

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

ARCHAEOLOGICAL

S E R V I C E S

**Land at Shavards Lane, Meonstoke,
South Downs, Hampshire**

Archaeological Evaluation

by David Sanchez

Site Code: SLM16/163

(SU 6162 2028)

**Land at Shavards Lane
Meonstoke, South Downs, Hampshire**

**An Archaeological Evaluation
for Drew Smith Group**

by David Sanchez

Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code SLM 16/163

September 2016

Summary

Site name: Land at Shavards Lane, Meonstoke, South Downs, Hampshire

Grid reference: SU 6162 2028

Site activity: Archaeological Evaluation

Date and duration of project: 16-17th September 2016

Project manager: Steve Ford

Site supervisor: David Sanchez

Site code: SLM 16/163

Area of site: 0.7ha

Summary of results: No features nor finds of archaeological significance were uncovered during the course of the evaluation. The site is therefore 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 at Hampshire Cultural Trust in due course.

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

Report edited/checked by: Steve Ford ✓ 24.09.16

Land at Shavards Lane, Meonstoke, South Downs, Hampshire An Archaeological Evaluation

by David Sanchez

Report 16/163

Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological field evaluation carried out on a parcel of land at Shavards Lane, Meonstoke, Hampshire (SU 6162 2028) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Mr. Joseph Osborne on behalf of Drew Smith Group, Drew Smith House, Mill Court, The Sawmills, Durley, Southampton, Hampshire SO32 2EJ.

Planning permission (SDNP/15/06414/FUL) has been gained from South Downs National Park to develop the site for six new houses. The permission is subject to conditions (12 and 13) relating to archaeology, which require the implementation of a programme of archaeological work prior to the commencement of groundworks. 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 was proposed to carry out a field evaluation. This is in accordance with the Department for Communities and Local Government's *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF 2012), and the South Downs National Park policies on archaeology. The field investigation was carried out to a specification approved by Tracy Matthews, Archaeologist of Winchester City Council, archaeological advisor to the National Park. The fieldwork was undertaken by David Sanchez and Jesse Coxey, on 16-17th September 2016, and the site code is SLM 16/163. 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 to the north east of the village of Meonstoke in the Meon Valley, which is 20km to the south east of Winchester (Figs 1 and 2). The site itself is located in an irregular parcel of land of c. 0.7ha at a height of c. 67m above Ordnance Datum. It lies on the western side of Shavards Lane, with residential houses to the south and open fields to the west. The underlying geology is mapped as Middle Chalk (BGS 1998), this being uncovered in all the trenches during the field evaluation.

Archaeological background

The archaeological potential of the site has been highlighted in a briefing note by the archaeological advisor to the National Park. In summary, the site lies on the eastern margins of the settlement of Meonstoke. The village has late Saxon origins and is recorded in Domesday Book (Williams and Martin 2002). Components of the medieval settlement are recorded to the north west of the proposal site and a number of listed buildings of post-medieval date are also recorded. Various prehistoric sites and finds are recorded from surrounding areas with a Bronze Age round barrow to the south and an neolithic pit just to the south.

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;

- a) To determine if archaeologically relevant levels had survived on this site.
- b) To determine if archaeological deposits of any period were present.
- c) To inform a strategy for mitigation if required
- d) The potential and significance of any such deposits located would be assessed according to the research priorities such as set out in *English Heritage Research Agenda* (English Heritage 2005) or any more local or thematic research priorities such as the Solent Thames Research Agenda (Hey and Hind 2014) as necessary.

Five trenches were to be dug, four at 10m long and one at 5m long, all 1.6m wide, as close as possible to the areas affected by the proposed buildings. A contingency for the equivalent of an additional 10m length of trenching was included within the proposal should this be required to clarify any deposits found in the initial trenching but it was not necessary. Topsoil and any other overburden were to be removed using a JCB-type machine fitted with a toothless ditching bucket. Machine excavation was undertaken by spits to enable the recovery of artefactual and ecofactual remains from individual layers and spoil heaps were monitored for finds. The excavation of the trenches was carried out under constant archaeological supervision.

