THAMES VALLEY

ARCHAEOLOGICAL

SERVICES

Land at Woodside Avenue, Eastleigh, Hampshire, Phase 1

Archaeological Evaluation

by Andy Taylor

Site Code: WAE15/237

(SU 4458 1953)

Land at Woodside Avenue, Eastleigh, Hampshire, Phase 1

An Archaeological Evaluation

for Drew Smith Group

by Andy Taylor

Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code WAE 15/237

January 2016

Summary

Site name: Land at Woodside Avenue, Eastleigh, Hampshire, Phase 1

Grid reference: SU 4458 1953

Site activity: Evaluation

Date and duration of project: 19th-20th January 2016

Project manager: Steve Ford

Site supervisor: Andy Taylor

Site code: WAE 15/237

Area of site: *c.*2.5 hectares

Summary of results: One small part of the proposal site contained a modest volume of archaeological deposits consisting of a ditch of likely late medieval date and an undated gully and pit/tree throw hole. This area of the site can be considered as having some archaeological potential.

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

Report edited/checked by:	Steve Ford✓ 27.01.16
	Steve Preston✓ 26.01.16

Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd, 47–49 De Beauvoir Road, Reading RG1 5NR

Tel. (0118) 926 0552; Fax (0118) 926 0553; email tvas@tvas.co.uk; *website: www.tvas.co.uk*

Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd, 47–49 De Beauvoir Road, Reading RG1 5NR

Tel. (0118) 926 0552; Fax (0118) 926 0553; email **tvas@tvas.co.uk;** *website: www.tvas.co.uk*

Land at Woodside Avenue, Eastleigh, Hampshire, Phase 1
An Archaeological Evaluation

by Andy Taylor

Report 15/237

Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological field evaluation carried out on land at Woodside Avenue, Eastleigh, Hampshire (SU 4458 1953) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Ms Abi Daines, of Drew Smith Group, Drew Smith House, Mill Court, The Sawmills, Durley, Southampton, Hampshire, SO32 2EJ.

Planning permission (O/13/73698) has been gained from Eastleigh Borough Council to develop the site for housing with associated road, parking and landscaping. The permission is subject to a condition (11) relating to archaeology which requires 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, Senior Archaeologist with Hampshire County Council, advisers to the Borough on matters relating to archaeology. The fieldwork was undertaken by Andy Taylor and Jesse Coxey between 19th and 20th January 2016 and the site code is WAE 15/237. The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited with the Hampshire Cultural Trust in due course.

Location, topography and geology

The site is located on the western margins of Eastleigh, on an L-shaped parcel of land. It is bounded by Woodside Avenue to the west with a railway line to the north, cemetery to the east, allotments in the north-east corner and residential properties to the south (Fig. 1). It is a flat area mostly consisting of grass land with concrete hard standing on the western side with a recycling centre in the north-west corner. The underlying geology is mapped as River Terrace Deposits (mainly loam and clay) (BGS 1987), which was observed across the site, and it lies at a height of *c.* 15m above Ordnance Datum.

Archaeological background

The archaeological potential for the site stems from a modest number of archaeological finds and sites recorded in Hampshire Archaeology and Historic Buildings Record, though many of these relate to the 19th Century railway complex to the east. Eastleigh has late Saxon origins and is documented in Domesday Book (Williams and Martin 2002). Little fieldwork has taken place in the general vicinity but one evaluation revealed field boundaries of post-medieval date.

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.

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; and
to inform a strategy for mitigation if required.

A total of 29 trenches were to be dug, each 20m long and 2m wide, targeting the location of the proposed housing and landscaping, although at this stage only 24 were able to be excavated. Topsoil and any other overburden were to be removed using a 360° type machine fitted with a toothless grading bucket and under constant archaeological supervision.

Where archaeological features are certainly or probably present, the stripped areas were to be cleaned using appropriate hand tools and sufficient of the archaeological features and deposits exposed were to be excavated or sampled by hand to satisfy the aims of the brief, without compromising the integrity of any features that may warrant preservation *in situ*. Soil samples were taken from all the excavated features to enhance finds recovery and for environmental remains (a little burnt flint was recovered from these, but no environmental remains).

