

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

ARCHAEOLOGICAL

S E R V I C E S

**Dean Grange, Terry's Lane, Cookham
Maidenhead, Berkshire**

Archaeological Evaluation

by David Platt and Susan Porter

Site Code: TLC 14/199

(SU 8864 8556)

**Dean Grange, Terry's Lane,
Cookham, Maidenhead, Berkshire**

An Archaeological Evaluation

for Mr and Mrs P Griffin

by David Platt and Susan Porter

Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code TLC 14/199

October 2014

Summary

Site name: Dean Grange, Terry's Lane, Cookham, Maidenhead, Berkshire

Grid reference: SU 8864 8556

Site activity: Archaeological Evaluation

Date and duration of project: 20-24th October 2014

Project manager: Steve Ford

Site supervisor: David Platt

Site code: TLC 14/199

Area of site: c.0.75ha within an overall site of 1.75ha

Summary of results: Four trenches were excavated. No deposits of archaeological interest were observed and no finds were recovered. 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 in an appropriate designated museum or repository to be decided by the Local Planning Authority in due course.

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Report edited/checked by: Steve Ford ✓ 24.10.14 Steve Preston ✓ 23.10.14

Dean Grange, Terry's Lane, Cookham, Maidenhead, Berkshire An Archaeological Evaluation

by David Platt and Susan Porter

Report 14/199

Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological field evaluation carried out at Dean Grange, Terry's Lane, Cookham, Maidenhead, Berkshire SU 8864 8556 (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Mr Eli Trim of James Lamb Architects, 50 Kingsway Place, Sans Walk, London, EC1R 0LU on behalf of Mr and Mrs P Griffin.

Planning permission (app no 14/02456/FUL) has been sought from the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead to demolish an existing building and build a new house. As a consequence of the possibility of archaeological deposits on site, a field evaluation has been requested by Berkshire Archaeology in order to inform the planning process with regard to the potential archaeological impact of the proposed development.

This is in accordance with the Department for Communities and Local Government's *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF 2012), and the Royal Borough policies on archaeology. The field investigation was carried out to a specification approved by Mr Roland Smith of Berkshire Archaeology, advisers to the Royal Borough on matters relating to archaeology. The fieldwork was undertaken by David Platt and Rebecca Constable on 20th October 2014 and the site code is TLC 14/199. The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited in an appropriate designated museum or repository to be decided by the Local Planning Authority in due course.

Location, topography and geology

The site is located within Cookham parish to the west of Cookham and north of Cookham Rise at NGR SU 8864 8556 (Fig. 1). The site is laid to grass and is bordered to the north by Terry's Lane and by residential properties to the north-west. The site lies on a gravel terrace of the Thames on the western side of the valley. The natural topography slopes from c.45m above Ordnance Datum in the north-west to 40m aOD in the south-east. The underlying geology is recorded as Boyn Hill river terrace gravel (BGS 2005) and this was observed on site as a sandy silty gravel.

Archaeological background

The archaeological potential of the site stems from its location within the archaeologically rich Thames Valley with a wealth of prehistoric and later archaeological finds recorded for the area (Ford 1987, Gates 1975). The site also lies on a geological outcrop noteworthy for the presence of Palaeolithic remains (Wymer 1999, map 7), the Boyn Hill gravels in this area indicating that the proto-Thames flowed further west than the current course of the river (Wymer 1999, fig. 10). The site lies at some distance to the west of the historic core of Cookham which is thought to have middle Saxon origins and to have had a Minster church by the 8th century AD (Astill 1978). Cookham had borough status until eclipsed by Maidenhead after the building of the bridge across the Thames there. However, recent fieldwork at Spencers, on The Pound to the west of the village (south-east of Dean Grange) revealed Saxon (and prehistoric) deposits, which has complicated what was thought to be known about the early topography of the settlement (Mundin 2008; McNicoll-Norbury and Mundin 2013). The Berkshire Historic Environment Record notes relatively little in the immediate vicinity of the site but a number of Palaeolithic hand axes were recovered during gravel extraction to the west.

