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

# ARCHAEOLOGICAL

# SERVICES

Land off The Street, Bramley, Hampshire

**Archaeological Evaluation** 

by Steve Ford

Site Code: CLB18/16

(SU 6480 5870)

# Land off The Street, Bramley, Hampshire

# An Archaeological Evaluation for CgMs Heritage

by Steve Ford

Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code CLB18/16

**June 2018** 

#### Summary

Site name: Land off The Street, Bramley, Hampshire

Grid reference: SU 6480 5870

Site activity: Archaeological Evaluation

**Date and duration of project:** 25th –28th June 2018

**Project coordinator:** Tim Dawson

Site supervisor: Steve Ford

Site code: CLB18/16

Area of site: 1.2ha

**Summary of results:** The evaluation revealed few deposits of archaeological interest. The main feature of interest was an Early Iron Age pit in the north-east corner of the site. Elsewhere, a post-medieval gully was recorded and several trenches produced prehistoric struck flints (including a Mesolithic piece) and medieval and later pottery. The remainder of the site is 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 with Hampshire Cultural Trust.

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Report edited/checked by: Steve Preston ✓ 6.07.18

## Land off The Street, Bramley, Hampshire An Archaeological Evaluation

by Steve Ford

**Report 18/16** 

#### Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological field evaluation carried out on land south of The Street and east of Caufauld Lane, Bramley, Hampshire(SU 6480 5870) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Nick Cooke of CgMs Heritage 140, London Wall, London on behalf of Taylor Wimpey West London

Planning permission (15/02682/OUT) has been gained from Basingstoke and Deane District Council to construct new housing on the site which would also include open space and landscaping. The consent is subject to a condition (24) that requires a programme of archaeological investigation on the site. This is in accordance with the Department for Communities and Local Government's *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF 2012), and the District Council's policies on archaeology. This investigation was to take the form, initially, of evaluation by means of trial trenching to establish if the site has any archaeological potential, and to inform a mitigation strategy if required. The investigation followed a written scheme of investigation approved by Mr David Hopkins, Archaeology Officer for Hampshire County Council.

The fieldwork was supervised by Steve Ford assisted by Pierre Manisse and Anne Huvig from 25th to 28th June 2018. The site code is CLB18/16. The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited with Hampshire Cultural Trust in due course.

#### Location, topography and geology

The site is located on the south western margins of modern Bramley at the junction of The Street and Cufaude Lane. However, the modern settlement is focused on the railway station and the site lies closer to the historic core of Bramley which clusters around the parish church200m or so to the north west. (Fig. 1). The area is of irregular shape of about 3.1ha (Fig. 2). The site lies on near level ground at a height of *c*. 71m above Ordnance Datum. The underlying geology is mapped as Bagshot Beds (BGS 1981) and an orange brown sand, sometimes with clay and pebbles was observed in the trenches.

#### Archaeological background

The archaeological potential of the site stems from its location on the margins of the historic core of Bramley. Bramley has later Saxon origins and is mentioned in Domesday Book of 1086 (Williams and Martin 2002). Relatively little archaeology is recorded for the environs of the site but  $c.2 \,\mathrm{km}$  to the east lies Bulls Down, which is an Iron Age hillfort. It is possible that contemporary settlement sites are present in its environs. The site also lies within an area surveyed by the Loddon Valley Fieldwalking Survey (Ford et~al~2011) which revealed a range of probable sites of prehistoric, Roman and medieval date in the area, although the specific area of the site itself was not examined.

#### 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 aims were to:

determine if archaeological relevant levels survived on the site;

determine if archaeological deposits of any period were present; and to

inform a strategy for mitigation if required.

