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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL**

**S E R V I C E S**

**1 Beechmount Road,  
Southampton, Hampshire**

**Archaeological Watching Brief**

**by David Platt**

**Site Code: SOU1649**

**(SU 4188 1616)**

# **1 Beechmount Road, Southampton, Hampshire**

**An Archaeological Watching Brief  
for Concept Design and Planning**

by David Platt

Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code SOU1649

**January 2014**

## Summary

**Site name:** 1 Beechmount Road, Southampton, Hampshire

**Grid reference:** SU 4188 1616

**Site activity:** Archaeological watching brief

**Date and duration of project:** 14th – 17th January 2014

**Project manager:** Steve Ford

**Site supervisor:** David Platt

**Site code:** SOU1649

**Summary of results:** No finds or features of archaeological interest were found during the watching brief.

**Location and reference of archive:** The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited at Southampton City 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 ✓ 29.01.14
	Steve Preston ✓ 24.01.14

# 1 Beechmount Road, Southampton, Hampshire An Archaeological Watching Brief

by David Platt

Report 14/03

## Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological watching brief carried out at 1 Beechmount Road, Southampton, Hampshire (SU 4188 1616) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Mr Max Holmes on behalf of Concept Design and Planning, Office 21-22, Roxan Business Centre, 142 Lodge Road, Southampton SO14 6QR. Planning permission (13/00374/FUL) has been gained from Southampton City Council for the partial demolition of the existing house and the erection of a detached bungalow with associated parking and cycle/refuse storage. The consent is subject to two conditions (19 and 20) which relate to archaeology. As a requirement of the planning consent, a watching brief has been requested as set out in the *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF 2012) and the City policies on archaeology. This work is to take place during groundworks as a result of the possibility of damage or destruction of archaeological deposits. The work was carried out according to a written scheme of investigation approved Mr Kevin White, Southampton City Planning Archaeological Officer.

The fieldwork was undertaken by David Platt between 14th and 17th of January 2014 and the site code is SOU1649. The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited at Southampton City Museum at due course.

## Location, topography and geology

The site is located to the south of Beechmount Road to the rear of number 1 (Fig. 2). The site is bordered to the east by the grounds of Beechmount House and to the west by the gardens to the rear of Bassett Avenue. The underlying geology is mapped as River Terrace Deposits (BGS 1987) and this was observed in the trenches as a reddish brown sand and gravel. The site lies at 76m above Ordnance Datum.

## **Archaeological background**

The site lies on the boundary of a 'Local Area of Archaeological Potential' (zone 16) defined in the City of Southampton Core Strategy (2010). This area includes all parts of Southampton not otherwise specifically identified but which may have archaeological potential.

## **Objectives and methodology**

The aims of the project were to excavate and record any archaeological deposits affected by the construction of the new building. The works were to involve examination of all these areas of intrusive groundworks, such as ground reduction, the digging of foundation /groundbeam trenches, deep service trenches and other intrusive structures such as soakaways. Archaeological deposits which are exposed by the groundworks were to be recorded but not further excavated unless threatened by the groundworks. Sufficient time was to be allowed to carry this out within the groundworkers' schedules. Foundation trenches (if used) would be dug using a machine fitted with a toothless bucket and excavation will (temporarily) cease if archaeological deposits are encountered above the formation level. Local widening of the foundation trenches will take place if discrete features are encountered which cannot fully be understood or excavated within the confines of the initial foundation trench.

## **Results**

An area measuring 22m x 9m was stripped of topsoil (only) prior to the digging of the foundation trenches (Fig. 3; Pl. 1). The stratigraphy observed in the foundation trenches consisted of 0.25m of topsoil (50) overlying 0.21m of subsoil (51) which consisted of a reddish greyish brown sandy silt with occasional gravel inclusions, this in turn overlay the natural gravel geology (52). The trenches were 0.75m wide and 1.10m deep (Fig. 4; Pl. 2). A single soakaway of modern date was found along with a waste pipe leading from the existing property at number 1.

A new soakaway was dug 5m south of the foundation trenches; this consisted of two pits measuring 1.30m by 1.30m and 1.30m by 1.20m, and both 1.30m deep, connected by a trench 0.60m deep, 0.75m wide and 3.10m long. The stratigraphy observed in this soakaway was 0.25m of topsoil (50) overlaying 0.35m of greyish brown sandy clay silt subsoil (51), this overlay the natural gravel geology (52).

No features of archaeological interest were observed.

## **Finds**

No finds were recovered.

