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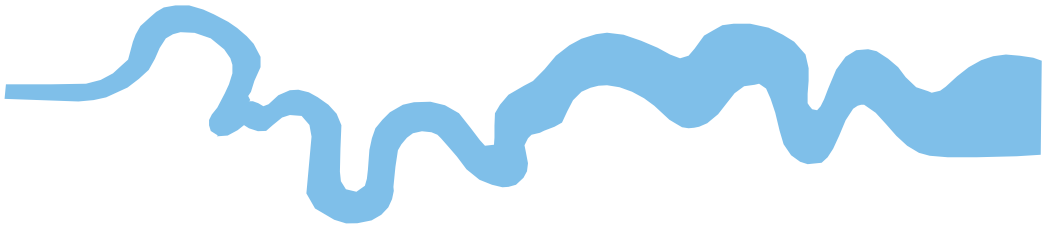

NORTH MIDLANDS

Flogas Compound, Catholme Lane, Catholme, Burton-on-Trent, Staffordshire

Archaeological Watching Brief

by Steve Ford

Site Code: CLC22/105

(SK1934 1670)

Flogas Compound, Catholme Lane, Catholme, Burton-on-Trent, Staffordshire

An Archaeological Watching Brief

for Flogas Britain

by Steve Ford

TVAS (North Midlands)

Site Code CLC22/105

May 2022

Summary

Site name: Flogas Compound, Catholme Lane, Catholme, Burton-on-Trent, Staffordshire

Grid reference: SK1934 1670

Site activity: Watching Brief

Date and duration of project: 3rd-4th May 2022

Project coordinator: Helen Daniel

Site supervisor: Steve Ford

Site code: CLC22/105

Summary of results: The watching brief was carried out as intended and monitored ground reduction for the new gas tank base. The ground reduction was relatively shallow and removed only modern made ground without exposing the archaeologically relevant levels. No deposits nor artefacts of archaeological interest were recorded.

Location and reference of archive: The archive is presently held at TVAS North Midlands, Stoke-on-Trent and will be deposited with the Archaeology Data Service in due course.

Report edited/checked by: Steve Preston ✓ 16.05.22

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Flogas Compound, Catholme Lane, Catholme, Burton-on-Trent, Staffordshire
An Archaeological Watching Brief

by Steve Ford

Report 22/105

Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological watching brief carried out the Flogas Distribution Compound, Catholme Lane, Catholme, Flogas Compound, Catholme Lane, Catholme, Burton-on-Trent, Staffordshire (SK1934 1670) (Fig. 1). Planning permission (2020/01027) has been gained from East Staffordshire Borough Council for the installation of a new gas tank. The consent is subject to a condition (6) requiring a programme of archaeological investigation. The project was commissioned by Mr Paul Gajos of GHC Archaeology and Heritage on behalf of Flogas Britain.

These works have been carried out in accordance with a specification provided by GHC Archaeology and Heritage and approved by Mr Shane Kelleher of Staffordshire County Council, the archaeological adviser to East Staffordshire Borough Council. The investigation was carried out by Steve Ford on 3rd -4th May 2022 and the site code is CLC22/105. The archive is presently held at TVAS North Midlands, Stoke-on-Trent and will be deposited with the Archaeology Data Service in due course.

Location, topography and geology

The site is located on the east side of Catholme Lane, just north of the farm complex at Catholme and south-east of the A38 (Figs 1 and 2). The underlying geology is recorded as Holme Peirrepont gravel (BGS 1982). The site lies at a height of 51m above Ordnance Datum (aOD) on level ground.

Archaeological background

The archaeological potential of the site has been highlighted in the written Scheme of Investigation for the project prepared by Mr Paul Gajos (GHA 2022). In summary, the site lies in the archaeologically rich Trent Valley with numerous sites recorded from the air and due to the monitoring of gravel extraction. Catholme was the site of an extensive Anglo-Saxon settlement (Losco-Bradley and Kinglsey 2002). To the north of the site visible from the air lies a boundary feature probably of Iron Age date known as a pit alignment (a scheduled monument) with other undated cropmarks but probably including Iron Age into Romans settlement. A second pit

alignment (also scheduled), lies to the south. To the east further prehistoric sites are recorded including a hengiform monument and a post circle monument, both scheduled monuments (Chapman *et al.* 2010). The A38 follows the projected line of the Roman road known as Ryknild Street.

