

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

ARCHAEOLOGICAL

S E R V I C E S

**Land at the Hermitage, Grange Road,
Netley, Hampshire**

Archaeological Evaluation

by Jamie Williams

Site Code: GRN22/117

(SU 4560 0905)

Land at the Hermitage, Grange Road, Netley, Hampshire

**An Archaeological Evaluation
for Rivendale Homes Ltd**

by Jamie Williams

Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code GRN 22/117

November 2022

Summary

Site name: Land at the Hermitage, Grange Road, Netley, Hampshire

Grid reference: SU 4560 0905

Site activity: Archaeological Evaluation

Date and duration of project: 22nd November 2022

Project coordinator: David Sanchez

Site supervisor: Jamie Williams

Site code: GRN 22/117

Area of site: 0.33ha

Summary of results: The five trenches dug revealed two undated gullies on differing alignments, and two modern truncations. There were no finds of archaeological interest from any of the features nor trench spoilheaps. As a result the site's archaeological potential appears to be low.

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 or The Archaeology Data Service in due course.

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Report edited/checked by:	Steve Ford✓ 05.12.22 Steve Preston✓ 05.12.22
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Land at the Hermitage, Grange Road, Netley, Hampshire

An Archaeological Evaluation

by Jamie Williams

Report 22/117

Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological field evaluation carried out on land at the Hermitage, Grange Road, Netley, Hampshire (SU 4560 0905) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Ms Becci Brisland, for Rivendale Homes Ltd, The Barn, Manor Farm Office Village, Flexford Road, North Baddesley, SO52 9DF.

Planning permission (F/18/84235) has been granted by Eastleigh Borough Council for residential development on land at The Hermitage, Grange Road, Netley, Hampshire (SU 4580 0920). The consent is subject to two conditions (3 and 4) concerning archaeology. These require an archaeological survey and a subsequent programme of mitigation based on the results of the initial investigations. This is in accordance with the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government's *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF 2021), and the Borough Council's policies on archaeology.

The field investigation was carried out to a specification approved by Mr Thomas Hayes, Senior Archaeologist at Hampshire County Council, the archaeological adviser to the Borough. The fieldwork was undertaken by Jamie Williams and John Conley on 22nd November 2022 and the site code is GRN 22/117. The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited with the Hampshire Cultural Trust or The Archaeology Data Service in due course.

Location, topography and geology

The site is located in the north-west edge of Netley, south-east of Southampton and approximately 0.7km north-east from the Solent (Fig. 1). The site currently comprises an open field and horse paddock located on the north-west side of Grange Road and covers around 0.33ha (Fig. 2). The site lies at a height of c.18m above Ordnance Datum. The natural geology is mapped as gravel (BGS, 1987), with a red-brown sandy gravel observed on site.

Archaeological background

A desk-based assessment for the site (BA 2020) concluded that, due to its location within an area thought to be part of the monastic lands of Netley Abbey, it could contain medieval and later remains. The monastery was

founded in 1239 but Netley itself is first mentioned in a charter of AD 955–8, attached to the will of Aelfsige, bishop of Winchester. Fieldwork to the north-east of the site revealed areas containing Iron Age and Saxon deposits (WA 2019) and fieldwork further to the north-east revealed part of a Middle Iron Age settlement (Ford 2019; Taylor 2020).

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 were:

- to determine if archaeologically relevant levels have survived on this site;
- to determine if archaeological deposits of any period are present;
- to determine if any deposits of Anglo-Saxon or Medieval date are present; and
- to inform a strategy for mitigation if required.

The potential and significance of any such deposits located were to be assessed according to the research priorities such as set out in *Historic England Research Agenda* (HE 2017) or any more local or thematic research priorities such as the *Solent Thames Research Agenda* (Hey and Hind 2014) as necessary. The appropriate CiFA guidelines (CiFA 2020) were to be followed.

Five trenches were intended to be dug, each 25m long, using a JCB-type or 360 ° machine fitted with a 1.6m wide toothless ditching bucket under constant archaeological supervision. Topsoil and any other overburden were to be removed to expose archaeologically sensitive levels. Where archaeological features are certainly or probably present, the stripped areas 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 any feature that might warrant preservation *in situ* or which might better be investigated under the conditions pertaining to full excavation. All spoilheaps were to be monitored for finds.

