

**Treloar College, Holybourne,
Alton, Hampshire**

**Archaeological Monitoring
for CgMs Ltd**

by Andrew Weale

Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code TCA 09/33

April 2009

Summary

Site name: Treloar College, Holybourne, Alton, Hampshire

Grid reference: SU 7311 4108

Site activity: Archaeological monitoring of geotechnical trial pits

Date and duration of project: 8th April 2009

Project manager: Steve Ford

Site supervisor: Andrew Weale

Site code: TCA 09/33

Summary of results: Two possible gullies were identified within two of the trial pits. They were not dated though a single flint flake was recovered from one of them.

Location and reference of archive: The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited at Hampshire County Museum Service in due course.

This report may be copied for bona fide research or planning purposes without the explicit permission of the copyright holder

Report edited/checked by:	Steve Ford✓ 14.04.09
	Steve Preston✓ 14.04.09

Treloar College, Holybourne, Alton, Hampshire Archaeological Monitoring

by Andrew Weale

Report 09/33

Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological monitoring exercise carried out at Treloar College, Holybourne, Alton, Hampshire (SU 7311 4108) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Mr Matthew Smith of CgMs Ltd, Morley House, 26 Holborn Viaduct, London EC1A 2AT on behalf of Treloar college. The wider college campus site is being considered for redevelopment to improve general facilities including residential, teaching and medical areas. The monitoring exercise is in preparation for the submission of a planning application to East Hampshire Council.

This is in accordance with the Department of the Environment's Planning Policy Guidance, *Archaeology and Planning* (PPG16 1990), and the Council's policies on archaeology. The field investigation was carried out to a specification approved by Ms Hannah Fluck, Senior Archaeologist for Hampshire County Council. The fieldwork was undertaken by Andrew Weale and Robert Skinner on the 8th of April 2009 and the site code is TCA09/33. The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited with Hampshire County Museum Service in due course.

A desk-based assessment undertaken by CgMs Ltd (Smith 2008) showed that the site lies adjacent to an area of high archaeological potential and an area of archaeological potential within the council local plan constraints maps, with substantial Roman remains recorded within 100m to the west and north of the proposal site.

Location, topography and geology

The site is located within the campus of Treloar College on the north-western edge of Holybourne, a village 2km to the north-east of the centre of Alton. The area of interest within the college campus is a square grassed area lined with trees located in the north-east of the campus known as The Orchard. The College lies in the valley of the River Wey on a gentle slope from north-west down to the river. The Orchard is surrounded to the east, south and west by buildings within the college campus and to the north by converted farm buildings and gardens on the site of Howards Farm, at an elevation of around 110m above Ordnance Datum. The site lies on the Lower Chalk (BGS 1975), which was encountered within the trial pits.

Archaeological background

The archaeological background to the project is detailed in the desk-based assessment (Smith 2008). In summary The Orchard site lies adjacent to an Area of High Archaeological Potential (AHAP) and an area of Archaeological Potential (AAP) as designated by the Historic Rural Settlement Project (Hewitt 1999). During building works for a college building in 1963, to the west of The Orchard the remains of a paved floor were discovered. The floor was observed over an area of 0.9m by 10m and was associated with Roman grey ware pottery. To the north within 20m of the site and west of the buildings on Howards Farm an extensive scatter of Roman building material and pottery was observed.

To the east of the college campus (*c.* 250m) a similar designation refers to the area around Holy Rood Church and Manor Farm which are considered as the core of a medieval settlement and thought also to have associations with the Roman remains on the college campus (Smith 2008). Further to the east (1km) is the small Roman town of Neatham which covers an area of at least 20ha astride the Roman road from Silchester to Chichester (Millet and Graham 1986). It is a Scheduled Ancient Monument. The title maps and Ordnance Survey maps up to 1948/50 show the site as farmland and from 1967 to present as open ground within the college campus (Smith 2008).

