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ARCHAEOLOGICAL

S E R V I C E S

S O U T H

**Paddocks, Nutbourne, Chichester,  
West Sussex**

**Archaeological Evaluation**

**by David Platt**

**Site Code: PNC15/232**

**(SU7801 0558)**

# **Paddocks, Nutbourne, Chichester, West Sussex**

**An Archaeological Evaluation  
for Pallant Homes Limited**

by David Platt

Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code PNC15/232

**January 2016**

## Summary

**Site name:** Paddocks, Nutbourne, Chichester, West Sussex

**Grid reference:** SU7801 0558

**Site activity:** Archaeological Evaluation

**Date and duration of project:** 11th-13th January 2016

**Project manager:** Sean Wallis

**Site supervisor:** David Platt

**Site code:** PNC15/232

**Area of site:** 3.4ha

**Summary of results:** The evaluation revealed a number of archaeological deposits on the site that are likely to represent one or more Bronze Age occupation sites.

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

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

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| Report edited/checked by: Steve Ford ✓ 22.01.15 |
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# **Paddocks, Nutbourne, Chichester, West Sussex An Archaeological Evaluation**

by David Platt

**Report 15/232**

## **Introduction**

This report documents the results of an archaeological field evaluation carried out at Paddocks, Nutbourne, Chichester, West Sussex (SU7801 0558) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Mr Edward Van Der Wee, Pallant Homes Ltd, Suite G3, Pereguine House, Ford Lane, Ford, Arundel BN18 0DF.

An application to construct new housing is to be made to Chichester District Council, as a consequence of the possibility of archaeological deposits on the site which may be damaged or destroyed by proposed re-development of the site, it is proposed to carry out a field evaluation on the site as detailed in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF 2012, para 128) and District Council's policies on archaeology, to determine the archaeological potential of the site and to help formulate a mitigation strategy as necessary.

The field investigation was carried out to a specification approved by Mr James Kenny, Archaeological Officer for Chichester District Council. The fieldwork was undertaken by David Platt, Dr Ellen McManus, Tom Stewart, Naomi Humphreys and Teresa Vieira between the 11th and 13th January 2016 and the site code is PNC15/232. The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited at Chichester Museum in due course.

## **Location, topography and geology**

The site is located on the north eastern extent of Nutbourne, c.7km west of Chichester and 6km east of Havant (Figs. 1 and 2). The underlying geology was Aeolian Deposits (brickearth) (BGS 1998) and this was observed in the trenches as a light red brown as a silty clay with gravel inclusions. The site was 7m above Ordnance Datum and the site was used for arable farming.

## **Archaeological background**

The archaeological potential of the site has been highlighted in a desk-based assessment (Bermingham 2015). In summary this potential stems from it's location on the archaeological rich Sussex coastal plain and within the

hinterland of the Roman town of Chichester. Yet few sites and finds are recorded within the county historic environment record for the environs of the site.

## **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 had survived on this site.

to determine if archaeological deposits of any period were present.

A total of 17 trenches were to be dug, each 25m in length and 1.6m in width using a 360<sup>0</sup> mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket under constant archaeological supervision, all spoilheaps were monitored for finds. If archaeological deposits were identified these were then to be further investigated by hand with cleaning, examination and recording in plan and section.

## **Results**

All 17 trenches were dug as intended. They ranged in length from 24.40 to 26.10m and in depth from 0.35 to 0.50m. A complete list of trenches giving lengths, breadths, depths and a description of sections and geology is given in Appendix 1.

### Trench 1 (Figs 3, 4 and 5)

Trench 1 was aligned S - N and was 25.50m long and 0.40m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.40m of topsoil overlying the natural silty clay geology. 8 postholes (4, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 and 12) and a pit (5) were observed. The postholes ranged in diameter between 0.30 and 0.40m in diameter and between 0.07 and 0.32m deep and all contained a single fill which consisted of a dark brown grey silty clay with occasional gravel inclusions. Bronze Age pottery was recovered features 7, 8 and 9 and flint flakes from features 9 and 10.

### Trench 2 (Figs 3, 4 and 5)

Trench 2 was aligned SW - NE and was 25.30m long and 0.45m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.45m of topsoil overlying the natural silty clay geology. 3 postholes (1, 2 and 19) and a single pit (3) were observed. Posthole 1 was 0.56m in diameter and 0.27m deep and contained a single fill (52) which consisted of a mid

brown grey clayey silt with occasional gravel inclusions. Six sherds of Bronze Age pottery and 224g of burnt flint were recovered. Posthole 2 was 0.48m in diameter and 0.20m deep and contained a single fill (53) which consisted of a mid brown grey clayey silt with occasional gravel inclusions. No finds were recovered. Posthole 19 was 0.40m in diameter and 0.30m deep and contained a single fill (55) which consisted of a dark grey brown clayey silt with occasional gravel inclusions, 1 small sherd of Bronze Age(?) pottery was recovered. Pit 3 was 0.86m in diameter and 0.28m deep and contained a single fill (54) which consisted of a mid brown grey clayey silt with occasional gravel inclusions. No finds were recovered.