Results

All five trenches were dug as close as possible to their intended positions, with Trench 5 being shortened due to overgrown brambles and the presence of fencing, and Trench 4 being extended to compensate. The trenches all revealed natural geology and measured 1.6m wide and between 20.2m and 30m long.

A complete list of trenches giving lengths, breadths, depths and a description of sections and geology is given in Appendix 1. The excavated features, with dating evidence, are summarized in Appendix 2.

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

Trench 1 was aligned SE - NW and was 24.7m long and 0.38m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.18m of topsoil and 0.2m subsoil overlying light red-yellow sand and gravel natural geology. A test pit was excavated at the E end to confirm the interpretation of the natural geology. At 2.1m from the SE end of the trench, gully 1, orientated NNE-SSW was excavated measuring 0.46m wide and 0.15m deep. It was filled with a loose orange-brown sandy-clay (52) which produced no finds. At 14.2m from the SE end of the trench, a possible ditch terminus, 2, orientated N-S was excavated measuring >0.7m wide and 0.3m deep. This was filled with a soft light brown-grey clay-sand (53) which produced no finds and on reflection it appears more likely to be a modern truncation. A modern pipe trench terminated just next to this.

Trench 2 (Figs 3 and 4; Pls 1 and 6)

Trench 2 was aligned NW - SE and was 25m long and 0.67m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.26m of topsoil and 0.41m subsoil overlying light red-yellow sand and gravel natural geology. At 9.6m from the NW end of the trench, a feature, originally recorded to be a possible ditch terminus (4) orientated E-W, was excavated measuring 0.8m wide and 0.23m deep. It was filled with a loose brown-grey sandy-clay (55) in the sieved sample from which multiple pieces of rubber were found. After recording this feature, the rest of its fill was removed on request of the county archaeologist and it showed that the feature thinned to a depth of 10–20mm in some places, and thus it is considered to be a modern truncation rather than a linear feature.

At 19m from the NW end of the trench, gully was 3 orientated NE-SW and was excavated. It was 0.5m wide and 0.16m deep and was filled with a loose orange-brown sandy-clay (54) which produced no finds.

Trench 3 (Fig. 3; Pl. 2)

Trench 3 was aligned SW - NE and was 25.1m long and 0.55m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.25m of topsoil and 0.2m subsoil overlying red-brown sand and gravel natural geology. No features nor finds were present in this trench.

Trench 4 (Fig. 3; Pl. 3)

Trench 4 was aligned SW - NE and was 30m long and 0.52m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.25m of topsoil and 0.27m subsoil overlying red-brown sand and gravel natural geology. No features were present in this trench and no find were recovered.

Trench 5 (Fig. 3; Pl. 4)

Trench 5 was aligned SSE - NNW and was 20.1m long and 0.5m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.2m of topsoil and 0.3m subsoil overlying red-brown sand and gravel natural geology. No features nor finds were present in this trench.

Finds

No finds of any archaeological interest were recovered.

Macrobotanical Remains by Jo Pine

A total of four samples were processed, one from each feature encountered during the evaluation. The samples were wet sieved to .25mm and air dried. The flots were examined under a low-power binocular microscope at magnifications between x10 and x40. No charred plant or charcoal were recovered.

Conclusion

Five trenches were successfully excavated, with two trenches uncovering undated gullies and modern truncations. No finds nor macrobotanical remains were recovered and nothing else of archaeological importance was noted. On the basis of these results the archaeological potential of the site is considered to be low.

References

- BA, 2020, 'Land at The Hermitage, Grange Road, Netley Abbey, Hampshire: An archaeological Desk-based Assessment', Border Archaeology report **BA1915HRG/DBA**, Leominster
- BGS, 1987, *British Geological Survey*, 1:50,000, Sheet **315**, Solid and Drift Edition, Keyworth
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- Ford, S, 2019, 'Land at Grange Road, Netley, Hampshire: An archaeological evaluation, Thames Valley Archaeological Services unpubl rep **19/36**, Reading
- HE 2017, *Research Agenda*, Historic England, London
- Hey, G and Hind, J, 2014, *Solent-Thames Research Framework for the Historic Environment: Resource Assessments and Research Agendas*, Oxford Wessex Monogr **6**, Oxford

