

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

ARCHAEOLOGICAL

S E R V I C E S

**Slough Trading Estate,
Slough, Berkshire**

Archaeological Evaluation

by Dan Bray and James McNicoll-Norbury

Site Code: STE13/186

(SU 9555 8089)

Slough Trading Estate, Slough, Berkshire

An Archaeological Evaluation

for CgMs Consulting

by Daniel Bray and James McNicoll-Norbury

Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code STE 13/186

October 2013

Summary

Site name: Slough Trading Estate, Slough, Berkshire

Grid reference: SU 9555 8089

Site activity: Archaeological Evaluation

Date and duration of project: 8th – 16th October 2013

Project manager: Steve Ford

Site supervisor: Daniel Bray and James McNicoll-Norbury

Site code: STE 13-186

Area of site: c. 19 ha

Summary of results: The site has been previously truncated with the total removal of topsoil and subsoil. Three modern walls and numerous modern truncations were revealed. No features of archaeological interest were found.

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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Report edited/checked by: Steve Ford ✓ 24.10.13 Steve Preston ✓ 22.10.13

Slough Trading Estate, Slough, Berkshire An Archaeological Evaluation

by Daniel Bray and James McNicoll-Norbury

Report 13/186

Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological field evaluation carried out at Slough Trading Estate, Slough, Berkshire (SU 9555 8089) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Ms Sally Dicks of CgMs Consulting Limited 140 London Wall, London EC2Y 5DN on behalf of SEGRO plc, 234 Bath Road, Slough, Berkshire, SL1 4EE.

Planning permission (P/14515/003) was granted by Slough Borough Council in 2011 for the redevelopment of the Leigh Road Commercial Centre 2 (LRCC2). The consent was subject to a condition (16) relating to archaeology, requiring a programme of archaeological work in advance of development. This was to take the form, initially, of evaluation by trial trenching, based on the results of which further work might be required.

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 Borough Council's policies on archaeology. It is acknowledged that PPS5 has now been superseded by the *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF 2012). The field investigation was carried out to a specification approved by Mr Rowland Smith of Berkshire Archaeology, advisers to Slough Borough Council on archaeological matters. The fieldwork was undertaken by Daniel Bray and James McNicoll-Norbury along with Kyle Beaverstock and Steve Crabb between 8th October and 16th October 2013 with the site code STE 13/186. The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited at an appropriate museum accepting archives in due course.

Location, topography and geology

The site is located within the Slough Trading Estate, Slough, Berkshire which is located to the north west of central Slough (Fig. 1). The railway line from Reading to London via Slough splits the site in two (Fig. 2). The underlying geology is mapped as Langley Silt: sandy, clay and silt (Brickearth) (BGS 2005). An orangey brown brickearth was seen in all excavated trenches. The site lies at a height between 31m and 32m above Ordnance Datum.

Archaeological background

In general the site lies within the archaeologically rich Thames Valley, but locally the environs of Slough, until the 1990s, had seen little archaeological work undertaken. However recent excavations undertaken in advance of urban development and quarrying have revealed evidence from the Neolithic through to Medieval times. A number of excavations carried out at Cippenham to the south west during the mid 1990s revealed Neolithic features, a Bronze Age cremation cemetery, Bronze Age ring ditches and other associated deposits as well as Iron Age and Roman enclosures and medieval activity (Entwistle *et al.* 2003, Taylor 2012a, Taylor 2012b). Roman deposits have been recorded to the south east (Howell and Durden 2003) with multi-period remains further to the west (Foreman *et al.* 2002) Recent fieldwork at Taplow to the west has revealed a probable Iron Age occupation site (Bray 2012).

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 any deposits of archaeological interest have survived;
- to clarify the nature and extent of existing disturbance and intrusions and the degree of archaeological survival;
- to provide information on past land use and development; and
- to provide sufficient information for an appropriate mitigation strategy if required.

