

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

**Chiddinglye Solar Farm, Selsfield Road,
West Hoathly, West Sussex**

Archaeological Watching Brief

by Teresa Vieira

Site Code: CFS 15/261

(TQ 3575 3293)

Chiddinglye Solar Farm, Selsfield Road, West Hoathly, West Sussex

An Archaeological Watching Brief

For WIRSOL Energy

by Teresa Vieira

Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code CFS15/261

February 2016

Summary

Site name: Chiddinglye Solar Farm, Selsfield Road, West Hoathly, West Sussex

Grid reference: TQ 3575 3293

Planning reference: DM/15/2460

Site activity: Watching Brief

Date and duration of project: 5th - 18th February 2016

Project manager: Sean Wallis

Site supervisor: Teresa Vieira

Site code: CFS 15/261

Area of site: c. 5.8 ha

Summary of results: The watching brief successfully investigated those parts of the site which were to be affected by the excavation of cable trenches. 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 preferred repository for the site archive is Lewes Museum, which is not accepting new archives, so the archive will be held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading until a suitable repository becomes available.

This report may be copied for bona fide research or planning purposes without the explicit permission of the copyright holder

Report edited/checked by: Steve Ford✓ 23.02.06 Steve Preston✓ 22.02.16

Chiddinglye Solar Farm, Selsfield Road, West Hoathly, West Sussex An Archaeological Watching Brief

by Teresa Vieira

Report 15/261b

Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological watching brief carried out at Chiddinglye Solar Farm, Selsfield Road, West Hoathly, West Sussex (TQ 3575 3293) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Mr Simon McCarthy of WIRSOL Energy Ltd, Unit 5E, Park Farm, Chichester Road, Arundel, West Sussex, BN18 0AG.

Planning permission (DM/15/2460) had been granted by Mid Sussex District Council to construct a new solar farm on the site. The permission was subject to a standard condition (12) relating to archaeology and the historic environment, requiring the implementation of a programme of archaeological work for the site, as set out in the *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF, 2012) and the District Council's policies on archaeology and the historic environment.

As a consequence of the possibility of archaeological deposits on the site which may be damaged or destroyed by the planned building work, it was proposed to carry out a watching brief during groundworks. This approach had been recommended by the archaeological adviser to Mid Sussex District Council (Alexandra Eggington). The watching brief was carried out in accordance with a written scheme of investigation approved by the West Sussex County Council. Where appropriate and relevant, the recommendations in *Sussex Archaeological Standards* (ESCC 2015) were to be followed. The fieldwork was undertaken by Teresa Vieira between the 5th and the 18th February 2016, and the site code is CFS 15/261.

The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading until a suitable repository becomes available.

Location, topography and geology

The site is located to the north of Chiddinglye Farm and to the south of Selsfield Road which lies to the west of West Hoathly (Fig. 1). The site covers two roughly rectangular fields and slightly slopes down towards the south-west from a height of roughly 180m to 173m above Ordnance datum. The underlying geology is described as Upper Grinstead Clay (BGS 1972) which was observed in all trenches as yellow clay.

Archaeological background

The archaeological background of the site has been considered in a desk-based assessment (Bermingham 2015). In summary, the site lies within a topographical and geological zone (The Weald) which is not generally noted for its rich archaeological background, apart from sites associated with iron production from the Iron Age to post-medieval period. However, recent archaeological fieldwork has redressed the balance, and a number of sites from various periods have been found in small numbers across the Weald. As far as the present site is concerned, there is an Iron Age promontory fort nearby, and the Roman road from London to the south passes around 1km to the west of West Hoathly. The site is also relatively close to the village of West Hoathly, which is first recorded in the medieval period.

Objectives and methodology

The aims of the watching brief were to excavate and record any archaeological deposits affected by the groundworks. This was to involve the monitoring during the excavation of High Voltage cable trenches. 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 relevant sections of Sussex Archaeological Standards (ESCC 2015) and the guidelines issued by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists.

