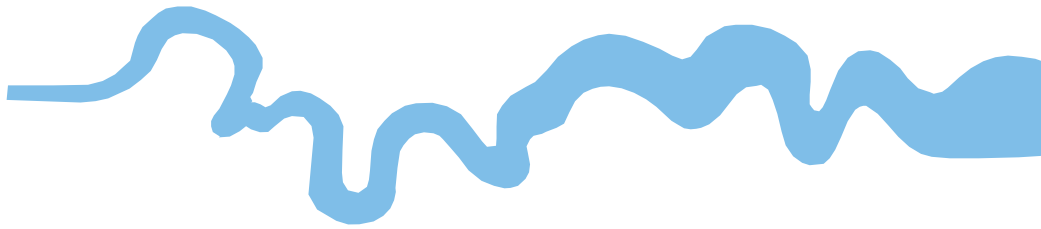


T V A S



SOUTH WEST

**Purple Haze, Ashley Heath,
Verwood, Hampshire**

Archaeological Evaluation

by Agata Socha-Paszkwicz

Site Code: PHV20/165

(SU 1148 0706)

Purple Haze, Ashley Heath, Verwood, Hampshire

**Archaeological Evaluation
for Andrew Josephs Associates**

by Agata Socha-Paszkiwicz

TVAS South West

Site Code PHV 20/165

October 2020

Summary

Site name: Purple Haze, Ashley Wood, Verwood, Hampshire

Grid reference: SU 1148 0706

Site activity: Evaluation

Date and duration of project: 22nd and 23th October 2020

Project manager: Agata Socha-Paszkwicz

Site supervisor: Agata Socha-Paszkwicz

Site code: PHV 20/165

Area of site: 176 sq m and 230 sq m

Summary of results: The investigation of one of the two possible barrows successfully refuted its presence at a location indicated by HER record (59294). The results of investigation around the second mound (20391) confirmed the presence of a likely artificial turf mound, but of uncertain date and function.

Location and reference of archive: The archive is presently held at TVAS South West, Taunton and will be deposited with Hampshire Cultural Trust in due course.

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

Report edited/checked by: Steve Ford ✓ 25.11.20 Steve Preston ✓ 25.11.20

Purple Haze, Ashley Heath, Verwood, Hampshire Archaeological Evaluation

by Agata Socha-Paszkievicz

Report 20/165

Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological field evaluation carried out at Purple Haze, Verwood, Hampshire (SU 1148 0706) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Mr Andrew Josephs of Andrew Josephs Associates on behalf of the client.

Planning consent is to be sought from Hampshire County Council for the mineral extraction from a c. 73ha parcel of land at Purple Haze, Verwood. Due to the possible presence of two round barrows on the site, as indicated by results of the enquiry of the County Historic Environment Record, the County Archaeologist requested an initial evaluation to be carried out, to determine if the origin of these two HER entries can be determined and their status as barrows confirmed or refuted. This is in accordance with the *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF 2019), and Council's policies on archaeology.

The field investigation was carried out to a specification approved by Mr David Hopkins, County Archaeologist for Hampshire County Council. The fieldwork was undertaken by Agata Socha-Paszkievicz, Mariusz Paszkiewicz, Dominika Golebiowska and Arkadiusz Piszcz between the 22nd and 23rd October 2020 and the site code is PHV 20/165. The archive is presently held at TVAS South West, Taunton and will be deposited with Hampshire Cultural Trust in due course.

Location, topography and geology

The site is located within the Moors Valley Country Park and Forest, on Ashley Heath some 1km to the south-east of the town of Verwood and some 3km to the north-west of the Ringwood (Fig. 1). It is bounded to the north-east by Verwood Road (B5081), to north-west by the Ebblake Industrial Estate and with the continuation of the forest elsewhere. The surrounding area comprises coniferous woodland, planted on the edge of the River Moor's flood plain with the river itself running some 1 km to the west of the site. The northern part of the site is generally a level plateau with some hills intersected by shallow valleys in the south. The overall area lies at a height of between 40m and 54m whilst the elevation of both investigated areas is c. 50m above Ordnance

Datum. The underlying geology is mapped as Branksome Sand Formation – Sand sedimentary bedrock with superficial deposits of River Terrace Deposits, 6 – Sand and Gravel (BGS 2017).

