

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 2**

Archaeological Evaluation

by Pierre-Damien Manisse

Site Code: PFE15/23

(SU 5048 1895)

**Land at Pembers Hill Farm, Mortimers Lane, Fair Oak,
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An Archaeological Evaluation

for Drew Smith Group

by Pierre-Damien Manisse

Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code PFE 15/23

May 2019

Summary

Site name: Land at Pembers Hill Farm, Mortimers Lane, Fair Oak, Eastleigh, Hampshire, Phase 2

Grid reference: SU 5048 1895

Site activity: Evaluation

Date and duration of project: 7th-8th May 2019

Project coordinator: Danielle Milbank

Site supervisor: Pierre-Damien Manisse

Site code: PFE 15/23

Area of site: c. 1.55ha within overall site of 8.9 ha

Summary of results: A further 11 trenches were excavated to complete the planned 80 trial trenches for this site. As with the earlier phase of work, no archaeological deposits were identified nor any artefacts collected.

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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www.tvas.co.uk/reports/reports.asp.*

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Land at Pembers Hill Farm, Mortmers Lane, Fair Oak, Eastleigh, Hampshire, Phase 2 An Archaeological Evaluation

by Pierre-Damien Manisse

Report 15/23c

Introduction

This report documents the results of a second phase of archaeological field evaluation carried out at Pembers Hill Farm, Mortimers Lane, Fair Oak, Eastleigh, Hampshire (centred on SU 5048 1895) (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 (01/15/77190) was granted by Eastleigh Borough Council to develop the site for residential purposes. The consent is subject to a condition pertaining to archaeology requiring the implementation of a programme of archaeological work before any groundworks. This was 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 Neil Adam, Senior Archaeologist at Hampshire County Council, the adviser to the district on matters relating to archaeology. An initial phase of work was done by TVAS in February (Taylor 2019), while this report documents the second phase. The fieldwork was undertaken by Pierre-Damien Manisse on 7th and 8th May 2019. 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 eastern edge of Fair Oak, a village on the outskirts of Eastleigh, Hampshire (Fig. 1). It lies north of Mortimers Lane, and was occupied mostly by horse grazing pastures, exercise tracks, farming infrastructures, houses and garages. The part concerned by this phase 2 is where the dwellings and farm buildings stood. Some of them had been demolished at the beginning of this project. It occupies a flat piece of land, at an elevation of about 60m above Ordnance Datum in the east and very gently rising towards west. The underlying geology as shown on maps (BGS 1987) is mapped as London Clay, overlain on the western fringe of the site by Durley sand. Several variations on clay were observed in the trenches, with sand in the westernmost.

Archaeological background

The archaeological investigation of the area was summarized in a desk-based assessment (Ruttle 2015). Some chance finds and sites are known nearby, from the Mesolithic, Late Iron Age/Roman and Medieval periods. An evaluation was conducted the other side of Mortimers Lane (Bray 2015), revealing nothing of archaeological interest. However, another evaluation at West End, Eastleigh had found a significant Iron Age occupation (Taylor 2017). The trenching undertaken as Phase 1 of this project (Taylor 2019), involved 69 trenches being dug. It showed the absence of archaeological features under the grazing pastures, on the north part of the site.

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.

The specific research aims of this project are:

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 required

It was proposed to dig 80 trenches, each 25m long and 2m wide, positioned over the location of the new housing and landscaping. The fieldwork was designed take place in two phases due to current use of parts of the site. Phase 1 included the bulk of the trenching (69 of 80 trenches). Trenches 3, 4, 27-30, 32, 35, 39 and 40 were to form the second phase of work, as reported here.

Topsoil and any other overburden were to be removed by a machine fitted with a toothless ditching bucket to expose archaeologically sensitive levels under constant archaeological supervision. Where archaeological features were certainly or probably present, the stripped areas were to be cleaned using appropriate hand tools. Sufficient of the archaeological features and deposits exposed would then be excavated or sampled by hand to satisfy the aims outlined above. This work was to be carried out in a manner which would not compromise the integrity of archaeological features or deposits which warrant preservation *in situ*.

Results

The remaining 11 trenches could not be all dug as intended (Fig. 3). Although some of the buildings had been demolished, there were still active services, standing structures and other constraints that required some revision of the trench locations. Trenches 39 and 40, were both shifted to the north and their orientation changed.

