

T H A M E S      V A L L E Y

ARCHAEOLOGICAL

S E R V I C E S

**Land to the south of The Old Stables, Green Lane,  
Chieveley, Newbury, West Berkshire**

**Archaeological Evaluation**

**by Daniel Bray**

**Site Code: OSC13/83**

**(SU 4763 7365)**

**Land to the south of The Old Stables, Green Lane,  
Chieveley, Newbury, West Berkshire**

**An Archaeological Evaluation**

**for Mr and Mrs Ash**

by Daniel Bray

Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code OSC 13/83

**May 2013**

## Summary

**Site name:** Land to the south of The Old Stables, Green Lane, Chieveley, Newbury, West Berkshire

**Grid reference:** SU 4763 7365

**Site activity:** Archaeological Evaluation

**Date and duration of project:** 21/05/2013

**Project manager:** Steve Ford

**Site supervisor:** Daniel Bray

**Site code:** OSC 13/83

**Area of site:** c. 150 sq m

**Summary of results:** A single large feature was recorded, possibly part of an old field boundary (negative lynchet) infilled at least during Roman or later times. This feature was noteworthy for a small collection of Mesolithic and later struck flint suggesting the presence of prehistoric occupation in the vicinity.

**Location and reference of archive:** The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited at West Berkshire 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✓ 31.05.13 Steve Preston✓ 30.05.13
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# Land to the south of The Old Stables, Green Lane, Chieveley, Newbury, West Berkshire An Archaeological Evaluation

by Daniel Bray

Report 13/83

## Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological field evaluation carried out on land to the south of The old Stables, Green Lane, Chieveley, Newbury, West Berkshire (SU 4763 7365) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Ms Irene Dymond of Fowler Architecture and Planning Ltd, 19 High Street, Pewsey, Wiltshire, SN9 5AF on behalf of Mr and Mrs Ash, The Old Stables, Green Lane, Chieveley, Newbury, Berkshire, RG20 8XB.

An archaeological evaluation has been undertaken prior to an application for planning consent for the construction of a new house with associated parking, turning, amenity space, landscaping and improvements to the vehicular access.

This is in accordance with the Department for Communities and Local Government's *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF 2012), and the Council's policies on archaeology. The field investigation was carried out to a specification approved by Ms Sarah Orr, Acting Archaeological Officer for West Berkshire Council. The fieldwork was undertaken by Daniel Bray along with Jo Pine on 21st May 2012 with the site code OSC 13/83. The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited at West Berkshire Museum in due course.

## Location, topography and geology

The site is located in a small hamlet (Horsemoor) on the southern side of Chieveley, 6km north of Newbury, West Berkshire. The A34 is 500m to the east and the M4 is 750m to the south (Fig. 1). The irregular parcel of land is bounded on the eastern side by Green Lane and a track way to the south. Directly west of the site is a row of small cottages and The Old Stables are to the north (Fig. 2). The site slopes from north to south. The underlying geology is described as being Reading Beds, mottled clay and sand (BSG 1971). The site lies at a height of c. 120m above Ordnance Datum.



## **Archaeological background**

The archaeological potential of the site has been presented in a briefing note by Ms Sarah Orr of West Berkshire Archaeology Service. In summary this potential stems from its location within the historic (Saxon/medieval) core of Chieveley. Chieveley has late Saxon origins and is mentioned in Domesday Book (Williams and Martin 2002). The West Berkshire Historic Environment Record also notes that there are Bronze Age and Late Iron Age/Roman occupation deposits to the east of the site revealed when the A34/M4 road improvements took place (Mudd 2007).

## **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 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 information with which to draw up a mitigation strategy if required.

It was proposed to dig two trenches 8m long and 1.6m wide targeting the area of the proposed new building. A contingency of 8m of trench was included within the proposal should it be required to clarify initial findings.

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

## **Results**

Both the trenches were dug as close as possible to their intended positions within the proposed building footprint (Fig. 3; Pl. 1). Both trenches were 1.40m wide. A complete list of trenches giving lengths, breadths, depths and a description of sections and geology is given in Appendix 1.

### Trench 1

Trench 1 was aligned NE - SW and was 9.00m long and 0.80m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.35m of topsoil and 0.45m of mid orangey brown silty sand subsoil overlying the light yellow grey sand natural geology. No archaeological features nor artefacts were recorded.

