

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

ARCHAEOLOGICAL

S E R V I C E S

**23 Park View Drive, Charvil,
Berkshire**

Archaeological Evaluation

by Danielle Milbank and Genni Elliott

Site Code: PVC13/80

(SU 7740 7570)

**23 Park View Drive,
Charvil, Berkshire**

**An Archaeological Evaluation
for Mr. Paul Rush**

by Danielle Milbank and Genni Elliott
Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

PVC 13/80

April 2013

Summary

Site name: 23 Park View Drive, Chavil, Berkshire

Grid reference: SU 7740 7570

Site activity: Evaluation

Date and duration of project: 24th April 2013

Project manager: Steve Ford

Site supervisor: Danielle Milbank

Site code: PVC 13/80

Summary of results: No deposits or finds of an archaeological nature were observed. The site is not considered to have any archaeological potential

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

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

Report edited/checked by:	Steve Ford✓	30.04.13
	Steve Preston✓	30.04.13

23 Park View Road, Charvil, Berkshire An Archaeological Evaluation

by Danielle Milbank and Genni Elliott

Report 13/80

Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological field evaluation carried out at land to the rear of 23 Park View Road, Charvil, Berkshire (SU 7740 7570) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Mr Paul Rush c/o Mr Ron Lewandowski, Highfield, Common Road, Eton Wick, Windsor, SL4 6LL. Planning permission (F/2012/1296) has been granted from Wokingham Borough Council for the construction of two properties with garages. The consent is subject to a condition (8) relating to archaeology and built heritage which initially requires an archaeological evaluation to assess the extent of archaeological remains. This is in accordance with the Department for Communities and Local Government's *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF 2012), and the District/Borough/County Council's policies on archaeology. The field investigation was carried out to a specification approved by Fiona MacDonald, Principal Archaeologist for Berkshire. The fieldwork was undertaken by Danielle Milbank on 24th April 2013 under the site code is PVC13/80. The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited at a local approved museum in due course.

Location, topography and geology

The site is located in the hamlet of Charvil, to the north-east of Reading on a roughly rectangular parcel of land sandwiched between the rear gardens of Park View Drive and Strathmore Drive with access from Pipistrelle Way (Fig. 2). The site was part of the rear garden of 23 Park View Drive; the grass has now been removed leaving soil and rubble exposed (Pls. 1 and 2). It is reasonably level, at approximately 37m above Ordnance Datum. The underlying geology is Valley Gravel (BGS 1946). This was observed as a red/brown sand with frequent small-medium sub-angular flint inclusions in all trenches.

Archaeological background

The archaeological background for the site has been highlighted in an archaeological briefing note provided by Berkshire Archaeology. In summary the site is located in an area of the Thames Valley, where previous work has

revealed a wealth of prehistoric and later archaeological activity (Ford 1987). To the south-east of the site, evaluation and excavation have revealed archaeological finds such as Palaeolithic flintwork, and Neolithic pottery, alongside deposits covering a range of dates represented by a Middle Bronze age ditch, Late Bronze Age occupation and a Roman gully (Lovell and Mephram 2003). Fieldwalking to the north of Charvil found indications of prehistoric occupation in the form of dense clusters of struck flint (Ford 1997), while to the north-west is a Neolithic ceremonial complex comprising levelled burial mounds of both round and oval plan, a mortuary enclosure and *cursus* monument, with other undated cropmarks visible from the air (Slade 1964; Gates 1975). A watching brief in the north of Charvil, on Milestone Avenue, however, uncovered no archaeological deposits (Taylor 2003). Trenching and follow-up work on a site at Old Bath Road revealed three linear features of unknown date (Mundin and Weale 2008; 2009). An evaluation to the south on the site for a new school (Platt 2013) did not reveal any archaeological deposits.

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. The work was 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 were:

- a) To determine if archaeologically relevant levels have survived on this site.
- b) To determine if archaeological deposits of any period are present.
- c) To provide sufficient information to construct an archaeological mitigation strategy.

A total of two trenches were to be excavated measuring 1.6m wide by at least 8m long using a JCB-type machine fitted with a toothless bucket under archaeological supervision. Where archaeological features were identified they were to be investigated by hand. Spoilheaps were to be searched for finds.

Results

Both trenches were dug as intended. The trenches ranged in length from 8.80m to 9.10m and in depth from 0.54m to 0.64m (Fig. 2). 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 SW–NE and was 8.80m long and 0.54m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.32m of topsoil with frequent roots, which overlay the light orange brown sandy silt subsoil, 0.12m thick. The natural gravel geology was found at 0.44m below the current ground surface at 90.15m above Ordnance Datum. An early 20th century pit (3.7m across containing burnt material, metal and glass cut through the natural in the middle of the trench, but no features of archaeological significance were present.

