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ARCHAEOLOGICAL

S E R V I C E S

**New Manege and Stables, The Bungalow,  
Alton Road, West Meon, Hampshire**

**Archaeological Evaluation**

**by David Sanchez**

**Site Code: BWM17/212**

**(SU 6429 2438)**

**New Manège and Stables, The Bungalow, Alton Road,  
West Meon, Hampshire**

**An Archaeological Evaluation  
for Mr Mike Burr and Miss Claire Murphy**

by David Sanchez

Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

BWM 17/212

**October 2017**

## Summary

**Site name:** New Manege and Stables, The Bungalow, Alton Road, West Meon, Hampshire

**Grid reference:** SU 6429 2438

**Site activity:** Archaeological Evaluation

**Date and duration of project:** 24th October 2017

**Project manager:** Steve Ford

**Site supervisor:** David Sanchez

**Site code:** BWM 17/212

Accession no. AY629

**Area of site:** c. 0.1ha

**Summary of results:** Four trenches were successfully excavated during the archaeological evaluation and showed an area of modern disturbance at the SW corner of the site likely to be consequence of the groundworks for a previous dwelling existing in this area which was demolished in the 1980's. No features of archaeological interest nor finds were recovered. The site is considered to have low archaeological potential.

**Location and reference of archive:** The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited with Hampshire Cultural Trust in due course.

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[www.tvas.co.uk/reports/reports.asp](http://www.tvas.co.uk/reports/reports.asp).*

Report edited/checked by: Steve Ford ✓ 27.10.17
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# **New Manege and Stables, The Bungalow, Alton Road, West Meon, Hampshire An Archaeological Evaluation**

by David Sanchez

**Report 17/212**

## **Introduction**

This report documents the results of an archaeological field evaluation carried out in a parcel of land at Alton Road, West Meon, Hampshire (SU 6429 2438) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Mr Mike Burr and Miss Claire Murphy. Planning permission (SDNP/17/03373/FUL) has been sought (but withdrawn and pending a new application) from South Downs National Park to construct a new manege and stable block on the site.

As a consequence of the possibility of archaeological deposits on the site which may be damaged or destroyed by proposed re-development of the site, it was proposed to carry out a field evaluation by means of machine trenching. This is in accordance with the Department for Communities and Local Government's *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF 2012), and the South Downs National Park policies on archaeology. The field investigation was carried out to a specification approved by Ms Tracy Matthews, archaeological officer of South Downs National Park. The fieldwork was undertaken by David Sanchez and Maisie Foster, 24th October 2017 and the site code is BWM 17/212. The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited with Hampshire Cultural Trust in due course with accession number AY629.

## **Location, topography and geology**

The site is located to the north of the village of West Meon. It lies to the west of Alton Road, with open fields to the north and south. The site comprises an irregular parcel of land of c.0.1ha which is part of a larger property used for grazing horses. It lies at a height of approximately c.107m above Ordnance Datum with a gentle slope to the south-east. The underlying geology is mapped as Upper Chalk (BGS 1995) which was uncovered in all the trenches.

## **Archaeological background**

The archaeological potential of the site has been highlighted by the archaeological advisor to the South Downs National Park. In summary, the site lies 100m to the north of an excavated Bronze Age ring ditch (levelled round

barrow) and Early Saxon cemetery (Ford and Falys 2016). The Bronze Age component included two cremation burial and an inhumation of an infant. The Saxon cemetery included 49 individuals buried by inhumation with one cremation burial. The northern limit of the Saxon cemetery was not defined. Subsequent non-invasive fieldwork immediately south of the proposal site has suggested that a further levelled round barrow (ring ditch), post-built building and graves are present and this area has been designated as a scheduled monument.

## **Objectives and methodology**

The purpose of the evaluation was to determine the presence/absence, extent, condition, character, quality and date of any archaeological or palaeo-environmental deposits within the area of development. The specific research aims of this project were:

- a) To determine if archaeologically relevant levels had survived on this site.
- b) To determine if archaeological deposits of any period were present.
- c) To determine if any further burial deposits of Bronze Age or Saxon date were present
- d) To determine if any occupation deposits contemporary with the nearby burial deposits were present.
- e) To inform a strategy for mitigation if required

Four trenches were to be dug, 25m long and 1.6m wide, as close as possible to the areas affected by the proposed buildings. A contingency for the equivalent of an additional 10 length of trenching was included within the proposal to clarify any deposits found in the initial trenching but this was not required. Topsoil and subsoil were to be removed by a JCB-type machine fitted with a toothless ditching bucket under constant archaeological supervision. Machine excavation was to be undertaken in spits to enable the recovery of artefactual and ecofactual remains from individual layers.