Because of a tree in the middle of this garden, they had to be shortened too. Trench 4 saw its axis changed. Trenches 27 and 28 were also located slightly differently. Trench 35 was confined in a small fenced paddock and a change of orientation was required considering the machine's manoeuvrability. Trench 29's axis differed also from the original plan owing to vegetation. Trenches 30, 31 and 32 were all shifted to avoid electricity and other services.

Excavation was done by a 360° tracked excavator, fitted with a toothless bucket. A metal detector (Fischer F70) was used to enhance finds recovery. Spoil heaps were also visually inspected.

Topsoil was usually a mid brown loamy silt with rare small stones. When the ground was undisturbed, a subsoil was observed, composed of a light brown silty clay. Two different geological horizons were observed, which is consistent with the geological maps (BGS 1987). Trenches 39 and 40 were located above a dirty light greyish yellow sandy or clayey silt. All the other trenches in the east stood on light orange or yellowish brown clay. A complete list of trenches giving lengths, breadths, depths and a description of sections and geology is given in Appendix 1. All trenches were 1.60m wide.

Trench 3 (Fig. 3; Pl. 1)

Trench 3 was orientated SW–NE, 25.80m long and 0.82m deep. Concrete (0.1m deep) overlay 0.30m of modern made ground, above 0.12m of dark grey silty clay, which overlay 0.2m of light greenish grey clay, above the natural geology of olive-yellow clay. No archaeological features nor finds were observed.

Trench 4 (Fig. 3)

Trench 4 was orientated close to south–north (slightly curved), was 23.0m long and 0.6m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.3m of topsoil above 0.25m of light to mid brown silty clay subsoil above the natural light yellowish clay geology. Modern pits truncated the south end of the trench. No archaeological features nor finds were observed.

Trench 27 (Figs 3 and 4; Pl. 2)

Trench 27 was orientated close to south–north, was 26.0m long and 0.95m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.05m of pebbled surface above 0.35m of made ground with concrete slabs and demolition rubble (deeper towards the south), above 0.5m of grey clay or silty clay with some modern ceramic building material inclusions, over greenish yellow clay geology. Modern drains were present but no archaeological features nor finds.

Trench 28 (Fig. 3)

Trench 28 was orientated WSW–ENE, was 18.5m long and 1.0m deep. The stratigraphy was the same as that in Trench 27, pebbled hard standing above made ground with concrete slabs and demolition rubble (deeper towards the south-west), above 0.5m of grey clay or silty clay with some modern ceramic building material inclusions,

over greenish yellow clay geology. Modern drains were present at 4m and 16m from the north-east end of the trench. No archaeological features nor finds were observed.

Trench 29 (Figs 3 and 4 ; Pl. 3)

Trench 28 was orientated WNW–ESE, was 25.0m long and 0.45m deep. Turf and topsoil (0.25m deep) and subsoil (0.20m deep) overlay the natural clay geology. The northern half of the trench was massively disturbed by modern services. No archaeological features nor finds were observed.

Trench 30 (Fig. 3; Pl. 4)

Trench 20 was orientated WSW–ENE (close to W–E), was 23.1m long and 0.45m deep. Turf and topsoil (0.25m deep) and subsoil (0.20m deep) overlay the natural orange/yellow clay geology. A Victorian or modern linear feature, perhaps a furrow, crossed the trench 2.5m from the east end. No archaeological features nor finds were observed.

Trench 31 (Fig. 3)

Trench 31 was orientated close to SW–NE, was 20.2m long and 0.45m deep. The stratigraphy was the same as in Trench 30 and the same Victorian or modern linear furrow crossed the trench near the east end. No archaeological features nor finds were observed.

Trench 32 (Fig. 3)

Trench 32 was orientated W–E, was 24.9m long and 0.46m deep. The stratigraphy was the same as in Trench 30 and another, similar, Victorian or modern linear furrow crossed the trench 3m from the east end. No archaeological features nor finds were observed.

Trench 35 (Fig. 3)

Trench 32 was orientated NNW–SSE, was 21.7m long and 0.70m deep. Topsoil and farmyard debris overlay 0.25m of compact modern made ground with frequent small stones and gravel, crushed Tarmac mixed in dark brown silt. This overlay 0.3m of mid grey clay above the natural orange/yellow clay geology. The southern 5m of the trench were truncated by modern deposits. No archaeological features nor finds were observed.

