

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

ARCHAEOLOGICAL

S E R V I C E S

**Units 27-28, Suttons Park Avenue,
Reading, Berkshire**

Archaeological Evaluation

by Kyle Beaverstock

Site Code: SPA17/72

(SU 7409 7377)

**Units 27-28, Suttons Park Avenue,
Reading, Berkshire**

**An Archaeological Evaluation
for
Standard Life Assurance Limited**

by Kyle Beaverstock
Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code SPA17/72

August 2017

Summary

Site name: Units 27-28, Suttons Park Avenue, Reading Berkshire

Grid reference: SU 7409 7377

Site activity: Evaluation

Date and duration of project: 31st July to 1st August 2017

Project manager: Steve Ford

Site supervisor: Kyle Beaverstock

Site code: SPA17/72

Area of site: c. 0.8ha

Summary of results: No finds or features of any archaeological interest were recorded over the course of this evaluation. The site therefore is considered to have low archaeological potential.

Location and reference of archive: The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited in an appropriate designated museum or repository in due course.

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

Report edited/checked by:	Steve Ford✓ 03.08.17
	Steve Preston✓ 03.08.17

Units 27-28, Suttons Park Avenue, Reading, Berkshire An Archaeological Evaluation

by Kyle Beaverstock

Report 17/72

Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological field evaluation carried out at Units 27-28, Suttons Park Avenue, Reading Berkshire SU 74088 73772 (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Mr Lee Sherrington of Christopher Smith Associates LLP, Riverside, 8 Lower Teddington Road, Kingston upon Thames, Surrey, KT1 4EZ on behalf of Standard Life Assurance Limited.

Planning consent is to be sought from Wokingham Borough Council for the construction of an office and warehouse facility on the site. This report will accompany the application in order to inform the planning process with regard to potential archaeological implications. 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 Ms Ellie Leary, Archaeology Officer for Berkshire Archaeology. The fieldwork was undertaken by Kyle Beaverstock between 31st July and 1st August 2017 and the site code is SPA17/72. The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited in an appropriate designated museum or repository in due course.

Location, topography and geology

The site is located within Suttons Business Park in east Reading (Fig. 2). The site is bounded by Suttons Park Avenue to the south, buildings to the east and west and the railway to the north. This former office/warehouse is a flat square parcel of land approximately 40m above Ordnance Datum and the underlying geology as seen in the trenches is Kempton Park Gravel and Upper Chalk deposits (BGS 2000).

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 for the area in general (Ford 1987, Gates 1975). Excavations on the site of the former Earley Power Station to the north-east examined a Late Iron

Age/Roman enclosure complex and both Early Bronze Age (Beaker) burial and Mesolithic flintwork were also recovered (Barnes *et al.* 1997). Construction of the Great Western Railway in the 19th century and the digging of a nearby hole for ballast led to the discovery of an Early Saxon inhumation cemetery. Other finds nearby include a Roman coin, and Mesolithic flint tools dredged from the Thames. Evaluation of land elsewhere on the estate revealed many areas of modern disturbance and truncation, but with no archaeology recorded in less disturbed or truncated areas (Lewis 2011; Dawson and Ford 2011; Taylor 2015; Esteves and Taylor 2016; Taylor and Esteves 2016).

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;
- to determine if archaeological deposits of any period are present;
- to determine if any Saxon occupation or burial are present on the site; and
- to provide sufficient information to construct an archaeological mitigation strategy.

It was proposed to dig six trenches each 20m long and 1.8m wide. These trenches were to be dug using a JCB-type machine fitted with a ditching bucket and under constant archaeological supervision. Any features were to be cleaned, excavated and recorded using the appropriate hand tools to an agreed sampling fraction.

Results

All trenches were dug although some had to be moved slightly to avoid various live services (Fig. 2). The trenches were all 1.8m wide and ranged in length from 19.5m to 22m and in depth from 0.35 to 0.9m. A complete list of trenches giving lengths, breadths, depths and a description of sections and geology is given in Appendix 1.

