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ARCHAEOLOGICAL

S E R V I C E S

S O U T H

**Quebec Barracks, Camp Road,  
Bordon, Hampshire**

**Archaeological Evaluation**

**by Sean Wallis**

**Site Code: QBB15/217**

**(SU 8000 3610)**

# **Quebec Barracks, Camp Road, Bordon, Hampshire**

**An Archaeological Evaluation  
for Drew Smith Group**

by Sean Wallis

Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code: QBB15/217

**November 2015**

## Summary

**Site name:** Quebec Barracks, Camp Road, Bordon, Hampshire

**Grid reference:** SU 8000 3610

**Site activity:** Evaluation

**Date and duration of project:** 6th – 8th October 2015

**Project manager:** Steve Ford

**Site supervisor:** Sean Wallis

**Site code:** QBB 15/217

**Area of site:** c. 3.2 ha

**Summary of results:** The evaluation at Quebec Barracks successfully investigated those parts of the site which had not obviously been disturbed by the existing military complex. No archaeological finds or features were recorded, although some foundations relating to earlier phases of the camp were noted, and it is highly likely that much of the site area has previously been truncated. The site is considered to have no archaeological potential

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

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[www.tvas.co.uk/reports/reports.asp](http://www.tvas.co.uk/reports/reports.asp).*

Report edited/checked by: Steve Ford ✓ 02.11.15 Steve Preston ✓ 02.11.15
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# Quebec Barracks, Camp Road, Bordon, Hampshire An Archaeological Evaluation

by Sean Wallis

Report 15/217

## Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological field evaluation carried out at Quebec Barracks, Camp Road, Bordon, Hampshire (SU 8000 3610 ) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Mr Stephen Mudie of Drew Smith Group, Drew Smith House, Mill Court, The Sawmills, Durley, Southampton, Hampshire, SO32 2EJ.

Planning permission (28353/0043) had been gained from East Hampshire District Council to re-develop parts of the site for housing, with associated roads, parking and landscaping. Some buildings were to be retained and refurbished as part of the re-development. The permission was subject to conditions (2, 3 and 5) relating to archaeology and the historic environment, which required the implementation of a programme of archaeological work prior to the commencement of groundworks. An additional planning condition (4) required a programme of building recording, and the results of this will be covered by a separate report.

As a consequence of the possibility of archaeological deposits on the site which may be damaged or destroyed by the re-development of the site, it was proposed to carry out a field evaluation 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 the District Council as advised by Hampshire County Council Archaeologist, Mr David Hopkins. The fieldwork was undertaken by Naomi Humphreys, Teresa Vieira and Sean Wallis between 6th and 8th October 2015, and the site code is QBB15/217. The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading, and will be deposited with Hampshire Cultural Trust in due course.

## Location, topography and geology

The site is located to the east of Camp Road, Bordon, Hampshire, and is centred on SU 8000 3610 (Figs 1 and 2). Until recently the site was an army barracks, and numerous structures relating to this complex were still standing at the time of the evaluation. The site generally slopes down towards the north-east and, as a result, the height above Ordnance Datum varies from about 87m close to the southern boundary to about 80m in the north-

east corner. According to the British Geological Survey the underlying geology consists of Folkestone Beds (ferruginous sand) possibly edging onto Sandgate Beds (sandy silt and clay) at the south-eastern extremity of the area, (BGS 1975) and this was confirmed in the evaluation trenches as various sand deposits.

## **Archaeological background**

The archaeological potential of the site stems from its location within the Greensand geological outcrops of eastern and north-eastern Hampshire (and into Surrey) which have long been recognised as densely settled in Mesolithic times (Rankine 1954). More recent fieldwork has served to enhance this perception (Ford 1989; Jones 2013). A desk-based assessment of the site noted the presence of a relatively large number of Bronze Age round barrows in the vicinity, including one to the south of the site which appears to have been levelled at some time after 1937, in advance of a residential housing estate associated with the army camp (Taylor 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 proposed development.

Specific aims of the project were:

- to determine if archaeologically relevant levels have survived on this site;
- to determine if archaeological deposits of any period are present;
- to determine if any lithic scatters representing Mesolithic settlement are present; and
- to determine if any Bronze Age occupation, contemporary with the nearby round barrows, is present.

