

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

ARCHAEOLOGICAL

S E R V I C E S

**Manor Farm, Bloswood Lane,
Whitchurch, Hampshire**

Archaeological Evaluation

**by Anne-Michelle Huvig and
Pierre-Damien Manisse**

Site Code: MFW16/241

(SU 4568 4809)

Manor Farm, Bloswood Lane, Whitchurch, Hampshire

**An Archaeological Evaluation
for Bewley Homes**

by Anne-Michelle Huvig and Pierre-Damien Manisse

Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code MFW 16/241

March 2019

Summary

Site name: Manor Farm, Bloswood Lane, Whitchurch, Hampshire

Grid reference: SU 4568 4809

Site activity: Evaluation

Date and duration of project: 12th - 14th March 2019

Project coordinator: Tim Dawson

Site supervisor: Anne-Michelle Huvig

Site code: MFW 16/241

Area of site: c. 1.8 Ha

Summary of results: The archaeological evaluation was carried out successfully and 18 trenches were opened. However, no artefacts nor deposits of archaeological interest were revealed during the course of this investigation. The site is considered to have a very low archaeological potential.

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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| | Steve Preston✓ 22.03.19 |

Manor Farm, Blosswood Lane, Whitchurch, Hampshire An Archaeological Evaluation

by Anne-Michelle Huvig and Pierre-Damien Manisse

Report 16/241b

Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological field evaluation carried out at Manor Farm, Blosswood Lane, Whitchurch, Hampshire (centred on SU 4568 4809) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Ms Laura Ashton on behalf of Bewley Homes, Inhurst House, Brimpton Road, Baughurst, Hampshire, RG26 5JJ.

Planning permission (17/00148/OUT) has been gained from Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council for the erection of up to 90 new dwellings and associated development. This was subject to a condition (10) which requires the implementation of a programme of archaeological work, following the initial desk-based assessment (Elliot 2016). This is in accordance with the Ministry of Communities and Local Government's *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF 2018) and the Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council's policies on archaeology. The field investigation was carried out to a specification approved by Mr Neil J. Adam, senior archaeologist for Hampshire County Council. The fieldwork was undertaken by Anne-Michelle Huvig between the 12th - 14th of March 2019. The site code is MFW 16/241. The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited at Hampshire Cultural Trust in due course.

Location, topography and geology

The site is located on the western edge of Whitchurch, Hampshire (Fig. 1). It is an irregular piece of land, limited to the north and east by new housing and to the west by an open field with the A34 dual-carriageway beyond (Fig. 2). The site lies between *c.*73-76m above Ordnance Datum. The underlying geology comprises variable superficial deposits of sandy, silty clay, locally gravelly, chalky or flinty on the western side whereas on the eastern part it is River Terrace Deposits.(BGS 2012).

Archaeological background

An archaeological desk-based assessment (Elliot 2016) was conducted prior to the planning consent. It revealed a moderate archaeological potential with activity from the Prehistoric and Roman period to later date. The most noteworthy feature is a round barrow to the north-east of the site. From aerial photographs, several cropmarks to

the north, on either side of the A34 may reflect Iron Age and Roman settlement. The land immediately east of the site had been investigated in two phases. The southern part proved empty of any archaeological remains, except for 3 post-medieval pits (Wallis 2007). However, the northern part, in addition to the preserved round barrows also contained Late Neolithic pits, a Roman ditch and a Late Neolithic burnt mound which have been excavated (Sanchez 2017).

A geophysical survey of the proposal site revealed nothing of archaeological interest (Beaver stock 2019) has not revealed any significant remain.

Objectives and methodology

The purpose of the evaluation was to determine the presence/absence, extent, condition, character, quality and date of any archaeological or palaeo-environmental deposits within the area of development. More specifically it aimed at determining if any archaeologically relevant levels were preserved and to decide on a mitigation if necessary. A total of 18 trial trenches, 20m long and 1.6-2m wide, were to be dug by a machine fitted with a toothless bucket under constant archaeological supervision. Spoil heaps were to be checked for finds. Possible archaeological deposits would be hand cleaned and a sufficient percentage excavated.

Results (Fig. 2)

A 360° tracked excavator was used to dig the trial trenches. It was fitted with a toothless bucket, 1.50m wide. 13 trenches (4-16) were dug as intended. Trenches 1-3 had been positioned in an area presently occupied by contractors welfare units, parking, materials and machinery. They were relocated further south. Trench 1 was sited almost E-W between trenches 12, 17 and 14. Trench 2, orientated E-W, was excavated between trenches 7 and 8 while trench 3 was shifted N-S east of trench 4 and north of trench 7. Furthermore trench 17 and 18 had also to be rearranged as development in the adjacent plot of land encroached on part of the site. Trench 18 was a bit shortened while trench 17 was shifted towards SW. They ranged in length between 12.80m and 24.30m and in depth from to .

