

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

**Land adjacent to Four Wents Orchard, Chartway Street,
Sutton Valence, Maidstone, Kent**

Archaeological Watching Brief and Evaluation

by David Sanchez

Site Code FSV16/127

(TQ 8147 5017)

**Land adjacent to Four Wents Orchard, Chartway Street,
Sutton Valence, Maidstone, Kent**

**An Archaeological Watching brief and Evaluation
for Millwood Designer Homes Ltd**

by David Sanchez

Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code FSV 16/127

August 2016

Summary

Site name: Land adjacent to Four Wents Orchard, Chartway Street, Sutton Valence, Maidstone, Kent.

Grid reference: TQ 8147 5017

Site activity: Archaeological Watching brief and Evaluation

Date and duration of project: 4th -19th July 2016

Project manager: Steve Ford

Site supervisor: David Sanchez and Ellen McManus-Fry

Site code: FSV 16/127

Area of site: 0.3ha.

Summary of results: Five trenches were excavated and the digging of seven geotechnical test pits was observed. No archaeological features or deposits were observed and no finds of interest were recovered. The site is 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 Maidstone Museum in due course.

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

Report edited/checked by:	Steve Ford ✓ 02.08.16
	Steve Preston ✓ 02.08.16

**Land adjacent to Four Wents Orchard, Chartway Street, Sutton Valence,
Maidstone, Kent
An Archaeological Evaluation**

by David Sanchez

Report 16/127

Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological field evaluation carried out at Land adjacent to Four Wents Orchard, Chartway Street, Sutton Valence, Kent (TQ 8147 5017) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Mr Pete Bland, of Millwood Designer Homes Limited, Bordyke End, East Street, Tonbridge, Kent TN9 1HA.

Planning permission (15/50464/FUL) was gained on appeal (APP/U2235/W/15/3137036) from Maidstone Borough Council to redevelop the site for housing. The consent was subject to a condition (8) relating to archaeology. As a consequence of the possibility of archaeological deposits on the site which may be damaged or destroyed by proposed development of the site a field evaluation is 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 project also involved a watching brief on the excavation of geotechnical test pits.

The field investigation was carried out to a specification approved by Ms Wendy Rogers, Senior Archaeological Officer at Kent County Council, advising the Borough. The fieldwork was undertaken by Ellen McManus-Fry, David Sanchez and Benedikt Tebbit, from 4th to 19th July 2016 and the site code is FSV 16/127. The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited at Maidstone Museum in due course.

Location, topography and geology

The site is located to the north of the village of Sutton Valence, about 13km south-east of Maidstone, Kent (Fig. 1). It lies on the north side of Chartway Street, with residential areas to the east and west and open field to the north (Fig. 2). The site itself consists of a flat parcel of land with a barn on the north-west corner of the field (PL. 2) and occupies an area of c. 0.3ha. at a height of c. 125m above Ordnance Datum. The underlying geology is mapped as head deposits (BGS, 1993) and the geology observed on site consisted of red brown clay with grey sand and sandstones patches.

Archaeological background

The archaeological potential for the site has been highlighted in a briefing note prepared by Ms Wendy Rogers, Senior Archaeological Officer of Kent County Council. In summary this potential stems from its location relatively close to a range of prehistoric and Roman finds, most notably a Roman villa and Roman road to the south-west. The site lies some distance to the north of the historic core of Sutton Valence which has late Saxon origins and is mentioned in Domesday Book (Williams and Martin 2002).

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. This work was to be carried out in a manner which not compromise the integrity of archaeological features or deposits which warrant recording under conditions pertaining to full excavation.

The specific research aims of this project were:

to determine if archaeologically relevant levels had survived on this site;

to determine if archaeological deposits of any period were present; and

to determine if archaeological deposits associated with Roman settlement were present.

Five trenches were to be mechanically excavated, each 20m long and 1.60m-2m wide (depending on size of machine). The trenches were positioned to target the footprints of the proposed new structures. A contingency for the equivalent of an additional 10m length of trenching was included within the proposal should this be required to clarify any deposits found in the initial trenching but this was not necessary. Trenches were excavated by a JCB type machine fitted with a toothless ditching bucket, under constant archaeological supervision. Spoilheaps were monitored for finds. Trenches were re-inspected after they had been allowed to “weather” for a suitable period of time after their original excavation (a 48 hours period of time was decided following consultation with the Kent County Council Archaeological Office).

The digging of geotechnical test pits across the site was also archaeologically observed (Pl. 1).

Results

Trenches

Five trenches were dug as intended. They ranged in length from 20.00m to 21.70m and in depth from 0.34m to 0.45m. All were 1.6m wide. A complete list of trenches giving lengths, breadths, depths and a description of sections and geology is given in Appendix 1.

