

T H A M E S V A L L E Y

ARCHAEOLOGICAL

S E R V I C E S

**Fairclough Farm, Watersplash Lane, Warfield,
Bracknell, Berkshire**

Archaeological Evaluation

by Andy Taylor

Site Code: FFW20/66

(SU 8715 7105)

**Fairclough Farm, Watersplash Lane, Warfield,
Bracknell, Berkshire**

**An Archaeological Evaluation
for William Lacey Group**

by Andy Taylor

Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code FFW 20/66

May 2020

Summary

Site name: Fairclough Farm, Watersplash Lane, Warfield, Bracknell, Berkshire

Grid reference: SU 8715 7105

Site activity: Evaluation

Date and duration of project: 18th- 19th May 2020

Project coordinator: Tim Dawson

Site supervisor: Andy Taylor

Site code: FFW 20/66

Area of site: c.0.25

Summary of results: No deposits nor finds of any archaeological interest were observed during the evaluation. As a result, the site is considered to have no archaeological potential.

Location and reference of archive: The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited at an appropriate local museum willing to accept archive material in due course.

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Report edited/checked by:	Steve Ford✓	20.05.20
	Steve Preston✓	20.05.20

Fairclough Farm, Watersplash Lane, Warfield, Bracknell, Berkshire An Archaeological Evaluation

by Andy Taylor

Report 20/66

Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological field evaluation carried out at Fairclough Farm, Watersplash Lane, Warfield, Berkshire (SU 7150 7105) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Mr Mark Turner of William Lacey Group, Elmbridge House, 18 Elmbridge Lane, Woking, Surrey GU22 9FY.

Planning consent (19/00908/FUL) has been gained from Bracknell Forest Borough Council for the construction of new houses on the site. The consent is subject to a condition relating to archaeology requiring a programme of archaeological investigation prior to development. In this instance a field evaluation has been requested, based on the results of which further work might be required.

This is in accordance with the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government's *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF 2019), and the Borough Council's policies on archaeology. The field investigation was carried out to a specification approved by Mr Roland Smith, Archaeology Officer with Berkshire Archaeology, advisers to the Borough on matters relating to archaeology. The fieldwork was undertaken by Andy Taylor on the 18th-19th May 2020 and the site code is FFW 20/66. The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited at an approved local museum willing to accept archive material in due course.

Location, topography and geology

The site is located on the southern side of Watersplash Lane which is on the south west margin of Warfield parish and the northern edge of Bracknell (Figs 1 and 2). It is a roughly rectangular field of recently cut pasture and is a relatively flat parcel of land. The underlying geology is mapped as London Clay (BGS 1981), with both clay and sandy clay observed in the trenches.

Archaeological background

The site lies within an area of East Berkshire which was previously not particularly noted for its archaeological heritage (Ford 1987). To the south of Bracknell lies the Iron Age hillfort of Caesar's Camp and there are a num-

ber of upstanding round barrows also to the south. However, fieldwork carried out in more recent times within greater Bracknell has recorded more archaeology with for example, Bronze Age, Iron Age and post-medieval remains at the former Staff College to the south (Lowe 2013) and Fairclough Farm to the south (Torrance and Durden 2003). Further to the west at Park Farm, Binfield, Mesolithic occupation and Iron Age and Roman enclosure have been excavated (Roberts 1995) with further Iron Age occupation at Amen Corner (Lovett 2019). Medieval enclosure with Roman features has recently been recorded to the north-west at West End, Warfield (Taylor 2015 and in prep). Closer to the site, Roman features have been recorded on the opposite side of Watersplash Lane (Galleano 2017) and at other components of Fairclough Farm to the south.

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 were:

- to determine if archaeologically relevant levels have survived on this site;
- to determine if archaeological deposits of any period are present;
- to determine if there are any extra mural deposits of Iron Age or Roman date;
- to provide sufficient information to construct an archaeological mitigation strategy as necessary.

It was proposed to dig five trenches across the footprints of new houses. These were dug using a JCB type machine fitted with a toothless grading bucket under constant archaeological supervision. All spoilheaps were monitored for finds. A sufficient amount of any identified archaeological deposits would be investigated.

Results

Five trenches were opened as close as possible to their intended locations and measured between 15.10m and 16.70m in length and between 0.39m and 0.72m deep. A complete list of trenches giving lengths, breadths, depths and a description of sections and geology is given in Appendix 1.

Trench 1 (Pl. 1)

This trench was aligned approximately E-W and measured 15.40m long and 0.72m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.25m of topsoil overlying 0.43m of subsoil overlying clay natural geology.