Where archaeological features were possibly present the stripped areas were cleaned using appropriate hand tools. Sufficient of the archaeological features and deposits were to be excavated or sampled by hand to satisfy the aims of the brief. Excepting any archaeological features that may warrant preservation in-situ, all features and deposits revealed in the trenches were to be fully recorded.

Results

Five trenches were excavated as intended. They ranged in length from 5.7 to 11.20m and in depth from 0.35m 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 and 4; Pl. 1)

Trench 1 was aligned SW - NE and was 10.20m long and 0.45m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.20m of topsoil and 0.15m of mid greyish brown clayey silt subsoil overlying natural weathered chalk geology. No features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed and no finds were recovered.

Trench 2 (Fig. 3; Pl. 2)

Trench 2 was aligned SE - NW and was 10m long and 0.45m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.15m of topsoil and 0.15m of mid greyish brown clayey silt subsoil overlying natural geology. No features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed and no finds were recovered.

Trench 3 (Fig. 3; Pl. 3)

Trench 3 was aligned WSW - ENE and was 10m long and 0.35m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.15m of topsoil and 0.15m of mid greyish brown clayey silt subsoil overlying natural geology. No features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed and no finds were recovered.

Trench 4 (Fig. 3; Pl. 4)

Trench 4 was aligned SSW - NNE and was 11.20m long and 0.40m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.15m of topsoil and 0.15m of mid greyish brown clayey silt subsoil overlying natural geology. No features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed and no finds were recovered.

Trench 5 (Fig. 3)

Trench 5 was aligned SSW - NNE and was 5.70m long and 0.50m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.20m of topsoil and 0.30m of mid greyish brown clayey silt subsoil overlying natural geology. No features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed and no finds were recovered.

Conclusion

Five trenches were dug as intended during the archaeological evaluation but no features of archaeological interest were uncovered and no finds were recovered. The site is considered to have no archaeological potential.