Objectives and methodology

The purpose of the monitoring was to determine the presence/absence, extent, condition, character, quality and date of any archaeological deposits within the area of proposed trial pit digging. The monitoring was to ascertain the depth below ground surface and the thickness of deposits of any archaeological remains on site

Four geotechnical trial pits were to be dug measuring 1.8m by 2m using a 180° mechanical digger (JCB type) fitted with a toothless ditching bucket under constant archaeological supervision. The trial pits were located in the grassed area of The Orchard where they would not interfere with the root systems of trees present on site (Fig. 3). The turf, topsoil and subsoil were to be removed in spits down to archaeology or the natural geology as required. All the trial pits were to be hand cleaned and archaeological features were excavated using the appropriate hand tools. All spoil heaps were monitored for finds and a metal detector was used to aid with the recovery of metallic finds. All finds were retained.

After the features within the trial pits were excavated and all trial pits had been recorded they were further excavated for geological information under the constant supervision of an archaeologist.

Results

Trial Pits

The four trial pits were excavated in the locations intended and as shown on Fig. 3. They ranged between 2.3m and 2.7m long and 1.7m wide at the surface and between 0.55m to 0.65m deep. A complete list of trial pits giving lengths, breadths, depths and a description of sections and geology is given in Appendix 1.

Trial Pit 1 (Fig. 6 and Plate 1)

Trial Pit 1 was 2.3m long and 1.7m wide. The stratigraphy observed within the trench was 0.48m of topsoil beneath which was 0.22–0.35m of hard yellowish/white silty clay with very frequent chalk fragments (51). Beneath 51 was natural grey Lower Chalk. No archaeological finds or features were present.

Trial Pit 2 (Figs 4, 6 and Plate 2)

Trial Pit 2 was 2.7m long and 1.7m wide. The stratigraphy observed within the trench was 0.46m of topsoil beneath which was 0.28m of firm reddish/brown silty clay subsoil (52). Beneath 52 was a possible gully (3) which was 1.15m wide with gently sloping sides and a flat bottom, 0.13m deep. Possible gully 3 was filled with (55) a greyish/red silty clay which contained a flint flake. It was cut through a reddish/brown silty clay which appeared to be a superficial deposit overlying the chalk. A small sondage was excavated beneath gully 3 to a depth of 1.0m where natural Lower Chalk was encountered.

Trial Pit 3 (Fig. 5 and Plate 3)

Trial Pit 3 was 2.5m long and 1.7m wide. The stratigraphy observed within the trench was 0.30m of topsoil beneath which was 0.20m of reddish/brown silty clay subsoil (52). Beneath 52 was a solution hole/root hole (2) which was irregular in plan and profile and undercut on its south eastern edge. Solution/root hole (2) was filled with (54) a reddish/brown clay. Solution/root hole 2 cut possible gully 1 which was 0.46m wide with gently sloping sides and an irregular base, 0.12m deep. Possible gully 1 was filled with (53) a dark reddish/brown clay with moderate flint. Deposit (53) contained no artefacts. It was cut into natural Lower Chalk.

Trial Pit 4 (Fig. 6 and Plate 4)

Trial Pit 4 was 2.4m long and 1.7m wide. The stratigraphy observed within the trench was 0.34m of topsoil beneath which was 0.22m of yellowish/white silty clay with very frequent chalk fragments (51). Beneath 51 was natural grey Lower Chalk. No archaeological features nor finds were recorded.

Finds

Struck Flint by Steve Ford

A single broken flint flake was recovered from possible gully 3 (55). It is not closely datable but is probably of Neolithic or Bronze Age date.

Conclusion

Two of the trial pits revealed possible archaeological features with two gullies recorded. However only one artefact, a prehistoric flint flake, was recovered from the fill of possible gully 3, which need not be regarded as secure dating evidence. Therefore neither feature can be considered as dated. There is some doubt as to the archaeological origin of these features, as they are superficially similar to natural clay pockets and periglacial stripes to be found on the chalk. No artefacts of Roman or any other period (other than 20th century material) were recorded from the spoilheaps.