Objectives and methodology

The general aims of the watching brief were:

> to determine the presence or otherwise of buried remains of archaeological interest within the development area; and
>
> to preserve by record any significant archaeological remains within the development area and to attempt a reconstruction of the history and use of the site.

This was expected to comprise the archaeological monitoring of overburden removal and the digging of trenches for foundations and services.

Results

Ground reduction

The proposed redevelopment comprised the ground reduction of an area of 378 sq m to form the base for the new gas tank supports (Fig. 3; Pls 1 and 2). Removal initially comprised breaking out of the former concrete structure to the south and removal of a Tarmacadamed area to the north. The stripping took place using a machine fitted with a toothless bucket. This ground reduction was to a depth of *c*. 0.45m towards the south and *c*. 0.35m to the north. The concrete base lay just above a black clayey sand with gravel pieces which is considered to be the base of an old topsoil/ploughsoil or even yard base. The Tarmac overlay a thick layer of crushed stone above the same black gravelly layer. No deposits nor artefacts of archaeological interest were recorded at this level.

Concrete plinth locations

Two locations for slightly deeper foundations (pits 1 and 2, Pls 3 and 4) were dug deeper than the generally reduced level and comprised areas of 5 sq m (TP1) and 14.4 (TP2). This extra digging only went down a further *c*. 0.1m and only exposed the base of the black gravelly layer with areas of brown gravelly sand being patchily exposed. The latter deposit is believed to be a subsoil overlying the natural gravel geology. Apart from a land drain, no deposits nor artefacts of archaeological interest were recorded at this level.

Service trenches

Service trenches were only to comprise narrow cable ducts located at shallow depth (*c*. 0.3-3m depth) and would be fully within the modern overburden on the site. These were not monitored.

Conclusion

The watching brief was carried out as intended and areas of overburden stripping were monitored. However, the depth of the stripping was relatively shallow and for the most part did not penetrate what was thought to be the remnants of an old ploughsoil/topsoil. The small areas of deeper excavation were only deep enough to expose what is considered to be a subsoil overlying the archaeologically relevant levels. No deposits nor artefacts of archaeological interest were recorded.

References

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Chapman, H P, Hewson, M and Watters, M, 2010, 'The Catholme ceremonial Complex, Staffordshire, UK', *Proc Prehist Soc* **76**, 135–63

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Losco-Bradley, S and Kinglsey, A, 2002, *Catholme: An Anglo-Saxon settlement on the Trent gravels in Staffordshire*, Oxford

