

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

ARCHAEOLOGICAL

S E R V I C E S

**East Oakley House, Hill Road, Oakley,
Basingstoke, Hampshire**

Archaeological Evaluation

by Cecilia Galleano

Site Code: OHB17-151

(SU 5730 4998)

**East Oakley House, Hill Road, Oakley,
Basingstoke, Hampshire**

An Archaeological Evaluation

for Foray Homes Ltd

by Cecilia Galleano

Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code OHB 17/151

September 2017

Summary

Site name: East Oakley House, Hill Road, Oakley, Basingstoke, Hampshire

Grid reference: SU 5730 4998

Site activity: Archaeological Evaluation

Date and duration of project: 29th August 2017

Project manager: Steve Ford

Site supervisor: Andy Taylor

Site code: OHB 17-151

Area of site: c. 0.42ha

Summary of results: Five trenches were excavated, with two intercutting gullies recorded, from which a small quantity of medieval pottery and a single sherd of Roman pottery were recovered.

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 ✓ 08.09.17 Danielle Milbank ✓ 07.09.17
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East Oakley House, Hill Road, Oakley, Basingstoke An Archaeological Evaluation

by Cecilia Galleano

Report 17-151

Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological field evaluation carried out at East Oakley House, Hill Road, Oakley, Basingstoke (SU 5730 4998) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Mr Mark Turner of Compton Homes on behalf of Forays Homes Ltd, 1 Archipelago, Lyon Way, Frimley, Camberley, Surrey, GU16 7ER.

Planning permission (16/01019/FUL) has been gained from Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council to develop the site for new housing. Field evaluation has been requested to assess the archaeological potential in order to inform a mitigation strategy if necessary.

This is in accordance with the Department for Communities and Local Government's *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF 2012), and the County Council's policies on archaeology. The field investigation was carried out to a specification approved by Mr David Hopkins, County Archaeologist for Hampshire County Council. The fieldwork was undertaken by Andy Taylor and Cecilia Galleano on the 29th of August 2017 and the site code is OHB 17/151. The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited at the recipient museum.

Location, topography and geology

The site is located in a residential area, east of East Oakley House and south of Hill Road Oakley, Basingstoke Hampshire (Figure 1). To the south and west the land is arable, with the centre of the village of Oakley c.100m to the north.

The site area (Fig. 2) comprises gardens, and is fairly level, though the tennis court area is cut slightly into land that slopes from the south gently down towards the north. The site lies at 125m above Ordnance datum and the underlying geology is mapped as chalk (BGS 1981), and the geology observed in the trenches was clay with flints.

Archaeological background

The archaeological potential of the site has been highlighted in a briefing note prepared by David Hopkins of Hampshire County Council. In summary, the site lies within the historic core of medieval Oakley which is thought to have grown up around a green and road junction. Evidence for Roman activity is also recorded with a scatter of Roman pottery recovered nearby suggesting Roman occupation deposits should be present in the 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. All works were to be carried out in such a manner as would not compromise the integrity of the archaeological features or deposits that would be best suited for investigation under conditions pertaining to full excavation.

Specific aims were:

- to determine if archaeological deposits of any period were present,
- to provide information to allow the preparation of a mitigation strategy if necessary.

Five trenches were to be dug, each 1.6m-2m wide and 25m long. The trenches were to be dug using a JCB-type machine fitted with a toothless ditching bucket. Any features uncovered were to be cleaned, excavated and recorded using the appropriate hand tools.

Results

Five trenches were excavated, each 1.6m wide and all in their intended locations, though the orientation of some of the trenches was slightly adjusted due to the presence of trees on the site. Three of the trenches were extended to compensate for the need to shorten two of the trenches. These changes were approved by the county archaeologist.

A complete list of trenches giving lengths, breadths, depths and a description of sections and geology is given in Appendix 1. The excavated features are summarized as Appendix 2.

