

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

ARCHAEOLOGICAL

S E R V I C E S

**Land at the corner of Knowle Lane and
Mortimer's Lane, Fair Oak, Hampshire**

Archaeological Evaluation

by Daniel Bray

Site Code: KLF15/104

(SU 5050 1882)

Land at the corner of Knowle Lane and Mortimer's Lane, Fair Oak, Hampshire

An Archaeological Evaluation

for Drew Smith

by Daniel Bray

Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code KLF 15/104

June 2015

Summary

Site name: Land at the corner of Knowle Lane and Mortimer's Lane, Fair Oak, Hampshire

Grid reference: SU 5050 1882

Site activity: Archaeological Evaluation

Date and duration of project: 8th – 12th June 2015

Project manager: Steve Ford

Site supervisor: Daniel Bray

Site code: KLF 15/104

Area of site: 2.69 ha

Summary of results: The evaluation recorded the presence of several cut features of late post-medieval date and one possibly Medieval which most likely relate to old field boundaries. No deposits of archaeological interest were observed. A few prehistoric struck flints were the only artefacts of interest but these were recovered from the subsoil.

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

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www.tvas.co.uk/reports/reports.asp.*

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| Report edited/checked by: Steve Ford ✓ 24.06.15 Steve Preston ✓ 24.06.15 |
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Land at the corner of Knowles Lane and Mortimer's Lane, Fair Oak, Hampshire An Archaeological Evaluation

by Daniel Bray

Report 15/104

Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological field evaluation carried out on land at the corner of Knowles Lane and Mortimer's Lane, Fair Oak, Eastleigh, Hampshire (SU 5050 1882) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Mr Paul White of Drew Smith, Drew Smith House, Mill Court, The Sawmills, Durley, Southampton, SO32 2EJ.

Planning permission has been gained under appeal from Eastleigh Borough Council (APP/W1715/A/14/2219953) to develop the site for housing with associated road, parking and landscaping. The permission is subject to conditions (8, 9 and 10) relating to archaeology, which require the implementation of a programme of archaeological work prior to the commencement of groundworks.

This is in accordance with the Department for Communities and Local Government's *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF 2012), and the Borough Council's policies on archaeology. The field investigation was carried out to a specification approved by Mr Neil Adam of Hampshire County Council. The fieldwork was undertaken by Daniel Bray, Laurie Greenaway and Thomas Stewart between 8th and 12th June 2015 with the site code KLF 15/104. The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited at Hampshire Cultural Trust in due course.

Location, topography and geology

The site is located on the eastern edge of Fair Oak (Fig. 1). It consists of a trapezoidal parcel of land with Mortimer's Lane to the north and Knowles Lane to the west. Fields used for pasture border the site to the east and a sand quarry is to the south. The field slopes steeply from 60.80m above Ordnance Datum (aOD) in the north to 55.90m aOD in the south. A terrace had been created in the north western corner which was 62.10m aOD. The natural geology was mapped as London Clay undivided sand and Whitecliff Sand and Pebble Beds (BGS 1987). Clay, sand and silt geologies were encountered.

Archaeological background

The archaeological potential of the site stems from a number of archaeological finds and sites recorded in the Hampshire Archaeological and Historic Building Record for the vicinity of the proposed development site reflecting activity particularly in the Mesolithic, Late Iron Age, Roman and medieval periods. An excavation and fieldwalking to the southeast recovered worked flint and post-medieval pottery as well as finding an early Roman ditch and two pits. Further Roman ditches were also found to the south of the site. To the southwest a number of worked flints are recorded as having been found. Further flints were found during a watching brief to the south which also found 10 possible hearths, Bronze Age pits, numerous late Iron Age postholes, a field system, numerous ditches, a possible enclosure and a post built structure and a Roman enclosure and field system.

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 were;

- to determine if archaeologically relevant levels have survived on this site;
- to determine if archaeological deposits of any period are present; and
- to inform a strategy for mitigation if required

It was proposed to excavate 32 trenches, each 20m long and 1.6m wide, positioned over the location of the proposed housing and landscaping. The trenches were to be excavated by a JCB type machine fitted 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 deposit exposed where to be excavated and sampled by hand to satisfy the aims of the project.

Results

All 32 trenches were dug as intended (Fig. 3). They ranged in length from 19.40m to 20.70m and were between 0.16m and 0.71m deep. All trenches were 1.60m wide. A complete list of trenches giving lengths, breadths, depths and a description of sections and geology is given in Appendix 1. Only the trenches containing artefacts or cut features are described below.

Trench 1 (Fig 3-5; Pl. 1)

Trench 1 was aligned SE - NW and was 20.30m long and 0.35m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.30m of topsoil and 0.05m of subsoil overlying the natural brown yellow silty clay geology. No archaeological features were present but a single broken flint flake was recovered from the subsoil.