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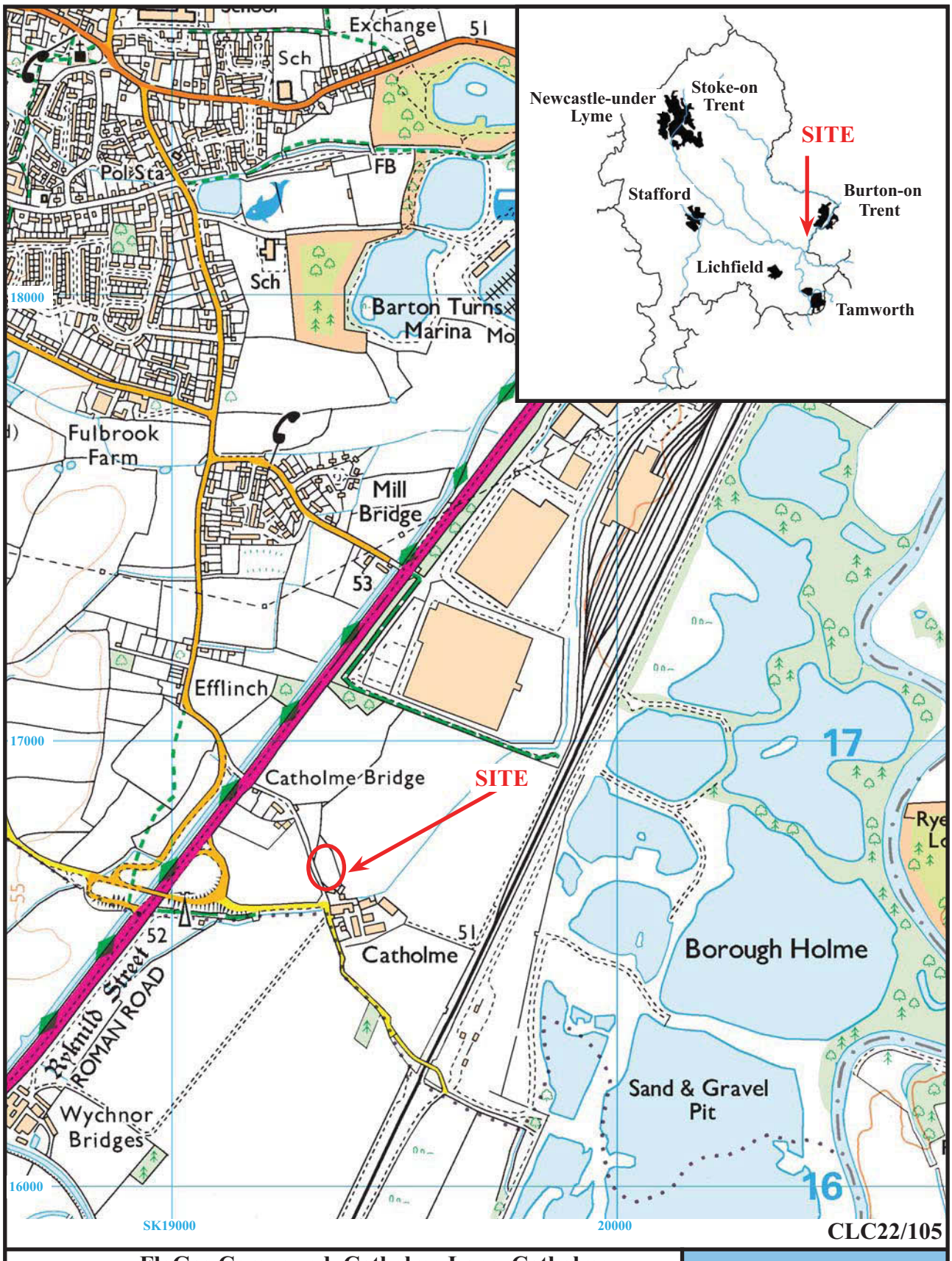

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Figure 1. Location of site within Catholme and Staffordshire.

