

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

ARCHAEOLOGICAL

S E R V I C E S

**Land at The Old Nursery, Newtown,
Near Newbury, Hampshire**

Archaeological Evaluation

by David Sanchez

Site Code: ONN19/21

(SU 4775 6388)

Land at The Old Nursery, Newtown, Near Newbury, Hampshire

**An Archaeological Evaluation
for Dr Shilpa Shetty and Mr Sunil Kumar**

by David Sánchez

Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code ONN 19/21

June 2019

Summary

Site name: Land at The Old Nursery, Newtown, Near Newbury, Hampshire

Grid reference: SU 4775 6388

Site activity: Archaeological Evaluation

Date and duration of project: 19th – 20th June 2019

Project coordinator: Danielle Milbank

Site supervisor: David Sánchez

Site code: ONN 19/21

Area: 0.19ha

Summary of results: Three trenches were dug as intended for the proposed tractor shed on the property boundary and extensions of the house including a new patio and a replacement extension. No archaeological deposits nor finds of significance were uncovered. Even though all trenched areas fell within the Scheduled area, it is considered these particular locations 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 in due course.

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Report edited/checked by:	Steve Ford ✓ 24.06.19
	Steve Preston ✓ 24.06.19

Land at The Old Nursery, Newtown, Near Newbury, Hampshire An Archaeological Evaluation

by David Sánchez

Report 19/21

Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological field evaluation carried out at the site of The Old Nursery, Newtown, Near Newbury, Hampshire, RG20 9AU (SU 4775 6388) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Ms Claire Welburn, of Fowler Architecture and Planning Ltd, 19 High Street, Pewsey, Wiltshire SN9 5AF, on behalf of Dr Shilpa Shetty and Mr Sunil Kumar.

Planning permission and Listed Building consent (19/00609/HSE and 19/00610/LBC) have been sought from Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council for small scale redevelopment at the property. The site lies partly within the deserted medieval village of Newtown which is a Scheduled Area (SAM 1001820). Scheduled Monument Consent (S00219262) has been granted by the Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media & Sport as advised by Mr David Wilkinson, Assistant Inspector of Ancient Monuments for Historic England, for an archaeological trial-trench evaluation to be undertaken, with licence to use a metal detector. The trenching aims to inform the planning process with regard to heritage implications of the proposal for: a new tractor shed, replacement south extension, new north-eastern patio and step off the main house. The eventual construction of these will all be the subject of a separate Scheduled Monument Consent Application.

The proposal requires the demolition of the existing conservatory to be replaced by a new garden room which will sit within a smaller footprint. The new patio at the east of the house lies within the Scheduled Area. The tractor shed is proposed to sit south of an existing outbuilding in the south of the property, also within the Scheduled Area. It is therefore possible, at all the locations, that archaeological deposits or features related to the deserted medieval settlement may be affected by subsequent groundworks. Due to the possibility that archaeological deposits on the site could be damaged or destroyed by the development, Historic England has recommended archaeological investigation of the site, in accordance with the *Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act* (1979), *National Planning Policy Framework* (2018) and Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council's policies relating to archaeology.

The fieldwork was undertaken by David Sánchez, between 19th and 20th June 2019 and the site code is ONN 19/21. The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be

deposited at Hampshire Cultural Trust in due course. The fieldwork followed a written scheme of investigation approved by Mr David Wilkinson, Assistant Inspector of Ancient Monuments for Historic England.

Location, topography and geology

The site is located south of the River Enbourne, which forms the county boundary between West Berkshire and Hampshire. This is marked by a road bridge 120m to the north. The property lies at the north-east of the Scheduled area covering an area of 0.19ha, 150m to the south of a linear earthwork and 50m to the west of possible house platform earthworks. The boundary of the Scheduled Monument (SAM 1001820; HA 520) area covers 5.09ha with much of the garden covered by the north-east portion, but excludes the western boundary of the property and the main body of the house. The southern conservatory extension falls within the Scheduled Area as do the north-eastern areas of the garden.

