

**T H A M E S      V A L L E Y**

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**S E R V I C E S**

**Land North of Winterbourne Farm, Winterbourne,  
Newbury, West Berkshire**

**Archaeological Watching Brief**

**by Danielle Milbank and Steven Crabb**

**Site Code: DHW17/154**

**(SU 4578 7240)**

**Land North of Winterbourne Farm, Winterbourne,  
Newbury, West Berkshire**

**An Archaeological Watching Brief**

**For Ms Zoe Carroll**

by Danielle Milbank and Steven Crabb

Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code DHW17/154

**January 2018**

## Summary

**Site name:** Land North of Winterbourne Farm, Winterbourne, Newbury, West Berkshire

**Grid reference:** SU 4578 7240

**Site activity:** Watching Brief

**Date and duration of project:** 12th October 2017 - 9th January 2018

**Project coordinator:** Tim Dawson

**Site supervisor:** Danielle Milbank

**Site code:** DHW 17/154

**Area of site:** c. 1275 sq m

**Summary of results:** No deposits or artefacts of archaeological origin were observed during the excavation of piling or stripping of the site

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

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# Land North of Winterbourne Farm, Winterbourne, Newbury, West Berkshire An Archaeological Watching Brief

by Danielle Milbank and Steven Crabb

Report 17/154

## Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological watching brief carried out at land north of Winterbourne Farm, Winterbourne, Newbury, West Berkshire (SU 4578 7240) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Ms Zoe Carroll, 1 Elm Grove Cottage, Chieveley, Newbury, West Berkshire, RG20 8TS.

Planning consent (app 16/01603/FULMAJ) has been gained from West Berkshire Council for the replacement of a redundant barn and construction of a new house at land north of Winterbourne Farm. This consent is subject to a condition (15) relating to archaeology which requires the implementation of an archaeological watching brief.

This is in accordance with the Department for Communities and Local Government's *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF 2012) and the West Berkshire Council policies on archaeology. The field investigation was carried out to a specification approved by Ms Sarah Orr, Archaeological Officer for West Berkshire Council. The fieldwork was undertaken by Danielle Milbank and Kyle Beaverstock between 12th October 2017 and 9th January 2018 and the site code is DHW 17/154.

The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited at West Berkshire Museum in due course.

## Location, topography and geology

Winterbourne Farm is located to the north of the village of Winterbourne, itself located to the north of Newbury and south of the M4 motorway (Fig. 1). The site of the development is to the north of Winterbourne Farm on the location of a former barn (Fig. 2). The site was laid out as a series of farm buildings with connecting concrete surfaced farmyard. The underlying geology is mapped as being Seaford Chalk across most of the site with a small area of Beenham Stocks gravel in the north-eastern corner of the site (BGS 2006). The Seaford Chalk and associated flints were observed across the site. The site lies between 97m above Ordnance Datum and 99m above Ordnance Datum.

## **Archaeological background**

The archaeological potential for this site has been highlighted in a consultation document prepared by Mr Alex Godden, former archaeological officer at West Berkshire Council. The potential of the area originates from its location within a historic farmstead recorded in 18th-century documentary sources. Little is known of the archaeology (or history) of earlier periods.

Cropmarks visible in aerial photographs and mapped as part of the Lambourn Downs section of the National Mapping Programme suggest two ring ditches (ploughed out barrows) and other, probably unrelated features, just north-west of the farm. On the opposite (eastern) side of the valley of the Winterbourne Stream is the hillfort of Bussock Camp (Cotton 1962), and earthworks known as the Black Ditch lie to the south-east. The hillfort, a scheduled ancient monument, is presumed to be Iron Age and although the banks (partly bi-vallate) are well-preserved, little is known about it.