Trench 2 (Fig. 4; Pl. 2)

This trench was aligned NE-SW and measured 16m long and 0.40m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.27m of topsoil overlying 0.11m of subsoil overlying clay natural geology. A Victorian ditch was observed at the SW end of the trench, which was also noted in trenches 3 and 4 and contained tile, slate and clinker, none of which was retained.

Trench 3 (Fig. 4; Pl. 3)

This trench was aligned N-S and measured 15.30m long and 0.44m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.28m of topsoil overlying 0.13m of subsoil overlying clay natural geology. A Victorian ditch was observed crossing the middle of the trench, which was also noted in trenches 2 and 4.

Trench 4 (Pl. 4)

This trench was aligned approximately N-S and measured 15.10m long and 0.47m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.26m of topsoil overlying 0.11m of subsoil overlying clay natural geology. A Victorian ditch was observed crossing the middle of the trench, which was also noted in trenches 2 and 4.

Trench 5 (Fig. 4; Pl. 5)

This trench was aligned approximately E-W and measured 16.70m long and 0.39m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.24m of subsoil overlying 0.14m of subsoil overlying sandy clay natural geology.

Finds

No finds of any archaeological interest were recovered.

Conclusion

Despite the site's potential for archaeology to present no archaeological deposits or finds were observed during the course of the evaluation. The site is considered to have no archaeological potential

References

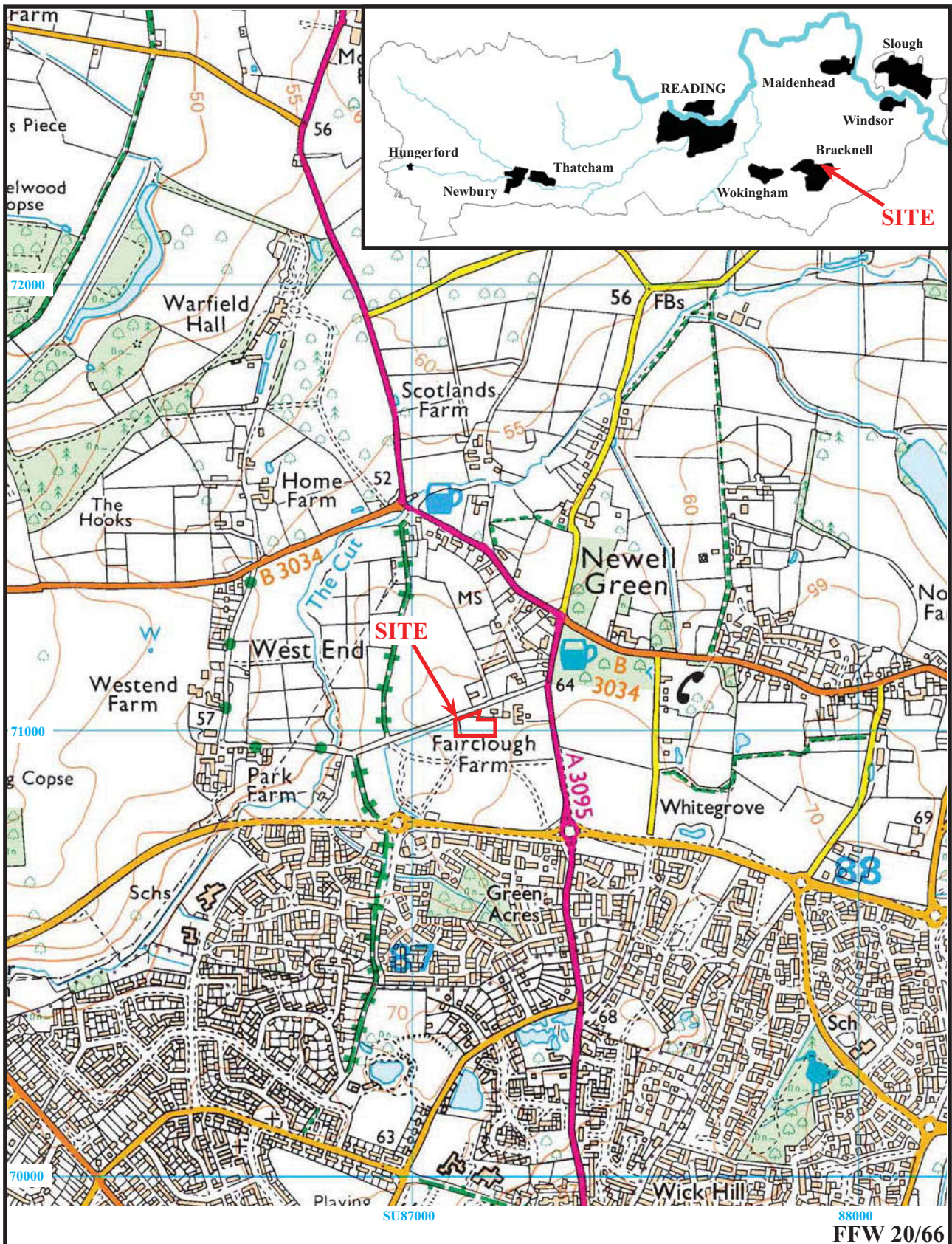
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APPENDIX 1: Trench details