Where archaeological deposits were possibly present the 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 of the project

## **Results**

Three trenches were dug as intended (Trenches 1-3) but the fourth trench had to be relocated due to the presence of trees. The trenches ranged in length between 24.80m and 27.30m with a width of 1.60m and a depth between 0.25 and 0.50m. A complete list of trenches giving lengths, breadths, depths and a description of sections and geology is given in Appendix 1.

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

Trench 1 was aligned SW - NE and was 25.30m long and 0.31m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.25m of topsoil and 0.05m of subsoil overlying natural geology. No archaeological features were uncovered and no finds were recovered.

#### Trench 2 (Figs 3 and 4; Pl. 1)

Trench 2 was aligned SSW - NNE and was 24.80m long and 0.31m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.20m of topsoil and 0.06m of subsoil overlying natural geology. No features of archaeological interest were uncovered and no finds were recovered.

#### Trench 3 (Figs 3 and 4; Pl. 2)

Trench 3 was aligned SE - NW and was 27.30m long and 0.25m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.13m of topsoil and 0.10m of subsoil overlying natural geology. A number of plough scars were observed at the NW half of the trench and one possible pit was investigated at 8m from the SE end showing this to be an area of slightly more eroded chalk. No archaeological features were uncovered and no finds were recovered.

#### Trench 4 (Figs 3 and 4; Pl. 2)

Trench 4 was aligned WSW - ENE and was 25.20m long with a maximum depth of 0.50m. At the eastern half of the trench the stratigraphy consisted of 0.18m of very rooted topsoil and 0.10m of subsoil overlying natural geology. At the west end 6m from this end two linear modern truncations were uncovered below the topsoil, cutting both subsoil and natural geology and filled with dumps of redeposit chalk overlying fills of mid greyish brown silty clay with frequent construction debris (modern bricks and concrete fragments). These truncations are likely to be consequence of the groundworks for a previous dwelling which had existed in this area and apparently demolished in the 1980's. No features of archaeological interest were uncovered and no finds were recovered.

### **Conclusion**

Four trenches were successfully excavated during the archaeological evaluation. Three of these trenches revealed a simple stratigraphy with topsoil and subsoil overlying the natural chalk. One trenches showed an area of modern disturbance at the SW corner of the site likely to be consequence of the groundworks for a previous dwelling existing in this area which was demolished in the 1980's. No features or archaeological interest were uncovered and no finds were recovered. Despite the presence of a Bronze Age ring ditch and Early Saxon cemetery 100m to the south the area of the development is considered to have low archaeological potential.

