

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 Hyde, Rowan Avenue, Hove,
East Sussex**

Archaeological Evaluation

by Sean Wallis

Site Code: RAH15/12

(TQ 2705 0640)

The Hyde, Rowan Avenue, Hove, East Sussex

**An Archaeological Evaluation
for Birch Restorations Ltd**

by Sean Wallis

Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code
RAH15/112

August 2015

Summary

Site name: The Hyde, Rowan Avenue, Hove, East Sussex

Grid reference: TQ 2705 0640

Site activity: Evaluation

Planning reference : BH2013/00848

Date and duration of project: 11th August 2015

Project manager: Sean Wallis

Site supervisor: Sean Wallis

Site code: RAH15/112

Area of site: c. 0.23 ha

Summary of results: The evaluation of land at The Hyde, Rowan Avenue, Hove, successfully investigated those parts of the site which will be most affected by the new housing development. Much of the site had clearly been stripped in the past and, although the actual level of truncation could not be determined, in the majority of the trenches the natural geology was encountered immediately below made ground deposits. No archaeological finds or features were recorded.

Location and reference of archive: The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading. The preferred depository for the site archive is Brighton Museum. Unfortunately the museum is not accepting new material at the present time, so the archive will be held by Thames Valley Archaeological Services until a suitable depository can be found.

*This report may be copied for bona fide research or planning purposes without the explicit permission of the copyright holder. All TVAS unpublished fieldwork reports are available on our website:
www.tvas.co.uk/reports/reports.asp.*

Report edited/checked by: Steve Ford ✓ 21.08.15

The Hyde, Rowan Avenue, Hove, East Sussex An Archaeological Evaluation

by Sean Wallis

Report 15/112

Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological field evaluation carried out at The Hyde, Rowan Avenue, Hove, East Sussex (TQ 2705 0640) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Mr Des Regan of Birch Restorations Ltd, 1a Victoria Terrace, Hove, East Sussex, BN3 2WB.

Planning permission (BH2013/00848) has been gained from Brighton and Hove City Council to redevelop the site for housing. The consent is subject to two conditions (15 and 17) relating to archaeology and the historic environment.

Condition 15 states that : *'No development shall take place until the implementation of a programme of archaeological work has been secured, in accordance with a Written Scheme of Archaeological Investigation which shall be submitted to and approved by the Local Planning Authority. The development shall then be carried out in accordance with the approved programme of archaeological work.*

Reason : To ensure that the archaeological and historical interest of the site is safeguarded and recorded and to comply with policy HE12 of the Brighton and Hove Local Plan.'

Condition 17 states that : *'The development hereby permitted shall not be occupied until the archaeological site investigation and post investigation assessment (including provision for analysis, publication and dissemination of results and archive deposition) has been completed in accordance with the programme set out in the Written Scheme of Archaeological Investigation approved under condition 15.*

Reason : To ensure that the archaeological and historical interest of the site is safeguarded and recorded and to comply with policy HE12 of the Brighton and Hove Local Plan.'

As a consequence of the possibility of archaeological deposits which may be damaged or destroyed by the development, it was proposed to carry out a field evaluation on the site as detailed in the *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF 2012), and the City Council's policies on archaeology, to determine the archaeological potential of the site and to help formulate a mitigation strategy as necessary. This approach was recommended in a brief prepared by Mr Greg Chuter, the East Sussex County Council Archaeological Officer who advises the City Council on archaeological matters.

The field investigation was carried out in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation approved by the East Sussex County Council Archaeological Officer. The fieldwork was undertaken by Clara Schonfeld, Teresa Vieira and Sean Wallis on 11th August 2015, and the site code is RAH 15/112. The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services. The preferred depository for the archive is Brighton Museum,

but unfortunately the museum is not accepting new material at present. As a result, the archive will be held by Thames Valley Archaeological Services until a suitable depository can be found.

Location, topography and geology

The site lies to the north-west of the historic core of Hove, East Sussex, and is accessed via Rowan Avenue to the west (TQ 2705 0640) (Fig. 2). It is largely surrounded by residential housing, except to the east where it is bounded by a parcel of open ground. Until recently, the southern part of the site was occupied by a builder's yard, and the northern part by a car park. The site is relatively flat and lies at a height of approximately 50m above Ordnance Datum. According to the British Geological Survey the underlying geology consists of Woolwich and Reading Beds of the Lambeth Group (BGS 2006), and this was confirmed during the evaluation where an orange brown clayey silt with flint gravel inclusions was recorded in all the trenches.