Trench 1 (Fig 3; Pl. 1)

Trench 1 was aligned east-west and was 1.6m wide, 24.6m long and 0.30m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of Tarmac 0.05m thick and hoggin 0.12m thick, which overlay a mid grey brown silty clay subsoil which was

0.11m thick. This in turn overlay the natural geology which comprised firm orange brown clay. No archaeological finds or features were identified.

Trench 2 (Fig 3; Pl. 2)

Trench 2 was aligned southeast-northwest and was 1.6m wide, 15.00m long and 0.58m deep overall. The stratigraphy comprised topsoil 0.18m thick, which overlay mid grey brown silty clay subsoil which was 0.36m thick. This in turn overlay the natural orange brown clay with flint geology. A modern truncation was recorded at the southeast end of the trench. No archaeological finds or features were identified.

Trench 3 (Fig 3; Pl. 3)

Trench 3 was aligned southeast-northwest and was 1.6m wide, 21.60m long and 0.40m deep overall. The stratigraphy comprised topsoil 0.18m thick, which overlay mid grey brown silty clay subsoil which was 0.20m thick. This in turn overlay the natural orange brown clay with flint geology. No archaeological finds or features were identified.

Trench 4 (Figs 3 and 4; Pl. 4)

Trench 4 was aligned east-west and was 1.6m wide, 15.00m long and 1m deep overall. The stratigraphy comprised topsoil 0.10m thick, which overlay a made ground layer which was 0.37m thick and comprised mixed clay, chalk and sand. This overlay a buried soil layer which was 0.33m thick and overlay a buried subsoil layer 0.16m thick. This in turn overlay the natural geology which comprised orange brown clay with flint.

At 6.5m from the west end, two gullies were recorded. A slot was excavated through each of these. Gully slot 1 was 0.95m long, 0.40m wide and 0.23m deep, with a concave profile. It was infilled with deposit 52 (a light brown grey silty clay with occasional flint) and two fragments of pottery of Medieval date.

The gully excavated as slot 1 truncated a second gully. Gully slot 2 was 0.95m long, 0.60m wide and 0.30m deep, with a concave profile. It was infilled with deposit 53 (comprising a light brown grey silty clay with occasional small flint inclusions), several pieces of animal long bone, and a single piece of pottery of Roman date.

Trench 5 (Fig 3)

Trench 5 was aligned south-north and was 1.6m wide, 25.60m long and 0.40m deep overall. The stratigraphy comprised topsoil 0.18m thick, which overlay mid grey brown silty clay subsoil which was 0.20m thick. This in

turn overlay the natural orange brown clay with flint geology. No archaeological features were identified, though a single sherd of pottery and a piece of tile, both of medieval date, were recovered from the subsoil in the area of this trench.

Finds

Pottery by Paul Blinkhorn

The pottery assemblage comprised 4 sherds with a total weight of 12g. It is all Roman or medieval. The following fabric types were noted:

MSW: Medieval Sandy Ware, late 11th-14th century (Mellor 1994, 84). 1 sherd, 3g.

NAC: Newbury C ware, late 12th – mid 14th century (ibid, 52-4). 1 sherd, 5g.

NAW: Newbury 'A/B' Ware, late 11th – late 14th century (Mephram 1997, 51-2). 1 sherd, 3g.

In addition, a single sherd (1g) of Roman grey ware also occurred. The pottery occurrence by number and weight of sherds per context by fabric type is shown in Table 1. The range of fabric types is typical of sites in the region. All the sherds are small and abraded, and are the product of secondary deposition.

Ceramic Building Materials by Danielle Milbank

A tile fragment were recovered from the subsoil layer encountered in the evaluation. It was recovered from the area of trench 5 and comprised a single piece of glazed tile weighing 154g. It comprises a medium-coarse quartz sandy fabric with very sparse 2-5mm quartz inclusions and a light red colour. The thickness is 16mm and the form is fairly uneven, with a thick green glaze on the upper surface and a small splash of glaze on the underside, and it is of likely 13th to 15th century date and probably locally-produced.

