

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

ARCHAEOLOGICAL

S E R V I C E S

**Iron Age occupation and Middle Palaeolithic flintwork
at Grange Road, Netley, Hampshire**

Archaeological Excavation

by Maisie Foster

**Site Code: GRN22-260exc
(SU 4574 0919)**

Iron Age occupation and Middle Palaeolithic flintwork at Grange Road, Netley, Hampshire

**Archaeological Excavation and Geological Test Pitting
for Elivia Homes**

by Maisie Foster

Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code GRN 22/260

June 2023

Summary

Site name: Land at Grange Road, Netley, Hampshire

Grid reference: SU 4574 0919

Site activity: Archaeological Excavation and Geological Test Pitting

Date and duration of project: 9th to 26th January 2023

Project coordinator: David Sanchez

Site supervisor: Maisie Foster and Will Attard

Site code: GRN 22/260

Area of site: c. 3400 sq m excavated within overall site of 3.5ha

Summary of results: The excavation revealed additional deposits of Middle Iron Age date including pits and boundary or enclosure ditches, with a chronology supported by radiocarbon dating. These deposits continue the spread of Iron Age features previously recorded to the east and would appear to define the western extent of that settlement. The fieldwork also included the digging of test pits to examine and record the gravel geological strata and this resulted in the recovery of *in-situ* or fresh flintwork of Middle Palaeolithic date.

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

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Iron Age occupation and Middle Palaeolithic flintwork at Grange Road, Netley, Hampshire **An Archaeological Excavation and Geological Test Pitting**

by Maisie Foster

with contributions by Will Attard, Barbara McNee, Danielle Milbank and Joanna Pine

Report 22/260

Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological excavation carried out on c.3400 sq m of land at Grange Road, Netley, Hampshire (SU 4574 0919) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Mr Alastair Dineen on behalf of Elivia Homes, Apollo House, Mercury Park, Wooburn Green, High Wycombe HP10 0HH.

Planning permission (O/16/78014 and RM/19/86186) has been gained from Eastleigh Borough Council for the erection of 89 dwellings with associated garages and landscaping on 3.5ha of land at Netley Road. The original consent was subject to three conditions (21-23) relating to archaeology as set out in the *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF 2018) and the council's policies on archaeology, the new consent retains conditions 22 and 23. A programme of archaeological works was implemented, consisting of a geophysical survey (WA 2019a) and evaluation trenching (WA 2019b). The excavation and geological test pitting reported here forms the latest phase of these archaeological works and was carried out to a specification approved by Hampshire Borough Council as advised by Mr Thom Hayes, Senior Archaeologist for Hampshire County Council, the archaeological adviser to the Borough.

The project was funded by Elivia Homes and managed by David Sanchez. The excavation fieldwork was undertaken by Maisie Foster, Richard Dewhurst and Yasmin Valevska Bellinger between 9th and 26th January 2023 and the Palaeolithic test pitting was undertaken by Will Attard, Richard Dewhurst and Maisie Foster between 19th and 20th January 2023.

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 in the village of Netley, 4.6 miles to the south east of central Southampton (Fig. 1). The surrounding area is dominated by suburban housing and woodland. The site comprises open pasture, bounded by Grange Road to the south, residential housing to the east and west and Westwood Nature Reserve to the north. The overall area slopes gently down from the north-east from the highest point at c. 23m above Ordnance Datum (aOD), to approximately 18m

aOD at the south-west corner. The excavation area was nearly level at around 22m aOD. The underlying geology is mapped as River Terrace Deposits, 3 - Sand and gravel (BGS 1987), this was observed on the eastern side of the excavation area with a brickearth type natural geology to the west. Underlying the gravel is Selsey Sand and this was observed in the deeper Palaeolithic test pitting exercise (part 2 below). The Solent lies 500m to the south west.

Archaeological background

The archaeological potential of the site was highlighted in a desk-based assessment (WA 2015). This concluded that due to its location within an area thought to be part of the monastic grange of Netley Abbey, it could contain medieval and later remains. The monastery was founded in AD1239 but Netley itself is first mentioned in a charter of AD 955-958, attached to the will of Aelfsige, a bishop of Winchester. While the assessment records no known archaeology for the development site itself it does list the nearby Netley Grange as an 18th-19th century farm. Recent evaluation and follow up excavation to the north-east revealed a small part of a middle Iron Age occupation site (Taylor 2020) and an evaluation to the west revealed two undated gullies on differing alignments (Williams 2022).

The first stage of field investigation comprised a geophysical (magnetometry) survey across the site (WA 2019a). The results revealed a number of anomalies of possible archaeological interest. Subsequent evaluation trenching (WA 2019b) revealed a number of archaeological deposits of Iron Age and Anglo-Saxon dates towards the eastern end of the site. A number of geological test pits were also dug during the evaluation which revealed a modest number of Middle Palaeolithic artefacts, both in a rolled and fresh condition.

Objectives

The general objectives of the project were to:

- excavate and record all archaeological deposits and features within the areas threatened by the proposed development;
- produce relative and absolute dating and phasing for deposits and features recorded on the site;
- establish the character of these deposits I attempt to define functional areas on the site such as industrial, domestic, etc;
- produce information on the economy and local environment and compare and contrast this with the results of other excavations in the region; and
- provide information with which to manage Palaeolithic deposits within the underlying gravel

Specific research objectives were to attempt to address the following questions:

- what is the date and nature of the prehistoric (Iron Age) activity on the site? Does this represent an enclosed or unenclosed occupation site of small duration or are they a peripheral part of a large site extending to the east? Are the ditches present part of an organised landscape?

does the Iron Age occupation extend into Roman times?

what is the nature if any, of any Saxon occupation of the site? Are the deposits found in the evaluation isolated deposits, located at some distance from a settlement site or do they reflect the presence of a typical dispersed Saxon occupation site?

to recover any reworked Pleistocene archaeological, faunal and environmental remains from the gravel underlying the site; and

to identify and sample deposits within the gravel/sand deposits suitable for OSL-dating

Excavation Methodology

One area was selected for excavation based on the results of the prior investigations (Fig. 2). The area targeted the areas around evaluation trenches 10, 12, 15-17 where a few Iron Age and/or Anglo-Saxon postholes and ditches had been found, associated with pottery. An environmental sample demonstrated the presence of poorly preserved carbonized plant remains associated with crop production. Topsoil and other overburden were removed by a 360° mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless bucket to expose the uppermost surface of archaeological deposits whilst under constant archaeological supervision. Machines and dumpers were not allowed to track over the stripped areas.

Following machine clearance, all investigation of archaeological levels was by hand. All archaeological features were planned and sectioned, all isolated, discrete features such as pits and postholes under 2 sq m in area and up to 1m deep not belonging to structures or activities were fully dug. Finally all linear features were excavated in 1-3m wide slots, at a minimum of 10% of their length. In addition all termini and intersections were examined.

A range of context types across the site were sampled for environmental evidence. A full written, drawn and photographic record of excavation was made. The excavated features are summarized in Appendix 1.

The report is divided into two parts. Part 1 deals with the post-glacial archaeological remains and part 2 with the Palaeolithic finds and geological investigation.

PART 1. Post-glacial archaeology (Figs 4 and 5)

The post-glacial features are described in terms of the following phases:

Phase 1: Iron Age

Phase 2: Post Medieval/Modern

Undated

Phase 1: Iron Age

A small number of features can be given a confident Iron Age date supported by radiocarbon dating.

Pit 1 (Pl. 1)

This was an ovoid pit with moderately steep sides and an irregular base. It was 1.22m wide, 0.7m long and 0.41m deep. Its primary fill (54) was mid green grey clayey silt with much degraded fired clay/pottery, 137g of burnt flint and charcoal inclusions. It was overlain by fill 53, a dark grey to black clayey silt with 22g of burnt flint, a single struck flint, 7 sherds of Iron Age pottery from a single jar, and again with much degraded fired clay/pottery. The final fill (52) was mid brown grey clayey silt which contained a smaller amount of degraded fired clay/pottery. Two radiocarbon dates were obtained on charcoal from fills 54 and 53 of 548-400 cal BC (UBA50084) and 486-372 cal BC (UBA50085) which most probably mean the pit was filled in later three quarters of the 5th century BC.

Enclosure Ditch 10, 11 (Pl. 6)

The right-angled corner of an enclosure was formed by a ditch aligned NE-SW turning NW to SE and was recorded for 26m. Two slots (10, 11) and an additional slot from the evaluation (1204 in Trench 12) were excavated through this ditch. It was 1.83m wide and 0.52m deep. It had three distinctive fills, the primary fill (65) was a mid grey with mottled orange silty clay, secondary fill (64) a mid grey with mottled orange clay and a final fill (63) a mid brown orange silty clay, redeposited natural gravel geology. These fills produced a small amount of burnt clay but no datable finds. Slot 11 was cut by a small undated posthole (12).

Ditch 6, 7 (Pl. 4)

This ditch was aligned NW-SE and terminated on site. Two slots (6, 7) and an additional slot from the evaluation (1715) were excavated into this ditch. It was between 1.15m and 1.27m wide and 0.4m and 0.45m deep. It contained three sherds of late Iron Age pottery including a rim, a few pieces of fired clay that might have been very badly degraded pottery, 72g of burnt flint and a single struck flint.

Ditch 8 (Pl. 5)

Only a short segment of this ditch was recorded within the limits of the site and it was clearly a continuation of ditch 6. A single excavated slot revealed it measured 1.07m in width and 0.18m in depth. It contained 123g pieces of burnt flint, 2 tiny scraps of either pottery or fired clay, and has been dated through its association with Ditch 6, 7. It was truncated by modern ditch 9.

Phase 3: Post Medieval/Modern

Two features can be given a definite Modern/post medieval date from finds collected; it is likely that some of the undated features may also be of this date.

Pit 2

This square shallow pit was one in a line of eleven pits on a NE–SW alignment. It measured 1.5m in width, 1.65m in length and 0.22m deep. It had a single mid grey brown clayey silty fill (55) which contained a large sherd of post-medieval pottery, slate and 27 very small fragments of post-medieval brick. Other pits in this alignment were also excavated to demonstrate that they were all part of the same structure and were of fairly modern date.

Ditch 3, 9 (Pl. 2)

This was a straight linear ditch, on a NE–SW alignment; it had a U-shaped profile and a single fill. The single fill (56) was mid orange brown clayey silt with gravel inclusions. Two fragments of early post-medieval brick/tile was collected from this fill and the surface of the ditch itself. This ditch truncated ditch 8.

Undated

A small number of features remain undated, these are:

Gullies 4 and 5 (Pl. 3)

Gully 4 was a narrow linear on a south-east-north-west alignment that terminated on site; it had a shallow bowl shaped profile that measured 0.42m wide and 0.13m deep. A modern truncation cut through gully 4 completely removing a c. 2m length. Gully 5 continued the line of gully 4 after a gap of 1.5m; it had a slight concave base with moderately sloping sides that measured 0.61m wide and 0.16m deep. Both gullies were filled with a single fill (57 and 58) which was mid brown grey silty clay and contained a small quantity of burnt flint.

Posthole 12

An oval posthole measuring 0.57m in diameter and 0.23m deep; the posthole truncated ditch 11 and had a concave base and irregular sides (shallow to moderate). The posthole had two fills, which may represent the post (67) and post packing (68). Fill (67) was 0.35m in diameter and 0.23m in depth, it was dark brown clay and contained flecks of burnt clay, including one small piece that might have been pottery but was too degraded to be certain. The secondary fill (68) was light blue grey clay that measured 0.57m in diameter and 0.2m in depth.

Pit 13

A shallow circular pit measuring 1.02m in diameter and 0.12m deep; it contained a single fill (69) mid brown grey silty clay with large stone inclusions. The pit is situated along the line of square modern pits, and contained no finds.

FINDS

Early Iron Age Pottery by Barbara McNee

Seven pottery sherds, weighing 103g, were recovered from pit 1 (53) and are part of the same vessel. The pottery was recorded using the methodology set out by the Prehistoric Ceramics Research Group (PCRG 2010). Much fired clay was also present and was probably badly degraded pottery.

