

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

ARCHAEOLOGICAL

S E R V I C E S

**Proposed Garden Centre, Amesbury Road,
Weyhill, Hampshire**

Archaeological Evaluation

by Kyle Beaverstock

Site Code: WNA15/188

(SU 3017 4605)

Proposed Garden Centre, Amesbury Road, Weyhill, Hampshire

**An Archaeological Evaluation
for Rosebourne Limited**

by Kyle Beaverstock
Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code WNA15/188

October 2015

Summary

Site name: Proposed Garden Centre, Amesbury Road, Weyhill, Hampshire

Grid reference: SU 3017 4605

Site activity: Evaluation

Date and duration of project: 14th - 15th October 2015

Project manager: Steve Ford

Site supervisor: Kyle Beaverstock

Site code: WNA15/188

Area of site: 1.47ha

Summary of results: A single ditch was recorded during the evaluation but produced no dating evidence though its compact fill and its alignment to a Bronze Age/Iron Age ditch seen in cropmarks suggested it was not of recent origin. No other finds nor deposits were revealed and apart from this ditch, the site is considered to have low archaeological potential.

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

Report edited/checked by: Steve Ford ✓ 21.10.15 Steve Preston ✓ 21.10.15

Proposed Garden Centre, Amesbury Road, Weyhill, Hampshire An Archaeological Evaluation

by Kyle Beaverstock

Report 15/188

Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological field evaluation carried out at Amesbury Road, Weyhill, Hampshire (SU 3017 4605) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Ms Carla Fulgoni of Turley, 6th Floor North, 2 Charlotte Place, Southampton, SO14 0TB on behalf of Rosebourne Limited, 8-10 Grosvenor Gardens, London, SW1W 0DH.

Planning permission (15/01583/FULLN) was gained from Test Valley Borough Council for a new garden centre and post office with ancillary café, storage, access, parking and landscaping. As a consequence of the possibility of archaeological deposits on the site which may be damaged or destroyed by the proposed re-development of the site, the consent is subject to a condition requiring a programme of archaeological investigation on the site. It was proposed that in the first instance, a field evaluation be carried out to provide information on the site's archaeological potential. Depending on the results of this first phase, further archaeological work might be required.

This is in accordance with the Department for Communities and Local Government's *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF 2012), and the County Council's policies on archaeology. The field investigation was carried out to a specification approved by Mr Neil Adam, Archaeological Officer for Hampshire County Council, the archaeological adviser to the Borough Council. The fieldwork was undertaken by Kyle Beaverstock and Thomas Stewart between 14th and 15th October 2015 and the site code is WNA15/188. 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 approximately 1.5km to the west of the village of Weyhill between Amesbury Road and the A303. The site lies within a relatively flat parcel of land approximately 87m above Ordnance Datum (aOD) and was formerly used as a garden centre with a post office, nursery and parking area. The underlying geology as seen in the trenches is described as Upper Chalk (BGS 1975).

Archaeological background

The site lies within an area rich in prehistoric and Roman activity. During the construction of the A303 20m to the south of the site, two parallel ditches dated to the Bronze Age were recorded (Harding 1992). Observations during a watching brief at The Fairground, Weyhill to the east of the site discovered a single inhumation speculatively dated to the Roman period, as well as a prehistoric ditch which appeared to be a continuation of a north-west to south-east aligned ditch identified in previous watching briefs to the north-west. The Hampshire Archaeology and Historic Buildings Record also notes the presence of several ring ditches (levelled round barrows) attributed to the Bronze Age were identified from aerial photography in the area surrounding Weyhill Road.

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. This work was to be carried out in a manner which would not compromise the integrity of archaeological features or deposits which might warrant preservation in-situ. 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 further Bronze Age deposits are present on the site; and
- to inform a strategy for mitigation if required

Eighteen trenches were to be dug, each measuring 20m long and between 1.6m and 2m wide. The trenches were to be located as close as possible to the areas most affected by the proposed groundworks. These were excavated with a 360° machine fitted with a toothless ditching bucket under constant archaeological supervision and all spoilheaps were monitored for finds.

Where archaeological features were certainly or likely to be present, the stripped areas were to be cleaned using the appropriate hand tools. Sufficient of the archaeological features exposed were to be excavated and sampled by hand in order to satisfy the aims of the project without compromising the integrity of deposits that might be better investigated under conditions pertaining to full excavation.