Animal Bone by Danielle Milbank

A small assemblage of fragmented disarticulated animal bone comprising 5 pieces weighing 38g in total recovered from gully slot 2 (53). The condition of the pieces was moderate, with high fragmentation and little surface erosion, and the bone fabric was fairly hard. Several of the pieces co-join and overall they represent

pieces of cattle long bone. No butchery marks were identified and no further information could be recovered from the fragmented remains.

Conclusion

The evaluation revealed that overall, the subsoil layers and natural geology across the site are largely undisturbed, with the exception of the area of trench 2, which was possibly truncated slightly for the creation of the tennis court. In the area of trench 4, buried soil and a thin made ground layer indicate some landscaping on the site, burying existing topsoil and subsoil.

The features encountered in trench 4 represent modest evidence of activity on the site during the medieval period, with the single Roman pottery sherd likely to represent a residual find, and suggestive of activity on the site during the Roman period. This contributes to the evidence of the presence of Roman archaeology as recorded in the wider area.

References

- BGS, 1981, *British Geological Survey*, 1:5,0000, Sheet 248, Solid and Drift Edition, Keyworth
- Mellor, M, 1994, Oxford Pottery: A Synthesis of middle and late Saxon, medieval and early post-medieval pottery in the Oxford Region, *Oxoniensia* **59**, 17-217
- Mepham, L, 1997, 'Pottery' in Vince, A G, Lobb, S J, Richards, J C and Mepham, L *Excavations in Newbury, Berkshire, 1979 – 1990* Wessex Archaeol Rep **13**, 45-67
- NPPF, 2012, *National Planning Policy Framework*, Dept Communities and Local Govt, London

