

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

**The Bungalow, Watling Street,
Gravesend, Kent**

Archaeological Watching Brief

by Sean Wallis

Site Code: BGK13/143

(TQ 6468 7111)

The Bungalow, Watling Street, Gravesend, Kent

An Archaeological Watching Brief

For Mr Jack Chopra

by Sean Wallis

Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code BGK 13/143

September 2013

Summary

Site name: The Bungalow, Watling Street, Gravesend, Kent

Grid reference: TQ 6468 7111

Planning reference: 2012/1055

Site activity: Watching Brief

Date and duration of project: 22nd July – 5th August 2013

Project manager: Sean Wallis

Site supervisor: Sean Wallis

Site code: BGK 13/143

Area of site: c. 800 sq m

Summary of results: The watching brief successfully investigated those parts of the site which were to be most affected by the construction of the new houses and garages. Despite the fact that the site had not been significantly disturbed in the past, no archaeological features were observed.

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

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Report edited/checked by:	Steve Ford ✓ 05.09.13
	Steve Preston ✓ 05.09.13

The Bungalow, Watling Street, Gravesend, Kent An Archaeological Watching Brief

by Sean Wallis

Report 13/143

Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological watching brief carried out at the Bungalow, Watling Street, Gravesend, Kent (TQ 6468 7111) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Mr Peter Chopra, on behalf of Mr Jack Chopra.

Planning permission (2012/1055) had been gained from Gravesham Borough Council to demolish the existing bungalow and construct two new houses on the site, along with associated garages. The permission was subject to a condition (4) relating to archaeology, which required the implementation of a programme of archaeological work. The Kent County Archaeological Officer, 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 the Kent County Archaeological Officer, based on a brief supplied by Kent Heritage Conservation Group (KCC 2011). The fieldwork was undertaken by Tim Dawson, Andy Taylor and Sean Wallis between 22nd July and 5th August 2013 and the site code is BGK13/143. The archive is held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited with an approved local museum in due course.

Location, topography and geology

The site is located to the north of Watling Street, Gravesend, Kent, approximately 3km south of the historic core of the town. The site was previously occupied by a bungalow, which had been demolished shortly before the watching brief commenced (Fig. 2). According to the British Geological Survey the underlying geology consists of Upper Chalk (BGS 1977). This was confirmed during the watching brief, but with superficial deposits of clayey sand overlying chalk and flint within a chalky sand matrix. The site is relatively flat, and lies at a height of approximately 56m above Ordnance Datum.

Archaeological background

The archaeological potential of the site largely stems from its location next to Watling Street, which follows the line of the Roman road from London to Dover. The Kent Historic Environment Record notes that a Roman pit was found to the north-west of the site, and a recent archaeological excavation during a road-widening project on the A2, to the south-east, revealed settlement evidence dating from the Bronze Age and Iron Age periods.

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 foundation trenches for the structures, along with any areas of ground reduction and associated service runs. Sufficient time was to be allowed within the developer's and groundworkers' schedules to record any archaeological features revealed.

Results

All of the foundation trenches for the new houses and garages were monitored during the watching brief (Fig. 3; Pl. 1). The trenches were 0.6m wide and up to 1.5m deep. The area had been relatively undisturbed by the earlier bungalow, which had quite shallow foundations. As a result, a buried topsoil horizon survived across most of the site, beneath former concrete floor surfaces and a layer of demolition rubble up to 0.2m thick (Fig. 4; Pl. 2). The buried topsoil was about 0.2m thick, and lay above a deposit of mid orange brown clayey sand, which was interpreted as subsoil. This undulating deposit varied considerably in thickness across the site, from 0.3m to 1.4m, and was directly above the underlying natural geology, which largely consisted of chalk and flint within a clayey sand matrix. No archaeological features were observed cutting into the subsoil and natural deposits, although some modern disturbance was noted. No finds of any archaeological interest were recovered.