The property involved is itself a Listed Building referred to as Gardener's Cottage (Grade II; 1296686) and is a 2-storey, 18th-century property. The property is situated just east of the main junction in the settlement, with the main Well Street joining the B4640 just south of the river crossing. The underlying geology is mapped as Beenham Grange Gravel, river gravel with overlying alluvial deposits in the valley bottom (BGS Geindex: BGS 2006). Gravel was identified at the base of the trenches. The site lies at approximately 85m above Ordnance Datum (OD).

Archaeological background

The archaeological potential of the site stems from its location within the historic settlement of Newtown. The deserted medieval town of Newtown is scheduled (SAM 1001820; HER ID 21287). The extent of the scheduled area includes most of the property, but excludes the main building (Figs 2 and 3).

The Hampshire Historic Environment Record (HER) entry describes the site of the Deserted Medieval town, planted on the existing road to Winchester, by order of the Bishop of Winchester in 1218. Its position was between two of his existing manors, Highclere and Burghclere, with the new settlement known as *Novus Burgus* (Beresford 1959, 197). The Tithe map of 1839 indicates that Well Street was the main road through the settlement, leading to Winchester via Burghclere (VCH 1911). Several above-ground remains of the village are extant, with information held in the Hampshire HER (HA 520). In the field to the west of Newtown House, three parallel earthwork features are aligned east-west, which comprise a shallow depression (representing an overgrown path from Newtown House to the recorded medieval chapel that existed in the before the 19th

century replacement was built), a slight bank, possibly indicating the line of a hedge, and a possible infilled ditch. To the north of the church, a stream was formerly dammed to produce 3 ponds, whose banks are still visible. In certain conditions, house platforms are visible on each side of the stream, and the HER also notes that a 1977 survey also identified these through aerial photography. Aside from later historic buildings, little else has been recorded in the immediate vicinity of the site. A watching brief during groundworks at nearby Deepnells House (Ford 2001) revealed several sherds of pottery of Medieval and Post-Medieval date from a later Post-Medieval pit.

Newtown was one of several planned urban settlements of the Bishop of Winchester to rival nearby Newbury in the 13th century (Beresford 1959, 197–8). It received its grant of a weekly market in 1218 and fifty-two ‘burgesses’ were named holding 67 *placeae* (taxable properties). By 1224, there is record that a ‘borough ditch’ had been dug, which at the length recorded (1650 yards), perhaps enclosed the full settlement, and a Bishop’s house was included. The settlement was still growing by 1264-5, with seventy burgesses paying rents. (Beresford 1959, 198). No Medieval buildings now remain above ground, and the exact size of the burgage plots remains very much open to conjecture (Beresford 1959, 198).

Objectives and methodology

The purpose of the evaluation was to determine the presence/absence, extent, condition, character, quality and date of any archaeological deposits or structures or palaeoenvironmental deposits within the area of development.

The specific research aims of the project were:

- to determine if archaeological relevant levels had survived on the site;
- to determine if archaeological deposits of any period were present;
- to identify, date and characterise any archaeological deposits or sequence of deposits present; and
- to determine if any deposits relating to the deserted medieval town were present on the site.

The work was to be undertaken in such a manner that would not compromise the integrity of any archaeological features or deposits which might warrant preservation *in situ*, or might be better excavated under circumstances pertaining to full excavation.

Three trenches were to be dug, with two 6m long, and Trench 1 sub-divided in two, both 3-4m in length. A contingency for the equivalent of an additional 2m length of trenching was included within the proposal should this be required to clarify any deposits found in the initial trenching, but this was not required. Topsoil and any

other overburden were to be excavated with a mini digger-type machine, fitted with a toothless ditching bucket under constant archaeological supervision. Excavation was to be undertaken in spits, to enable the recovery or artefactual and ecofactual remains from individual layers and spoilheaps were to be searched for finds. Where archaeological features were certainly or probably exposed the stripped areas were to be cleaned using appropriate hand tools. A sample of each trench was also to be cleaned using appropriate hand tools.