Twenty-seven trenches were to be dug, each measuring 15m in length and 1.60-2.00m in width. The trenches were positioned to target those parts of the site which had not been clearly truncated by the construction of the army camp, and that would be most affected by the proposed development. These were to be dug using a 360° type machine fitted with a toothless ditching bucket under constant archaeological supervision. All spoilheaps were to be monitored for finds.

## **Results**

It became apparent that eight of the proposed trenches were located outside the perimeter fence of the barrack complex, and could not be excavated at the present time due to health and safety considerations. As a result, it

was decided to excavate a number of trenches in those parts of the site which had not obviously been disturbed in the past. Some of the trenches were shorter than originally planned due to site restrictions such as services, trees and access roads. These changes to the agreed scheme were discussed with the Hampshire County Council Archaeologist during a site monitoring visit. It was also agreed at the same meeting that the results then available that the remaining trenches did not need to be excavated.

Fifteen trenches were eventually excavated, measuring between 5.50m and 20.50m in length, 1.90m wide, and between 0.20m and 1.00m in depth (Fig. 3). A complete list of the trenches giving lengths, breadths, depths and a description of sections and geology is given in Appendix 1. Numerous modern features including wall foundations, service trenches and pits were observed during the evaluation. These features were noted on the trench record sheets and mentioned briefly below, but were not recorded in detail.

#### Trench 1 (Figs 3 and 4; Pl. 1)

Trench 1 was orientated approximately W-E, and was 14.50m long and up to 0.60m deep. Natural geology was encountered beneath 0.35m of topsoil and 0.20m of possible subsoil. However, the subsoil contained some modern material, and may represent an earlier buried soil horizon. No archaeological finds or features were recorded, although several service runs were noted within the trench.

#### Trench 2 (Pl. 2)

This trench was 10.30m long and up to 0.55m deep, and was orientated approximately WNW-ESE. The natural geology was observed beneath 0.14m of topsoil, 0.12m of re-deposited sand, 0.15m of buried topsoil and 0.10m of possible subsoil. However, as in Trench 1, this possible subsoil contained some modern material and may therefore represent an earlier buried soil horizon. No archaeological finds or features were recorded: two service runs were noted at the western end of the trench. The eastern end of the trench had been heavily disturbed by a modern truncation.

#### Trench 3

Trench 3 was situated in the former car park. It was orientated approximately NW-SE, and was 15.00m long and up to 0.68m deep. Natural geology was encountered beneath 0.22m of Tarmac and its associated bedding layer. The natural sand varied in colour, being a dark brown hue along much of the trench and orange at the ends. No archaeological features or finds were recorded, although one service run was noted in the trench.

#### Trench 4 (Pl. 3)

This trench was orientated approximately N-S, and was 16.00m long and up to 0.50m deep. The area had clearly been heavily truncated in the past, and the natural geology was mainly observed in the northern end of the trench

beneath 0.20m of topsoil and 0.08m of made ground. Elsewhere in the trench a number of large modern truncations were noted. No archaeological finds or features were recorded.

#### Trench 5

Trench 5 was orientated approximately N-S, and was 20.50m long and up to 0.52m deep. The dark brown sand natural geology was generally revealed beneath 0.15m of topsoil and 0.31m of made ground. No archaeological finds or features were recorded, although traces of an earlier camp entrance were noted at the southern end of the trench, and modern services and truncations were observed elsewhere.

#### Trench 6 (Figs 3 and 4; Pl. 4)

Trench 6 was located in the former car park. It was orientated approximately N-S, and was 15.60m long and up to 0.44m deep. The natural geology was encountered beneath 0.36m of Tarmac and its associated bedding layer. Several service runs were noted, but no archaeological finds or features were recorded.

#### Trench 7

This trench was orientated approximately N-S, and was 16.40m long and up to 0.50m deep. Natural geology was encountered beneath 0.13m of topsoil and 0.15m of a possible buried topsoil which contained modern material. No archaeological finds or features were present, but several modern truncations were noted within the trench.

