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ARCHAEOLOGICAL

S E R V I C E S

**Replacement gas pipeline, Heathfield, Heath Road,  
Petersfield, Hampshire**

**Archaeological Watching Brief**

**by Tim Dawson and Genni Elliott**

**Site Code: HRP17/119**

**(SU 7557 2315 to 7591 2323)**

# **Replacement gas pipeline, Heathfield, Heath Road, Petersfield, Hampshire**

**An Archaeological Watching Brief**

**For Southern Gas Network**

by Tim Dawson and Genni Elliott

Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code HRP 17/119

**June 2017**

## Summary

**Site name:** Heathfield, Heath Road, Petersfield, Hampshire

**Grid reference:** SU 7557 2315 to 7591 2323

**Site activity:** Watching Brief

**Date and duration of project:** 14th – 20th June 2017

**Project manager:** Steve Ford

**Site supervisor:** Tim Dawson and Genni Elliott

**Site code:** HRP 17/119

**Area of site:** c. 0.12ha

**Summary of results:** The excavation of a new gas pipe trench and two larger areas on the existing gas mains were monitored but nothing of archaeological interest was exposed.

**Location and reference of archive:** The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited with Hampshire Cultural Trust in due course.

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Report edited/checked by: Steve Ford ✓ 28.06.17 Steve Preston ✓ 28.06.17
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# **Replacement gas pipeline, Heathfield, Heath Road, Petersfield, Hampshire An Archaeological Watching Brief**

by Tim Dawson and Genni Elliott

**Report 17/119**

## **Introduction**

This report documents the results of an archaeological watching brief carried out on Heathfield, Heath Road, Petersfield, Hampshire (SU 7557 2315 to 7591 2323) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Mr Dan Dominy of I&G Contractors Ltd, Old Police Station, 1 Station Road, Fordingbridge, Hampshire SP6 1TE on behalf of Southern Gas Network, Station Approach, Horley, West Sussex, RH6 9HQ.

The proposed new pipeline work constitutes permitted development and, as such, planning permission was not required. SGN and its agents and contractors, however, have clearly defined archaeological obligations and are therefore obliged to consider and mitigate the consequences of their activities. The work comprised the re-routing of a gas pipeline due to the existing pipe being inaccessible for repair work.

The field investigation was carried out to a specification prepared for the work by TVAS. The fieldwork was undertaken by Tim Dawson and Genni Elliott on 14th and 20th June 2017, and the site code is HRP 17/119.

The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited with Hampshire Cultural Trust in due course.

## **Location, topography and geology**

The site is located inside the north-eastern boundary of Petersfield Heath, *c.* 1km south-east of Petersfield town centre (Fig. 1). The western half of the pipeline excavation skirts around the edge of scrubby woodland within an area of open heath, while the eastern half cuts through an area of more mature woodland, ending in another open area at its eastern end (Fig. 2). The route of the pipeline broadly follows a beaten grass footpath along the 56m above Ordnance Datum contour line with the terrain sloping away to the south (Pl. 1). The underlying geology is described as the border between Lower Marehill Clay and Upper Pulborough Sandrock in the north with Head sand deposits overlying these to the south and river terrace deposits overlying them to the east (BGS 1975). The geology observed during the excavations consisted of a red-yellow clayey sand.

## **Archaeological background**

The archaeological potential of the site has been highlighted in a briefing document prepared by Mr David Hopkins of Hampshire County Council. In summary the Hampshire Historic Environment Record records that the site contains no known archaeological deposits but lies within an archaeologically rich landscape. Numerous Bronze Age burial mounds (Scheduled Monuments) are recorded in the area of the heath with Mesolithic settlement to the north and west on the higher ground. The proposed line of the new gas pipe itself passes between five of these burial mounds with two to the north and three to the south at distances as close as 10m (Pl. 1). The wider area is rich in archaeology of all periods, with, for example, several Roman villas nearby (Edwards 2000).

## **Objectives and methodology**

The purpose of the watching brief was to excavate and record any archaeological deposits affected by the works. This involved the archaeological monitoring of areas of intrusive groundworks, in particular any overburden stripping and the digging of the pipe trench.

