

**T H A M E S      V A L L E Y**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL**

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

**Land at Brooklands Farm, Stuckton,  
Fordingbridge, Hampshire**

**Archaeological Recording Action**

**by Andy Taylor**

**Site Code: BFF14/179**

**(SU 1597 1320)**

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

**An Archaeological Recording Action**

**For Hampshire County Council**

by Andy Taylor

Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code BFF 14/179

**March 2015**

## Summary

**Site name:** Brooklands Farm, Stuckton, Fordingbridge, Hampshire

**Grid reference:** SU 1597 1320

**Site activity:** Recording Action

**Date and duration of project:** 27th January-2nd February 2015

**Project manager:** Steve Ford

**Site supervisor:** Andy Taylor

**Site code:** BFF 14/179

**Area of site:** c.900 sq m examined within site of 0.4 ha.

**Summary of results:** The watching brief has provided dating evidence for some of the features first recorded during the earlier evaluation, to suggest they are of medieval and post-medieval date but many discrete postholes remain undated. It is suggested that the linear features represent elements of paddocks and enclosures forming part of a medieval and later settlement. A few prehistoric flint flakes and a sherd of Roman pottery point to a small amount of earlier activity on or near the site.

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

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Report edited/checked by: Steve Ford ✓ 11.03.15 Steve Preston ✓ 16.03.15
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# Brooklands Farm, Stuckton, Fordingbridge, Hampshire An Archaeological Recording Action

by Andy Taylor

**Report 14/179b**

## **Introduction**

This report documents the results of an archaeological recording action carried out at Brooklands Farm, Stuckton, Fordingbridge, Hampshire (SU 1597 1320) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by My Ashley Potheary for Hampshire County Council.

Planning permission (14/11702) has been granted by New Forest District Council for improvements to existing buildings and the erection of new barns at Brooklands Farm. Following an earlier field evaluation further work was requested prior to construction works commencing.

This is in accordance with the Department for Communities and Local Government's *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF 2012) and the District Councils policies on archaeology. The field investigation was carried out to a specification approved by Mr David Hopkins, Archaeological Officer with Hampshire County Council, advisers to the District on matters relating to archaeology. The fieldwork was undertaken by Andy Taylor with Tom Stewart and Benedikt Tebbitt and the site code is BFF 14/179.

The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited with 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 and on the western edge of the New Forest (Fig. 1). It is on the western side of the Stuckton Road in a paddock to the west of the existing farmyard and is bounded by fields on its northern western and southern sides (Fig. 2). The underlying geology is mapped as Valley Gravels (BGS 1993), which were observed across the stripped areas. The site lies at a height of c.30m above Ordnance Datum.

## **Archaeological background**

The archaeological potential of the site stems from its location within the archaeologically rich Avon Valley with a range of sites recorded prior to gravel extraction (Coles 2004; Coles and Ford 2011). In particular it lies adjacent to a known Bronze Age barrow cemetery, now levelled but visible as cropmarks from the air. An earlier

evaluation on the site (Elliott and Pine 2014) identified post-medieval ditches as well as undated ditches and two inter-cutting pits of possible prehistoric date.

## **Objectives and methodology**

The purpose of the watching brief was to excavate and record any archaeological deposits that would be affected by the works. This was to consist of the ground reduction of the footprints of the proposed buildings. These areas were stripped of topsoil and subsoil by a 360° type machine fitted with a toothless grading bucket under constant archaeological supervision.

## **Results**

Three separate areas were investigated that identified a number of archaeological features (Fig. 3).

### Area A

This area was located on the western side of the site, centred on evaluation trench 3 and measured c.38m x 11.50m and was dug to a depth of c.0.40m. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.15m of topsoil overlying 0.25m of subsoil overlying gravel natural geology. Thirteen discrete features (pit/postholes), two ditches and a gully were revealed (Fig. 4).

### Pits and Postholes (Fig. 5)

<i>Cut</i>	<i>Fill</i>	<i>Width (m)</i>	<i>Depth (m)</i>	<i> Finds</i>
10	72	0.32	0.08	-
11	73	0.30	0.10	-
12	74	0.40	0.14	-
13	75	0.70	0.14	-
14	76	0.50	0.11	-
15	77	0.60	0.14	Burnt Flint
16	78	0.32	0.12	-
17	79	0.40	0.21	-
18	80	0.55	0.22	Burnt Flint
19	81	0.50	0.30	-
20	82	0.40	0.19	Burnt Flint
21	83	0.60	0.09	-
22	84	0.80	0.15	Roman Pottery, Burnt Flint

### Linear features

A large ditch (100), previously noted in evaluation trench 3, crossed this area aligned East-West. A slot was dug across it that showed it to have two cuts (39 and 40) (Fig. 6 and Pl. 3). Including the evaluation slot (8) this ditch produced 67 pieces of burnt flint. Ditch 1 in evaluation trench 1 may be a continuation of one of these features (Fig. 4).

Gully 101 was aligned East-West and was cut by ditch 102 and was investigated by two slots (25 and 27) (Fig. 5). It was 0.60m wide and 0.14m deep. No finds were recovered.

