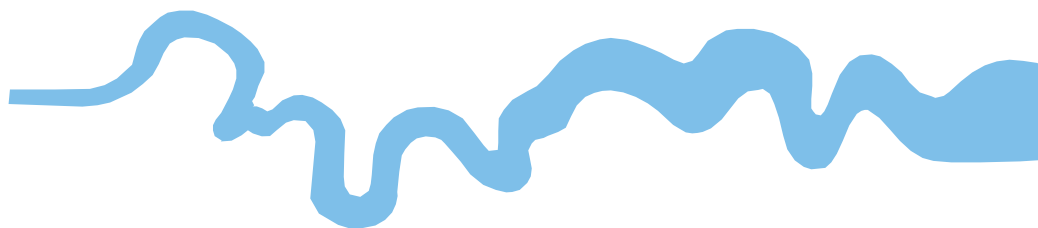


T V A S



SOUTH

**Land at Horndean Road,
Emsworth, Hampshire**

Archaeological Excavation

by Andy Taylor

Site Code: HRE20/190

(SU 7450 0680)

Land at Horndean Road, Emsworth, Hampshire

**An Archaeological Excavation
for Imperial Homes Southern**

by Andy Taylor

TVAS South

Site Code HRE 20/190

Summary

Site name: Land at Horndean Road, Emsworth, Hampshire

Grid reference: SU 7450 0680

Site activity: Excavation

Date and duration of project: 24th May 2021

Project Coordinator: Tim Dawson

Site supervisor: Andy Taylor

Site code: HRE 20/190

Area of site: c. 400 sq m

Summary of results: The excavation revealed the full extent of the gully identified in the evaluation. No further features were located and no further finds retrieved, but there was nothing to contradict the Bronze Age chronology of the feature which was firmly established in the evaluation based on the presence of 42 sherds of a single undecorated jar.

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Report edited/checked by:

Steve Preston✓25.05.21

Land at Horndean Road, Emsworth, Hampshire

An Archaeological Excavation

by Andy Taylor

Report 20/190b

Introduction

An archaeological excavation was carried out by Thames Valley Archaeological Services on land at Horndean Road, Emsworth, Hampshire (SU 7450 0680) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Mr Richard Paine, of Imperial Homes, Calcot View, Paddock Mount Business Park, Calcot Lane, Curdridge, Southampton, SO32 2BN.

Planning permission (APP/19/00768) has been granted by Havant Borough Council to redevelop the site for residential use. The consent is subject to conditions (3-5) concerning archaeology, in accordance with the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government's *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF 2019), and the Borough Council's policies on archaeology. A prior evaluation having revealed that the site contained archaeological evidence (in the form of a Bronze Age gully) (Taylor 2021) which would be liable to be destroyed by the development, a follow-up excavation was required. The work was carried out according to a written scheme of investigation approved by Mr David Hopkins, County Archaeologist with Hampshire County Council, advisers to the Borough on matters relating to archaeology.

The excavation took place on 24th May 2021, supervised by the author, assisted by Aidan Colyer. The archive is currently held at TVAS South, Brighton and will be deposited with the Hampshire Cultural Trust in due course.

Topography and geology

The site is located on the northern margins of Emsworth and lies on the western side of Horndean Road (Fig. 1). It is a flat area of land and at the time of the fieldwork, consisted of scrub. It is bounded by residential properties to the north and east with fields to the west and south (Fig. 2). The underlying geology is mapped as Brickearth (BGS 1998), although more of a sandy clay and gravels were observed in the excavation area. The site lies at a height of *c.* 10m above Ordnance Datum.

Archaeological background

The archaeological potential of the site largely stems from the fact that evidence of Roman activity has been found nearby. The archaeology of the environs of the site in general is moderately well known, lying at the western margin of the south coastal plain. The coastal plain and coastline are considered to be archaeologically rich for

most periods (Taylor *et al.* 2014; Wallis and Ford 2014; Wallis 2019) and a number of sites and finds are recorded for the environs (eg Allen and Gardiner 2000; Hall and Ford 1994; Wallis 2017). It is thought that much of Bronze Age and Iron Age settlement comprises hard to find small short lived occupation sites.

