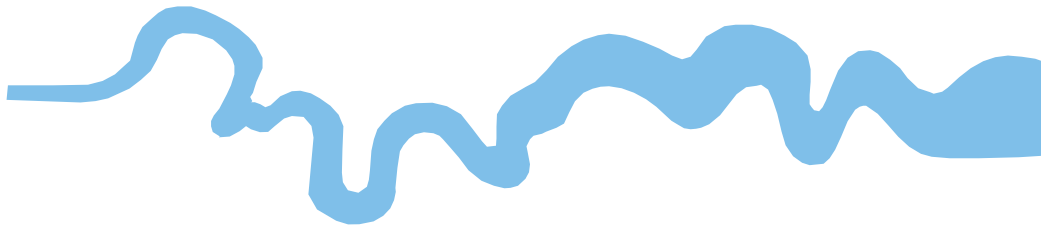


**T V A S**



**SOUTH**

**Barrow Hill Farm, Ramsdean,  
Petersfield, Hampshire**

**Archaeological Watching Brief**

**Odile Rouard**

**Site Code: BRP17/91**

**(SU 7053 2250)**

# **Barrow Hill Farm, Ramsdean, Petersfield, Hampshire**

**An Archaeological Watching Brief**

**For Mr Matt Luff**

by Odile Rouard

Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code BRP 17/91

**November 2017**

## Summary

**Site name:** Barrow Hill Farm, Ramsdean, Petersfield, Hampshire

**Grid reference:** SU 7053 2250

**Planning reference:** SDNP/15/04644/FUL

**Site activity:** Watching Brief

**Date and duration of project:** 9th - 22nd August 2017

**Project manager:** Sean Wallis

**Site supervisors:** Odile Rouard and Jim Webster

**Site code:** BRP17/91

**Area of Site:** *c.* 0.48 ha

**Summary of results:** The watching brief at Barrow Hill Farm successfully investigated those parts of the site which were to be affected by the construction of new holiday cottages. The depth of ground reduction was such that the natural geology was exposed in all areas of the site affected by the construction work. However, no archaeological finds or features were identified.

**Location and reference of archive:** The archive is presently held at TVAS Brighton, and will be deposited with the Hampshire Cultural Trust in due course.

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|   |
|---|
| Report edited/checked by: Steve Ford ✓ 29.11.17<br>Steve Preston ✓ 24.11.17 |
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# **Barrow Hill Farm, Ramsdean, Petersfield, Hampshire An Archaeological Watching Brief**

by Odile Rouard

**Report 17/91**

## **Introduction**

This report documents the results of an archaeological watching brief carried out at Barrow Hill Farm, Ramsdean, Petersfield, Hampshire (SU 7053 2250) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by the property's owner, Mr Matt Luff.

Planning permission (SDNP/15/04644/FUL) had been gained from South Downs National Park Authority for the demolition of a number of agricultural buildings, and the construction of new holiday cottages, with associated access and landscaping. In accordance with the *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF, 2012) and the Authority's policies on archaeology and the historic environment, the permission was subject to a standard planning condition (6) relating to archaeology and the historic environment.

As a consequence of the possibility of archaeological deposits on site which may be damaged or destroyed by the development, it was proposed to carry out a watching brief. The watching brief was carried out in accordance with a written scheme of investigation approved by Mr David Hopkins, Hampshire County Archaeologist, who advises the Authority on archaeological matters in Hampshire.

The fieldwork was undertaken by Odile Rouard and Jim Webster between 9th and 22nd August 2017, and the site code is BRP 17/91. The site archive is presently held by TVAS Brighton, and will be deposited with the Hampshire Cultural Trust in due course.

## **Location, topography and geology**

The site is located to the north of the village of Ramsdean, in eastern Hampshire (Fig. 1). It currently consists of a farmyard (Fig. 2). Although the surrounding area is quite undulating in nature, the site itself was relatively flat, and lies at a height of approximately 125m above Ordnance Datum. According to the British Geological Survey the underlying geology consists of the Upper Greensand Formation, siltstone and fine grained sandstone (BGS 1999). This was confirmed during the watching brief, with a greenish grey sandy clay being recorded across the site, with varying amounts of sandstone inclusions.

