

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

**New Grain Store, Chichester Food Park, Runcton,
Chichester, West Sussex**

Archaeological Evaluation

by Andy Taylor

Site Code: BRC14/85

(SU 8885 0320)

New Grain Store, Chichester Food Park, Runcton, Chichester, West Sussex

**An Archaeological Evaluation
for Landlink Estates**

by Andy Taylor

Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code BRC 14/85

June 2014

Summary

Site name: New Grain Store, Chichester Food Park, Runcton, Chichester, West Sussex

Grid reference: SU 8885 0320

Site activity: Evaluation

Date and duration of project: 25th-26th June 2014

Project manager: Steve Ford

Site supervisor: Andy Taylor

Site code: BRC 14/85

Area of site: c.1.04 hectares

Summary of results: Two gullies and two pits were revealed but one pit was modern and the remainder were undated but not obviously modern. Burnt flint which was recovered from one feature is not closely datable and a single durable prehistoric struck flint recovered from another may be residual and not be contemporary with the feature. On the basis of these results, it is considered that the site only has low potential.

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

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www.tvas.co.uk/reports/reports.asp.*

Report edited/checked by: Steve Ford ✓ 04.07.14 Steve Preston ✓ 04.07.14

Chichester Food Park, Bognor Road, Chichester West Sussex An Archaeological Evaluation

by Andy Taylor

Report 14/85

Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological field evaluation carried out at the Chichester Food Park, Bognor Road, Chichester, West Sussex (SU 8885 0320) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Mr Michael Fletcher of Landlink Estates, Ham Farm, Main Road, Bosham, West Sussex, PO18 8EH.

Planning permission has been applied for (13/02608/FUL) from Chichester District Council to construct a new grain store with area of concrete hard standing. The consent was subject to a condition 10) requiring the implementation of a field evaluation prior to construction.

This is in accordance with the Department for Communities and Local Government's *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF 2012), and the District Council's policies on archaeology. The field investigation was carried out to a specification approved by Mr James Kenny, Chichester District Archaeological Officer. The fieldwork was undertaken by Andy Taylor and Kyle Beaverstock between the 25th and 26th June 2014 and the site code is BRC 14/85. The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited with Chichester District Museum in due course.

Location, topography and geology

The site is located on the north-eastern edge of Chichester Food Park, to the south-east of the city (Fig. 1). It is bordered to the west by other units belonging to the Food Park and to the other three sides by further fields with a road running along its southern and eastern boundaries (Fig. 20). The underlying geology is described as Aeolian deposits (brickearth) with alluvial fan deposits (clayey gravels) (BGS 1996), which were observed across the site, and the site lies at a height of approximately 7m above Ordnance Datum.

Archaeological background

The archaeological potential of the site has been highlighted in an advisory note prepared by My James Kenny. In summary the site lies on the Sussex coastal plain, which is considered rich in archaeological deposits of many periods (Rudling 2003). A desktop study (Dawson 2013) for this and the immediately adjacent site was

undertaken which showed numerous sites and finds. Further inland from the site are Palaeolithic sites of international importance, and the current site is probably on the 'Merston Raised Beach' which is thought to date from a period (MIS7 - the early Middle Palaeolithic) when Britain was inhabited (Wymer 1999, 151–3; Pope 2007, 20). The proposal site lies in close proximity to the town of Chichester, the site of a harbour, and thus a gateway to continental Europe, in the Iron Age and a settlement that saw a significant construction boom during the 1st century AD with the arrival of the Romans. The surrounding landscape also experienced this dramatic Romanization with the building of a large number of early villas, including the 'palace' at Fishbourne (Rudling 2003).

This archaeological potential has been further demonstrated for the region of the site with extensive prehistoric settlement and landscape features of Bronze Age and Roman date revealed by evaluation and subsequent fieldwork at a site 4km to the east (Wallis 2005). The evaluation and subsequent excavations at North Bersted c.3.7km to the south-east of Merston (Worrall and Priestley-Bell 2005, Taylor *et al.* 2013) confirmed this archaeological potential and revealed a wide range of post-glacial archaeological deposits dating from the Neolithic and Middle Bronze Age through to medieval and modern times with World War II defences present. Concentrations of Late Bronze Age occupation features were also recorded along with boundary features indicating land division, and a relict palaeochannel/valley. Roman boundary features and a possible trackway were also noted along with medieval boundaries. The excavations went on to reveal an extensive prehistoric and Roman landscape with occupation areas and small enclosures set amongst field systems. The most notable finding, however, was that of a Late Iron Age warrior burial equipped with a rich array of grave furniture including pottery vessels, a sword, spearhead, shield boss and decorated helmet (Taylor *et al.* 2013).

