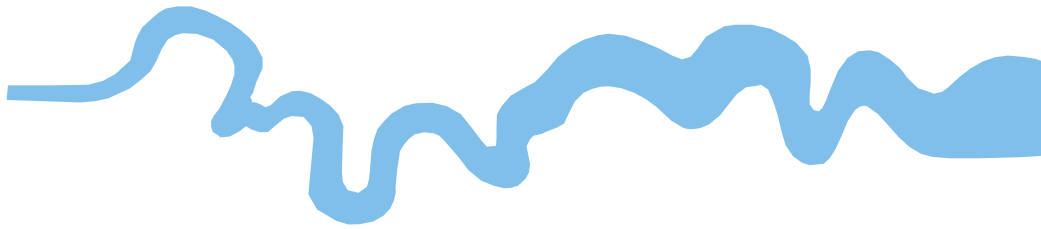


T V A S



SOUTH WEST

**Anzac House, London Road,
Devizes, Wiltshire**

Archaeological Evaluation

by Agata Socha-Paszkiewicz

Site Code: AHD15/89

(SU 0175 6236)

**Anzac House, London Road,
Devizes, Wiltshire**

An Archaeological Evaluation

For LNT Construction Limited

by Agata Socha-Paszkiewicz

Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code AHD 15/89

April 2017

Summary

Site name: Anzac House, London Road, Devizes, Wiltshire

Grid reference: SU 0175 6236

Site activity: evaluation

Date and duration of project: 12th - 13th April 2017

Project manager: Agata Socha-Paszkiewicz

Site supervisor: Agata Socha-Paszkiewicz

Site code: AHD 15/89

Area of site: c. 2.4ha

Summary of results: The evaluation revealed two ditches of Post Medieval/Modern date. The majority of the site has been severely disturbed and truncated by late 19th century and later developments. It is considered that the site has low archaeological potential.

Location and reference of archive: The archive is presently held at TVAS South West in Taunton and will be deposited at Devizes Museum in due course

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Report edited/checked by: Steve Ford✓ 02.05.17 Steve Preston✓ 02.05.17

Anzac House, London Road, Devizes, Wiltshire An Archaeological Evaluation

by Agata Socha-Paszkiewicz

Report 15/89a

Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological field evaluation carried out at Anzac House, London Road, Devizes, Wiltshire (SU 0175 6236) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Mr. Alistair Wood of LNT Construction Limited, Helios 47, Leeds LS25 2DY.

Planning permission (16/11230/FUL) has been gained from Wiltshire Council to demolish the existing structure and build a new care home on a c 2.4ha parcel of land. As a consequence of the possibility of archaeological deposits on the site which may be damaged or destroyed by groundworks, field evaluation has been requested by means of machine trenching prior to the determination of the planning application to determine the archaeological potential of the site and to help formulate a mitigation strategy as necessary. This is in accordance with the Department for Communities and Local Government's *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF 2012) and Council's policy on archaeology.

The field investigation was carried out to a specification approved by Ms Rachel Foster, Assistant County Archaeologist of Wiltshire Council. The fieldwork was undertaken by Agata Socha-Paszkiewicz and Mariusz Paszkiewicz on 12th and 13th April 2017 and the site code is AHD 15/89ev. The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services South West, Taunton and will be deposited at Devizes Museum in due course.

Location, topography and geology

The site is located on the north-east outskirts of Devizes, at the junction of London Road (A361) and Windsor Drive (Fig.1). The site is bounded to the north by London Road, at the east by Windsor Drive and at the south by the Kennet and Avon Canal (Fig 2). Its western boundary is marked by part of Moonrakers Road and a residential house. It is currently occupied by an irregular shaped complex of buildings, and two other freestanding buildings surrounded by surface parking and lawns. The site is terraced with the lowest point to the

north east and lies at a height between 133m and 135m above Ordnance Datum. According to the British Geological Survey the underlying geology is comprised of Upper Greensand Formation (BGS 1974).

Archaeological background

The archaeological potential of the site has been documented in desk-based assessment (Bermingham 2015). In summary, the site lies within an area in which a modest range of sites are recorded. Several Neolithic flints are known from sites at Wick and Southbroom situated to the south of the town. Three Bronze Age ring-ditches are recorded to the south-east of the town, and one barbed and tanged arrowhead of Bronze Age date was recovered from Pan's Lane. The Iron Age is represented by a hillfort (Oliver's Castle) on Roundway Down and settlement evidence at Nursteed Farm. A Roman villa is also known from Roundway Down and finds of Roman pottery and coins are relatively widespread in the area south and east of the medieval town, with Roman burials recorded at Pan's Lane and at Southbroom. A Roman building has recently been excavated at Southbroom School. An antiquarian excavation of a single Anglo-Saxon burial took place on Roundway Down in 1840.