#### Trench 8

Trench 8 was orientated approximately W-E, and was 5.50m long and up to 0.50m deep. Natural geology was encountered beneath 0.20m of topsoil and 0.25m of a possible buried topsoil horizon which contained modern material. Two service trenches were noted, but no archaeological finds or features were recorded.

#### Trench 9

Trench 9 was situated in an area of trees. It was orientated approximately W-E, and was 7.00m long and up to 0.80m deep. Natural geology was not encountered in this trench, and it was clear that the area had been heavily disturbed in the past. In the western end of the trench a modern service was noted beneath 0.18m of topsoil and 0.62m of made ground. Elsewhere the concrete foundations of two walls, possibly relating to structures shown on early 20th-century maps, were noted. No archaeological finds or features were recorded.

#### Trench 10 (Figs. 3 and 4; Pl. 5)

This trench was orientated approximately NNE-SSW, and was 15.00m long and up to 0.50m deep. Although the area had clearly been heavily disturbed in the past, patches of the natural geology were observed, beneath 0.15m of topsoil and 0.22m of made ground. Two wall foundations, again probably relating to structures shown on early 20th-century maps, were noted along with some service runs and a large truncation at the northern end of the trench.

#### Trench 11

Trench 11 was orientated approximately N-S, and was 20.00m long and up to 0.20m deep. Natural geology was encountered beneath 0.08m of topsoil and 0.10m of buried topsoil. A number of modern truncations and service runs were observed, along with two wall foundations which probably relate to structures shown on early 20th-century maps. No archaeological finds or features were recorded.

#### Trench 12

This trench was orientated approximately NNE-SSW, and was 19.50m long and up to 0.48m deep. Natural geology was only revealed at the southern end of the trench, beneath 0.26m of topsoil and 0.10m of buried topsoil. The remainder of the trench appeared to be occupied by several large modern truncations, and three wall foundations which may relate to structures shown on early 20th-century maps.

#### Trench 13 (Figs. 3 and 4)

Trench 13 was orientated approximately SW-NE, and was 9.40m long and up to 1.00m deep. Natural geology was not observed within this trench. A test pit was excavated to a depth of 1.40m, which revealed a concrete slab. Fragments of concrete from the made ground above this slab suggest that it represents the floor of a possible air-raid shelter, which was subsequently demolished and filled in. No archaeological finds or features were recorded.

#### Trench 14

This trench was orientated NW-SE, and was 17.70m long and up to 0.48m deep. Natural geology was encountered beneath 0.13m of topsoil and 0.25m of made ground, although much of the trench had been disturbed by large modern truncations. No archaeological finds or features were revealed.

#### Trench 15 (Figs. 3 and 4; Pl. 6)

Trench 15 was orientated approximately WNW-ESE, and was 20.00m long and up to 0.40m deep. Natural geology was encountered beneath 0.15m of topsoil and 0.08m of buried topsoil. Several service runs and modern truncations were noted within the trench, along with the footings of three walls which may relate to structures shown on early 20th-century maps. No archaeological finds or features were recorded.

### **Finds**

No archaeological finds were recovered during the evaluation. Modern material relating to the earlier phases of the barrack complex and subsequent activity was retained on site.



## Conclusion

Despite a number of restrictions, the evaluation at Quebec Barracks successfully investigated those parts of the site which had not clearly been disturbed in the past. It seems clear from the results that the entire site has been truncated to some degree by landscaping and other activities. In most of the trenches the underlying sand geology was encountered immediately below made ground or soil deposits containing modern material. Whilst a possible subsoil horizon was recorded in two of the trenches (1 and 2) in the northern part of the site, it had clearly been removed elsewhere. The softness of the natural sand geology of the area suggests that it would have been heavily disturbed by building and landscaping work in the past, so it is perhaps not surprising that no archaeological finds or features were recorded during the project. In addition, the soil cover on heathland sites is generally quite thin, and would undoubtedly be removed or disturbed during any groundworks. The army had occupied the site for over 100 years before the barracks closed, and historic maps indicate that there were at least two distinct phases of the barracks. One of the earliest layouts is first shown on the 1910 Ordnance Survey, and several wall foundations from this phase were observed in some of the evaluation trenches. Prior to this, the 1896 Ordnance Survey shows the area as open heathland. It is therefore believed that any archaeological features which may have been present on the site have been removed by subsequent building and demolition work. The site is considered to have no archaeological potential.