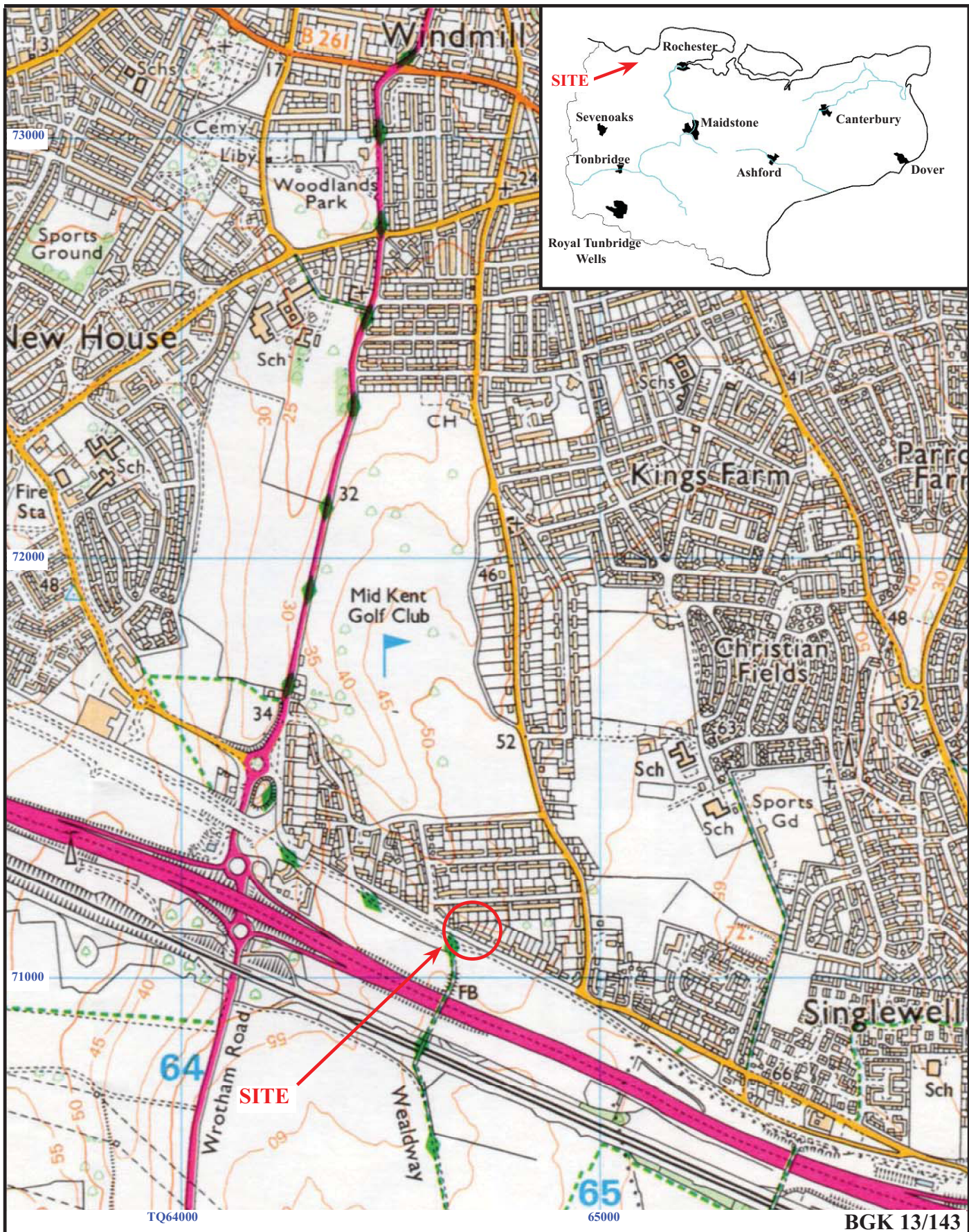
As the new houses will utilize existing services, no new service runs were excavated.

Conclusion

The watching brief at the Bungalow, Watling Street, successfully examined those parts of the site which were to be most affected by the construction of the new houses and garages. Despite the fact that the site had not been significantly disturbed in the past, no archaeological features or finds were observed.

References

- BGS, 1977, *British Geological Survey*, 1:50,000, Sheet 271, Solid and Drift Edition, Keyworth.
- KCC, 2011, 'Specification for an archaeological watching brief in Kent', Kent Heritage Conservation Group, Kent County Council, Maidstone
- NPPF, 2012, *National Planning Policy Framework*, Department of Communities and Local Government, London (TSO)



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Figure 1. Location of site within Gravesend and Kent.