Archaeological background

A search of the East Sussex Historic Environment Record (ESHER ref: 159/15) was carried out in May 2015 to provide archaeological and historical background information. The site lies to the north-west of the historic core of Hove, and is located within an Archaeological Notification Area due to the underlying Woolwich Beds geology, which is believed to be a preferred location for prehistoric settlement. A few stray finds of prehistoric date have been found in the surrounding area, although no features have been identified. Some undated human remains were discovered during building work to the south-west of the site. A Roman villa was recorded to the north-east, at West Blatchington, but has since been destroyed by modern housing developments. The former hamlets of Hangleton and West Blatchington were located to the north-west and north-east of the site respectively. These date from the medieval period, although they are likely to have Saxon origins. A large earthwork to the west of the site is thought to represent the Saxon boundary of the West Blatchington Estate. Despite a number of recent archaeological investigations in the surrounding area, very little in the form of features or finds has been found.

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 proposed development.

Specific aims of the project were;

To determine if archaeologically relevant levels have survived on this site.

To determine if archaeological deposits of any period are present.

To determine whether any evidence of prehistoric activity is present.

To determine whether any evidence of medieval activity is present.

The potential and significance of any such deposits located will be assessed according to the research priorities such as set out in English Heritage research agenda (English Heritage 2005), or any other local or thematic research priorities as necessary (e.g. Rudling 2003; Manley 2008 and the forthcoming SE regional research frameworks).

Four trenches were to be dug, each measuring 15m in length and 1.60m in width (c. 5% of the development area). The trenches were primarily to be positioned to target the footprints of the new houses. These were to be dug using a 360° type machine fitted with a toothless ditching bucket under constant archaeological supervision. All spoilheaps were to be monitored for finds.

Results

All the trenches were 1.60m wide and measured between 15.0m and 15.10m in length, and between 0.31m and 0.48 in depth. The trenches were shifted slightly from their original intended positions due to site logistics. A complete list of the trenches giving lengths, breadths, depths and a description of sections and geology is given in Appendix 1.

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

This trench was aligned approximately E-W, and was 15.10m long and up to 0.48m deep. The natural geology was revealed beneath 0.18m of loose topsoil and made ground. A small test pit was dug at the western end of the trench to a depth of 0.48m. No archaeological finds or features were recorded.

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

This trench was aligned approximately SSW-NNE, and was 15.10m long and up to 0.45m deep. At the southern end of the trench the natural geology was recorded immediately below 0.18m of loose topsoil and made ground. In the central and northern parts of the trench 0.20m of loose topsoil and made ground lay above a possible

surviving subsoil horizon which was up to 0.12m thick. The subsoil lay directly above the natural geology. No archaeological finds or features were recorded.

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

This trench was aligned approximately N-S, and was 15.00m long and up to 0.40m deep. The natural geology was revealed beneath 0.30m of made ground which was probably laid down when the area was used as an overflow car park. A number of modern truncations were noted along the trench but were not recorded in detail. The trench contained no archaeological finds or features.

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

This trench was aligned approximately N-S, and was 15.00m long and up to 0.31m deep. The area where this trench was excavated was formerly used as a car park and, as a result, natural geology was revealed beneath 0.04m of Tarmac and 0.08m of concrete. The upper layer of the natural clayey silt had been stained a greenish grey colour in the southern part of the trench, due to a chemical process associated with the area being covered by concrete. No archaeological finds or features were recorded.

Finds

No archaeological finds were recovered during the evaluation.