### Trench 2 (Fig. 4)

Trench 2 was aligned NNE - SSW and was 7.80m long and 1.20m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.35m of topsoil and 0.95m of mid orangey brown silty sand subsoil overlying the light yellow grey sand natural geology. The southern 5.5m of the trench was entirely occupied by feature 1, which had a depth of 0.70m. It was excavated to a depth of 0.50m and for safety reasons augured to find the total depth. It contained a single fill (53) of mid brown grey silty sand. A small quantity of struck flint was recovered along with a single abraded sherd of Roman or Medieval pottery.

## **Finds**

### *Pottery* by Jane Timby

The archaeological evaluation resulted in the recovery of just two sherds of pottery both from Trench 2. One piece from subsoil (51) is clear glazed post-medieval red earthenware. The second sherd, from feature 1 (deposit 53), is very small and quite degraded. The sandy fabric is not very distinctive and the piece has no diagnostic characteristics. It could be of Roman or medieval date.

### *Struck Flint* by Steve Ford

A small collection comprising 17 struck flints was recovered from feature 1 (53). These were all flakes made from flint that seems to be derived from several sources. Some have a slightly thicker and rougher cortex suggesting a source direct from the chalk, others with a very thin and smooth cortex derived from a secondary source such as Reading Beds or clay-with-flints with one slightly iron-stained piece that may also have derived from a secondary outcrop such as the Reading Beds. All except the latter piece are in mint condition. None of the pieces refit. Three of the pieces are certainly or probably narrow flakes and indicate a Mesolithic or possibly earlier Neolithic component to the collection. The remainder are not chronologically distinctive and whilst convention would suggest they be ascribed a Neolithic or Bronze Age date, it is possible that they form the non blade-like component which makes up the bulk of most Mesolithic assemblages.

### *Burnt Flint* by Daniel Bray

A total of two pieces of burnt flint weighting a total of 70g were recovered from feature 1 (deposit 53). These showed no evidence of being worked.

### *Brick and Tile* by Daniel Bray

Two pieces of brick and tile weighing a total of 732g were recovered from the subsoil (51). Neither showed any characteristic features and were both well fired indicating a post-medieval date.

## **Conclusion**

The evaluation identified a large feature of uncertain function. A single poorly dated sherd of pottery was recovered indicating that the deposit accumulated no earlier than Roman times and could possibly have formed in medieval times. The deposit contained a small collection of prehistoric worked flint and whilst these are well preserved, they are residual in this context. However, the density of finds suggests they are derived from a cluster of such material originally present nearby.

The origin of the feature is uncertain but is possibly a negative lynchet (old field boundary) which has been over-ploughed and infilled subsequently.

## **References**

- BGS, 1971, *British Geological Survey*, 1:63360, Sheet 267, Drift Edition, Keyworth  
NPPF, 2012, *National Planning Policy Framework*, Dept Communities and Local Govt, London  
Mudd, A, 2007, *Bronze Age, Roman and later occupation at Chieveley, West Berkshire, the archaeology of the A34/M4 road junction improvement*, BAR 433, Oxford  
Williams, A and Martin, G H, 2002, *Domesday Book, a complete translation*, London

## APPENDIX 1: Trench details

0m at S or W end

<i>Trench</i>	<i>Length (m)</i>	<i>Breadth (m)</i>	<i>Depth (m)</i>	<i>Comment</i>
1	9.00	1.40	0.80	0-0.35m topsoil; 0.35-0.80m mid orangey brown silty sand subsoil; 0.80m+ light yellow grey sand natural geology.
2	7.80	1.40	1.20	0-0.35m topsoil; 0.35-1.20m mid orangey brown silty sand subsoil; 1.20m+ light yellow grey sand natural geology. Feature 1. <b>[Pls 2 and 3]</b>