APPENDIX 1: Trench details

0m at S or W end end

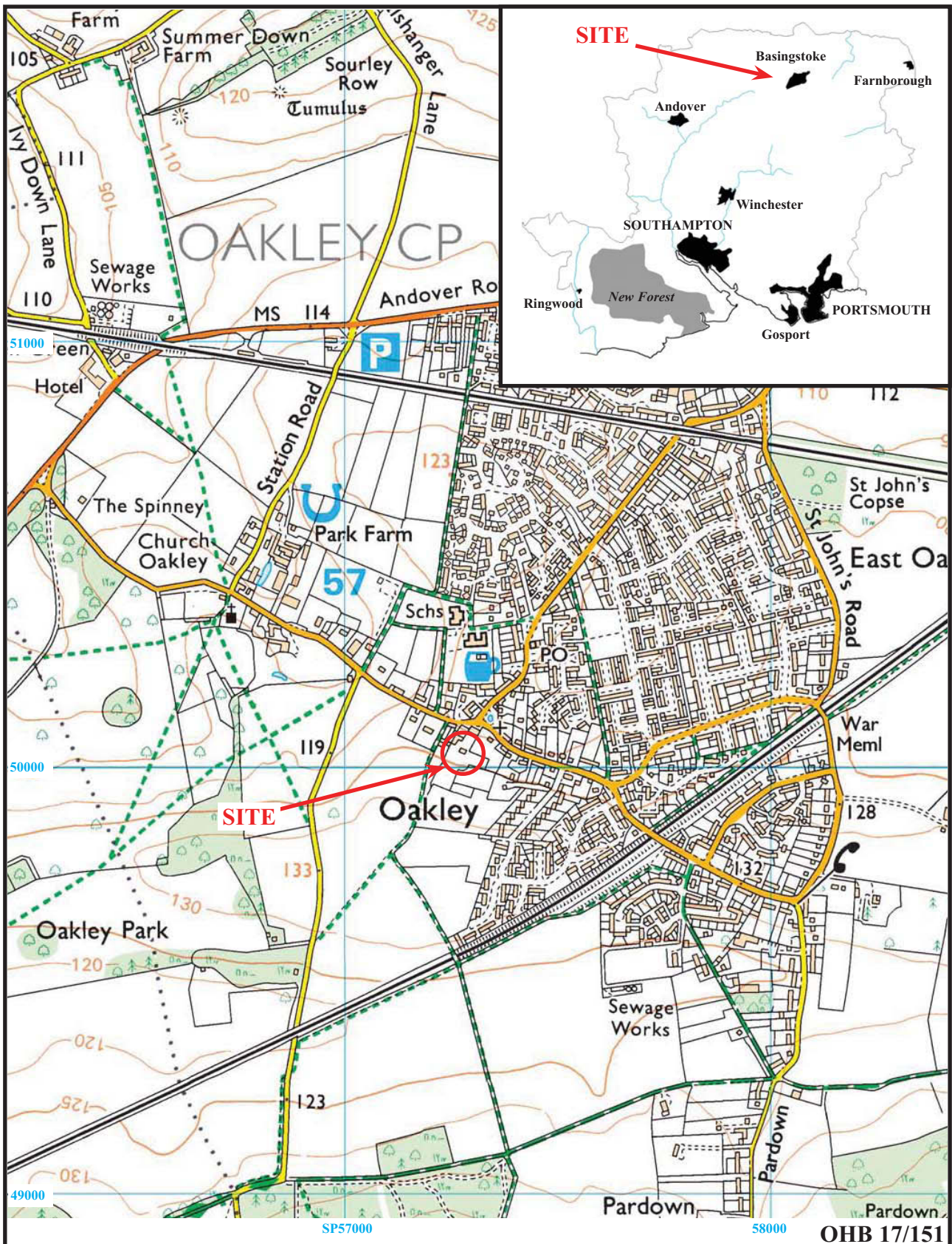
<i>Trench</i>	<i>Length (m)</i>	<i>Breadth (m)</i>	<i>Depth (m)</i>	<i>Comment</i>
1	24.6	1.6	0.30	0–0.05m Tarmac; 0.05m-0.17m hoggin; 0.17-0.28m grey brown silty clay subsoil; 0.28m+ orange brown clay natural geology. [PL1]
2	15	1.6	0.58	0–0.18m Topsoil; 0.18m-0.54m subsoil; 0.54m + orange brown clay natural geology. [PL2]
3	21.6	1.6	0.40	0–0.18m Topsoil; 0.18m-0.38m subsoil; 0.38.m + orange brown clay natural geology. [PL3]
4	15	1.6	1.00	0–0.10 Topsoil; 0.10m-0.47m clay, chalk and sand made ground: 0.47-0.80m buried soil 0.80-0.96m buried subsoil; 0.96m+ orange brown clay natural geology. Gully slots [1] and [2] [PL4]
5	25.6	1.6	0.40	0–0.12m Topsoil; 0.12m-0.37m subsoil; 0.37m + orange brown clay natural 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>
4	1	52	Gully slot	Medieval	Pottery
4	2	53	Gully slot	Roman?	Pottery

APPENDIX 3: Pottery occurrence by number and weight (in g) of sherds per context by fabric type.

Cut	Context	Roman		MSW		NAW		NAC	
		No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt
1	52			1	3	1	3		
2	53	1	1						
	Tr5 Subsoil							1	5
	Total	1	1	1	3	1	3	1	5