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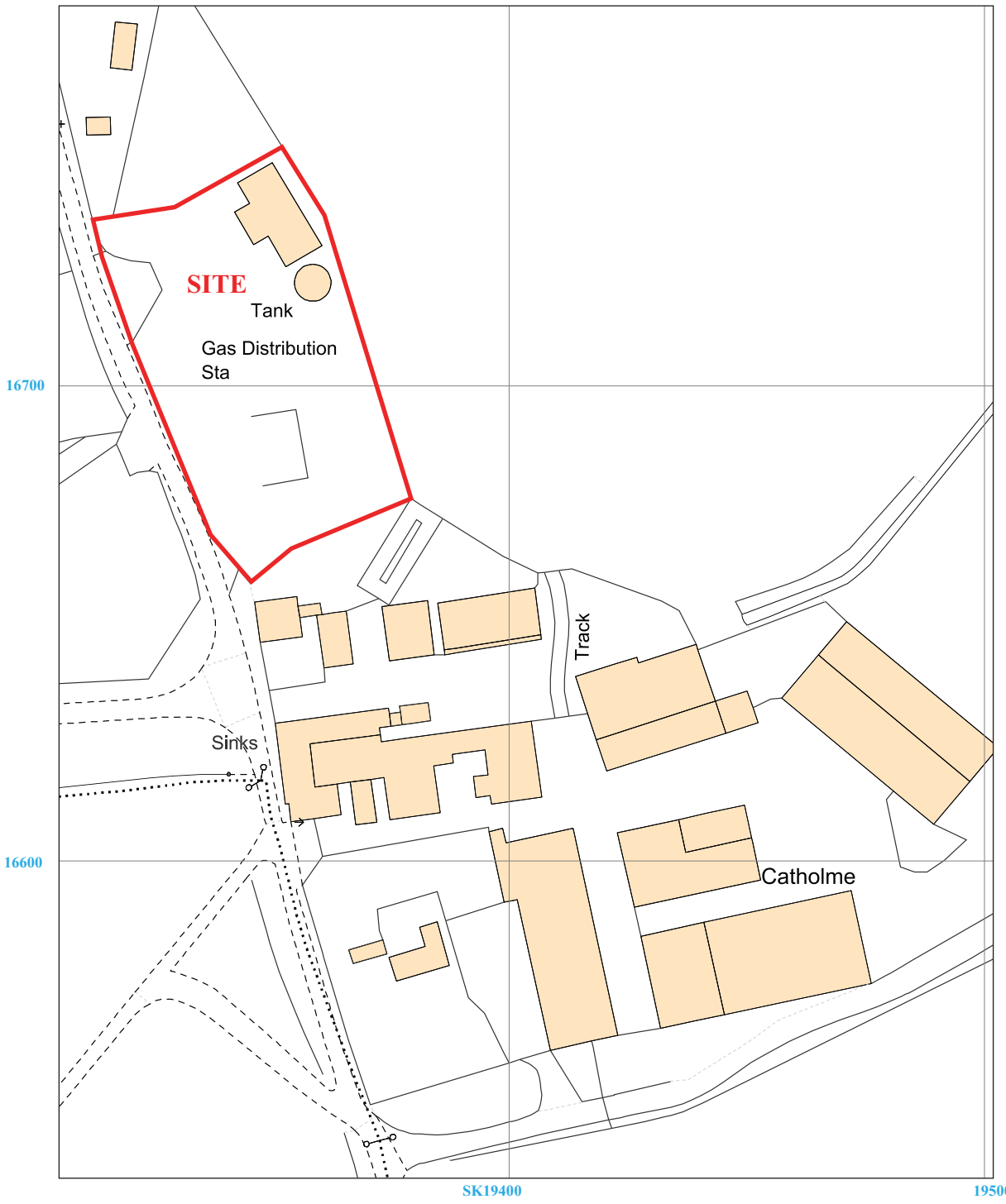

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Figure 2. Location of site on Catholme Lane.

