

T H A M E S V A L L E Y

ARCHAEOLOGICAL

S E R V I C E S

**46 Portsmouth Road, Cobham,
Surrey**

Archaeological Evaluation

**by James McNicoll-Norbury, Luis Esteves
and Andy Taylor**

Site Code: PCS15/197

(TQ 1038 6038)

**46 Portsmouth Road,
Cobham, Surrey**

**An Archaeological Evaluation
for Beechcroft Developments**

by James McNicoll-Norbury, Luis Esteves

and Andy Taylor

Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code PCS 15/197

June 2016

Summary

Site name: 46 Portsmouth Road, Cobham, Surrey

Grid reference: TQ 1038 6038

Site activity: Evaluation

Date and duration of project: 18th-19th November 2015 and 15th March 2016

Project manager: Steve Ford

Site supervisor: James McNicoll-Norbury and Luis Esteves

Site code: PCS 15/197

Area of site: c.0.5 hectares

Summary of results: A post medieval gully was identified at the southern end of the site beneath a fairly consistent depth (c. 1m) of modern build up layers. On the basis of these results the site can be considered to have no archaeological potential.

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

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Report edited/checked by: Steve Ford ✓ 02.06.16 Steve Preston ✓ 01.06.16

46 Portsmouth Road, Cobham, Surrey An Archaeological Evaluation

by James McNicoll-Norbury, Luis Esteves and Andy Taylor

Report 15/197

Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological field evaluation carried out at 46 Portsmouth Road, Cobham, Surrey (TQ 1038 6038) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Ms Joanne Nayler of Beechcroft Developments, 1 Church Lane, Wallingford, Oxfordshire, OX10 0DX.

Planning permission (apps 2015/0997 and 2015/1266) has been gained from Elmbridge Borough Council for the erection of three new blocks of flats and the conversion of a former public house (listed grade II) also to flats on the site. The consents are subject to conditions (5 and 7) relating to archaeology.

As a consequence of the possibility of archaeological deposits on the site which may be damaged or destroyed by development, field investigation has been requested in the form of machine dug trenches, as the first part of a staged programme of archaeological investigation in order to determine the appropriate mitigation that may be required.

This is in accordance with the Department for Communities and Local Government's *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF 2012), and the Borough Council's policies on archaeology. The field investigation was carried out to a specification approved by Mr Nigel Randall, Archaeology Officer for Surrey County Council, the archaeological advisers to the Borough. The fieldwork was undertaken by James McNicoll-Norbury and Jesse Coxey between 18th and 19th November 2015 and Luis Esteves and Tim Dawson on 15th March 2016 and the site code is PCS 15/197. The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited at Elmbridge Museum in due course.

Location, topography and geology

The site is located on the corner of Portsmouth Road (A307) and Between Streets (A245) on the western edge of Cobham in Surrey (Figs 1 and 2). The site primarily consists of a car park formerly associated with Cobham Lodge and the restaurant/bar NY in a built-up and largely residential area. The site is located on river gravel (BGS 1976), which was observed in the trenches and the site lies at a height of *c.*20m above Ordnance Datum.

Archaeological background

The archaeological potential of the site has been highlighted in a desk-based assessment (CA 2015). In summary this potential stems from its location on the margins of a part of the historic (medieval) settlement of Cobham, a conservation area and an archaeological priority area in the county historic environment record (Robinson 2004). Cobham has Saxon origins and was mentioned in a charter of AD675 as a part of Chertsey Abbey's estate. It is again mentioned in Domesday Book (Williams and Martin 2002). The main focus of the town is some way to the south where the parish church is located. However, a satellite settlement known as Street Cobham lies along the Portsmouth Road and its extent is considered to lie adjacent to the proposal site (Robinson 2004, fig. 3). The former public house (White Lion Inn) is of 16th century origin. A modest range of prehistoric and Roman finds are recorded for the general area.

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.