Trench 4 (Figs 3-5)

Trench 4 was aligned N - S and was 19.70m long and 0.35m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.19m of topsoil and 0.16m of subsoil overlying the natural brown orange silty clay geology. Ditch (6) was recorded which was 1.80m wide and 0.52m deep and was aligned east-west. The dark brown grey silty clay deposit (52) contained modern brick, clay pipe and glass.

Trench 5 (Figs 3-5; Pl. 2)

Trench 5 was aligned E - W and was 19.60m long and 0.38m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.28m of topsoil and 0.10m of subsoil overlying natural brown orange silty clay geology. Ditch (1) was recorded which was 0.80m wide and 0.24m deep and filled with a mid brown grey sandy clay deposit (52). A single fragment of modern glass was recovered.

Trench 6 (Figs 3-5)

Trench 6 was aligned ESE - WNW and was 19.50m long and 0.34m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.32m of topsoil directly overlying the mid brown yellow silty clay natural geology. Ditch (5) recorded at the SE end was the same as the ditch seen in Trench 5. It was 0.70m wide and 0.20m deep. Modern Brick and glass was recovered.

Trench 9 (Fig. 3)

Trench 9 was aligned NE - SW and was 20.00m long and 0.44m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.34m of topsoil and 0.10m of subsoil overlying the natural brown yellow clay sand geology. No archaeological features were recorded but a narrow flint flake was recovered from the subsoil.

Trench 11 (Figs 3-5; Pls 3, 5 and 6)

Trench 11 was aligned NW - SE and was 19.80m long and 0.34m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.28m of topsoil and 0.06m of subsoil overlying the mid brown orange clay sand natural geology. A sondage was excavated through a large feature which revealed a pit (2) and possible linear (3). No clear stratigraphic relationship between the two was present and no finds recovered. At the northern end of the trench shallow ditch

(4) was recorded which was 2.20m wide and 0.21m deep. A total of 9 fragments of possibly medieval ceramic building material was recovered.

Trench 13 (Fig. 3)

Trench 13 was aligned NE - SW and was 20.40m long and 0.71m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.71m of made ground above the brown yellow sand. A large patch of sand stone was present at the eastern end of the trench. No Features were observed but two broken flint flakes were recovered.

Trench 15 (Fig. 3)

Trench 15 was aligned E - W and was 20.40m long and 0.64m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.28m of topsoil and 0.06m of subsoil overlying the natural brown yellow sand geology. No archaeological features were present but an intact flint flake was recovered from the subsoil.

Trench 26 (Figs 3-5; Pl. 4)

Trench 26 was aligned NNE - SSW and was 19.80m long and 0.40m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.30m of topsoil and 0.10m of subsoil directly overlying the natural mid brown orange sandy silt geology which had large sandstone inclusions. At the northern end of the trench an unexcavated gully (8) was recorded which was aligned NNW-SSE. Modern brick and glass was observed on the surface.

Trench 29 (Figs 3-5)

Trench 29 was aligned SE - NW and was 19.80m long and 0.40m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.26m of topsoil and 0.09m of subsoil overlying natural geology. A north – south ditch (7) was excavated at the southern end of the trench which was 1.40m wide and 0.42m deep. The dark brown grey silty clay fill (58) produced fragments of clay pipe.

Trench 31 (Figs 3-5)

Trench 31 was aligned NE – SW and was 19.90m long and 0.42m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.28m of topsoil and 0.10m of subsoil overlying the brown yellow silty clay natural geology. Two unexcavated ditches (9 and 10) were recorded.

Trench 32 (Figs 3-5)

Trench 32 was aligned SE - NW and was 19.80m long and 0.40m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.28m of topsoil and 0.10m of subsoil overlying the natural geology. Two unexcavated linear features (11 and 12), which are the same as the two recorded in trench 31, were observed.

Finds

Ceramic Building Material by Danielle Milbank

A total of 304g of ceramic building material (9 fragments) were recovered during the evaluation, all of which were recovered from ditch 4 (55). The fabric was examined at x10 magnification. The fragments were tile, of a slightly soft fine clay fabric with sparse fine groggy inclusions. The colour is a light orange red and there is some yellow lensing.

All the tile fragments have a rough underside, indicating that they were made using a sanded mould. The majority of the tile fragments which were recovered were flat, with an uneven finish, typically 15mm thick, and cannot be closely dated. They are roof tile fragments, and it is possible that they represent peg tiles, where the pierced part is not present.

This type of tile was produced from the late 12th to 19th century, though it did not become widespread until the late 13th century and was generally limited to high-status buildings before becoming more common from the 15th century onwards. These examples are likely to be of medieval rather than post-medieval date.

Struck Flint by Steve Ford

A small collection comprising 5 struck flints was recovered from the site. The flints are not chronologically distinctive but are probably of Neolithic or Bronze Age date.

