

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

ARCHAEOLOGICAL

S E R V I C E S

**Access Road, Land at North West Horton Heath,
Eastleigh, Hampshire**

Archaeological Evaluation

by Andy Taylor and Will Attard

Site Code: HHE20/08

(SU 4860 1760)

Access Road, Land at North West Horton Heath, Eastleigh, Hampshire

**An Archaeological Evaluation
for Eastleigh Borough Council**

by Andy Taylor and Will Attard
Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code HHE 20/08

February 2020

Summary

Site name: Access Road, Land at North West Horton Heath, Eastleigh, Hampshire

Grid reference: SU 4860 1760

Site activity: Evaluation

Date and duration of project: 4th-6th February 2020

Project coordinator: Tim Dawson

Site supervisor: Will Attard and Andy Taylor

Site code: HHE 20/08

Area of site: c. 0.85 ha

Summary of results: Three linear features were identified. One was undated, one of uncertain date (possibly prehistoric or medieval) and the other medieval.

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.

*This report may be copied for bona fide research or planning purposes without the explicit permission of the copyright holder. All TVAS unpublished fieldwork reports are available on our website:
www.tvas.co.uk/reports/reports.asp.*

Report edited/checked by:	Steve Ford ✓ 13.02.20
	Steve Preston ✓ 12.02.20

Access Road, Land at North West Horton Heath, Eastleigh, Hampshire An Archaeological Evaluation

by Andy Taylor and Will Attard

Report 20/08

Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological field evaluation carried out on an Access Road, Land at North West Horton Heath, Eastleigh, Hampshire (SU 4860 1760) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Mr Bob Spokes for Eastleigh Borough Council.

A planning consent (app X/19/86303) has been gained from Eastleigh Borough Council to develop a 25 hectare parcel of land (excluding woodland). This section of the development concerns the area of just under 1ha for an access road. The consent includes a condition (17) relating to archaeology. As a consequence of the possibility of archaeological deposits on the site which may be damaged or destroyed by proposed -development of the site, a field evaluation has been requested, as detailed in the *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF 2010), and the Council's policies on archaeology. This is to determine the archaeological potential of the site and to help formulate a mitigation strategy as necessary.

This is in accordance with the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government's *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF 2019), and the Borough Council's policies on archaeology. The field investigation was carried out to a specification approved by Mr Neil Adam, Senior Archaeologist with Hampshire County Council, advisers to the Borough on matters relating to archaeology. The fieldwork was undertaken by Will Attard and Andy Taylor with Cosmo Bacon, Dan Neal and Michael Paine between 4th and 6th February 2020. 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 part of an open field which lies on the western margins of Horton Heath, which itself lies c.7.5km east of Eastleigh, Hampshire (Fig. 1). The area is bounded by Allington Lane on its northern and western side with open field to the east and south. The underlying geology is mapped as Wittering Formation (BGS 1987), which consisted of sandy clay and was observed in all the trenches. The site lies at a height of

c.25m above Ordnance Datum at the northern end, and sloping down southwards to a height of c.17m aOD in the valley of an unnamed stream fed from Quobleigh Pond to the east of the site.

Archaeological background

The site lies within the Hampshire basin formed by outcrops of tertiary geology not noted for their high density of archaeological deposits. These geologies are also rarely suited for prospection by geophysics or aerial photography in contrast to the nearby archaeologically rich Hampshire chalkland. Relatively few finds have come to light from small scale observations or chance finds. There are no known heritage assets recorded for the site itself but there are a number of post-medieval listed buildings recorded in the county Historic Environment Record (HER) for the area and which may indicate a much fuller use of the landscape going back into late Medieval times. The HER records few items prior to post-Medieval times nearby. A collection of Mesolithic flintwork was found to the south-west of the site with other Mesolithic finds to the north-west and south-east. A prehistoric enclosure is reported to the south-west of the site with Medieval finds to the west.

Recent survey fieldwork has, however, begun to demonstrate that these outcrops are not so archaeologically barren, with prehistoric and Roman sites being discovered. At Hatch Farm, Eastleigh, Middle Iron Age occupation has been discovered (Taylor 2020) with further Iron Age occupation at Bedhampton (Bray and Platt 2017). At Stubbington, near Havant fieldwork in advance a new road revealed Roman enclosure and settlement with some Iron Age activity (Manisse 2020). The large size of the overall development site suggests that there is an increased likelihood of finding archaeological sites simply by chance.