Sufficient of the archaeological features and deposits exposed were to be excavated or sampled by hand to satisfy the aims outlined above.

Results

Three trenches were dug as intended at the proposed locations with trench 1 subdivided to cover most of the area of the new house extension. A complete list of trenches giving lengths, breadths, depths and a description of sections and geology is given in Appendix 1.

Trench 1a (Figs 3 and 4; Pl. 1)

Trench 1a was aligned S - N and was 3.25m long with a depth between 0.20 and 0.45m. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.20m of topsoil and only at the south end of the trench 0.25m of mid greyish brown silty clay subsoil with frequent gravel inclusions overlying natural geology. The north half of the trench was disturbed by modern drainage on an E – W alignment. No features of archaeological interest were uncovered and no finds were recovered from this trench.

Trench 1b (Figs 3 and 4; Pl. 2)

Trench 1b was aligned SE – NW and was 3.60m long with a depth between 0.20 and 0.42m. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.20m of topsoil and only at the SE end of the trench 0.22m of mid greyish brown silty clay subsoil with frequent gravel inclusions overlying natural geology. The NW end of the trench was disturbed by the continuation of the same modern drain in Trench 1a. No features of archaeological interest were uncovered and no finds were recovered from this trench.

Trench 2 (Figs 3 and 4; Pl. 3)

Trench 2 was aligned SSE – NNW and was 6.10m long and 0.65m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.18m of topsoil (garden soil) and 0.40m of a dark grey black sandy silty made ground deposit with frequent gravel inclusions containing modern pottery and brick and tile fragments, overlying natural geology. One possible feature was investigated at 1m from the NNW end of the trench showing this to be part of large oval pit with a width of 2.20m and filled with dark grey sandy silt with frequent gravel inclusions. Modern glass and tile

fragments along with sherds of 19th- to 20th-century pottery were recovered from this feature (not retained). No features of archaeological interest and no other finds were recovered from this trench.

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

Trench 3 was aligned WSW – ENE and was 6.10m long with a depth between 0.65 and 1.08m. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.22m of topsoil, above 0.43m of a mid brown clay silty made ground deposit with frequent chalk inclusions, above 0.35m of mid grey silty clay subsoil with moderate gravel inclusions overlying natural geology. At the eastern half of the trench, from 2.20m from its WSW end to the end of the Trench, the stratigraphy described above was truncated by a modern pit partially filled with 0.38m of dark sandy silty sediment with frequent construction debris such as brick and tile fragments, wooden stakes, concrete fragments, etc. No features of archaeological interest were uncovered and no finds were recovered from this trench.

Finds

Pottery, tile and glass was recovered for dating purposes from an investigated feature of modern date in trench 2 and subsequently discarded on site. No finds of archaeological interest were recovered from any of the trenches excavated.

Conclusion

Three trenches were excavated as intended during the course of the evaluation, with Trench 1 subdivided to cover most of the area of the house extension. Trenches 1 and 3 showed these locations to be mostly truncated by groundworks related to the existing cottage and other modern truncations, and Trench 2 showed the ground level of the area of the patio extension to have been made up probably as a consequence of landscaping for the construction of the back garden for the cottage. No features nor finds or archaeological interest were uncovered from any of the trenches and therefore it is considered these locations have no archaeological potential even though the three areas lay within the Scheduled Monument area.

References

- Beresford, M, 1959, 'The Six New Towns of the Bishops of Winchester 1200-55', *Medieval Archaeol* **3**, 187–215
- BGS, 2006, *British Geological Survey*, 1:50 000, Sheet **267** (Newbury), Bedrock and Superficial Deposits, Keyworth
- Ford, S, 2001, 'Deepnalls House, Newton, Near Newbury, Hampshire: an archaeological watching brief', Thames Valley Archaeological Services unpubl rep **01/01**, Reading
- NPPF, 2018, *National Planning Policy Framework*, Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, London
- VCH, 1911, 'Parishes: Newtown', in W Page (ed), 'A History of the County of Hampshire: Vol. **4**', British History Online, 292-294, <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/vch/hants/vol4/pp292-294> [accessed 14th June 2019]