A ditch aligned approximately North-South was found to have two cuts (102 and 103) but no relationship was evident between them. Cut 102 was investigated by three slots (24, 26 and 29) (Fig. 5) which revealed it to be between 0.50m and 0.74m wide and 0.16m–0.25m deep. The three slots produced a total of 119 pieces of burnt flint. This ditch may be contemporary with ditch 107 in Area B, both of which are on similar alignments. Cut 103 (23 and 28) measured between 0.77m and 0.80m wide and between 0.30m and 0.33m deep (Pl. 1) and had a total of 61 pieces of burnt flint recovered from both slots.

#### Area B

This area was located to examine the development footprints of two structures that would be built around the deposits identified in evaluation Trench 4. No discrete features were noted in this area but a further six linear features were (Fig. 4).

Ditch 104 was aligned NW–SE and was cut by ditch 105. It was examined by two slots (32 and 33) and measured 1.30m wide and between 0.21m and 0.30m deep (Figs 5 and 6; Pl. 2). It produced a total of 13 sherds of early medieval pottery and three pieces of burnt flint.

Ditch 105 was aligned East-West, cut ditches 104 and 107, and was cut by 106. It was examined by four slots (31, 34, 37 and 43) which revealed it to be between 1m and 1.18m wide and between 0.18m and 0.26m deep (Figs 5 and 6). A single sherd of 17th-century pottery was recovered from this ditch.

Gully 106 was aligned NW–SE and was examined by two slots (35 and 36) (Fig. 6) which revealed it to be between 0.70m and 0.97m wide and 0.11m and 0.22m deep. It did not produce any dating evidence but from stratigraphy can be seen as later than ditch 105. (It is thus only coincidental that it was parallel to ditch 104).

Ditch 107 was aligned approximately North-South and parallel to ditch 102/103 in Area A. It was examined by three slots (30, 38 and 41) which revealed it to be 1.95m wide and between 0.44m and 0.47m deep. (Figs 5 and 6; Pl. 4). Slot 38 contained a sherd of early medieval pottery, three pieces of animal bone, a piece of tile and 26 pieces of burnt flint.

Finally, ditch 108 was aligned NW–SE and, including the evaluation, was examined by two slots (7 and 45) which revealed it to be 0.45m wide and 0.16m deep (Fig. 6). No dating evidence was recovered.

A length of gully was also located in this area. It was examined by slot (42) dug across the terminal end and revealed it to be 0.72m wide and 0.20m deep (Fig. 6). It produced burnt flint, 84 pieces. This may be the same as either gully 4 or 5 located at the north-eastern end of Trench 4 in the evaluation.

#### Area C

No archaeological deposits or finds were noted in this small area.

## **Finds**

### *Pottery* by Paul Blinkhorn

The pottery assemblage comprised 17 sherds with a total weight of 189g. It was all Saxo-Norman or later, apart from a small sherd of possible Roman Greyware. The following ware types were noted:

**Roman Greyware.** 1 sherd, 2g.

**GCW: Gritty Coarseware,** late 11th–12th century. Moderate to dense sub-angular quartz up to 1mm, rare flint up to 2mm. 14 sherds, 130g.

**HGS: Hard Grey Sandy Ware,** late 11th–12th century? Hard grey fabric, sub-angular quartz and chert/flint up to 1mm. 1 sherd, 31g.

**VER: Verwood Ware,** mid 17th–18th century. White ware with well-sorted, fine quartz inclusions and a pale-yellowish-green glaze (Draper 2002). 1 sherd, 26g.

The pottery occurrence by number and weight of sherds per context by fabric type is shown in Appendix 2. The sherd of Roman pottery is extremely abraded, to the extent that it is impossible to be entirely certain that it is Roman. It is highly likely to be residual.

The medieval fabrics are typical of the pottery of the Saxo-Norman period in the region, having similarities with material from Southampton (Brown 2002) and Christchurch (Thompson *et al.* 1983). All the medieval sherds are unglazed, with the sherds of GCW being somewhat under-fired and friable.

The sherd of Verwood Ware is from the base of an internally glazed bowl, a staple of the industry.

### *Animal Bone* by Ceri Falys

Three small fragments of animal bone were recovered from ditch 38 (99) (Appendix 3). Weighing just 9g, the pieces of bone are poorly preserved and have areas of extensive cortical exfoliation present. Two of the fragments are non-descript and cannot be identified to species or element of origin. The third and largest piece of bone is a portion of joint surface of a long bone of a large animal. No further information can be retrieved.

### *Struck Flint* by Steve Ford

A small collection comprising 4 struck flints were recovered from the site (Appendix 4). They were all flakes and all were broken but otherwise fresh. They appear to have been derived directly from a gravel source. None of the pieces are chronologically distinctive and only a broad Neolithic or Bronze Age date can be suggested.

### *Ceramic Building Material* by Danielle Milbank

A single piece of tile was recovered from ditch 38 (99) which comprises a medium hard clay fabric with frequent fine sandy and occasional fine groggy inclusions. The colour is a light red with a pale core, and the piece is 12mm thick and fairly even. The form and finish suggest that the piece is of broadly medieval date.