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 required

For the access road area, 11 trenches were to be dug measuring 25m long and 2m wide. These were dug using a 360° type machine fitted with a toothless grading bucket. This was done under constant archaeological supervision and all spoilheaps were monitored for finds.

Results

All 11 trenches were dug as close as possible to their intended locations (Fig. 2) measuring 1.80m wide and between 20.50m and 31.30m long and between 0.34m and 0.69m deep. A complete list of trenches giving lengths, breadths, depths and a description of sections and geology is given in Appendix 1. The excavated features are summarized in Appendix 2.

Trench 1 (Figs 3 and 4; Pl. 1)

This trench was aligned E-W and measured 20.50m long and 0.67m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.39m of topsoil overlying 0.28m of subsoil overlying clay natural geology. A gully was observed at the western end of the trench into which a slot [1] was dug measuring 0.31m wide and 0.09m deep. Its light brown grey sandy clay fill (52) did not contain any dating evidence.

Trench 2

This trench was aligned NE-SW and measured 28.50m long and 0.49m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.32m of topsoil overlying 0.17m of subsoil overlying clay natural geology.

Trench 3

This trench was aligned E-W and measured 23.40m long and 0.59m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.23m of topsoil overlying 0.46m of subsoil overlying clay natural geology.

Trench 4

This trench was aligned N-S and measured 27.40m long and 0.63m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.29m of topsoil overlying 0.34m of subsoil overlying clay natural geology.

Trench 5

This trench was aligned N-S and measured 21.60m long and 0.51m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.27m of topsoil overlying 0.24m of subsoil overlying clay natural geology.

Trench 6

This trench was aligned N-S and measured 25.40m long and 0.59m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.24m of topsoil overlying 0.35m of subsoil overlying clay natural geology.

Trench 7

This trench was aligned NE-SW and measured 23.90m long and 0.53m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.23m of topsoil overlying 0.30m of subsoil overlying clay natural geology. Two possible linear features were investigated in this trench, and determined to be plough furrows.

Trench 8

This trench was aligned NE-SW and measured 25.60m long and 0.34m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.34m of topsoil overlying clay natural geology.

Trench 9 (Figs 3 and 4; Pl. 2)

This trench was aligned close to N-S and measured 25.30m long and 0.59m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.25m of topsoil overlying 0.34m of subsoil overlying clay natural geology. A linear feature was observed between 2.80m and 4m from the north end of the trench into which a slot [2] was dug measuring 1.16m wide and 0.11m deep. Its light blue grey sandy clay fill (53) did not produce any finds. After excavation it was deemed likely that this was a furrow.

Trench 10 (Figs 3 and 4; Pl. 3)

This trench was aligned approximately WNW-ESE and measured 31.30m long and 0.56m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.30m of topsoil overlying 0.26m of subsoil overlying clay natural geology. A gully was observed between 5.40m and 7.10m into which a slot [3] was dug measuring 0.65m wide and 0.25m deep. Its light yellow grey sandy clay fill (54) contained two small sherds of pottery, likely to be of medieval date.

Trench 11 (Figs 3 and 4; Pl. 4)

This trench was aligned approximately WNW-ESE and measured 31.30m long and 0.46m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.30m of topsoil overlying 0.16m of subsoil overlying clay natural geology. At the NW end a ditch was observed into which a slot [4] was dug measuring 1.30m wide and 0.20m deep. Its light grey yellow fill (55) contained two sherds of medieval pottery.

Finds

Pottery by Andy Taylor

Four small sherds of pottery were recovered from two separate features. Gully 3 contained two very abraded body sherd of flint gritted pottery. It is well fired and likely to be medieval. Ditch 4 containing two small sherd of medieval whiteware, the exterior both of which had patches of light green glaze.

Macrobotanical Remains by Jo Pine

A total of three samples were processed from the deposits encountered during the evaluation. The samples were wet sieved to 0.25mm and air dried. The flots were examined under a low-power binocular microscope at magnifications between x10 and x40. No charred plant remains or charcoal were recovered.

Conclusion

Eleven trenches were excavated as intended. The majority of the trenches contained nothing of archaeological interest. Apart from plough furrows, only three features of potential archaeological significance were identified, two gullies and a wide, shallow ditch. Based on small amounts of pottery recovered these are likely to be medieval in date.

