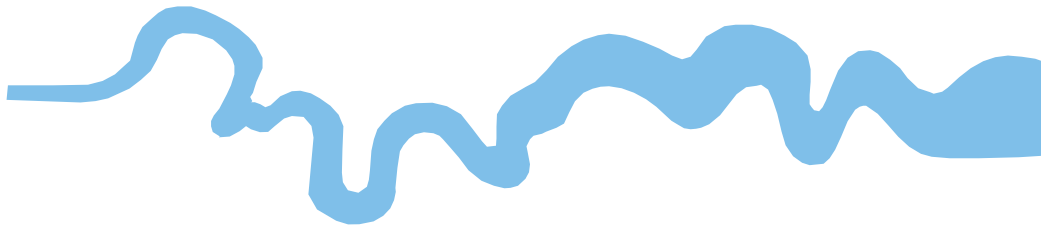


T V A S



SOUTH WEST

**Land at 10 Upper East Hayes,
Walcot, Bath**

Archaeological Watching Brief

by Andy Weale

Site Code: EHB16/159

(ST 7569 6609)

Land at 10 Upper East Hayes, Walcot, Bath

An Archaeological Watching Brief

For Robert Grace Ltd

by Andrew Weale

Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code EHB 16/159

May 2017

Summary

Site name: Land at 10 Upper East Hayes, Walcot, Bath

Grid reference: ST 7569 6609

Site activity: Watching Brief

Date and duration of project: 4th – 5th April 2017

Project manager: Andrew Weale

Site supervisor: Andrew Weale

Site code: EHB 16-159

Area of site: c.0.04 ha

Summary of results: No archaeological features or pre-modern artefacts were encountered. The site appears to have been severely truncated and terraced after 1840 which would have removed any archaeological features in the northern part of the site.

Location and reference of archive: The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, South West Office, Taunton and will be deposited with Bath Roman Museum in due course.

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

Report edited/checked by: Steve Ford ✓ 02.05.17 Steve Preston ✓ 02.05.17

Land at 10 Upper East Hayes, Walcot, Bath An Archaeological Watching Brief

by Andrew Weale

Report 16/159

Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological watching brief carried out at 10 Upper East Hayes, Walcot, Bath, BA1 6LN (NGR ST 75690 66091) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Ms Sue Farr of Armour Heritage, Greystone Cottage, Trudoxhill, Frome, Somerset, BA11 5DG on behalf of Robert Grace Ltd, Buchanan House, 4 Richmond Road, Bath, BA1 5TU.

Planning permission (16/01876/FUL) has been granted by Bath and North East Somerset Council for the erection of a single dwelling on land at 10 Upper East Hayes, Walcot, Bath. As the site is within an area of archaeological interest, the permission is subject to a condition (7) relating to archaeology requiring a watching brief during groundworks.

This is in accordance with the Department for Communities and Local Government's *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF 2012) and the Councils policies on archaeology. The field investigation was carried out to a specification approved by Mr Richard Sermon, Senior Archaeological Officer of the Planning and Conservation Team, of Bath and North East Somerset Council. The fieldwork was undertaken by Andrew Weale between the 4th and 5th April 2017 and the site code is EHB 16/159.

The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, South West, Taunton and will be deposited with the Roman Bath Museum, Bath in due course.

Location, topography and geology

The site is located within Walcot which is a suburb of the city of Bath (Fig. 1) that lies to the north-north-east of the city centre, with Bathwick lying to the south of Walcot across the River Avon and Batheaston to the north-east. Walcot lies along the A4 road out of Bath (London Road) which follows the route of the Fosseway Roman Road in this location. The site itself consists of a sub-rectangular plot of land to the rear of 10 Upper East Hayes together with a smaller trapezoidal area to the north of the main site (Fig. 2). The site is bordered to the east and north by the gardens of terrace houses fronting on to Upper East Hayes, to the south by the gardens of Kensington Court and to the north by gardens of houses on Middle Lane. . The site lies at approximately 33m

above Ordnance Datum (aOD) in the north-west, and slopes down to the south-east, to approximately 30m aOD. The underlying geology of the Site is described as Jurassic Charmouth Mudstone Formation (BGS 2011). Heavy blue-yellow clay was observed as natural geology during the watching brief.

Archaeological background

The site falls within the City of Bath World Heritage Site, with the Roman town (*Aquae Sulis*) together with the Roman baths approximately 1.3km to the south-west. It is also partially within the Bath Conservation Area.