#### Trench 3 (Figs 3, 4 and 5)

Trench 3 was aligned SW - NE and was 24.50m long and 0.40m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.40m of topsoil overlying the natural silty clay geology. A single ditch (13) was observed, this was 0.60m wide and 0.22m deep and contained a single fill (67) which consisted of a pale yellow grey clayey silt with frequent gravel inclusions. No finds were recovered.

#### Trench 4 (Figs 3, 4 and 5)

Trench 4 was aligned SE - NW and was 26.0m long and 0.40m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.40m of topsoil overlying the natural silty clay geology. 5 postholes (15, 16, 17, 18 and 24), 2 pits (20 and 23), a gully (26) and a treebole (25) were observed. The postholes ranged in diameter between 0.27 and 0.45m and in depth between 0.16 and 0.23m. postholes 15 and 16 contained 2 fills, the primary fills (70 and 72) consisted of a mid grey yellow clayey silt and the secondary fills (69 and 71) consisted of a dark yellow grey silty clay. Postholes 17, 18 and 24 contained single fills (73, 74 and 80) which also consisted of a dark yellow grey silty clay. Fill 70 contained 52g of burnt flint, fill 71 contained 1172g of burnt flint and a sherd of Bronze Age pottery, fill 72 contained 49g of burnt flint, fill 73 contained 469g of burnt flint and a sherd of Bronze Age pottery, fill 74 contained 101g of burnt flint and fill 80 contained 495g of burnt flint.

Pit 20 was 0.68m in diameter and 0.25m deep and contained a single fill (75) which consisted of a dark yellow grey silty clay with 2353g of burnt flint and a small fragment of burnt clay was recovered. Pit 23 was 0.70m in diameter and 0.06m deep and contained a single fill (79) which consisted of a dark yellow grey silty clay with frequent gravel inclusions. 64g of burnt flint and , a flint flake were recovered. Treebole 25 and gully 26 were observed and planned but were not excavated.

#### Trench 5 (Figs 3, 4 and 5)

Trench 1 was aligned SE - NW and was 25.20m long and 0.35m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.35m of topsoil overlying the natural silty clay geology. A single pit (14) was observed, this was 1.0m in diameter and 0.25m deep and contained a single fill (68) which consisted of a mid brown grey sandy silty clay with frequent gravel inclusions. Six sherds of Bronze Age pottery and two struck flints were recovered.

#### Trench 6 (Fig. 2)

Trench 1 was aligned E - W and was 25.20m long and 0.50m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.50m of topsoil overlying the natural silty clay geology. No finds or features were observed.

#### Trench 7 (Figs 3, 4 and 5)

Trench 7 was aligned E - W and was 25.0m long and 0.45m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.45m of topsoil overlying the natural silty clay geology. A ditch (21) was observed, this was 0.94m wide and 0.55m deep and contained a single fill (76) which consisted of a mid grey brown clayey silt with occasional gravel inclusions. A single small fragment of burnt clay was recovered.

#### Trench 8 (Fig. 2)

Trench 8 was aligned SW - NE and was 25.30m long and 0.45m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.45m of topsoil overlying the natural silty clay geology. No finds or features were observed.

#### Trench 9 (Fig. 2)

Trench 9 was aligned S - N and was 25.0m long and 0.40m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.40m of topsoil overlying the natural silty clay geology. No finds or features were observed.

#### Trench 10 (Figs 3, 4 and 5)

Trench 10 was aligned SW - NE and was 25.40m long and 0.40m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.40m of topsoil overlying the natural silty clay geology. A single ditch (22) was observed, this was 1.0m wide and 0.80m deep and contained a primary fill (78) which consisted of a pale blue grey sandy silty clay with occasional gravel inclusions, the secondary fill (77) consisted of a pale brown grey sandy silty clay with frequent gravel inclusions. No finds were recovered from either fill.

#### Trench 11 (Fig. 2)

Trench 11 was aligned SE - NW and was 26.10m long and 0.45m deep. At the NW end the stratigraphy consisted of 0.45m of topsoil overlying the natural silty clay geology, at the SE end the stratigraphy consisted of 0.35m of topsoil overlying 0.10m of subsoil which in turn overlay the natural geology. No finds or features were observed.

#### Trench 12 (Fig. 2)

Trench 12 was aligned SE - NW and was 24.80m long and 0.45m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.35m of topsoil overlying 0.10m of subsoil which in turn overlay the natural silty clay geology. No finds or features were observed.

#### Trench 13 (Figs 4 and 5)

Trench 13 was aligned E - W and was 25.70m long and 0.45m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.35m of topsoil overlying 0.10m of subsoil which in turn overlay the natural silty clay geology. A single ditch (27) was observed, this was 1.30m wide and 0.45m deep and contained a single fill (83) which consisted of a mid grey brown clayey silt with occasional gravel inclusions. This is likely to be the same ditch as 21 observed in trench 7. It contained a fragment of burnt clay.