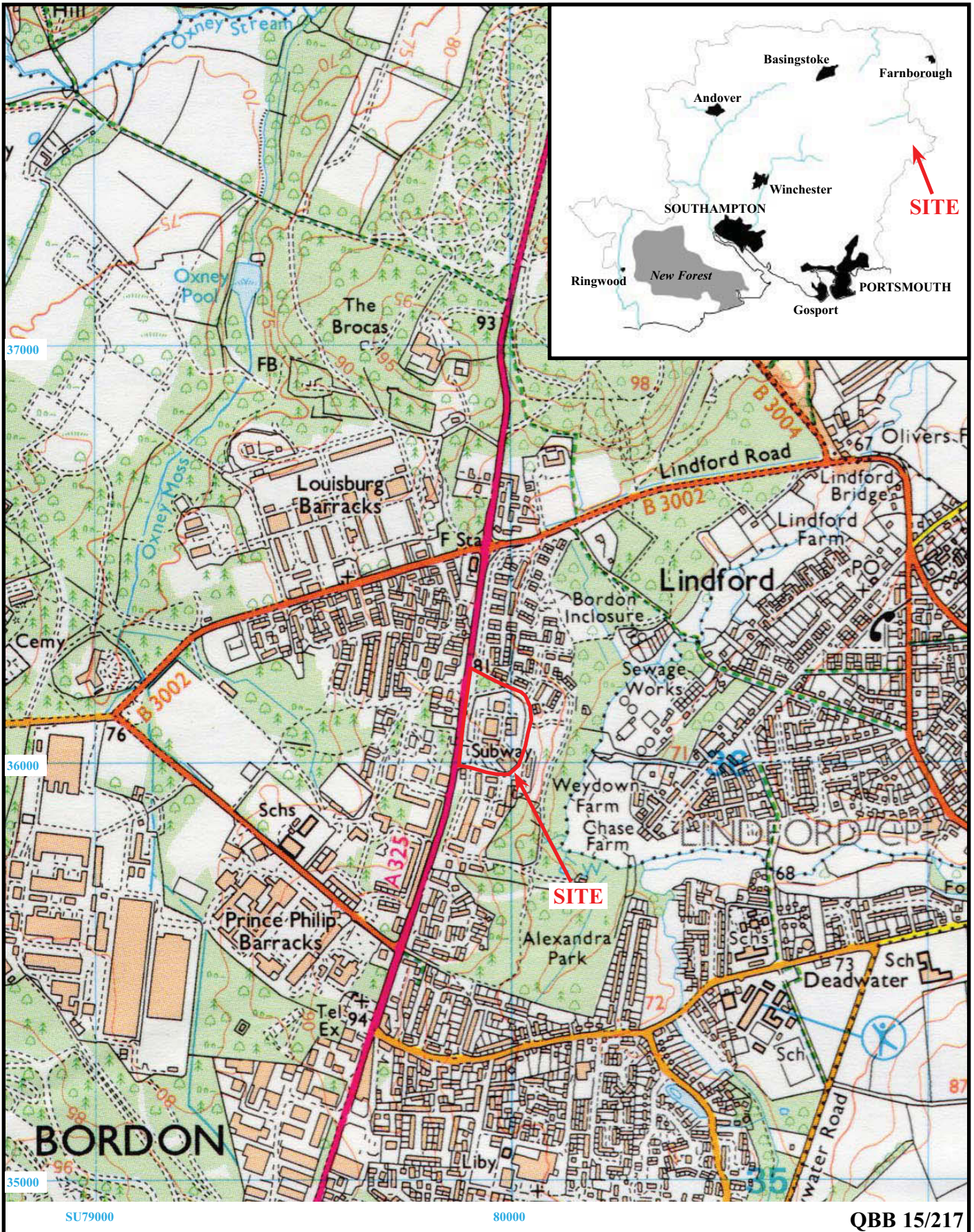
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- Taylor, J, 2013, 'Quebec Barracks Site, Camp Road, Bordon, Hampshire – an archaeological desk-based assessment', Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd unpublished report **R11619**, Winchester