References

- BGS, 1987, *British Geological Survey*, 1:50,000, Sheet 315, Solid and Drift Edition, Keyworth
- Bray, D and Platt, D, 2017, 'Iron Age occupation at Scratchface Lane, Bedhampton, Havant' in D Bray, J McNicoll-Norbury, J, Pine, D Platt, D Sanchez, and S Wallis, *Archaeological Excavations in Hampshire: Sites in Bedhampton, Hilsea, Southampton, Whitchurch and Wickham*, TVAS Occas Pap **20**, Reading, 1–12
- Manisse, P, 2020, 'Late Iron Age and Roman settlement at Peak Lane on the Stubbington Bypass, Fareham, Hampshire', in P Manisse and A Taylor, *Iron Age and Roman Occupation in the Hampshire Basin: Archaeological Investigations at Netley, Eastleigh and Stubbington, 2017–2019*, TVAS TVAS Occas Pap **40**, Reading
- NPPF, 2019, *National Planning Policy Framework (revised)*, Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government, London
- Taylor, A, 2020, 'Middle Iron Age Enclosure at Hatch Farm, West End, Eastleigh, Hampshire', in P Manisse and A Taylor, *Iron Age and Roman Occupation in the Hampshire Basin: Archaeological Investigations at Netley, Eastleigh and Stubbington, 2017–2019*, TVAS TVAS Occas Pap **40**, Reading

