

**T H A M E S      V A L L E Y**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL**

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

**Land to the rear of 63 Wilden Road,  
Renhold, Bedfordshire**

**Archaeological Evaluation**

**by James McNicoll-Norbury**

**Site Code: WRR15/239**

**(TL 0848 5300)**

**Land to the rear of 63 Wilden Road,  
Renhold, Bedfordshire**

**An Archaeological Evaluation**

**for Mr Carlo Notto**

by James McNicoll-Norbury

Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code WRR 15/239

**January 2016**

## Summary

**Site name:** Land to the rear of 63 Wilden Road, Renhold, Bedfordshire

**Grid reference:** TL 0848 5300

**Site activity:** Evaluation

**Date and duration of project:** 6th January 2016

**Project manager:** Steve Ford

**Site supervisor:** James McNicoll-Norbury

**Site code:** WRR 15/239

**Area of site:** 1.74ha

**Summary of results:** A possible pit was identified in the northern part of the site however it is likely that the feature is modern and related to the former farm that occupied the site.

**Location and reference of archive:** The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited at Bedford 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 ✓ 14.01.16 Steve Preston ✓ 14.01.16
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# Land to the rear of 63 Wilden Road, Renhold, Bedfordshire An Archaeological Evaluation

by James McNicoll-Norbury

Report 15/239

## Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological field evaluation carried out behind 63 Wilden Road, Renhold, Bedfordshire (TL 0848 5300) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Dr Isabel Lisboa of Archaeologica Ltd 7 Fosters Lane, Bradwell, Milton Keynes, MK 13 9HD on behalf of Mr Carlo Notto.

A planning application (14/02520/FUL) for the erection of a single detached dwelling with annexe, garage and bin storage following the demolition of the existing building was submitted to Bedford Borough Council in 2014 and granted in March 2015 with archaeological conditions stating that no development shall take place until an archaeological strategy for evaluation of the site has taken place.

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 Geoff Saunders, Archaeological Officer for Bedford Borough Council. The fieldwork was undertaken by James McNicoll-Norbury and Rebecca Constable on 6th January 2016 and the site code is WRR 15/239. The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited at Bedford Museum in due course.

## Location, topography and geology

The site is located to the rear of 63 Wilden Road which lies to the west of the village of Renhold to north-east of Bedford (Fig. 1). The site is generally flat with a slight slope to the south and is made up of grassland in the southern portion of the site and an area previously occupied by a pig farm in the north and a driveway to the west (Fig. 2). The underlying geology is described as Oadby Member boulder clays (BGS 2010) which were observed on site and the site lies between 52m and 57m above Ordnance Datum.

## Archaeological background

In summary, the site lies in a potentially rich archaeological area with cropmark sites being identified to the east and to the north of the site comprising boundaries, trackways and a possible moat to the east and a large

enclosure with internal subdivisions thought to represent the remains of a medieval settlement to the north. Work in the boulder clay region to the south-east and east of the site and on the Great Barford bypass revealed that the landscape was being settled from the middle Iron Age onwards (Timby *et al.* 2007) .

## **Objectives and methodology**

The purpose of the evaluation was:

- to determine the location, extent, nature, and date of any archaeological features or deposits that may be present;
- to assess the artefactual and environmental potential of the archaeological deposits encountered;
- to provide sufficient information on the archaeological potential of the site to enable archaeological implications of the proposed development to be assessed;
- to determine the integrity and state of preservation of any archaeological features or deposits that may be present; and
- to assess the impact of previous land use on the site.

The site was thought have potential for Iron Age to Roman deposits, if such deposits were identified specific research aims for the evaluation were to assess these remains on the site to establish if they were part of late Iron Age enclosures or settlements, and how these deposits relate to rural settlements, settlement hierarchies and densities, and the effect settlement had on the landscape.

Five trenches were to be dug targeting areas to be affected by the development, each 2m wide, with one trench 10m long and the others 20m long. The trenches were to be dug using a JCB-type machine fitted with a toothless ditching bucket and to be monitored at all times by an archaeologist. If archaeological deposits were identified these were to be dug according to the requirements set out in the specification.

## **Results**

The trenches were dug as intended (Fig. 3) and measured 2m wide, between 11m and 21.5m in length and varied in depth between 0.41 to 0.71m. 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)

Trench 1 was aligned SW - NE and was 20.1m long and 0.41m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.05m of demolition rubble overlying 0.36m of dark brown silty clay with brick inclusions over natural geology consisting of yellow brown clays. A large modern truncation was identified at the NE end of the trench.