Archaeological background

The possible presence of two round barrows (20391 and 59294) was indicated by the results of the enquiry of the Hampshire Historic Environment Record located amongst a group of twelve known Bronze Age barrows recorded within 1 km of the site (Fig. 1).

Further afield extensive observation made ahead of mineral extraction at Nea Farm, Somerley located some 3 km to the north-east revealed a wide range of sites of Mesolithic through to Roman and Medieval date (Preston and Tabor 2019). A 1 km further to the north from Nea Farm, excavation at Plumley Wood Quarry recorded another dense Iron Age to Roman settlement complex with the notable discovery of Roman pottery kilns (Taylor and Tabor 2020) along with a levelled Bronze Age round barrow (ring ditch) and a post-built roundhouse.

Excavation at Ibsley Quarry, located on a lower terrace of the river Avon, some 4.5km to the north-east of the site had a different chronological emphasis when investigated and revealed a site that seems to have been in use for the whole of the Bronze Age, with the earlier Bronze Age represented by four ring ditches and a few pits, and one of the ring ditches being revisited for use in the middle Bronze Age as an urnfield. A probable middle Bronze Age roundhouse and a few pits were superseded by a dense spread of later Bronze Age roundhouses, four-post structures, a fence and other features. A notable feature of the middle Bronze Age was the finding of a small hoard of palstaves and armlet, and a faience bead within one of the cremation urns (Cole and Ford 2016). Some Roman and Saxon settlement was also recorded.

The Ordnance Survey maps regression shows the area of the site as undeveloped heathland which has been forested sometime between 1938 and 1963 and is currently managed by Forestry England.

Objectives and methodology

The aims of the investigation was to determine the presence/ absence, extent, condition, character, quality and date of two possible round barrows within the proposed area of development. 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*.

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 hand dig two trenches, each *c.* 3m long and 0.8 – 1.5m wide, one to each mound, in the location shown on Figure 1. If the trenches could not be excavated as intended for any reason, such as the presence of the trees or services, they were to be sub-divided or re-positioned. Topsoil and any other overburden were to be removed by hand. Topsoil was to be kept separate from subsoil. Where archaeological features were certainly or probably present they were to be cleaned using appropriate hand tools. Sufficient of the archaeological features and deposits exposed were to be excavated or sampled by hand to satisfy the aims outlined above, without compromising the integrity of an, features or deposits which might warrant preservation *in situ*, or might better be excavated under conditions pertaining full excavation.

Results

Possible round barrow 20391, recorded here as Mound A, was clearly evident as an earthwork (Pls 1 and 2) some 13m in diameter and 1.1m in height although either a tree root hole, collapsed rabbit burrows or antiquarian pit has damaged the top of the mound which is currently planted by trees. Initially a 3m long Trench (1) was opened some 0.5m off the damaged top and towards the south-west of the mound (Fig. 2). Upon request from the Assistant County Archaeologist, Trench 1 was extended for a further 2m to determine the presence/absence of a possible quarry ditch.

Identified by aerial-photographs and LiDAR, possible round barrow 59294 was recorded as Mound B. This was not evident on the ground (Pls 3 and 4) and the area closest to its position was heavily damaged by forestry machinery. It appeared roughly as a sub-circular/pear shaped rise of the ground visible on the surface near the brow of the steep slope and roughly matching the location of the mound indicated on Figure 2. As the exact location of the earthwork proved to be difficult to establish, the planned 3m trench was sub-divided to two 2m long trenches opened to the north-east (Trench 2) and south-east (Trench 3).

A list of trenches giving lengths, breadths, depths and description of stratigraphy and geology is given in Appendix 1.

Mound A, Trench 1 (Figs 2 and 3; Pls 2 and 5)

Trench 1 was aligned SW-NE, 5m long, 1.0m wide and between 0.24m to 0.90m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.05m to 0.12m forest bed organic material in a sandy matrix (50), above 0.24m of laminated dark grey to black sandy deposit (51), above 0.31m of white sand with dark grey lamination (deposit 52), above

0.25m of very firm light grey to white gravel (53 – natural geology), above mottled black/dark yellow/white sand, sandstone and gravel (54 – natural geology). None of the deposits recorded in Trench 1 revealed any datable artefacts nor inclusions other than forest organic material and growing tree roots.