Trench 39 (Fig. 3)

Trench 39 was orientated WNW–ESE, was 13.0m long and 0.55m deep. Topsoil (0.15m deep) and subsoil (0.25m deep) overlay dirty greyish-yellow clayey silt geology. No archaeological features nor finds were observed.

Trench 40 (Fig. 3)

Trench 40 was orientated SW–NE, was 13.0m long and 0.75m deep. Topsoil (0.15m deep) and subsoil (0.45m deep) overlay dirty greyish-yellow clayey silt geology. No archaeological features nor finds were observed.

Finds

No artefacts of archaeological interest were observed during the course of this project.

Conclusion

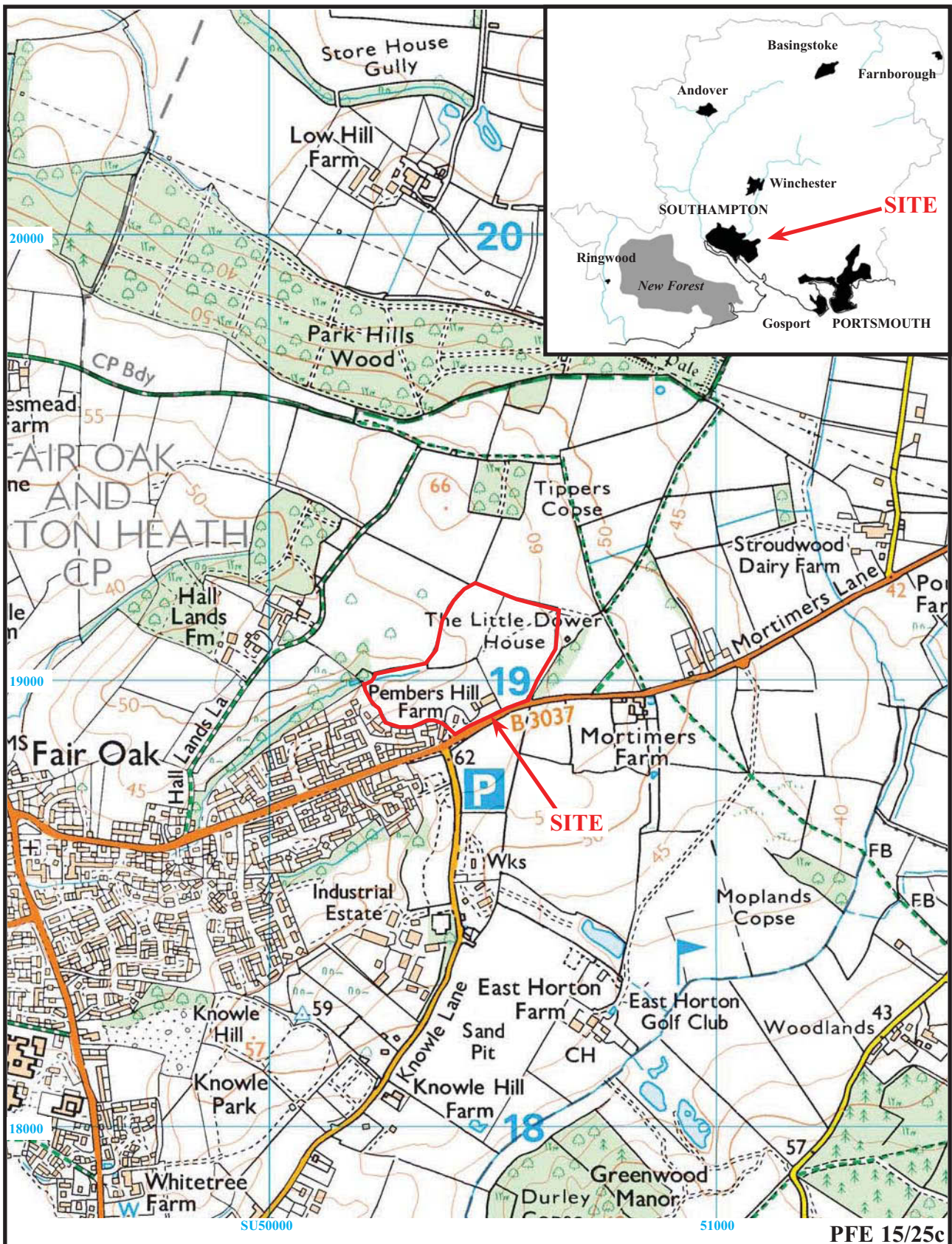
This second phase has extended the results of the previous one. All of the trenches proved to be void of any archaeological features or finds. Based on the results of these two phases of work, the site has no archaeological potential.

