

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

ARCHAEOLOGICAL

S E R V I C E S

S O U T H

**Land at Scratchface Lane, Bedhampton,
Havant, Hampshire**

Archaeological Evaluation

by Daniel Bray

Site Code: SLB13/09

(SU 6951 0674)

Land at Scratchface Lane, Bedhampton, Havant, Hampshire

**An Archaeological Evaluation
for Crayfern Homes Ltd**

by Daniel Bray

Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code SLB 13/09

January 2014

Summary

Site name: Land at Scratchface Lane, Bedhampton, Havant, Hampshire

Grid reference: SU 6951 0674

Site activity: Archaeological Evaluation

Date and duration of project: 16th – 19th December 2013

Project manager: Steve Ford

Site supervisor: Daniel Bray

Site code: SLB 13/09

Area of site: 3.41ha

Summary of results: The evaluation has confirmed some archaeological potential for the site. Although no certain evidence of the Roman road from Chichester to Bitterne was revealed, an unexcavated segment of ditch (not accessible due to flooding) may possibly relate to the Roman road. Two other parallel ditches with pottery dating from the mid to late Iron Age suggest the presence of a pre Roman trackway and a contemporary ditch revealed nearby suggests the presence of further Iron Age activity in the northern part of the site. A single pit containing burnt flint hints at a small area of archaeological potential in the southern area.

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

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Report edited/checked by: Steve Ford✓ 10.01.14 Steve Preston✓ 10.01.14

Land at Scratchface Lane, Bedhampton, Havant, Hampshire An Archaeological Evaluation

by Daniel Bray

Report 13/09b

Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological field evaluation carried out on land at Scratchface Lane, Bedhampton, Havant, Hampshire (SU 6951 0674) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Mr Ian Wood of Crayfern Homes Ltd, 14 St Johns Road, Hedge End, Southampton, SO30 4AB.

Planning permission (APP/13/00103) for the construction of a variety of housing and associated garages has been granted by Havant Borough Council, subject to three conditions (23, 24 and 25) relating to archaeology, which require the implementation of a programme of archaeological work. This is to take the form of an archaeological evaluation, by means of geophysical survey and trial trenching. The geophysical survey has already been reported on (Dawson 2013) and this report deals with the trenching component of the evaluation.

This is in accordance with the Department for Communities and Local Government's *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF 2012), and the Borough's policies on archaeology. The field investigation was carried out to a specification approved by Dr Hannah Fluck, Senior Archaeologist at Hampshire County Council, archaeological adviser to the Borough. The fieldwork was undertaken by Daniel Bray along with Sophie Frampton, Nick Harper and Lizzi Lewins between 16th and 19th December 2013 with the site code SLB 13/09. The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited at Havant Museum in due course.

Location, topography and geology

The site is located to the south of Scratchface Lane on the western edge of Bedhampton, a suburb of Havant in Hampshire (Fig. 1). The site is split into two parcels of land divided by a drain (Fig. 2). The northern, roughly trapezoidal, field is the larger of the two and was previously used as a paddock while the southern, roughly triangular, field was left overgrown. The site is bounded by late 20th century houses to the east, Littlepark Wood and Scratchface Lane to the north and an embankment leading to the A3(M) to the west. The site is level at *c.*29m above Ordnance Datum (aOD) at the northern end before rising slightly to *c.*31m and then falling gently to the drain a height of *c.*22m and then rises again to its highest point of *c.*41m at the southern tip of the southern field. The underlying geology varies across the site: in the northern field it is mapped (BGS 1998) as primarily

London Clay with a band of Bognor Sand crossing it approximately half way along the length of the field, whereas the southern field overlies head deposits near the dividing drain and, further up the hill, Portsdown Chalk. Sand, clay and chalk geologies were revealed in the trenches.

Archaeological background

The archaeological potential of the site has been considered in a desk-based assessment (Smith 2009). In summary, it is possible that the Roman road from Chichester (*Noviomagus*) to Bitterne (*Clausentum*) may cross the north-eastern part of the site, close to Scratchface Lane (as projected by the Ordnance Survey: see Figure 1). Whilst no archaeological finds or features have previously been recorded on the site itself, Bronze Age pottery and flintwork were found when the A3(M) was constructed in the 1970s, along with an Iron Age pit. Slightly further afield, the Neolithic long barrow known as Bevis' Grave is located on Portsdown Hill, c.300m west of the site. This feature is a Scheduled Ancient Monument, and a sizeable early Saxon cemetery is recorded in its vicinity, suggesting that an associated settlement maybe located nearby. Littlepark Roman villa is another Scheduled Ancient Monument, whose site lies about 300m to the north-west of the site. Roman finds have also been recorded to the north and east of the site.

The first phase of the evaluation of the proposal site consisted of a magnetometer survey which revealed the presence of a single anomaly in the northern field thought to be a modern farm track (Dawson 2013).

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 research aims of the project are:

- to determine if archaeologically relevant levels have survived on the site;
- to determine if archaeological deposits from any period are present;
- to determine if archaeological deposits dating from the prehistoric period are present;
- to determine if archaeological deposits dating from the Roman period are present;
- to determine if archaeological deposits dating from the early Saxon period are present; and
- to determine whether any features associated with the Chichester to Bitterne Roman road are present.

It was proposed to excavate 26 trenches, each 1.80–2.00m wide and 25m in length. Three trenches (10, 11 and 12) were positioned to target the linear anomaly identified in the northern field during the geophysical survey,

while the other trenches were positioned in the parts of the site which would be most affected by the proposed development but located away from ecologically sensitive positions around the margins of the site. The trenches were to be excavated using a 360°-type machine equipped with a toothless ditching bucket and supervised at all times by an archaeologist, with the spoil removed being monitored for finds. All potential archaeological deposits were to be hand cleaned and sufficient of the archaeological features and deposits exposed were excavated or sampled by hand to satisfy the aims of the project.

