

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

ARCHAEOLOGICAL

S E R V I C E S

**2 Addington Road, Reading,
Berkshire**

Archaeological watching brief

by David Platt

Site Code: ARR12/76

(SU 7265 7248)

**2 Addington Road,
Reading, Berkshire**

An Archaeological Watching Brief

For Dr A. Hanif

by David Platt

ThamesValleyArchaeologicalServices

Ltd

ARR12/76

September 2012

Summary

Site name: 2 Addington Road, Reading, Berkshire

Grid reference: SU 7265 7248

Site activity: Watching Brief

Date and duration of project: 29th August – 4th September 2012

Project manager: Steve Ford

Site supervisor: David Platt

Site code: ARR 12/76

Summary of results: No finds or features of archaeological significance were uncovered.

Location and reference of archive: The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited at Reading Museum in due course, with accession code REDMG:2012.893.

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www.tvas.co.uk/reports/reports.asp.*

Report edited/checked by:	Steve Ford ✓ 05.09.12 Steve Preston ✓ 05.09.12
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2 Addington Road, Reading, Berkshire An Archaeological Watching Brief

by David Platt

Report 12/76

Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological watching brief carried out at 2 Addington Road, Reading, Berkshire (SU 7265 7248) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Dr A. Hanif of 2 Addington Road, Reading. Planning permission (app no 11/01346/FUL) has been gained from Reading Borough Council to construct single-storey rear and front extensions to the existing property. The consent is subject to a condition (2) which requires the implementation of a programme of archaeological work. This is in accordance with the *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF 2012), and the Borough Council's policies on archaeology. The field investigation was carried out to a specification approved by Ms Mary Neale, Archaeological Officer for Berkshire Archaeology, advisers to the Borough on archaeological matters. The fieldwork was undertaken by David Platt and Tim Dawson between 29th August and 4th September 2012 and the site code is ARR 12/76. The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited at Reading Museum in due course with accession code REDMG:2012.893.

Location, topography and geology

The site is located on a rectangular parcel of land located on the southern side of Addington Road, in Reading (Figs 1 and 2). The site is currently used as a garden and patio for the residence. The site is at an elevation of approximately 55m above Ordnance Datum (AOD). The underlying geology is Taplow Gravel (BGS 1946; Wymer 1999) and this was observed in the trenching as a mid reddish brown clayey sand with frequent gravel inclusions.

Archaeological background

The archaeological potential of the site stems from its location within the archaeologically rich Thames Valley. The site lies in a mature suburban context of Reading and there are consequently now few opportunities for archaeological investigation. In the wider environs of the proposal site the Berkshire Archaeology Historic Environment Record identifies only a few sites and finds. However, the archaeological potential of the site is enhanced from its location just 50m to the east of an area where Late Neolithic flintwork (arrowhead), a Late

Bronze Age pit, Middle Bronze Age pottery and a hoard of Iron Age currency bars (sword shaped iron ingots) were located during archaeological fieldwork (Ford and Raymond 2010). Occupation deposits contemporary with the Iron Age finds were not revealed but are likely to be present somewhere in the area.

Objectives and methodology

The aims of the watching brief were to excavate and record any archaeological deposits affected by the groundworks. This was to include the monitoring of footing trenches for the new extension, along with any areas of ground reduction and any associated service runs. All spoil heaps were to be checked for finds. Sufficient time was to be allowed within the developer's and groundworkers' schedules to record any archaeological features revealed.

Results

The trenches observed (Fig. 3) were all 1m deep and the stratigraphy comprised 0.27m of topsoil overlying 0.25m of mid brownish grey clayey sand with gravel subsoil (Fig. 4). This in turn overlay the natural geology of mid reddish brown clayey sand with frequent gravel inclusions. The trenching extended 4m from the current property and was 18.60m in total length. Two modern service pipes were observed within the trenches, both on a north – south alignment extending from the rear of the property. Two modern pits containing glass, plastic, clinker, brick and tile were also observed in the trenching.