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Taylor, A, 2020, 'Middle Iron Age occupation at Grange Road, Netley, Hampshire', in P-D Manisse and A Taylor, *Iron Age and Roman Occupation in the Hampshire Basin*, TVAS Occas Pap **40**, Reading, 56–63

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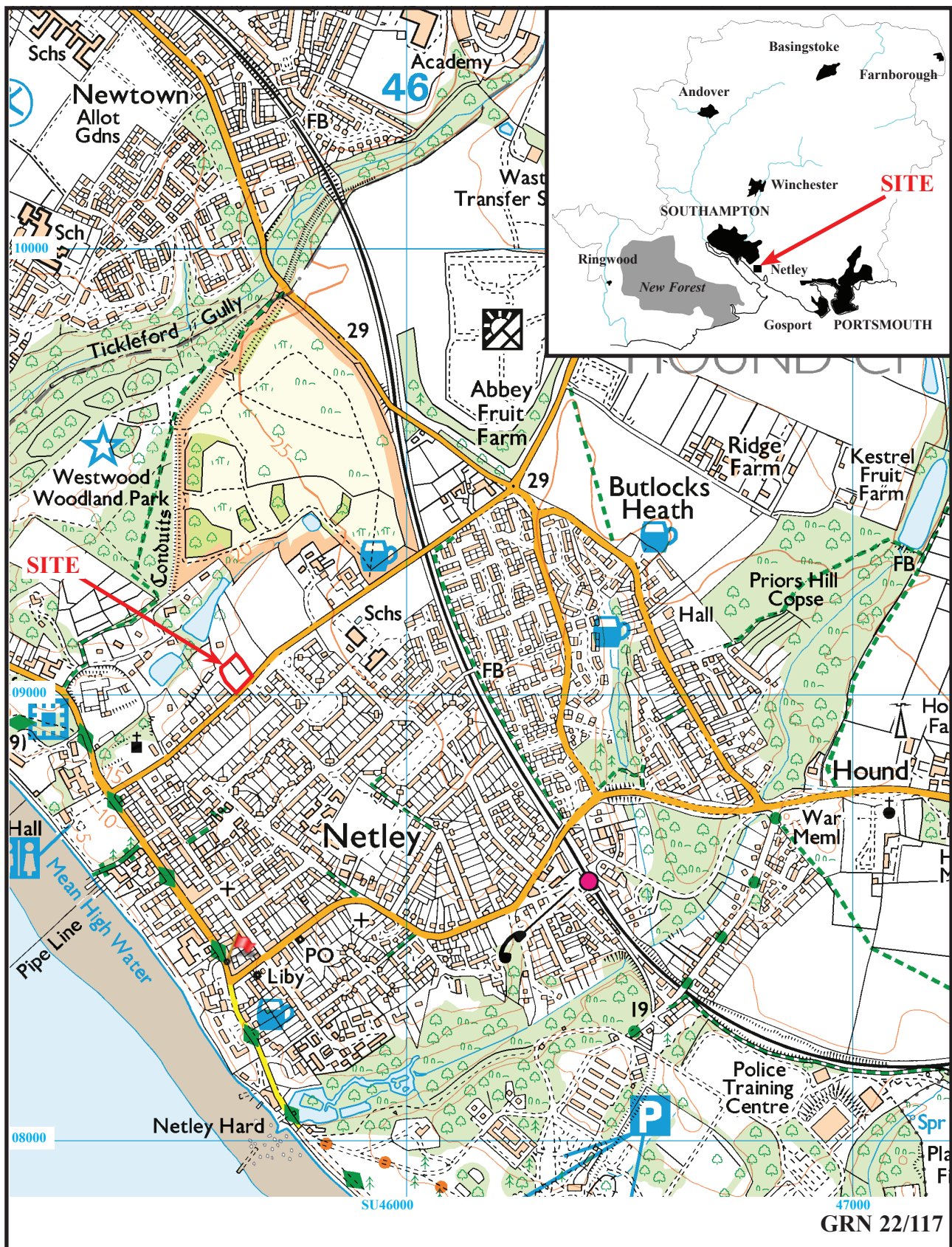
APPENDIX 1: Trench details

