

T H A M E S      V A L L E Y

ARCHAEOLOGICAL

S E R V I C E S

**Penns Field, Heathfield Road,  
Petersfield, Hampshire**

**Archaeological Evaluation**

**by Kyle Beaverstock**

**Site Code: PFP20/54**

**(SU 7631 2348)**

# **Penns Field, Heathfield Road, Petersfield, Hampshire**

**An Archaeological Evaluation  
for Kebbel Development Limited**

by Kyle Beaverstock

Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code PFP20/54

**May 2020**

## Summary

**Site name:** Penns Field, Heathfield Road, Petersfield, Hampshire

**Grid reference:** SU 7631 2348

**Site activity:** Evaluation

**Date and duration of project:** 27<sup>th</sup> April to 7<sup>th</sup> May 2020

**Project coordinator:** Tim Dawson

**Site supervisor:** Kyle Beaverstock

**Site code:** PFP20/54

**Area of site:** c. 2.7ha

**Summary of results:** The archaeological evaluation revealed a small number of deposits of possible archaeological interest. These comprised linear features (ditches and gullies) which provided no dating evidence despite additional sampling. It is considered likely that these are agricultural features possibly of post-medieval date. A number of geophysical anomalies were also targeted but were not found to be of archaeological interest but likely to be of geological or agricultural origin. On the basis of these results, the site is considered to have very low 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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[www.tvas.co.uk/reports/reports.asp](http://www.tvas.co.uk/reports/reports.asp).*

Report edited/checked by: Steve Ford ✓ 20.05.20 Steve Preston ✓ 20.05.20
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# **Penns Field, Heathfield Road, Petersfield, Hampshire An Archaeological Evaluation**

by Kyle Beaverstock

**Report 20/54c**

## **Introduction**

This report documents the results of an archaeological field evaluation carried out at Penns Field, Heathfield Road, Petersfield, Hampshire (SU 7631 2348) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Chris Pickering of Fluid Architecture Limited, Orlingbury House, Lewes Road, Forest Row, East Sussex, RH18 5AA on behalf of Kebbell Development Limited, Kebbell House, 21 London End, Beaconsfield, Buckinghamshire, HP9 2HN.

Planning permission (SDNP/15/06484/FUL) has been gained from the South Downs National Park Authority to redevelop the site for residential housing. The consent is subject to two planning conditions (10 and 11) relating to archaeology and the historic environment. This is in accordance with the *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF 2019), and the National Parks policies on archaeology. The field investigation was carried out to a specification approved by David Hopkins, Lead Archaeologist for Hampshire County Council and advisor to South Downs National Park on archaeological matters. The fieldwork was undertaken by Kyle Beaverstock, Odile Rouard and Virginia Fuentes-Mateos and the site code is PFP20/54. The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited with Hampshire Cultural Trust in due course.

## **Location, topography and geology**

The site is located to the east of Petersfield 430m southwest of the the River Rother and 1.1km northeast of Heath Pond (Fig. 1). The site is bounded by residential property to the west and south Tilmore Brook to the northwest and recreational playing fields to the east. This L-shaped parcel of land is a relatively flat open parkland sitting at a height of c.54m above Ordinance Datum. The underlying geology is stated as River Terrace Deposits (BGS 1999).

## **Archaeological background**

The archaeological potential of the site was highlighted in a briefing document produced in 2016 by the archaeological officers of Hampshire County Council (Hannah Fluck and David Hopkins). This concluded that

the site, due to its location a few hundred metres to the north-east of the Scheduled Ancient Monument of Petersfield Heath Barrow Cemetery (a site of national significance), it is possible that Bronze Age remains will be encountered. It may also suggest that earlier activity took place on the site, such as Mesolithic or Neolithic. Bronze Age barrows were important landmarks in the landscape and were usually respected (sometimes even re-used) by Iron Age, Roman and Saxon people, indicating that there is a possibility for archaeology from later periods to be present as well. A number of Mesolithic flint working sites have been identified in the area, particularly in the vicinity of streams. A geophysical survey was conducted on the site (Beaverstock 2020) which detected a number of anomalies including a possible ring gully and an area of burning, these were to be subsequently investigated.

