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ARCHAEOLOGICAL

S E R V I C E S

**Proposed Primary School at Winnersh Farm,  
Woodward Close, Wokingham, Berkshire**

**Archaeological Evaluation**

**by Daniel Bray**

**Site Code: WFS13/37**

**(SU 7880 7050)**

# **Proposed Primary School at Winnersh Farm, Woodward Close, Winnersh, Berkshire**

**An Archaeological Evaluation  
for Wokingham Borough Council**

by Daniel Bray

Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code WFS 13/37

**March 2013**

## Summary

**Site name:** Proposed Primary School at Winnersh Farm, Woodward Close, Wokingham, Berkshire

**Grid reference:** SU 7880 7050

**Site activity:** Archaeological Evaluation

**Date and duration of project:** 14th March 2013

**Project manager:** Steve Ford

**Site supervisor:** Daniel Bray

**Site code:** WFS 13/37

**Area of site:** 1.20 ha

**Summary of results:** A single shallow gully-like feature was investigated but which produced fragments of modern brick. It is considered the feature was a burrow or large tree root and not of archaeological origin. No artefacts of archaeological interest were recovered. The site is considered to have a low archaeological potential.

**Location and reference of archive:** The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited at a suitable museum in due course.

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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✓ 20.03.13 Steve Preston✓ 19.03.13
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# **Proposed Primary School at Winnersh Farm, Woodward Close, Winnersh, Berkshire An Archaeological Evaluation**

by Daniel Bray

**Report 13/37**

## **Introduction**

This report documents the results of an archaeological field evaluation carried out at Winnersh Farm, Woodward Close, Winnersh, Berkshire (SU 7880 7050) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Mr Arnab Mukherjee on behalf of Wokingham Borough Council, Shute End, Wokingham, Berkshire, RG40 1BN.

A planning application (F/2013/0017) has been submitted to Wokingham Borough Council for the construction of a primary school with associated car parking and access. An archaeological evaluation has been requested in order to provide information on the archaeological potential of the site and allow a scheme to be devised to mitigate the effects of the proposed construction on any potential archaeological deposits that may be present.

This is in accordance with the Department for Communities and Local Government's *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 Mr Ben Jervis, Archaeological Officer at Berkshire Archaeology, advisors to the Borough on matters relating to archaeology. The fieldwork was undertaken by Daniel Bray with Chris Crabb on the 14th March 2013 with the site code WFS 13/37. The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited at a suitable Museum in due course.

## **Location, topography and geology**

The site is located in Winnersh which lies in the Loddon Valley between Reading and Wokingham in Berkshire (Fig. 1). The site is currently used as arable farm land with other fields forming the boundary of the site to the north and east, a farm track to the south and Woodward Close to the west (Fig. 2). The underlying geology is described as London Clay (BGS 1946), which was observed in all the trenches. The site lies at a height of 51m above Ordnance Datum.



## **Archaeological background**

The archaeological potential of the site stems from its location within an area where there is a modest range of archaeological finds and sites recorded. Information recorded within the Berkshire Historic Environment Record notes that Middle Bronze Age pottery, possibly burial urns, were recorded just to the south of the site with Roman finds to the north (Ford 1987). In general, results from the Loddon Valley Survey fieldwalking project (Ford 1994-7) which took place in zones mainly to the north and south of Winnersh highlighted that the valley is rich in archaeological sites and finds of many periods. Recent fieldwork to the south of Winnersh at Sindlesham has reveal evidence of further Bronze Age pottery, and a large Iron Age ironworking site (Lewis et al forthcoming).

## **Objectives and methodology**

The purpose of the evaluation was to determine the presence/absence, extent, condition, character, quality and date of any archaeological deposits within the area of development. This was to be carried out in a manner which would not compromise the integrity of archaeological features or deposits which warrant preservation in-situ, or might better be excavated under conditions pertaining to full excavation.

The specific research aims of this project are:

- to determine if archaeologically relevant levels have survived on this site;
- to determine if archaeological deposits of any period are present; and
- to provide sufficient information to construct an archaeological mitigation strategy

It was proposed to dig 3 trenches, each 1.6m wide and 30m long, targeting the area of the proposed new structure. A contingency of 10m of trench was included within the proposal should it be required to clarify initial findings and only after consultation with the client and Berkshire Archaeology.

The topsoil was to be removed by a JCB type machine equipped with a ditching bucket to expose the archaeologically sensitive levels. Machine excavation of the trenches was to be observed at all times and spoil heaps were to be monitored for finds. Where deposits of possible archaeological interest were encountered they were to be cleaned and excavated by hand.