#### Trench 2 (Fig. 3)

Trench 2 was aligned W - E and was 20.1m long and 0.66m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.53m of made ground/demolition rubble above 0.13m dark grey brown silty clay which in turn overlay natural geology. No archaeological features were identified.

#### Trench 3 (Figs 3 and 4)

Trench 3 was aligned W - E and was 11m long and 0.71m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.49m of made ground/demolition rubble and 0.12m dark grey brown silty clay overlying natural geology (Pl. 1). A pit, 1, was recorded which was 0.70m wide and 0.10m deep and filled with a dark grey brown silty clay (52) (Pl. 2). No finds were recovered.

#### Trench 4 (Fig. 3)

Trench 4 was aligned S - N and was 16.2m long and 0.50m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.18m of topsoil and 0.19m subsoil overlying natural geology. No archaeological deposits were identified.

#### Trench 5 (Fig. 3)

Trench 5 was aligned SSE - NNW and was 21.5m long and 0.53m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.14m of topsoil and 0.27m subsoil overlying natural geology. No archaeological deposits were identified.

### **Finds**

No finds were recovered.

### **Conclusion**

Despite the potential for archaeological remains based on the site's vicinity to known cropmarks to the east and north, and its location within a generally archaeological rich area, the majority of the trenches were revealed to contain no archaeological features. A single pit was identified in the northernmost trench however the composition of the fill bore similarities to the deposit overlying it which contained modern inclusions and it is thought that the pit probably relates to the former farm that occupied that section of the site. On the basis of these results, the site is considered to have low archaeological potential.

### **References**

- BGS, 2010, *British Geological Survey*, 1:50,000, Sheet 203, Drift Edition, Keyworth  
NPPF, 2012, *National Planning Policy Framework*, Dept Communities and Local Govt, London  
Timby, J, Brown, R, Hardy, A, Leech, S, Poole, C and Webley, L, 2007, *Settlement on the Bedfordshire Claylands: archaeology along the A421 Great Barford Bypass*, Bedfordshire Archaeol Monogr **8**, Bedford