## **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 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.

To inform a strategy for mitigation if required

It was proposed to dig 24 trenches, 25m long and 1.6m wide. These were to be dug using a 360<sup>o</sup>-type machine fitted with a toothless ditching bucket and under constant archaeological supervision. Any features were to be cleaned excavated and recorded using the appropriate hand tools.

## **Results**

Most trenches were dug as intended with some slight alteration to trench 13 to avoid a public right of way. They ranged in length from 22m to 28m and in depth from 0.46 to 0.75m. 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 2 and 5)

Trench 1 was aligned SE - NW and was 25.2m long and 0.48m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.18m of topsoil and 0.26m subsoil overlying natural geology. No finds or features were found.

Trench 2 (Figs 2 and 5)

Trench 2 was aligned SW - NE and was 25.1m long and 0.63m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.26m of topsoil and 0.3m subsoil overlying natural geology. No finds or features were found.

Trench 3 (Figs 2 and 5)

Trench 3 was aligned SE - NW and was 26.1m long and 0.57m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.19m of topsoil and 0.33m subsoil overlying natural geology. No finds or features were found.

Trench 4 (Figs 2, 3, 4 and 5)

Trench 4 was aligned E - W and was 25m long and 0.63m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.18m of topsoil and 0.26m subsoil overlying natural geology. A ditch measuring 1.55m wide and 0.41m deep and orientated NW - SE, the ditch which contained a single fill (57) consisting of a mid yellowish brown silty sand. No finds were recovered.

Trench 5 (Figs 2 and 5)

Trench 5 was aligned E - W and was 25.2m long and 0.75m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.26m of topsoil and 0.43m subsoil overlying natural geology. No finds or features were found.

Trench 6 (Figs 2 and 5)

Trench 6 was aligned SE - NW and was 25.6m long and 0.56m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.28m of topsoil and 0.28m subsoil overlying natural geology. No finds or features were found.

Trench 7 (Figs 2 and 5)

Trench 7 was aligned SSE - NNW and was 25.2m long and 0.56m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.2m of topsoil and 0.36m subsoil overlying natural geology. No finds or features were found.

Trench 8 (Figs 2 and 5)

Trench 8 was aligned SE - NW and was 24.9m long and 0.6m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.24m of topsoil and 0.36m subsoil overlying natural geology. No finds or features were found.

Trench 9 (Figs 2, 3, 4 and 5; Pl. 5)

Trench 9 was aligned SE - NW and was 26m long and 0.74m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.35m of topsoil and 0.39m subsoil overlying natural geology. A ditch (5) measuring 0.74m wide and 0.34m deep and orientated SE - NW and containing a mid greyish brown silty sand (56). A 20 L sample was taken and the feature was fully excavated, however no finds were recovered.

Trench 10 (Figs 2 and 5)

Trench 10 was aligned SE - NW and was 25m long and 0.46m deep and was targeted at a geophysical anomaly. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.26m of topsoil and 0.2m subsoil overlying natural geology. No finds or features were found. The geophysical anomaly was most likely caused by modern burning seen within the topsoil during excavation of the trench.

Trench 11 (Figs 2 and 5)

Trench 11 was aligned SW - NE and was 24.8m long and 0.56m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.28m of topsoil and 0.28m subsoil overlying natural geology. No finds or features were found.

Trench 12 (Figs 2 and 5; Pl. 4)

Trench 12 was aligned NNW - SSE and was 25.4m long and 0.66m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.28m of topsoil and 0.38m subsoil overlying natural geology. No finds or features were found.

Trench 13 (Figs 2 and 5)

Trench 13 was aligned SSW - NNE and was 25.4m long and 0.68m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.3m of topsoil and 0.38m subsoil overlying natural geology. No finds or features were found.

Trench 14 (Figs 2, 3, 4 and 5; Pl. 1)

Trench 14 was aligned SE - NW and was 26.2m long and 0.7m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.3m of topsoil and 0.4m subsoil overlying natural geology. A ditch running NW - SE was uncovered and two slots were dug into it. The first (1) measured 0.5m wide and 0.1m deep and contained a single fill (52) consisting of a mid greyish brown clay sand. A second slot (2) measuring 0.55m wide and 0.14m deep and containing a mid greyish brown clay sand (53). A 40l sample was taken and the feature was fully excavated, however despite this no finds were recovered.

