

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

ARCHAEOLOGICAL

S E R V I C E S

**Brooklands Farm, Stuckton,
Fordingbridge, Hampshire**

Archaeological Evaluation

by Genni Elliott and Jo Pine

Site Code: BFF14/179

(SU 1597 1320)

Brooklands Farm, Stuckton, Fordingbridge, Hampshire

**An Archaeological Evaluation
for Hampshire County Council**

by Genni Elliott and Jo Pine
Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code BFF 14/179

October 2014

Summary

Site name: Brooklands Farm, Stuckton, Fordingbridge, Hampshire

Grid reference: SU 1597 1320

Site activity: Evaluation

Date and duration of project: 18th–19th September 2014

Project manager: Steve Ford

Site supervisor: Genni Elliott

Site code: BFF 14/179

Area of site: 0.48ha

Summary of results: The evaluation revealed a surprisingly large number of cut features of possible archaeological interest. However, the best dated of these (three ditches) were of post-medieval date and therefore of very limited archaeological interest. Two, possibly three ditches were undated and thus their significance was not clarified. Two intercutting pits were, though, possibly of prehistoric date. The site is therefore considered to have some archaeological potential.

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

*This report may be copied for bona fide research or planning purposes without the explicit permission of the copyright holder. All TVAS unpublished fieldwork reports are available on our website:
www.tvas.co.uk/reports/reports.asp.*

| | |
|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| Report edited/checked by: | Steve Ford ✓ 06.10.14 |
| | Steve Preston ✓ 06.10.14 |

Brooklands Farm, Stuckton, Fordingbridge, Hampshire An Archaeological Evaluation

by Genni Elliott and Jo Pine

Report 14/179

Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological field evaluation carried out at Brooklands Farm, Stuckton, Fordingbridge, Hampshire (SU 1597 1320) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Mr Ashley Potheary of Hampshire County Council, The Castle, Winchester, SO23 8UJ.

Planning consent is to be sought from New Forest District Council for improvements to Brooklands Farm which would involve the construction of new farm buildings, extending the existing farmyard to the west. The archaeological adviser to the Council has identified the potential for the groundworks associated with the development to impact upon previously unknown archaeological deposits as the site has potential for Bronze Age archaeology and therefore advised that an archaeological condition should be placed on any consent granted. It was therefore proposed that a field evaluation take place initially to assess the archaeological potential of the site and allow a mitigation strategy to be prepared. This is in accordance with the Department for Communities and Local Government's *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF 2012), and the District Council's policies on archaeology. The field investigation was carried out to a specification approved by Mr David Hopkins, county archaeologist for Hampshire County Council., the archaeological adviser to the local planning authority.

The fieldwork was undertaken by Genni Elliot and Natasha Bennett on 18th and 19th September 2014 and the site code is BFF14/179. The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited at Hampshire Museum Service in due course.

Location, topography and geology

The site is located at Brooklands farm, Stuckton, which lies to the south-east of Fordingbridge, just to the west of the New Forest (Fig. 1). It lies to the west of the Stuckton Road and in a paddock to the west of the existing farmyard (Fig. 2) and is surrounded by fields. The underlying geology is mapped as Valley Gravels (BGS 1993) with a brownish yellow sand with abundant gravel recorded in all of the trenches. The site lies at a height of *c.* 30m above Ordnance Datum.

Archaeological background

The archaeological potential of the site has been highlighted in a brief for the project prepared by Dr Hannah Fluck of Hampshire County Council. In summary this potential stems from its location within the archaeologically rich Avon Valley with a range of sites recorded such as prior to gravel extraction (Coles 2004, Coles and Ford 2011). In particular, it lies adjacent to a known Bronze Age round barrow cemetery, now levelled but evident as cropmarks visible from the air.

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 this project are;

- to determine if archaeologically relevant levels have survived on this site;
- to determine if archaeological deposits of any period are present;
- to determine if archaeological deposits dating from the prehistoric period are present;
- to determine if archaeological deposits dating from the Bronze Age period are present; and
- to inform a strategy for mitigation if required.