Catalogue

Tr 1 Broken flake

Tr 9 Narrow flake

Tr 13 2 Broken flakes (patinated)

Tr 15 Intact flake

Conclusion

The evaluation has recorded the presence of several cut features, and a number of artefacts of archaeological interest. However, most of the cut features were shown to be of late post-medieval date and are probably old field boundaries. No deposits of archaeological interest were observed. A few prehistoric struck flints were the only artefacts of interest recovered. These indicate no more than a low level of activity in this area and are likely to represent no more than casual loss or discard within the wider landscape well away from any settlement focus. On the basis of these results, the site is considered to have no archaeological potential.

References

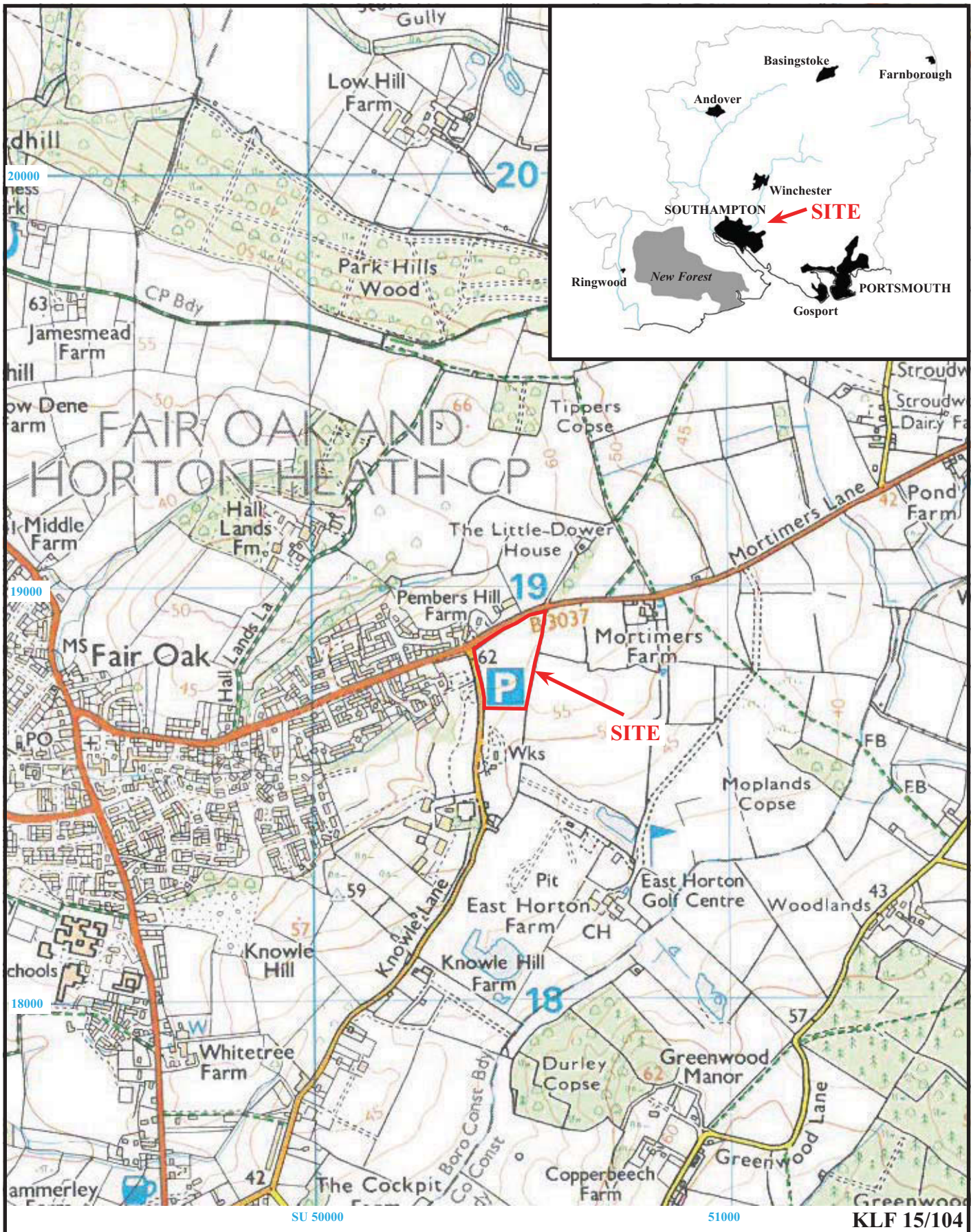
BGS, 1987, *British Geological Survey*, 1:50000, Sheet 315, Solid and Drift Edition, Keyworth
NPPF, 2012, *National Planning Policy Framework*, Dept Communities and Local Govt, London