Objectives and methodology

The purpose of the evaluation was to determine the presence/absence, extent, condition, character, quality and date of any archaeological or palaeoenvironmental deposits within the area of development.

The specific research aims of the project were:

- to determine if archaeologically relevant levels had survived on the site;
- to determine if archaeological remains of any period were present; and
- to determine if any archaeologically significant deposits were present so as to inform the development of a mitigation strategy.

It was proposed to dig four trenches with a total length of 70m and each 1.5m wide. The trenches were to be located aimed at the footprint of the proposed new build. A contingency of 10m of trench was included should it be required to clarify the nature of the initial findings.

The trenches were excavated by a JCB type mechanical excavator equipped with toothless ditching bucket in order to expose the archaeologically relevant levels. Where archaeological features were found or suspected cleaning by hand was to take place, and sufficient of the features exposed would be excavated to an agreed sample fraction to fulfil the project objectives. This work was to be carried out in a manner that would not

compromise the integrity of archaeological features or deposits which warrant preservation in-situ or would be better excavated under conditions pertaining to full excavation.

Results

All four trenches were dug as planned (Fig. 3). They ranged in length from 16.50m to 22.3m and in depth from 0.26-0.46m. 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; Pl. 1)

Trench 1 was aligned East–West and was 17.00m long and 0.26m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.26m of topsoil overlying mid grey brown sandy silty gravel natural geology. No deposits of archaeological interest were observed and no finds were recovered.

Trench 2 (Fig. 3; Pl. 2)

Trench 2 was aligned NW–SE and was 22.00m long and 0.31m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.31m of topsoil overlying mid grey brown sandy silty gravel natural geology. No deposits of archaeological interest were observed and no finds were recovered.

Trench 3 (Fig. 3; Pl. 3)

Trench 3 was aligned SW–NE and was 22.30m long and 0.30m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.30m of topsoil overlying mid grey brown sandy silty gravel natural geology. A modern pit was observed and investigated at 1.5m from the south-western end. No deposits of archaeological interest were observed and no finds were recovered.

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

Trench 4 was aligned NW–SE and was 16.50m long and 0.46m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.24m of topsoil above 0.22m of mid brown sandy silt subsoil, overlying mid grey brown sandy silty gravel natural geology. No deposits of archaeological interest were observed and no finds were recovered

Conclusion

The four trenches were dug as intended, however despite the archaeological potential for the site no deposits of archaeological interest were observed and no finds recovered. A single modern pit was noted in Trench 3

(clearly modern material was retained on site) and it was not further investigated. On the basis of this evidence the site appears to have no archaeological potential.

