

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

ARCHAEOLOGICAL

S E R V I C E S

**Cippenham Primary School, Elmshott Lane,
Slough, Berkshire**

Archaeological Evaluation

by Daniel Bray

Site Code: CPS15/42

(SU 9400 8070)

**Cippenham Primary School, Elmshott Lane,
Slough, Berkshire**

**An Archaeological Evaluation
for Cippenham Primary School**

by Daniel Bray

Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code CPS 15/42

February 2015

Summary

Site name: Cippenham Primary School, Elmshott Lane, Slough, Berkshire

Grid reference: SU 9400 8070

Site activity: Archaeological Evaluation

Date and duration of project: 19th February 2015

Project manager: Steve Ford

Site supervisor: Daniel Bray

Site code: CPS 15/42

Summary of results: Despite the archaeological potential of the site no features of archaeological interest were revealed. It is not considered that the proposed development will have any archaeological impact.

Location and reference of archive: The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited at a suitable local museum in due course.

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www.tvas.co.uk/reports/reports.asp.*

Report edited/checked by: Steve Ford ✓ 20.02.15 Steve Preston ✓ 20.02.15

Cippenham Primary School, Elmshott Lane, Slough, Berkshire An Archaeological Evaluation

by Daniel Bray

Report 15/42

Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological field evaluation carried out at Cippenham Primary School, Elmshott Lane, Slough, Berkshire (SU 9400 8070) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Mr Ross Van Ot of Carless and Adams Partnership, Progress Business Centre, Whittle Parkway, Slough SL1 6DQ on behalf of Cippenham Primary School, Elmshott Lane, Cippenham Lane, Slough, Berkshire Slough, SL1 5RB.

Planning consent (P/03999/040) has been gained from Slough Borough Council to construct a new classroom block on the site, and a separate car park. The consent includes a condition (7) relating to archaeology. It is possible that the development area may contain archaeological deposits and in order to provide sufficient information on the archaeological potential of the site so as to mitigate the effects of the development, a field evaluation has been requested.

This is in accordance with the Department for Communities and Local Government's *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF 2012), and the Borough Council's policies on archaeology. The field investigation was carried out to a specification approved by Mr Roland Smith, Archaeological Officer at Berkshire Archaeology, advisers to the council on matters relating to archaeology. The fieldwork was undertaken by Daniel Bray and Benedikt Tebbit on 19th February 2015 with the site CPS 15/42. 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 in the grounds of Cippenham Primary School to the west of Elmshott Lane (Fig. 2). The proposed development occupies areas to the south. The site is relatively flat and lies at 25m above Ordnance Datum (aOD). The underlying geology is mapped as Langley Silt: Sandy clay and silt (brickearth) (BGS 2005) was observed in the trenches.

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 in the Berkshire Historic Environment Record for the general area during archaeological fieldwork, aerial photography, mineral extraction and dredging of the river Thames (eg Ford 1987; Foreman *et al.* 2002; Gates 1975). Extensive excavations took place c.1km to the southeast of the site (Taylor 2007; 2012; Ford *et al.* 2003), with multi-period finds and deposits revealed. Most notable were features relating to dispersed Bronze Age occupation, Iron Age occupation and land division, and Roman occupation and land division. Further Later Bronze Age occupation deposits were recorded 500m to the south west (Hood 2013) and also 500m to the west where an undated but probable Iron Age ring ditch was recorded along with other undated linear features (Bray 2012; 2013, Castle 2014).

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; and
- to determine if archaeological deposits of any period are present.

It was proposed to dig 4 trenches: 3 x 10m trenches and 1 x 5m long, and each 1.6m wide to target the footprints of the proposed new classroom block and the car park. The trenches were to be excavated using a 360° type machine equipped with a toothless ditching bucket and supervised at all times by an archaeologist, with the spoil removed being monitored for any finds. All potential archaeological deposits were to be hand cleaned and sufficient of the archaeological features and deposits exposed were to be excavated or sampled by hand to satisfy the aims of the project.

Results

The four trenches were excavated as intended although trench 2 was subdivided to avoid a live water pipe (Pl. 1). The trenches were between 4.70m and 10m long and 0.35m and 0.38m deep. All were 1.60m wide. Appendix 1 provides a summary of the trenches.

Trench 1 (Figs 3; Pl. 2)

Trench 1 was aligned E – W and was 10m long and 0.37m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.17m of topsoil and 0.08m of subsoil overlying the natural orange brown sandy silt geology which also included occasional gravel patches. No archaeological features were revealed and no finds were recovered.

Trench 2a (Figs 3 and 4)

Trench 2a was aligned N – S and was 4.70m long and 0.35m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.17m of topsoil and 0.13m of subsoil overlying natural geology. No archaeological features were revealed and no finds were recovered.

