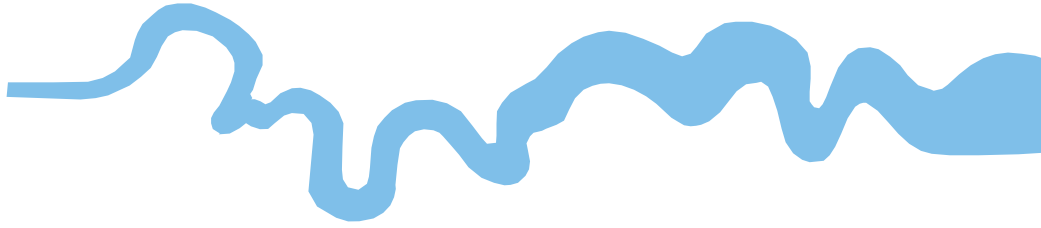


T V A S



SOUTH WEST

**Land adjacent to Kingswell, Eckweek Lane,
Pleasedown St. John, Bath and North East Somerset**

Archaeological Watching Brief

by Arkadiusz Piszcz

**Site Code: PSJ18/39b
(ST 7094 5799)**

**Land adjacent to Kingswell,
Eckweek Lane, Peasedown St. John,
Bath and North East Somerset**

An Archaeological Watching Brief

For Armour Heritage Limited

by Arkadiusz Piszcz

TVAS South West

Site Code PSJ 18/39

December 2022

Summary

Site name: Land adjacent to Kingswell, Eckweek Lane, Peasedown St. John, Bath and North East Somerset

Grid reference: ST 7094 5799

Site activity: Watching Brief

Date and duration of project: 24th August and 15th and 16th November 2022

Project manager: Agata Socha-Paszkiwicz

Site supervisor: Nicholas Dawson, Arkadiusz Piszcz

Site code: PSJ 18/39b

Area of site: c. 683 sq

Summary of results: The watching brief monitored excavation of the footings of the garage and a 4 bedroom detached house. No features nor finds of archaeological interest were identified.

Location and reference of archive: The archive is presently held at TVAS South West, Taunton and will be deposited with the South West Heritage Trust or the Archaeology Data Service in due course.

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Report edited/checked by:	Steve Ford ✓ 21.12.22
	Steve Preston ✓ 21.12.22

**Land adjacent to Kingswell, Eckweek Lane, Peasedown St. John,
Bath and North East Somerset
An Archaeological Watching Brief**

by Arkadiusz Piszcz

Report 18/39b

Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological watching brief carried out at a parcel of land adjacent to Kingswell, Eckweek Lane, Peasedown St. John, Bath and North East Somerset, BS30 5LB (ST7094 5799) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Ms Sue Farr of Amour Heritage Limited, Greystone Cottage, Trudoxhill, Frome, BA11 5DP.

Planning permission (21/05039/FUL) has been granted by Bath and North East Somerset District Council for the construction of a 4 bedroom detached dwelling and garage, which required the implementation of an archaeological watching brief to be maintained during all excavation associated with groundwork.

This is in accordance with the Department for Communities and Local Government's *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF 2021) and Bath and North East Somerset Council's policies on archaeology. The field investigation was carried out in accordance with the archaeological written scheme of investigation by Armour Heritage dated February 2018, attached to the previous planning application on site (19/04775/FUL) approved by Senior Archaeological Officer for Bath and North East Somerset Council. The fieldwork was undertaken by Arkadiusz Piszcz and Nicholas Dawson on 24th August and 15th - 16th November 2022 under the current planning application. The site code is PSJ 18/39.

The archive is presently held at TVAS South West, Taunton and will be deposited with South West Heritage Trust or the Archaeology Data Service in due course.

Location, topography, and geology

The site is located to the northern end of the village of Peasedown St. John some 3.2km north east of Radstock and 5km south west of the outskirts of Bath (Fig. 1). The site of the new house lies within the broadly flat grounds of the Court House and is at a height of approximately 161m above Ordnance Datum (aOD). To the east, west and to the north the site is bounded by detached houses and by Eckweek Lane to the south (Fig. 2). The underlying geology is mapped as a Fuller's Earth Member-Limestone (BGS 2000).

Archaeological background

The archaeological potential of the site was highlighted within the Written Scheme of Investigation (Farr 2019). In summary during excavations at Bath Business Park some 800m to the south east of site a Mesolithic flint scatter and extensive later prehistoric evidence was uncovered including, a Bronze Age ditch, an Iron Age field system and number of Middle Bronze Age burials. A further likely Bronze Age barrow was identified from aerial photography to the north of Eckweek Lane and excavations within Peasedown St John in 1920 revealed a looped Bronze Age palstave.

