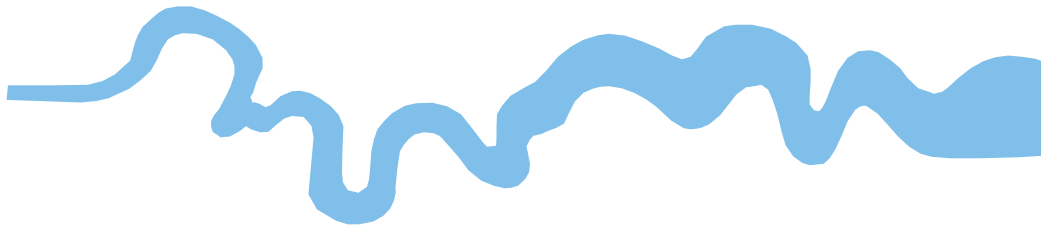


**T V A S**



**SOUTH WEST**

**Kielder, Church Lane, East Harptree, Bath,  
Bath and North East Somerset**

**Archaeological Watching Brief**

**by Nicholas Dawson**

**Site Code: EHB17/25**

**(ST 5646 5575)**

**Kielder, Church Lane, East Harptree, Bath,  
Bath and North East Somerset**

**An Archaeological Watching Brief**

**For Armour Heritage Limited**

by Nicholas Dawson

TVAS South West

Site Code EHB17/25

**July 2017**

## Summary

**Site name:** Kielder, Church Lane, East Harptree, Bath and North East Somerset

**Grid reference:** ST 5646 5575

**Site activity:** Watching Brief

**Date and duration of project:** 5th April to 10th July 2017

**Project manager:** Agata Socha-Paszkwicz

**Site supervisor:** Nicholas Dawson

**Site code:** EHB17/25

**Area of site:** 0.2ha monitored within overall site of 0.32ha

**Summary of results:** The watching brief monitored ground reduction of the site down to the level of the natural geology for the new building area and widening of a drive way. A few late post-medieval artefacts were observed but no deposits nor finds of archaeological interest were recorded.

**Location and reference of archive:** The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Taunton and will be deposited at the Roman Baths Museum, Bath in due course.

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[www.tvas.co.uk/reports/reports.asp](http://www.tvas.co.uk/reports/reports.asp).*

Report edited/checked by: Steve Ford✓ 14.07.17 Steve Preston✓ 14.07.17
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# Kielder, Church Lane, East Harptree, Bath and North East Somerset An Archaeological Watching Brief

by Nicholas Dawson

Report 17/25

## Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological watching brief carried out at Kielder, Church Lane, East Harptree, BS40 6BD, (ST5646 5575) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Ms Sue Farr of Armour Heritage Limited, Greystone Cottage, Trudoxhill, Frome, BA11 5DP.

Planning permission (16/04629/FUL) has been gained from Bath and North East Somerset Council for the demolition of the bungalow occupying the site and the construction of four new dwellings, subject to a condition which requires the implementation of an archaeological watching brief due to the site being within an area of significant archaeological interest.

This is in accordance with the Department for Communities and Local Government's *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF 2012) and the Bath and North East Somerset's policies on archaeology. The field investigation was carried out to a specification prepared by Armour Heritage (Farr 2017) and approved by Richard Sermon, Senior Archaeological Officer for the council. The fieldwork was undertaken by Nicholas Dawson between 5th April and 10th July 2017. The site code is EHB17/25.

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

## Location, topography and geology

The site is located on the west side of Church Lane on the western edge of the village of East Harptree. Land use was as bungalow (now demolished) and associated gardens, with open field to its west and the residential properties of the village on all other sides (Figs 1 and 2). The land slopes down from the west before a sharp drop to Church Lane with views north toward Chew Valley Lake. The underlying geology is a Mercia Mudstone group (marginal facies) – conglomerate, a sedimentary rock with no superficial deposits recorded (BGS 1984). The site lies at a height of approximately 134m above Ordnance Datum.

## **Archaeological background**

The site lies on the outskirts of a planned medieval settlement associated with Keynsham Abbey, within the hundred of Winterstoke, parish of East Harptree. The western boundary of this planned settlement was marked by Church Lane leaving the proposal site just outside. Approximately 270m to the west of the village at Harptree Combe lies the remains of Richmond Castle, probably built in the 11th century and taken by storm by Stephen in 1138, before being fully demolished during the 16th century. The remains are a Scheduled Monument. Some 200m to the north is Church Farm, which is presumed to be on the site of a medieval manor house. The parish church of St Lawrence has 11th- and 13th-century components and is Grade II\* Listed. Post-medieval Harptree Court is 450m to the north-east, with a large walled park added in the late 18th century (Farr 2017).

