

**T V A S**



**SOUTH WEST**

**Barrowfield Cottage, Front Street,  
Churchill, North Somerset**

**Archaeological Evaluation**

**by Nicholas Dawson**

**Site Code: FSC19/48**

**(ST 4385 5997)**

**Barrowfield Cottage, Front Street,  
Churchill, North Somerset**

**An Archaeological Evaluation**

**for Mr Ben Vosper**

by Nicholas Dawson

Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code FSC 19/48

**April 2019**

## Summary

**Site name:** Barrowfield Cottage, Front Street, Churchill, North Somerset

**Grid reference:** ST 4385 5997

**Site activity:** Archaeological Evaluation

**Date and duration of project:** 9th April 2019

**Project manager:** Agata Socha-Paszkiwicz

**Site supervisor:** Nicholas Dawson

**Site code:** FSC 19/48

**Area of site:** 0.24 ha

**Summary of results:** The evaluation was carried out as intended and three trenches were successfully excavated as planned. However, no deposits nor artefacts of archaeological interest were revealed. The site is considered to have low archaeological potential.

**Location and reference of archive:** The archive is presently held at TVAS South West, Taunton and will be deposited at the South West Heritage Trust, Taunton 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 ✓ 11.04.19 Steve Preston ✓ 11.04.19
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# **Barrowfield Cottage, Front Street, Churchill, North Somerset An Archaeological Evaluation**

by Nicholas Dawson

**Report 19/48**

## **Introduction**

This report documents the results of an archaeological field evaluation carried out at Barrowfield Cottage, Front Street, Churchill, North Somerset (ST 4385 5997) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Ms Sue Farr of Armour Heritage Ltd, Foghamshire Timber Yard, Foghamshire Lane, Trudoxhill, Frome, Somerset, BA11 5DG on behalf of Mr Ben Vosper, Barrowfield Cottage, Front Street, Churchill, North Somerset, BS25 5NB.

Planning consent (appln no 18/P/4513/OUT) has been sought from North Somerset Council for the development of up to five dwellings and associated parking. Due to the archaeological potential of the site and the relative archaeologically understudied nature of the area, as highlighted by a desk-based assessment (Armour Chelu 2018) a programme of trial trenching has been requested in order to inform the planning process with regard to potential archaeological implications of the proposal.

This is in accordance with the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government's *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF 2019), and the Council's policies on archaeology. The field investigation was carried out to a specification (Farr 2019) approved by Ms Cat Lodge, Senior Archaeologist for North Somerset Council. The fieldwork was undertaken by Nicholas Dawson and Piotr Wrobel on the 9th April 2019 and the site code is FSC19/48. The archive is presently held at TVAS South West, Taunton and will be deposited with the South West Heritage Trust or Archaeology Data Service in due course.

## **Location, topography and geology**

The site is located on the northern edge of the village of Churchill and the northern edge of the Mendip hill range, some 6km north west of Cheddar (Fig. 1). The site is within the gardens of Barrowfield Cottage consisting of lawn, flower beds and a chicken coop. To the north and west the site is bounded by agricultural fields currently used for pasture. To the east are Kewstoke Lodge and its gardens. To the south the site is bounded by Front Street and on the opposite side of the road further dwellings. The land very gradually slopes from the north down towards the road to the south with a height of 40m above Ordnance Datum (aOD). The underlying geology is mapped as a Mercia Mudstone Group – Mudstone and Halite-stone, with superficial deposits of head - clay, silt, sand and gravel deposits (BGS 1997).

## **Archaeological background**

The archaeological potential of the site has been highlighted in a desk-based assessment (Armour Chelu 2018) and again in brief within the Written Scheme of Investigation (Farr 2019). In summary, the assessment indicated that while there is no known archaeology within the site's boundaries it does sit within an area of known archaeology. There is a possible Iron Age hillfort *c.* 950m to the south-east and a closer possible enclosure at Windmill Hill some *c.* 370m to the north-east of site. Evidence of Medieval to Post medieval archaeology ranges from the medieval parkland belonging to the manor of Churchill directly north of the site, to the settlement of Churchill itself, which is predominantly Post-Medieval or later in date.

## **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.

Specific aims of the project are:

- to clarify the presence/absence and extent of any buried archaeological remains within the site that may be impacted by development;
- to identify, within the constraints of the evaluation, the date, character, condition and depth of any surviving remains within the site;
- to assess the degree of existing impacts to sub-surface horizons and to document the extent of archaeological survival of buried deposits; and
- to produce a report which will present the results of the evaluation in sufficient detail to allow an informed decision to be made concerning the site's archaeological potential.

