

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

ARCHAEOLOGICAL

S E R V I C E S

**Glebe Farm, Mixbury,
Oxfordshire**

Archaeological Watching Brief

by Luis Esteves

Site Code: GFM16/202

(SP 6109 3402)

Glebe Farm, Mixbury, Oxfordshire

An Archaeological Watching Brief

For Mr John Boshier

by Luís Esteves

Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code GFM 16/202b

January 2017

Summary

Site name: Glebe Farm, Mixbury, Oxfordshire

Grid reference: SP 6109 3402

Site activity: Watching Brief

Date and duration of project: 18th January 2017

Project manager: Steve Ford

Site supervisor: Luís Esteves

Site code: GFM 16/202

Area of site: c.0.11ha

Summary of results: Foundation trenches for a new garage were observed and recorded. No archaeological features were observed during the course of the watching brief.

Location and reference of archive: The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited at Oxfordshire Museum Service in due course.

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Report edited/checked by: Steve Ford✓ 25.01.17 Steve Preston✓ 24.01.17

Glebe Farm, Mixbury, Oxfordshire An Archaeological Watching Brief

by Luís Esteves

Report 16/202b

Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological watching brief carried out at Glebe Farm, Mixbury, Oxfordshire (SP 6109 3402) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Dr Isabel Lisboa, of Archaeologica Ltd, 7 Fosters Lane, Bradwell, Milton Keynes, MK13 9HD, on behalf of, Mr John Boshier, of Glebe Farm, Mixbury, Oxfordshire, NN13 5RP.

Planning permission (16/01930/FUL) has been gained from Cherwell District Council for the construction of a new barn and garage to replace the existing structure. Due to the potential of archaeological deposits existing at the site, the consent is subject to a condition which requires the implementation of a programme of archaeological. A field evaluation (Mundin 2016) uncovered Iron Age pottery (albeit probably redeposited), and as a result, a watching brief was required during the groundwork. The site is immediately adjacent to a Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM), which might affect the significance of any deposits further deposits that could be present.

This is in accordance with the Department for Communities and Local Government's *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF 2012), and the District Council's policies on archaeology. The field investigation was carried out to a specification (Lisboa 2016) approved by Mr Richard Oram, of Oxfordshire County Archaeological Service who advise the District Council. The fieldwork was undertaken by Luís Esteves and Will Attard on 18th January 2017 and the site code is GFM 16/202. The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited at Oxfordshire County Museums Service in due course.

Location, topography and geology

Mixbury lies in the north-eastern corner of Oxfordshire (Fig. 1). The site is located on the east side of the village with the extant earthworks of Beaumont Castle (OX 106; HE 1006354) immediately to the west (Figs 1 and 2). Church Lane and All Saints Church are to the south and south-west of the site. The farmhouse at Glebe Farm stands just to the south-east, and the site lies immediately east of the boundary ditch of the castle earthwork. The underlying bedrock geology was glacial head deposit; silt, sand and gravel (BGS 2002).

Archaeological background

The archaeological potential of the site has been detailed in the written scheme of investigation (Lisboa 2016) and a previous field evaluation (Mundin 2016). In summary, the site lies immediately adjacent to Beaumont Castle, which is a Scheduled Monument (OX106).

The castle was probably built by Roger D'Ivry, a key supporter of William I in 1066, although in fact little is known about its origins. Reported finds from within the SAM included, besides medieval pottery, late Iron Age and/or early Roman pottery and a single Saxon sherd (Steane 1979). The earthworks consist of a square moated enclosure with two courts, the northern of which is regular in shape and practically square and an outer court of sub-rectangular shape on the southern side. The interior has many bumps which may indicate foundations, and the earthworks are known to have been more substantial even relatively recently in the 20th century (VCH 1959; Steane 1979). An evaluation within the site prior to planning permission being granted has also uncovered Iron Age date pottery from a small collection of truncated pits (Mundin 2016).