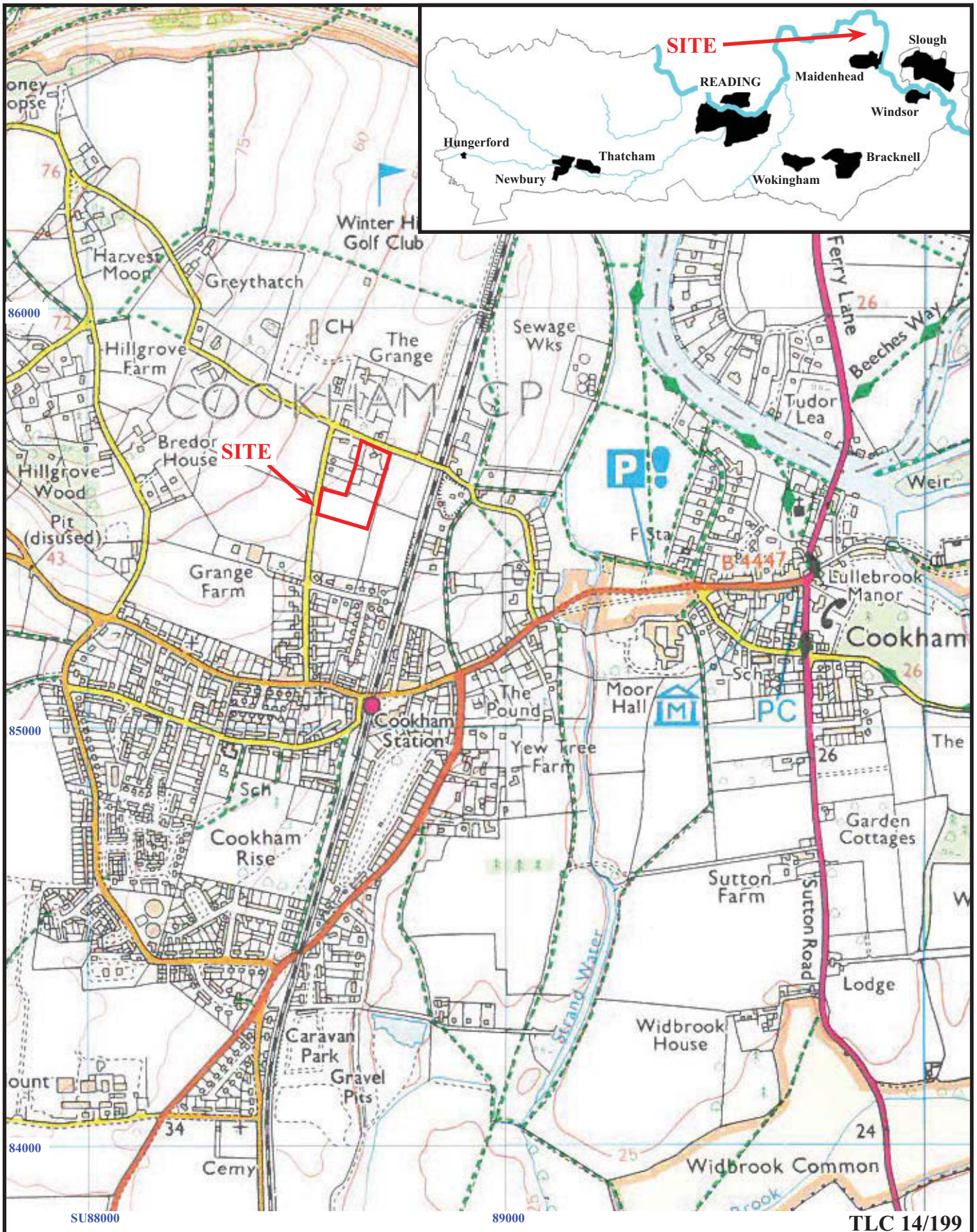
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APPENDIX 1: Trench details

0m at south or west end

<i>Trench</i>	<i>Length (m)</i>	<i>Breadth (m)</i>	<i>Depth (m)</i>	<i>Comment</i>
1	17.00	1.50	0.26	0–0.26m topsoil; 0.26m+ mid grey brown sandy silty gravel natural geology. [PI. 1]
2	22.00	1.50	0.31	0–0.31m topsoil, 0.31m+ gravel natural geology. [PI. 2]
3	22.30	1.50	0.30	0–0.30m topsoil, 0.30m+ gravel natural geology. [PI. 3]
4	16.50	1.50	0.46	0–0.24m topsoil, 0.24-0.46m mid brown sandy silt, subsoil; 0.46m+ gravel natural geology. [PI. 4]



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Figure 1. Location of site within Cookham and Berkshire.

