

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

ARCHAEOLOGICAL

S E R V I C E S

**Land at Manor Farm, Bloswood Lane,
Whitchurch, Hampshire**

Archaeological Evaluation

Part 2

by Luis Esteves

Site Code: MBW11/107

(SU 4586 4820)

Land at Manor Farm, Bloswood Lane, Whitchurch, Hampshire

An Archaeological Evaluation

part 2

for Bewley Homes

by Luís Esteves

Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code MBW11/107

September 2016

Summary

Site name: Land at Manor Farm, Blosswood Lane, Whitchurch, Hampshire

Grid reference: SU 4586 4820

Site activity: Evaluation part 2

Date and duration of project: 31st August to 5th September 2016

Project manager: Steve Ford

Site supervisor: Luís Esteves

Site code: MBW 11/107

Area of site: c. 2.13 ha

Summary of results: A previous earthwork survey, a small evaluation trench and a geophysical survey have suggested that a circular mound is probably the remains of a round barrow of Bronze Age date. This field evaluation was carried out on the previously uninvestigated area of the site to determine the presence/absence of any other archaeological or palaeoenvironmental deposits in the area. During the works only a small pit (Bronze Age date), an undated gully and a shallow dark spread with burned flint were observed.

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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Report edited/checked by: Steve Ford ✓ 21.09.16

Land at Manor Farm, Bloswood Lane, Whitchurch, Hampshire An Archaeological Evaluation

by Luís Esteves

Report 11/107c

Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological field evaluation carried out at Land at Manor Farm, Bloswood Lane, Whitchurch, Hampshire (SU 4586 4820) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Mr Stuart Whyte on behalf of Bewley Homes Plc, Inhurst House, Brimpton Road, Baughurst, Hampshire RG26 5JJ.

Planning permission (BDB/77828) has been gained from Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council for residential development of the site. This is subject to conditions (8 and 9) relating to archaeology.

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 for Hampshire County Council. The fieldwork was undertaken by Luís Esteves and Benedikt Tebbit between 31st August and 5th September 2016 and the site code is MBW11/107. 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 on the south-west margins of Whitchurch, between Andover and Basingstoke in Hampshire (SU 4586 4820) (Fig. 1). It is bounded to the north by Bloswood Road and to the east by the embankment of a defunct railway line; to the south is a recent residential development and the site backs onto open land rising up to the west (Fig. 2). The site currently consists of an area of open uncultivated grassland. The underlying geology consists of river and valley gravel (BGS 1975), and this was observed in the trenches as a fine flint gravel in a light reddish brown silty clay matrix. The site is at a height of approximately 75m above Ordnance Datum.

Archaeological background

The archaeological potential of Whitchurch in general has been summarized in *'An extensive urban survey of Hampshire's and the Isle of Wight's Historic Towns'* (HCC 2002) and for the site in particular in a desk-based assessment (Dawson 2012). The site's archaeological potential stems from its location relatively close to the historic core of Whitchurch which has late Saxon origins and is recorded in Domesday Book (Williams and Martin 2002). The site lies in an area where probable Saxon burials were found during construction of the former railway. It also relatively close to Manor Farm, which may have medieval origins, and several earthworks close to Blosswood Lane on the site itself may relate to medieval occupation. However, evaluation of a parcel of land to the south (Wallis 2007) found nothing of archaeological interest.

A walkover earthwork survey and trial trenching as a part of this development proposal has revealed a number of features of certain and possible interest. A near-circular mound was considered to be possible round barrow and was subject to trial trenching and geophysical survey (Crabb 2012; Sabin and Donaldson 2011). The mound is now considered to be a probable round barrow, also with Roman occupation in the same vicinity.

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 are present; and

to determine if archaeological deposits or finds representing Bronze Age or Roman occupation are present on the site.

A total of 30 trenches were to be dug at a length of 25m each and 1.6m wide. The trenches were located to examine the whole area of the site (excluding the zone of the round barrow) and the possible archaeological earthworks observed during the walkover survey (Fig. 2). The trenches were to be dug using a 360^o-type machine fitted with a ditching bucket to expose archaeologically sensitive areas. Any archaeological features identified would be then excavated accordingly.

Results

All 30 trenches were dug as intended with the exception of trench 3 which was divided into two due to the presence of newt fencing. They ranged in length from 24m to 26m and in depth from 0.21m to 0.81m. A complete list of trenches giving lengths, breadths, depths and a description of sections and geology is given in Appendix 1. The excavated features, with dating evidence, are summarized in Appendix 2. Trench 1 formed the previously reported part 1 evaluation (Crabb 2012).

Trench 2 (Fig 2, 3 and 4) (PL 1)

Trench 2 was aligned SW- NE and was 25m long and 0.70m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.21m of topsoil and 0.40m subsoil overlying natural geology. A gully (4) was observed aligned SE - NW, this was 0.55m wide and 0.18m deep and filled with a single fill (66) which consisted of a mid red brown clayey silt with occasional gravel inclusions. No finds were recovered. A furrow of post-medieval date was also observed in the this trench on the same alignment as the gully.