Trench 1 (Figs 2 and 3 and Pl. 1)

Trench 1 was aligned SW - NE and was 21.2m long and 0.74m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.74m of made ground (mid yellowish-brown sandy gravel with modern brick, tile, glass and concrete) overlying natural geology. The central portion of the trench (11m–18.5m from the south-west end) was occupied by former building footings. No archaeological finds or features were recorded.

Trench 2 (Fig. 2 and Pl. 2)

Trench 2 was aligned SE - NW and was 22m long and 0.9m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.7m of made ground overlying natural geology. Three modern pipes and a concrete footing crossed the trench at various points. No finds or features were recorded.

Trench 3 (Fig. 2 and Pl. 3)

Trench 3 was aligned SE - NW and was 19.5m long and 0.35m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.35m of made ground overlying natural geology. Two modern pipes and a concrete footing were observed but no archaeological finds or features were recorded.

Trench 4 (Figs 2 and 3)

Trench 4 was aligned WNW - ESE and was 20.2m long and 0.8m deep (the maximum depth being a test pit at the west end to check the interpretation of the natural). The stratigraphy consisted of 0.6m of made ground overlying natural geology. No finds or features were recorded.

Trench 5 (Fig. 2 and Pl. 4)

Trench 5 was aligned W - E and was 20.1m long and 0.88m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.88m of made ground overlying natural geology. No finds or features were recorded.

Trench 6 (Fig. 2)

Trench 6 was aligned W - E and was 19.9m long and 0.46m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.46m of made ground overlying natural geology. No finds or features were recorded.

Conclusion

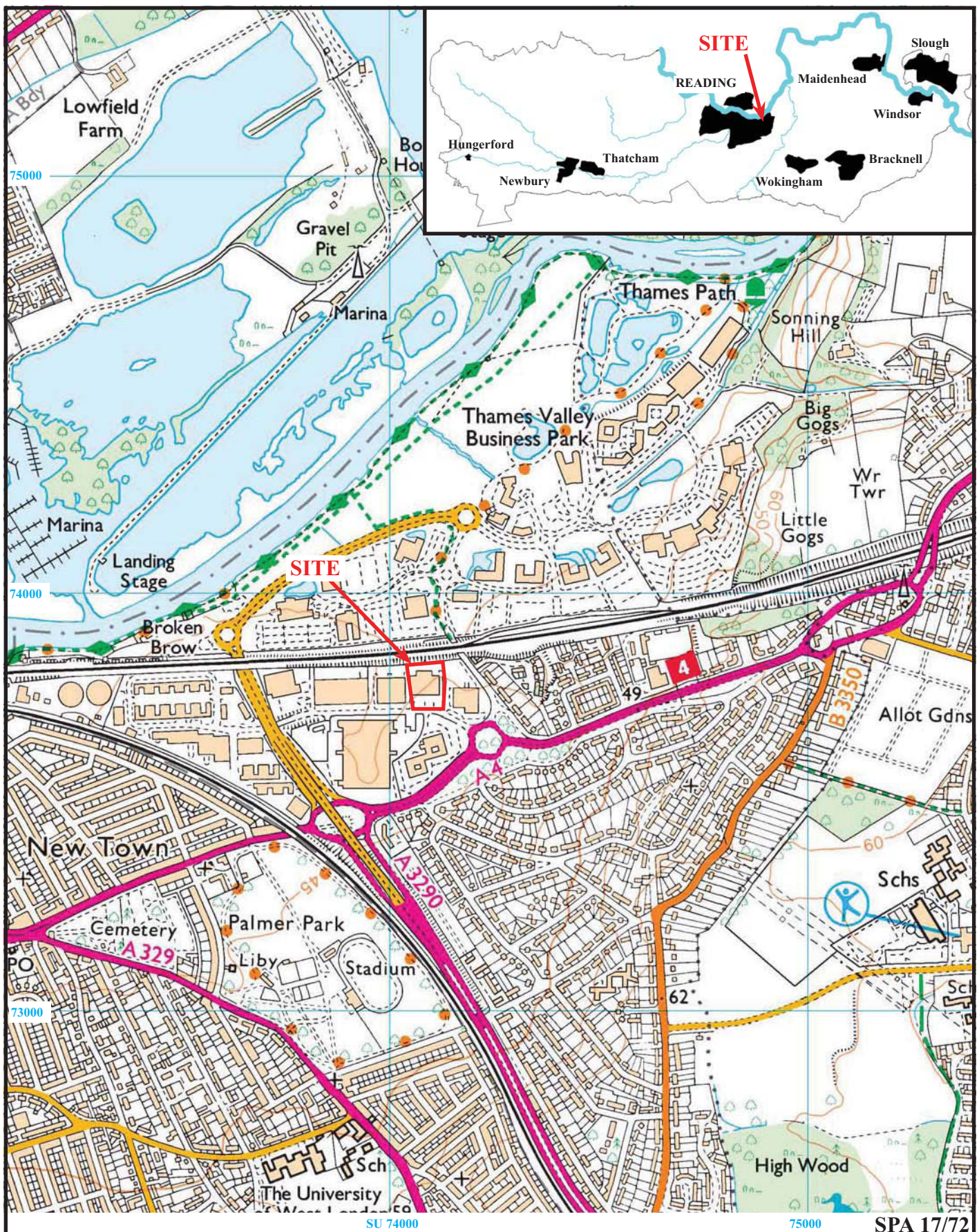
The evaluation was carried out as intended. It revealed, the presence of 20th-century made ground above the natural gravel geology, suggesting that topsoil and any subsoil had been previously removed. This was anticipated from the previous fieldwork in the area. However, it does not appear that the top of the gravel, which equates to the top of the archaeologically relevant horizon has been extensively lowered despite several areas of deep truncation being present. As such any deeper archaeological deposits originally present might have been expected to have survived. However, no features or finds of archaeological significance were uncovered and the site is considered to have low archaeological potential.

