2	57	Ditch	1		
2	58	Ditch	1		
3	59	Linear	1		
4	60	Hollow way	1	Medieval?	
4	61	Hollow way	1	Medieval?	
4	62	Hollow way	1	Medieval?	
5	63	Linear	1		
6	64	Gully	4	Medieval	Pottery
7	65	Posthole	4		
8	66	Posthole	4		
	67	Tarmac	4		
	68	Hardcore	4		

APPENDIX 2: Catalogue of pottery

Cut	deposit	sample	Fabric	Form	Date-range	No sherds	Wt (g)	Comments
6	64		MIA.1 M.1	Cooking-pot	Middle Iron Age c.1100-1200	14 5	10 31	Abraded
6	64	8	MIA.1 M.1	Cooking-pot	Middle Iron Age c.1100-1200	2 3	2 11	

APPENDIX 3: Catalogue of animal bone

<i>Trench</i>	<i>Cut</i>	<i>Deposit</i>	<i>Sample.</i>	<i>Wt (g)</i>	<i>Large mammal</i>	<i>Mammal</i>
1	2	56		36	1	
1	2	56	4	2		2
1	2	58		10	3	
1	4	60	2	2	1	
4	6	64		158	13	
4	6	64	8	2		2
		Total			17	4

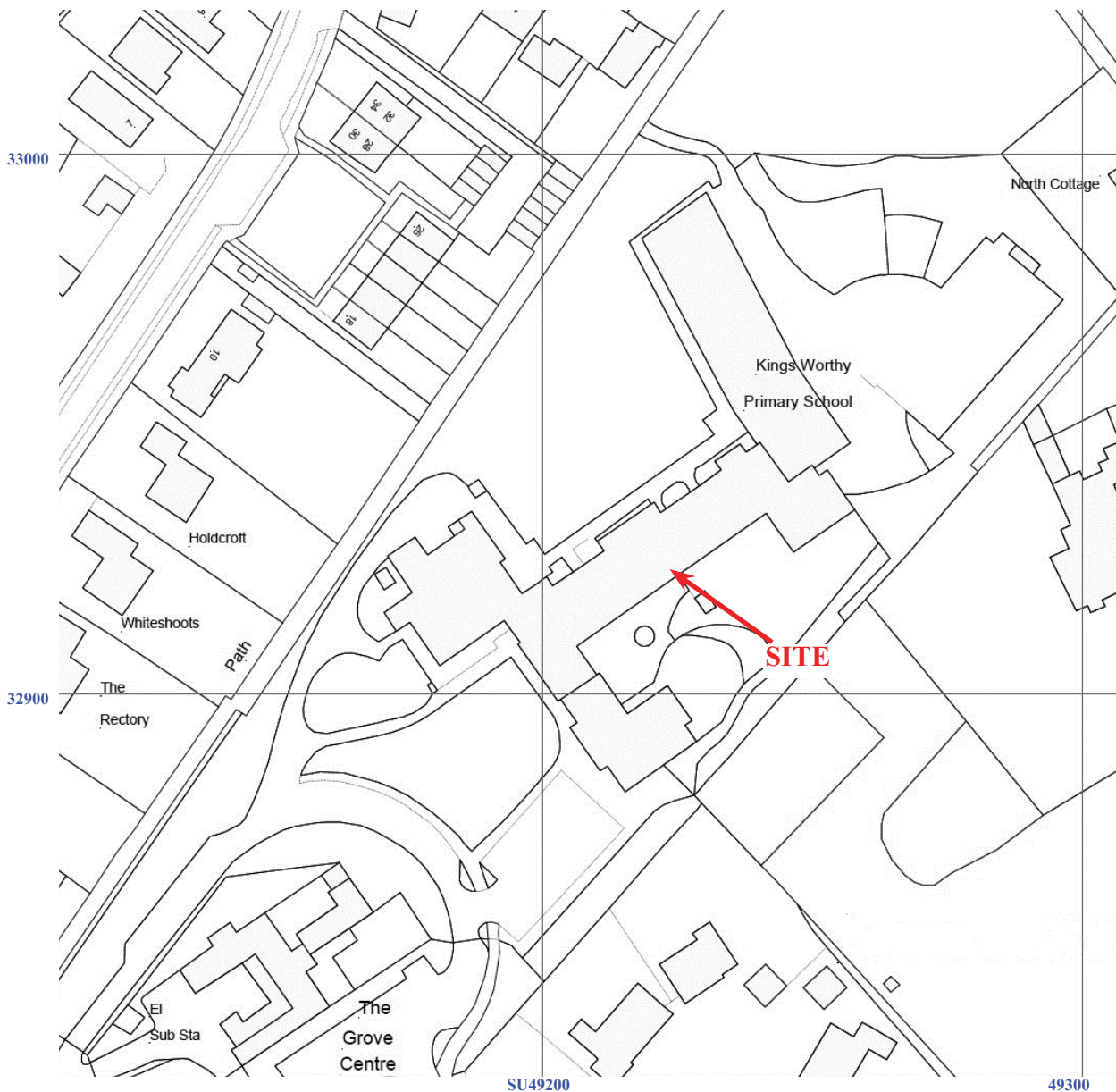


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Figure 1. Location of site within Kings Worthy and Hampshire.

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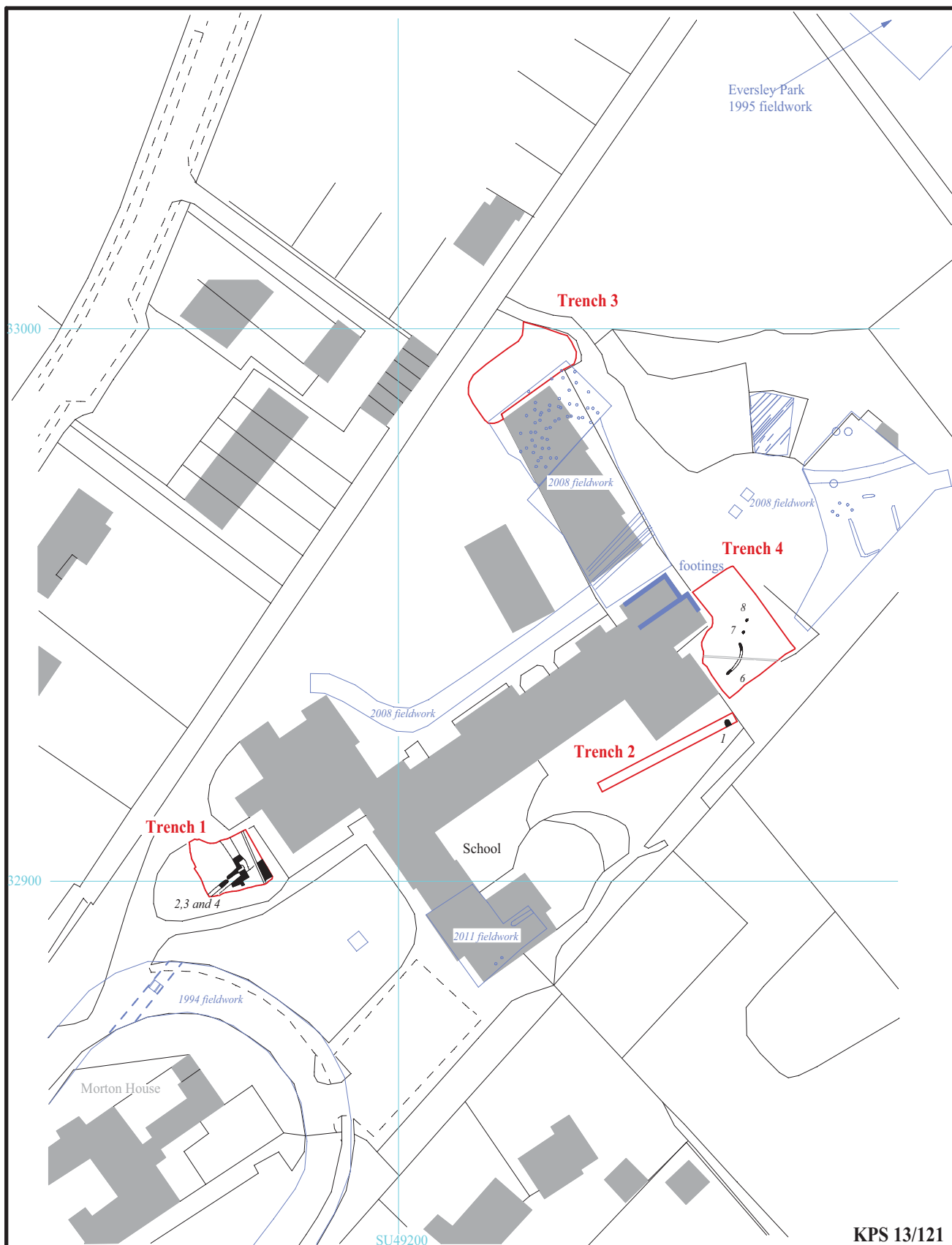


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Figure 2. Detailed location of environs of site and existing
school building.