The town itself grew up around Devizes Castle, build around 1080 by Osmund, Bishop of Salisbury (VCH 1975). Mills (2011, 152) lists the name Devizes as first noted in the 11th century, with the meaning "[Place on] the boundaries". It was a medieval market town and for much of its history was a centre of textile production. The entries in the Wiltshire Historic Environment Record in close vicinity to the site include a Romano-British lead coffin found in 1852 to the north, and undated earthworks and pits identified recently by geophysical survey at Coate Bridge to the south east. The site also included part of the site of the Le Marchant Barracks and demolished 19th century house with outbuildings.

Objectives and methodology

The aims of the evaluation were 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 this project were:

- to determine if archaeologically relevant levels have survived on this site;
- to determine if archaeological deposits of any period are present; and
- to provide information in order to draw up and appropriate mitigation strategy if required;

It was proposed to dig a total of 5 trenches, each 10m long and 1.6-2m wide across the site. Topsoil and any

other overburden was to be removed by a JCB-type machine. A toothless ditching bucket was to be used to expose archaeologically sensitive levels, under constant archaeological supervision. Sufficient of the archaeological features and deposits exposed were then to be excavated or sufficiently sampled by hand to satisfy the aims of the project.

Results

Trenches 1, 2, 4 and 5 were excavated as intended, trench 3 was moved due to the presence of a buried service (Fig. 2). Trenches varied from 9.90m to 10.50m in length and from 0.50m to 1.43m in depth. All were 1.6m wide. A list of trenches giving lengths, breadths, depths and a description of sections and geology is given in Appendix 1. All features of possible archaeological interest were cleaned and investigated using hand tools and are described in detail below. Modern deposits with agreement of Ms Rachel Foster of Wiltshire Council were investigated and removed by machine. Due to high intensity of modern truncation most trenches were taken to some depth below what was considered 'natural level' to check that the geology had been correctly interpreted. A list of features investigated forms Appendix 2.

Trench 1 (Figs 2, 3 and 4; Pl. 1)

Trench 1 was aligned south-west to north-east and was 10.50m long and a maximum of 1.43 m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.18m of dark brown grey topsoil, above 1.20m of made ground (56) comprised of mottled dark grey green silty sand and large blocks of reinforced concrete and frequent modern bricks, glass and scrap metal. Beneath this made ground was light white green greensand natural geology. A test pit dug to a depth of 1.5m at c. 6m from the south-west trench end revealed an unused buried service trench 6. A second service trench was parallel to the trench alignment and contained glazed terracotta pipe. This was left unexcavated.

Trench 2 (Figs 2, 3 and 4; Pl 4)

Trench 2 was aligned south-east to north-west and was 9.69m long and a maximum of 1.20m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.07m of Tarmac above 0.35m of scalpings (52). Beneath was unused service trench 7 which contained broken terracotta pipe. The service trench cut 0.18m deep made ground (53) comprised of dark grey silty sand with frequent modern bricks, concrete and Tarmac debris (not retained). Made ground overlaid service trenches 8 and 9. Both service trenches revealed broken glazed terracotta pipes. These were cutting machine cut features 1 and 2 which extended throughout Trench 2 length and were aligned ESE-WNW. Machine cut feature 1 was a maximum of 0.90m wide and filled with 0.27m deep dark green grey silty sand (57) with moderate amount of modern building material and Tarmac. Machine cut feature 2 was a maximum of 0.84m wide

and filled with deposit (58). This was 0.54m deep and similar to deposit (57). Beneath was redeposited natural geology (65) light green grey silty sand with frequent brick and tile which overlay greensand natural geology.

Trench 3 (Figs 2 and 3; Pl. 2)

Trench 3 was aligned south-east to north-west and was 10.20m long and a maximum of 0.75m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.07m of Tarmac above 0.25m of scalp (54) above 0.15m of made ground (55). Beneath was grey green greensand natural geology.

Trench 4 (Figs 2,3 and 4 Pls. 3 and 5)

Trench 4 was aligned south-east to north-west and was 10m long and a maximum of 0.80m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.25m of topsoil over 0.18-0.40 deep old garden soil (63). In the south eastern part of the trench for 1.3m this garden soil overlaid 0.1m of redeposited natural geology (61) comprised of light grayish white silty sand containing medium amount of modern bricks fragments and concrete debris. In turn this overlay light white green greensand natural geology. In the south eastern part of the trench were three linear features aligned south-west to north-east. One at c.5m was land drain 3 which was 0.75m wide and a minimum of 0.20m deep. Land drain 7 was filled with dark brown grey silty sand (59) and contained terracotta pipe. Some 0.20m to south-east was Ditch 4 which was 0.98m wide and 0.12-0.18m deep filled with dark brown grey silty sand (60). This contained one sherd of blue and white printed pottery of post 1840 date. Ditch 5 was 1.5m to the south-east of Ditch 4 and was 1.15m wide and 0.17m deep. It was filled with a dark brown grey silty sand (61). No datable artefacts were recovered from Ditch 5 but it is considered that it is of broadly the same date as Ditch 4.