It was proposed to excavate 12 trenches each 1.80m wide and varying in length. The trenches were positioned on the proposed development footprint in areas identified as having archaeological potential, that had not been previously developed more than once and that were accessible and clear of live services (Fig. 3). The trenches were to be excavated using a JCB-type machine equipped with a toothless ditching bucket after the breaking of concrete. Machine excavation below the concrete was to be supervised at all times by an archaeologist, with the spoil removed being monitored for finds. All potential archaeological deposits were to be hand-cleaned and sufficient of the archaeological features and deposits exposed were excavated or sampled by hand to satisfy the aims of the project.

Results

All trenches were dug in the location intended, except for trench 12 which was abandoned due to live gas and electric mains running the length of the proposed location (Fig. 3). It was not possible to excavate this trench in another location. Trench widths varied from 1.90m to 2.30m. The trenches ranged in depth from 0.50m to 0.84m and in length from 4.80m to 22.50m. Topsoil and subsoil were not present in any trench. All trenches comprised varying thickness of made ground on top of the orangey brown silty clay natural geology. A complete list of trenches giving lengths, breadths, depths and a description of sections and geology is given in Appendix 1. A list of features investigated forms Appendix 2.

Trench 1 (Fig 3 and 4; Pls 1 and 2)

Trench 1 was aligned SSE - NNW and was 4.80m long, 0.59m deep and 2.10m wide. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.13m of Tarmac over 0.11m of made ground. This made ground was overlying another 0.03m of broken Tarmac above 0.24m of clayey silt natural geology which was stained blue/grey. A single large pit (4) was recorded which was infilled with stained blue grey clayey silt with a strong hydrocarbon odour (53). It was decided, after consultation with Berkshire Archaeology, to machine excavate the feature in order to find the extent of the pit. The pit was vertical sided and excavated to a depth of 2.00m through the brickearth to the gravel beneath. No finds were recovered and due to the presence of the hydrocarbons it is concluded that this is modern.

Trench 2

Trench 2 was an L-shaped trench with the longer arm aligned E - W and measuring 15.0m long and 0.67m deep. The smaller section was aligned N - S, measuring 4.7m long and was south from the west end of the trench. The stratigraphy of both sections consisted of 0.15m of concrete or Tarmac above 0.15m of made ground on top of 0.30m of blue/grey stained natural geology. Both elements were 1.90m wide. A modern wall foundation was revealed running west along the southern edge of the E - W length for 8.00m and turning at a right angle northwards. The foundation corresponded with a concrete pad and must have been a demolished extension of the nearby existing building from the 1920s. Within this wall was a modern truncation filled with concrete. No archaeological features were revealed.

Trench 3

Trench 3 was aligned roughly N-S and was 9.70m long, 0.65m deep and 1.90m wide. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.20m of concrete above 0.15m of made ground which overlay 0.15m of discoloured natural geology. A

modern truncation backfilled with bricks and concrete was revealed 4.00m from the southern end. No features of archaeological interest were found.

Trench 4

Trench 4 was aligned ESE–WNW and was 20.20m long, 0.57m deep and 2.10m wide. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.18m of concrete above 0.20m of made ground overlying 0.12m of blue/grey stained natural geology. Two modern linear features were revealed at 8.50m and 12.00m from the western end. No features of archaeological interest were found.

Trench 5 (Figs 3 and 4; Pl. 3)

Trench 5 was aligned roughly N–S and was 10.10m long, 0.66m deep and 2.30m wide. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.17m of scrubland above 0.32m of made ground above the natural geology. Two brick walls (50, 51) were revealed. Wall 50 was at the southern end of the trench and ran north 3.80m and then turning west. Wall 51 ran west at 6.70m and then turning north and running the remaining length of the trench. The two walls were of modern brick construction and no finds were recovered. A modern truncation (3) was seen between these two walls.