0m at S or W end

<i>Trench</i>	<i>Length (m)</i>	<i>Breadth (m)</i>	<i>Depth (m)</i>	<i>Comment</i>
1	15.40	1.60	0.72	0-0.25m topsoil; 0.25m-0.68m subsoil; 0.68m-0.72m+ clay natural geology. [PL 1]
2	16.00	1.60	0.40	0-0.27m topsoil; 0.27m-0.38m subsoil; 0.38m-0.40m+ clay natural geology. [PL 2]
3	15.20	1.60	0.44	0-0.28m topsoil; 0.28m-0.41m subsoil; 0.41m-0.44m+ clay natural geology. [PL 3]
4	15.10	1.60	0.47	0-0.26m topsoil; 0.26m-0.47m subsoil; 0.47m+ clay natural geology. [PL 4]
5	16.70	1.60	0.39	0-0.24m topsoil; 0.24m-0.38m subsoil; 0.38m-0.39m+ sandy clay natural geology. [PL 5]



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Figure 1. Location of site within Warfield and Berkshire.

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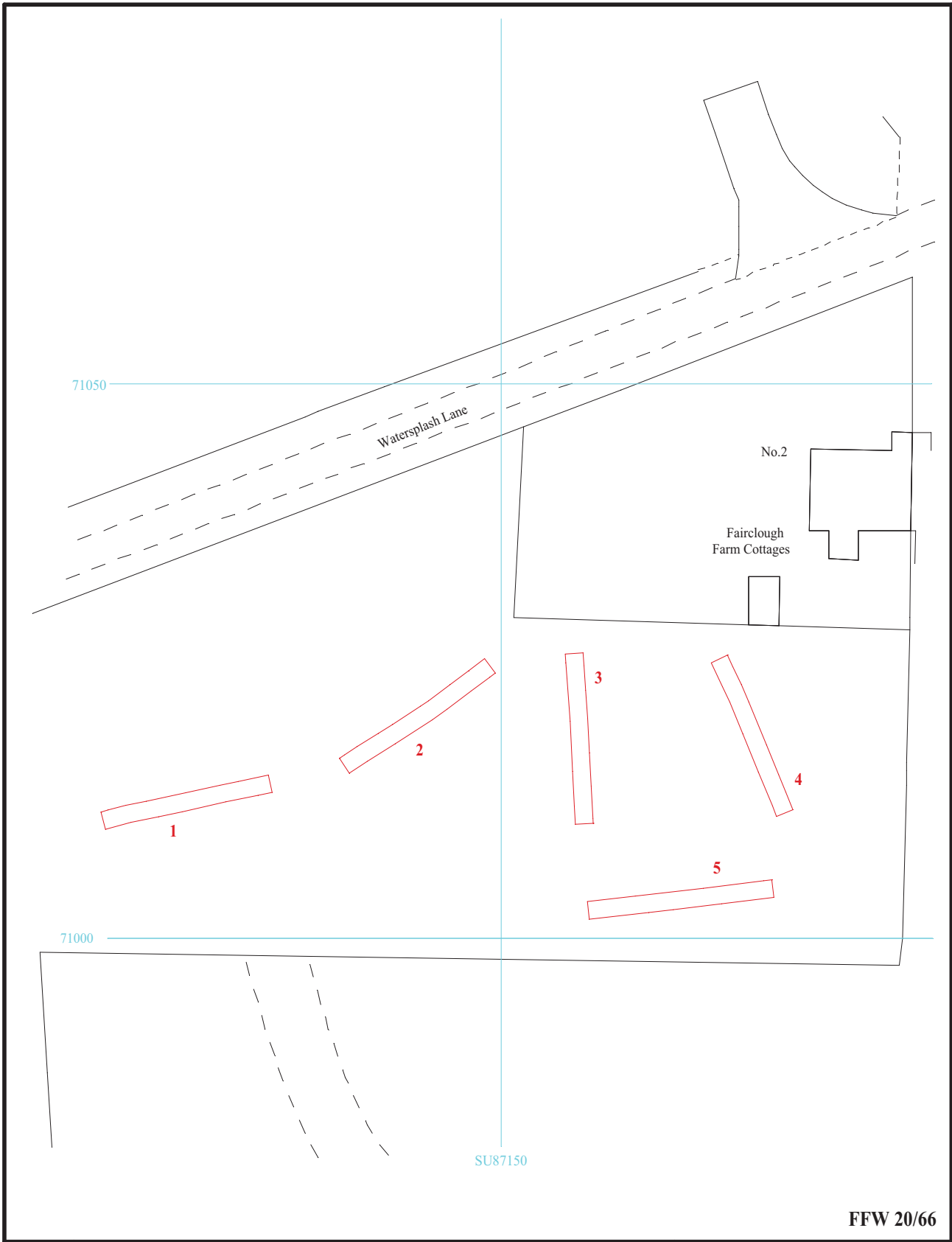
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Figure 2. Detailed location of site off Watersplash Lane.