Three trenches were proposed to be excavated mechanically under constant archaeological supervision, to expose the top of the archaeologically relevant horizon or the natural geology. Where archaeological features were certainly or probably present, the stripped areas were to be cleaned using appropriate hand tools and sufficient of the archaeological features and deposits exposed were to be excavated or sampled by hand to satisfy the aims outlined above, without compromising the integrity of any features or deposits which might warrant preservation *in situ*, or might better be excavated under conditions pertaining full excavation.

## Results

All three of the intended evaluation trenches were opened as planned (Fig. 2) with trench lengths ranging from 20m to 20.5m and depths from between 0.7m to 0.8m. All trenches had a width of 1.8m. A complete list of trenches giving lengths, breadths, depths and a description of sections and geology is given in Appendix 1.

### Trench 1 (Figs 2 and 3; Pl. 1)

Trench 1 was aligned SSE - NNW and was 20m long and 0.8m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.35m of mid brown clay silt topsoil (50) and 0.45m mid slight red brown silt clay subsoil (51) overlying natural geology of pale reddish brown silt sand with stone inclusions. No archaeological features were revealed and only a single small fragment of modern ceramic was recovered from the topsoil (not retained).

### Trench 2 (Figs 2 and 3; Pl. 2)

Trench 2 was aligned W - E and was 20.5m long and 0.75m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.35m of topsoil (50) and 0.4m subsoil (51) overlying natural geology, as in Trench 1. A small modern water pipe was observed at 8m on a north-south orientation at a depth of 0.2m within the topsoil. Its cut and fill were indistinguishable from the topsoil. From its size, appearance and direction of travel towards open fields it is likely that it served a water trough for animals. No finds were recovered.

### Trench 3 (Figs 2 and 3; Pl. 3)

Trench 3 was aligned SW - NE and was 20m long and 0.7m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.34m of topsoil (50) and 0.36m subsoil (51) overlying natural geology as in Trench 1. No features were identified. A single fragment of modern white 'china' pottery was recovered from the spoil heap but not retained..

## Conclusion

The three trenches were successfully excavated as intended with no deposits or finds of archaeological interest being observed. The site is considered to have low archaeological potential