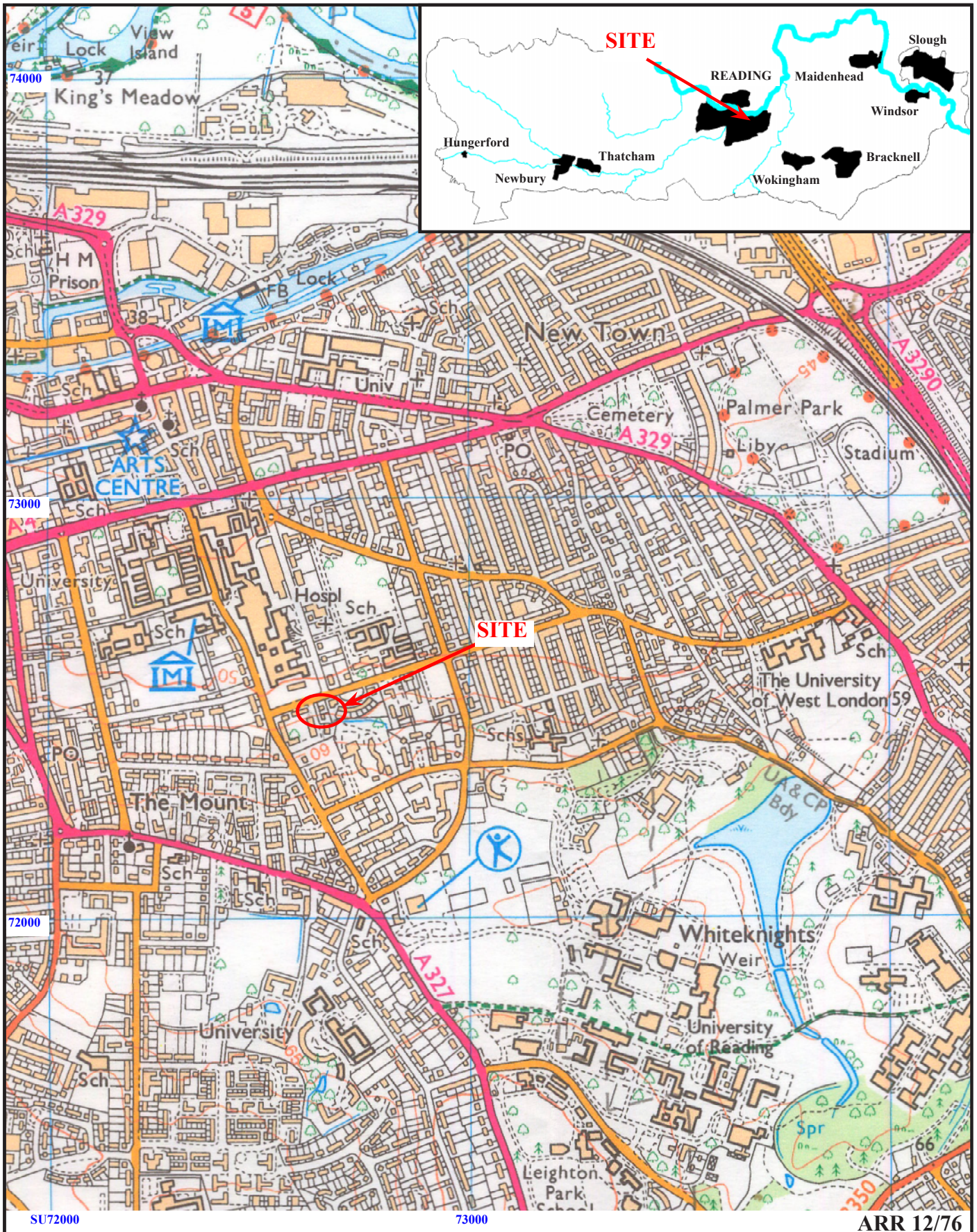
A proposed porch on the north side of the house was not constructed.

Conclusion

The watching brief successfully examined the areas to be disturbed by the new extension. Although the natural geology was observed in all the trenches, and appeared only mildly disturbed, no archaeological deposits were observed nor artefacts recovered.

References

- BGS, 1946, *British Geological Survey*, 1:63,360, Sheet 268, Drift Edition, Keyworth
Ford, S and Raymond, F, 2010, 'A Late Bronze Age pit and hoard of Iron Age currency bars at Addington Road, Reading', in S Preston, (ed) *Archaeological investigations to the south of Reading, 2002-2008, Exploring Late Iron Age and Roman settlement south of Reading, Berkshire*, TVAS Monogr **13**, Reading, 39-44
NPPF 2012, *National Planning Policy Framework*, Dept Communities and Local Government, London (TSO)
Wymer, J J, 1999, *The Lower Palaeolithic occupation of Britain*, Salisbury



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Figure 1. Location of site within Reading and Berkshire.