Trench 3 (Fig 2)

Trench 3 was aligned SE- NW and was separated into two parts due to newt fencing, one part was 14m long and the other was 10m long, both trenches were 0.46m deep and their stratigraphy consisted of 0.23m of topsoil and 0.14m subsoil overlying natural geology. No finds were recovered or features observed.

Trench 4 (Fig 2)

Trench 4 was aligned SE- NW and was 25m long and 0.20m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.20m of topsoil overlying natural geology. No finds were recovered or features observed.

Trench 5 (Fig 2)

Trench 5 was aligned SW- NE and was 20.5m long and 0.47m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.23m of topsoil and 0.15m subsoil overlying natural geology. No finds were recovered or features observed.

Trench 6 (Fig 2)

Trench 6 was aligned SW- NE and was 25m long and 0.46m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.19m of topsoil and 0.26m subsoil overlying natural geology. No finds were recovered or features observed.

Trench 7 (Fig 2)

Trench 7 was aligned SW- NE and was 25m long and 0.53m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.23m of topsoil and 0.20m subsoil overlying natural geology. No finds were recovered or features observed.

Trench 8 (Fig 2)

Trench 8 was aligned SW- NE and was 25m long and 0.50m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.23m of topsoil and 0.19m subsoil overlying natural geology. No finds were recovered or features observed.

Trench 9 (Fig 2)

Trench 9 was aligned SW- NE and was 25m long and 0.50m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.22m of topsoil and 0.22m subsoil overlying natural geology. No finds were recovered or features observed.

Trench 10 (Fig 2)

Trench 10 was aligned SW- NE and was 24m long and 0.80m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.17m of topsoil and 0.18m subsoil overlying natural geology. No finds were recovered or features observed.

Trench 11 (Fig 2)

Trench 11 was aligned S- N and was 24m long and 0.64m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.13m of topsoil and 0.37m subsoil overlying natural geology. No finds were recovered or features observed.

Trench 12 (Fig 2)

Trench 12 was aligned S- N and was 25m long and 0.35m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.22m of topsoil and 0.08m subsoil overlying natural geology. No finds were recovered or features observed.

Trench 13 (Fig 2)

Trench 13 was aligned SW- NE and was 25m long and 0.80m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.22m of topsoil and 0.34m subsoil overlying 0.20m of light red brown clayey silt overlying natural geology. No finds were recovered or features observed.

Trench 14 (Fig 2)

Trench 14 was aligned SE- NW and was 25m long and 0.36m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.20m of topsoil and 0.12m subsoil overlying natural geology. No finds were recovered or features observed.

Trench 15 (Fig 2)

Trench 15 was aligned WSW- ENE and was 26m long and 0.60m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.22m of topsoil and 0.31m subsoil overlying natural geology. No finds were recovered or features observed.

Trench 16 (Fig 2, 3 and 4) (Pl. 4)

Trench 16 was aligned SW- NE and was 25m long and 0.73m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.20m of topsoil and 0.32m subsoil overlying 0.18m of light grey brown sandy silt buried soil which in turn overlay the natural geology. A possible midden deposit occupying a hollow was recorded at the SW end of the trench, the feature extended beyond the extent of the trench so the total dimensions are not known. Two slots (3 and 5) were dug through this feature and a single fill (64 and 67) was observed, this comprised of a dark brown grey sandy silt with frequent burnt flint inclusions. No pottery was recovered but two flint flakes were and suggest tentatively that it is of prehistoric date.

Trench 17 (Fig 2)

Trench 17 was aligned SE- NW and was 25m long and 0.81m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.23m of topsoil and 0.50m subsoil overlying natural geology. No finds were recovered or features observed.

Trench 18 (Fig 2)

Trench 18 was aligned WSW- ENE and was 25m long and 0.55m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.19m of topsoil and 0.25m subsoil overlying natural geology. No finds were recovered or features observed.

Trench 19 (Fig 2)

Trench 19 was aligned E- W and was 25m long and 0.45m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.21m of topsoil and 0.21m subsoil overlying natural geology. No finds were recovered or features observed.

Trench 20 (Fig 2, 3 and 4) (Pl. 2 and 3)

Trench 20 was aligned E- W and was 25m long and 0.50m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.19m of topsoil and 0.27m subsoil overlying natural geology. A pit (2) was recorded which was 1.35m in diameter and 0.50m deep and filled with 4 fills. The primary fill (63) consisted of a mid red brown sandy silt with very occasional flint inclusions, the secondary fill (65) consisted of a mid red brown sandy silt with frequent gravel inclusions, the 3rd fill (62) consisted of a mid grey brown sandy silt with occasional charcoal inclusions, the 4th fill (61) consisted of a light red brown sandy silt with no inclusions. Six sherds of neolithic pottery and 3 pieces of worked flint were recovered from the 3rd fill (62) suggesting that this pit was neolithic in date.