Results

At this stage trenches 1-5 could not be excavated due to the presence of a recycling centre. The 24 that were dug measured between 24m and 27m long (Fig. 3) and between 0.30m and 0.60m deep.

A complete list of trenches giving lengths, breadths, depths and a description of sections and geology is given in Appendix 1. Stratigraphy in all of the trenches consisted of topsoil overlying subsoil overlying natural sandy silty clay. Only those trenches with potential archaeological features are described in more detail below. The archaeological features are summarized in Appendix 2.

Trench 22 (Fig. 4; Pls 1 and 3)

This trench was aligned E-W and measured 26m long and 0.55m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.20m of topsoil overlying 0.35m of subsoil overlying sandy silty clay natural geology. A pit was observed on the edge of the trench at 2m into which a slot (2) was dug. This pit measured 0.70m across and 0.25m deep and had two fills (53 and 55). Fill 53 was a light yellow grey sandy silty clay and 55 was a white brown silty loam. Neither feature contained any finds. A gully was located at 7m along the trench into which a slot (1) was dug. This revealed that the gully was 0 .70m wide and 0.26m deep with a sin gle fill o f light yellow grey sandy silty clay (52). It contained 14 pieces of burnt flint.

Trench 25 (Fig. 4; Pls 2 and 4)

This trench was aligned E-W and measured 26m long and 0.50m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.20m of topsoil overlying 0.30m of subsoil overlying sandy silty clay natural geology. A ditch was located at the eastern end of the trench into which a slot (3) was dug. This revealed that it was c. 2m across and 0.59m deep with a single fill of dark brown red sandy clay fill (54). This fill produced four sherds of medieval pottery, all from a single vessel, 19 pieces of animal bone, eight pieces of brick and nine pieces of burnt flint.

Finds

Pottery by Paul Blinkhorn

The pottery assemblage comprised 4 sherds with a total weight of 44g. It all o ccurred in context 54, and is all from a single vessel, a jar in Late Medieval Well-Fired Sandy Ware, fabric LWFS in the Southampton City type-series (Brown 2002), and dated 1420–1520. Three of the sherds re-fit, and are from the rim of a large jar or cistern. They are in good condition, and appear reliably stratified.

Ceramic Building Materials by Danielle Milbank

Brick fragments were recovered from a single context. Ditch slot 3, within Trench 25, contained 8 fragments weighing a total of 4184g. These were examined under x10 magnification and can all be categorized according to Harley 1974 as Type 4 (moulded).

The pieces are in three fabric types, the first comprising a hard, evenly fired sandy clay fabric with sparse small groggy inclusions. The colour is a mid orange red, and the pieces of these are 66mm thick, with a fairly

even form, and a likely late medieval or early post-medieval date: there is no reason it need be out of place in a late medieval context.

The second fabric is a hard, fairly fine fabric, evenly fired, with a very sparse flint or chert pebble inclusions, and a red colour. Two fragments of this fabric are present, and one has pale green vitrification on two sides. These again can only be dated broadly to the late medieval or early post-medieval period.

A third fabric is a slightly soft fine clay with fine sandy inclusions and very sparse fine groggy inclusions. The colour is a mid to orange red, with some blackening. The most complete piece is 50mm thick and 108mm wide, and the form is slightly uneven, with a rough underside, and a likely date in the 14th or 15th century.

Burnt Flint by Andy Taylor

A total of 23 pieces of burnt flint were recovered during the evaluation weighing a total of 419g (Appendix 3). Nine pieces were hand collected and the remainder came from sieved soil samples. This material cannot be dated.

