

**T H A M E S      V A L L E Y**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL**

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

**1-4 Walgrove Gardens,  
White Waltham, Berkshire**

**Archaeological Evaluation**

**by Kyle Beaverstock**

**Site Code: WHM14/95**

**(SU 8485 7690)**

**1-4 Walgrove Gardens, White Waltham,  
Berkshire**

**An Archaeological Evaluation  
for Shanly Homes**

by Kyle Beaverstock  
Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code WHM14/95

**June 2014**

## Summary

**Site name:** 1-4 Walgrove Gardens, White Waltham, Berkshire

**Grid reference:** SU 8485 7690

**Site activity:** Evaluation

**Date and duration of project:** 27th May 2014

**Project manager:** Steve Ford

**Site supervisor:** Steve Ford

**Site code:** WHM14/95

**Area of site:** 0.9ha

**Summary of results:** The trenches but did not reveal any deposits of archaeological interest. A few sherds of late post-medieval pottery were recovered from the subsoil. The site is considered to have no 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 Preston ✓ 02.06.14
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# 1-4 Walgrove Gardens, White Waltham, Berkshire An Archaeological Evaluation

by Kyle Beaverstock

Report 14/95

## Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological field evaluation carried out at 1-4 Walgrove Gardens, White Waltham, Berkshire (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Mr Peter Humm of Shanly Homes Ltd, Sorbon, Aylesbury End, Buckinghamshire, HP9 1LW.

Planning permission (app no 14/00428) has been gained from the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead for demolition of the existing structures on site and replacement with four larger houses and detached garages with refurbishment of existing tennis courts. The consent includes a condition (22) relating to archaeology, which requires the implementation of a programme of archaeological works.

This is in accordance with the Department for Communities and Local Government's *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF 2012), and the Royal Borough's policies on archaeology. The field investigation was carried out to a specification approved by Mr Roland Smith, Archaeology Officer for Berkshire Archaeology, advisers to the Royal Borough on archaeological matters. The fieldwork was undertaken by Steve Ford and Kyle Beaverstock on the 27th May 2014 and the site code is WHM14/95. The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited at an approved local museum in due course.

## Location, topography and geology

The site is located at the southern end of White Waltham with Kiln Hill to the west and Great Wood to the south (Fig. 2). The underlying geology is mapped as Reading Beds (BGS 1978) which was observed in the trenches. The site lies at c. 38m above Ordnance Datum. It is currently being used for housing.

## Archaeological background

The archaeological potential of the site is moderate, with little recorded in the immediate vicinity. The village of White Waltham itself dates from at least the late Saxon period and is mentioned in Domesday Book (Williams and Martin 2002) and the parish church, St Mary's has a 12th-century origins. The parish may also have a Saxon charter describing its boundaries (Gelling 1974). A field survey to the west revealed extensive areas of

prehistoric activity on the chalklands to the north of the Walthams with an extensive Roman settlement at Weycock Hill (Ford 1987; Cotton 1956). On the clay lands to the south-west more discrete evidence for earlier prehistoric (Mesolithic and Bronze Age) activity was discovered. Monitoring along a major pipeline route to the east revealed Neolithic and Iron Age occupation deposits, while various metal detected finds were found and recorded to the east.

## **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 work was to be carried out in a manner which would not compromise the integrity of archaeological features or deposits which might warrant preservation in-situ, or might better be excavated under conditions pertaining to full excavation.

The specific 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 determine if any archaeologically significant deposits are present so as to inform the development of a mitigation strategy.

Four trenches were to be dug, each 15m long and 1.6m wide, within the footprints of the new structures. The trenches were to be excavated using a JCB-type machine fitted with a toothless ditching bucket under constant supervision, to reveal the archaeological horizon. The spoil heaps were to be monitored and searched for archaeological artefacts.

## **Results**

Trenches 1–3 were dug as intended and were *c.*15m long and 1.6m wide (Fig. 3) and ranged between 0.44m and 0.52m in depth. However, to avoid a live sewer only 4.6m of trench 4 was dug and a new trench (trench 5) was excavated to compensate. A complete list of trenches giving lengths, breadths and depths and a description of sections and geology can be found in Appendix 1.

