

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

ARCHAEOLOGICAL

S E R V I C E S

S O U T H

**Pumping Station, Hill Barn Lane,
Worthing, West Sussex**

Archaeological Watching Brief

by Felicity Howell

Site Code: HBL13/90

(TQ 1426 0548)

Pumping Station, Hill Barn Lane, Worthing, West Sussex

An Archaeological Watching Brief

For Crayfern Homes

by Felicity Howell

Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code HBL 13/90

June 2013

Summary

Site name: Pumping Station, Hill Barn Lane, Worthing, West Sussex

Grid reference: TQ 1426 0548

Planning reference: AWDM/1060/11

Site activity: Watching Brief

Date and duration of project: 19th April – 8th May 2013

Project manager: Sean Wallis

Site supervisor: Felicity Howell

Site code: HBL 13/90

Area of site: *c.* 0.23 ha

Summary of results: The majority of footing trenches for the new houses and garages were successfully monitored during the watching brief. A subsoil horizon was seen to have survived across much of the site, lying directly above the natural geology. No archaeological features or finds were recorded during the project.

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

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	Steve Preston ✓ 12.06.13

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Report 13/90

Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological watching brief carried out at the Pumping Station, Hill Barn Lane, Worthing, West Sussex (TQ 1426 0548) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Mr Luke Dickson of Crayfern Homes, Victoria House, 14 St Johns Road, Hedge End, Southampton, Hampshire, SO30 4AB.

Planning permission (AWDM/1060/11) had been gained from Worthing Borough Council to construct five new houses on the site, along with associated garages, car parking and landscaping. The permission was subject to a condition (17) relating to archaeology, which required the implementation of a programme of archaeological work prior to the commencement of groundworks. Mr John Mills, Senior Archaeologist with West Sussex County Council, who acts as archaeological adviser to the Borough Council, advised that this should take the form of a watching brief, to be carried out during groundworks.

This is in accordance with the *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF, 2012), and the Borough Council's policies on archaeology. The watching brief was carried out in accordance with a written scheme of investigation approved by Mr John Mills, Senior Archaeologist with West Sussex County Council. The fieldwork was undertaken by Felicity Howell and Sean Wallis, between 19th April and 8th May 2013, and the site code is HBL 13/90. The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited with Worthing Museum in due course.

Location, topography and geology

The site is located at the northern end of Hill Barn Lane, about 2km north of the historic core of Worthing, West Sussex (Fig. 1). The site was previously occupied by a water pumping station, although all the features relating to this former use had been removed by the time the watching brief commenced (Fig. 2). According to the British Geological Survey the underlying geology consists of Head Deposits (BGS 2006). This was confirmed during the watching brief, with a mixture of chalk and Brickearth deposits being observed in the foundation trenches. Although the surrounding area slopes gently towards the south, the site itself is relatively flat and lies at a height of approximately 25m above Ordnance Datum.

Archaeological background

The archaeological potential of the site stems from its location on the edge of the South Downs, which is known to be archaeologically rich for most periods (Rudling 2003). The most obvious evidence of activity in the prehistoric period is Cissbury hillfort, which is situated about 2km north of the present site. Closer to the site itself, Iron Age and Roman pottery was found when the pumping station was built to the east in the 19th century, whilst a Bronze Age cremation burial was discovered on the golf course to the north. A geophysical survey of part of the golf course identified anomalies which could represent prehistoric features. Roman burials and worked flints have been found to the south of the site.

Objectives and methodology

The aims of the watching brief were to excavate and record any archaeological deposits affected by the groundworks. This was to include the monitoring of ground beam foundation trenches for the new houses and garages, along with any areas of ground reduction an associated service runs. Sufficient time was to be allowed within the developer's and groundworkers' schedules to record any archaeological features revealed.

Results

Prior to the watching brief commencing all existing structures and hardstandings were removed from the site. Various piling mats were then laid down in respect of the new houses and garages, and the piles put in place. The watching brief comprised the monitoring of trenches dug for the ground beams. The footings for four out of five new houses (plots 1, 3, 4 and 5) were monitored, along with two garage plots (Fig. 3). These provided a good coverage of the site, and John Mills of West Sussex County Council, who was kept informed of progress by telephone, advised that it was not necessary to observe the remainder of the groundworks due to the negative results recorded to that point.