**APPENDIX 1: Trench details**

<i>Trench</i>	<i>Length (m)</i>	<i>Breadth (m)</i>	<i>Depth (m)</i>	<i>Comment</i>
1	14.50	1.90	0.60	0-0.35m topsoil; 0.35-0.55m possible subsoil; 0.55-0.60m+ natural geology (orange sand). <b>[PI. 1]</b>
2	10.30	1.90	0.55	0-0.14m topsoil; 0.14-0.26m re-deposited sand; 0.26-0.41m buried topsoil; 0.41-0.51m possible subsoil; 0.51-0.55m+ natural geology (orange sand). <b>[PI. 2]</b>
3	15.00	1.90	0.68	0-0.09m Tarmac; 0.09-0.22m hardcore bedding layer; 0.22-0.68m+ natural geology (sand – varies from dark brown to orange).
4	16.00	1.90	0.50	(N end) 0-0.20m topsoil; 0.20-0.28m made ground; 0.28-0.47m+ natural geology (brown sand). (S end) 0-0.20m topsoil; 0.20-0.40m made ground; 0.40-0.50m+ yellow sand fill of large modern truncation. <b>[PI. 3]</b>
5	20.50	1.90	0.52	0-0.15m topsoil; 0.15-0.46m made ground; 0.46-0.52m+ natural geology (dark brown sand).
6	15.60	1.90	0.44	0-0.10m Tarmac, 0.10-0.36m hardcore bedding layer; 0.36-0.44m+ natural geology (reddish brown sand). <b>[PI. 4]</b>
7	16.40	1.90	0.50	0-0.13m topsoil; 0.13-0.28m buried topsoil; 0.28-0.50m+ natural geology (reddish brown sand).
8	5.50	1.90	0.50	0-0.20m topsoil; 0.20-0.45m buried topsoil; 0.45-0.50m+ natural geology (reddish brown sand).
9	7.00	1.90	0.80	(W end) 0-0.18m topsoil; 0.18-0.80m+ mid brown sand made ground. (E end) 0-0.36m topsoil; 0.36-0.76m+ mid brown sand made ground.
10	15.00	1.90	0.50	0-0.15m topsoil; 0.15-0.32m made ground; 0.32-0.50m+ natural geology (dark grey sand). <b>[PI. 5]</b>
11	20.00	1.90	0.20	0-0.08m topsoil; 0.08-0.18m buried topsoil; 0.18-0.20m+ natural geology (dark grey sand).
12	19.50	1.90	0.48	0-0.26m topsoil; 0.26-0.36m buried topsoil; 0.36-0.48m+ natural geology (orange sand).
13	9.40	1.90	1.00	0-0.17m topsoil; 0-17-1.00m+ made ground. Test pit dug to a depth of 1.40m to reveal concrete base.
14	17.70	1.90	0.48	0-0.13m topsoil; 0.13-0.38m made ground; 0.38-0.48m+ natural geology (orange sand).
15	20.00	1.90	0.40	0-0.15m topsoil; 0.15-0.23m buried topsoil; 0.23-0.40m+ natural geology (reddish brown sand). <b>[PI. 6]</b>



