

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

ARCHAEOLOGICAL

S E R V I C E S

**Roke Manor Farm, Shootash, Romsey,
Hampshire,**

Phase 2

Archaeological Recording Action

by Susan Porter

Site Code: RMR14/178

(SU 3290 2255)

Roke Manor Farm, Shootash, Romsey, Hampshire, Phase 2

**An Archaeological Recording Action
For Raymond Brown Aggregates**

by Susan Porter

Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code RMR 14/178

August 2015

Summary

Site name: Roke Manor Farm, Shootash, Romsey, Hampshire, Phase 2

Grid reference: SU 3290 2255

Site activity: Archaeological Recording Action

Date and duration of project: 15th June - 7th July 2015

Project manager: Steve Ford

Site supervisor: Susan Porter

Site code: RMR 14/178

Area of site: c. 2.6ha

Summary of results: A number of linear features and squared enclosures were observed, however, all appear to be part of a post-medieval / modern field system with squared enclosures laid out in feet, within each field. Both the enclosures and the ditches can be observed on Ordnance Survey maps of the 19th century. A single prehistoric flint flake was recovered.

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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| Report edited/checked by: Steve Ford ✓ 24.10.16 Steve Preston ✓ 24.08.16 |
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Roke Manor Farm, Shootash, Romsey, Hampshire, Phase 2 An Archaeological Recording Action

by Susan Porter

Report 14/178b

Introduction

This report documents the results of the second stage of an archaeological recording action carried out at Roke Manor Farm, Shootash Romsey, Hampshire (SU3290 2255) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Mr Andrew Josephs of Andrew Josephs Associates on behalf of Raymond Brown Aggregates, Lee Lane, Nursling, Southampton, SO16 0AD.

Planning permission (07/02771/CMAS) has been gained from Hampshire County Council for the extraction of sand and gravel from, and subsequent restoration of, a 2.6ha parcel of land at Roke Manor Farm, Romsey. The consent is subject to a condition relating to archaeology as guided by *Archaeology and Planning* (PPG16 1990) and the County Council Mineral Policies. It is acknowledged that the *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF 2012) has superseded PPG16. The application was supported by cultural heritage desk-based assessment (Raymond 2007, presented in SBPC 2008), which detailed the archaeological potential of the site and the likely requirements to satisfy the expected planning conditions. There were to be two components to the archaeological study of the site: archaeology of late or post-glacial date; that is, stratigraphically, located on top of the gravel, typically just beneath the topsoil ('upper' archaeology) and; Lower or Middle Palaeolithic archaeology, which could lie within or beneath the gravel on the site ('lower' archaeology). It is the purpose of this document to report on the post-glacial aspects of the archaeology for the second phase of works. The overall application covered an area much larger than that covered in this phase of works. An earlier phase of works within the site, to the south-west of the current phase, has already been reported on (Porter and Strachan 2015).

The field investigation was carried out to a specification approved by Mr David Hopkins, County Archaeologist for Hampshire. The fieldwork was undertaken by Susan Porter with the assistance of Kyle Beaverstock, Tim Dawson, David Sanchez, Thomas Stewart, Daniel Strachan, and Benedikt Tebbit between 15th June and 7th July 2015 with the site code RMR 14/178.

The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited with Hampshire Museum Service in due course.

Location, topography and geology

The site is located c.2.5km north-west of the centre of Romsey (Fig. 1). The entrance to Roke Manor Farm is off Old Salisbury Lane and the Medieval manor of Roke Manor is itself located to the south-east of the site. To the north-east lies Stanbridge Earls, and Stanbridge Ranvills Farm is located to the west of the site, close to the access road. The underlying geology of the site is recorded as River Terrace Deposits (BGS 1987) and this was observed on site with occasional fluctuation into a more clayey natural.

Archaeological background

The cultural heritage assessment (Raymond 2007) has detailed the archaeological background for the site and its environs. The site lies in an area with little recorded post-glacial activity with few finds recorded close to the site. For later periods, to the east and west are recorded clusters of struck flint, with a Mesolithic carved and decorated horn recorded to the south-east, along with further clusters of flints and an Iron Age ditch. Further to the north, Roman pottery and a coin have been recorded. On the southern edge of the overall site (to the south of the area investigated here), a single vessel of middle to late Bronze Age date was recovered during preliminary test pitting.

The medieval Roke Manor lies just to the south-east and whilst first documented in 1448 presumably has earlier origins. The deserted village of Stanbridge Earls lies to the north-east with earthwork features such as fish ponds still present. Many of the farms and hamlets in the surrounding areas are also documented as having medieval origins; including Stanbridge Ranvilles Farm located to the west of the site.

A previous phase of works on the site recorded the remains of an 18th-19th century wood seen on early maps (Porter and Strachan 2015), however no features or deposits of archaeological interest were noted.

Objectives and methodology

The purpose of the recording action was to:

- Sample excavate and record all archaeological deposits and features within areas threatened by the development;

- Produce relative and absolute dating and phasing for deposits and features recorded on the site;

- Establish the character of these deposits in attempt to define functional areas on the site such as domestic, industrial, etc. and

- Produce information on the economy and local environment and compare and contrast this with the results of other excavations or palaeoenvironmental studies in the region.

More specific research aims were:

- To determine when the site was first occupied;
- To determine when the site was abandoned;
- To determine what activities were taking place on the site;
- To determine if there was any medieval activity present relating to the use of Roke Manor at the east end of the site;
- To determine if, and how the site was used in prehistoric, Roman and medieval times for occupation, burial, agricultural or other purposes; and
- To determine if there were any concentrations of prehistoric lithic material indicative of occupation either within the topsoil or beneath and in-situ within the subsoil.

The extraction area was to be stripped of topsoil and subsoil (areas of *in-situ* flint scatters excepted) to fully expose the archaeological horizon. The stripping process was undertaken by a 360° type tracked machine equipped with a toothless ditching bucket under constant archaeological supervision.

Hand cleaning of the stripped area was to take place as necessary, and all archaeological features were to be planned and sectioned as a minimum requirement, with full excavation of isolated discrete features, such as pits and postholes not belonging to structures following half-sectioning and recording. Sampling of agricultural linear ditches and gullies was to be a minimum of 5%, whilst settlement enclosure ditches were to be sampled at a minimum of 10%.