The village probably has origins from the Medieval period, as hinted at by extant fabric at All Saints Church. Human remains were reportedly excavated from the small barrow at Barrow Hill to the south-west in the 19th century (VCH 1959) and at least one, perhaps two more probable barrows are known from aerial photographs in the wider area. The Roman road from Alcester to Dorchester (Margary 1973) passes to the east of the village. Archaeological evidence of a wider landscape has been under investigation during quarry working at Finmere (Grundon 1999; Mundin and Ford 2008; Hart and Kenyon 2010; Ford 2013).

Objectives and methodology

The purpose of the watching brief was to excavate and record any archaeological deposits affected by the groundworks. This was to involve examination of all areas of intrusive groundworks, in particular the digging of foundation trenches. Any archaeological deposits observed were to be excavated and recorded with sufficient time allowed within the groundworks schedule without causing undue delay. In the event, the new barn was not built, and only the garage construction was monitored.

Results

The foundations for the new garage, covering some 10m by 8m, were observed and recorded (Fig. 2; Pls 3 and 4). They were typically 0.6m wide and 1.7m deep, reaching the natural geology at 0.65m. The stratigraphy consisted in 0.25m/0.3m of topsoil overlying 0.25m/0.3m brown-red clayey silt subsoil overlying a reddish

brown sandy silt gravel natural geology (Fig. 3; Pls 1 and 2). Modern rubble, concrete and some other modern features (Pl. 1) were observed in some areas of the trenches, probably from a previous building. No archaeological features were observed.

Finds

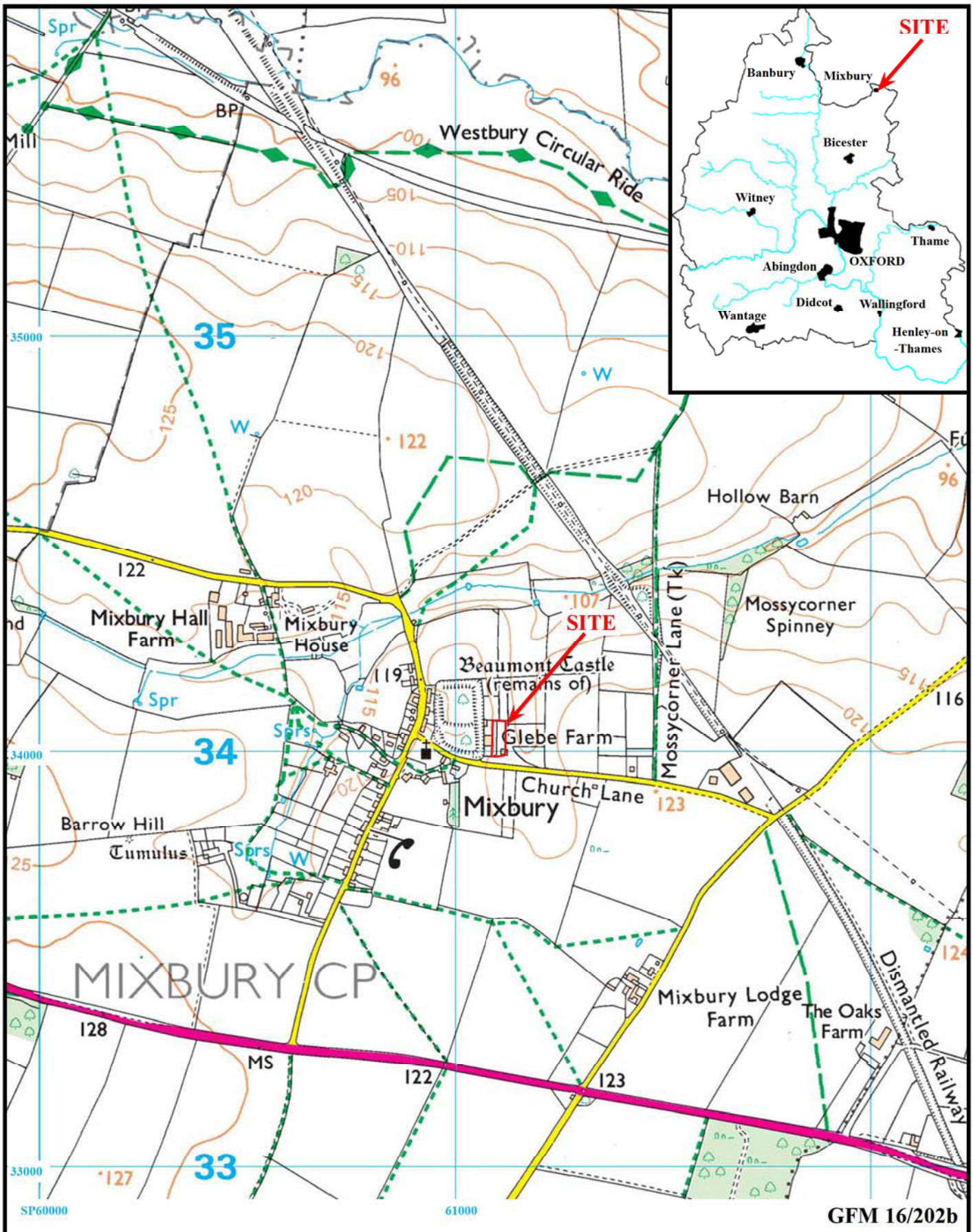
No finds of archaeological interest were observed.