Trench 21 (Fig 2)

Trench 21 was aligned S- N and was 25m long and 0.44m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.14m of topsoil and 0.23m subsoil overlying natural geology. No finds were recovered or features observed.

Trench 22 (Fig 2)

Trench 22 was aligned SW- NE and was 25m long and 0.44m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.24m of topsoil and 0.15m subsoil overlying natural geology. No finds were recovered or features observed.

Trench 23 (Fig 2)

Trench 23 was aligned SW- NE and was 25m long and 0.40m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.20m of topsoil and 0.17m subsoil overlying natural geology. No finds were recovered or features observed.

Trench 24 (Fig 2)

Trench 24 was aligned SW- NE and was 25m long and 0.37m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.20m of topsoil and 0.11m subsoil overlying natural geology. No finds were recovered or features observed.

Trench 25 (Fig 2)

Trench 25 was aligned SE- NW and was 25.5m long and 0.36m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.18m of topsoil and 0.16m subsoil overlying natural geology. No finds were recovered or features observed.

Trench 26 (Fig 2)

Trench 26 was aligned SW- NE and was 25.5m long and 0.55m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.21m of topsoil and 0.29m subsoil overlying natural geology. No finds were recovered or features observed.

Trench 27 (Fig 2)

Trench 27 was aligned SW- NE and was 26m long and 0.40m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.17m of topsoil and 0.16m subsoil overlying natural geology. No finds were recovered or features observed.

Trench 28 (Fig 2)

Trench 28 was aligned SW- NE and was 25m long and 0.41m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.19m of topsoil and 0.19m subsoil overlying natural geology. No finds were recovered or features observed.

Trench 29 (Fig 2)

Trench 29 was aligned ENE-WSW and was 25.5m long and 0.43m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.26m of topsoil and 0.14m subsoil overlying natural geology. No finds were recovered or features observed.

Trench 30 (Fig 2)

Trench 30 was aligned SE- NW and was 24.7m long and 0.52m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.24m of topsoil and 0.22m subsoil overlying natural geology. No finds were recovered or features observed.

Trench 31 (Fig 2)

Trench 31 was aligned E - W and was 24m long and 0.56m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.14m of topsoil and 0.20m subsoil overlying natural geology. No finds were recovered or features observed.

Finds

Pottery by Richard Tabor

Six fragments of pottery weighing 14g from a single vessel were recovered from slot [2], deposit (62). The sherds were from the part of a lower rim which was 5mm proud of the 6mm thick upper neck. Both of these surviving elements had an upright to slightly inturned attitude. The rim was slightly convex, elongated and covered with twisted cord impressions slanted at approximately 20° from vertical. There were traces of similar decoration on the neck.

The fabric was moderately hard, dark grey with buff orange exterior and dark grey interior surfaces. It included moderate to common poorly fine (<1mm) and sparse coarse (<7mm) angular calcined flint.

The rim is characteristic of the Fengate sub-style of Peterborough Ware (Smith 1956, 107-9). The sub style was originally thought to emerge from the Mortlake sub-style but subsequent research suggests that the style were broadly concurrent and in circulation by the end of the beginning of the third millennium BC and probably earlier (Gibson and Kinnes 1997, 67; table 2). Its distribution in Hampshire is sparse.

Struck Flint by Steve Ford

A small collection comprising six struck flints was recovered during the evaluation as detailed in Appendix 3. Five of the pieces were flakes. Pit 2, which also contained sherds of Peterborough Ware, contained three flint

pieces, one of which was a broken serrated flake with seemingly worn serrations. This latter group of flintwork is likely to date from the later Neolithic. The other pieces are not closely datable.

Macrobotanical plant material and charcoal by Jo Pine

Three samples were processed from the excavation. The flots were sieved to 0.25mm and air dried and examined under a low-power binocular microscope at a magnification of x10m. No charred seeds were recovered from the flots. Charcoal over 2mm, thus having the potential for identification; was present in moderate amounts in samples <100> 2 (62), and <101> 3 (64).

Conclusion

The evaluation has identified a small number of features of archaeological interest. These comprised a pit of neolithic date and, in another part of the site, a midden deposit of more general prehistoric date. These two locations are considered to have archaeological potential (Fig. 6). A small gully although undated, seems more likely to relate to post-medieval agriculture on the site. The majority of the site (other than where the Bronze Age barrow lies) has no recorded archaeology and is considered to be low or no potential.