All groundworks were undertaken using a mini digger with a 0.50m-wide toothless bucket. Turf was stripped from the length of the pipe trench to a width of *c.*2m and the trench dug down into the bare topsoil. Larger areas were excavated at each end of the pipe trench to expose the existing pipeline. Due to the depth of the trenches it was not always possible to clean areas which might have the potential to expose archaeological deposits, but spoil heaps were monitored for finds at all times.

## **Results**

### *Western excavation area*

The western excavation area was dug to expose two existing gas main pipes (Fig. 3; Pl. 2). It measured 15m long by 3m wide and a total of 1.4m deep with a step at 0.6m. The stratigraphy observed consisted of 0.08m topsoil, 0.31m brown-grey clayey sand and 0.43m of pale brown-grey clayey sand natural geology. No archaeological finds or features were identified.

### *Pipe trench*

The trench cut for the new gas pipe was 0.5m wide, between 1.2m and 1.4m deep and extended for a length of *c.* 320m between the two area excavations (Fig. 3; Pls. 1, 3). The stratigraphy varied along the length of the trench.

In the western run it consisted of 0.06m topsoil, 0.22m of pale brown-grey clayey sand, 0.11m of dark brown clayey sand and 0.08m of dark red-brown clayey sand all overlying the red-yellow clayey sand natural geology (Fig. 4; Pl. 3). The eastern part of the pipe trench within the woodland exposed a stratigraphy consisting of 0.22m topsoil and 0.30m of dark grey-brown clayey sand with abundant roots and fragments of modern glass and pottery. Nothing of archaeological significance was observed in this section of digging.

#### *Eastern excavation area*

As with the western area, the eastern excavation was opened in order to expose the existing gas main. It measured 17.5m long by 4.5m wide and 1.37m deep with a step at 0.54m. The stratigraphy exposed consisted of 0.22m of topsoil and 0.42m of grey sand with dark grey-brown sandy clay patches overlying the dark yellow-brown clayey sand natural geology. No finds or features of archaeological significance were identified.

#### **Finds**

No finds of archaeological interest were recovered from the excavations.