## References

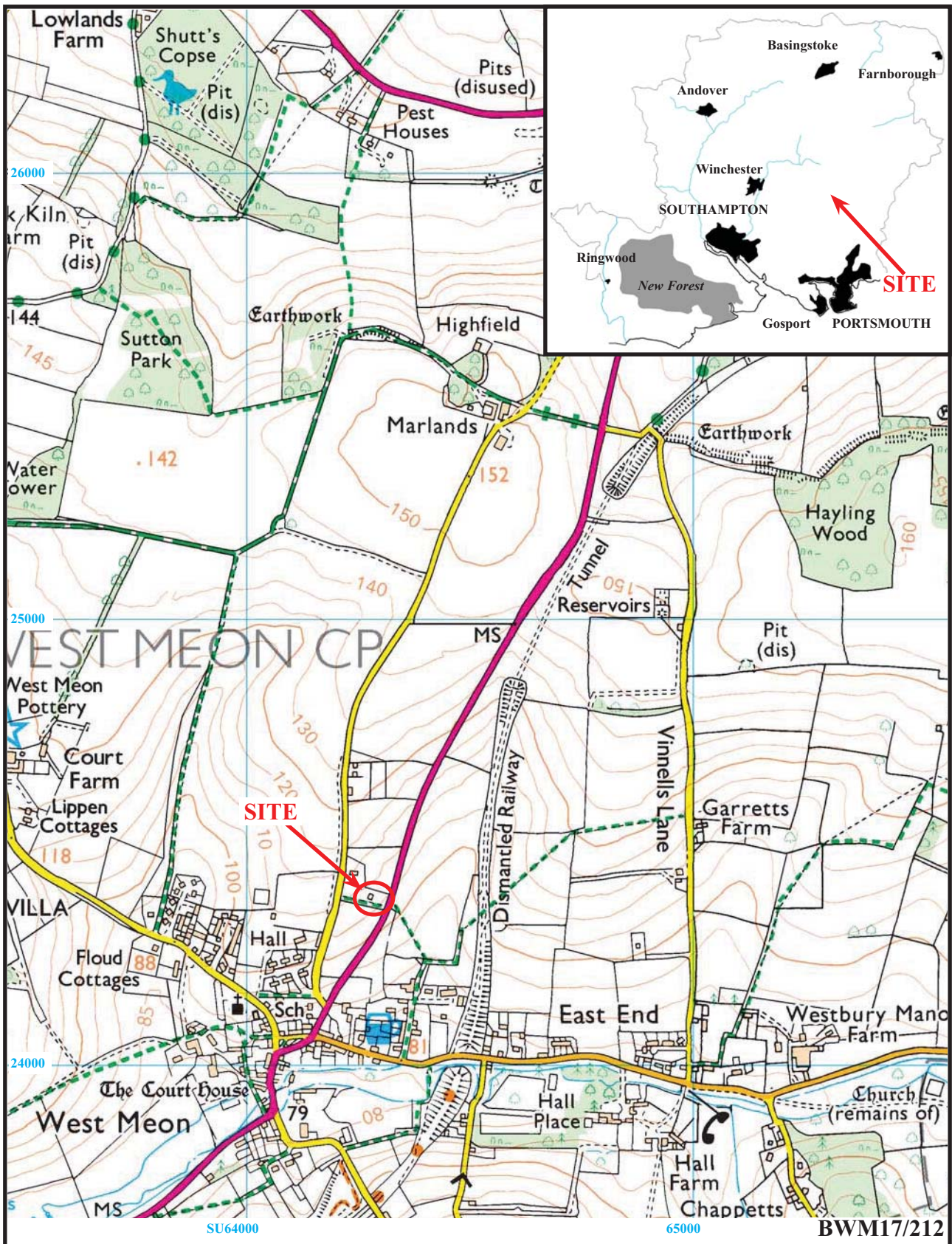
- BGS, 1995, *British Geological Survey*, 1:50000, Sheet 300, Solid and Drift Edition, Keyworth
- Ford, S and Falys, C, 2016, *A Bronze Age Ring Ditch and Saxon cemetery at Storey's Meadow, Marland Lane, West Meon, Hampshire*, Thames Valley Archaeological Services monograph **27**, Reading
- NPPF, 2012, *National Planning Policy Framework*, Dept Communities and Local Govt, London



## APPENDIX 1: Trench details

0m at S or W end

<i>Trench</i>	<i>Length (m)</i>	<i>Breadth (m)</i>	<i>Depth (m)</i>	<i>Comment</i>
1	25.30	1.60	0.31	0–0.25m topsoil, 0.25-0.30m subsoil 0.30m+ upper chalk natural geology. <b>PI. 1</b>
2	24.80	1.60	0.31	0–0.20m topsoil, 0.20-0.26m subsoil 0.26m+ upper chalk natural geology. <b>PI. 3</b>
3	27.30	1.60	0.25	0–0.13m topsoil, 0.13-0.23m subsoil 0.23m+ upper chalk natural geology. <b>PI. 3</b>
4	25.20	1.60	0.50	0–0.25m topsoil, 0.25-0.39m subsoil 0.39m+ upper chalk natural geology. Two modern truncations at the WSE half of the trench filled with redeposit chalk overlying mid greyish brown silty clay with chalk inclusions <b>PI. 4</b>