It was proposed to excavate 4 trenches, two 25m long, one 20m long and one 5m long, and all 1.6m wide. The trenches were to be excavated using either a JCB or a 360° type machine equipped with a toothless ditching bucket and supervised at all times by an archaeologist, with 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 to be excavated or sampled by hand to satisfy the aims of the project.

Results

All four trenches were dug as intended, with an extension added to trench 3 to expose the full width of a feature. They ranged in length from 5.5m to 25.5m and in depth from 0.48m to 0.62m. A complete list of trenches giving lengths, breadths, depths and a description of sections and geology is given in Appendix 1. The excavated features are summarized in Appendix 2.

Trench 1 (Figs 3, 4 and 5; Pls 1 and 3)

Trench 1 was aligned north – south and was 20.2m long and a maximum of 0.62m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.12m of topsoil and 0.18m subsoil overlying the natural geology, a brownish yellow sand with abundant gravel. Within the trench were three features; a ditch and two pits.

Ditch 1 cut the natural and was aligned east - west. It had moderately sloping sides with a concave base and measured 1.05m wide by 0.33m deep. Its only fill was mid reddish grey, silty sand with frequent gravel inclusions and occasional charcoal (52). The only finds were 26 fragments of unworked, burnt flint. The ditch possibly continued to the west into trench 3 as ditch 8.

Pit 2 was probably oval in plan, though was not fully exposed within the trench, with moderately sloping sides and a concave base. It measured more than 0.77 by 0.50m and 0.38m deep. Its only fill (53) was mid reddish grey, silty sand with frequent flint gravel and charcoal. Finds consisted of a broken flake of probably of Neolithic or Bronze Age date and seven pieces of burnt flint. This pit truncated an earlier feature; pit 3.

Pit 3 was not completely exposed in the trench plan, though was seen to be more than 0.90m by 0.40m and was 0.25m deep. It had moderately sloping sides and a concave base. Its fill was again a mid reddish grey, silty sand with frequent flint gravel and charcoal (54), with 166 fragments of burnt flint being recovered from this fill.

Trench 2 (Fig. 3)

Trench 2 was aligned east – west and was 5.5m long and 0.58m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.15m of topsoil and 0.32m subsoil overlying natural gravel geology. At the west end of the trench was a single layer of sets across the width of the trench. Each set measured more than 0.3m by 0.17m by 0.093m. No finds were recovered.

Trench 3 (Figs 3, 4 and 5)

Trench 3 was aligned NE–SW and was 25.5m long and 0.48m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.1m of topsoil and 26m subsoil overlying natural geology; a brownish yellow sand with abundant gravel. A ditch (8) cut the gravel and was aligned NW–SE. It measured 2.94m wide by 0.32m deep and had moderately steep sides and a concave base. The north side was initially very shallow before a break in slope. It had two fills; 55 above 56. Fill 55 was brownish yellow, sandy clay with a moderate quantity of gravel, 0.30m thick. Finds consisted of 14 pieces of burnt flint. Fill 56 was only present in the base of the deepest part of the ditch and was dark grey, sandy clay containing a moderate quantity of gravel, 0.02m thick. There were no finds from this lower fill.

Trench 4 (Figs 3, 4 and 5; Pls 2 and 4)

Trench 4 was aligned NE–SW and was 25.3m long and 0.48m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.12m of topsoil and 0.27m subsoil overlying gravel natural geology. Within the trench were four features; a double ditch and two single ditches.

Ditches 4 and 5 were aligned NE–SW, with ditch 4 being the earlier of the two and truncated by ditch 5. Ditch 4 had moderately steeply sloping sides with a concave base and measured 0.77m wide by 0.29m deep. Its only fill, 60, was dark reddish brown, silty sand containing a moderate quantity of gravel. It contained one fragment of post-medieval brick. Ditch 5 had gently sloping sides with a concave base and measured 1.07m wide by 0.17m deep. Its only fill, 57, was dark reddish brown, silty sand with a moderate quantity of gravel. It contained one fragment of post-medieval brick.

Ditch 6 cut the natural and was aligned NW-SE. It had moderately steep sloping sides with a concave base and measured 0.8m wide by 0.15m deep. Its only fill, 58, was dark reddish brown, silty sand containing frequent gravel. It contained two fragments of post-medieval brick and some burnt flint.