Trench 6

Trench 6 was aligned ESE–WNW and was 19.00m long, 0.54m deep and 2.30m wide. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.03m of Tarmac on top of 0.43m of hardcore above the natural geology. No modern truncations or archaeological features were found.

Trench 7

Trench 7 was aligned N–S and was 22.00m long 0.50m deep and 2.00m wide. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.20m of concrete on top of 0.25m of hardcore above the natural geology. A modern truncation 0.50m ran the length of the trench on the eastern side. A drain ran diagonally across the trench on a NW–SE alignment. No archaeological features were found.

Trench 8

Trench 8 was aligned N–S and was 22.50m long, 0.56m deep and 2.00m wide. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.05m of Tarmac on top of 0.10m of concrete overlying 0.24m of made ground. The made ground was above 0.12m of blue/grey stained natural geology. No modern truncations or archaeological features were found.

Trench 9

Trench 9 was aligned N–S and was 15.00m long, 0.54m deep and 1.90m wide. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.15m of concrete overlying 0.30m of made ground on top of 0.07m of blue/grey stained natural geology. No modern truncations or features of archaeological interest were found.

Trench 10 (Pl. 4)

Trench 10 was aligned N - S and was 16.40m long, 0.74m deep and 2.20m wide. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.16m concrete on top of 0.22m of made ground. This made ground was on top of another 0.17m of Tarmac above 0.17m of blue/grey stained natural geology. Two modern linear features filled with rubble were seen to cut the made ground. No features of archaeological interest were found.

Trench 11

Trench 11 was aligned N - S and was 10.10m long, 0.84m deep and 1.90m wide. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.12m of Tarmac on top of 0.13m of gravel made ground which was above 0.28m of made ground. This overlay 0.27m blue/grey stained natural geology. No archaeological features were found.

Conclusion

The evaluation did not reveal any deposits nor artefacts of archaeological significance. In all trenches the lack of topsoil and subsoil across the site suggests that these levels and an unknown amount of the natural brickearth geology had been removed most likely during the building of the trading estate in the 1920s. Most of the trenches revealed that the natural had been contaminated with diesel. Only modern walls and numerous modern truncations were revealed.