Recent archaeological investigations to the north of the site revealed Roman features, including two enclosures and a possible roundhouse. Evaluation of the site itself revealed a single short length of gully of Late Bronze Age /Early Iron Age date (Taylor 2021). It was thought that the gully might be a fraction of a ring gully house site reflecting the presence of a small short-lived occupation site. On the basis of this, it was decided to open an area around the gully to explore its significance and surroundings.

Aims and Objectives

The General Objectives of the project were to:

- excavate and record all archaeological deposits and features within the area threatened by the development.
- produce relative and absolute dating and phasing for deposits and features recorded on the site.
- establish the character of these deposits in 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.

Specific Objectives for the excavation were to attempt to address the following questions:

- What is the date and nature of the Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age activity on the site?
- Does this represent an enclosed or unenclosed occupation site, or is the gully found part of an organised landscape?
- Is the gully found part of a ring gully house site?

A number of countrywide policy documents for archaeological research such as Historic England's Research Agenda (HE 2017) consider the full range of deposits that might be encountered on the site. More specific aims are presented in the Solent Thames Research Agenda (Hey and Hind 2014).

The area to be excavated was *c.* 400 sq m, centred on the area of prehistoric activity revealed by evaluation Trench 6. Topsoil and other overburden were removed under continuous archaeological supervision using a 360° type machine fitted with a ditching bucket. All archaeological features were to be planned and sectioned as a minimum objective, to agreed sampling fractions depending on the nature of the feature.

The Excavation

The excavation revealed a small continuation of the gully identified in the evaluation of *c.* 1m, in both directions, either side of the evaluation trench and terminating at both ends (Fig. 3). Both terminals (2, 3) were excavated with slot 2 to the east and 3 to the west. Along with the evaluation slot (1) the gully measured 3.6m long, 0.60m

wide and between 0.14m and 0.26m deep. No further dating evidence was recovered. The excavated features are summarized in Appendix 1.

Finds

Pottery by Barbara McNee

A total of 42 pottery sherds weighing 290g, and with a mean sherd weight of 6.9g, was recovered, all from gully 1 (fill 52) in the evaluation. The pottery was recorded using the methodology set out by the Prehistoric Ceramics Research Group (PCRG 1997).

The sherds all belong to the fragmented remains of a finely smoothed late Bronze Age shouldered jar, which has a medium length flaring rim, a rounded body and a rim diameter of 180mm. Similar forms have been found at Easton Down (Ross 1982, fig. 15: P22), Brighton Hill South (Morris 1992, fig. 6: 2) and slightly further afield in Selsey Bill, Sussex (Seager Thomas 1998, fig. 5: 6; Timby 2006, fig. 6: 11).

The vessel fabric consists of quite finely crushed flint temper and the clay itself is silty. The geology surrounding the site includes deposits of Brickearth, Head and Head Gravel. White chalk with flints (Tarrant Chalk Member) can be found to the north of Emsworth (BGS 1998). The flint temper was probably obtained from these local chalk deposits. Brickearth and Head mainly consists of fine sandy clay, and clays from Emsworth have been extensively used in the manufacture of bricks and tiles (Osbourne-White 1913, 86). These deposits would have provided a source of good potting material, suggesting the pots were locally made.

This small pottery assemblage is important as an indicator of settlement or use within the Emsworth area during the later Bronze Age period. The pot does not appear to be decorated, and the fabric and fairly thin walls would suggest a date around 800BC. The presence of forty-two sherds, belonging to the same vessel could suggest that the pot was originally carefully curated, and then certain portions of the pot were later deposited. Alternatively the pot itself may have been complete and then broken quite close to its excavated context.

Conclusion

The excavation revealed a short continuation of the gully identified in the evaluation, although no further finds were recovered despite almost 100% excavation. No other features of any archaeological interest were observed in the stripped area. A few anomalous areas were investigated and proven to be geological in origin. Despite its apparent isolation, this single feature can be taken as evidence of occupation in the Late Bronze Age or early Iron Age, when settlement traces can be quite ephemeral.