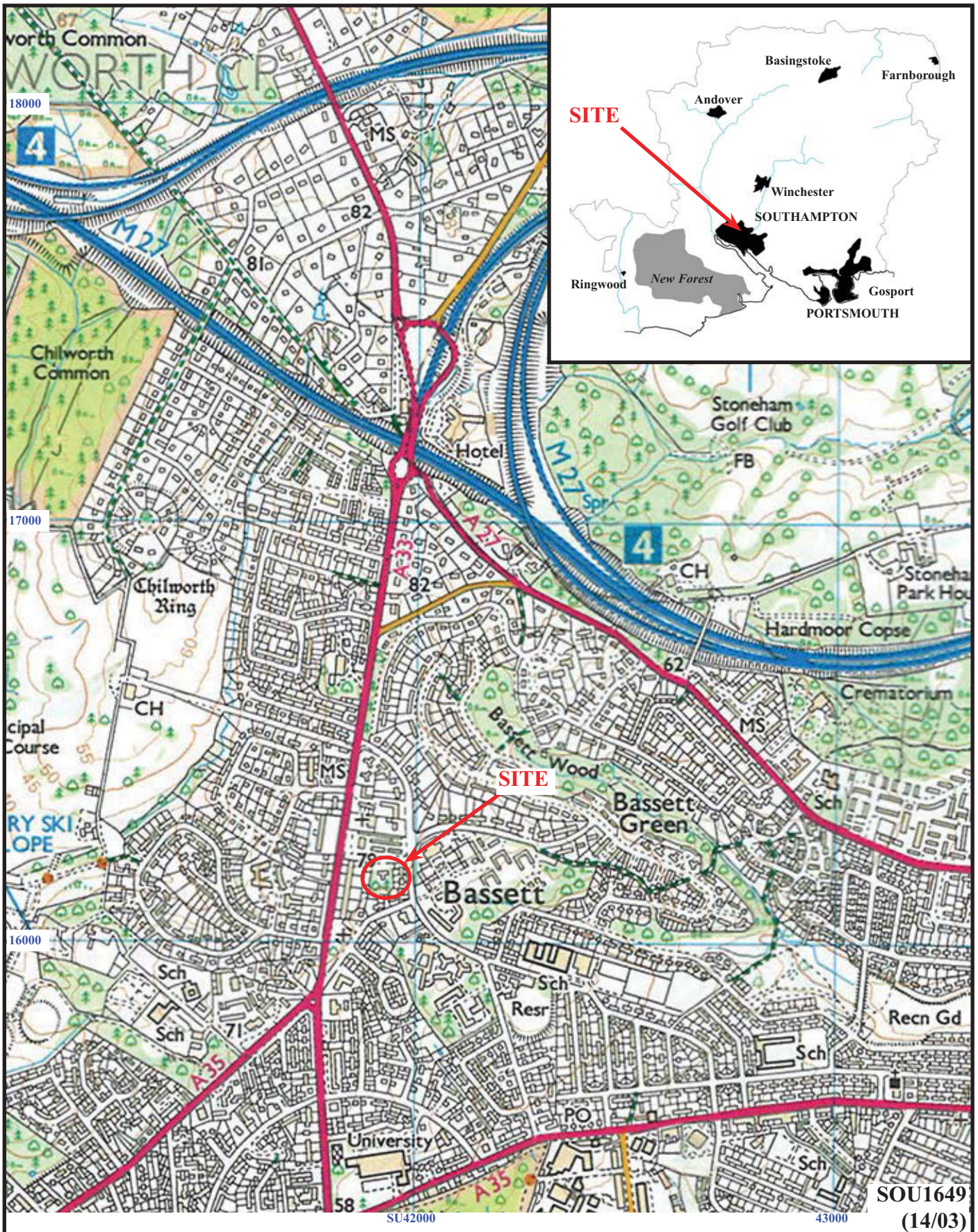
## **Conclusion**

Only modern deposits were encountered during the groundworks and nothing of archaeological interest was recorded.

## **References**

BGS, 1987, *British Geological Survey*, 1:50000, Sheet 315, Solid and Drift Edition, Keyworth  
NPPF, 2012, *National Planning Policy Framework*, Dept Communities and Local Govt, London





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Figure 1. Location of site within Southampton and Hampshire.