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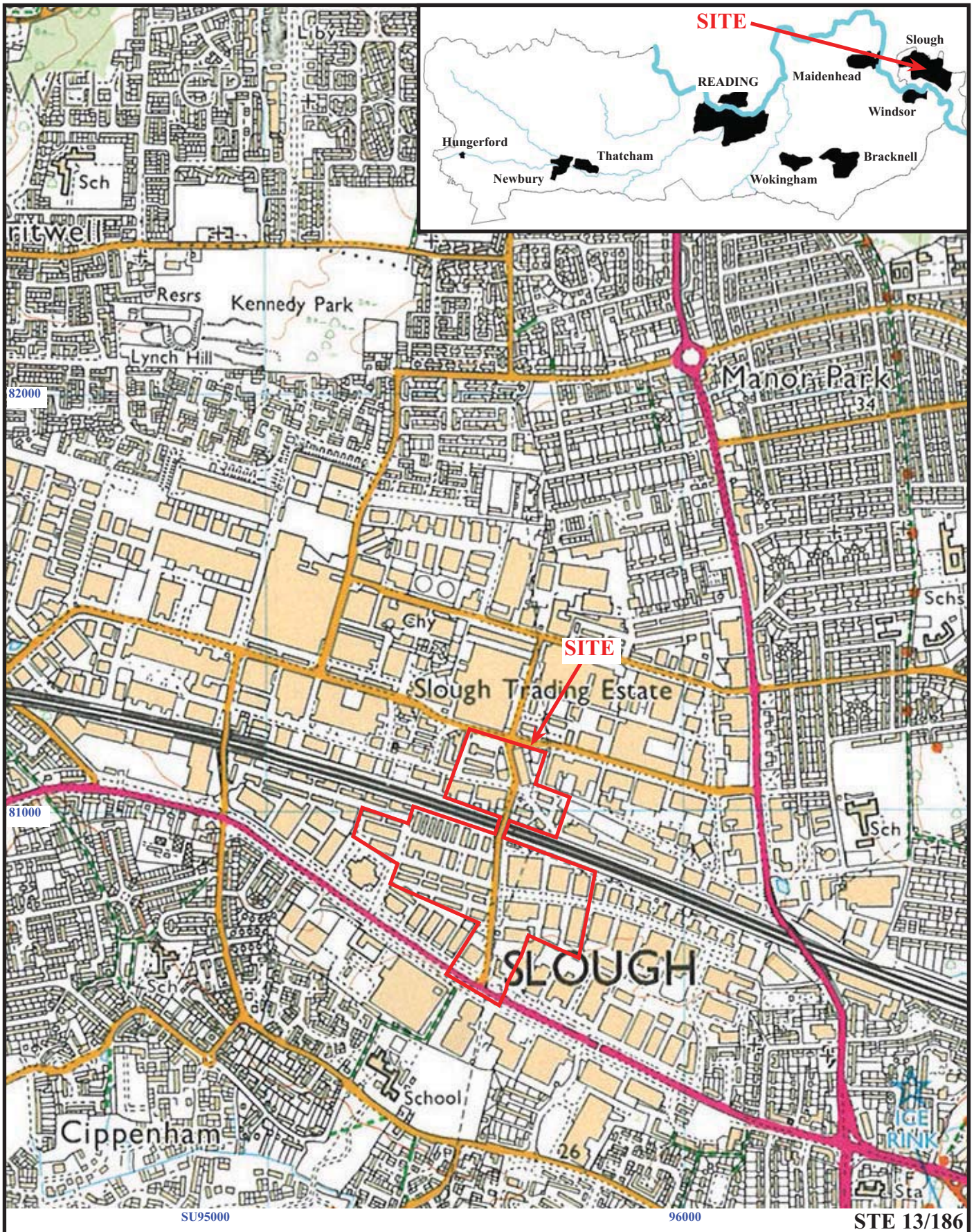
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APPENDIX 1: Trench details

<i>Trench</i>	<i>Length (m)</i>	<i>Breadth (m)</i>	<i>Depth (m)</i>	<i>Comment</i>
1	4.80	2.10	0.59	0-0.13m Tarmac; 0.13-0.22m made ground; 0.22-0.25m Tarmac; 0.25-0.49m blue/grey stained natural geology; 0.49+ brickearth natural geology. Modern pit 4 [Pls 1 and 2]
2	15.00 & 4.70	1.90	0.67	0-0.15m concrete/Tarmac; 0.15-0.30m made ground; 0.30-0.60m blue/grey stained natural geology; 0.60+ natural geology. Modern wall foundation
3	9.70	1.90	0.65	0-0.20m concrete; 0.20-0.35m made ground; 0.35-0.50m blue/grey stained natural geology; 0.50m+ natural geology. Modern truncation
4	20.20	2.10	0.57	0-0.18m concrete; 0.18-0.38m made ground; 0.38-0.50m blue/grey stained natural geology; 0.50m+ natural geology. Two modern linear feature
5	10.10	2.10	0.66	0-0.17m scrubland; 0.17-0.49m made ground; 0.49m+ natural geology. Walls 50 and 51, modern truncation 3 [Pl. 3]
6	19.00	2.30	0.54	0-0.03m Tarmac; 0.03-0.46m hardcore; 0.46m+ natural geology
7	22.00	2.00	0.50	0-0.20m concrete; 0.20-0.45m hardcore; 0.45m+ natural geology. Modern truncation
8	22.50	2.00	0.56	0-0.05m Tarmac; 0.05-0.15m concrete; 0.15-0.39m made ground; 0.39-0.51m blue/grey stained natural geology; 0.51m+ natural geology
9	15.00	1.90	0.54	0-0.15m concrete; 0.15m-0.45m made ground; 0.45-0.52m blue/grey stained natural geology; 0.52m+ natural geology
10	16.40	2.20	0.74	0-0.16m concrete; 0.16-0.38m made ground; 0.38-0.55m Tarmac; 0.55-0.72m blue/grey stained natural geology; 0.72m+ natural geology. Two modern linear features. [Pl. 4]
11	10.10	1.90	0.84	0-0.12m Tarmac; 0.12-0.25m gravel made ground; 0.25-0.53m made ground; 0.53-0.80m blue/grey stained natural geology; 0.80m+ natural geology.