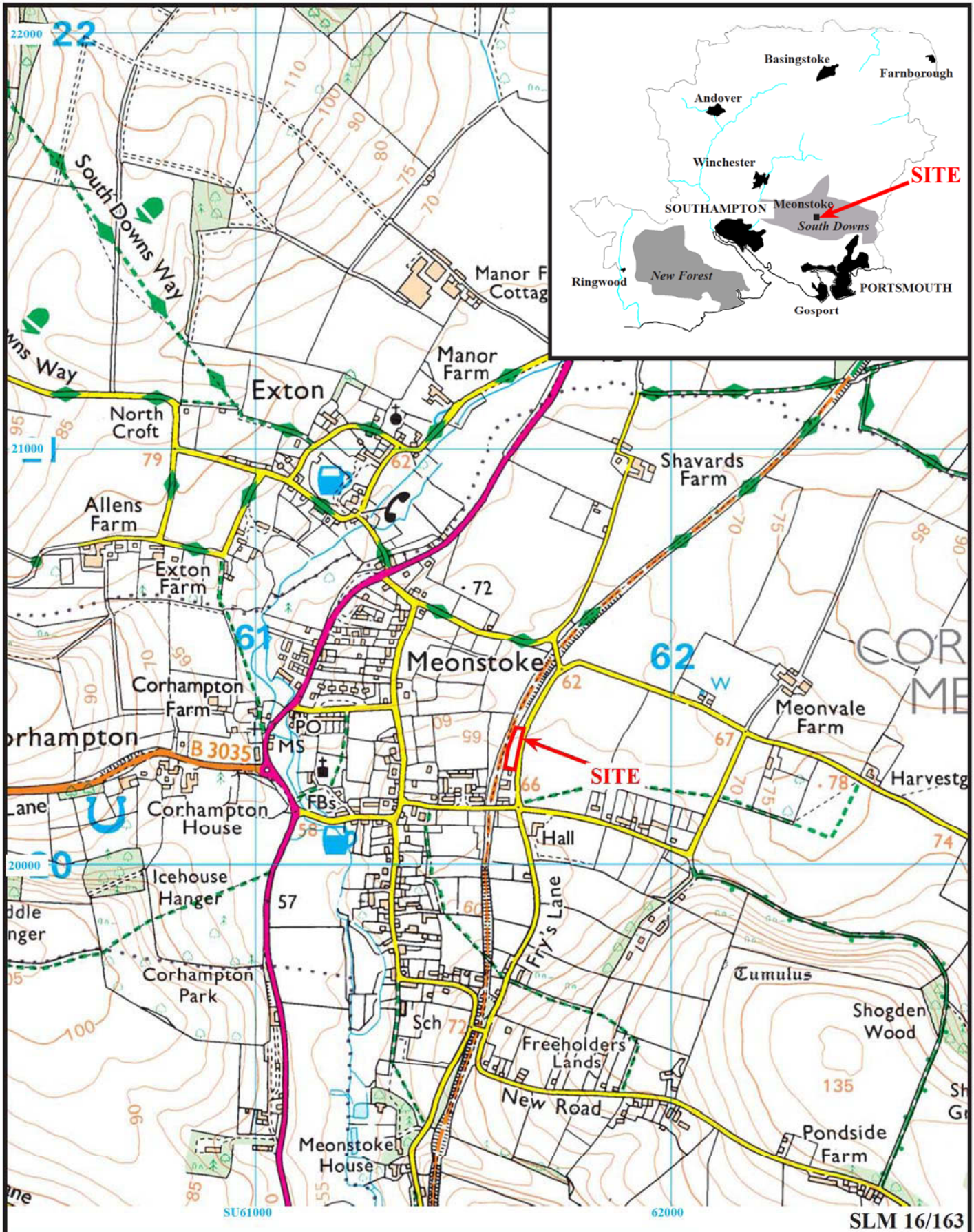
References

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- English Heritage 2011, *Environmental Archaeology*. Centre for Archaeology Guidelines 1 (2nd Edition), English Heritage, Portsmouth.
- Hey, G and Hind, J, 2014, Solent-Thames Research Framework for the Historic Environment: Resource Assessments and Research Agendas, Oxford Wessex Monogr 6, Oxford
- 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 SE, SSW, SW, WSW end