In all of those trenches the topsoil, a soft mid to dark grey brown loam, 0.12-0.20m thick, was overlaying the geology. The top geological horizon matches the recorded description. It was a mid orange brown silty to sandy clay, locally with chalk and gravels, variably flinty (nodules of various sizes).

A complete list of trenches giving lengths, breadths, depths and a description of sections and geology is given in Appendix 1.

Trench 1

Trench 1 was aligned WSW - ENE and was 21.40m long and 0.58m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.18m of topsoil overlying natural geology. A test pit was dug at the east end to confirm the correct interpretation of the geological sequence. No finds nor deposits of archaeological interest were recorded.

Trench 2

Trench 2 was aligned WNW - ESE and was 16m long and 0.58m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.15m of topsoil overlying natural geology. No finds nor deposits of archaeological interest were recorded.

Trench 3 (Fig. 3; Pl. 1)

Trench 3 was aligned NNW - SSE and was 16.40m long and 0.53m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.15m of topsoil overlying natural geology. A test pit was dug at the south end to confirm the correct interpretation of the geological sequence. No finds nor deposits of archaeological interest were recorded.

Trench 4

Trench 4 was aligned NNE - SSW and was 19.60m long and 0.39m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.15m of topsoil overlying natural geology. No finds nor deposits of archaeological interest were recorded.

Trench 5

Trench 5 was aligned SW - NE and was 23.20m long and 0.50m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.10m of overburden above 0.12m of topsoil overlying natural geology. No finds nor deposits of archaeological interest were recorded.

Trench 6

Trench 6 was aligned WNW - ESE and was 22m long and 0.80m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.15m of topsoil overlying natural geology. A test pit was dug at the east end to confirm the correct interpretation of the geological sequence. No finds nor deposits of archaeological interest were recorded.

Trench 7

Trench 7 was aligned NW - SE and was 21.00m long and 0.32m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.15m of topsoil overlying natural geology. No finds nor deposits of archaeological interest were recorded.

Trench 8

Trench 8 was aligned SSW - NNE and was 24.30m long and 0.38m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.15m of topsoil overlying natural geology. No finds nor deposits of archaeological interest were recorded.

Trench 9 (Pl. 2)

Trench 9 was aligned W - E and was 20.10m long and 0.30m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.18m of topsoil overlying natural geology. No finds nor deposits of archaeological interest were recorded.

Trench 10 (Pl. 3)

Trench 10 was aligned SSW - NNE and was 23.90m long and 0.60m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.20m of topsoil overlying natural geology. No finds nor deposits of archaeological interest were recorded.

Trench 11 (Fig. 3)

Trench 11 was aligned NW - SE and was 20.10m long and 0.30m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.12m of topsoil overlying natural geology. No finds nor deposits of archaeological interest were recorded.

Trench 12

Trench 12 was aligned NW - SE and was 20.00m long and 0.62m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.20m of topsoil overlying natural geology. A test pit was dug at the east end to confirm the correct interpretation of the geological sequence. No finds nor deposits of archaeological interest were recorded.

Trench 13

Trench 13 was aligned NNW - SSE and was 22.60m long and 0.65m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.15m of topsoil overlying natural geology. No finds nor deposits of archaeological interest were recorded.

Trench 14

Trench 14 was aligned SSW - NNE and was 19.60m long and 0.40m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.15m of topsoil overlying natural geology. No finds nor deposits of archaeological interest were recorded.

Trench 15

Trench 15 was aligned WNW - ESE and was 25.40m long and 0.43m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.15m of topsoil overlying natural geology. No finds nor deposits of archaeological interest were recorded.

Trench 16

Trench 16 was aligned SSW - NNE and was 20.40m long and 0.38m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.18m of topsoil overlying natural geology. No finds nor deposits of archaeological interest were recorded.

Trench 17

Trench 17 was aligned SSW - NNE and was 18.60m long and 0.31m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.15m of topsoil overlying natural geology. No finds nor deposits of archaeological interest were recorded.

Trench 18 (Fig. 3; Pl. 4)

Trench 18 was aligned NW - SE and was 12.80m long and 0.27m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.12m of topsoil overlying natural geology. No finds nor deposits of archaeological interest were recorded.