Animal Bone by Lizzi Lewins

A small assemblage of animal bone (19 fragments), weighing a total of 95g was recovered from a single feature during the course of the evaluation, ditch 3 (54). The condition of the bone was poor. It was highly degraded and fragmented and displayed a high incidence of surface erosion. The bone was classified by size as species level identification was not possible. Two of the fragments were long bone fragments from a large mammal. It was not possible to identify the remaining fragments due to the condition of the bone. No taphonomic processes were identified.

Conclusion

A small number of archaeological features were recorded on the south eastern edge of the site comprising a late medieval ditch and an undated gully and pit/treebole, which may be contemporary in date. It is possible that this represents the margin of activity extending beneath the existing properties or that of an isolated area of activity.

References

BGS, 1987, *British Geological Survey*, 1:50000, Sheet 315, Solid and Drift Edition, Keyworth
Brown, D H, 2002, *Pottery in Medieval Southampton c 1066 – 1510*, Southampton Archaeol Monogr **8**
Harley, L S, 1974, 'A Typology of Brick; with numerical coding of brick characteristics', *J Brit Archaeol Assoc* 3rd ser **37**, 63–87
NPPF, 2012, *National Planning Policy Framework*, Dept Communities and Local Govt, London
Williams, A and Martin, G H, 2002, *Domesday Book, a complete translation,* London