Results

All 26 trenches were dug as close as possible to their intended positions (Fig. 2). They ranged in length from 22.50m to 28.50m and in depth from 0.40m to 0.90m and all were 2m wide. A complete list of trenches giving lengths, breadths, depths and a description of sections and geology is given in Appendix 1. Three trenches (10-12) located on the geophysical anomaly revealed a linear band of made ground aligned NE-SW and situated above the subsoil. This, as stated in the geophysical survey, is most likely a modern farm track. A total of seven trenches revealed features or potential features of archaeological interest and these are described in more detail below (Fig. 5). A catalogue of excavated features forms Appendix 2.

The majority of the trenches (2, 4, 6-7, 9, 13-20, 22, 24-26) were devoid of archaeological interest. Their stratigraphy consisted of generally 0.20-0.30m of topsoil over a varying depth of subsoil, above the natural geology. The geology varied from mid orange brown sandy clay in trenches in the northern field (2, 4, 6-7, 9-11, 13-20), although trenches 18-20 also contained frequent gravel. Trenches 22 and 24-26 (all in the southern field) were excavated onto chalk with red brown silt patches.

Trench 1 (Figs 3 and 4; Pls 1 and 3)

Trench 1 was aligned SE-NW and was 24.80m long and 0.90m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.27m of topsoil and 0.50m of light brown orange silty clay subsoil with occasional chalk inclusions overlying the natural brownish orange silty clay geology. A single pit (3) and pit/posthole (4) were recorded at the northern end of the trench. The fills of both features (54 and 55) were similar and a relationship could not be ascertained. Both were blue grey in colour and clay sand in composition containing frequent burnt flint fragments. To the south of these two wide parallel ditches (7 and 8), approximately 5m apart, were recorded on an ENE-WSW alignment. Ditch 7 had an unclear relationship with shallow ditch 6. Due to the angle at which these crossed the trench it was not possible to excavate a full section across any of the ditches but auguring confirmed that natural geology had been reached and that both ditches were relatively shallow. Ditch 7 was gradual sided and measured to a depth of

0.30m. Ditch 8 (Pl. 3) was steep sided possibly with a flat base and measured to a depth of 0.46m. Fills of both ditches were of similar mid brown colour and sandy clay composition containing very frequent burnt flint. A small quantity of pottery recovered from ditch 8 fill (60) was of late Iron Age to early Roman in date.

Trench 3 (Figs 3 and 4)

Trench 3 was aligned N - S and was 26.00m long and 0.63m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.20m of topsoil and 0.43m of mid brown orange clay sand subsoil overlying the natural silty clay geology. A single ditch (13) was observed at the northern end of the trench. This is a continuation of either ditch 7 or, more likely, ditch 8 seen in Trench 1. The trench flooded, and after consultation with Dr Fluck it was decided not to excavate this feature.

Trench 5 (Figs 3 and 4; Pl. 2)

Trench 5 was aligned SW - NE and was 26.00m long and 0.50m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.25m of topsoil and 0.25m of mid brown grey silty clay subsoil overlying the natural brownish orange clay sand geology. At the southern end of the trench a shallow pit (10) and a ditch (11) were recorded. Ditch 11 was only partially excavated as the trench was flooding. This flooding made accurate planning slightly difficult but it is thought that this relates to a field drain excavated but not recorded in Trench 4. No finds were recovered from the fill (61) of pit 10 but the similar nature of the fill to the field drain could mean that this is also modern in date. At the northern end of the trench a wide ditch (12) was recorded but again not excavated and possibly relates to ditch 13 in Trench 3 and/or ditches 7 or 8 in Trench 1 although it could also be an entirely different ditch as there was substantial water at this end of the trench and it was difficult to see the exact alignment. It is possibly related to the Roman road projected to lie just to the north.

Trench 8 (Figs 3 and 4; Pl. 4)

Trench 8 was aligned SW-NE and was 25.00m long and 0.48m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.26m of topsoil and 0.22m of mid orange brown silty clay subsoil overlying the natural orange brown silty clay geology. A single ditch (9) on a NNW-SSE alignment and not seen in any other trench was excavated and recorded (Pl. 4). The total width of the ditch was not revealed but is at least 3.00m wide with a depth of 0.46m. Pottery recovered from single fill (57) was of mid to late Iron Age date. The projected line of this ditch would be at right angles to ditches 7 and 8 in Trench 1, so they could be part of a single layout.

Trench 12 (Figs 3 and 4)

Trench 12 was aligned SE–NW and was 24.50m long and 0.70m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.26m of topsoil and 0.44m of dark brown orange silty clay subsoil overlying the natural orange brown silty clay geology. The anomaly revealed during the magnetic survey and interpreted as a farm track was revealed in the subsoil and was made up of broken brick and tile and other modern material. It was also revealed in Trenches 10 and 11. A single shallow possible feature (5) was recorded on a NE–SW alignment. The clean nature of the fill (56) and the irregular nature of the feature probably point to this being geological rather than archaeological. No finds were recovered.

Trench 21 (Figs 3 and 4)

Trench 21 was aligned SW–NE and was 27.50m long and 0.62m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.24m of topsoil and 0.38m of mid orange brown silty clay subsoil overlying the natural light grey brown silty clay geology. A single linear feature (2) was revealed. This was very irregular and shallow and is most likely animal or root disturbance.