Mound B, Trench 2 (Figs 2 and 3; Pls 3 and 6)

Trench 2 was aligned SW-NE, 2m long, 0.8m wide and between 0.38 m to 0.68m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.05m to 0.1m of forest bed organic material in sandy matrix (55), above 0.34m of dark grey to black sandy deposit (56) with large chunks of decayed wood visible in section, above 0.22m of a white with light grey horizontal laminated sandy deposit (57), above mottled black/dark yellow/white sand, sandstone and gravel (58) – natural geology. None of the deposits recorded in Trench 2 revealed any datable artefacts nor inclusions other than forest organic material.

Mound B, Trench 3 (Figs 2 and 3; Pls 4 and 7)

Trench 3 was aligned SW-NE, 2m long, 0.8m wide and between 0.57 m to 0.79m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.05m to 0.1m of forest bed organic material in a sandy matrix (59), above 0.12m of a dark grey to black sand deposit (60) with large chunks of wood and whole tree stumps visible in section, above 0.40m of dark grey to black sand (61) with little inclusion of forest organic material, above 0.13m of a white with light grey horizontal laminated sandy deposit (62), above mottled black/dark yellow/white sand and sandstone (58) – natural geology. None of the deposits recorded in Trench 3 revealed any datable artefacts nor inclusions other than forest organic material.

Conclusion

The investigation of the area recorded as Mound B clearly refuted the presence of any round barrow at the location indicated by HER record 59294. The presence of a sub-circular feature was perhaps formed by a combination of tracks with an overgrown accumulation of wood off cuts and old tree stumps creating the impression of a mound.

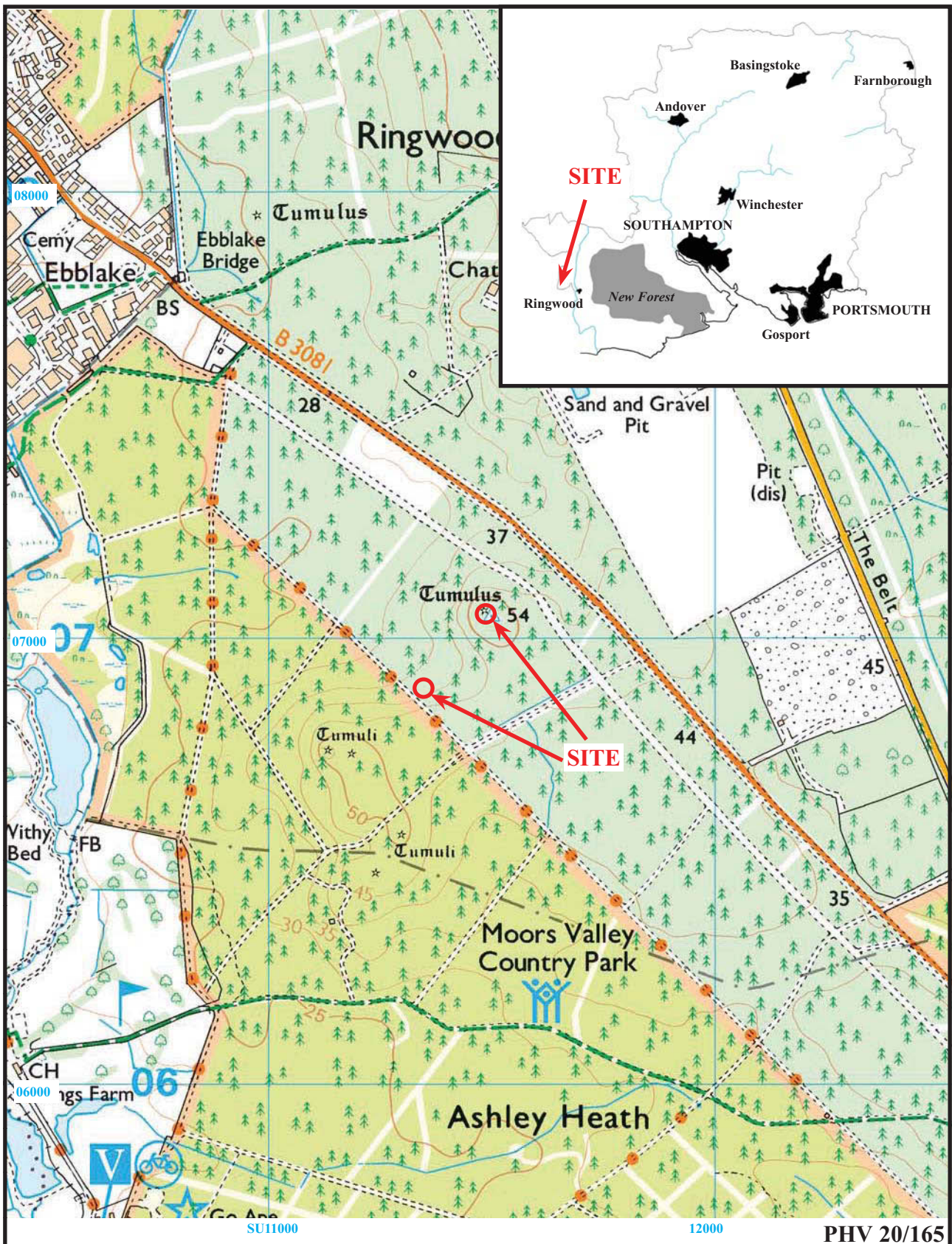
The results of the investigation of Mound A, county HER record 20391, were inconclusive. The mound appeared to be a man-made turf mound placed on top of a natural gravel deposit, but its purpose or date could not be established. The extended trench revealed no ditch around the mound and the gravel was completely absent in the mound deposits which may imply the absence of any cut feature around or beneath the mound, although a turf stack would not necessarily be stony. It is likely that the origin and age of the mound would only become apparent through further excavation.