Acknowledgements

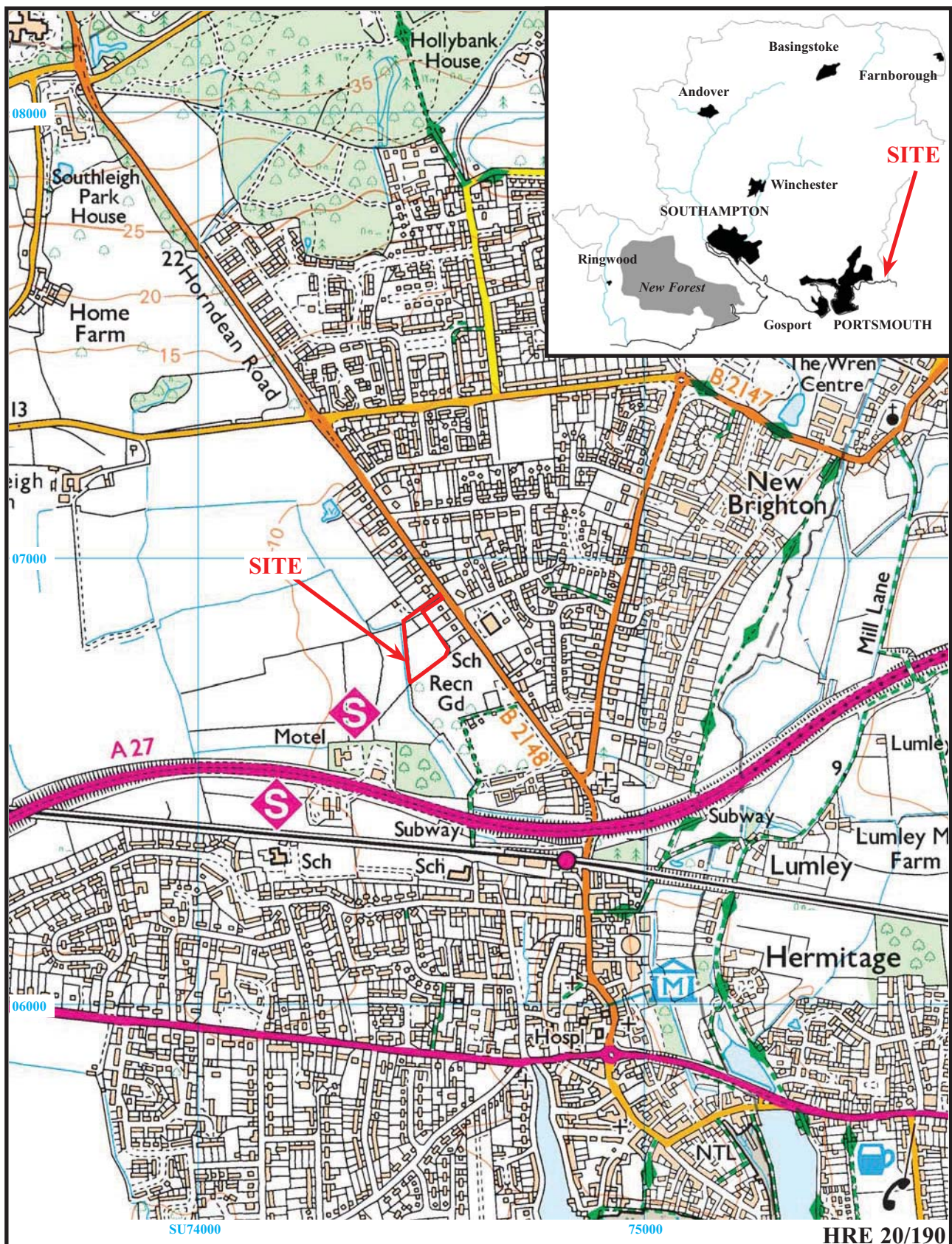
The excavation was funded by Imperial Homes Southern and it was carried out by the author and Aidan Colyer with illustrations by the author and Andrew Mundin.

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APPENDIX 1: Catalogue of Excavated Features

<i>Cut</i>	<i>Deposit</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Samples</i>	<i>Comment</i>
1	52	Gully	Late Bronze Age	1	Pottery
2	53	Gully	Late Bronze Age	2	-
3	54	Gully	Late Bronze Age	3	-

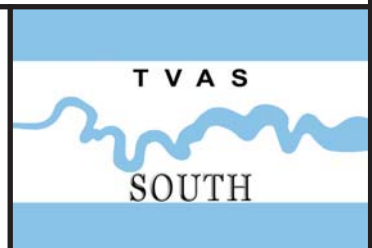


**Land at Horndean Road, Emsworth,
Hampshire, 2021**

Archaeological Excavation

Figure 1. Location of site within Emsworth and Hampshire.