There are two rim sherds, one conjoining shoulder sherd, and four body sherds. They belong to a jar, with a medium length upright neck and a slightly everted rim. The rim top is flattened and expanded, and the base of the neck joins a round shoulder. There are hints of two fingertips on the shoulder, and these may belong to a decorative scheme consisting of horizontal fingertip impressions. The jar has a rim diameter of 220mm, with 13% remaining.

Fabric description

A crumbly fabric containing moderate (10%) poorly sorted sub-angular flint up to 3mm in size. The clay matrix includes very common (30%) fine-medium sand sized quartz; fracture is irregular; surface feels rough and the firing has produced an unoxidised core, and dark brown/reddish surfaces.

The jar is phased to around the early Iron Age, and there are a number of parallels across Hampshire. Similar jars were recovered from early Iron Age Winnall Down (Hawkes 1985, fig. 53/46); Southampton (dated to 7th or 6th century BC, Champion 1986: figure 5/10); Danebury (Brown 2000, form type JB1.1, 7th-5th century BC) and an early Iron Age hammerhead jar from Barton Stacey (Jones 2013, fig. 9/11).

Middle and Later Iron Age Pottery and fired clay by Cristina Mateos Leal

A moderately large quantity of what is either fired clay, badly degraded pottery or possibly briquetage was recovered (Appendix 3). A large proportion of this came from pit 1. Apart from the early Iron Age jar reported above, this is mostly tiny pieces (averaging less than two grams per 'sherd') in a very sandy fabric. It appears to include scored ware for which an early or middle Iron Age date may be appropriate but further research may be required to establish if this is in fact present. Similar difficulty in distinguishing pottery from fired clay was noted at the adjacent site (Tabor 2020, 61–2) though the tiny fragment size makes it more pronounced here.

Three sherds of very coarsely flint tempered sandy ware from ditch terminus 6 are more certainly from a late Iron Age storage jar.

A sherd from pit 2 is in post-medieval redware.

Ceramic Building Materials by Danielle Milbank

A total of 29 fragments of ceramic building material weighing 634g were recovered in the course of the excavation, from two contexts. The material is of post-medieval date, and was discarded after recording, with the exception of one piece of brick from 3 (56), weighing 388g.

Pit 2 (55) contained 27 very small fragments of brick (30g) in a medium hardness, fairly dense fabric with sparse sandy inclusions and an orange red colour, and likely medieval or post-medieval date.

Ditch slot 3 (56) contained two pieces of brick, in a sandy, slightly coarse fabric with sparse sand and occasional small angular flint inclusions. The example which has the full thickness present is 52mm thick, and has a slightly uneven finish suggesting it is handmade, and the form and finish are suggestive of an early post-medieval date.

Macrobotanical remains by Jo Pine

A total of six samples were processed from the deposits encountered during the excavation. The samples were floated and wet sieved using a 0.25mm sieve and air dried and the flots were retained to be examined under a hand lens and microscope and magnifications between x8 and x60. No charred plant macrofossils nor identifiable charcoal were present. The charcoal from pit 1 was in very small pieces, none of which would permit the fracturing necessary for species identification.

Radiocarbon dating

Two samples of charcoal were submitted to the Chrono Centre, Queens University Belfast for accelerated mass spectrometer radiocarbon dating. Details of methodology and assessment of the reliability of the results are held in archive. The results obtained are presented in Appendix 2. The results were calibrated using CALIB rev 8.2 (Stuiver and Reimer 1993–2000, with data from Reimer *et al.* 2020). The probabilities for the calibrated dates are given as area under the probability curve at 2-sigma range (95.4% probability). The plot of the dates' intercepts on the calibration curve (Chart 1) used OxCal4.4.4 (Bronk Ramsey 2023, also with data from Reimer *et al.* 2020). The date ranges for the two fills of a single pit overlap for a substantial period (486–400 cal BC) and archaeologically this must be the preferred date but it is worth noting that Chart 1 shows the actual probability of the pit fills being closely contemporary to be very low (most probable at around 415–400 cal BC). However, this is more a result of the inherent difficulty of the calibration curve for this period and archaeologically there is no reason not to assign a single date in the 5th century to pit 1, towards the end of the early Iron Age.

Conclusion

The excavation has revealed typical deposits of Iron Age date including pits and boundary or enclosure ditches. Two radiocarbon determinations indicate a date in the 5th century BC for pit, while the pottery from ditch 6 is late Iron Age and other sherds (if they are in fact pottery) may be Middle Iron Age. These deposits are now considered to extend the spread of Iron Age features previously recorded to the east (Taylor 2020a). At the present Grange Road site, it is noted that the Iron Age deposits are located towards the east side of the site and it is proposed that these define the western extent of the settlement though its extent to the south and east are as yet unknown. The chronology at the site to the east was also supported by a slightly later radiocarbon date of 404-228 cal BC (UBA41167), which also supports the idea of an elongated chronology here and would even allow continuity throughout the period, which would be unusual. However not enough dating evidence was recovered to distinguish between continuous occupation of three or four centuries or repeated reused of the site after periods of abandonment.

The distribution of Iron Age sites in south-east Hampshire is poorly understood with the clayey or sandy soils of the Hampshire basin being particularly under-represented despite recent discoveries at Hatch Farm, Eastleigh (Taylor 2020b), Peak Lane, Fareham (Manisse 2020) and Scratchface Lane, Bedhampton (Bray and Platt 2017). Yet fieldwork on the gravel terraces forming the coastal plain on which the site lies to the west of Southampton have recently begun to record Bronze Age, Iron Age and Roman sites, as at Downton (Beaverstock *et al.* 2017; Attard *et al.* 2022) and Roke Manor (Attard *et al.* 2021) and this pattern is already better recorded to the east in Sussex (Hall and Ford 1994; Manley 2008; Wallis 2017; Wallis 2019). More sites similar to Grange Road, can therefore be expected in the Netley environs.

The fieldwork also included the digging of test pits to examine and record the gravel geological strata and this resulted in the recovery of in-situ/or fresh flintwork of Middle Palaeolithic date with the details described in part 2.

Part 2: Palaeolithic Archaeology by Will Attard

Pleistocene Archaeological background

During the Pleistocene and much of the Holocene the Solent formed a major river system, draining much of the Hampshire basin and surrounding chalk downland. The site at Grange Road lies above deposits associated with the River Test which, along with the Avon, Frome, Itchen, Medina and Stour constitute the remnants of the upper reaches and feeder channels of the former Solent River. Specifically, the fluvial gravels underlying the site belong to terraces 3 and 4 of the Test. The terrace gravels of the Solent River System are a well-documented and rich resource for early Palaeolithic archaeology, with thousands of lower and middle Palaeolithic artefacts recovered from the gravels themselves and the overlying head brickearth deposits.

The site is located 0.69km north-east of the extant Test, and around 2.9km north-west of the extant River Hamble. The site itself produced a small assemblage of lower and middle Palaeolithic artefacts during previous test pitting (WA 2019b). The lower Palaeolithic artefacts consisted of a handaxe and possible flake, and were recovered from within the gravels. More unusually, the middle Palaeolithic flints were recovered from on or near the surface of the gravels, at the base of the head brickearth. These flints were in relatively fresh condition, suggesting they had not been subject to much post-depositional movement or transportation after entering the river system. It is therefore possible that the finds from previous test pitting represent lithics broadly *in situ* on a preserved portion of middle Palaeolithic land surface. *In situ* and minimally derived-context Palaeolithic material is rare, and even relatively small assemblages can be of regional significance.

Objectives

The general objective for the Palaeolithic part of this investigation was to provide information with which to manage Palaeolithic deposits within the underlying gravel

Specific research objectives pertaining to the Palaeolithic were:

- to further record and characterise any in-situ or near in-situ Pleistocene riparian or archaeological deposits from the gravels underlying the site;
- to recover any reworked Pleistocene archaeological, faunal and environmental remains from the gravel underlying the site;
- to identify and sample deposits within the gravel/sand deposits suitable for OSL-dating

Test Pitting Methodology

Ten Palaeolithic test pits were proposed to be dug, they were to measure 2m x 1.5m wide and up to 2.5m deep, with a contingency to extend any test pits to allow for battering or stepping of the top and sides to facilitate safe access if

necessary (Fig. 6). Representative sections through the gravel were recorded and all spoil removed from the test pits was monitored to recover any lithic and/or faunal remains. All deposits or horizons of interest that were encountered were cleaned and sorted through using hand tools where it was safe to do so.

A programme of environmental sampling was to take place should any well stratified deposits with a potential for survival of palaeo-environmental evidence be encountered, specifically with regards to the survival of smaller remains such as molluscs, small animal bones and pollen. Typically this involves samples of up to 40l depending on the size of the deposit being investigated. Any such deposit was to be sampled in consultation with our environmental consultants and the Hampshire County Archaeological Service. Samples were taken according to Historic England Guidance. Samples for OSL-dating were to be taken on any deposits deemed suitable by the on-site geoarchaeologist/ Palaeolithic specialist.

Test pits were opened to a safe depth (generally around 1.0-1.2m), at which point sections were hand-cleaned, before continuing to the intended depth. All test pits were backfilled on the same day they were opened in order to maintain a safe site. Materials were backfilled in the order they were excavated, and the tops of the test pits were made level, but no other reinstatement was undertaken. Prior to backfilling, the location of each test pit and level above Ordnance Datum was recording using a Trimble handheld GPS logger with sub-decimetre accuracy.

Test Pitting Results

Ten test pits were opened in the intended locations, with an additional small area strip and an eleventh test pit opened to clarify results and to obtain samples suitable for OSL-dating (Fig. 11). Recovery of a modest but well-stratified and fairly fresh assemblage of middle Palaeolithic flints further demonstrates the Pleistocene archaeological potential of the site highlighted in the previous archaeological evaluation (WA 2019b). Following the discovery of worked flint in Test Pit 2, a small area strip was undertaken to clarify results and to evaluate the nature of underlying Pleistocene deposits in the immediate area of the find (Pl. 11). Excavation of the test pits reported here, in combination with previous work, allows for relatively detailed mapping of surviving Pleistocene deposits across the area of Palaeolithic potential, providing information that can be utilised to inform any future archaeological mitigation for the site and its environs (Figs 12–15).

All test pits were excavated using a 13-tonne 360° type excavator fitted with a toothless grading bucket. Excavation took place under constant specialist archaeological supervision. Gravel was removed in spits 0.15m thick. Gravel was piled by deposit/unit, and the base 0.15m of the head brickearth was kept separate from the rest of the brickearth, and the upper 0.15m of the terrace gravel was kept separate from the rest of the upper gravel unit. This was done in order to

target/separate the archaeologically sensitive horizon identified during the Wessex Archaeology programme of test pitting, and to address questions of whether later middle Palaeolithic material at the site is present within or on the surface of the terrace gravels (Davis *et al.* 2016). The Test Pits are summarized in Appendix 4. Measurements in the test pit descriptions are given as depth below the surface level of the pit.

Test Pit 1 (Figs 6, 7 and 13)

Test Pit 1 lay at a height of 21.50m aOD and measured 2.10m in depth. The stratigraphy observed consisted of 0.60m of top- and subsoil overlying 1.10m of mid brown-orange gravel in a sandy clay matrix. Clast size within the gravel varied from around 0.01m to 0.20m, though the majority were 0.03-0.10m in size. The underlying Selsey Sand was encountered at a depth of 1.70m, and continued beyond the base of the test pit. Worked flints were recovered from the gravel in this test pit, and are detailed below.

Test Pit 2 (Figs 6, 7 and 14, Pls 7 and 11)

Test Pit 2 lay at a height of 20.45m aOD, and was 2.0m deep. Observed stratigraphy consisted of 0.65m of top- and subsoil overlying a relatively thin mid yellow-brown gravel in a sandy clay matrix (0.65-0.85m). Clast size was consistent with that observed in Test Pit 1 (see above). Though thin, the gravel displayed a sharp lower boundary with the Selsey Sand at a depth of 0.90m (19.55m aOD). Occasional rooting was observed at the upper boundary of the gravel, with some limited mixing of subsoil and gravel. Worked middle Palaeolithic flints were recovered from the upper gravel in this test pit, and are detailed below.

