

**T H A M E S      V A L L E Y**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL**

**S E R V I C E S**

**8A Park Street, Windsor,  
Berkshire**

**Archaeological Watching Brief**

**by Tim Dawson and Andy Mundin**

**Site Code: PWB11/20**

**(SU 9697 7664)**

**8A Park Street, Windsor,  
Berkshire**

**An Archaeological Watching Brief  
For Windsor Land**

by Tim Dawson and Andrew Munding  
Thames Valley Archaeological Services  
Ltd

Site Code PWB 11/20

**August 2011**

## Summary

**Site name:** 8A Park Street, Windsor, Berkshire

**Grid reference:** SU 9697 7664

**Site activity:** Watching Brief

**Date and duration of project:** 8th March - 28th July 2011

**Project manager:** Steve Ford

**Site supervisor:** Tim Dawson and Andrew Munding

**Site code:** PWB 11/20

**Area of site:** c. 200 sq m

**Summary of results:** No finds or features of archaeological interest were recorded.

**Location and reference of archive:** The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited at a Berkshire museum in due course once archives are being accepted.

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[www.tvas.co.uk/reports/reports.asp](http://www.tvas.co.uk/reports/reports.asp).*

Report edited/checked by:	Steve Ford✓ 03.08.11 Steve Preston✓ 01.08.11
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## **8A Park Street, Windsor, Berkshire An Archaeological Watching Brief**

by Tim Dawson and Andrew Munda

**Report 11/20**

### **Introduction**

This report documents the results of an archaeological watching brief carried out at 8A Park Street, Windsor, Berkshire, SL4 1LU (SU 9697 7664) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Mr Norman Langford of Windsor Land, Queen Anne's Gate Cottage, Kings Road, Windsor, SL4 2BD.

Planning consent (11/00274) has been granted by the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead for the construction of a replacement dwelling following demolition of an unlisted part of 8A but altering and retaining the 1909 Grade II listed section facing onto Park Street. This consent is subject to a condition which requires the implementation of an archaeological watching brief to be carried out during groundworks.

This is in accordance with the Department for Communities and Local Government's Planning Policy Statement, *Planning for the Historic Environment* (PPS5 2010), and the Royal Borough's policies on archaeology. The field investigation was carried out to a specification approved by Mr Paul Falcini of Berkshire Archaeology, the archaeological adviser to the Royal Borough. The fieldwork was undertaken by Tim Dawson and Andrew Munda between 8th March and 28th July 2011 and the site code is PWB 11/20.

The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited at an east Berkshire museum in due course, once archives are being accepted.

### **Location, topography and geology**

The site is located on the eastern edge of the town of Windsor, c. 350m south of Windsor Castle (Fig. 1). The site is bordered by the house at 8A Park Street to the north, neighbouring gardens to the east and west and a private car park to the south (Fig. 2). The land is currently in use as the back garden of number 8A, which is primarily lawn, and it slopes gently downhill southwards from the rear of the house. Geologically, the site is on the border of Cretaceous Upper Chalk and Tertiary Reading Beds (BGS 1981) with the latter being observed on site during the groundworks. The site is at a height of 29.4m above Ordnance Datum.



## **Archaeological background**

The site is located on the fringes of the medieval core of New Windsor, which expanded in a southerly direction from the Castle during the late 13th century. According to Astill (1978), however, Park Street is located outside of this zone and was developed during the 1700s.

Several archaeological observations have been made in this part of the town, including a watching brief on land almost adjacent to 8A Park Street which identified a probable medieval ditch (Pine 2002). Excavations to the north-west of the site at 55–57 High Street revealed medieval occupation in the form of large rubbish pits as well as medieval burials (Taylor and Preston 2005). A watching brief undertaken to the rear of 13 High Street, however, failed to reveal any deposits of archaeological interest (Ford 1999).