APPENDIX 1: Trench details

0m at S or W end

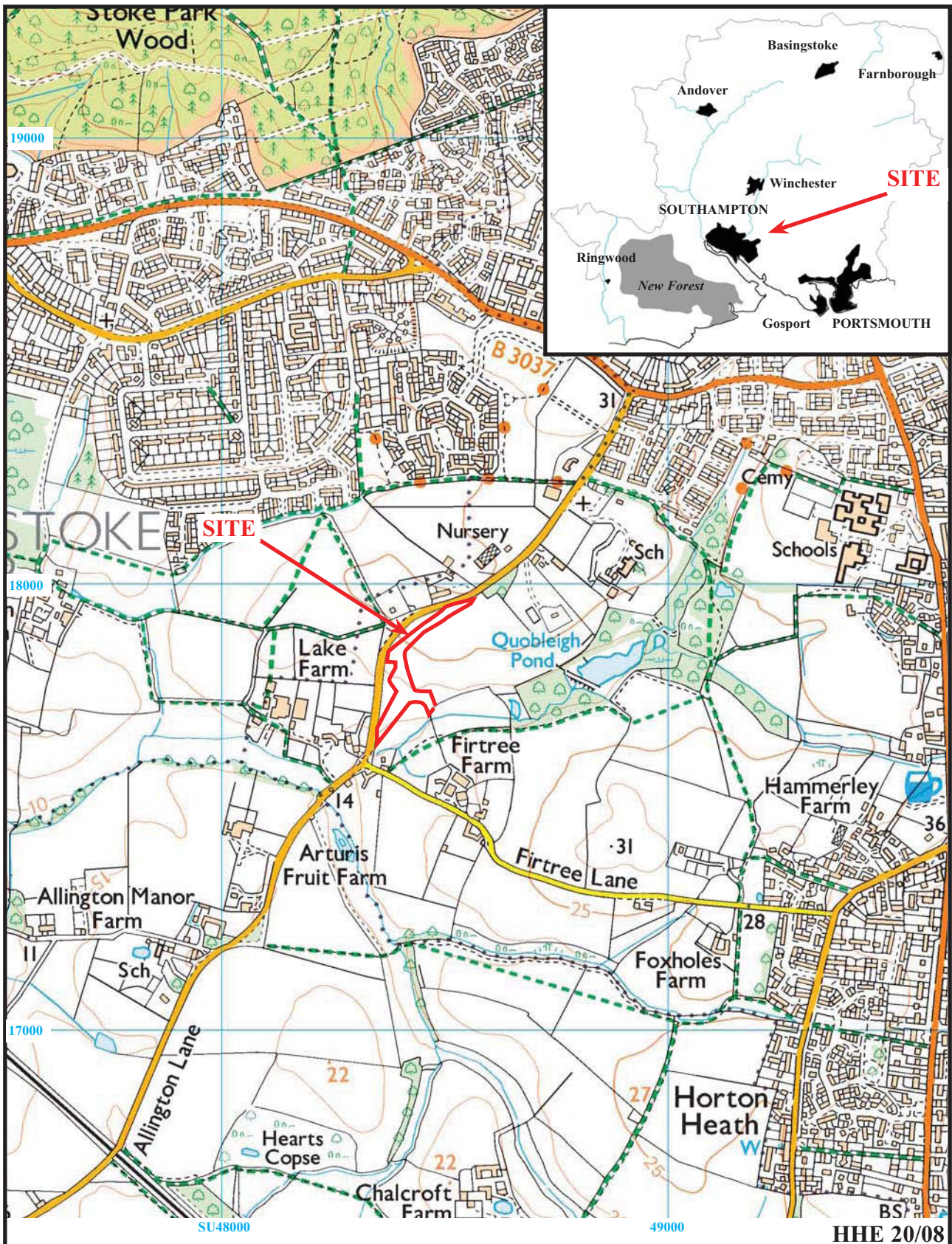
<i>Trench</i>	<i>Length (m)</i>	<i>Breadth (m)</i>	<i>Depth (m)</i>	<i>Comment</i>
1	20.50	1.60	0.67	0-0.39m topsoil; 0.39m-0.67m subsoil; 0.67m+ clay natural geology. Gully 1. PI. 1
2	28.50	1.60	0.49	0-0.32m topsoil; 0.32m-0.49m subsoil; 0.49m+ clay natural geology.
3	23.40	1.60	0.69	0-0.23m topsoil; 0.23m-0.69m subsoil; 0.69m+ clay natural geology.
4	27.40	1.60	0.63	0-0.29m topsoil; 0.29m-0.63m subsoil; 0.63m+ clay natural geology.
5	21.60	1.60	0.51	0-0.27m topsoil; 0.27m-0.51m subsoil; 0.51m+ clay natural geology.
6	25.40	1.60	0.59	0-0.24m topsoil; 0.24m-0.59m subsoil; 0.59m+ clay natural geology.
7	23.90	1.60	0.53	0-0.23m topsoil; 0.23m-0.53m subsoil; 0.53m+ clay natural geology.
8	25.60	1.60	0.34	0-0.34m topsoil; 0.34m+ clay natural geology.
9	25.30	1.60	0.59	0-0.25m topsoil; 0.25m-0.59m+ clay natural geology. Furrow 2. PI. 2
10	31.30	1.60	0.56	0-0.30m topsoil; 0.30m-0.56m subsoil; 0.56m+ clay natural geology. Gully 3. PI. 3
11	31.30	1.60	0.46	0-0.30m topsoil; 0.30m-0.46m subsoil; 0.46m+ clay natural geology. Ditch 4. PI. 4