Trench 23 (Figs 3 and 4)

Trench 23 was aligned N–S and was 25.00m long and 0.82m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.32m of topsoil and 0.50m of mid red brown clay silt subsoil overlying the natural brown yellow silty clay with flint geology. A shallow pit (1) was excavated and recorded towards the southern end of the trench. It measured 0.80m in diameter and 0.25m deep. The fill (52) contained frequent burnt flint but no datable artefacts. A number of periglacial stripes were seen on a NE–SW alignment.

Finds

Pottery by Malcolm Lyne

The nine sherds of pottery from the site date to the Middle and Late Iron Ages but are, for the most part, very abraded and likely to be redeposited. The three Southern Atrebatian pottery fragments from ditch 8 date to no later than the early years after the Roman conquest and are only slightly abraded indicating that this ditch was infilling before around AD60.

The following fabrics were present:

1. Handmade with profuse <0.10mm quartz-sand and moderate <1.00mm calcined-flint filler. Fired brown-black
2. Handmade brown fired smooth black externally with profuse <0.20mm multi-coloured quartz-sand filler.

Conclusion

The trenching exercise of the evaluation has confirmed the presence of archaeological deposits on the site which had not been suggested by the geophysical survey. It has revealed two wide parallel ditches on an ENE–WSW alignment in the north-western corner of the site. These ditches appear to be on the wrong alignment for the Roman road from Chichester (*Noviomagus*) to Bitterne (*Clausentum*) rather they most likely represent an earlier pre-Roman trackway possibly still in use during the Roman period. However, an unexcavated ditch in trench 5 (not accessible due to flooding) may possibly relate to the Roman road. The NNW-SSW ditch revealed in Trench 8 is likely to be contemporary with the trackway.

A shallow pit containing small fragments of burnt flint was revealed in the southern area and although the majority of activity is confined to the northern field this shows that there is a small area of archaeological potential in the southern field.

During the archaeological trial trenching the field was very wet and trenches flooded making the excavation and recording of the archaeological features difficult. This was also a problem encountered during the geophysical survey undertaken prior to trenching and could explain why there was little clarity in the magnetic survey results and hindered the identification of the wide features in the northern field.

References

- BGS, 1998, *British Geological Survey*, 1:50000, Sheet 316, Solid and Drift Edition, Keyworth
- Dawson, T, 2013, 'Land at Scratchface Lane, Bedhampton, Havant, Hampshire: a geophysical survey (magnetic)', Thames Valley Archaeological Services unpubl rep **13/09**, Reading
- NPPF, 2012, *National Planning Policy Framework*, Dept Communities and Local Govt, London
- Smith, M, 2009, 'Land at Scratchface Lane, Bedhampton, Havant, Hampshire: an archaeological desk-based assessment', CgMs unpubl rep, London