0m at NW, SE, SW and SSE end

<i>Trench</i>	<i>Length (m)</i>	<i>Breadth (m)</i>	<i>Depth (m)</i>	<i>Comment</i>
1	24.7	1.6	0.38	0–0.18m topsoil; 0.18-0.38m subsoil; 0.38m+ light red-yellow sand and gravel natural geology. Gully 1; Possible ditch terminus 2. [Pl. 5]
2	25	1.6	0.67	0-0.26m topsoil; 0.26-0.67m subsoil; 0.67m+ light red-yellow sand and gravel natural geology. Gully 3; Possible ditch terminus 4. [Pls 1 and 6]
3	25.1	1.6	0.55	0-0.25m topsoil; 0.25-0.45m subsoil; 0.45m+ red-brown sand and gravel natural geology. No archaeological features present. [Pl. 2]
4	30	1.6	0.52	0-0.25m topsoil; 0.25-0.52m subsoil; 0.52m+ red-brown sand and gravel natural geology. No archaeological features present. [Pl. 3]
5	20.1	1.6	0.5	0-0.2m topsoil; 0.2-0.5m subsoil; 0.5m+ red-brown sand and gravel natural geology. No archaeological features present. [Pl. 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	Undated	
1	2	53	Possible Ditch Terminus	Undated	
2	3	54	Gully	Undated	
2	4	55	Possible Ditch Terminus	Modern	Rubber



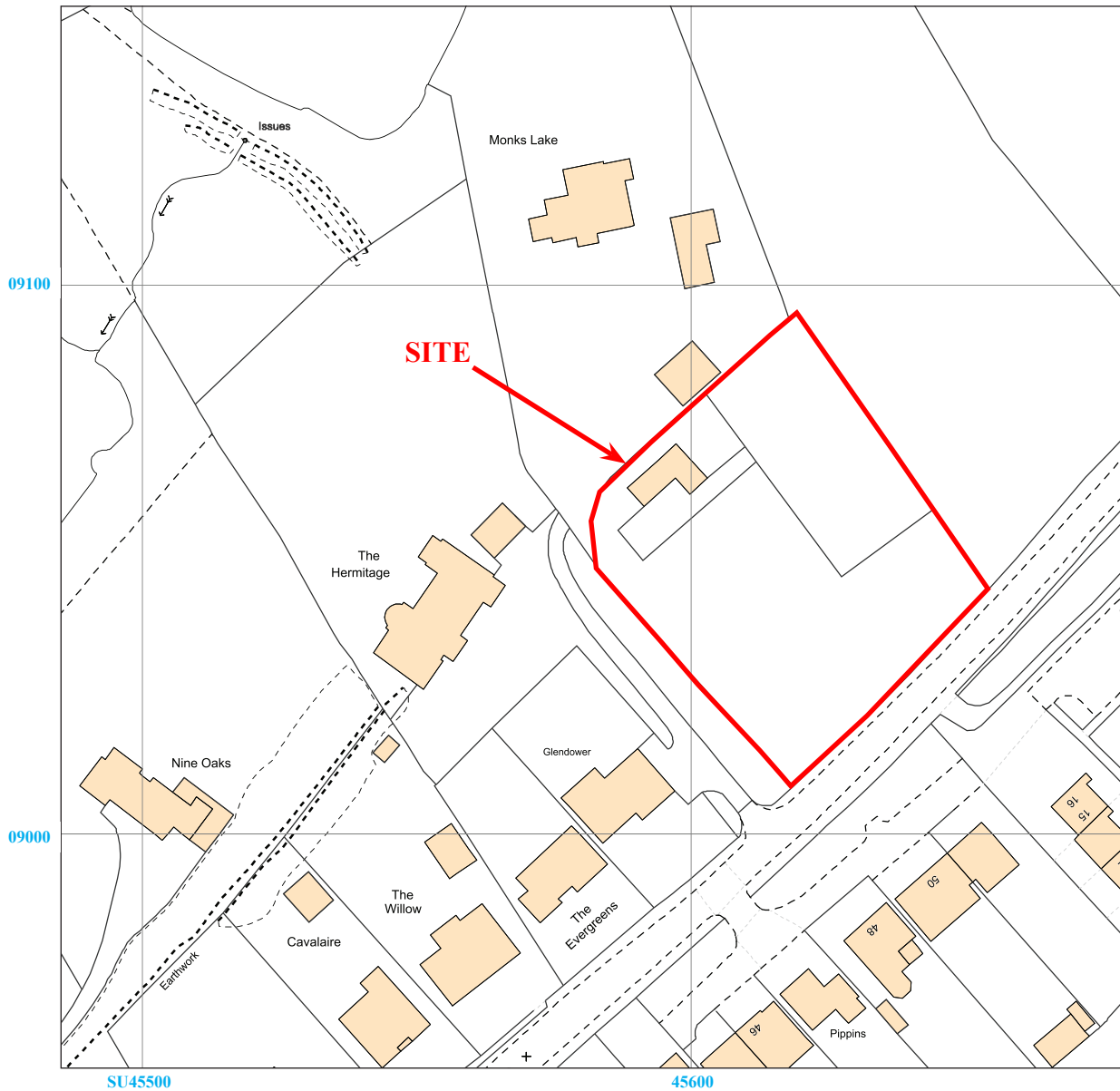
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Figure 1. Location of site within Netley and Hampshire.