Results

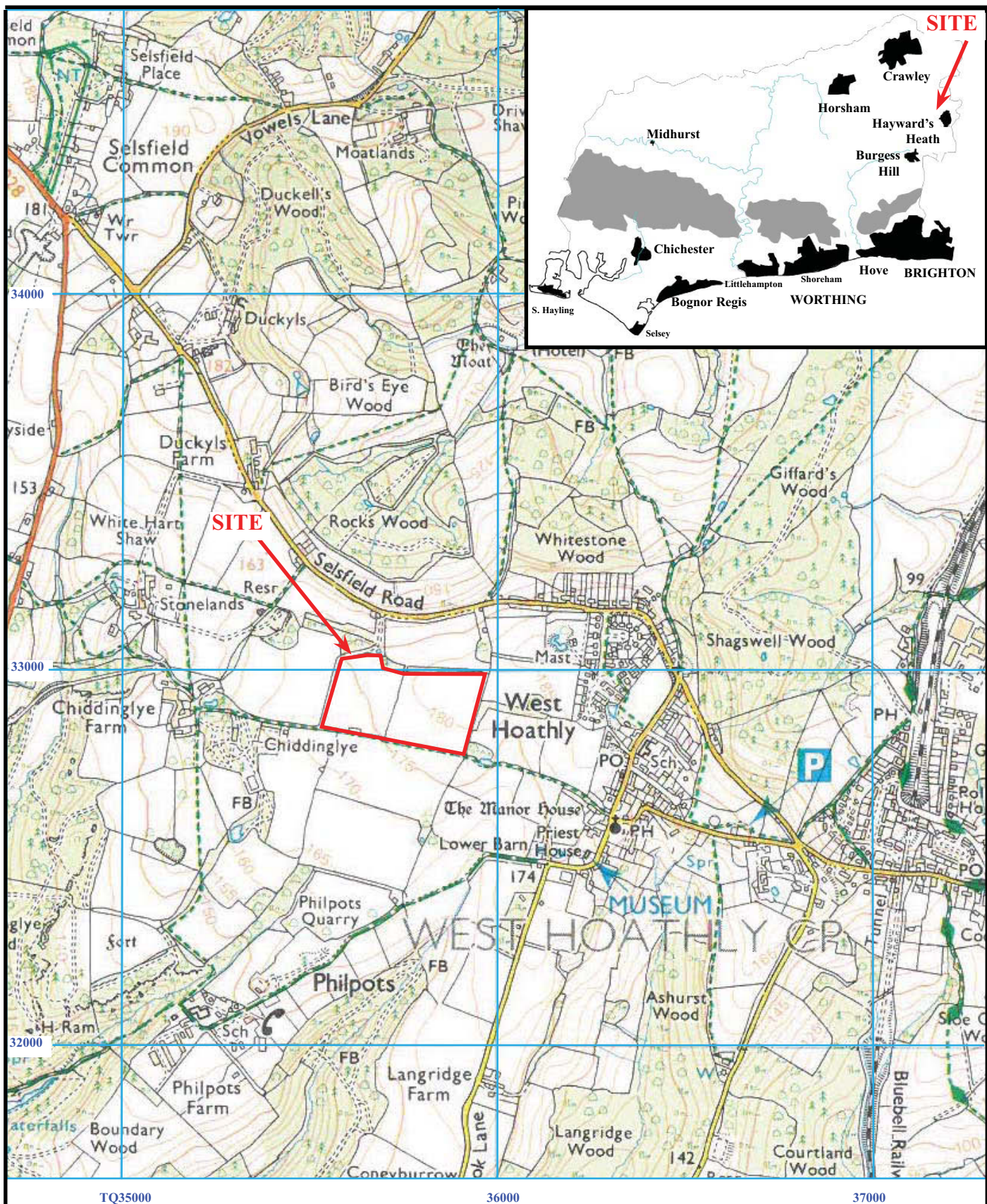
All the HV cables trenches were monitored during excavation (Fig. 2). This includes two trenches running south-north, one in the eastern field (Pls 3 and 4) and one in the western field (Pls 1 and 2), and one trench running west-east and crossing both fields at the north end of the site. A toothless V-bucket was used and the trenches were 2.00m wide on the top and 0.80m wide on the bottom with a depth varying between 1.00m and 1.20m. The stratigraphy observed showed no significant variation across the site and consisted of approximately 0.30m of topsoil above 0.20m of a mid-yellow brown clay, interpreted as subsoil, laying above the natural geology which consisted of a yellow clay with light blue grey patches and sandstone and interpreted as the Upper Grinstead Clay (BGS 1972) (Fig. 3). No archaeological features were recorded and no finds of archaeological interest were recovered.