## APPENDIX 1: Trench details

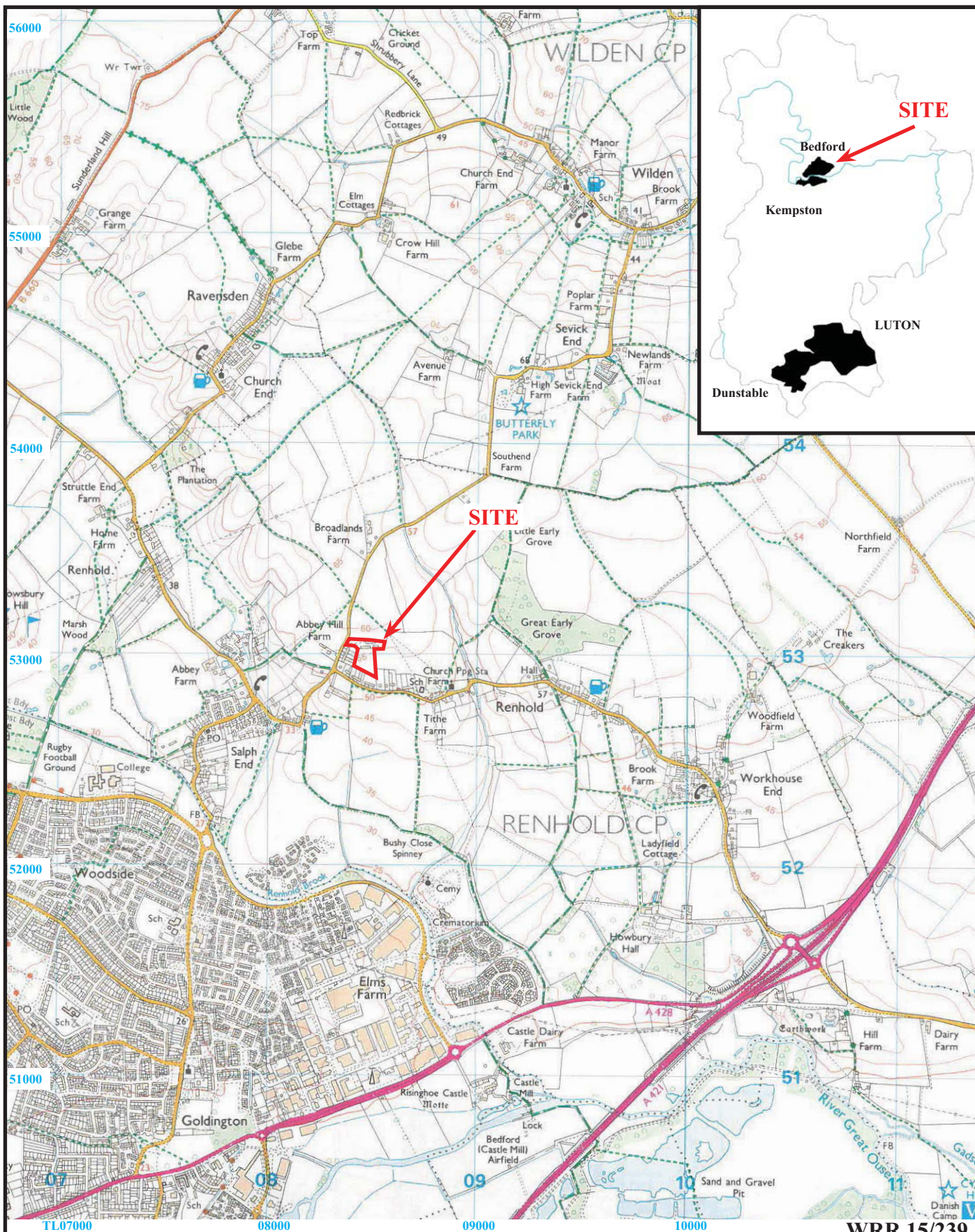
0m at S, W or SW end

<i>Trench</i>	<i>Length (m)</i>	<i>Breadth (m)</i>	<i>Depth (m)</i>	<i>Comment</i>
1	20.1	2.00	0.41	0–0.05m demolition rubble; 0.05-0.41m dark brown silty clay; 0.41m+ light brown silty clay (natural geology).
2	20.1	2.00	0.66	0–0.53m demolition rubble/made ground; 0.53-0.66m dark grey brown silty clay; 0.66m+ light brown silty clay (natural geology).
3	11.0	2.00	0.71	0–0.49m demolition rubble/made ground; 0.49-0.71m dark grey brown silty clay; 0.77m+ light brown and blue silty clay (natural geology). Pit 1. <b>[Pls 1 and 2]</b>
4	16.4	2.00	0.51	0–0.18m topsoil; 0.18-0.37m dark brown silty clay; 0.37m+ light brown silty clay (natural geology).
5	21.5	2.00	0.53	0–0.14m topsoil; 0.14-0.41m dark brown silty clay, 0.41m+ light brown silty clay (natural geology).

**APPENDIX 2: Feature details**

<i>Trench</i>	<i>Cut</i>	<i>Fill (s)</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Dating evidence</i>
3	1	52	Pit	Unphased	None