## **Results**

All three trenches were excavated in the positions as planned. They ranged in length from 29.50m to 29.70m and in depth from 0.40m–0.50m. A complete list of trenches giving lengths, breadths, depths and a description of sections and geology is given in Appendix 1.

### Trench 1 (Fig. 3)

Trench 1 was aligned NNW - SSE and was 29.50m long and 0.40m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.30m of topsoil overlying the mid yellow brown silty clay natural geology. No archaeological deposits were observed

### Trench 2 (Figs 3-5; Pls 1 and 2)

Trench 2 was aligned N - S and was 29.60m long and 0.50m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.50m of topsoil overlying the mid yellow brown silty clay natural geology. A curving gully-like measuring approximately 7m in length was revealed in the middle part of the trench. The gully was fully excavated and measured 0.30m wide and a maximum of 0.04m deep. An extra 5.0m by 2.2m of trench was added on the east side which did not reveal any continuation of the gully. A soil sample was taken from gully terminus [1]. Three fragments of modern brick were recovered but no charred plant remains. It is considered the feature was a burrow or large tree root not of archaeological origin.

### Trench 3 (Fig. 3)

Trench 3 was aligned E - W and was 29.70m long and 0.40m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.40m of topsoil overlying the mid yellow brown silty clay natural geology. No archaeological deposits were observed

## **Conclusion**

A single shallow gully-like feature was revealed but produced modern brick fragments to indicate it is of modern origin. It is considered that it was most likely to be a burrow or tree root. No other features were observed nor artefacts of archaeological interest recovered. As such the result of the evaluation strongly suggests a low archaeological potential for this site.

## References

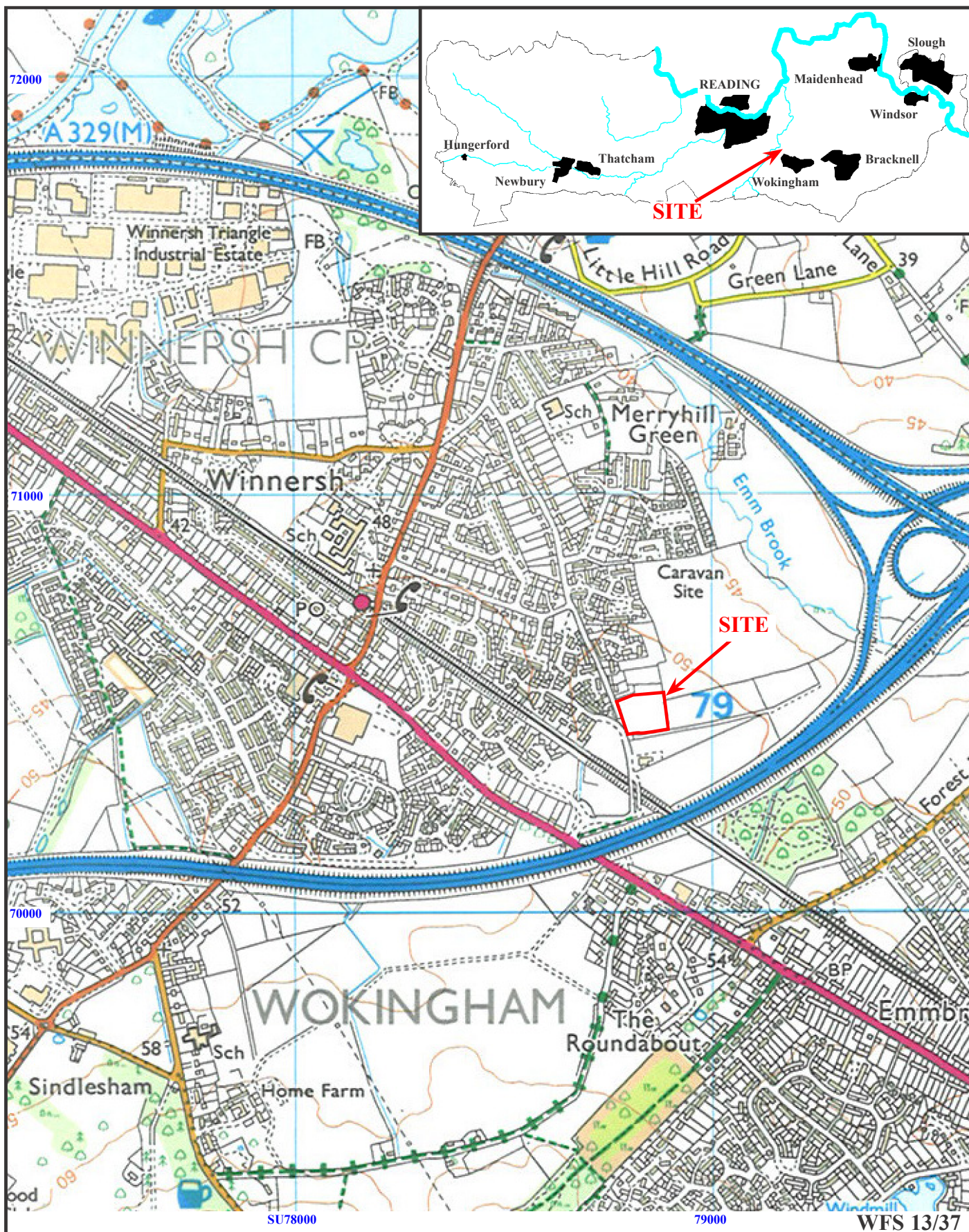
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- Ford, S, 1994-7, Loddon Valley (Berkshire) fieldwalking survey, *Berkshire Archaeol J*, **75**, 11-33
- Lewis, J, Crabb, S and Ford, S (forthcoming), 'Bronze Age urns, Iron Age Iron Smelting and Saxon charcoal production at Sadler's End, Sindlesham, Wokingham, Berkshire', in TVAS Monogr **16**, Reading
- NPPF, 2012, *National Planning Policy Framework*, Dept Communities and Local Govt, London