#### Trench 14 (Figs. 4 and 5)

Trench 14 was aligned S - N and was 24.40m long and 0.43m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.33m of topsoil overlying 0.10m of subsoil which in turn overlay the natural silty clay geology. A ditch (28) was observed in the S end of the trench. and due to the small amount observed in the trench it was not excavated. This was likely to be the same ditch as 21 and 27.

#### Trench 15 (Fig. 2)

Trench 15 was aligned S - N and was 26.0m long and 0.41m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.32m of topsoil overlying the natural silty clay geology. No finds or features were observed.

#### Trench 16 (Fig. 2)

Trench 16 was aligned SW - NE and was 25.10m long and 0.40m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.30m of topsoil overlying the natural silty clay geology. No finds or features were observed.



### Trench 17 (Fig. 2)

Trench 17 was aligned SE - NW and was 25.60m long and 0.44m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.35m of topsoil overlying the natural silty clay geology. No finds or features were observed.

## **Finds**

### *Pottery by Steve Ford*

A small collection comprising 26 sherds (127g) of pottery was recovered from 10 features on the site as detailed in Appendix 3. All of the sherds were in a calcined flint-gritted fabric, mostly heavily gritted but with both coarse and fine versions present. Several sherds were more than 10mm thick. A single thin-walled sherd with a micaceous fabric and few flint grits from pit 14 was also noted. There were no featured or decorated sherds. The pottery is likely to be of Middle or Later Bronze Age date.

### *Fired clay by Steve Ford*

Three features contained small fragments of fired clay. These were pit 20 (75)- 1g , ditch 21 (76) – 1g and ditch 27 (83)- 17g.

### *Struck flint by Will Attard*

A total of 5 flints were recovered from 4 contexts during the evaluation trenching (Appendix 4). The assemblage includes 3 cortical flakes, one displaying dorsal scars and striking platform demonstrating removal of small flakes from the proximal end. Flakes from cuts [9] and [14] are fresh, whilst the remaining two (from [10] and [23] respectively) are lightly patinated and rolled.

The flint used ranges from a dark grey-brown through to a light brown-grey, and the flints from cuts [10] and [23] are a light yellow-brown mottled with yellow-grey. Cortex, where present, is thin and smooth, suggesting the flakes were produced from river cobbles. Both flakes from cut [14] are identical in colour and cortical appearance, and it seems very likely that they originate from the same small cobble. None of the flint recovered shows signs of further working or retouch, although it is possible - if unlikely due to the awkward small size of the flake - that the dorsal removals on the flake from cut [14] (detailed above) were struck after the flake was separated from the original core.

Previous fieldwalking at the site produced only a handful of struck flints, and even with the inclusion of other nearby work the quantity of flint recovered is low [Bermingham 2015: Appendix 1] and thus not indicative of a nearby prehistoric site.

### *Soil samples*

Two bulk soil samples of 5L were taken from postholes 10 and 11 for environmental remains and to enhance small finds recovery. The samples were floated and sieved using a 0.25mm mesh. The sample from posthole 11 produced a few fragments of unidentifiable charcoal only.

### **Conclusion**

This evaluation successfully identified a number of features of archaeological interest in the survey area, the majority of which were concentrated on the western edge of the site. All the pottery recovered was of Bronze Age date and the majority of the features were postholes suggesting one or more Bronze Age occupation sites. The undated ditch that was observed in trenches 7, 13 and 14 may be different in date as it was a distance away from the concentration of Bronze Age features.

### **References**

- Bermingham, N, 2015, Paddocks, Nutbourne, Chichester, West Sussex, an archaeological desk-based assessment, Thames Valley Archaeological Services south report 15/232, Brighton  
BGS, 1998, *British Geological Survey*, 1:50000, Sheet 316, Solid and Drift Edition, Keyworth  
NPPF, 2012, *National Planning Policy Framework*, Dept Communities and Local Govt, London