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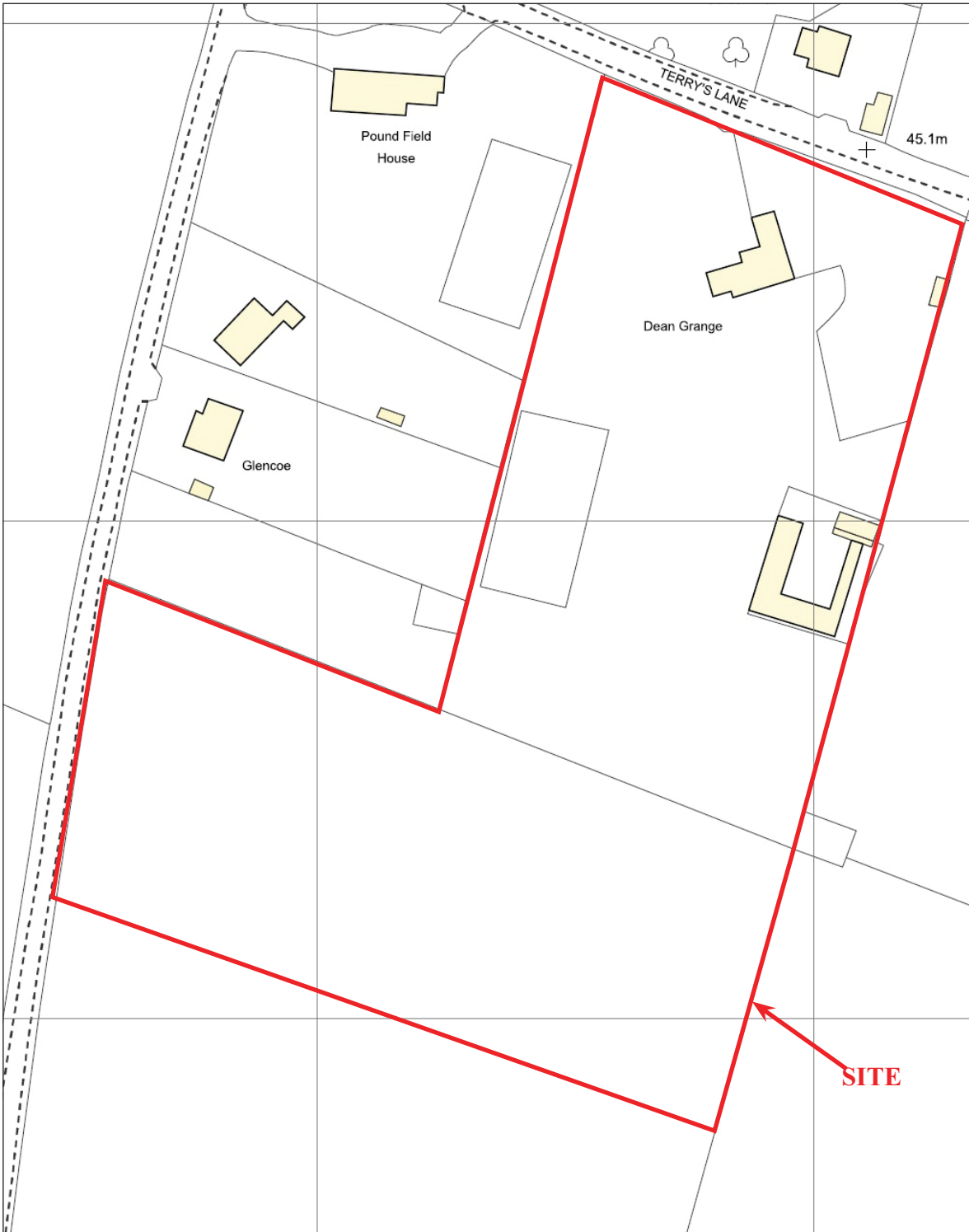
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Figure 2. Detailed location of site off Terry's Lane.

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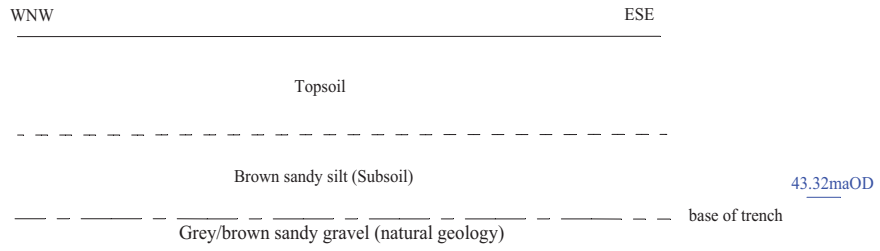
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Figure 3. Location of trenches.



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Trench 4



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Figure 4. Representative sections.



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Plate 1. Trench 1, looking east, Scales: horizontal 2m and 1m, vertical 0.3m.



Plate 2. Trench 2, looking north west, Scales: horizontal 2m and 1m, vertical 0.3m.

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Plates 1 - 2.

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Plate 3. Trench 3, looking north east, Scales: horizontal 2m and 1m, vertical 0.3m.