Trench 15 (Figs 2, 3, 4 and 5; Pl. 6)

Trench 15 was aligned SE - NW and was 26.1m long and 0.6m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.3m of topsoil and 0.3m subsoil overlying natural geology. A ditch (3) orientated N - S and measuring 1m wide and 0.3m deep and containing a single fill (56) consisted of a mid brown grey silty sand. A 20l sample was taken and the feature was fully excavated however no finds were recovered.

Trench 16 (Figs 2 and 5; Pl. 3)

Trench 16 was aligned SE - NW and was 24.5m long and 0.7m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.4m of topsoil and 0.3m subsoil overlying natural geology. No finds or features were found.

Trench 17 (Figs 2, 3, 4 and 5)

Trench 17 was aligned N - S and was 25.3m long and 0.7m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.3m of topsoil and 0.4m subsoil overlying natural geology. A possible pit/tree throw (4) was recorded, it measured 0.41m in diameter and 0.18m deep, it contained a single fill (55) which consisted of a dark brown grey silty sand and was fully excavated however no finds were recovered. The feature appeared to be heavily rooted with evidence of undercutting suggesting it may be a tree throw.

Trench 18 (Figs 2 and 5)

Trench 18 was aligned W - E and was 26m long and 0.75m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.4m of topsoil and 0.35m subsoil overlying natural geology. No finds or features were found.

Trench 19 (Figs 2 and 5; Pl. 2)

Trench 19 was aligned SE - NW and was 26.2m long and 0.65m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.38m of topsoil and 0.27m subsoil overlying natural geology. No finds or features were found.

Trench 20 (Figs 2 and 5)

Trench 20 was aligned W - E and was 25m long and 0.58m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.4m of topsoil and 0.18m subsoil overlying natural geology. No finds or features were found.

Trench 21 (Figs 2 and 5)

Trench 21 was aligned S - N and was 28m long and 0.72m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.4m of topsoil and 0.32m subsoil overlying natural geology. No finds or features were found.



#### Trench 22 (Figs 2 and 5)

Trench 22 was aligned NW - SE and was 22m long and 0.68m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.42m of topsoil and 0.26m subsoil overlying natural geology. No finds or features were found.

#### Trench 23 (Figs 2 and 5)

Trench 23 was aligned SW - NE and was 24m long and 0.9m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.52m of topsoil and 0.38m subsoil overlying natural geology. No finds or features were found.

#### Trench 24 (Figs 2 and 5)

Trench 24 was aligned SW - NE and was 26m long and 0.5m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.24m of topsoil and 0.26m subsoil overlying natural geology. No finds or features were found.

### **Finds and Soil Sampling**

No artefacts of archaeological interest were recovered during the course of the project and sieving of soil samples similarly recovered no artefacts nor charred plant remains.

### **Conclusion**

A number of features of possible archaeological interest were encountered over the course of the evaluation. These consisted mostly of linear features such as ditches with a single discrete feature of doubtful origin. These linear features contained no dating evidence so their precise date and usage is unknown but are likely to represent peripheral features such as field boundaries. There was also noticeable lack of artefacts such as pottery, struck flint animal bone or charcoal which would tend to indicate that they are not associated directly with nearby occupational deposits. A number of geophysical anomalies were also investigated targeted but were found to be of geological or agricultural origin. On the basis of these results, the site is considered to have very low archaeological potential.