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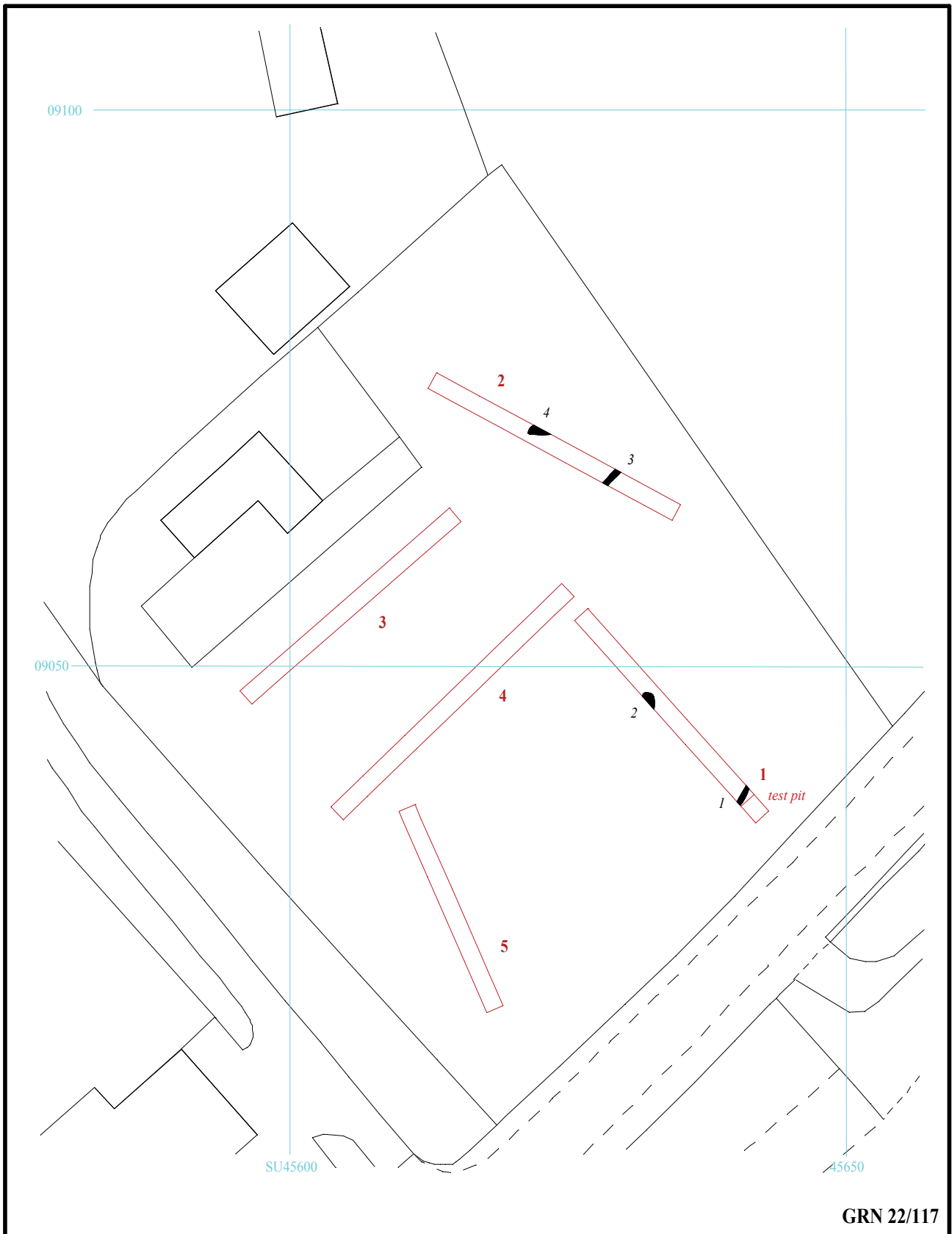
GRN 22/117



