

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

ARCHAEOLOGICAL

S E R V I C E S

**Land at Grange Road, Netley,
Hampshire**

Archaeological Evaluation

by Steve Ford

Site Code: GRN19/36

(SU 4580 0920)

Land at Grange Road, Netley, Hampshire

An Archaeological Evaluation

For Rivendale Homes Ltd

by Steve Ford

Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code GRN19/36

May 2019

Summary

Site name: Land at Grange Road, Netley, Hampshire

Grid reference: SU 4580 0920

Site activity: Archaeological Evaluation

Date and duration of project: 13th-14th May 2019

Project coordinator: Tim Dawson

Site supervisor: Steve Ford

Site code: GRN 19/36

Area of site: 0.3ha

Summary of results: Four trenches were dug as intended. These revealed deposits with a range of dates from Iron Age to late post-medieval times. A single pit of Middle to Late Iron Age date was the earliest, and best dated, feature recorded. Three ditches were also recorded, one of which contained no dating evidence but was located in the same trench as the Iron Age pit and might be related to it. A second ditch in the same trench contained a single sherd of Iron Age pottery, which by itself is not secure dating evidence, but again it might be of this date. The dating of a third ditch is ambiguous as it contained 2 sherds of Iron Age pottery but also fragments of 19th-century slate from the upper fill.

A number of 19th-century features representing the remains of former farm buildings on the site accounted for most of the (unclear) anomalies recorded in the prior geophysical survey.

It is considered that the part of the site containing the certain and possible Iron Age deposits has 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 Preston ✓ 23.05.19
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Land at Grange Road, Netley, Hampshire An Archaeological Evaluation

by Steve Ford

Report 19/36b

Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological field evaluation carried out on land at Grange Road, Netley, Hampshire (SU 4580 0920) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Ms Becci Brisland on behalf of Rivendale Homes Ltd, 15 Pirelli Way, Eastleigh, Hampshire, SO50 5GE.

Planning permission (F/18/84235) has been gained from Eastleigh Borough Council for the erection of nine dwellings with associated garages and landscaping. The consent is subject to two conditions (3 and 4) concerning archaeology. These require an archaeological survey and a subsequent programme of mitigation based on the results of the initial investigations. This is in accordance with the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government's National *Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF 2018), and the Borough's policies on archaeology.

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 Steve Ford and Ashley Kruger on 13th and 14th May 2019. The site code is GRN19/36. 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 to the north of the village of Netley, which lies between Weston and Hamble-le-Rice along the north-eastern shore of Southampton Water (Fig. 1). The site itself is a nearly triangular parcel of land and is relatively flat, lying at a height of *c.*25m above Ordnance Datum (aOD) and is currently not being utilized. The underlying geology is mapped as River Terrace 3 gravel (BGS 1987) which was observed in three trenches, but to the west (Trench 4) patches of clay were observed.

Archaeological background

The archaeological potential of the site has been highlighted in an archaeological assessment (Russel 2018). In summary the site's archaeological potential derives from its location in an area thought to be part of the monastic

grange of Netley Abbey. The monastery was founded in 1239 but Netley itself is first mentioned in a charter of AD 955–8, attached to the will of Aelfsige, bishop of Winchester. Whilst there is no specific mention of the site itself it does lie adjacent to Netley Grange which is as an 18th- to 19th-century farm. Historic mapping reveals that in 1838 (Tithe map) a structure stood on the eastern side of the site. However, this had been removed by 1870 and another structure also on the eastern side of the site and a boundary (ditch?) forming a separate paddock had been created. A lane to the farm also traversed the site at this time. These features too had all been removed by 1898 and most of the original farm buildings to the east of the site had also been replaced.

Recent evaluation immediately to the south west of the site is thought to have found little of archaeological interest.

In a geophysical survey across the site itself (Beaverstock 2019), no anomalies of clear archaeological interest were detected, however there was significant magnetic disturbance which may reflect buried ferrous metalwork, the dumping of building rubble, drains or services. Such magnetic disturbance could mask the presence of buried archaeological features.

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 work 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 any deposits relating to a medieval grange were present;
- to determine the nature of any geophysical anomalies of possible archaeological interest;
- to inform a strategy for mitigation if required.