## APPENDIX 1: Trench details

0m at S, SW, SE, NW and W end

| Trench | Length (m) | Breadth (m) | Depth (m) | Comment  |
|--------|------------|-------------|-----------|--|
| 1      | 25.50      | 1.6         | 0.40      | 0–0.40m topsoil; 0.40m+ natural light reddish brown silty clay geology. Postholes 4, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 and 12 and Pit 5.  |
| 2      | 25.30      | 1.6         | 0.45      | 0–0.45m topsoil; 0.45m+ natural light reddish brown silty clay geology. Postholes 1, 2 and 19 and Pit 3. <b>[Pl. 5]</b> .  |
| 3      | 24.50      | 1.6         | 0.40      | 0–0.40m topsoil; 0.40m+ natural light reddish brown silty clay geology. Ditch 13. <b>[Pl. 1]</b>   |
| 4      | 26.0       | 1.6         | 0.40      | 0–0.40m topsoil; 0.40m+ natural light reddish brown silty clay geology. Postholes 15, 16, 17, 18 and 24, Pits 20 and 23, Gully 26 and treebole 25. <b>[Pls. 2 and 6]</b> |
| 5      | 25.20      | 1.6         | 0.35      | 0–0.35m topsoil; 0.35m+ natural light reddish brown silty clay geology. Pit 14.  |
| 6      | 25.20      | 1.6         | 0.50      | 0–0.50m topsoil; 0.50m+ natural light reddish brown silty clay geology   |
| 7      | 25.0       | 1.6         | 0.45      | 0–0.45m topsoil; 0.45m+ natural light reddish brown silty clay geology. Ditch 21. <b>[Pl. 3]</b>   |
| 8      | 25.30      | 1.6         | 0.45      | 0–0.45m topsoil; 0.45m+ natural light reddish brown silty clay geology   |
| 9      | 25.0       | 1.6         | 0.40      | 0–0.40m topsoil; 0.40m+ natural light reddish brown silty clay geology   |
| 10     | 25.40      | 1.6         | 0.40      | 0–0.40m topsoil; 0.40m+ natural light reddish brown silty clay geology. Ditch 22.  |
| 11     | 26.10      | 1.6         | 0.45      | 0–0.45m topsoil; 0.45m+ natural light reddish brown silty clay geology.  |
| 12     | 24.80      | 1.6         | 0.45      | 0–0.35m topsoil; 0.35-0.45m mid red brown silty clay subsoil; 0.45m+ natural light reddish brown silty clay geology.   |
| 13     | 25.70      | 1.6         | 0.45      | 0–0.35m topsoil; 0.35-0.45m mid red brown silty clay subsoil; 0.45m+ natural light reddish brown silty clay geology. Ditch 27. <b>[Pls 4 and 8]</b>                      |
| 14     | 24.40      | 1.6         | 0.43      | 0–0.33m topsoil; 0.33m+ natural light reddish brown silty clay geology. Unexcavated Ditch 28,  |
| 15     | 26.0       | 1.6         | 0.41      | 0–0.32m topsoil; 0.32m+ natural light reddish brown silty clay geology   |
| 16     | 25.10      | 1.6         | 0.40      | 0–0.30m topsoil; 0.30m+ natural light reddish brown silty clay geology   |
| 17     | 25.60      | 1.6         | 0.44      | 0–0.35m topsoil; 0.35m+ natural light reddish brown silty clay geology   |