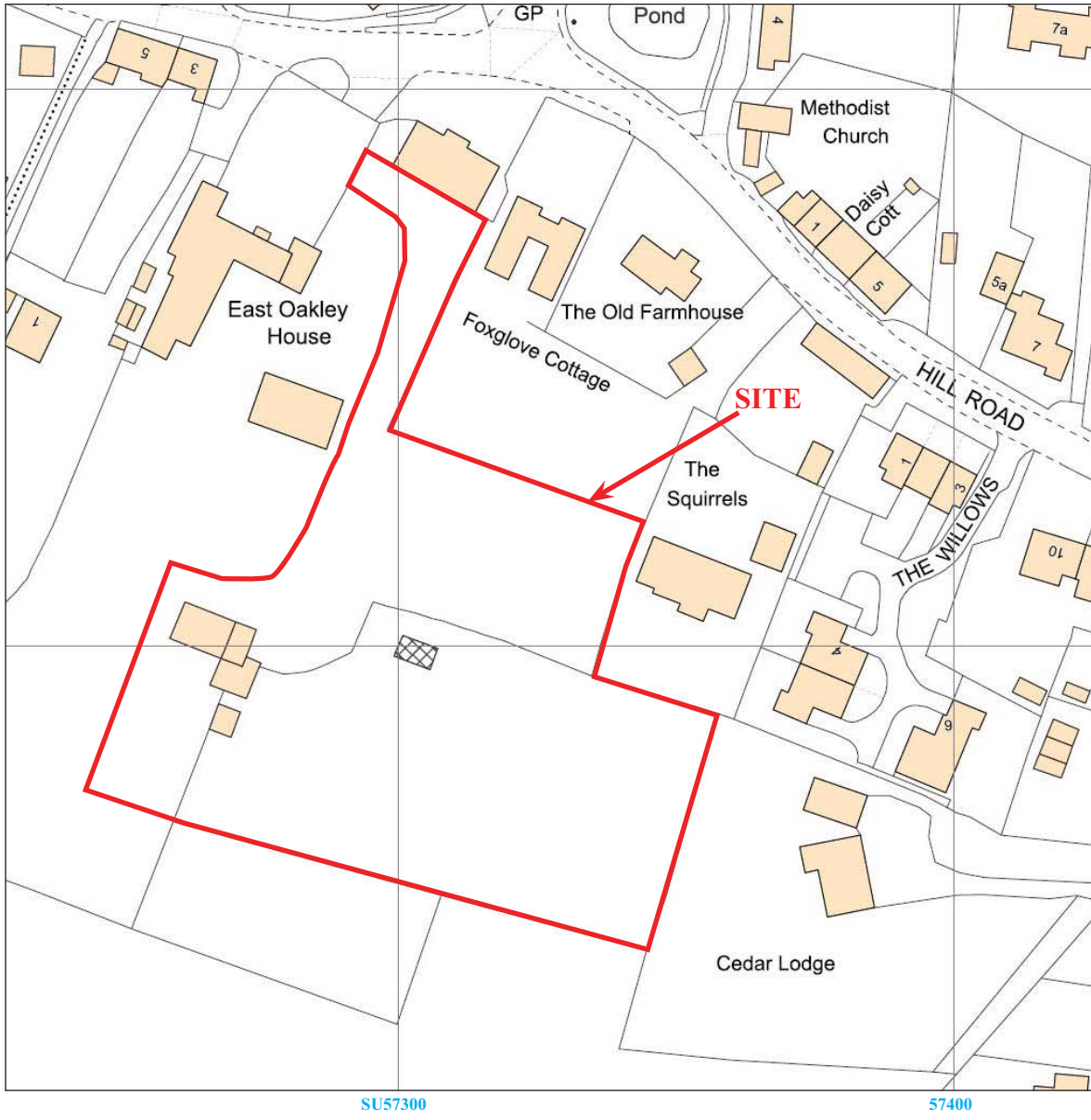


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Figure 1. Location of site within Oakley and Hampshire.