Seventeen trenches were to be excavated 30m long and 1.6-2m wide. Topsoil and any other overburden were to be removed to expose archaeologically sensitive levels by a machine fitted with a toothless ditching bucket, under constant archaeological supervision. Where archaeological features were certainly or probably present, the stripped areas were to be cleaned using appropriate hand tools. Sufficient of the archaeological features and deposits exposed were then to be excavated or sampled by hand to satisfy the aims of the project, without compromising the integrity of any features that might warrant preservation *in situ* or might better be investigated under the conditions pertaining to full excavation.

#### **Results**

The seventeen trenches were all eventually dug, more or less in the positions intended but with some adjustments made to avoid ecological constraints (Fig. 3). They ranged in length from 21.8 to 40.1m and in depth from 0.37-0.55m. All were 1.85m wide. A complete list of trenches giving lengths, breadths, depths and a description of sections and geology is given in Appendix 1.

#### Trench 1 (Fig. 3; Pl. 1)

Trench 1 was aligned NE - SW and was 26.7m long and up to 0.55m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.35m of turf/topsoil above 0.17m of brown sand subsoil above mottled orange sand (natural geology). A land drain was observed at the northern end.

#### Trench 2 (Fig. 3)

Trench 2 was aligned W - E and was 31.5m long and 0.4m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.35m of turf/topsoil above 0.05m of brown sand subsoil above orange sand (natural geology). A gully (1) was observed at 11m from the west end aligned NW - SE. It was 0.6m wide and 0.17m deep with a shallow bow-shaped profile. Dating evidence comprised a fragment of post-medieval brick. The same feature was revealed in nearby trench 3 (cut 5).

#### Trench 3 (Fig. 3)

Trench 3 was aligned N - S and was 28.6m long and 0.4m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.3m of turf/topsoil above 0.1m of subsoil above orange sand with pebbles (natural geology). A gully (5) was observed at the north end aligned NW - SE. It was 0.6m wide and 0.15m deep with a shallow bow-shaped profile. Dating evidence again comprised a fragment of post-medieval brick. The same feature was revealed in nearby trench 2 (cut 1).

#### Trench 4 (Fig 3)

Trench 4 was aligned NW - SE and was 40.1m long and 0.6m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.3m of turf/topsoil above 0.2m of brown sand subsoil above orange sand with pebbles (natural geology).

#### Trench 5 (Fig. 3; Pl. 2)

Trench 5 was aligned N - S and was 32m long and 0.46m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.3m of turf/topsoil above 0.13m of subsoil above brown sand with pebbles(natural geology).

#### Trench 6 (Fig. 3)

Trench 6 was aligned W - E and was 31.5m long. 0.7m deep to the east and 0.5m to the west. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.3m of turf/topsoil above 0.1m of subsoil above brown sand (natural geology).

#### Trench 7 (Fig. 3)

Trench 7 was aligned NW - SE and was 31m long and 0.5m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.25m of turf/topsoil above 0.15m of subsoil above brown/orange sand with pebbles (natural geology).

#### Trench 8 (Fig. 3)

Trench 8 was aligned W - E and was 21.8m long and 0.48m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.25m of turf/topsoil above 0.15m of subsoil above mottled brown sand with iron pan (natural geology).

#### Trench 9 (Fig. 3)

Trench 9 was aligned NW - SE and was 29m long and 0.48m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.25m of turf/topsoil above 0.15m of subsoil above orange sand with some pebbles (natural geology).

#### Trench 10 (Fig. 3)

Trench 10 was aligned NW - SE and was 32m long and 0.38m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.25m of turf/topsoil above 0.1m of subsoil above orange silty sand (natural geology). A small circular patch of fire-reddened (natural geology), c.0.25m across was observed at the north end of the trench. Three land drains were also observed towards the NW end.

#### Trench 11 (Figs 3 and 4; Pl. 3)

Trench 11 was aligned W - E and was 31.2m long and 0.48m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.25m of turf/topsoil above 0.2m of subsoil above pale brown silty sand with iron pan (natural geology).