## APPENDIX 2: Feature details

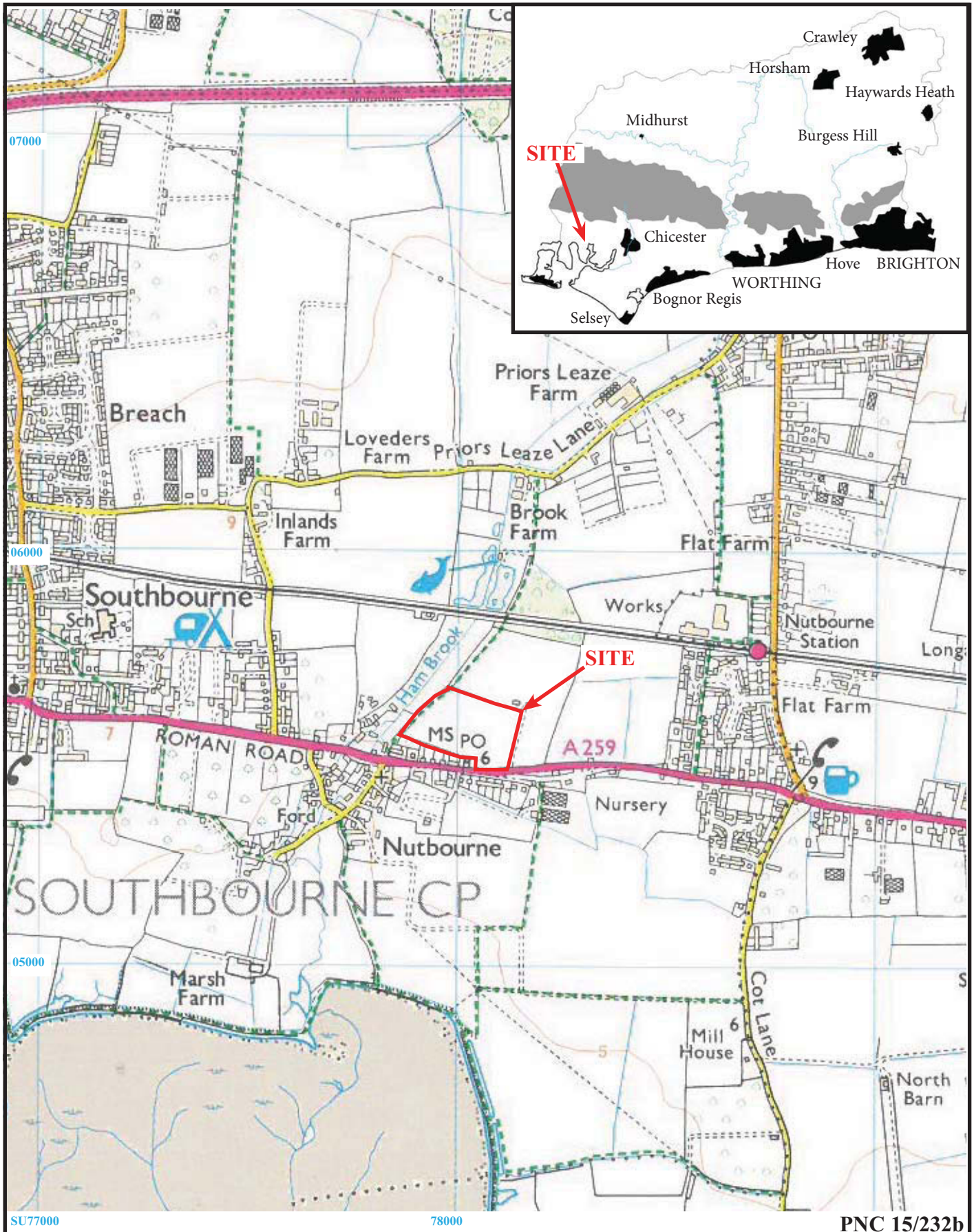
| <i>Trench</i> | <i>Cut</i> | <i>Fill (s)</i> | <i>Type</i> | <i>Date</i> | <i>Dating evidence</i> |
|---------------|------------|-----------------|-------------|-------------|------------------------|
| 2             | 1          | 52              | posthole    | Bronze Age  | pottery                |
| 2             | 2          | 53              | posthole    |             |                        |
| 2             | 3          | 54              | Pit         |             |                        |
| 1             | 4          | 56              | Posthole    |             |                        |
| 1             | 5          | 57, 58          | Pit         | Bronze Age  | pottery                |
| 1             | 6          | 59              | Posthole    |             |                        |
| 1             | 7          | 60              | Posthole    | Bronze Age  | pottery                |
| 1             | 8          | 61              | Posthole    | Bronze Age  | pottery                |
| 1             | 9          | 62              | Posthole    | Bronze Age  | pottery                |
| 1             | 10         | 63              | Posthole    |             |                        |
| 1             | 11         | 64              | Posthole    |             |                        |
| 1             | 12         | 65              | Posthole    |             |                        |
| 3             | 13         | 67              | Ditch       |             |                        |
| 5             | 14         | 68              | Pit         | Bronze Age  | pottery                |
| 4             | 15         | 69, 70          | Posthole    |             |                        |
| 4             | 16         | 71, 72          | Posthole    | Bronze Age  | pottery                |
| 4             | 17         | 73              | Posthole    | Bronze Age  | pottery                |
| 4             | 18         | 74              | Posthole    |             |                        |
| 2             | 19         | 55, 66          | Posthole    | Bronze Age  | pottery                |
| 4             | 20         | 75              | Pit         |             |                        |
| 7             | 21         | 76              | Ditch       |             |                        |
| 10            | 22         | 77, 78          | Ditch       |             |                        |
| 4             | 23         | 79              | Pit         |             |                        |
| 4             | 24         | 80              | Posthole    | Bronze Age  | pottery                |
| 4             | 25         | 81              | Treebole    |             |                        |
| 4             | 26         | 82              | Gully       |             |                        |
| 13            | 27         | 83              | Ditch       |             |                        |
| 14            | 28         | -               | Ditch       | Not dug     |                        |

**APPENDIX 3: Catalogue of pottery**

| Cut | Deposit | Type     | No | Wt (g) |
|-----|---------|----------|----|--------|
| 1   | 52      | Posthole | 6  | 44     |
| 19  | 55      | Posthole | 1  | <1     |
| 5   | 58      | Pit      | 1  | 11     |
| 7   | 60      | Posthole | 1  | <1     |
| 8   | 61      | Posthole | 3  | 19     |
| 9   | 62      | Posthole | 3  | 14     |
| 14  | 68      | Pit      | 6  | 20     |
| 16  | 71      | Posthole | 1  | <1     |
| 17  | 73      | Posthole | 1  | <1     |
| 24  | 80      | Posthole | 3  | 17     |
|     |         | TOTAL    | 26 | 127    |

**APPENDIX 4:** Catalogue of struck flint

|               | Total | [9] (62) | [10] (63) <1> | [14] (68) | [23] (79) |
|---------------|-------|----------|---------------|-----------|-----------|
| Intact flakes | 3     | 1        |               | 2         |           |
| Broken flakes | 2     |          | 1             |           | 1         |