APPENDIX 1: Trench details

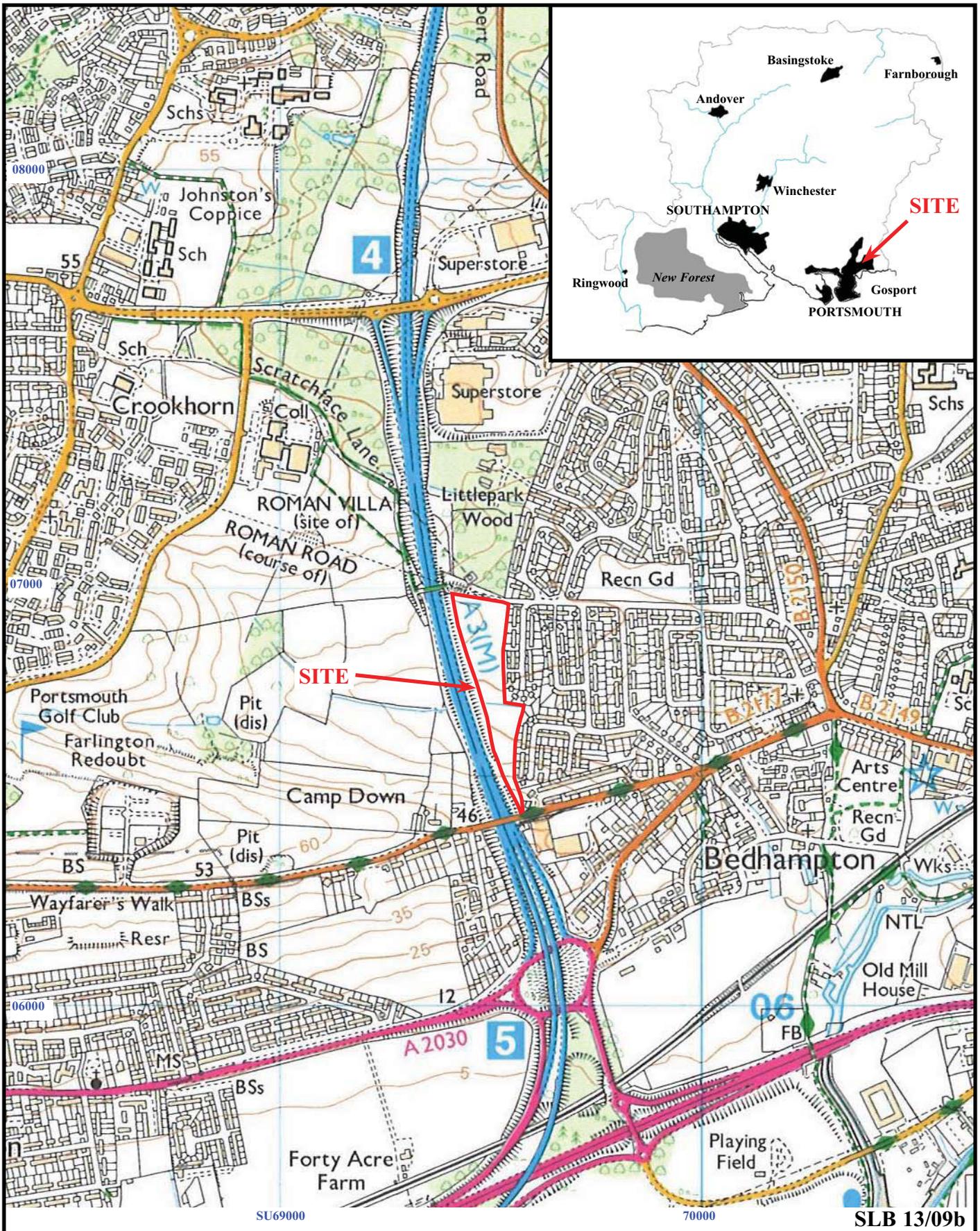
<i>Trench</i>	<i>Length (m)</i>	<i>Breadth (m)</i>	<i>Depth (m)</i>	<i>Comment</i>
1	24.80	2.00	0.90	0–0.27m topsoil; 0.27m-0.77m light brown orange silty clay subsoil with occ chalk inclusions; 0.77m+ mid brown orange silty clay natural geology. Pit 3, pit/posthole 4, ditches 6,7,8 [PL 1, 3]
2	25.00	2.00	0.56	0-0.33m topsoil; 0.33m-0.56m subsoil; mid orange brown sandy clay freq gravel natural geology
3	26.00	2.00	0.63	0-0.20m topsoil; 0.20m-0.63m mid orange brown clay sand subsoil; 0.63m+ light grey orange and mid brown orange silt clay natural geology with sand patches. Unexcavated ditch 13
4	24.70	2.00	0.60	0.20m topsoil; 0.20m-0.60m subsoil; 0.60m+ mid grey orange clay sand natural geology
5	26.00	2.00	0.50	0-0.25m topsoil; 0.25-0.50m mid grey brown silty clay subsoil; 0.50m+ mid brown orange clay silt natural geology. Pit 10, linear 11, unexcavated ditch 12. [PL 2]
6	28.00	2.00	0.60	0-0.19m topsoil; 0.19-0.54m light brown orange sandy clay; 0.54m+ mid brown orange silty clay natural geology
7	24.00	2.00	0.40	0-0.20m topsoil; 0.20m-0.40m subsoil; 0.40m+ dark brown orange silty clay natural geology
8	25.00	2.00	0.48	0-0.26m topsoil; 0.26m-0.48m subsoil; dark orange brown silty clay natural geology, Ditch 9. [PL 4]
9	23.00	2.00	0.50	0-0.20m topsoil; 0.20m-0.50m mid orange brown silty clay subsoil; 0.50m natural geology
10	22.50	2.00	0.50	0-0.25m topsoil; 0.25m-0.50m subsoil; 0.50m+ mid orange brown silty clay natural geology. Modern trackway
11	25.00	2.00	0.70	0-0.30m topsoil; 0.30m-0.70m dark grey brown silty clay subsoil with occ chalk inclusions; 0.70m+ mid orange brown silty clay natural geology; modern trackway
12	24.50	2.00	0.70	0-0.26m topsoil; 0.26m-0.70m subsoil; 0.70m+ natural geology. Linear 5, modern trackway
13	25.00	2.00	0.60	0-0.20m topsoil; 0.20-0.60m light yellow brown silty clay subsoil with occ chalk inclusions; 0.60m+ natural geology
14	24.00	2.00	0.50	0-0.20m topsoil; 0.20m-0.50m subsoil; 0.50m+ natural geology
15	24.00	2.00	0.63	0-0.24m topsoil; 0.24-0.63m subsoil; 0.63m+ natural geology
16	24.00	2.00	0.56	0-0.26m topsoil; 0.26m-0.56m subsoil; 0.56m+ light brown orange silty clay natural geology with grey brown patches
17	23.00	2.00	0.60	0-0.22m topsoil; 0.22-0.60m mid orange brown silty clay subsoil with occ chalk; 0.60m+ light grey brown silty clay natural geology
18	25.50	2.00	0.47	0-0.29m topsoil; 0.29m-0.47m subsoil; 0.47m+ dark orange brown silty clay natural geology with freq gravel inclusions
19	22.50	2.00	0.67	0-0.24m topsoil; 0.24m-0.62m subsoil; 0.62m+ mid orange brown silty clay
20	25.00	2.00	0.64	0-0.23m topsoil; 0.23m-0.64m subsoil; 0.64m+ mid grey brown silty clay natural geology with large flint inclusions
21	27.50	2.00	0.62	0-0.24m topsoil; 0.24m-0.62m mid orange brown silty clay subsoil; 0.62+ light grey brown silty clay. Linear 2
22	24.00	2.00	0.86	0-0.19m topsoil; 0.19m-0.86m mid red brown clay silt; 0.86m+ dark red brown silty clay natural geology with freq flint inclusions
23	25.00	2.00	0.82	0-0.32m topsoil; 0.32-0.82m subsoil; 0.82m+ mid brown yellow silt clay natural geology with freq chalk inclusions. Pit 1
24	28.50	2.00	0.77	0-0.20m topsoil; 0.20m-0.77m dark red brown clay silt subsoil; 0.77m natural geology
25	28.00	2.00	0.73	0-0.19m topsoil; 0.19m-0.73m mid red brown clay silt subsoil with freq chalk; 0.73m+ light yellow brown silty clay natural geology with freq chalk and flint inclusions
26	27.00	2.00	0.58	0-0.38m topsoil; 0.38-0.58m dark red brown clay silt subsoil with freq chalk; 0.58m+ 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>	<i>Comment</i>
23	1	52	Pit	Prehistoric?		Burnt flint
21	2	53	Linear			Burrow?
1	3	54	Pit			
1	4	55	Pit/posthole			
12	5	56	Linear			Geological?
1	6	58	Ditch			
1	7	59	Ditch			
1	8	60	Ditch	Iron Age	Pottery	
8	9	57	Ditch	Iron Age	Pottery	
5	10	61	Pit	Modern?		
5	11	62	Drain	Modern		
5	12	63	Unexcavated ditch			
3	13	64	Unexcavated ditch			