APPENDIX 1: Trench details

0m at S or W end

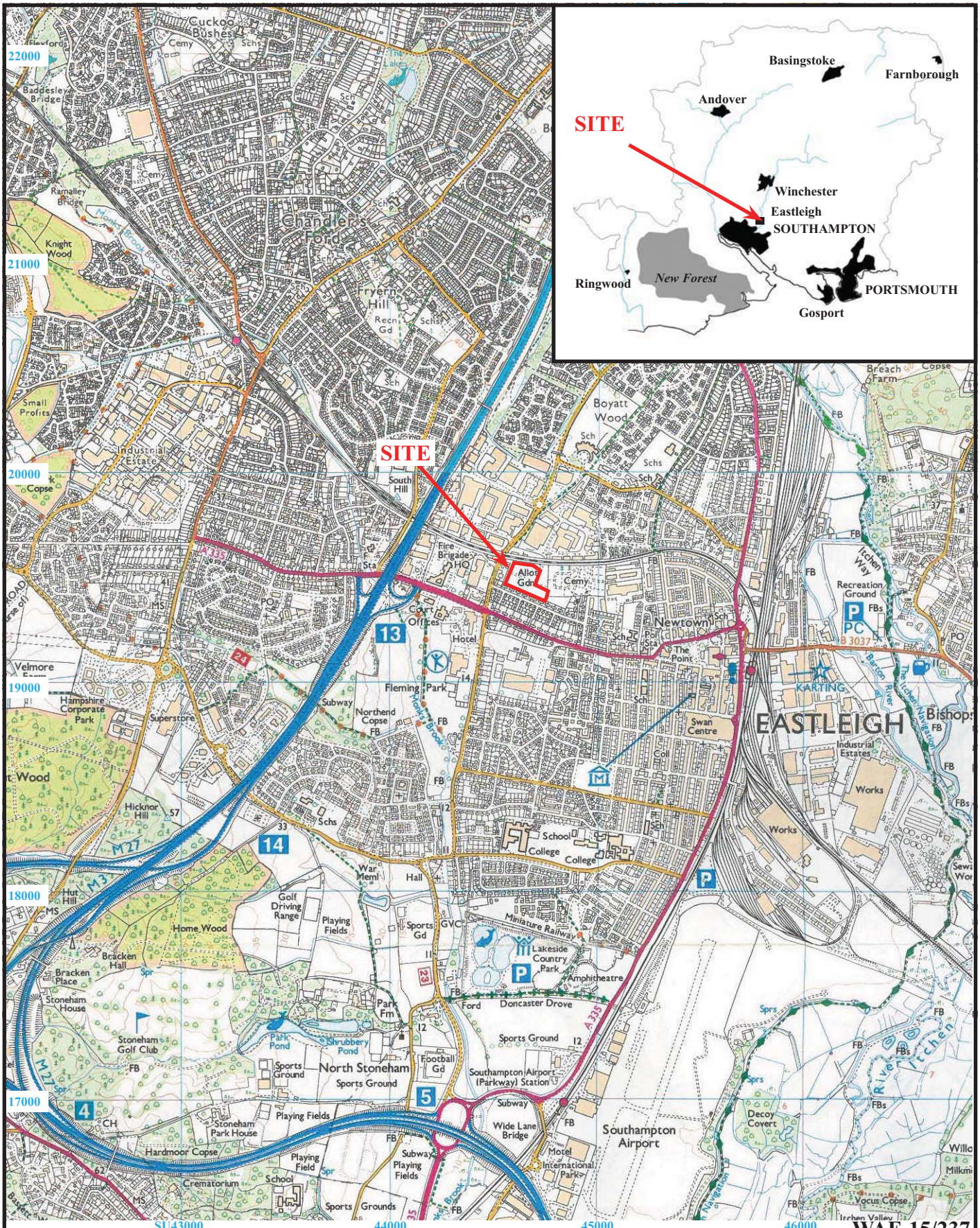
Trench	*Length (m)*	*Breadth (m)*	*Depth (m)*	*Comment*
6	25.00	1.80	0.40	0-0.10m topsoil; 0.10m-0.40m subsoil; 0.40m+ sandy clay natural geology.
7	24.60	1.80	0.45	0-0.15m topsoil; 0.15m-0.45m subsoil; 0.45m+ sandy clay natural geology.
8	24.00	1.80	0.40	0-0.15m topsoil; 0.15m-0.40m subsoil; 0.40m+ sandy clay natural geology.
9	24.00	1.80	0.50	0-0.10m topsoil; 0.10m-0.50m subsoil; 0.50m+ sandy clay natural geology.
10	25.00	1.80	0.40	0-0.10m topsoil; 0.10m-0.40m subsoil; 0.40m+ sandy clay natural geology.
11	25.20	1.80	0.40	0-0.15m topsoil; 0.15m-0.40m subsoil; 0.40m+ sandy clay natural geology.
12	25.00	1.80	0.40	0-0.10m topsoil; 0.10m-0.40m subsoil; 0.40m+ sandy clay natural geology.
13	26.00	1.80	0.50	0-0.10m topsoil; 0.10-0.50m subsoil; 0.50m+ sandy clay natural geology.
14	24.00	1.80	0.55	0-0.20m topsoil; 0.20m-0.55 subsoil; 0.55m+ sandy clay natural geology.
15	25.50	1.80	0.55	0-0.15m topsoil; 0.15m-0.55m subsoil; 0.55m+ sandy clay natural geology.
16	26.00	1.80	0.50	0-0.20m topsoil; 0.20m-0.50m subsoil; 0.50+ sandy clay natural geology.
17	27.00	1.80	0.30	0-0.10m topsoil; 0.10m-0.30m subsoil; 0.30m+ sandy clay natural geology.