References

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- Coles, S and Ford S, 2016, *Neolithic, Bronze Age, Roman and Anglo-Saxon occupation and Bronze Age burial at Ibsley Quarry, Ibsley, Ringwood, Hampshire*, TVAS Monograph **25**, Reading
- Preston, S and Tabor, R, 2019, *Archaeological Investigations at Nea Farm, Somerley, Ringwood, Hampshire, 1993–2011*, TVAS Monograph **30**, Reading
- Taylor A and Tabor, R 2020, 'Iron Age and Roman enclosure with New Forest pottery kilns at Plumley Wood Quarry, Harbridge, Ringwood, Hampshire, Draft Publication report', Thames Valley Archaeological Services Project 99/10, Reading

APPENDIX 1: Trench details

<i>Trench</i>	<i>Length (m)</i>	<i>Breadth (m)</i>	<i>Depth (m)</i>	<i>Comment</i>
1	5.0	1.0	0.90	0–0.12m forest bed material (50); 0.12 – 0.32 mound deposit (51); 0.32- 0.70 mound deposit (52); 0.70 – 0.82 firm light grey to white gravel natural geology (53); 0.82 + mottled black/dark yellow/white sand, sandstone and gravel (54) – natural geology [PI. 5]
2	2.0	0.8	0.68	0–0.10m forest bed material (55); 0.10 – 0.35 forest soil - litter level (56); 0.35 -0.58 forest soil - alluvium (57); 0.58 + mottled black/dark yellow/white sand and sandstone (58) – natural geology [PI. 6]
3	2.0	0.8	0.79	0–0.10m forest bed material (59); 0.10 – 0.20 forest soil - litter level (60); 0.20 - 0.56 forest soil - - litter level (61); 0.56 - 0.67 forest soil - alluvium (62); 0.67 + mottled black/dark yellow/white sand and sandstone (63) – natural geology [PI. 7]