Trench 2 (Figs 3 and 4; Pl .3)

Trench 2 was aligned WSW–ENE and was 9.10m long and a maximum of 0.64m deep at the WSW end. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.40m of topsoil with frequent roots, which overlay the light orange brown sandy silt subsoil, 0.14m thick. The natural gravel geology was found at 0.54m below the current ground surface. No features of archaeological significance were present.

Conclusion

No features of archaeological significance were identified and no finds were found on the spoilheaps. In trench 1 the natural was truncated by a large early modern feature. On the basis of this evaluation the site is considered to have no archaeological potential and it is unlikely that archaeological deposits would be threatened by the proposed development.

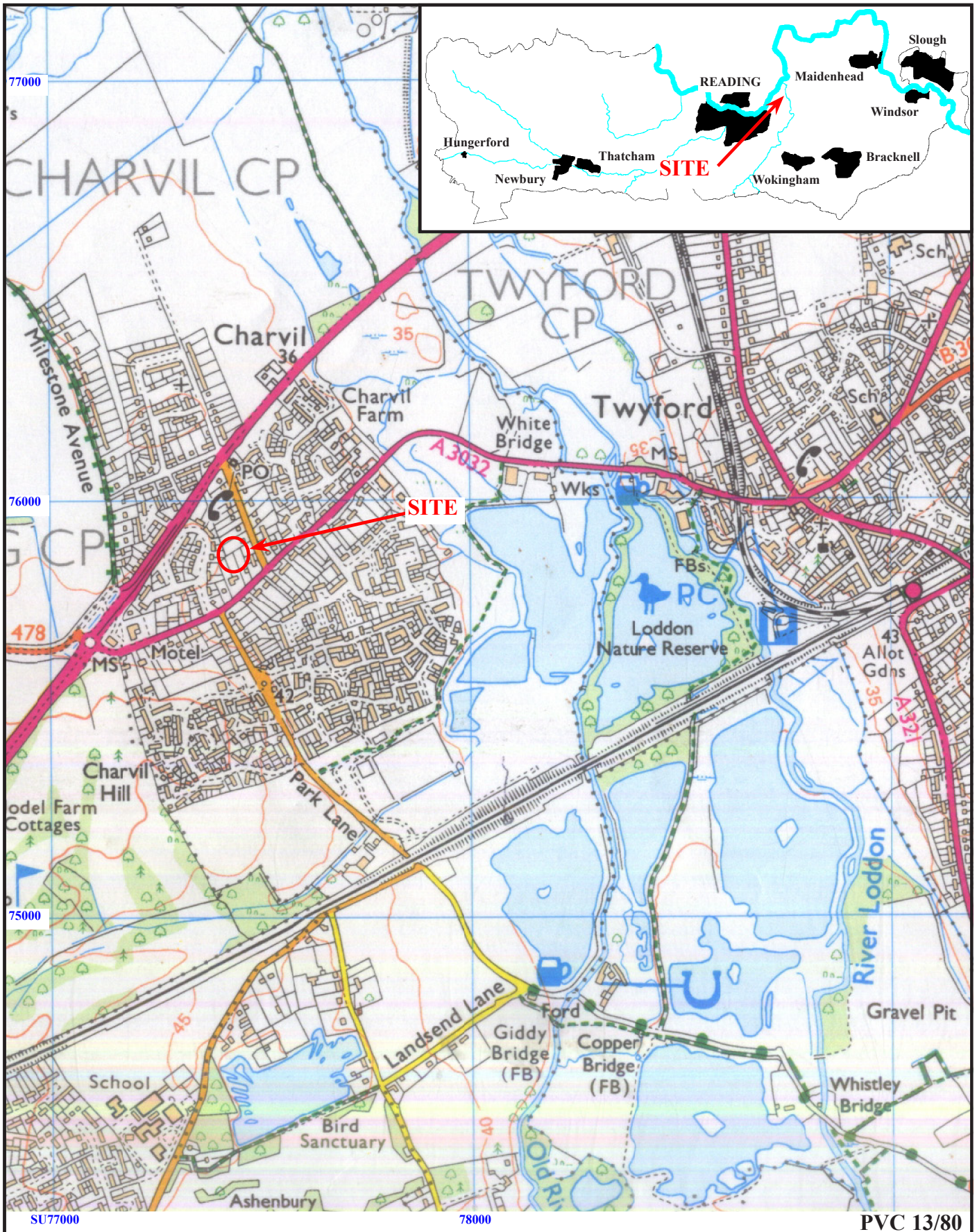
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APPENDIX 1: Trench details

