

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

ARCHAEOLOGICAL

S E R V I C E S

**Land at Park Farm, Oakley,
Basingstoke, Hampshire**

Archaeological Evaluation

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

Site Code: POH19/02

(SU 5721 5073)

Land at Park Farm, Oakley, Basingstoke Hampshire

**An Archaeological Evaluation
for Bewley Homes Ltd**

by Anne-Michelle Huvig and
Pierre-Damien Manisse
Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code POH 19/02

May 2019

Summary

Site name: Land at Park Farm, Oakley, Basingstoke, Hampshire

Grid reference: SU 5721 5073

Site activity: Archaeological Evaluation

Date and duration of project: 3rd to 9th May 2019

Project coordinator: Tim Dawson

Site supervisor: Anne-Michelle Huvig

Site code: POH 19/02

Area of site: 3.35ha

Summary of results: In total, twenty-seven trenches were opened as intended. No archaeological deposits were encountered, except for one linear feature, seen crossing several trenches, which contained post-medieval ceramic tile fragments. The ditches do not match boundaries recorded on the First Edition Ordnance Survey map of 1872 nor Tithe map of 1841. 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 in due course.

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	Steve Preston✓ 20.05.19

Land at Park Farm, Oakley, Basingstoke, Hampshire An Archaeological Evaluation

by Anne-Michelle Huvig and Pierre-Damien Manisse

Report 19/02

Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological field evaluation carried out at on land part of Park Farm, Oakley, Basingstoke, Hampshire, RG23 7LG (SU 5721 5073) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Mr Geoff Wilde, of Bewley Homes Ltd, Inhurst House, Brimpton Road, Baughurst, RG26 5JJ.

Outline planning consent (17/02874/OUT) has been gained from Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council to develop a c.3ha land parcel, adjacent to the west side of developed Oakley, on land that was part of Park Farm, which is to the south-west. The consent is subject to two conditions (Conditions 8 and 9) that require archaeological investigation on the site. This is in accordance with the Ministry of Communities and Local Government's *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF 2012), and the Borough Council's policies on archaeology. It was determined that the investigation should take the form, initially, of an archaeological evaluation, which could be used to inform the a mitigation strategy if required. A heritage statement (Cooper 2017), had briefly outlined the site's archaeological potential based on finds and deposits found during excavation nearby (see below).

The field investigation was carried out to a specification approved by Mr Neil Adam, Senior Archaeologist for Hampshire County Council, archaeological adviser to the Borough. The fieldwork was undertaken by Anne-Michelle Huvig and Pierre-Damien Manisse between 3rd to 9th May 2019. The site code is POH 19/02. 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 a rectangular parcel of land, with an elongated access extension westwards, part of a larger sequence of fields that form the east side of Park Farm, adjacent to developed Oakley (Fig. 1). Most of the area is within a single land parcel, though proposed access from Station Road is also included in the works (Fig. 2). The underlying geology is Seaford Chalk (Upper Chalk from the Cretaceous period), with central parts of the site overlain by clay-with-flints (BGS Geoindex; BGS 1981). The site lies at a height of c.120m above Ordnance Datum (OD), sloping down to the west.

Archaeological background

The archaeological potential of the site has been highlighted in an archaeological assessment (Cooper 2017). In summary, historical mapping suggests that the site has been open, with only a suggestion of localized quarrying to the west. More generally, a settlement has been recorded at Oakley since 1236, developed from an earlier (Late Saxon) manor. At an excavation north of Rectory Road, a large pit containing a quantity of middle Iron Age pottery and eleven loom weights, and a number of early Roman features indicate a probable settlement (Norton and Marshal 2008). To the south, a small core of 11th-12th century settlement evidence was found with a small presence of Early Saxon and Roman pottery (Manisse 2019). It seems particularly significant, as it is assumed the core of Late Saxon settlement was probably close to the Church of St Leonard, which lies close to the junction of Station Road and Church Road, some 450m to the south-west.

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 works was to be carried out in such a way as to not to compromise the integrity of archaeological features or deposits that warrant preservation *in-situ*.