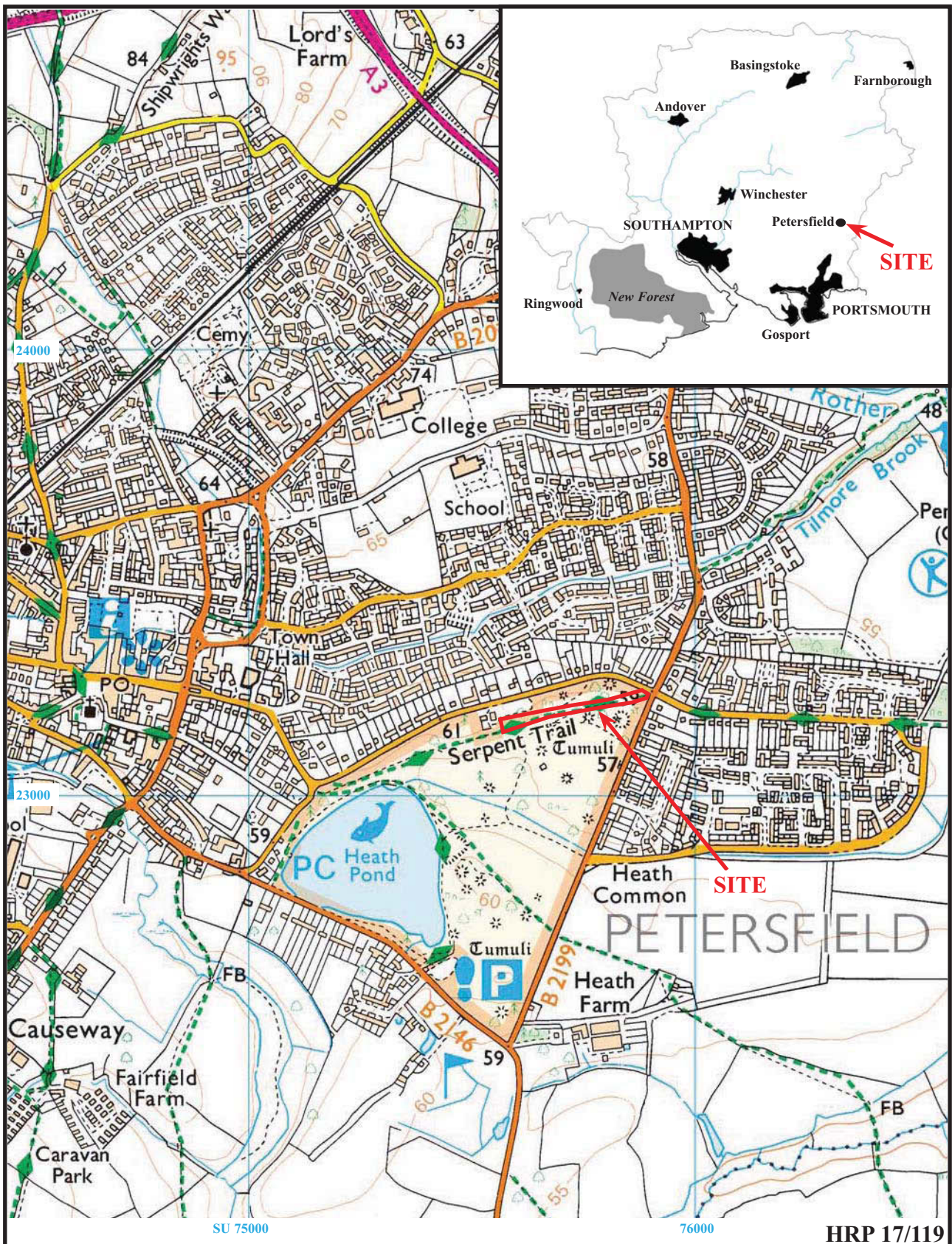
#### **Conclusion**

The excavation of the trench for the new gas pipe and two larger areas for access to the existing pipes were monitored for finds and features of archaeological interest. Despite the close proximity of several Bronze Age burial mounds and with Mesolithic settlement not much further afield, nothing of archaeological significance was noted in the exposed ground.

#### **References**

- BGS, 1975, *British Geological Survey*, 1:50,000, Sheet 300, Solid and Drift Edition, Keyworth  
Edwards, B, 2000, *An Extensive Urban Survey of Hampshire's and the Isle of Wight's Historic Towns: Petersfield*, Hampshire County Council and English Heritage





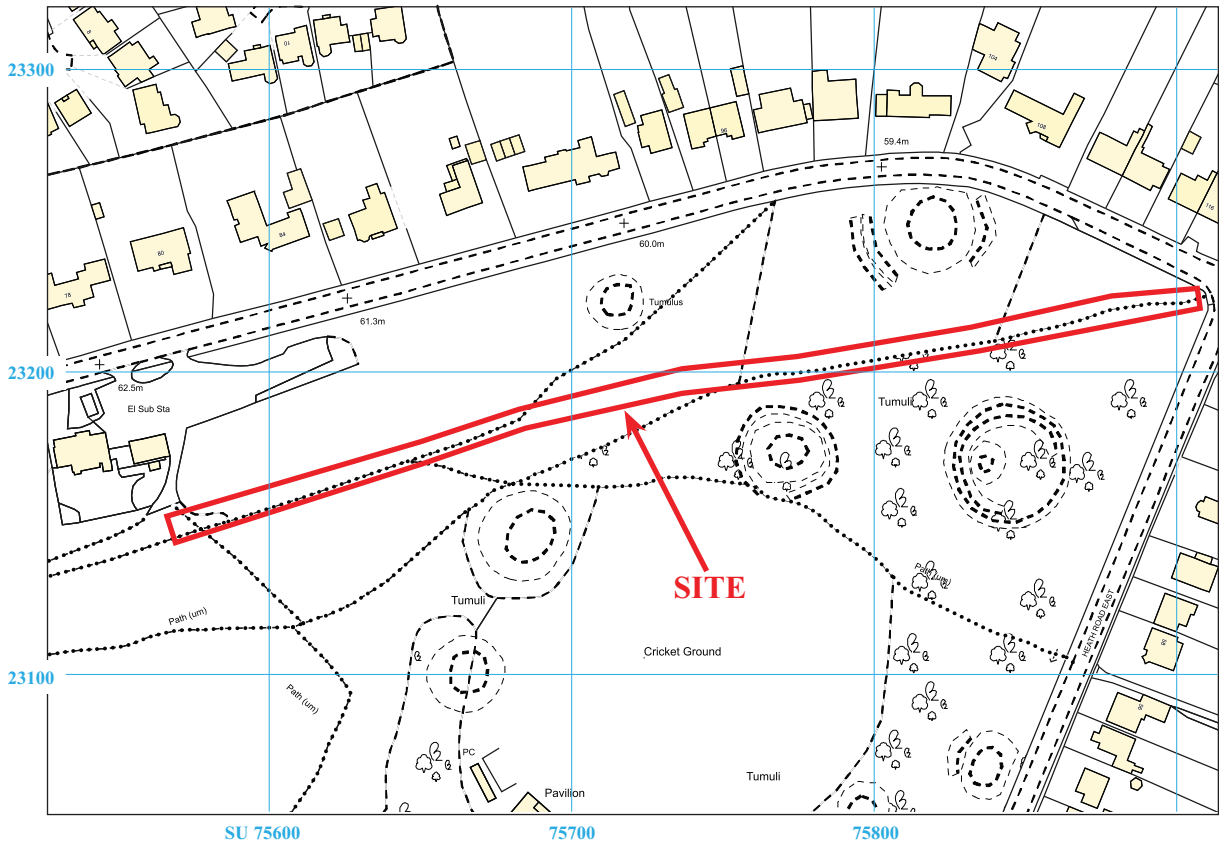
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Figure 1. Location of site within Petersfield and Hampshire.