Conclusion

The watching brief at this site successfully examined the areas which were to be affected by the excavation of HV cable trenches. . Despite the archaeological potential of the surrounding area and the fact that the area does not appear to have been significantly disturbed in the past, no archaeological finds or features were observed.

References

- Bermingham, N, 2015, 'Land at Chiddinglye Farm, Selsfield Road, West Hoathly, West Sussex: an archaeological desk-based assessment', Thames Valley Archaeological Services unpubl rep **15/109**, Brighton
- BGS, 1972, *British Geological Survey*, 1:50,000, Sheet 302, Solid and Drift Edition, Keyworth
- ESCC, 2015, *Sussex Archaeological Standards*, East Sussex County Council, Lewes
- McNicoll-Norbury, J, 2015, 'Chiddinglye Solar Farm, Selsfield Road, West Hoathly, West Sussex: an archaeological evaluation' Thames Valley Archaeological Services unpubl rep **15/261**, Brighton
- NPPF, 2012, *National Planning Policy Framework*, Dept Communities and Local Government, London



TQ35000

36000

37000

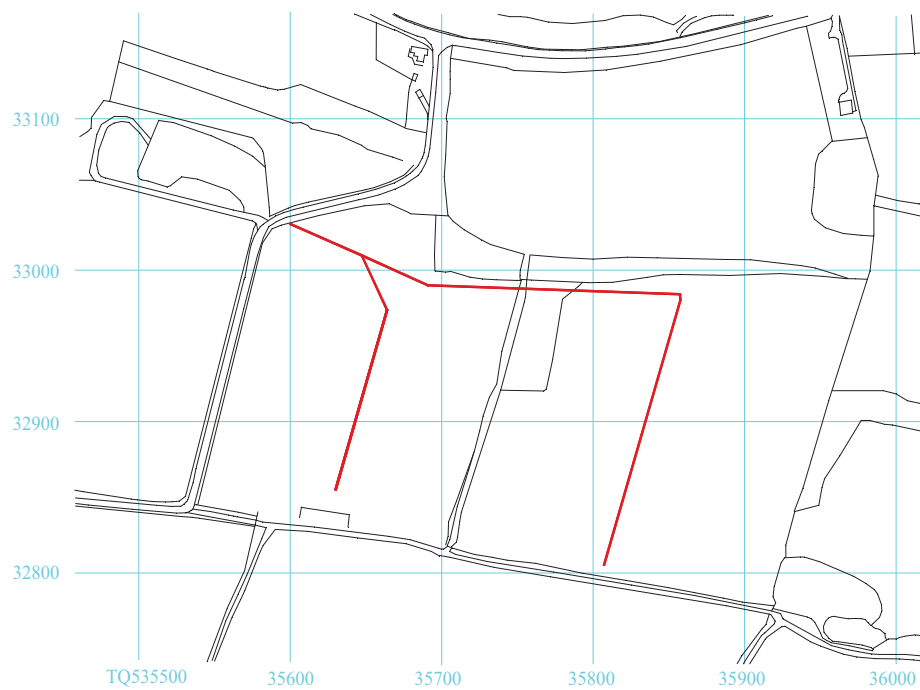
CFS 15/261b

**Chiddinglye Solar Farm, Selsfield Road, West Hoathly,
West Sussex, 2016
Archaeological Watching Brief**

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

Reproduced from Ordnance Survey Explorer 121 at 1:12500.
Ordnance Survey Licence 100025880.

THAMES VALLEY
ARCHAEOLOGICAL
SERVICES
SOUTH



CFS 15/261b



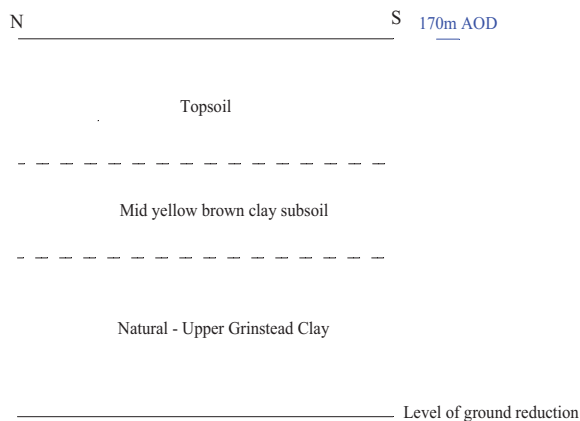
**Chiddingfold Solar Farm, Selsfield Road,
West Hoathly, West Sussex, 2016
Archaeological Watching Brief**

Figure 2. Location of cable trenches.

