

Mill Lane, Headley,
near Bordon,
Hampshire

Archaeological Evaluation

for
Countryside Planning and Management
on behalf of
Bovis Homes Limited

Mill Lane, Headley, near Bordon, Hampshire
Archaeological Evaluation

by Melanie Hall

Project 94/16

INTRODUCTION

This report details the results of an archaeological evaluation commissioned by Mr. Royston Clark of Countryside Planning and Management, Knights Gate, Quenington, Cirencester, Gloucestershire, on behalf of their clients, Bovis Homes Limited. The site covers approximately 1 hectare and is situated to the west of the High Street, fronting onto Mill Lane, in Headley, near Bordon, Hampshire (NGR SU 8205 3625) (Figs. 1 and 2). The fieldwork took place in March 1994 and the site code is MLH94.

The specification, prepared by Countryside Planning and Management after consultation with County Archaeological Officers at Hampshire County Council, has highlighted the archaeological potential of the development area.

The site is in close proximity to the churchyard of All Saints Church and to the west of the core area of the Medieval village at Headley. The church existed from at least the 13th century, and although the development of the Medieval village is not known, there is a possibility that occupation focused on the area surrounding the church.

A visit to the site (by CPM) revealed only one extant earthwork; a boundary ditch thought to divide the Pilgrims property from the Pilgrims Way. A series of buildings previously fronted onto Mill Lane, Pilgrims and Pilgrims Way (Fig. 3) and the area is likely to have been extensively used as garden areas.

As the site lies within a potentially archaeologically sensitive area, an evaluation was recommended by the archaeological advisors to the local planning authority, based on requirements set out in **Archaeology and Planning** (PPG16, 1990).

TOPOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY

The site lies on the side of a hill at a height of about 97 m. above O.D. According to the geological map (IGS 1979), the geology of the site comprises Lower Greensand, which corresponded with the bright orange sand with some flint and chert pieces observed in all the trenches.

AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

The purpose of the evaluation was to establish the date, nature, extent and state of preservation of any archaeological deposits which might exist within the proposal area. The evaluation specification prepared by Countryside Planning and Management concluded that machine excavated trenches were the only option available for the archaeological investigation, as ground conditions rendered other options impossible or unlikely to produce results. An approximate location plan of trenches was provided with the specification but these locations were amended as necessary in the field (Fig. 3). The trenches were levelled using the Bench Mark of 98.54 m. on All Saints church, Headley .

RESULTS (see also Appendix 1)

The trenching produced no archaeological features and very few artefacts (see flint and pottery reports below).

Trench 1 contained one possible garden feature, the fill of which contained no pottery, although one piece of Medieval pottery was recovered from the spoilheap.

Trench 2 contained no features and again a single sherd of Medieval pottery was found on the spoilheap.

Trench 3 was deeper than the first two, reaching a depth of 0.90 m. at the western end. Below the topsoil was a dark, humic, sandy layer to a depth of 0.80 m. which was found to contain modern china and tile. Pottery from this trench comprises two Medieval and four Post-Medieval sherds. One feature of modern date was observed below the dark, humic sandy layer and cutting the base of the trench. A section of the whole length of this trench was drawn but has not been reproduced here.

Trench 4 contained no features of any kind and produced just two sherds of pottery (see below).

Trench 5 produced no pottery and contained only a single modern feature.

Trench 6 revealed a series of eight parallel stripes, 2 m. apart and 0.30 m. wide aligned north-south. One of these contained fragments of tile and it is likely that they represent bedding trenches for garden or allotment use. This trench produced a single sherd of Late Medieval/Post-Medieval pottery.

THE FINDS

Struck flint by Steve Ford

Only two struck flints were found; a single intact flake from trench 5 (5-10m subsoil) and a broken flake from trench 1 (15-20m topsoil). In themselves these finds are undiagnostic and it is only possible to broadly date these to the Pre-historic period (i.e. Mesolithic to Late Bronze Age).

Pottery by Jane Timby

Summary

A very small group of nine sherds of pottery were recovered from the surface layers of the site. The material included both Medieval and Post-Medieval wares. The chronological range, combined with the generally small sherd size, would suggest the sherds represent casual domestic discard, the material being incorporated into the subsoil over the years. Unfortunately, due to the complete absence of any featured sherds, dating can only be fairly broad.