A ditch (7) cut the natural and was aligned NW–SE roughly parallel to ditch 6, and had gently sloping sides with a flat base and measured 1.34m wide by 0.1m deep. Its only fill, 59, was dark reddish brown, sandy silt containing a moderate quantity of gravel but no dating evidence.

Finds

Struck Flint by Steve Ford

A single struck flint was recovered from pit 2 (53) during the evaluation. It is a broken flake, made on gravel flint. It is not chronologically distinctive but is probably of Neolithic or Bronze Age date.

Burnt Flint

A modest amount of burnt flint was found during the fieldwork; 285 pieces weighing c.2.7kg. These were recovered from ditches 1, 6 and 8 and from pits 2 and 3 (Appendix. 3). None was worked.

Ceramic Building Materials by Danielle Milbank

Brick and tile fragments were recovered from three contexts encountered during the evaluation, and are summarized in Appendix 4. In total, 4 fragments weighing 1250g were present, the majority of which were brick pieces.

Ditch 4 contained a piece of unfrosted brick of a hard, fairly coarse sandy fabric, with fine groggy inclusions and a dark red colour. It is 56mm thick and 110mm wide, slightly uneven, with rounded arrises, and of likely post-medieval date c. 1600-1700.

Ditch 5 contained two fragments, comprising a piece of brick of a hard, evenly-fired sandy clay fabric with fine groggy inclusions and a red colour. The thickness is 62mm and the finish and form suggest that it is post-medieval. A smaller fragment of similar fabric could not be closely dated.

Ditch 6 contained a small fragment of a coarse sandy clay fabric with sparse groggy inclusions. It is abraded and is likely to represent brick, though it can be only very broadly dated to the medieval or early post-medieval periods.

Charred plant remains by Joanna Pine

Eight soil sample of between 10L and 20L was taken for environmental remains and to enhance finds recovery. They were wet sieved using a 0.2mm mesh. Three of the samples 2 (53) <1>, 3 (54) <2> and 6 (58) <6> produced small amounts of charcoal, being larger than 2mm which may have potential for species identification. No other environmental evidence was present but several samples produced additional burnt flint.

Conclusion

The evaluation has revealed the presence of a number of ditches and two pits. Three of the ditches (4-6) contain brick fragments and are of post-medieval date, where as ditches 1, 7 and 8 are undated. The two intercutting pits (2 and 3) though, are possibly of prehistoric date with the later feature (2) containing a moderate quantity of burnt flint together with a single struck flint. The site can therefore be considered to have some archaeological potential.

References

- BGS, 1993, *British Geological Survey*, 1:50 000, Sheet 314, Solid and Drift Edition, Keyworth
- Coles, S, 2004, Three Bronze Age barrows at Mockbeggar Lane, Ibsley, Hampshire. In *Proceedings of the Hampshire Field Club Archaeol Soc 2004*, (Hampshire Stud **59**), 31-64
- Coles, S and Ford, S, 2011, Late Neolithic, Bronze Age, Roman and Saxon occupation and Bronze Age burial at Ibsley Quarry, Ibsley, Ringwood, Hampshire, Draft publication report, Thames Valley Archaeological Services report 04/41, Reading
- Harley, L S, 1974, 'A Typology of Brick; with numerical coding of brick characteristics', *J Brit Archaeol Assoc* 3rd ser **37**, 63-87
- NPPF, 2012, *National Planning Policy Framework*, Dept Communities and Local Govt, London

APPENDIX 1: Trench details

0m at S and SW ends

| <i>Trench</i> | <i>Length (m)</i> | <i>Breadth (m)</i> | <i>Depth (m)</i> | <i>Comment</i> |
|---------------|-------------------|--------------------|------------------|---|
| 1 | 20.20 | 1.60 | N=0.48, S=0.62 | 0-0.12m topsoil; 0.12-0.30m, 0.30m+ gravels natural geology a brownish yellow sand with abundant gravel. Ditch 1 and Pits 2 and 3. [Pls 1 and 3] |
| 2 | 5.50 | 1.60 | 0.58 | 0-0.15m topsoil; 0.15-0.47m, 0.47m+ gravels natural geology. |
| 3 | 25.50 | 1.60 | 0.48 | 0-0.10m topsoil; 0.10-0.36m, 0.36m+ gravels natural geology. Ditch 8 |
| 4 | 25.30 | 1.60 | 0.48 | 0--0.12m topsoil; 0.12-0.39m, 0.39m+ gravels natural geology. Ditches 4, 5, 6 and 7. [Pls 2 and 4] |