Test Pit 3 (Figs 6, 8 and 13)

Test Pit 3 lay at a height of 21.70m aOD and measured 2.30m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.70m of top- and subsoil overlying head brickearth (0.70-1.0m), in turn overlying a thick deposit of unsorted gravel in a loose, sandy matrix (1.0-1.85m). Clast size was similar to that seen in Test Pits 1 and 2, though the upper size limit was larger at around 0.20m. Sharp boundaries were observed between the overlying head brickearth and the underlying Selsey Sand. The later deposit was encountered at a depth of 1.85m (19.85m aOD) and continued beyond the base of the test pit.

Test Pit 4 (Figs 6, 8 and 15, Pl. 8)

Test Pit 4 lay at a height of 21.90m aOD and measured 2.50m deep. Observed stratigraphy consisted of 0.50m of top- and subsoil overlying head brickearth (0.50-0.80m). Terrace gravels were encountered at a depth of 0.80m - >2.50m. Two gravel units were discernible - the upper a mid orange-brown gravel in a clay sand matrix, with occasional small

light blue-grey lenses (0.80-1.70m) and the lower a mid grey-brown gravel in a firm sandy clay matrix. Worked middle Palaeolithic flints were recovered from the upper gravel in this test pit, and are detailed below.

Test Pit 5 (Figs 6, 9)

Test Pit 5 lay at a height of 21.30m aOD and was dug to a depth of 2.30m. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.52m of top- and subsoil, 0.40m of head brickearth, and 1.38m of mid brown-orange gravel in a clay-sand matrix. Selsey Sand was encountered at the base of the trench at a depth of 2.15m, though only in the south-eastern corner, suggesting that the lower boundary of the gravel may be undulating.

Test Pit 6 (Figs 6, 9 and 14)

Test Pit 6 lay at a height of 21.80m aOD, and was 2.50m deep. Observed stratigraphy consisted of top- and subsoil (0-0.60m), head brickearth (0.60-1.10m) and terrace gravels (1.10-2.50m). The Selsey Sand was not encountered in this trench. The terrace gravels observed consisted of three main units. The first (1.10-1.50m) consisted of a mid brown-yellow gravel in a sandy matrix, poorly sorted and with fairly small clasts (0.01-0.05m). The middle gravel unit (1.50-2.15m) was mid brown-red, unsorted and with clast size ranging from 0.01-0.20m, and the basal gravel (2.15-2.50m) was mid brown-grey in colour, with similar clast size.

Test Pit 7 (Figs 6, 10 and 12)

Test Pit 7 lay at a height of 20.89m aOD and measured 2.30m in depth. Observed stratigraphy consisted of 0.50m overburden (topsoil, subsoil and redeposited gravel), over 0.50m of head brickearth, above 0.60m of small-medium clast orange-yellow gravel in a clay sand matrix, and 0.70m of large clast brown-red gravel in a clay sand matrix. Selsey Sand was exposed at the very base of the trench (2.25-2.30m).

Test Pit 8 (Figs 6, 10 and 13, Pl. 9)

Test Pit 8 lay at a height of 21.70m aOD and was 2.50m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.80m of topsoil and subsoil overlying 0.60m of mid brown-yellow clay-sand with moderate intrusions via rooting and other bioturbation from overlying contexts. Below this, 0.60m of medium to large clast mid orange-brown gravel overlay 0.50m of large clast brown-red gravel in a very firm clay rich matrix. Selsey Sand was not visible within Test Pit 9, and water ingress in the lower portion of the test pit prevented investigation of the base.

Test Pit 9 (Figs 6, 11 and 14)

Test Pit 9 lay at a height of 22.45m aOD and measured 2.90m in depth. Observed stratigraphy consisted of 0.50m of top- and subsoil, above 0.50m of mixed clay-sand and gravel interpreted as head brickearth, over 0.55m pale sandy gravel, 0.50m mid red-orange gravel in a clay-sand matrix and 0.95m of very firm large clast red gravel. The underlying Selsey Sand was not reached in this test pit.

Test Pit 10 (Figs 6, 11, 12 and 14)

Test Pit 10 lay at a height of 21.70m aOD and was 2.40m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.40m top- and subsoil, above 0.20m of mid orange-yellow sand, overlying 0.38m poorly sorted light brown-grey sandy gravel, 0.50m loose red gravel in a sandy matrix, 0.50m firm red-orange gravel in a clay-sand matrix and 0.30m of firm brown-red gravel in a sandy clay matrix. Selsey Sand was exposed at a depth of 2.30m. Worked Palaeolithic flints were recovered from the upper gravel in this test pit, and are detailed below.

Test Pit 11 (Figs 6 and 11, Pl.10)

Test Pit 11 lay at a height of 22.29m aOD and measured 1.30m in depth. This test pit was opened near Test Pit 2 in order to obtain samples for OSL-dating from the horizon from which Palaeolithic flints were recovered. Observed stratigraphy consisted of 0.52m of top and subsoil, 0.30m of fine, sandy gravel and 0.38m of unsorted, small-medium clast sandy gravel. Selsey Sand was encountered at a depth of 1.20m. OSL samples were taken from the fine upper gravel and the unsorted lower gravel.

Area Strip (around Test Pit 2) (Figs 6 and 7, Plate 11)

The small area strip around Test Pit 2 lay at a height of 20.55m aOD. This strip was intended to identify any preserved *in situ* archaeology in the immediate vicinity of Test Pit 2, from which a near-fresh condition Middle Palaeolithic core was recovered. Observed stratigraphy consisted of topsoil overlying a thin deposit of terrace gravel, with Selsey Sand present from 0.95m.

Finds

A collection of seven struck flints was recovered during test pitting. All pieces were in fresh or near-fresh condition and recovered from close to the contact point between the terrace gravels and the overlying head brickearth

Flint Catalogue

Flake - Test Pit 1. Plain-platform, coarse grained small-ish flint flake (Pl. 12).

Core and flake - Test Pit 2. Prepared platform - recurrent centripetal used-up Levallois? flake from surface of cobble, partly cortical at distal end, evidence of facetting/platform preparation (Pl. 13).

Core - Test Pit 4 - similar size and general flaking to core from TP2, but no platform preparation. Both more or less exhausted. (Pl. 15)

Flake - Test Pit 10 - chunky plain platform. (Pl. 14)

Pointed cobble tool and large flake - knotweed gravel patch (Pl. 17)

Discussion

The gravel terraces of the Solent Basin are one of the richer areas of Southern England for Palaeolithic archaeology, yet there is much to learn in terms chronology and regional variation. Lithics assemblages seem to be distinct from their contemporaries in the Thames Valley. The finds recovered here add to the modest corpus of fresh or *in-situ* finds from the region. The artefacts recovered here would appear to be of late Middle Palaeolithic date. The cores recovered are discoid or at least not regular centripetal Levallois. If Discoid, this is consistent with a late Middle Palaeolithic date, with the activity area essentially being the exposed surface of the gravel. Middle Palaeolithic material from the Warsash terraces appears to be at least sometimes *in situ* or nearly so. Of particular note for Grange Road is the recovery of a fair amount of almost-entirely fresh condition early Middle Palaeolithic material.

Middle Palaeolithic material in the area is of slightly uncertain context - i.e. is it associated with the upper gravels, the surface of the gravels or the overlying head brickearth deposits, and such questions are raised in virtually every publication on the subject. The fieldwork here recovered middle Palaeolithic material from the very base of the head brickearth (i.e. the surface of the gravels) and the upper 0.15m or so of the upper gravel unit. This suggests that the idea raised by Davis *et al.* (2016) that there may be a landscape-scale scatter of early Middle Palaeolithic evidence across the surface of multiple terraces and deposits is likely. There is still some uncertainty as to which gravel terrace the test pits were dug into.

According to Davis *et al.* (2021) the site lies over the Upper Warsash Terrace (Belbin - Terrace 4) but the site GPS data places the test pits slightly higher than expected (around the 21.5-22m aOD mark) rather than the 18m aOD or so expected for that terrace, and the site might lie on the level relating in actuality to the Mottisfont (Lower Warsash Terrace -3).

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APPENDIX 1: Catalogue of features

<i>Cut</i>	<i>Fill</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Comment</i>
	50	Topsoil		
	51	Subsoil		
1	52-4	Pit	Iron Age	Pottery 548-400 cal BC; 486-372 cal BC
2	55	Pit	Post-Medieval	Pottery
3	56	Ditch	Post-Medieval	Brick
4	57	Gully Terminus		
5	58	Gully Terminus		
6	59	Ditch Terminus	Iron Age	
7	60	Ditch	Iron Age	
8	61	Ditch Terminus	Iron Age	
9	62	Ditch		
10	63-5	Ditch	Iron Age	
11	66	Ditch	Iron Age	
12	67-8	Posthole		
13	69	Pit		

APPENDIX 2: Radiocarbon dates

<i>Lab ID</i>	<i>Context</i>	<i>Material</i>	<i>Radiocarbon Age</i>	<i>F14C</i>	<i>Calibrated Age (cal BC)</i>	<i>Probability (%)</i>
UBA50084	Pit 1 (54)	charcoal	2412±29	0.7407±0.0026	741-692	10.4
					664-647	4.6
					548-400	85.0
UBA50085	Pit 1 (53)	charcoal	2342±28	0.7471±0.0026	514-500	1.7
					486-372	98.3

APPENDIX 3: Catalogue of pottery and fired clay

<i>Cut</i>	<i>Deposit</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Area</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Wt (g)</i>
1	52	Pit		46	90
1	53	Pit		1636	3190
1	54	Pit		47	73
2	55	Post Med Pit		1	32
6	59	Ditch Terminus		3	43
7	60	Ditch		1	82
8	61	Ditch Terminus		2	4
10	64	Ditch		1	2
12	67	Posthole		1	3

APPENDIX 4: Test Pit details

<i>Test Pit</i>	<i>Height at surface (m aOD)</i>	<i>Depth (m)</i>	<i>Comment</i>
1	21.50	2.10	0-0.60m topsoil and subsoil; 0.60-1.70m mid orange-brown gravel, clay-sand matrix; 1.70m+ Selsey Sand. Middle Palaeolithic flints recovered from this test pit.
2	20/45	2.00	0-0.65m topsoil and subsoil; 0.65-0.90m mid yellow-brown gravel, sandy clay matrix; 0.90m+ Selsey Sand. Palaeolithic flints recovered from this test pit. [PI. 7]
3	21.70	2.30	0-0.70m topsoil and subsoil; 0.70-1.0m head brickearth; 1.0-1.85m unsorted gravel, loose sandy matrix; 1.85m+ Selsey Sand. Palaeolithic flints recovered from this test pit.
4	21.90	2.50	0-0.50m topsoil and subsoil; 0.50-0.80m head brickearth; 0.80-1.70m mid orange-brown gravel, clay-sand matrix, occasional light blue-grey clay lenses; 1.70-2.50m+ mid grey-brown gravel, firm sandy clay matrix. Middle Palaeolithic flints recovered from this test pit. [PI. 8]
5	21.30	2.30	0-0.52m topsoil and subsoil; 0.52-0.92m head brickearth; 0.90-2.30m+ mid brown-orange gravel, clay-sand matrix; small patch of Selsey Sand at a depth of 2.15-2.30m+, continuing beyond the base of the trench.
6	21.80	2.50	0-0.60m topsoil and subsoil; 0.60-1.10m head brickearth; 1.10-1.50m mid brown-yellow gravel, poorly sorted, sandy matrix, small clast size; 1.50-2.15m mid brown-red, unsorted, 0.01-0.20m clast size; 2.15-2.50m+ mid brown-grey gravel, 0.01-0.20m clast size.
7	20.89	2.30	0-0.50m topsoil, subsoil and modern redeposited gravel; 0.50-1.00m head brickearth; 1.00-1.60m orange-yellow gravel, clay sand matrix, 0.01-0.07m clast size; 1.60-2.30m+ mid red-brown gravel, clay sand matrix, 0.01-0.20m clast size; 2.25-2.30m+ (patch) Selsey Sand.
8	21.70	2.50	0-0.80m topsoil and subsoil; 0.80-1.40m mid brown-yellow clay-sand with intrusion via rooting from overlying deposits; 1.40-2.0m mid orange-brown gravel, 0.05-0.20m clast size; 2.0-2.50m mid brown-red gravel, very firm, 0.05-0.25m clast size. [PI. 9]
9	22.45	2.90	0-0.50m topsoil and subsoil; 0.50-1.00m mixed clay-sand and gravel (?head brickearth); 1.00-1.55m pale sandy gravel; 1.55-2.05m mid red-orange gravel, clay-sand matrix; 2.05-2.90m+ mid brown-red gravel, 0.01-0.25m clast size, very firm sandy clay matrix.
10	21.70	2.40	0-0.40m topsoil and subsoil; 0.40-0.60m mid orange-yellow sand; 0.60-0.98m poorly sorted light brown-grey sandy gravel, 0.98-1.48m loose brown-red sandy gravel, sandy matrix; 1.48-1.98m red-orange gravel, firm clay-sand matrix; 1.98-2.28m brown-red gravel, firm sandy clay matrix; 2.30-2.40m+ Selsey Sand.
11	22.29	1.30	0-0.52m topsoil and subsoil; 0.52-0.82m fine gravel in a sandy matrix; 0.82-1.20m unsorted sandy gravel, 0.01-0.05m clast size; 1.20m-1.30m+ Selsey Sand. [PI. 10]
Area Strip	20.55	1.05-1.20	