Earlier archaeology in the area includes a Roman road 650m north-east of site, a collection of Roman pottery found immediately east of the site and a hoard of 1496 silver coins discovered in an unknown location within East Harptree.

## **Objectives and methodology**

The purpose of the watching brief was to record and if necessary excavate any deposits of archaeological interest during monitoring of groundworks undertaken beneath the existing ground surface, the removal of contaminated overburden as part of the levelling of the build area, and excavation of foundations. Due to the nature of the bedrock and the depth reached during levelling of the site plans changed from digging foundation trenches to building foundations up from the natural bedrock reached during the strip.

## **Results**

Groundworks comprised two components, the widening of the original driveway to allow access, and secondly the levelling of the new building area including the removal of 450mm of contaminated soil to form a terrace in the hillside.

### *The access road*

The widening of the drive by 1.5m along its northern edge involved demolishing a wall and lowering the ground behind to the level of the original drive surface. During this strip two large rough blocks of natural rock were revealed at the base of the slope where the drive meets Church Lane. One (54) was totally uncovered with dimensions of 2.5m length x 1m width x 0.5m height, and the other only partially observed. These were placed

parallel to Church Lane and are undated (Fig. 2; Pl. 1). The stratigraphy for the area of the boulders comprised 0.4m of topsoil (50) above 0.1m grey brown stony silt clay (52) above 0.15m of a Tarmacadam dump (53) above 0.1m of subsoil (51) overlying the boulders (54) and natural geology (57) (Pl. 2).

### *The building area*

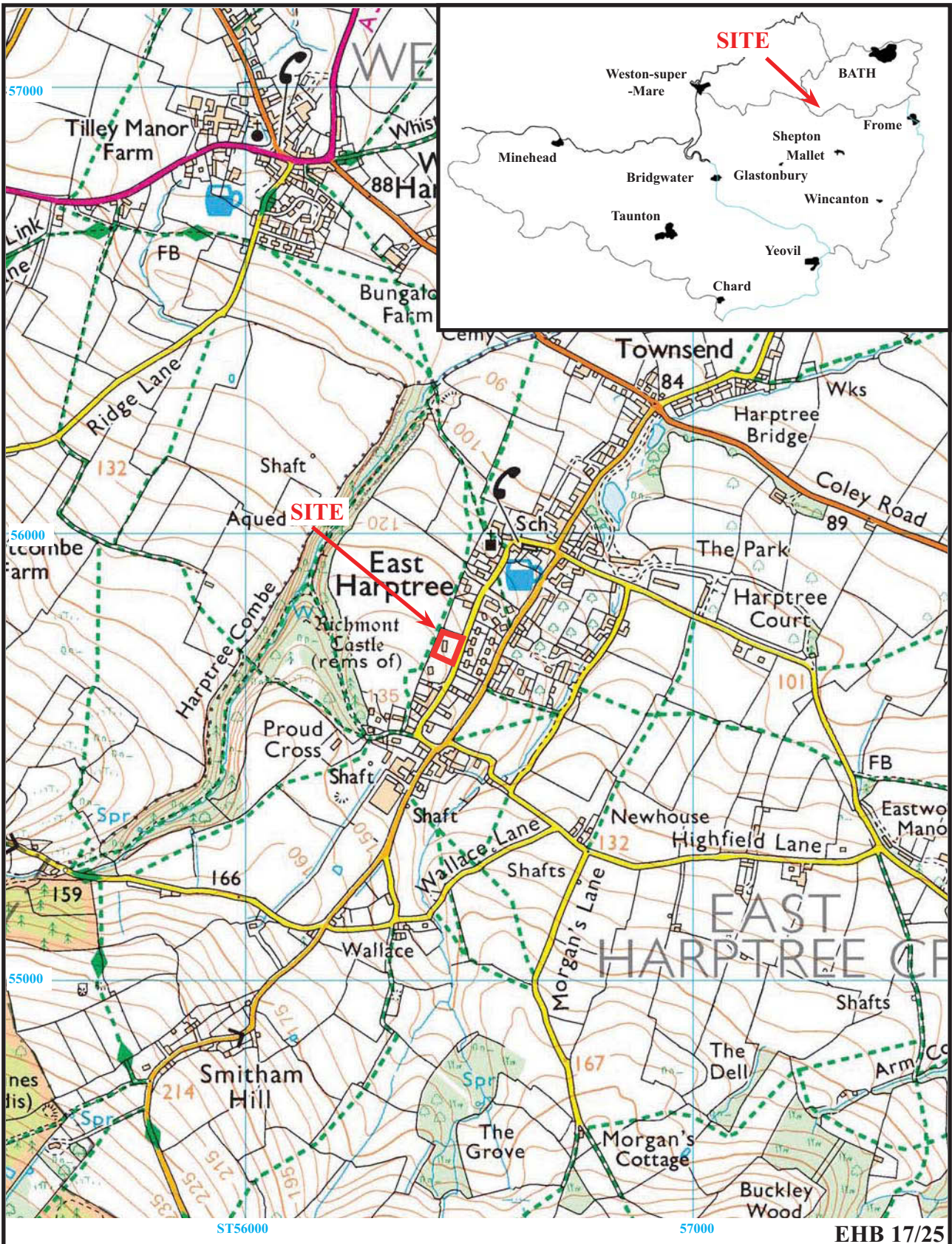
The levelling of the new build area included the strip of a rectangular area of 50m x 44m (Fig. 2) down to or into the natural geology (Pl. 4). The stratigraphy recorded within the stripped area was the natural mudstone geology (57) lying below 0.4m of topsoil (50) and 0.5m of mid yellow brown silt clay subsoil (51) (Pl. 3). At the deepest point in the western corner of the site the land was reduced by up to 2.4m (Fig. 3). In the south-eastern corner, an area had apparently been terraced approximately 1m (maximum) into the natural geology and then levelled up (55). No archaeological features were found. During the removal of the topsoil fragments of late post-medieval 'china' (transfer-printed white earthenware pottery) and ceramic pipe were observed but not retained. The pipe appears to be associated with a buried waste tank located in the northern corner of the site which serviced the bungalow.