Catalogue

Trench 1 0-5m spoil quartz	One wheelmade bodysherd, plain surfaces, ill-sorted sand temper. Date: Medieval (?12-15th century).
Trench 2 10-15m spoil	One small abraded bodysherd, same fabric as above. Date: Medieval (12th-15th century).
Trench 3 3m base	One bodysherd from a handmade, ?wheel-turned vessel, finely micaceous, slight sandy oxidised ware with a grey core. Trimming marks on exterior. Date: Medieval (?12th-14th century).
8m base	One bodysherd English salt glazed stoneware. Date: Post-Medieval (19th-20th century).
5-10m spoil	One bodysherd Surrey-Hampshire borderware, red sandy fabric with external brownish-green glaze. Date: Post-Medieval (?16th-18th century).
10-15m spoil	One small bodysherd clear glazed coarse red earthenware. Date: Post-Medieval.
1m	One bodysherd, slightly micaceous, fine grey sandy clay with an internal brownish-green glaze. Date: ?Medieval (13th-16th century).

Trench 4	
5-10m	One fragment of glazed tile. Date: ?Late Medieval/Post-Medieval.
trench base	One bodysherd from a handmade cooking pot type vessel in a brownish-red sandy ware with a grey core. Date: Medieval (?11th-13th century).
Trench 6	
	One very small fragment of glazed redware. Date: ?Late Medieval/Post-Medieval.

CONCLUSIONS

The evaluation revealed a few subsoil features, all of which were clearly of Post-Medieval or Modern date, presumably related to use of the site for gardens or allotments. These are of no archaeological significance. A few finds of struck flint and Medieval pottery point to some activity in the vicinity in earlier times but are likely to represent causally lost items or material incorporated into manure which was subsequently spread onto arable fields.

REFERENCES

- PPG16 1990: **Archaeology and Planning**, Planning Policy Guidance note 16. HMSO.
- IGS 1979: **Institute of Geological Sciences 1:625,000**
Geological Survey, South Sheet 1979 Edition

APPENDIX 1

Trench details

0m at west or south. Topsoil depth 0.25m - 0.30m in all trenches.

Trench	Length	Comments
1	20m	Test pit dug at 0-2m: bright orange sand subsoil evident at depth of 0.60m, 'dirty' sand subsoil above this and below topsoil. One possible treehole or other garden feature
2	20m	Sandy subsoil, no features.
3	20m	Dark humic sandy soil below topsoil to depth of 0.70m (contained modern pottery). 'Dirty' sandy subsoil to 0.20m depth below this. One modern feature (small footing?).
4	20m	Sandy subsoil, no features.
5	20m	Sandy subsoil, one modern feature only.
6	20m	Sandy subsoil. Eight dark stripes running SW-NE across site - probably garden features.