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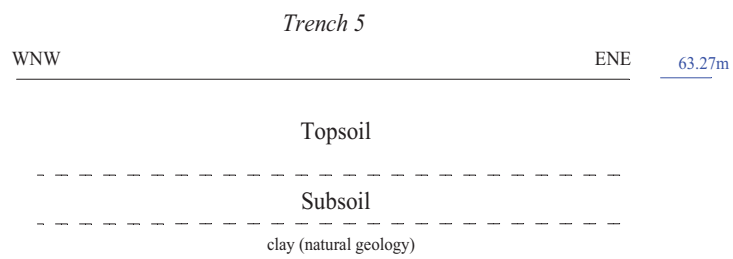
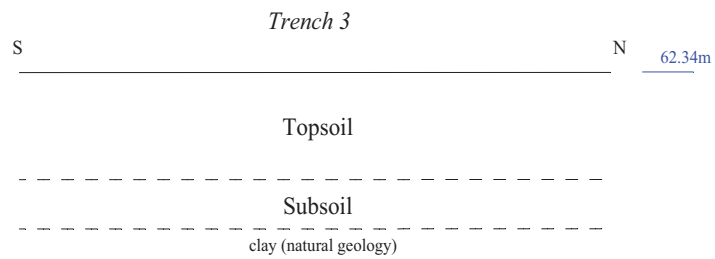
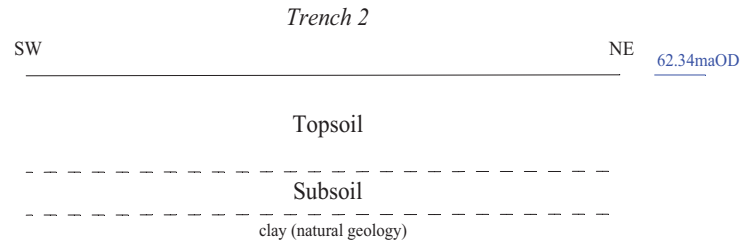
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Figure 3. Location of trenches.



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Figure 4. Representative sections.





Plate 1. Trench , looking WSW
Scales: horizontal 2m and 1m, vertical 0.3m.



Plate 2. Trench 2, looking SW,
Scales: horizontal 2m, 1m, vertical 0.3m.



Plate 3. Trench 3, looking N,
Scales: horizontal 2m and 1m, vertical 0.3m.

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Plates 1 - 3.**

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Plate 4. Trench 4, looking SE, Scales: 2m, 1m and 0.5m.



Plate 5. Trench 5, looking W, Scales: 2m, 1m and 0.3m.

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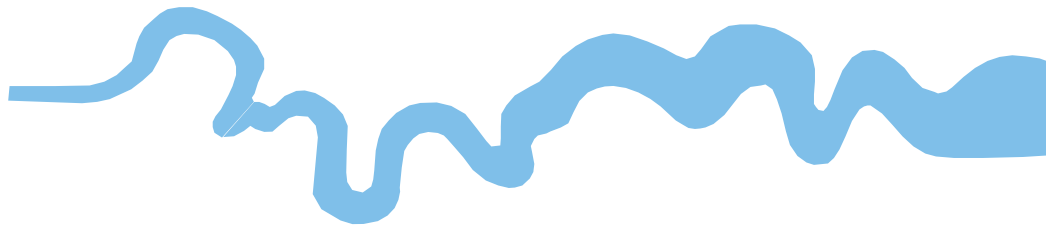
**Fairclough Farm, Watersplash Lane, Warfield,
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Plates 4 and 5.

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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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