References

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APPENDIX 1: Trench details
0m at SW, WSW and SE end

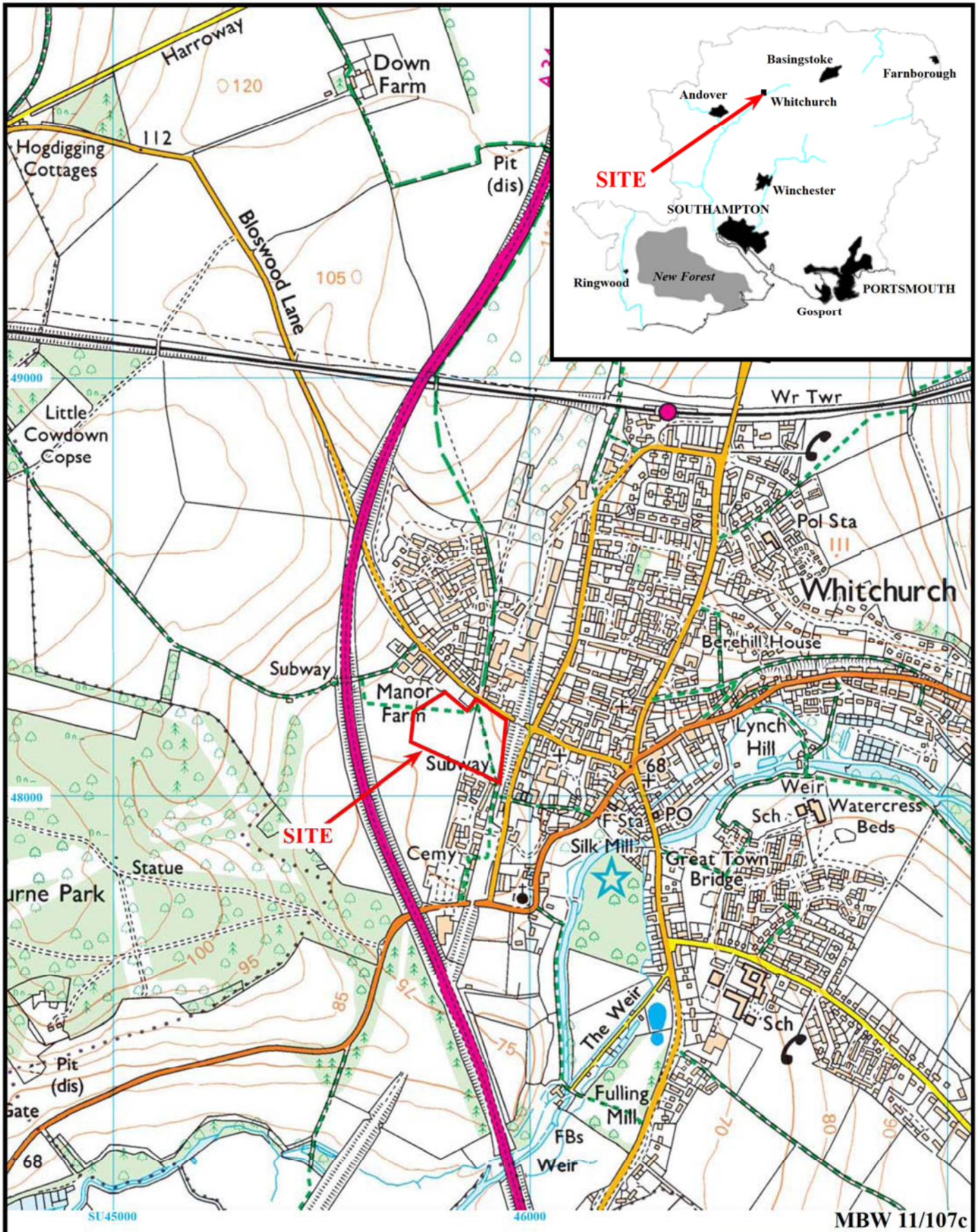
<i>Trench</i>	<i>Length (m)</i>	<i>Breadth (m)</i>	<i>Depth (m)</i>	<i>Comment</i>
2	25.0	2.20	0.70	0–0.21m topsoil, 0.21-0.61m subsoil, 0.61m+ natural light brown sandy clay geology. Gully 4 was observed. Pl. 1
3	15.0	2.20	0.46	0–0.23m topsoil, 0.23-0.37m subsoil, 0.37m+ natural light brown sandy clay geology.
4	25.0	2.20	0.20	0–0.20m topsoil, 0.20m+ natural light brown sandy clay geology.
5	20.5	2.20	0.47	0–0.23m topsoil, 0.23-0.38m subsoil, 0.38m+ natural light brown sandy clay geology.
6	25.0	2.20	0.46	0–0.19m topsoil, 0.19-0.45m subsoil, 0.45m+ natural light brown sandy clay geology.
7	25.0	2.20	0.53	0–0.23m topsoil, 0.23-0.43m subsoil, 0.43m+ natural light brown sandy clay geology.
8	25.0	2.20	0.50	0–0.23m topsoil, 0.23-0.42m subsoil, 0.42m+ natural light brown sandy clay geology.
9	25.0	2.20	0.50	0–0.22m topsoil, 0.22-0.44m subsoil, 0.44m+ natural light brown sandy clay geology.
10	24.0	2.20	0.80	0–0.17m topsoil, 0.17-0.35m subsoil, 0.35-0.74m light red brown clayey silt, 0.74m+ natural light brown sandy clay geology.
11	24.0	2.20	0.64	0–0.13m topsoil, 0.13-0.60m subsoil, 0.60m+ natural light brown sandy clay geology.
12	25.0	2.20	0.35	0–0.22m topsoil, 0.22-0.30m subsoil, 0.30m+ natural light brown sandy clay geology.
13	25.0	2.20	0.80	0–0.22m topsoil, 0.22-0.56m subsoil, 0.56-0.76m light red brown clay silt, 0.76m+ natural light brown sandy clay geology.
14	25.0	2.20	0.36	0–0.20m topsoil, 0.20-0.32m subsoil, 0.32m+ natural light brown sandy clay geology.
15	26.0	2.20	0.60	0–0.22m topsoil, 0.22-0.53m subsoil, 0.53m+ natural light brown sandy clay geology.
16	25.0	2.20	0.73	0–0.20m topsoil, 0.20-0.52m subsoil, 0.52-0.70m light grey brown sandy silt, 0.70m+ natural light brown sandy clay geology. Hollow 3 and 5 was observed. Pl. 4