Specific research aims of the project are:

- to determine if archaeologically relevant levels are present of the site;
- to determine if archaeological deposits of any period are present;
- to determine if archaeological deposits of any period are present
- to inform a strategy for mitigation if required.

In total, twenty-seven trenches were proposed 35m long and 1.6m wide

Results

All twenty-seven trenches were dug as intended. They ranged in length from 22.1m to 29.8m in length, to a depth of 0.3m to 0.55m. All spoilheaps were monitored for finds.

A complete list of trenches giving lengths, breadths, depths and a description of sections and geology is given in Appendix 1. The excavated features, with dating evidence, are summarized in Appendix 2.

Trench 1 (Fig. 2)

Trench 1 was aligned W - E and was 25.1m long and 0.4m deep. This trench was positioned, like trenches 1-5 on the course of a proposed access from the west linking with Station Road. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.36m of

topsoil, a brown silt with small stone inclusions. The subsoil was grey-brown clayey silt 0.4m thick overlying natural geology of reddish brown silty clay sub angular stone inclusions. No archaeological deposits were encountered.

Trenches 2-5 (Fig. 2)

These trenches were aligned W- E, apart from Trench 4 that was NW-SE. All the trenches were over 25m long, with Trench 5 the longest at 29m. All were between 0.36 and 0.45m deep. No archaeological deposits were encountered, and the stratigraphy consisted of 0.3m of topsoil, over 0.05m of subsoil, overlying natural geology.

Trenches 6-14 (Fig. 2)

These trenches covered the northern part of the field and were devoid of archaeological deposits. These trenches were between 25.5m and 28m long and between 0.3m and 0.4m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.25-0.35m of topsoil, over a thin subsoil 0.05-0.50m thick above natural at the base of the trench. A modern linear feature, containing plastic sheet, was encountered in Trench 6, and excavated by machine in Trenches 7 and 8. It was no deeper than 0.1m but over 2m wide. Only a sparse amount of modern ceramics were encountered.

Trench 15 (Figs 2, 3 and 4; Pls 1 and 3)

Trench 15 was aligned SW-NE and was 27.1m long and 0.45m deep. This trench was on the east side of the area. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.4m of topsoil, overlying subsoil which was 0.05m thick. The base of the trench was reached at 0.45m exposing natural geology of reddish-grey silty clay. A ditch (2) was encountered at the SW end of the trench. This feature was 4.25m wide and 1.05m deep, investigated by a machine excavated slot perpendicular to the feature. It contained a single fill (52) filled with Post-Medieval ceramic building material.

Trenches 16 and 17 (Figs 2)

Trenches 16 and 17 were devoid of archaeological deposits. These trenches were 26.3m and 27.5m long. Trench 16 was on a WSW-ENE axis and Trench 17 was SSW-NNE. Both trenches were over 0.3m deep, and Trench 17 was 0.35m deep. Both had thick layers of topsoil directly over the natural geology.

Trench 18 (Fig. 2)

Trench 18 was aligned SE-NW and was 29.8m long and 0.4m deep. This trench was on the west side of the area, between Trenches 17 and 22. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.35m of topsoil, overlying subsoil which is 0.03m thick. The base of the trench was reached between 0.38 and 0.4m deep, exposing the natural geology. A

continuation of the ditch seen in Trench 15, 22 and 23. This part of the ditch (3) was unexcavated in this trench. This feature was >4m wide, filled with a greyish brown silty clay (53). It contained a single fill, and no finds were encountered from this trench.

Trenches 19, 20 and 21 (Fig. 2)

These trenches were to the south and east of the trenches that discovered the linear feature. These were devoid of features but contained similar stratigraphy to elsewhere.

Trench 19 was 28.1m long and 0.5m deep, on a axis W-E. Under 0.4m of topsoil was subsoil, 0.1m thick. Natural geology was exposed throughout no deeper than 0.5m. Trench 20 was 24.4m long and 0.45m deep, on a SW-NE axis. Under 0.3m of topsoil was natural geology from 0.3m deep. The trench was excavated to 0.45m deep. Trench 21 was 26.8m long and 0.4m deep. This uncovered 0.31m depth of topsoil, exposing 0.09m of subsoil to the base of excavation.

