

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

ARCHAEOLOGICAL

S E R V I C E S

**Land at Pembers Hill Farm, Mortimers Lane, Fair Oak,
Eastleigh, Hampshire, Phase 1**

Archaeological Evaluation

by Andy Taylor

Site Code: PFE15/23

(SU 5045 1905)

**Land at Pembers Hill Farm, Mortimers Lane,
Fair Oak, Eastleigh, Hampshire, Phase 1**

An Archaeological Evaluation

for Drew Smith Group

by Andy Taylor

Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code PFE 15/23

February 2019

Summary

Site name: Land at Pembers Hill Farm, Mortimers Lane, Fair Oak, Eastleigh, Hampshire, Phase 1

Grid reference: SU 5045 1905

Site activity: Evaluation

Date and duration of project: 18th-25th February 2019

Project coordinator: Danielle Milbank

Site supervisor: Andy Taylor

Site code: PFE 15/23

Area of site: c.8.9 hectares

Summary of results: Some 69 of the planned 80 trenches were successfully excavated as phase 1 of the project. However, no deposits nor artefacts of any archaeological interest were recorded and this part of the site is considered as having low archaeological potential.

Location and reference of archive: The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited with the Hampshire Cultural Trust in due course.

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Report edited/checked by: Steve Ford✓ 28.02.19 Steve Preston✓ 28.02.19

Land at Pembers Hill Farm, Mortimers Lane, Fair Oak, Eastleigh, Hampshire, Phase 1 An Archaeological Evaluation

by Andy Taylor

Report 15/23b

Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological field evaluation carried out on land at Pembers Hill Farm, Mortimers Lane, Fair Oaks, Eastleigh, Hampshire (SU 5045 1905) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Mr Peter Drury, of Drew Smith Group, Drew Smith House, 7-9 Mill Court, The Sawmills, Durley, Southampton, SO32 2EJ.

Planning permission (0/15/77190) has been gained from Eastleigh Borough Council to develop the site for housing with associated road, parking, landscaping and open space. The permission is subject to conditions (21-23) relating to archaeology which require the implementation of a programme of archaeological work prior to the commencement of groundworks. This is in accordance with the Department for Communities and Local Government's *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF 2012), and the Borough Council's policies on archaeology. The field investigation was carried out to a specification approved by Mr Neal Adam, Senior Archaeologist with Hampshire County Council, advisers to the District on matters relating to archaeology.

The first phase of fieldwork was undertaken by Andy Taylor and Mike Murray between 18th and 28th February 2019 and the site code is PFE 15/23. The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited with the Hampshire Cultural Trust in due course.

Location, topography and geology

The site is located on the north-eastern margins of the village of Fair Oak, which itself lies to the east of the outskirts of Eastleigh, near Southampton (Fig. 1). The site consists of an irregular parcel of land, the central portion of which is currently occupied by working farm buildings, flanked to east, west and north by pasture, with fenced grazing areas for horses; the fields consisting of grass and mature trees (with tree protection zones in place). The underlying geology is mapped as London Clay deposits of the Hampshire Basin with possible outcrops of the Whitecliff Sand and Durley sand at the western tip of the area (BGS 1987), which was consistent with what was observed on site, the majority of which consisted of London Clay. The site is relatively level at

approximately 60m above Ordnance Datum, but dipping into a little stream valley to the north-west at 50m AOD.

Archaeological background

The archaeological potential of the site has been highlighted in a desk-based assessment (Ruttle 2015). In summary, the site lies in an area with relatively few archaeological sites and finds recorded in the county Historic Environment Record, but with a number of findspots of Mesolithic date and a Bronze Age and Iron Age site to the south. An evaluation immediately to the south (Bray 2015) did not identify any deposits of archaeological interest. Further afield, recent evaluation and follow-up fieldwork at West End, Eastleigh located Iron Age occupation (Taylor 2017).

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.

Specific aims of the project were:

- to determine if archaeologically relevant levels have survived on this site;
- to determine if archaeological deposits of any period are present; and
- to inform a strategy for mitigation if necessary.

It was intended that 80 trenches were to be dug, although in this first phase only 69 of these could be opened, with the remaining 11 to be dug at a later date. These were all to measure 25m long and 2m wide.