APPENDIX 1: Trench details

<i>Trench</i>	<i>Length (m)</i>	<i>Breadth (m)</i>	<i>Depth (m)</i>	<i>Comment</i>
1a	3.25	1.50	0.20/0.45m	0–0.20m topsoil, 0.20-0.45m mid greyish brown silty clay subsoil, 0.20/0.45m+ mid greyish brown gravel natural geology. [PI. 1]
1a	3.6	1.50	0.20/0.42m	0–0.20m topsoil, 0.20-0.42m mid greyish brown silty clay subsoil, 0.20/0.42m+ mid greyish brown gravel natural geology. [PI. 2]
2	6.1	1.50	0.65	0–0.18m topsoil, 0.18-0.58m dark grey black sandy silt with frequent gravels made ground, 0.58m+ mid greyish brown gravel natural geology. [PI. 3]
3	6.1	1.50	0.65/1.08m	0–0.22m topsoil, 0.22-0.65m mid brown clay silt with frequent chalk made ground, 0.65-1.00m mid grey silty clay subsoil, 1.00m+ mid greyish brown gravel natural geology. [PI. 4]

APPENDIX 2: OASIS Form // (over)

OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: England

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Printable version

OASIS ID: thamesva1-356931

Project details

Project name	Land at The Old Nursery, Newtown, Hampshire
Short description of the project	Despite the site's location within a Scheduled monument (a deserted medieval town) no features of archaeological interest were observed in the trenches, with only modern finds.
Project dates	Start: 19-06-2019 End: 20-06-2019
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	ONN19/21 - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	S00219262 - SM No.
Any associated project reference codes	1001820 - SM No.
Any associated project reference codes	19/00609/HSE - Planning Application No.
Any associated project reference codes	19/00610/LBC - Planning Application No.
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	Scheduled Monument (SM)
Site status	Listed Building
Current Land use	Other 5 - Garden
Monument type	NONE None
Significant Finds	NONE None
Methods & techniques	"Targeted Trenches"
Development type	Small-scale extensions (e.g. garages, porches, etc.)
Prompt	Scheduled Monument Consent
Prompt	Listed Building Consent
Position in the planning process	Between deposition of an application and determination

Project location

Country	England
Site location	HAMPSHIRE BASINGSTOKE AND DEANE NEWTOWN The Old Nursery
Study area	0.19 Kilometres
Site coordinates	SU 4775 6388 51.371469789414 -1.313944298142 51 22 17 N 001 18 50 W Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 84m Max: 84m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Thames Valley Archaeological Services
Project brief originator	Historic England
Project design originator	Danielle Milbank
Project director/manager	Danielle Milbank
Project supervisor	David Sanchez

Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer
Name of sponsor/funding body	S. Shetty and S. Kumar

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	Hampshire Cultural Trust
Digital Contents	"other"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography"
Paper Archive recipient	Hampshire Cultural Trust
Paper Contents	"Stratigraphic", "Survey"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet", "Correspondence", "Drawing", "Microfilm", "Miscellaneous Material", "Photograph", "Plan", "Report", "Section", "Survey "