APPENDIX 2: Feature details

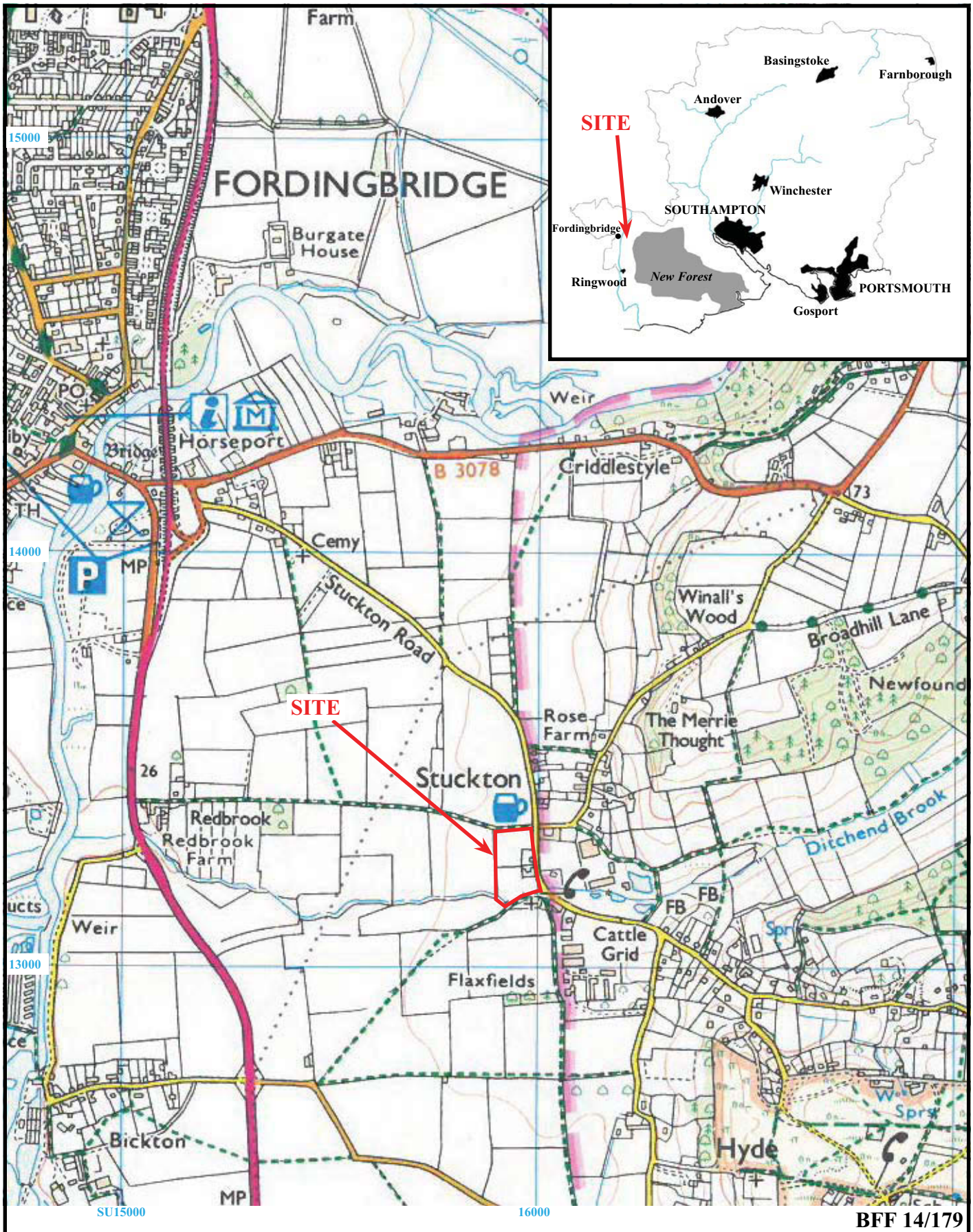
| <i>Cut</i> | <i>Fill</i> | <i>Trench</i> | <i>Type</i> | <i>Date</i> | <i>Dating evidence</i> |
|------------|-------------|---------------|-------------|---------------|------------------------|
| 1 | 52 | 1 | Ditch | | |
| 2 | 53 | 1 | Pit | Prehistoric? | Struck and burnt flint |
| 3 | 54 | 1 | Pit | Prehistoric? | Cut by 2; burnt flint |
| 4 | 60 | 4 | Ditch | Post-medieval | Brick |
| 5 | 57 | 4 | Ditch | Post-medieval | Brick |
| 6 | 58 | 4 | Ditch | Post-medieval | Brick |
| 7 | 59 | 4 | Ditch | | |
| 8 | 55-56 | 3 | Ditch | | |