### Trench 1 (Figs. 3 and 4; Pl. 1)

Trench 1 was aligned WSW–ENE and was 15m long and 0.52m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.18m of topsoil and 0.3m subsoil overlying natural clay geology. A modern drain cutting the subsoil was revealed and a single fragment of post-medieval pottery recovered from the subsoil.

#### Trench 2 (Fig. 3; Pl. 2)

Trench 2 was aligned N – S and was 15.2m long and 0.46m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.2m of topsoil and 0.22m of subsoil overlying natural clay geology. No features nor finds of archaeological interest were revealed.

#### Trench 3 (Fig. 3; Pl. 3)

Trench 3 was aligned SW – NE and was 15.1m long and 0.45m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.28m of topsoil and 0.15m of subsoil overlying natural clay geology. A service trench was recorded at the north-eastern end. No features nor finds of archaeological interest were revealed.

#### Trench 4 (Fig. 3; Pl. 4)

Trench 4 was aligned SE – NW and was 4.6m long and 0.46m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.22m of topsoil and 0.22m of subsoil overlying natural clay geology. No features nor finds of archaeological interest were revealed.

#### Trench 5 (Fig. 3; Pl. 5)

Trench 5 was aligned SW – NE and was 10.2m long and 0.44m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.24m of topsoil and 0.18m of subsoil overlying natural clay geology. No features or deposits were observed, however two fragments of late post-medieval pottery were recovered from the subsoil.

## **Finds**

### *Pottery by Paul Blinkhorn*

The pottery assemblage comprised 3 sherds with a total weight of 35g.

**GRE:** Glazed Red Earthenware, 16th – 19th century (Brears 1969). Fine sandy earthenware, usually with a brown or green glaze, occurring in a range of utilitarian forms. Such 'country pottery' was first made in the 16th century, and in some areas continued in use until the 19th century. 1 sherd, 28g.

**HE:** Horticultural Earthenwares, 19th – 20th century. Fine, red, slightly sandy fabric. Vessels mainly flower-pots. 2 sherds, 7g.

Both are typical finds at sites in the region. One of the sherds of HE (4g), occurred in the sub-soil of trench 1, the other two in the sub-soil of trench 5.

## **Conclusion**

The evaluation exercise revealed no features or finds of archaeological interest. Three sherds of post-medieval pottery were recovered from the subsoil of two trenches. The site is considered to have no archaeological potential.