## **Objectives and methodology**

The purpose of the watching brief was to excavate and record any archaeological deposits affected by the groundworks. This involved examination of all areas of intrusive groundworks, in particular ground reduction and the digging of any foundation trenches related service runs.

Due to the site only being accessible through the basement of the property, the majority of the groundworks were dug by hand. The area immediately to the rear of the property was reduced to the surface of the natural geology and a length of footing trench dug at its eastern end. Two drainage runs, both terminating in soakaways, were excavated running southwards from the reduced area into the lawn (Fig. 3).

## **Results**

The area of ground reduction extended *c.* 7m south from the house across the entire width of the garden (Pl. 1). It was *c.* 2.20m below the original ground level at the northern end and 1.22m deep at the southern end though this was later graded to form a slope up to the lawn. The whole area was reduced to expose the natural mid grey-yellow clay and was covered with a variety of different layers. The stratigraphy revealed in the western baulk (Fig. 4) consisted of a gravel surface 0.05m thick overlying 0.04m of brown clayey silt and brick crush, 0.37m of dark brown silty clay with brick, 0.43m of brown sandy silt with chalk flecks (rubble made ground) and 0.41m of brown sandy clay with brick crush. Cut through this section at a depth of 0.15m below the surface was a brick-lined culvert 0.44m deep and 0.39m wide which ran from the west into the site. This had been cut through during the ground reduction and subsequently the distance it extended into the site is unknown although it was not observed in west-facing sections in the centre of the site.

At the deeper eastern end of the site the stratigraphy consisted of 0.30m of topsoil, over 0.04m of mixed coal and ash, above 0.03m of dark grey silty sand, which overlay 0.05m of red-brown sandy gravel, 0.05m of dark brown-grey silty sand, 0.02m of red-brown sandy gravel, 0.29m of dark grey sandy clay with fragments of coal, 0.42m of mixed red-brown/grey clay and gravel with fragments of brick and tile, 0.34m of brick and mortar rubble and 0.66m of mid grey clayey silt (Fig. 4). The lowest layer contained charcoal, oyster shell, glass and modern china, none of which was retained.

Two sets of drainage runs and soakaways were observed being dug southwards into the lawn area (Pl. 2). These exposed 0.25m of topsoil which overlaid made ground containing brick and concrete rubble.

No finds or features of archaeological interest were observed during the groundworks on site.

## **Finds**

No finds of archaeological interest were recovered.