Mill Lane, Headley, Hampshire, 1994

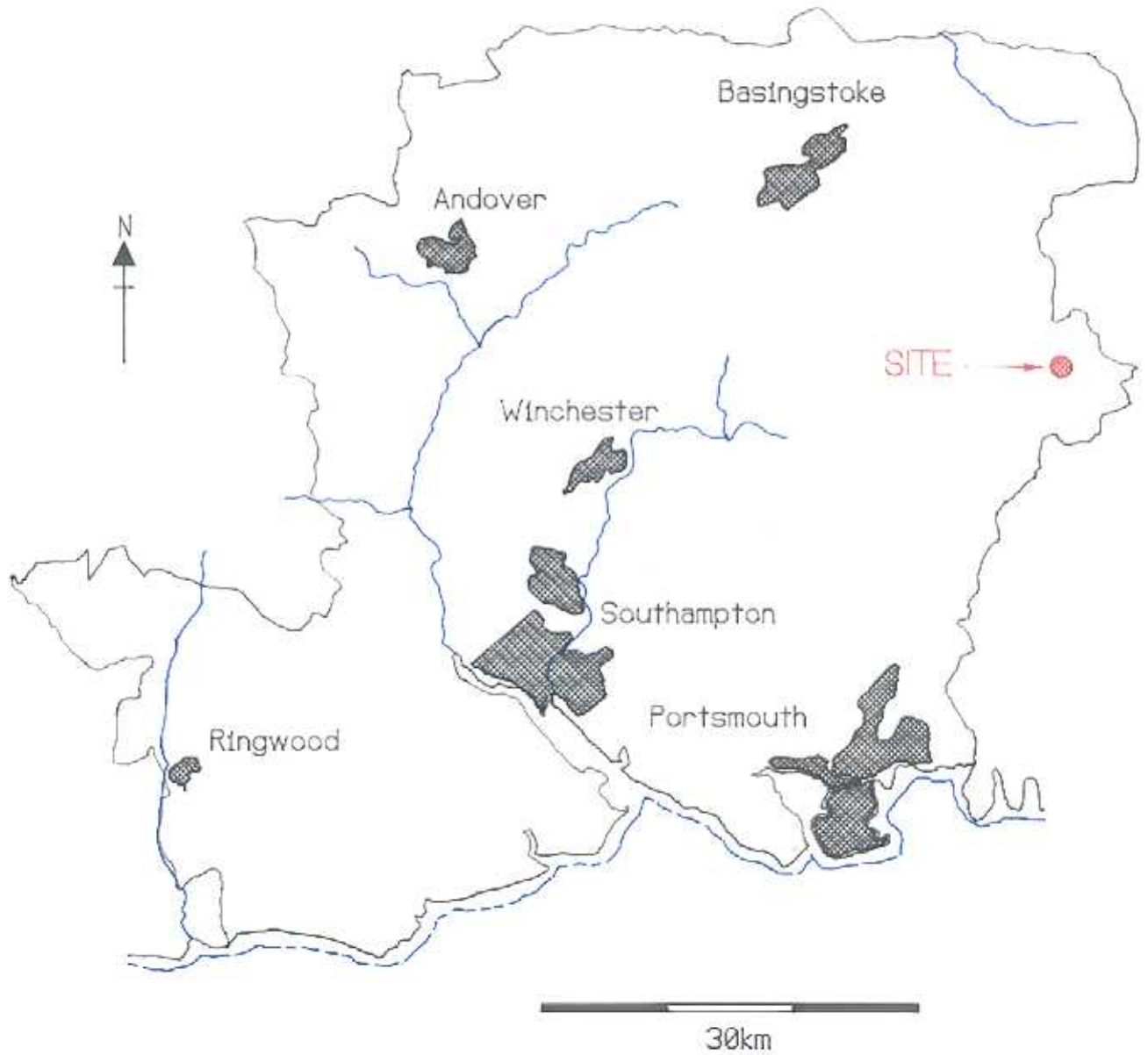


Figure 1. Location of site within county.