Results

The trenches were dug as close as possible to their intended locations although due to the presence of services, tree protection zones and areas of standing water, some slight repositioning did occur. These were dug using a 360° type machine fitted with a toothless grading bucket and under constant archaeological supervision. All spoilheaps were monitored for finds.

This report covers trenches 1, 2, 5-26, 33, 34, 36-38 and 41-80 which measured between 20.60m and 27.60m long and between 0.20m and 1.20m deep. A complete list of trenches giving lengths, breadths, depths and a description of sections and geology is given in Appendix 1. Except for trench 9, the stratigraphy in all of the trenches consisted of topsoil overlying subsoil overlying London Clay natural geology (Figs 4 and 5).

Trench 9 (Fig. 4; Pl. 2)

This trench was aligned approximately NE-SW and measured 25.80m long and between 0.78m and 1.20m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.10m of topsoil overlying 0.20m of subsoil. This overlay between 0.48m and 0.90m of made ground (redeposited clay) containing bricks, concrete and metal. It seems that the water collection area in the adjacent field would have continued into the site and at some point has been filled in to raise the area to a consistent level.

Trenches 44, 47, 49 and 53 showed linear features that correspond with a boundary that appears on the 1869 1st Edition Ordnance Survey map within Digenwood Copse and has disappeared by the 1963 Edition. This was investigated but was found to contain modern CBM, concrete fragments and clinker.

No features of potential archaeological interest were exposed in any other trench.

Finds

No finds of any archaeological interest were recovered during the trenching.

Conclusion

Despite the site's potential for archaeology to be present, this phase of trenching did not identify any deposits or finds of any archaeological interest. The archaeological potential is therefore considered to be low.

References

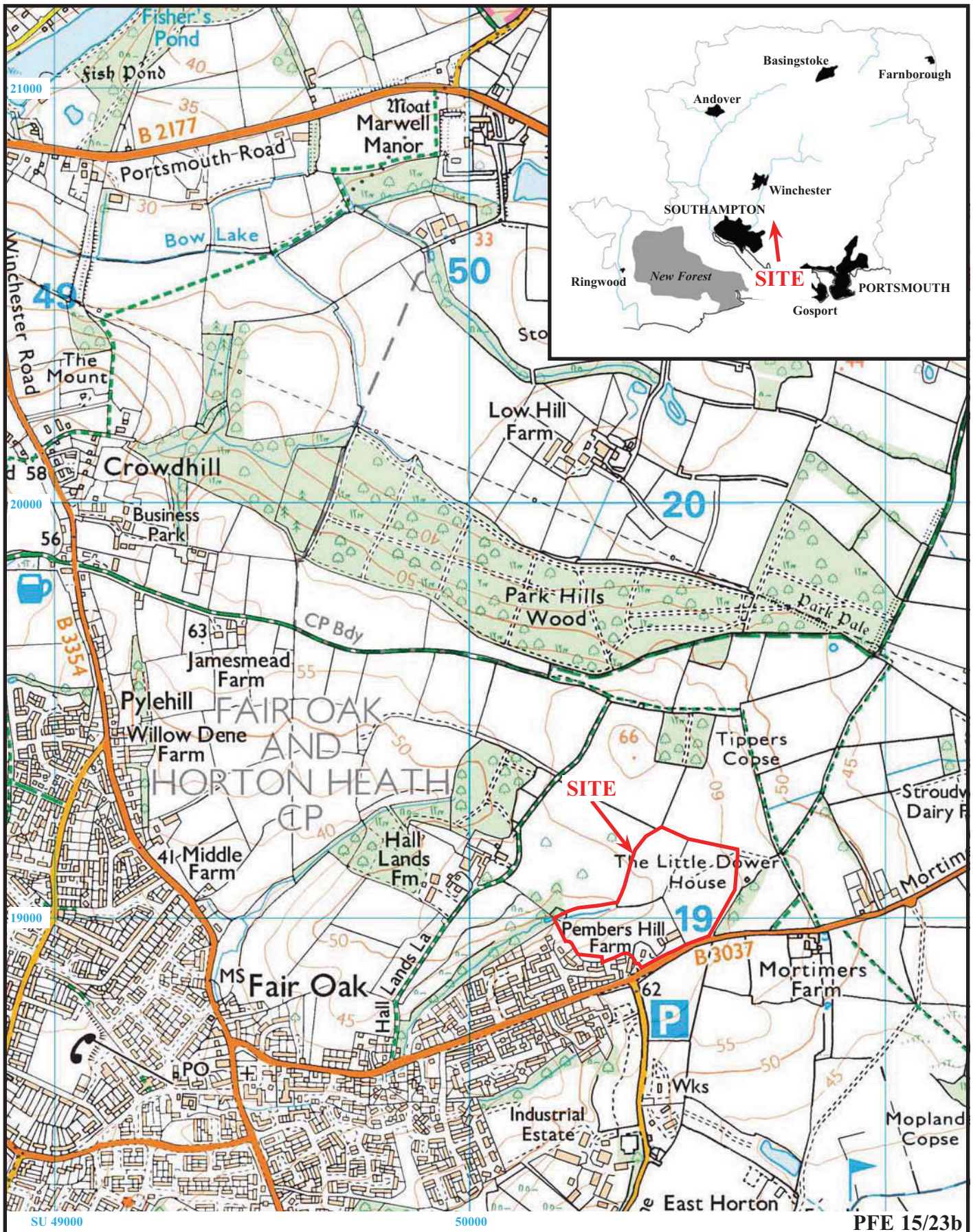
- BGS, 1987, *British Geological Survey*, 1:50000, Sheet 315, Solid and Drift Edition, Keyworth
- Bray, D, 2015, 'Land at the corner of Knowles Lane and Mortimers Lane, Fair Oak, Eastleigh, Hampshire: Archaeological evaluation', Thames Valley Archaeological Services unpubl rep **15/104**, Reading
- NPPF, 2012, *National Planning Policy Framework*, Dept Communities and Local Govt, London
- Ruttle, E, 2015, 'Land at Pembers Hill Farm, Fair Oak, Eastleigh, Hampshire, an archaeological desk-based assessment', Thames Valley Archaeological Services unpubl rep **15/23**, Reading
- Taylor, A 2017, Middle Iron Age Enclosure at Hatch Farm, West End, Eastleigh, Hampshire, an Archaeological Excavation, draft publication report 16/130b, Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading