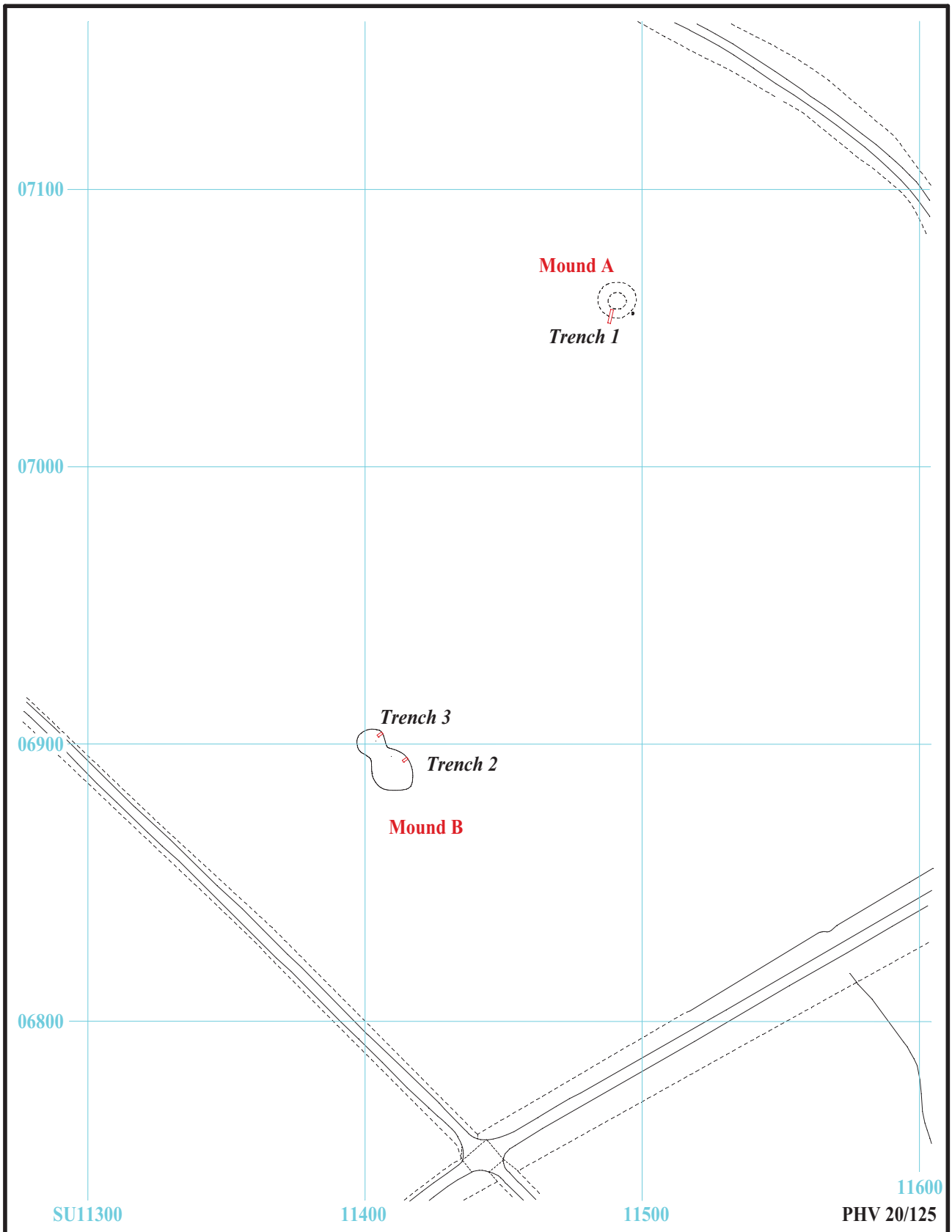
**Purple Haze, Ashley Heath, Verwood,
Hampshire, 2020**

Archaeological Evaluation

Figure 1. Location of site in relation to Verwood and Hampshire.