There is a Roman cemetery at Walcot, located along the Fosseway (London Road) as it heads towards Cirencester (*Corinium Dobunorum*). Burials have also been found beside the continuation of the Roman road westwards along Julian Road and Victoria Park, and between it and the Avon, with further isolated graves having been recorded up to 3km eastwards towards Lambridge, although it is unclear if this represents a continuous cemetery (Davenport 2000). The cemetery has been known of since at least 1522 when the tombstones of Marcus Valerius Latinus (Collingwood and Wright 1993 RIB 158) and Gaius Murrius Modestu (Collingwood and Wright 1993 RIB 157) were discovered, with sporadic further discoveries ever since. In East Hayes itself a tombstone for Antigonus of Nicopolis (Collingwood and Wright 1993 RIB 160) was discovered in 1792. Further to the south of the site another Roman cemetery is recorded in Bathwick.

Walcot is not mentioned in Domesday Book when it may have been included within the entries for Bath itself. St Swithin's Church appears to have a Saxon foundation and may have been established by 971. During the Late Saxon and Medieval periods Walcot was a hamlet outside the walls of Bath however it was taken within the enlarged city boundary in 1590.

A review of historical mapping revealed that on the tithe map of 1840 (Fig. 3) the roads forming the boundaries of East Upper Hayes had been laid and it appears as though sub-division of the area enclosed by the roads had been started. However no buildings are shown within any of the plots and no number is assigned to the plots on the tithe map and the interior of the plots are blank. To the south of the London Road at this point the development is referred to as Kensington Place and to the east of the site London Road is called Worcester Terrace. On the 1886 1:500 Ordnance Survey Town Map of Bath (Fig. 4) the area forming East Upper Hayes has been fully developed. The majority of the area has been sub-divided into long thin plots roughly oriented South West to North East in what appears to be a planned development of large houses fronting on to Upper East Hayes in the North with views from main rooms towards the south west down with large formal gardens taking up the rest of the plots down to the cross road. To the south of the cross road there is a mixture of gardens and

buildings fronting onto London Road. The exception to this layout are the plots forming the western boundary, which includes the site. These two plots are much wider than the others. The northern plot contains a large house and garden whilst the southern one, which contains the site, appears to be occupied by a series of glasshouses and outbuildings referred to as Kensington Nursery. The boundaries of the plots appear to be the same as a series of Bath Stone walls that remain in the area to this day, however some have been truncated by later development.

This appears to remain the case up until the Ordnance Survey 1:1250 map of 1952 when the nursery and glasshouses have gone, a building called Kensington House fronts onto London Road with Kensington cottage forming the corner of Upper East Hayes and London Road and an un-named property to the east of Kensington House also fronting on to London Road. The plot has also been sub-divided north to south from the eastern end of Kensington House to the cross road. Kensington Villa that lay in the plot to the east is labelled as Ruin.

By the Ordnance Survey 1:1250 map of 1963 the western sub-division has been further sub-divided with numbers 4-10 East Upper Hayes built with an access road between numbers 2 and 4 East Upper Hayes to Kensington Court which has been built on parts of the eastern sub-division of the earlier plot as well as the Kensington Villa plot and the next two to the east. The site has been formed at this stage with the boundaries of the cross road to the north the back garden walls to 4-10 Upper East Hayes to the west, a substantial truncation and terrace to the car park of Kensington Court to the south and the remains of the Bath Stone wall that formed the eastern boundary between the two old plots to the east.

Objectives and methodology

The aims of the project were to excavate and record any archaeological deposits affected by the works. This involved the archaeological monitoring of all areas of intrusive groundworks, in particular the digging of foundation, revetting and service trenches, along with ground reduction. Overburden stripping and made ground removal across the site were undertaken by a mechanical excavator fitted with a toothed bucket, however further excavation beneath made ground to project depth was undertaken with a toothless grading bucket. Archaeological (or potentially archaeological) deposits which were impacted by groundworks were excavated by hand to an agreed sampling fraction depending on feature type, and recorded.

Results

The site was reduced to project depth with topsoil and overburden removed by a 360° tracked excavator fitted with a toothed bucket. Further excavation of buried topsoils and underlying layers was undertaken with a

toothless ditching bucket under constant archaeological supervision. A ramp of overburden was installed in the north-west of the site from the cross road southwards to enable plant and the piling rig access onto the site. The western half of the site that contained the location of the ramp was stripped first followed by the eastern half.

The site was excavated from south to north revealing the footings for the Bath Stone wall that formed the eastern boundary of the site, for its full height (Fig. 5). Where the foundations to the wall were encountered a retaining buttress of material was left *in situ* to stabilize the wall prior to underpinning. The site was only excavated to the project depth for the new house for the emplacement of a piling matt prior to excavation of the pile boreholes. Any archaeological features or deposits below the project depth would remain *in situ*.