The specific research aims of this project were:

- to determine if archaeologically relevant levels have survived on this site;
- to determine if archaeological deposits of any period are present; and
- to determine if there are any Saxon, medieval or early post-medieval deposits reflecting the early development of Street Cobham.

Six trenches were to be dug in two phases of work, the first four were to be located in the existing car park and target the positions of the proposed buildings and the remaining two would examine the area underneath the existing building after demolition. The trenches were to measure 20m in length and to be between 1.60m and 2m wide.

Topsoil and other overburden were to be removed by a machine fitted with a toothless ditching bucket, under constant archaeological supervision. Where archaeological features were certainly or probably present, the stripped areas were to be cleaned using appropriate hand tools, to an agreed sampling fraction. Sufficient of the archaeological features and deposits exposed were to be excavated or sampled by hand to satisfy the aims of the brief, without compromising the integrity of any that might better be investigated under the conditions pertaining to full excavation.

Results

The trenches were dug as intended (Fig. 3) and measured between 18.4 and 20m in length, 1.8m wide and were between 0.88-1.10m in depth. A complete list of trenches giving lengths, breadths, depths and a description of sections and geology is given in Appendix 1.

Trench 1

Trench 1 was aligned SE-NW and was 18.4m long and 0.90m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.15m of Tarmac (50), 0.30m brick hardcore (51), 0.20m dark grey clayey sand (52), 0.25m brown clayey sand (53) overlaying natural sands and gravels. No archaeological features were identified.

Trench 2

Trench 2 was aligned E-W and was 18.9m long and 0.88m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.03m of Tarmac, 0.30m brick hardcore, 0.25m dark grey clayey sand, 0.30m brown clayey sand overlaying natural sands and gravels. No archaeological features were identified.

Trench 3 (Fig. 4; Pls 1 and 2)

Trench 3 was aligned S-N and was 20m long and 1.10m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.05m of Tarmac, 0.10m hoggin material, 0.30m brick hardcore, 0.20m dark grey clayey sand, 0.45m brown clayey sand overlaying natural sands and gravels. A gully [1] was identified which measured 0.60m wide and 0.28m deep and was filled with dark grey clayey sand (54) from which a single sherd of post-medieval pottery was recovered (not retained).

Trench 4

Trench 4 was aligned W-E and was 20m long and 0.95m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.05m of Tarmac, 0.35m brick hardcore, 0.30m dark grey clayey sand, 0.20m brown clayey sand overlaying natural sands and gravels. No archaeological features were identified.

Trench 5 (Pl. 3)

Trench 5 was aligned approximately NE-SW and was 20m long and 0.90m deep. It consisted of 0.29m of demolition rubble; 0.13m of brick hardcore; 0.22m of dark grey sandy clay; 0.24m of mid brown sandy clay overlying natural sands and gravels. Five concrete footings from the former building on the site intersected the trench. No archaeological features were identified.

Trench 6 (Pl. 4)

Trench 6 was aligned approximately E-W and was 18.5m long and 0.79m deep. It consisted of 0.12m of demolition rubble; 0.10m of dark grey sandy clay; 0.57m of mid brown sandy clay overlying natural sands and gravels. The trench was largely occupied by modern foundations.

Finds

No finds of archaeological interest were recovered during the evaluation.

Conclusion

The evaluation has revealed the presence of a post-medieval linear feature in the southern part of the site which is not one of the boundaries shown on late 19th-century maps, but is on a similar alignment and need not be much earlier. The area of the former building showed that it had been heavily truncated by foundations but the original top of the natural geology did survive in places, although no archaeological deposits were identified. No deposits or finds of an archaeological nature were observed on the site. On the basis of these results the site can be considered to have no archaeological potential.