#### Trench 12 (Fig. 3)

Trench 12 was aligned SW - NE and was 36m long and 0.4m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.25m of turf/topsoil above 0.1m of subsoil above orange sand with pebbles (natural geology).

#### Trench 13 (Fig. 3)

Trench 13 was aligned W - E and was 24.4m long and between 0.44m and 0,6m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.2m of turf/topsoil above 0.2m of subsoil above orange sand with pebbles (natural geology).

#### Trench 14 (Fig. 3; Pl. 5)

Trench 14 was aligned N - S and was 28.4m long and up to 0.45m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.2m of turf/topsoil above 0.15m of subsoil above brown sand with pebbles (natural geology).

#### Trench 15 (Fig. 3; Pl. 4)

Trench 15 was aligned W - E and was 25m long and 0.5m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.3m of turf/topsoil above 0.15m of subsoil above brown sand(W)and grey silty sand (E) (natural geology).

#### Trench 16 (Fig. 3)

Trench 16 was aligned NW - SE and was 29m long and up to 0.4m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.3m of turf/topsoil above 0.1m of subsoil above orange sand with some pebbles (natural geology). A possible feature, now considered to be a root hole was investigated at 5m from the SE end.

#### Trench 17 (Figs 3 and 4; Pls 5 and 6)

Trench 17 was aligned NW - SE and was 30.1m long and 0.37m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.25m of turf/topsoil above 0.1m of subsoil above orange sand with pebbles (SE) and grey silty sand (NW) (natural geology). The trench contained one certain archaeological feature and two possible ones.

Pit 2was 0.6m across and 0.12m deep partly lying beneath the baulk. It had a shallow bowl-shaped profile. It contained 176 sherds of Early Iron Age pottery along with a fragment of burnt flint and charcoal. A soil sample taken from this feature only contained charcoal fragments.

Possible feature 3 was defined by the presence of large fragments of Roman pottery. It was unclear if this pottery lay within a cut or was simply pressed into the natural geology

Possible feature 4 was a slightly over grey silty sand patch within the orange sand natural geology. It was half sectioned and was found to have a shallow bowl-shaped profile It was 0.4m across and 0.07m deep. It contained no dating evidence nor charcoal, and is considered to be of doubtful archaeological origin. Three land drains were also observed.

#### **Finds**

#### Pottery by Jane Timby

The archaeological work resulted in the recovery of 221 sherds of pottery weighing 981 g. The assemblage includes material of later Prehistoric, Roman, medieval and post-medieval date. The pottery was recorded using recommendations outlined in Pottery Standards (PS 2016). To this end it was examined macroscopically and sorted into fabrics based on inclusions present, the frequency and grade of the inclusions and the firing colour. The later prehistoric wares are coded using letters to denote the main fabric constituents as recommended in PCRG (1997). Traded, named Roman wares are coded using the National Roman reference collection (Tomber and Dore 1998; www.romanpotterystudy.org/). Other wares are coded more generically. Rims were additionally identified to form. Overall the assemblage was in moderately poor condition partly due to the fragmentary nature of the prehistoric fabrics. The overall average sherd weight of 4.4 g is typical of rubbish material. Freshly broken sherds were counted as single pieces. Pottery was recovered from 10 evaluation trenches, largely as unstratified finds, and two defined features. Most

of the pottery, 79.6 % by count, some 176 sherds, came from feature [2] (51). A quantified catalogue of the fabrics and forms along with spot dates can be found in Appendix 3. The collection is very chronologically diverse which alludes to a long history of use of the area dating from at least the early Iron Age. The area was evidently active in the Roman and medieval periods.