Results

Some trenches were dug as intended, however, due to the presence of two live electric cables, overhanging telephone wires and a sewage drain, several of the trenches were slightly moved or re-aligned and one (Trench 5) was relocated entirely (Fig. 3). The trenches ranged from 14m to 23.4m in length and from 0.3m to 0.7m in depth. 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 as Appendix 2.

Trench 1

Trench 1 was aligned north to south and was 16.5m long and 0.5m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.2m of topsoil and 0.13m subsoil overlying natural geology. No features or finds of archaeological significance were observed.

Trench 2

Trench 2 was aligned west to east and was 20m long and 0.52m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.22m of topsoil and 0.11m subsoil overlying natural geology. No features or finds of archaeological significance were observed.

Trench 3

Trench 3 was aligned north-east to south-west and was 20.5m long and 0.48m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.3m of topsoil overlying natural geology. No features or finds of archaeological significance were observed.

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

Trench 4 was aligned north to south and was 14m long and 0.4m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.2m of topsoil and 0.1m subsoil overlying natural geology. This trench was shortened due to the presence of services at the southern end. A ditch [1] measuring 1.6m wide and 0.69m deep was excavated and recorded. It contained some modern refuse in fill (52) which suggests that the most recent filling event was in modern times however the depth of the cut suggests an older heritage, although this cannot be proven due to a lack of evidence. Therefore, the ditch was subsequently extended to the limits of the trench for finds retrieval purposes, this however yielded no further dating evidence.

Trench 5

Trench 5 was aligned south to north and was 19.5m long and 0.4m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.18m of topsoil and 0.14m subsoil overlying natural geology. No features or finds of archaeological significance were observed.

Trench 6

Trench 6 was aligned north-west to south-east and was 19.4m long and 0.4m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.3m of made ground overlying natural geology. No features or finds of archaeological significance were observed.

Trench 7 (Figs 3 and 4; Pls 2 and 4)

Trench 7 was aligned north-west to south-east and was 19.1m long and 0.43m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.2m of topsoil and 0.1m subsoil overlying natural geology. A ditch [2] measured 1.65m wide and 0.78m deep, on the same line as ditch 1 in trench 4. No finds were recovered from any of its three fills despite also being extended to the limits of the trench.

Trench 8 (Pl. 5)

Trench 8 was aligned north-west to south-east and was 23.4m long and 0.6m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.3m of made ground and 0.3m subsoil overlying natural geology. No features or finds of archaeological significance were observed.

Trench 9

Trench 9 was aligned south-west to north-east and was 22.1m long and 0.44m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.22m of topsoil and 0.22m subsoil overlying natural geology. No features or finds of archaeological significance were observed.

Trench 10

Trench 10 was aligned west to east and was 20.5m long and 0.57m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.3m of topsoil and 0.1m subsoil overlying natural geology. No features or finds of archaeological significance were observed.

Trench 11

Trench 11 was aligned north-west to south-east and was 22.5m long and 0.38m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.15m of topsoil and 0.15m subsoil overlying natural geology. No features or finds of archaeological significance were observed.

Trench 12

Trench 12 was aligned north-west to south-east and was 21.3m long and 0.47m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.2m of topsoil and 0.1m subsoil overlying natural geology. No features or finds of archaeological significance were observed.

Trench 13 (Pl. 6)

Trench 13 was aligned north-west to south-east and was 14.5m long and 0.3m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.2m of made ground overlying natural geology. No features or finds of archaeological significance were observed.

Trench 14 (Pl. 7)

Trench 14 was aligned south-west to north-east and was 21.4m long and 0.4m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.12m of made ground and 0.21m subsoil overlying natural geology. No features or finds of archaeological significance were observed.

Trench 15

Trench 15 was aligned north-west to south-east and was 21.8m long and 0.7m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.2m of made ground and 0.3m subsoil overlying natural geology. No features or finds of archaeological significance were observed.

Trench 16

Trench 16 was aligned west to east and was 20m long and 0.6m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.2m of made ground and 0.3m subsoil overlying natural geology. No features or finds of archaeological significance were observed.