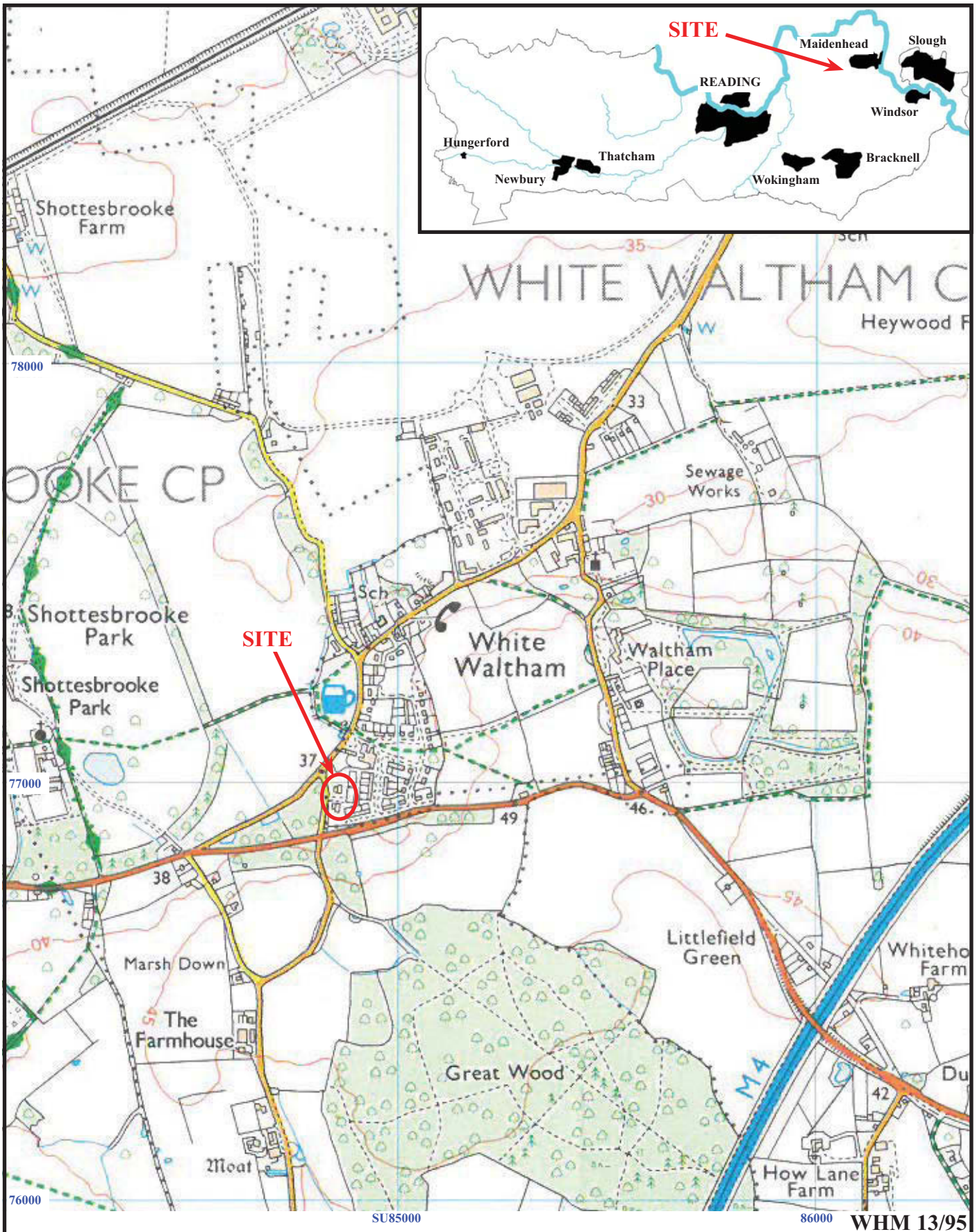
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**APPENDIX 1: Trench details**

<i>Trench</i>	<i>Length (m)</i>	<i>Breadth (m)</i>	<i>Depth (m)</i>	<i>Comment</i>
1	15.00	1.60	0.52	0-0.18m topsoil; 0.18m-0.48m light brown silt clay subsoil; 0.48m+ light yellow/brown clay natural geology with chalk nodules. Modern service trench <b>[Pl. 1]</b>
2	15.20	1.60	0.46	0-0.20m topsoil; 0.20m-0.42m mid brown silty clay subsoil; 0.42m+ light yellow red clay natural geology with chalk pellets. <b>[Pl. 2]</b>
3	15.10	1.60	0.45	0-0.28m topsoil; 0.28m-0.43m light grey brown silty clay subsoil; 0.45m+ light grey/yellow clay natural geology. Modern service trench. <b>[Pl. 3]</b>
4	4.60	1.60	0.46	0-0.22m topsoil; 0.22m-0.44m light grey brown silty clay subsoil; 0.44m+ light grey/yellow clay natural geology. <b>[Pl. 4]</b>
5	10.20	1.60	0.44	0-0.24m topsoil; 0.24m-0.42m light grey brown silty clay subsoil; 0.44m+ light grey/yellow clay natural geology. <b>[Pl. 5]</b>