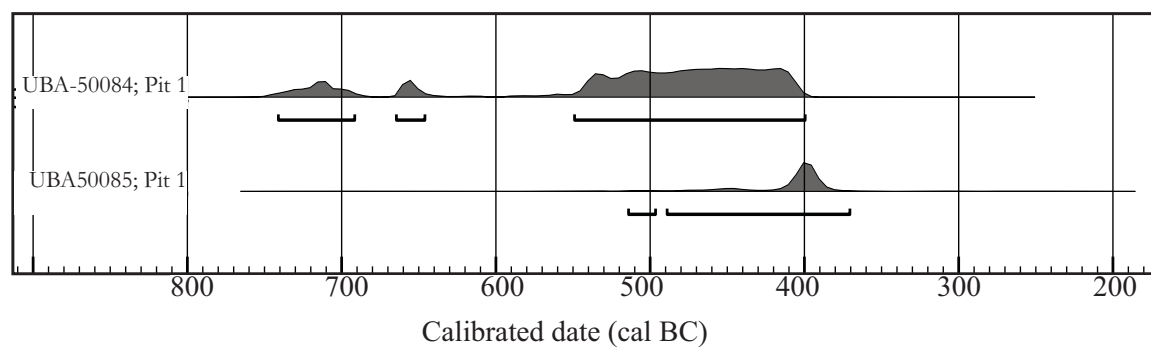


Chart 1. Plot of radiocarbon dates' intercepts on the calibration curve.

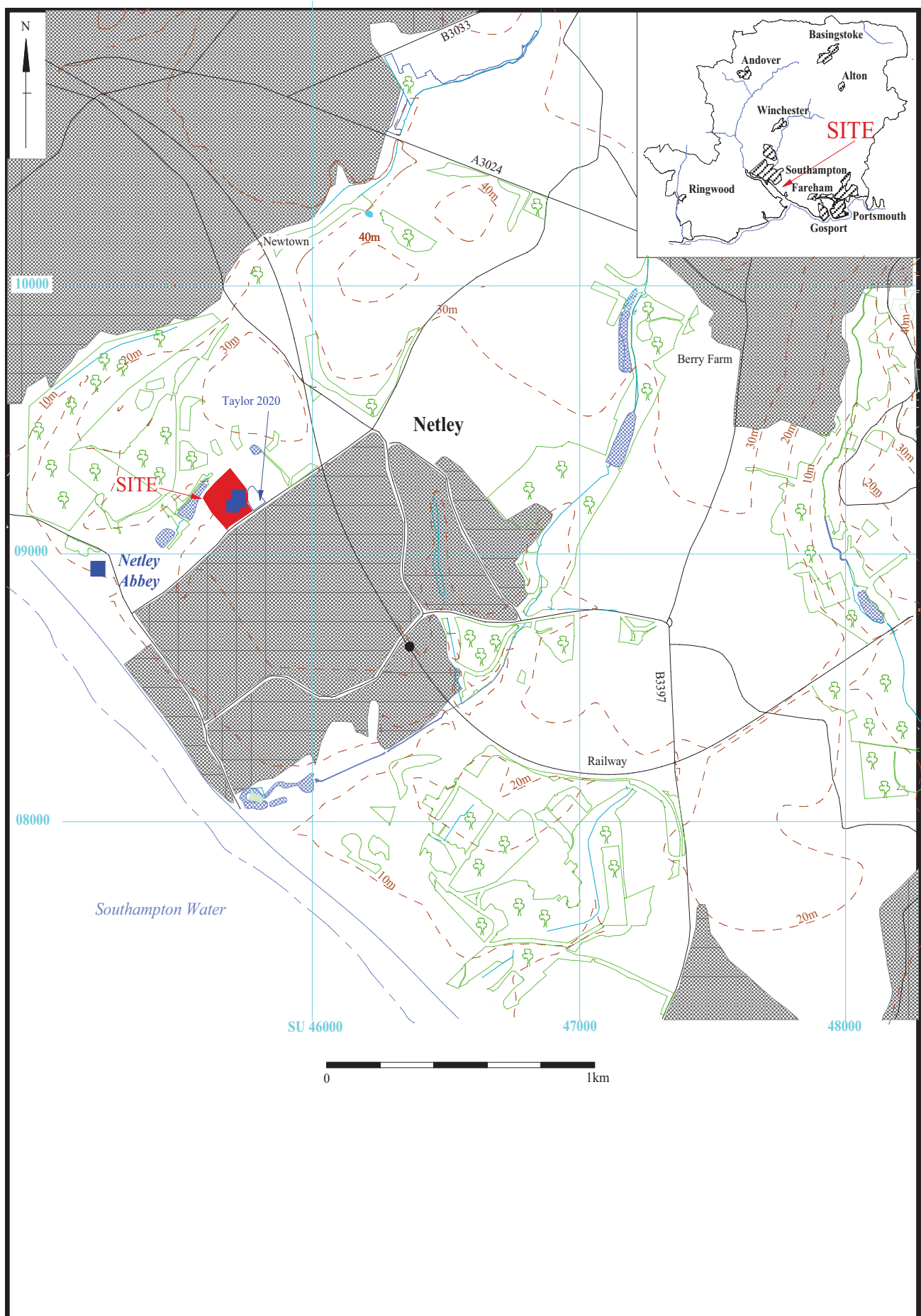
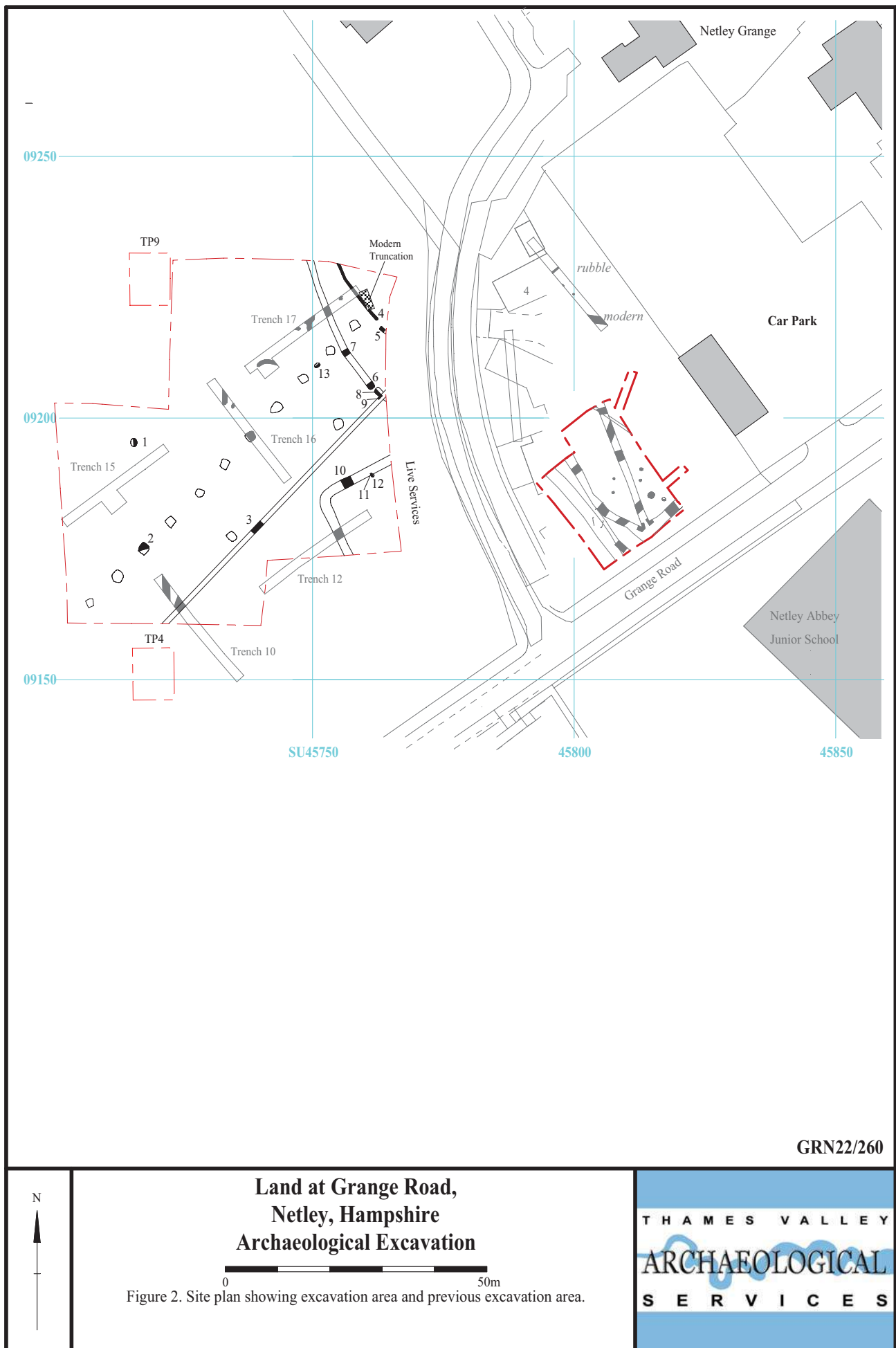


