

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

**751 London Road, Larkfield,
Aylesford, Kent**

Archaeological Watching Brief

by Teresa Vieira

Site Code: LRL13/25

(TQ 7045 5835)

**751 London Road, Larkfield,
Aylesford, Kent**

An Archaeological Watching Brief

For Giarti Ltd

by Teresa Vieira

Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code LRL13/25

December 2015

Summary

Site name: 751 London Road, Larkfield, Aylesford Kent

Grid reference: TQ 7042 5830

Planning reference: TM/14/02588/RD

Site activity: Watching Brief

Date and duration of project: 3rd to 16th December 2015

Project manager: Sean Wallis

Site supervisor: Teresa Vieira

Site code: LRL 13/25

Area of site: 2195 sq m

Summary of results: The watching brief successfully investigated those parts of the site which would be most affected by the new development. The area of the new basement had already been badly disturbed by the footings of the building which had recently been demolished. Ground reduction in respect of the new access road and car park was also monitored, but no archaeological features were observed, nor finds recovered.

Monuments identified: None

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

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Report edited/checked by:	Steve Ford ✓ 23.12.15
	Steve Preston ✓ 24.12.15

751 London Road, Larkfield, Aylesford, Kent An Archaeological Watching Brief

by Teresa Vieira

Report 13/25

Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological watching brief carried out at 751 London Road, Larkfield, Aylesford, Kent (TQ 7042 5830) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Mr Gary Richardson of Giarti Ltd, Amphenol Business Complex, Thanet Way, Whitstable, Kent, CT5 3JF.

Planning permission (TM/14/02588/RD) has been gained from Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council to demolish the existing buildings on the site, and to construct a replacement building, with associated access, car parking and landscaping. The permission was subject to a standard condition (8) relating to archaeology and the historic environment, which required the implementation of a programme of archaeological works. As a consequence of the possibility of archaeological deposits on the site which may be damaged or destroyed by the building work, it was proposed to carry out a watching brief set out in 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 archaeological adviser to Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council (Kent County Archaeological Officer). This written scheme of investigation had actually been prepared in respect of an earlier planning application (TM/13/00344/RD), but the Kent County Archaeological Officer had confirmed that it could be used for the current application. The work was carried out to comply with the Kent County Council requirements for archaeological fieldwork, and in accordance with the generic specification for watching briefs prepared by Kent County Council's Heritage Conservation Group (KCC 2011). The fieldwork was undertaken by Teresa Vieira between 3rd and 16th December 2015, and the site code is LRL13/25.

The archive is presently held by Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading, and will be deposited with Maidstone Museum in due course.

Location, topography and geology

The site is located close to the centre of Larkfield, about 1.8 km south-west of the historic core of Aylesford, Kent (Fig. 1). It is bounded to the north by London Road, and surrounded by residential housing and commercial premises. Until recently, there were several buildings in the north-east part of the site, but these were demolished

before the watching brief was carried out. According to the British Geological Survey the underlying geology consists of Lower Greensand (Folkestone Beds) (BGS 1996). The site is relatively flat and lies at a height of approximately 26m above Ordnance Datum.

Archaeological background

The archaeological potential for the site stems from its location relatively close to an area containing archaeological deposits, as recorded in the Kent Historic Environment Record. To the south-east of the site early Roman occupation has been recorded and further to the south-east Roman cremation burials are also recorded. Archaeological recording to the west of the site, to the rear of the Wealden Hall, revealed several deposits which were not well dated.

Objectives and methodology

The aims of the watching brief were to excavate and record any archaeological deposits affected by the proposed groundworks. This was to involve the monitoring of ground reduction in respect of the new access road and car park, along with the excavation of a basement for the new building. Where it was not possible or practicable to preserve archaeological remains *in-situ* the features were to be excavated by hand and fully recorded, to ensure their preservation by record. The watching brief was to be carried out in accordance with the generic specification for watching briefs prepared by Kent County Council's Heritage Conservation Group (KCC 2011).

Results

Groundworks were monitored in three areas of the site which covered most of the site area (Fig. 3).

Access road

Ground reduction was initially carried out in respect of the new access road (Pl. 2; Fig. 4). The stratigraphy above the natural sand geology generally consisted of 0.40m of topsoil (50) and 0.14m of subsoil (51). Despite the fact that this area had not been significantly disturbed in the past, no archaeological features were recorded.