### **References**

Beaverstock, K, 2020, Penns Field Heathfield Road, Petersfield, Hampshire, a Geophysical Survey (magnetic), Thames Valley Archaeological Services report 20/54c, Reading  
BGS, 1999, *British Geological Survey*, 1:50,000, Sheet 300, Solid and Drift Edition, Keyworth  
NPPF, 2019, *National Planning Policy Framework (revised)*, Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government, London

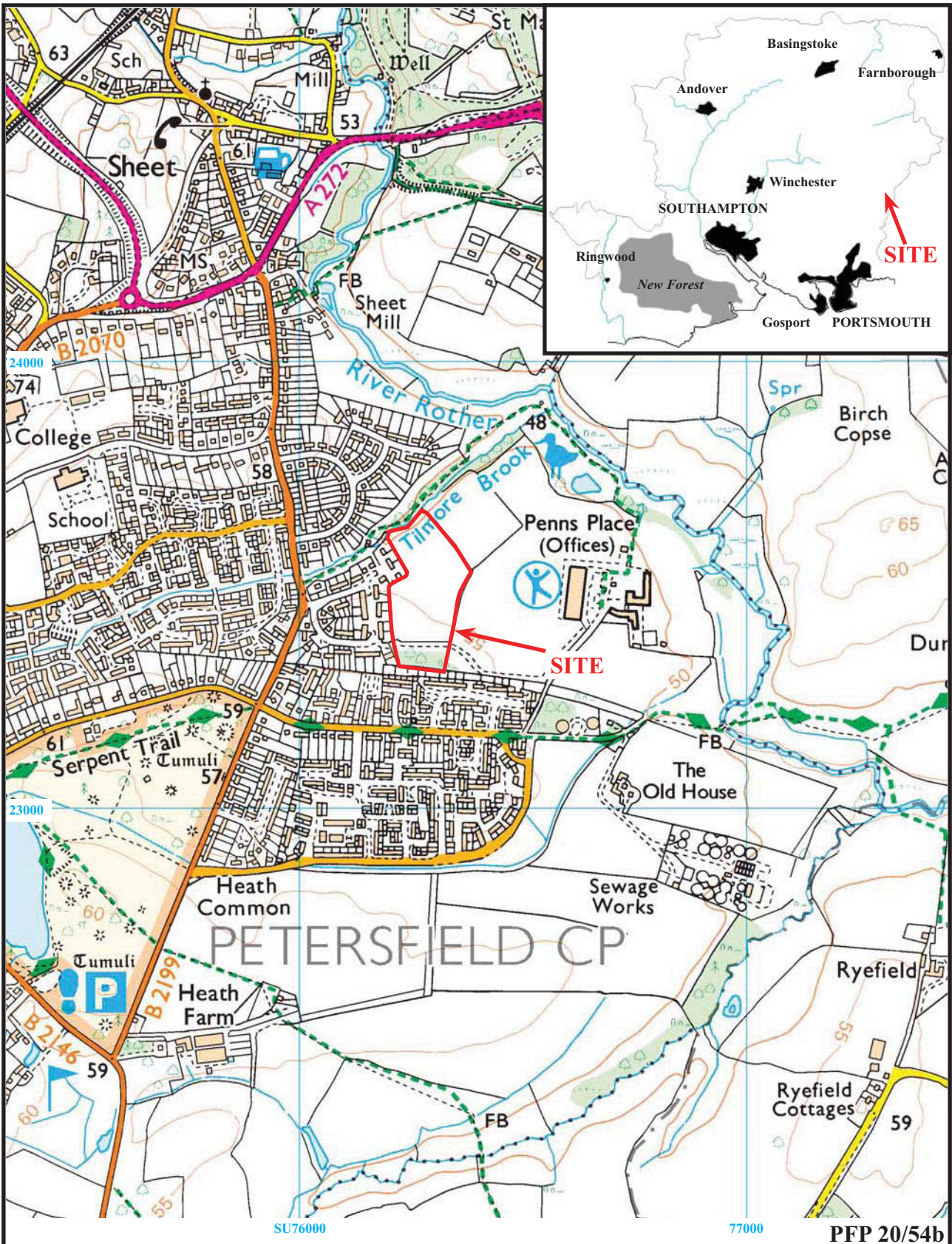
## APPENDIX 1: Trench details

0m at southern and western ends end

<i>Trench</i>	<i>Length (m)</i>	<i>Breadth (m)</i>	<i>Depth (m)</i>	<i>Comment</i>
1	25.2	1.8	0.48	0-0.18m of topsoil; 0.18-0.42m of a mid reddish brown subsoil; 0.42m+ of a pale greyish yellow silty sand natural geology
2	25.1	1.8	0.63	0-0.26m of topsoil; 0.26-0.56m of a mid reddish brown subsoil; 0.56m+ of a pale greyish yellow silty sand natural geology
3	26.1	1.8	0.57	0-0.19m of topsoil; 0.19-0.52m of a mid reddish brown subsoil; 0.52m+ of a pale greyish yellow silty sand natural geology
4	25	1.8	0.63	0-0.19m of topsoil; 0.19-0.56m of a mid reddish brown subsoil; 0.56m+ of a pale greyish yellow silty sand natural geology. Ditch [6]
5	25.2	1.8	0.75	0-0.26m of topsoil; 0.26-0.69m of a mid reddish brown subsoil; 0.69m+ of a pale greyish yellow silty sand natural geology
6	25.6	1.8	0.56	0-0.28m of topsoil; 0.28-0.56m of a mid reddish brown subsoil; 0.56m+ of a pale greyish yellow silty sand natural geology
7	25.2	1.8	0.56	0-0.2m of topsoil; 0.2-0.56m of a mid reddish brown subsoil; 0.56m+ of a pale greyish yellow silty sand natural geology
8	24.9	1.8	0.6	0-0.24m of topsoil; 0.24-0.6m of a mid reddish brown subsoil; 0.6m+ of a pale greyish yellow silty sand natural geology
9	26	1.8	0.74	0-0.35m of topsoil; 0.35-0.74m of a mid reddish brown subsoil; 0.74m+ of a pale greyish yellow silty sand natural geology. Ditch [5]
10	25	1.8	0.46	0-0.26m of topsoil; 0.26-0.46m of a mid reddish brown subsoil; 0.46m+ of a pale greyish yellow silty sand natural geology
