



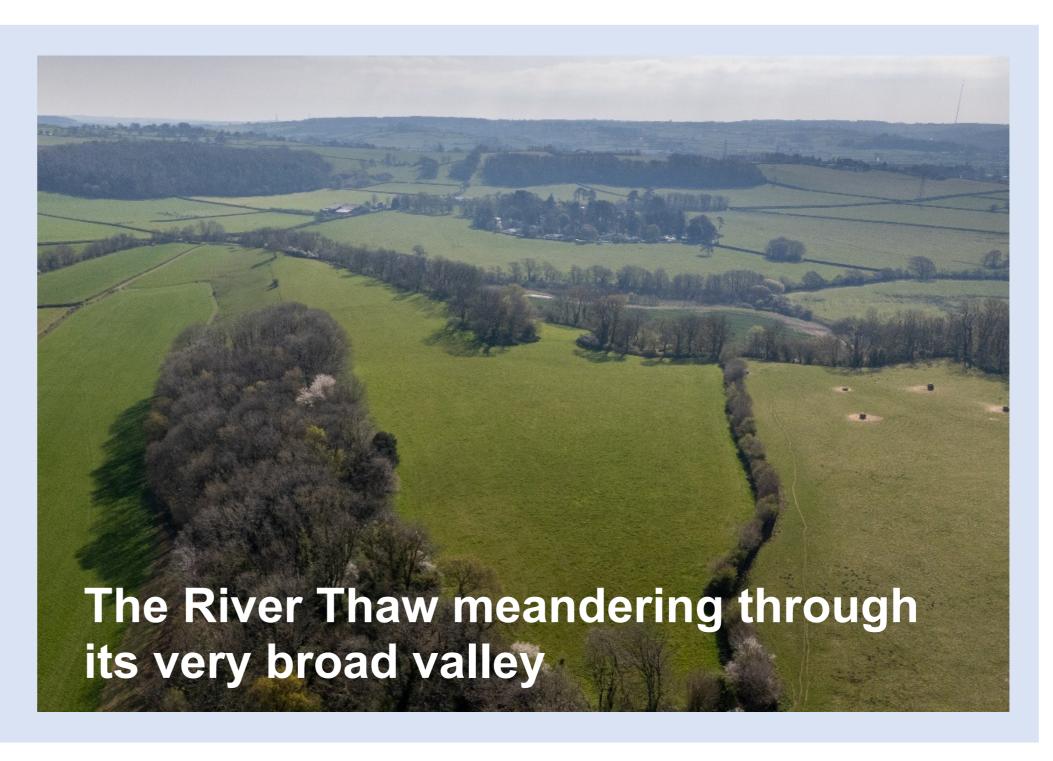
Cowbridge School

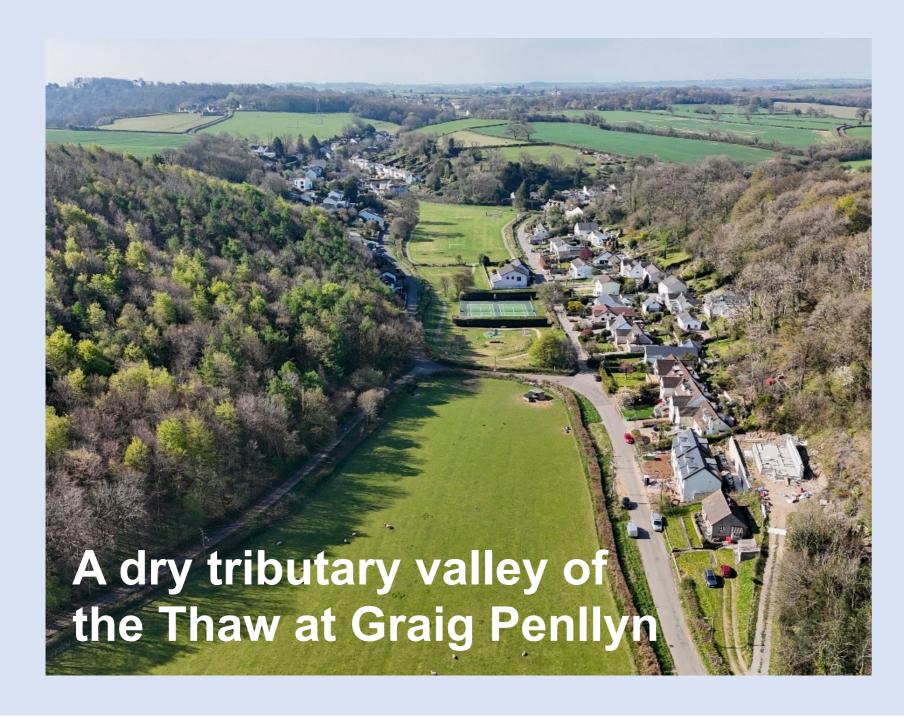
TerraDat

How deep was my valley?

What are we testing?

The Thaw valley is an enigma. The small present-day river flows through a sinuous lowland valley that the town of Cowbridge and its school is located. Deep incised meander bends and tributary valleys, outlined by notably steep cliffs, must have been eroded by a river far larger than the present stream. This raises the question of when and how the valley was formed.





What are we testing?

We used geological mapping techniques and geophysical surveying to test two theories about the valley:

- 1. Glacial meltwater flowing from the Welsh Ice Sheet 14,000 years ago may have diverted through this area.
- 2. An old buried landscape (over 230,000,000 years old) with a similar origin, and possibly scale, as the Avon and Cheddar Gorges. The infilling sediments are slowly being eroded.