Conclusion

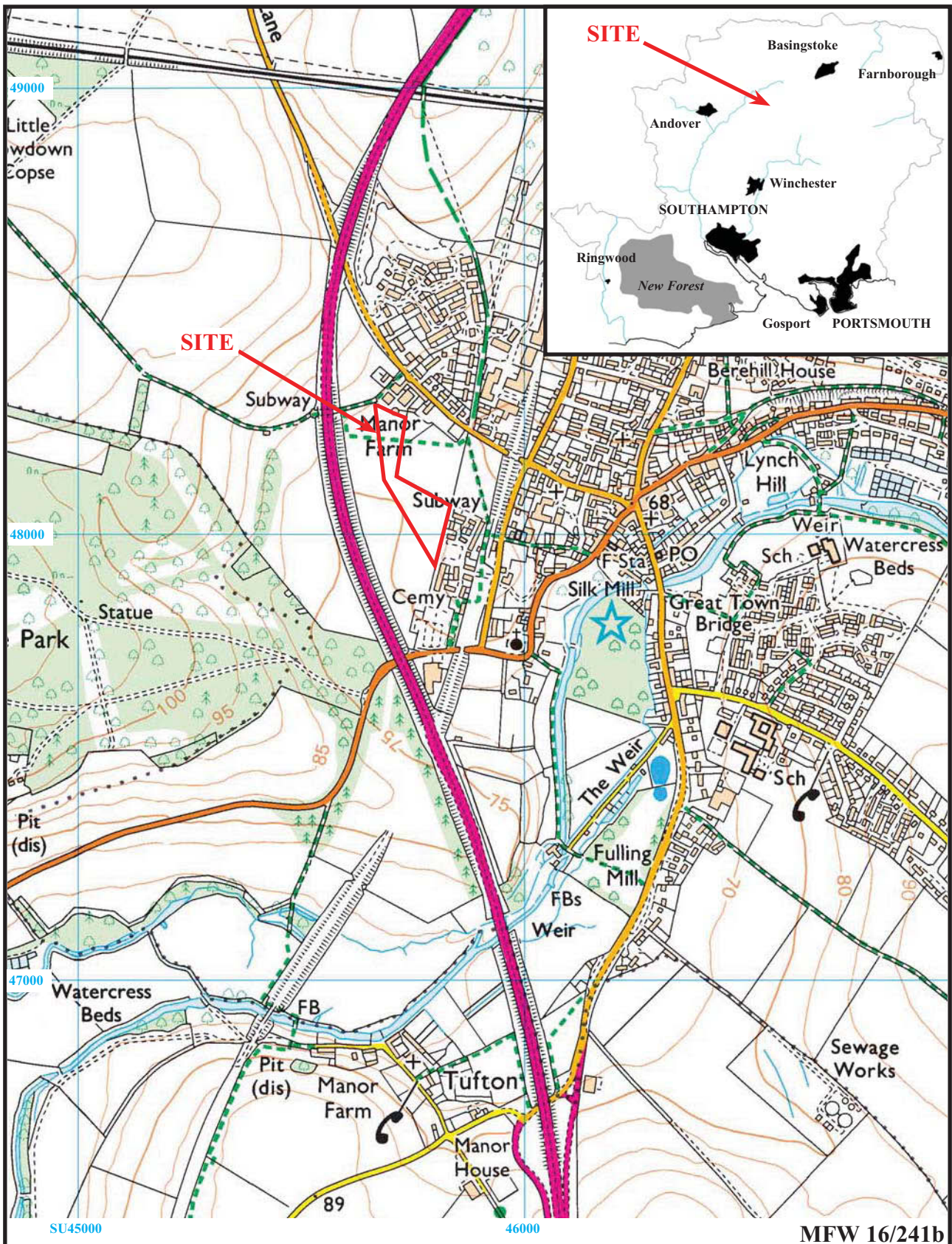
Despite the presence of prehistoric archaeology in the adjacent parcel of land, no artefacts nor archaeological features were observed in the eighteen trenches excavated. On this basis the site is considered to have no archaeological potential.