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Figure 3. Location of 2013 fieldwork and previous fieldwork.

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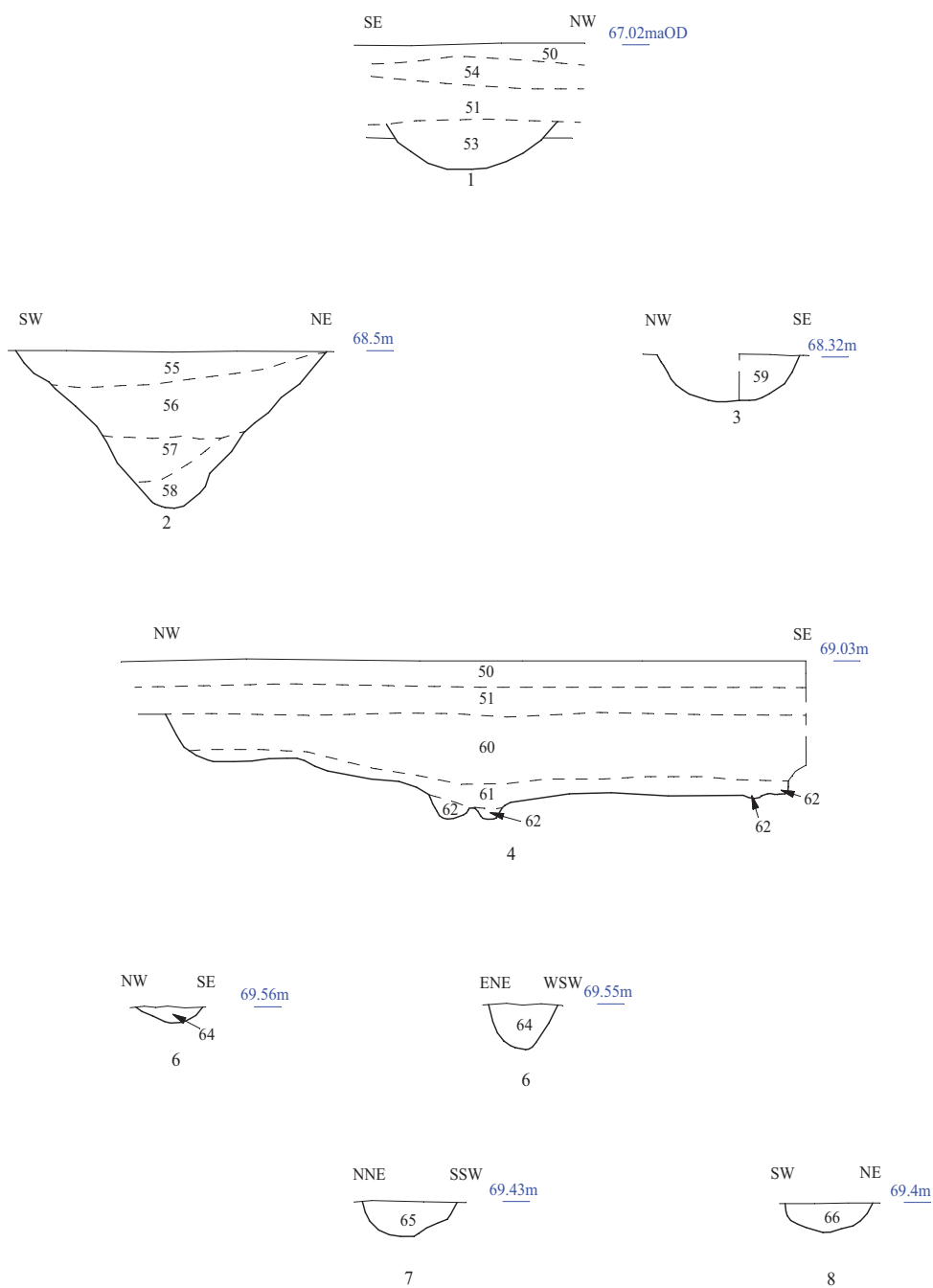
Figure 4. Detail of Trench 1.



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Figure 6. Sections.

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Plate 1. Trench 1 showing features 2-5, looking north east, Scales: 2m and 1m.