The southern end of the site was covered with a loose mid to dark brown grey loam topsoil (50) that contained modern debris including glass and plastic along with worked Bath Stone (Pl. 1). The topsoil was a maximum of 0.32m thick, however due to the slope of the site it was not totally removed along the southern part of the site as this lay beneath the project depth of the new building.

Beneath the modern topsoil (50) was a thick deposit of mixed grey yellow clayey silt with lenses of mid to dark grey humic silt sand (51) and was up to 0.94m thick. Deposit 51 was made ground and contained modern bricks and plastic and a large amount of broken worked Bath Stone blocks. The thickness of the deposit tailed off from the north towards the south suggesting that this may have been tipped onto site from the direction of the road. Again, due to the slope, it was not totally removed along the southern part of the site.

Beneath the made ground (51) was a layer of loose mid to dark grey brown to black loam up to 0.80m thick (52) which contained modern plastics along with more Bath Stone blocks and fragments together with mortar. Near the base of deposit in the north-eastern quadrant two complete bottles were recovered, which appear to date from the 1940s or 1950s (see below). This deposit appears to be a buried topsoil. In the north of the site buried topsoil (52) directly overlay natural clay (62) without a visible subsoil.

Within deposit (52) were two brick walls (53 and 55) on concrete foundations (54 and 56) (Fig. 4). Wall 53 was aligned south-west to north-east and was 5.50m north of the south-western corner of the site. The wall was 4.40m long and consisted of four courses of bricks in a stretcher bond, a total of 0.32m high. The bricks appeared to be moulded, wire cut, un-frogged and un-sanded. Wall 53 was mortared on to concrete foundation (54) that was 0.35m wide and 0.31m deep. The concrete contained a large (10%) amount of what appeared to be charcoal. Wall 55 was aligned parallel to wall (53), 0.85m to the north of it, 9.0m long and consisted of two courses of the same bricks in a stretcher bond a total of 0.16m high, mortared on to concrete foundation (56) that was 0.34m wide and 0.30m deep and of concrete identical to 54. No cuts could be determined for either wall

within deposit 52 so it appears (though this is unclear) that the deposit had built up against the walls rather than that they have been inserted through it.

Buried topsoil (52) appears to butt up to Bath Stone Wall (57) which formed the eastern boundary of the site and was aligned NNW–SSE (Fig. 4; Pl. 3). Wall 57 was 3.30m high (maximum); up to 1.3m of which was below modern ground level (Pl. 4), but the thickness of the wall could not be measured on the site. It was constructed of a mixture of regular and uneven courses together with large blocks of faced Bath Stone. The blocks were mostly finely worked, regular and well finished with what appear to be some ashlar blocks amongst them. Some of the blocks showed chisel marks similar to keying marks for the attachment of mortar or render, whilst others did not. The courses in wall 57 dipped downwards from the north to the south at approximately 110° to the vertical which appears to follow what could be seen of the underlying natural in that area. The quality of the Bath Stone used in wall 57 is noticeably better than that used in walls 58, 59 and the extant walls to the north of the cross road, which were a mixture of random coursed and uneven courses with both fair and rough faces within the same walls. Wall 57 was bonded into Wall 58, and was topped with a modern concrete capping.

Where the base of the foundation for Wall 57 could be seen, in the north-east of corner of the site next to cut 2, it appeared to lie directly on natural clay (62) which descended to the south and appeared to be truncated as Cut 3 (Figs 2 and 3).

Bath Stone wall 58 was aligned north-east to south-west, 3.86m in height, 0.80m wide and 2.4m long (Figs 4 and 5; Pl. 2). Wall 58 was mortared with a fine sandy yellow mortar and consisted of good faces on the northern and southern edges (northerly face 0.20m wide, southern 0.25m) with a rubble and mortar infilling between the faces up to 0.35m wide, the faces being in a mixture of random coursed and uneven courses with both fair and rough faces in Bath Stone. It was heavily disturbed by roots of the sycamore trees which were previously on site. It appeared that wall 58 may have originally continued to the south-west but has collapsed southwards down the slope, or been demolished. At the base of wall 58 at its junction with wall 57 there was only a face on the southern side with no northern face or infilling for two courses in height. Wall 58 was within cut 2.

Wall foundation cut 2 was linear in plan aligned NE–SW was up to 0.85m wide and 2.60m deep (Figs 2 and 5; Pls 2 and 3) and on the south side was cut into natural underlying clays but on the north side cut into a subsoil (61) a grey blue silty clay up to 0.15m thick beneath which was natural clay (62). The subsoil did not continue south of the wall suggesting that the wall cut was also a terrace.