APPENDIX 3: Burnt Flint

| <i>Cut</i> | <i>Deposit</i> | <i>Trench</i> | <i>Type</i> | <i>Sample no</i> | <i>No</i> | <i>Wt (g)</i> |
|------------|----------------|---------------|-------------|------------------|-----------|---------------|
| 1 | 52 | 1 | ditch | | 26 | 355 |
| 2 | 53 | 1 | pit | | 2 | 523 |
| 2 | 53 | 1 | pit | 1 | 5 | 65 |
| 3 | 54 | 1 | pit | | 3 | 248 |
| 3 | 54 | 1 | pit | 2 | 163 | 802 |
| 6 | 58 | 4 | ditch | | 1 | 334 |
| 6 | 58 | 4 | ditch | 6 | 71 | 244 |
| 8 | 55 | 3 | ditch | | 6 | 67 |
| 8 | 56 | 3 | ditch | 4 | 8 | 89 |

APPENDIX 4: Brick and tile

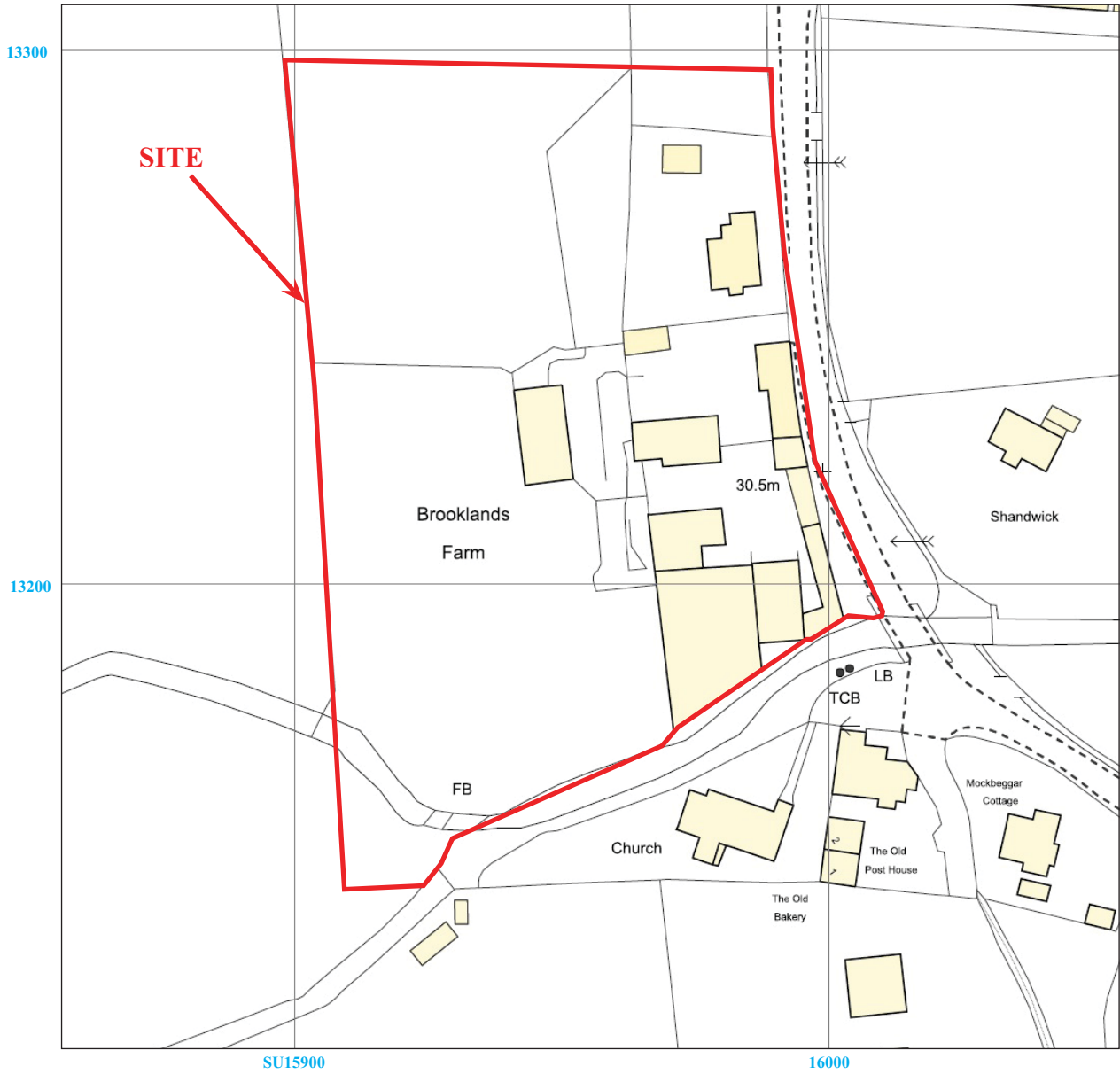
| <i>Cut</i> | <i>Deposit</i> | <i>Trench</i> | <i>Type</i> | <i>Brick/tile</i> | <i>No</i> | <i>Wt (g)</i> |
|------------|----------------|---------------|-------------|-------------------|-----------|---------------|
| 5 | 57 | 4 | ditch | brick | 2 | 257 |
| 6 | 58 | 4 | ditch | brick | 1 | 22 |
| 4 | 60 | 4 | ditch | brick | 1 | 971 |