11	24.8	1.8	0.56	0-0.28m of topsoil; 0.28-0.56m of a mid reddish brown subsoil; 0.56m+ of a pale greyish yellow silty sand natural geology
12	25.4	1.8	0.66	0-0.28m of topsoil; 0.28-0.66m of a mid reddish brown subsoil; 0.66m+ of a pale greyish yellow silty sand natural geology
13	25.4	1.8	0.68	0-0.3m of topsoil; 0.3-0.68m of a mid reddish brown subsoil; 0.68m+ of a pale greyish yellow silty sand natural geology
14	26.2	1.8	0.7	0-0.3m of topsoil; 0.3-0.7m of a mid reddish brown subsoil; 0.7m+ of a pale greyish yellow silty sand natural geology. Ditches [1] and [2]
15	26.1	1.8	0.6	0-0.3m of topsoil; 0.3-0.6m of a mid reddish brown subsoil; 0.6m+ of a pale greyish yellow silty sand natural geology. Ditch [3]
16	24.5	1.8	0.7	0-0.4m of topsoil; 0.4-0.7m of a mid reddish brown subsoil; 0.7m+ of a pale greyish yellow silty sand natural geology
17	25.3	1.8	0.7	0-0.3m of topsoil; 0.3-0.7m of a mid reddish brown subsoil; 0.7m+ of a pale greyish yellow silty sand. Pit/Treethrow [4]
18	26	1.8	0.75	0-0.4m of topsoil; 0.4-0.75m of a mid reddish brown subsoil; 0.75m+ of a pale greyish yellow silty sand natural geology
19	26.2	1.8	0.65	0-0.38m of topsoil; 0.38-0.65m of a mid reddish brown subsoil; 0.65m+ of a pale greyish yellow silty sand natural geology
20	25	1.8	0.58	0-0.4m of topsoil; 0.4-0.58m of a mid reddish brown subsoil; 0.58m+ of a pale greyish yellow silty sand natural geology
21	28	1.8	0.72	0-0.4m of topsoil; 0.4-0.72m of a mid reddish brown subsoil; 0.72m+ of a pale greyish yellow silty sand natural geology
22	22	1.8	0.68	0-0.42m of topsoil; 0.42-0.68m of a mid reddish brown subsoil; 0.68m+ of a pale greyish yellow silty sand natural geology
23	24	1.8	0.9	0-0.52m of topsoil; 0.52-0.9m of a mid reddish brown silty sand subsoil; 0.9m+ of a pale greyish yellow silty sand natural geology
24	26	1.8	0.5	0-0.24m of topsoil; 0.24-0.5m of a mid reddish brown subsoil; 0.5m+ of a pale greyish yellow silty sand 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>
14	1	52	Ditch	-	
14	2	53	Ditch	-	
15	3	54	Ditch	-	
17	4	55	Pit/Treethrow	-	
9	5	56	Ditch	-	
4	6	57	Ditch	-	