Trench 1 (Figs 3 and 4; Pl. 5)

Trench 1 was aligned S - N and was 21.7m long and 0.45m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.25m of topsoil and 0.18m of subsoil overlying natural geology. One possible feature was investigated at 11m from the south end of the trench showing this to be a variation of natural geology. No archaeological features or deposits were observed and no finds were recovered.

Trench 2 (Figs 3; Pl. 3)

Trench 2 was aligned NNW - SSE and was 20.00m long and 0.34m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.23m of topsoil and 0.08m of subsoil overlying natural geology. One possible archaeological feature was investigated at the north end of the trench showing this to be result of tree roots. No archaeological features or deposits were observed and no finds were recovered.

Trench 3 (Figs 3; Pl. 6)

Trench 3 was aligned NW - SE and was 21.4m long and 0.35m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.26m of topsoil and 0.07m of subsoil overlying natural geology. No archaeological features or deposits were observed and no finds were recovered.

Trench 4 (Figs 3)

Trench 4 was aligned SW - NE and was 20.80m long and 0.37m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.25m of topsoil and 0.08m of subsoil overlying natural geology. One possible linear feature was investigated at 19m from the SW end of the trench showing this to be a modern land drain. No archaeological features or deposits were observed and no finds were recovered.

Trench 5 (Figs 3; Pl. 4)

Trench 5 was aligned SW - NE and was 20.20m long and 0.45m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.28m of topsoil and 0.13m of subsoil overlying natural geology. No archaeological features or deposits were observed and no finds were recovered.

Geotechnical test pits

Prior to the trenching, seven geotechnical test pit were dug on the site (Fig. 3, Pl. 1) which were archaeologically monitored. The test pits were typically 2m long and 0.55m wide and they ranged in depth from 1.80m to 2.00m.

The stratigraphy observed consisted of between 0.20–0.30m of topsoil and between 0.10–0.40m of subsoil overlying mid red brown clay natural geology. No archaeological features or deposits were observed and no finds were recovered.

Finds

No finds were recovered from the evaluation trenches nor the watching brief on the test pits.

Conclusion

Five trenches were excavated as intended during the archaeological evaluation and the excavation of seven geotechnical test pit was observed. No archaeological features or deposits were observed and no finds of interest were recovered during the archaeological investigation. The site is considered to have no archaeological potential.

References

BGS, 1993, *British Geological Survey*, 1:50 000, Sheet 288, Solid and Drift Edition, Keyworth
NPPF, 2012, *National Planning Policy Framework*, Dept Communities and Local Govt, London
Williams, A and Martin, G H, 2002, *Domesday Book, a complete translation*, London.