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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>
3	25.80	1.50-1.60	0.82	SW-NE	0-0.10m concrete; 0.10-0.40m made ground; 0.40-0.52m dark grey silty clay; 0.52-0.72m light greenish grey clay; 0.72m+ natural geology, olive-yellow clay. [Pl. 1]
4	23.00	1.50-1.60	0.65	SSE-NNW, slightly curved	0-0.30m dark brown silt; 0.30-0.55m light to mid brown silty clay; 0.55+ natural geology, light yellowish clay
27	26.00	1.50-1.60	0.95	SSW-NNE	0-0.05m rounded and sub-rounded pebbles; 0.05-0.40m made ground with rare chalk deposits, frequent concrete slabs and demolition debris, thicker towards south; 0.40-0.90m light to mid grey clay or silty clay with rare brick/tile inclusions; 0.90m+ natural geology. Some modern drains observed [Pl. 2]
28	18.50	1.50-1.60	1.00	SW-NE	0-0.05m rounded and sub-rounded pebbles; 0.05-0.40m made ground with frequent concrete slabs and demolition debris, thicker towards south; 0.40-0.90m light to mid grey clay or silty clay with rare brick/tile inclusions; 0.90m+ natural geology. Some modern drains observed
29	25.00	1.50-1.60	0.45	WSW-ENE	0-0.25m topsoil; 0.25-0.45m subsoil, >0.45m geology but heavily disturbance in ENE half, probably due to the house construction and services. [Pl. 3]
30	23.10	1.50-1.60	0.45	WSW-ENE	0-0.25m topsoil; 0.25-0.40m subsoil; 0.45m+ natural geology. Victorian/Modern linear feature seen at 2.50m from east-north-east end. Continued in trench 31. [Pl. 4]
31	20.20	1.50-1.60	0.45	SW-NE	0-0.25m topsoil; 0.25-0.45m subsoil; 0.45m+ natural geology. Continuation of linear feature seen in trench 30.
32	24.90	1.50-1.60	0.46	W-E, slightly curved	0-0.26m topsoil; 0.26-0.45m subsoil; 0.45m+ geology. Victorian/Modern linear observed at 3m from east end, aligned NNE-SSW.
35	21.70	1.50-1.60	0.70	SSE-NNW	0-0.05m topsoil/sludge; 0.05-0.30m compact made ground with frequent small stones and gravel inclusions, crushed Tarmac mixed in dark brown silt; 0.30-0.60m mid grey clay; 0.60m+ natural geology. Modern deposits in first 5 metres south of the trench truncating the geology.
39	13.00	1.50-1.60	0.55	WSW-ENE	0-0.15m topsoil; 0.15-0.45m subsoil; 0.45m+ natural geology
40	13.00	1.50-1.60	0.75	SW-NE	0-0.15m topsoil; 0.15-0.60m subsoil; 0.60m+ natural geology