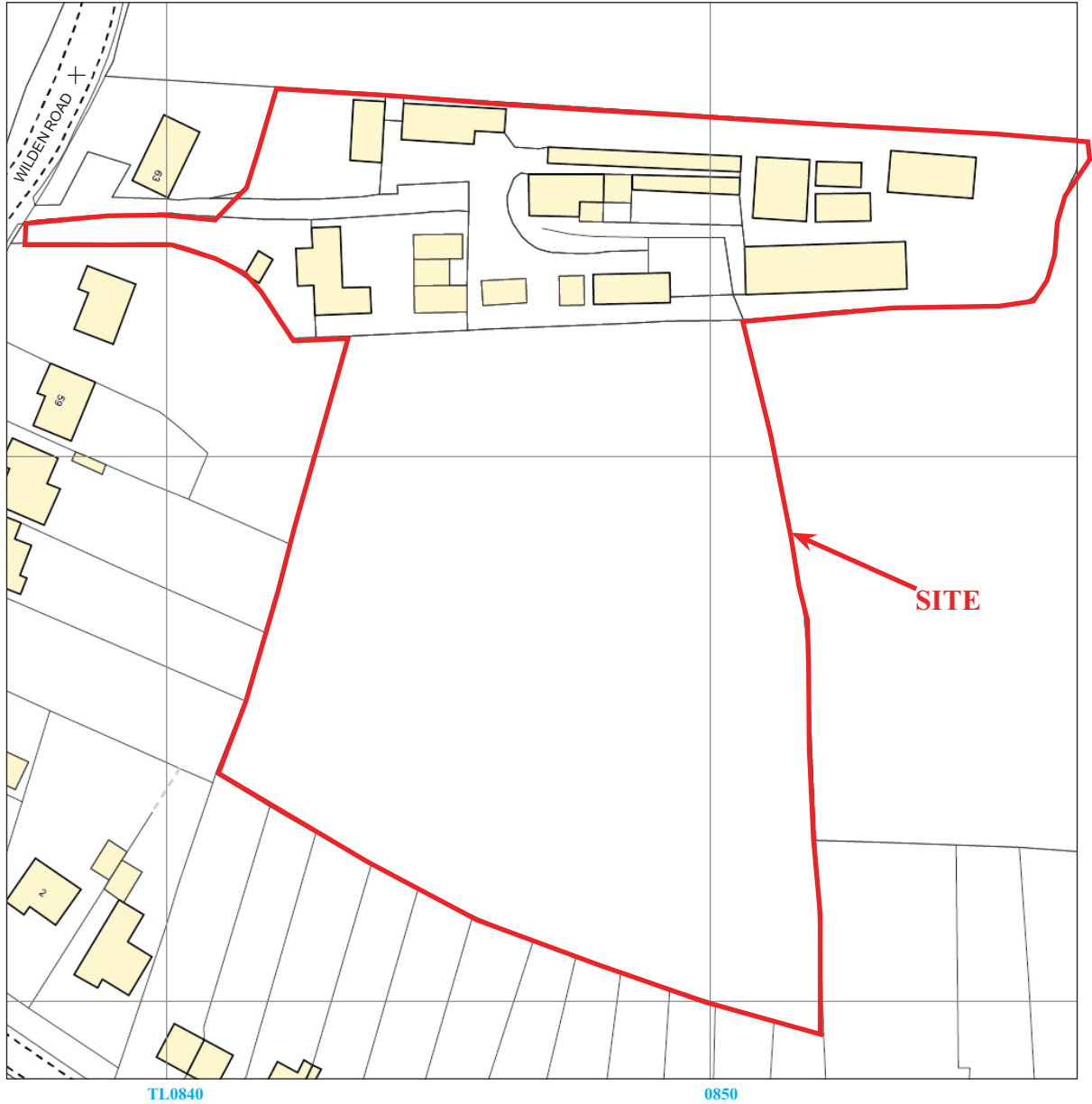


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Figure 1. Location of site within Renhold and Bedfordshire.

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Figure 2. Detailed location of site off Wilden Road.

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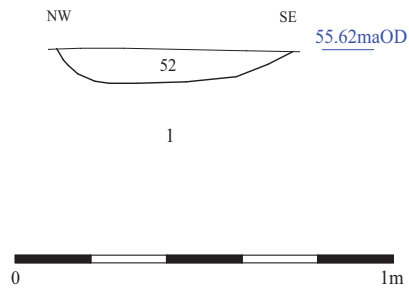
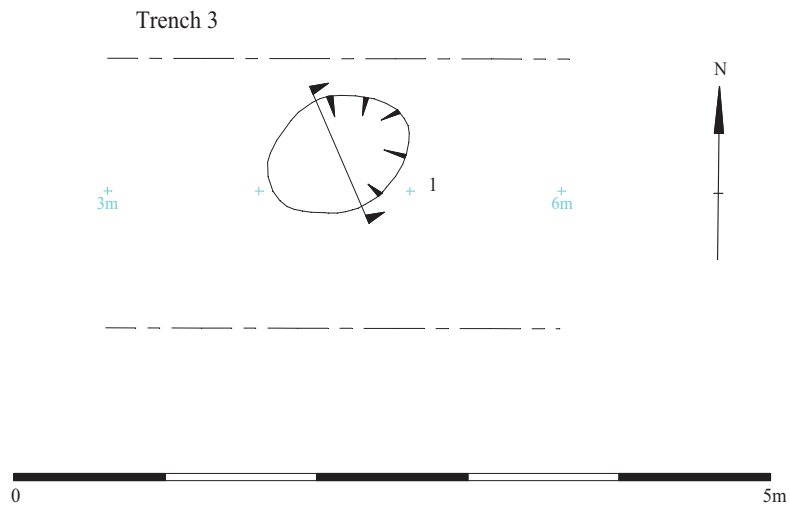
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Figure 3. Trench Locations



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Figure 4. Detail of Trench 3.