References

- BGS, 1975, *British Geological Survey*, 1:50000, Sheet 300, Drift Edition, Keyworth
Hewitt, I, 1999, *Historical Rural Settlement Project*, Bournemouth
Millett, M and Graham, D, 1986, *Excavations on the Romano-British Small Town at Neatham, Hampshire, 1969–1979*, Hampshire Fld Club Archaeol Soc Monogr **3**
PPG16, 1990, *Archaeology and Planning*, Dept of the Environment Planning Policy Guidance 16, HMSO
Smith, M, 2008, 'Archaeological Desk Based Assessment; Site A Land Treloar College Alton', CgMs report MS/10253, London

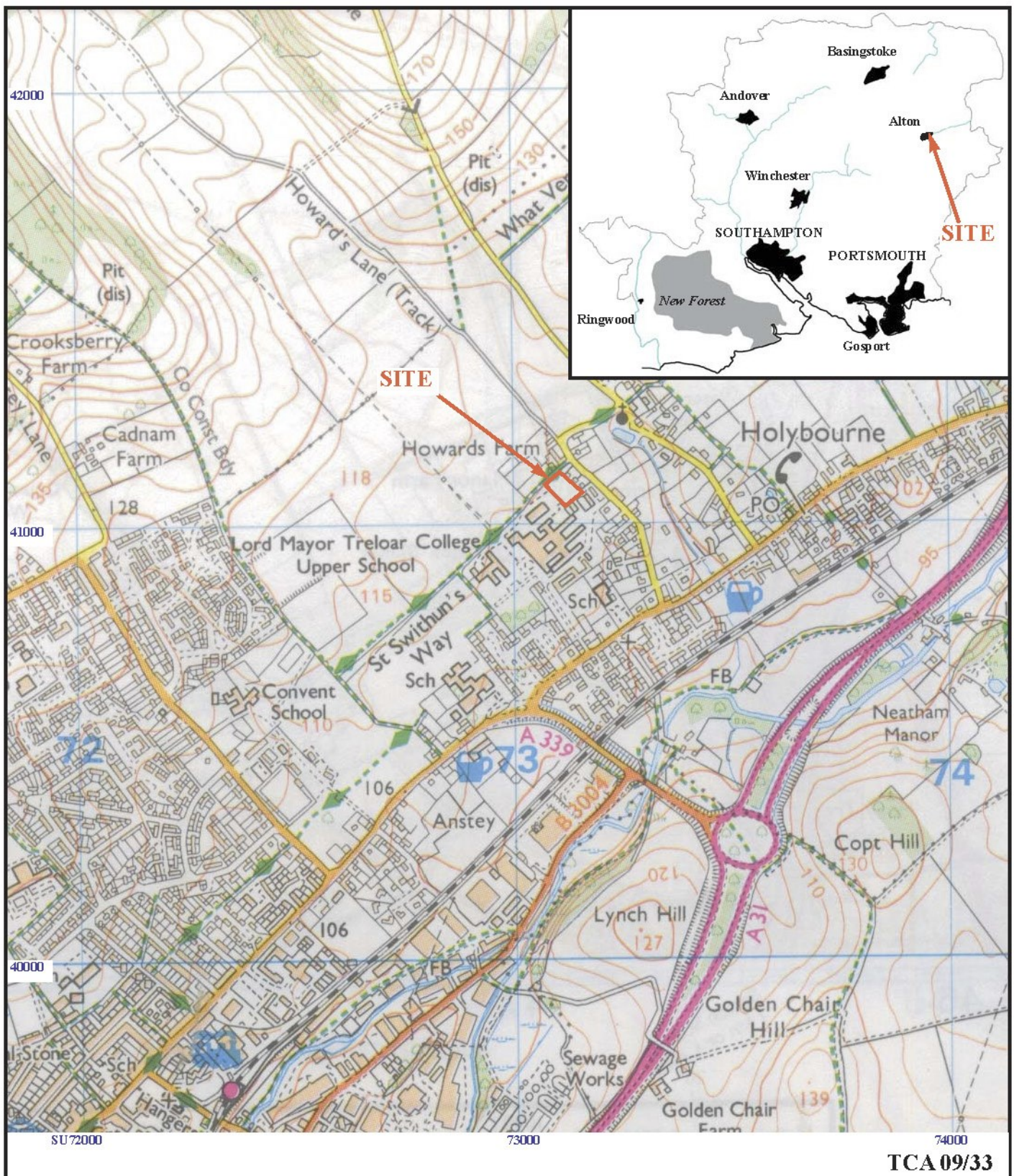
APPENDIX 1: Trial Pit details

0m at south end

<i>Trial Pit</i>	<i>Length (m)</i>	<i>Breadth (m)</i>	<i>Depth (m)</i>	<i>Comment</i>
1	2.30	1.70	0.70	0-0.48m topsoil; 0.48-0.7m subsoil/degraded natural geology; 0.7m+ natural chalk. [Plate 1]
2	2.70	1.70	0.65	0-0.4m topsoil; 0.4-0.65m subsoil; 0.65-1m reddish/brown silty clay (natural geology); 1m+ chalk. Possible gully 3 [Plate 2]
3	2.50	1.70	0.55	0-0.36m topsoil; 0.36-0.55m reddish/brown silty clay subsoil; 0.55m+ natural chalk. Possible gully 1. [Plate 3]
4	2.4	1.70	0.51	0-0.35m topsoil; 0.35-0.65m yellowish/white silty clay subsoil; 0.51m+ natural chalk. [Plate 4]

APPENDIX 2: Feature details

<i>Trial Pit</i>	<i>Cut</i>	<i>Fill (s)</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Dating evidence</i>
2	3	55	Possible gully	?prehistoric	Flint
3	2	54	Tree bole	undated	None
3	1	53	Possible gully	undated	None

