



Project scope: Understanding the River project.

1. Overview

- During research for the North Petherton Test Pit project, a probable ancient river course was identified, running broadly west to east across the Quantocks, from Broomfield to North Petherton and possibly flowing into the river Parrett. This project aims to define the river's full extent and to explore its potential influence on human activity in the surrounding area.

2. Scope

- The project will focus on the area immediately surrounding the river course identified on the LiDAR survey.
- Research will make use of all available sources, including (but not limited to) LiDAR data, historic maps, aerial photography, and the Somerset Historic Environment Record (HER).
- Where appropriate, field verification ("ground-truthing") will be carried out through site walks and limited test pitting.

3. Objectives

- To establish the probable extent and age of the river.
- To identify evidence of human activity associated with the river or influenced by its presence.
- To locate and review any written or historic records relating to the river or its surrounding area.

4. Deliverables

- A written report outlining the river's probable age and course, nearby settlements, and any associated ritual or activity sites.
- A digital archive of supporting evidence, hosted in an appropriate online repository.
- A series of public presentations for local communities connected to the study area.

5. Exclusions

- The project will focus primarily on land within approximately 750 metres of the identified river course.



6. Constraints

- The project will have a defined end date to maintain focus and momentum (subject to volunteer availability).
- The project will operate within the existing resources of the Quantock Heritage Group and should not create a significant financial burden.
- Landowner permissions will be required for any fieldwork.

7. Assumptions

- There will be sufficient enthusiasm and volunteer interest to support the project.
- Relevant community and specialist resources will be available to assist as required.