References

- BGS, 1976, *British Geological Survey*, 1:50000, Sheet 285, Drift Edition, Keyworth
- CA, 2015, '46 Portsmouth Road, Cobham, Surrey, Archaeological assessment', Cotswold Archaeology, report **770149**, Kemble
- NPPF, 2012, *National Planning Policy Framework*, Dept Communities and Local Govt, London
- Robinson, J, 2004, 'Extensive Urban Survey of Surrey: Cobham', Surrey County Archaeological Unit, Woking (revised edn)
- Williams, A and Martin, G H, 2002, *Domesday Book, a complete translation*, London

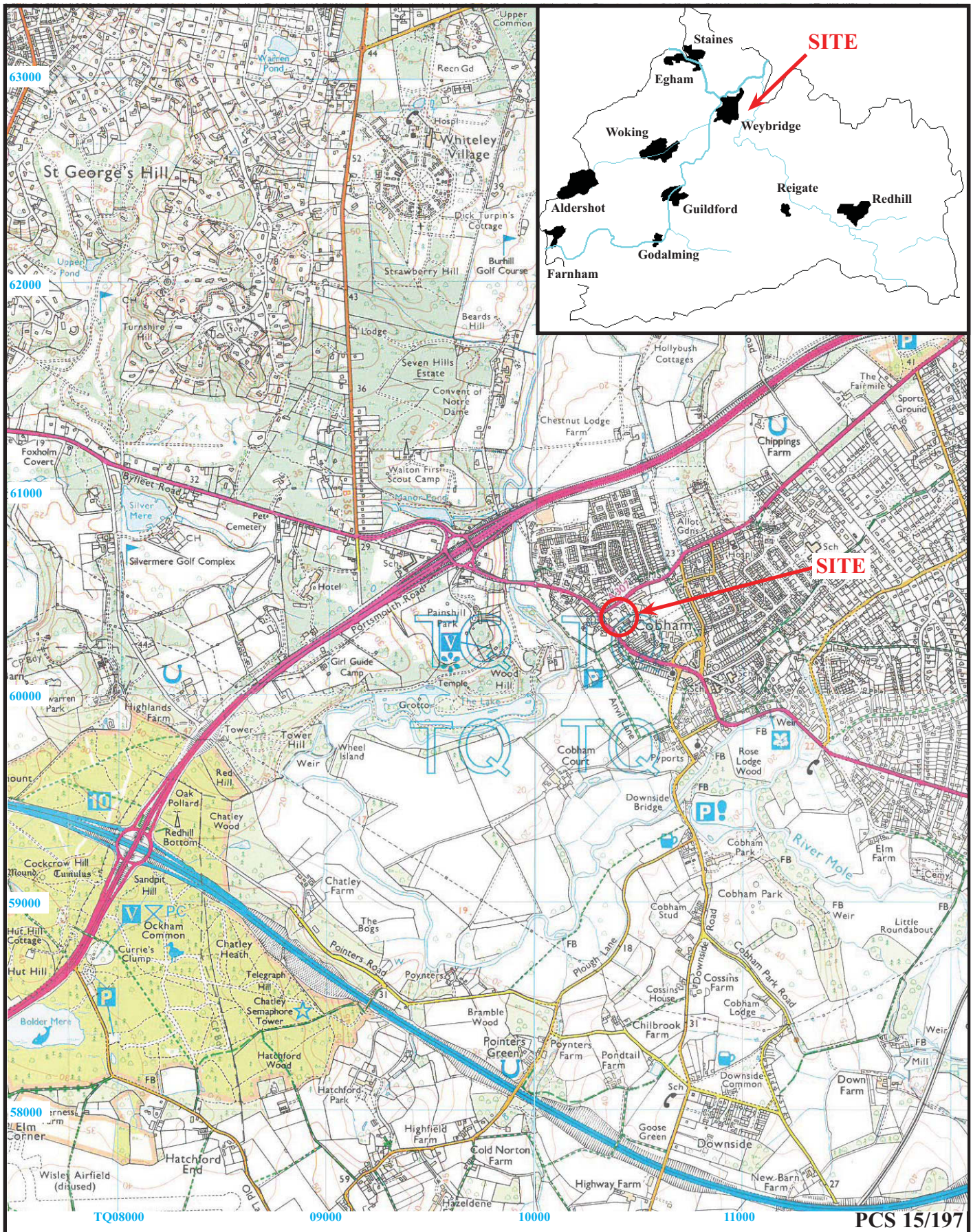
APPENDIX 1: Trench details

0m at S, SW, SE or W end

<i>Trench</i>	<i>Length (m)</i>	<i>Breadth (m)</i>	<i>Depth (m)</i>	<i>Comment</i>
1	18.4	1.80	0.90	0-0.15m Tarmac, 0.15-0.45m brick hardcore, 0.45-0.65m dark grey clayey sand, 0.65-0.90m brown grey clayey sand, 0.90m+ natural gravels and sand (natural geology). No archaeology