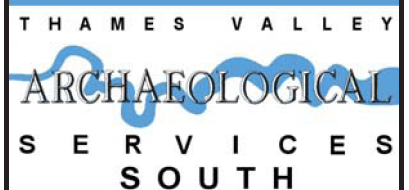
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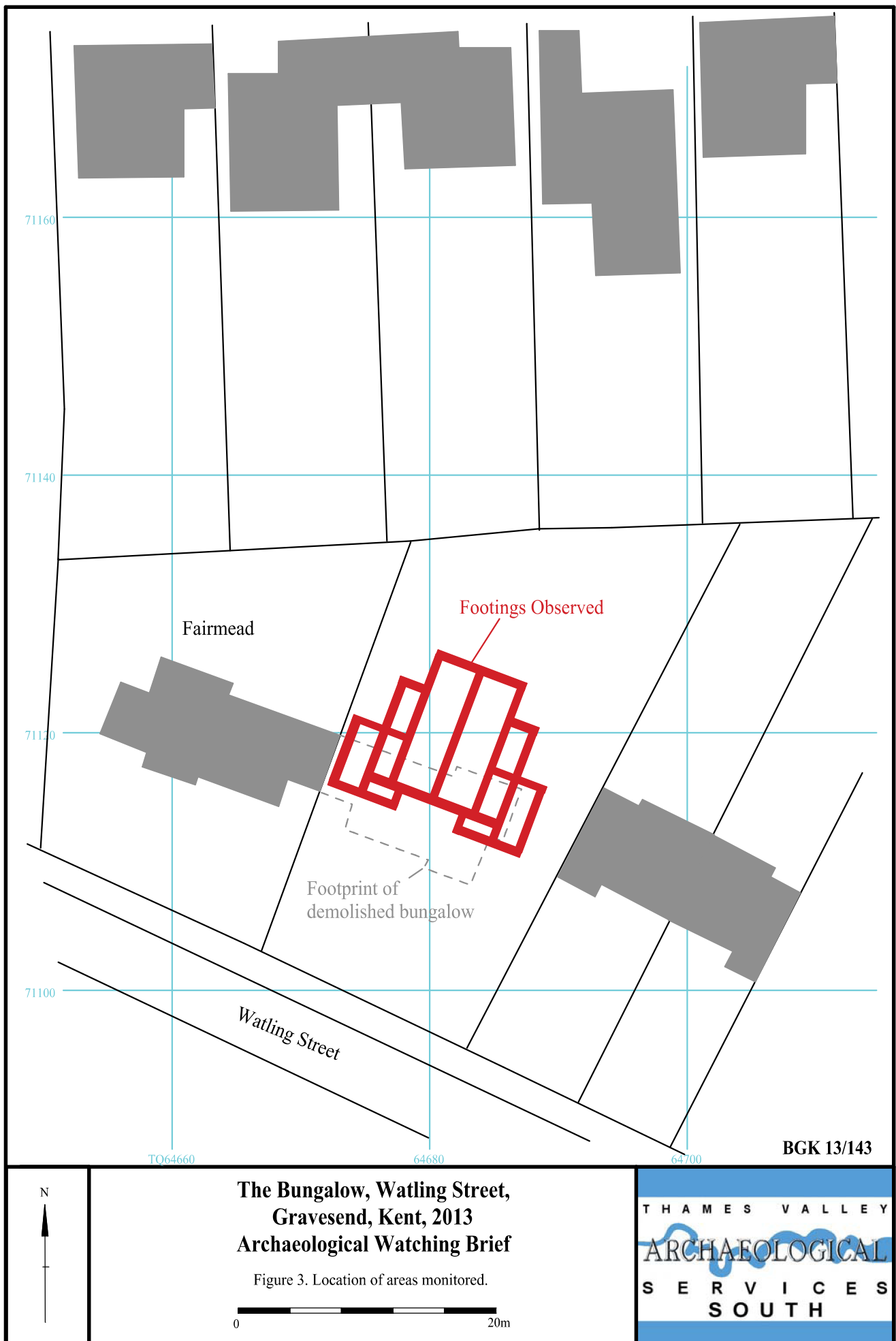


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Figure 2. Detailed location of site