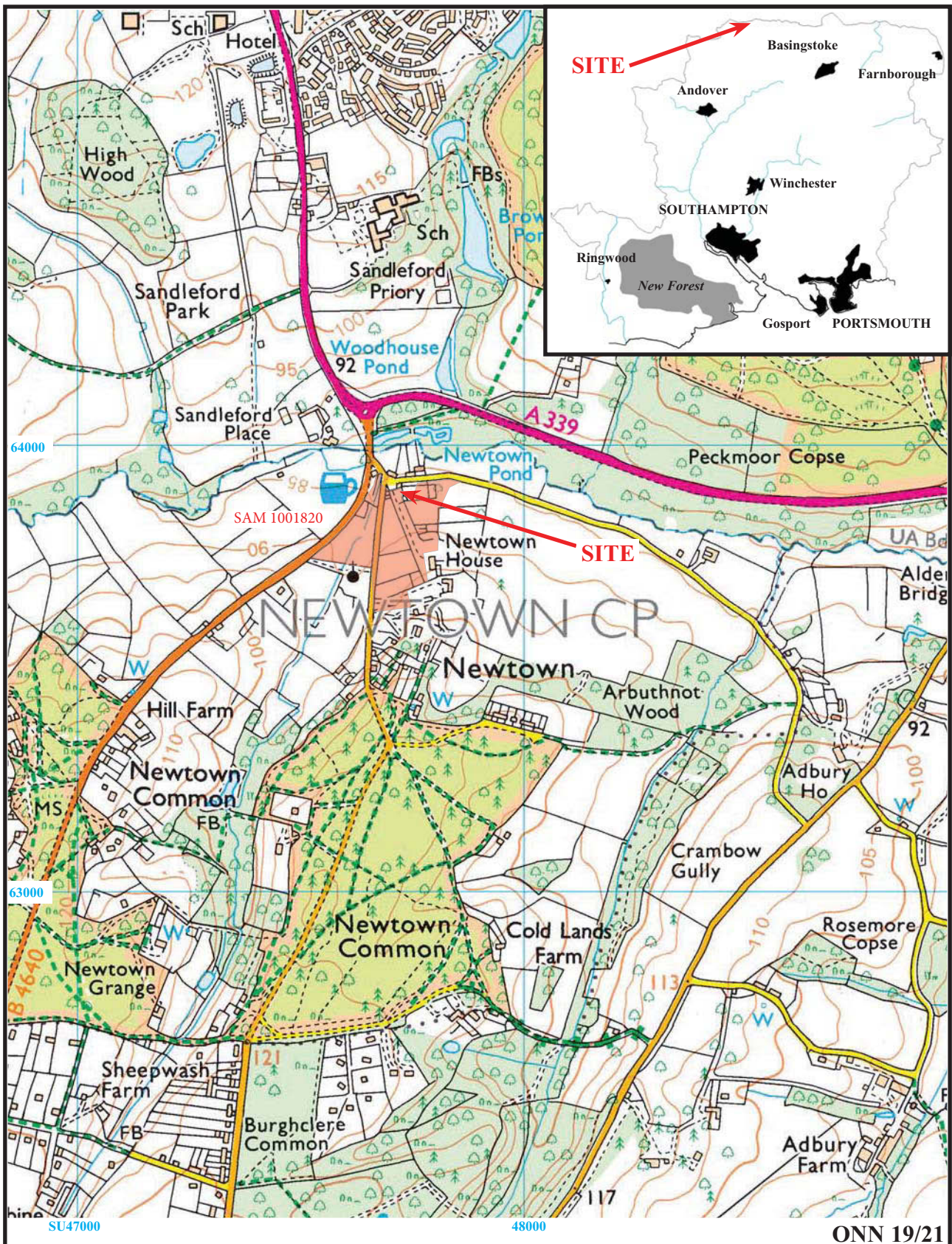
Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Land at The Old Nursery, Newtown, Near Newbury, Hampshire: An Archaeological Evaluation
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Sanchez, D
Other bibliographic details	19/21
Date	2019
Issuer or publisher	Thames Valley Archaeological Services
Place of issue or publication	Reading
Description	A4 comb-bound client report
URL	http://tvas.co.uk/reports/reports.asp
Entered by	Steve Preston (tvas@tvas.co.uk)
Entered on	24 June 2019