2	18.9	1.80	0.88	0-0.03m Tarmac, 0.03-0.33m brick hardcore, 0.33-0.58m dark grey clayey sand, 0.58-0.88m brown grey clayey sand, 0.88m+ natural gravels and sand (natural geology). No archaeology
3	20.00	1.80	1.10	0-0.05m Tarmac, 0.05-0.15m hoggin, 0.15-0.45m brick hardcore, 0.45-0.65m dark grey clayey sand, 0.65-1.10m brown grey clayey sand, 1.10m+ natural gravels and sand (natural geology). Gully 1. [Pls 1 and 2]
4	20.00	1.80	0.95	0-0.05m Tarmac, 0.05-0.40m brick hardcore, 0.40-0.70m dark grey clayey sand, 0.70-0.90m brown grey clayey sand, 0.90m+ natural gravels and sand (natural geology). No archaeology
5	20.00	1.80	0.90 (SW)	0-0.29m demolition rubble; 0.29m-0.42m brick hardcore; 0.42m-0.64m dark grey sandy clay; 0.64m-0.88m mid brown sandy clay; 0.88m-0.90m+ natural gravels and sand (natural geology). No archaeology [Pl. 3]
6	18.5	1.80	0.79	0-0.12m demolition rubble; 0.12m-0.22m dark grey sandy clay; 0.22m-0.79m mid brown sandy clay; 0.79m+ natural gravels and sand (natural geology). No archaeology [Pl. 4]