### *Burnt Flint* by Andy Taylor

A total of 736 pieces of burnt flint, most highly fragmentary, were recovered from the excavated features. None of these showed evidence of being worked. They weighed a total of 7228g (Appendix 5).

### *Charred Plant Remains* by Andy Taylor

A total of 10 samples were taken during the excavation, in addition to the eight taken during the evaluation. These were taken from 10 separate features measuring between 10 and 20L in volume. These were floated and sieved using a 0.25mm mesh. None of these produced any charred plant remains. Charcoal was recovered from five samples but not in any great quantity and none has been identified.

## **Conclusion**

The stripped areas revealed a moderately dense area of archaeological deposits. At the north end of the site there was a cluster of discrete features. These were not dated and they formed no discernible pattern representing structural remains. Elsewhere the remaining archaeology comprised various linear features, some as substantial ditches and others as ephemeral gullies. Several of these linear features produced dating and stratigraphic evidence to suggest that they represented activity within both medieval and early post-medieval times. It is considered that these represent various paddocks relatively close to an occupied area but otherwise sufficiently removed from waste disposal zone which accounts for the paucity of dating evidence. The Roman sherd and prehistoric struck flints also point to some activity on the site in these times, but representing no more than casual loss or discard, within a landscape setting, or the manuring of farmland.

## **References**

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## APPENDIX 1: Catalogue of Excavated Features

<i>Cut</i>	<i>Deposit</i>	<i>Group</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Area</i>	<i>Sample</i>	<i>Date</i>
1	52	-	Ditch	Ev		
2	53	-	Pit	Ev	1	
3	54	-	Pit	Ev	2	
4	60	-	Ditch	Ev	8	Post-medieval
5	57	-	Ditch	Ev	5	Post-medieval
6	58	-	Ditch	Ev	6	Post-medieval
7	59	108	Ditch	B (Ev)	7	
8	55-6	100	Ditch	A (Ev)	3 and 4	
9	Not used					
10	72	-	Posthole	A		
11	73	-	Posthole	A		
12	74	-	Posthole	A		
13	75	-	Pit	A		
14	76	-	Pit	A		
15	77	-	Pit	A	17	
16	78	-	Pit	A		
17	79	-	Pit	A		
18	80	-	Pit	A		
19	81	-	Pit	A		
20	82	-	Pit	A	18	
21	83	-	Pit	A		
22	84	-	Pit	A	19	Roman or later
23	70	103	Ditch	A		
24	71	102	Ditch	A		
25	85	101	Gully	A		
26	86	102	Gully	A		
27	91	101	Gully	A		
28	87	103	Gully	A	10	
29	88	102	Gully	A	11	
30	89	107	Gully	B		Medieval or later
31	90	105	Ditch	B		
32	92	104	Ditch	B		Medieval
33	93	104	Ditch	B		Medieval
34	94	105	Ditch	B		
35	95	106	Gully Terminus	B		
36	96	106	Gully	B		
37	97	105	Ditch	B		Post-medieval
38	98-9	107	Ditch	B		Medieval or later
39	150	100	Ditch	B	12	
40	151	100	Ditch	B		
41	152-4	107	Ditch	B	13	Medieval or later
42	155	-	Gully Terminus	B	14	
43	156	105	Ditch	B	15	Post-medieval
44	157	108	Gully	B	16	
45	158	108	Gully	B		

**APPENDIX 2: Catalogue of Pottery**

<i>Cut</i>	<i>Fill</i>	<i>Roman</i>		<i>GCW</i>		<i>HGS</i>		<i>VER</i>		<i>Date</i>
		<i>No</i>	<i>Wt</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Wt</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Wt</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Wt</i>	
22	84	1	2							Roman?
32	92			4	35					Late 11th to 12th century
33	93			9	94					Late 11th to 12th century
37	97							1	26	Mid 17th century
38	99					1	31			Late 11th to 12th century
43	150			1	1					Late 11th to 12th century
	Total	1	2	14	130	1	31	1	26	