#### **Prehistoric**

Some 184 sherds of pottery date to the later prehistoric period. The range of wares is limited with mainly flint-tempered ware (FL2) characterised by a sparse to moderate frequency of angular, calcined flint up to 2 mm in size and finer. Featured sherds include at least two jars, one with finger-nail impressions on the outer rim face; the other with a single line of fingernail impressions around the girth of the vessel. Also present is a single decorated sherd from a jar with zoned decoration infilled with stabs in the All Cannings Cross style. Most of the later prehistoric pottery, including the decorated vessels, came from pit [2] and is typical of the earlier Iron Age. Other unstratified sherds in the flint-tempered ware came from Trenches 11, 15 and 17 with a single small coarser flint-tempered piece (FL1) from Trench 10. A single iron and grog-tempered piece (GRSAFE) from Trench 15 may be contemporary.

#### Roman

Also present are 26 sherds of Roman pottery distributed across Trenches 12 and 15. Possible pit [3] (52) produced 18 of these sherds, 11 of which came from one single early Roman Alice Holt black sandy ware (ALH RE). A rim from a black sandy ware plain-sided dish from Trench 15 is probably slightly later dating to the mid or later Roman period.

#### Medieval

A further 14 sherds date to the medieval period comprising sand and flint-tempered or sandy jars / cooking pots. One vessel from Trench 9 is sooted from use and had a black residue on the interior surface. These sherds came from trenches 7, 9, 10, 12, 15 and 16.

#### Post-medieval

Two sherds of post-medieval date are also present from Trench 2 and 14. One sherd is clear glazed red earthenware; the other is a green-glazed sherd from the Surrey-Hampshire Border industry.

#### Fired clay by Steve Ford

A large fragment of fired clay (162g) of indeterminate form was recovered from possible pit 3 (52)

#### Struck flint by Steve Ford

Eleven struck flints were recovered from the site as detailed in Appendix 4. Most of the flints are not closely datable and the single narrow flake may be a fortuitous by-product of flint knapping. However, a flake from trench 11 had several narrow flake scars on its dorsal surface suggesting it might be of Mesolithic date. The remainder of the collection is likely to be of Neolithic or Bronze Age date.

#### Conclusion

The evaluation was carried out as intended with most of the site revealing no deposits of archaeological interest. A single post-medieval or modern gully was recorded to the west. A scatter of unstratified, Roman and medieval pottery was recorded across the site, though these finds are most likely a by-product of manuring of farmland. Similarly, the prehistoric struck flints, all unstratified, only reflect casual loss or discard across the landscape. None of these finds are of any significance for the archaeological potential of the site. However, one trench (17) in the north-east corner of the site contained an Early Iron Age pit, with a few sherds of similar date in nearby trenches (10, 11). This small part of the site is therefore considered to have some potential for archaeological remains, likely to be of modest (local) significance, in an area where relatively little of archaeological interest has previously been recorded.

#### References

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PCRG, 1997, The study of later prehistoric pottery: general policies and guidelines for publication, Prehistoric Ceramics Research Group, Occas Pap 1 and 2 (revised)

PS, 2016, A standard for pottery studies in archaeology, Historic England/PCRG/SGRP/MPRG

Tomber, R and Dore, J, 1998, The National Roman fabric reference collection: a handbook, Museum of London / English Heritage/ British Museum