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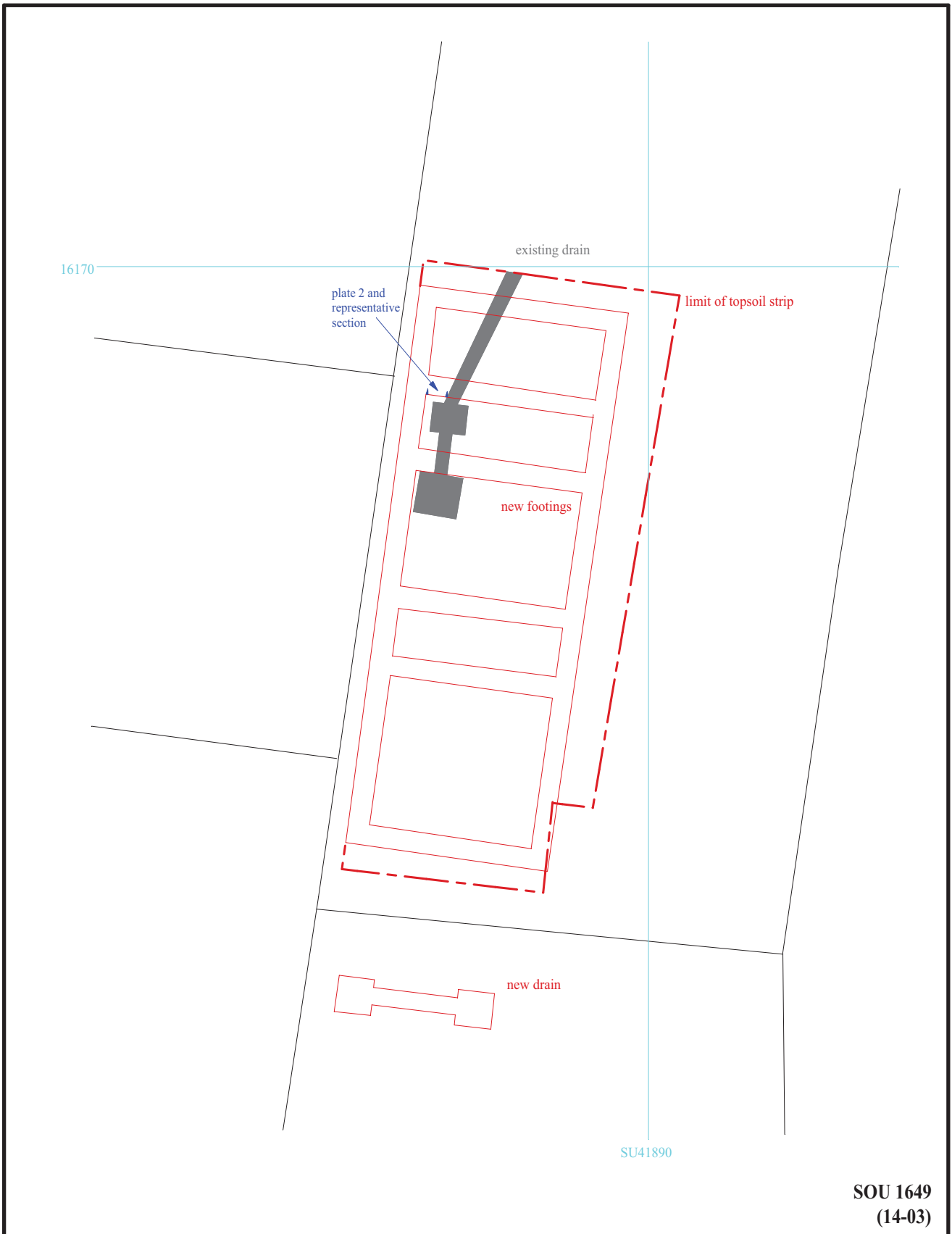
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Hampshire, 2014**  
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Figure 2. Detailed location of site off Beechmount Road.

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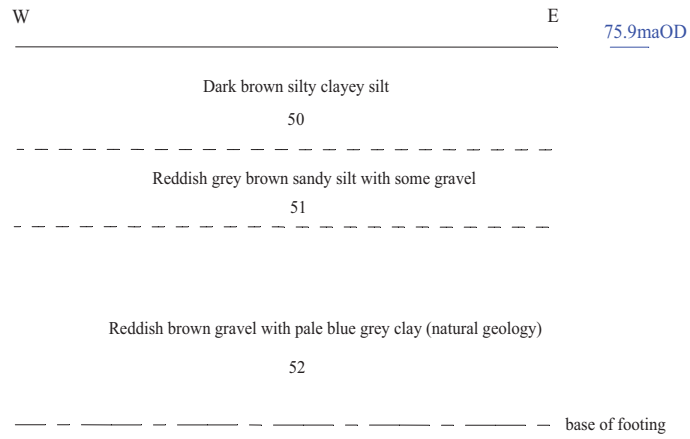


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Figure 3. Location of observed area.