Trench 17 (Pl. 8)

Trench 17 was aligned south-west to north-east and was 23.2m long and 0.4m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.2m of topsoil and 0.2m subsoil overlying natural geology. No features or finds of archaeological significance were observed.

Trench 18 (Pl. 9)

Trench 18 was aligned west to east and was 21.1m long and 0.5m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.12m of topsoil and 0.18m subsoil overlying natural geology. No features or finds of archaeological significance were observed.

Conclusion

Despite the potential for significant prehistoric activity on the site only a single ditch observed in two trenches was uncovered. The ditch contained a few fragments of modern refuse (plastic and glass) in the uppermost fill, which may be intrusive or it may suggest that the most recent filling event occurred in modern times. However, the depth and compaction as well as its alignment to a Bronze Age/Iron Age ditch seen in cropmarks 470m to the north of the site suggests a much older origin. No other finds nor deposits were revealed and apart from this ditch, the site is considered to have low archaeological potential.

References

BGS, 1975, *British Geological Survey*, 1:50,000, Sheet 283, Solid and Drift Edition, Keyworth
Harding, P, 1992 'Section three: The A303 watching brief: Andover to Thruxton', 63–72 in P S Bellamy, 'The investigation of the prehistoric landscape along the route of the A303 road improvement between Andover, Hants and Amesbury, Wilts, 1984–7', *Proc Hampshire Fld Club Archaeol Soc* 47, 5–82
NPPF, 2012, *National Planning Policy Framework*, Dept Communities and Local Govt, London