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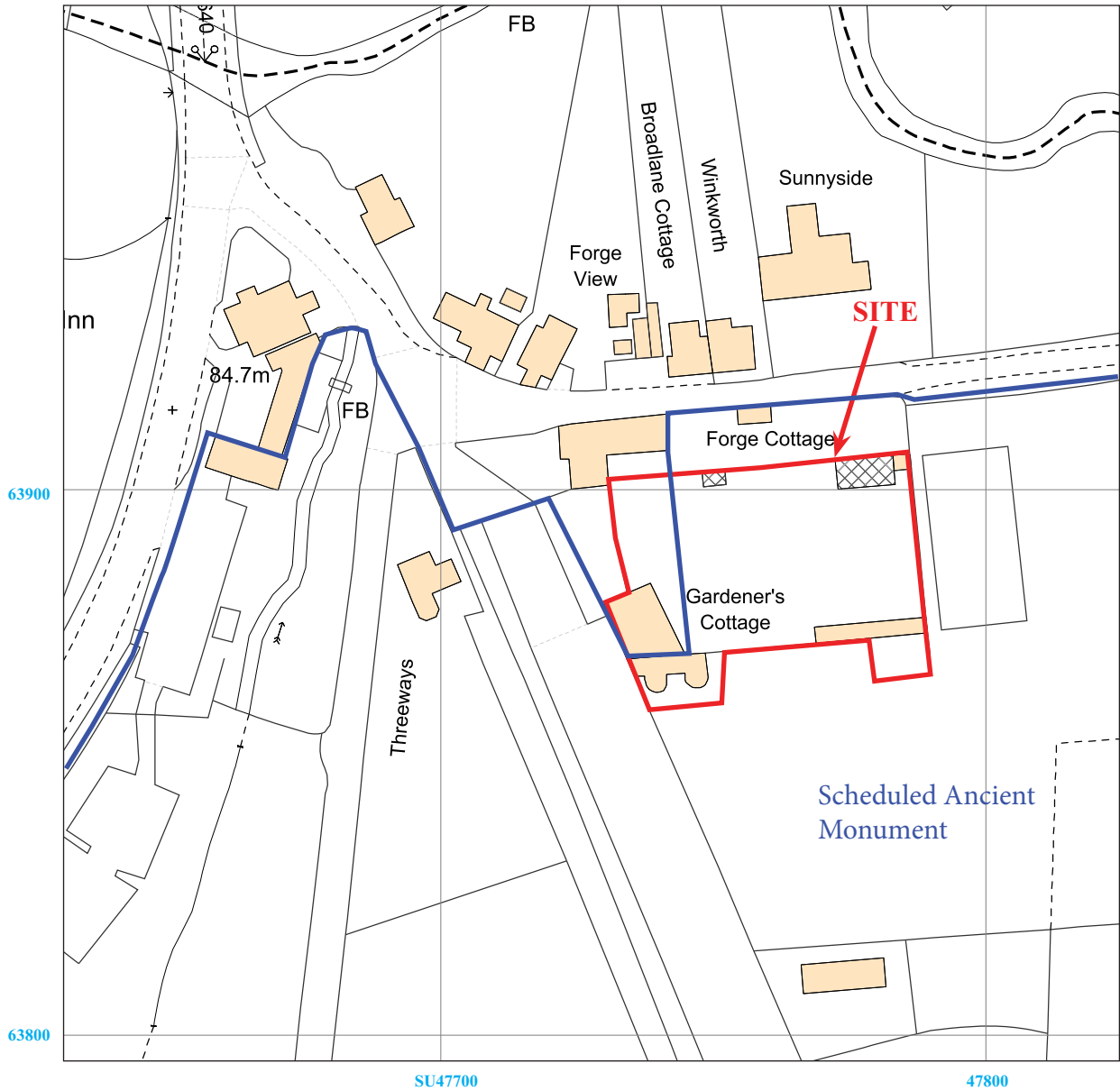
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**The Old Nursery, Newtown,
nr Newbury, Hampshire, 2019
Archaeological Evaluation**

Figure 1. Location of site within Newtown and Hampshire, also showing the extent of the Scheduled Area.