New building

The new building was to have a basement, and the initial overburden removal for this was monitored. However, it became clear very early on that the area had been badly truncated by the previous buildings on the site as well

as from an area occupied by a previous basement (Pl. 3; Fig. 4). Demolition rubble and made ground deposits were noted directly above the truncated natural geology. No archaeological deposits were revealed

Carpark

Ground reduction for the new car park was also monitored (Pl. 1; Fig. 4). The stratigraphy in this part of the site was almost identical to that observed in the new access road. The only difference was that the area of the car park had been affected by tree roots. No archaeological features were seen cut into to the natural sand geology. Although a significant part of the site was stripped down to the natural geology, and spoilheaps were monitored, no archaeological finds were recovered during the watching brief.

Conclusion

The watching brief at 751 London Road successfully investigated those parts of the site which would be most affected by the new development. The area of the new basement had already been badly disturbed by the footings of the building which had recently been demolished. Ground reduction in respect of the new access road and car park was also monitored, but no archaeological finds or features were recorded.

References

- BGS, 1976, *British Geological Survey*, 1:50,000, Sheet 288, 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*, Dept Communities and Local Government, London

Kent County Council SMR summary form

Site Name: 751 London Road, Larkfield, Aylesford

Site address: 751 London Road, Larkfield, Aylesford

Summary: The watching brief successfully investigated those parts of the site which would be most affected by the new development. The area of the new basement had already been badly disturbed by the footings of the building which had recently been demolished. Ground reduction in respect of the new access road and car park was also monitored, but no archaeological features were observed, nor finds recovered.

District/Unitary: Tonbridge and Malling

Parish: Aylesford

Periods: none

NGR: TQ 7042 5830

Type of archaeological work: Watching Brief

Date of Recording: 3rd to 16th December 2015

Unit undertaking recording: TVAS South (Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd)

Geology: Lower Greensand (Folkestone Beds)

Title and author of report: 751 London Road, Larkfield, Aylesford, Kent: An Archaeological Watching Brief by Teresa Vieira

Summary of results by period (*from bottom up*): No archaeological features were observed, nor finds recovered

Location of archive and finds: The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, 47–49 De Beauvoir Road, Reading RG1 5NR and will be deposited at Maidstone Museum in due course.