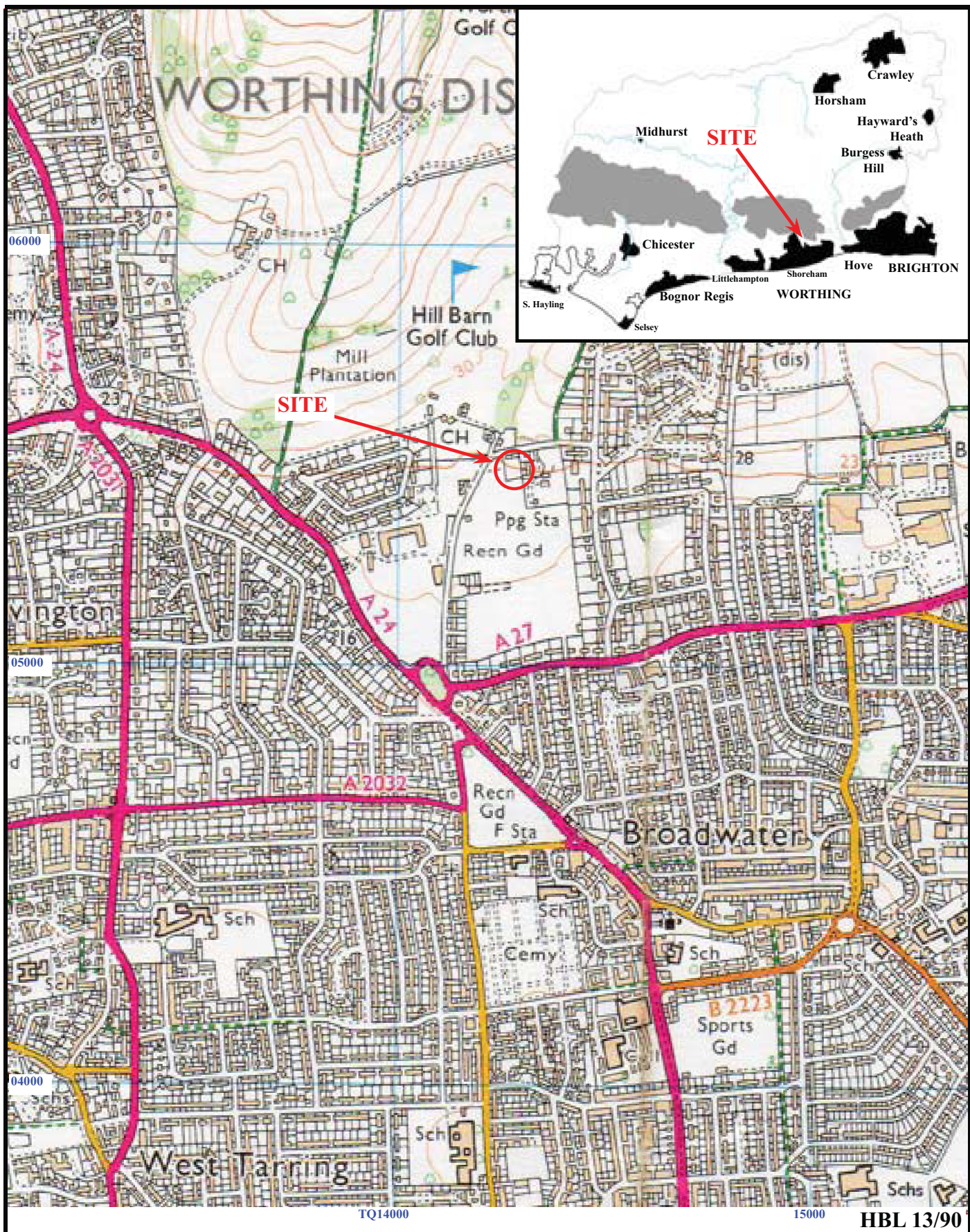
The groundbeam trenches varied from between 0.7m and 1.4m in depth. In most cases the piling mat (0.2 - 0.3m thick) was observed immediately above a mid orange brown subsoil horizon, which varied in thickness from 0.1m to 0.35m (Fig. 4). The subsoil lay directly above the natural geology, which generally consisted of a mixture of Brickearth and chalk (Head Deposits). No archaeological features were observed in the footing trenches monitored, and no archaeological finds were recovered during the watching brief.