Trenches 22 and 23 (Figs 2, 3 and 4; Pl. 2)

These trenches exposed a continuation of the ditch located in Trench 18. Trench 22 was SW-NE axis trench, 23.9m long and 0.55m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.3m of topsoil, onto natural geology. A linear feature [1] was excavated in Trench 23. The same feature ran oblique across the centre of Trench 22. The base of the trench was reached exposing natural geology exposing reddish-grey silty clay at 0.55m. A ditch (1) was encountered at the W end of the trench. This feature was >7m wide and excavated with a machine excavated trench perpendicular to the feature. It contained a single fill (51) filled with ceramic building material, reaching no greater depth than 1m deep. It was thought that this feature is at least Post-Medieval date. The base of the feature was reached no deeper than 1m deep.

Trenches 24-27 (Fig 2)

These trenches are at the south and east of the trenches that discovered the linear feature. These were devoid of features but contained similar stratigraphy to elsewhere.

Trench 24 was 22.1m long and 0.4m deep, on a axis W-E. Under 0.35m of topsoil was natural geology exposed to the base of the trench at 0.4m. Trench 25 was 25.9m long and 0.5m deep, on a SW-NE axis. Under 0.3m of topsoil was natural geology from 0.3m deep to the base of the trench at 0.5m. Trench 26 was on a W-E axis, 24.1m long and no deeper than 0.55m deep. This uncovered 0.4m depth of topsoil, exposing natural at the base of the trench to 0.55m deep. The last trench was Trench 27, 26.3m long on a SE-NW. It was excavated to a

depth of 0.3m deep. It exposed 0.3m of topsoil, onto natural to a final depth of 0.31m deep. No archaeological deposits were encountered.

Finds

Ceramic Building Materials by Danielle Milbank

A total of nine fragments of ceramic building material were recovered from two contexts encountered in the evaluation. These were hand-collected and examined under x10 magnification.

Five fragments were recovered from Ditch 1 (fill 51) in Trench 23 comprise a range of abraded pieces in a fairly uniform, hard, slightly sandy fine clay with an orange red colour. The thickness is 14mm and peg holes are present on two pieces. The pieces are of likely post-medieval date. The context also contained a small piece of ceramic land drain of later post-medieval date which was retained on site.

Ditch 2 (fill 52) contained a four pieces, three of the fabric described above and one in a slightly soft, fine fabric with sparse groggy inclusions and a light red colour with some paler lensing. The form of this piece is unclear and it may be medieval but is more likely to be post-medieval in date.

The assemblage derived from the site is modest, and is representative of activity on the site in the Post-Medieval period.

Conclusion

Two ditches of 19th century date were identified and which presumably formed part of a 19th century field system pre-dating both that recorded on the First Edition Ordnance Survey map of 1872 and Tithe map of 1841. No deposits of archaeological interest were encountered in the fieldwork and the site is considered to have no archaeological potential.