Results (Fig. 2)

This second phase of works was located to the north of the previous phase with an access road joining the two areas. The access road had been built up due to the presence of the valley and so no intrusive works were undertaken along the length of the access road until immediately south of the second area of works, where a small area of the hill was stripped to expose the archaeological horizon prior to truncation of the slope to provide better access for the road.

The plateau which formed the larger part of the excavation (Pl. 1), was also observed to slope slightly downwards towards the south and east. Medieval ridge and furrow was observed along the southern extent of the site, however the furrows were truncated out towards the north as the site sloped slightly upwards, it seems likely that this may have also happened to the shallower field boundaries and so it seems likely that several of the possible field boundaries would have extended further than their recorded length on plan and have been truncated in conjunction with the slope to the south.

Access Road

Hollow with Hill wash layers

Whilst excavating the initial section through feature 900 it was observed that the ditch was cut into redeposited layers on the slope. The slot was therefore extended into a 1m x 1m sondage to observe the layers of hillwash on the slope. Four layers were observed in section (Fig. 4) and were recorded as feature 101, a hollow of unknown extent with a flat base, filled with 0.36-0.14m loose light brown grey silty sand (156), overlying 0.12m soft light grey brown sand (154 and 155, the same deposit), which in turn overlay soft dark grey brown sandy silt (153), overlying soft mottled light yellow brown sandy silt (152) which overlay the natural gravel geology. No finds were recovered from these layers and it is considered that these deposits represent natural hill wash, although it is just conceivable that they represent an earlier, much wider, cut to the boundary ditch later re-cut as ditch 900.

Ditch 900 (Fig. 3)

Ditch 900 was located on the access road into this phase of works and was oriented due east-west, just south of the break of slope onto the plateau which would form the main part of the site (Fig. 2). The ditch was 1m wide and varied in depth from 0.38m to 0.57m and was observed in section at its western extent, to be cut from the topsoil through the hillwash, as noted above. It was excavated in two slots (102 and 103) and in general contained two fills; deposits comprising soft mid brown grey sandy silt with gravel inclusions overlying soft dark grey brown sandy silt, with a lens of dark brown grey sandy silt recorded in slot 103 only. Several fragments of 19th-century brick and tile were recovered from slot 102. The ditch is considered to be a post-medieval/ modern field boundary and, with ditches 903 and 904, may form a field containing enclosure 902. Ditch 900 is visible on several Ordnance Survey maps from 1885-1961.

Ditch 901 (Fig. 3)

Ditch 901 lay on a north-south alignment with a terminus just to the south of the break of slope, extending to the north beyond the area of excavation, from just alongside ditch 900. The ditch varied in width between 1.00-1.80m and in depth from 0.28-0.34m, being deeper at the terminal end probably as a result of the slope. A single fill was attested in both excavated slots (104 and 105) comprising soft dark grey brown sandy silt with *c.*20% rounded 5-10mm gravel inclusions. A single worked flint of prehistoric date was recovered from slot 104 although this is likely to be residual due to both the hill wash observed on the slope and the evidence for heavy

plough scarring on the plateau. As ditch 901 respects the line of ditch 900, it is more likely to be contemporary with the latter.

Extraction Area

Field Boundaries

Ditch 903 (Fig. 4) was excavated in three slots and forms a north-south oriented field boundary. It terminated to both the north and south, but due to the natural north-south slope on the site it is possible that the northern terminus represents truncation, in which case the ditch may have extended up to ditch 904, forming fields to the east and west with ditches 900, 904 and 905. The ditch was 1.14-1.60m wide with shallow sides to a flat base 0.12-0.16m in depth with a single fill comprising loose mid brown grey sandy silt from which no finds were recovered.

Ditch 904 (Fig. 4) was oriented broadly west - east, curving northwards at both ends, and appears to form a field boundary with ditch 905 creating fields to the north and south (Fig. 2). It formed a shallow ditch varying in width from 0.35-1.10m and in depth from 0.08-0.30m possibly due to truncation by the gradient of the site. A single fill deposit was attested throughout comprising loose/ soft light brown grey silty sand with frequent gravel inclusions from which no finds were recovered. Ditch 904 appears to match a boundary observed on Ordnance survey maps from 1885-1903 where it joins with ditch 910 suggesting a level of truncation on the site.

Ditch 905 (Figs 4 and 5) formed the main NNW to SSE field boundary ditch through the site. It was excavated in nine slots, and was found to vary in width from 0.50-1.00m, with steeply sloping sides to a concave base at a depth between 0.21-0.32m. A single fill was observed in each slot, broadly comprising loose dark brown grey silty sand with frequent gravel inclusions from which no finds were recovered. Enclosure ditch (127) cut the field boundary (905), although the two may have been contemporary and used the same line, as the enclosures can be observed to lie within separate fields.

Ditch 910 (Fig. 6) was oriented on broadly the same alignment as ditch 904, assuming the curve continued, and is observed on Ordnance Survey maps 1885-1903 as being part of the same boundary, however on site it was observed to terminate at its western extent. It seems likely that it functioned as a field boundary, possibly forming a field with 907 or 908 should either of those have originally continued, and was one of the deeper features excavated on the site. It varied in width between 0.79-1.40m with steep sides to a concave base at a depth of 0.22-0.48m (Pl. 3) containing a single fill comprising loose light brown grey sandy silt with frequent gravel inclusions from which no finds were recovered.

Possible Droveaway/ Field Boundary

Ditches 907 and 908 (Fig. 5) lie in close proximity and whilst likely to be functioning as field boundaries may also be indicative of a droveaway between the fields with ditch 908 forming the likely western field boundary in which enclosure 909 lies. Both ditches are oriented roughly north-south extending to the south beyond the limit of excavation and terminating to the north although, again, this may be truncation on the field slope rather than a real termination of the feature. The ditches are broadly similar in width, varying between 0.18-0.46m and in depth from 0.09-0.22m, and each containing a single fill comprising loose mid brown grey sandy silt with frequent gravel inclusions. No finds were recovered from either ditch however they are considered to be modern in date and are likely to have been in contemporary use.