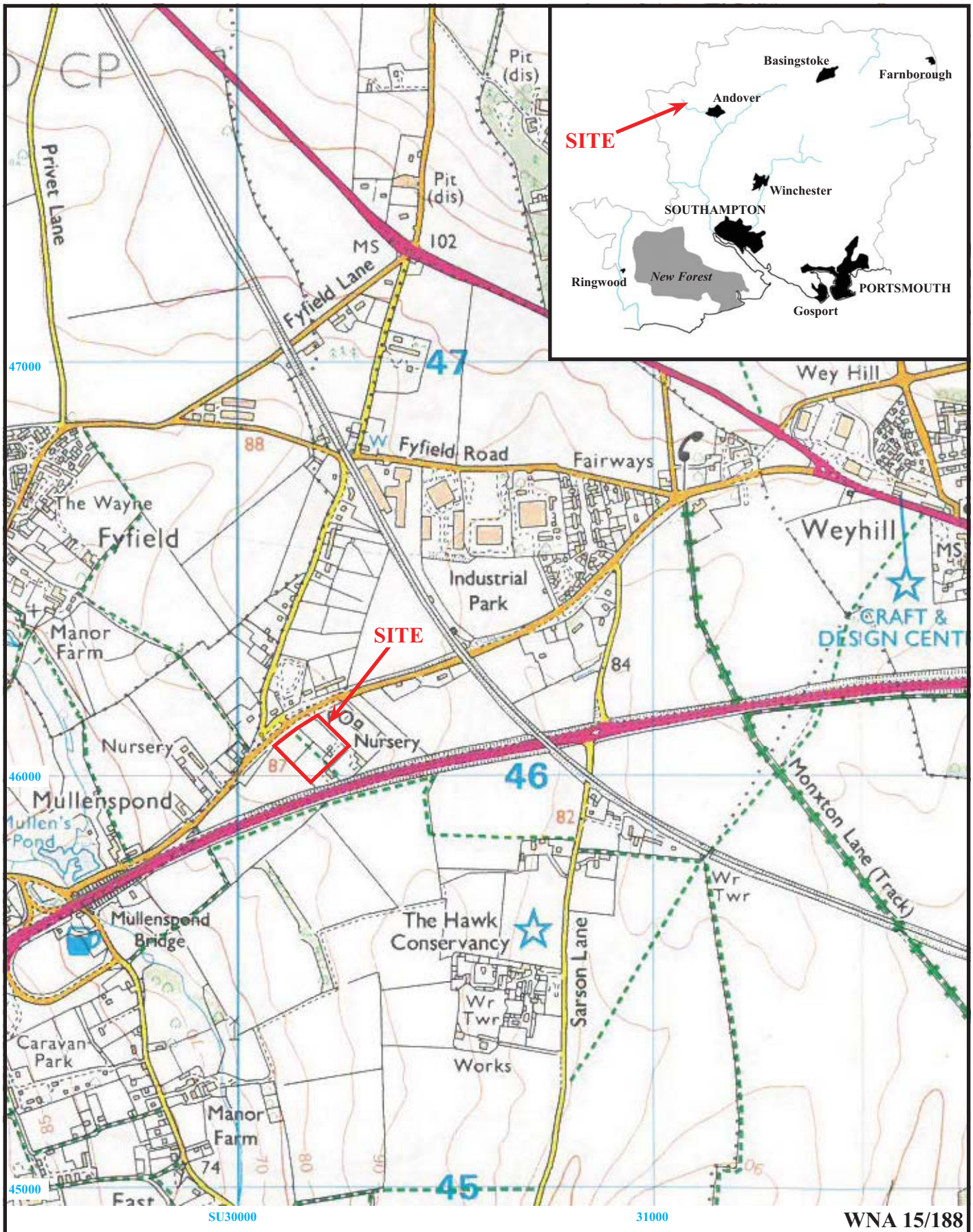
APPENDIX 1: Trench details

0m at southern, western and north-eastern ends

<i>Trench</i>	<i>Length (m)</i>	<i>Breadth (m)</i>	<i>Depth (m)</i>	<i>Comment</i>
1	16.5	2	0.5	0 – 0.2m topsoil; 0.2 – 0.33m subsoil; 0.33m+ Upper Chalk natural geology
2	20	2	0.52	0 – 0.22m topsoil; 0.22 – 0.33m subsoil; 0.33m+ Upper Chalk natural geology
3	20.5	2	0.48	0 – 0.3m topsoil; 0.33m+ Upper Chalk natural geology
4	14	2	0.4	0 – 0.2m topsoil; 0.2 – 0.3m subsoil; 0.3m+ Upper Chalk natural geology. Ditch 1. [Pls 1 and 3]
5	19.5	2	0.4	0 – 0.18m topsoil; 0.18 – 0.32m subsoil; 0.32m+ Upper Chalk natural geology
6	19.4	2	0.4	0 – 0.3m made ground; 0.3m+ Upper Chalk natural geology
7	19.1	2	0.43	0 – 0.2m topsoil; 0.2 – 0.3m subsoil; 0.3m+ of Upper Chalk natural geology. Ditch 2. [Pls 2 and 4]
8	23.4	2	0.6	0 – 0.3m made ground; 0.3 – 0.6m subsoil; 0.6m+ of Upper Chalk natural geology. [Pl. 5]
9	22.1	2	0.44	0 – 0.22m topsoil; 0.22 – 0.44m of subsoil; 0.44m+ of Upper Chalk natural geology
10	20.5	2	0.57	0 – 0.3m topsoil; 0.3 – 0.4m subsoil; 0.4m+ Upper Chalk natural geology
11	22.5	2	0.38	0 – 0.15m topsoil; 0.15 – 0.3m subsoil; 0.3m+ Upper Chalk natural geology
12	21.3	2	0.47	0 – 0.2m topsoil; 0.2 – 0.3m subsoil; 0.3m+ Upper Chalk natural geology
13	13.5	2	0.3	0 – 0.2m made ground; 0.2m+ Upper Chalk natural geology. [Pl. 6]
14	21.4	2	0.4	0 – 0.12m made ground; 0.12 – 0.33m subsoil; 0.33m+ Upper Chalk natural geology.
15	21.8	2	0.7	0 – 0.2m made ground; 0.2 – 0.6m subsoil; 0.6m+ Upper Chalk natural geology. [Pl. 7]
16	20	2	0.6	0 – 0.2m made ground; 0.2 – 0.5m subsoil; 0.5m+ Upper Chalk natural geology
17	23.2	2	0.4	0 – 0.2m topsoil; 0.2 – 0.4m subsoil; 0.4m+ Upper Chalk natural geology. [Pl. 8]
18	21.1	2	0.5	0 – 0.12m topsoil; 0.12 – 0.3m subsoil; 0.3m+ Upper Chalk natural geology. [Pl. 9]