APPENDIX 2: Feature details

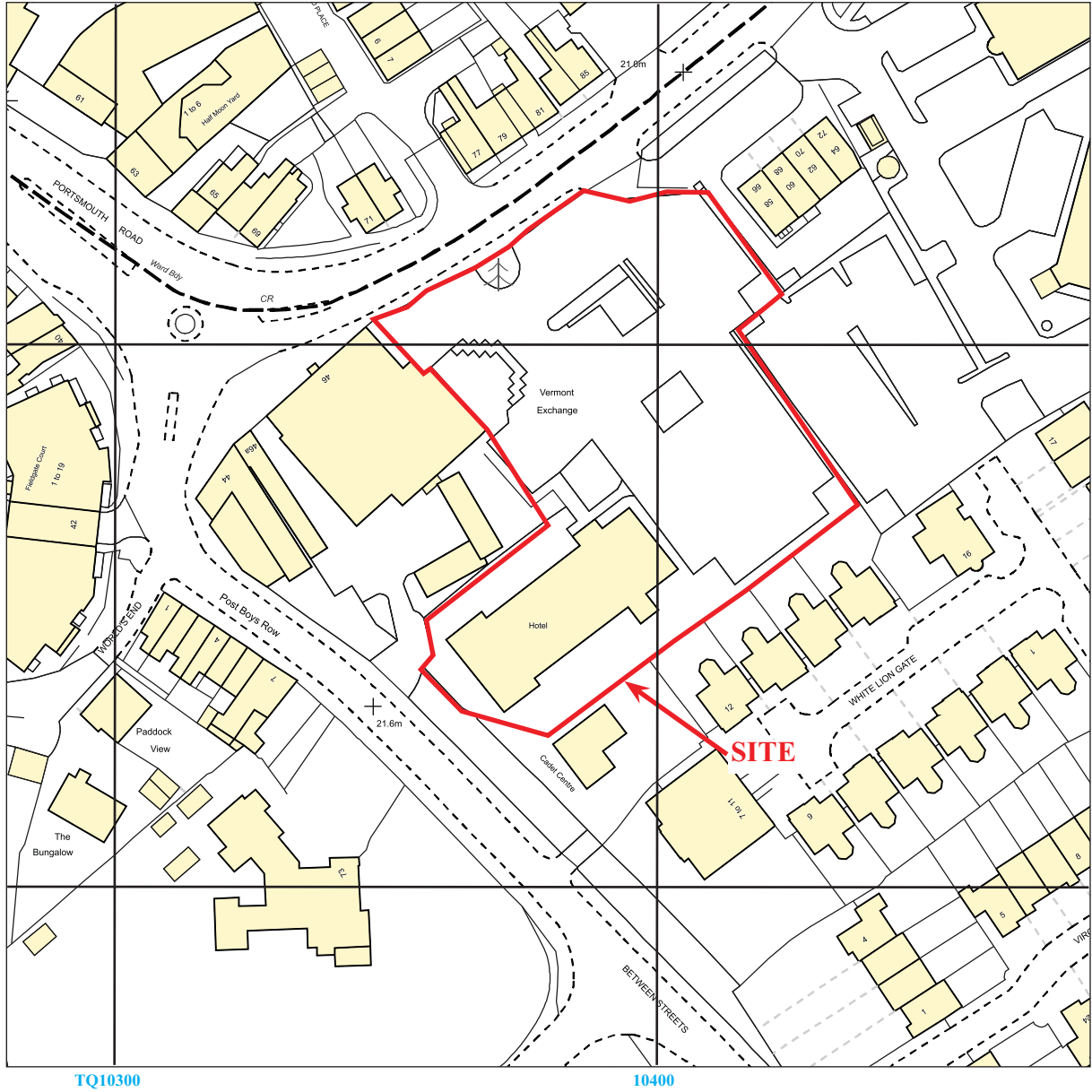
<i>Trench</i>	<i>Cut</i>	<i>Fill (s)</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Dating evidence</i>
3	1	54	Gully	Post-medieval	Pottery



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Figure 1. Location of site within Cobham and Surrey.

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Figure 2. Detailed location of site off Portsmouth Road.

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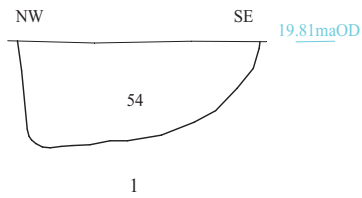
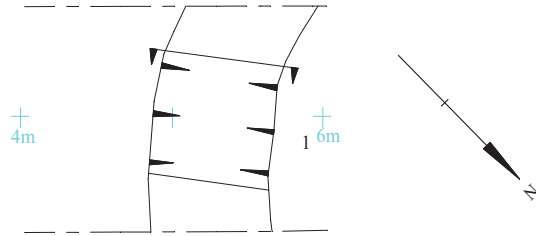
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Figure 3. Location of trenches.
Elevations on highest point of natural geology within trench



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Trench 3



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Figure 4. Detail from Trench 3.

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Plate 1. Trench 3, looking north west, Scales: horizontal 2m and 1m, vertical 0.5m.



Plate 2. Trench 3, ditch 1, looking south west, Scales: 1m and 0.3m.

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Plates 1 - 2.

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Plate 3. Trench 5, looking north east, Scales: 1m.



Plate 4. Trench 6, looking east south east, Scales: 1m.