The relationship between Bath Stone wall 58 and the extant Bath Stone wall (59) that continues to the east of the site could not be determined as the junction between them showed signs of repair and repointing which masked any direct relationship. Bath Stone wall 59 was a mixture of random and uneven courses with both fair and rough faces.

Finds

Bottle Glass by Andrew Weale

Two intact bottles were recovered from buried topsoil (52). The first was a clear glass milk bottle which was embossed “Bottled by the Members of the Safety First Milk Association” with triangular logo which includes the words ‘Safety First’ on the rear. It was further embossed on the neck of the bottle “BRITISH PATENT NO. 430600”. On the heel of this bottle are three groups of letters and numbers the uppermost of which are M 877 the middle are G J 1 under which are the letters UGB indicating that it was made by United Glass Bottles (Evans 2016). The bottle appears machine moulded but very little worn. The bottle form suggests mid-20th century in date which is confirmed by patent date of 1933. Ht: 218mm D: 78mm Wt: 500gms. A similarly marked bottle has been discovered on the site of Tweedsmuir Camp and dated to the late 1940’s (Rogalski and Rogalski 2003).

The second bottle was brown glass and complete with a threaded stopper. On the heel of this bottle are the marks FCC 6IL L X. The interior of the neck has a screw thread moulded into the glass. The stopper appears to be made from a Bakelite like plastic and is impressed with the Legend BRISTOL.UNITED. The bottle appears