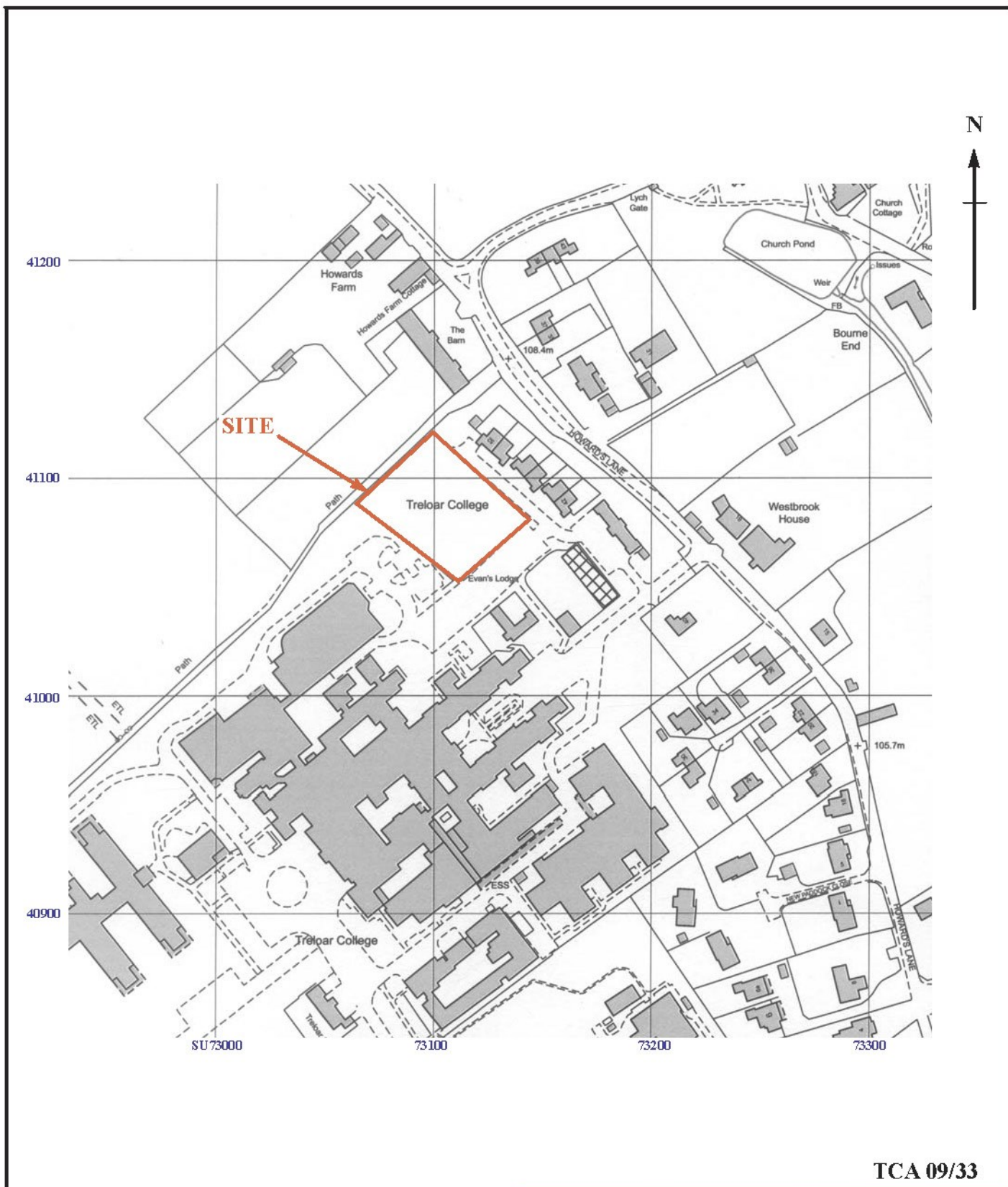


**Treloar College, Holybourne, Alton,
Hampshire, 2009
Archaeological Monitoring**

Figure 1. Location of site within Holybourne, Alton and Hampshire.

Reproduced from Ordnance Survey Explorer 144 at 1:12500.
Ordnance Survey Licence 100025880

THAMES VALLEY
ARCHAEOLOGICAL
SERVICES



TCA 09/33

**Treloar College, Holybourne, Alton,
Hampshire, 2009
Archaeological Monitoring**

Figure 2. Location of site at Treloar College.

Reproduced from Ordnance Survey digital mapping under licence.
Crown copyright reserved. Scale: 1:2500