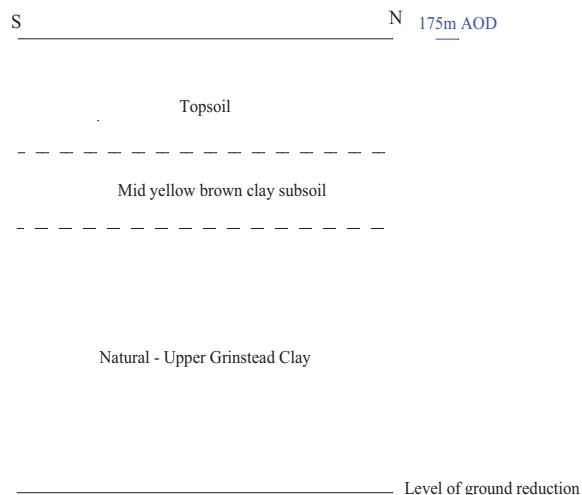


THAMES VALLEY
ARCHAEOLOGICAL
SERVICES
SOUTH

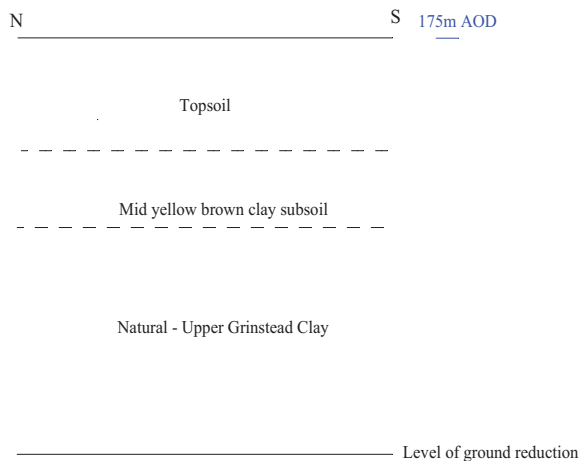
General stratigraphy in cable trench.
Western field in South end.



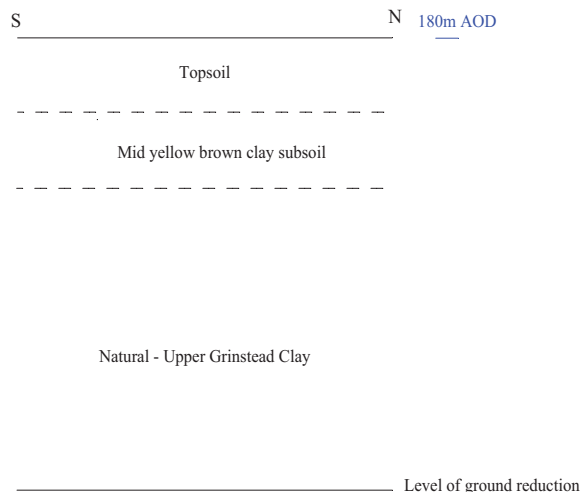
General stratigraphy in cable trench.
Western field in North end.



General stratigraphy in cable trench.
Eastern field in South end.



General stratigraphy in cable trench.
Eastern field in North end.



170m AOD gr

**Chiddinglye Solar Farm, Selsfield Road,
West Hoathly, West Sussex, 2015
Archaeological Watching Brief**

Figure 3. Representative sections.



THAMES VALLEY
ARCHAEOLOGICAL
SERVICES
SOUTH



Plate 1. General view of cable trench south-north, Western field, looking south. Scale: vertical 1m



Plate 2. Stratigraphy in cable trench south-north, Western field, facing west. Scale: vertical 1m.

CFS 15/261b

**Chiddinglye Solar Farm, Selsfield Road,
West Hoathly, West Sussex, 2015
Archaeological Watching Brief
Plates 1 - 2.**

THAMES VALLEY
ARCHAEOLOGICAL
SERVICES
SOUTH



Plate 3. General view of cable trench south-north, Eastern field, looking north. Scale: vertical 1m.