Figure 1 Location of site in HAMPSHIRE and Netley



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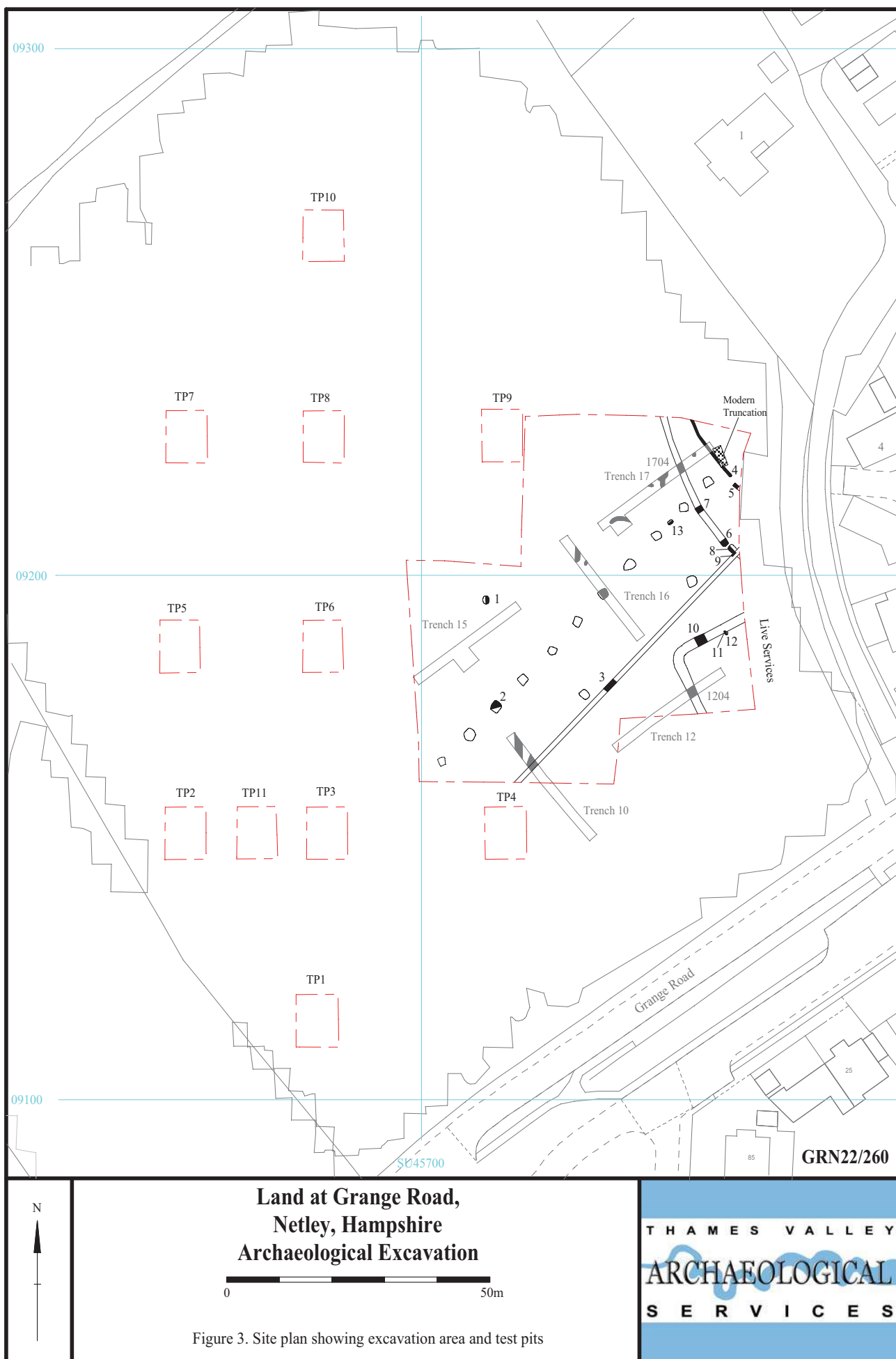


Figure 3. Site plan showing excavation area and test pits

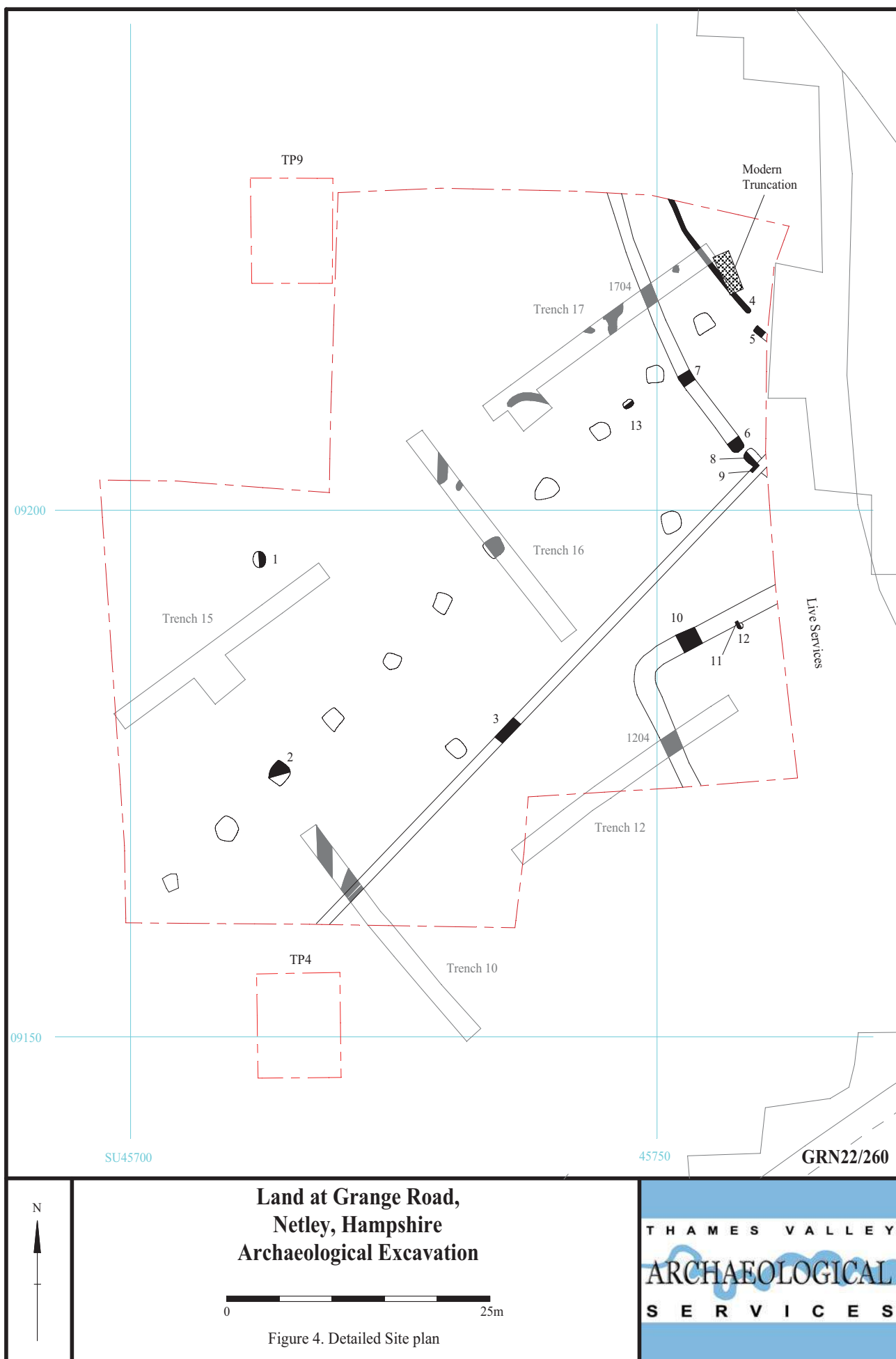
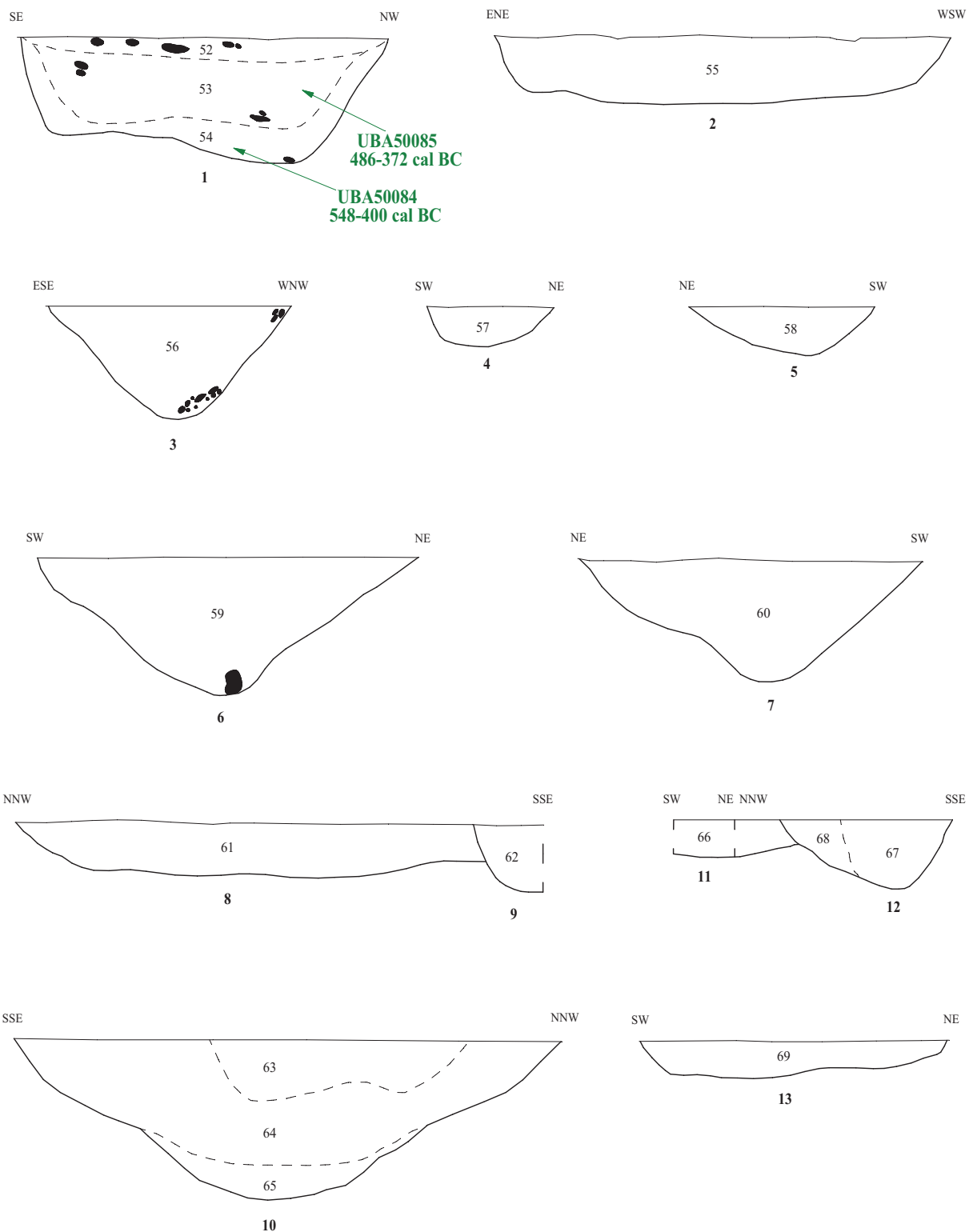


Figure 4. Detailed Site plan



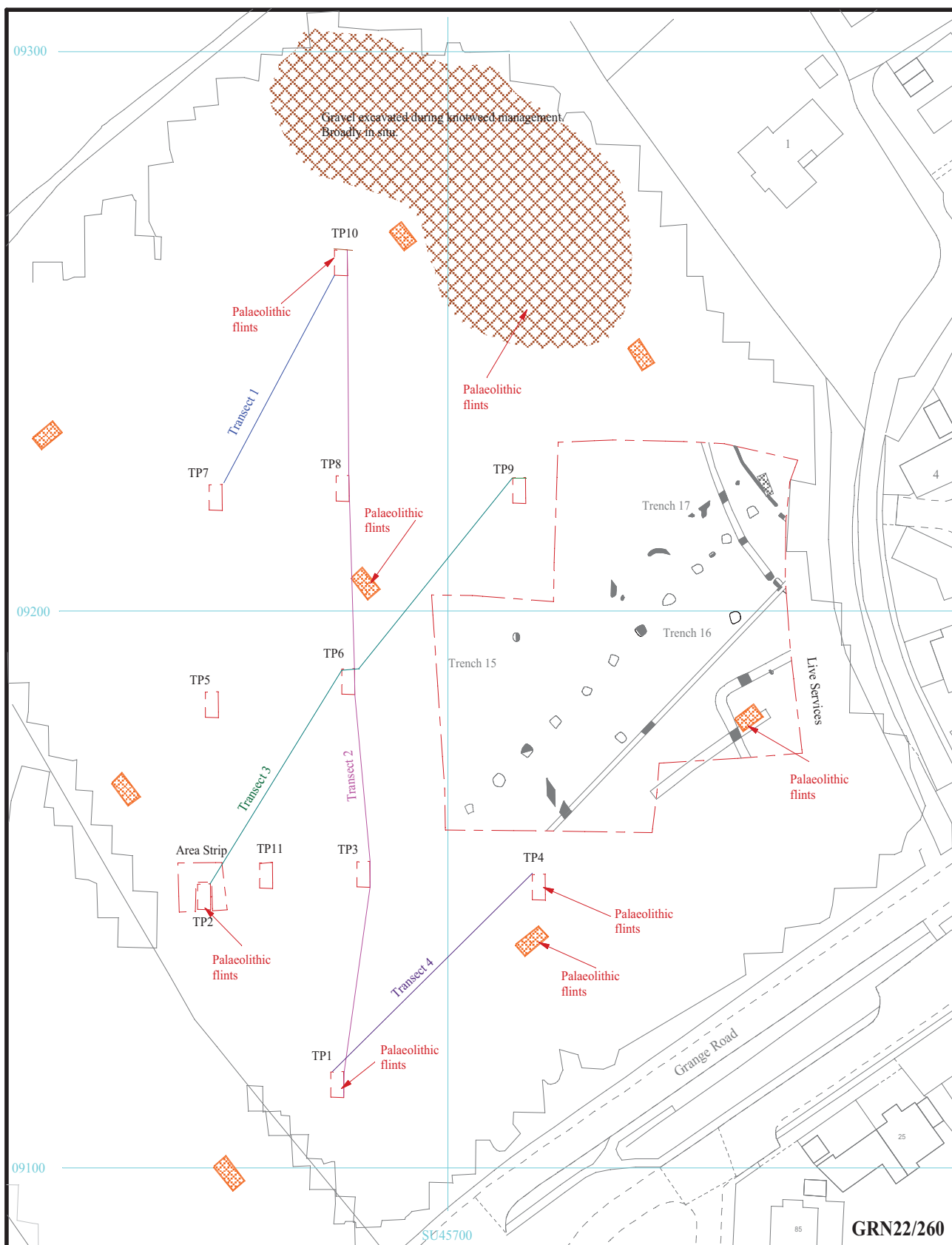
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Figure 5. Sections