Trench 2b (Figs 3; Pl. 3)

Trench 2b was aligned N – S and was 5.60m long and 0.36m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.16m of topsoil and 0.09m of subsoil overlying natural geology. No archaeological features were revealed and no finds were recovered.

Trench 3 (Figs 3)

Trench 3 was aligned N – S and was 10m long and 0.37m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.13m of topsoil and 0.15m of subsoil overlying natural geology. A modern east-west truncation possibly a service and backfilled with gravel was observed at the south end of the trench but no archaeological deposits were revealed.

Trench 4 (Figs 3)

Trench 4 was aligned E – W and was 0.16m long and 0.38m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.16m of topsoil and 0.13m of subsoil overlying the natural geology. No archaeological features were revealed and no finds were recovered.

Conclusion

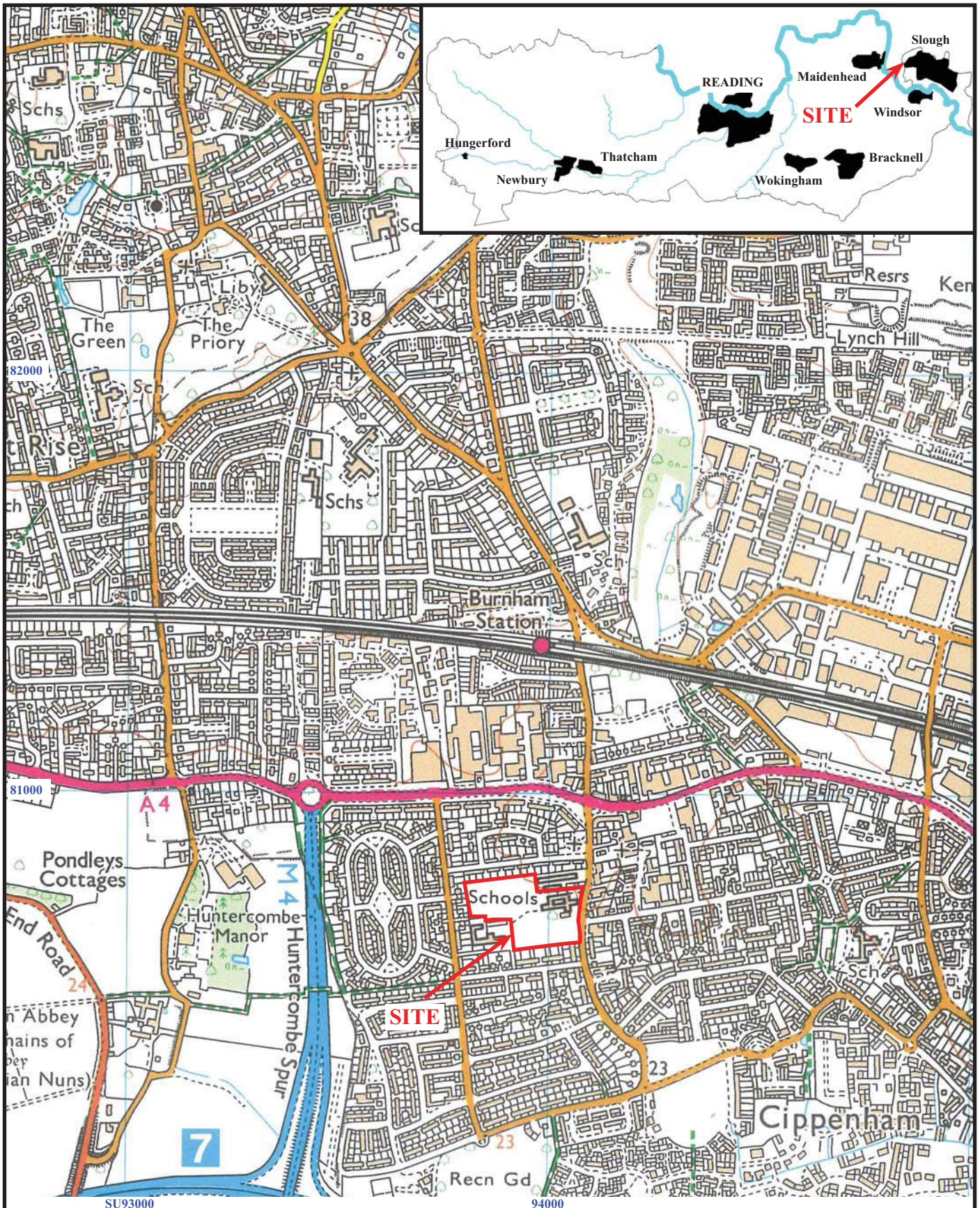
Despite the archaeological potential of the site, no archaeological deposits or finds were revealed. The site does not appear to have been truncated or altered by modern activity and the archaeological horizon does survive. It is not considered that the proposed development will have any archaeological impact.