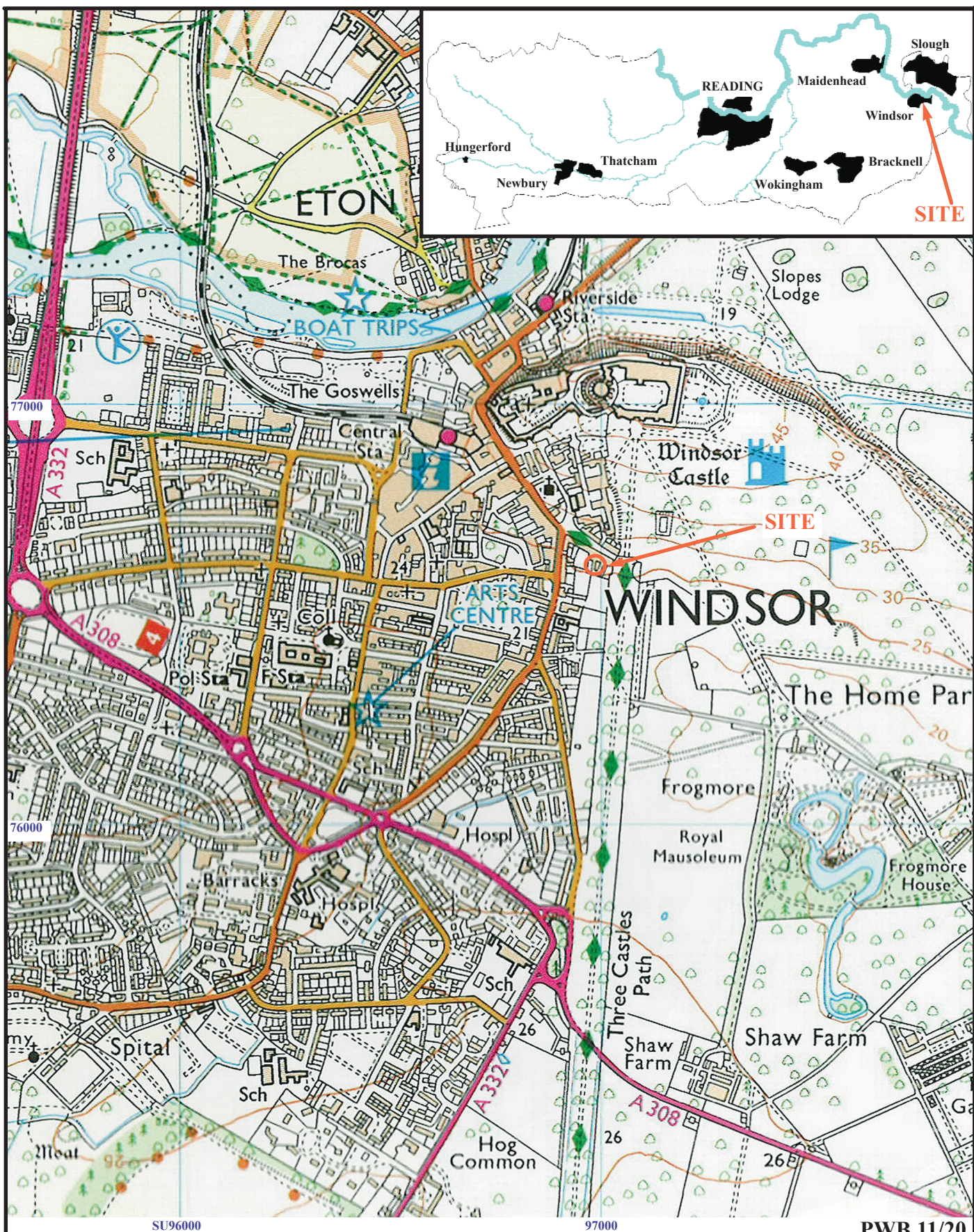
## **Conclusion**

The large number of stratigraphic layers in conjunction with the intrusion of the brick culvert and the recovery of modern finds across the site suggest that the area has been redeveloped and disturbed several times from, at the earliest, the Victorian period. However, due to the narrowness of the site, it is difficult to discern whether these disturbances have truncated the natural geology, and therefore any potential archaeological remains. The natural clay was exposed but directly above it were layers of brick and mortar rubble containing coal and modern china.

## **References**

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Taylor, K and Preston, S, 2005, 'The excavation of medieval pits and cemetery deposits at 55–57 High Street, Windsor, Berkshire' in S Preston (ed), *Reading and Windsor: Old and New. Excavations 1995–2002*, TVAS Monogr 7, Reading, 81–102