Before the Norman Conquest, there were three manors in Winterbourne but none of these has much history of note beyond the descent of the titles (VCH 1924, 55–70). The medieval village of Winterbourne may have lain close to the parish church of St James at the top of the hill, and if so the focus may have shifted towards the north-east and the proposed site, although as the place-name clearly refers to the stream, the original village need not have been located so close to the church. Therefore it is possible that late medieval or early post-medieval deposits will be present on site.

## **Objectives and methodology**

The purpose of the watching brief was to excavate and record any archaeological deposits or finds affected by the new construction. In particular this was to involve the observation of the removal of the existing concrete yard surface and the removal of piles. Groundworks were carried out using a 360° type machine using a toothed bucket to remove the existing piles and concrete, and a toothless bucket to strip any remaining soil to the required level.

## **Results**

A total of 19 piles were removed and the resulting holes were cleaned using a 360° type machine (Fig. 3). Piles 1 to 7 were 2.5m long by 2.5m wide and excavated to a depth of 1m entirely through the chalk natural, no archaeological deposits or finds were observed (Pls 1 and 2). Piles 8 to 13 were 1.5m square and excavated to a depth of 0.75m deep. These were dug through a mid brown silty clay with occasional fragments of brick and tile.

The natural chalk geology was not observed and no archaeological features or artefacts were identified. Piles 14-19 were located into the bank at the western edge of the previous structures. The stratigraphy of these was recorded as 0.1m of gravel overlying 0.6m of topsoil which further overlay 0.8m of mid brown silty clay which further over lay the chalk natural which was dug to a depth of 1.4m. No archaeological remains were observed in these piles.

The remainder of the site was stripped to the level of the natural geology (Pls 3 and 4), but no archaeological features were observed in this process.

## **Finds**

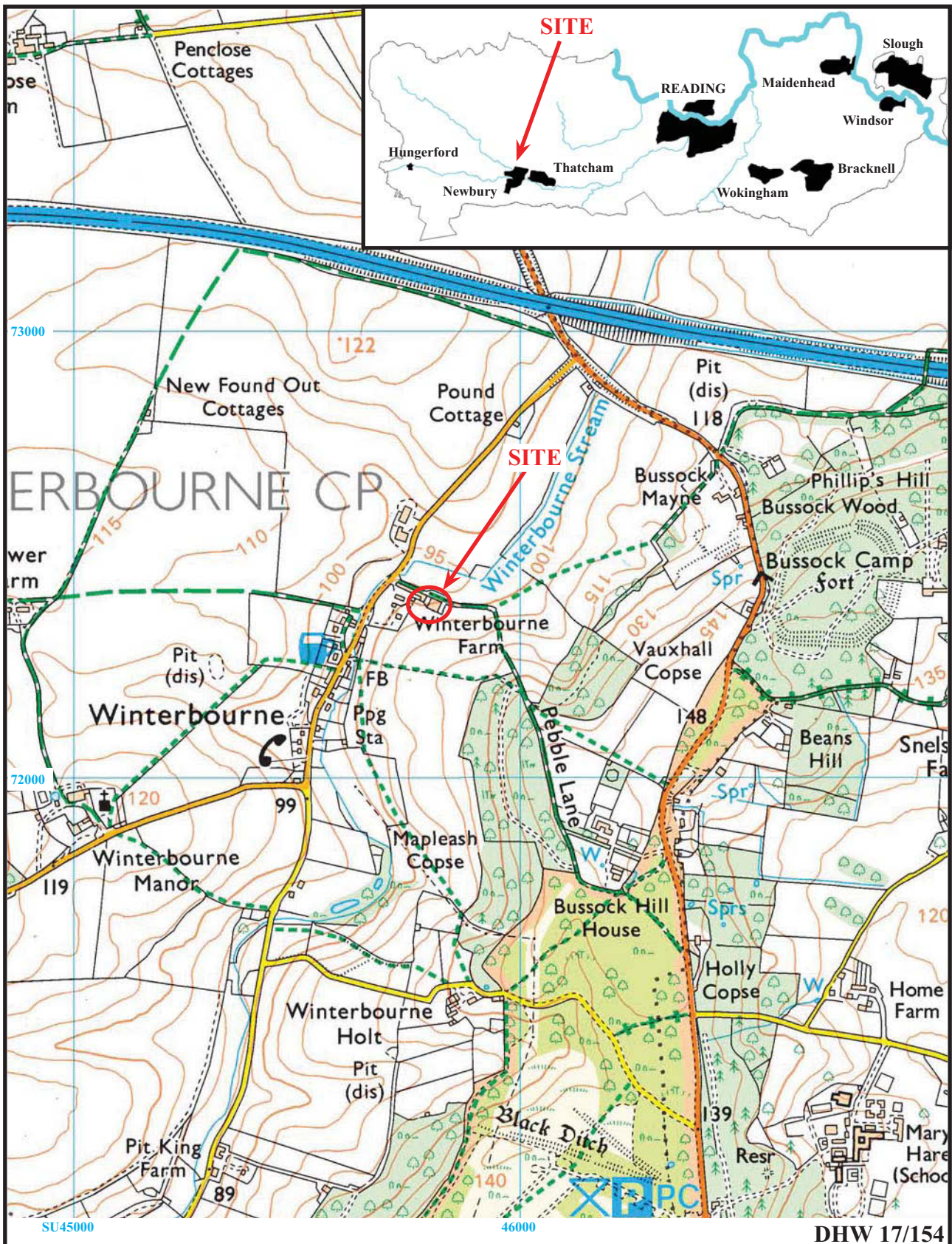
No finds were observed during the groundworks on this site.