Objectives and methodology

The purpose of the evaluation was to determine the presence/absence, extent, condition, character, quality and date of any archaeological deposits within the area of development.

Specific aims of the project were:

to determine if archaeologically relevant levels have survived on this site; and
to determine if archaeological deposits of any period are present.

A total of 10 trenches, measuring 26m long and 1.8m wide, were to be dug using a 360° type machine fitted with a toothless grading bucket. This was done under constant archaeological supervision and all spoilheaps were monitored for finds.

Where archaeological features were certainly or probably present, the stripped areas were to be cleaned using appropriate hand tools, and sufficient of the archaeological features and deposits exposed would be excavated or sampled by hand to satisfy the aims of the brief, without compromising the integrity of any archaeological features that may warrant preservation in-situ, or be better investigated under the conditions pertaining to full excavation.

Results

The 10 trenches were dug measuring between 26m and 28m in length and between 0.28m and 0.40m deep. Some slight repositioning had to take place due to the presence of crop on the northern edge of the site (Fig. 20). This was in consultation with the monitor.

A complete list of trenches giving lengths, breadths, depths and a description of sections and geology is given in Appendix 1. Appendix 2 summarizes the features excavated.

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

This trench was aligned East-West and measured 27m in length and 0.30m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.18m of topsoil overlying 0.10m of subsoil overlying natural brickearth with gravel patches. Two pits were observed at 6m and 10m from the western end of the trench. Pit 1 (Pl. 5) was 0.80m in diameter and 0.25m deep. It contained two fills (52 and 53) with 52 containing three pieces of a modern cement collar. Pit 2 measured 0.66m in diameter and 0.14m deep. Its light grey yellow silty clay fill (54) contained a flint flake.

Trench 2

This trench was aligned approximately North-South and measured 27m in length and 0.32m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.20m of topsoil overlying 0.10m of subsoil overlying brickearth with gravel patches natural.

Trench 3

This trench was aligned NW-SE and measured 27.60m in length and 0.29m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.20m of topsoil overlying 0.09m of subsoil overlying brickearth and gravel natural.

Trench 4

This trench was aligned East-West and measured 26m in length and 0.39m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.20m of topsoil overlying 0.15m of subsoil overlying brickearth and gravel natural.

Trench 5 (Figs 3 and 4; Pl. 2)

This trench was aligned approximately East-West and measured 28m in length and 0.30m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.22m of topsoil overlying 0.08m of subsoil overlying brickearth and gravel natural. A gully terminus was located close to the eastern end of the trench, through which a slot (4) was dug measuring 0.71m wide and 0.23m deep. It had two fills (56 and 57) although neither produced any dating evidence. The gully did not extend as far as to trench 3 to the north.

Trench 6

This trench was aligned approximately NE-SW and measured 26.40m in length and measured 0.31m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.22m of topsoil overlying 0.09m of subsoil overlying brickearth natural.

Trench 7

This trench was aligned approximately NW-SE and measured 27m in length and 0.32m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.22m of topsoil overlying 0.10m of subsoil overlying brickearth and gravel natural.

Trench 8 (Figs 3 and 4; Pl. 3)

This trench was aligned approximately NE-SW and measured 27m in length and 0.38m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.22m of topsoil overlying 0.15m of subsoil overlying brickearth and gravel natural. A gully was located at 13.50m from the west end of the trench, through which a slot (3) was dug measuring 0.65m wide and 0.20m deep (Pl. 6). Its light brown grey silty clay fill (55) contained 32 pieces of unworked burnt flint.

Trench 9

This trench was aligned East-West and measured 26.10m in length and 0.40m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.24m of topsoil overlying 0.16m of subsoil overlying brickearth and gravel natural.

Trench 10 (Pl. 4)

This trench was aligned approximately North West-South East and measured 26.50m in length and 0.28m deep.

The stratigraphy consisted of 0.22m of topsoil overlying 0.06m of subsoil overlying brickearth and gravel natural.

Finds

Struck Flint by Steve Ford

A single broken struck flint was recovered from pit 2 (54). It is not closely datable and is likely to be of later Neolithic or Bronze Age date.

Burnt Flint by Andy Taylor

A total of 32 pieces of burnt flint were recovered from gully 3 in trench 8 weighing a total of 84g. None of this material was worked and it cannot be dated.

Conclusion

A small number of potential archaeological deposits were observed during the evaluation, however, with the exception of a clearly modern pit, these were undated though unlikely to be modern. It is possible that they represent prehistoric activity but this is difficult to ascertain. The single worked flint need not necessarily date the feature it derived from, given the durability of such material. On the basis of these results, it is considered that the site only has low potential.