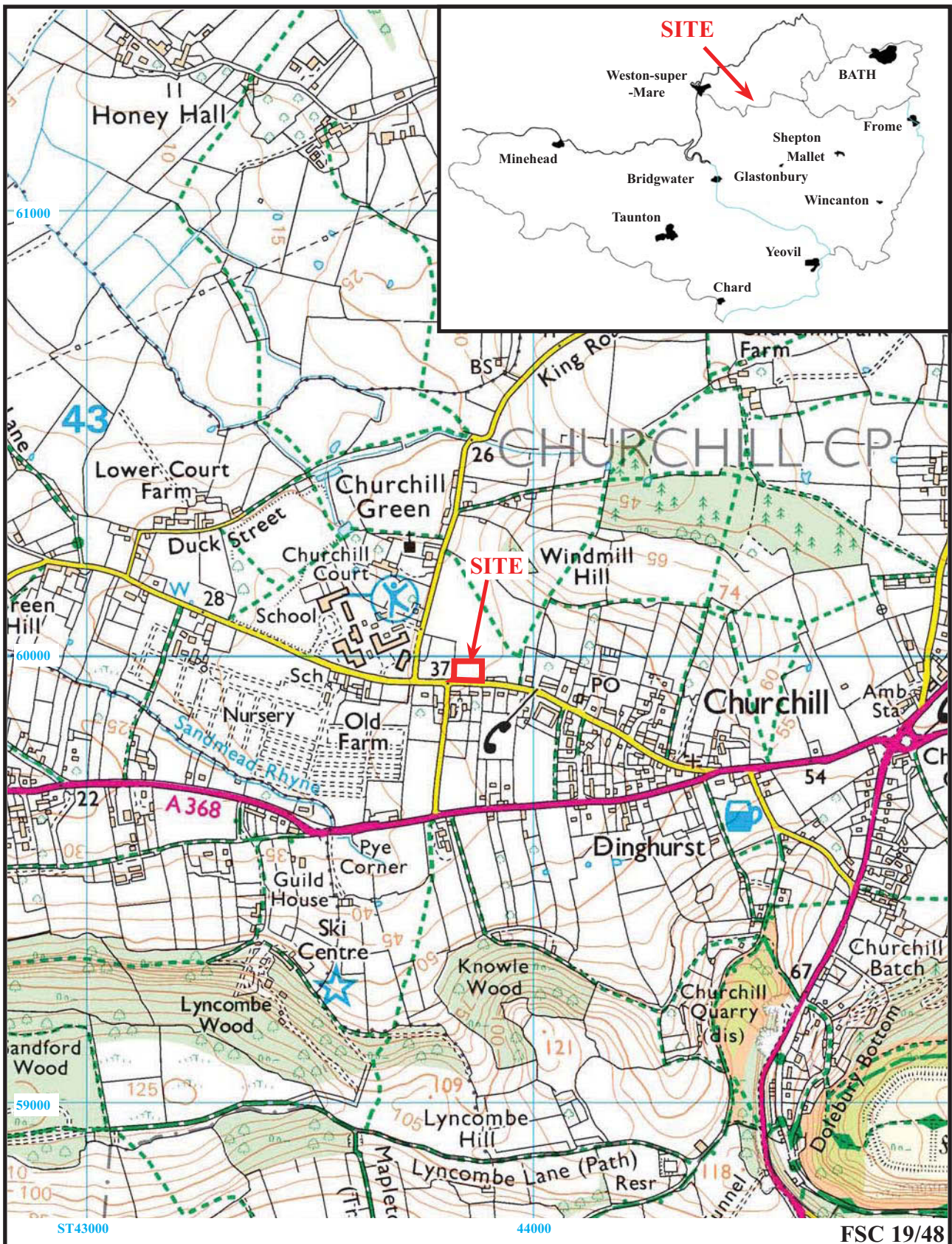
## References

- Armour Chelu, R, 2018, 'Land at Barrowfield Cottage, Front Street, Churchill, North Somerset: Historic Environment Desk-based Assessment', Armour Heritage report **AH690/1**, Frome
- BGS, 1997, *British Geological Survey*, 1:50000, Sheet **280**, Solid and Drift Edition, Keyworth
- Farr, S, 2019, 'Barrowfield Cottage, Front Street, Churchill, North Somerset: Written Scheme of Investigation', Armour Heritage **AH783**, Frome
- NPPF, 2019, *National Planning Policy Framework (revised)*, Ministry of Housing,, Communities and Local Government, London

## APPENDIX 1: Trench details

0m at West or South end

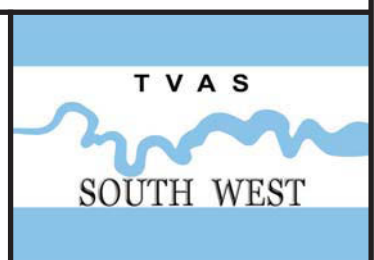
<i>Trench</i>	<i>Length (m)</i>	<i>Breadth (m)</i>	<i>Depth (m)</i>	<i>Comment</i>
1	20	1.8	0.8	0–0.35m topsoil, 0.35m-0.8m subsoil and pale reddish brown silt sand natural geology with stone inclusions. <b>[PI. 1]</b>
2	20.5	1.8	0.75	0–0.35m topsoil, 0.35m-0.75m subsoil and pale reddish brown silt sand natural geology with stone inclusions. Features modern water pipe. <b>[PI. 2]</b>
3	20	1.8	0.7	0–0.34m topsoil, 0.34m-0.7m subsoil and pale reddish brown silt sand natural geology with stone inclusions. <b>[PI. 3]</b>