Conclusion

Despite the results of the previous archaeological evaluation trenches on site (Mundin 2016) no finds or features of archaeological interest were observed during the watching brief/

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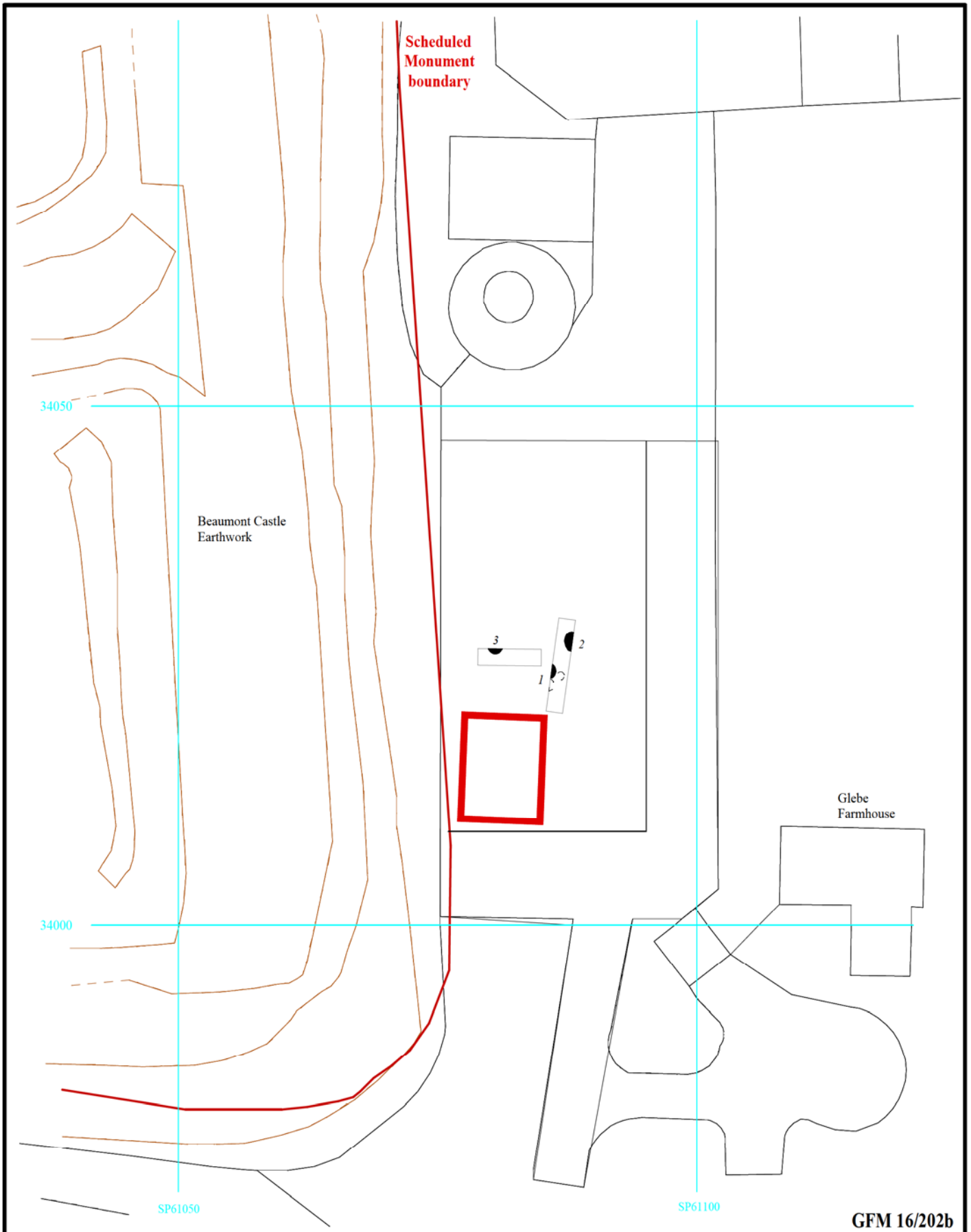