References

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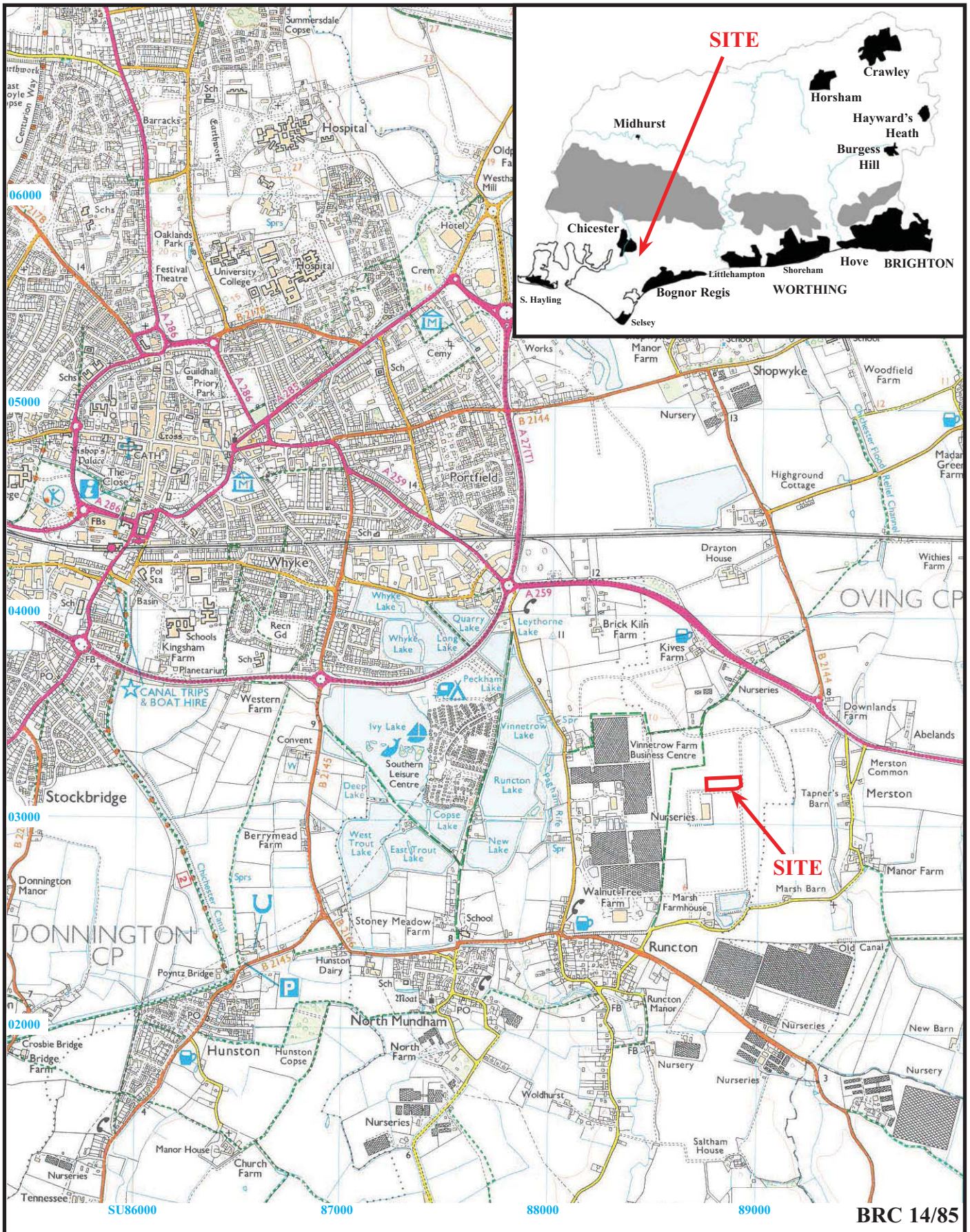
APPENDIX 1: Trench details

