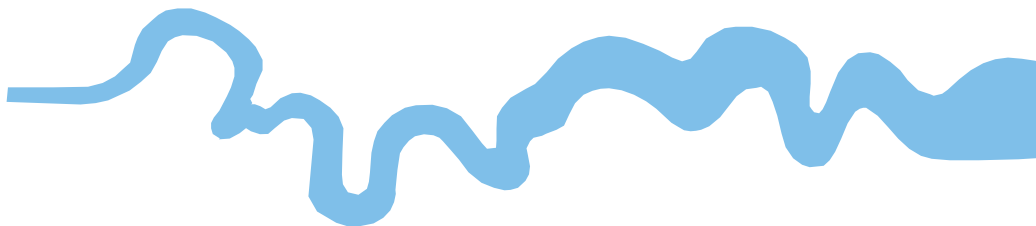


T V A S



NORTH MIDLANDS

**Bonthorne Farm, Dogshead Lane,
Barton Under Needwood, Staffordshire**

Archaeological Watching Brief

by Garreth Davey

**Site Code BFB 17/39
(SJ 1865 1665)**

**Bonthorne Farm, Dogshead Lane,
Barton Under Needwood, Staffordshire**

An Archaeological Watching Brief

For Mr. R Mercer

by Garreth Davey

Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd.

BFB 17/39

August 2017

Summary

Site name: Bonthorne Farm, Dogshead Lane, Barton under Needwood, Staffordshire

Grid reference: SJ 1865 1665

Site activity: Archaeological Watching Brief

Date and duration of project: 14th – 15th August 2017

Project manager: Steve Ford

Site supervisor: Garreth Davey

Site code: BFB17/39

Summary of results: The watching brief was carried out as intended and monitored preliminary overburden stripping followed by the excavation of foundation trenches. However, no finds nor features of archaeological interest were identified during the course of this fieldwork.

Location of archive: The archive is presently held at TVAS Stoke-on-Trent and will be deposited in The Potteries Museum, Stoke on Trent or the Archaeology Data Service.

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

Report edited/checked by: Steve Ford ✓ 30.08.17
Steve Preston ✓ 30.08.17

Bonthorne Farm, Dogshead Lane, Barton Under Needwood, Staffordshire

An Archaeological Watching Brief

By Garreth Davey

Report 17/39

Introduction

This report details the results of an archaeological watching brief carried out at Bonthorne Farm, Dogshead Lane, Barton Under Needwood, Staffordshire (SK 1865 1665) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Mr Graham Campbell on behalf of Mr. R Mercer, Blakenhall Park, Bar Lane, Barton-under-Needwood, Burton-on-Trent, Staffordshire, DE13 8AL.

Planning permission (P/2016/00657) has been gained from East Staffordshire Borough Council for the construction of a single two storey dwelling for agricultural workers. The consent is subject to a condition (8) relating to archaeology, requiring a programme of archaeological investigation. This is in accordance with the Department for Communities and Local Governments *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF 2012, para 141). It was determined that this investigation would take the form of an archaeological watching brief during construction. The field investigation was carried out to a specification approved by Mr Stephen Dean, Principle Archaeologist for Staffordshire County Council, and adviser to the district on matters of archaeology.

The fieldwork was undertaken by Garreth Davey on 14th and 15th August 2017 and the site code is BFB 17/39. The archive is presently held at TVAS Stoke-on-Trent and will be deposited with The Potteries Museum, Stoke on Trent or the Archaeology Data Service.

Location, topography and geology

The site is a rectangular parcel of land with an extension to the south-west currently utilised as farm land. It is located on the south side of Dogshead Lane, just off the A38 Ryknield Street (Roman Road), to the north of Alrewas and south of Barton-under-Needwood in the parish of Wychnor (Figs 1 and 2). The site lies at approximately 55m above Ordnance Datum and the underlying geology is recorded as sedimentary bedrock of the Mercia Mudstone Group with overlying superficial deposits of Glaciofluvial sheet deposits of sand and gravel (BGS, 2017).