T H A M E S V A L L E Y
ARCHAEOLOGICAL
S E R V I C E S

Treloar College, Holybourne, Alton, Hampshire, 2009

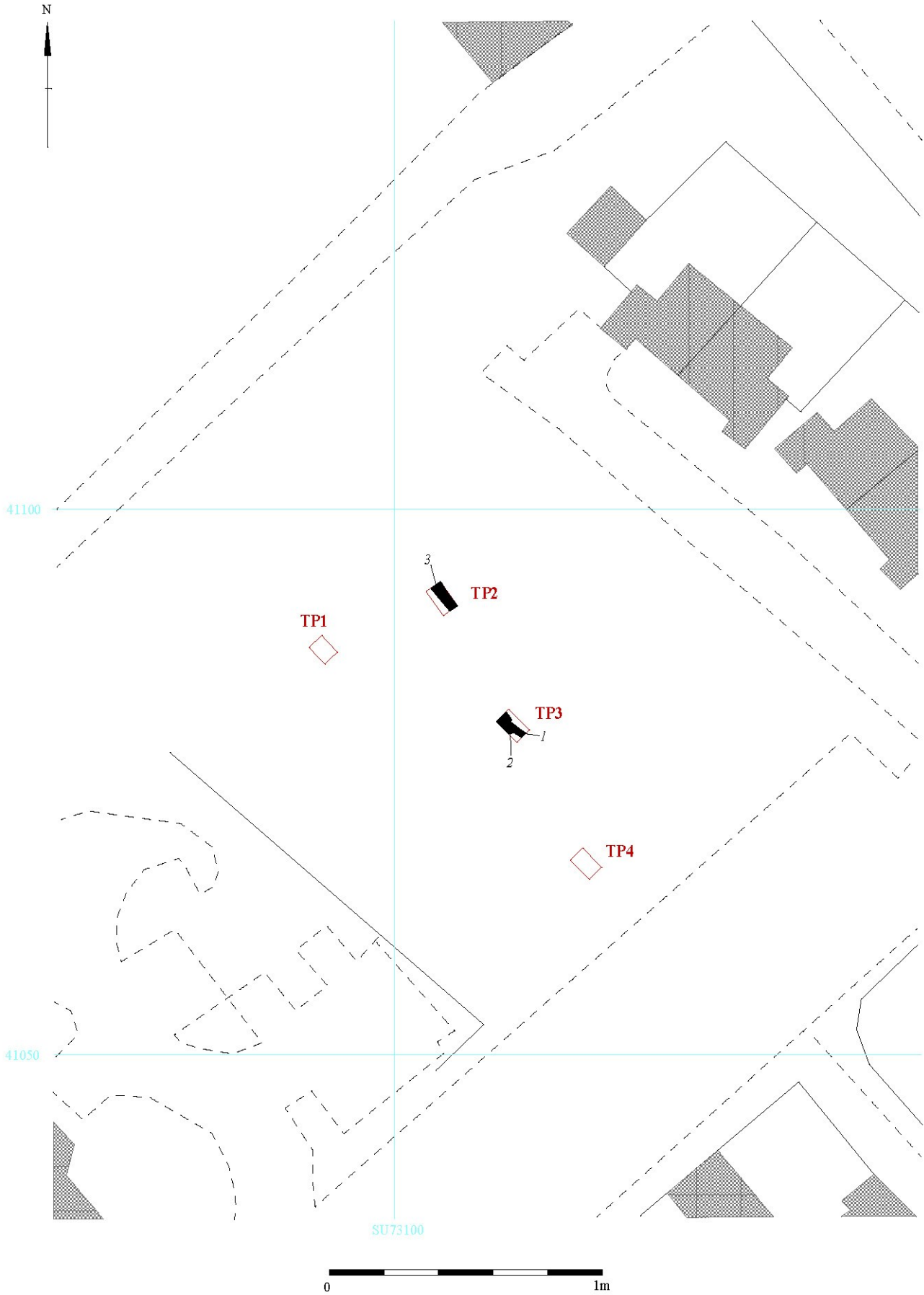