APPENDIX 2: Feature details

<i>Trench</i>	<i>Cut</i>	<i>Fill (s)</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Date</i>
5	1	50	Wall	Modern
5	2	51	Wall	Modern
5	3	52	Truncation	Modern
1	4	53	Pit	Modern



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Figure 1. Location of site within Slough and Berkshire.

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Figure 2. Detailed location of site off Bath Road.

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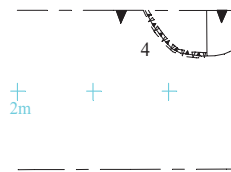
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Figure 3. Location of trenches.

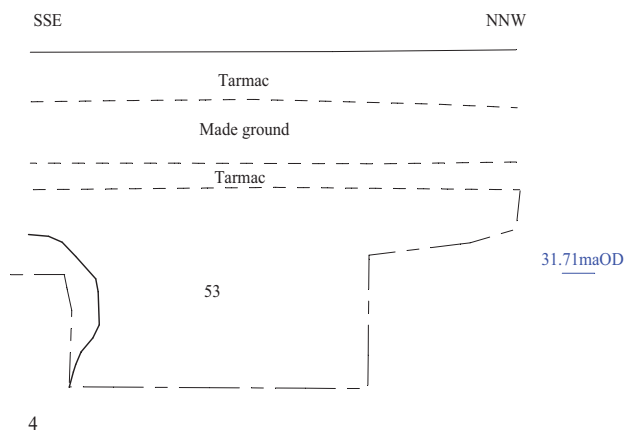
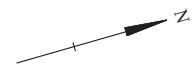
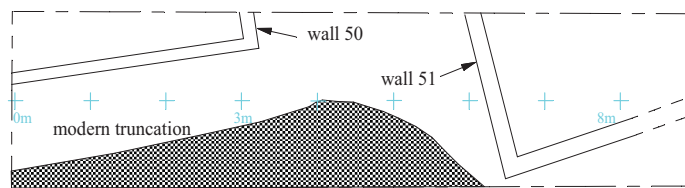


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Trench 1



Trench 5



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Figure 4. Details from trenches.



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



Plate 2. Modern feature 4, part dug, Trench 1, looking west, Scales: 1m and 0.1m.

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Plates 1 - 2.

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Plate 3. Trench 5, looking north, Scales: 2m, 1m and 0.5m.



Plate 4. Trench 10, looking north, Scales: 2m, 1m and 0.5m

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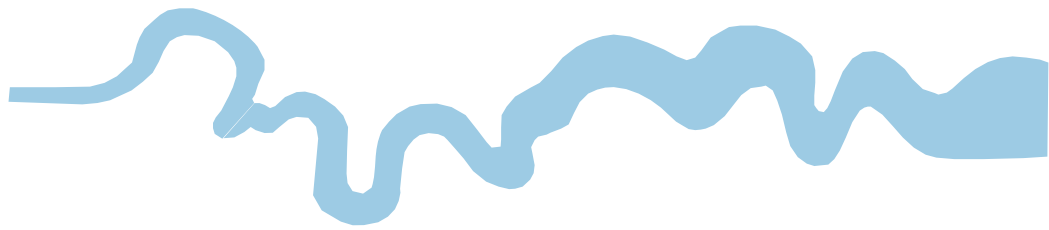
Plates 3 - 4.

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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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