

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

ARCHAEOLOGICAL

S E R V I C E S

**Land at Roche Old Court, East Winterslow,
Salisbury, Wiltshire**

Archaeological Watching Brief

by Emily Gibson

Site Code: EWW22/177

(SU 2465 3406)

**Land at Roche Old Court, East Winterslow,
Salisbury, Wiltshire**

An Archaeological Watching Brief

for Mrs C. Sage

by Emily Gibson

Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code EWW 22/177

March 2023

Summary

Site name: Land at Roche Old Court, East Winterslow, Salisbury, Wiltshire

Grid reference: SU 2465 3406

Site activity: Watching Brief

Date and duration of project: 12th December 2022 and 15th February 2023

Project coordinator: David Sanchez

Site supervisor: David Sanchez

Site code: EWW 22/177

Area of site: 190 sq m

Summary of results: Archaeological observations were made during ground reduction for the construction of a replacement house. No archaeological features were recorded nor finds recovered from the area.

Location and reference of archive: The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited with the Archaeology Data Service in due course.

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Report edited/checked by:	Steve Ford ✓ 15.03.23
	Steve Preston ✓ 13.03.23

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by Emily Gibson

Report 22/177

Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological watching brief carried out at Roche Old Court, East Winterslow, Salisbury, Wiltshire (SU 2465 3406) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Mr Scot Masker of Masker Architects, Suite 13-14, Talbot House, 34 Staple Gardens, Winchester, S023 8SR, on behalf of Mrs C. Sage of 17 Chevening Road, London, NW6 6DB.

Planning permission (PL/2022/05188) has been granted by Wiltshire Council to construct a new house at Roche Old Court following the demolition of the existing 20th century house. The consent is subject to a condition which requires the implementation of an archaeological watching brief during the groundworks. This is in accordance with the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government's *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF 2021) and the Wiltshire Council's policies on archaeology. The field investigation was carried out to a specification approved by Mr Roland Smith, Assistant County Archaeologist for Wiltshire. The fieldwork was undertaken by Emily Gibson, Sophie Peng and Maisie Foster between 12th December and 15th February 2023, the site code is EWW 22/177.

The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited with the Archaeology Data Service in due course.

Location, topography and geology

The site is located east of Salisbury, within the hamlet of East Winterslow, c.1km north of Middle Winterslow which is located on the Clarendon Way and the projected course of a Roman road, east from Sarum leading to Winchester (Fig. 1). A nearby local road links with the A30, c.1km to the north. Roche Old Court comprises of a complex of former farm buildings, with Roche Old Court farmhouse the principal building in this group (Grade II*; UID 1300012). It is 17th century in date, but the grouping also includes three detached buildings (Fig. 2). The timber and weatherboarded Tithe barn was formerly Grade II* Listed, but now in a state of disrepair as is the Cart Shed and Stables (Grade II; UID 1184710). The site of the former farm managers house has been demolished and is due to be replaced. This was located to the south-east of the group. The bedrock geology is a superficial deposit of silty sandy gravel over Culver Chalk Formation (BGS, 2002). No natural geology was

observed on site. The site lies on a plateau at c.148m above Ordnance Datum (aOD) and the land beyond the site drops away sharply to the south-east and north-west.

Archaeological background

Roche Old Court is located in the environs of the North Wessex Downs, with Winterbourne Down and Easton Down to north of the A30. Extensive archaeological earthwork remains are known, such as an Iron Age camp earthwork at Ashley's Copse in the north east.

The former farmstead itself is of late 17th century date, said to be of unusual high-status, with the farmhouse extended in the 18th and 19th centuries. Apart from the principal building, most of the other parts are now in a poor state of repair. The former farm manager's house was a building of 1942, now demolished and set to be replaced with the groundworks that are focus of these works. The current structure lies on the same footprint as an earlier building, depicted on the 1840s Tithe map. In the 19th century, the site was known as Eyston Farm, and the farmhouse was the principal farm in the estate attached to Roche Court, of which this property is located to the east. It was thought this building was the site of the former manor, known as Easton Farm according to the estate map of Roche Court in 1820 though, according to the Listing, was said to have once been at Hill Farm.