Figure 3. Location of trial pits.

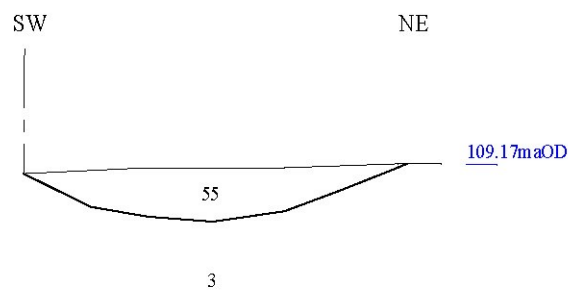
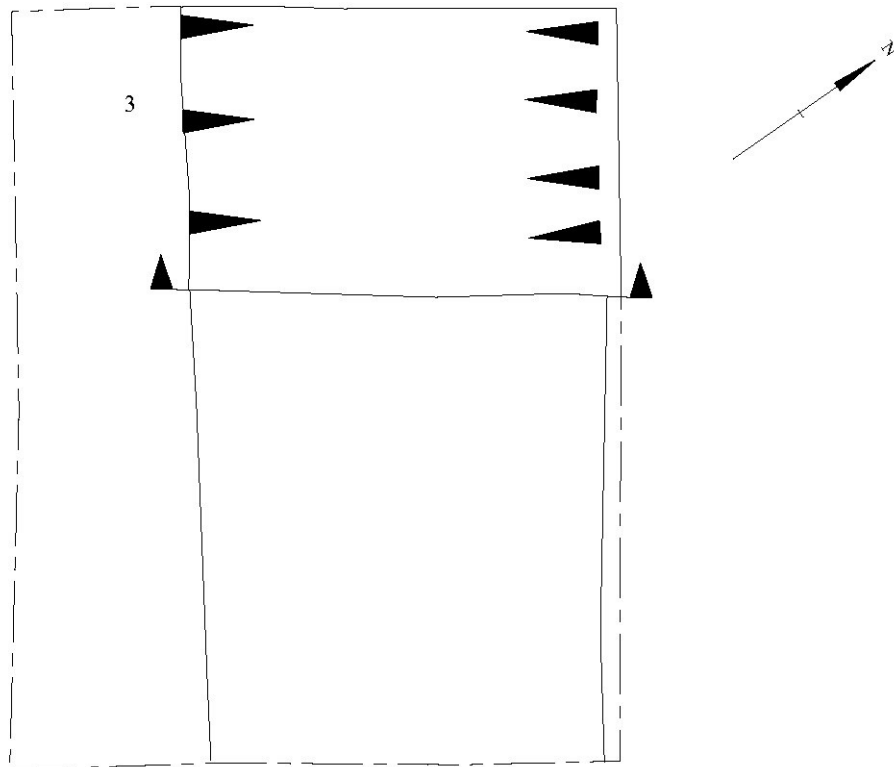