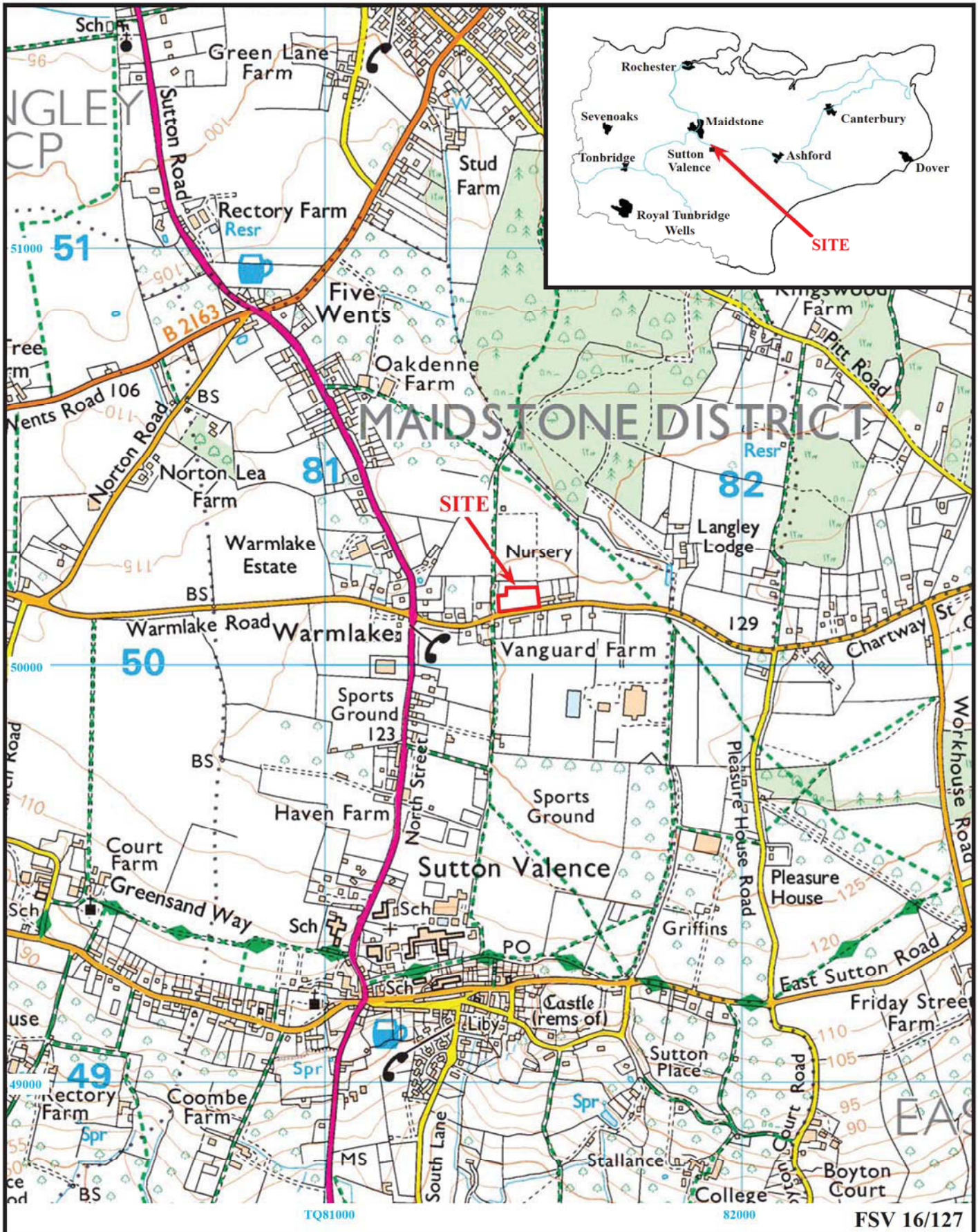
APPENDIX 1: Trench details

0m at S, SW, NW and NNW end

<i>Trench</i>	<i>Length (m)</i>	<i>Breadth (m)</i>	<i>Depth (m)</i>	<i>Comment</i>
1	21.70	1.60	0.45	0–0.25m topsoil, 0.25-0.43m subsoil, 0.43m+ red brown clay with sand and sandy stones patches natural geology. [PI. 5]
2	20.00	1.60	0.34	0–0.23m topsoil, 0.23-0.31m subsoil, 0.31m+ red brown clay with sand and sandy stones patches natural geology. [PI. 3]
3	21.40	1.60	0.35	0–0.26m topsoil, 0.26-0.32m subsoil, 0.32m+ red brown clay with sand and sandy stones patches natural geology. [PI. 6]
4	20.80	1.60	0.37	0–0.25m topsoil, 0.25-0.33m subsoil, 0.33m+ red brown clay with sand and sandy stones patches natural geology.
5	20.20	1.60	0.45	0–0.28m topsoil, 0.28-0.41m subsoil, 0.41m+ red brown clay with sand and sandy stones patches natural geology. [PI. 4]

APPENDIX 2: Kent HER Summary Form

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL MANUAL OF SPECIFICATIONS PART B	
SECTION C - COMPLETION OF FIELDWORK	
Date Fieldwork Completed: 19th July 2016	Was fieldwork monitored by <u>KCC/EH/Other?</u>
Further Fieldwork Anticipated: No	Who?
Map attached showing site location and extent of intervention?	
Summary of results (Continue on separate sheet if necessary): Five trenches were excavated and the digging of seven geotechnical test pits was observed. No archaeological features or deposits were observed and no finds of interest were recovered. The site is considered to have no archaeological potential.	
Agreed Reporting Stages and Program:	
Name: David Sanchez	
On behalf of: Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd	
Signed: David Sanchez	Date: 03/08/2016