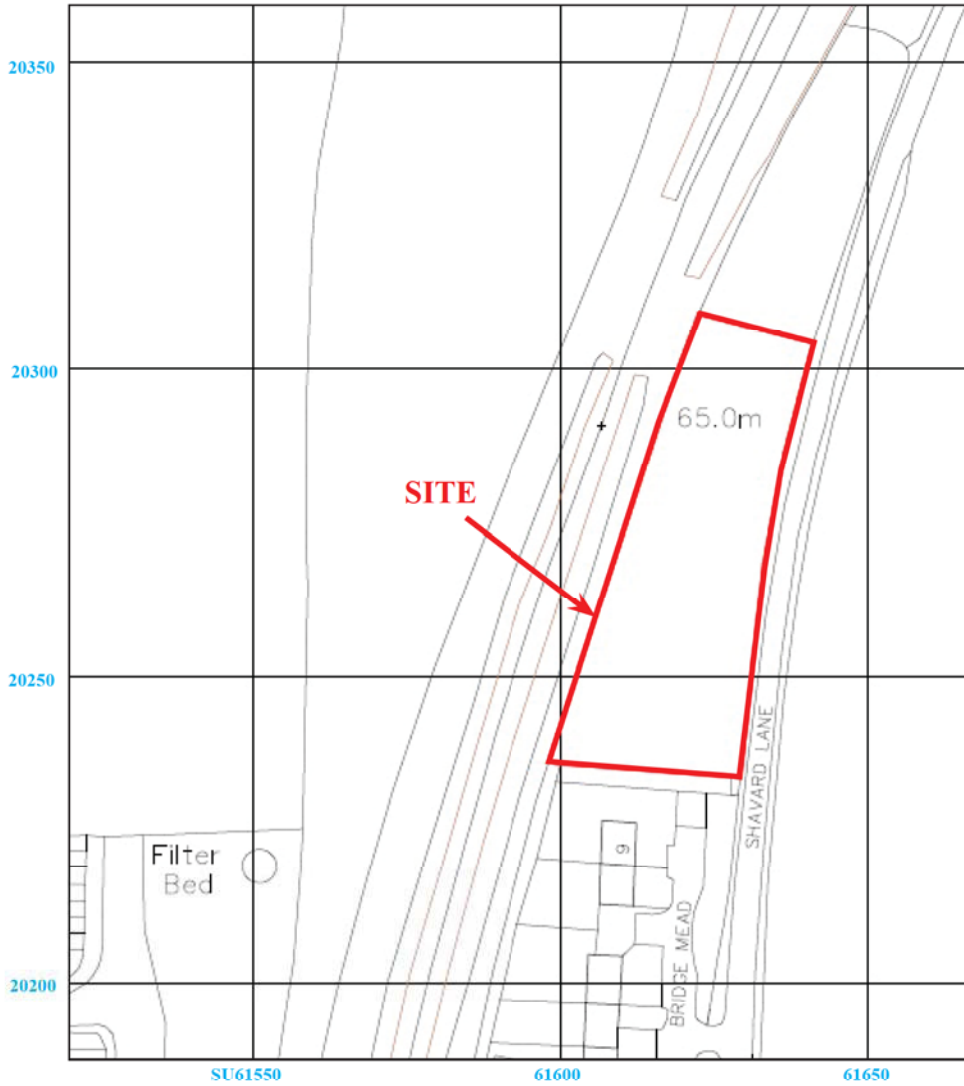
<i>Trench</i>	<i>Length (m)</i>	<i>Breadth (m)</i>	<i>Depth (m)</i>	<i>Comment</i>
1	10.20	1.60	0.45	0–0.20m topsoil; 0.20-0.35m grey clayey silt subsoil; 0.35m+ weathered chalk natural geology [PI. 1]
2	10.00	1.60	0.45	0–0.15m topsoil; 0.15-0.30m subsoil; 0.30m+ natural geology [PI. 2]
3	10.00	1.60	0.35	0–0.15m topsoil; 0.15-0.30m subsoil; 0.30m+ natural geology [PI. 3]
4	11.20	1.60	0.40	0–0.15m topsoil; 0.15-0.30m subsoil; 0.30m+ natural geology [PI. 4]
5	5.70	1.60	0.50	0–0.20m topsoil; 0.20-0.50m subsoil; 0.50m+ natural geology



**Land at Sharvard Lane, Meonstoke,
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Figure 1. Location of site within Meonstoke and the South Downs of Hampshire.