17	25.0	2.20	0.81	0–0.23m topsoil, 0.23-0.73m subsoil, 0.73m+ natural light brown sandy clay geology.
18	25.0	2.20	0.55	0–0.19m topsoil, 0.19-0.44m subsoil, 0.44m+ natural light brown sandy clay geology.
19	25.0	2.20	0.45	0–0.21m topsoil, 0.21-0.42m subsoil, 0.42m+ natural light brown sandy clay geology.
20	25.0	2.20	0.50	0–0.19m topsoil, 0.19-0.46m subsoil, 0.46m+ natural light brown sandy clay geology. Pit 2 was observed. Pl. 2 and 3
21	25.0	2.20	0.44	0–0.14m topsoil, 0.14-0.37m subsoil, 0.37m+ natural light brown sandy clay geology.
22	25.0	2.20	0.44	0–0.24m topsoil, 0.24-0.39m subsoil, 0.39m+ natural light brown sandy clay geology.
23	25.0	2.20	0.40	0–0.20m topsoil, 0.20-0.37m subsoil, 0.37m+ natural light brown sandy clay geology.
24	25.0	2.20	0.37	0–0.20m topsoil, 0.20-0.31m subsoil, 0.31m+ natural light brown sandy clay geology.
25	25.5	2.20	0.36	0–0.18m topsoil, 0.18-0.34m subsoil, 0.34m+ natural light brown sandy clay geology.
26	25.5	2.20	0.55	0–0.21m topsoil, 0.21-0.50m subsoil, 0.50m+ natural light brown sandy clay geology.
27	26.0	2.20	0.40	0–0.17m topsoil, 0.17-0.33m subsoil, 0.33m+ natural light brown sandy clay geology.
28	25.0	2.20	0.41	0–0.19m topsoil, 0.19-0.38m subsoil, 0.38m+ natural light brown sandy clay geology.
29	25.5	2.20	0.43	0–0.26m topsoil, 0.26-0.40m subsoil, 0.40m+ natural light brown sandy clay geology.
30	24.7	2.20	0.52	0–0.24m topsoil, 0.24-0.46m subsoil, 0.46m+ natural light brown sandy clay geology.
31	24.0	2.20	0.56	0–0.14m topsoil, 0.14-0.34m made ground, 0.34m-0.52m subsoil, 0.52m+ natural light brown sandy 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	4	66	Gully	-	-
16	3	64	Hollow	Prehistoric?	Struck flint
16	5	67	Hollow	Prehistoric?	Struck flint
20	2	61, 62, 63, 65	Pit	Neolithic	Pottery