Trench 5 (Fig. 2, Pl. 6)

Trench 5 was aligned south-east to north-west and was 10m long and a maximum of 0.80m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.2m of topsoil over 0.23m of made ground (69) over light white green greensand natural geology.

Conclusion

The evaluation has been carried out as intended. Trench 4 revealed two ditches, one dated by a single sherd of pottery of post 1840 date. The site appears to have been severely truncated by landscaping and building works occurring from late 19th century and at various times in 20th century which would have removed and damaged any

archaeological features. The parts of site affected by proposed development are considered to have negligible archaeological potential.

References

- Bermingham, N, 2015, 'Anzac House, London Road, Devizes, Wiltshire: an Archaeological Desk Based assessment', Thames Valley Archaeological Services report, 15/89, Reading
- BGS, 1974, *British Geological Survey*, 1:50,000 Sheet 266, Solid and Drift Edition, Keyworth
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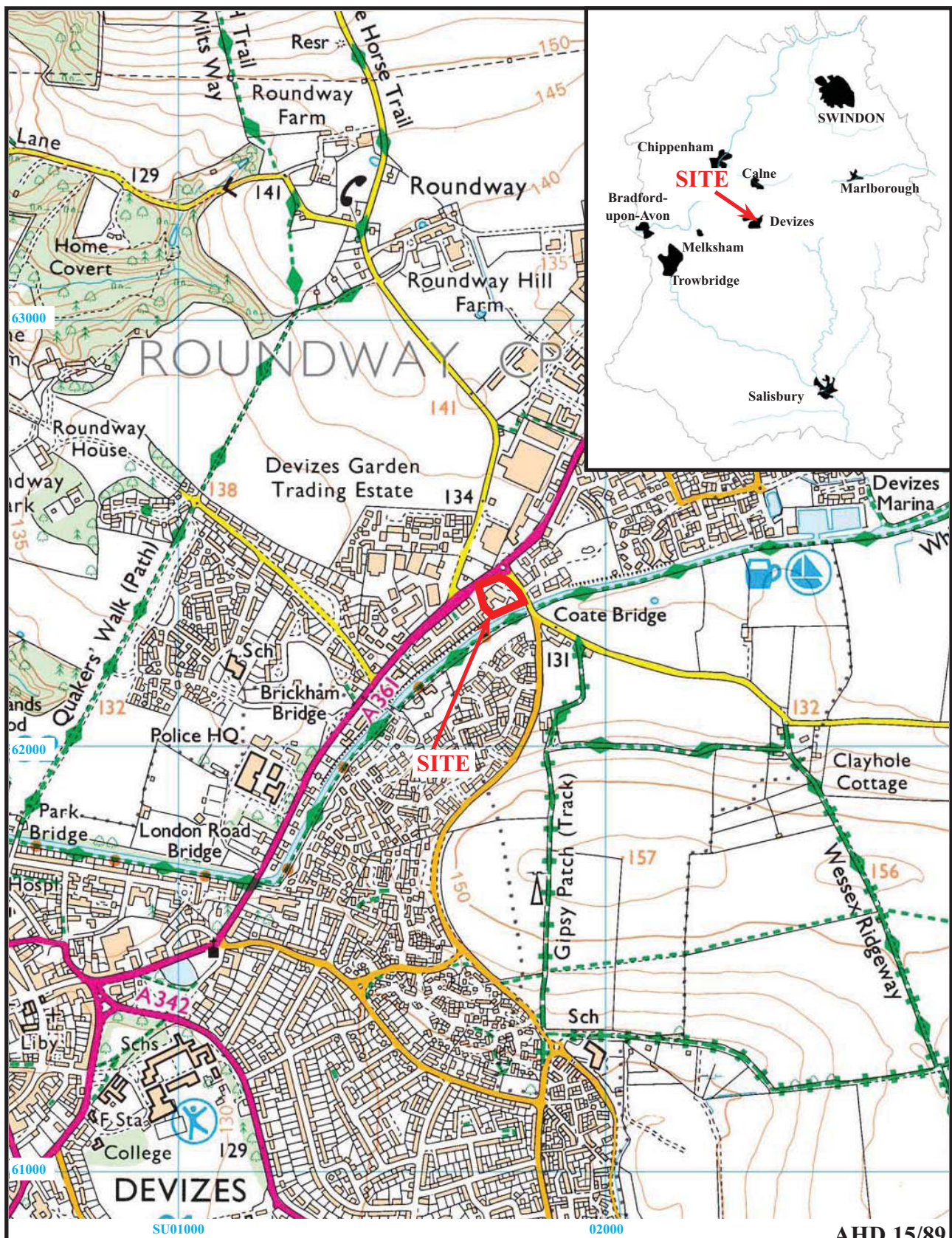
APPENDIX 1: Trench details