machine moulded but very little worn. The form of the bottle suggests a mid-20th century date. Bristol United appears to refer to the Bristol United Brewery which was incorporated in 1889 but was amalgamated with Bristol Brewery Georges and Co Ltd in 1956 (Bouche 1961). Ht: 258mm: D:73mm Wt: 657.

Conclusion

The watching brief demonstrated that during the laying out of the original plots together with the boundary walls the north of the site has been heavily truncated and terraced. The cut for Wall 58 shows that in that part of the site almost 2m of natural geology together with any subsoil had been removed. This truncation appears to be carried on to the south most notable by the total absence of subsoil. Although this ground reduction did not level the site it must have reduced the severity of the slope of the river valley.

After the terracing and the erection of the boundary walls it appears that topsoil was reintroduced to the site. Walls 53/54 and 55/56 were then emplaced into the topsoil. These walls may be related to the out buildings,

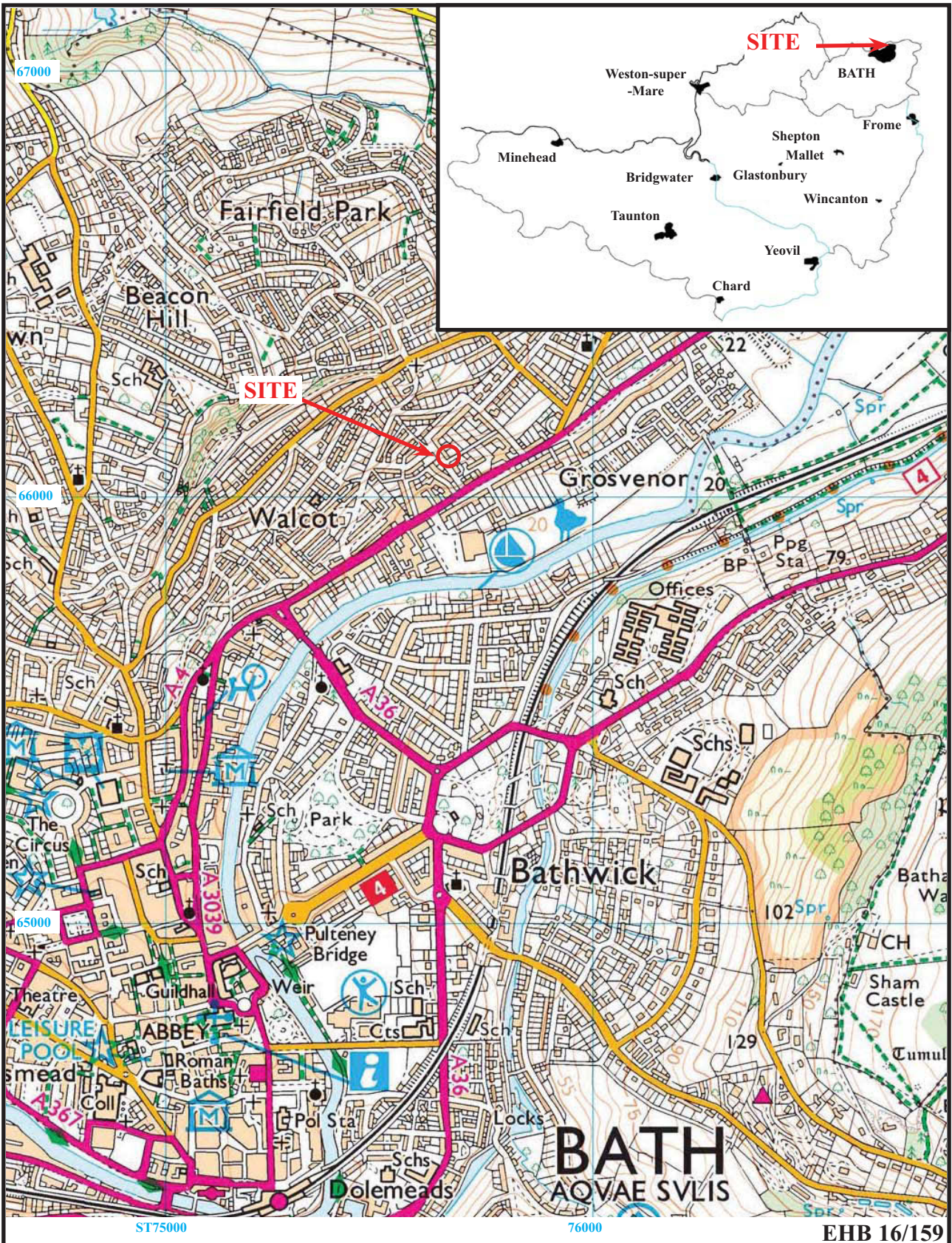
glasshouses or paths that are shown on the Ordnance Survey 1:500 map of 1886 and continue in use into the 1930's but appear to have been demolished by 1952. The presence of the two intact bottles would support that the topsoil was still in use as topsoil at this time. The presence of large amounts of Bath Stone together with mortar within this buried topsoil may indicate that Wall 58 collapsed or was demolished before the made ground was imported to the site.