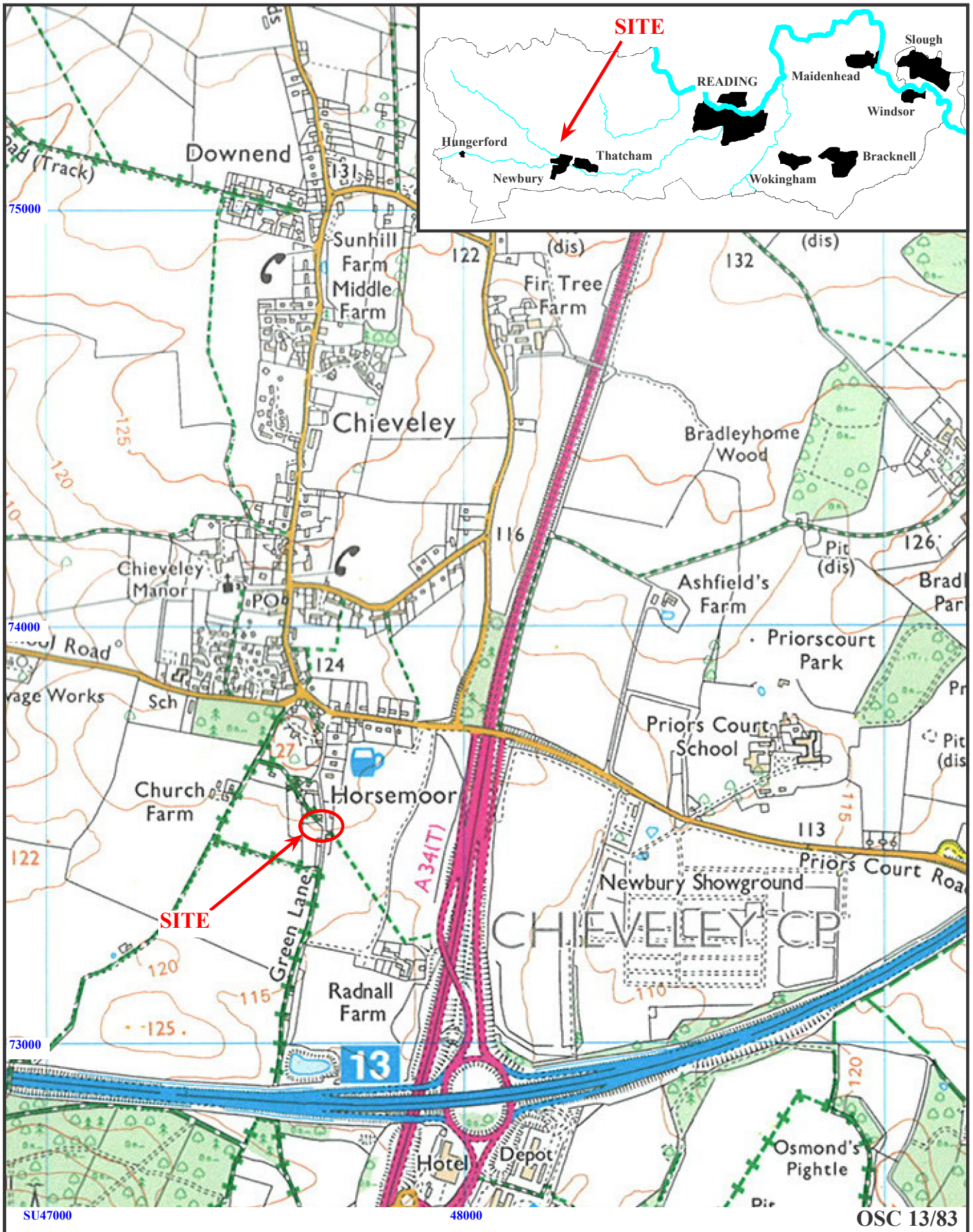
**APPENDIX 2:** Feature details

<i>Trench</i>	<i>Cut</i>	<i>Fill (s)</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Dating evidence</i>
2	1	53	Uncertain Feature	Roman or later	Pottery

### **APPENDIX 3: Pottery catalogue**

Trench 2 (51). One bodysherd glazed red earthenware. Wt. 12 g. Date: post-medieval

Trench 2 [1] (53). One small bodysherd. Black surfaces, red-brown sandy ware with sparse fine rounded clay pellets and iron. Wt. 2 g. Date: ?Roman or medieval.