<i>Trench</i>	<i>Length (m)</i>	<i>Breadth (m)</i>	<i>Depth (m)</i>	<i>Comment</i>
1	10.50	1.60	0.70-1.43	0–0.18 Topsoil; 0.18-1.35 Made ground (56); 1.35 + green white greensand (Natural Geology). Service trench 6. [Pl. 1]
2	9.90	1.60	1.20	0-0.07 Tarmac; 0.07- 0.35 Scalpings (52); 0.35 – 0.56 Made ground (53); 0.56 – 0.92; Redeposited natural (65); 0.92 + green grey greensand (Natural Geology). Machine cut feature 1 and 2, Service trench 7, 8 and 9. [Pl. 4]
3	10.20	1.60	0.75	0-0.07 Tarmac; 0.07-0.35 Scalpings (54); 0.35 – 0.43 Made ground (55); 0.43 + green grey greensand (Natural Geology). [Pl. 2]
4	10	1.60	0.50	0-0.09 Topsoil; 0.09-0.24 Garden soil (63); 0.24 – 0.37 Redeposited natural; 0.37 + light green white greensand (Natural Geology). Ditch 4 and 5, Land drain 3. [Pls. 3 and 5]
5	10	1.60	0.60-0.80	0-0.20 Topsoil; 0.20-0.43 Made ground (69); 0.43 + light green white greensand (Natural Geology). [Pl. 6]

0m at South, West or South West end

APPENDIX 2: Feature details

<i>Trench</i>	<i>Cut</i>	<i>Fill (s)</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Dating evidence</i>
2		52	Scalpins	Modern	Stratigraphy
2		53	Made ground	Modern	Modern brick
3		54	Scaloping	Modern	Stratigraphy
3		55	Made ground	Modern	Modern brick
1		56	Made ground	Modern	Reinforced concrete
2	1	57	Machine cut feature	Modern	Tarmac fragments
2	2	58	Machine cut feature	Modern	Tarmac fragments
4	3	59	Land drain	Modern	Service pipe
4	4	60	Ditch	Post Medieval (19 th C)	Pottery
4	5	61	Ditch	Undated	None
4		62	Redeposited natural	Modern	Concrete fragments
4		63	Garden soil	Modern	Stratigraphy
1	6	64	Service trench	Modern	Service pipe
2		65	Redeposited natural	Modern	Modern glass
2	7	66	Service trench	Modern	Service pipe
2	8	67	Service trench	Modern	Service pipe
2	9	68	Service trench	Modern	Service pipe
5		69	Machine cut feature	Modern	Concrete fragments