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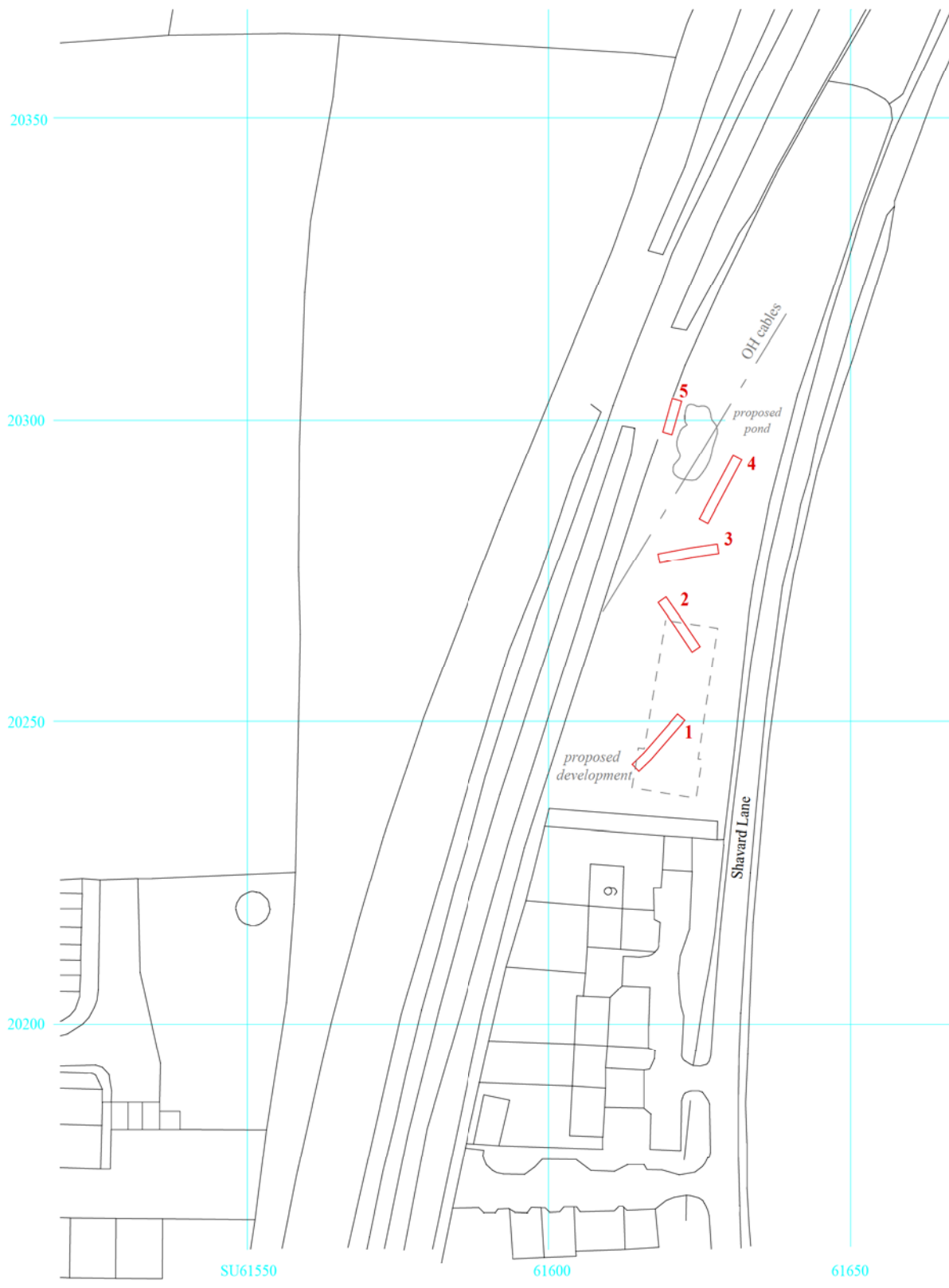


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Figure 2. Detailed location of site off Shavards Lane.

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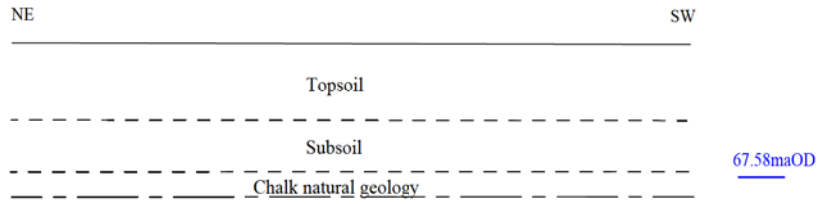
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Figure 3. Location of trenches.



Trench 1



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Figure 4. Representative sections.





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



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



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



Plate 5. Trench 4, looking north north east,
Scales: horizontal 2m and 1m, vertical 0.5m.