18	26.50	1.80	0.50	0-0.20m topsoil; 0.20m-0.50m subsoil; 0.50m+ sandy clay natural geology.
19	26.20	1.80	0.50	0-0.20m topsoil; 0.20m-0.50m subsoil; 0.50m+ sandy clay natural geology.
20	26.20	1.80	0.50	0-0.20m topsoil; 0.20m-0.50m subsoil; 0.50m+ sandy clay natural geology.
21	26.00	1.80	0.60	0-0.30m topsoil; 0.30m-0.60m subsoil; 0.60m+ sandy clay natural geology.
22	26.00	1.80	0.55	0-0.20m topsoil; 0.20 m-0.55m subsoil; 0.55m+ sandy clay natural ge ology. Gully 1, Pit/Treebole 2; **[Pls 1 and 3]**
23	25.00	1.80	0.45	0-0.15m topsoil; 0.15m-0.45m subsoil; 0.45m+ sandy clay natural geology.
24	26.00	1.80	0.50	0-0.20m topsoil; 0.20m-0.50m subsoil; 0.50m+ sandy clay natural geology.
25	26.00	1.80	0.50	0-0.20m topsoil; 0.20 m-0.50m subsoil; 0.50m+ sandy clay natural ge ology. Ditch 3; **[Pls 2 and 4]**
26	25.00	1.80	0.50	0-0.10m topsoil; 0.10m-0.50m subsoil; 0.50m+ sandy clay natural geology.
27	26.00	1.80	0.60	0-0.20m topsoil; 0.20m-0.60m subsoil; 0.60m+ sandy clay natural geology.
28	25.20	1.80	0.50	0-0.15m topsoil; 0.15m-0.50m subsoil; 0.50m+ sandy clay natural geology.
29	25.00	1.80	0.55	0-0.20m topsoil; 0.20m-0.55m subsoil; 0.55m+ sandy clay natural geology.