References

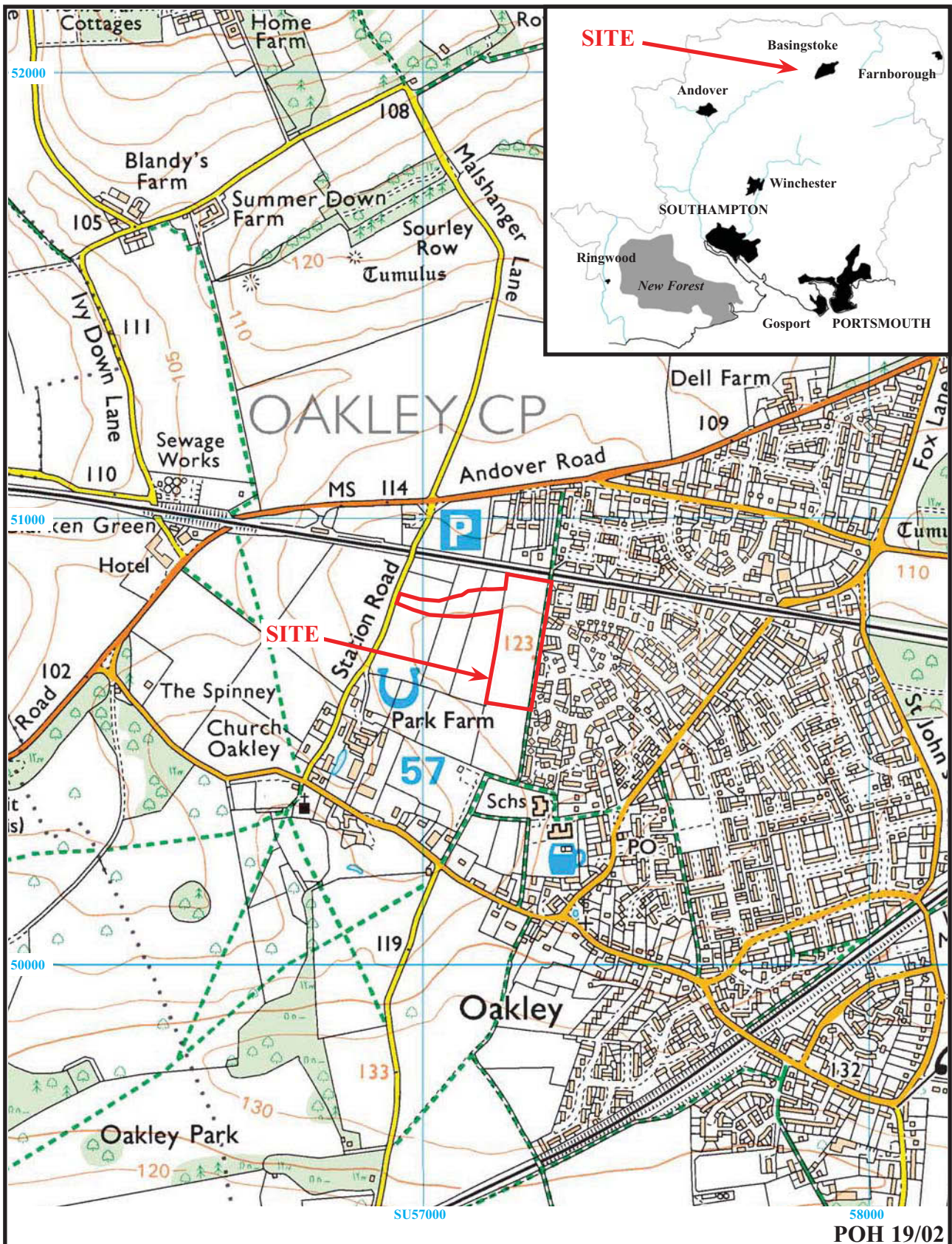
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APPENDIX 1: Trench details