In total, four trenches were proposed, each to be 20m long and 1.6m wide. These were to be dug using a JCB-type machine fitted with a toothless ditching bucket under constant archaeological supervision. All spoilheaps were to be monitored for finds. Where archaeological feature were certainly or probably present or where the archaeological potential was uncertain, the stripped areas were to be cleaned using hand tools and sufficient of the feature(s) exposed were to be excavated or sampled to satisfy the aims outlined above.

Results

All four trenches were dug as intended. They ranged in length from 21.3m to 23m, to a depth of between 0.3m to 0.66m. 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; Pls 1, 2, 3)

Trench 1 was aligned SE - NW and was 22.1m long and 0.38m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.12m of turf and topsoil, above 0.26m of brown gravelly sand subsoil containing much building rubble (brick, slate, chalk). This overlay fine sandy gravel natural geology. A test pit was dug at the northern end to a depth of 0.48m to confirm the interpretation of the gravel as natural geology.

A number of features were revealed, all of late post-medieval date. At the southern end of the trench was a ditch aligned west - east whose location matched an extreme magnetic spike in the geophysical survey, but no clear linear anomaly. It contained modern brick and tile including a cast iron water pipe. Further northwards in the trench and broadly corresponding with a zone of demolition debris in the topsoil/subsoil, were two foundations. One comprised an area for a brick pad (Pl. 2), and the other a probable foundation for a wall aligned south-west to north-east (Pl. 3). The foundation comprised a mixture of brick and stone, not obviously mortared. This area of the site corresponds with the building shown on the 1870 map of the site, on this SW-NE alignment.

No deposits of archaeological interest were encountered.

Trench 2 (Figs 2 and 3; Pls 4 and 5)

Trench 2 was aligned SW - NE and was 23m long and between 0.41m and 0.66m deep (deeper towards the south). The stratigraphy consisted of 0.12m of turf and topsoil, above 0.28m of brown gravelly sand subsoil containing a little brick and slate. This overlay fine sandy gravel natural geology. There was much root activity. Three cut features were recorded.

Ditch 2 was aligned north-west to south-east. It was 1.7m wide and 0.4m deep with a single fill (52) of brown silty sand with gravel. It was fully dug within the trench. It contained no finds

Ditch 4 was aligned close to north-south. It was 1.2m wide and 0.4m deep with a single fill (56) of brown silty sand with gravel. It was fully dug within the trench. It contained a single, small sherd of Iron Age pottery which is rather scant dating evidence. Neither ditch corresponded to boundaries shown on the historic maps.

Pit 3 was 1.05m in diameter and 0.62m deep. It was half-sectioned only. It had a profile which was flat based with vertical/undercut sides. It contained three fills. The basal fill (55) was a dark brown clayey sand with

gravel and some charcoal.. The upper fill (53), accounting for most of the pit fill was very similar to the basal fill. These two deposits were separated by a band of pale brown silty clay (54) which originated from the east side of the pit but did not fill the whole base of the pit. Within fill 54 was a lens of charcoal 0.01-0.02m thick.

The pit contained 28 sherds of Middle or Late Iron Age pottery, 12 fragments of sandstone quern, clay loomweight fragments and a clay spindle whorl. All the finds came from top fill 53.

Trench 3 (Figs 2 and 3; Pl. 6)

Trench 3 was aligned SSW-NNE and was 21.3m long and 0.34m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.12m of turf and topsoil, above 0.2m of brown gravelly sand subsoil containing some brick and slate. This overlay fine sandy gravel natural geology. A single ditch (1) was revealed aligned north-west to south-east. It was 1.7m wide and 0.4m deep with two fills of brown silty sand with gravel (50) above brown silt with gravel (51) possibly redeposited natural. It was fully dug within the trench. The uppermost fill contained fragments of slate, presumably derived from the demolished buildings. The upper fill also contained 2 sherds of Iron Age pottery. The ditch is therefore not unambiguously dated by these finds. The alignment of the ditch does not obviously relate it to ditch 4 to the south. It does not coincide with any boundaries shown on the historic maps.