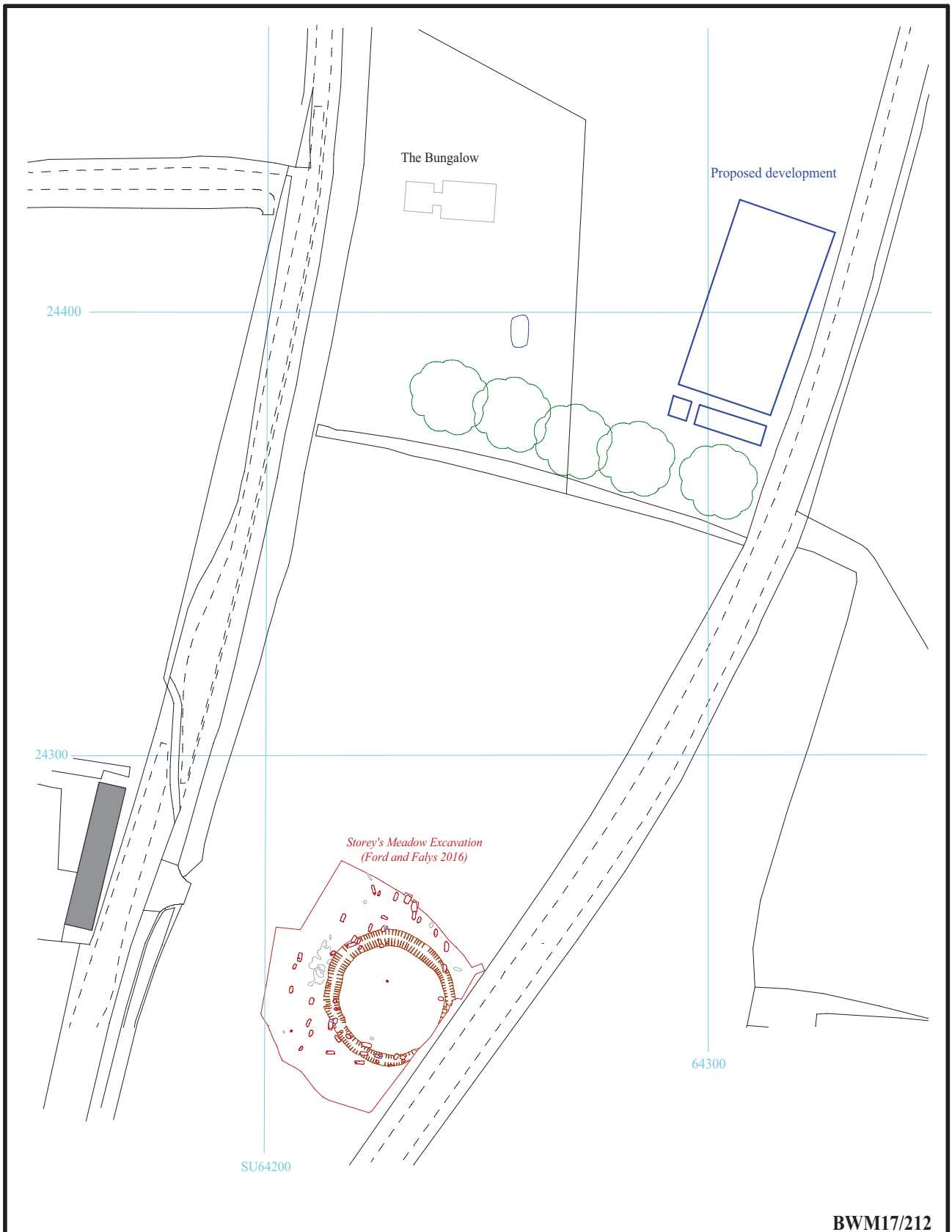
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Figure 1. Location of site in relation to West Meon and Hampshire.