The made ground appears to have been imported onto the site after the demolition of the nursery buildings, the sub-division of the site and the building of Kensington Court to the south.

Nothing relating to the Roman or medieval town, or cemetery, was revealed, not even as residual finds.

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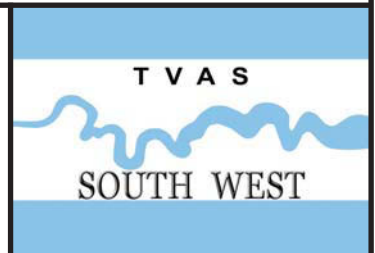


**Land at Upper East Hayes,
Walcot, Bath, 2017**

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Figure 1. Location of site within Bath and Somerset.

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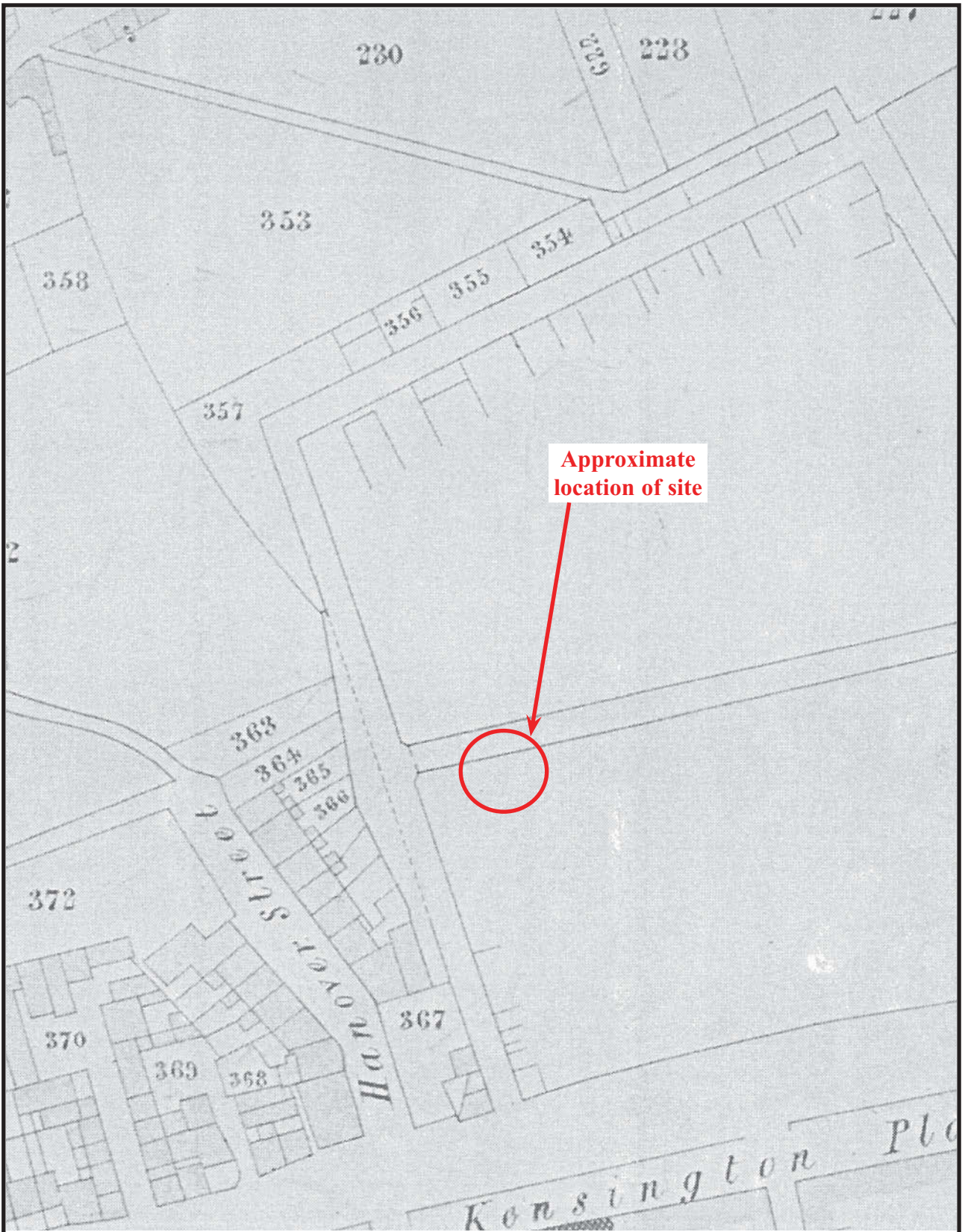