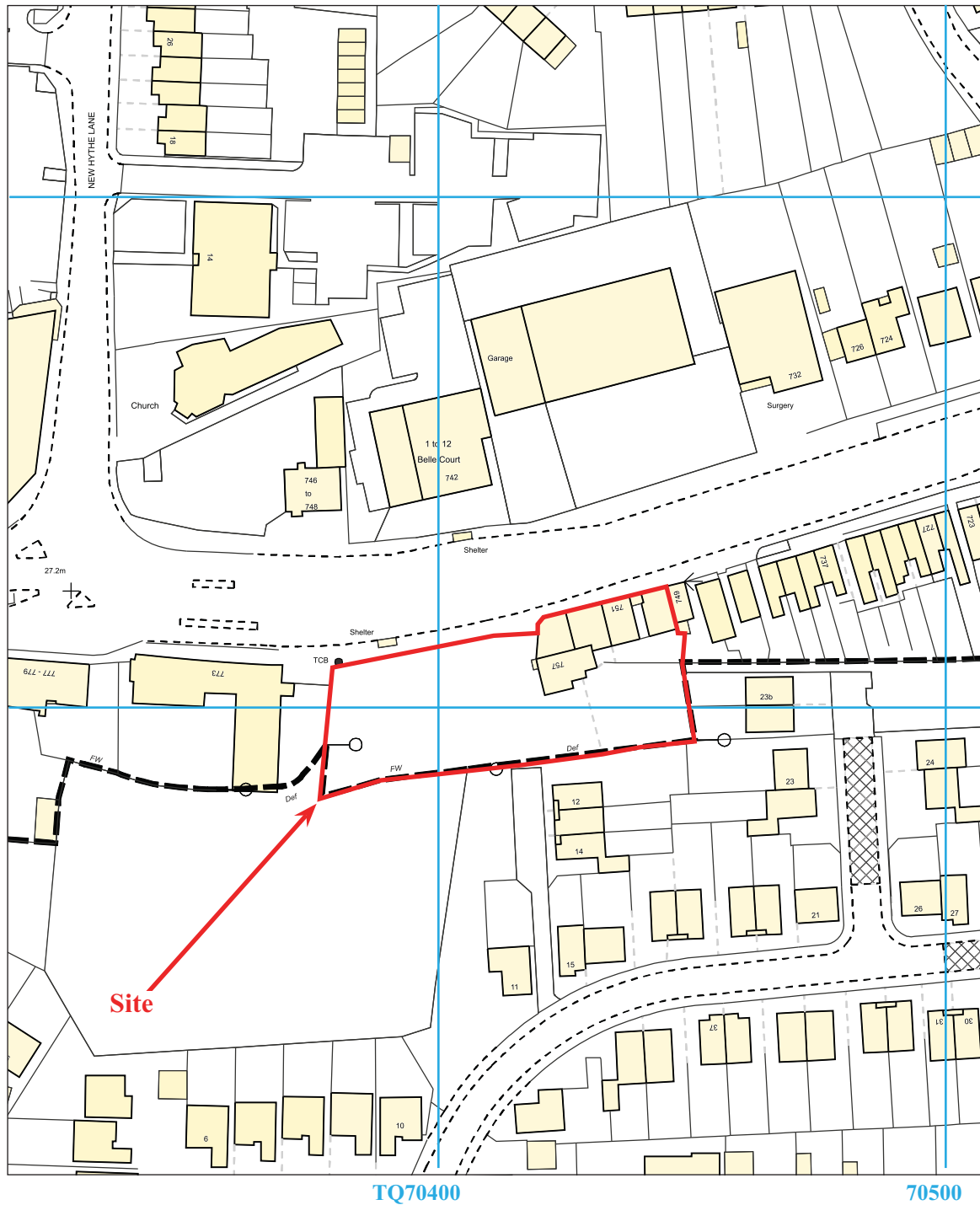
Contact at Unit: Sean Wallis

Date: 24.12.2015



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 Figure 1. Location of site within Larkfield and Kent.

Reproduced from Ordnance Survey Explorer 148 at 1:12500
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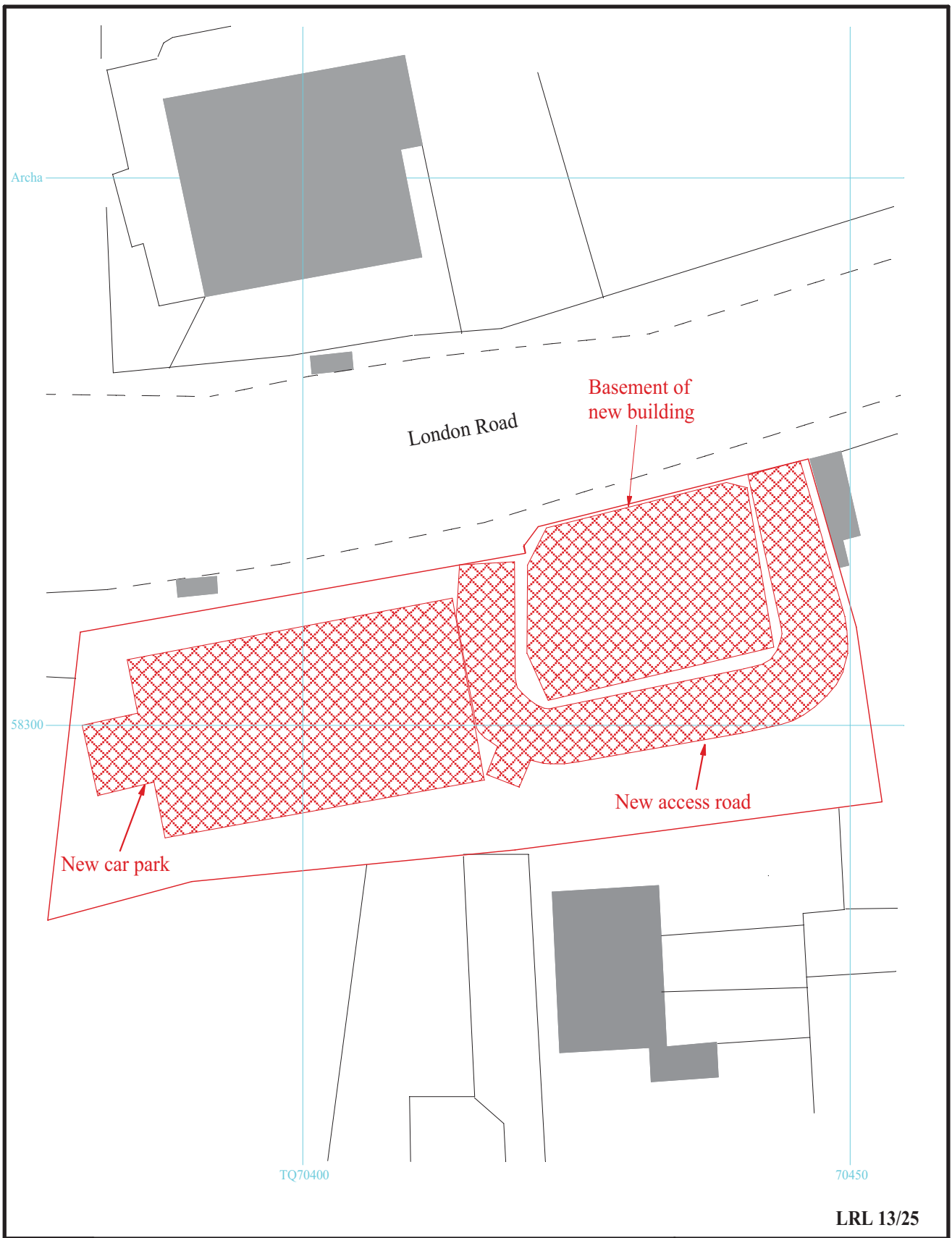