APPENDIX 2: Feature details

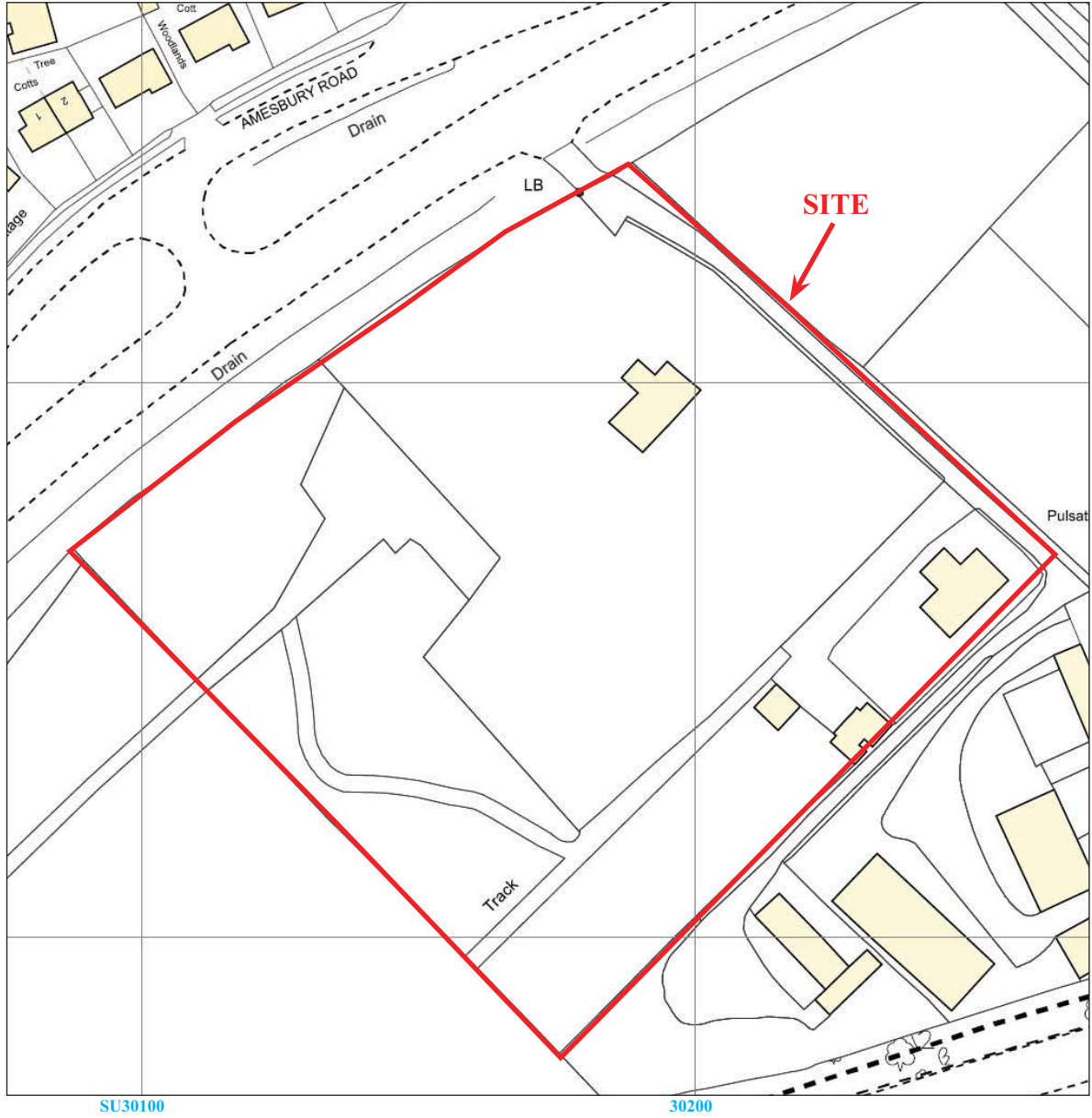
<i>Trench</i>	<i>Cut</i>	<i>Fill (s)</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Dating evidence</i>
4	1	52, 53	Ditch	Undated	none
7	2	54, 55, 56	Ditch	Undated	none



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Figure 1. Location of site in relation to Weyhill and within Hampshire.