0 1m

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Figure 6. Site plan showing excavation area and test pits

Test Pit 1

N S

21.50m aOD

topsoil/subsoil

mid orange-brown gravel

Selsey Sand

Test Pit 2

N S

20.45m aOD

topsoil/subsoil

Middle Palaeolithic core recovered from this deposit

mid yellow-brown gravel, sandy clay matrix

Selsey Sand

Area Strip around Test Pit 2

N S

20.55m aOD

topsoil/subsoil

mid orange-brown gravel

Selsey Sand

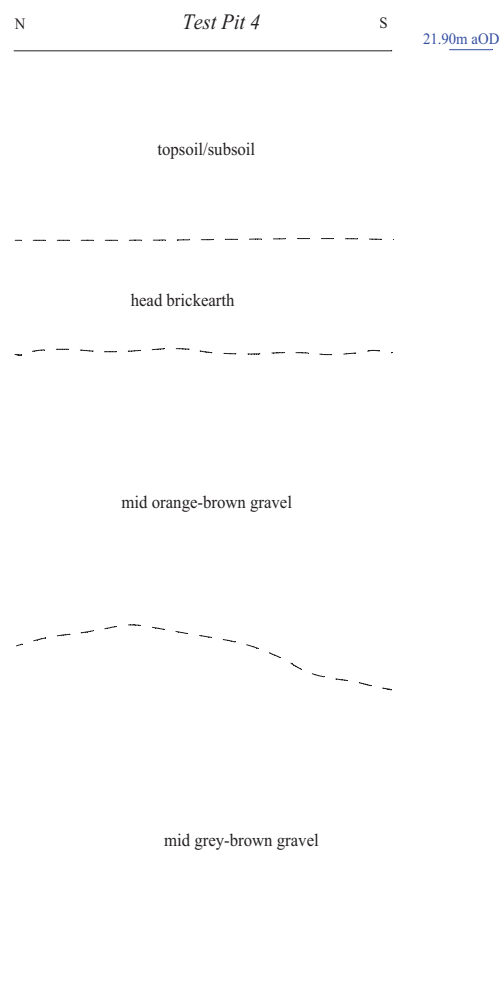
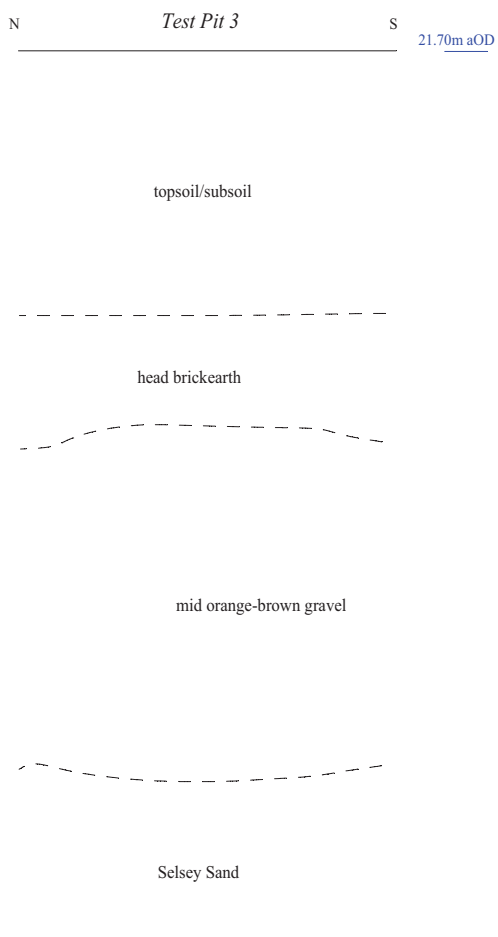
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Figure 7. Palaeolithic Test Pitting Sections TPs 1,2 and 2b

0 1m

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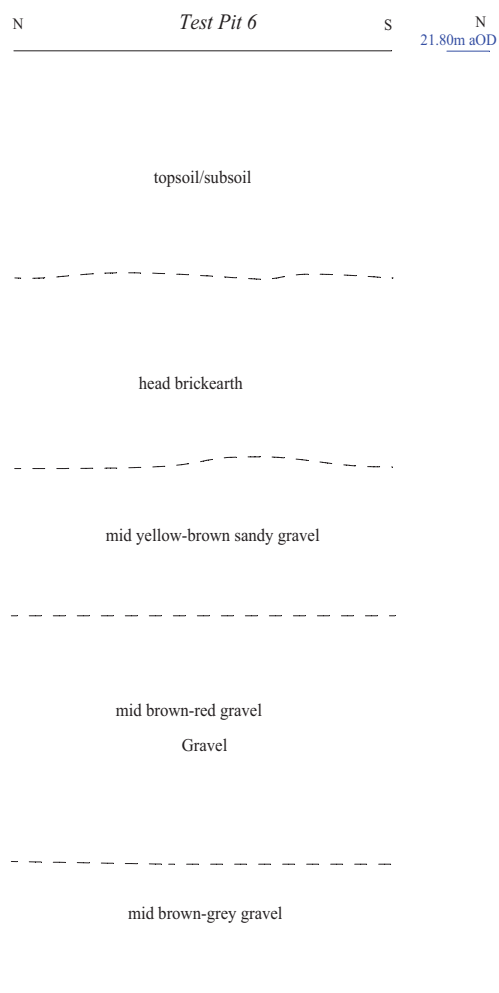
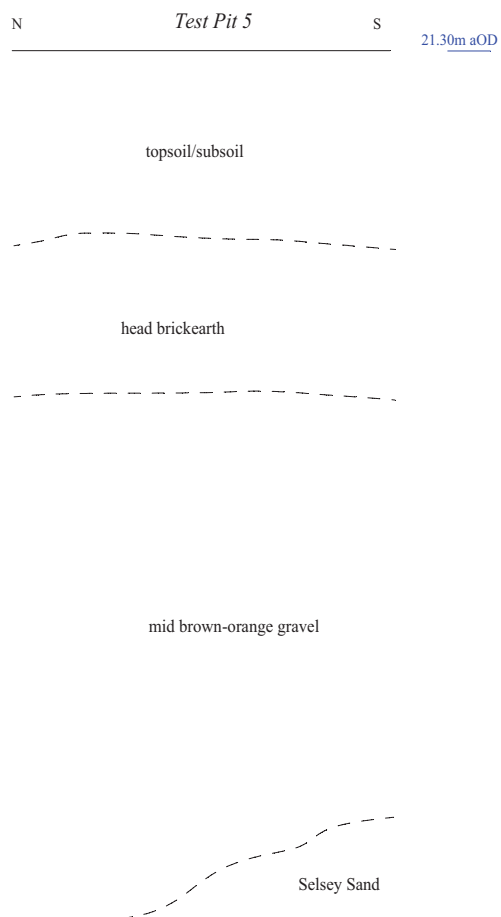
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Figure 8. Palaeolithic Test Pitting Sections 3-4



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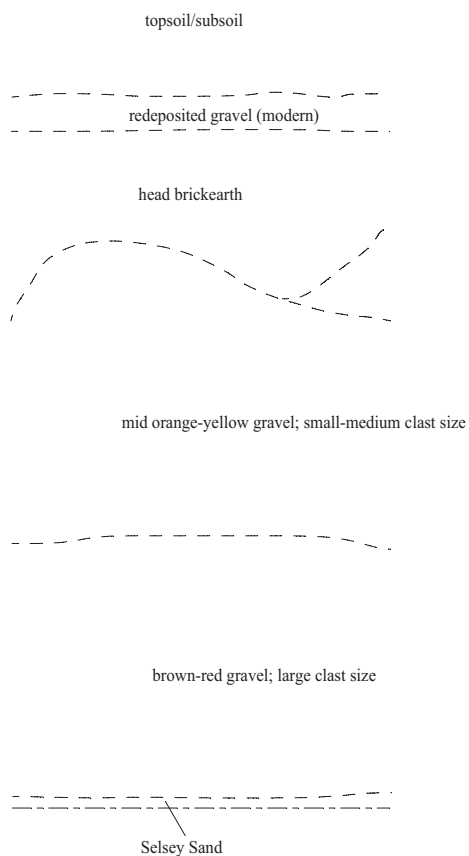
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Figure 9. Palaeolithic Test Pitting Sections TP5-6

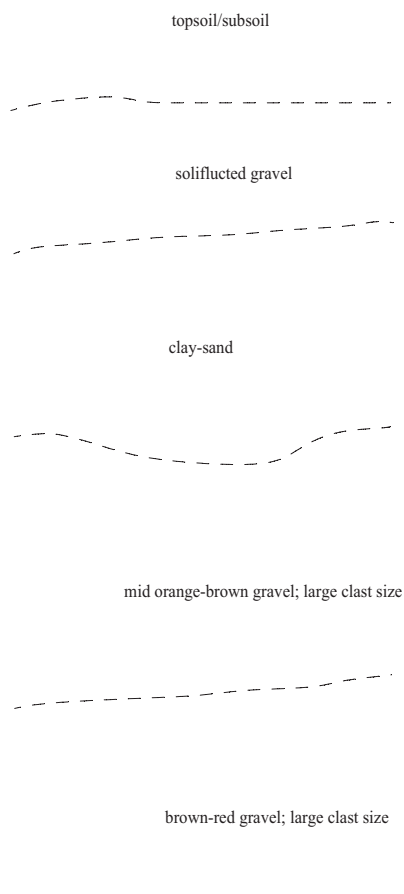


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N *Test Pit 7* S 20.89m aOD



N *Test Pit 8* S 21.70m aOD



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Figure 10. Palaeolithic Test Pitting Sections TP7-8