**APPENDIX 3:** Catalogue of Animal Bone

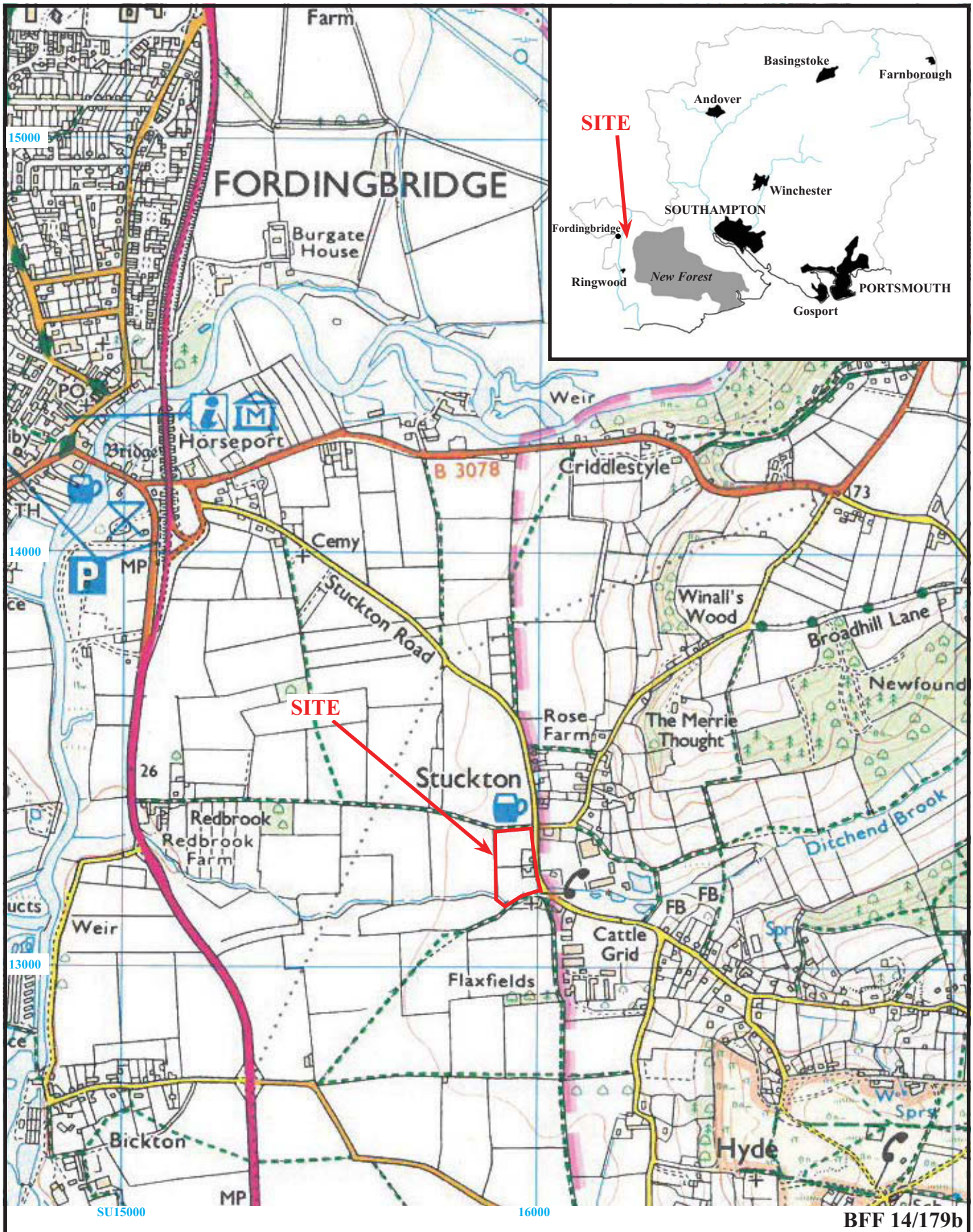
<i>Cut</i>	<i>Deposit</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Area</i>	<i>No Frags</i>	<i>Wt (g)</i>
38	99	Ditch	B	3	9

**APPENDIX 4: Catalogue of Struck Flint**

<i>Cut</i>	<i>Fill</i>	<i>Feature</i>	<i>Sample number</i>	<i>Flint Type</i>
29	88	Gully	11	Flake
32	92	Ditch	-	Flake
39	150	Ditch	-	2 Flakes

**APPENDIX 5: Catalogue of Burnt Flint**

<i>Cut</i>	<i>Deposit</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Area</i>	<i>Sample</i>	<i>No.</i>	<i>Wt (g)</i>
15	77	Pit	A	17	120	1222
20	82	Pit	A	18	171	2665
22	84	Pit	A	19	12	33
23	70	Ditch	A		7	96
24	71	Ditch	A		15	186
26	86	Gully	A		12	322
28	87	Gully	A		10	101
28	87	Gully	A	10	44	78
29	88	Gully	A	11	92	267
32	92	Ditch	B		3	185
38	98	Ditch	B		26	569
39	150	Ditch	B	12	53	613
41	153	Ditch	B	13	30	210
42	155	Gully Terminus	B	14	84	227
43	156	Ditch	B	15	36	213
44	157	Gully	B	16	21	241