<i>Trench</i>	<i>Length (m)</i>	<i>Breadth (m)</i>	<i>Depth (m)</i>	<i>Comment</i>
1	25.1	1.8	0.4	0–0.36m brown silt topsoil; 0.36-0.4m grey brown clayey silt; 0.4m+ reddish brown natural geology.
2	26.3	1.8	0.4	0-0.32m topsoil; 0.32-0.4m subsoil; 0.4m+ natural geology.
3	25	1.8	0.45 (W) 0.6 (E)	0-0.3m; (W end) 0.3-0.45m subsoil; (E end) 0.3-0.6m subsoil; 0.6m natural geology.
4	26.8	1.8	0.4 (NW) 0.75 (SE)	0-0.35m topsoil; (NW end) 0.35-0.4m subsoil; (SE end) 0.35-0.75m subsoil; 0.75m+ natural geology. [Pl. 1]
5	29	1.8	0.36	0-0.35m topsoil; 0.35-0.36m subsoil; 0.36m+ light brown clay silt natural geology.
6	27.1	1.8	0.3	0-0.25m topsoil; 0.25-0.3m subsoil; 0.3m natural geology. [Pl. 2]
7	28	1.8	0.4	0-0.35m topsoil; 0.35-0.4m subsoil; 0.4m+ natural geology. [Pl. 3]
8	25.5	1.8	0.4	0-0.32m topsoil; 0.32-0.4m subsoil; 0.4m+ natural geology.
9	25.75	1.8	0.5	0-0.38m topsoil; 0.38-0.5m subsoil; 0.5m+ natural geology.
10	29.6	1.8	0.4 0.6	0-0.4m topsoil; 0.4-0.6m subsoil; 0.6m+ natural geology.
11	28.3	1.8	0.4 (NW) 0.6 (SE)	0-0.4m topsoil; 0.4-0.6m subsoil; 0.6m+ natural geology.
12	25.8	1.8	0.3	0-0.3m topsoil; 0.3m+ natural geology.
13	27.3	1.8	0.5	0-0.4m topsoil; 0.4m+ natural geology.
14	31.4	1.8	0.3	0-0.29m topsoil; 0.29-0.3m subsoil; 0.3m+ natural geology.
15	27.1	1.8	0.45	0-0.4m topsoil; 0.4m+ natural geology. Ditch 2. [Pls 5 and 6]
16	26.3	1.8	0.35	0-0.35m topsoil; 0.35m+ natural geology.
17	27.5	1.8	0.35	0-0.32m topsoil; 0.32m+ natural geology.
18	29.8	1.8	0.4 (SSE) 0.35 (NNW)	0-0.35m topsoil; 0.35m+ natural geology. Ditch 3 unexc
19	28.1	1.8	0.5	0-0.3m topsoil; 0.3-0.5m subsoil; 0.5m+ natural geology.
20	24.4	1.8	0.45	0-0.3m topsoil; 0.3m+ natural geology.
21	26.8	1.8	0.4	0-0.31m topsoil; 0.31-0.4m subsoil; 0.4m+ natural geology.
22	24.9	1.8	0.3	0-0.3m topsoil; 0.3-0.31m subsoil; 0.31m+ natural geology. Ditch 4 unexc
23	23.9	1.8	0.55 (E) 0.3 (W)	0-0.3m topsoil; 0.3m+ natural geology. Ditch 1 [Pl. 4]
24	22.1	1.8	0.5	0-0.35m topsoil; 0.4m+ natural geology.
25	25.9	1.8	0.8 (NNW) 0.5 (SSE)	0-0.3m topsoil; (SSE end) 0.3-0.5m subsoil; 0.3-0.8m subsoil; 0.8m+ natural geology.
26	24.1	1.8	0.4 (W) 0.55 (E)	0-0.4m topsoil; 0.4m subsoil; 0.55m+ natural geology
27	26.3	1.8	0.31	0-0.3m topsoil; 0.3m+ natural geology.

APPENDIX 2: Feature details

<i>Trench</i>	<i>Cut</i>	<i>Fill (s)</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Dating evidence</i>
15	2	52	Ditch (field)	Post-Medieval-Modern	Ceramic tile
18	3	53	Ditch (field)	Post-Medieval-Modern	
22	4	54	Ditch (field)	Post-Medieval-Modern	
23	1	51	Ditch (field)	Post-Medieval-Modern	Ceramic tile