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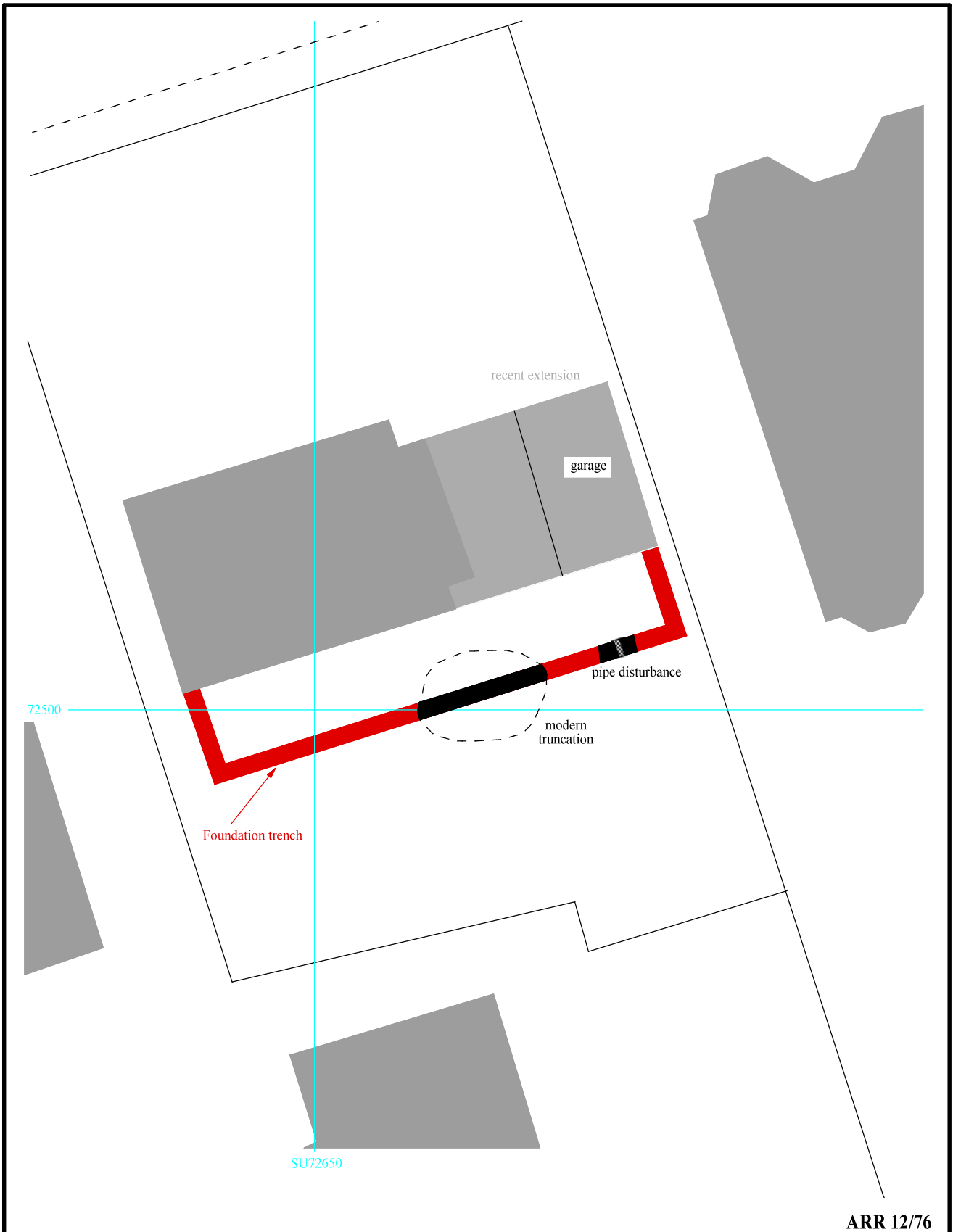


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Figure 2. Detailed location of site off Addington Road.

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Figure 3. Location of area observed.