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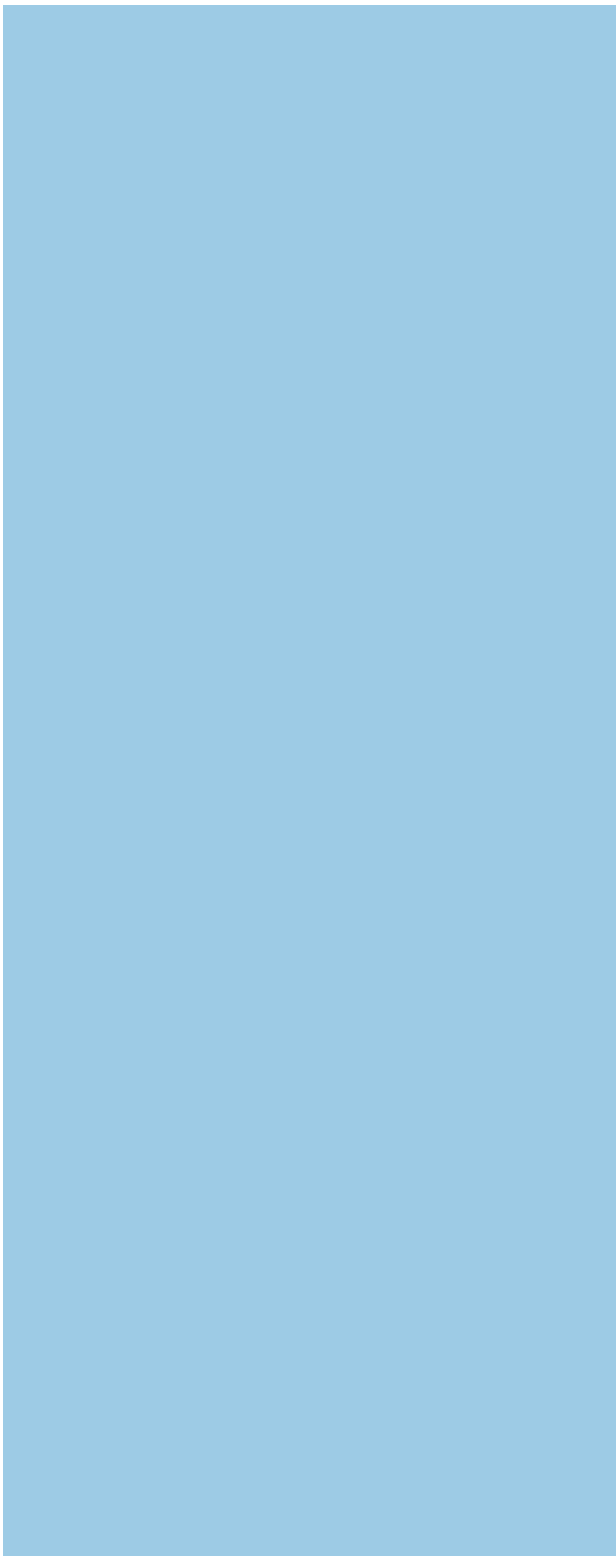
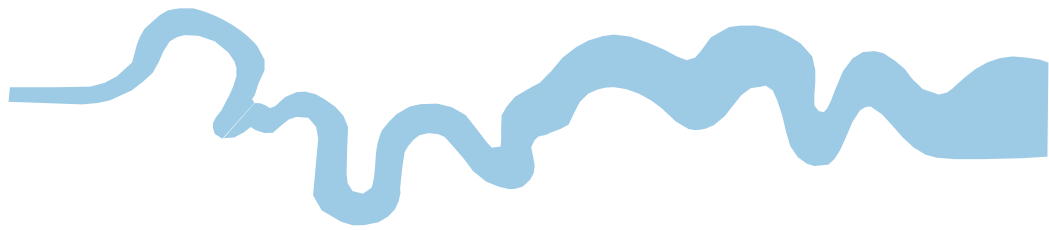
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Plates 3 - 4.

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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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