## **Conclusion**

No archaeological features or artefacts were observed during the ground works on this site. There is evidence that the underlying geology was disturbed, with both cut and fill operations, during the construction of the buildings previously standing on this site and that this may have disturbed any archaeological evidence that may have been on site.

## **References**

BGS, 2006, *British Geological Survey*, 1:50,000, Sheet **267**, Bedrock and Superficial deposits, Keyworth  
Cotton, M A, 1962, 'Berkshire hill forts', *Berkshire Archaeol J* **62**, 30-52  
NPPF, 2012, *National Planning Policy Framework*, Dept Communities and Local Govt, London  
VCH, 1924, *A History of the County of Berkshire: Volume 4*, Victoria County History, London



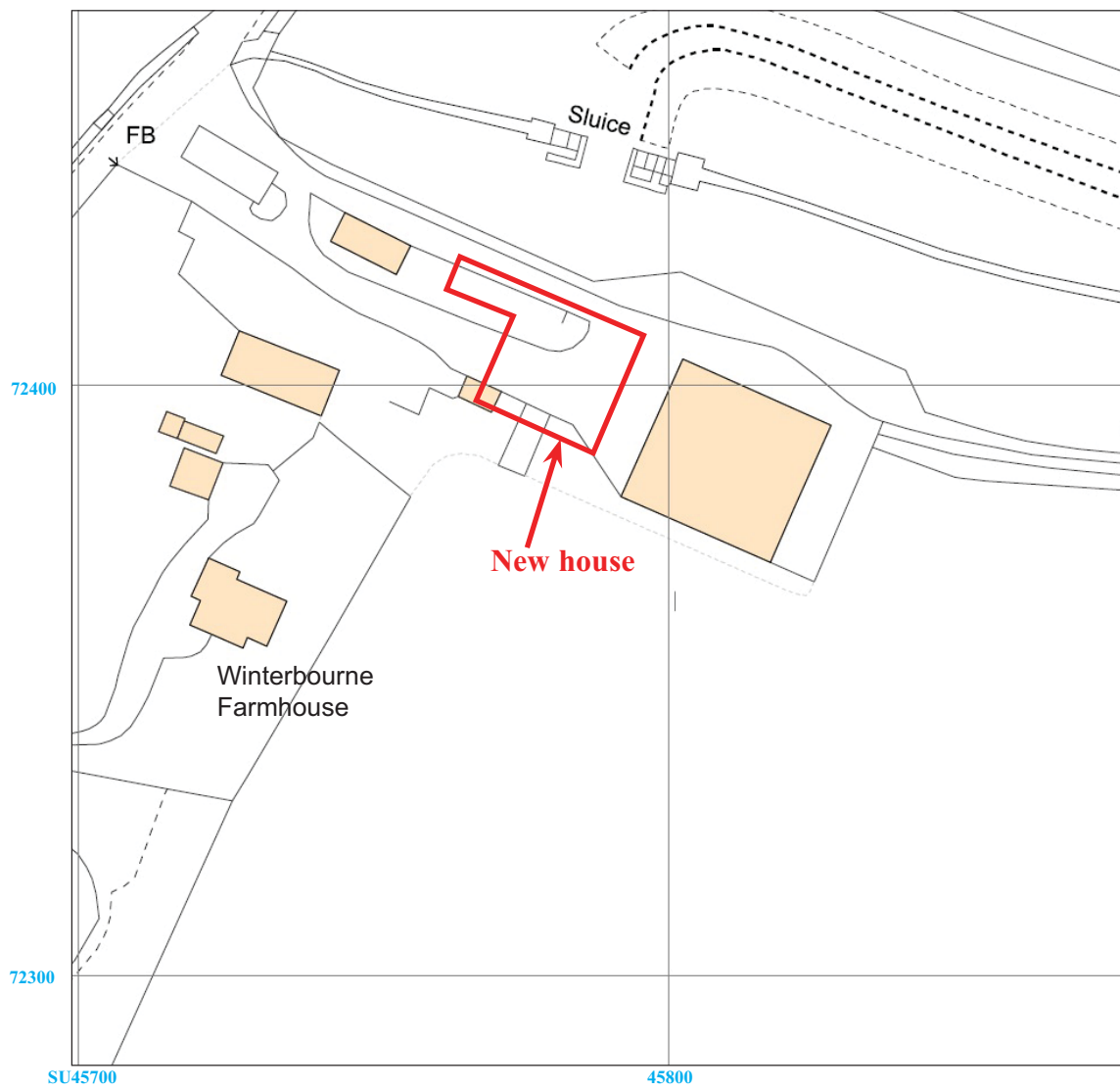
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Figure 1. Location of site within Winterbourne and West Berkshire.