References

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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	10.00	1.60	0.37	0-0.17m topsoil; 0.17m-0.25m subsoil; 0.25m+ orange brown sandy silt with gravel patches (natural geology)
2a	4.70	1.60	0.35	0-0.17m topsoil; 0.17m-0.30m subsoil; 0.30m+ natural geology
2b	5.60	1.60	0.36	0-0.16m topsoil; 0.16m-0.25m subsoil; 0.25m+ natural geology
3	10.00	1.60	0.37	0-0.13m topsoil; 0.13m-0.27m subsoil; 0.27m+ natural geology. Modern service
4	4.90	1.60	0.38	0-0.16m topsoil; 0.16m-0.29m subsoil; 0.29m+ natural geology



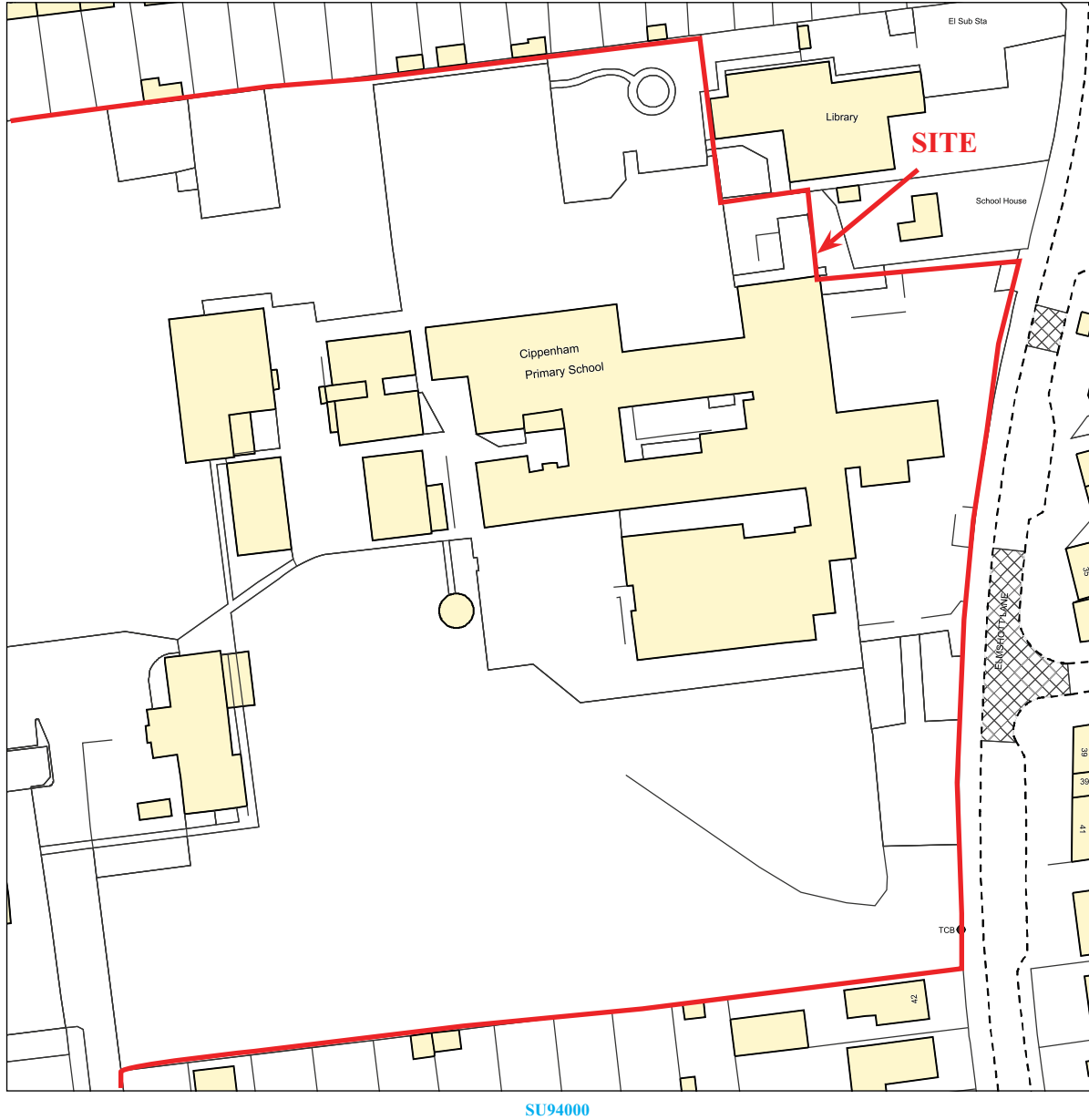
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Figure 1. Location of site within Berkshire.