Enclosures

A total of six square or rectangular shallow enclosures were observed across the central area of the site, all aligned similarly, and seem to lie within fields, (if the field boundary lines are traced beyond the point of truncation - see Fig. 2) or are at least associated with field boundaries. Dark marks on Bartholomew's half inch Ordnance Survey map of 1902-1906 may be the enclosures, however it may also be noted that at least two of these enclosures match with structures visible in 2013 Google Earth satellite images.

Enclosure 902 (Fig. 3)

Due to its location along the southern limit of excavation only the northern boundary was visible for excavation, however it can reasonably be assumed that in plan it would match the other enclosures observed on the site (Fig. 2). It was excavated in two slots, section 107 covering the north-western corner, and it varied in width from 1.00-1.03m with shallow sides to a flattish base 0.12-0.13m in depth and contained a single fill comprising loose light brown grey sandy silt with 25-30% stone inclusions. No finds were recovered.

Enclosure 909 (Figs 5 and 6)

Enclosure 909 was excavated in seven slots encompassing the corners and two possible terminal ends forming an entrance way with two further slots in the longer sides. The ditch was observed to vary in width between 1.30-1.84m with shallow sides to a flattish base at a depth between 0.04-0.18m. A single deposit was recorded throughout comprising loose light brown grey sandy silt with frequent gravel inclusions from which no finds were recovered although several samples were taken.

Once excavated the interior of enclosure 909 was hand cleaned to check for internal features which may have suggested structures or burial pits, however no internal features were observed.

The Remaining Enclosures

On this basis, alongside the fact that the enclosures appeared to be located within different fields and were very shallow, and since ditch 127 cut boundary ditch 905, a decision was made to excavate a single slot into the remaining four enclosures to check that they were of similar composition. Slots 147, 148 (Pl. 4), 149 and 200 (Fig. 6) were then excavated through the southern ditch of each enclosure. The observed results were consistent with those observed in enclosures 902 and 909 with wide shallow ditches being recorded containing a single fill deposit of loose dark brown grey silty sand with frequent gravel inclusions. The widths were broadly consistent between 1.30-1.80m with depths varying from 0.20-0.36m, no finds were recovered.

As no dating material was recovered from any of the slots it was decided to undertake strategic 'mattock testing' within the enclosure ditches. At roughly 1m intervals the fill of the enclosure ditches was turned over in an attempt to recover finds and a metal detector was used to enhance finds recovery. However no dating material was recovered from any of the enclosures. Despite the lack of dating material it is considered that these enclosures are of modern date as the fill deposit was noticeably loose in consistency, and the ditches were very shallow. Additionally they also seem to lie within individual fields the boundary lines of which may link with those seen on OS maps. Finally the internal dimensions of the westernmost enclosure (200) were checked in imperial measurements and found to be accurately laid out at 21ft x 41ft strongly suggestive of a post medieval date for the features.

Possible Furrow

Linear 906 may be the remains of heavily truncated medieval ridge and furrow. It was excavated as two terminal slots (Pl. 2 and Fig. 5), although the northern terminal likely represents truncation along the slope of the site. It was between 0.36-0.68m in width with shallow sides and a rounded base 0.06-0.20m in depth containing a single deposit comprising loose mid brown sandy silt with frequent gravel inclusions from which no finds were recovered.

Other Features

Only two discrete features were recorded for the site. Pit 120 cut into the south-western corner of enclosure 909 (Fig. 5), it was circular in plan with a gradual slope to a shallow concave base 0.26m in depth. No finds were recovered and it is possible that the pit may have been of natural rather than archaeological origin (tree hollow).

Pit 138 was observed to be truncated by ditch 904 (Fig. 4), it appears completely isolated and only survived as a partial feature below the ditch. The fill was loose light brown grey silty sand from which no finds were recovered.

Finds

Ceramic Building Materials by Danielle Milbank

Brick and tile fragments were recovered from a single context (ditch 102). There are of a very hard, evenly fired fine sandy clay with a red colour and are of 19th century or modern date based on the fabric and finish.

Struck flint by Steve Ford

A single flint flake was recovered from ditch slot 104 (162). It is not closely datable but is likely to be of later Neolithic or Bronze Age date.

Conclusion

Although a number of features were observed on the site they produced almost no dating material, however due to the shallow depth and excessively loose fill deposits it is considered that the features observed during this phase of works were post-medieval or modern in date. The rectangular enclosures, whilst having potential to be of archaeological interest do not seem deep enough to be of prehistoric origin, nor does the lack of datable material suggest a Roman or medieval date. The westernmost enclosure measured 21ft X 41ft strongly suggesting that the enclosures were planned and laid out using imperial measurements; while enclosure 147/127 cut boundary ditch 905. If the north-south ditches visible on site have been truncated by the slope it is possible to suggest that this area of the site was occupied by a post-medieval/ modern agricultural system, similar to that still visible on Google Earth satellite images, with the enclosures functioning as holding areas for livestock or harvest storage. In addition it seems probable that the enclosures and at least two of the ditches are visible on Ordnance Survey maps, although the enclosures only on the Bartholomew half scale map. Ditch 900 appears constantly on maps from 1885 onwards whilst ditches 904 and 910 are only visible on the earlier maps. A scan of photographs