Trench 4 (Fig. 2)

Trench 4 was aligned S - N and was 21.4m long and between 0.3m and 0.5m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.12m of turf and topsoil, above 0.18m of brown gravelly sand subsoil with some tile and slate above natural geology. To the south the geology comprised calcareous clay with a little gravel, but became more gravelly to the north albeit with brown silty sand patches. The latter were initially investigated by hand and then skimmed by the machine to confirm that they were a part of the natural geology. No deposits of archaeological interest were encountered.

Finds

Pottery by Richard Tabor

A total of 31 sherds weighing 215g were recorded according to vessel part, weight and fabric (Appendix 3). All were likely to date from the middle to late Iron Age. The sherds were allocated to fabric groups based on the material, size and sorting of the principal inclusions in accordance with guidelines for the recording and analysis of prehistoric pottery (PCRG 2010). All the fabrics were sandy, mainly silty, several in addition including grog. One of the latter group, GS3, had rare, presumably incidental inclusions, of fine flint. As a group they are entirely consistent with what would be expected of pottery circulating in Hampshire during the later Iron Age.

Fabric descriptions

Middle to late Iron Age: sand and mixtures

- S1** (medium) Moderately hard, grey slightly micaceous, silty sand fabric with buff pink to grey surfaces. Thickness range: 9-14mm.
- S2** (medium) Moderately hard, grey slightly micaceous, fabric with buff pink to grey surfaces including abundant fine (<0.2mm) quartz/sand and sparse iron oxides (<1mm). Thickness range: 4-8mm.
- S3** (medium) Moderately hard, brownish grey slightly micaceous, fabric with reddish brown exterior and grey interior surfaces including abundant fine (<0.5mm) sub-rounded quartz/sand and sparse iron oxides (<1mm). Thickness range: 6mm. Burnished exterior.
- GS1** (medium) Moderately soft, grey, slightly micaceous, vesicular silty sand fabric with buff pink surfaces with mainly sub-angular fine (<1mm) to medium (<2mm) voids and including sparse fine to medium sub-rounded and sub-angular grog (<2mm). Thickness range: 10mm. The voids appear to be on the surfaces and edges rather than in the body of the pot and may indicate inclusions which have fallen rather than leached out.
- GS2** (medium) Moderately hard, grey sparsely micaceous, silty sand fabric including sparse fine sub-rounded and sub-angular grog (<1mm). Thickness range: 8mm.
- GS3** (medium) Moderately hard, grey sparsely micaceous fabric with buff pink exterior and grey interior surfaces including abundant fine (<0.5mm) and rare fine/medium (<1mm) sub-rounded quartz, sparse fine sub-rounded and sub-angular grog (<1mm) and rarely fine (<1mm) sub-angular flint. Thickness range: 10mm.

The only morphological traits were restricted to five neck and shoulder sherds probably from a single substantial jar from pit 3. What remains of the shoulder indicates that it was both broad and pronounced, possibly from a Danebury Environs Project type JD5 storage jar dated within a broad span of 350–50 BC, although a later date ought not to be excluded (Brown 2000, 87, fig. 3.26). At Danebury coarser inclusions for vessels of the type in quartz contrasts with the very fine silty sand from the present site.

Loomweight

A total of 26 fragments of fired clay (228g) were recovered from pit 3 (all from top fill 53). The larger pieces appeared to be shaped and it is likely they are all fragments from a loomweight rather than daub, though no perforations were observed. This would be a typical artefact matching the middle Iron Age date of the pottery.

Spindlewhorl

A fired clay spindlewhorl was recovered from pit 3 (53). It was 45mm in diameter and 25mm deep with a central perforation 8mm across. It weighed 24g. It had a truncated cone profile. This would be entirely consistent with the middle to late Iron Age date of the pit.

Stone by David Williams

Pit 3 contained twelve broken pieces of a rotary quernstone, with a number of them showing a flat, worn, grinding surface. The quern is made from a hard, compact, dark greenish-grey greensand. Cherty swirls and small scattered worm holes can be seen in the fabric of the stone, suggesting that this is a product of the Lodsworth quarry site in west Sussex (Peacock, 1987). Lodsworth querns were widely distributed during the Iron Age and Roman periods and finds are particularly common in Hampshire, perhaps making use of the local river systems [cf. *ibid.*, 78-80 and fig. 7; Shaffrey and Roe, 2011, 321].