APPENDIX 3. Catalogue of struck flint

<i>Trench</i>	<i>Cut</i>	<i>fill</i>	<i>sample</i>	<i>Type</i>
	U/S	-	-	Intact flake
20	2	62		Intact flake; Broken flake; Broken serrated flake
16	3	64	s101	Broken flake
16	5	67	s102	Broken flake



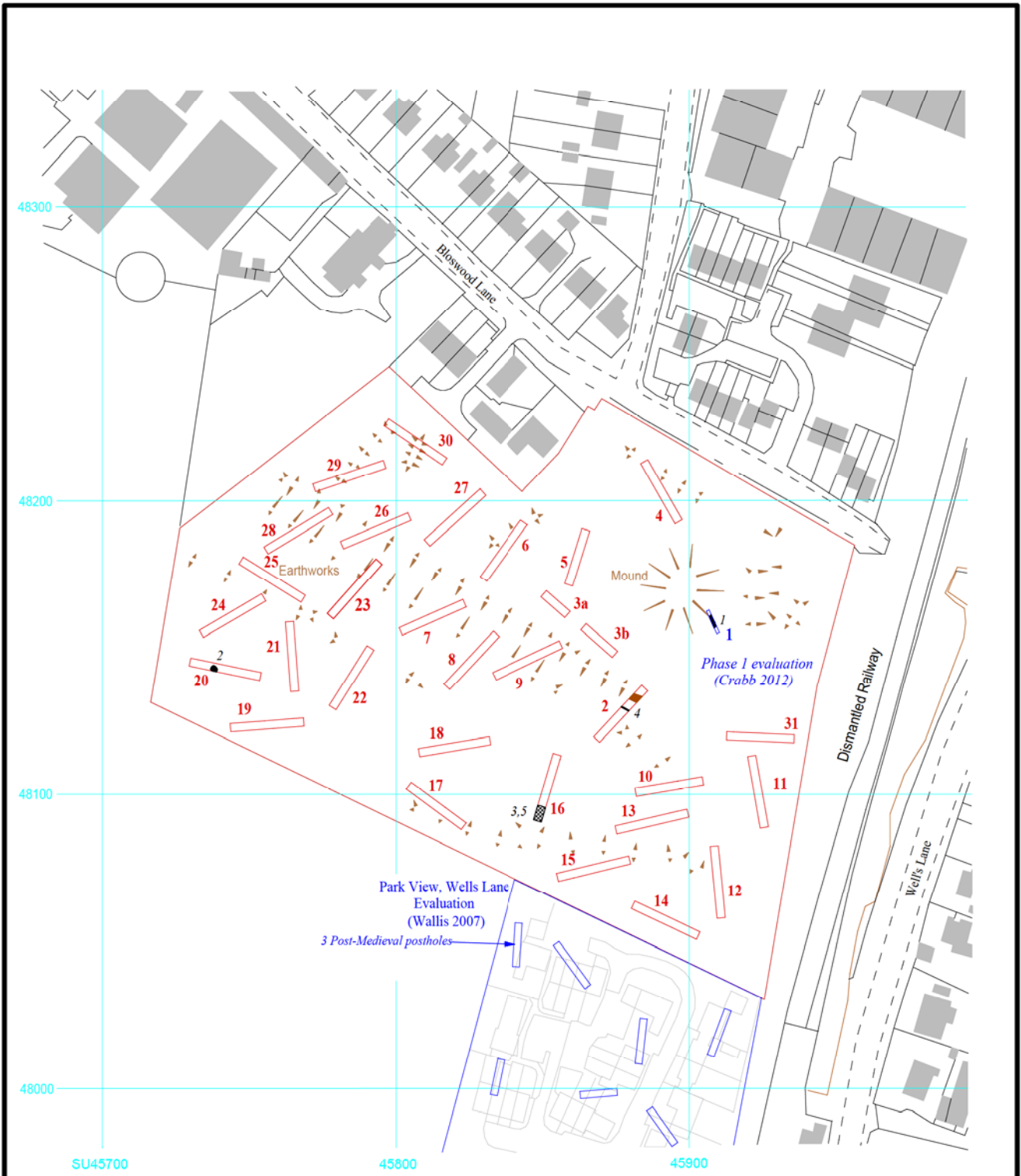
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Hampshire, 2016**

Archaeological Evaluation - Part 2

Figure 1. Location of site within Whitchurch and Hampshire.

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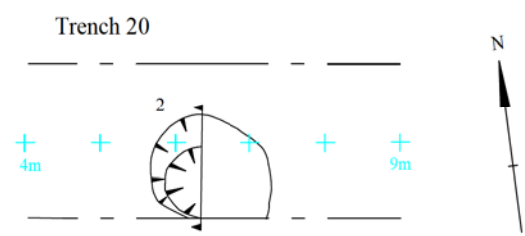
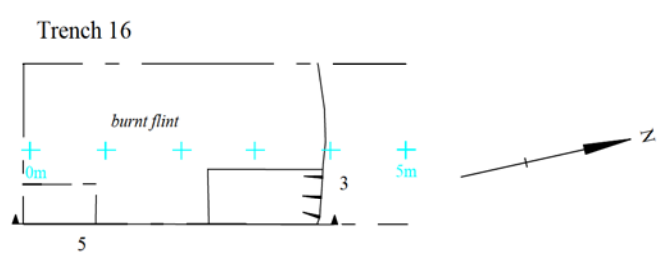
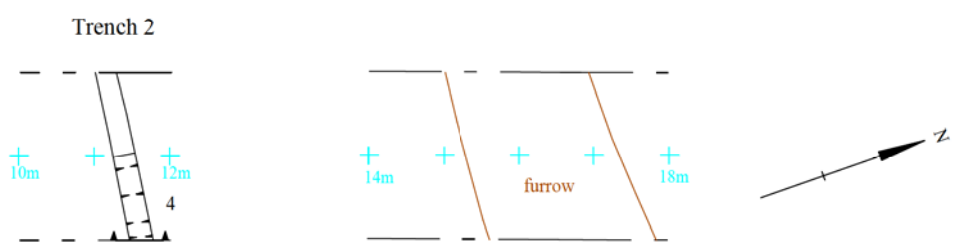
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Archaeological Evaluation - Part 2**

Figure 2. Location of trenches, in relation to earthworks.