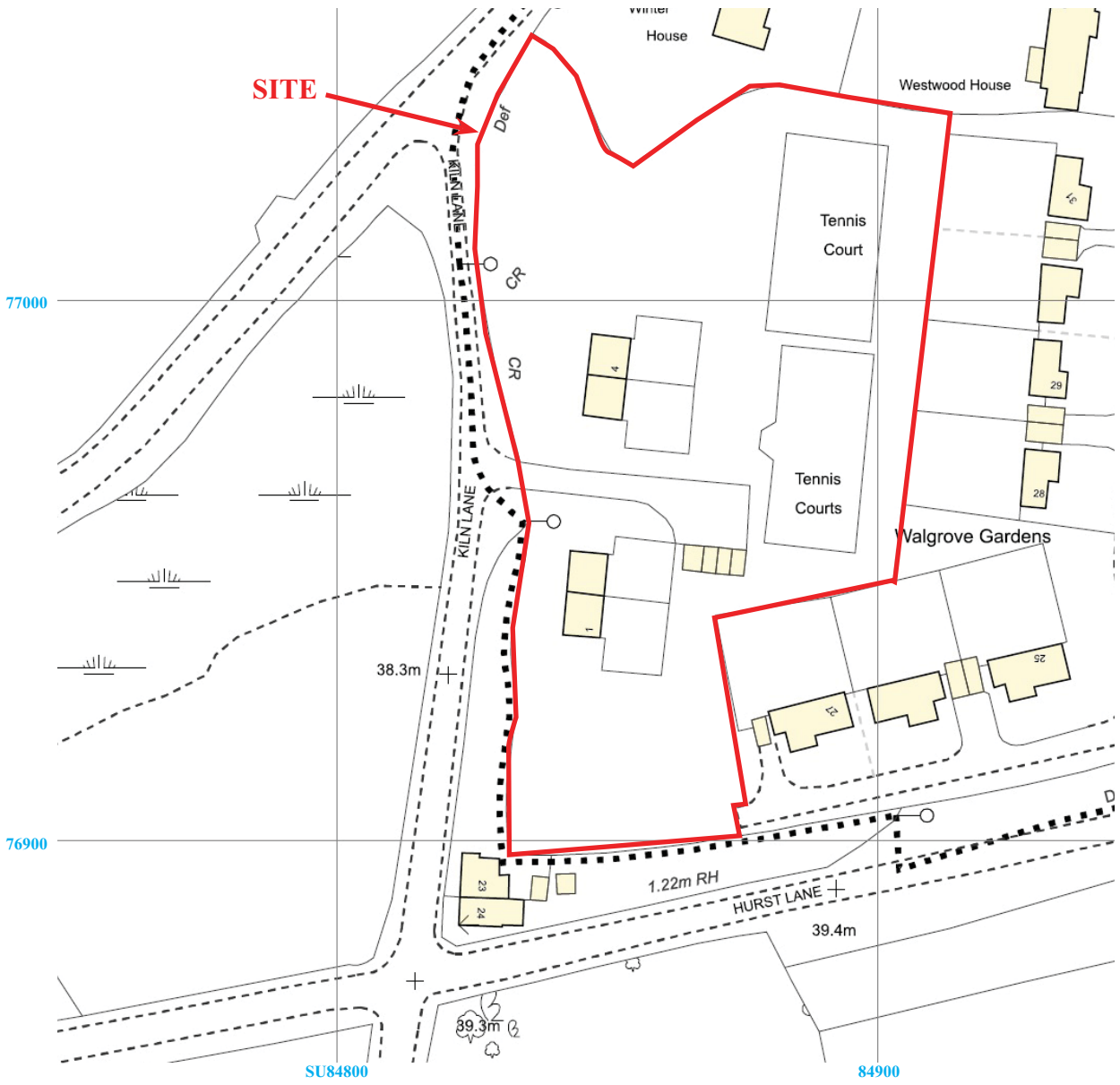


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Figure 1. Location of site within White Waltham and Berkshire.

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Figure 2. Detailed location of site off Kiln Hill.

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Figure 3. Location of trenches.



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**Trench 1**

WSW

ENE

38.98maOD

Topsoil

Light brown silty clay (Subsoil)

Brown clay (natural geology)

base of trench

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Figure 4. Representative section.



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Plate 1: Trench 1 looking east, Scales: 2m, 1m and 0.5m



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

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Plates 1 and 2.