APPENDIX 1: Trench details

0m at S or W end

<i>Trench</i>	<i>Length (m)</i>	<i>Breadth (m)</i>	<i>Depth (m)</i>	<i>Comment</i>
1	24.50	2.00	0.32	0-0.16m topsoil; 0.16m-0.32m subsoil; 0.32m+ clay natural geology. [PI. 1]
2	23.10	2.00	23.10	0-0.19m topsoil; 0.19m-0.38m subsoil; 0.38m+ clay natural geology.
3	-	-	-	-
4	-	-	-	-
5	24.80	2.00	0.21	0-0.12m topsoil; 0.12m-0.21m subsoil; 0.21m+ clay natural geology.
6	25.70	2.00	0.24	0-0.14m topsoil; 0.14m-0.24m subsoil; 0.24m+ clay natural geology.
7	25.90	2.00	0.38	0-0.14m topsoil; 0.14m-0.38m subsoil; 0.38m+ clay natural geology.
8	26.80	2.00	0.31	0-0.15m topsoil; 0.15m-0.31m subsoil; 0.31m+ clay natural geology.
9	25.80	2.00	0.78-1.20	0-0.10m topsoil; 0.10m-0.30m subsoil; 0.30m-0.78m/1.20m made ground (clay, CBM, concrete); 0.78m/1.20m+ clay natural geology. [PI. 2]
10	20.60	2.00	0.42	0-0.26m topsoil; 0.26m-0.42m subsoil; 0.42m+ clay natural geology.
11	26.50	2.00	0.40	0-0.20m topsoil; 0.20m-0.40m subsoil; 0.40m+ clay natural geology.
12	24.90	2.00	0.48	0-0.28m topsoil; 0.28m-0.48m subsoil; 0.48m+ clay natural geology.
13	25.40	2.00	0.23	0-0.09m topsoil; 0.09m-0.23m subsoil; 0.23m+ clay natural geology.
14	27.60	2.00	0.33	0-0.19m topsoil; 0.19m-0.33m subsoil; 0.33m+ clay natural geology.
15	25.30	2.00	0.38	0-0.20m topsoil; 0.20m-0.38m subsoil; 0.38m+ clay natural geology.
16	26.30	2.00	0.50	0-0.26m topsoil; 0.26m-0.50m subsoil; 0.50m+ clay natural geology.
17	27.50	2.00	0.40	0-0.23m topsoil; 0.23m-0.40m subsoil; 0.40m+ clay natural geology.
18	27.00	2.00	0.40	0-0.23m topsoil; 0.23m-0.40m subsoil; 0.40m+ clay natural geology.
19	25.50	2.00	0.45	0-0.31m topsoil; 0.31m-0.45m subsoil; 0.45m+ clay natural geology.
20	25.50	2.00	0.48	0-0.15m topsoil; 0.15m-0.48m subsoil; 0.48m+ clay natural geology.
21	26.20	2.00	0.50	0-0.24m topsoil; 0.24m-0.50m subsoil; 0.50m+ clay natural geology.
22	26.20	2.00	0.45	0-0.26m topsoil; 0.26m-0.45m subsoil; 0.45m+ clay natural geology.
23	26.40	2.00	0.42	0-0.24m topsoil; 0.24m-0.42m subsoil; 0.42m+ clay natural geology.
24	26.30	2.00	0.29	0-0.19m topsoil; 0.19m-0.29m subsoil; 0.29m+ clay natural geology.
25	26.20	2.00	0.26	0-0.16m topsoil; 0.16m-0.26m subsoil; 0.26m+ clay natural geology.
26	23.50	2.00	0.38	0-0.17m topsoil; 0.17m-0.38m subsoil; 0.38m+ clay natural geology.
27	-	-	-	-
28	-	-	-	-
29	-	-	-	-
30	-	-	-	-
31	-	-	-	-
32	-	-	-	-
33	25.00	2.00	0.28	0-0.17m topsoil; 0.17m-0.28m subsoil; 0.28m+ clay natural geology. [PI. 3]
34	25.20	2.00	0.24	0-0.18m topsoil; 0.18m-0.24m subsoil; 0.24m+ clay natural geology.