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



Plate 2. Trench 3, pit 1, looking south west, Scales: 0.5m and 0.1m.

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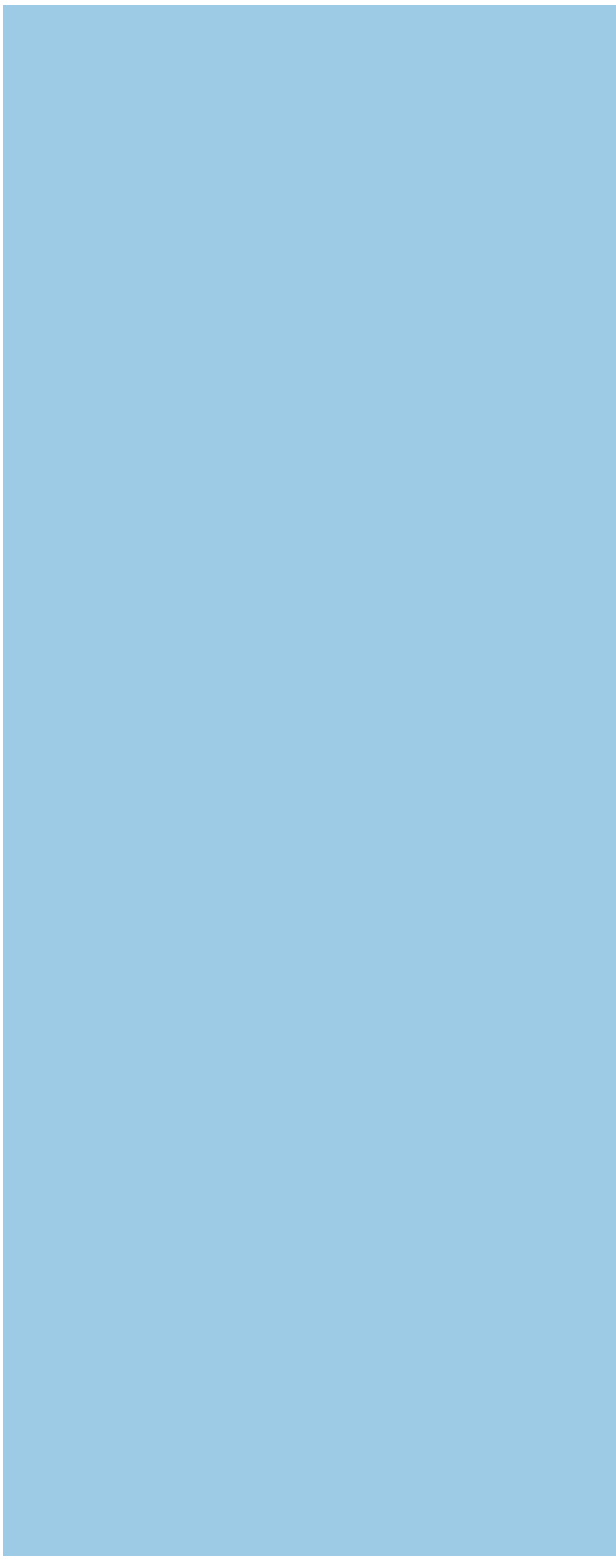
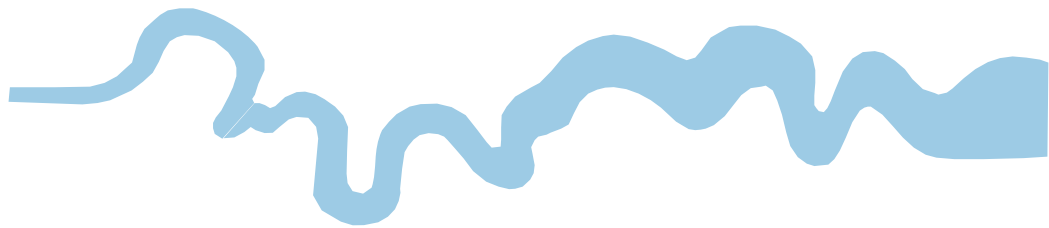
**Land to the rear of 63 Wilden Road,  
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Plates 1 - 2.**

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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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