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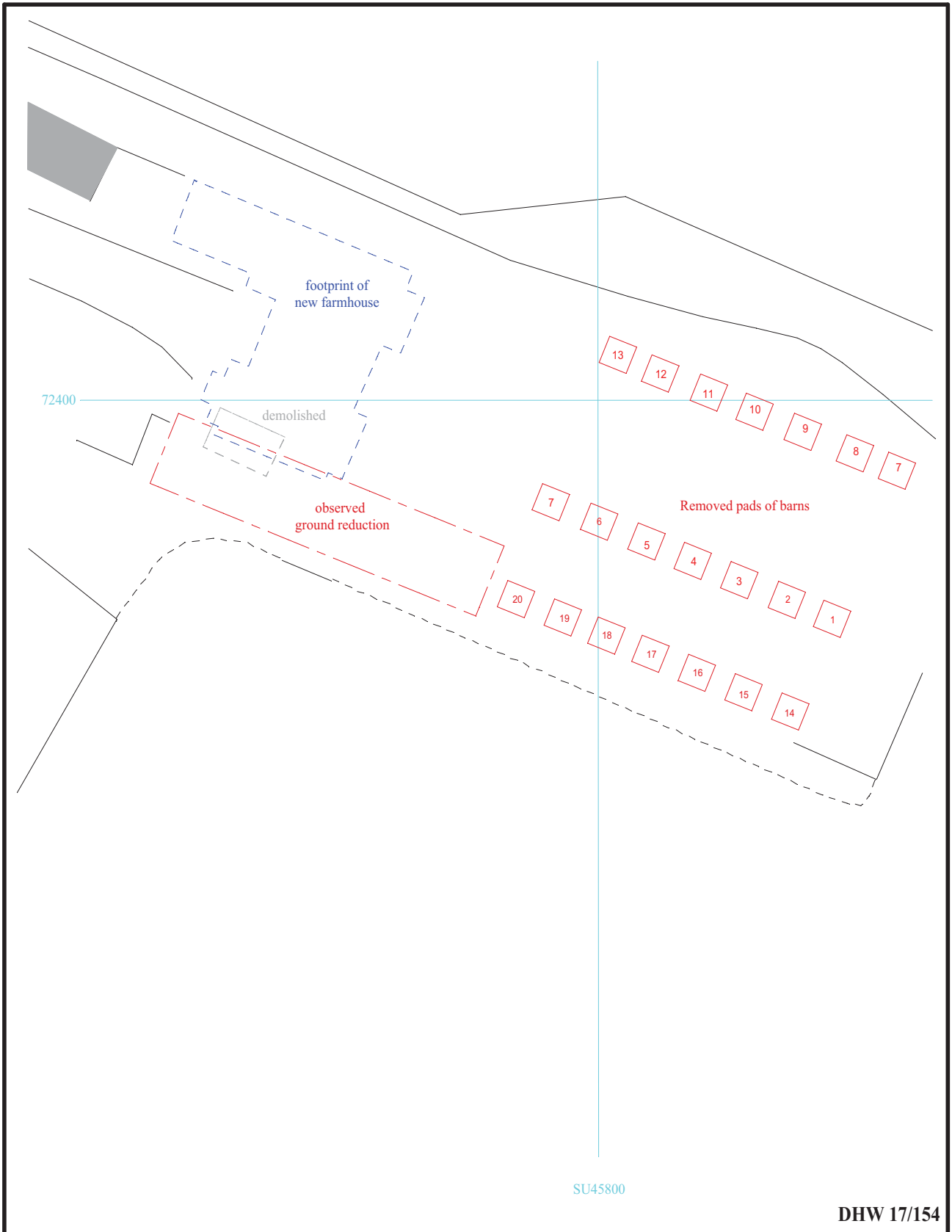


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Figure 2. Detailed location of site.**

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Figure 3. Location of observed areas.



S

N

46.5maOD

Dark brown clayey silt

Reddish brown sandy silt

base of trench

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Figure 4. Representative section.



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Plate 1. section of hole created removing pad 1, looking south east, Scales: 2m and 1m.



Plate 2. Pad 7 removed, looking north, Scales: 2m and 1m.

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Plates 1 and 2.**

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Plate 3. Reduction over barn area and area to south, looking east, Scales: 2m and 1m.



Plate 4. Ground reduction, looking south east, Scales: 2m and 1m.

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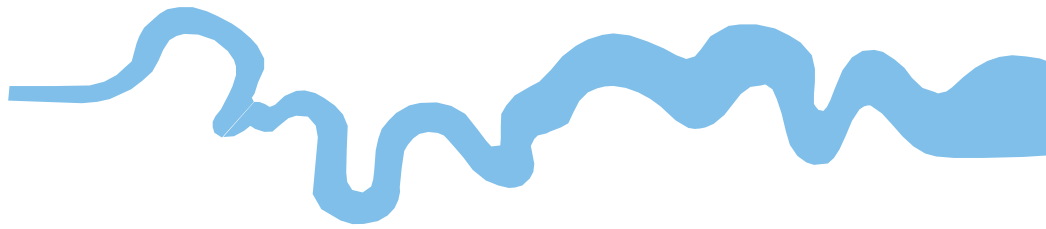
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Plates 3 and 4.**

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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 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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