APPENDIX 1: Trench details

| <i>Trench</i> | <i>Length (m)</i> | <i>Breadth (m)</i> | <i>Depth (m)</i> | <i>Comment</i> |
|---------------|-------------------|--------------------|------------------|--|
| 1 | 20.30 | 1.60 | 0.35 | 0-0.30m topsoil; 0.30m-0.35m subsoil; 0.35m+ mid brown yellow silty clay natural geology. [Pl. 1] |
| 2 | 20.70 | 1.60 | 0.38 | 0-0.26 topsoil; 0.26m-0.36m subsoil; 0.36m+ mid brown yellow silty clay natural geology |
| 3 | 20.40 | 1.60 | 0.35 | 0-0.35m topsoil; 0.35m+ mid brown yellow silty clay natural geology |
| 4 | 19.70 | 1.60 | 0.35 | 0-0.19m topsoil; 0.19m-0.35m subsoil; 0.35m+ mid brown yellow silty clay natural geology. Ditch 6 |
| 5 | 19.60 | 1.60 | 0.38 | 0-0.28m topsoil; 0.28m-0.38m subsoil; 0.38m+ mid brown orange silty clay natural geology. Ditch 1. [Pl. 2] |
| 6 | 19.50 | 1.60 | 0.34 | 0-0.32m topsoil; 0.32m+ mid brown yellow silty clay. Ditch 5 |
| 7 | 20.10 | 1.60 | 0.40 | 0-0.28m topsoil; 0.28m-0.40m subsoil; 0.40m+ mid brown yellow silty clay natural geology |
| 8 | 20.00 | 1.60 | 0.38 | 0-0.25m topsoil; 0.25m-0.38m subsoil; 0.38m+ light brown yellow silty sand natural geology |
| 9 | 20.00 | 1.60 | 0.44 | 0-0.34m topsoil; 0.34m-0.44m subsoil; 0.44m light brown yellow clay sand natural geology |
| 10 | 20.00 | 1.60 | 0.38 | 0-0.32m topsoil; 0.32m-0.38m subsoil; 0.38m+ light brown yellow clay sand natural geology |
| 11 | 19.80 | 1.60 | 0.34 | 0-0.28m topsoil; 0.28m-0.34m subsoil; 0.34m+ mid brown orange clay sand natural geology. Large feature 2 and 3, Ditch 4. [Pls 3, 5 and 6] |
| 12 | 20.20 | 1.60 | 0.37 | 0-0.37m made ground; 0.37m+ mid brown yellow sand natural geology |
| 13 | 20.40 | 1.60 | 0.71 | 0-0.71m made ground; 0.71m+ mid brown yellow sand natural geology |
| 14 | 20.20 | 1.60 | 0.43 | 0-0.43m topsoil; 0.43m+ mid brown orange clay sand natural geology |
| 15 | 20.40 | 1.60 | 0.64 | 0-0.28m topsoil; 0.28m-0.34m subsoil; 0.34m+ light brown yellow sand natural geology |
| 16 | 20.30 | 1.60 | 0.66 | 0-0.34m topsoil; 0.34m+ light brown yellow sand natural geology |
| 17 | 19.80 | 1.60 | 0.64 | 0-0.27m topsoil; 0.27m-0.36m subsoil; 0.36m+ light brown yellow sand natural geology |
| 18 | 20.10 | 1.60 | 0.47 | 0-0.20m topsoil; 0.20-0.47m subsoil; 0.47m+ light brown yellow natural geology with bands of mid brown orange sandy clay |
| 19 | 19.40 | 1.60 | 0.27 | 0-0.12m topsoil; 0.12m+ light brown yellow sand natural geology. Modern truncations at southern end |
| 20 | 20.20 | 1.60 | 0.16-0.40 | 0-0.14m topsoil (0.24 at SE end); 0.14m+ light brown yellow sand natural geology with bands of mid brown orange sandy clay |
| 21 | 19.80 | 1.60 | 0.50 | 0-0.29m topsoil; 0.29m+ light brown yellow sand natural geology |
| 22 | 19.90 | 1.60 | 0.62 | 0-0.31m topsoil; 0.31m-0.53m subsoil; 0.53m mid brown yellow clay sand natural geology |
| 23 | 19.50 | 1.60 | 0.33 | 0-0.25m topsoil; 0.25m+ light brown yellow clay sand natural geology |
| 24 | 20.00 | 1.60 | 0.59 | 0-0.28m topsoil; 0.28m-0.39m subsoil; 0.39m+ light brown yellow sand natural geology |
| 25 | 19.90 | 1.60 | 0.59 | 0-0.28m topsoil; 0.28m-0.38m subsoil; 0.38m+ mid brown orange sandy silt natural; geology |
| 26 | 20.20 | 1.60 | 0.40 | 0-0.30m topsoil; 0.30m-0.38m subsoil; 0.38m+ mid brown orange sandy silt natural geology. Modern ditch. [Pl. 4] |
| 27 | 19.80 | 1.60 | 0.45 | 0-0.30m topsoil; 0.30m-0.40m subsoil; 0.40m+ mid orange brown sand natural geology |
| 28 | 20.50 | 1.60 | 0.40 | 0-0.25m topsoil; 0.25m-0.37m subsoil; 0.37m+ orange brown sand natural geology with large sand stone inclusions |
| 29 | 19.80 | 1.60 | 0.40 | 0-0.26m topsoil; 0.26m-0.35m subsoil; 0.35m+ mid yellow brown silty clay natural geology. Ditch |
| 30 | 20.20 | 1.60 | 0.42 | 0-0.28m topsoil; 0.28m-0.38m subsoil; 0.38m+ brown yellow silty clay natural geology |
| 31 | 19.90 | 1.60 | 0.35 | 0-0.25m topsoil; 0.25m-0.35m subsoil; 0.35m mid brown orange silty clay natural geology. Ditch |
| 32 | 19.80 | 1.60 | 0.40 | 0-0.28m topsoil; 0.28-0.38m subsoil; 0.38m+ mid brown orange silty clay natural geology. Ditch |