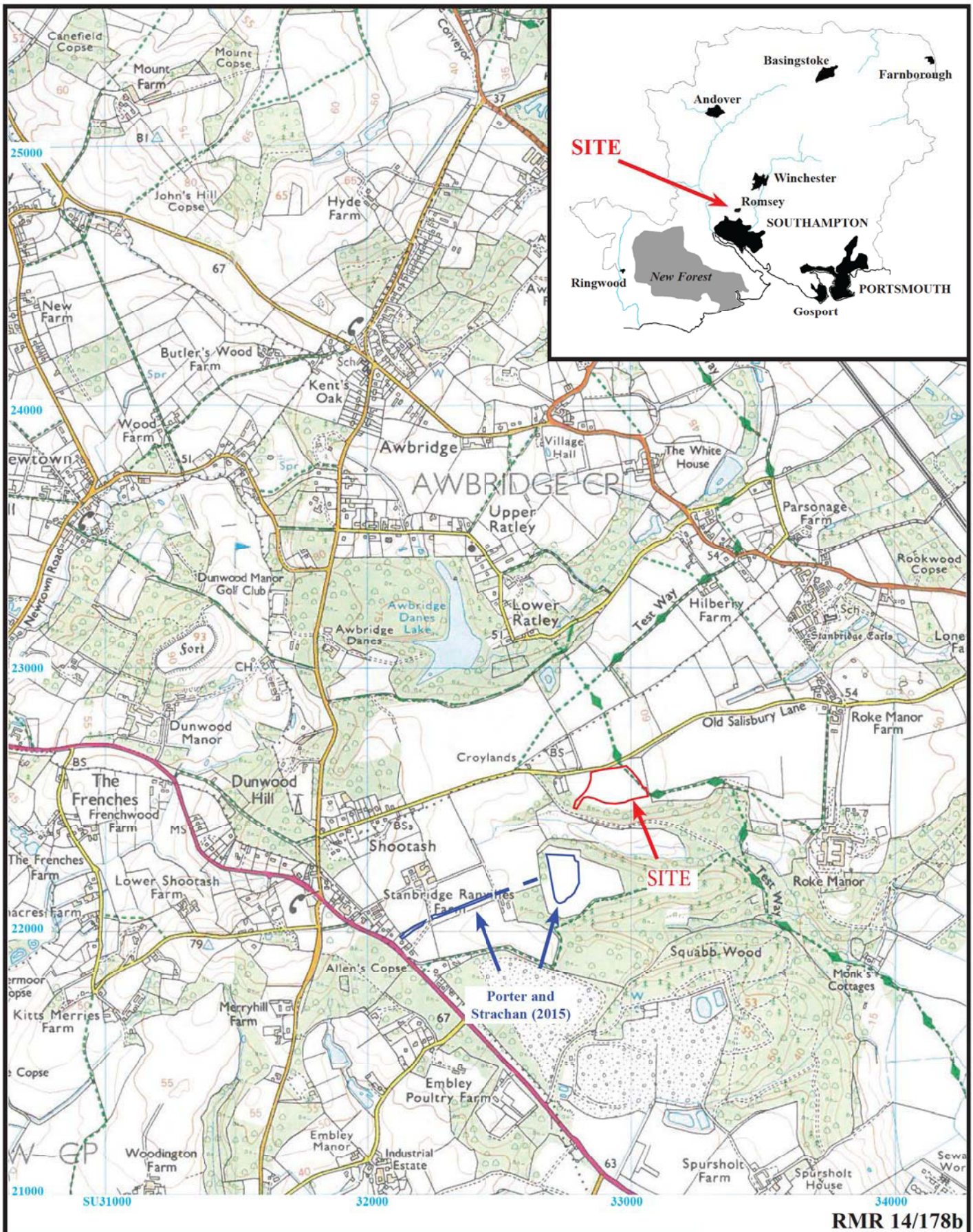
on Google Earth may explain the truncated north–south ditches as being part of field boundaries for the pig farm. Ditch 104 alone has potential to be of prehistoric origin however it seems much more likely that the recovered flint is a residual find.

References

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- SBPC 2008, 'Proposed extraction of sand and gravel from Roke Manor , Shootash, nr Romsey, Hampshire, Environmental Statement', Stephen Bowley Planning Consultancy, Thame

APPENDIX 1: Feature details

| <i>Cut</i> | <i>Fill</i> | <i>Group</i> | <i>Type</i> | <i>Date</i> | <i>Dating Evidence</i> |
|------------|-------------|--------------|----------------|-------------|------------------------|
| 101 | 152-156 | | Hollow | Undated | |
| 102 | 157, 158 | 900 | Ditch | | Brick and tile |
| 103 | 159-161 | 900 | Ditch | | |
| 104 | 162 | 901 | Ditch | | (Flint flake residual) |
| 105 | 163 | 901 | Ditch Terminus | | |
| 106 | 164 | 902 | Ditch | Modern | Same as (149) |
| 107 | 165 | 902 | Ditch | Modern | Same as (149) |
| 108 | 166 | 903 | Ditch Terminus | | |
| 109 | 167 | 903 | Ditch | | |
| 110 | 168 | 903 | Ditch Terminus | | |
| 111 | 169 | 907 | Ditch | | |
| 112 | 170 | 907 | Ditch Terminus | | |
| 113 | 171 | 908 | Ditch | | |
| 114 | 172 | 908 | Ditch Terminus | | |
| 115 | 173 | 906 | Ditch Terminus | | |
| 116 | 174 | 906 | Ditch | | |
| 117 | 175 | 909 | Ditch | Modern | Same as (149) |
| 118 | 176 | 909 | Ditch | Modern | Same as (149) |
| 119 | 177 | 909 | Ditch | Modern | Same as (149) |
| 120 | 178, 182 | | Pit | Modern | By Association |
| 121 | 179 | 909 | Ditch Terminus | Modern | Same as (149) |
| 122 | 180 | 909 | Ditch Terminus | Modern | Same as (149) |
| 123 | 181 | 909 | Ditch | Modern | Same as (149) |
| 125 | 183 | 905 | Gully | | |
| 126 | 184 | 905 | Gully | | |
| 124 | 185 | 909 | Ditch | Modern | Same as (149) |
| 127 | 186 | | Ditch | | |
| 128 | 187 | 905 | Ditch | | |
| 129 | 188 | 905 | Ditch | | |
| 130 | 189 | 905 | Ditch | | |
| 131 | 190 | 905 | Ditch | | |
| 132 | 191 | 905 | Ditch | | |
| 133 | 192 | 905 | Ditch | | |
| 134 | 193 | 904 | Gully Terminus | | |
| 135 | 194 | 904 | Gully | | |
| 136 | 195 | 904 | Gully | | |
| 137 | 196 | 904 | Gully | | |
| 138 | 197 | | Pit | | |
| 139 | 198 | 904 | Gully | | |
| 140 | 199 | 904 | Gully | | |
| 141 | 250 | 904 | Gully Terminus | | |
| 142 | 251 | 905 | Ditch | | |
| 143 | 252 | 910 | Ditch | Undated | |
| 144 | 253 | 910 | Ditch | Undated | |
| 145 | 254 | 910 | Ditch | Undated | |
| 146 | 255 | 910 | Ditch Terminus | Undated | |
| 147 | 256 | | Ditch | Modern | Same as (149) |
| 148 | 257 | | Ditch | Modern | Same as (149) |
| 149 | 258 | | Ditch | Modern | Imperial Measurements |
| 200 | 259 | | Ditch | Modern | Same as (149) |