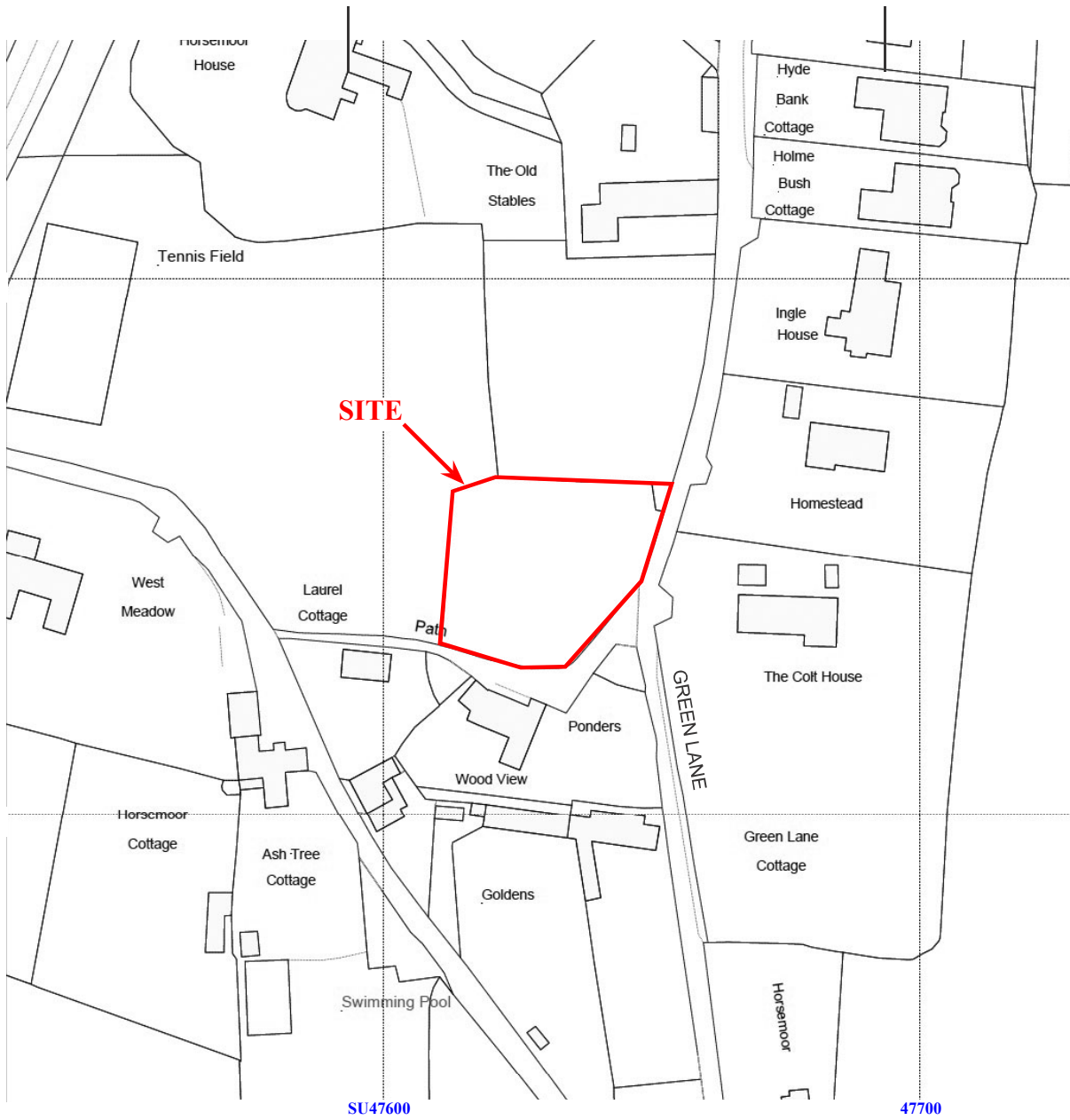
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Figure 1. Location of site in relation to Chieveley, Newbury and within Berkshire.

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Figure 2. Detailed location of site, in relation to  
The Old Stables.

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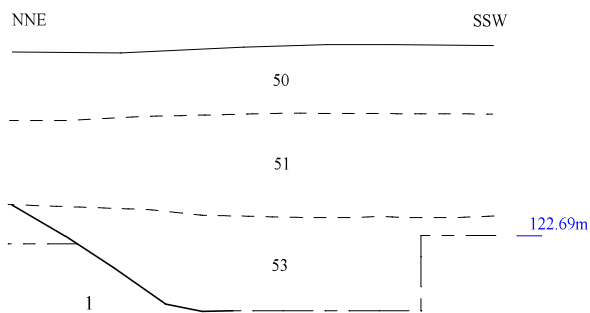
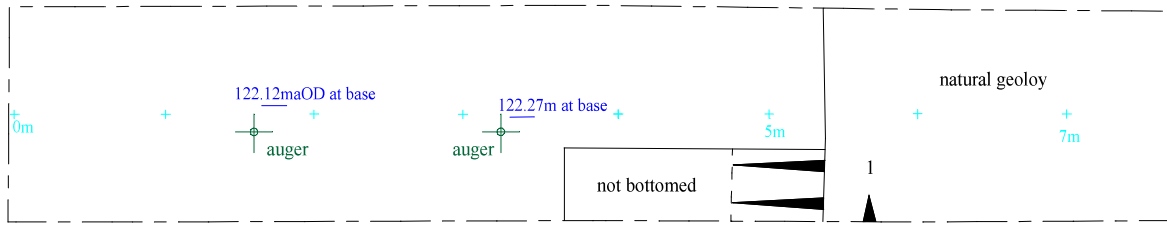
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Figure 3. Location of trenches.