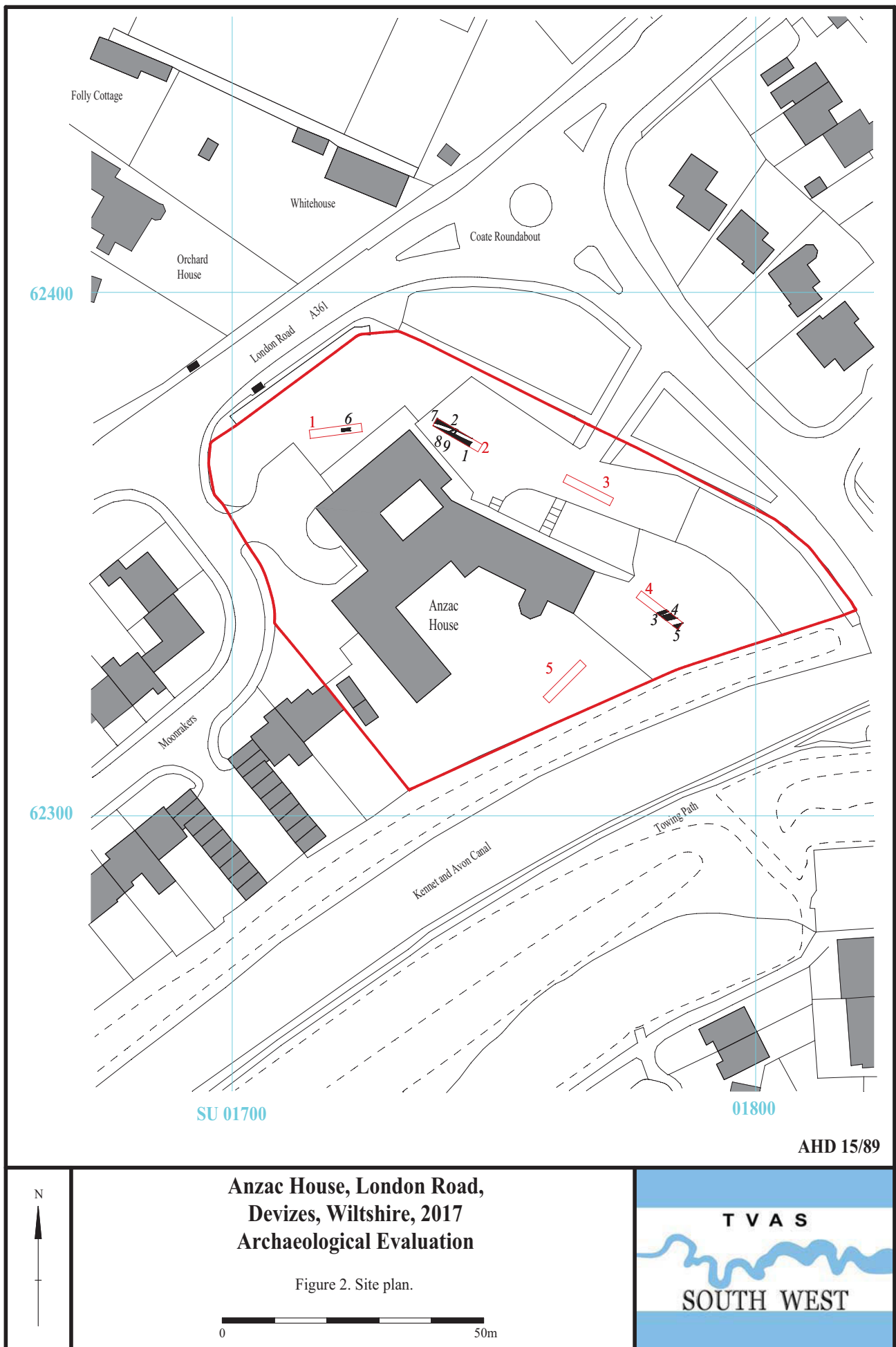


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Devizes, Wiltshire, 2017
Archaeological Evaluation**

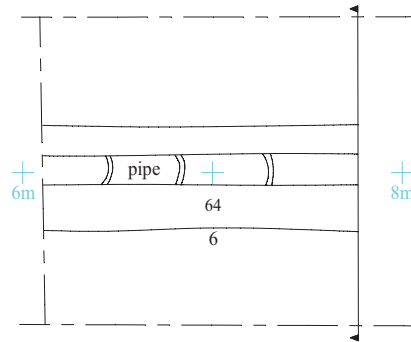
Figure 1. Location of site within Devizes and Wiltshire.

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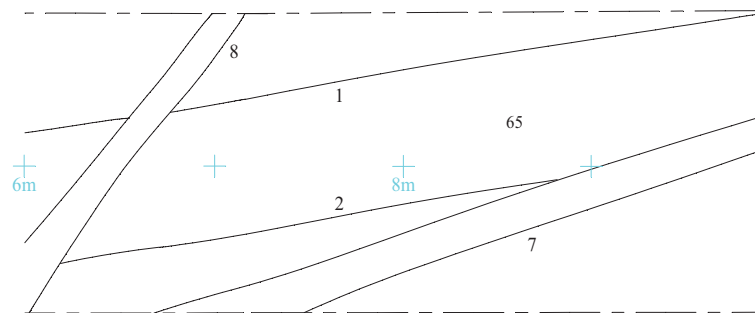
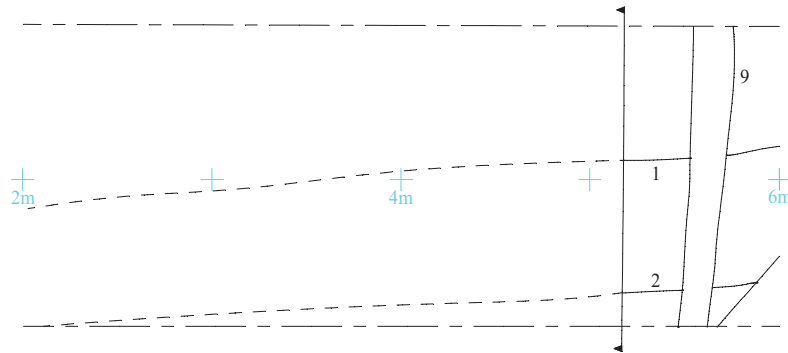