Plate 2. Ditch 2, looking south east, Scales: 2m and 1m.

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Plates 1 - 2.**

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Plate 3. Trench 4 showing feature 6 before excavation, looking north east, Scales: 2m and 1m.



Plate 4. Trackway 4, looking north east, Scales: 2m and 1m.

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Plates 3 - 4.**

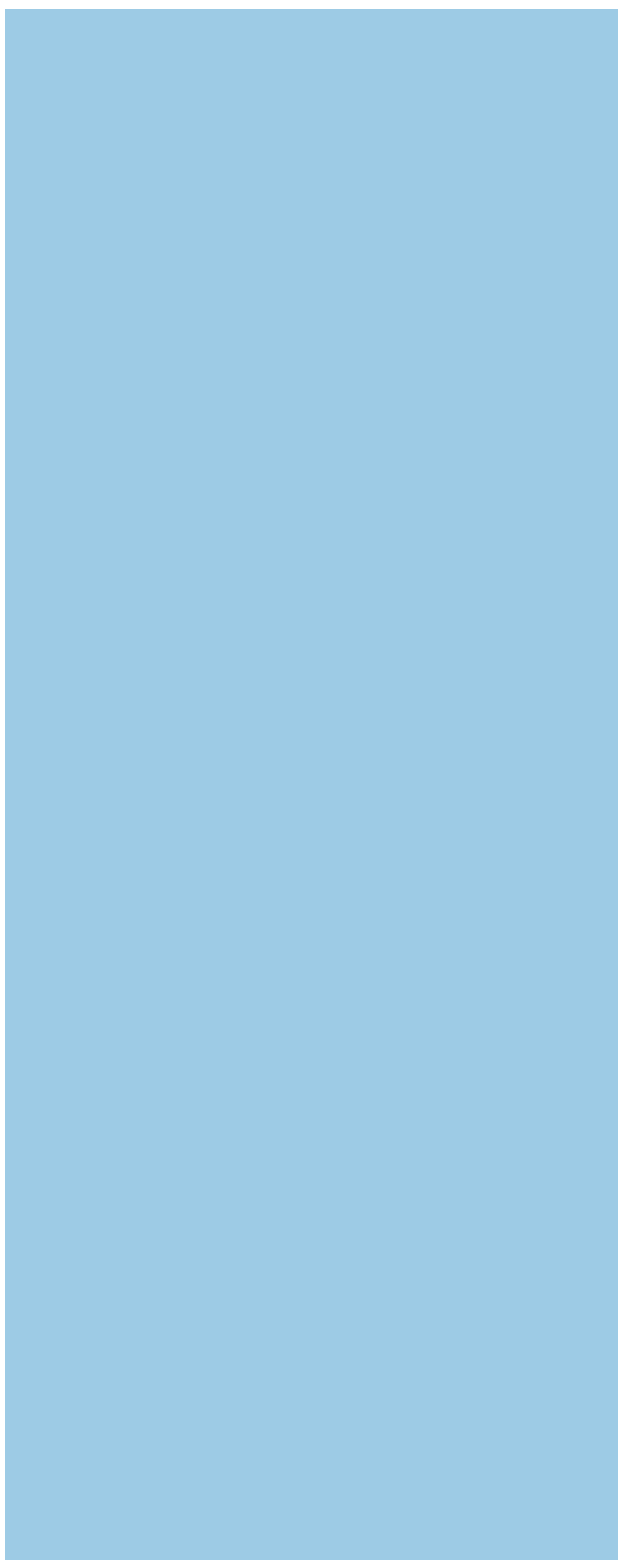
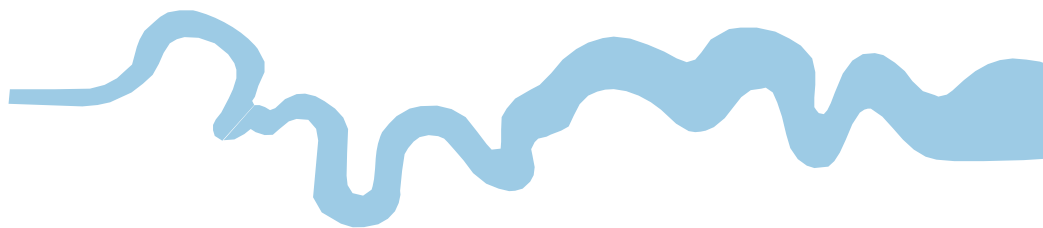
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TIME CHART

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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