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	21.2	1.8	0.74	0–0.74m made ground; 0.74m mid yellowish brown sandy gravel natural geology. [Pl. 1]
2	22.0	1.8	0.90	0–0.70m made ground; 0.70–0.9m mid yellowish brown clayey sand with gravel patches (natural geology). [Pl. 2]
3	19.5	1.8	0.35	0–0.35m made ground; 0.35m mid yellowish brown sandy gravel natural geology. [Pl. 3]
4	20.2	1.8	0.80	0–0.60m made ground; 0.60–0.80m mid reddish brown sandy gravel natural geology.
5	20.1	1.8	0.88	0–0.88m made ground; 0.88m mid yellowish brown sandy gravel natural geology. [Pl. 4]
6	19.9	1.8	0.46	0–0.46m made ground; 0.46m mid yellowish brown sandy gravel natural geology.

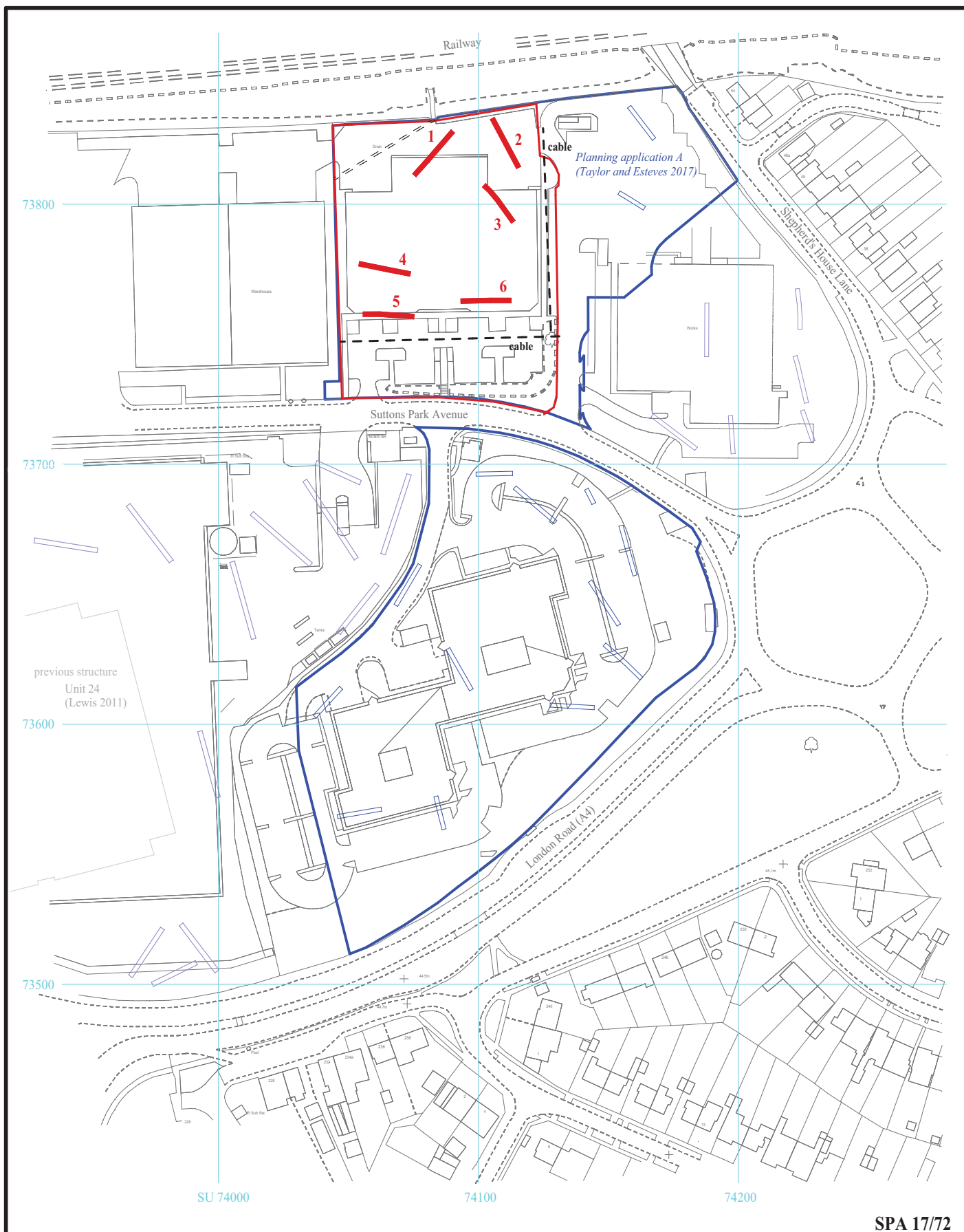


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Figure 1. Location of site within Reading and Berkshire.

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Figure 2. Location of trenches.

0 100m

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Trench 1

SW

NE

Made ground

39.49maOD

Natural geology (gravel)

Trench 4

WNW

ESE

Made ground

38.83m

Natural geology (gravel)

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Figure 3. Representative sections.

0 1m

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



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

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**Unit 27-28, Sutton Park Avenue,
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Plates 1 and 2.**

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



Plate 4. Trench 5, looking east, Scales: horizontal 2m and 1m, vertical 0.5m.

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Unit 27-28, Sutton Park Avenue,
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Plates 3 and 4.