APPENDIX 2: Feature details

<i>Trench</i>	<i>Cut</i>	<i>Fill (s)</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Dating evidence</i>
1	1	52	Gully	-	-
9	2	53	Furrow	-	-
10	3	54	Gully	Medieval	Pottery
11	4	55	Ditch	Medieval	Pottery

APPENDIX 3: Catalogue of Pottery

<i>Trench</i>	<i>Cut</i>	<i>Fill</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Wt (g)</i>
10	3	54	2	4
11	4	55	2	4



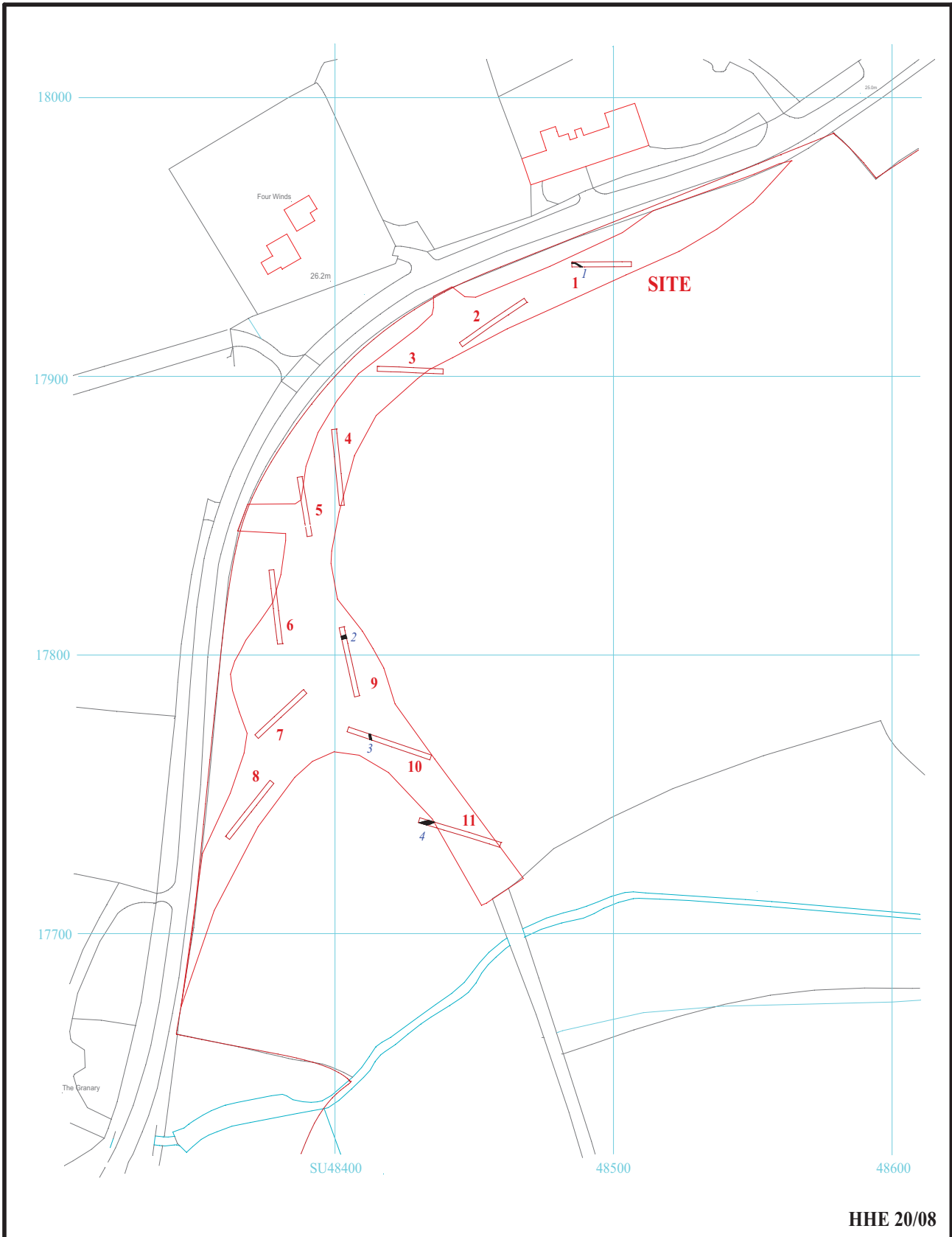
**Access Road, Land at North-West
Horton Heath, Eastleigh, Hampshire, 2020
Archaeological Evaluation**

Figure 1. Location of site in relation to Horton Heath and
wintin Hampshire.

Reproduced under licence from Ordnance Survey Explorer Digital mapping at 1:12500
Crown Copyright reserved