**Land at Brooklands Farm, Stuckton, Fordingbridge,
Hampshire, 2014
Archaeological Evaluation**

Figure 1. Location of site in relation to Stuckton, Fordingbridge and within Hampshire.

Reproduced from Ordnance Survey Outdoor Leisure map 22 at 1:12500
Ordnance Survey Licence 100025880



BFF 14/179



**Land at Brooklands Farm, Stuckton, Fordingbridge,
Hampshire, 2014
Archaeological Evaluation**

Figure 2. Detailed location of site at Brooklands Farm.

Reproduced from Ordnance Survey Digital Mapping under licence.
Crown copyright reserved. Scale 1:1250

THAMES VALLEY
ARCHAEOLOGICAL
SERVICES



BFF 14/179

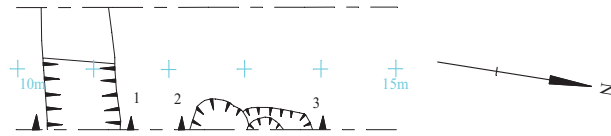
**Land at Brooklands Farm, Stuckton, Fordingbridge,
Hampshire, 2014
Archaeological Evaluation**

Figure 3. Location of trenches and features, with proposed new development.

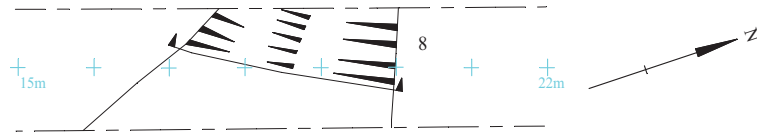


THAMES VALLEY
ARCHAEOLOGICAL
SERVICES

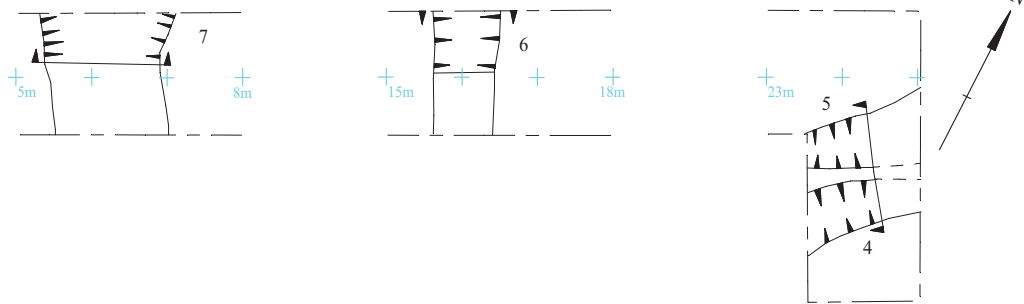
Trench 1



Trench 3



Trench 4



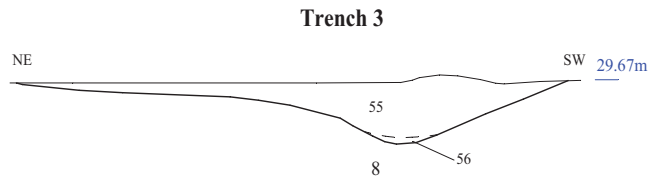