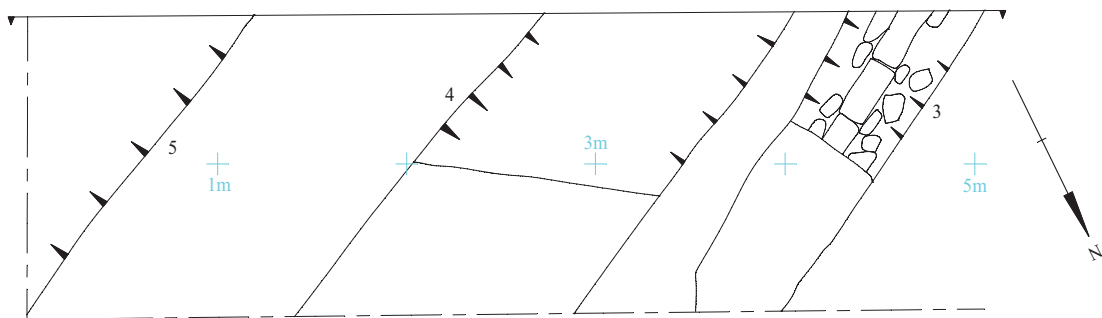
Trench 1



Trench 2



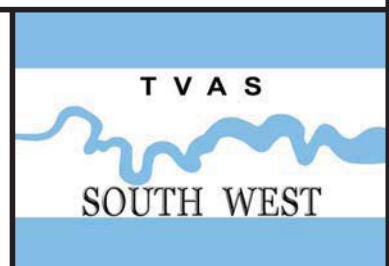
Trench 4

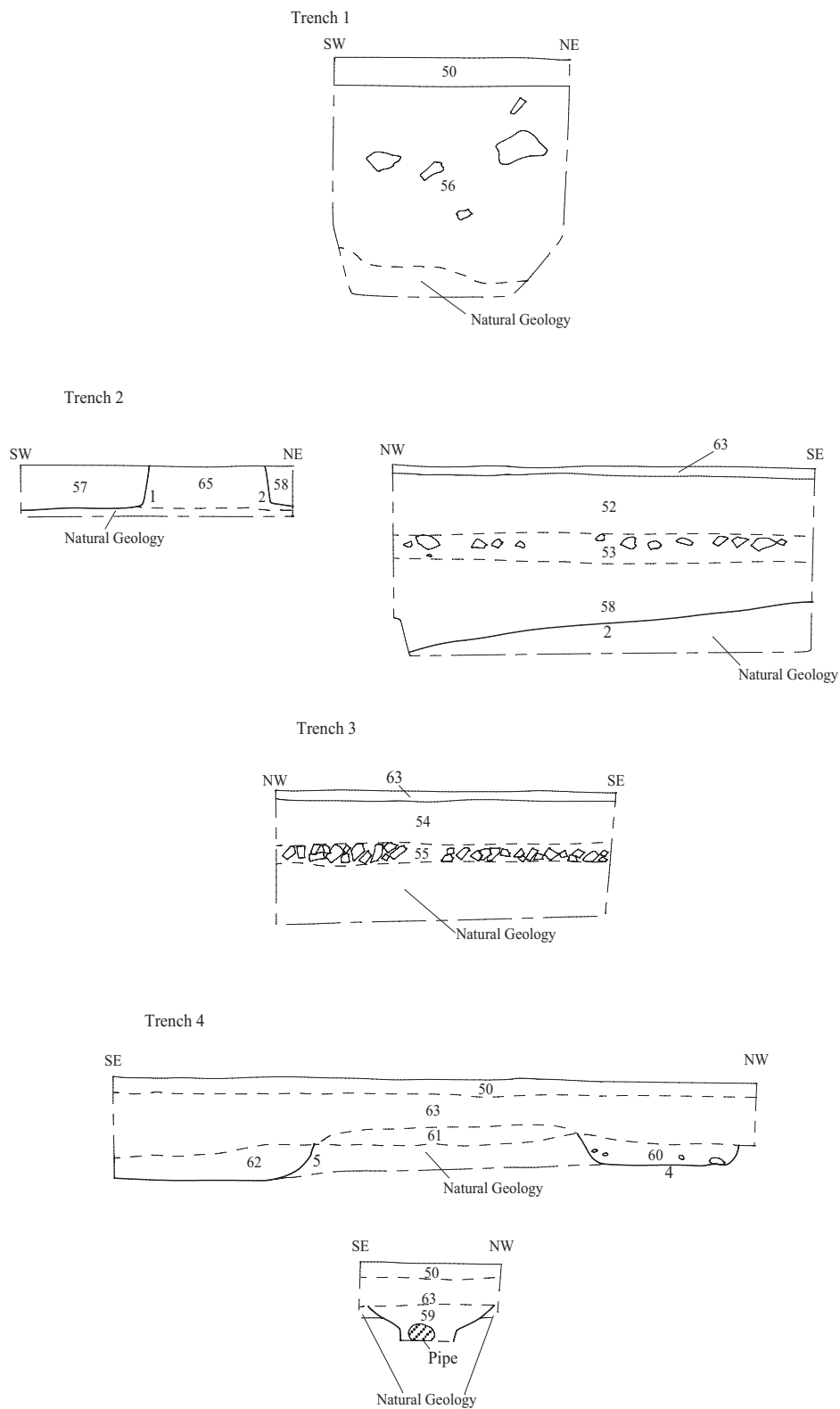


AHD 15/89

Anzac House, London Road,
Devizes, Wiltshire, 2017
Archaeological Evaluation

Figure 3. Trench Plans





AHD 15/89

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Archaeological Evaluation**

Figure 4. Sections

0 1m

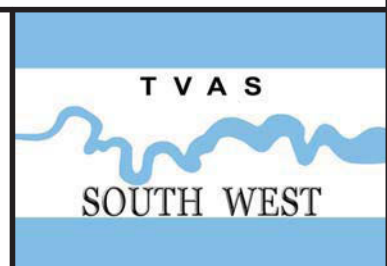




Plate 1. Trench 1, looking west. Scales: 2m, 1m and 0.5m.