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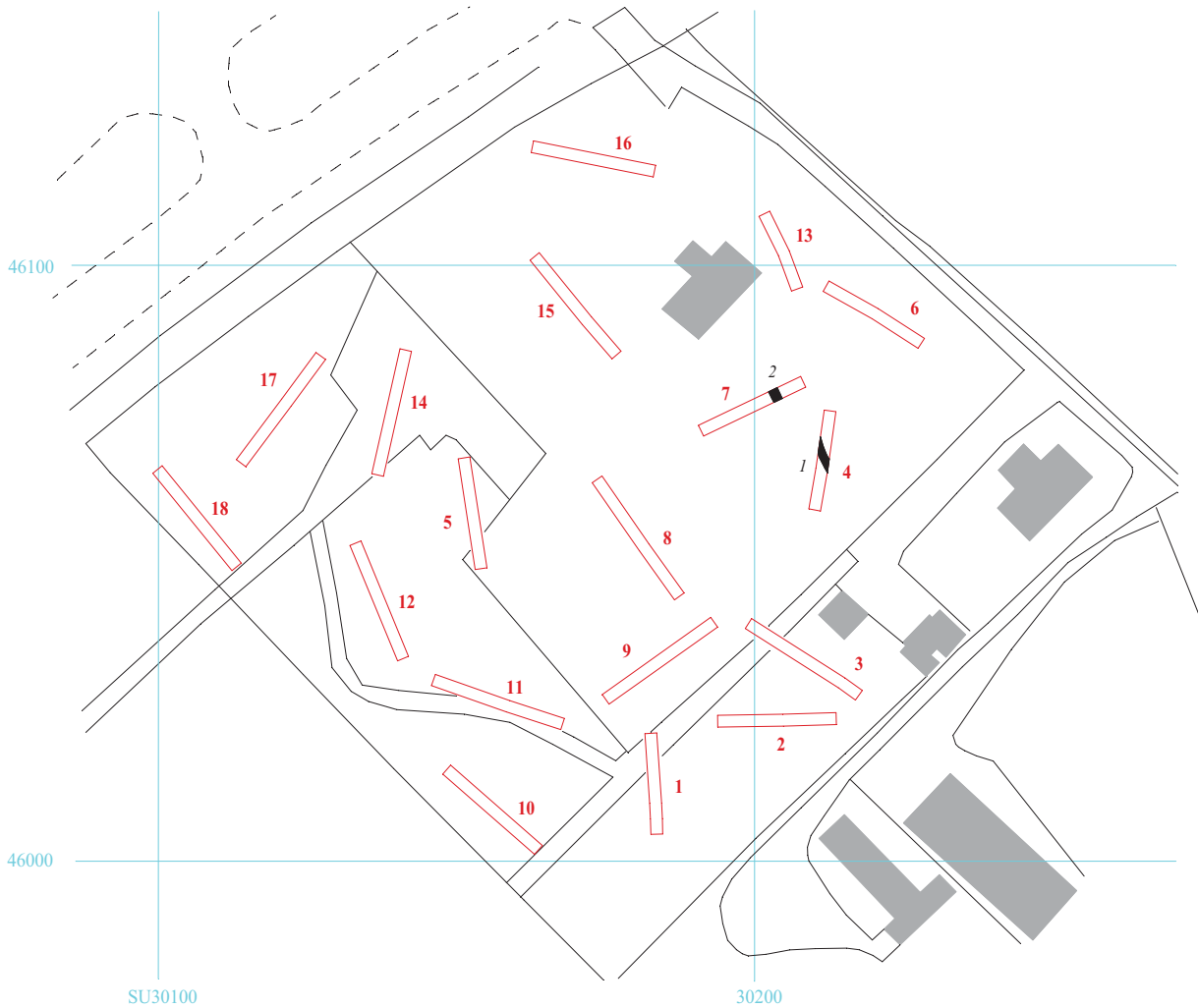


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Figure 2. Detailed location of site.