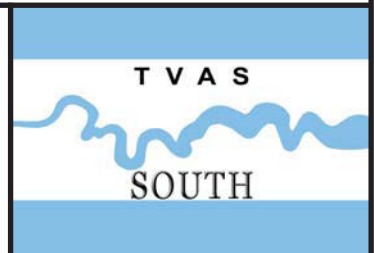


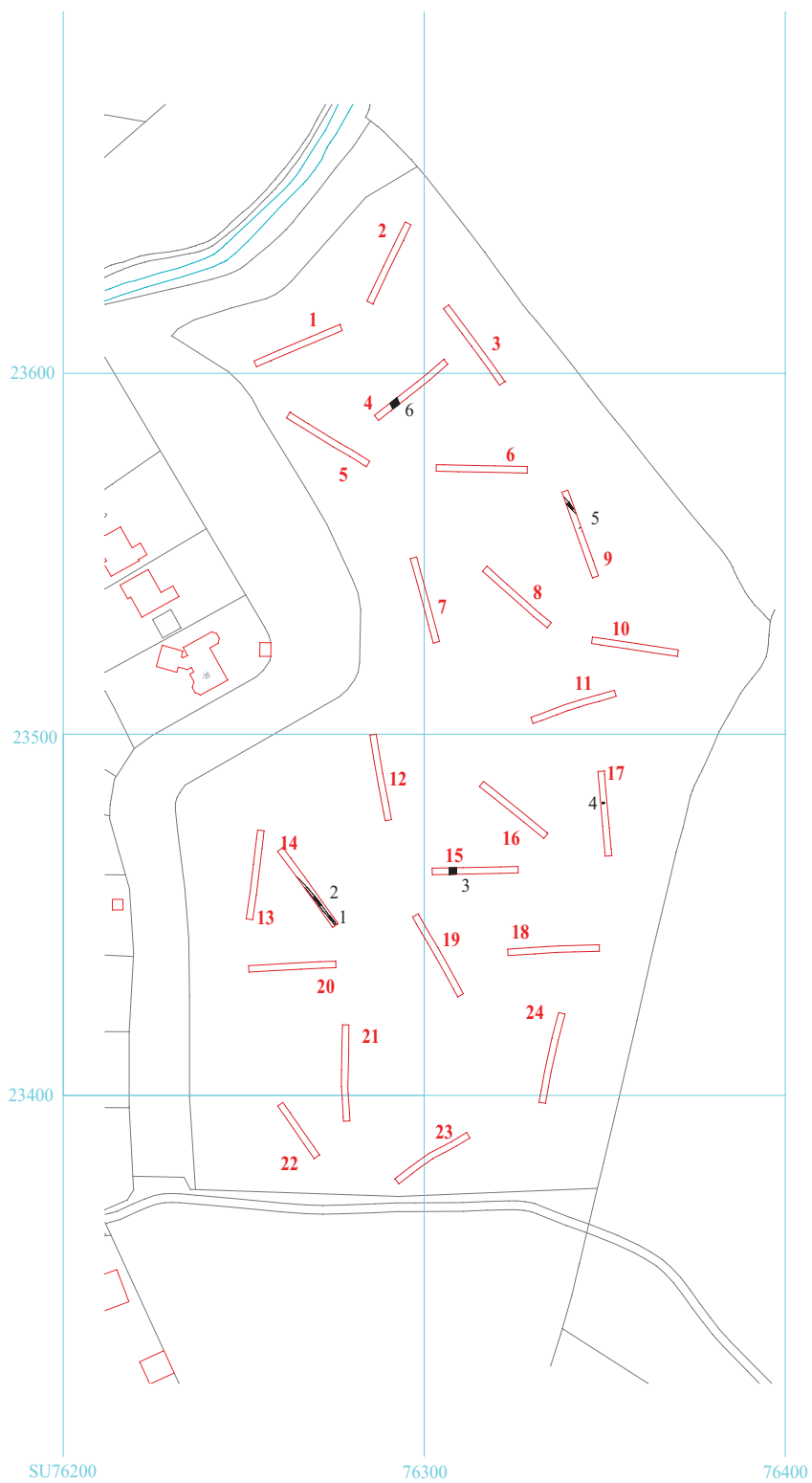
**Penn Field, Heathfield Road, Petersfield,  
Hampshire, 2020**