Conclusion

The watching brief at this site successfully examined a significant proportion of the site which was most affected by the planned building work. A surviving subsoil horizon was recorded across the site, lying directly above the natural geology. However, no archaeological features were recorded in the areas monitored, and no archaeological finds were recovered.

References

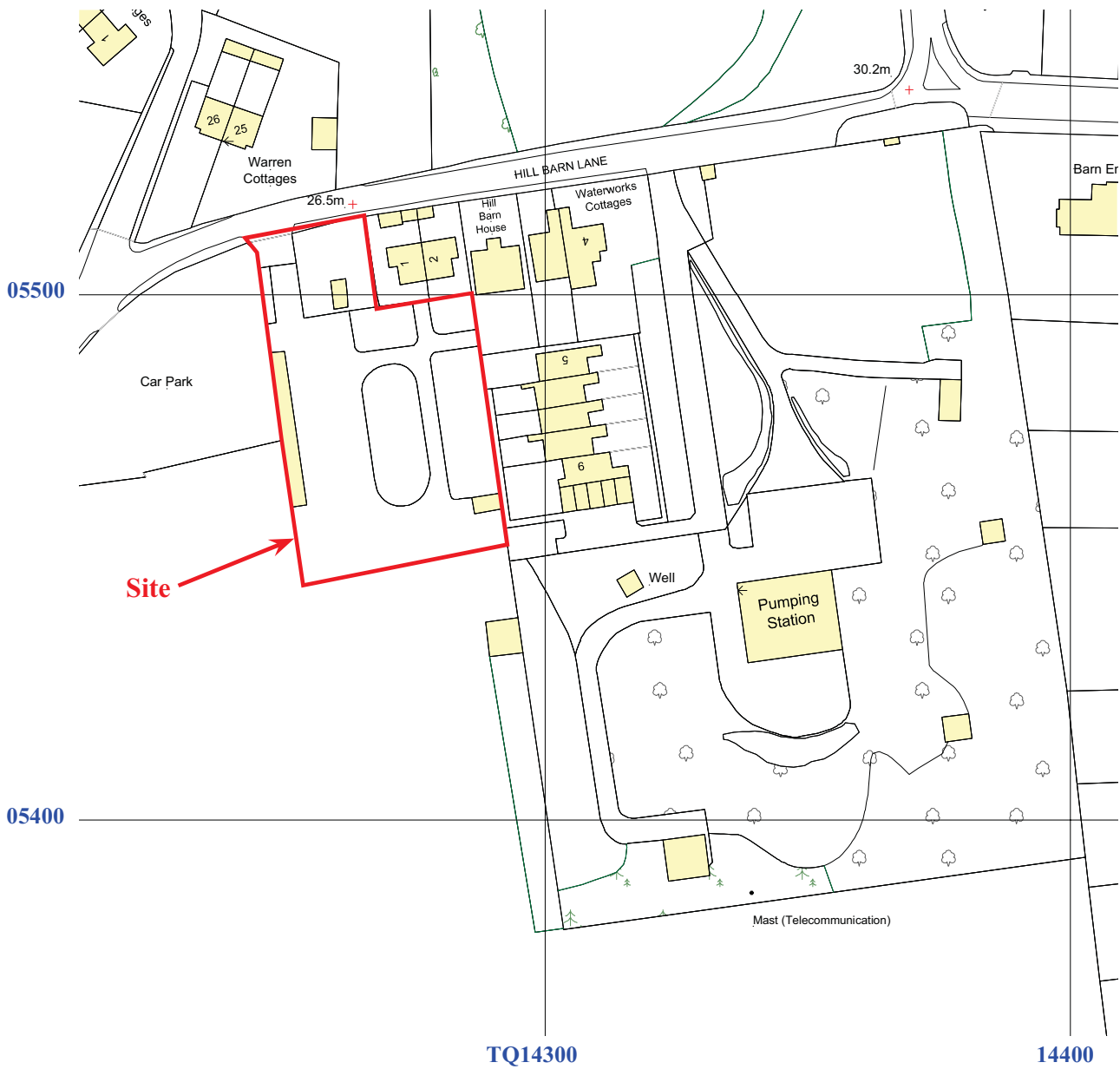
- BGS, 2006, *British Geological Survey*, 1:50,000, Sheet 318/333, Bedrock and Superficial Deposits Edition, Keyworth.
- NPPF, 2012, *National Planning Policy Framework*, Department of Communities and Local Government, London (TSO)
- Rudling, D, (ed) 2003, *The Archaeology of Sussex to AD2000*, King's Lynn