35	-	-	-	-
36	24.50	2.00	0.33	0-0.13m topsoil; 0.13m-0.33m subsoil; 0.33m+ clay natural geology.
37	25.20	2.00	0.35	0-0.15m topsoil; 0.15m-0.35m subsoil; 0.35m+ clay natural geology.
38	25.60	2.00	0.29	0-0.10m topsoil; 0.10m-0.29m subsoil; 0.29m+ clay natural geology.
39	-	-	-	-
40	-	-	-	-
41	24.30	2.00	0.20	0-0.06m topsoil; 0.06m-0.20m subsoil; 0.20m+ clay natural geology.
42	26.40	2.00	0.33	0-0.11m topsoil; 0.11m-0.33m subsoil; 0.33m+ clay natural geology.
43	26.70	2.00	0.34	0-0.12m topsoil; 0.12m-0.34m subsoil; 0.34m+ clay natural geology.
44	27.20	2.00	0.29	0-0.15m topsoil; 0.15m-0.29m subsoil; 0.29m+ clay natural geology.
45	26.80	2.00	0.27	0-0.10m topsoil; 0.10m-0.27m subsoil; 0.27m+ clay natural geology.
46	26.00	2.00	0.31	0-0.13m topsoil; 0.13m-0.31m subsoil; 0.31m+ clay natural geology.
47	27.50	2.00	0.30	0-0.18m topsoil; 0.18m-0.30m subsoil; 0.30m+ clay natural geology.
48	26.50	2.00	0.31	0-0.20m topsoil; 0.20m-0.31m subsoil; 0.31m+ clay natural geology.
49	26.00	2.00	0.25	0-0.15m topsoil; 0.15m-0.25m subsoil; 0.25m+ clay natural geology.
50	26.00	2.00	0.29	0-0.12m topsoil; 0.12m-0.29m subsoil; 0.29m+ clay natural geology.
51	27.00	2.00	0.35	0-0.19m topsoil; 0.19m-0.35m subsoil; 0.35m+ clay natural geology.
52	25.70	2.00	0.27	0-0.13m topsoil; 0.13m-0.27m subsoil; 0.27m+ clay natural geology.
53	25.00	2.00	0.22	0-0.13m topsoil; 0.13m-0.22m subsoil; 0.22m+ clay natural geology.
54	25.30	2.00	0.40	0-0.26m topsoil; 0.26m-0.40m subsoil; 0.40m+ clay natural geology. [PI. 4]
55	26.50	2.00	0.33	0-0.21m topsoil; 0.21m-0.33m subsoil; 0.33m+ clay natural geology.
56	25.50	2.00	0.32	0-0.22m topsoil; 0.22m-0.32m subsoil; 0.32m+ clay natural geology.
57	25.50	2.00	0.33	0-0.19m topsoil; 0.19m-0.33m subsoil; 0.33m+ clay natural geology.
58	25.40	2.00	0.28	0-0.15m topsoil; 0.15m-0.28m subsoil; 0.28m+ clay natural geology.
59	26.00	2.00	0.36	0-0.19m topsoil; 0.19m-0.36m subsoil; 0.36m+ clay natural geology.
60	25.00	2.00	0.33	0-0.16m topsoil; 0.16m-0.33m subsoil; 0.33m+ clay natural geology. [PI. 5]
61	25.50	2.00	0.29	0-0.17m topsoil; 0.17m-0.29m subsoil; 0.29m+ clay natural geology.
62	25.00	2.00	0.32	0-0.19m topsoil; 0.19m-0.32m subsoil; 0.32m+ clay natural geology.
63	24.00	2.00	0.29	0-0.14m topsoil; 0.14m-0.29m subsoil; 0.29m+ clay natural geology.
64	25.00	2.00	0.43	0-0.17m topsoil; 0.17m-0.43m subsoil; 0.43m+ clay natural geology.
65	25.60	2.00	0.28	0-0.15m topsoil; 0.15m-0.28m subsoil; 0.28m+ clay natural geology.