Williams, A and Martin, G H, 2002, Domesday Book, a complete translation, London

### **APPENDIX 1:** Trench details

#### 0m at S or W end

Trench	Length (m)	Breadth (m)	Depth (m)	Comment
1	26.7	1.85	0.55	0-0.35m Turf/Topsoil; 0.35-0.52m brown silty sand subsoil; 0.52m+ Orange/brown sand
				(natural geology); land drain [Pl. 1]
2	31.5	1.85	0.4	0-0.35m Turf/Topsoil; 0.35-0.4m brown silty sand subsoil; 0.4m+ Orange/brown sand
				(natural geology).Gully 1 at 11m
3	28.6	1.85	0.4	0-0.30m Turf/Topsoil; 0.30-0.40m brown silty sand subsoil; 0.40m+ Orange sand with
				pebbles (natural geology).Gully 5at N end
4	40.1	1.85	0.6	0-0.30m Turf/Topsoil; 0.30-0.50 brown silty sand subsoil; 0.50m+ brown sandwich
				pebbles (natural geology).
5	32	1.85	0.46	0-0.30m Turf/Topsoil; 0.30-0.43m brown silty sand subsoil; 0.52m+ brown sand with
				pebbles(natural geology). [Pl. 2]
6	31.5	1.85	0.7E	0-0.30m Turf/Topsoil; 0.30-0.40m brown silty sand subsoil; 0.40m+ brown sand (natural
			0.5W	geology).
7	31	1.85	0.5	0-0.25m Turf/Topsoil; 0.25-0.40m brown silty sand subsoil; 0.52m+ Orange/brown sand
				with pebbles (natural geology).
8	21.8	1.85	0.48	0-0.25m Turf/Topsoil; 0.25-0.40m brown silty sand subsoil; 0.52m+ brown mottled sand
				with iron pan (natural geology).
9	20.6	1.85	0.48	0-0.25m Turf/Topsoil; 0.25-0.40m brown silty sand subsoil; 0.52m+ Orange sand with
				pebbles (natural geology). Tree roots N end
10	29	1.85	0.38	0-0.25m Turf/Topsoil; 0.25-0.35m brown silty sand subsoil; 0.35m+ Orange silty sand
				(natural geology).Burnt natural patch 0.3m diameter at 27m; land drains
11	31.2	1.85	0.48	0-0.25m Turf/Topsoil; 0.25-0.45m brown silty sand subsoil; 0.45m+ pale brown silty sand
				with some iron pan (natural geology). [Pl. 3]
12	36	1.85	0.4	0-0.25m Turf/Topsoil; 0.25-0.35m brown silty sand subsoil; 0.35m+ Orange sand with
				some pebbles (natural geology).
13	24.4	1.85	0.44E	0-0.2m Turf/Topsoil; 0.20-0.40m brown silty sand subsoil; 0.40m+ Orange sand with
			0.6mW	pebbles (natural geology).
14	28.4	1.85	0.38S	0-0.20m Turf/Topsoil; 0.20-0.35m brown silty sand subsoil; 0.35m+ brown sand with
			0.45N	pebbles (natural geology).
15	25	1.85	0.5	0-0.30m Turf/Topsoil; 0.30-0.45m brown silty sand subsoil; 0.45m+/brown sand (W);
				grey silty sand (E) (natural geology). land drains [Pl. 4]
16	29	1.85	0.4	0-0.30m Turf/Topsoil; 0.30-0.40m brown silty sand subsoil; 0.52m+ Orange sand with rare
				pebbles (natural geology).
17	30.1	1.85	0.37	0-0.25m Turf/Topsoil; 0.25-0.35m brown silty sand subsoil; 0.35m+ Orange sand with rare
				pebbles (SE); grey silty sand (NW (natural geology). Pit 2; Silt patch 4; possible pit 3;land
				drains [Pls 5 and 6]