Archaeological Background

The archaeological potential of the site has been highlighted by Mr Stephen Dean of Staffordshire County Council drawing on the results of a desk-based assessment (Tann 2012). In summary, the site is located within the archaeologically rich Trent Valley, where there have been many sites recorded as crop marks from aerial photography and recorded during mineral extraction. The area north of Wychnor is notable as having a landscape of late Neolithic and Bronze Age monuments including henge monuments, cursûs (processional ways), individual barrows (ring ditches), barrow cemeteries and a unique 'star burst enclosure'. Subsequent periods are represented with settlement and landscape features such as field systems and boundary features such as pit alignments of Iron Age date. Two of these pit alignments are visible from the air adjacent to the site and form a scheduled monument. Within the site area itself are a number of other crop marks though none are evident on the surface. Latterly, the Roman road of Ryknield Street was important and this lies to the south (now the A38), extensive Saxon settlement evidence is recorded at Catholme to the north-east (Losco-Bradley and Kinglsey 2002) and there is a deserted medieval village at Wychnor.

Previous recording actions during the construction of the pig finishing unit adjacent to the current site area found a number of features of possible and certain archaeological interest. Of the pits and ditches excavated, only one feature was dated and this suggested a post-medieval to modern date (Castle and Elliot 2013, and Beaverstock 2015) (Fig. 2).

Methodology

The purpose of the watching brief was to excavate and record any archaeological deposits prior to any impact caused by the ground works. This involved the archaeological monitoring of all areas of intrusive ground works, in this case the excavation of foundation trenches. More specific aims were to identify, record and understand any evidence for late prehistoric activity across the site and to relate this to surrounding crop mark features previously identified.

Results

The main area of the site was initially stripped of approximately 0.05m of turf and 0.15m of a mixed deposit of clay, sand and gravel which looked like modern made ground (Fig. 3, Pl. 1).

A number of 0.6m wide foundation trenches were then dug using a 360° type machine under archaeological supervision. The average depth of the foundation trenches was approximately 0.9m and the a

stratigraphy typically revealed 0.2m of topsoil above 0.2m of modern made ground (51) overlying 0.24m of grey brown clayey sand (52) (subsoil) overlying the natural geology (light yellow/orange sand) at a depth of 0.6m.

No archaeological features were identified within any of the excavated foundation trenches.

Finds

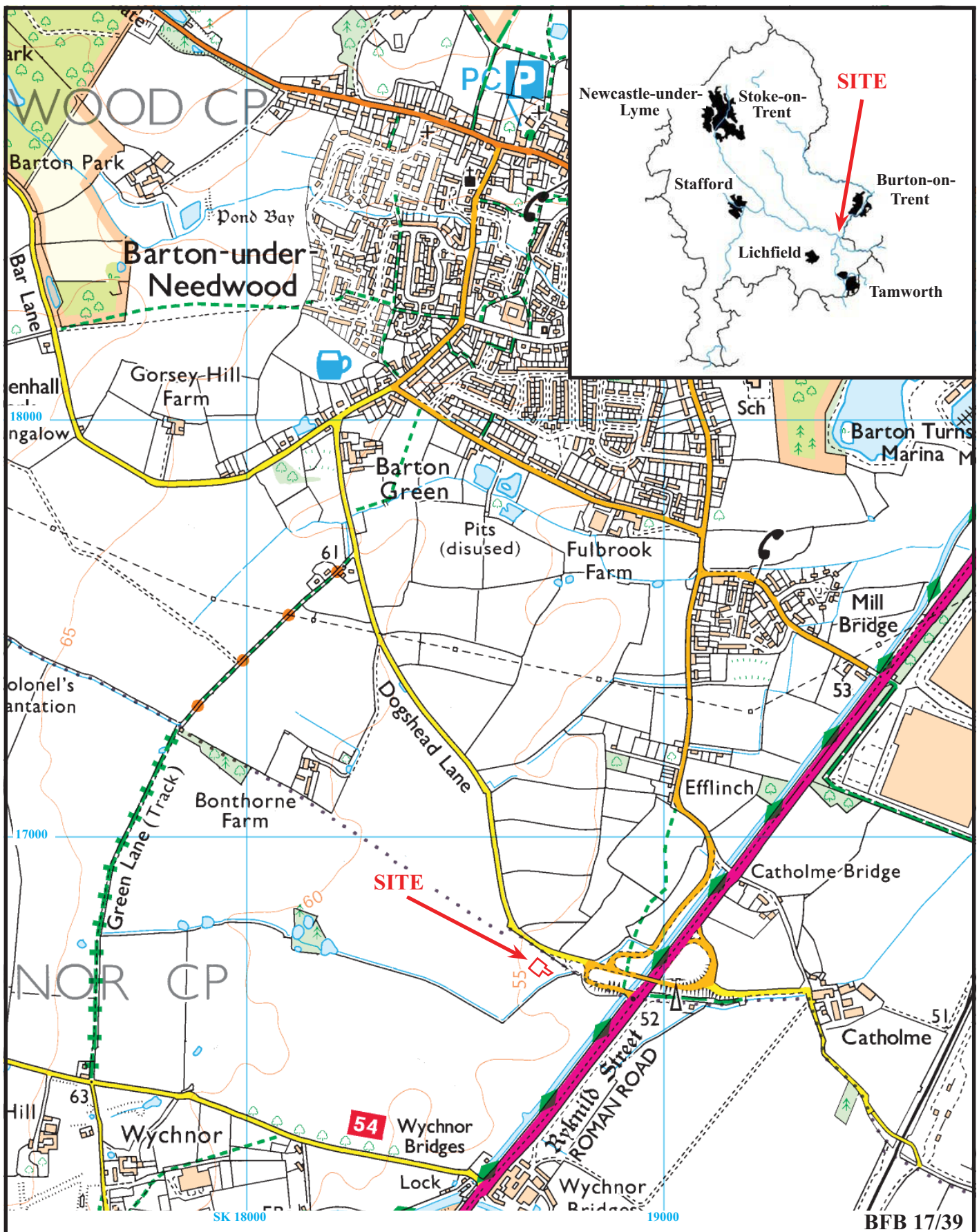
No finds of archaeological interest were recovered from the excavations.