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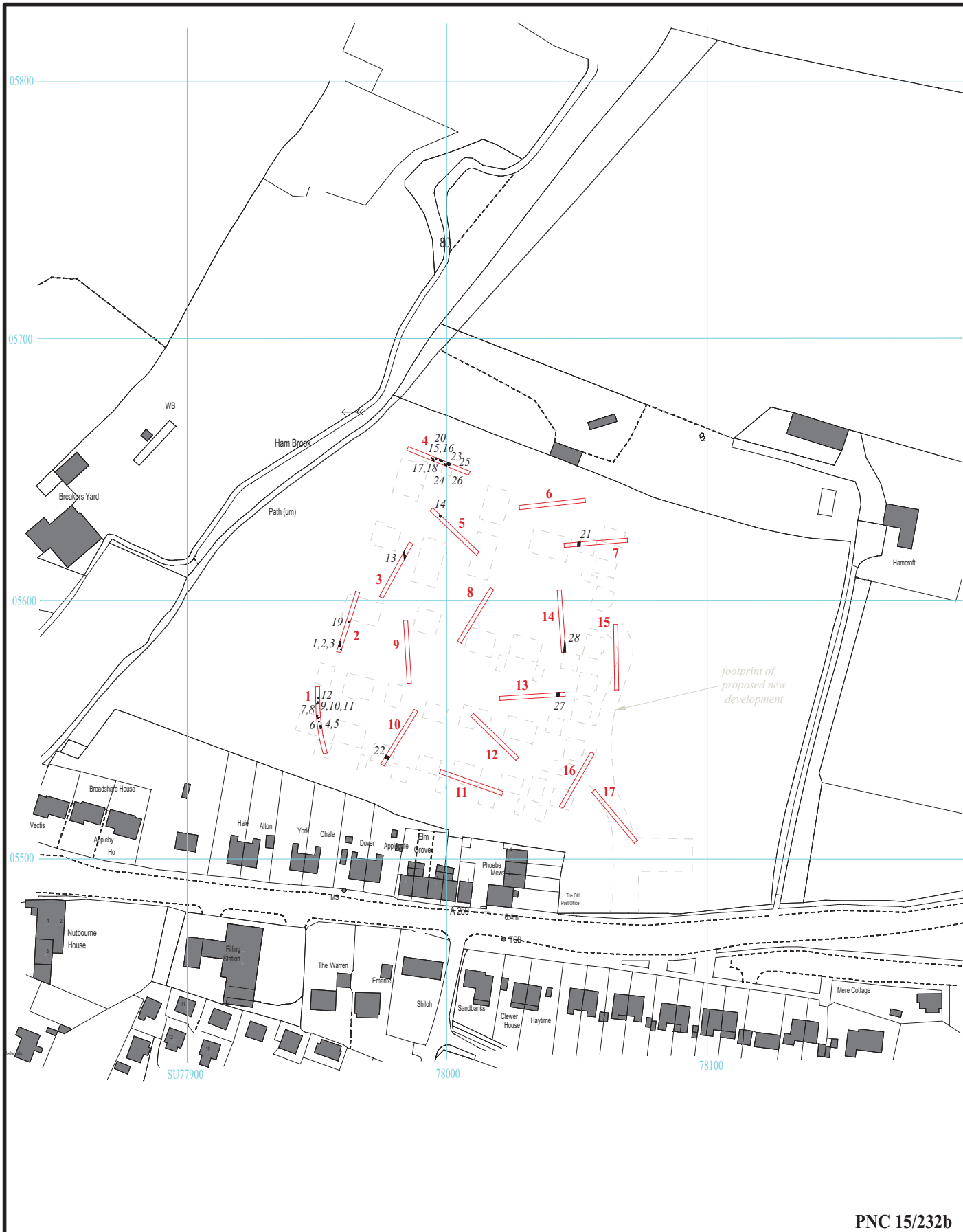
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Figure 1. Location of site within Nutbourne and West Sussex.

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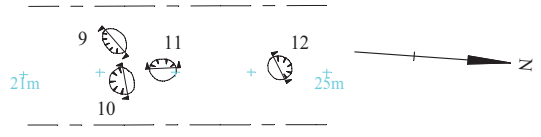
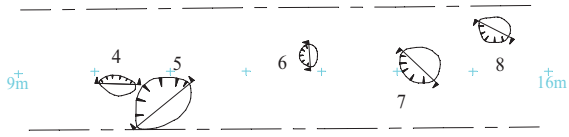
**The Paddock, Nutbourne,  
Chichester, West Sussex, 2016  
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Figure 3. Location of trenches.

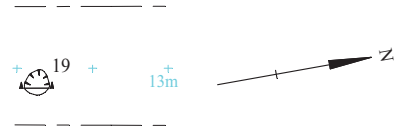
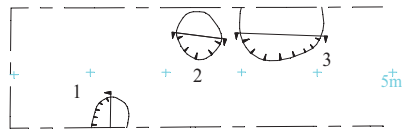




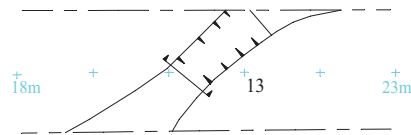
Trench 1



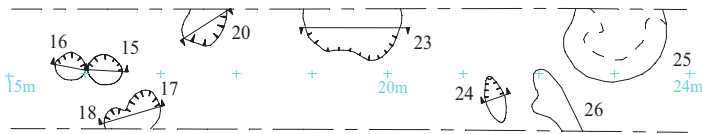
Trench 2



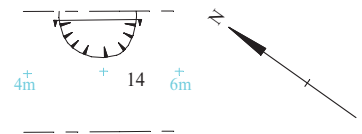
Trench 3



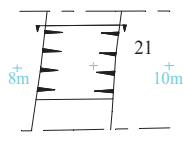
Trench 4



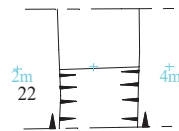
Trench 5



Trench 7



Trench 10

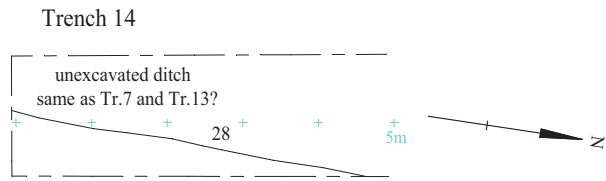
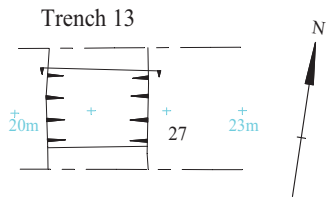


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Figure 3. Location of trenches.