Conclusion

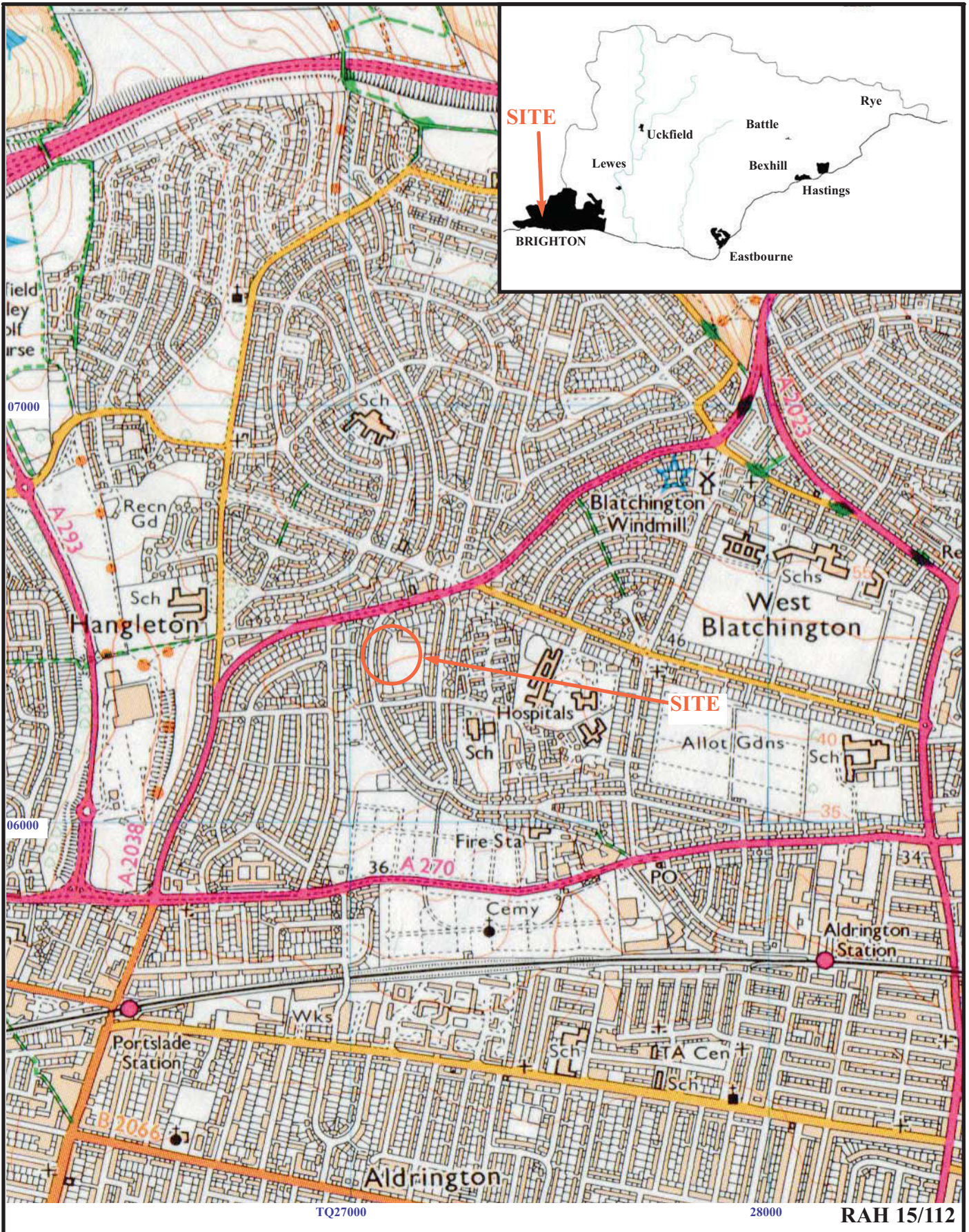
The evaluation at The Hyde, Rowan Avenue, Hove, successfully investigated those parts of the site which will be most affected by the new housing development. The site had previously been used as a car park and builder's yard, and it seems likely that the original topsoil and subsoil horizons had been removed to facilitate these activities. As a result, the natural geology was encountered immediately below made ground deposits across the majority of the site. The actual level of truncation into the natural geology could not be determined, but no archaeological finds or features were recorded.

References

- BGS 2006, *British Geological Survey*, 1:50000, Sheet 318/333, Bedrock and Superficial Deposits Edition, Keyworth.
- English Heritage, 2005, *Research Agenda*, English Heritage, London.
- English Heritage 2011, *Environmental Archaeology*. Centre for Archaeological Guidelines 1, English Heritage, Portsmouth (2nd edn).
- ESCC 2015, *Sussex Archaeological Standards*, East Sussex County Council, Lewes.
- NPPF, 2012, *National Planning Policy Framework*, Department of Communities and Local Government, London (TSO).
- Rudling, D, (ed) 2003, *The Archaeology of Sussex to AD2000*, Centre for Continuing Education, University of Sussex, Brighton.