**Land at Brooklands Farm, Stuckton, Fordingbridge,  
Hampshire, 2015**

**Archaeological Recording Action**

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

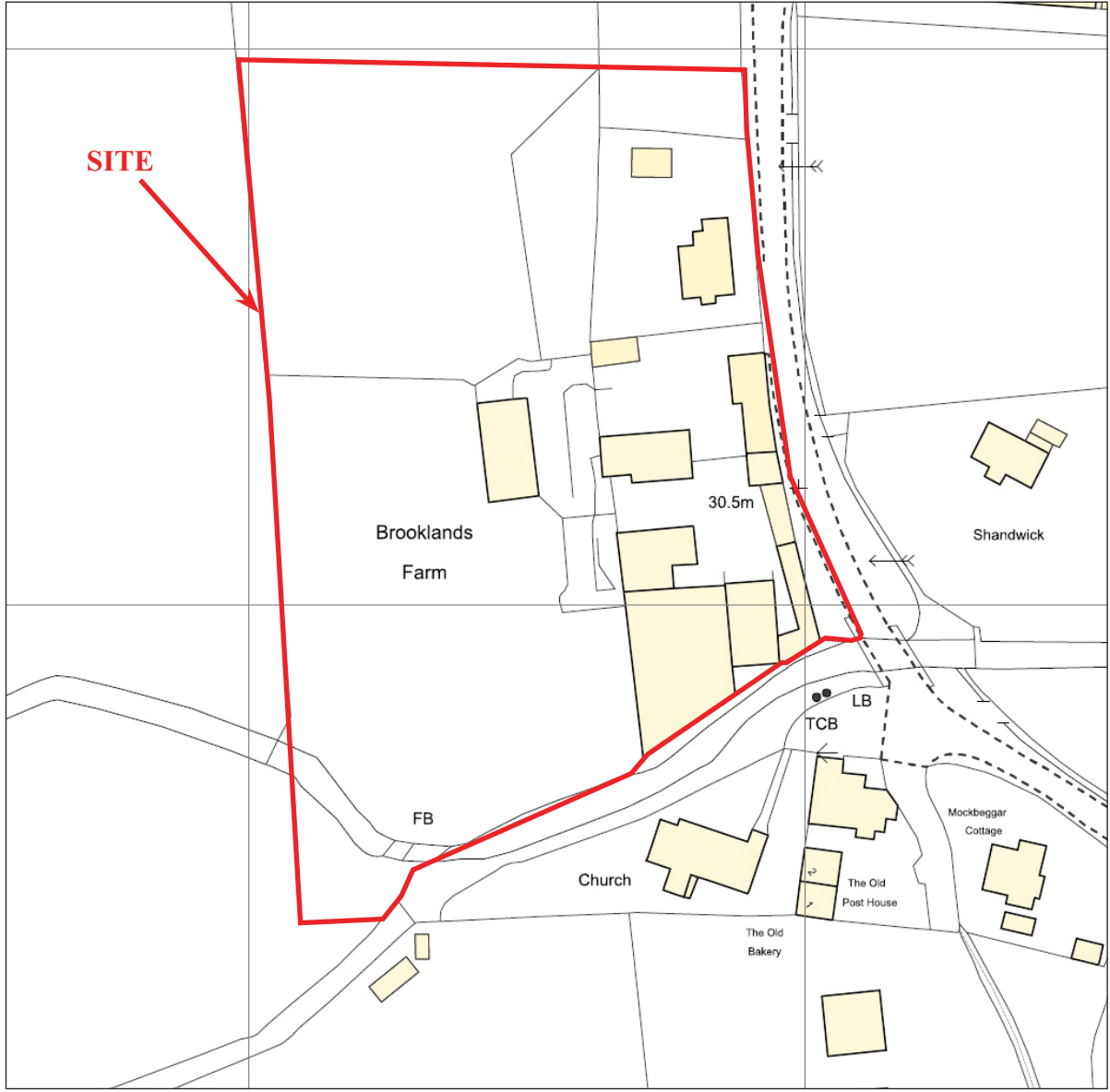
Reproduced from Ordnance Survey Outdoor Leisure map 22 at 1:12500  
Ordnance Survey Licence 100025880



13300

**SITE**

13200



SU15900

16000

**BFF 14/179b**



**Land at Brooklands Farm, Stuckton, Fordingbridge,  
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Archaeological Recording Action**

Figure 2. Detailed location of site at Brooklands Farm.