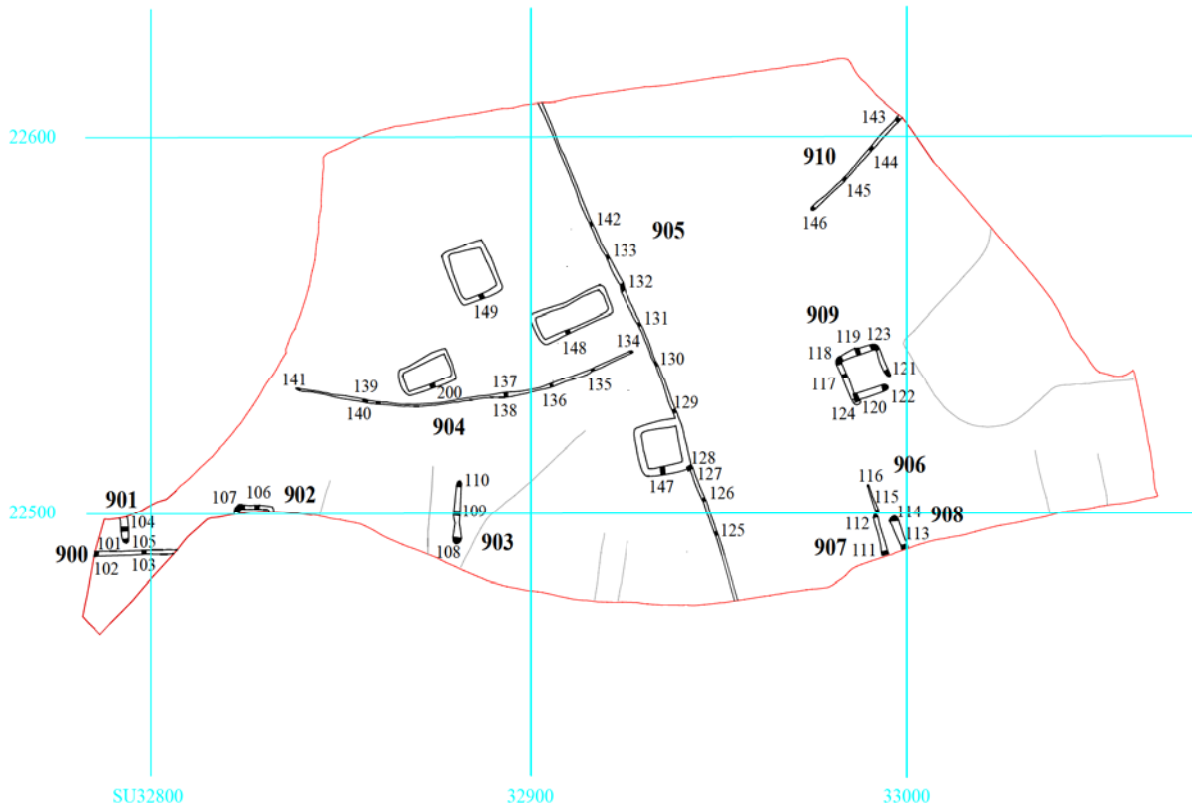
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Figure 1. Location of site in relation to Roke Manor, Shootash and within Hampshire.

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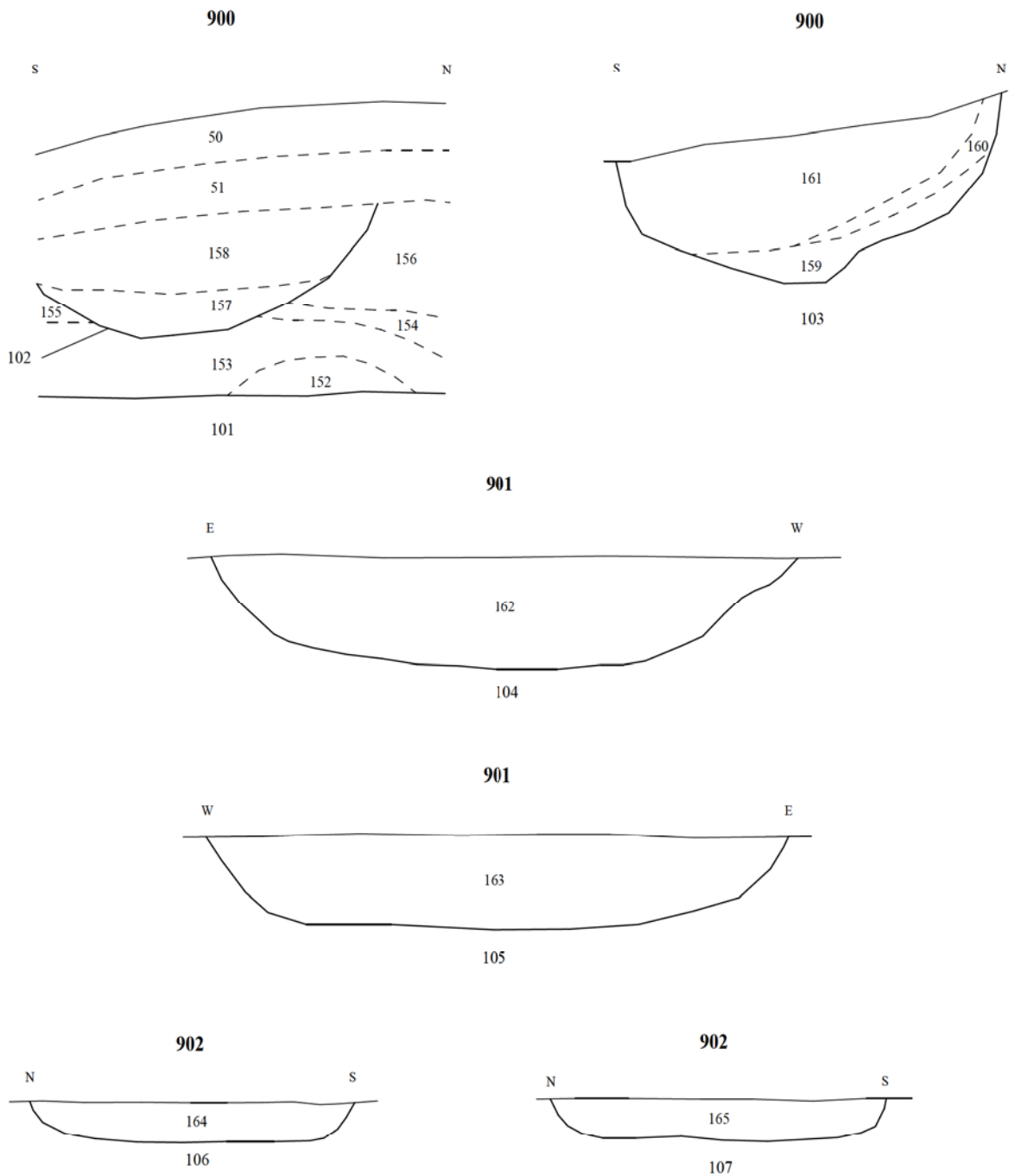
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Figure 2. Detail of area