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



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



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

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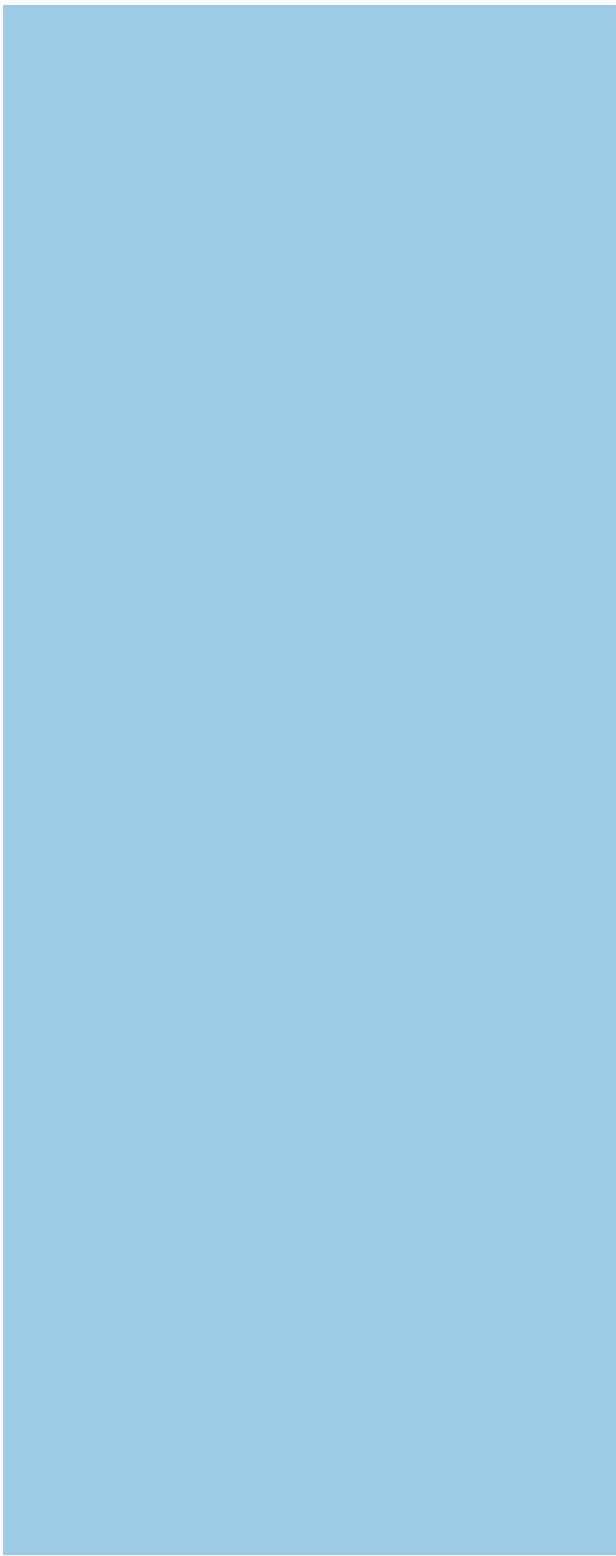
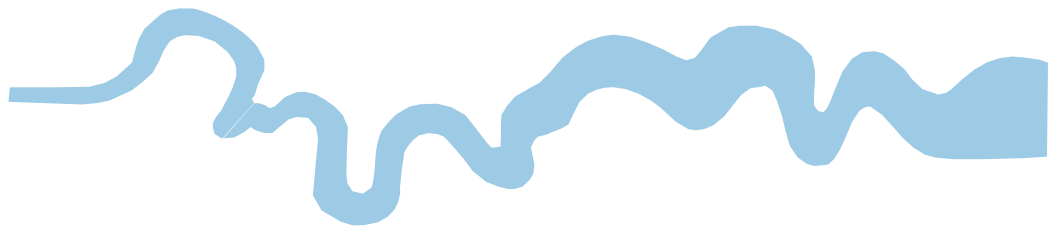
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Plates 3-5 .

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## TIME CHART

	<b>Calendar Years</b>
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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