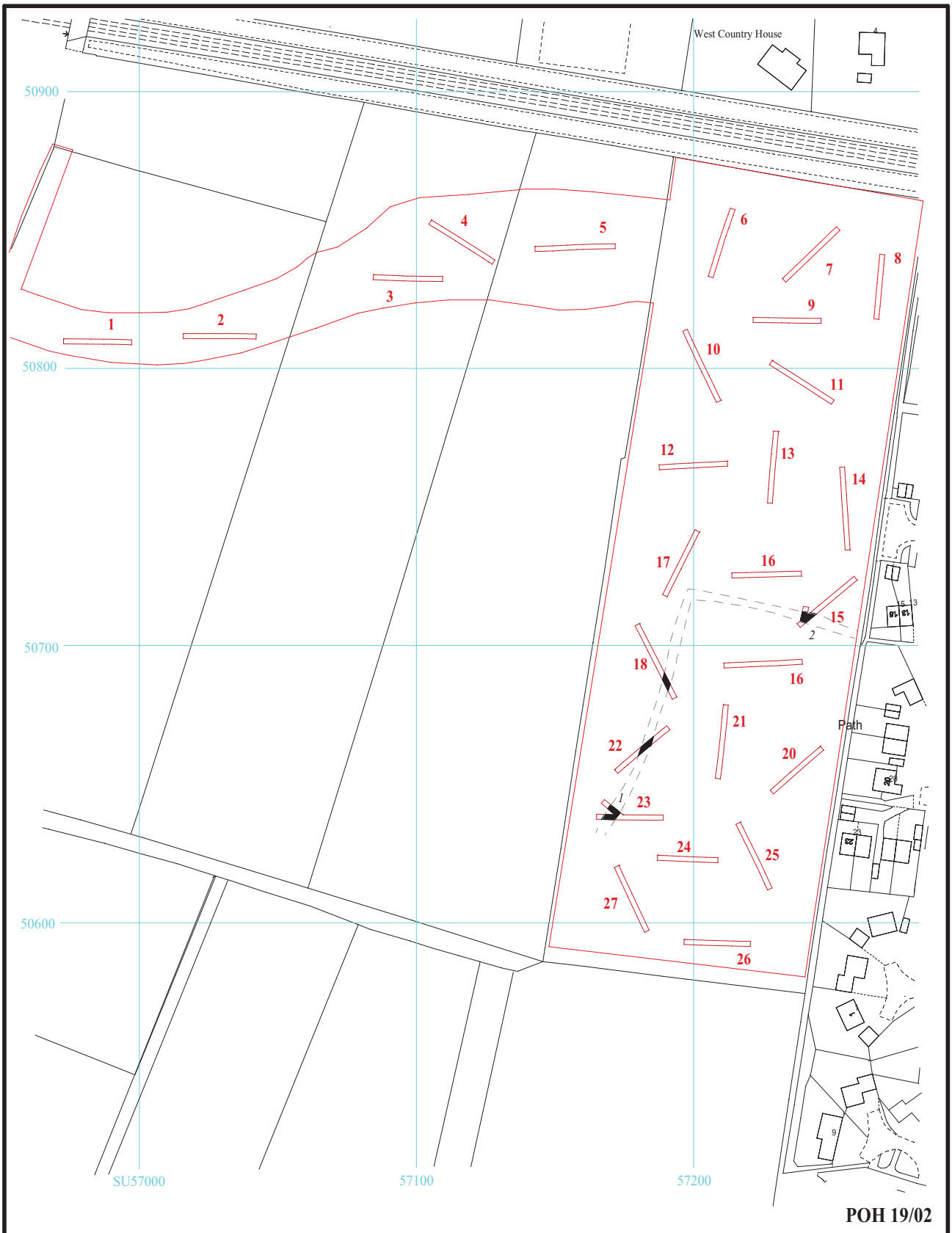
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Figure 1. Location of site within Oakley and Hampshire.

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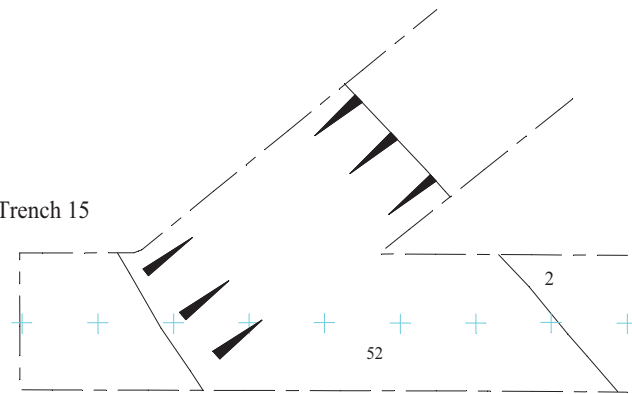
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Figure 2. Location of trenches.