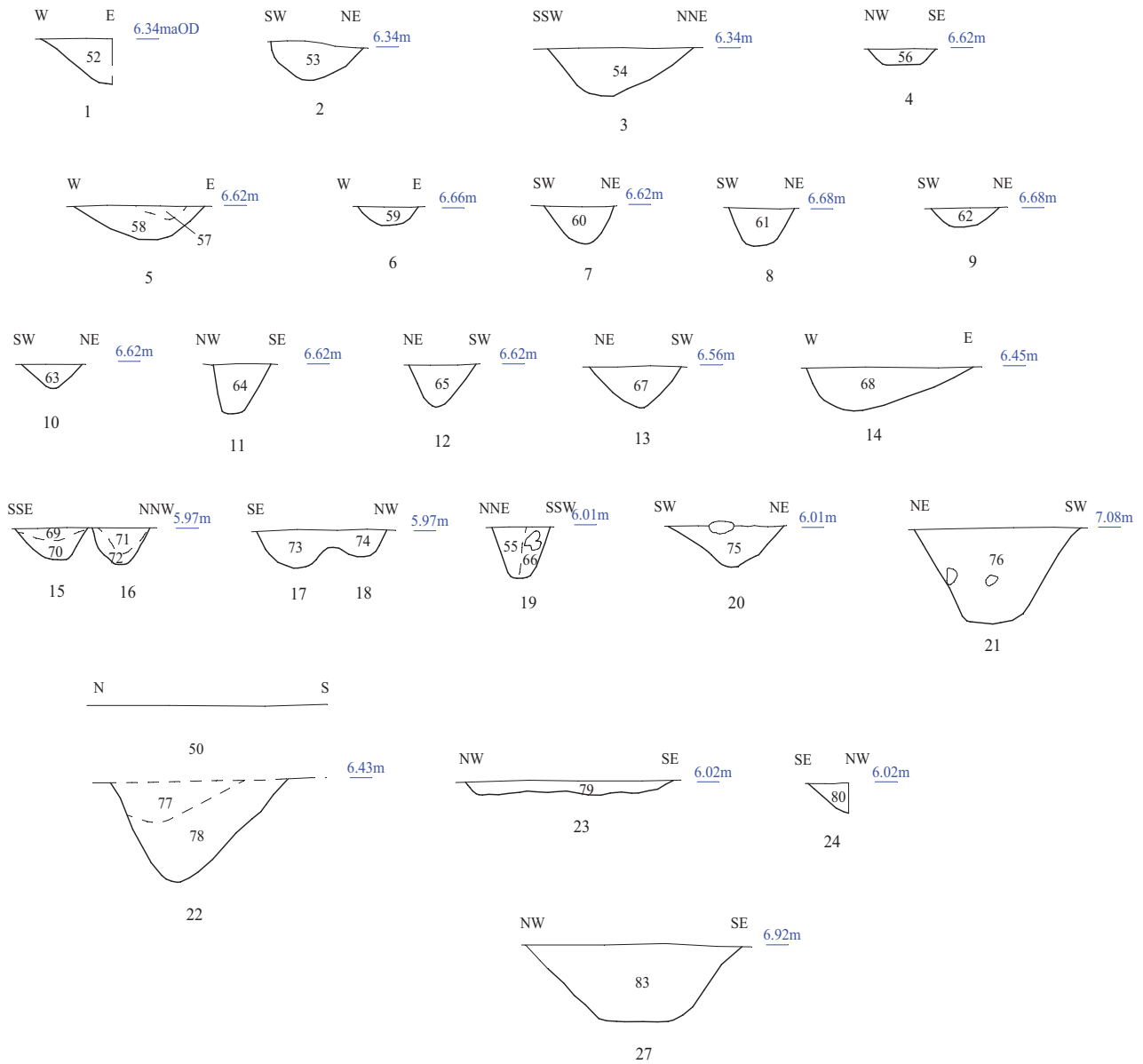


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Figure 4. Detail of trenches.





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Figure 5. Sections..





Plate 1. Trench 3, looking north east, Scale: 0.5m.



Plate 2. Trench 4, looking south east, Scale: 0.5m.

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Plates 1 - 2.

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Plate 3. Trench 7, looking east north east, Scale: 0.5m.



Plate 4. Trench 13, looking east north east, Scale: 0.5m.