Plate 4. Trench 4, looking south east, Scales: horizontal 2m and 1m, vertical 0.3m.

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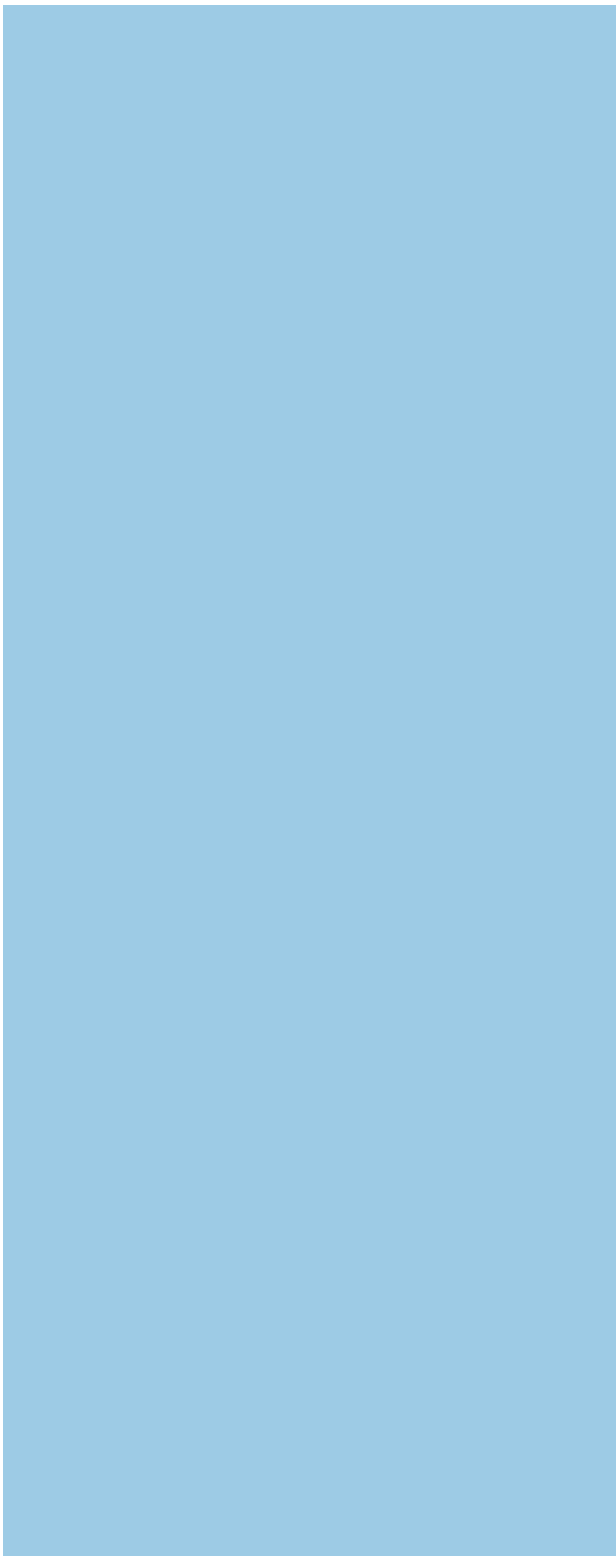
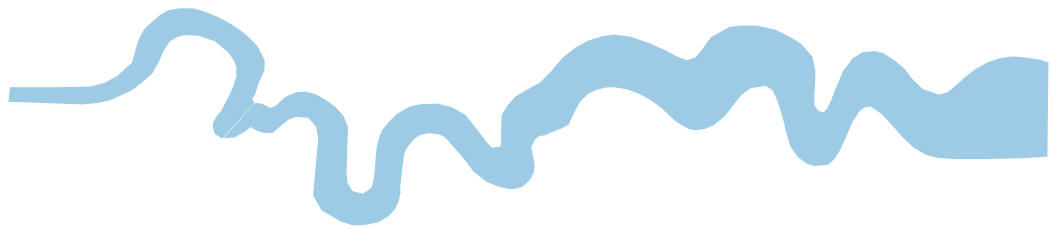
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TIME CHART

	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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