0m at the west end

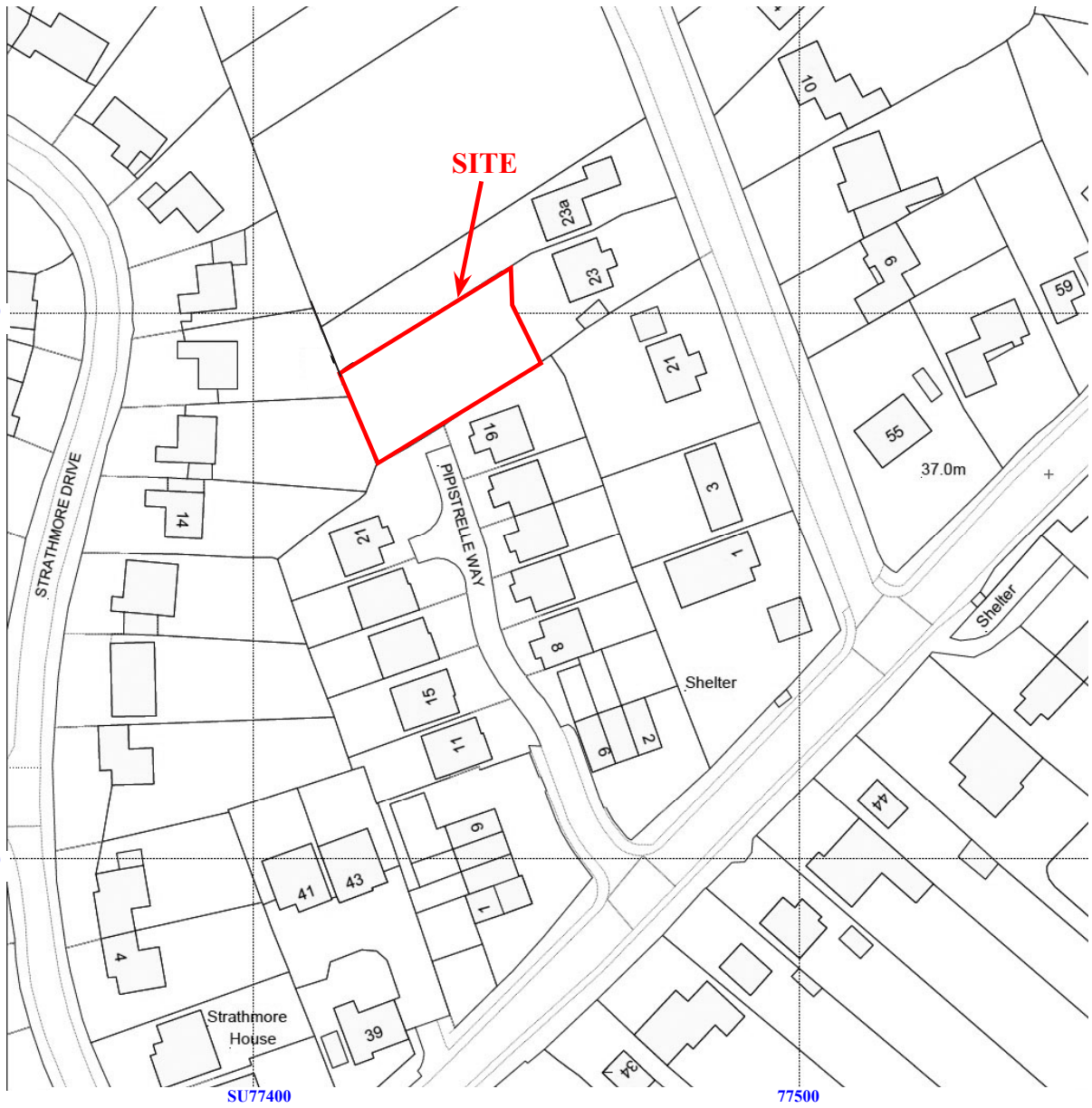
Trench	Length (m)	Breadth (m)	Depth (m)	Comment
1	8.80	1.60	0.54	0–0.32m topsoil containing frequent roots; 0.32–0.44m subsoil, light orange brown sandy silt; 0.44m+ orange sand with frequent small-medium sub-angular flint inclusions (natural geology) Modern pit.
2	9.10	1.60	0.64	0–0.40m topsoil; 0.40–0.54m subsoil; 0.54m+ gravel natural geology. [Pl. 3]



**Land at Pipistrelle Way (off Park View Drive South),
Charvil, Berkshire, 2013
Archaeological Evaluation**

Figure 1. Location of site within Charvil and Berkshire.