APPENDIX 2: Feature details

| <i>Trench</i> | <i>Cut</i> | <i>Fill (s)</i> | <i>Type</i> | <i>Date</i> | <i>Dating evidence</i> |
|---------------|------------|-----------------|-------------------|-------------|--------------------------------------|
| 5 | 1 | 52 | Ditch | Modern | Glass, Cartographic |
| 11 | 2 | 53 | Pit | | |
| 11 | 3 | 54 | Poss Linear | | |
| 11 | 4 | 55 | Ditch | Medieval? | CBM |
| 6 | 5 | 56 | Ditch | Modern | Glass, cartographic |
| 4 | 6 | 57 | Ditch | Modern | China,clay pipe, glass, cartographic |
| 29 | 7 | 58 | Ditch | Modern | Clay Pipe |
| 26 | 8 | | Unexcavated ditch | Modern | |
| 31 | 9 | | Unexcavated ditch | Modern | |
| 31 | 10 | | Unexcavated ditch | Modern | |
| 32 | 11 | | Unexcavated ditch | Modern | |
| 32 | 12 | | Unexcavated ditch | Modern | |

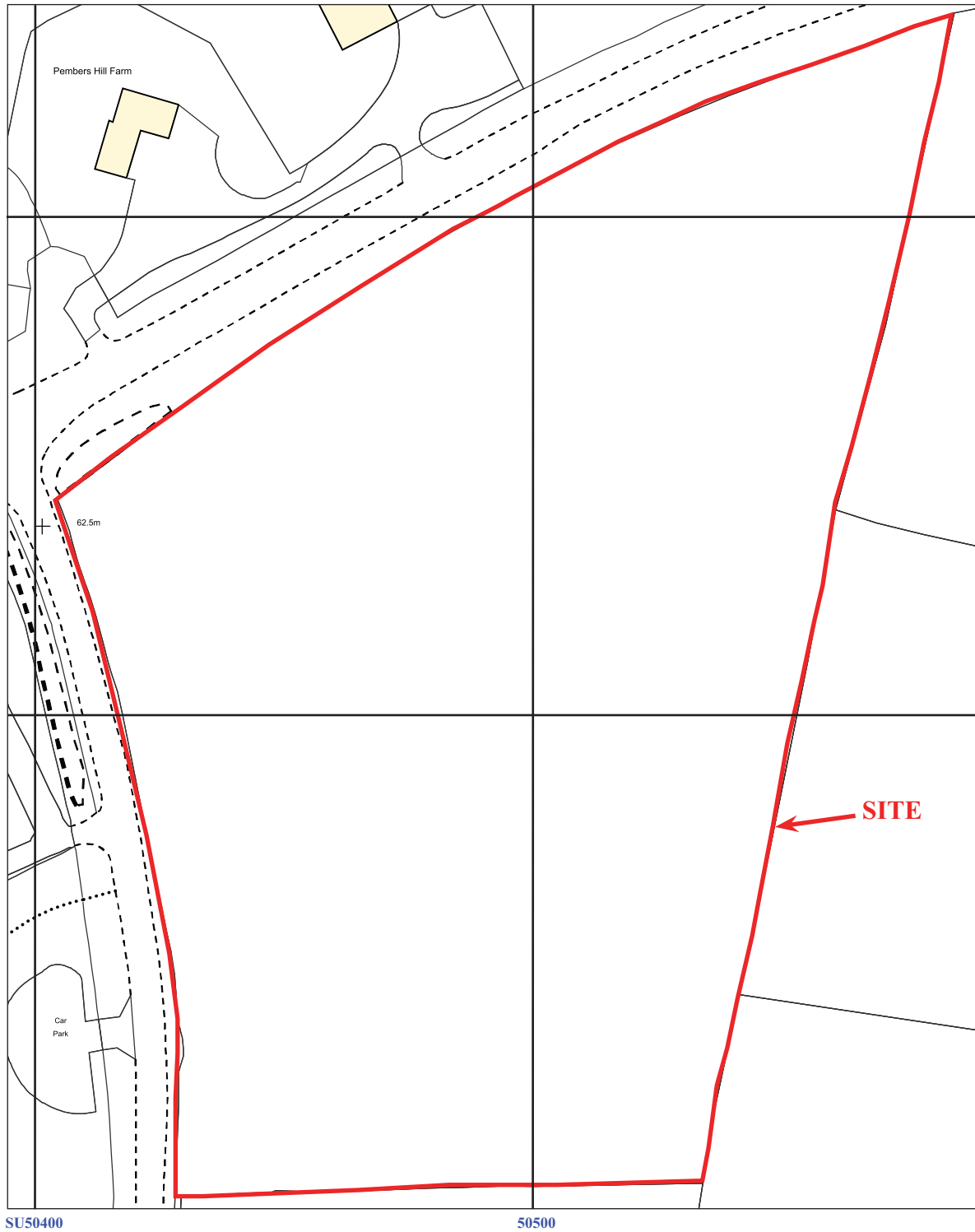


**Land at the corner of Knowle Lane and Mortimer's Lane,
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Figure 1. Location of site within Fair Oak and Hampshire

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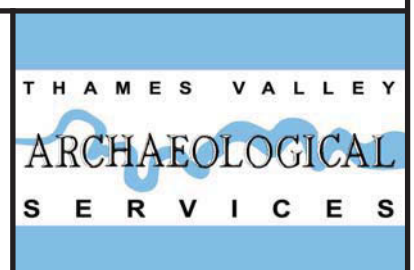


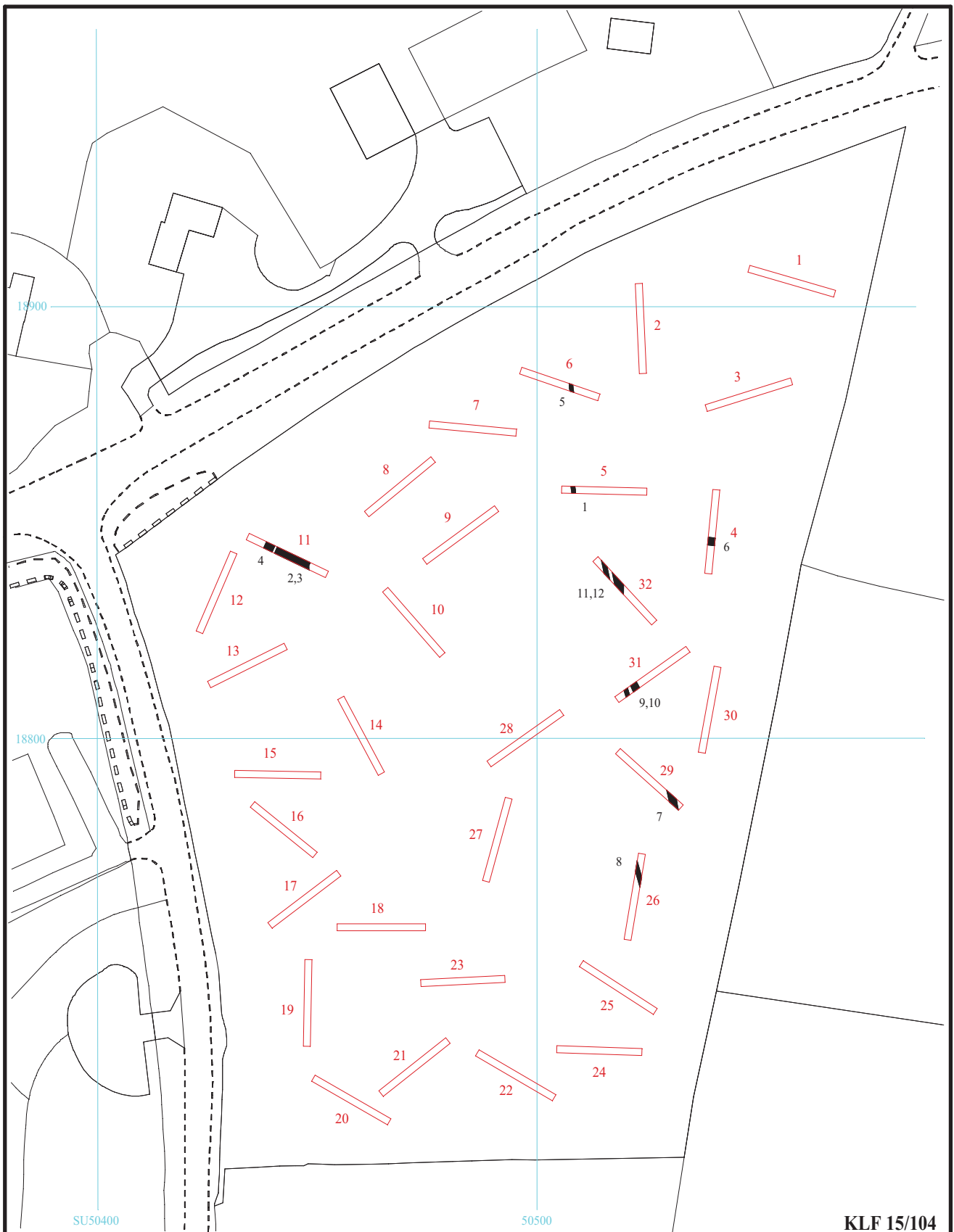
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Figure 2. Detailed location of site