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	27.00	1.80	0.30	0.00m-0.18m topsoil; 0.18m-0.28m subsoil; 0.28m-0.30m+ brickearth and gravel natural. Pits 1 and 2. [Pls 1 and 5]
2	27.00	1.80	0.32	0.00m-0.20m topsoil; 0.20m-0.30m subsoil; 0.30m-0.32m+ brickearth and gravel natural.
3	27.60	1.80	0.29	0.00m-0.20m topsoil; 0.20m-0.29m subsoil; 0.29m+ brickearth and gravel natural.
4	26.00	1.80	0.39	0.00m-0.20m topsoil; 0.20m-0.35m subsoil; 0.35m-0.39m+ brickearth and gravel natural.
5	28.00	1.80	0.30	0.00m-0.22m topsoil; 0.22m-0.30m subsoil; 0.30m+ brickearth and gravel natural. Gully Terminus 4. [Pl. 2]
6	26.40	1.80	0.31	0.00m-0.22m topsoil; 0.22m-0.31m subsoil; 0.31m+ brickearth natural.
7	27.00	1.80	0.32	0.00m-0.22m topsoil; 0.22m-0.32m subsoil; 0.32m+ brickearth and gravel natural.
8	27.00	1.80	0.38	0.00m-0.22m topsoil; 0.22m-0.37m subsoil; 0.37m-0.38m+ Gully 3. [Pls 3 and 6]
9	26.10	1.80	0.40	0.00m-0.24m topsoil; 0.24m-0.40m subsoil; 0.40m+ brickearth and gravel natural.
10	26.50	1.80	0.28	0.00m-0.22m topsoil; 0.22m-0.28m subsoil; 0.28m+ brickearth and gravel natural. [Pl. 4]

APPENDIX 2: Feature details

<i>Trench</i>	<i>Cut</i>	<i>Fill (s)</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Dating evidence</i>
1	1	52, 53	Pit	Modern	Cement
1	2	54	Pit	Prehistoric?	Struck flint
5	4	56, 57	Gully Terminus	Undated	None
8	3	55	Gully	Undated	Burnt Flint



**New Grain Store, Chichester Food Park, Runcton,
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Figure 1. Location of site in relation to Chichester and within
West Sussex.

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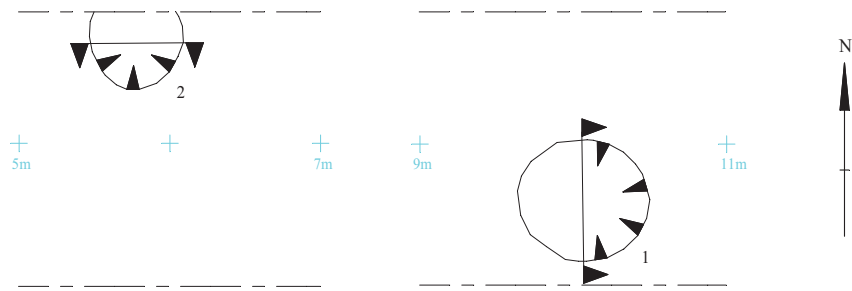
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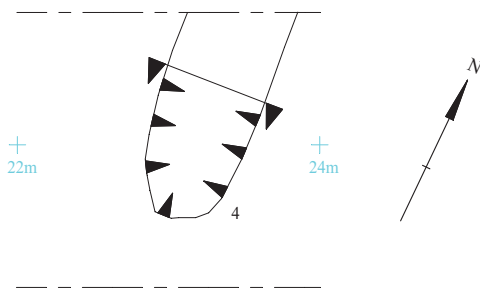
Figure 2. Location of trenches.



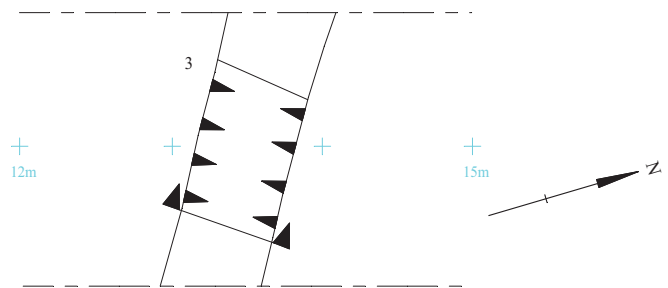
Trench 1



Trench 5



Trench 8

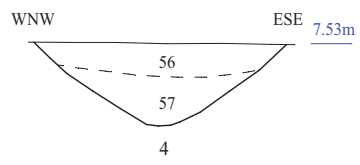
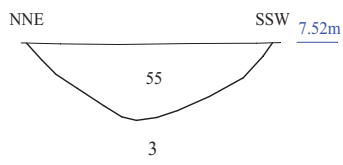
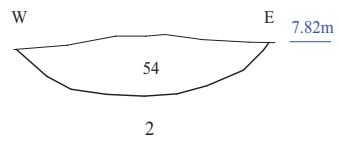
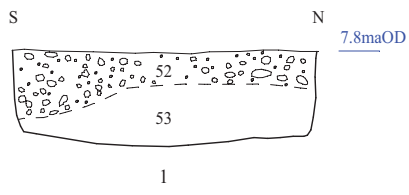


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Figure 3: Trench Plans





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Figure 4. Sections.