Appendix 3: Pottery Catalogue

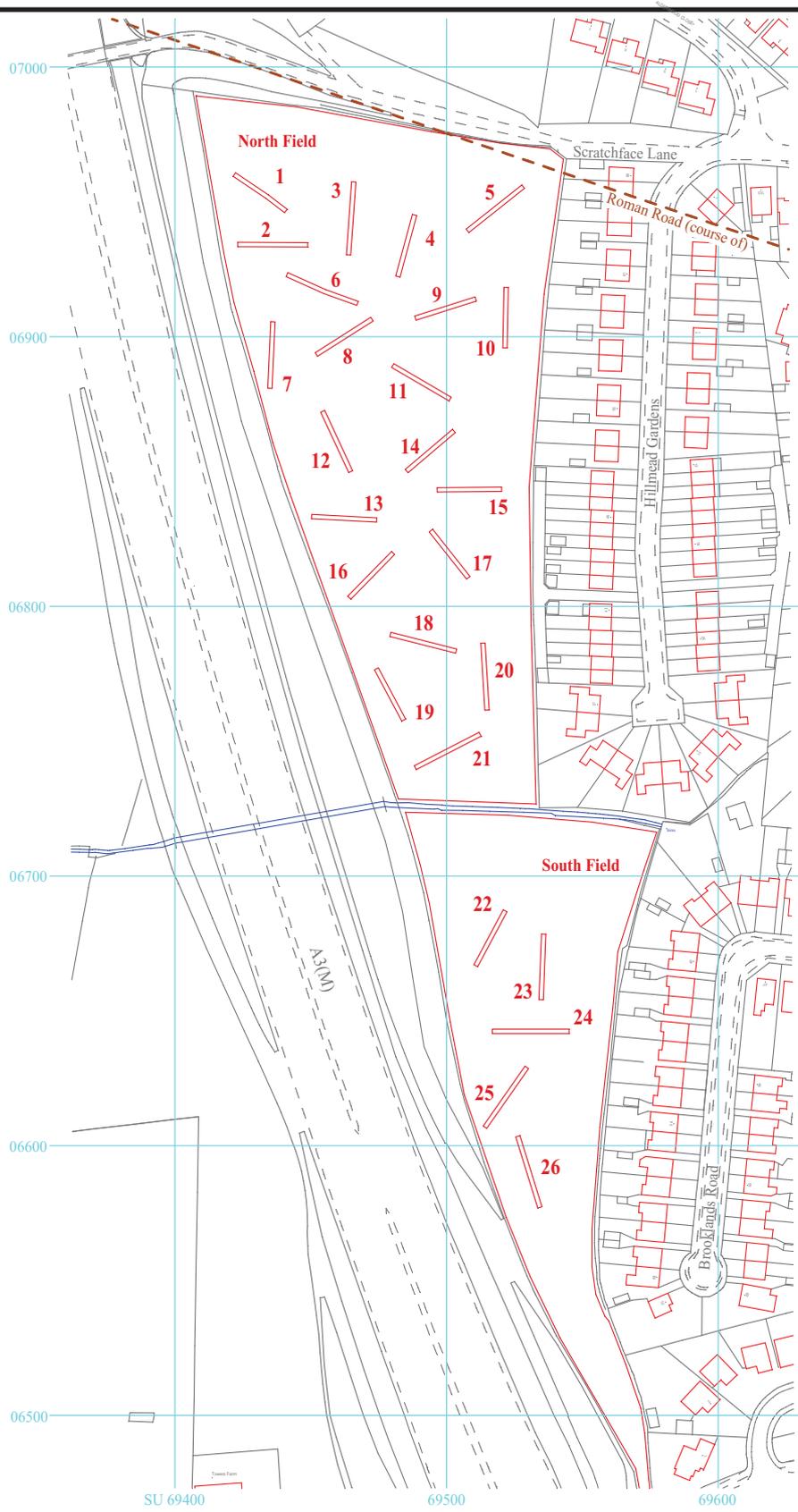
<i>Trench</i>	<i>Cut</i>	<i>Deposit</i>	<i>Fabric</i>	<i>Date-range</i>	<i>No of sherds</i>	<i>Wt (g)</i>	<i>Comments</i>
8	9	57	1	300-1BC	3	2	Abraded
			Unidentified		1	1	Tiny pellet
1	8	60	1	300-1BC	2	3	Abraded
			2	25BC-AD60	3	3	Slightly abraded



**Land at Scratchface Lane, Bedhampton,
Havant, Hampshire, 2013
Archaeological Evaluation**

Figure 1. Location of site within Bedhampton, Havant and Hampshire.