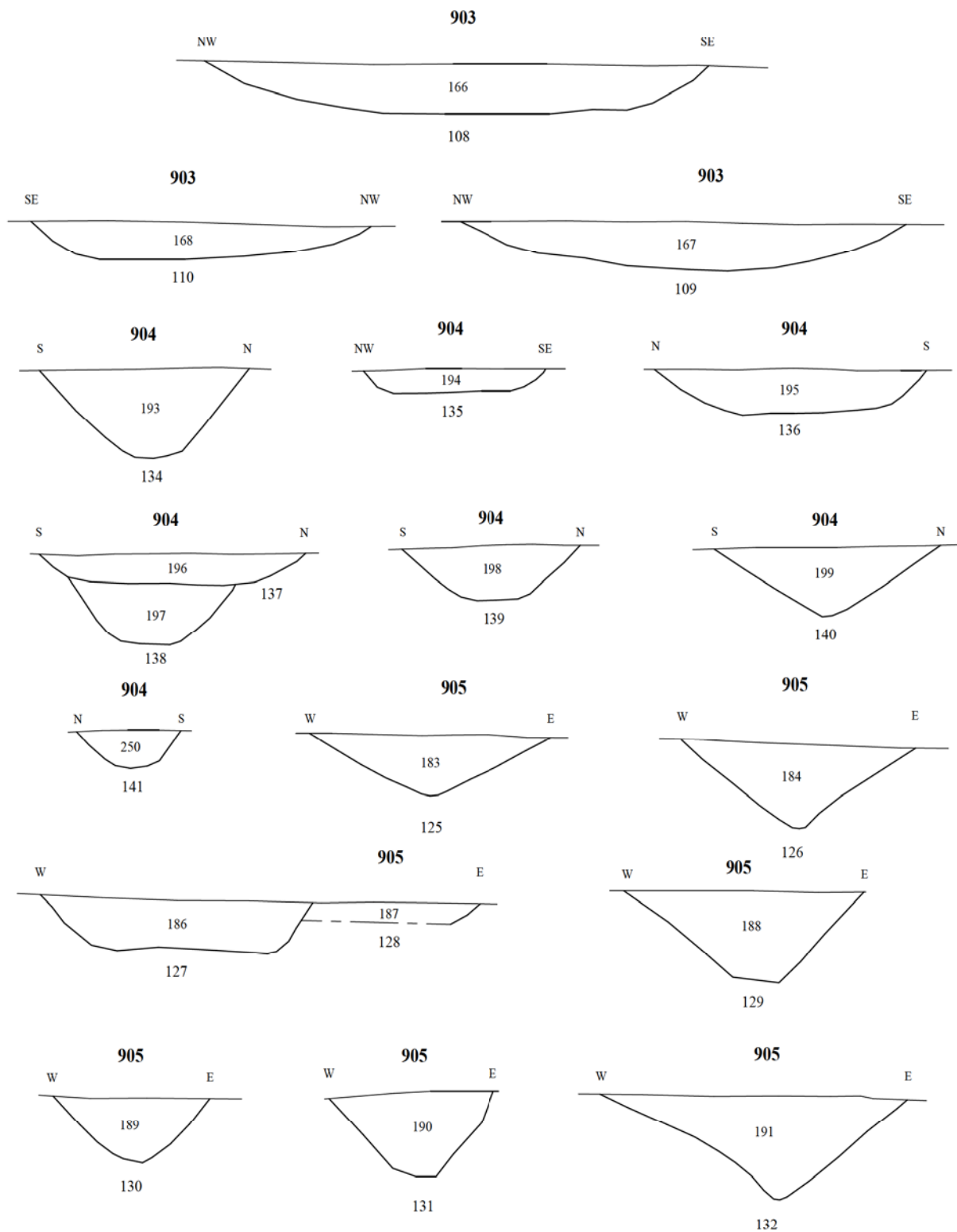
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Figure 3. Sections.