Figure 4. Details of trial pit 2.

Treloar College, Holybourne, Alton, Hampshire, 2009

Test pit 3

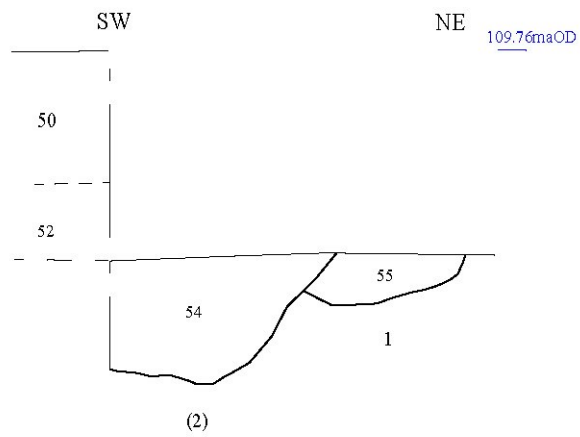
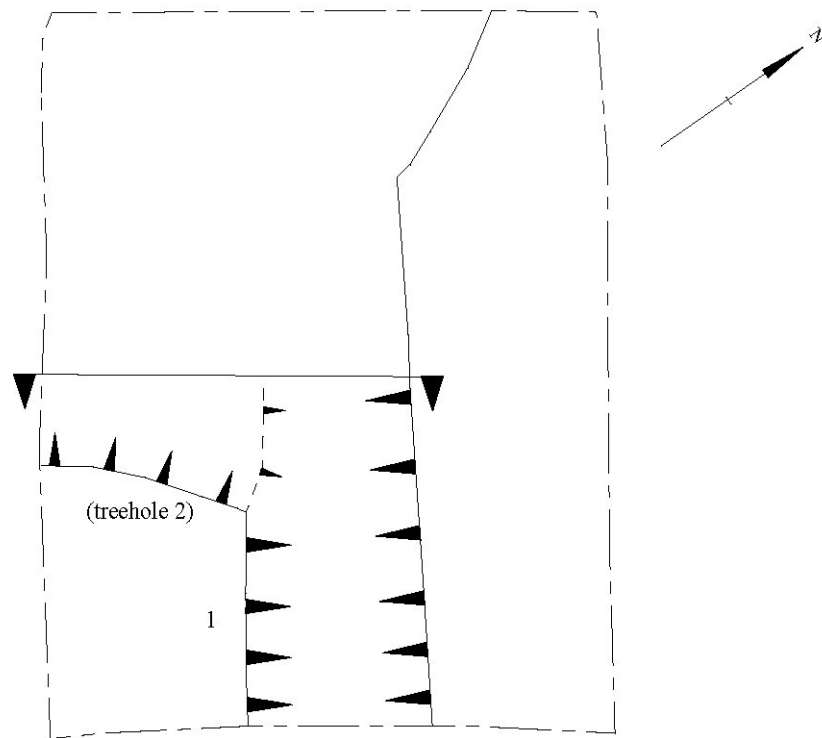


Figure 5. Details of trial pit 3.