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Figure 4. Representative section.



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Plate 1. Footing trenches under excavation, looking south, Scale: 2m.



Plate 2. Section of footing, looking south, Scales: 2m and 1m.

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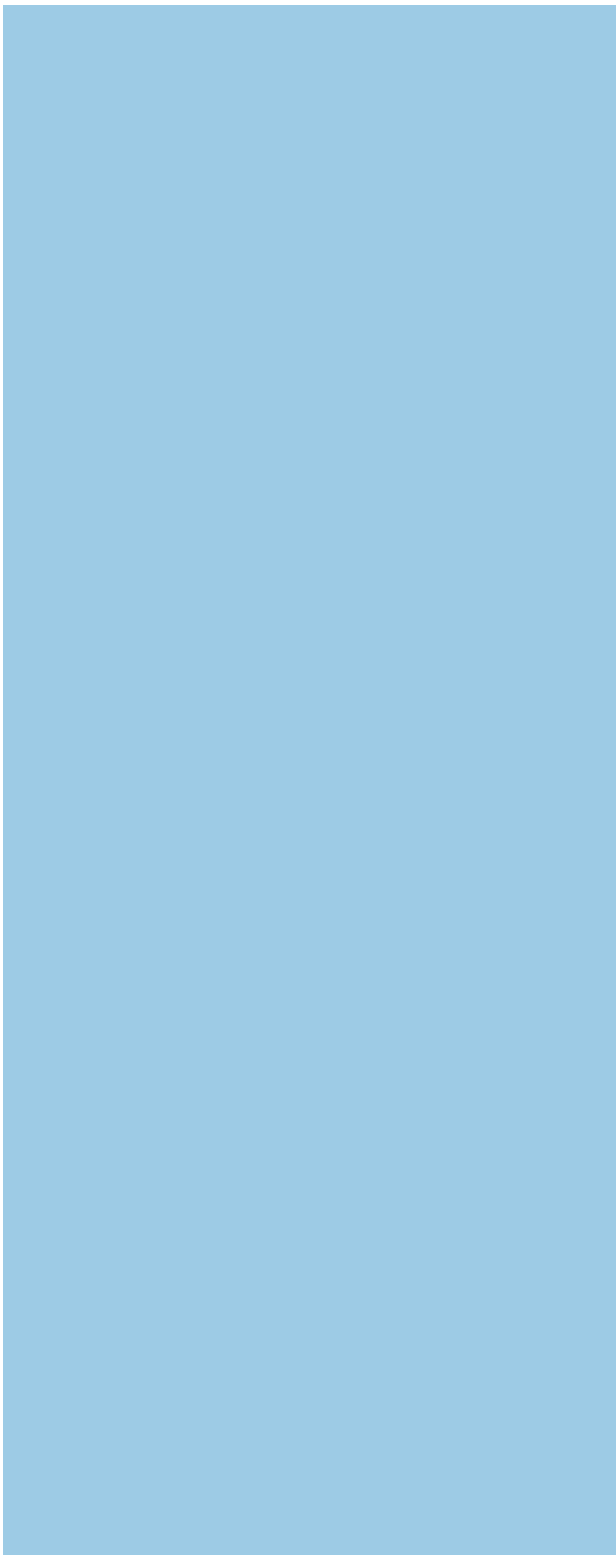
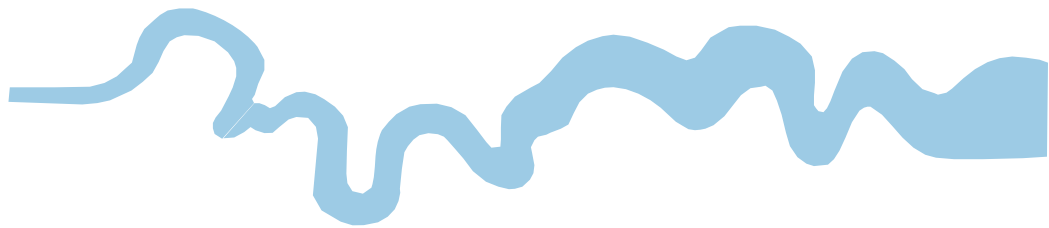
Plates 1 - 2.

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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
↓	↓





**Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd,  
47-49 De Beauvoir Road, Reading,  
Berkshire, RG1 5NR**

**Tel: 0118 9260552  
Fax: 0118 9260553  
Email: [tvas@tvas.co.uk](mailto:tvas@tvas.co.uk)  
Web: [www.tvas.co.uk](http://www.tvas.co.uk)**