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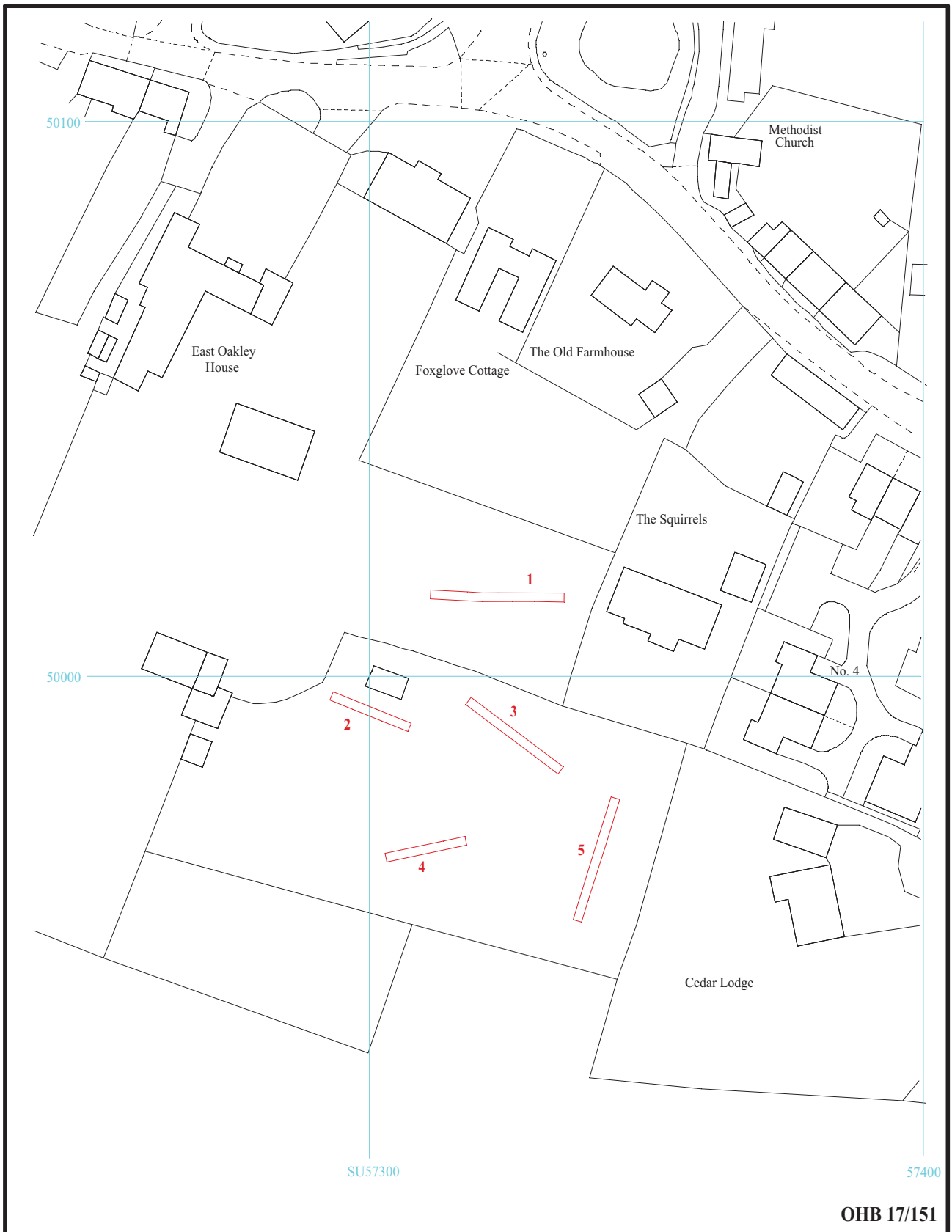
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Figure 2. Detailed location of site off Hill Road.