### **Conclusion**

Despite the potential for archaeological remains to be present on the site, the only deposit of any archaeological interest observed was the undated line of natural mudstone boulders deposited parallel to Church Lane, presumably former kerbs to the lane and of no great antiquity.

### **References**

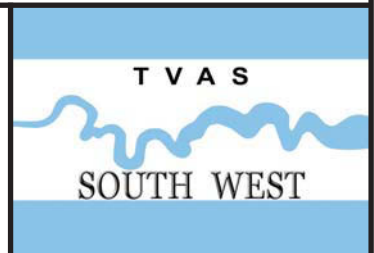
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Farr, S, 2017, 'Kielder, Church Lane, East Harptree Bath and North East Somerset, Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Watching Brief', Armour Heritage, Frome  
NPPF 2012, *National Planning Policy Framework*, Dept Communities and Local Govt, London

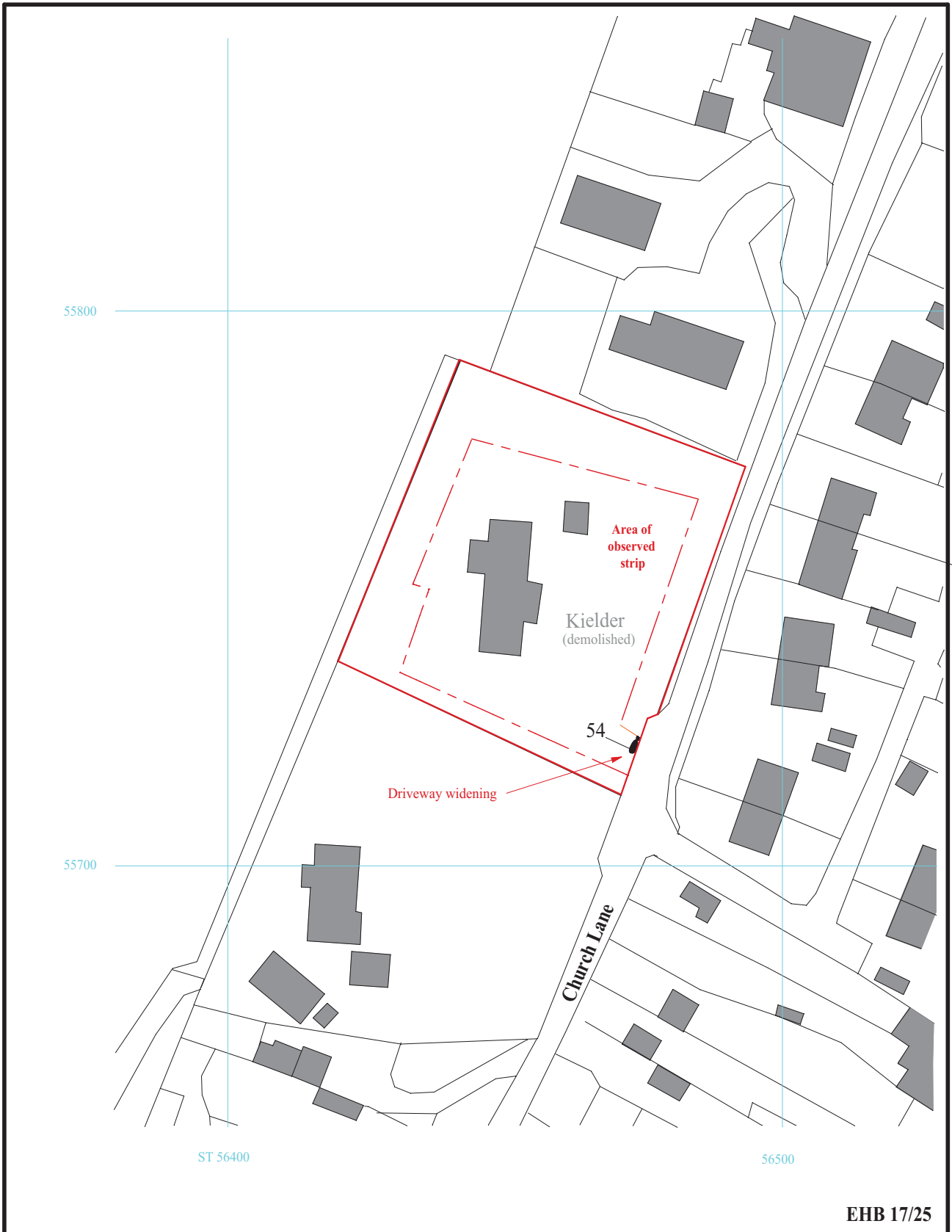


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Figure 1. Location of site within East Harptree and Somerset.

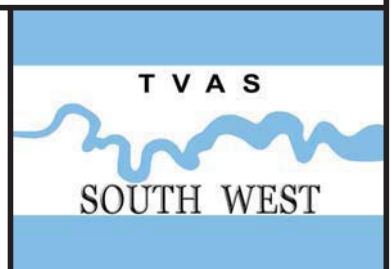
Reproduced under licence from Ordnance Survey Explorer Digital mapping at 1:12500  