**Land at 10 Upper East Hayes,
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Figure 2. Site plan.



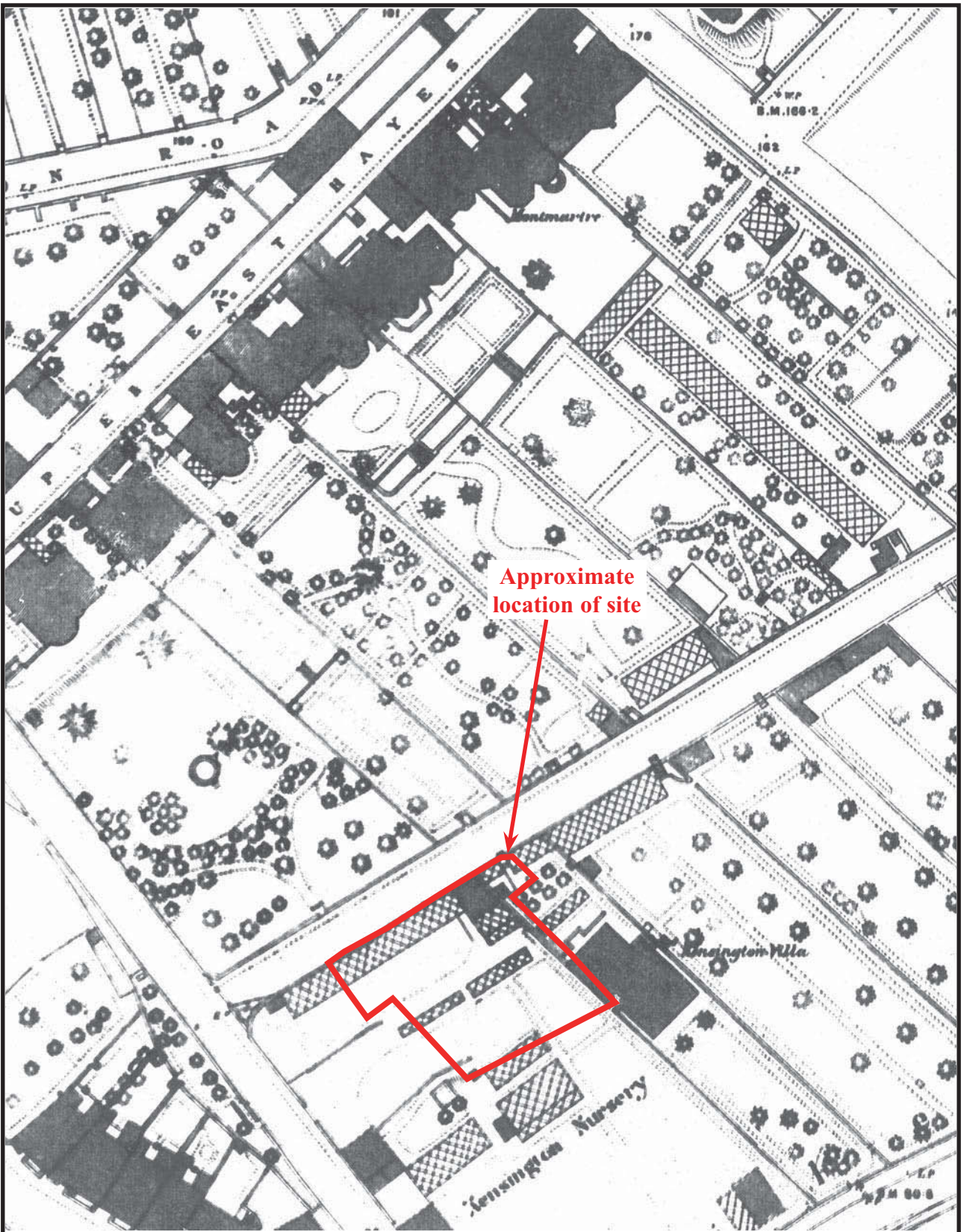


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Figure 3. 1840 Tithe map.



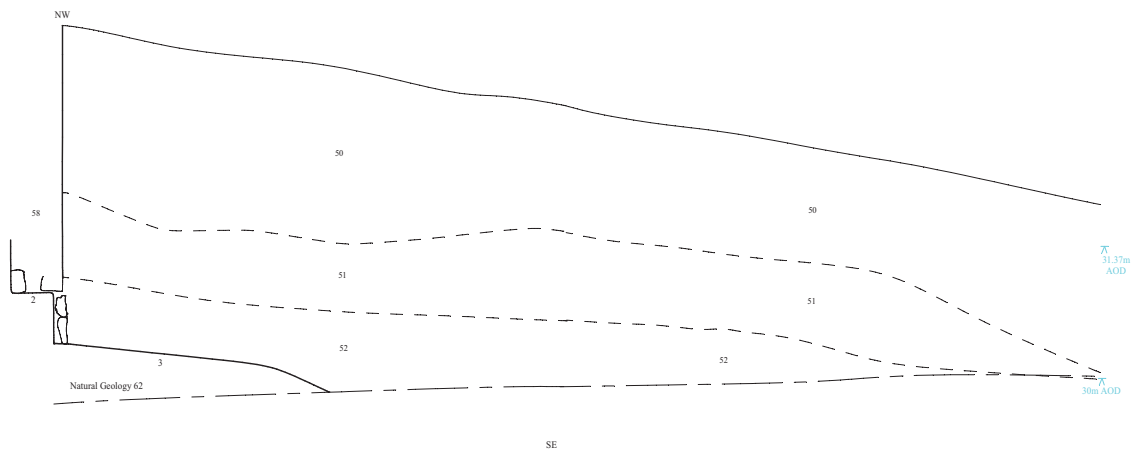


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Figure 4. 1-500 Town map, 1886.