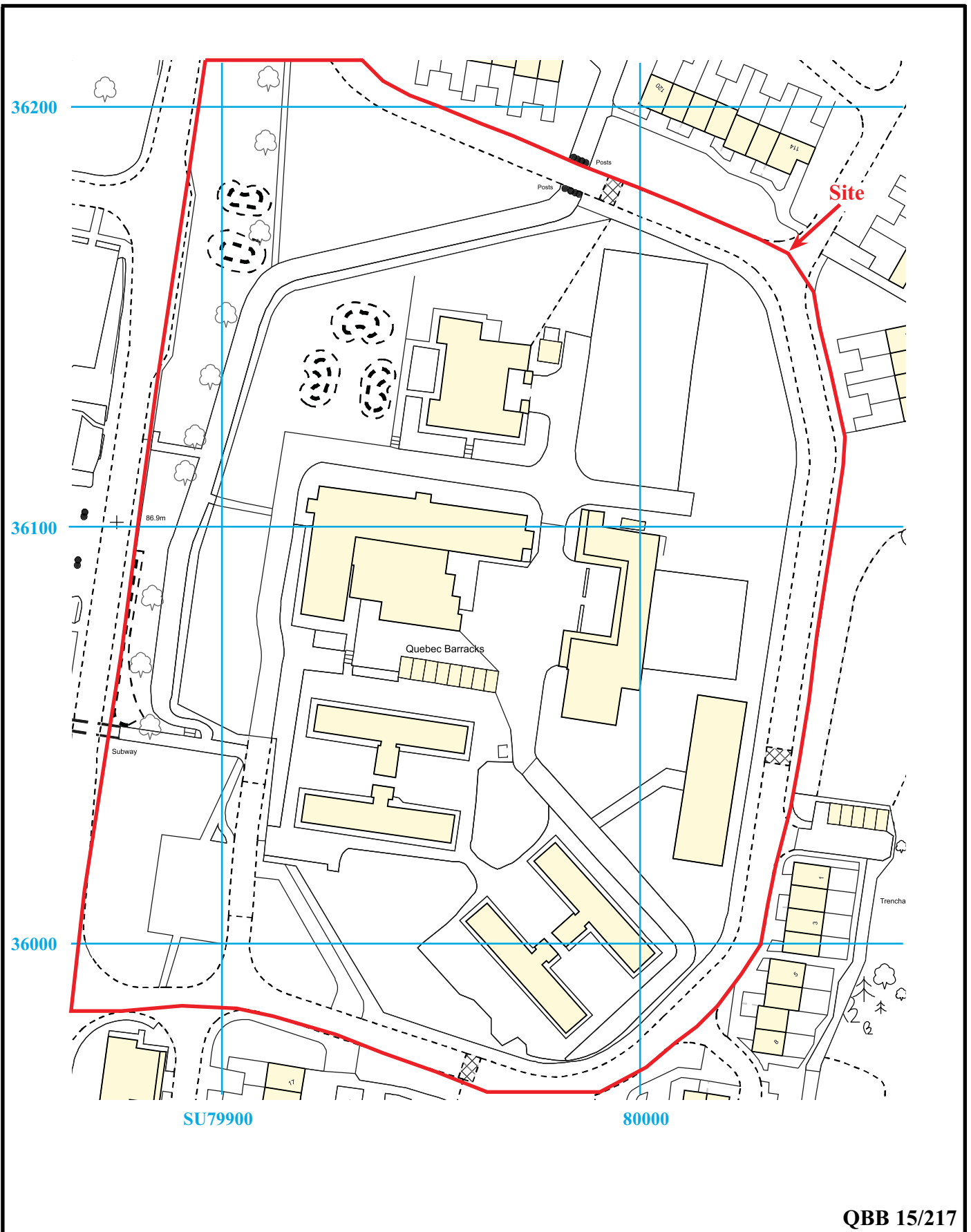


**Quebec Barracks, Camp Road,  
Bordon, Hampshire, 2015  
Archaeological Evaluation**

Figure 1. Location of site within Bordon and Hampshire.

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**Quebec Barracks, Camp Road,  
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Figure 2. Detailed location of site.

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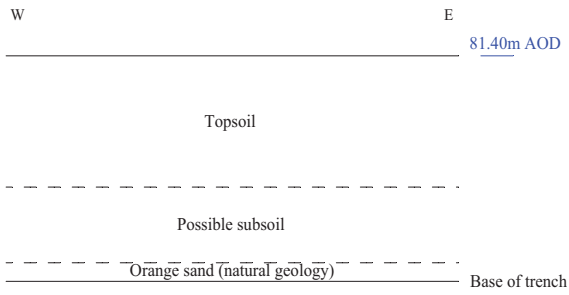


**Quebec Barracks, Camp Road,  
Bordon, Hampshire, 2015  
Archaeological Evaluation**

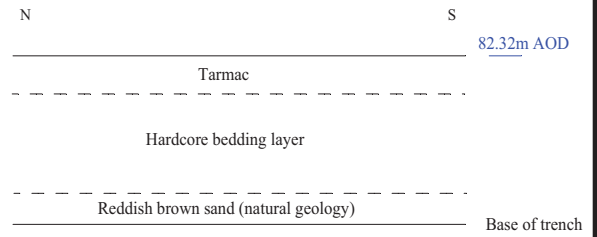
Figure 3. Location of trenches.