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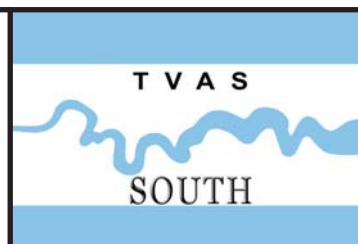


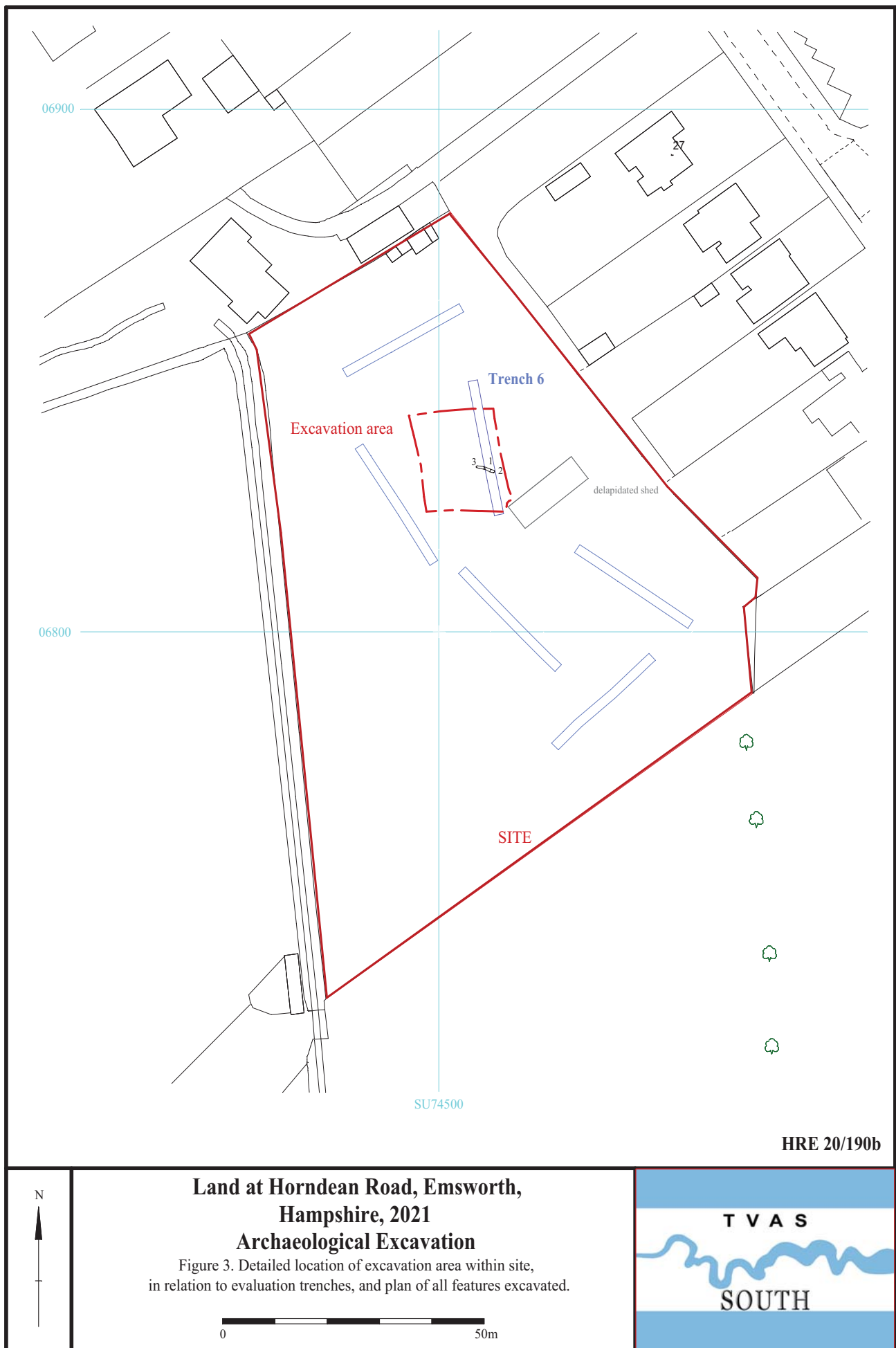
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Hampshire, 2021**