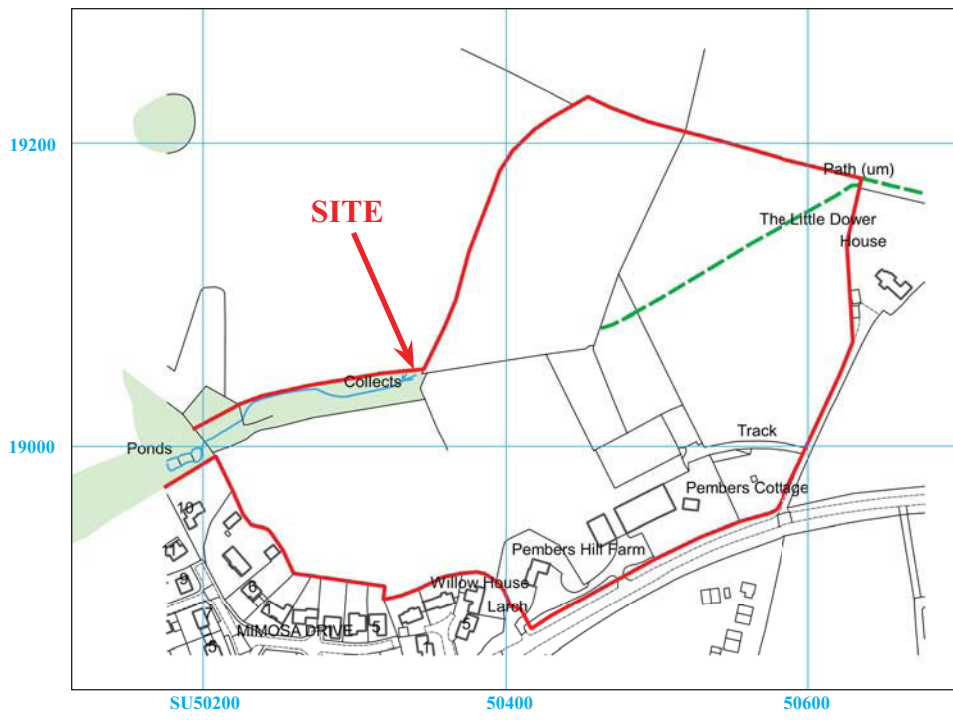
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Figure 1. Location of site within Fair Oak and Hampshire.

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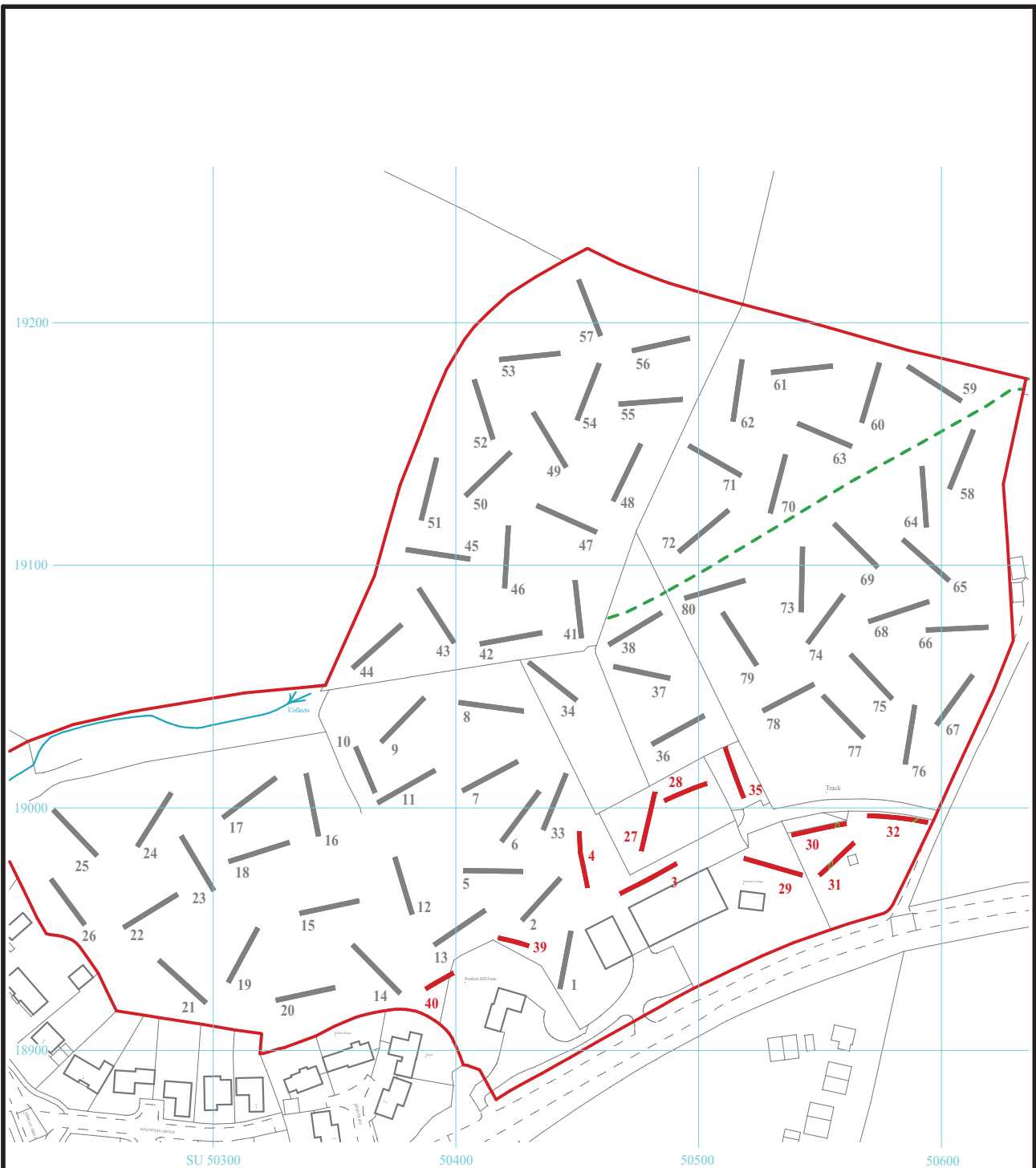