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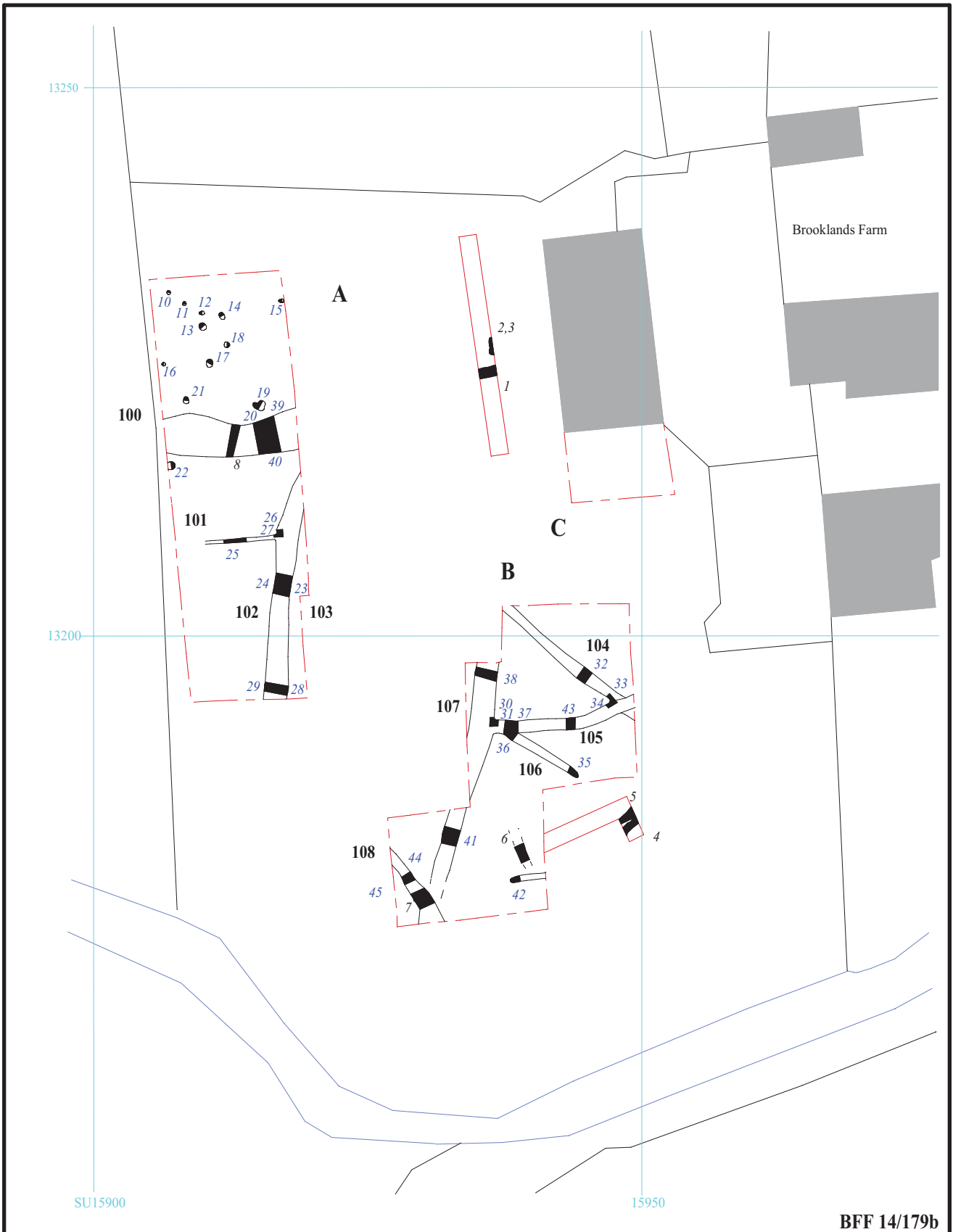
**Land at Brooklands Farm, Stuckton, Fordingbridge,  
Hampshire, 2015  
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Figure 3. Location of trenches and features, with proposed new development.



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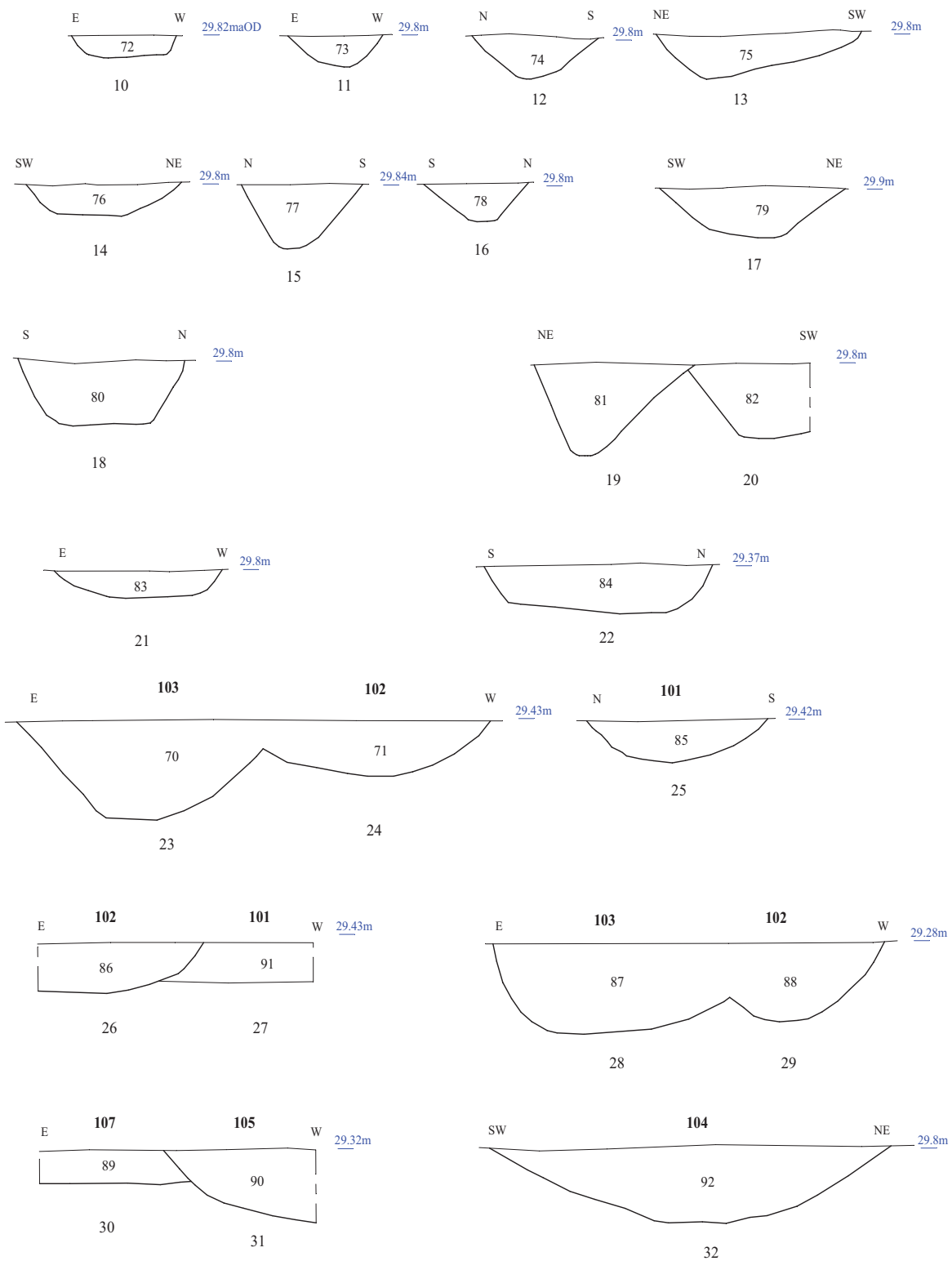
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Figure 4. Location of features.