Conclusion

The watching brief was carried out as intended and monitored both an area of overburden stripping, which was too shallow to reveal any horizons of archaeological interest, followed by the excavation of the new foundation trenches. These were monitored for finds and features of archaeological interest however none were identified during the course of this fieldwork.

References

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- Beaverstock, K, 2015, 'Pig finishing unit, Dogshead Lane, Barton-under-Needwood, Staffordshire: an archaeological recording action', Thames Valley Archaeological Services unpubl rep **15/111**, Reading
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- NPPF 2012, *National Planning Policy Framework*, Dept Communities and Local Govt, London
- Tann, G, 2012, 'Proposed Pig finishing unit, south of Dogshead Lane, Wychnor, Staffordshire; an archaeological assessment', Geoff Tann Archaeological Researcher, rep **C1**, Lincoln

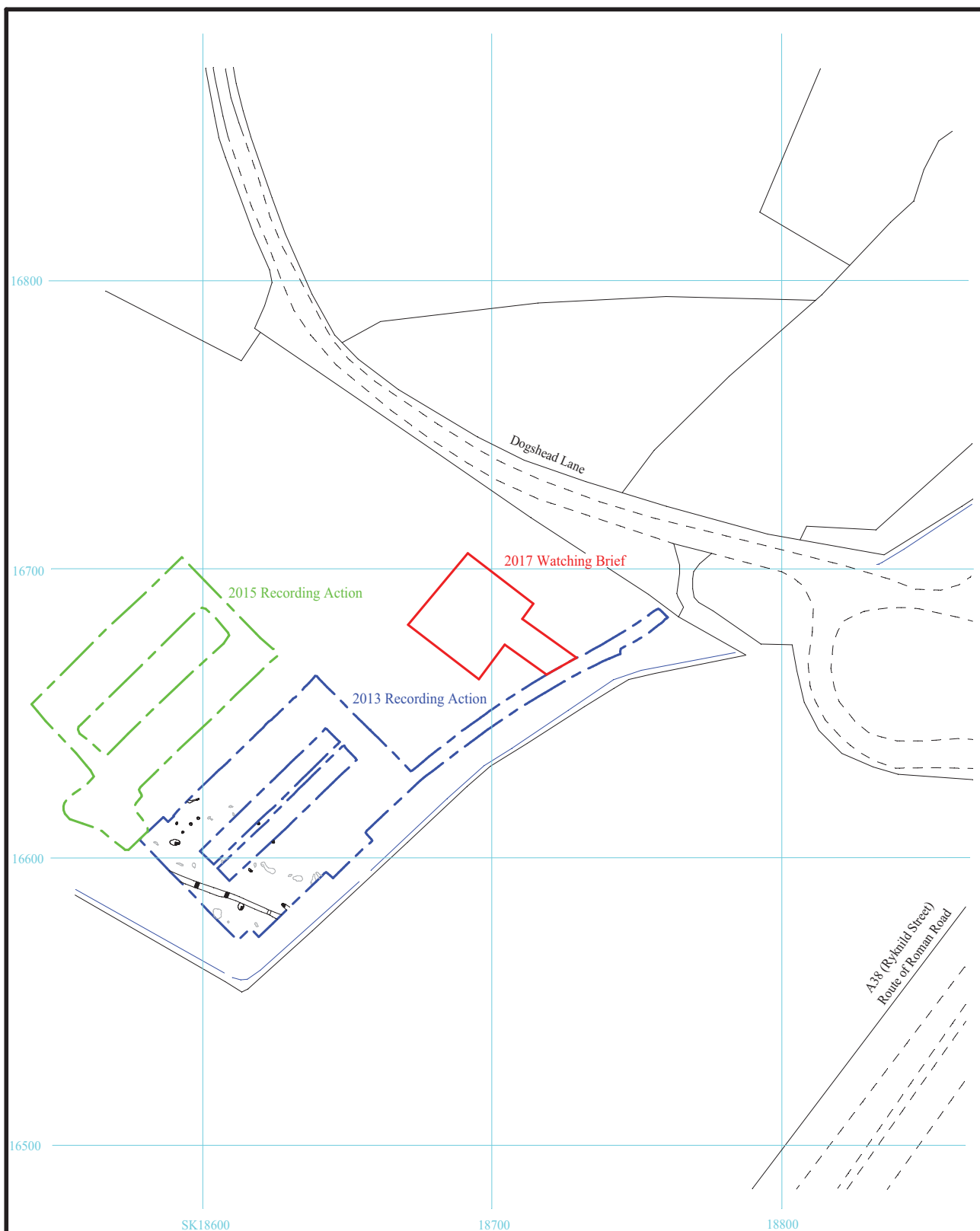


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Figure 1. Location of site within Barton under Needwood and Staffordshire.

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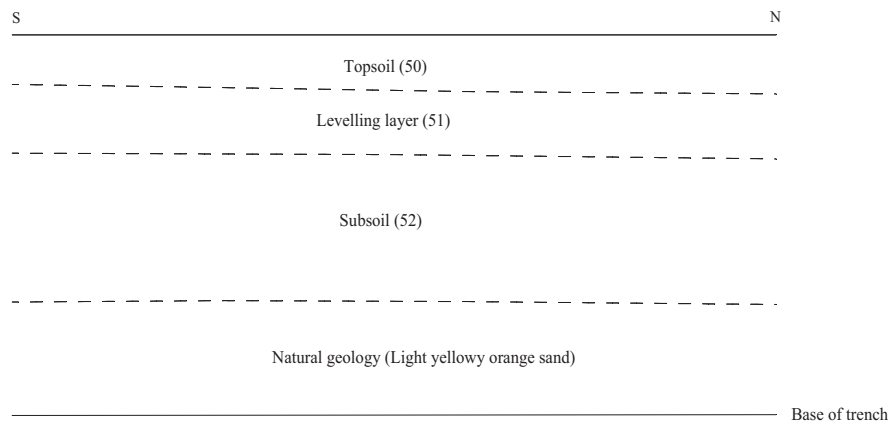
**Bonthorne Farm, Dogshead Lane,
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Figure 2. Location of site and areas of previous investigations.

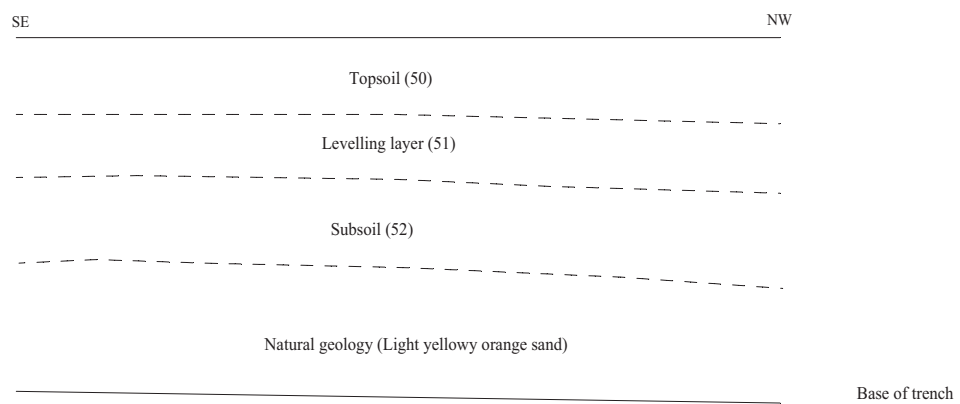
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Section 1



Section 2



BRB 17/39

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Figure 3. Representative sections.