Later archaeology recorded within the area includes a Roman stone coffin recovered some 500m to the north of site and a mid-7th to early 8th century AD cemetery was also discovered at the Bath Business Park site. A deserted medieval village is recorded to the north of Eckweek House.

A more recent watching brief undertaken on the adjacent plot revealed no finds or feature of archaeological interest (Dawson 2020).

Objectives and methodology

The purpose of the watching brief is to excavate and record any identified archaeological deposits which may be affected by the groundworks. This will involve examination of all areas of intrusive groundworks, overburden removal and ground reduction. Any archaeological deposits identified were to be hand cleaned, excavated, and fully recorded.

Results

The observed groundworks comprised excavation of the garage foundation followed by excavation of house foundation

Garage footing trenches (Figs 2 and 3; Pl. 1).

The garage footings were all 0.60m wide and near 1m deep. The stratigraphy revealed 0.15 to 0.2m dark brown silty sand topsoil (50) above 0.05m of light yellow-brown silty sand (subsoil) (51) of above cream white limestone - natural geology. No archaeological features nor artefacts of interest were observed.

House footing trenches (Figs 2 and 3; Pl. 2).

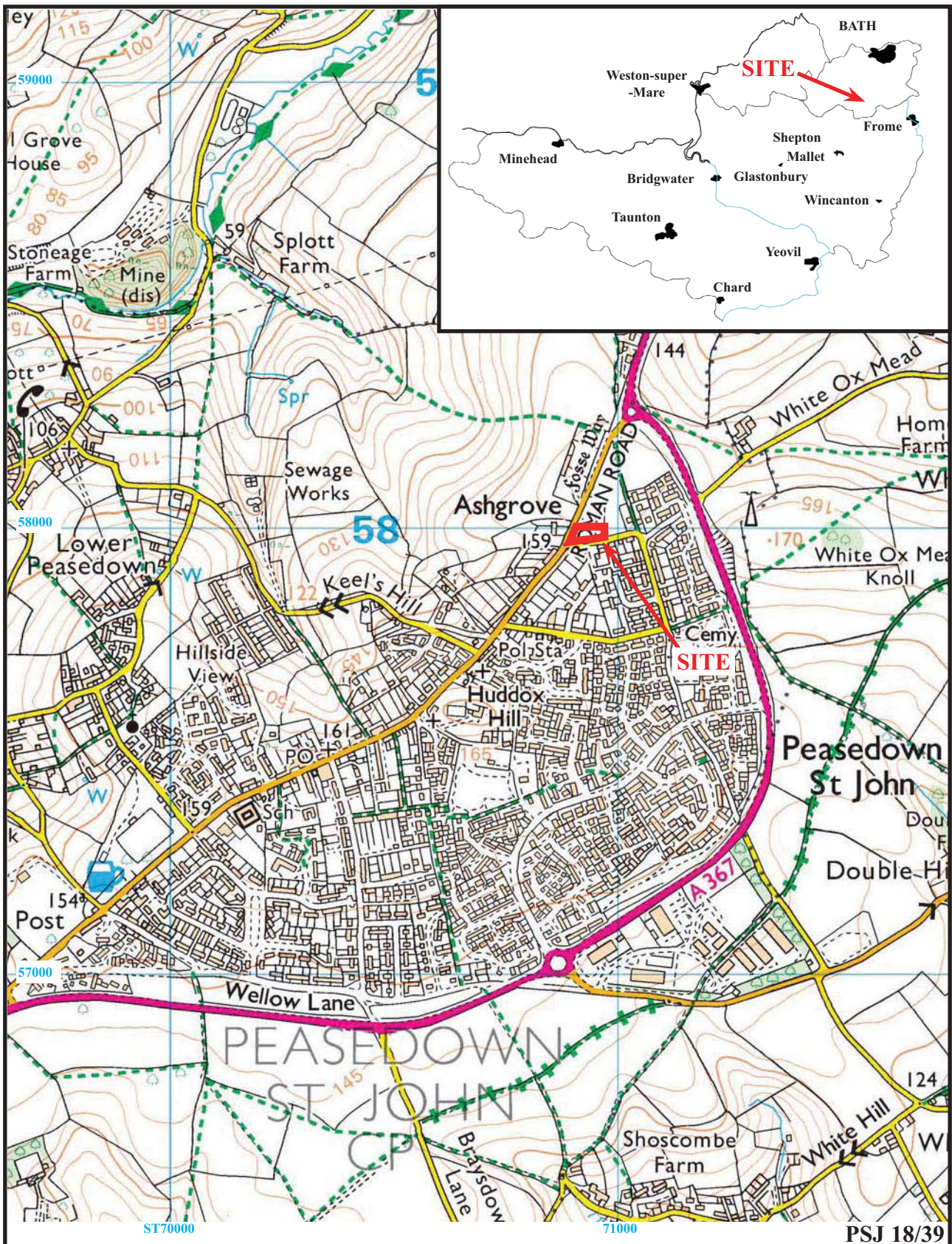
The house footings were 0.7m wide for the internal walls and 0.8m wide for outer walls. All were 1.1m deep (Fig.2; Pl.2). The stratigraphy revealed was very similar to that for the garage, namely 0.2m of topsoil (50) above 0.05m of subsoil (51) above limestone - natural geology. No archaeological features were observed and only a single fragment of modern glass and two small sherds of modern ceramic was observed but not retained from the topsoil.