APPENDIX 2: Feature details

Trench	*Cut*	*Fill (s)*	*Type*	*Date*	*Dating evidence*
22	1	52	Gully	-	-
22	2	53, 55	Pit/Treebole	-	-
25	3	54	Ditch	Medieval	Pottery, brick

APPENDIX 3: Catalogue of Burnt Flint

Trench	*Cut*	*Deposit*	*Type*	*Sample*	*No*	*Wt (g)*
22	1	52	Gully		4	81
22	1	52	Gully	1	10	34
25	3	54	Ditch	3	4	60
25	3	54	Ditch		5	244

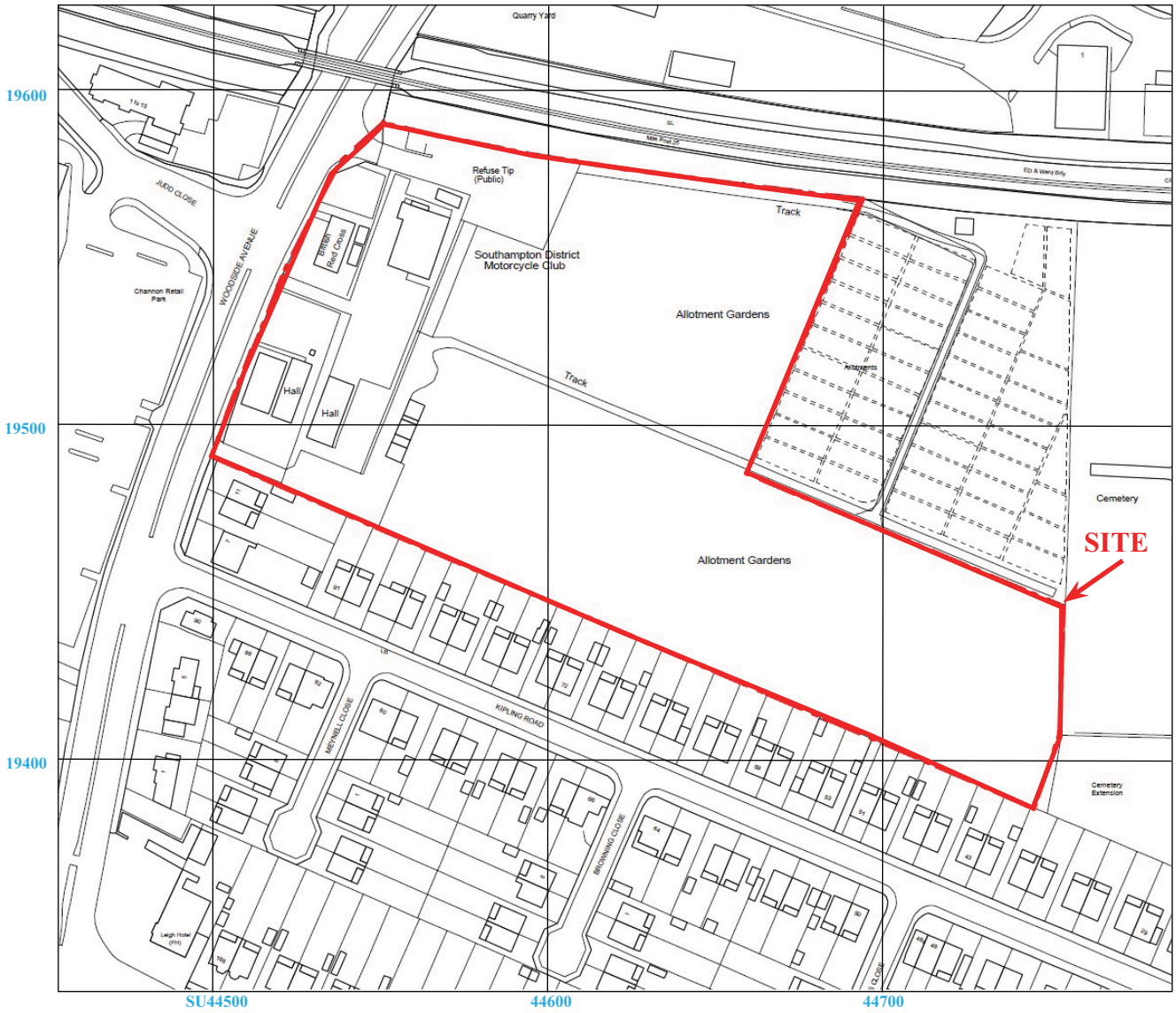


WAE 15/237

Land at Woodside Avenue, Eastleigh,
Hampshire, 2016
Archaeological Evaluation

Figure 1. Location of site within Eastleigh and Hampshire.