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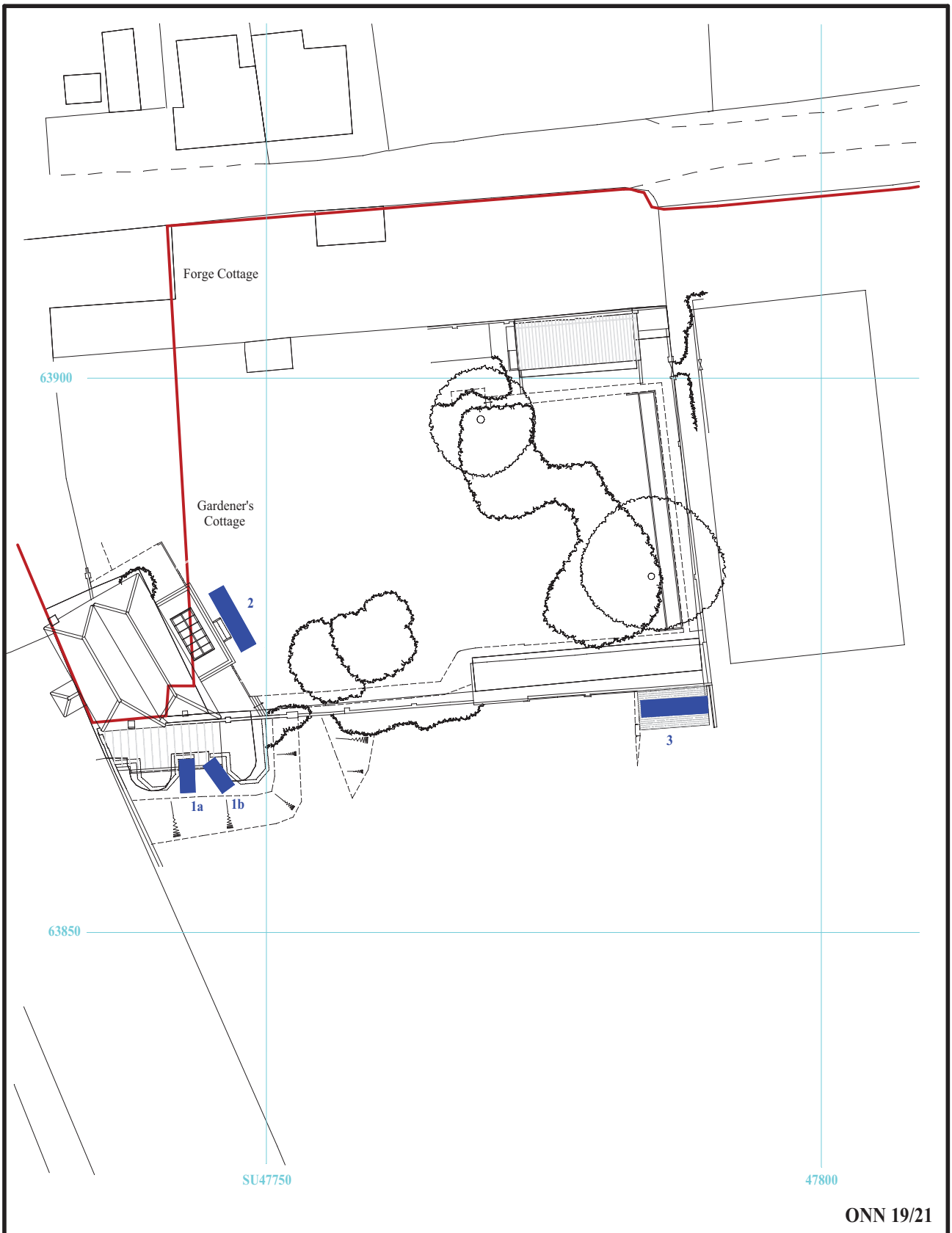
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**The Old Nursery, Newtown,
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Archaeological Evaluation**
Figure 2. Detailed location of site.