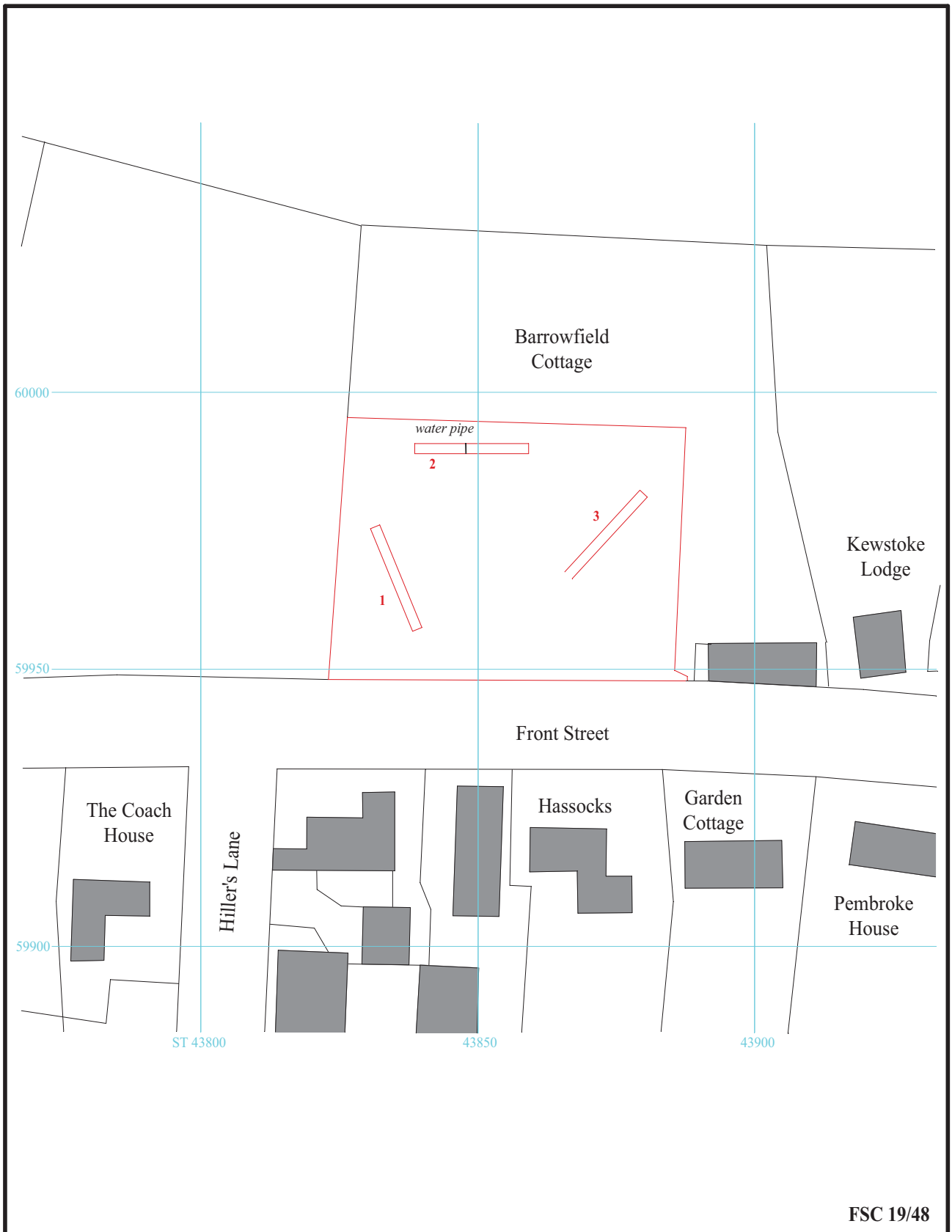
**Barrowfield Cottage, Front Street,  
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Figure 1. Location of site within Churchill and North Somerset.

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Figure 2. Site plan.



### Trench 1

SSE \_\_\_\_\_ NNW [39.97m](#)

Topsoil (50)

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Subsoil (51)

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natural geology (red/brown silty sand with stone)

### Trench 2

W \_\_\_\_\_ E [40.01m](#)

Topsoil (50)

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Subsoil (51)

-----  
natural geology (red/brown silty sand with stone)

### Trench 3

SW \_\_\_\_\_ NE [40.04m](#)

Topsoil (50)

-----

Subsoil (51)

-----  
natural geology (red/brown silty sand with stone)

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Figure 3. Representative sections.





Plate 1. Trench 1, looking NW,  
Scales: 2m, 1m and 0.5m.



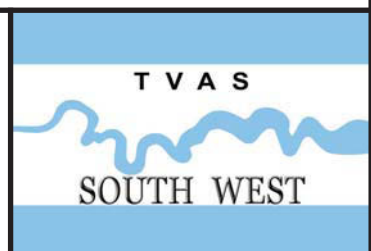
Plate 2. Trench 2, looking E, Scales: 2m, 1m and 0.5m.



Plate 3. Trench 3, looking NW,  
Scales: 2m, 1m and 0.5m.

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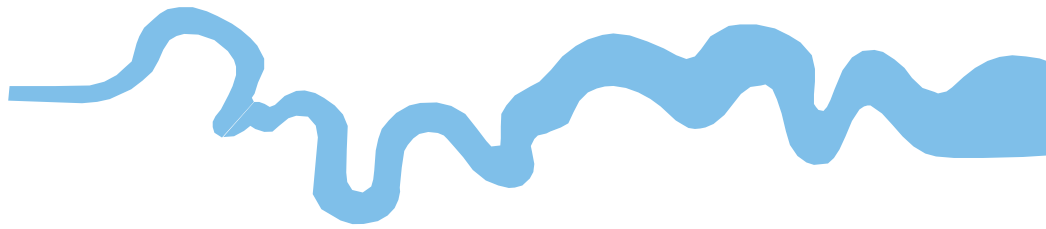
**Barrowfield Cottage, Front Street,  
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Plates 1 to 3.**



## 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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