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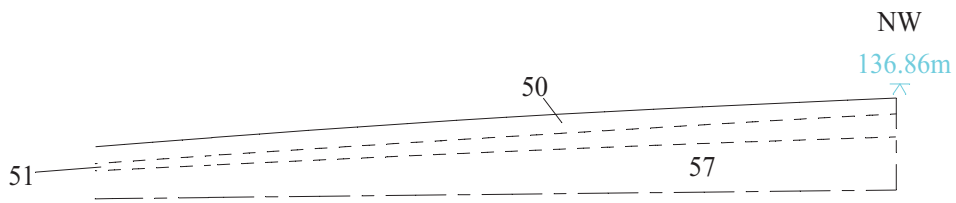
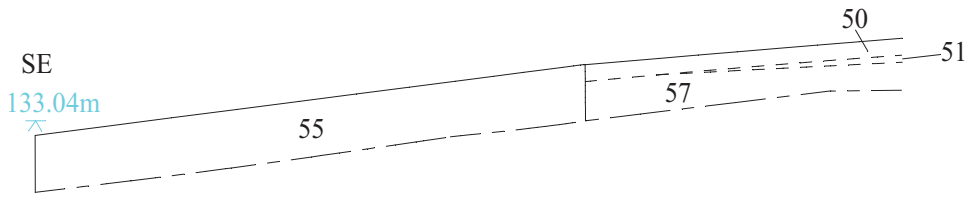


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Figure 2. Detailed Location of Site







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Figure 3. Section of south edge of overburden strip

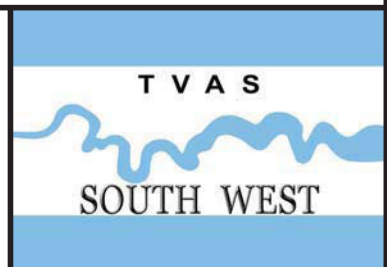




Plate 1. Boulder Linear (54), looking north, Scales: 0.5m and 0.3m.



Plate 2. Section of Boulder Linear, looking east, Scales: 1m and 0.5m.

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Plates 1 and 2.

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Plate 3. Section of area strip, looking south, Scale: 1m.



Plate 4. General view of site during overburden stripping.

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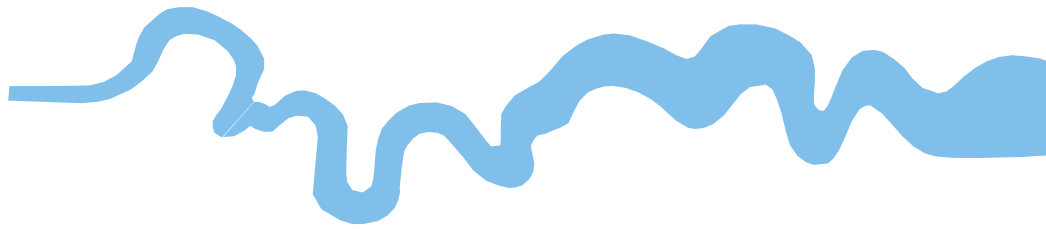
Plates 3 and 4.



## 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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