Conclusion

Despite natural geology being reached throughout the excavations and the archaeological potential for the site, no features or finds of archaeological interest were identified.

References

- BGS, 2000, *British Geological Survey*, 1:50,000, Sheet 281, Solid and Drift Edition, Keyworth
- Dawson, N, 2020, Land adjacent to Kingswell, Eckweek Lane Peasedown St. John, bath and North East Somerset, TVAS SW **rep. 18/39a**, Taunton
- Farr, S, 2019, 'Land adjacent to Kingswell, Eckweek Lane, Peasedown St. John, Bath, Bath & North East Somerset: Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Watching Brief' Report No. AH593, Armour Heritage, Frome
- NPPF, 2021, National Planning Policy Framework (revised), Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Govt, London

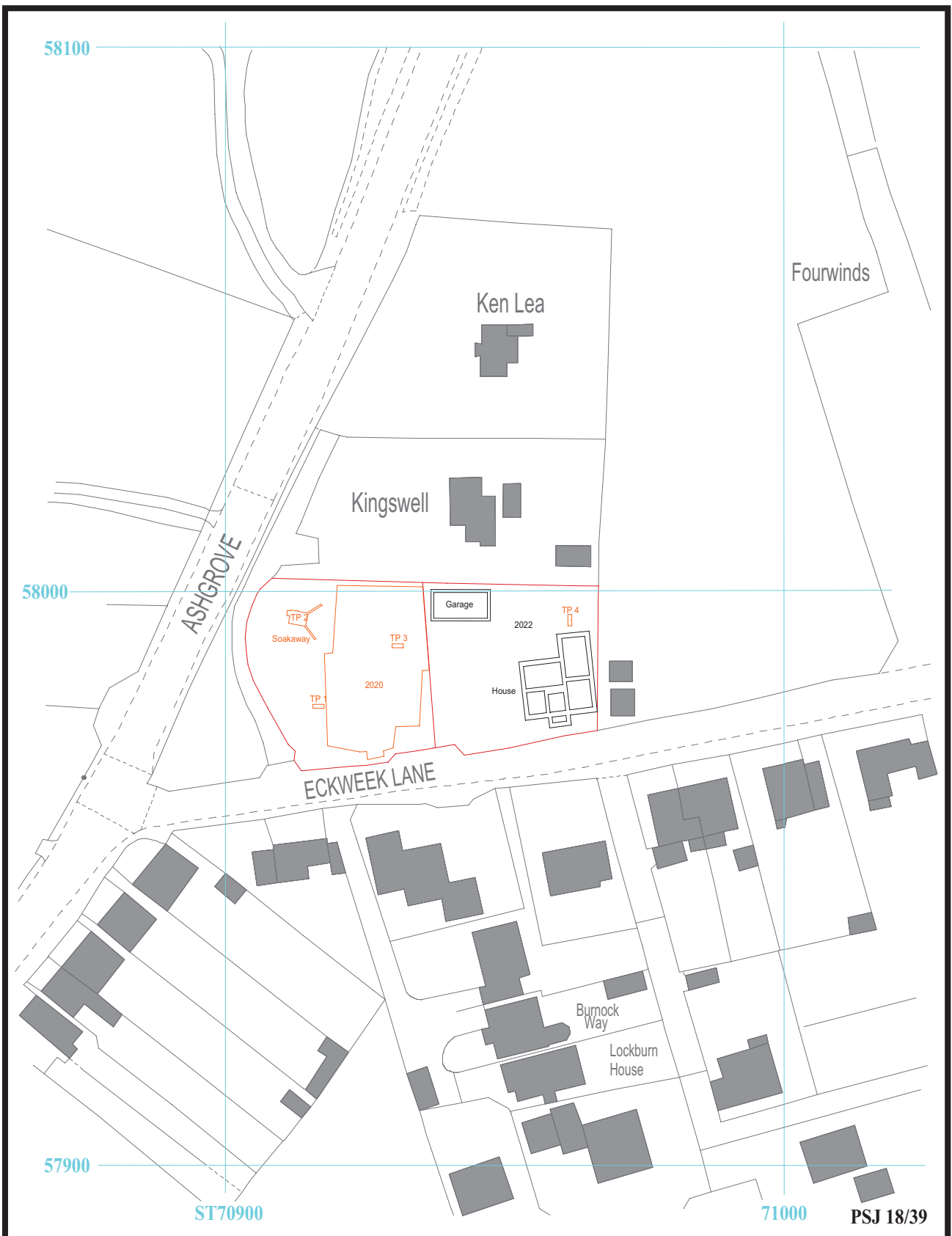