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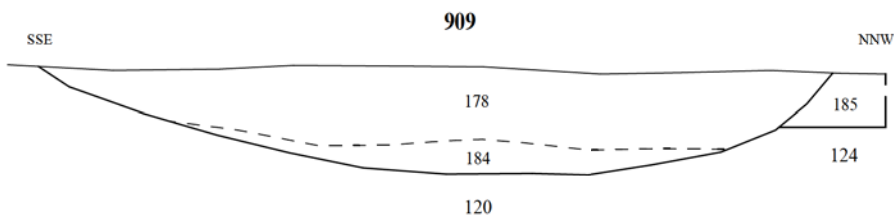
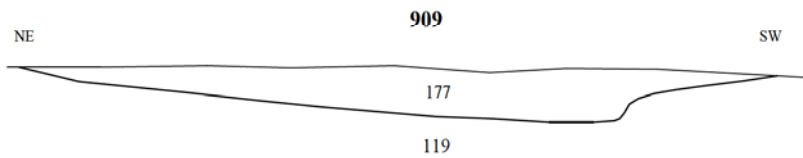
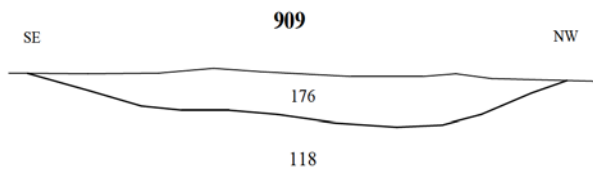
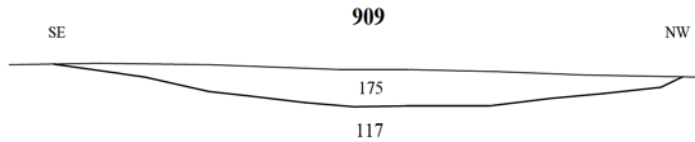
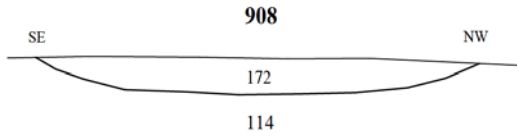
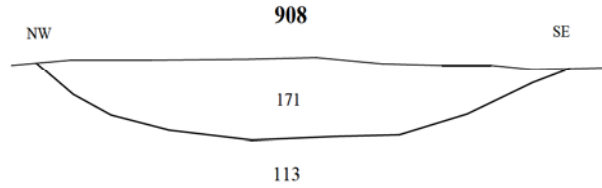
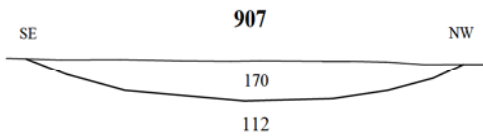
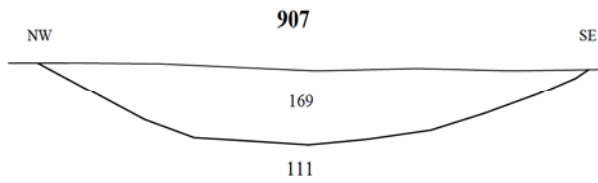
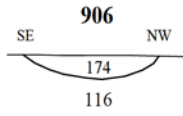
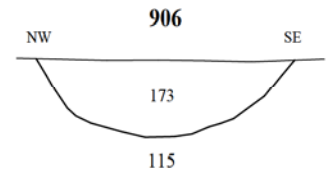
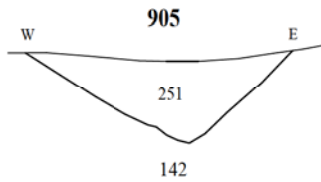
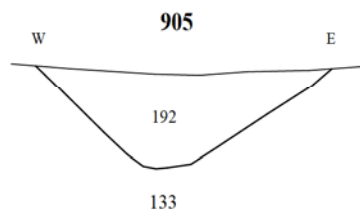
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Figure 4. Sections.



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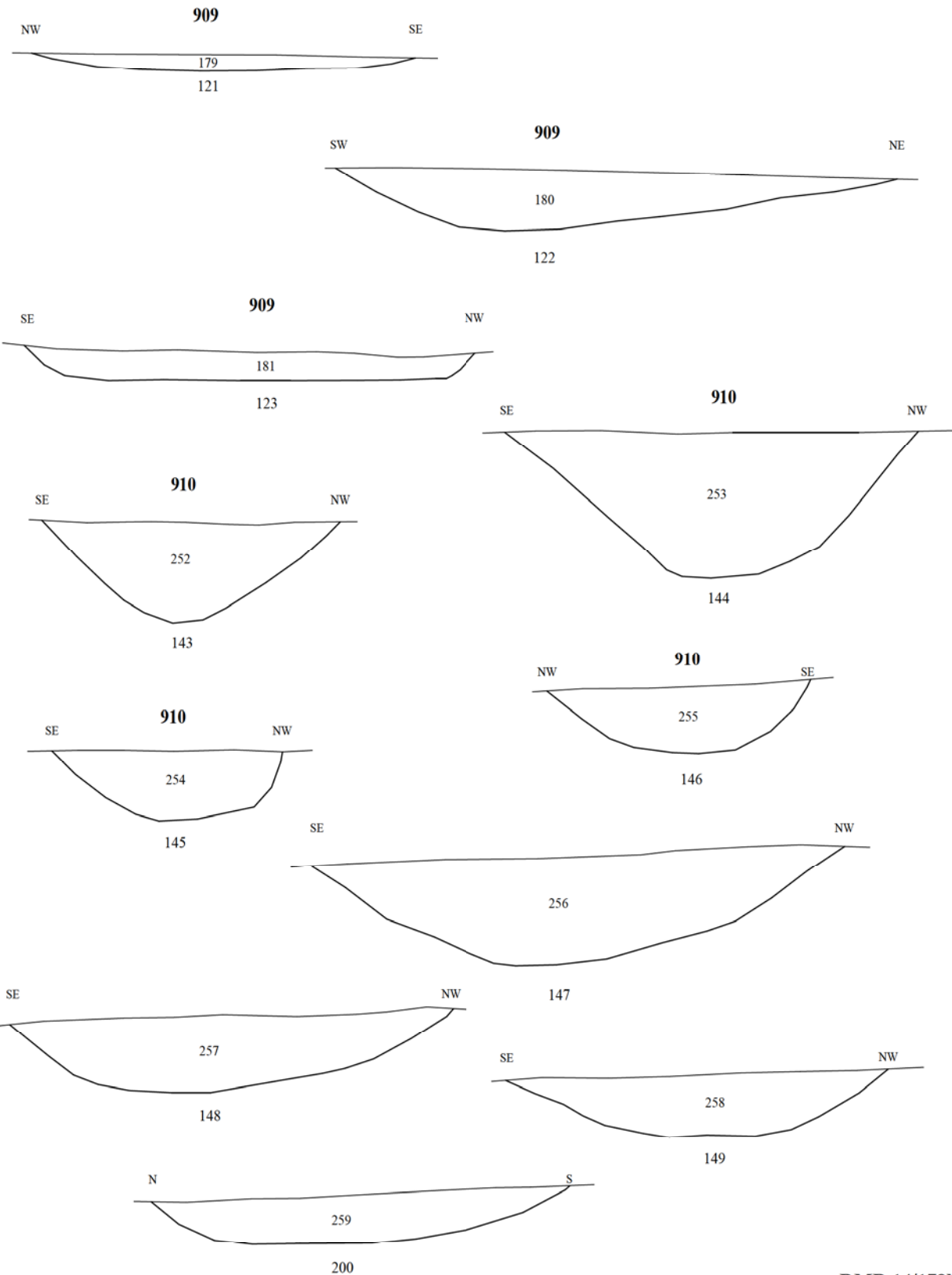
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Figure 5. Sections.