References

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APPENDIX 1: Trench details

| <i>Trench</i> | <i>Length (m)</i> | <i>Breadth (m)</i> | <i>Depth (m)</i> | <i>Orientation</i> | <i>Comment</i> |
|---------------|-------------------|--------------------|------------------|--------------------|--|
| 1 | 21.40 | 1.80 | 0.58 | WSW-ENE | 0–0.18m topsoil (mid to dark grey brown loam), 0.18+ natural geology (orange brown silty to sandy clay, locally with chalk and gravel and flint nodules . |
| 2 | 16.00 | 1.80 | 0.58 | WNW-ESE | 0–0.15m topsoil, 0.15+ natural geology. |
| 3 | 16.40 | 1.80 | 0.53 | SSE-NNW | 0–0.18m topsoil, 0.18+ natural geology. PI. 1 |
| 4 | 19.60 | 1.80 | 0.39 | SSW-NNE | 0–0.15m topsoil, 0.15+ natural geology. |
| 5 | 23.20 | 1.80 | 0.50 | SW-NE | 0–0.12m topsoil, 0.12+ natural geology. |
| 6 | 22.00 | 1.80 | 0.80 | WNW-ESE | 0–0.15m topsoil, 0.15+ natural geology. |
| 7 | 21.00 | 1.80 | 0.32 | SE-NW | 0–0.15m topsoil, 0.15+ natural geology. |
| 8 | 24.30 | 1.80 | 0.38 | SSW-NNE | 0–0.15m topsoil, 0.15+ natural geology. |
| 9 | 20.10 | 1.80 | 0.30 | W-E | 0–0.18m topsoil, 0.18+ natural geology. PI. 2 |
| 10 | 23.90 | 1.80 | 0.60 | SSW-NNE | 0–0.20m topsoil, 0.20+ natural geology. PI. 3 |
| 11 | 20.10 | 1.80 | 0.30 | SE-NW | 0–0.12m topsoil, 0.12+ natural geology. |
| 12 | 20.00 | 1.80 | 0.62 | SE-NW | 0–0.20m topsoil, 0.20+ natural geology. |
| 13 | 22.60 | 1.80 | 0.65 | SSE-NNW | 0–0.15m topsoil, 0.15+ natural geology. |
| 14 | 19.60 | 1.80 | 0.40 | SSW-NNE | 0–0.15m topsoil, 0.15+ natural geology. |
| 15 | 25.40 | 1.80 | 0.43 | WNW-ESE | 0–0.15m topsoil, 0.15+ natural geology. |
| 16 | 20.40 | 1.80 | 0.38 | SSW-NNE | 0–0.18m topsoil, 0.18+ natural geology. |
| 17 | 18.60 | 1.80 | 0.31 | SSW-NNE | 0–0.15m topsoil, 0.15+ natural geology. |
| 18 | 12.80 | 1.80 | 0.27 | SE-NW | 0–0.12m topsoil, 0.12+ natural geology. PI. 4 |