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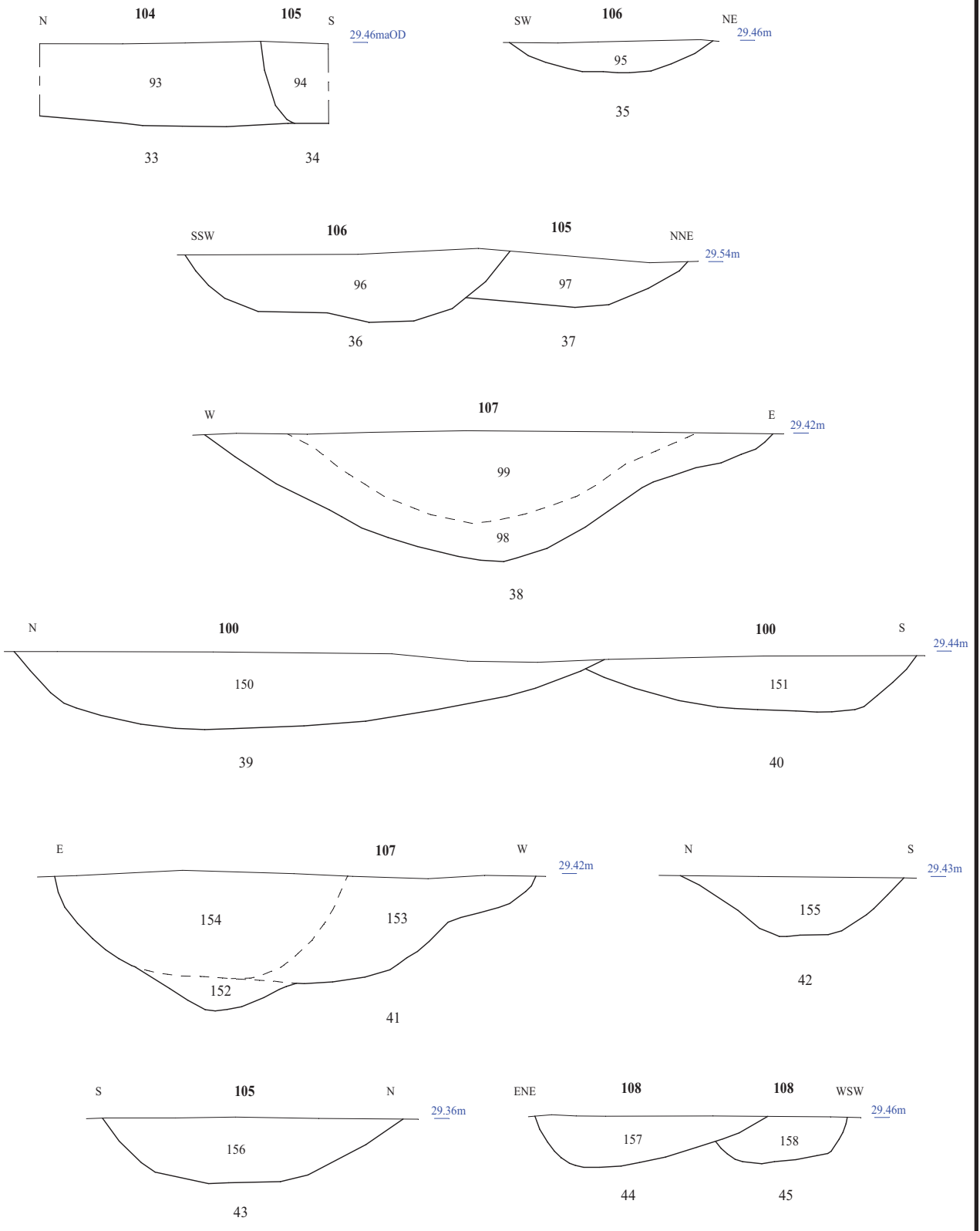
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Figure 5. Sections.