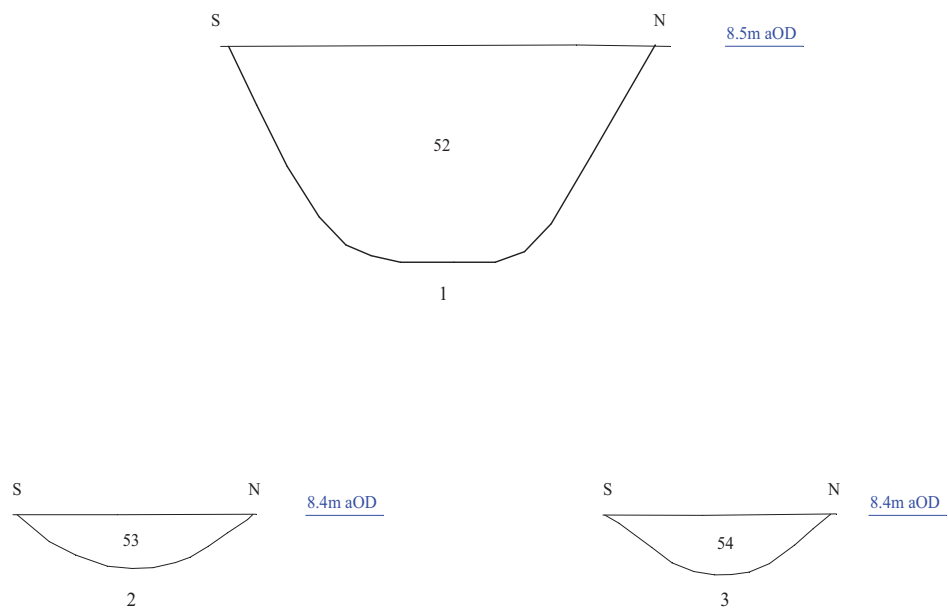
Archaeological Excavation

Figure 2. Detailed location of site.

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**Land at Horndean Road,
Emsworth, Hampshire, 2021
Archaeological Excavation**

Figure 3. Section.

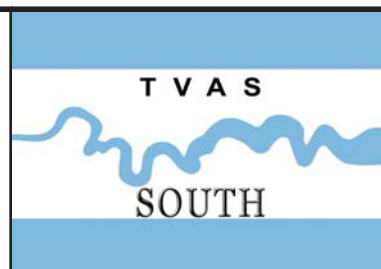




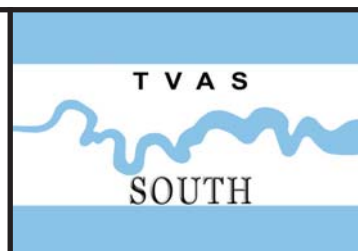
Plate 1. Gully Terminus 2, looking West, Scales: 0.5m and 0.1m.



Plate 2. Gully Terminus 3, looking East, Scales: 0.5m and 0.1m.

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**Land at Horndean Road,
Emsworth, Hampshire, 2021
Archaeological Excavation
Plates 1 and 2.**

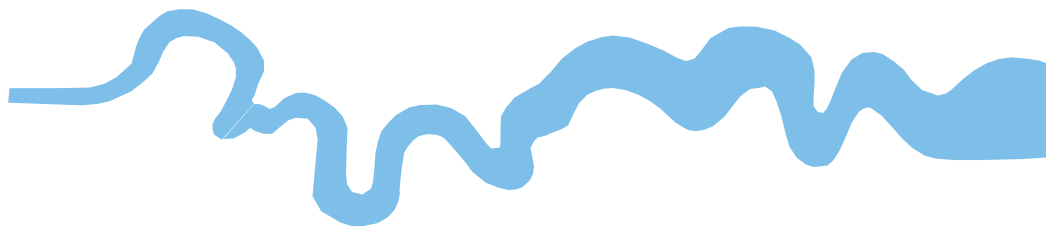


TIME CHART

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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