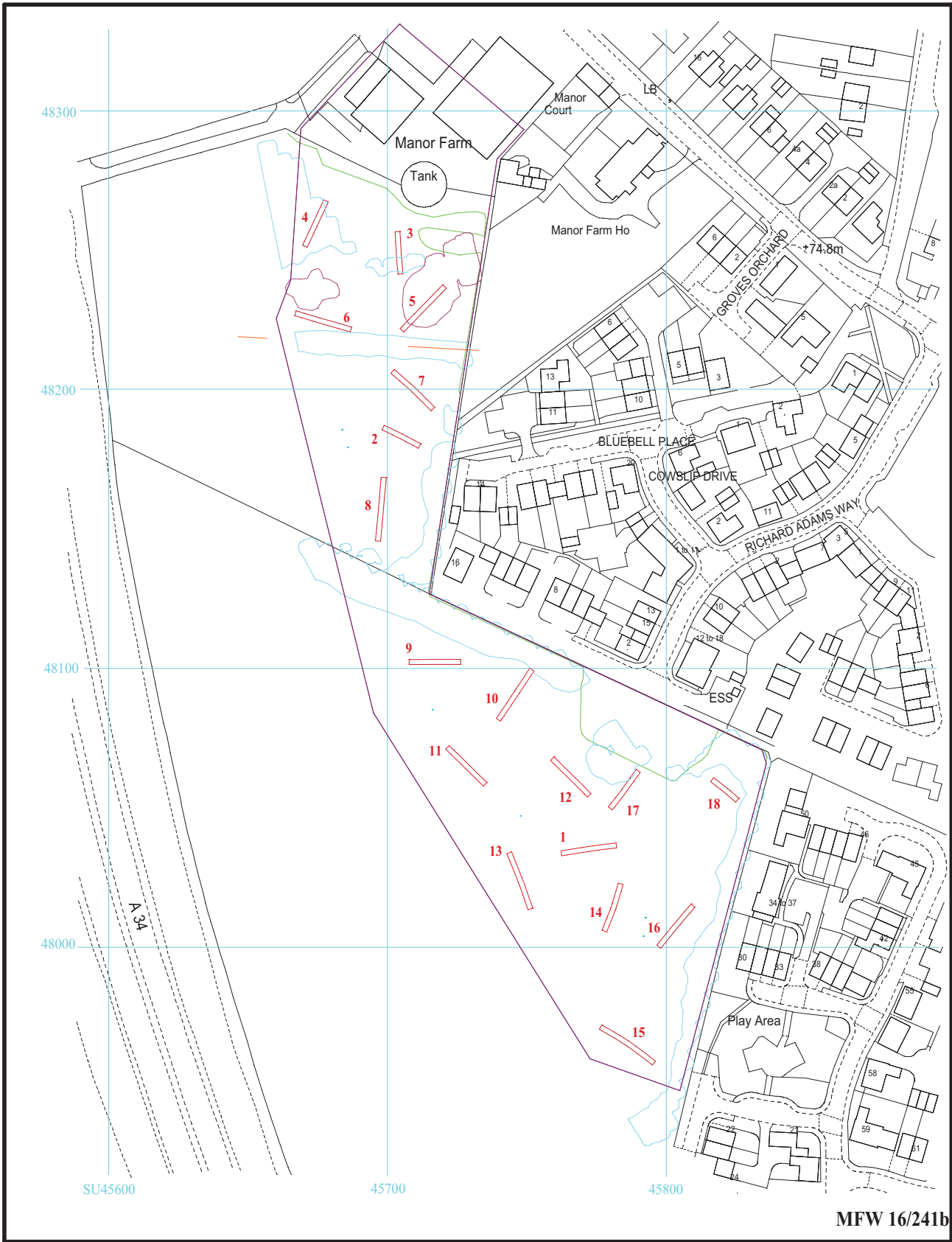


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Figure 1. Location of site within Whitchurch and Hampshire.

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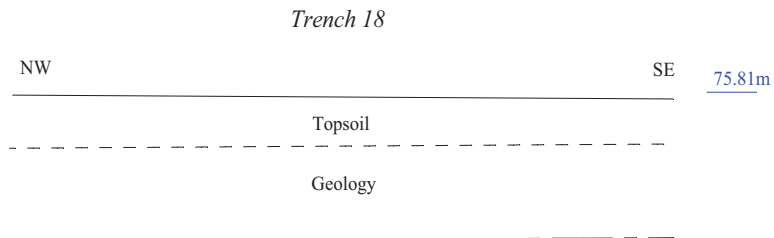
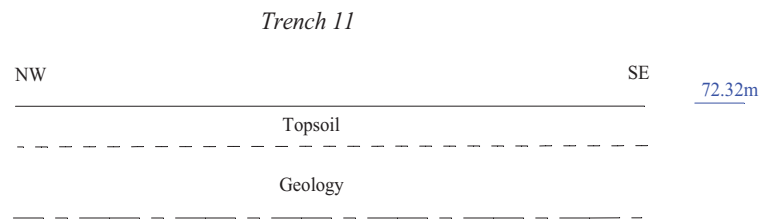
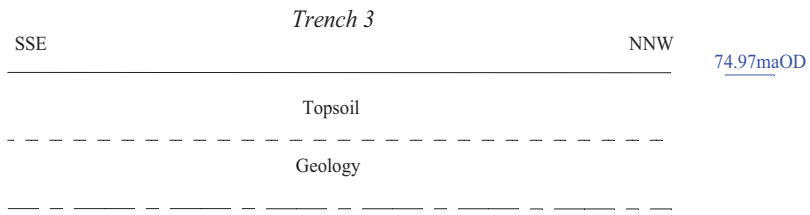
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Figure 2. Location of trenches, related to geophysical anomalies.



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Figure 3. Representative sections.



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



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

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**Land at Manor Farm, Bloswood Lane,
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Plates 1 and 2.**

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Plate 3. Trench 10, looking north east, Scales: 2m and 1m.



Plate 4. Trench 18, looking north west, Scales: 2m and 1m.

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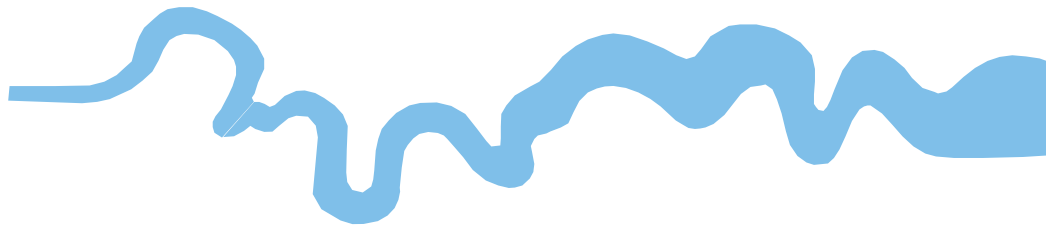
**Land at Manor Farm, Bloswood Lane,
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Plates 3 and 4.**

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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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