Mill Lane, Headley, Hampshire, 1994

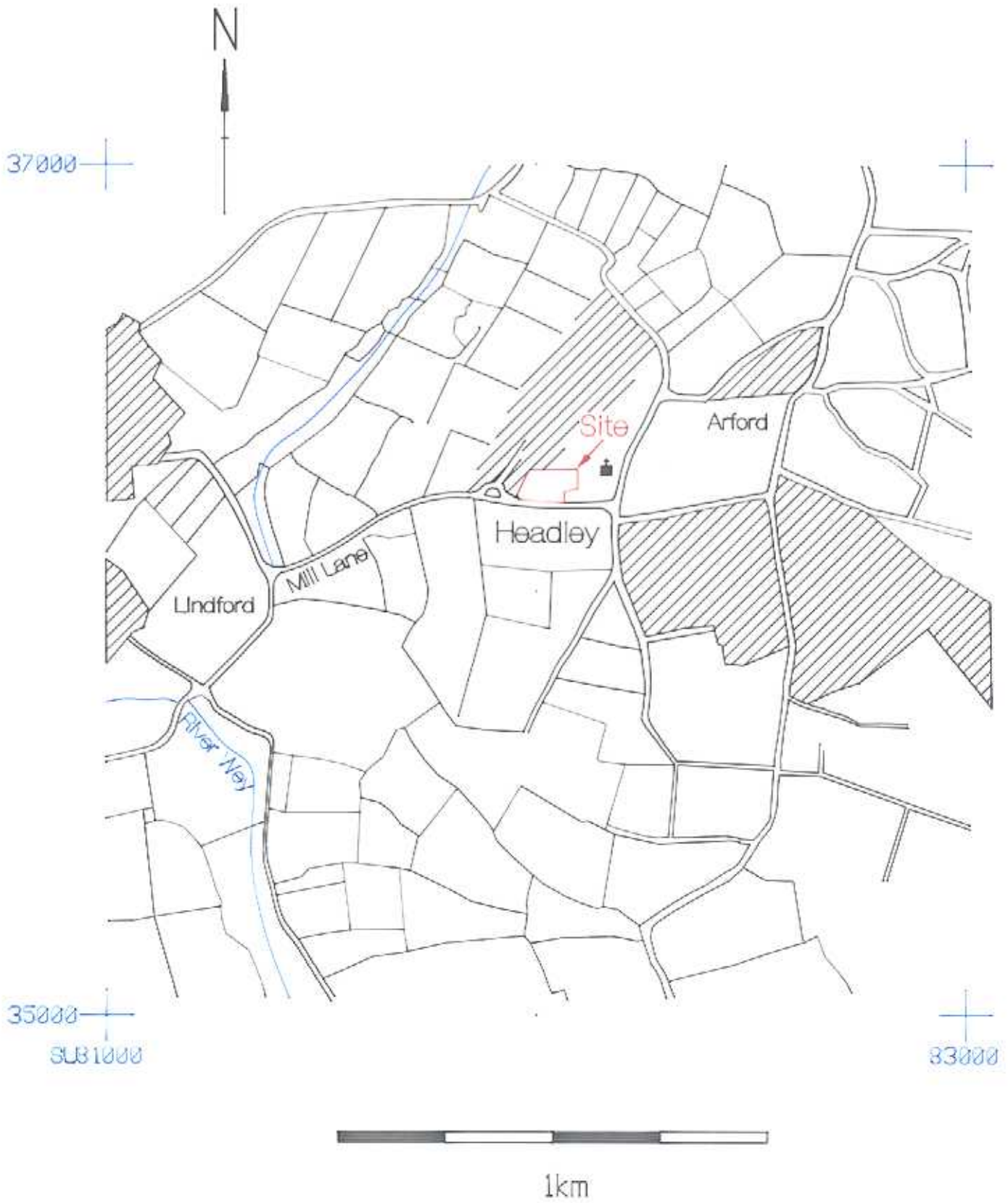


Figure 2. Location of site within Headley.

MLH94

Mill Lane, Headley, Hampshire, 1994

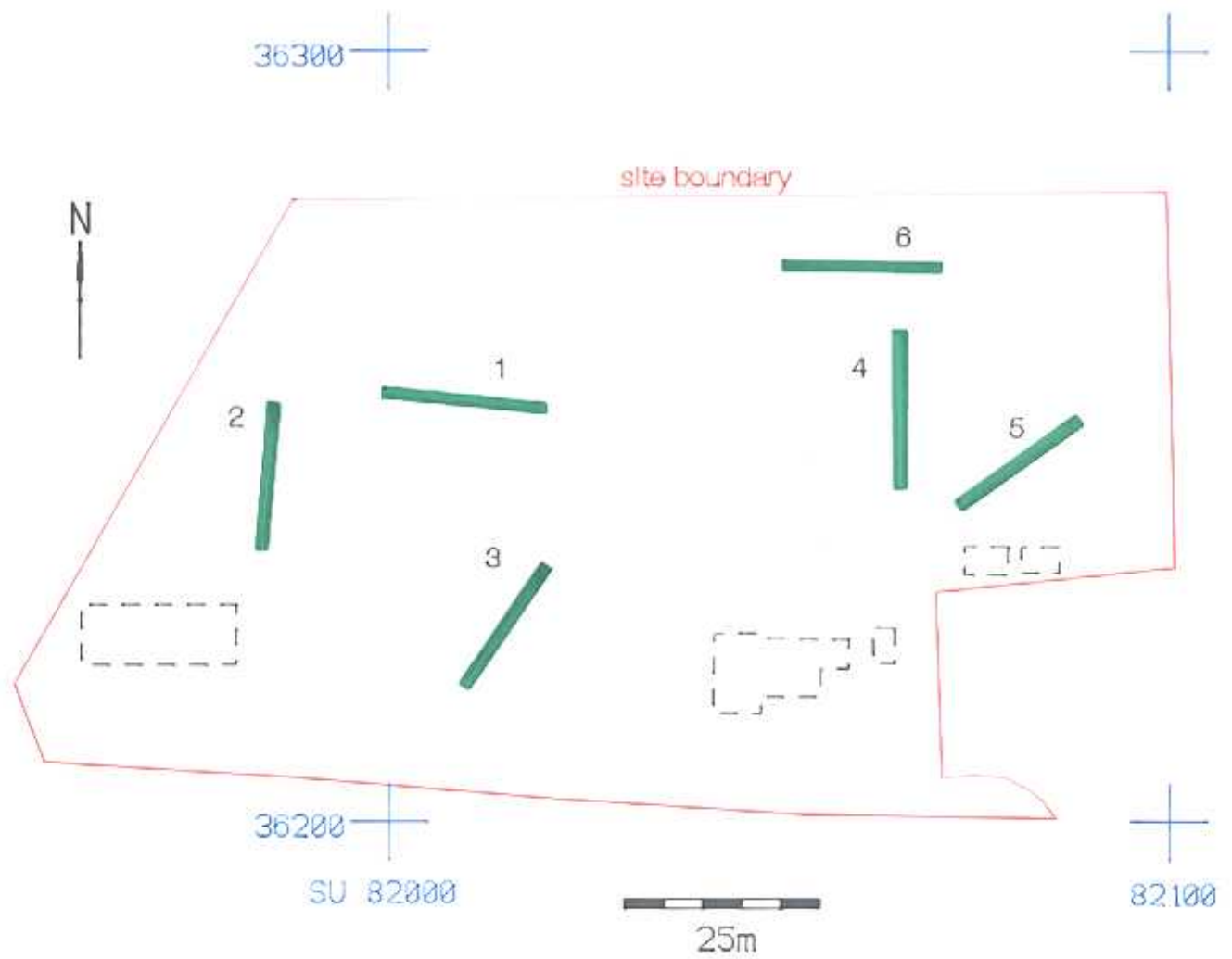


Figure 3. Location of trenches within development area, showing previous locations of buildings.