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N *Test Pit 9* S 22.45m aOD

topsoil/subsoil

mixed clay & gravel; ?head brickearth

pale sandy gravel

mid red-orange gravel

brown-red gravel; firm; large clast size

N *Test Pit 10* S 21.70m aOD

topsoil/subsoil

sand

fine sandy gravel; unsorted

brown-red gravel; poorly matrix supported

red-orange gravel; firm, well-supported

brown-red gravel; firm, well-supported

Selsey Sand

N *Test Pit 11* S 22.29m aOD

topsoil/subsoil

fine sandy gravel OSL 7
Depth 0.7m

sandy gravel; unsorted OSL 8
Depth 1.05m

Selsey Sand

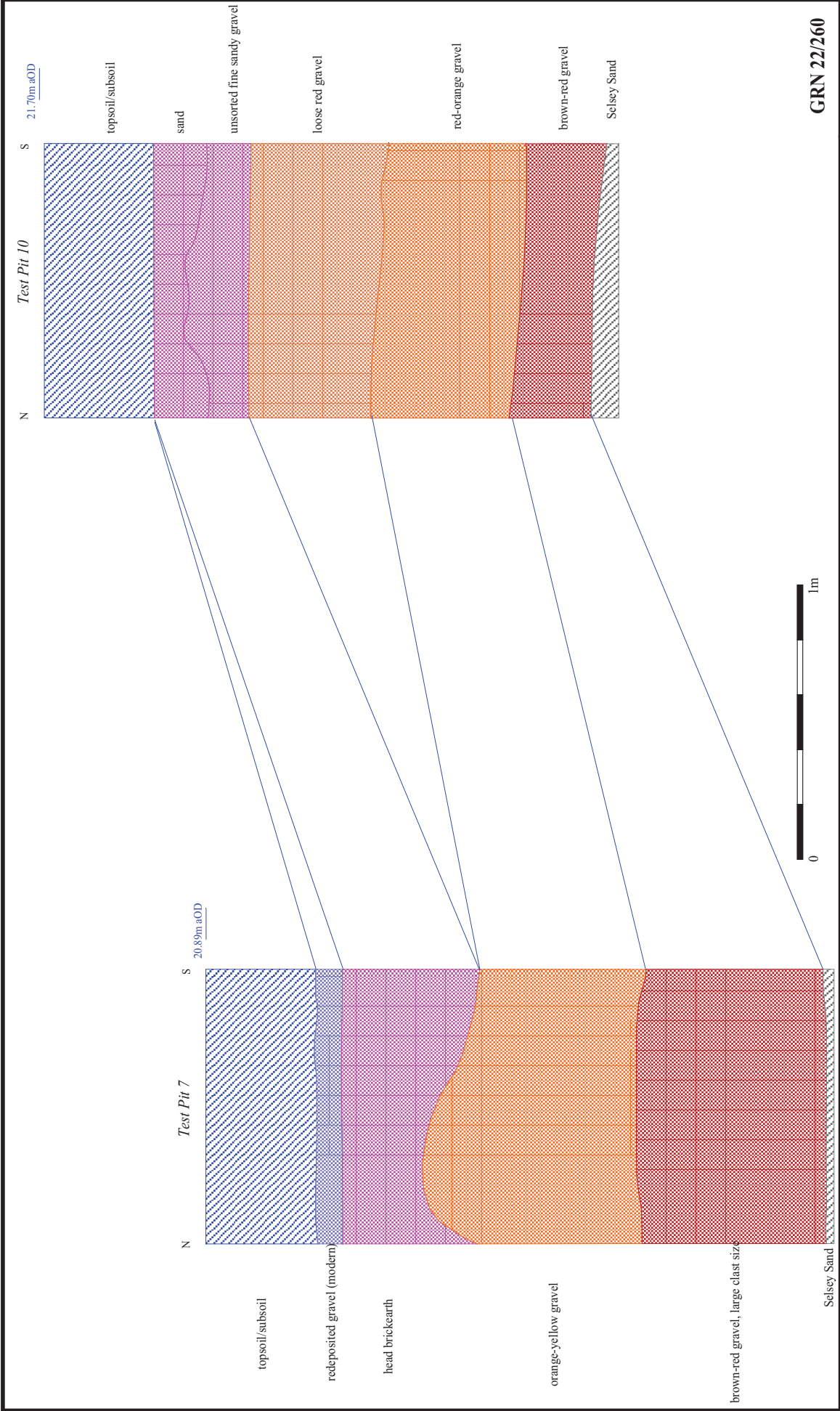
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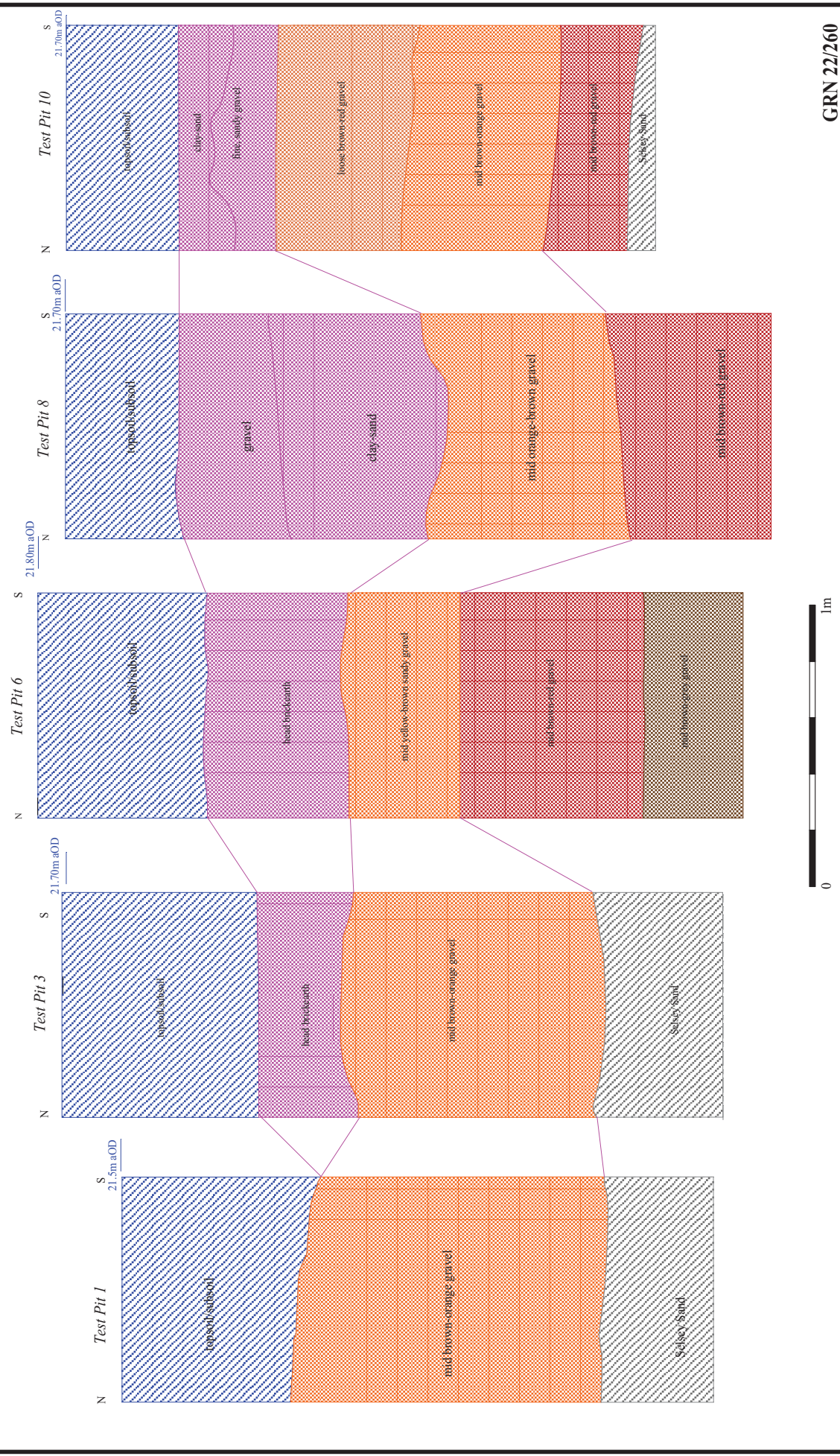
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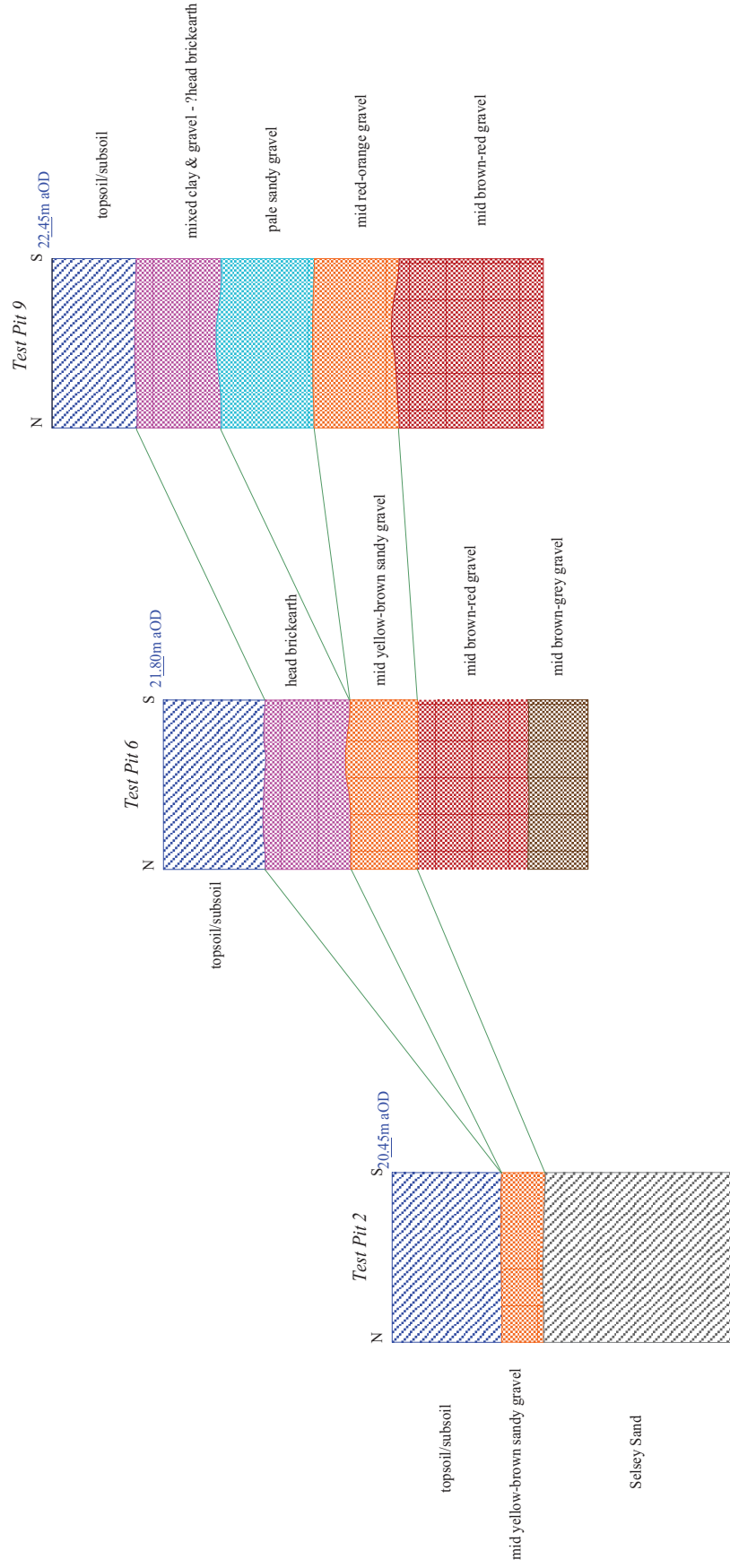
Figure 11. Palaeolithic Test Pitting Sections TP9-11