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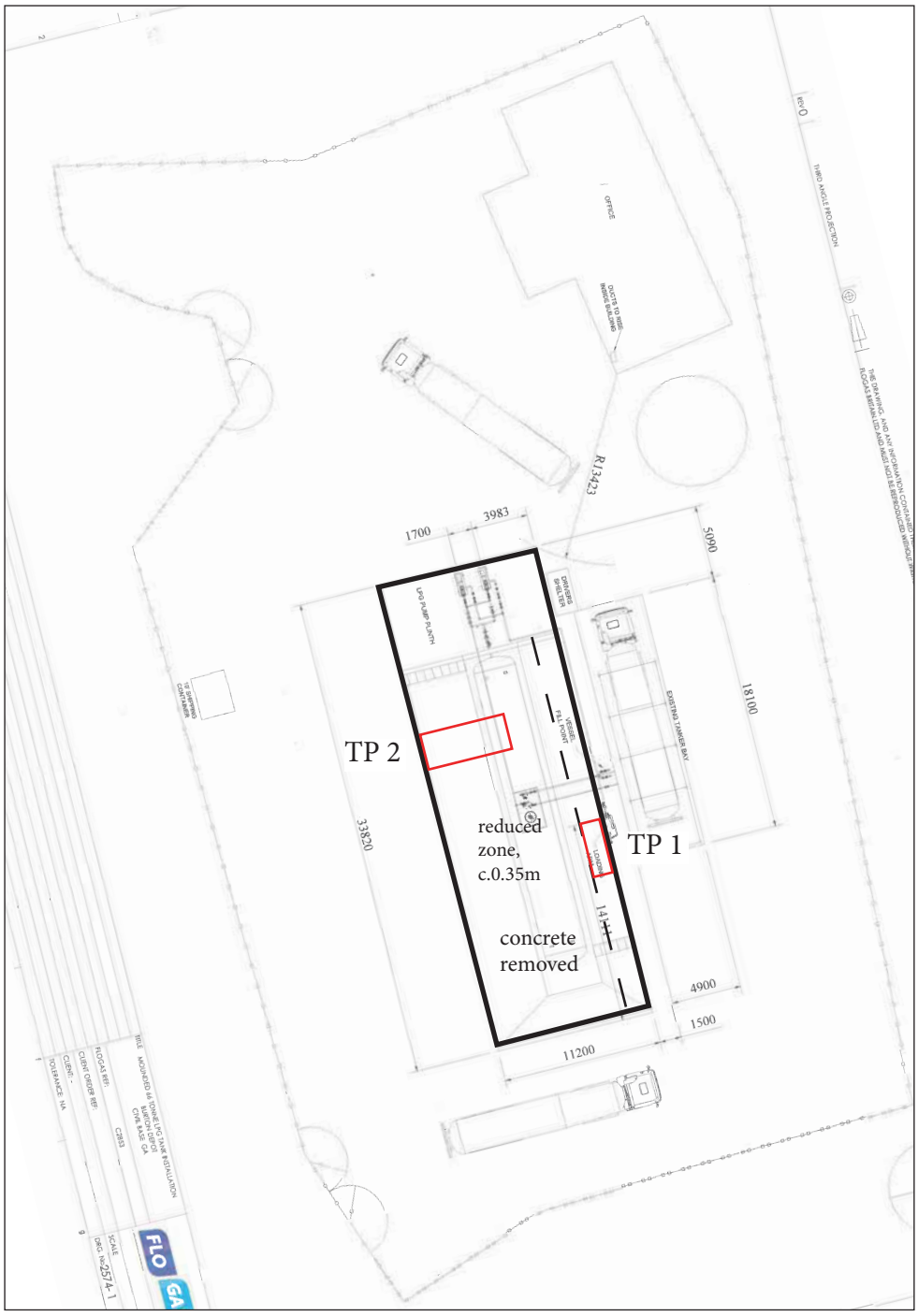

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Figure 3. Detailed plan of watching brief.

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Plate 1. General view of site looking North

Plate 2. General view of site looking North East

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Plates 1 and 2

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Plate 3. Pit 1 looking North, Scales 2m and 0.3m

Plate 4. Pit 2 looking North, Scale: 2m

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Plates 3 and 4

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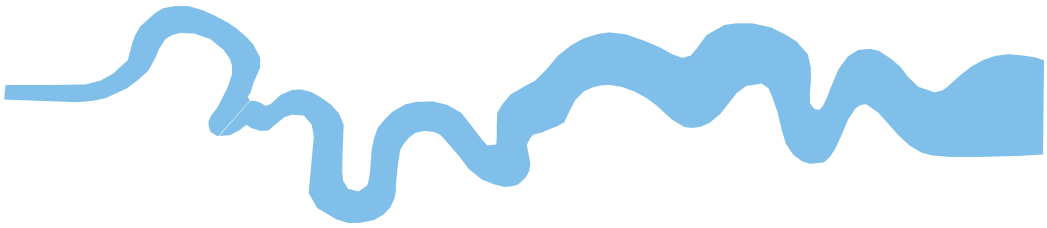
TIME CHART

	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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