## APPENDIX 1: Trench details

0m at south or west end

<i>Trench</i>	<i>Length (m)</i>	<i>Breadth (m)</i>	<i>Depth (m)</i>	<i>Comment</i>
1	29.50	1.60	0.40	0–0.30m topsoil; 0.30m+ brown silty clay natural geology.
2	29.60	1.60	0.50	0-0.50m topsoil; 0.50m+ natural geology. Gully terminals 1 and 2 [ <b>Pls 1 and 2</b> ]. Root or burrow 1-2 investigated
3	29.70	1.60	0.40	0-0.40m topsoil; 0.40m+ natural geology.





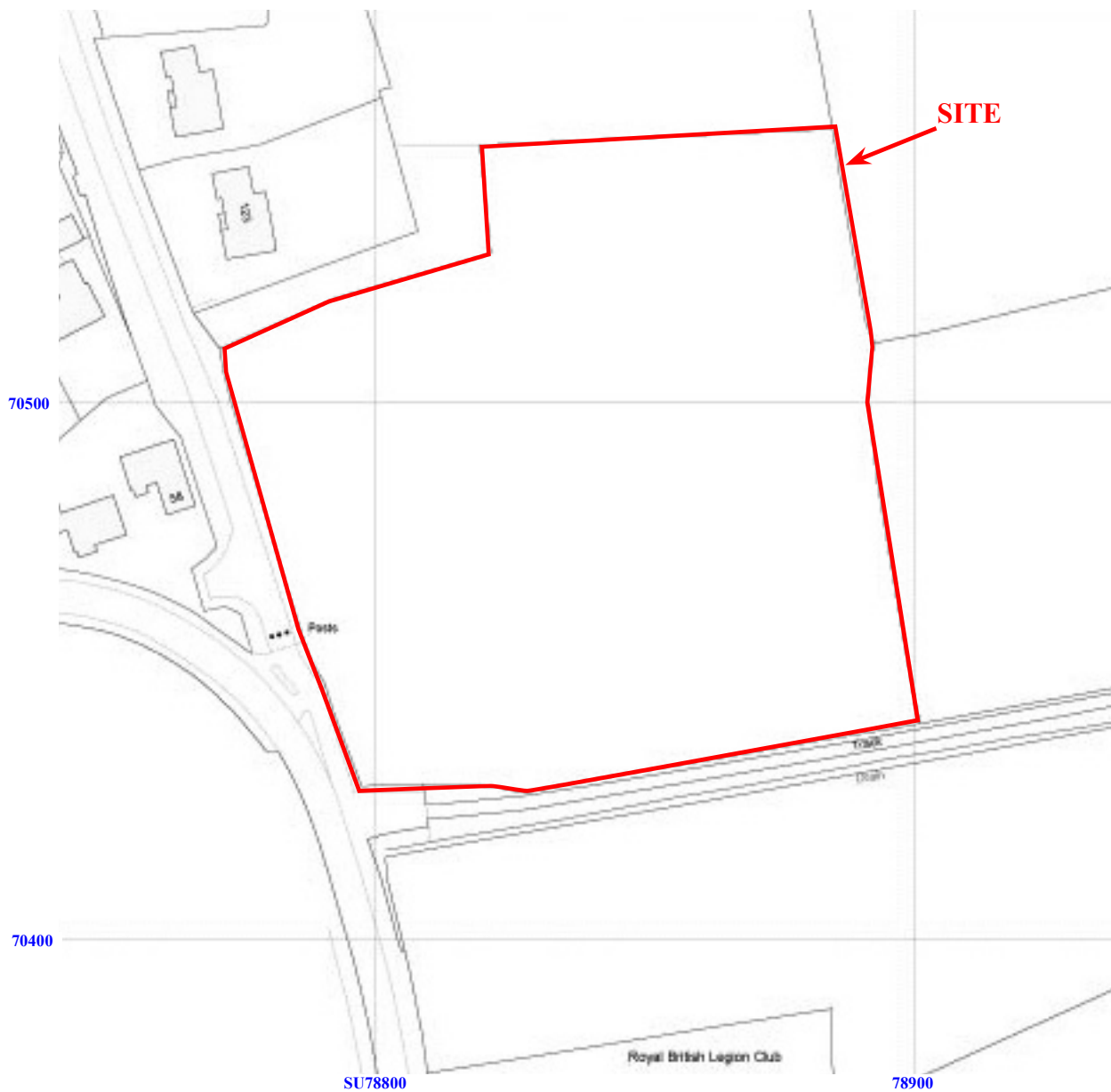
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Figure 1. Location of site in Winnersh and Berkshire.