0 1m

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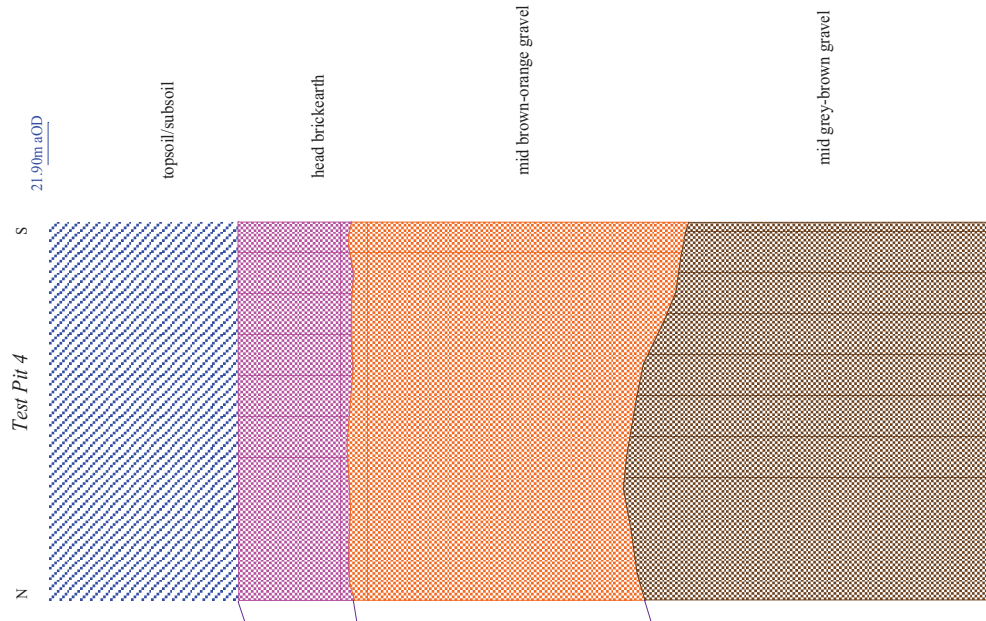
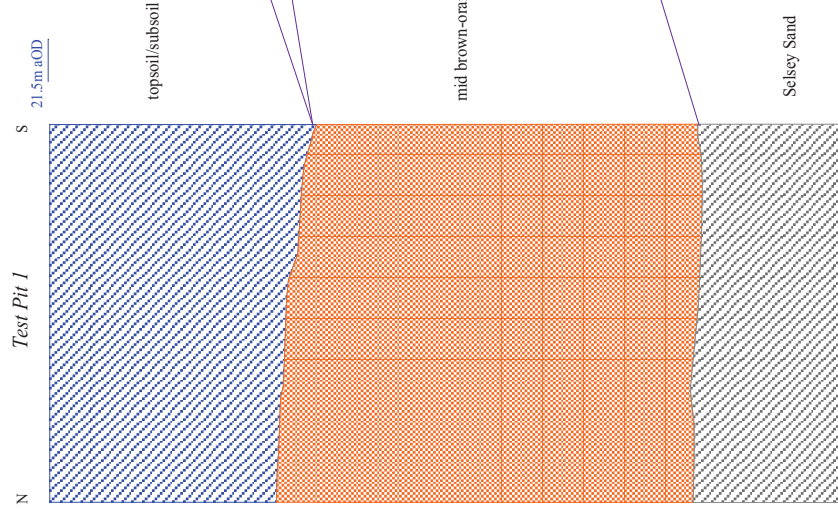




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Figure 14. Test Pit Transect 3



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Figure 15. Test Pit Transect 4



Plate 1. Pit 1, looking West, Scales: 1m and 0.3m.

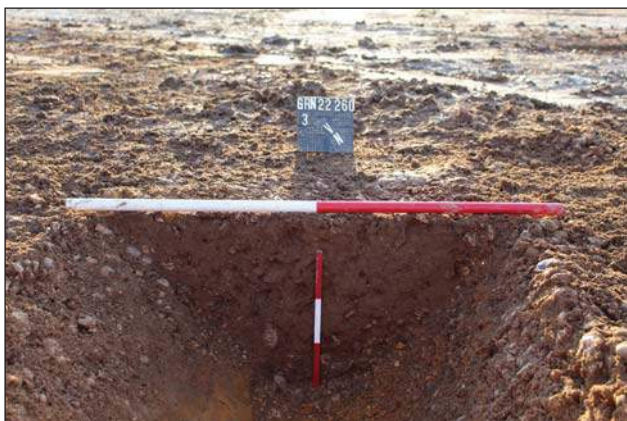


Plate 2. Ditch Slot 3, looking South West, Scales: 1m and 0.3m.



Plate 3. Gully Terminus 4, looking North West, Scales: 0.3m and 0.1m.



Plate 4. Ditch Slot 7, looking South East, Scales: 1m and 0.3m.



Plate 5. Ditch Terminus 8 and Ditch 9, looking North East, Scales: 1m and 0.1m.



Plate 6. Ditch Slot 10, looking South West, Scales: 1m and 0.3m.

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**Land at Grange Road,
Netley, Hampshire
Archaeological Excavation
Plates 1-6**

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Plate 7. Test Pit 2, looking East. Scale: 2m



Plate 8. Test Pit 4, looking East. Scale: 2m



Plate 9. Test Pit 8, looking East. Scale: 2m



Plate 10. Test Pit 11, looking East. Scales: 2m and 0.4m



Plate 11, Area strip around backfilled Test Pit 2, looking Northwest. Scale: 2m

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**Land at Grange Road, Netley,
Hampshire
Archaeological Excavation
Plates 7-11**

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Plate 12. Struck flake.
Recovered from upper 0.30m of terrace gravels,
Test Pit 1



Plate 13 ?Levallois core and flake with faceted platform.
Recovered from upper 0.15m of terrace gravel,
Test Pit 2

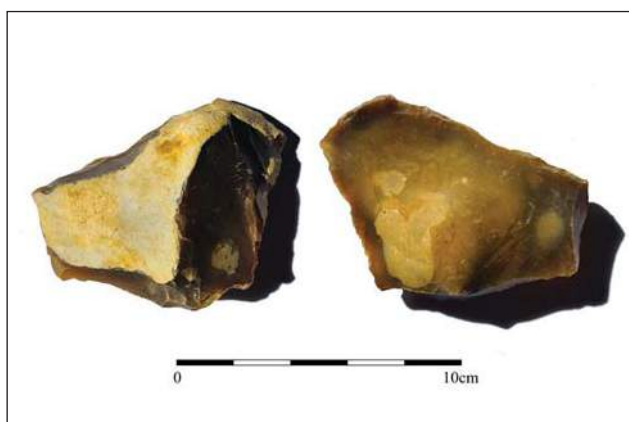


Plate 14. Large struck flake.
Recovered from surface of terrace gravels, Test Pit 10

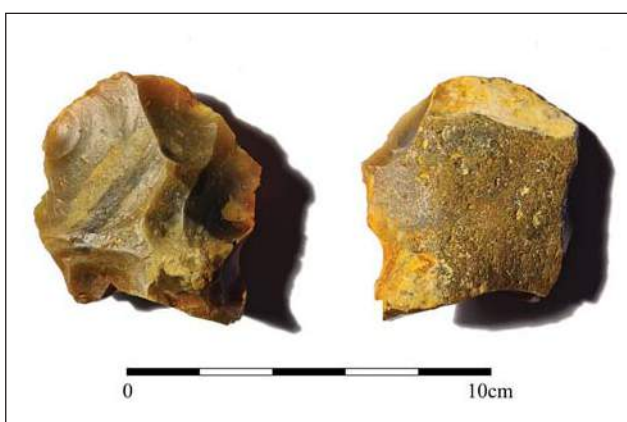


Plate 15. Core.
Recovered from surface of terrace gravels, Test Pit 4.

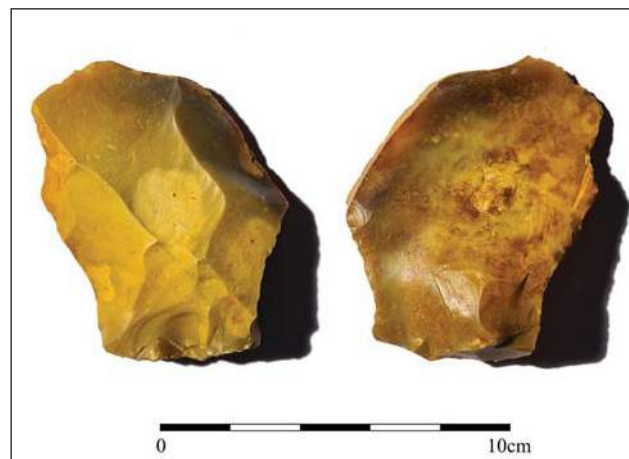


Plate 16, ?Levallois flake, roughly faceted platform.
Recovered from North East gravel patch



Plate 17. Pointed cobble tool, ?crude handaxe
Recovered from North East gravel patch

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**Land at Grange Road, Netley,
Hampshire**
Archaeological Excavation
Plates 12-17 - Palaeolithic flints

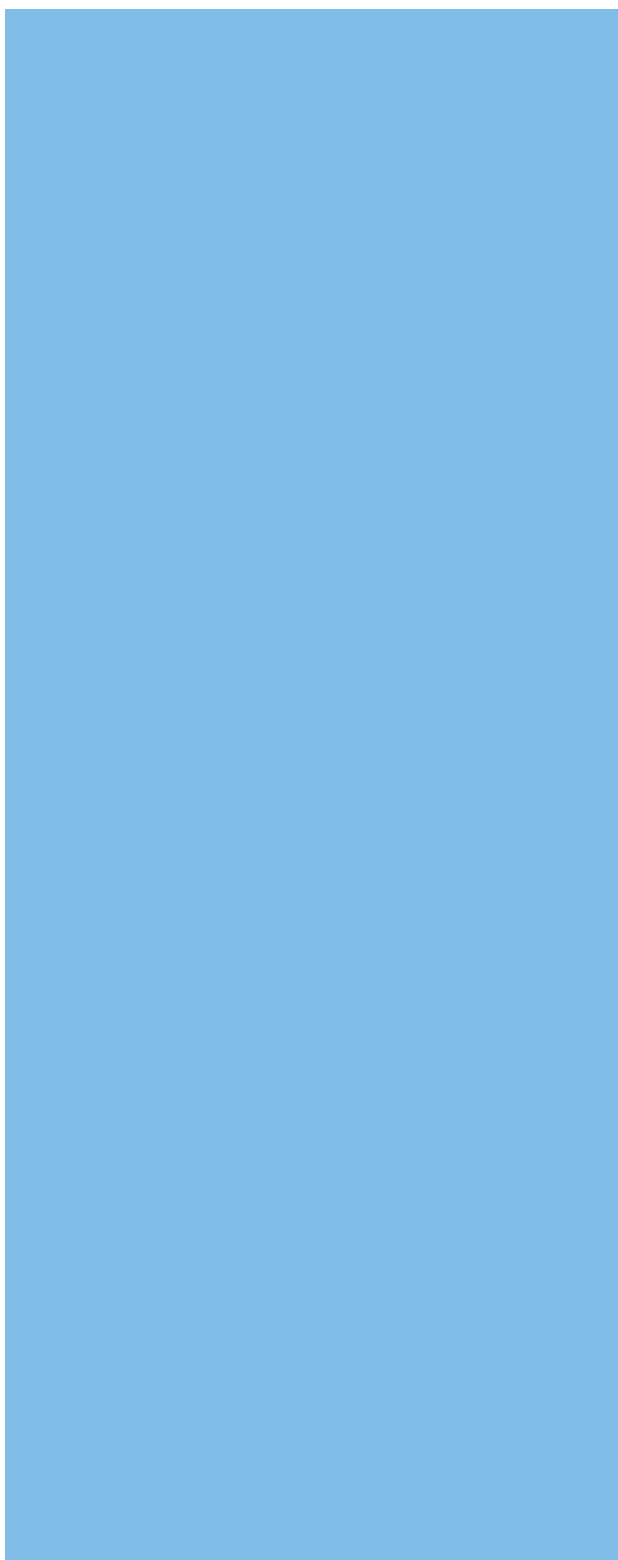
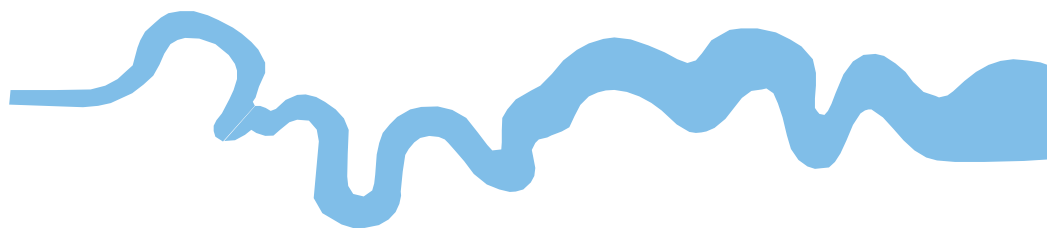
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TIME CHART

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





**Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd,
47-49 De Beauvoir Road,
Reading RG1 5NR**

**Tel: 0118 9260552
Email: tvas@tvas.co.uk
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