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Plates 3 - 4.

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Plate 5. Trench 2, pit 8, looking west, Scales: 0.5m and 0.1m.



Plate 6. Trench 4, pits 17 and 18, looking south west, Scales: 0.5m and 0.1m.

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Plates 5 - 6.

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Plate 7. Trench 4, pit 20, looking east, Scales: 0.5m and 0.1m.



Plate 8. Trench 13, ditch 27, looking north east, Scales: 1m and 0.5m.

PNC 15/232b

**The Paddocks, Nutbourne,  
Chichester, West Sussex, 2016  
Archaeological Evaluation**  
Plates 7 - 8.

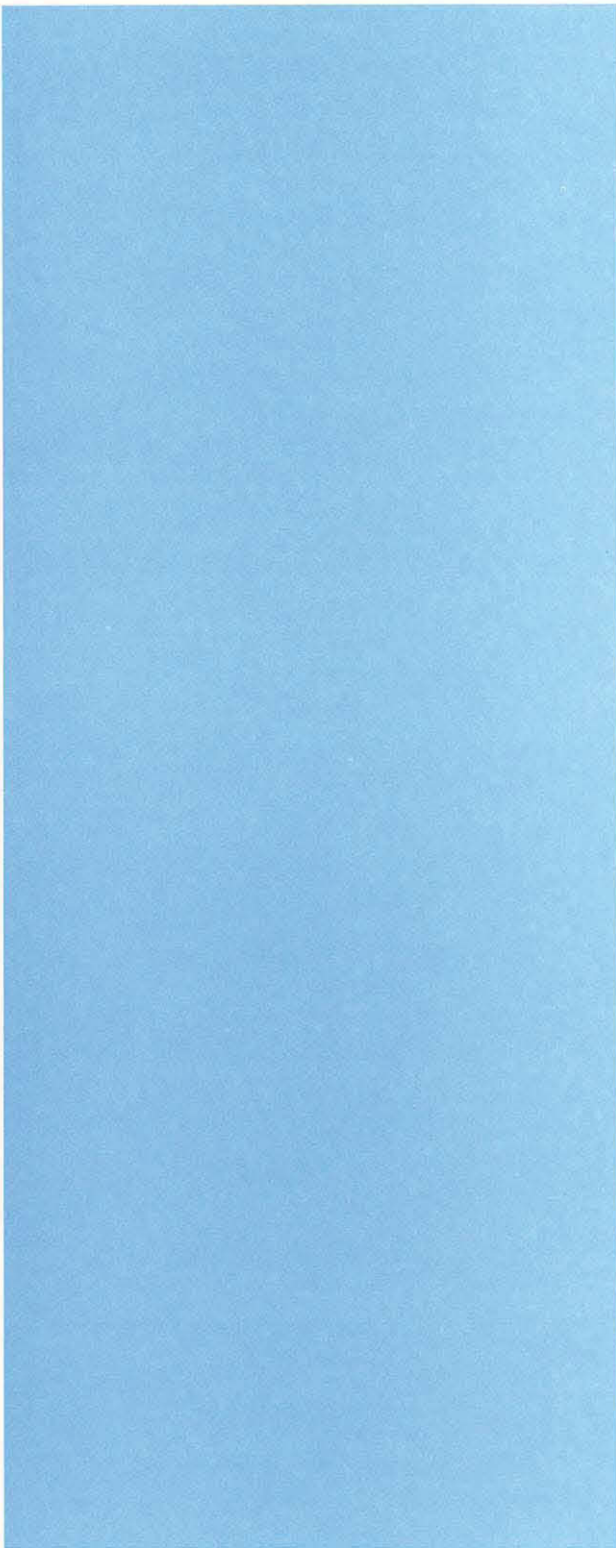
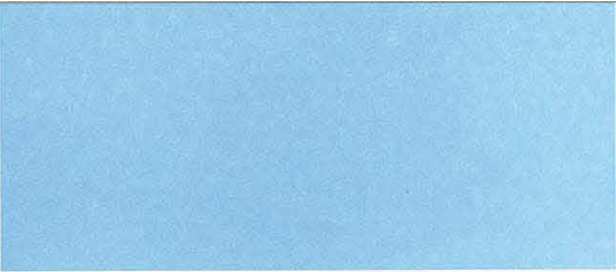
THAMES VALLEY  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
SERVICES  
SOUTH

## 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<br>750 BC       |
| <br>                       |                       |
| Bronze Age: Late -----     | 1300 BC               |
| Bronze Age: Middle -----   | 1700 BC               |
| Bronze Age: Early -----    | 2100 BC               |
| <br>                       |                       |
| Neolithic: Late .....      | 3300 BC               |
| Neolithic: Early .....     | 4300 BC               |
| <br>                       |                       |
| Mesolithic: Late .....     | 6000 BC               |
| Mesolithic: Early .....    | 10000 BC              |
| <br>                       |                       |
| Palaeolithic: Upper .....  | 30000 BC              |
| Palaeolithic: Middle ..... | 70000 BC              |
| Palaeolithic: Lower .....  | 2,000,000 BC          |







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