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Figure 6. Sections.



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Plate 1. Ditch 23 and 24, looking south, Scales: horizontal 1m, vertical 0.3m and 0.1m.



Plate 2. Ditch 32, looking north west, Scales: 1m and 0.1m.

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Plates 1 - 2.**

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Plate 3. Ditch 39 and 40, looking south, Scales: horizontal 2m, vertical 0.3m and 0.1m.



Plate 4. Ditch 41, looking south, Scales: 1m and 0.3m.

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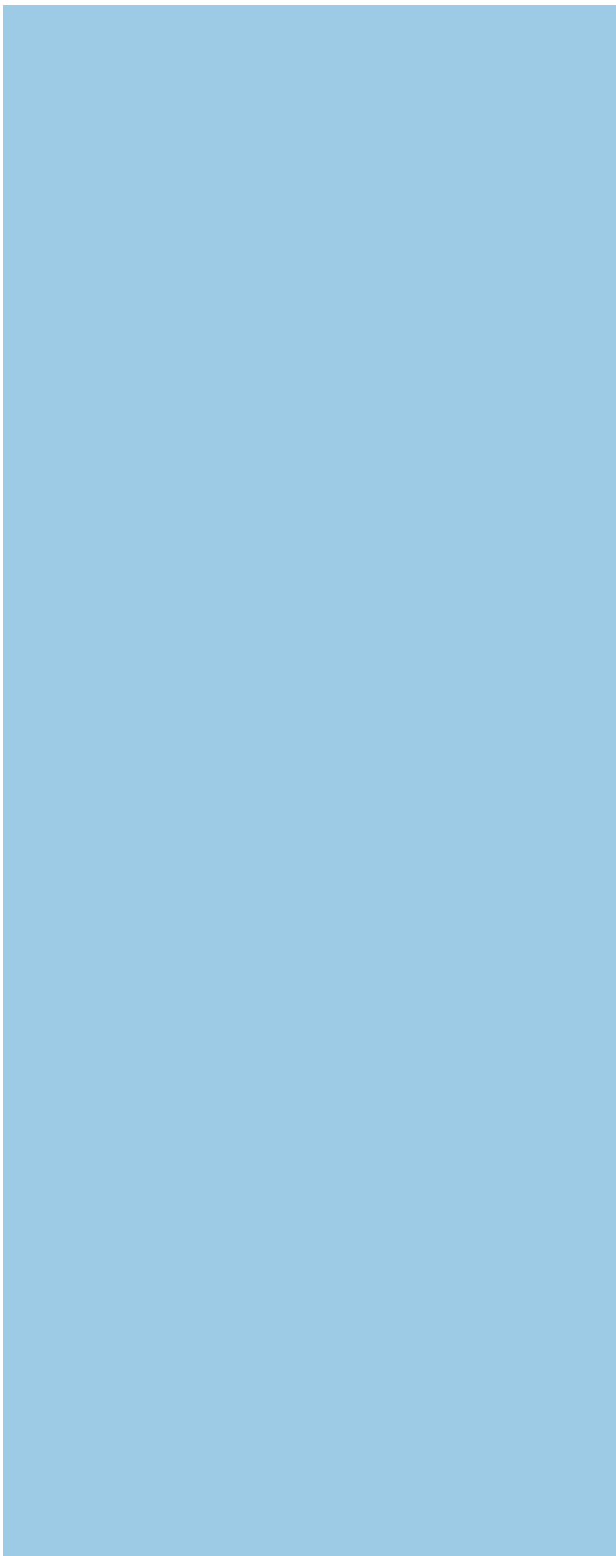
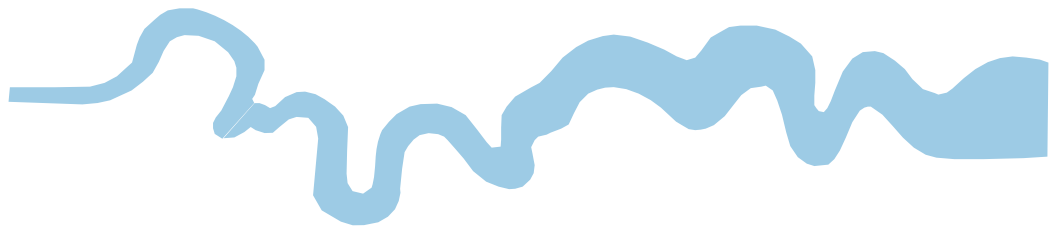
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Plates 3 - 4.

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## TIME CHART

	<b>Calendar Years</b>
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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