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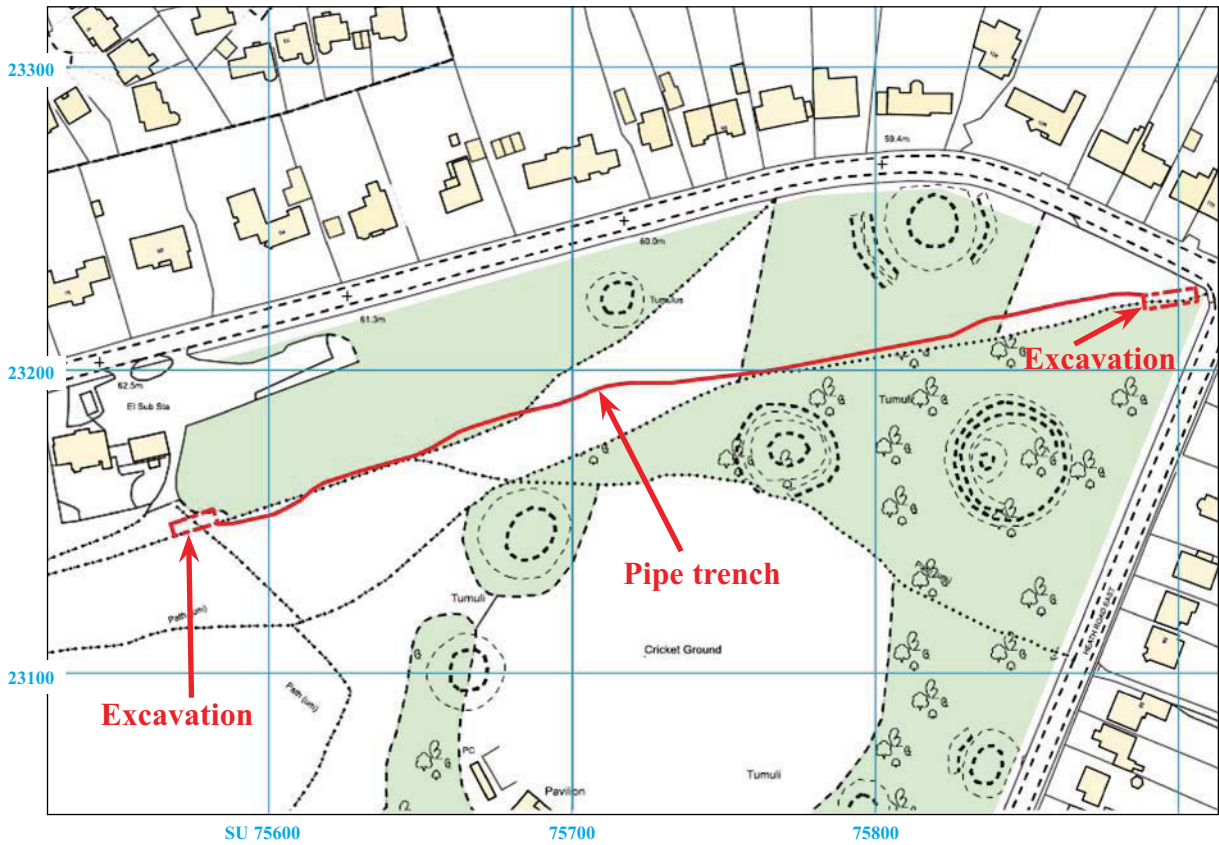