THAMES VALLEY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES



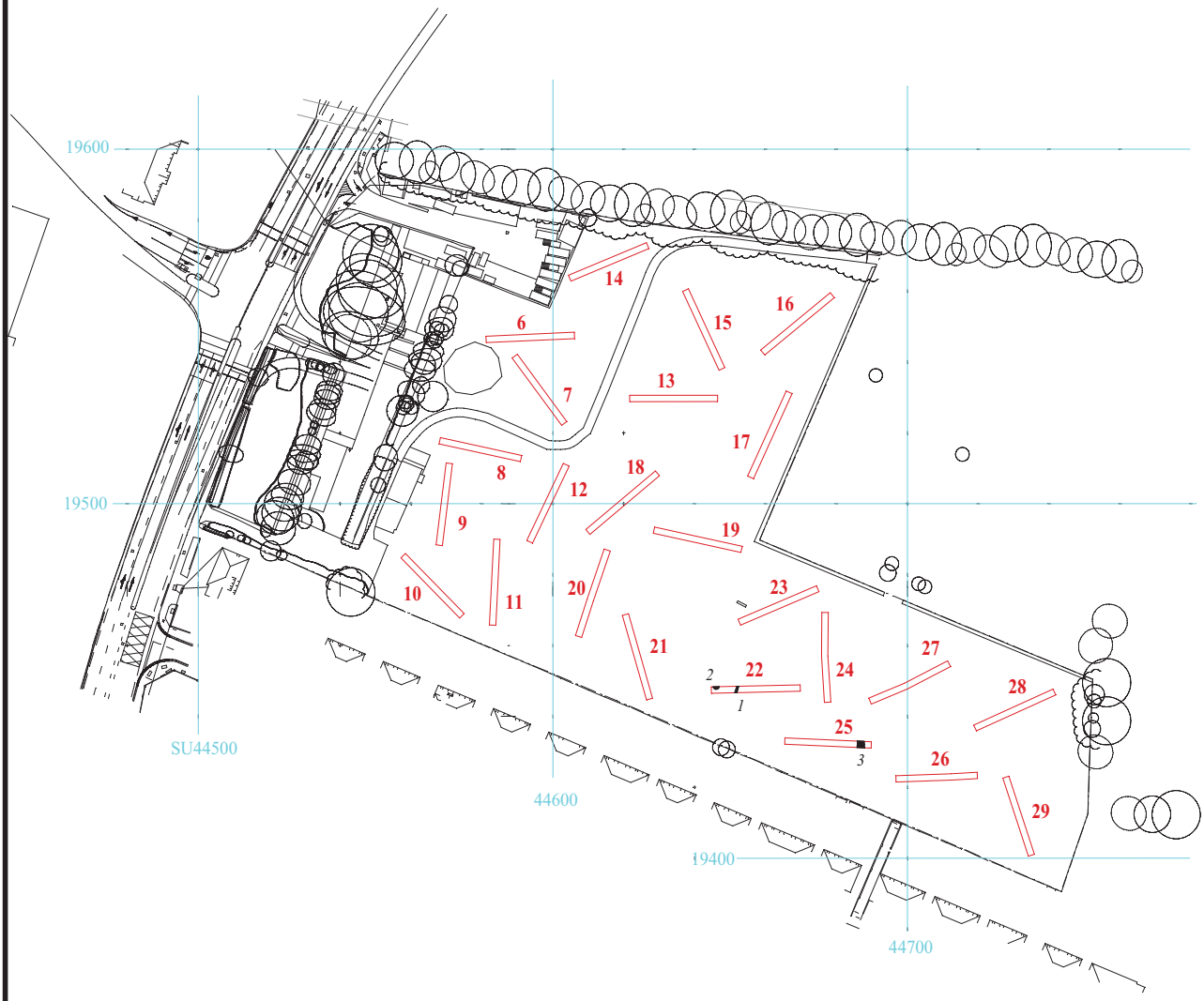
WAE 15/237

N

Land at Woodside Avenue, Eastleigh,
Hampshire, 2016
Archaeological Evaluation

Figure 2. Detailed location of site off Woodside Avenue.