Fragments of Welsh roofing slate from ditch 1 are most unlikely to have reached the site before the 19th century.

Charred plant remains

A bulk soil sample of the top fill of pit 3 (53) was taken. A sub-sample of 16l was floated and sieved using a 0.25mm mesh and rapidly scanned for charred plant remains. A modest amount of charcoal was present, along with a few possible cereal grains. A grab sample (0.01L) for possible dating purposes was also taken from the charcoal-rich lens within pit 3 (54). The unprocessed sample appeared to contain only charcoal.

Conclusion

The evaluation was completed as intended, revealing a range of deposits of Iron Age and late post-medieval dates. A single pit of Middle to Late Iron Age date was found, which contained pottery, a loomweight, a spindle whorl and a quernstone. Three ditches were also recorded, one of which contained no dating evidence. A second ditch in the same trench as the pit may be Iron Age, but this dating is tentative, based on just a single sherd of pottery. The dating of a third ditch, further north, is ambiguous as it contained two sherds of Iron Age pottery but also fragments of 19th-century roofing slate. None of the ditches correspond with features on historic maps.

The northern portion of the site contained only a number of late 19th-century features representing services and brick/stone foundations of a former farm building, corresponding with a structure on the 1870 Ordnance Survey map, and which accounted for most of the unclear anomalies recorded in the prior geophysical survey.

The certain and possible Iron Age deposits were all recorded towards the south end of the site and it is considered that this area has 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	22.1	1.6	0.38 Test pit to 0.48m at NW end	0–0.12m turf/ topsoil; 0.12-0.38m brown gravelly loam subsoil with much building rubble; 0.38m+ fine sandy gravel natural geology. [Pls 1, 2, 3]
2	23	1.6	0.42(NE); 0.66(SW)	0-0.12m turf/topsoil; 0.12-0.4m subsoil; 0.4m+ natural gravel geology. Ditches 2 and 4, pit 3. [Pls 4 and 5]
3	21.3	1.6	0.34	0-0.12m; turf/topsoil; 0.12-0.32m subsoil; 0.32m+ natural geology. Ditch 1. [Pl. 6]
4	21.4	1.6	0.3 (N); 0.5 (S)	0-0.12m turf/topsoil; 0.12-0.3m subsoil; 0.3m+ natural geology gravel with silt patches (N); calcareous clay with gravel patches (S).