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 Figure 2. Detailed location of site
 Reproduced from Ordnance Survey digital mapping at 1:1250





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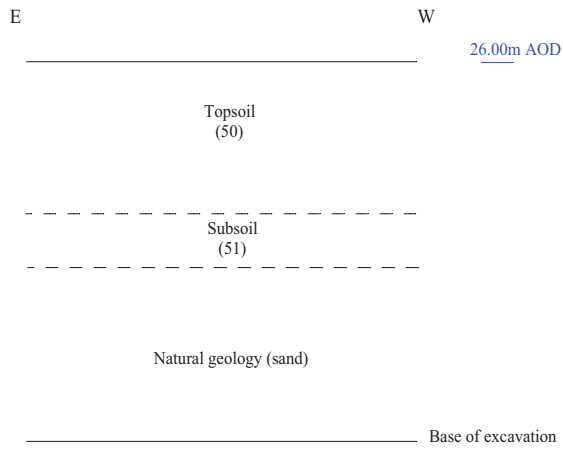
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Figure 3. Plan of site showing location of areas monitored.

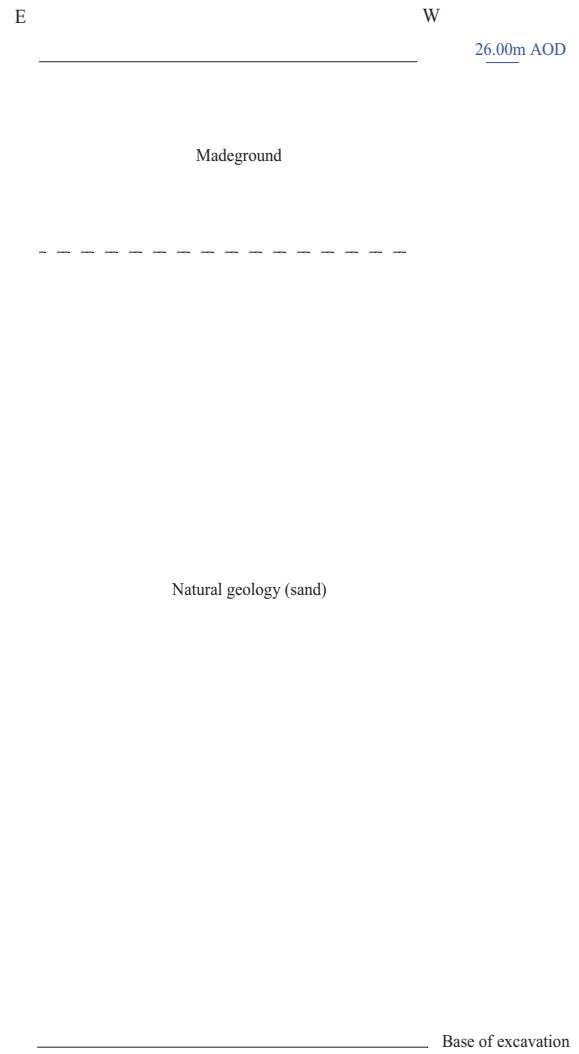


THAMES VALLEY
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**Stratigraphy recorded in
new access road and car park areas**