## **Archaeological background**

The archaeological potential of the site has been considered in a recent desk-based assessment (Grahame 2015). In summary, numerous cropmarks have been identified from aerial photographs in the surrounding area, which appear to represent linear features such as trackways and ditches. Although the dating of these features is difficult without archaeological excavation, it is possible that they may date from the prehistoric, Roman, Saxon, medieval or post-medieval periods. Up to three possible Bronze Age barrows have been recorded to the south-west of the present site, on the appropriately named Barrow Hill. The Historic Environment Record (HER) contains entries for the barn, cattle shed and cart shed on the proposed site itself. Whilst these buildings are not Listed, they are thought to date from the 19th century. There are several Listed buildings within the surrounding area, including the farmhouse at Barrow Hill Farm, which is located to the north of the present site.

## **Objectives and methodology**

The aims of the watching brief were to excavate and record any archaeological deposits affected by the proposed groundworks. This was to involve the examination of all areas of intrusive groundworks, including topsoil stripping, landscaping and ground reduction.

## **Results**

The six areas affected by ground reduction were stripped by a 360° type mechanical excavator, fitted with a toothless ditching bucket, under constant archaeological supervision. The western area encompassed buildings 1, 2, 4, 5 and 9, whilst buildings 6, 7, and 8 were situated in the eastern area (Fig. 3). Building 3 was to utilize a former agricultural building.

The stratigraphy encountered in the western part of the site consisted of between 0.40m to 0.60m of made ground (51), directly on top of the natural geology (Fig. 4; Pls 1 and 6).

In the eastern part of the site, the stratigraphy consisted of between 0.08 to 0.23m of disturbed topsoil (50) overlying 0.18m of made-ground (51), which lay directly above the natural geology (Fig 4; Pls 2–5). Although three modern drains were observed, no archaeological finds or features were recorded.

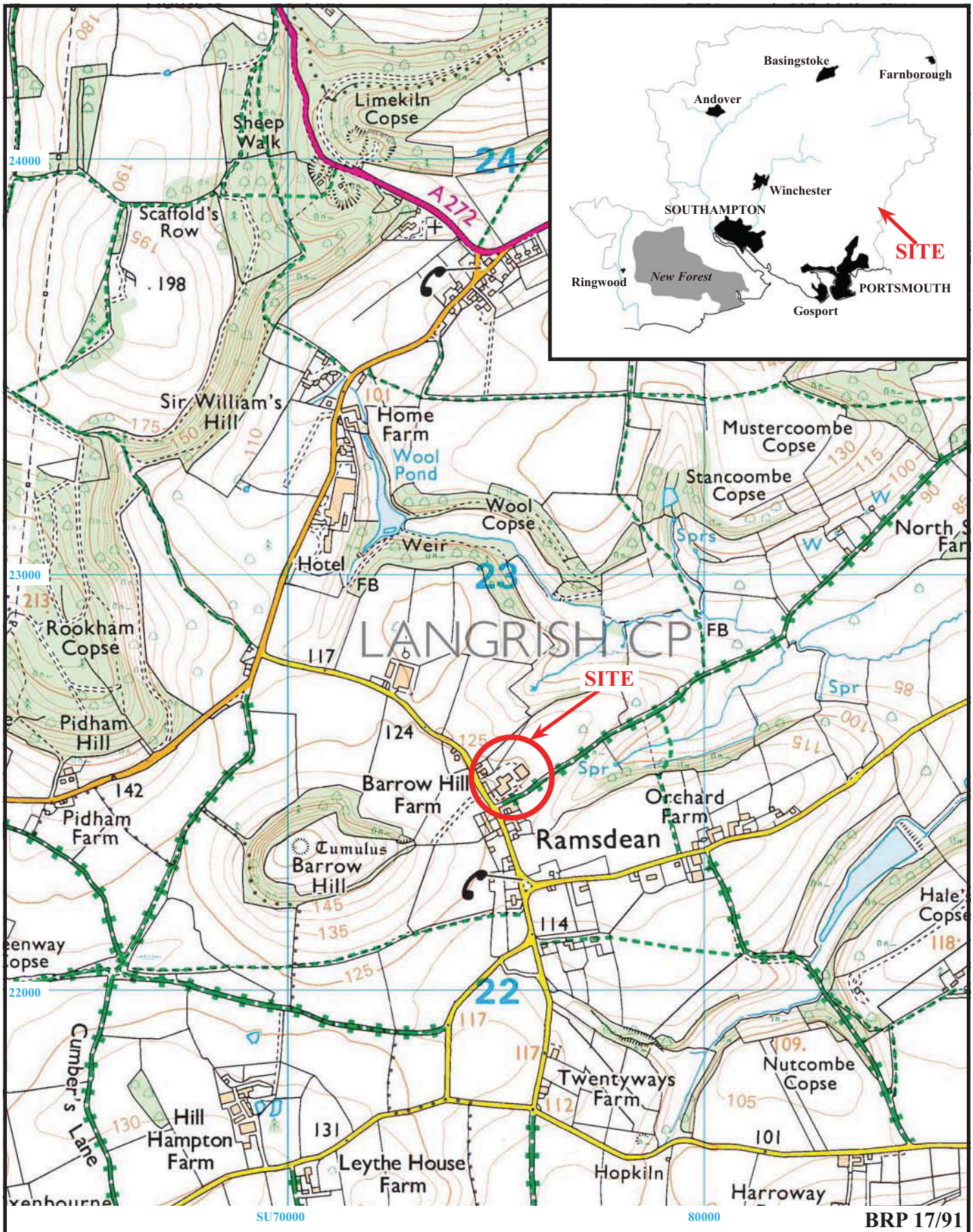
The fact that made ground was recorded directly above the natural geology across the site indicates that the site has been heavily disturbed in the past, presumably accounting for its relatively level platform in an area where the natural contours are quite marked.