**Eckweek Lane, Peasedown St John,
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Figure 1. Location of site within Peasedown St John and Somerset.

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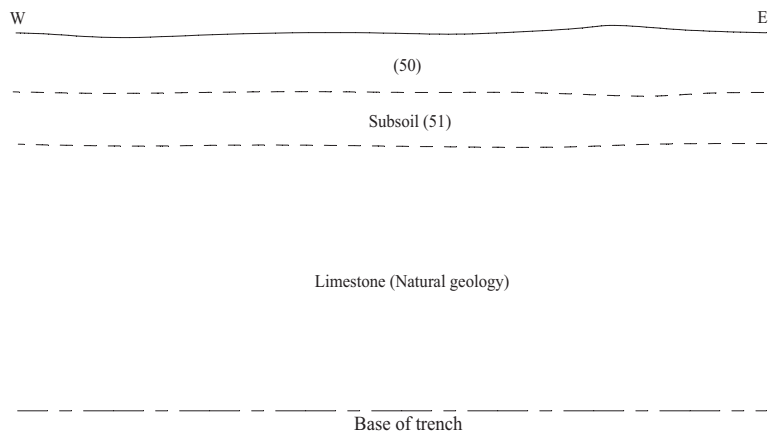


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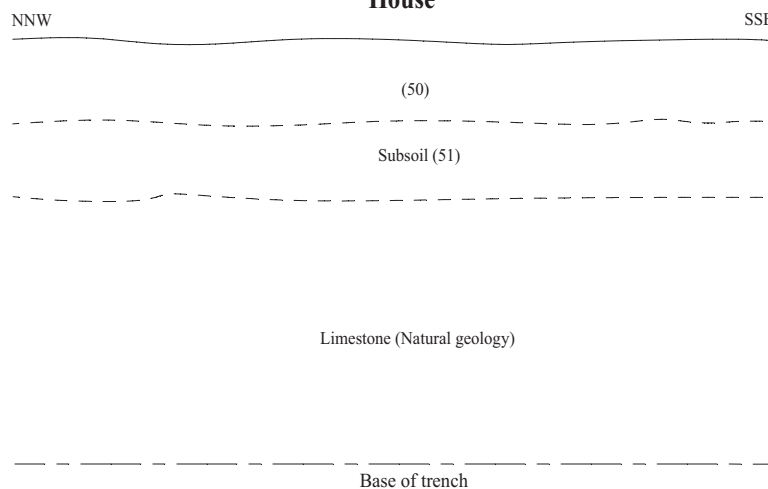
Figure 2. Site plan.



Garage



House



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Figure 3. Representative Sections.





Plate 1. Garage foundation trenches, general view, looking north west.



Plate 2. House foundation trenches, looking east, Scales: 2m and 1m.

PSJ 18/39b

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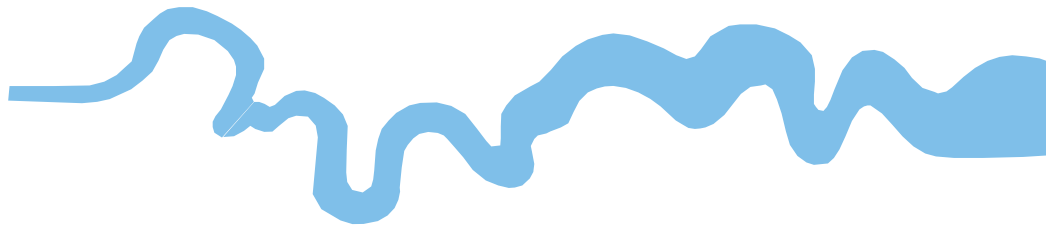
Plates 1 and 2.



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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