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**Land at Pipistrelle Way, (off Park View Drive South),
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Figure 2. Detailed location of site off Pipistrelle Way.

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Figure 3. Location of trenches.



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SW

NE

36.9m aOD

Topsoil

Subsoil

Gravel (natural geology)

base of trench

base of t

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Figure 4. Representative section.



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Plate 1. General view of site looking north-east.



Plate 2. General view of site looking south south-west.



Plate 3. View of trench 2 looking east, Scales: 2m and 1m.

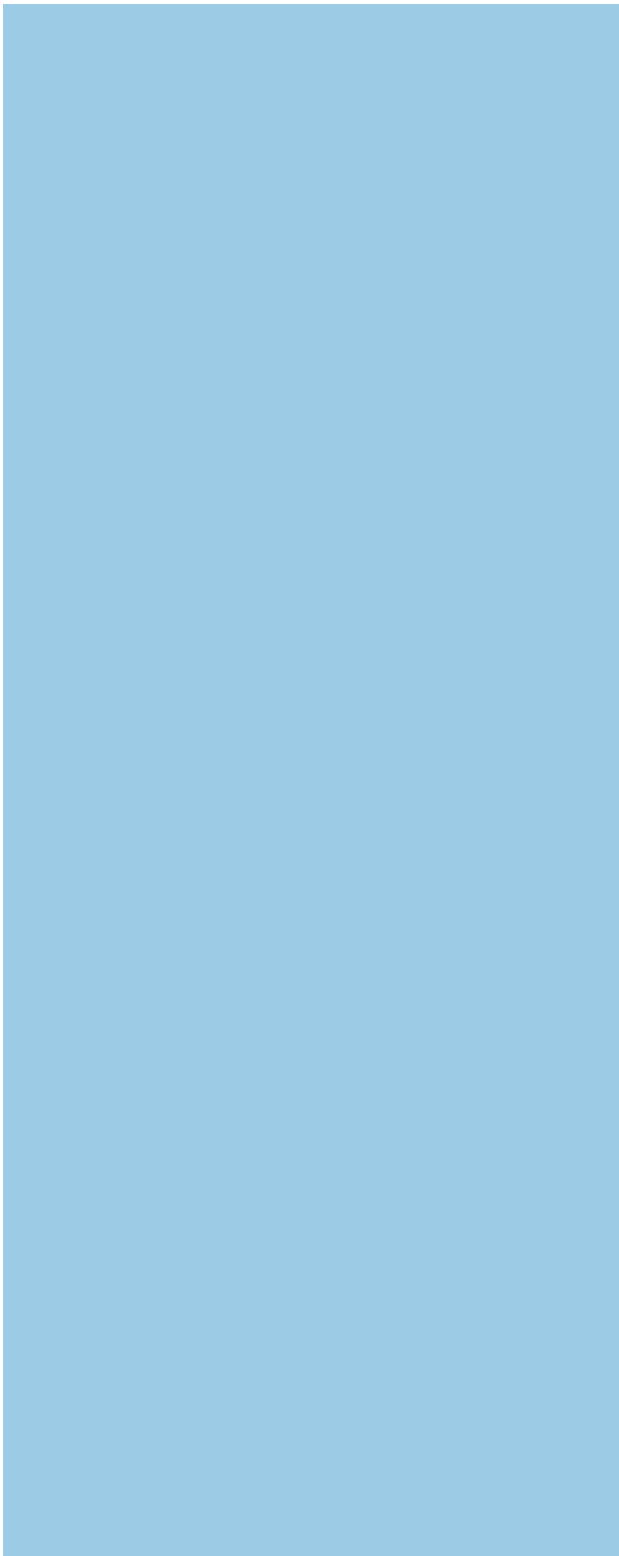
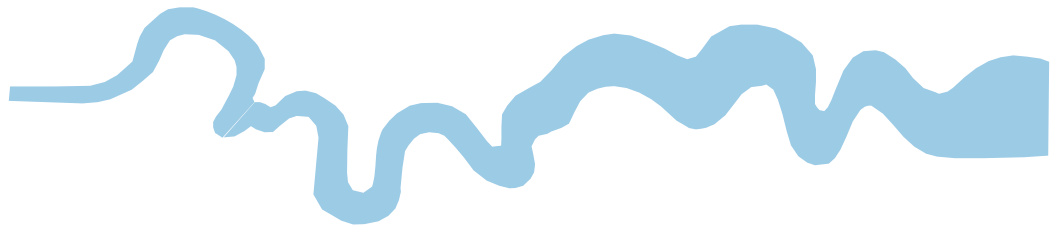
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23 Park View Drive, Charvil,
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Plates 1 - 3.

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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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