### **APPENDIX 2: Features**

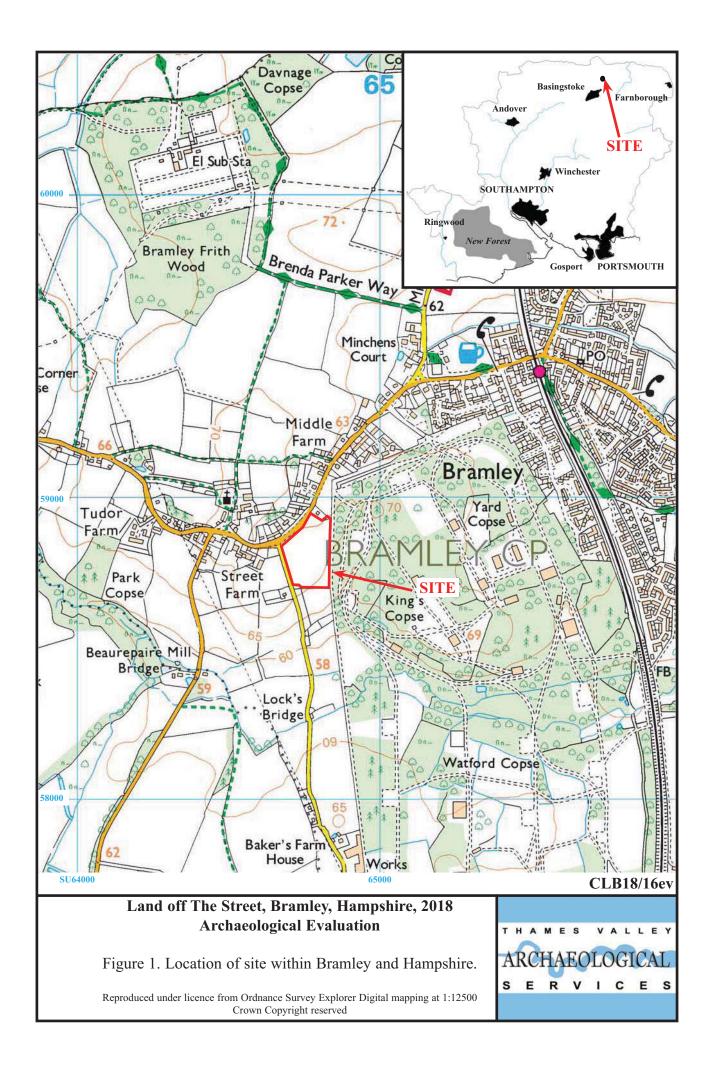
Trench	Cut	Fill	Туре	Date	Dating evidence	Comment
2	1	50	gully	Post-medieval	Brick	Same as 5
17	2	52	pit	EIA	Pottery	
17	3	53?	Possible pit	Roman	Pottery	
17	4	54	Silt patch	-	-	
3	5	55	gully	Post-medieval	Brick	Same as 1