Objectives and methodology

The purpose of the watching brief was to excavate and record any archaeological deposits affected by the works. This would involve the monitoring of areas of intrusive groundworks and the excavation of foundation and service trenches. Any other deeply invasive groundworks would be monitored as necessary.

Results

Ground reduction (Fig.3 and 4; Pl.1 and 2)

The area of ground reduction was observed, with a variation in overall depth varying from 1.5m in the west to just 0.20m in the east. Overall, the stratigraphy consisted of modern made ground consisting of rubble and debris (0.45m deep) followed by further made ground, a mixture of light orange brown and dark red brown clay with medium sized gravel and flint inclusions (30%). This was consistently seen to be laid to be level, although the total depth varied across the trench. The footings of the previous building were uncovered in the northern corner of the trench, extending to a depth of 0.70m. Other truncations included a lead pipeline running SE-NW towards

the footings of the previous building. This was removed after 0.20m of excavation. Nevertheless the natural geology was not exposed.

Septic Tank and Associated Pipe Trenches (Fig.3; Pl.3 and 4)

A pit for a septic tank measuring 2.8m by 2.2m was excavated to the south-east of the site and was dug to a depth of at least 1.37m. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.27m of topsoil, 0.2m of subsoil overlying mid yellow orange clay and gravel natural geology.

A pipe trench was excavated from the north- eastern edge of the septic tank. Measuring 1.2m wide and 10m long it was observed to a depth of 0.37m. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.22m of topsoil; 0.15m subsoil overlying mid yellow orange clay and gravel natural geology. The final depth of this service trench was to be 0.7m. No finds or features of archaeological interest were observed.

Finds

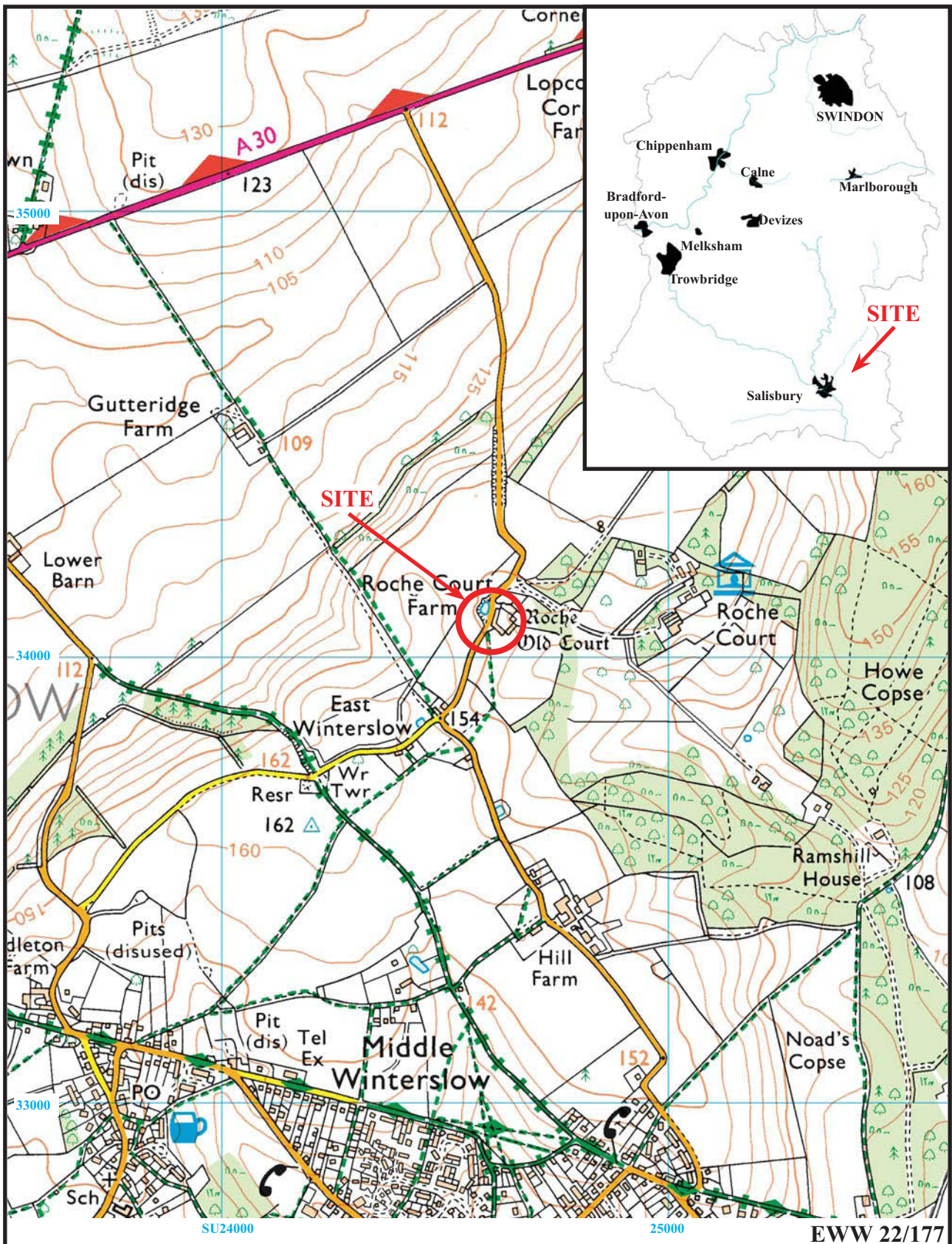
All finds encountered were modern and of no archaeological interest. They were retained on site.