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

AHD 15/89

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Devizes, Wiltshire, 2017
Archaeological Evaluation
Plates 1 and 2.**





Plate 3. Trench 4, looking south west. Scales: 2m and 1m.

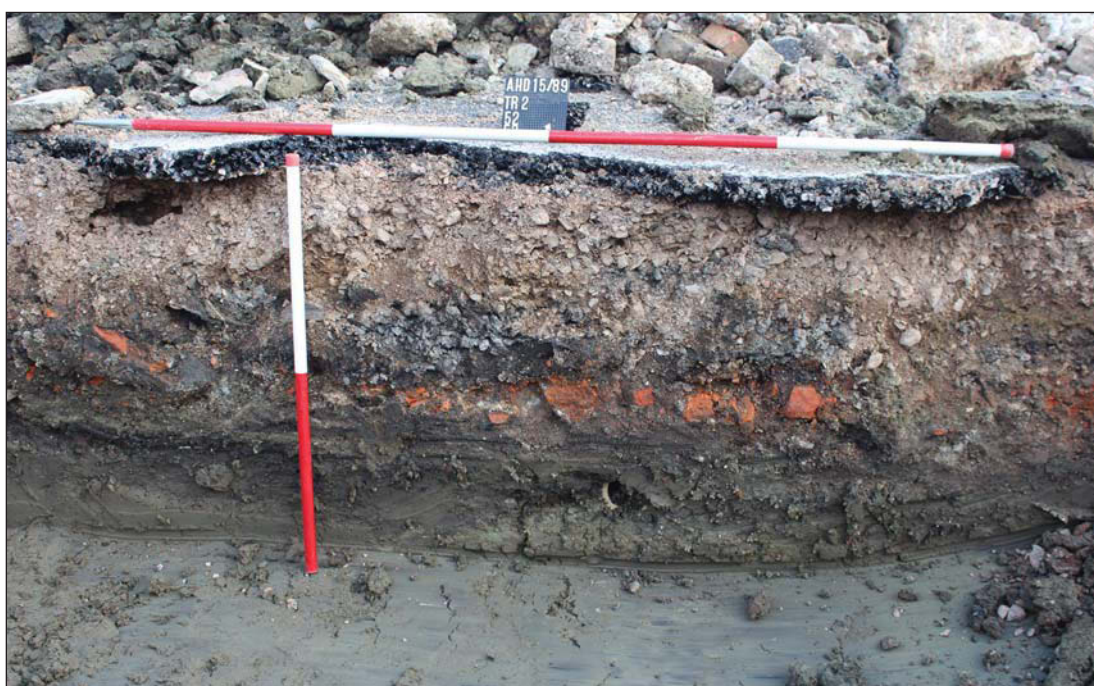


Plate 4. Trench 2, looking northeast. Made Ground 52 and 53, Service Trench 2. Scales: 2m and 1m.

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Devizes, Wiltshire, 2017
Archaeological Evaluation
Plates 3 and 4.