SW

NE

52.5maOD

Topsoil

Subsoil (grey/brown clayey sand with gravel)

Natural geology (clayey gravel)

Base of trench

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Figure 4. Representative section.



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Plate 1. General view of footing trench, looking north east.



Plate 2. View of footing trench, looking south west, Scales: 2m and 1m.

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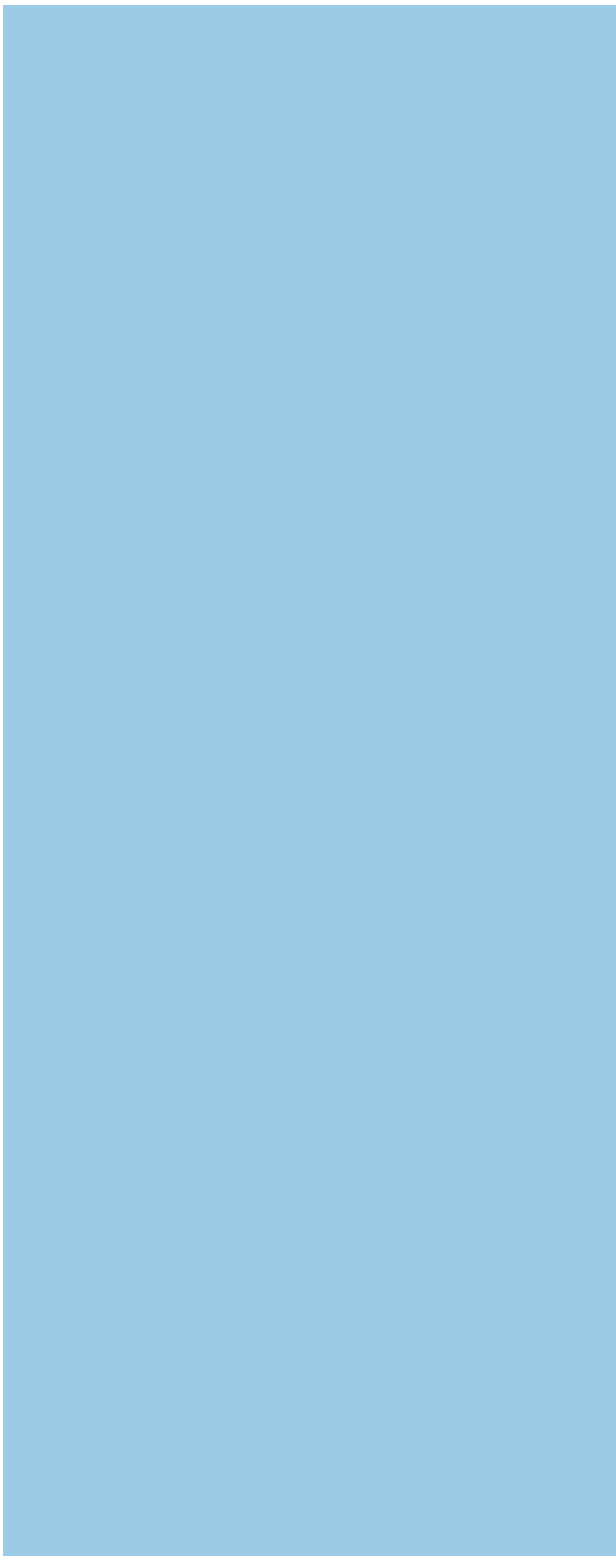
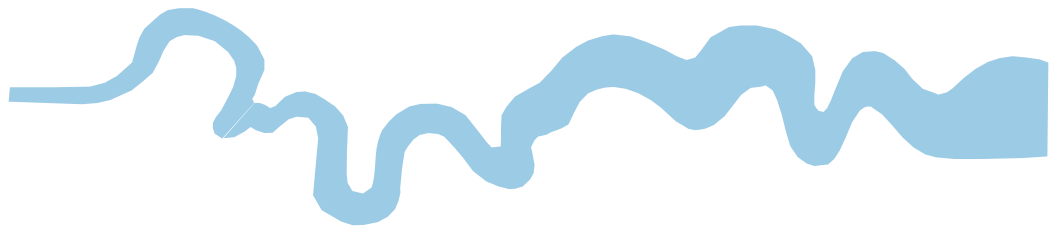
Plates 1 and 2.

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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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