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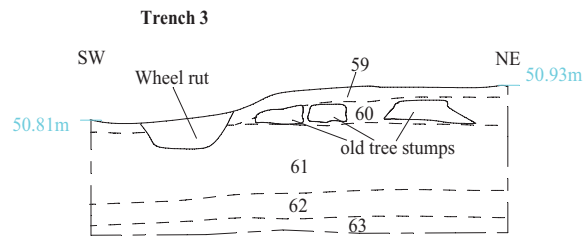
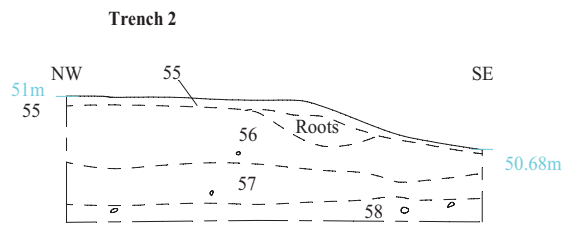
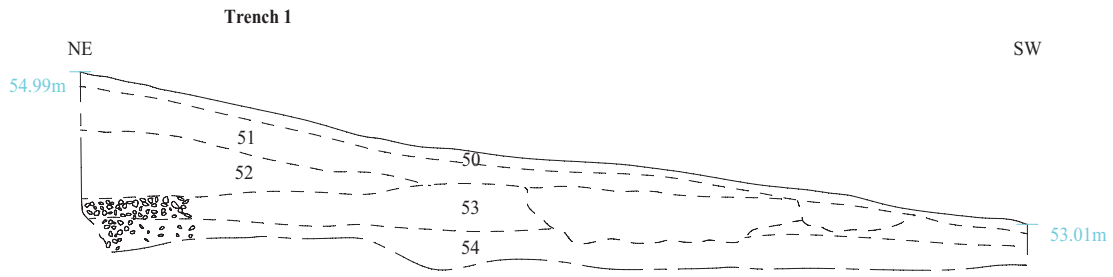


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Figure 2. Site plan.

0 100m





PHV 20/125

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Hampshire, 2020
Archaeological Evaluation**

Figure 3. Trench sections.





Plate 1. Mound A, looking North East.



Plate 2. Mound A, Trench 1, looking South West

PHV 20/165

**Purple Haze, Ashley Heath,
Verwood, Hampshire, 2020
Archaeological Evaluation
Plates 1 and 2.**

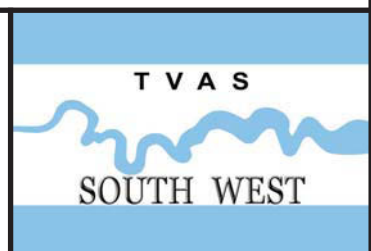




Plate 3. Mound B, Trench 2, looking North West



Plate 4, Mound B, Trench 3, looking North West

PHV 20/165

**Purple Haze, Ashley Heath,
Verwood, Hampshire, 2020
Archaeological Evaluation
Plates 3 and 4.**

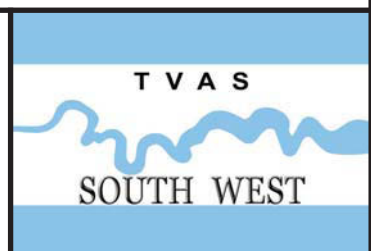




Plate 5. Mound A, Trench 1, looking South East, Scales: 2m and 1m.



Plate 6. Mound B, Trench 2, looking North West, Scales: 2m and 1m.



Plate 7. Mound B, Trench 3, looking South East, Scales: 2m and 1m.

PHV 20/165

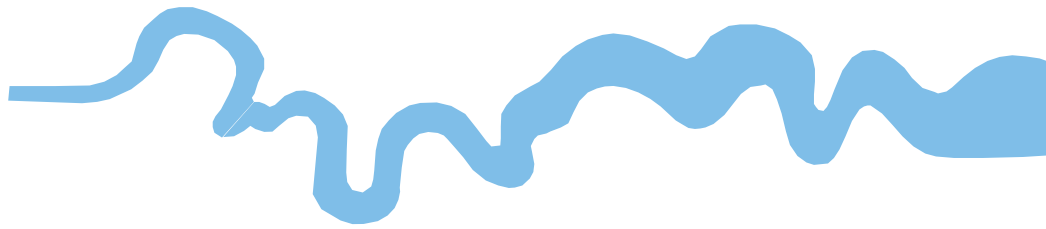
**Purple Haze, Ashley Heath,
Verwood, Hampshire, 2020
Archaeological Evaluation
Plates 5 to 7.**



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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