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Figure 1. Location of site within Petersfield and Hampshire.

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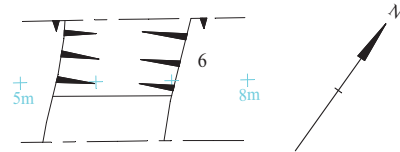
**Penn Field, Heathfield Road, Petersfield,  
Hampshire, 2020  
Archaeological Evaluation**

Figure 2. Location of trenches and features.

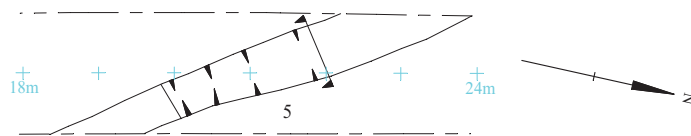


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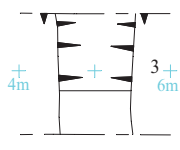
Trench 4



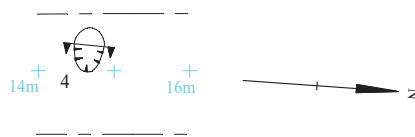
Trench 9



Trench 15

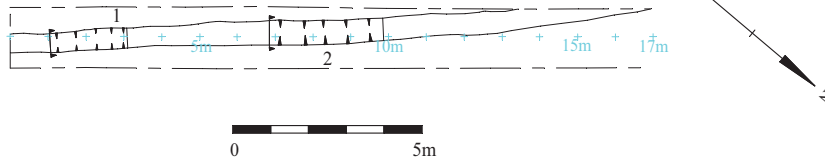


Trench 17



0                      5m  
only plans above

Trench 14



0                      5m

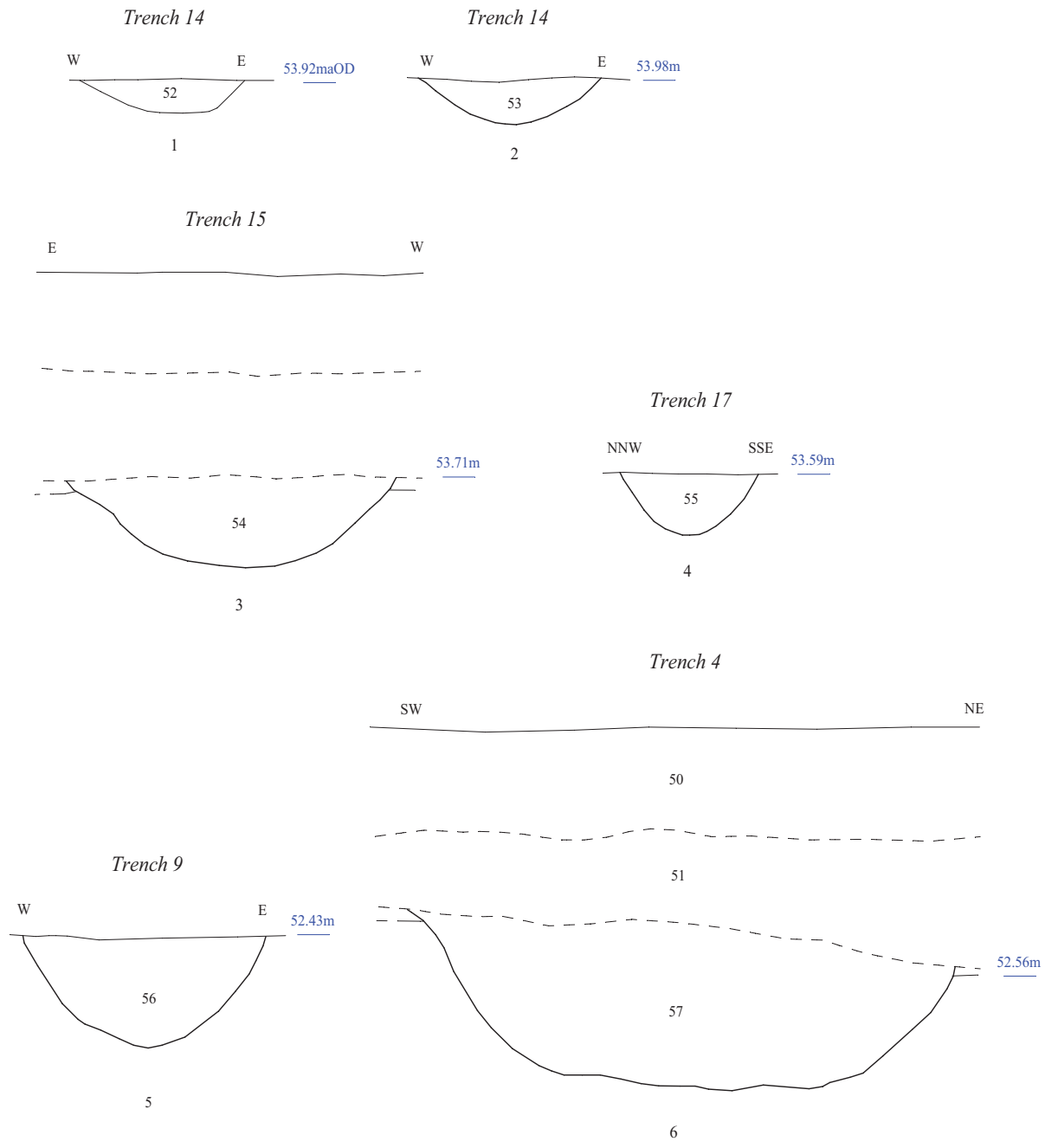
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Figure 3. Detail of trenches.

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Figure 4. Sections.



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Plate 1. Trench 19, looking NW, Scales: 2m, 1m and 0.5m.



Plate 2. Trench 14, looking NW, Scales: 2m, 1m and 0.5m.