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Figure 2. Detailed location of site.

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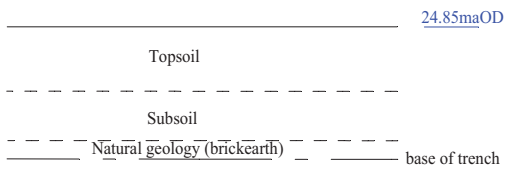
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Figure 3. Location of trenches.



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Trench 2a



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Figure 4. Representative section.



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Plate 1. Location of trenches 1, 2a and 2b, looking north.



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



Plate 3. Trench 2b, looking north,
Scales: horizontal 2m and 1m, vertical 0.5m.

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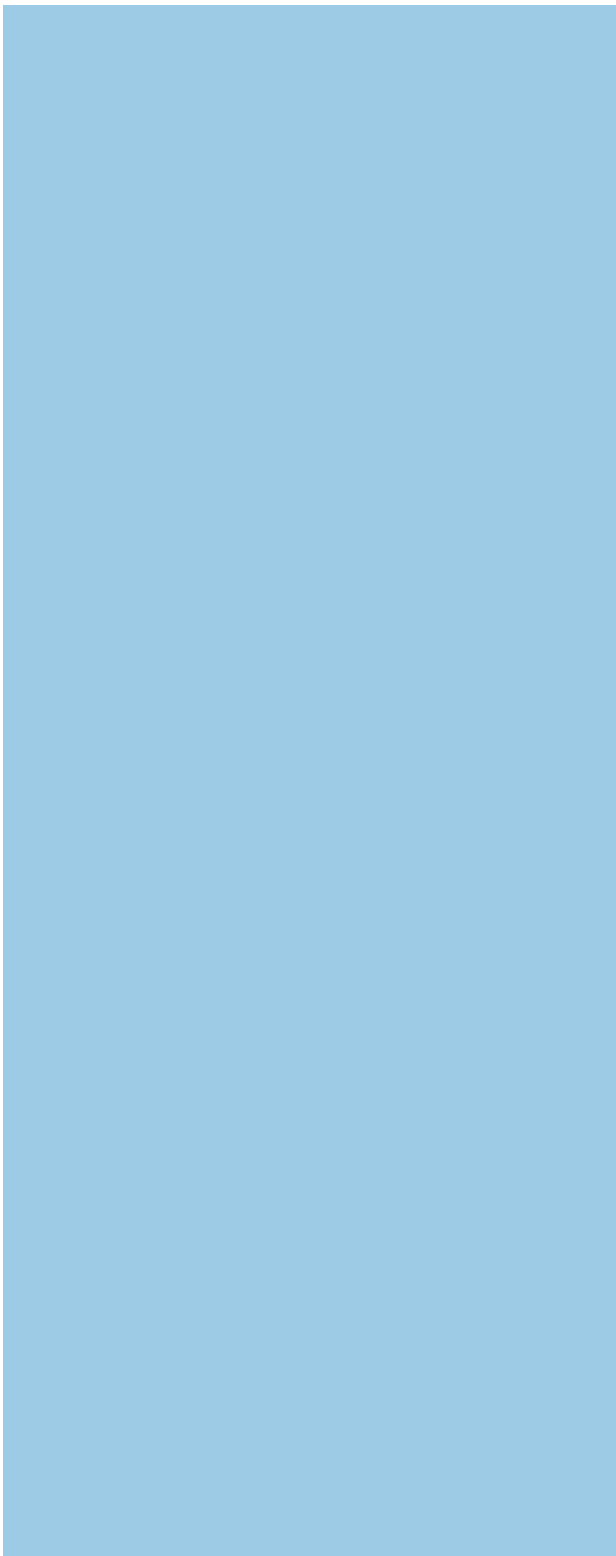
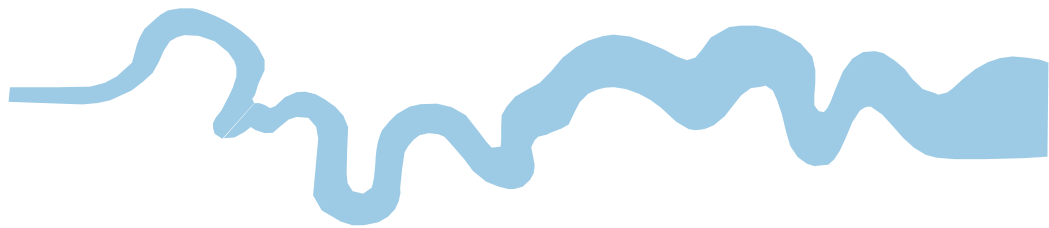
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Plates 1 - 3.**

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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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