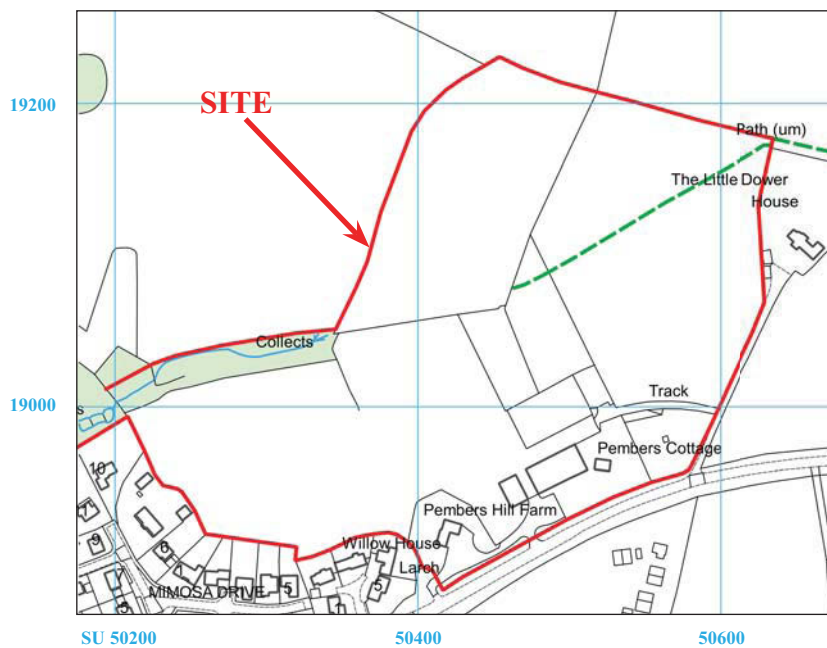
<i>Trench</i>	<i>Length (m)</i>	<i>Breadth (m)</i>	<i>Depth (m)</i>	<i>Comment</i>
66	25.20	2.00	0.41	0-0.20m topsoil; 0.20m-0.41m subsoil; 0.41m+ clay natural geology.
67	25.00	2.00	0.28	0-0.10m topsoil; 0.10m-0.28m subsoil; 0.28m+ clay natural geology. [PI. 6]
68	25.70	2.00	0.31	0-0.12m topsoil; 0.12m-0.31m subsoil; 0.31m+ clay natural geology.
69	25.40	2.00	0.27	0-0.15m topsoil; 0.15m-0.27m subsoil; 0.27m+ clay natural geology. [PI. 7]
70	25.00	2.00	0.31	0-0.19m topsoil; 0.19m-0.31m subsoil; 0.31m+ clay natural geology.
71	25.20	2.00	0.34	0-0.15m topsoil; 0.15m-0.34m subsoil; 0.34m+ clay natural geology.
72	26.50	2.00	0.28	0-0.10m topsoil; 0.10m-0.28m subsoil; 0.28m+ clay natural geology.
73	26.50	2.00	0.23	0-0.10m topsoil; 0.10m-0.23m subsoil; 0.23m+ clay natural geology.
74	25.20	2.00	0.30	0-0.13m topsoil; 0.13m-0.30m subsoil; 0.30m+ clay natural geology.
75	25.00	2.00	0.28	0-0.13m topsoil; 0.13m-0.28m subsoil; 0.28m+ clay natural geology.
76	24.50	2.00	0.24	0-0.09m topsoil; 0.09m-0.24m subsoil; 0.24m+ clay natural geology. [PI. 8]
77	24.20	2.00	0.31	0-0.17m topsoil; 0.17m-0.31m subsoil; 0.31m+ clay natural geology.
78	24.30	2.00	0.30	0-0.16m topsoil; 0.16m-0.30m subsoil; 0.30m+ clay natural geology.
79	25.70	2.00	0.39	0-0.19m topsoil; 0.19m-0.39m subsoil; 0.39m+ clay natural geology.
80	26.40	2.00	0.31	0-0.17m topsoil; 0.17m-0.31m subsoil; 0.31m+ clay natural geology.