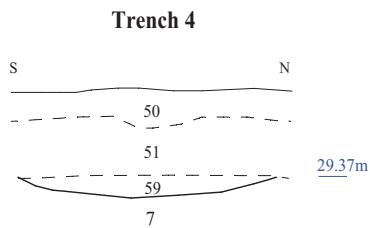
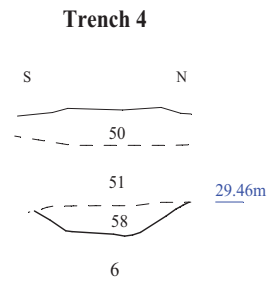
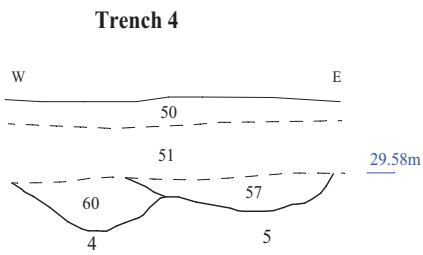
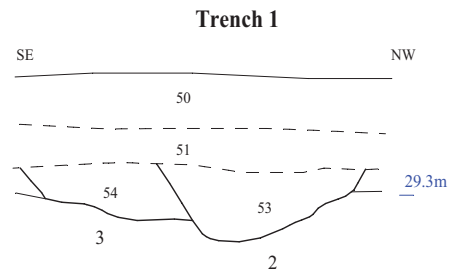
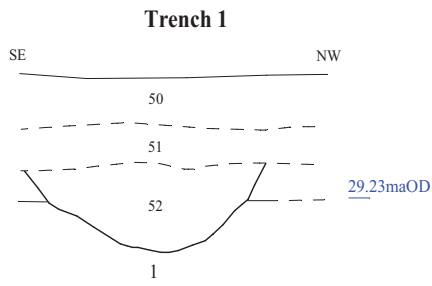
BFF 14/179

Land at Brooklands Farm, Stuckton, Fordingbridge,
Hampshire, 2014
Archaeological Evaluation

Figure 4. Detail of trenches.



THAMES VALLEY
ARCHAEOLOGICAL
SERVICES



BFF 14/179

**Land at Brooklands Farm, Stuckton, Fordingbridge,
Hampshire, 2014
Archaeological Evaluation**

Figure 5. Sections.



THAMES VALLEY
ARCHAEOLOGICAL
SERVICES



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



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

BFF 14/179

**Land at Brooklands Farm, Stuckton, Fordingbridge,
Hampshire, 2014**
Archaeological Evaluation
Plates 1 - 2.

THAMES VALLEY
ARCHAEOLOGICAL
SERVICES



Plate 3. Trench 1, ditch 1 and pits 2 and 3, looking east, Scales: 2m and 1m.



Plate 4. Trench 4, ditch 4 and 5, looking south west, Scales: horizontal 1m, vertical 0.5m and 0.1m.