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Figure 6. Sections.



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Plate 1. Excavation area, looking east.



Plate 2. Ditch 115, looking northeast, Scales: 0.5m and 0.1m.

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**Roke Manor Farm, Shootash, Romsey, Hampshire, Phase 2
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Plates 1 - 2.

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Plate 3. Ditch 144, looking southwest, Scales: 1m and 0.3m.



Plate 4. Ditch 148, looking west, Scales: 1m and 0.1m.

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Archaeological Recording Action**

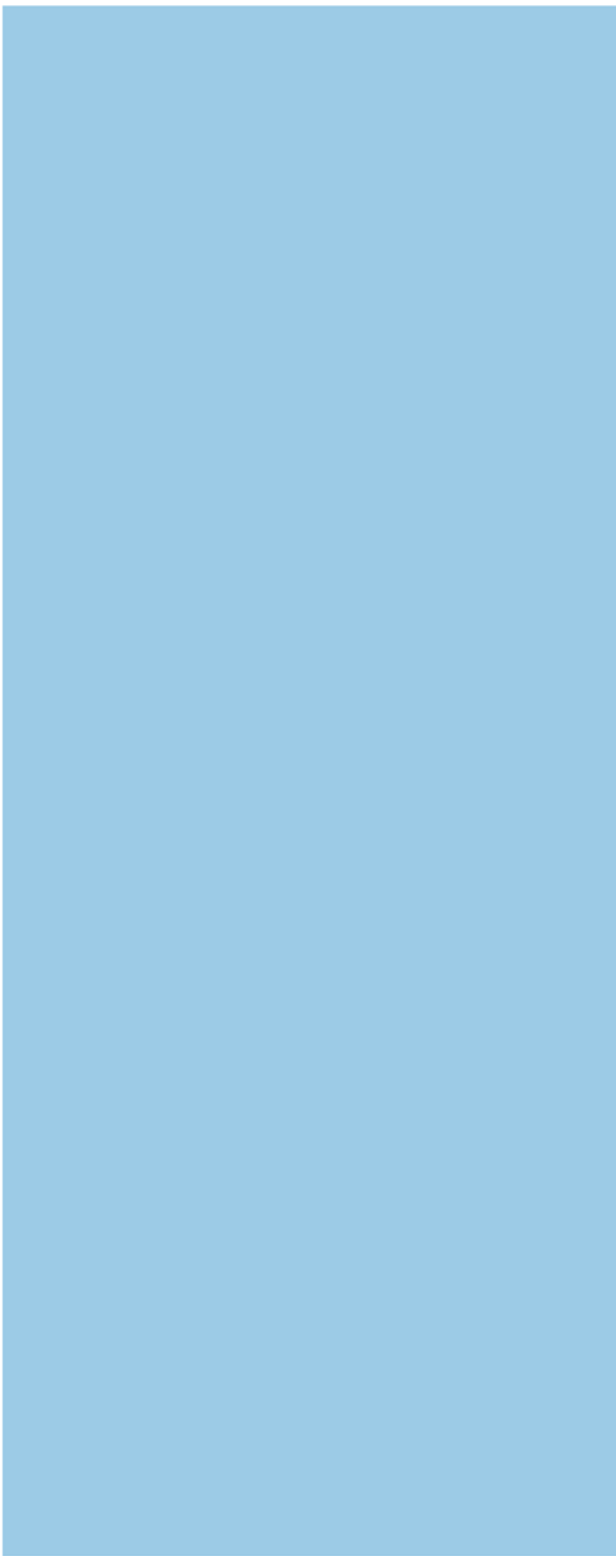
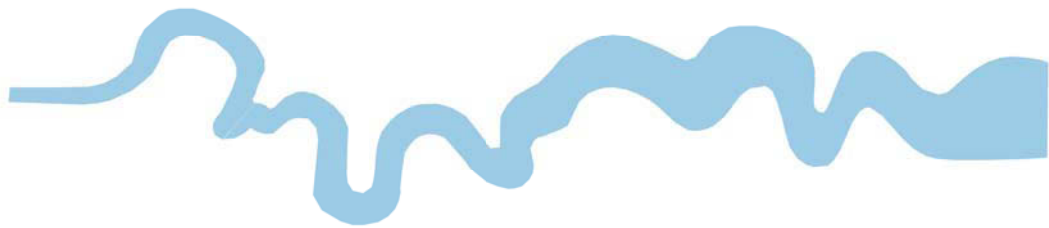
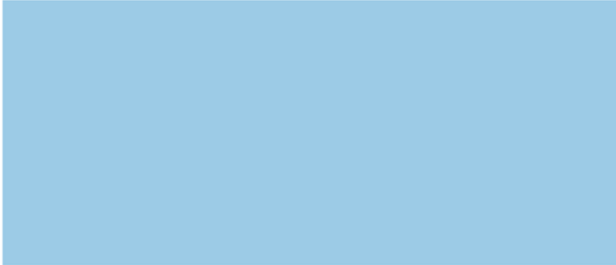
Plates 3 - 4.

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 |





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