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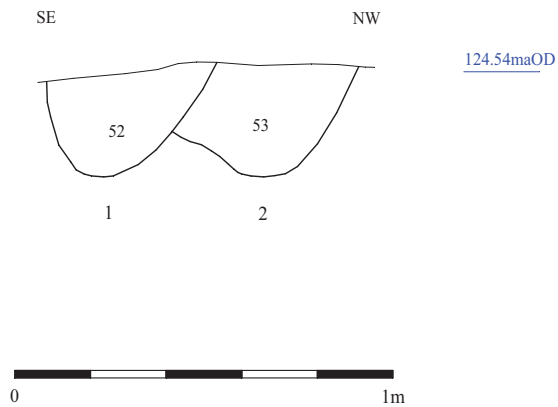
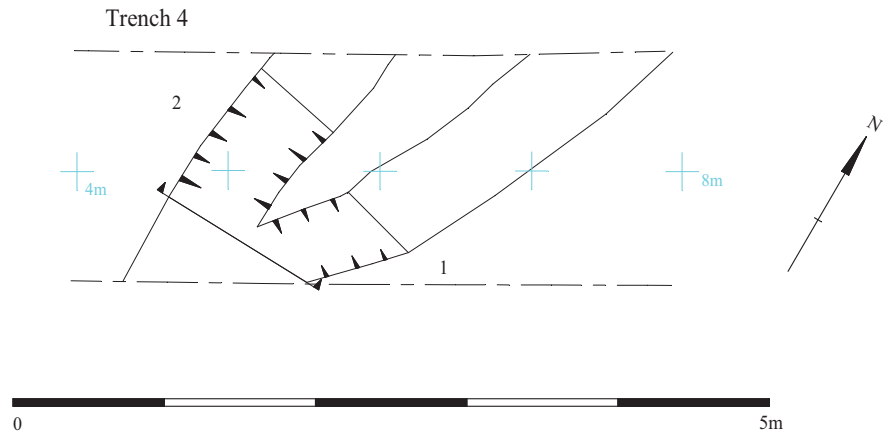
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Figure 3. Location of trenches.



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Figure 4. Detail of Trench 4.

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Plate 1. Trench 1, looking East, Scales: 1m and 2m.



Plate 2. Trench 2, looking northwest, Scales: 1m and 2m.

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**East Oakley House, Hill Road, Oakley,
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Plates 1 and 2.**

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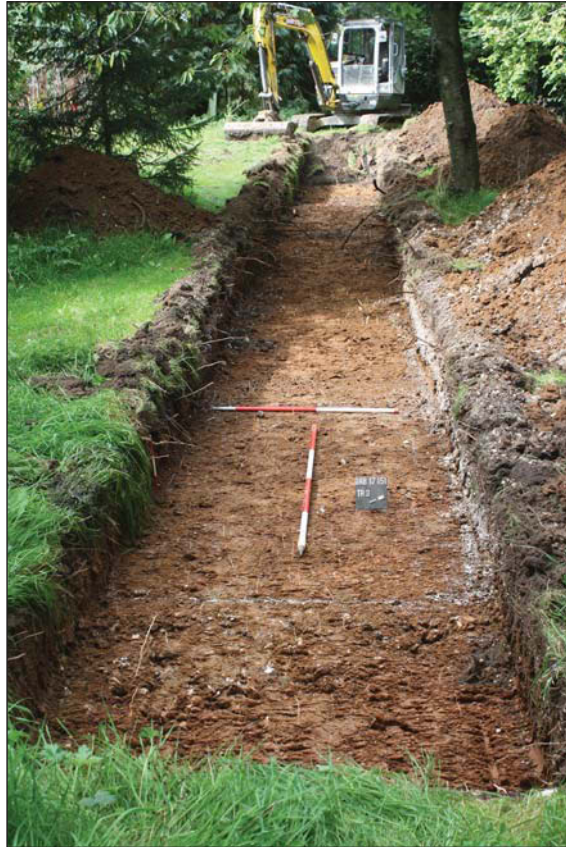


Plate 3. Trench 3, looking northeast, Scales: 1m and 2m.



Plate 4. Trench 4, looking southwest, Scales: 0.50m, 0.30m and 0.10m.

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Plates 3 and 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 AD 0 BC
Iron Age _____	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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