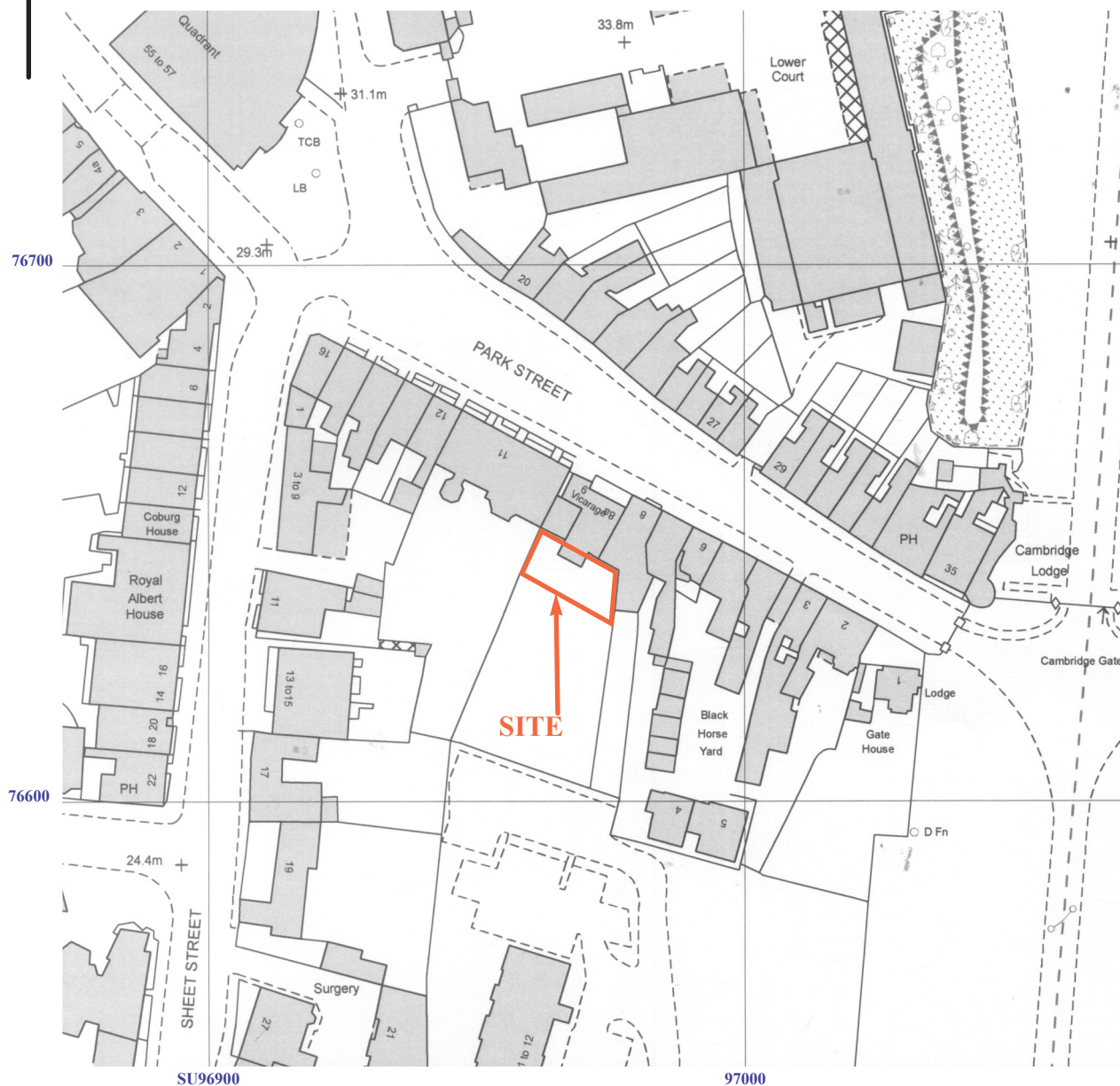
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Figure 1. Location of site within Windsor and Berkshire.

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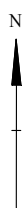
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Figure 2. Detailed location of site off Park Street.