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Figure 1. Location of site within Mixbury and Oxfordshire.

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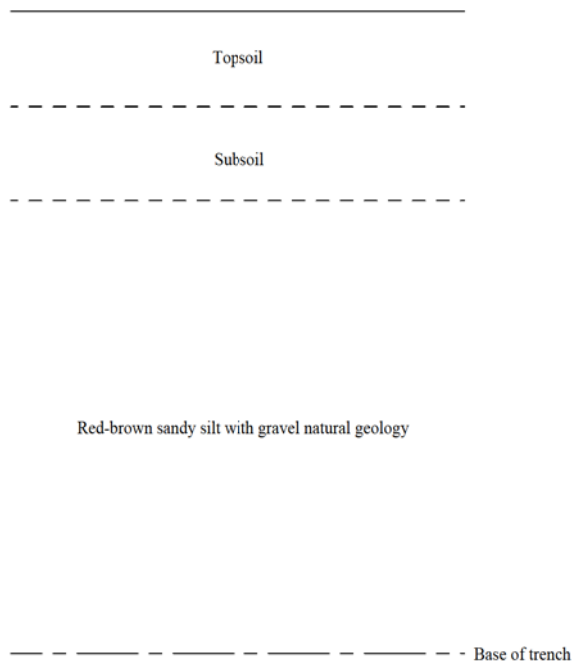
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Figure 2. Location of observed areas, compared to evaluation trenches.





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Figure 3. Representative section.





Plate 1. Footing trench section, and modern feature looking east, Scales: 1m and 0.5m.



Plate 2. Footing trench section, looking west, Scale: 1m.



Plate 3. General view of footing trenches looking north west.



Plate 4. General view of site looking south.