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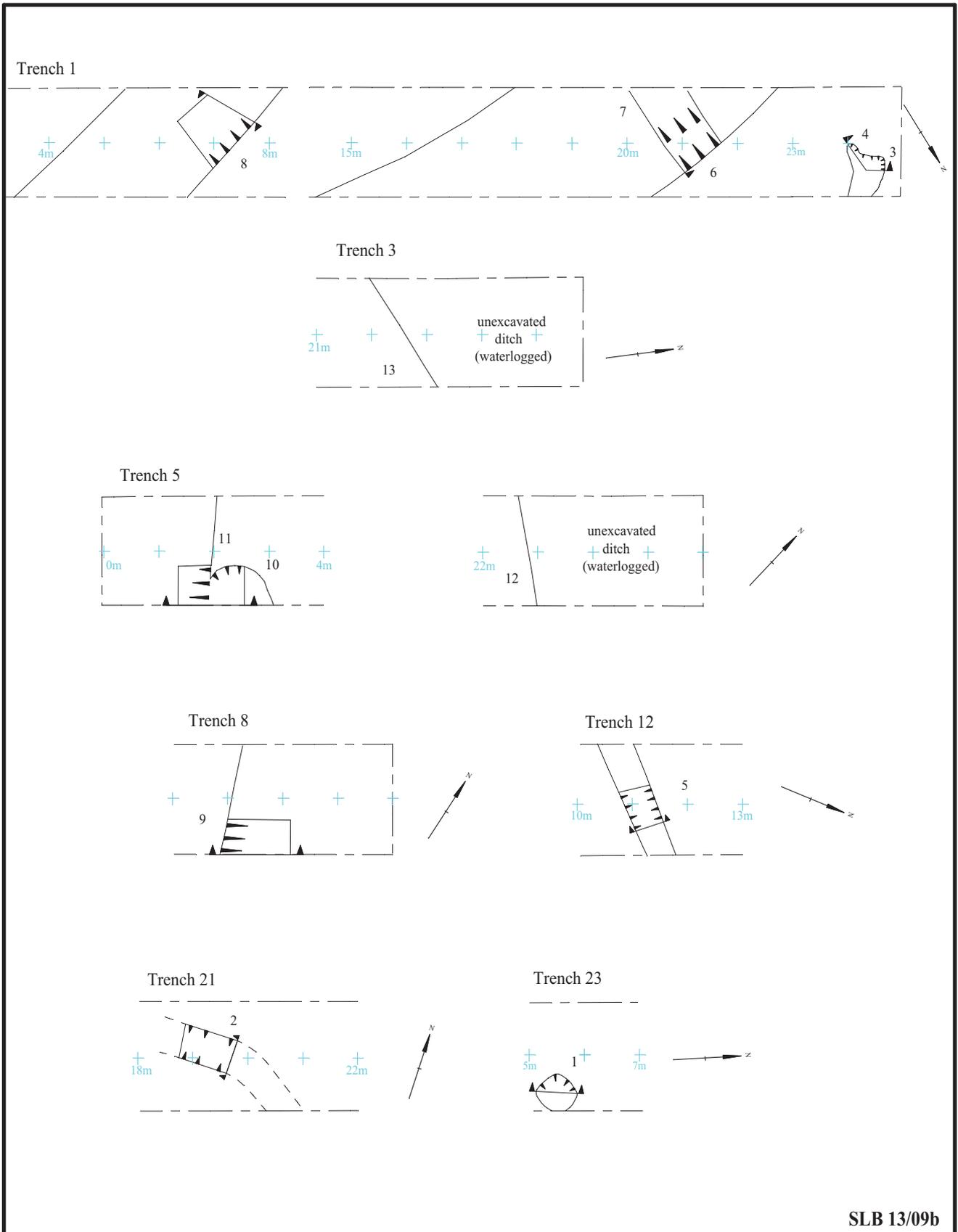


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Figure 2. Location of trenches.



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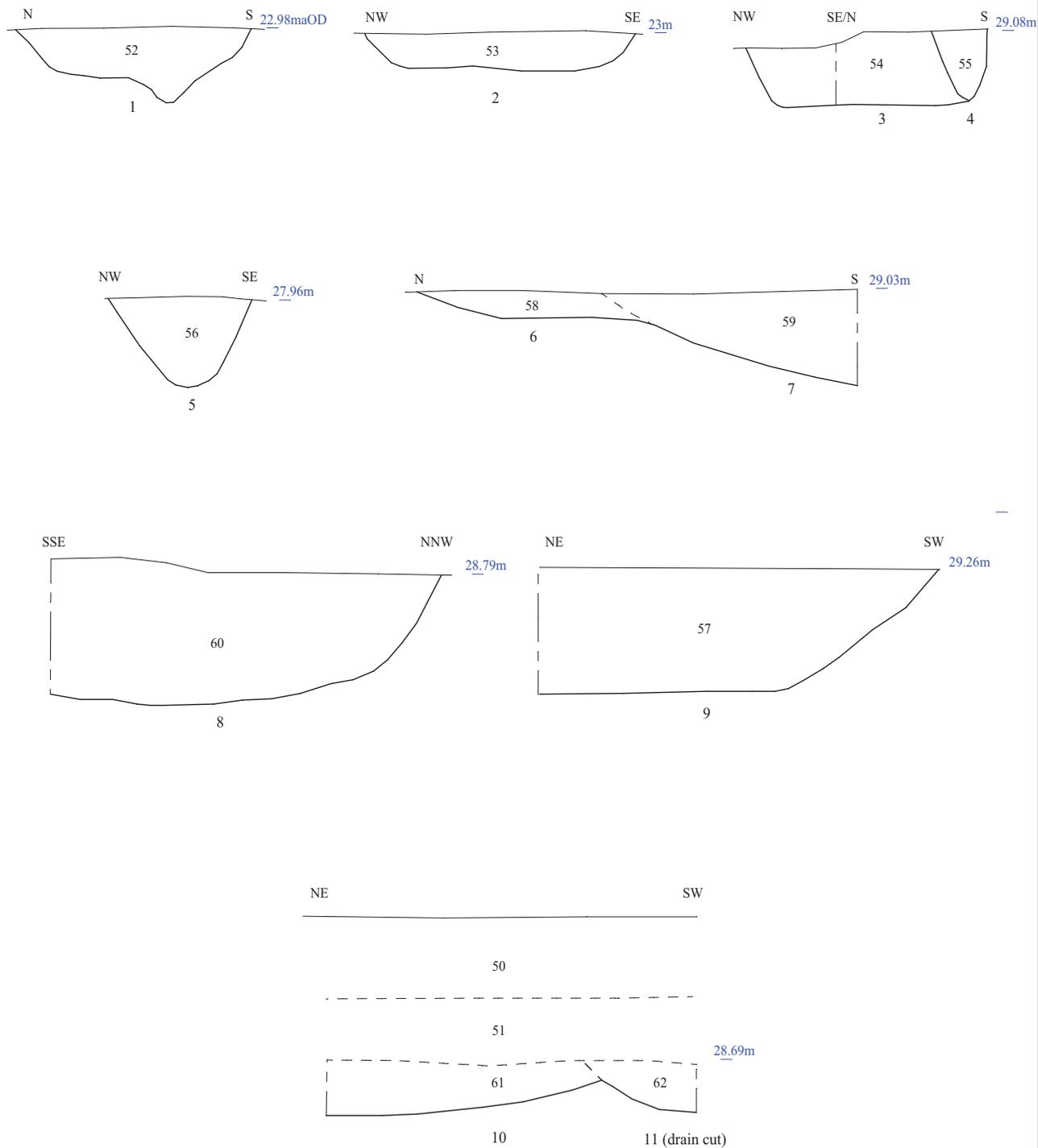