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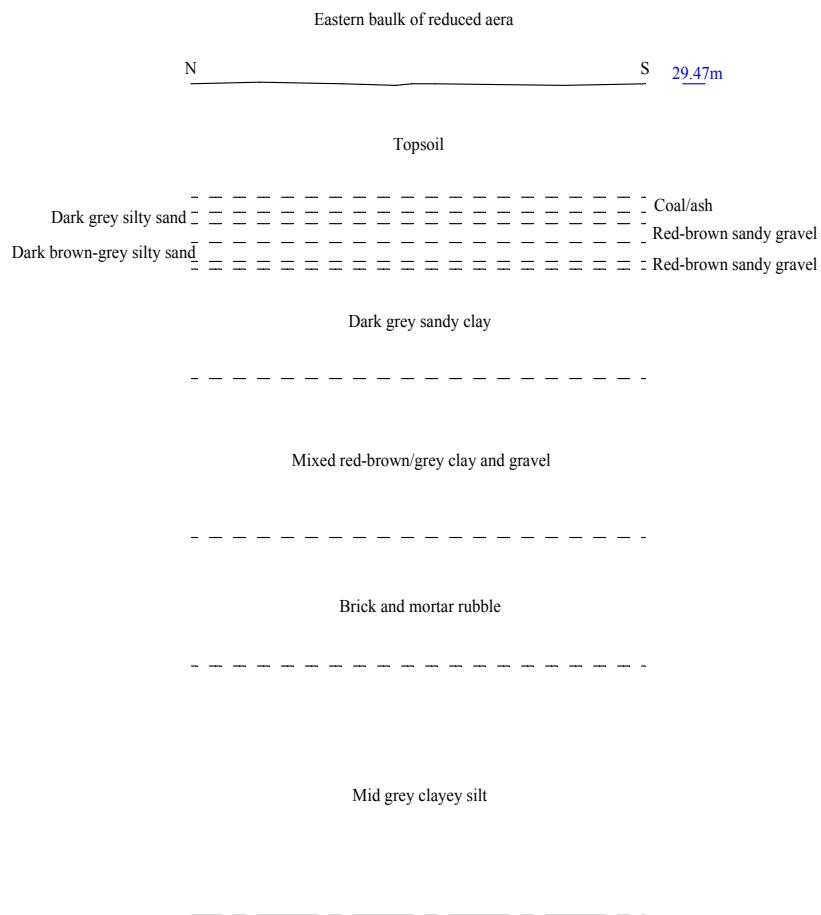
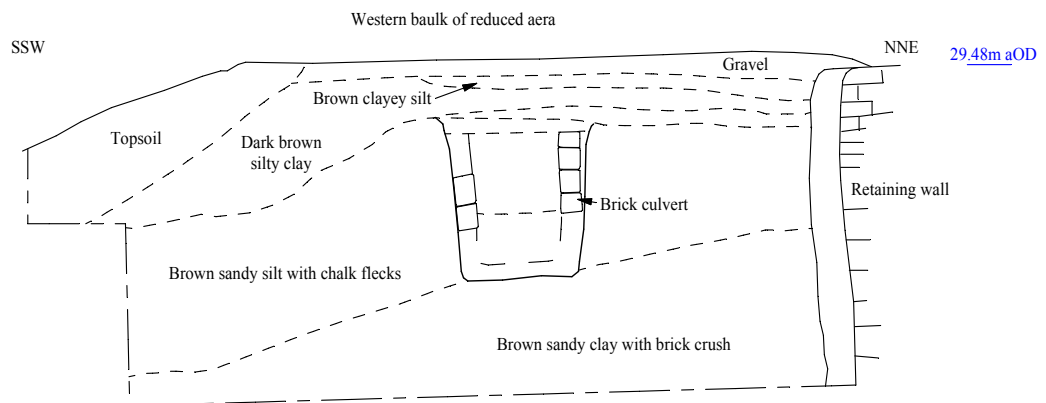


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Figure 3. Location of area observed.



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Figure 4. Sections.



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Plate 1. General view across the ground reduction area during excavation. Looking east.