APPENDIX 1: Trench details

Trench	Length (m)	Breadth (m)	Depth (m)	Comment
1	15.10	1.60	0.48	0-0.18m loose topsoil and made ground; 0.18-0.48m+ natural geology (mid orange brown clayey silt with flint gravel inclusions). Base of trench at 49.62m AOD (E). Test pit at western end of trench. [Pl. 1]
2	15.10	1.60	0.45	SSW end : 0-0.18m loose topsoil and made ground; 0.18-0.35m+ natural geology (mid orange brown clayey silt with flint gravel inclusions). NNE end : 0-0.20m loose topsoil and made ground; 0.20-0.32m subsoil; 0.32-0.45m natural geology (mid orange brown clayey silt with flint gravel inclusions). Base of trench at 49.90m AOD (NNE). [Pl. 2]
3	15.00	1.60	0.40	0-0.30m made ground; 0.30-0.40m+ natural geology (mid orange brown clayey silt with flint gravel inclusions). Base of trench at 50.20m AOD (S). [Pl. 3]
4	15.00	1.60	0.31	0-0.04m Tarmac; 0.04-0.12m concrete; 0.12-0.31m+ natural geology (mid orange brown clayey silt with flint gravel inclusions, partially stained). Base of trench at 50.67m AOD (N). [Pl. 4]



**The Hyde, Rowan Avenue, Hove,
East Sussex, 2015
Archaeological Evaluation**

Figure 1. Location of site within Hove and East Sussex.

Reproduced from Ordnance Survey Explorer 122 at 1:12500
Ordnance Survey Licence 100025880



RAH 15/112

**The Hyde, Rowan Avenue, Hove,
East Sussex, 2015
Archaeological Evaluation**

Figure 2. Detailed location of site

Reproduced from Ordnance Survey digital mapping at 1:1250



RAH 15/112



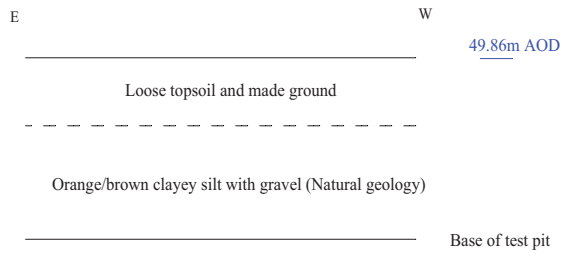
**The Hyde, Rowan Avenue, Hove,
East Sussex, 2015
Archaeological Evaluation**

Figure 3. Location of trenches.