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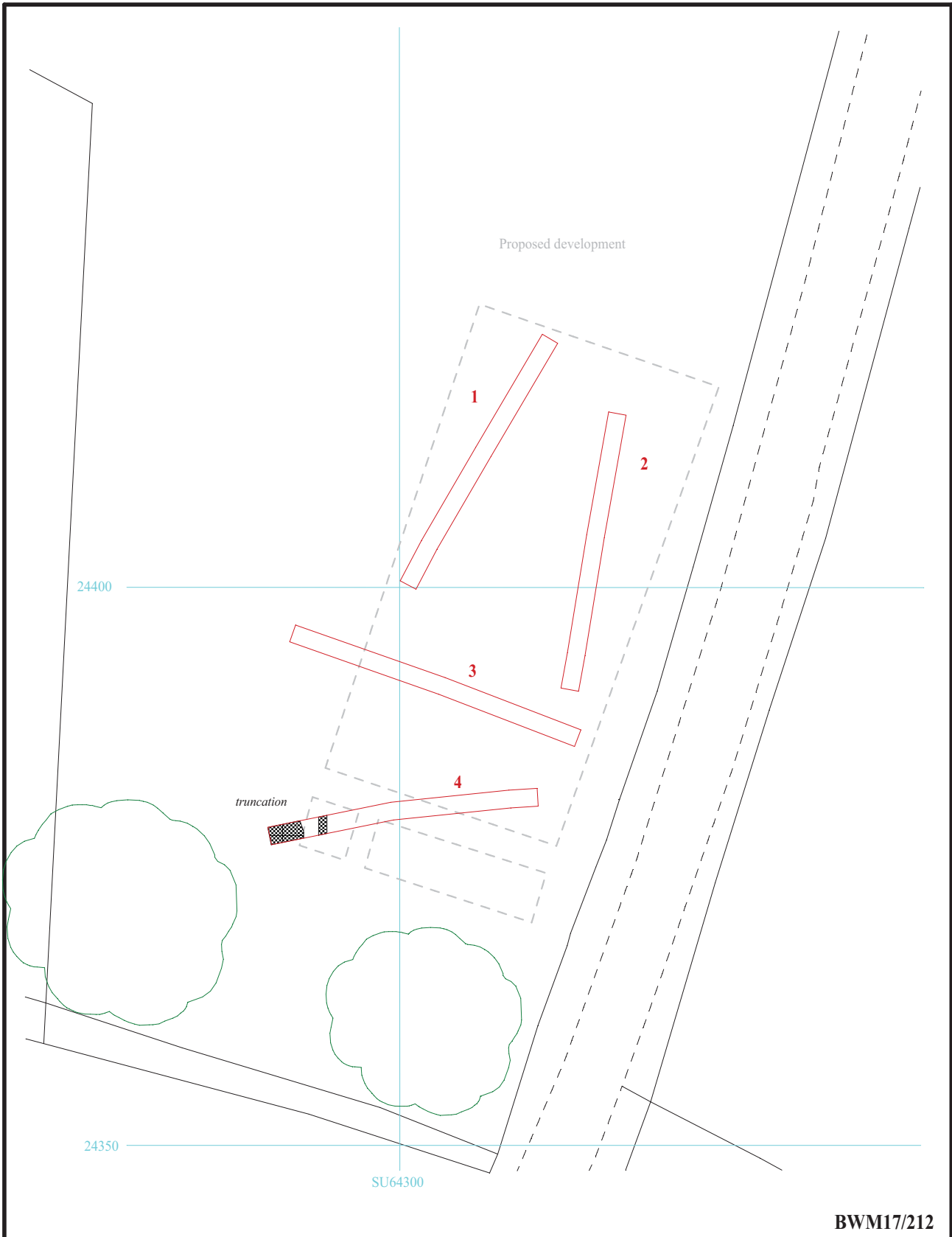
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**New Manege and Stables, The Bungalow, Alton Road,  
West Meon, Hampshire, 2017  
Archaeological Evaluation**

Figure 2. Location of new development in relation ro recent excavation.

0 125m

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BWM17/212

**New Manege and Stables, The Bungalow, Alton Road,  
West Meon, Hampshire, 2017  
Archaeological Evaluation**

Figure 3. Location of trenches.



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NE

*Trench 1*

SW

Grey silty clay (Topsoil)

Grey brown silty clay with chalk inclusions (subsoil)

Chalk (Natural geology)

107.59maOD

*Trench 4*

NE

SW

Topsoil

Subsoil

Chalk (Natural geology)

105.33m

BWM 17/212

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West Meon, Hampshire, 2017  
Archaeological Evaluation**

Figure 4. Sections..



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Plate 1. Trench 1, looking north east,  
Scales: horizontal 2m and 1m, vertical 0.3m.



Plate 2. Trench 2, looking north north west,  
Scales: horizontal 2m and 1m, vertical 0.1m.

BWM17/212

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West Meon, Hampshire, 2017  
Archaeological Evaluation  
Plates 1 and 2.**

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Plate 3. Trench 3, looking west,  
Scales: horizontal 2m and 1m, vertical 0.3m.



Plate 4. Trench 4, looking east,  
Scales: horizontal 2m and 1m, vertical 0.5m.

BWM17/212

**New Manege and Stables, The Bungalow, Alton Road,  
West Meon, Hampshire, 2017  
Archaeological Evaluation  
Plates 3 and 4.**

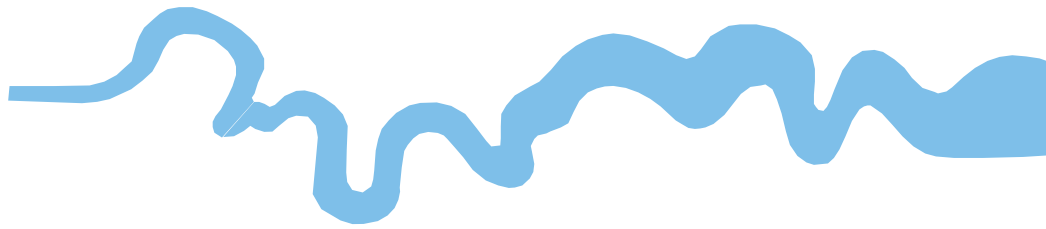
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## TIME CHART

	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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