Plate 2. Drainage runs and soakaway (foreground), looking north. Scales: 0.3m and

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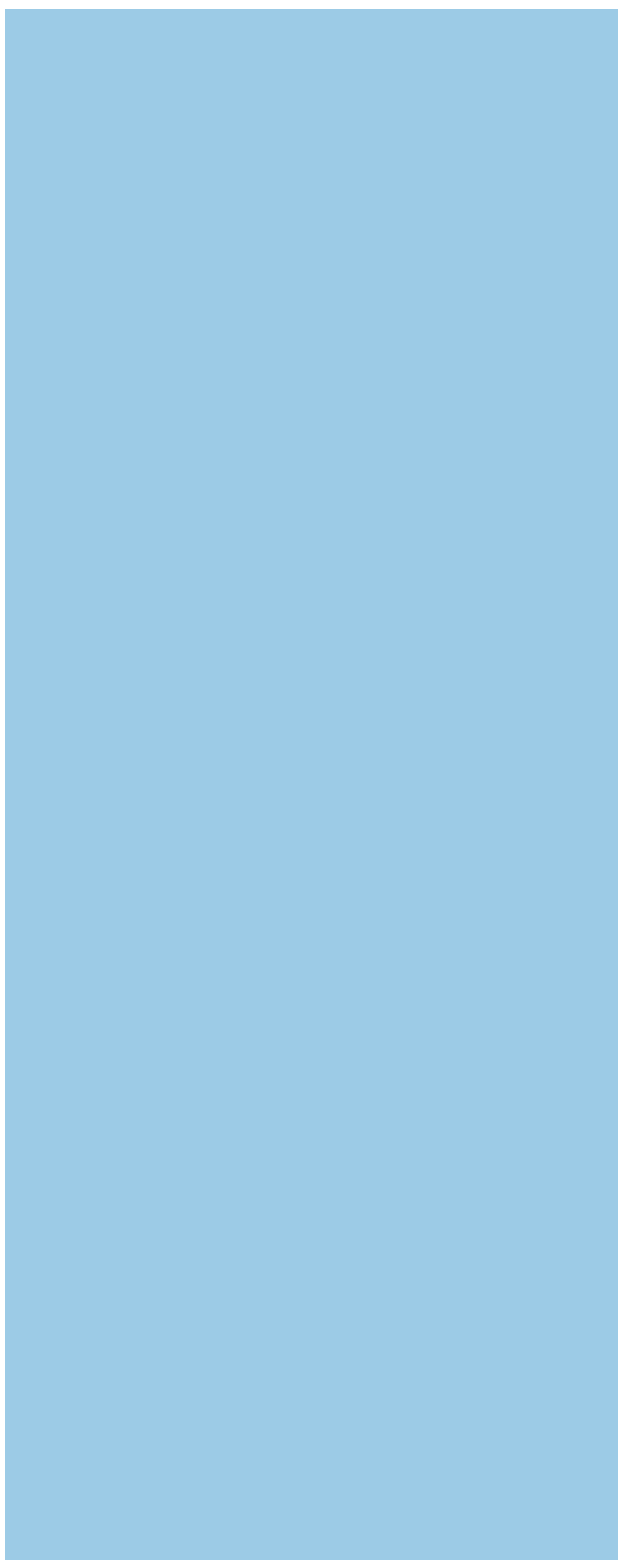
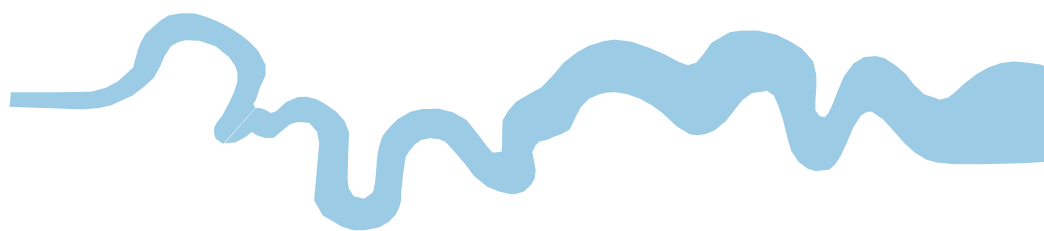
Plates 1 and 2.

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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
Iron Age _____	BC/AD 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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