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Archaeological Evaluation**

Figure 3. Detail of trenches.



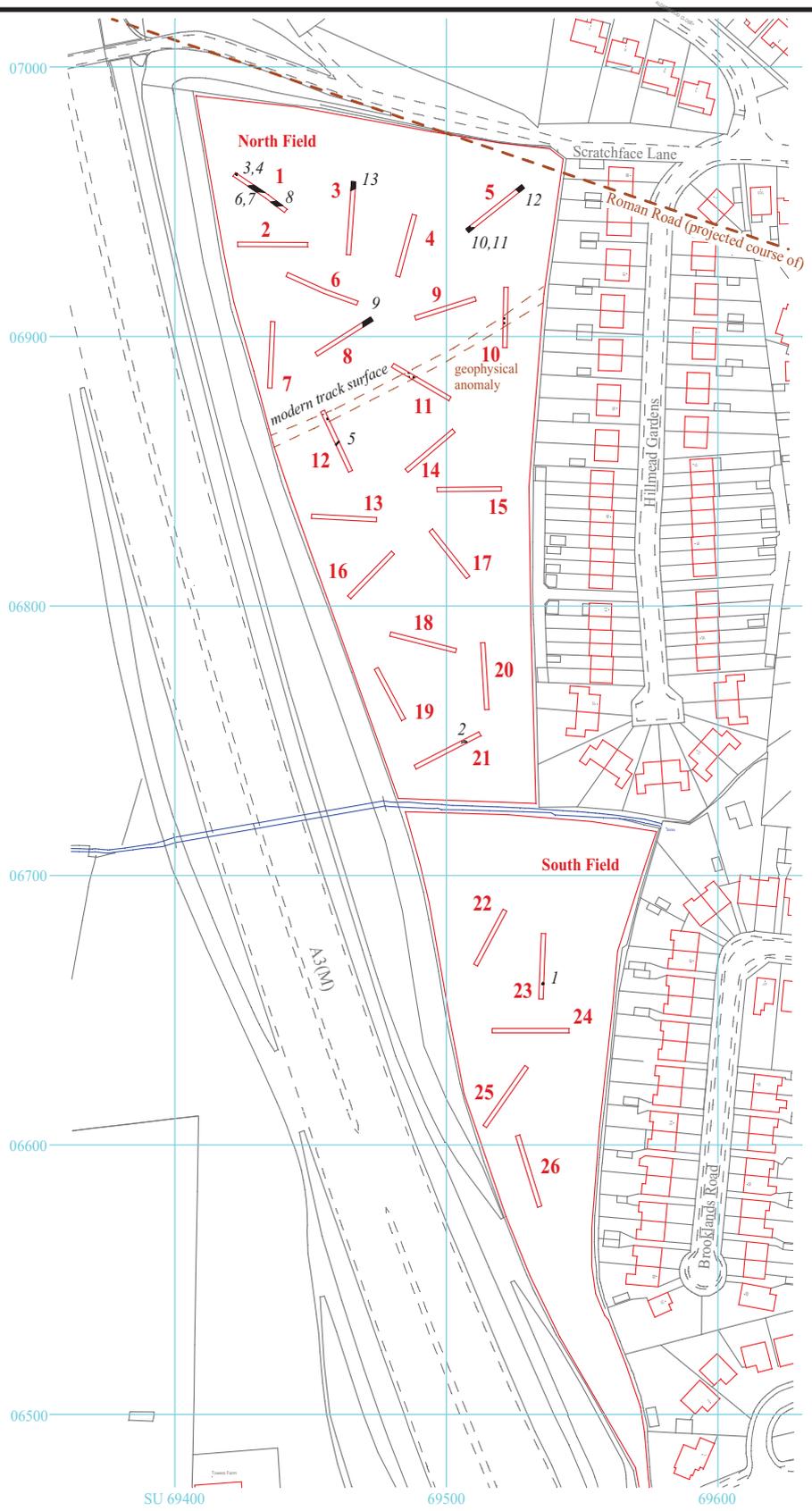


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Figure 4. Sections.