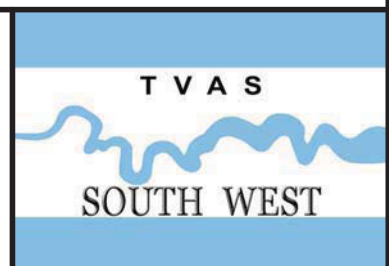


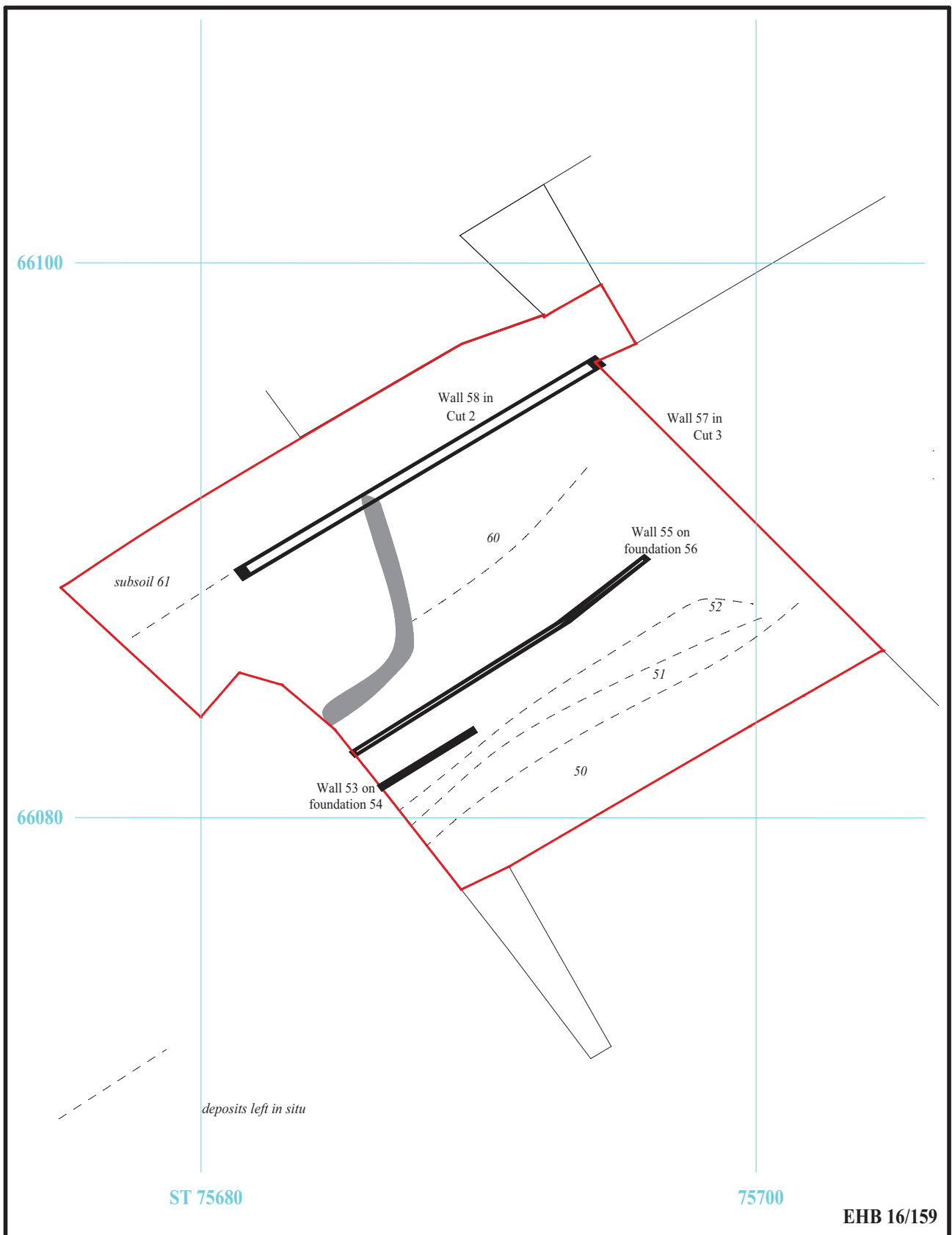


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Figure 5. Representative section.





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Figure 6. Site plan.

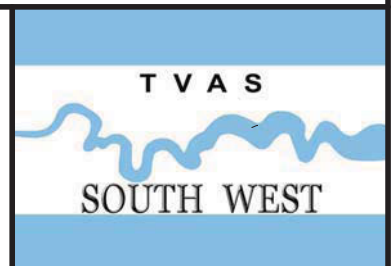




Plate 1. Deposits 50, 51 and 52 under excavation. Looking East Scales: 2m and 1m



Plate 2. Wall 58 Cut 2 looking East. Scales: 2m and 0.5m

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**Land at 10 Upper East Hayes, Walcot
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Plates 1 and 2.**





Plate 3. Walls 57 and 58 Cuts 2 and 3 Looking East, Scales: 2m and 2m



Plate 4. Wall 57 Looking East Scales: 2m and 2m

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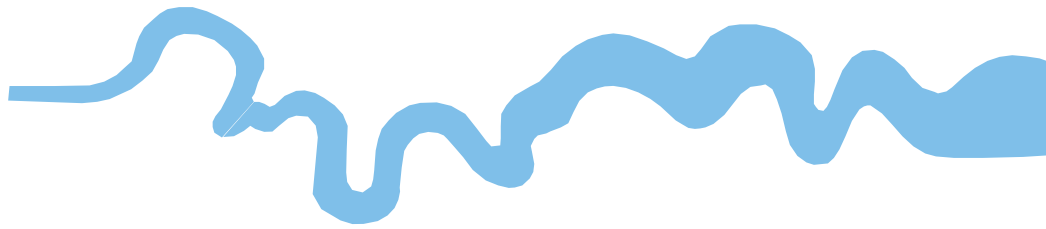
**Land at 10 Upper East Hayes, Walcot
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Plates 3 and 4.**



TIME CHART

	Calendar Years
Modern _____	AD 1901
Victorian _____	AD 1837
Post Medieval _____	AD 1500
Medieval _____	AD 1066
Saxon _____	AD 410
Roman _____	AD 43 AD 0 BC
Iron Age _____	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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