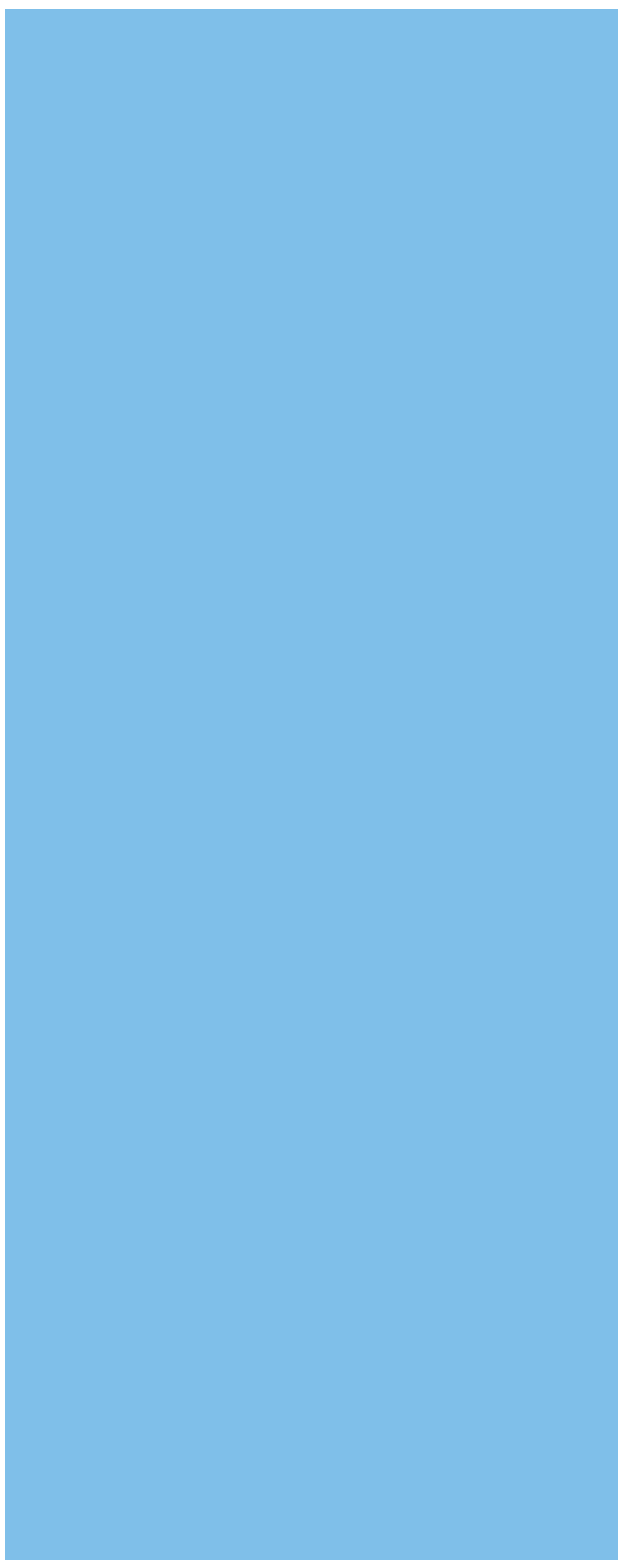
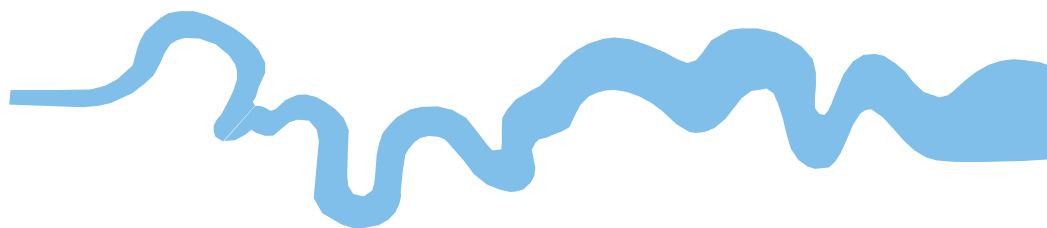
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TIME CHART

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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