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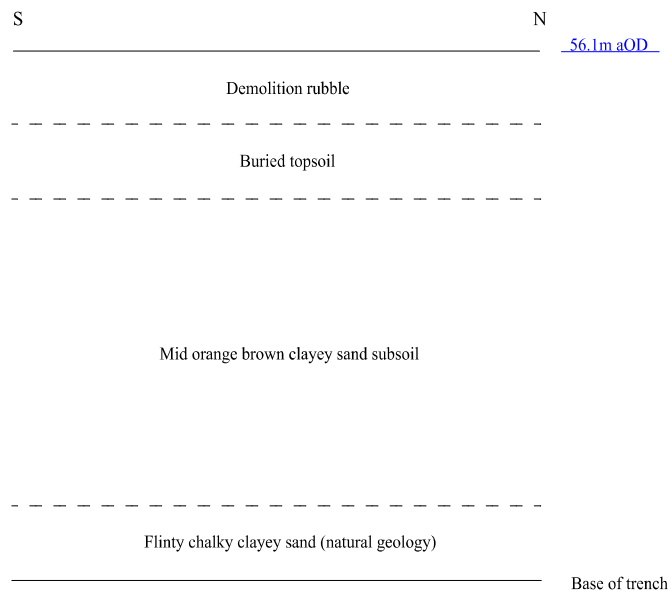


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Figure 3. Location of areas monitored.



Stratigraphy in central area of footings



Flinty cha

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Figure 4. Representative section.





Plate 1. General view of site conditions.



Plate 2. Footings in south-west corner of site.

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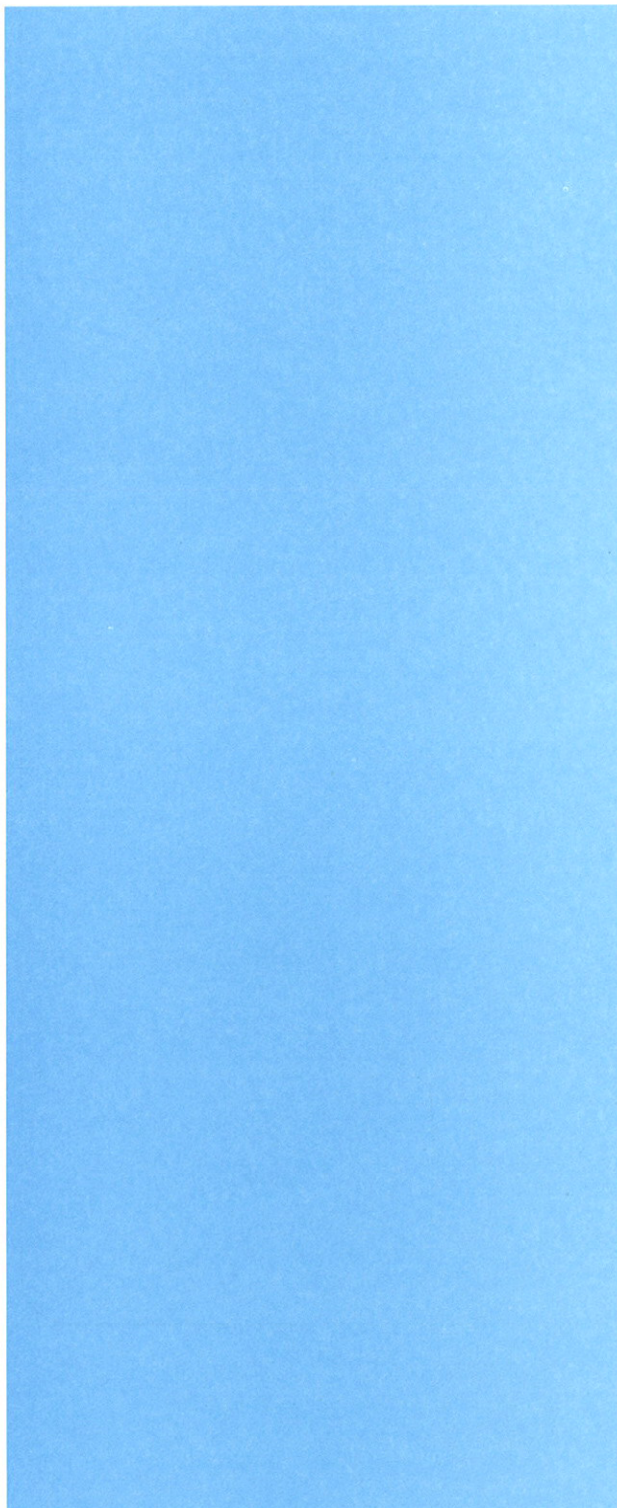
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Plates 1 and 2

THAMES VALLEY
ARCHAEOLOGICAL
SERVICES
SOUTH

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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