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Figure 2. Detailed location of site off Heath Road.

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Figure 3. Plan showing locations of pipe trench and excavations of existing gas main.

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*Western (open) area*

W \_\_\_\_\_ E 56.5m aOD

-----  
Topsoil  
-----

Pale brown-grey clayey sand  
-----

-----  
Dark brown clayey sand  
-----

-----  
Dark red-brown clayey sand  
-----

Red-yellow clayey sand natural geology

-----  
Base of trench

*Eastern (wooded) area*

W \_\_\_\_\_ E 56.1m aOD

-----  
Topsoil  
-----

-----  
Dark grey-brown sandy clay with roots  
-----

Yellow-brown clayey sand natural geology

-----  
Base of trench

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Figure 4. Representative sections.



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Plate 1. General view along the western pipe trench area, looking east, Scales: 2m and 1m.



Plate 2. The western excavation area, looking east, Scale: 2m.

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Plates 1 and 2.**

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Plate 3. Section showing stratigraphy in the western pipe trench area, looking north-west, Scales: 2m and 1m.

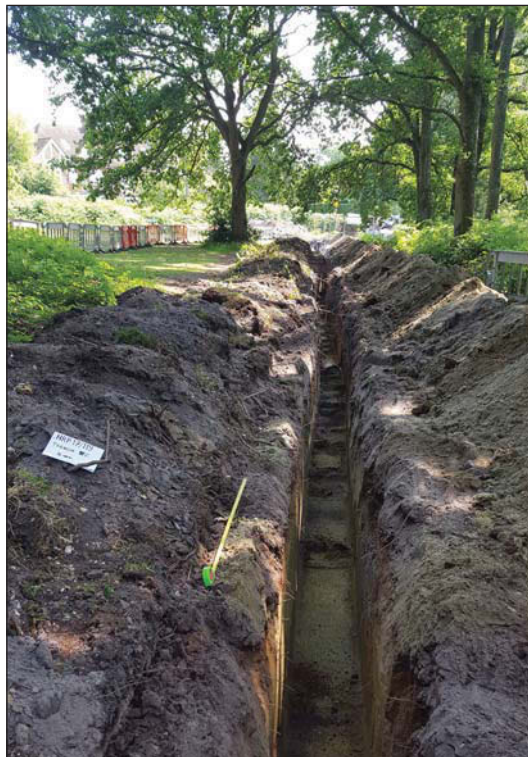


Plate 4. Eastern pipe trench area, looking east, Scale: 1m.

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Plates 3 and 4.**

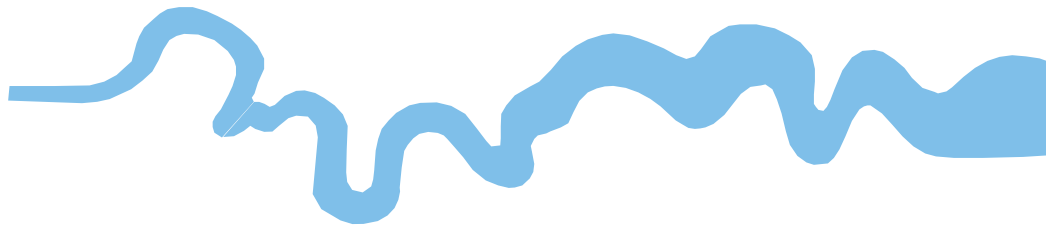
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## TIME CHART

	Calendar Years
Modern _____	AD 1901
Victorian _____	AD 1837
Post Medieval _____	AD 1500
Medieval _____	AD 1066
Saxon _____	AD 410
Roman _____	AD 43 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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