THAMES VALLEY
ARCHAEOLOGICAL
SERVICES



WAE 15/237

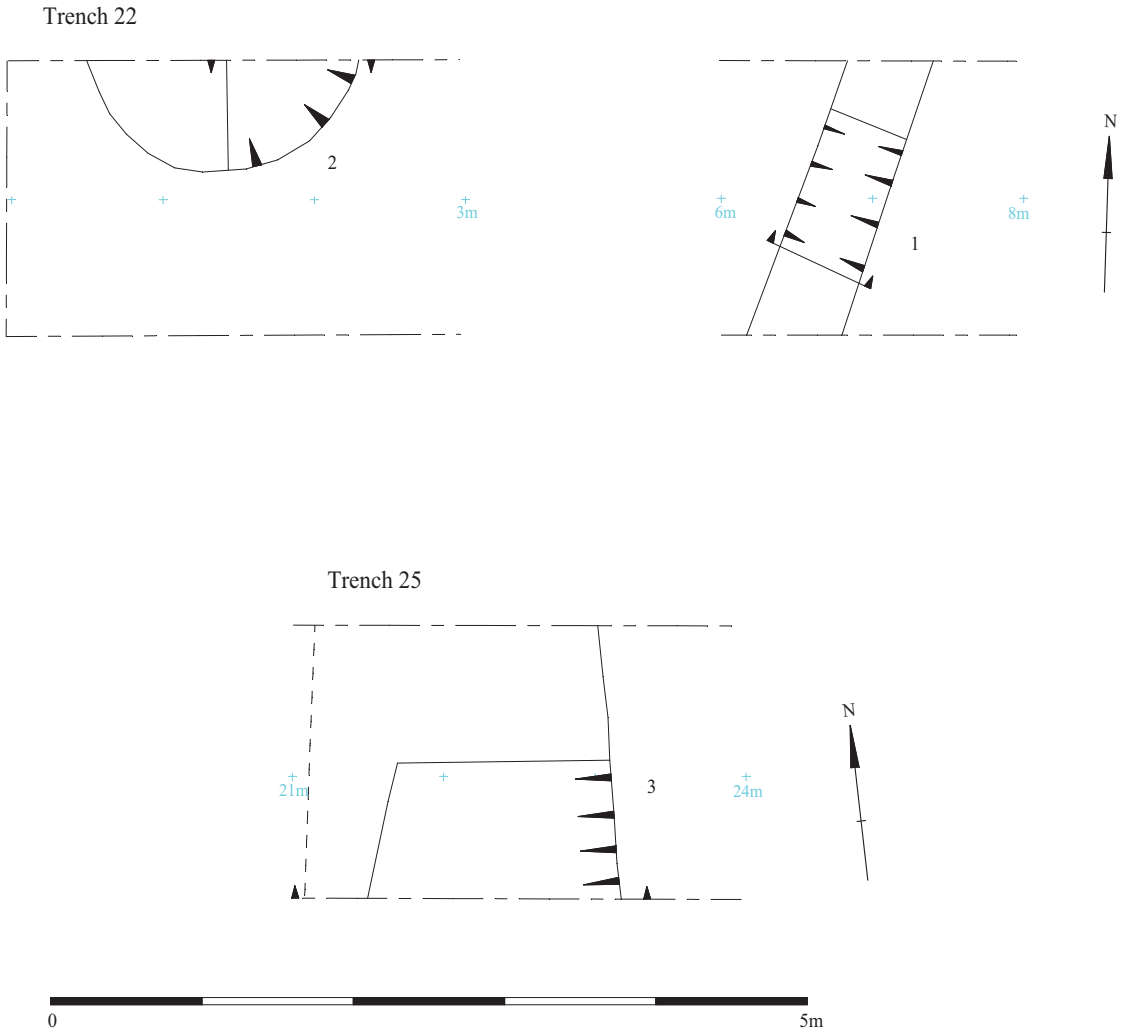
N

Land at Woodside Avenue, Eastleigh, Hampshire, 2016 Archaeological Evaluation

Figure 3. Location of trenches.

0 100m

THAMES VALLEY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES



WAE 15/237

Land at Woodside Avenue, Eastleigh, Hampshire, 2016 Archaeological Evaluation

Figure 4. Detail of trenches.

THAMES VALLEY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES

Plate 1. Trench 22, looking east, Scales: horizontal 2m and 1m, vertical 0.5m.

Plate 2. Trench 25, looking east, Scales: horizontal 2m and 1m, vertical 0.5m.

WAE 15/237

Land at Woodside Avenue, Eastleigh, Hampshire, 2016
Archaeological Evaluation
Plates 1 - 2.

THAMES VALLEY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES

Plate 3. Trench 22, gully 1, looking south, Scales: horizontal 0.5m, vertical 0.1m.

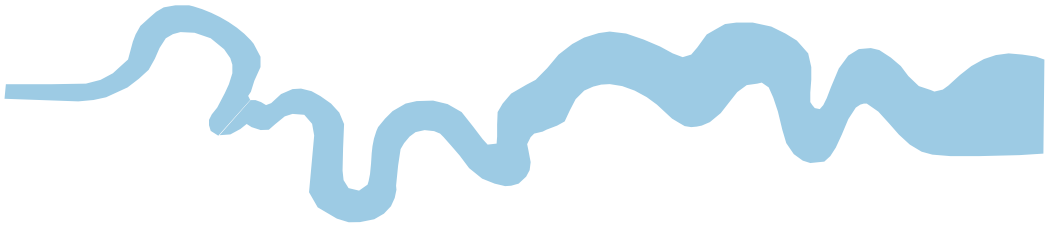
Plate 4. Trench 25, ditch 3, looking south, Scales: horizontal 2m, vertical 1m and 0.3m.

Land at Woodside Avenue, Eastleigh, Hampshire, 2016
Archaeological Evaluation
Plates 3 - 4.

THAMES VALLEY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES

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



Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd,
47-49 De Beauvoir Road, Reading,
Berkshire, RG1 5NR

Tel: 0118 9260552
Fax: 0118 9260553
Email: tvas@tvas.co.uk
Web: www.tvas.co.uk