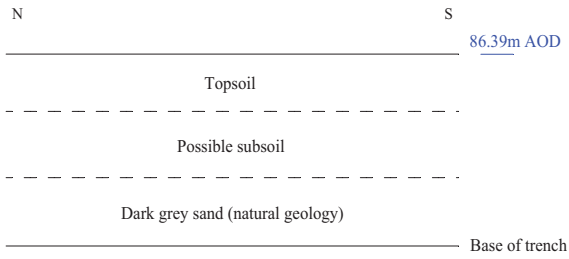
### Trench 1



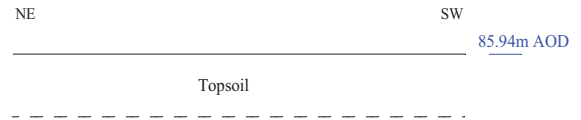
### Trench 6



### Trench 10

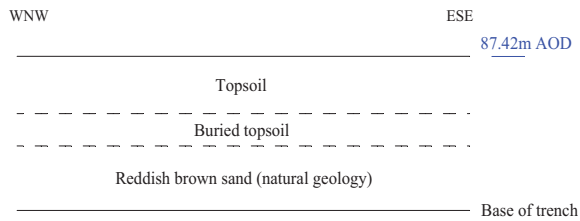


### Trench 13



Made ground

### Trench 15



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Quebec Barracks, Camp Road,  
Bordon, Hampshire, 2015  
Archaeological Evaluation

Figure 4. Representative sections



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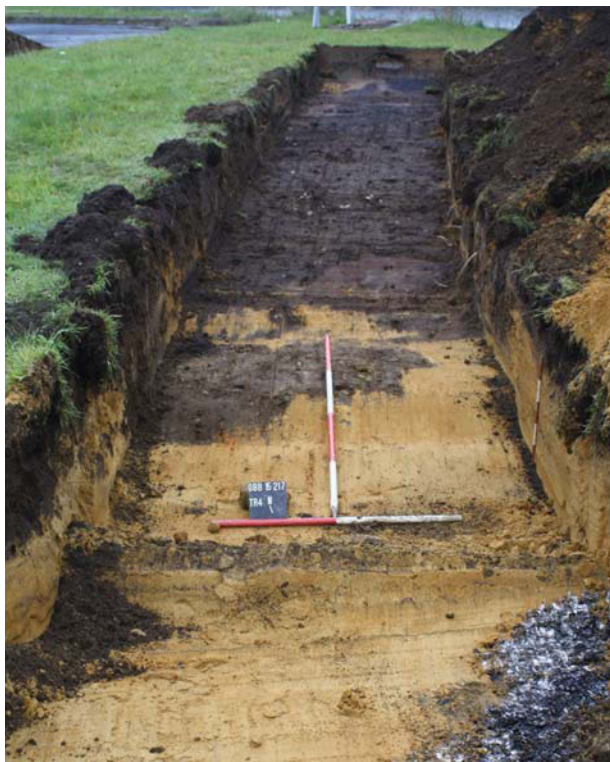




**Plate 1. Trench 1, looking east,  
Scales: horizontal 2m and 1m, vertical 0.5m.**



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



**Plate 3. Trench 4, looking north,  
Scales: horizontal 2m and 1m, vertical 0.5m.**



**Plate 4. Trench 6, looking north,  
Scales: horizontal 2m and 1m, vertical 0.5m.**

**QBB 15/217**

**Quebec Barracks, Camp Road,  
Bordon, Hampshire, 2015  
Archaeological Evaluation  
Plates 1 - 4.**

**THAMES VALLEY  
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**Plate 5. Trench 10, looking north-east,  
Scales: horizontal 2m and 1m, vertical 0.5m.**