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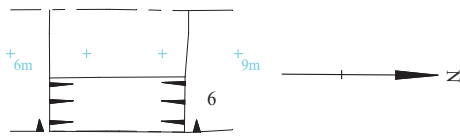
**Land at the corner of Knowle Lane and Mortimer's Lane
Fair Oak, Hampshire, 2015
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Figure 3. Location of trenches

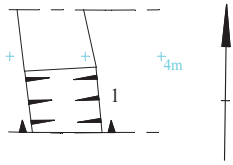


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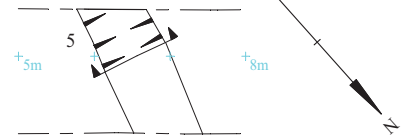
Trench 4



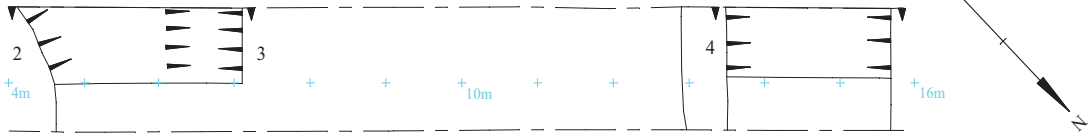
Trench 5



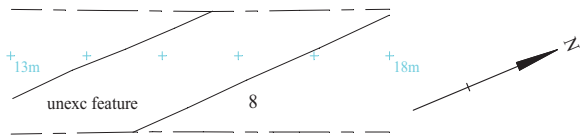
Trench 6



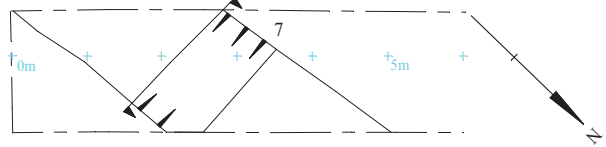
Trench 11



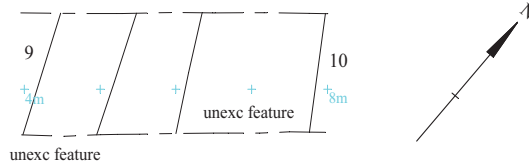
Trench 26



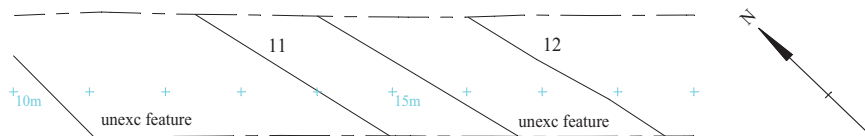
Trench 29



Trench 31



Trench 32



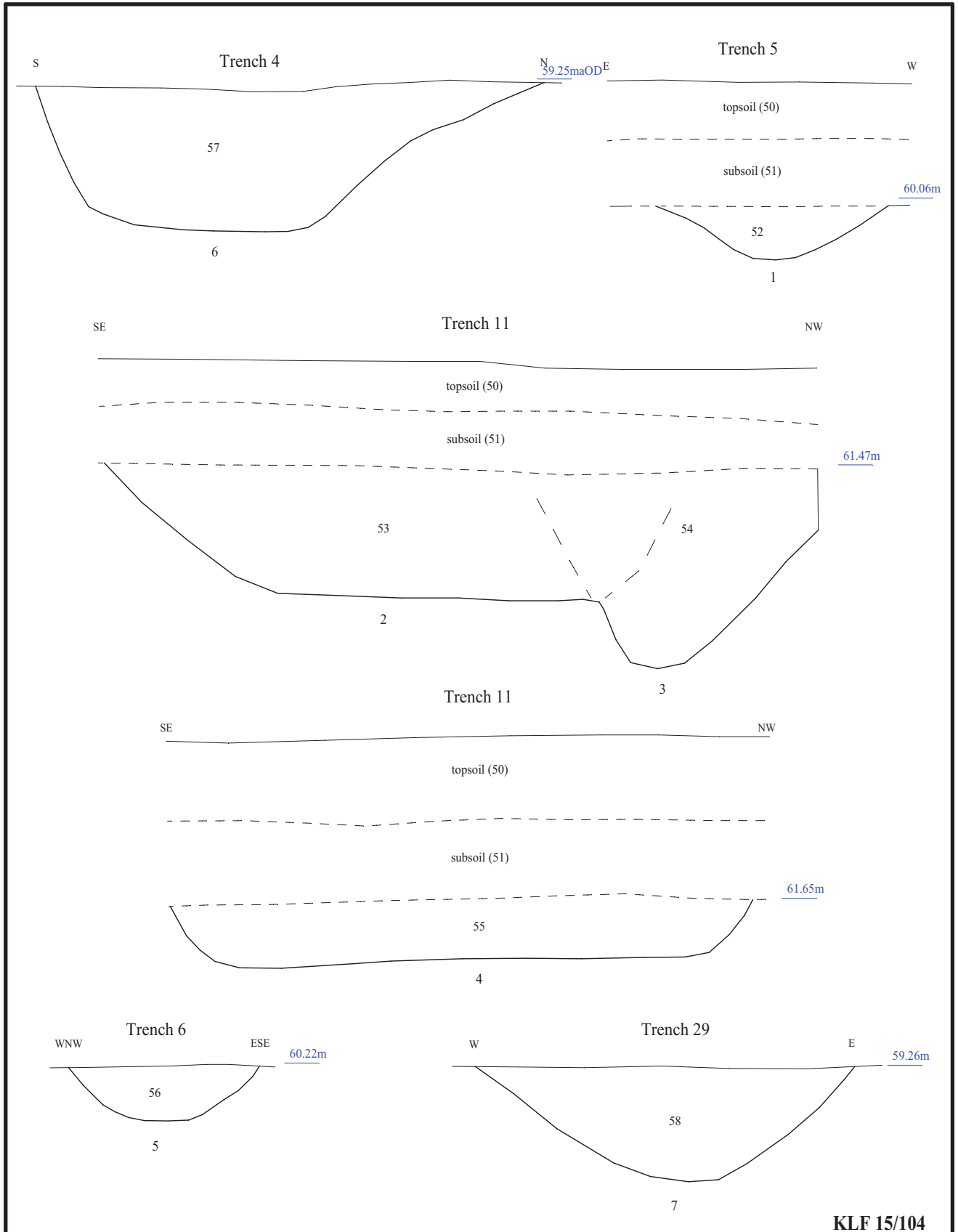
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 Fair Oak, Hampshire, 2015
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Figure 4. Detail of trenches



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Figure 4. Sections.



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Plate 1. Trench 1, looking west, Scales: horizontal 2m and 1m, vertical 0.1m.