Conclusion

Despite the potential for archaeological remains to be present on this site, no deposits or finds of any archaeological interest were observed during the course of the watching brief.

References

BGS, 2002, *British Geological Survey*, 1:50 000, Sheet **299**, Keyworth
NPPF 2021, *National Planning Policy Framework*, Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government
London

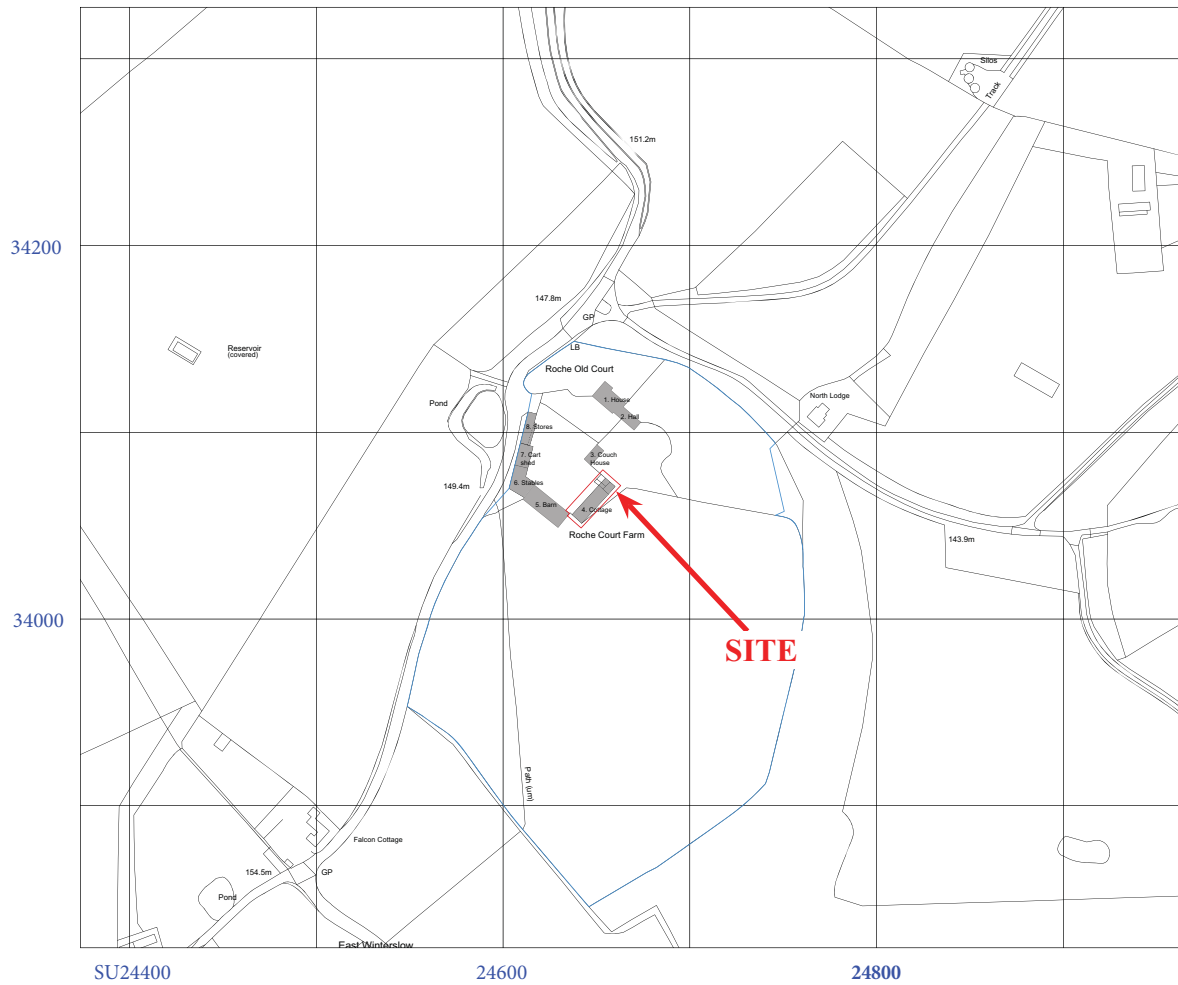


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Figure 1. Location of site within East Winterslow and Wiltshire.