**Plate 6. Trench 15, looking north-west,  
Scales: horizontal 2m and 1m, vertical 0.5m.**

**QBB 15/217**

**Quebec Barracks, Camp Road,  
Bordon, Hampshire, 2015  
Archaeological Evaluation  
Plates 5 - 6.**

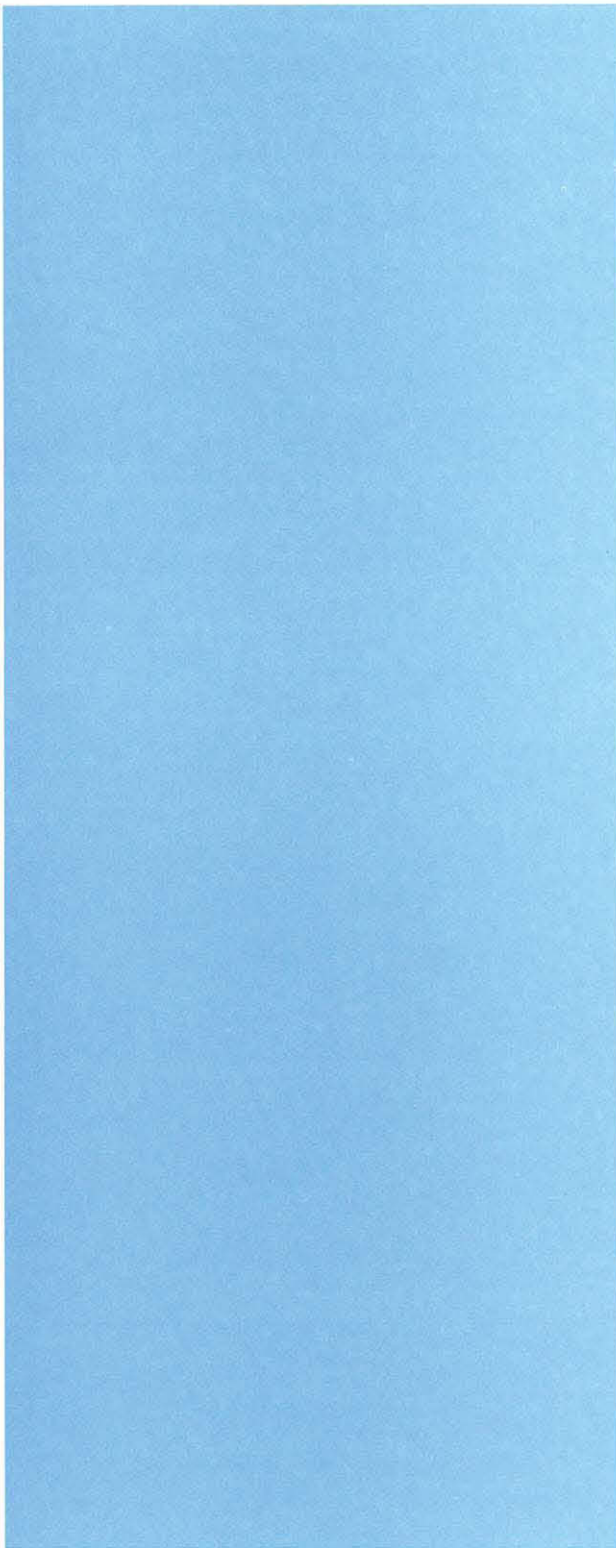
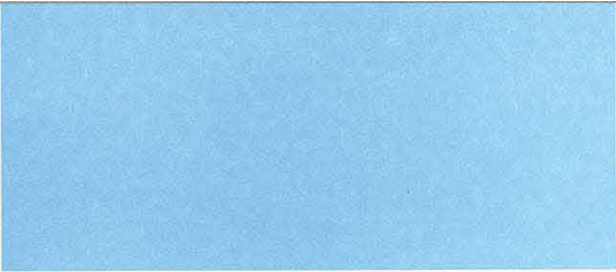
**THAMES VALLEY  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
SERVICES  
SOUTH**



## 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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