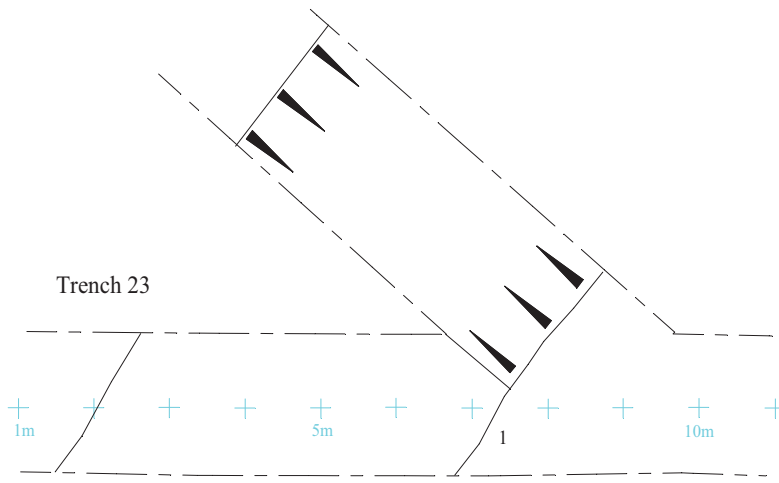


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Trench 15



Trench 23



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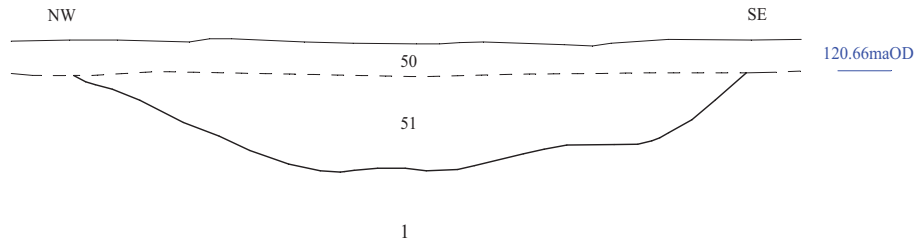
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Figure 3. Detail of trenches.

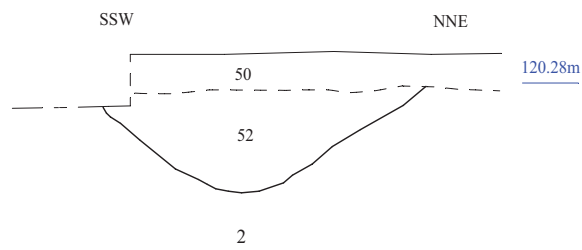


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Trench 23



Trench 15



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Figure 4. Sections.



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Plate 1. Trench 4, looking south east, Scales: 1m x2.



Plate 2. Trench 6, looking north east, Scales: 1m x2.

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**Land at Park Farm, Oakley,
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Plates 1 and 2.**

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Plate 3. Trench 7, looking north east, Scales: 1m x2.



Plate 4. Trench 23, looking east, Scales: 1m x2.

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Plates 3 and 4.**

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Plate 5. Trench 15, looking north east, Scales: 1m x 2.



Plate 6. Trench 15, cut 2, looking west, Scales: horizontal 1m, vertical 1m.

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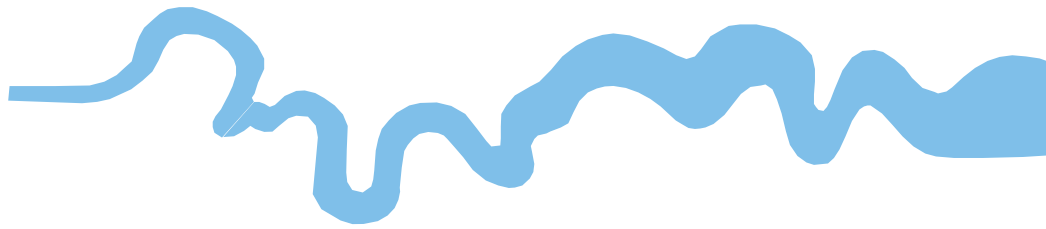
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Plates 5-6.**

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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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