THAMES VALLEY
ARCHAEOLOGICAL
SERVICES

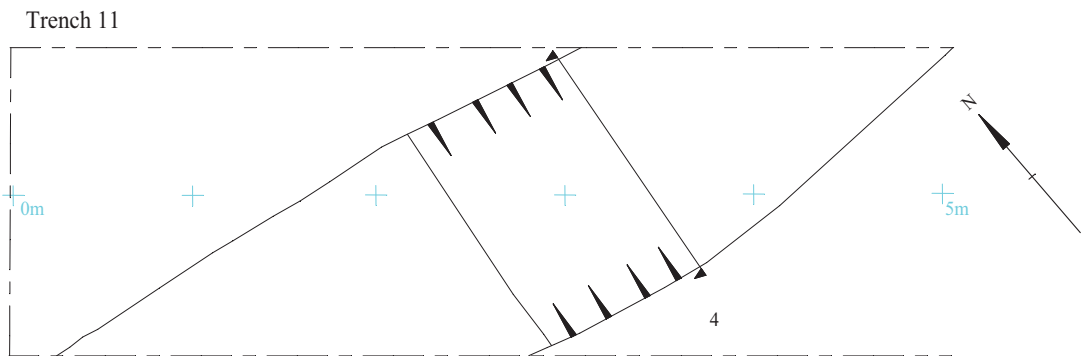
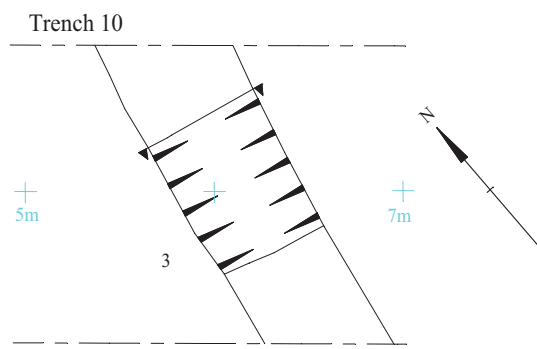
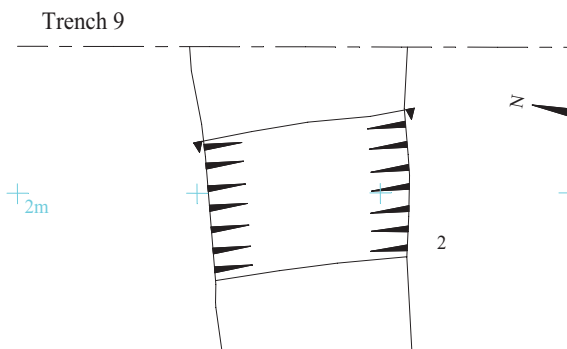
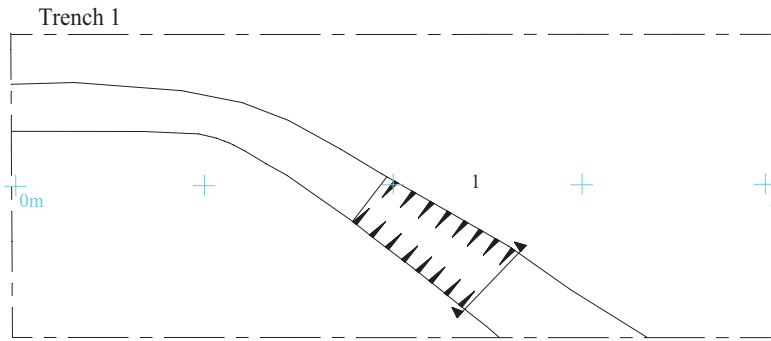
HHE 20/08



**Access Road, Land at North West
Horton Heath, Eastleigh, Hampshire, 2020
Archaeological Evaluation**

Figure 2. Location of trenches.





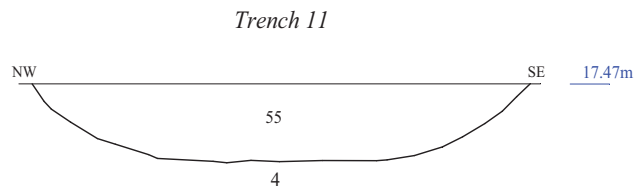
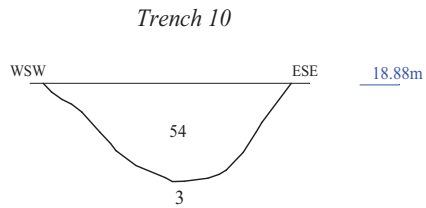
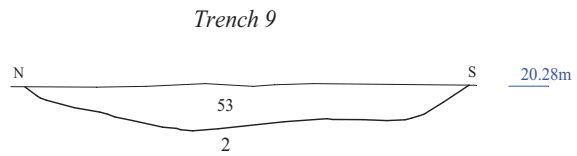
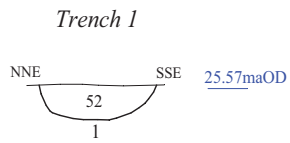
HHE 20/08

**Access Road, Land at North West
Horton Heath, Eastleigh, Hampshire, 2020
Archaeological Evaluation**

Figure 3. Location of trenches.



THAMES VALLEY
ARCHAEOLOGICAL
SERVICES



HHE 20/08

**Access Road, Land at North West
Horton Heath, Eastleigh, Hampshire, 2020
Archaeological Evaluation**

Figure 4. Sections.



THAMES VALLEY
ARCHAEOLOGICAL
SERVICES



Plate 1. Trench 1, looking South East, Scales: 2m and 1m.



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

HHE 20/08

**Access Road, Land at North West
Horton Heath, Eastleigh, Hampshire, 2020
Archaeological Evaluation
Plates 1 and 2.**

THAMES VALLEY
ARCHAEOLOGICAL
SERVICES



Plate 3. Trench 10, ditch 3, looking North West, Scales: 0.5m and 0.1m.



Plate 4. Trench 11, ditch 11, looking North East, Scales: 1m and 0.1m.

HHE 20/08

**Access Road, Land at North West
Horton Heath, Eastleigh, Hampshire, 2020
Archaeological Evaluation
Plates 3 and 4.**

THAMES VALLEY
ARCHAEOLOGICAL
SERVICES