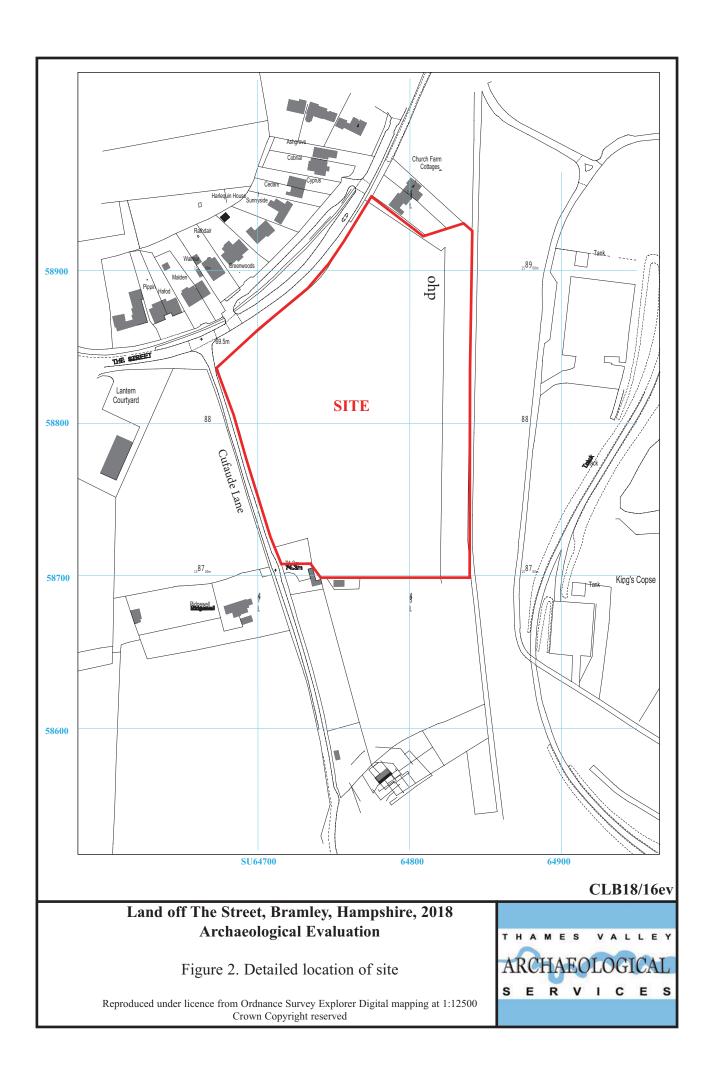
**APPENDIX 3:** Pottery Catalogue

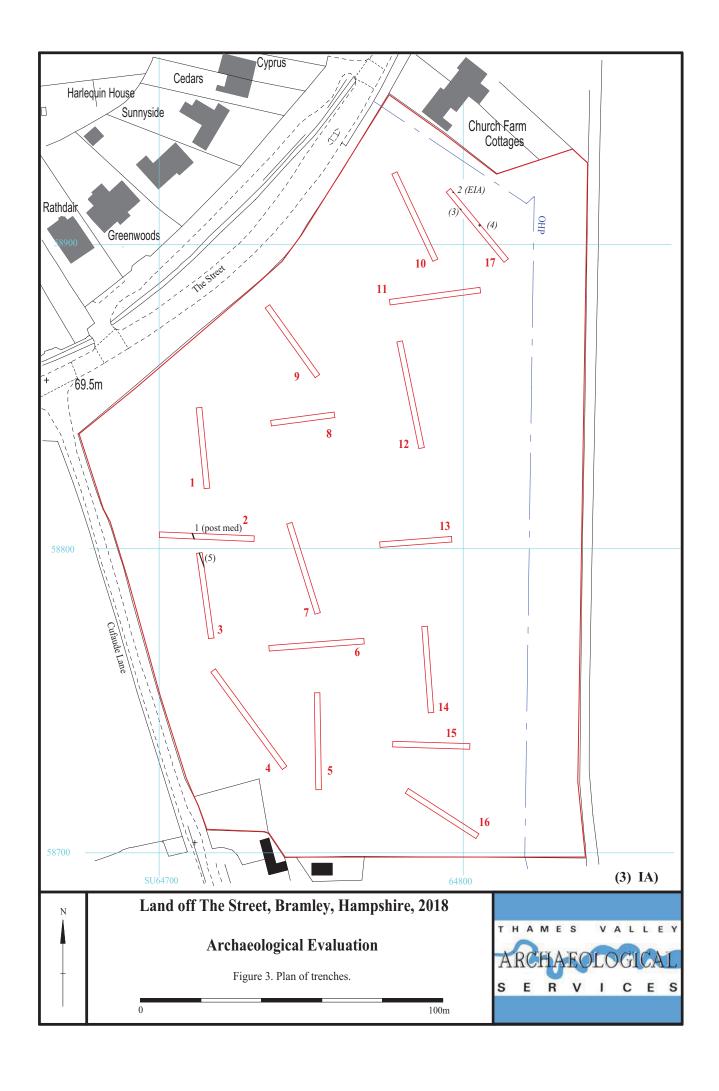
Trench	Cut	Fill	Fabric	Description	Form	Wt	No	Rim	Eve	Comment	Date
2			PMGRE	glazed red earthenware		5	1	0	0		Pmed
7 N end			MEDSAFL	sand and flint gravel		27	7	0	0		Med
9			MEDSA	sandy	base	17	2	0	0		Med
9 surf			MEDSAFL	sand and flint gravel		23	1	0	0	sooted, internal residue	Med
10			FL1	coarse flint-tempered		0.5	1	0	0		?Preh
10			MEDSAFL	sand and flint gravel	base	51	1	0	0		Med
11			FL2	finer flint-tempered		9	3	0	0		EIA
12			MEDSA	sandy		6	1	0	0		Med
12			BWSY	black sandy		3	1	0	0	burnished ext	Roman
14			SYHBW	Surrey-Hants border ware		11	1	0	0		16-18th
15			FL2	finer flint-tempered		4	2	0	0		EIA
15			MEDSAFL	sand and flint gravel		4	1	0	0		MED
15			GRSAFE	sandy with grog & iron		6	1	0	0	2=1 fresh break	Lpreh
15			ALH RE	Alice Holt grey ware		54	6	0	0		Roman
15 W end			MEDSAFL	sand and flint gravel	jar	37	0	1	7	3=1 fresh bk	Med
15 W end			BWSY	black sandy	plain dish	12	0	1	5		Roman
16			MEDSAFL	sand and flint gravel		5	1	0	0	2=1 fresh break	Med
17			FL2	finer flint-tempered		13	1	0	0	2=1 fresh break	EIA
17	2	51	FL2	finer flint-tempered	jar	95	8	2	10	finger nail dec body	EIA
17	2	51	FL2	finer flint-tempered		417	137	0	0	zoned stab dec	EIA
17	2	51	FL2	finer flint-tempered	jar	41	31	3	16	fingernail dec on rim face	EIA
17	3	52	ALHRE	Alice Holt grey ware		168	7	4	28	1 vessel, fresh breaks	e Roman
17	3	52	OXID	oxidised sandy		0.5	1	0	0		Roman
17	3	52	GY	grey sandy		44	6	0	0		Roman
TOTAL						981	210	11	66		