Treloar College, Hollybourne, Alton, Hampshire, 2009

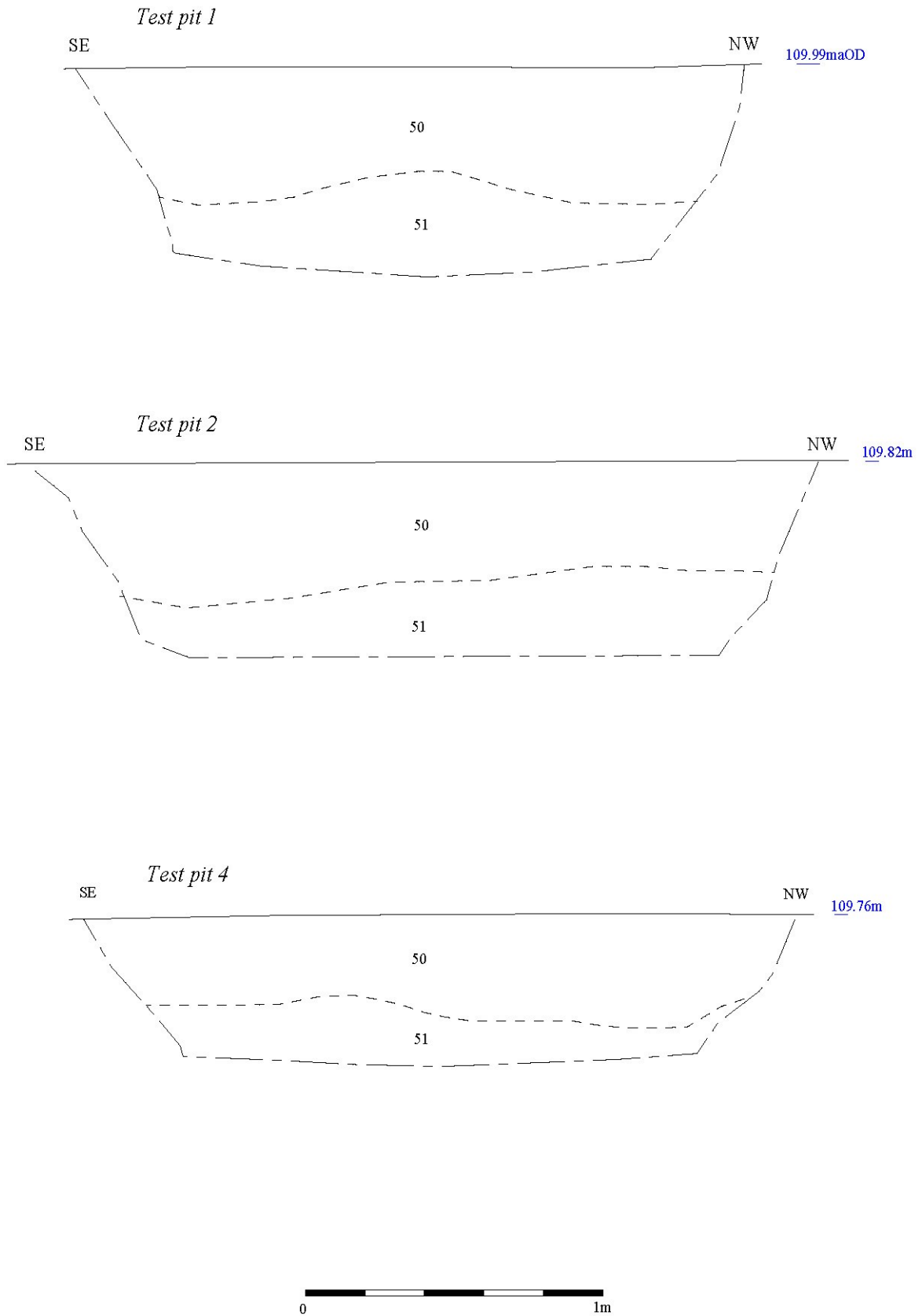


Figure 6. Other trial pit sections.



Plate 1. Trial pit 1, looking south west, scales; horizontal 2m, vertical 0.5m.



Plate 2. Trial pit 2, possible gully 3, looking south-east, scales; horizontal 1m, vertical 0.5m.



Plate 3. Trial pit 3, possible gully 1 and tree hole 2, looking north-west, scales; horizontal 1m, vertical 0.1m.



Plate 4. Trial pit 4, looking south west, scales; horizontal 2m, vertical 0.5m.