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Figure 1. Location of site within Worthing and West Sussex.

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Figure 2. Detailed location of site

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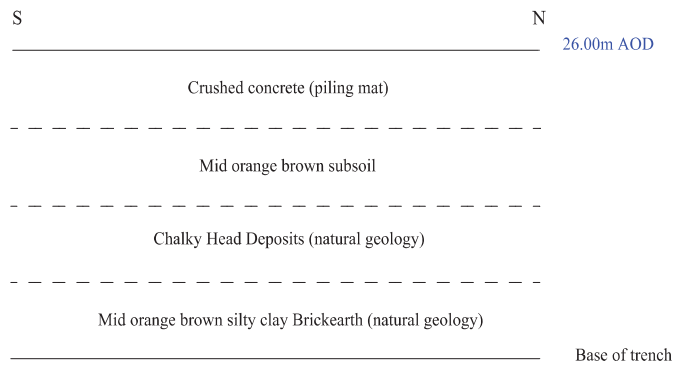


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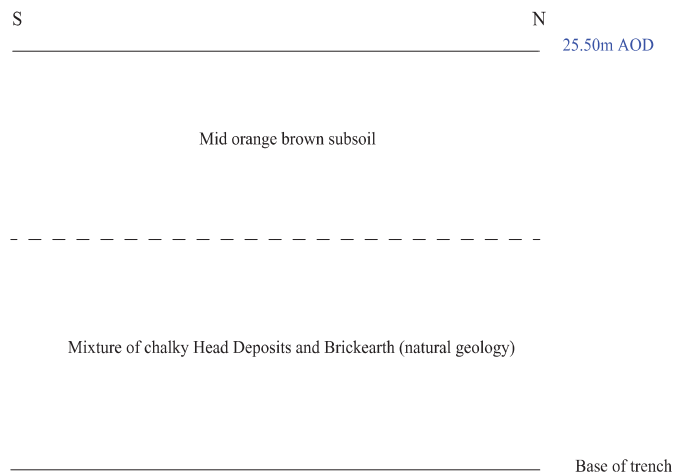
Figure 3. Location of areas monitored.



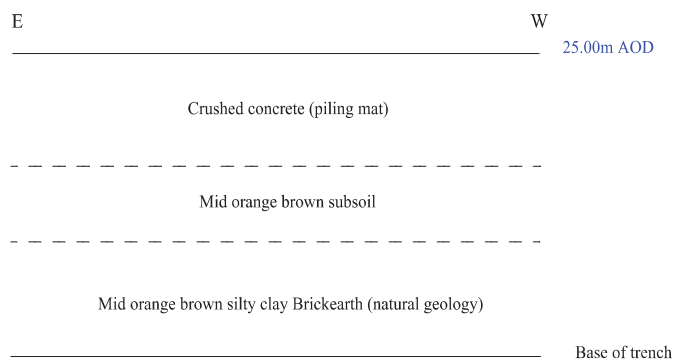
Footing trench (house plot 1)



Footing trench (house plot 3)



Footing trench (house plot 5)



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Figure 4. Representative sections.





Plate 1. General view of site looking south east.



Plate 2. Detail of footing for plot 3, looking south, Scale: 1m.