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Figure 1. Location of site within Fair Oak and Hampshire.

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Figure 2. Detailed location of site off Mortimers Lane.

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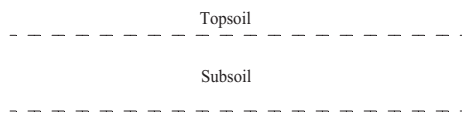
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Figure 3. Locations of trenches within site (Phase 1).

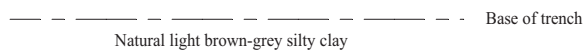


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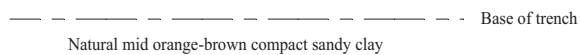
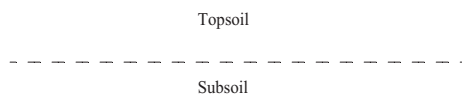
SW *Trench 9* NE



Made ground (inc. clay, bricks, metal)



S *Trench 54* N



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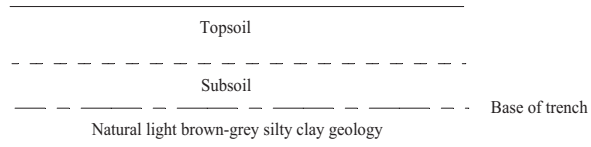
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Figure 4. Representative sections.

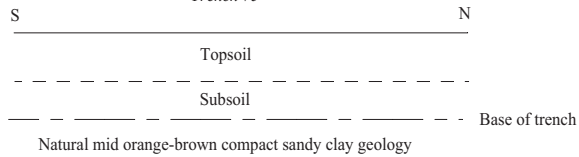


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Trench 69



Trench 75



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Figure 5. Representative sections.



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Plate 1. Trench 1, looking N, Scales: 2m, 1m and 0.3m.



Plate 2. Trench 9, looking SW, Scales: 2m and 1m.

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Plates 1 and 2.

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Plate 3. Trench 33, looking NE, Scales: 2m and 1m.



Plate 4. Trench 54, looking N, Scales: 2m and 1m.

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Plates 3 and 4.

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Plate 5. Trench 60, looking S, Scales: 2m, 1m and 0.3m.



Plate 6. Trench 67, looking SE, Scales: 2m, 1m and 0.3m.

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Plates 5 and 6.

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Plate 7. Trench 69, looking NW, Scales: 2m, 1m and 0.3m.



Plate 8. Trench 76, looking N, Scales: 2m, 1m and 0.3m.

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Plates 7 and 8.

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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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