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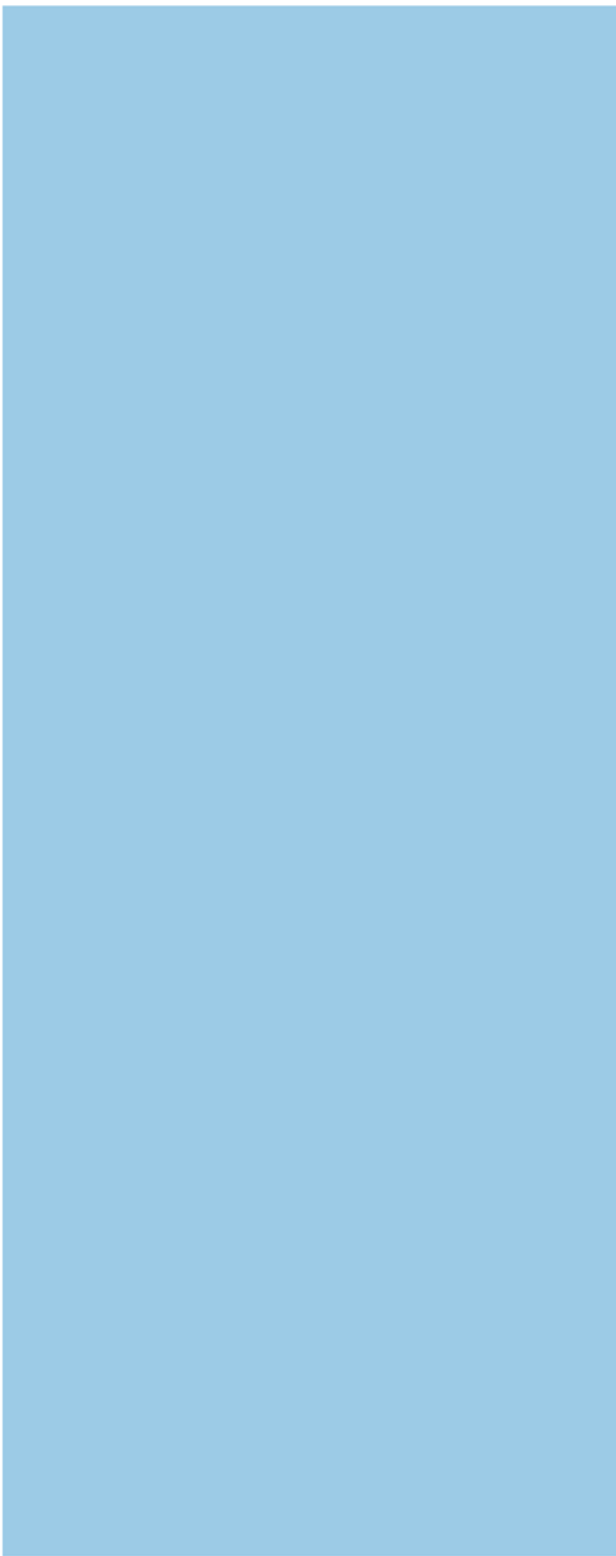
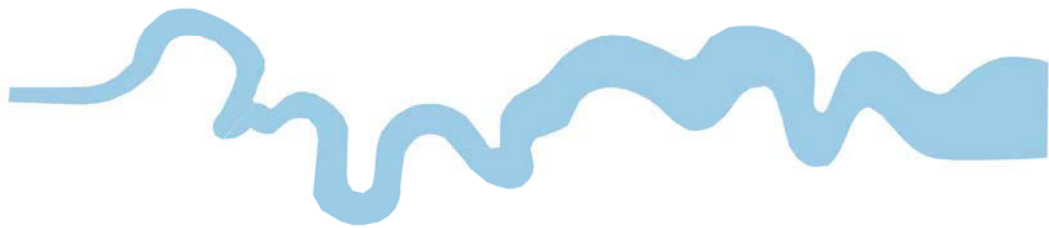
Plates 1 - 4.

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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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