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Figure 2. Detailed location of site off Mortimers Lane.

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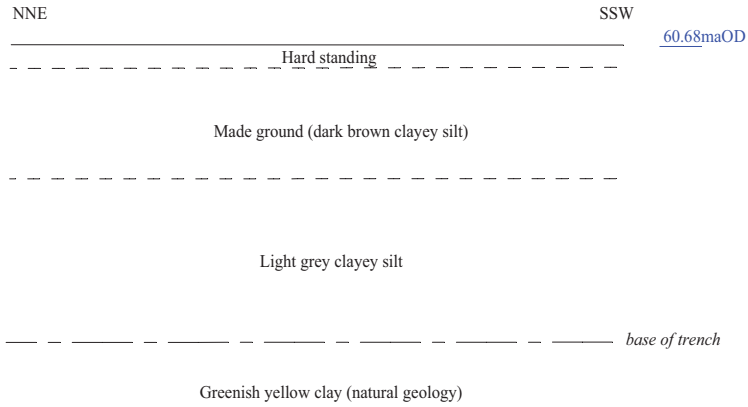
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Figure 3. Locations of trenches within site (Phase 2 - red).

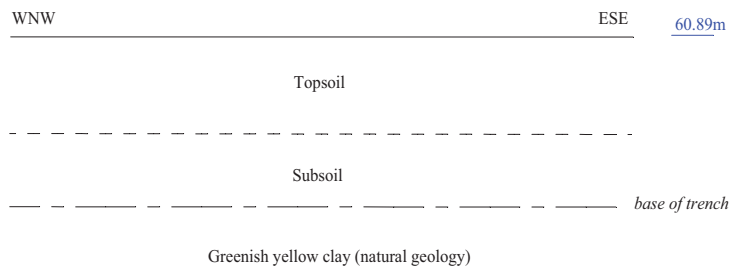


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Trench 27



Trench 29



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Figure 4. Representative sections.



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Plate 1. Trench 3, looking south west, Scales: 1m x2.



Plate 2. Trench 27, looking south west, Scales: 1m x2.

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**Land at Pembers Hill Farm, Mortimers Lane, Fair Oak,
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Plates 1 and 2.**

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Plate 3. Trench 29, looking north west, Scales: 1m x2.



Plate 4. Trench 30, looking south west, Scales: 1m x2.

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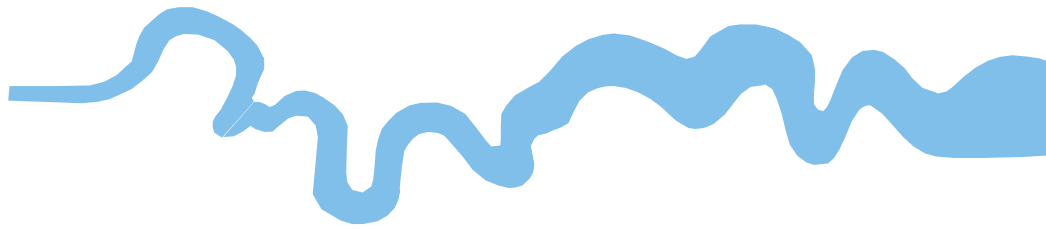
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Plates 3 and 4.**

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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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