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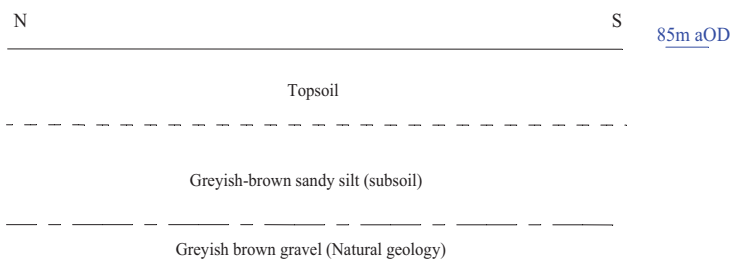


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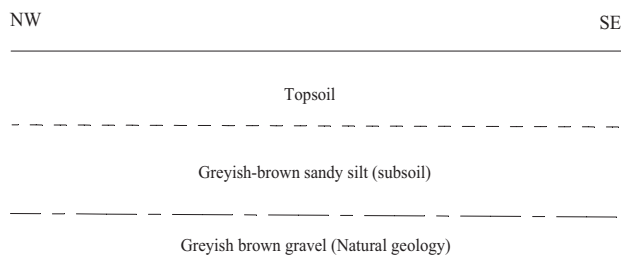
Figure 3. Location of trenches.



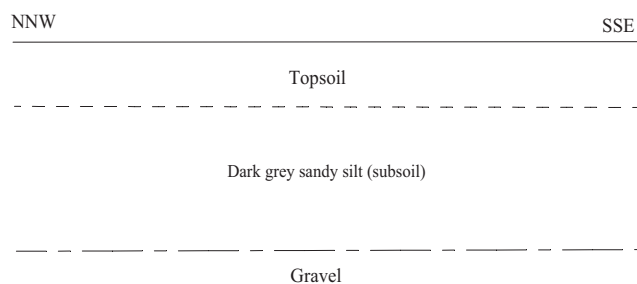
Trench 1a



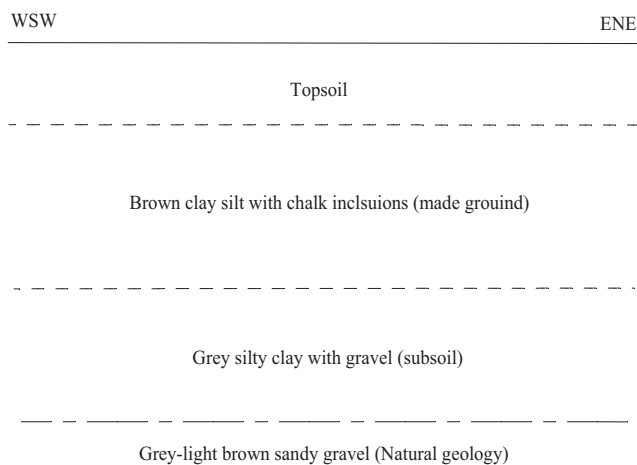
Trench 1b



Trench 2



Trench 3



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Figure 4. Representative sections.



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Plate 1. Trench 1a, looking north north east, Scales: horizontal 1m x2, vertical 0.3m.



Plate 2. Trench 1b, looking north west, Scales: horizontal 1m x2, vertical 0.3m.

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**The Old Nursery, Newtown,
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Plates 1 and 2.**

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Plate 3. Trench 2, looking north west, Scales: horizontal 1m x2, vertical 0.3m.



Plate 4. Trench 3, looking east south east, Scales: horizontal 1m x2, vertical 0.3m.

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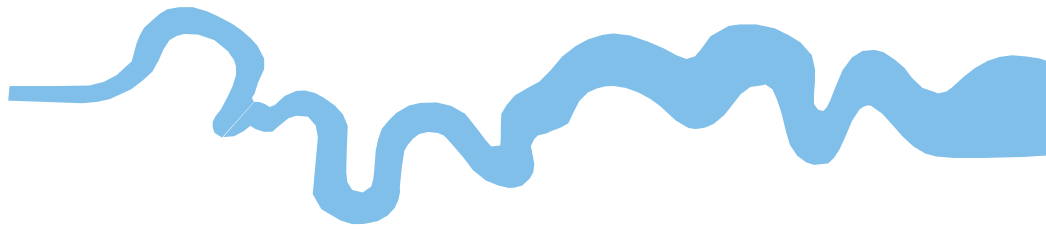
**The Old Nursery, Newtown,
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Archaeological Evaluation
Plates 3 and 4.**

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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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