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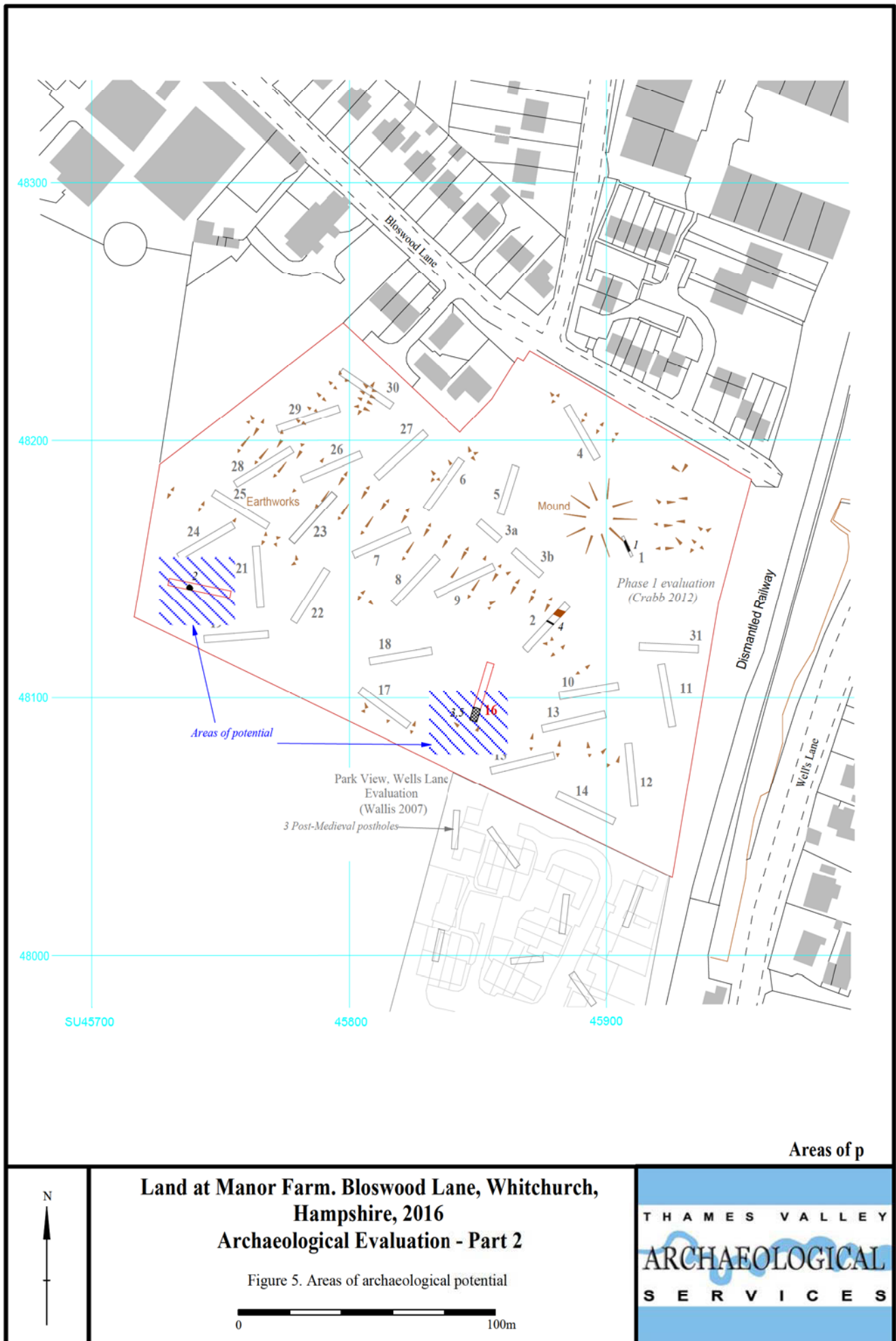


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Figure 3. Detail of trenches.





48300

48200

48100

48000

SU45700

45800

45900

Bloiswood Lane

Dismantled Railway

Wells Lane

Areas of potential

Park View, Wells Lane
 Evaluation
 (Wallis 2007)

3 Post-Medieval postholes

Phase 1 evaluation
 (Crabb 2012)

Mound

Earthworks

Areas of p



Land at Manor Farm. Bloiswood Lane, Whitechurch, Hampshire, 2016
Archaeological Evaluation - Part 2

Figure 5. Areas of archaeological potential

0 100m

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



Plate 2. Trench 20, looking east, Scales: horizontal 2m and 1m, vertical 0.3m.