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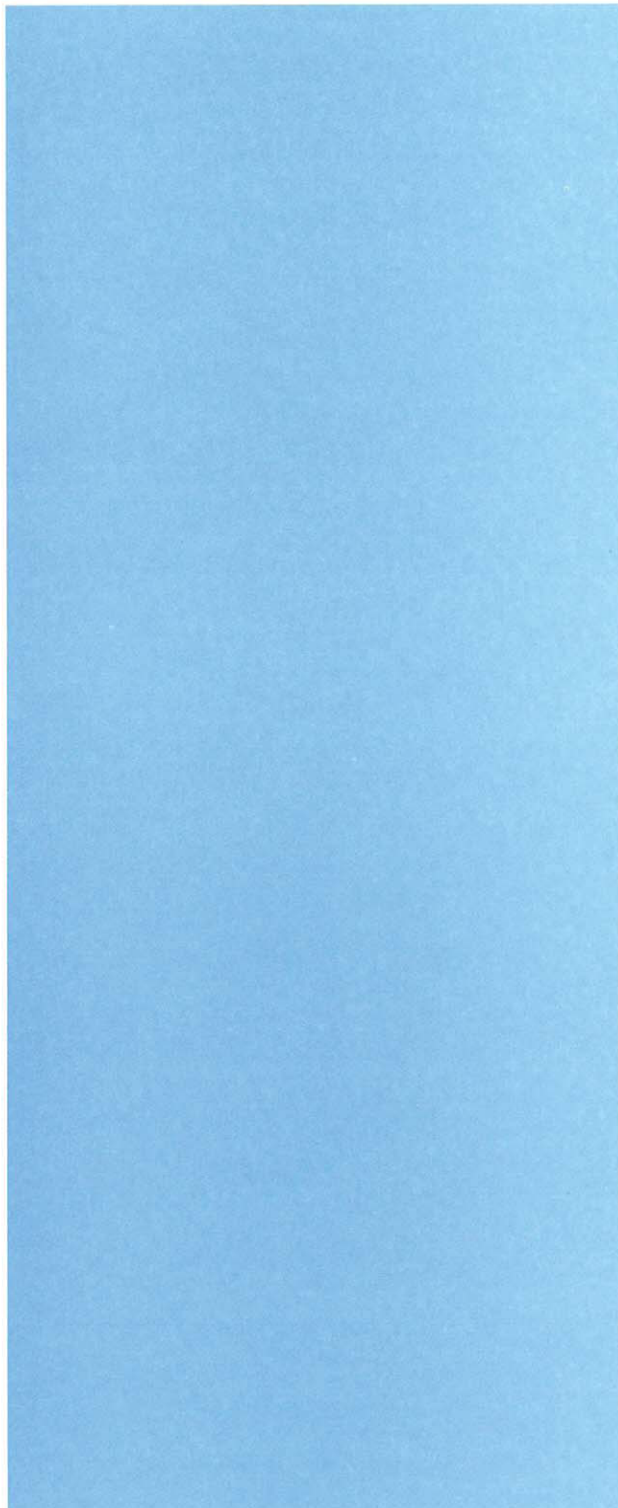
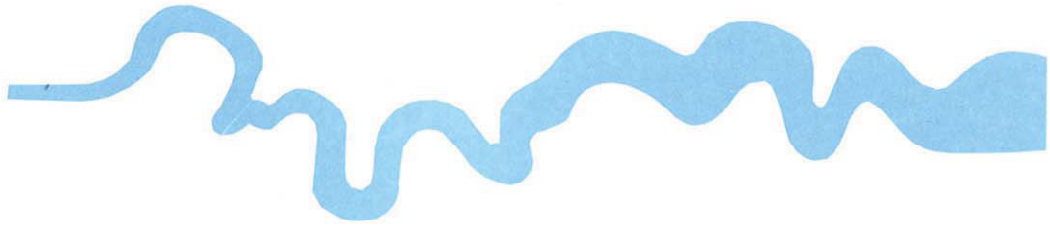
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Plates 1 and 2.

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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
Iron Age _____	BC/AD 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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