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



Plate 2. Trench 5, looking east, Scales: horizontal 2m and 1m, vertical 0.5m.

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**New Grain Store, Chichester Food Park, Runcton,
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Plates 1 - 2.**

THAMES VALLEY
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Plate 3. Trench 8, looking north east, Scales: horizontal 2m and 1m, vertical 0.5m.



Plate 4. Trench 10, looking north west, Scales: horizontal 2m and 1m, vertical 0.5m.

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Plates 3 - 4.**

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Plate 5. Trench 1, pit 1, looking west Scales: 0.5m and 0.1m.



Plate 6. Trench 8, ditch slot 3, looking south, Scales: 0.5m and 0.1m.

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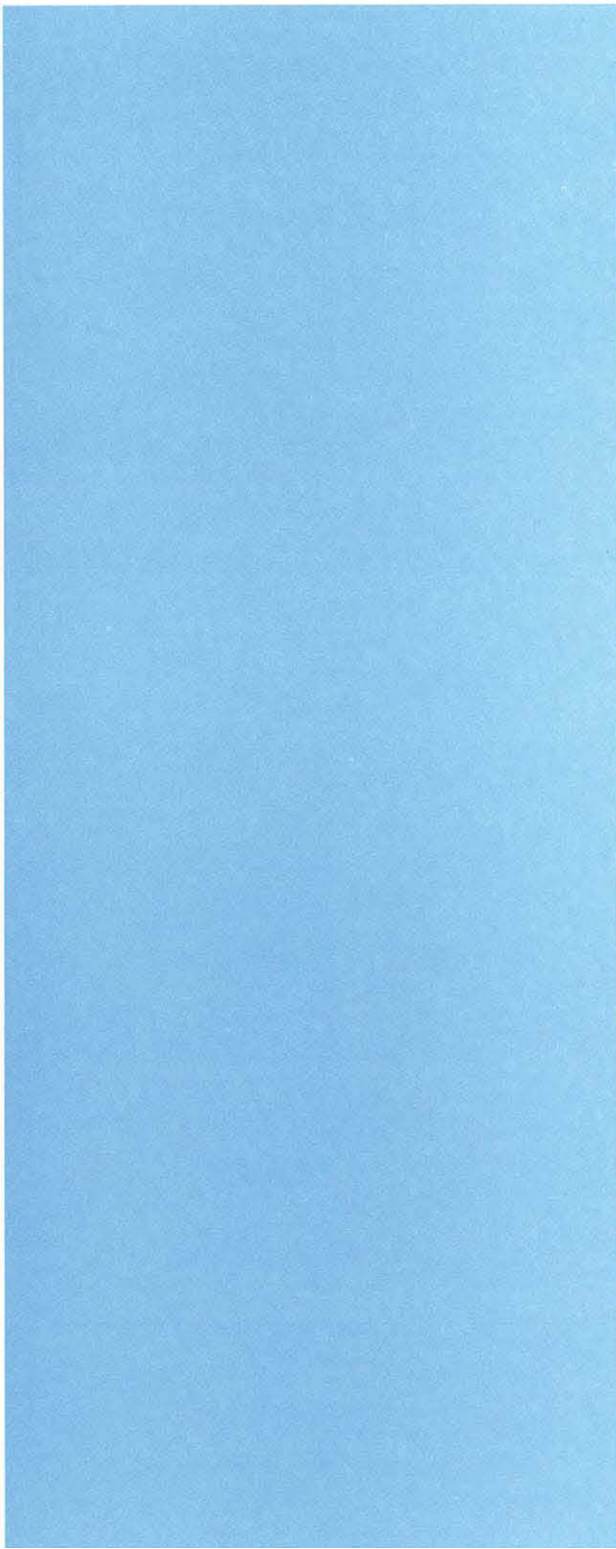
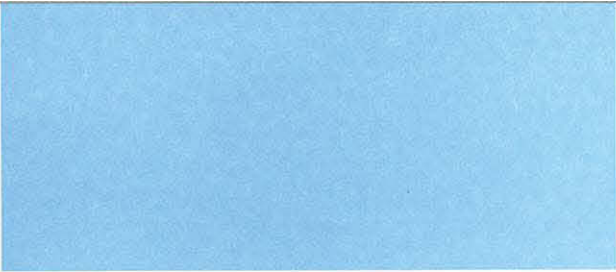
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Archaeological Evaluation
Plates 5 - 6.

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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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