Plate 5. Trench 4, looking south west. Ditches 4 and 5. Scales: 2m, 1m and 0.5m



Plate 6. Trench 5, looking north west. Made Ground 69. Scales: 2m and 1m.

AHD 15/89

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Devizes, Wiltshire, 2017
Archaeological Evaluation
Plates 5 and 6.

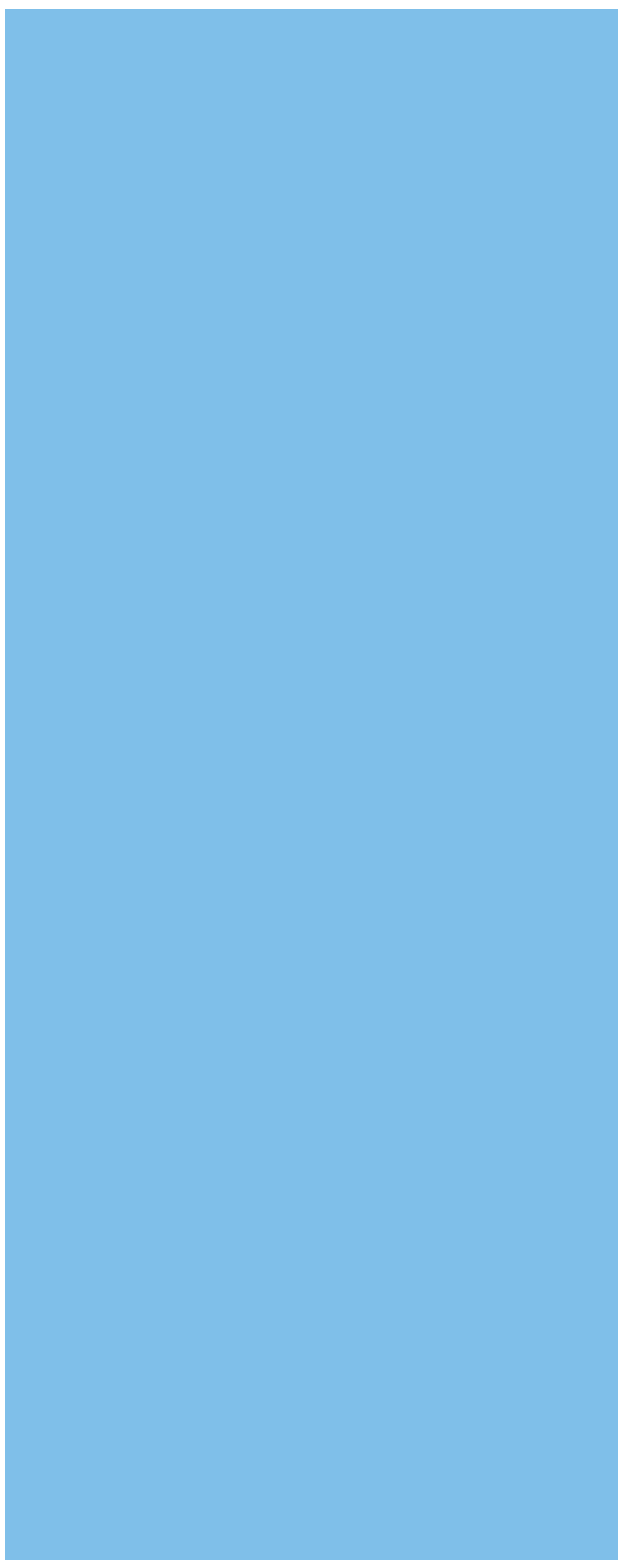
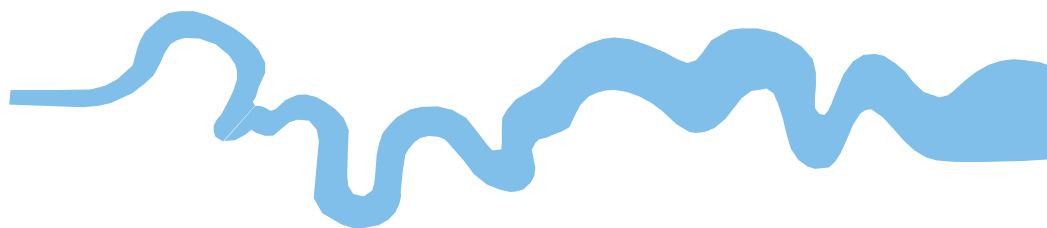


TIME CHART

Calendar Years

Modern _____	AD 1901
Victorian _____	AD 1837
Post Medieval _____	AD 1500
Medieval _____	AD 1066
Saxon _____	AD 410
Roman _____	AD 43
	AD 0 BC
Iron Age _____	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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