Plate 2. Trench 5, looking east, Scales: horizontal 2m and 1m, vertical 0.1m.

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**Land at the corner of Knowle Lane and Mortimer's Lane,
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Plates 1 - 2.**

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Plate 3. Trench 11, looking north west, Scales: horizontal 2m and 1m, vertical 0.1m.



Plate 4. Trench 26, looking north, Scales: horizontal 2m and 1m, vertical 0.5m.

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**Land at the corner of Knowle Lane and Mortimer's Lane,
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Plates 3 - 4.**

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Plate 5. Trench 11, ditch 2 and 3, looking south west, Scales: horizontal 1m, vertical 0.5m.



Plate 6. Trench 11, ditch 4, looking south west, Scales: horizontal 2m, vertical 0.5m.

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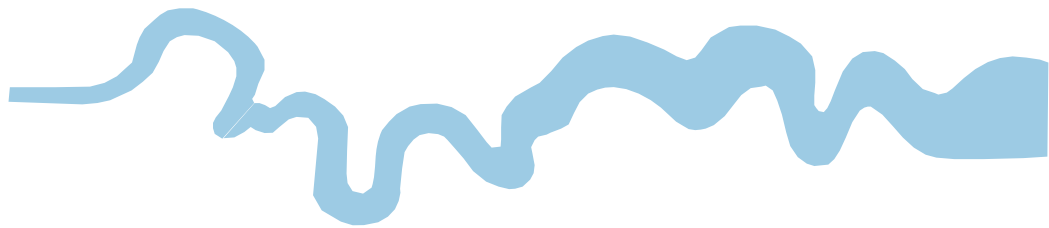
Plates 5 - 6.

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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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