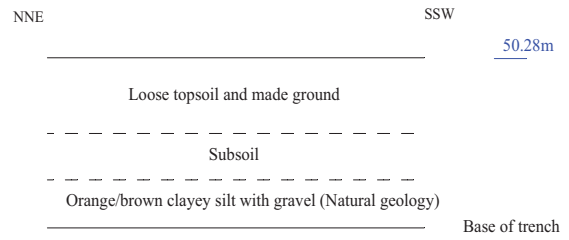


THAMES VALLEY
ARCHAEOLOGICAL
SERVICES
SOUTH

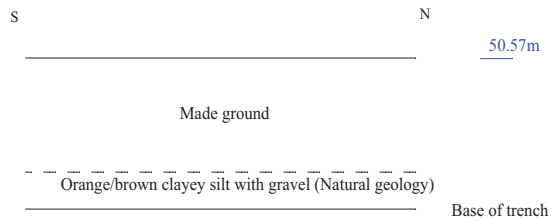
General stratigraphy in Trench 1



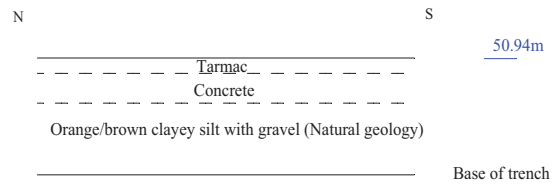
General stratigraphy in Trench 2



General stratigraphy in Trench 3



General stratigraphy in Trench 4



RAH 15/112

**The Hyde, Rowan Avenue, Hove,
East Sussex, 2015
Archaeological Evaluation**

Figure 4. Sections





Plate 1. Trench 1 looking east,
Scales 2m, 0.5m and 0.3m



Plate 2. Trench 2 looking north,
Scales 2m, 0.5m and 0.3m



Plate 3. Trench 3 looking north,
Scales 2m, 0.5m and 0.3m



Plate 4. Trench 4 looking north,
Scales 2m, 0.5m and 0.3m

RAH15/112



**The Hyde, Rowan Avenue, Hove, East Sussex
Archaeological Evaluation**

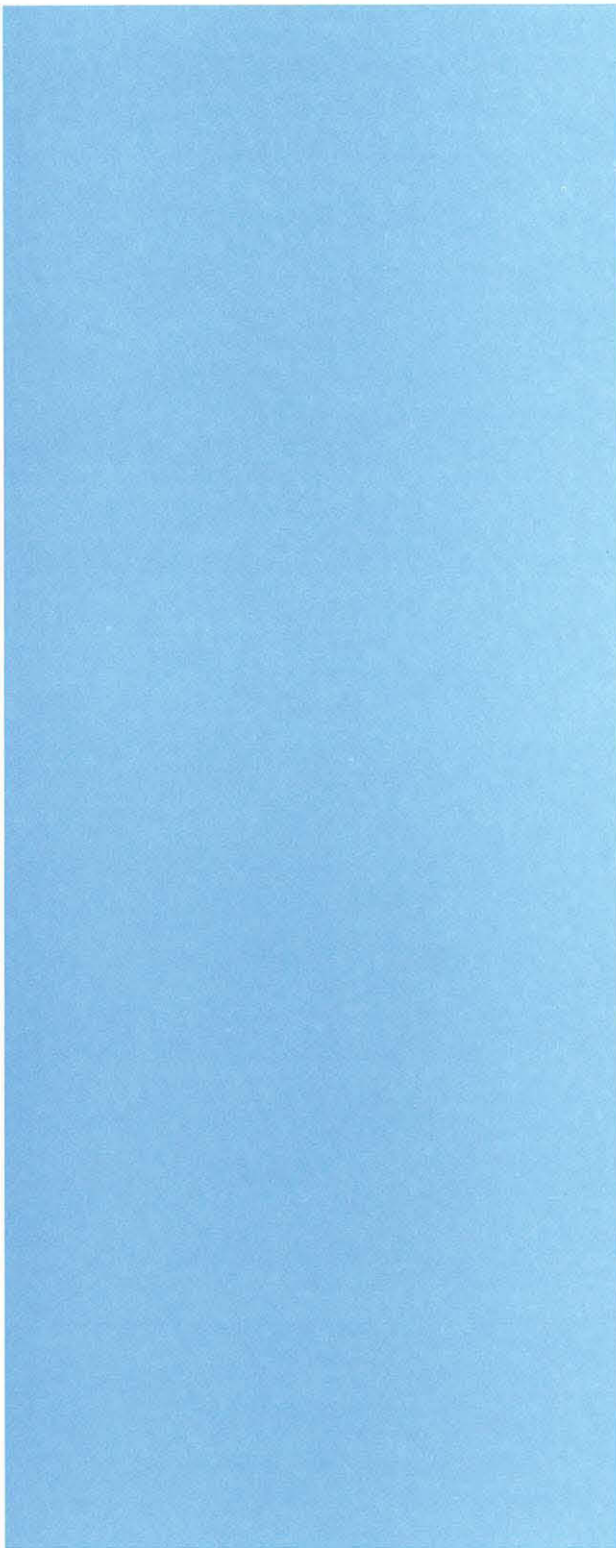
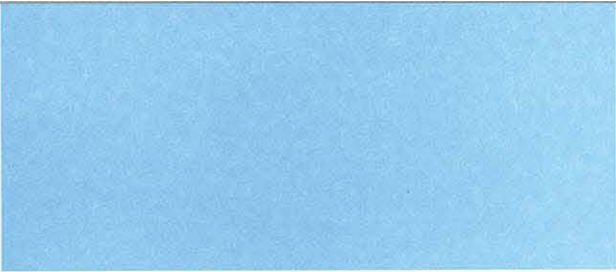
Plates 1 to 4.

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





TVAS (South)
77a Hollingdean Terrace, Brighton
Sussex, BN1 7HB

Tel: 01273 554198
Fax: 01273 564043
Email: south@tvas.co.uk
Web: www.tvas.co.uk