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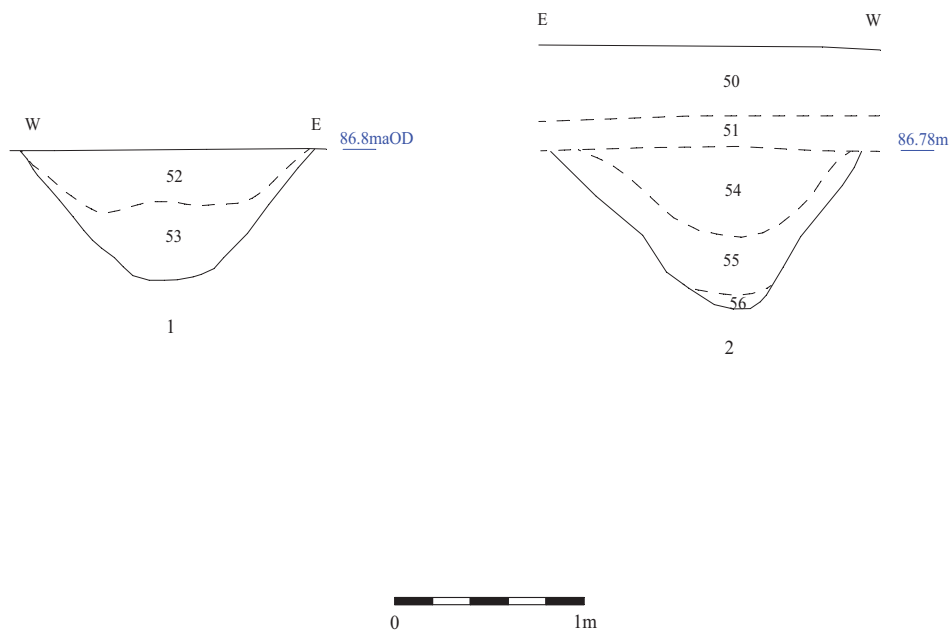
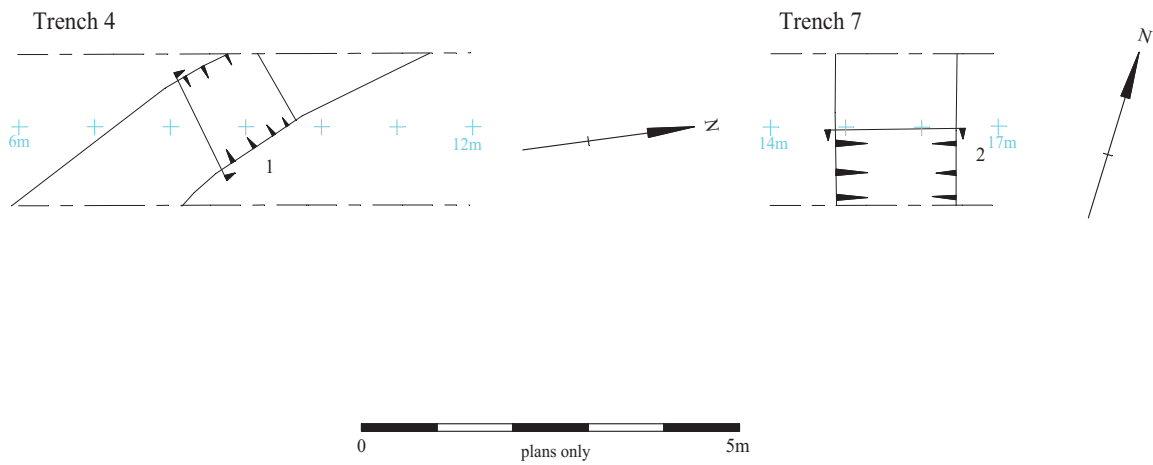
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Figure 3. Location of trenches.



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Figure 4. Detail of trenches.

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Plate 1. Trench 4, looking north west, Scales: horizontal 2m and 1m, vertical 0.3m.



Plate 2. Trench 7, looking north west, Scales: horizontal 2m and 1m, vertical 0.3m.

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Plates 1 - 2.

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Plate 3. Trench 4, ditch 1, looking north, Scales: 2m and 0.5m.



Plate 4. Trench 7, ditch 2, looking south, Scales: 2m and 1m.

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Plates 3 - 4.

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Plate 5. Trench 8, looking north, Scales: 2m, 1m and 0.3m.



Plate 6. Trench 13, looking north, Scales: 2m, 1m and 0.3m.

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Plates 5 - 6.

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Plate 7. Trench 8, looking north east, Scales: 2m, 1m and 0.3m.