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**Penns Field, Heathfield Road, Petersfield,  
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Plates 1 and 2.**

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Plate 3. Trench 16, looking E, Scales: 2m, 1m and 0.5m.



Plate 4. Trench 12, looking N, Scales: 2m, 1m and 0.5m.

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**Penns Field, Heathfield, Petersfield,  
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Plates 3 and 4.**

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Plate 5. Ditch 5, Trench 9, looking N, Scales: 0.3m and 0.1m.



Plate 6. Ditch 3, Trench 15, looking S, Scales: 1m and 0.5m.

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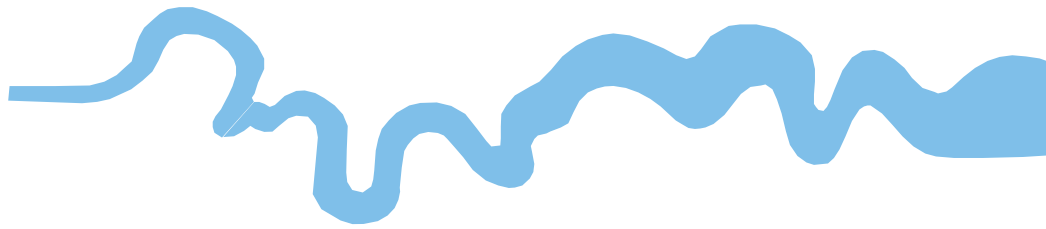
**Penns Field, Heathfield Road, Petersfield,  
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Plates 5 and 6.**

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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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