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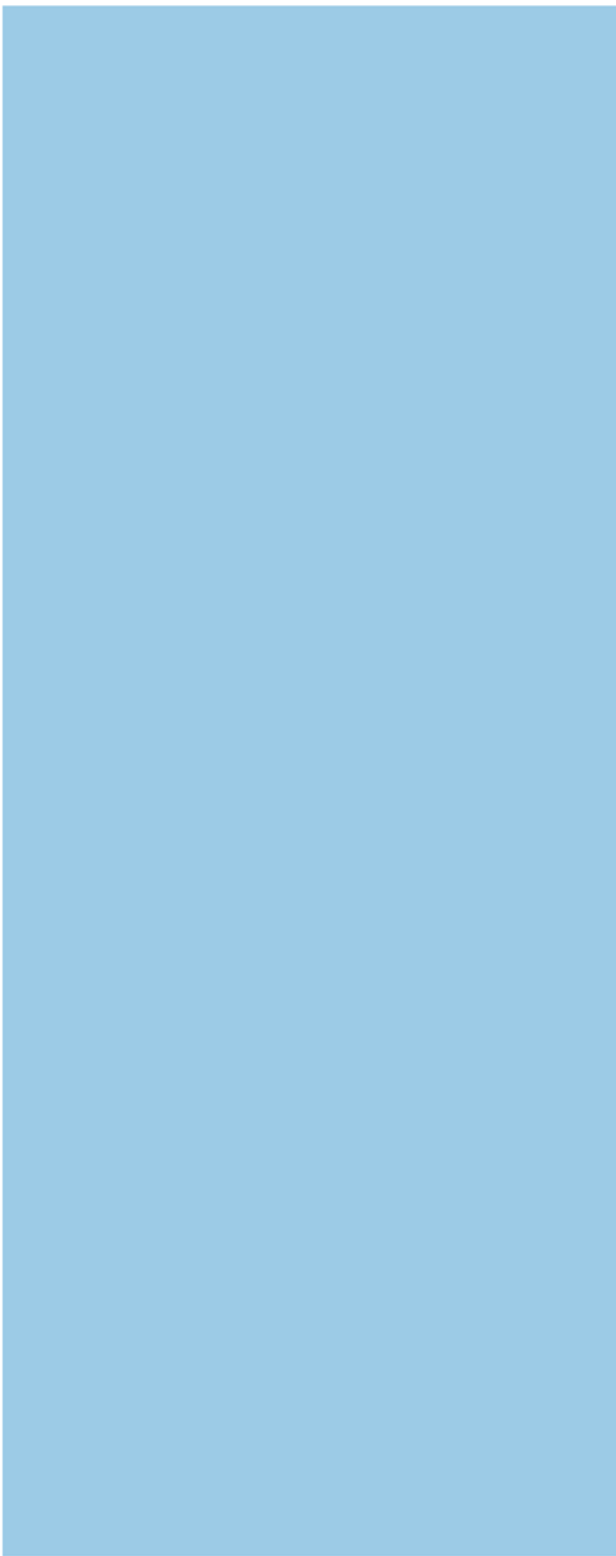
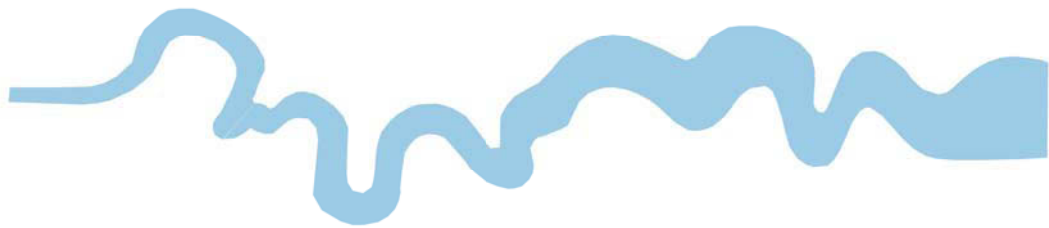
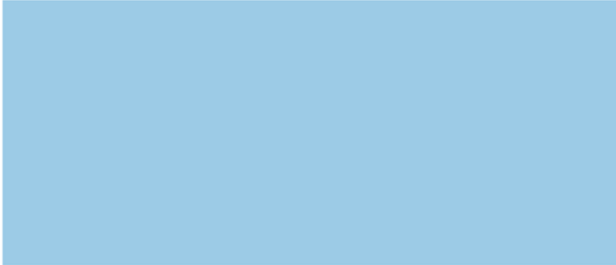
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Plates 1-4.

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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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