Plate 4. Stratigraphy in cable trench south-north, Eastern field, looking west. Scale: vertical 1m.

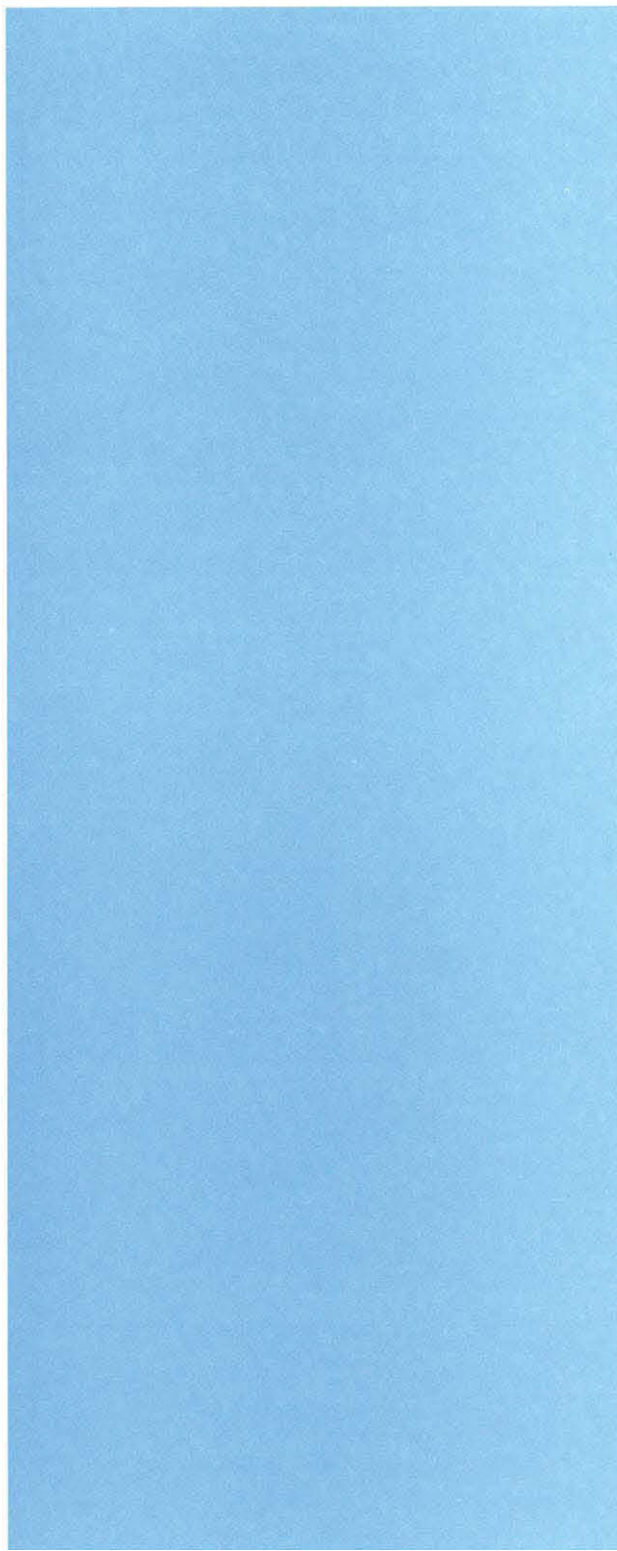
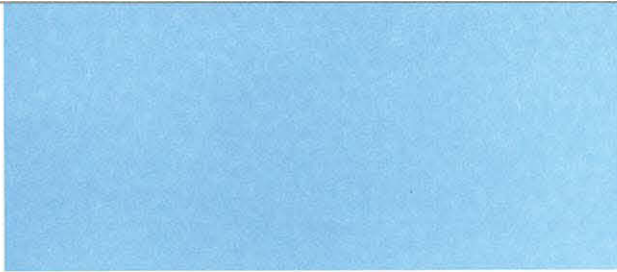
CFS 15/261b

**Chiddinglye Solar Farm, Selsfield Road,
West Hoathly, West Sussex, 2015
Archaeological Watching Brief
Plates 3 - 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