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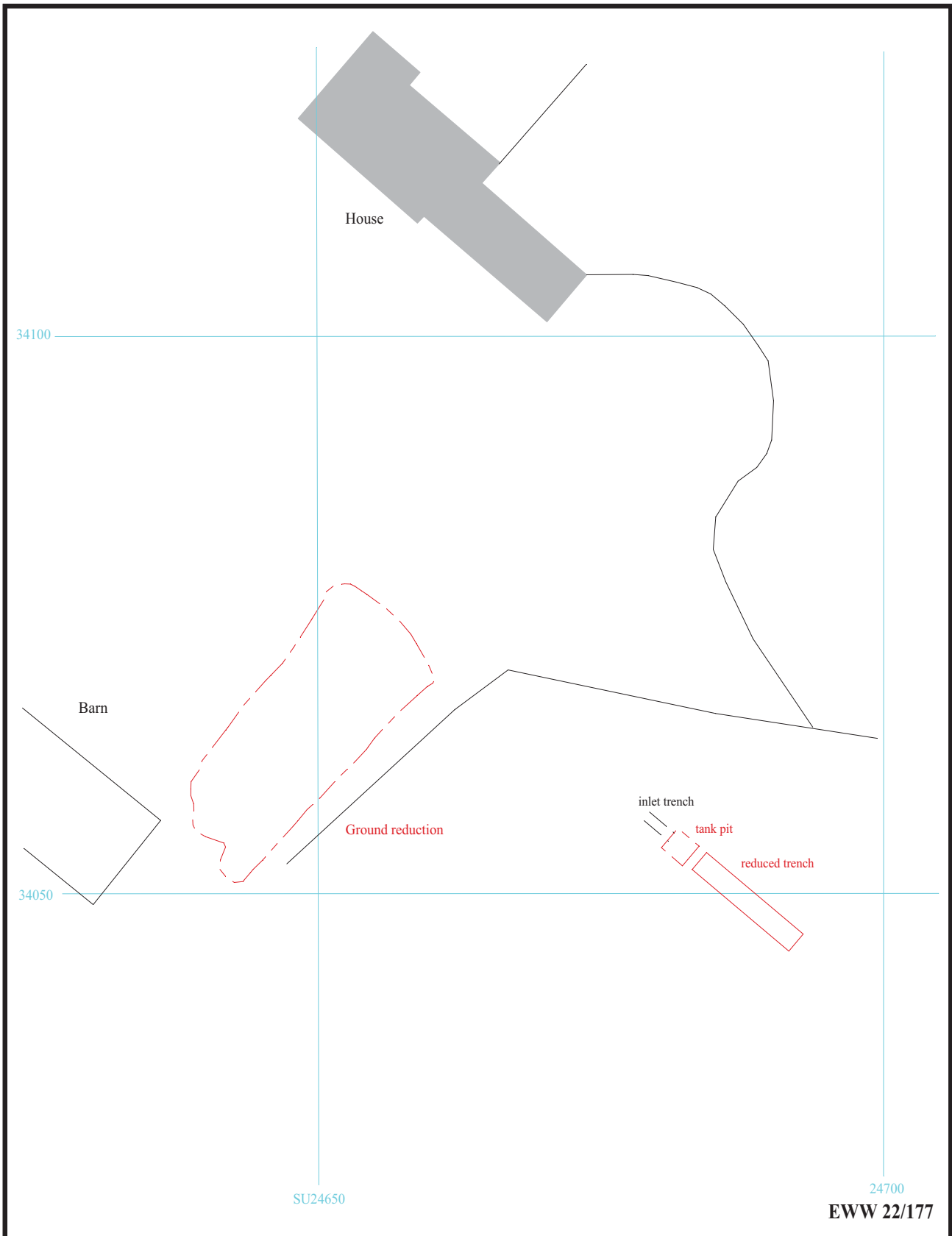


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Figure 2. Location of site at Roche Court Farm.

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Figure 3. Location of stripped area.



Land Reduction Area

SW NE [143.76maOD](#)

Modern rubble madeground

Light orange brown - dark red brown
clay and gravel madeground

Old footings

Septic Tank

NE SW [142.80maOD](#)

Topsoil

Subsoil

Mid yellow orange clay with gravel inclusions (natural geology)

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Figure 4. Representative Sections



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Plate 1. Ground reduction in progress, looking South, Scale: 2m.



Plate 2. Stripped area, looking North, Scale: 2m.

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Plates 1 and 2.**

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Plate 3. Excavated tank pit, looking North West, Scale: 1m.



Plate 4. Reduced area, looking North West, Scales: horizontal 2m, vertical 0.3m.

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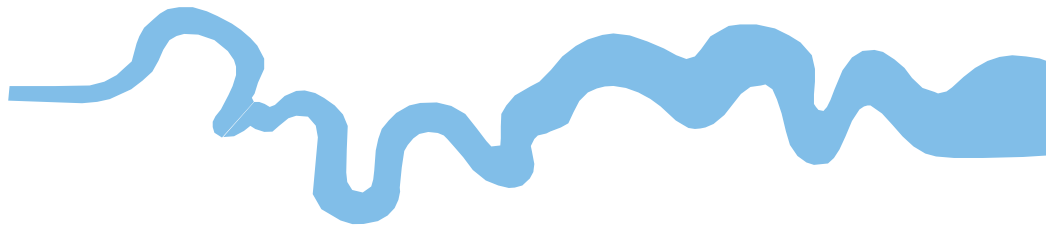
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Plates 3 and 4.**

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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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