**Land at The Hermitage, Grange Road,
Netley, Hampshire, 2022
Archaeological Evaluation**
Figure 2. Detailed location of site off Grange Road.

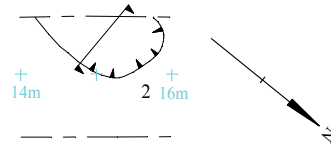
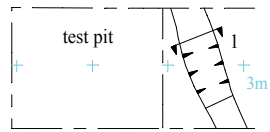
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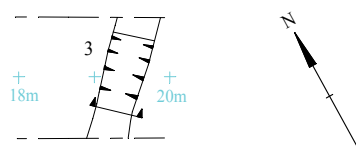
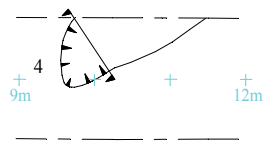


N 	Land at The Hermitage, Grange Road, Netley, Hampshire, 2022 Archaeological Evaluation Figure 3. Location of trenches. 0 25m	THAMES VALLEY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES
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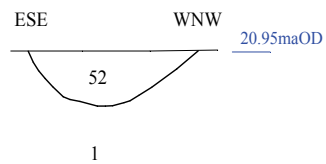
Trench 1



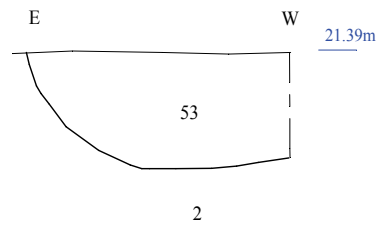
Trench 2



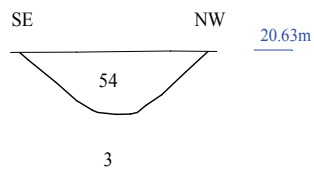
Trench 1



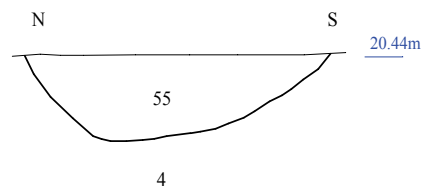
Trench 1



Trench 2



Trench 2



GRN 22/117

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Netley, Hampshire, 2022
Archaeological Evaluation

Figure 4. Detail of features.



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Plate 1. Trench 2, looking North West,
Scales: horizontal 2m and 1m, vertical 0.5m.



Plate 2. Trench 3, looking North East,
Scales: horizontal 2m and 1m, vertical 0.5m.

GRN 22/117

**Land at The Hermitage, Grange Road,
Netley, Hampshire, 2022
Archaeological Evaluation
Plates 1 and 2.**

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Plate 3. Trench 4, looking North East,
Scales: horizontal 2m and 1m, vertical 0.5m.



Plate 4. Trench 5, looking South South West,
Scales: horizontal 2m and 1m, vertical 0.5m.

GRN 22/117

**Land at The Hermitage, Grange Road,
Netley, Hampshire, 2022
Archaeological Evaluation
Plates 3 and 4.**

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Plate 5. Trench 1, ditch terminus 2, looking South East,
Scales: horizontal 0.5m, vertical 0.3m.



Plate 6. Trench 2, gully 3, looking South West,
Scales: horizontal 0.3m, vertical 0.1m.