Plate 1. Excavated area, looking northwest, Scales: 2m.



Plate 2. Representative Section, looking east, Scales: 2m and 1m.

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**Bonthorne Farm, Dogshead Lane,
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Plates 1 and 2.**

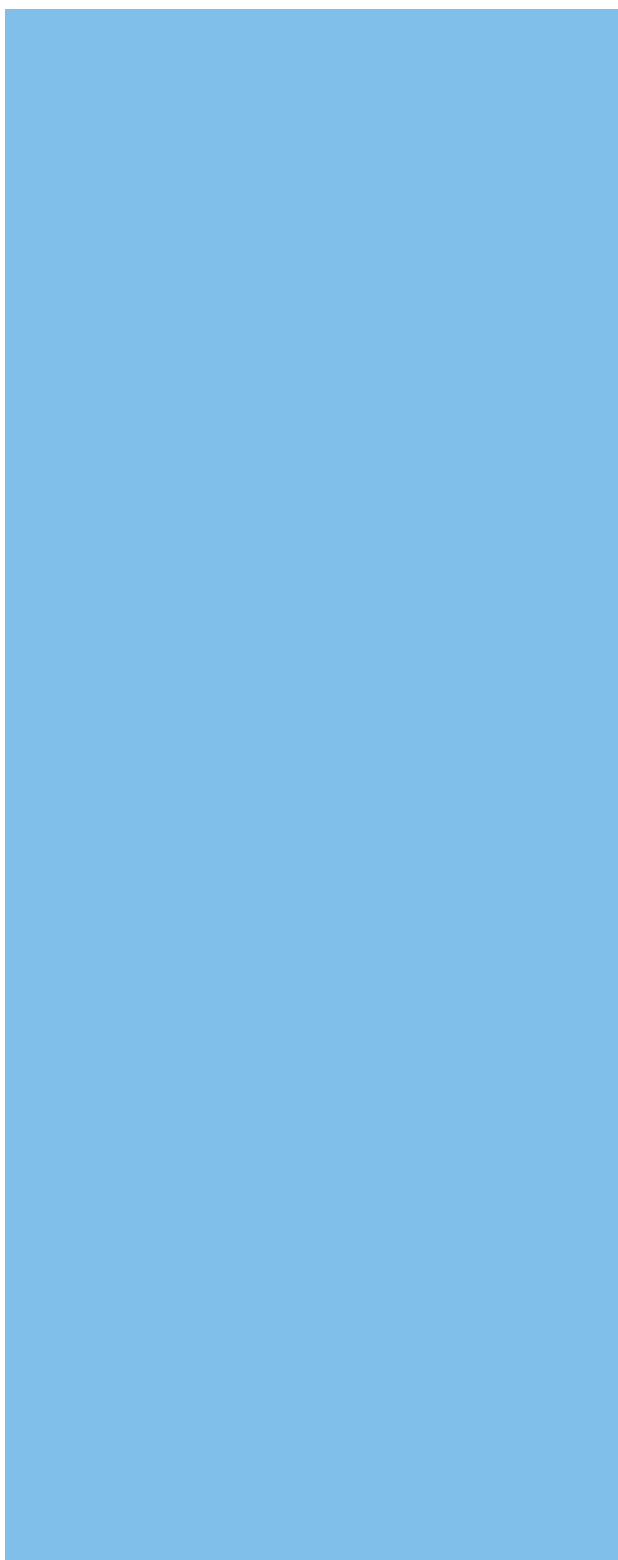
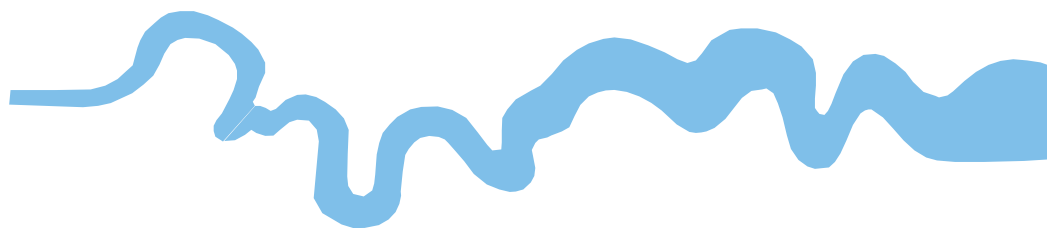


TIME CHART

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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