APPENDIX 2: Feature details

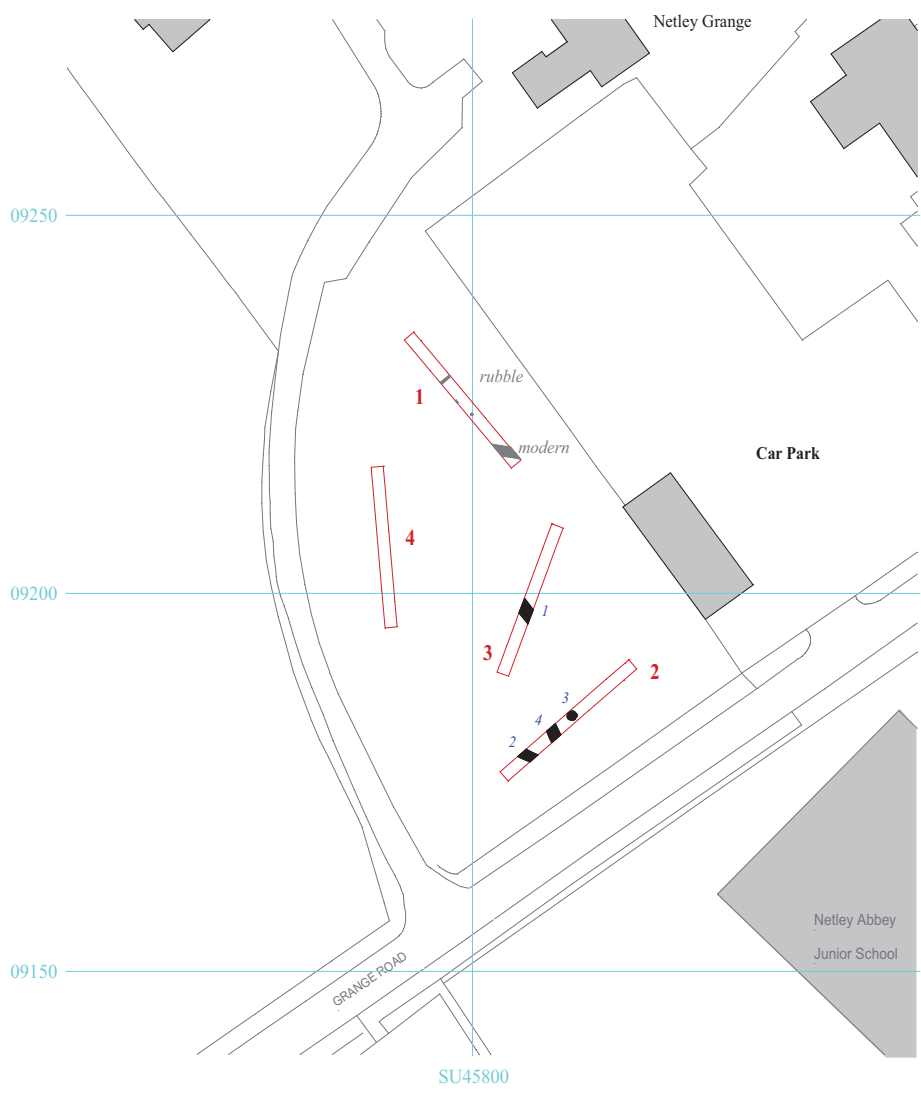
<i>Trench</i>	<i>Cut</i>	<i>Fill (s)</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Dating evidence</i>
3	1	50, 51	Ditch	Iron Age or Post-Medieval	Pottery/slate
2	2	52	Ditch	Undated	
2	3	53, 54, 55	Pit	Middle/Late Iron Age	Pottery
2	4	56	Ditch	?Iron Age	Pottery



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Figure 1. Location of site within Hampshire.



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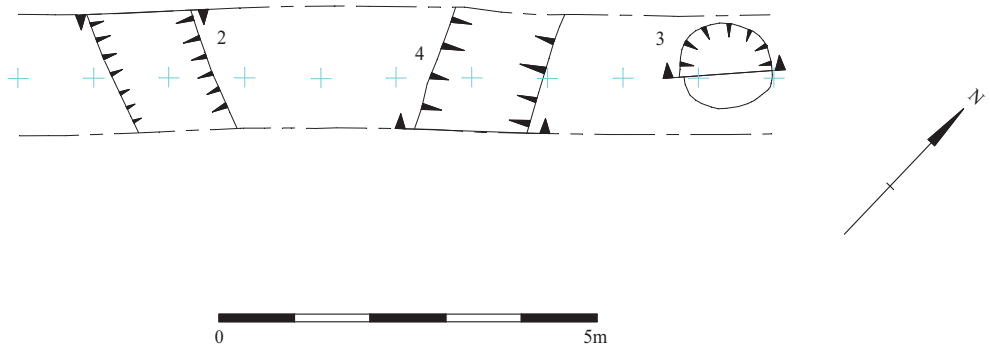
**Land at Grange Road, Netley,
Hampshire, 2019
Archaeological Evaluation**

Figure 2. Location of trenches.

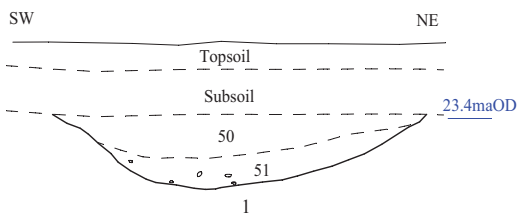


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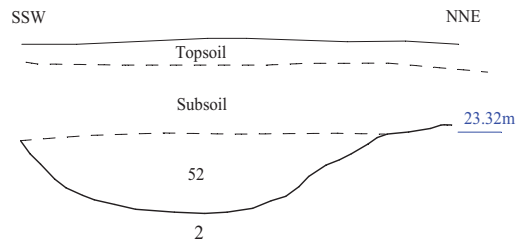
Trench 2