BFF 14/179

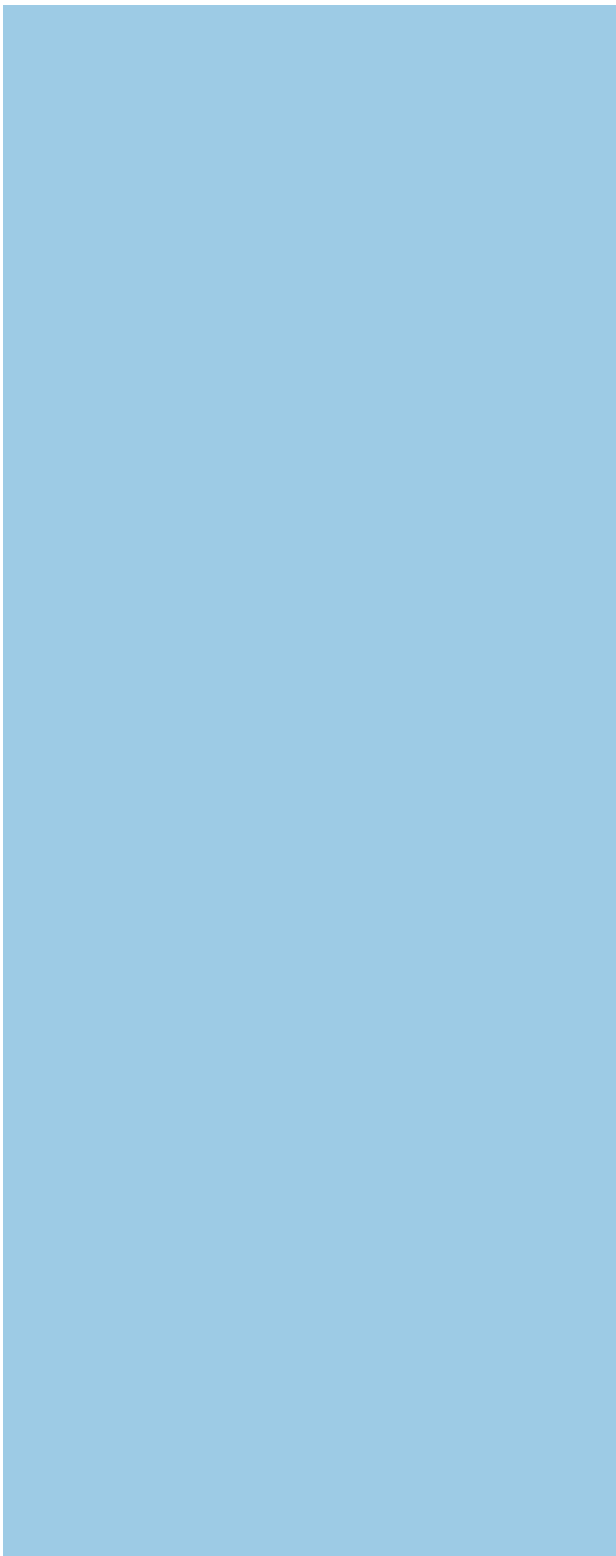
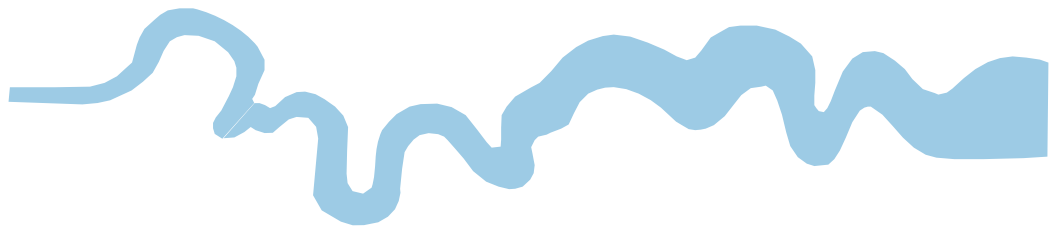
Land at Brooklands Farm, Stuckton, Fordingbridge,
Hampshire, 2014
Archaeological Evaluation
Plates 3 - 4.

THAMES VALLEY
ARCHAEOLOGICAL
SERVICES

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 |





**Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd,
47-49 De Beauvoir Road, Reading,
Berkshire, RG1 5NR**

**Tel: 0118 9260552
Fax: 0118 9260553
Email: tvas@tvas.co.uk
Web: www.tvas.co.uk**