Stratigraphy recorded in new basement



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Figure 4. Representative sections





Plate 1. View of part of stripped area looking north west, Scale: 0.5m



Plate 2. Part stripped site and stratigraphy at east end of site looking south east, Scale: 0.5m



Plate 3. Area of former basement looking north east

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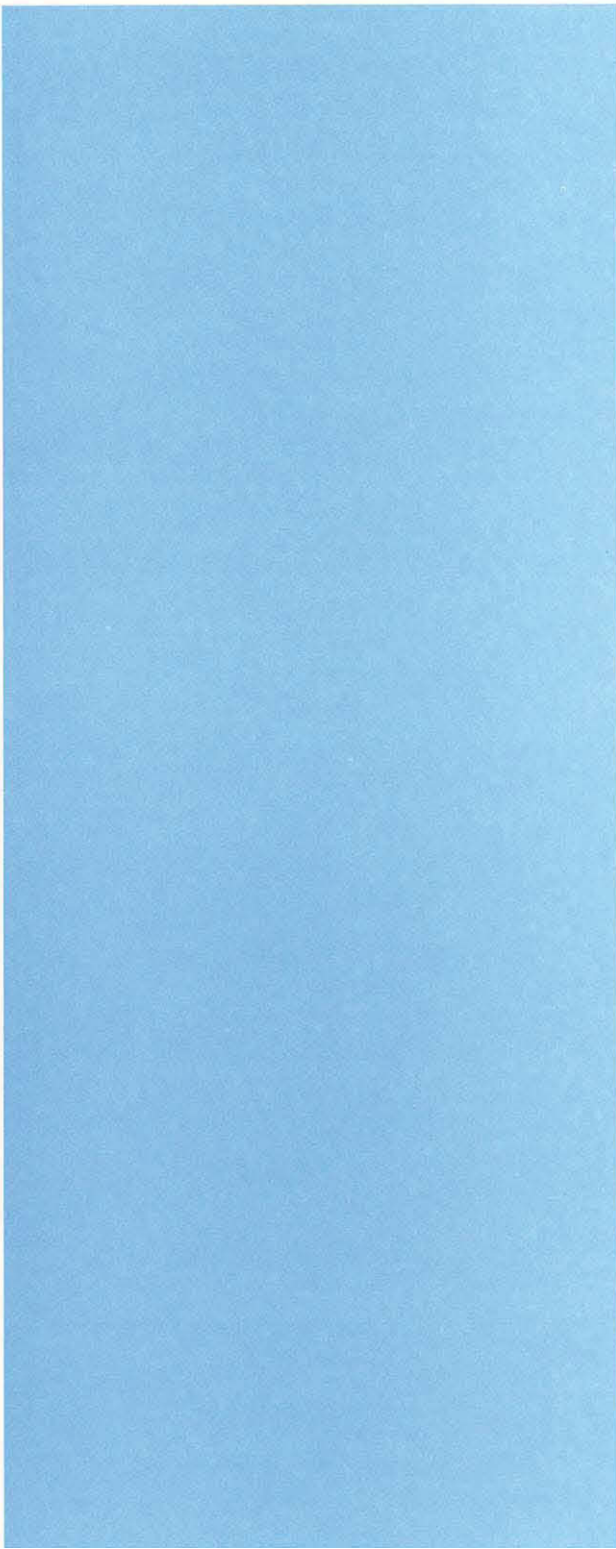
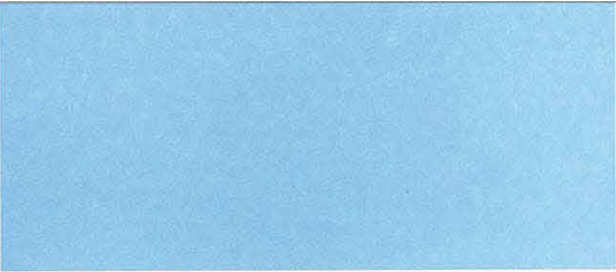
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Plates 1-3

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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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