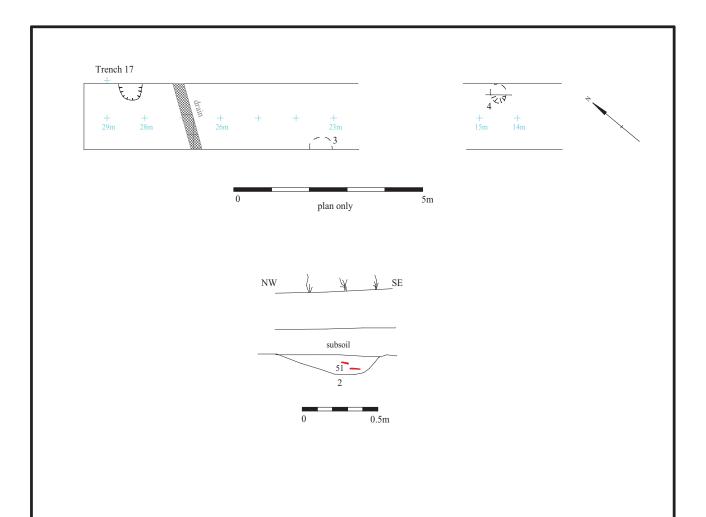
## APPENDIX 4: Stuck flint

Trench	Cut/fill	Type
6	-	Spall; Core
7	-	Flake; Core
8	-	Flake
11	-	3 flakes
13	-	Narrow flake
15	-	Core; Flake









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# **Archaeological Evaluation**

Figure 4. Plan and section of trench 17 features





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



Plate 2. Trench 5, looking north, Scales: 2m and 1m.

**CLB18-16ev** 

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Plates 1 and 2.





Plate 3. Trench 11, looking east, Scales: 2m and 1m.



Plate 4. Trench 15, looking east, Scales: 2m and 1m.

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Land off The Street, Bramley, Hampshire, 2018 Archaeological Evaluation

Plates 3 and 4.





Plate 5. Trench 17, looking north west, Scales: 2m and 1m.



Plate 6. Trench 17, Pit 2 looking north east, Scales: 0.3m and 0.1m.

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Plates 5 and 6.



# 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	AD 0 BC 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
<b>↓</b>	<b>\</b>



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