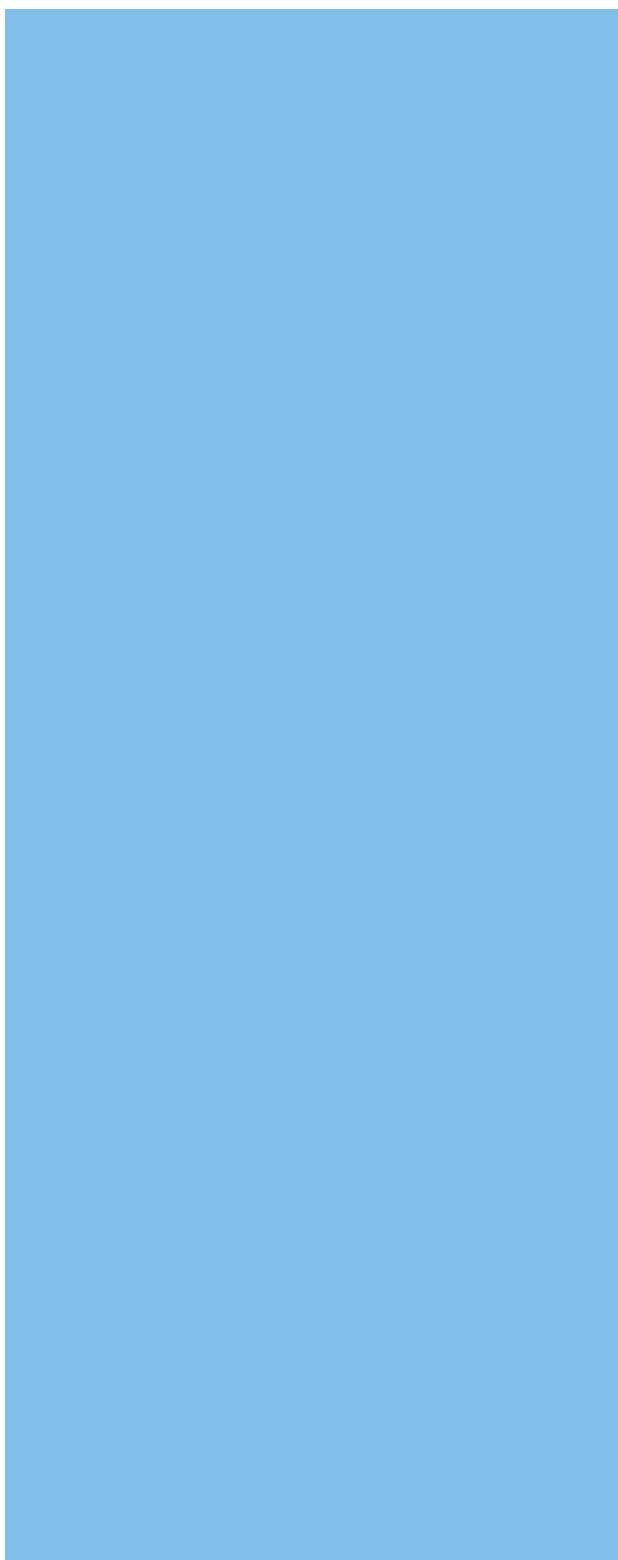
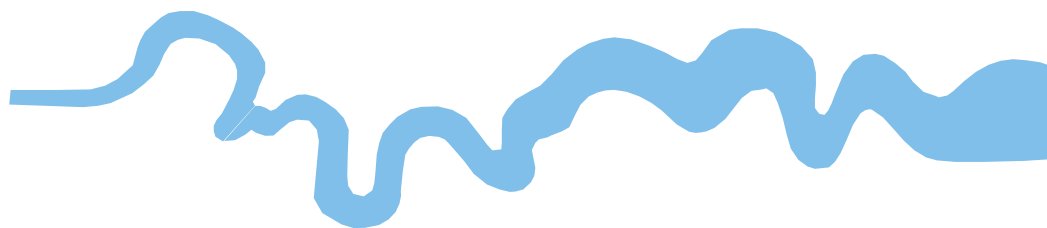
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**Land at The Hermitage, Grange Road,
Netley, Hampshire, 2022
Archaeological Evaluation
Plates 5 and 6.**

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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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