Plate 8. Trench 13, looking east, Scales: 2m, 1m and 0.3m.

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Plates 7 - 8.

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Plate 9. Trench 18, looking north, Scales: 2m, 1m and 0.3m.



Plate 10. General view of site looking south east.

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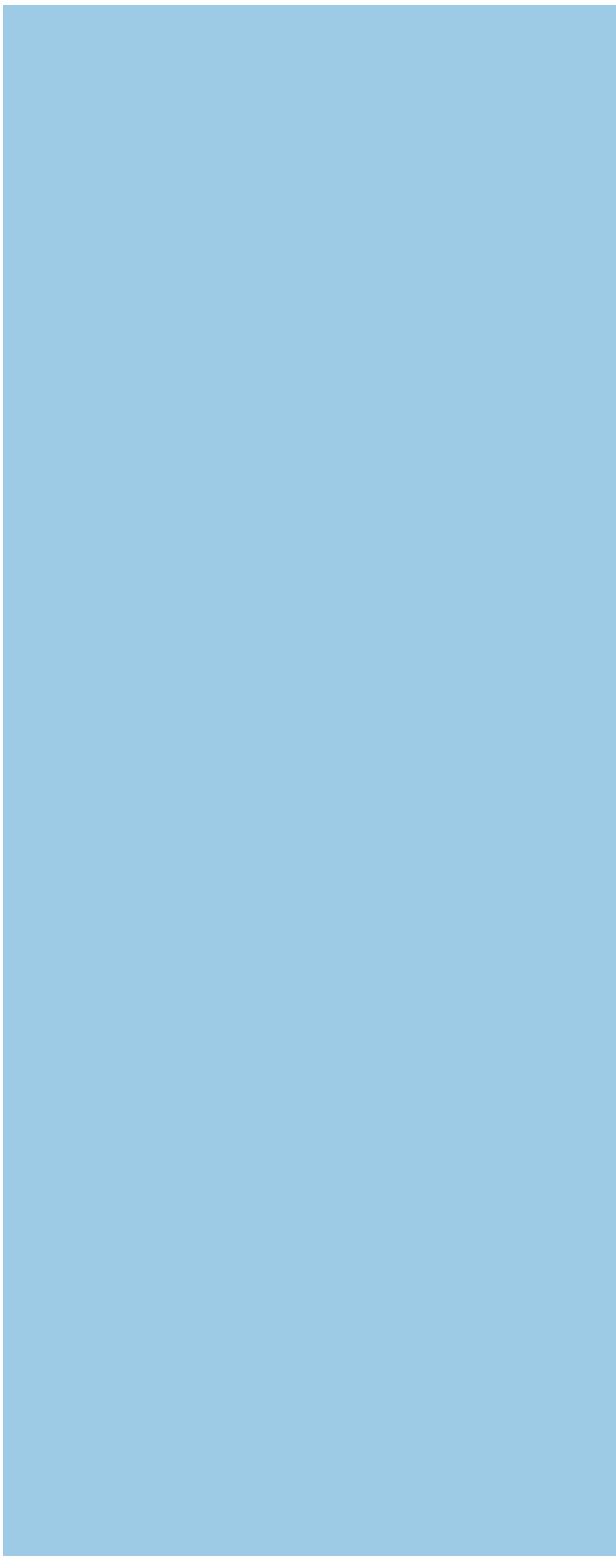
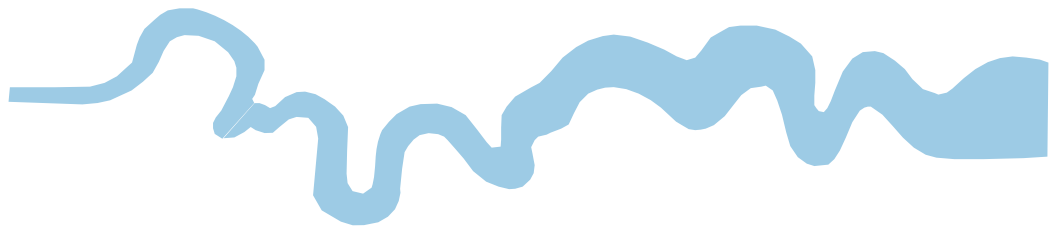
Plates 9 - 10.

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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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