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Figure 2. Detailed location of site.

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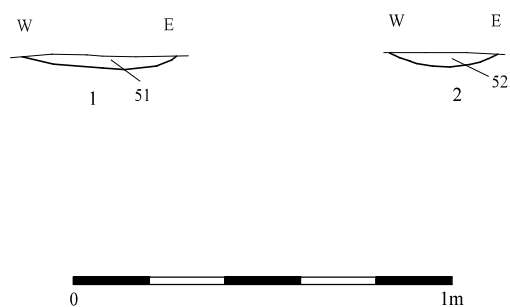
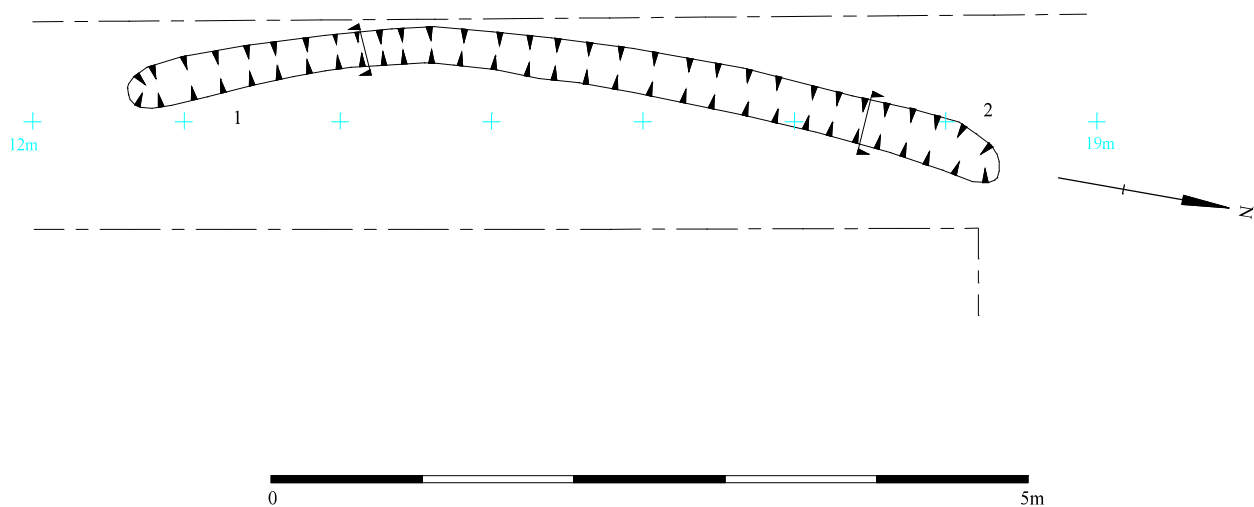


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Figure 3. Location of trenches.