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**Land at Manor Farm, Blosworth Lane, Whitchurch,
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Plates 1 - 2.**

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Plate 3. Trench 20, pit 2, looking east, Scales: 1m and 0.5m.



Plate 4. Trench 16, slot 3 on burnt mound remains, looking south east, Scales: 0.5m and 0.3m.

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Plates 3 - 4.

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Plate 5. Trench 2, Gully 4, looking south east, Scale: 0.1m.



Plate 6. General view of site looking west.

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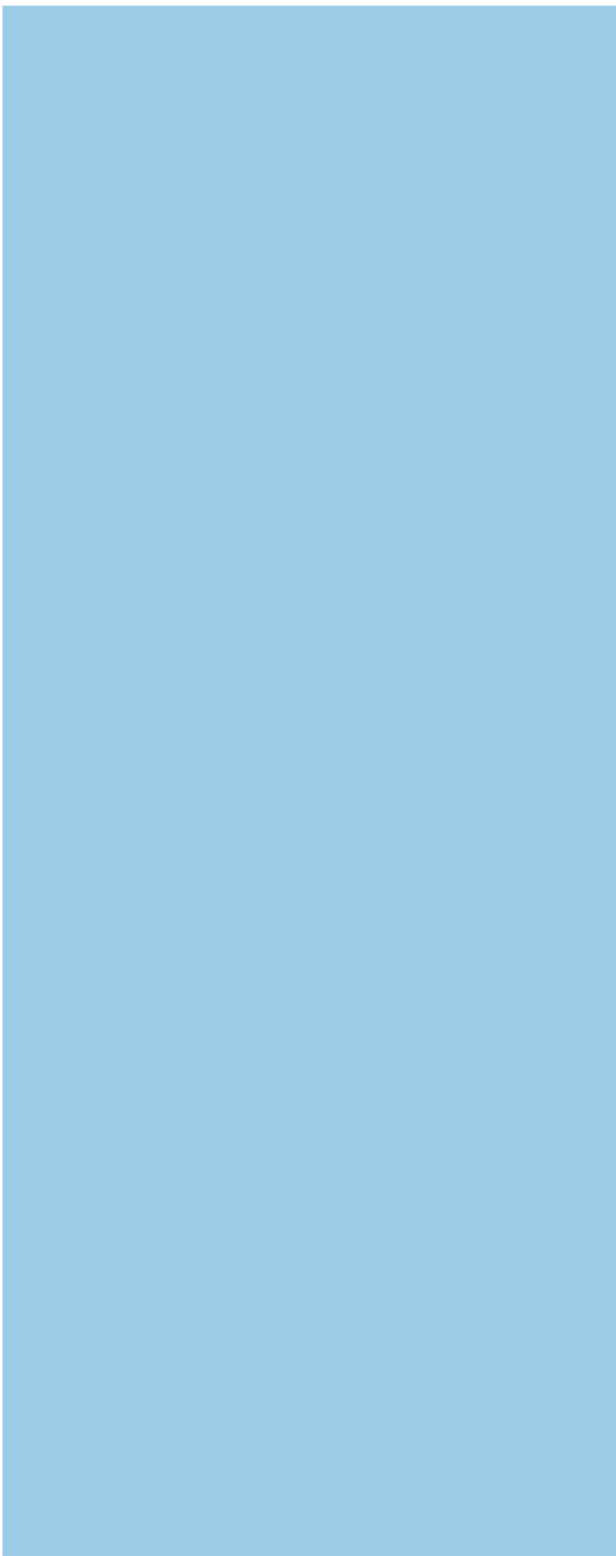
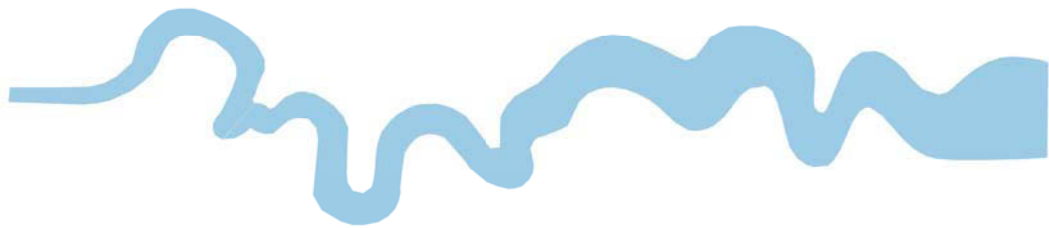
**Land at Manor Farm, Blosworth Lane, Whitchurch,
Hampshire, 2016**
Archaeological Evaluation - Part 2
Plates 5 - 6.

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





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