## **Conclusion**

The watching brief at Barrow Hill Farm successfully investigated those parts of the site which were to be most affected by the construction of new holiday cottages. The depth of ground reduction was such that the natural geology was exposed in all the areas of the site affected. However, no archaeological finds or features were identified.

## **References**

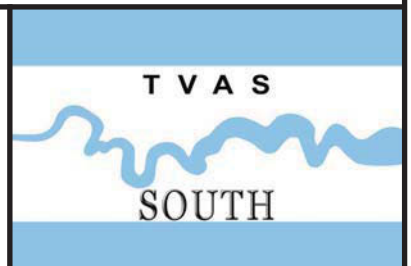
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- Grahame, M, 2015, 'Barrow Hill Farm, Ramsdean, Petersfield, Hampshire - a desk-based assessment', Foundations Archaeology unpubl rep, Swindon
- NPPF, 2012, *National Planning Policy Framework*, Dept Communities and Local Government, London

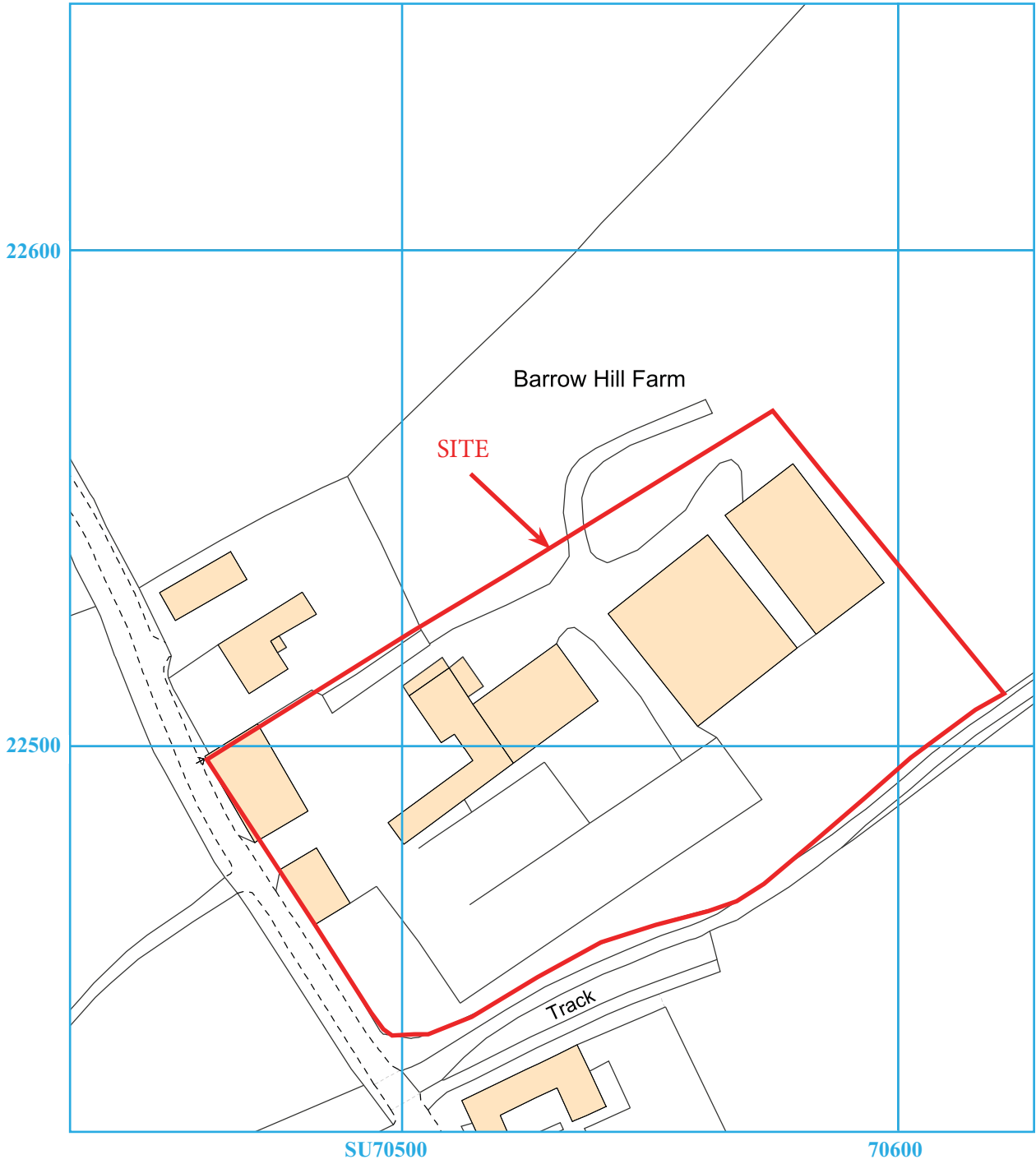


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Figure 1. Location of site within Ramsdean and Hampshire

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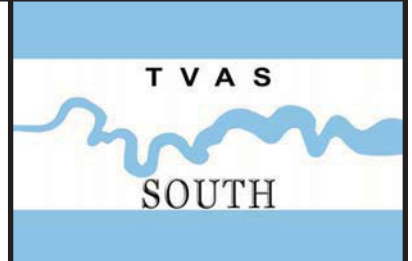
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**Archaeological Watching Brief  
Figure 2. Detailed location of site**

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-  Demolished buildings
-  Monitored areas
-  Existing buildings

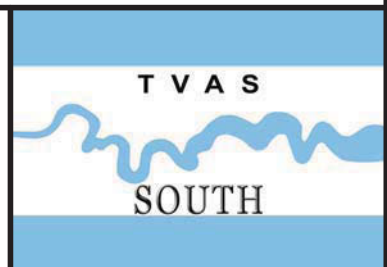


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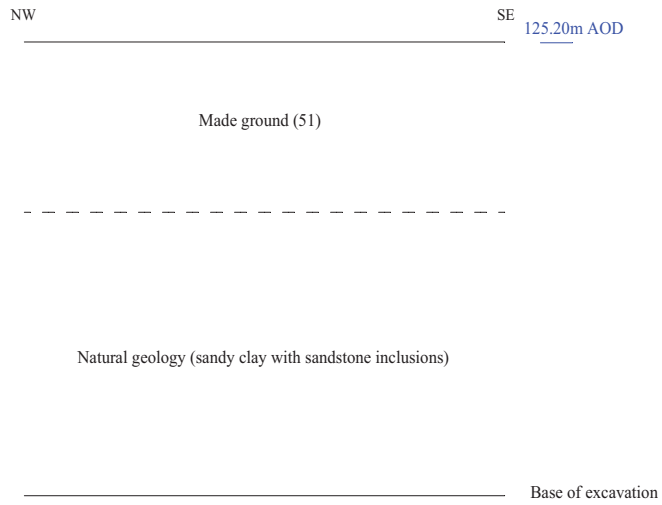