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Figure 4. Plan and sections of modern feature in Trench 2.

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Plate 1. Trench 2, looking north, Scales: 2m and 1m.



Plate 2. Trench 2, prior to excavation of feature, looking north west, Scales: 2m and 1m.

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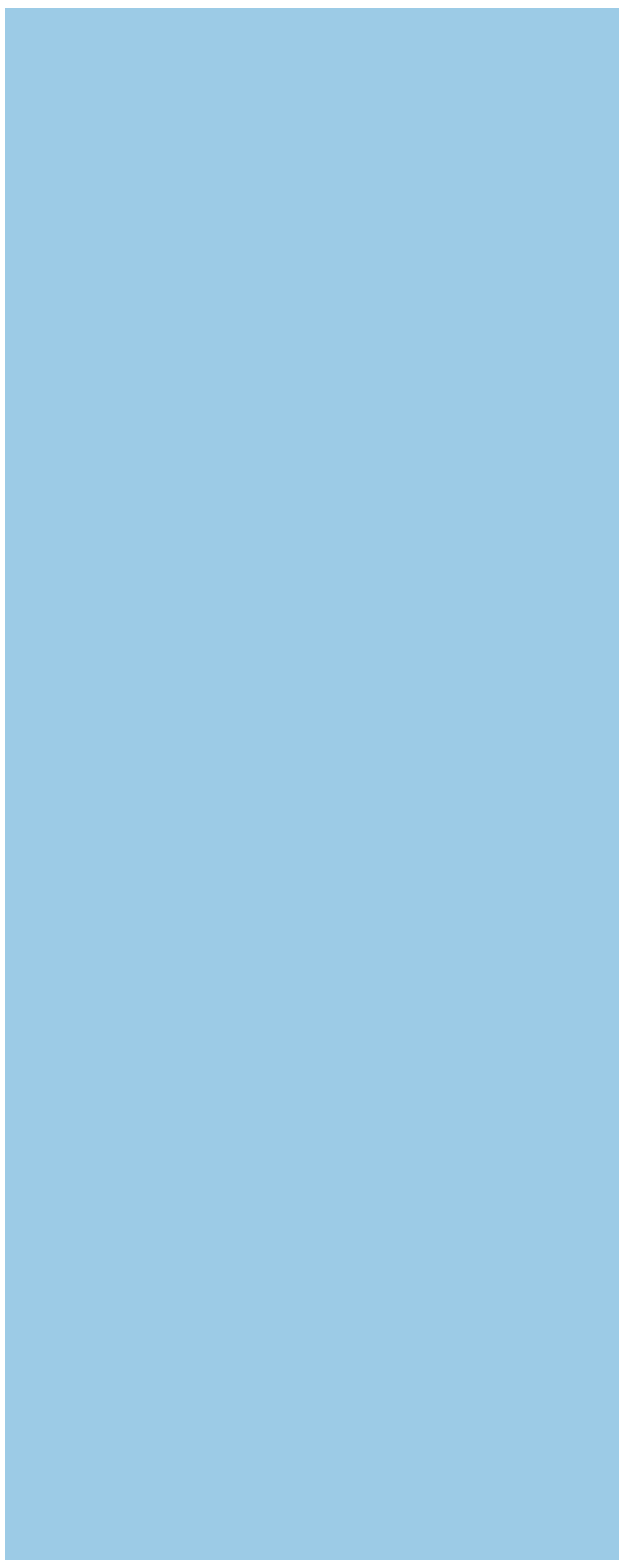
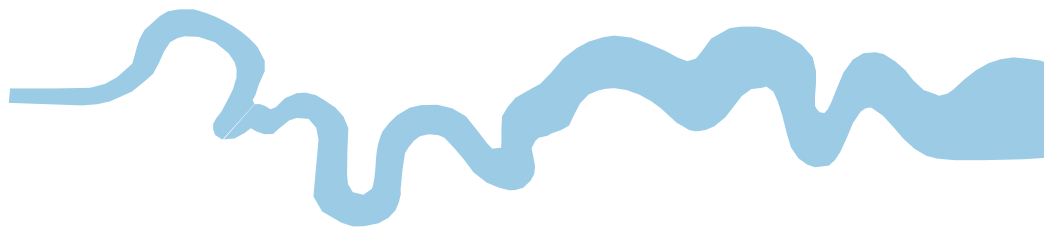
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Plates 1 and 2.

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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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