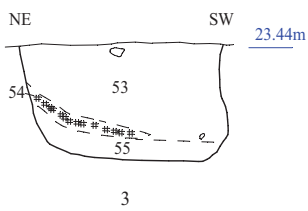
Trench 3



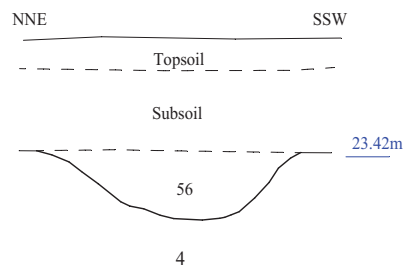
Trench 2



Trench 2



Trench 2



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Figure 3. Detail from Trench 2 and 3.

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Plate 1. Trench 1, looking north west, Scales: 2m and 1m.
Modern ditch and pipe in foreground



Plate 2. Trench 1, brick wall foundation,
looking north east, Scale: 0.3m.



Plate 3. Trench 1, Brick footing,
looking south west, Scale: 0.3m.

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**Land at Grange Road, Netley,
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Plates 1 - 3.**

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Plate 4. Trench 2, pit 3, looking south east,
Scales: 1m and 0.3m.



Plate 5. Trench 2, ditch 4, looking south east,
Scales: 2m and 1m.

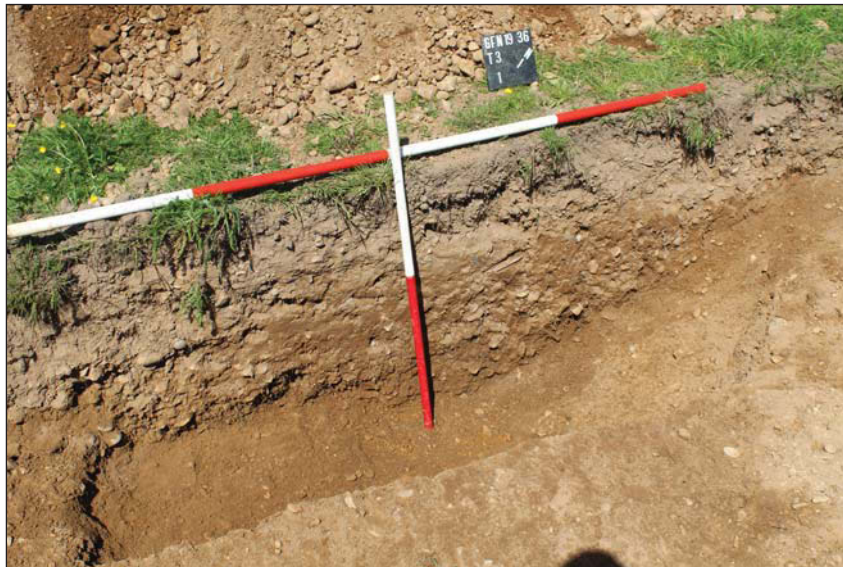


Plate 6. Trench 2, ditch 1, looking north west, Scales: 2m and 1m.

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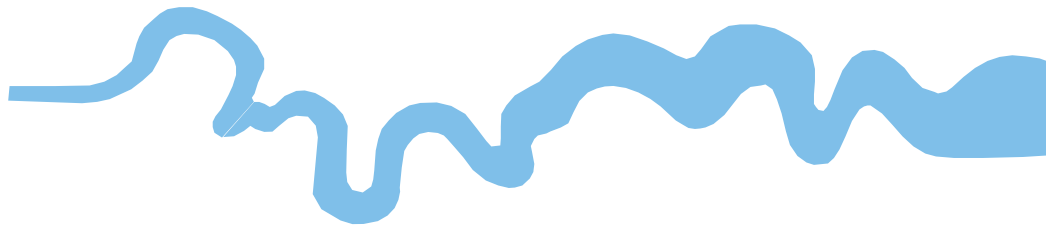
**Land at Grange Road, Netley,
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Plates 4 - 6.**

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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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