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**Land at Scratchface Lane, Bedhampton,
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Figure 5. Location of features; geophysical anomaly in brown.



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Plate 1. Trench 1, looking west, Scales: horizontal 2m and 1m, vertical 1m.



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

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**Land at Scratchface Lane, Bedhampton, Havant,
Hampshire, 2013
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Plates 1 - 2.**

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Plate 3. Trench 1, ditch 8, looking west, Scales: 1m and 0.5m.



Plate 4. Trench 8, ditch 9, looking south east, Scales: 1m and 0.5m.

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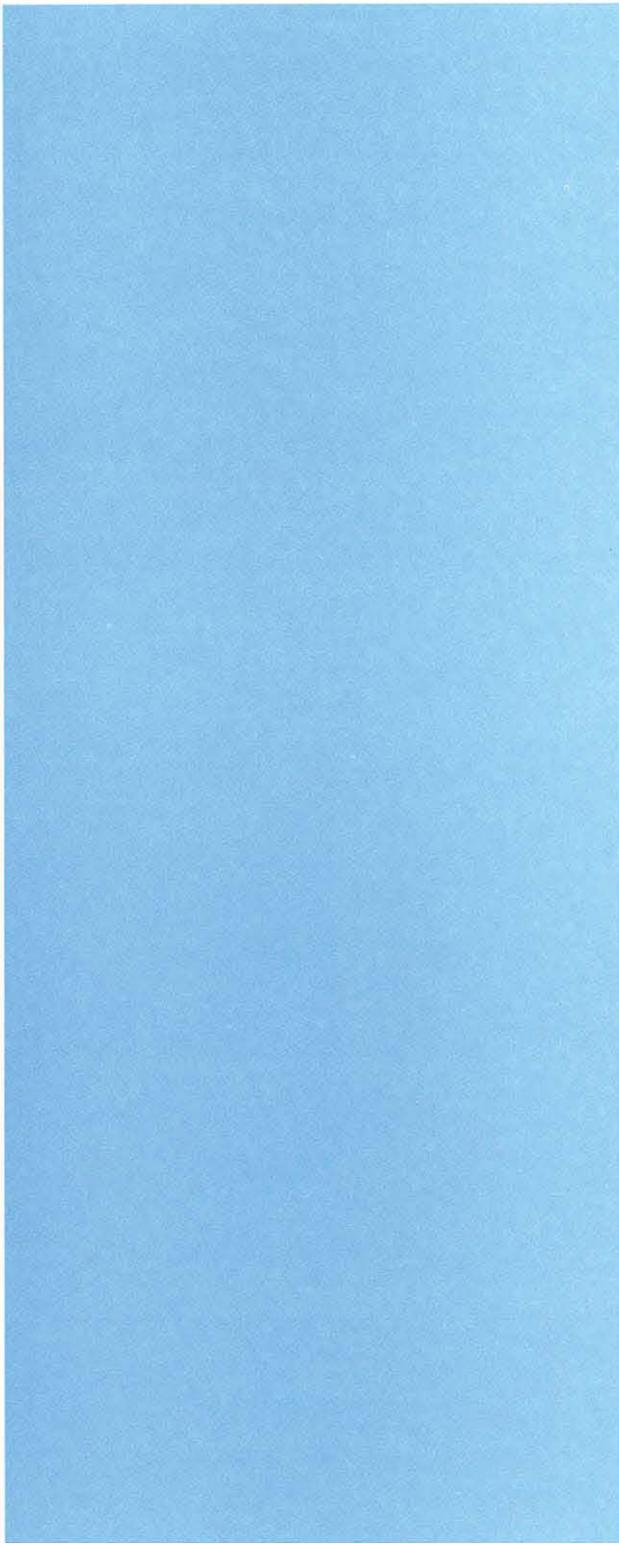
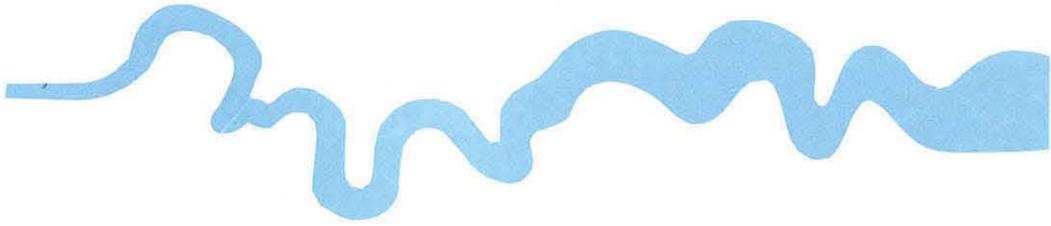
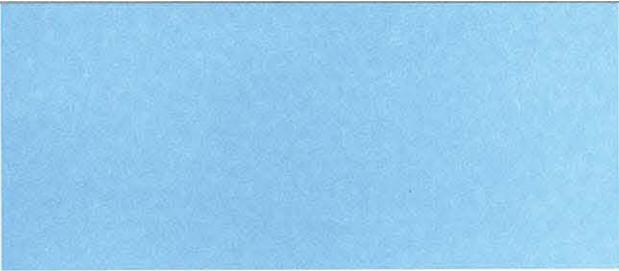
**Land at Scratchface Lane, Bedhampton, Havant,
Hampshire, 2013**
Archaeological Evaluation
Plates 3 - 4.

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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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