**Barrow Hill Farm, Ramsdean, Petersfield,  
Hampshire, 2017  
Archaeological Watching Brief**

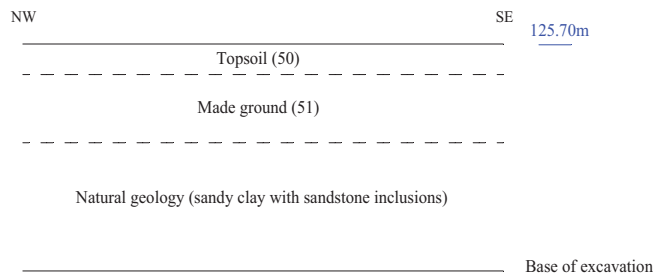
Figure 3. Detailed location of site showing areas monitored.



### Western Area



### Eastern Area



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## Barrow Hill Farm, Ramsdean, Petersfield, Hampshire 2017 Archaeological Watching Brief

Figure 4. Representative sections.

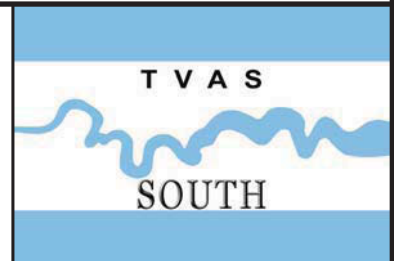




Plate 1. Plots 1 and 2, looking West.



Plate 2. Plots 4 and 5, looking East.



Plate 3. Plot 6, looking South-west.  
Scales: 2m and 1m.



Plate 4. Plot 7, looking South-east.  
Scales: 2m and 1m.



Plate 5. Plot 8, looking South.  
Scales: 2m and 1m.



Plate 6. Plot 9, looking East.

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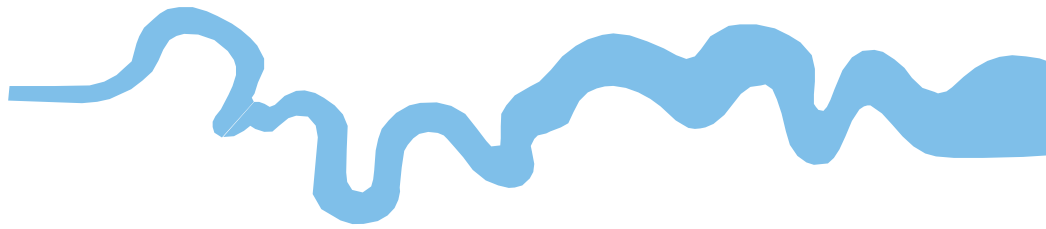
**Barrow Hill Farm, Ramsdean,  
Petersfield, Hampshire, 2017  
Archaeological Watching Brief  
Plates 1 - 6.**



## TIME CHART

|                            | Calendar Years   |
|----------------------------|------------------|
| Modern _____               | AD 1901          |
| Victorian _____            | AD 1837          |
| Post Medieval _____        | AD 1500          |
| Medieval _____             | AD 1066          |
| Saxon _____                | AD 410           |
| Roman _____                | AD 43<br>AD 0 BC |
| Iron Age _____             | 750 BC           |
| <br>                       |                  |
| Bronze Age: Late _____     | 1300 BC          |
| Bronze Age: Middle _____   | 1700 BC          |
| Bronze Age: Early _____    | 2100 BC          |
| <br>                       |                  |
| Neolithic: Late .....      | 3300 BC          |
| Neolithic: Early .....     | 4300 BC          |
| <br>                       |                  |
| Mesolithic: Late .....     | 6000 BC          |
| Mesolithic: Early .....    | 10000 BC         |
| <br>                       |                  |
| Palaeolithic: Upper .....  | 30000 BC         |
| Palaeolithic: Middle ..... | 70000 BC         |
| Palaeolithic: Lower .....  | 2,000,000 BC     |





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