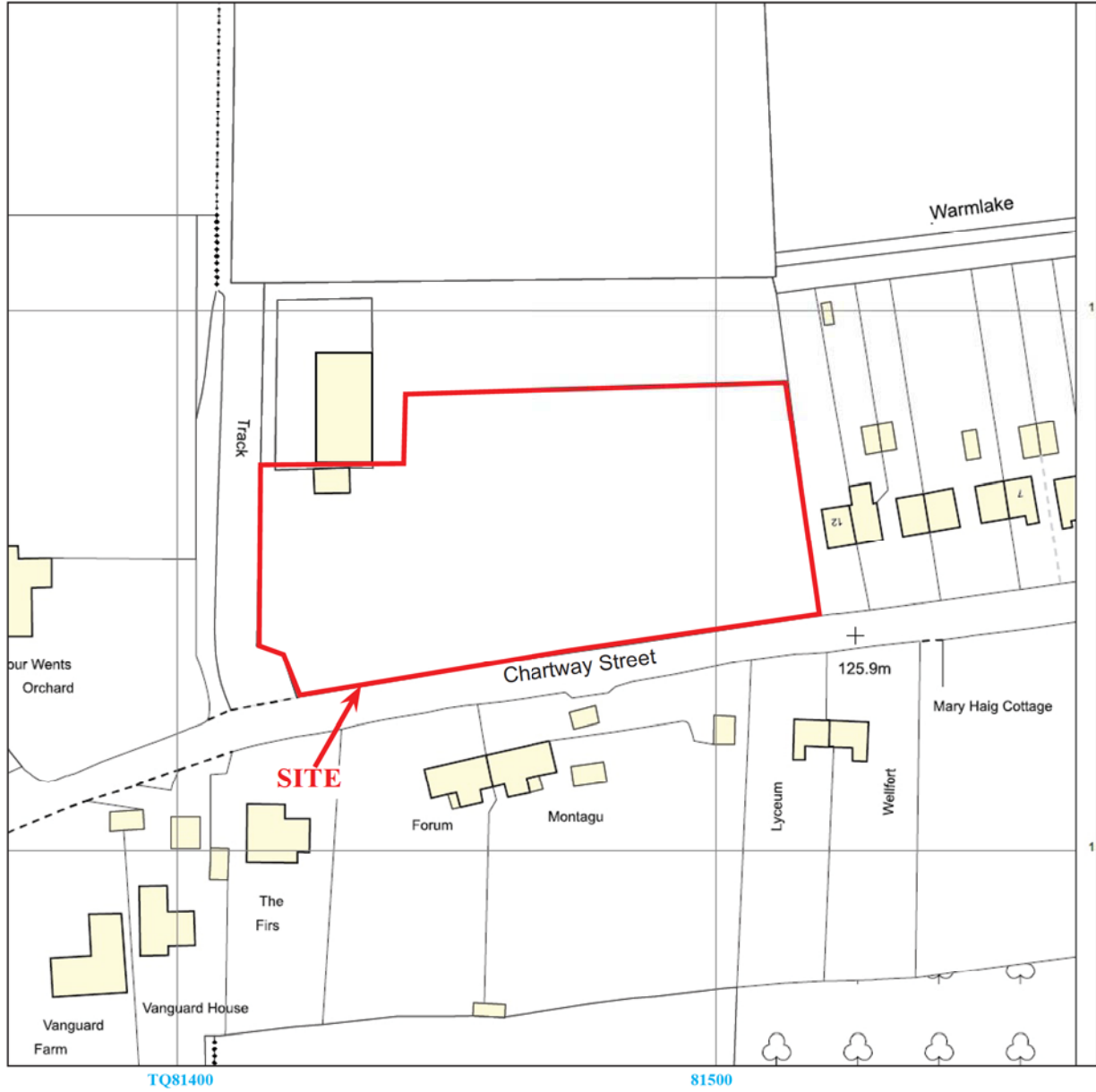


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Figure 1. Location of site in relation to Sutton Valence and within Kent.

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Figure 2. Detailed location of site off Chartway Street.

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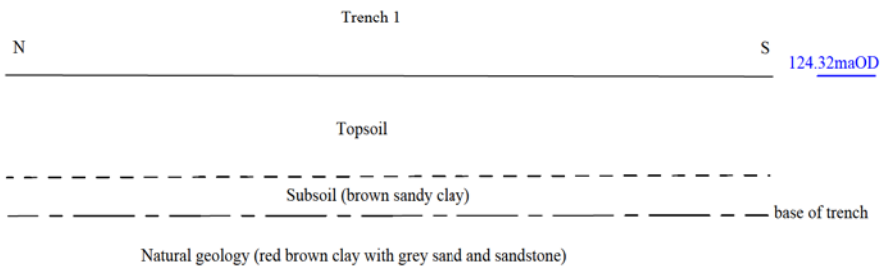
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Figure 3. Location of test pits and evaluation trenches.



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Figure 4. Representative section.





Plate 1. Test pit 1, looking north, Scale: 1m.



Plate 2. General view of trenches 5 and 4 during trenching, looking north east

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Plates 1 - 2.**

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Plate 3. Trench 2, looking north west, Scales: horizontal 2m and 1m, vertical 0.3m.



Plate 4. Trench 5, looking south west, Scales: horizontal 2m and 1m, vertical 0.5m.

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Plates 3 - 4.**

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



Plate 6. Trench 3, looking south east, Scales: horizontal 2m and 1m, vertical 0.3m.

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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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