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**Trench 2**



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Figure 4. Detail and section from Trench 2.



Plate 1. Location of trenches, looking south.



Plate 2. Trench 2, looking north,  
Scales: 2m, 1m and 0.5m



Plate 3. Trench 2, feature 1, looking south east, Scales: 2m and 1m.

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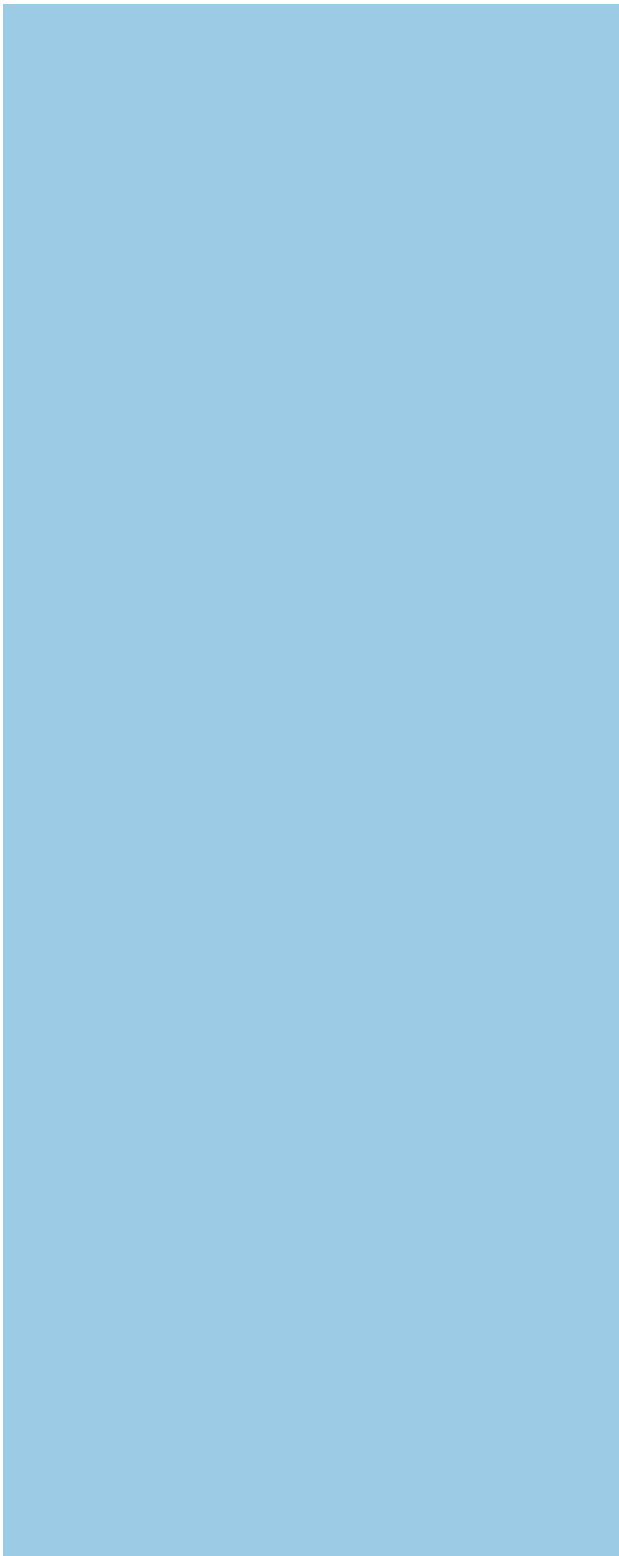
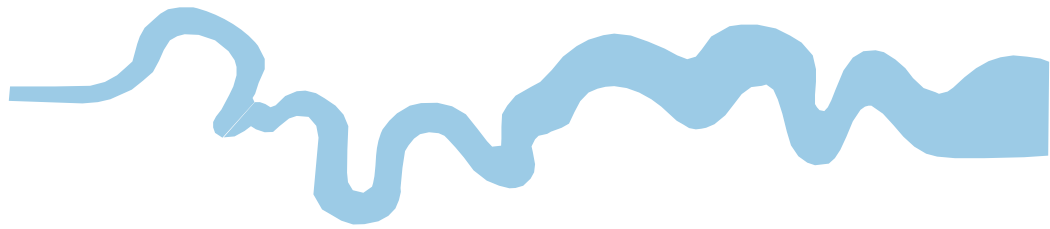
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Plates 1 - 3.

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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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