

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

ARCHAEOLOGICAL

S E R V I C E S

**Byways, Dunt Lane, Hurst,
Wokingham, Berkshire**

Archaeological Watching Brief

by Aidan Colyer

Site Code: BDL17/126

(SU 7893 7239)

Byways, Dunt lane, Hurst, Wokingham, Berkshire

An Archaeological Watching Brief

For Ms Lara Haynes

by Aidan Colyer

Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code BDL 17/126

October 2017

Summary

Site name: Byways, Dunt Lane, Hurst, Wokingham, Berkshire

Grid reference: SU 7893 7239

Site activity: Watching Brief

Date and duration of project: 13th October 2017

Project manager: Steve Ford

Site supervisor: Aidan Colyer

Site code: BDL 17/126

Summary of results: No archaeologically relevant features or finds were observed during the excavation of the footings for a new study room.

Location and reference of archive: The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited at a suitable local repository in due course.

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

Report edited/checked by: Steve Ford ✓ 03.11.17 Steve Preston ✓ 01.11.17

Byways, Dunt Lane, Hurst, Wokingham, Berkshire An Archaeological Watching Brief

by Aidan Colyer

Report 17/126

Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological watching brief carried out at Byways, Dunt Lane, Hurst, Wokingham, Berkshire RG10 0TP (SU 7893 7239) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Kirkpatrick Design Consultants, Plumtree Cottage, The Green, Nettlebed, Henley-on-Thames RG9 5AX on behalf of Ms Lara Haynes.

Planning permission (F/2014/2282) has been gained from Wokingham Borough Council for the construction of a new garage and two-storey barn following demolition of existing structures. The consent is subject to a condition (6) requiring a programme of archaeological investigation prior to development.

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 Kathelen Leary of Berkshire Archaeology. The fieldwork was undertaken by Aidan Colyer on 13th October 2017. The site code is BDL 17/126.

The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited at a suitable local repository in due course.

Location, topography and geology

Hurst lies east of Reading and north of Wokingham in eastern Berkshire within the Loddon Valley. The site is located in between the village of Hurst, which lies to the north of the site, and the A329(M) to the south (Fig. 1). The underlying geology is second terrace deposits of sand and gravel (BGS 2000). Mid grey-yellow sand and gravel was encountered during the fieldwork.

Archaeological background

Generally, the Loddon Valley is archaeologically rich with a range of sites yielding archaeological artefacts and features of dates from prehistory to modern times (Ford 1994-7, Gates 1975). Three excavations have taken place relatively close to the site, at Whistley Green where a Mesolithic site (Harding and Richards 1991-3) and a Roman site (Barnes and Hawkes, 1991-3) have been excavated in advance of gravel extraction. Iron Age

deposits have also been observed during gravel extraction at Lea Farm to the north-east of the site (Manning and Moore 2011) with further Iron Age and Roman occupation at Hatch Farm, Winnersh to the west (McNicoll-Norbury and Ford 2017). Various prehistoric, Roman and medieval finds have been recorded in the Berkshire Archaeology Historic Environment Record for the area.

The house is Grade II Listed (EH Ref 1312988). Parts of the house are late 16th and 17th century, forming an original T-shape, much altered in the 20th century, especially with a northern extension added.

Objectives and methodology

The purpose of the watching brief was to observe the excavation of the footings for the new groundworks. Any archaeological deposits uncovered by the groundworks were to be excavated and recorded by hand. The footings were to be excavated by a 360°-type excavator with a toothless bucket under archaeological supervision.

Results

The excavation of the footings was observed for the new study room. The new garage was of lightweight construction and would not need deep foundations. As such its construction was not monitored.

New study room (Figs 3 and 4)

The excavation of the footings revealed a simple stratigraphy with little variation across the entire excavation area of the footings which measured 10.6m by 7.7m (Pl. 1).

The footings were 0.7m wide. The total depth for the footings was 1.1m. Of this 0.4m was topsoil with significant rooting from surrounding trees, above 0.4m of subsoil of a mid grey coloured clay with occasional to frequent small to medium stones throughout. Below 0.8m mid grey-yellow sand and gravel (natural geology) was encountered (Fig. 4; Pl. 2). The north-western and western area of footings filled with groundwater to a maximum depth of 0.2m.

The north-eastern corner of the footings uncovered a late post-medieval to modern dump of glass, rusted camping equipment and various other pieces of rubbish, none of which was retained.

Spoil heaps were examined before they were removed from site.

Finds

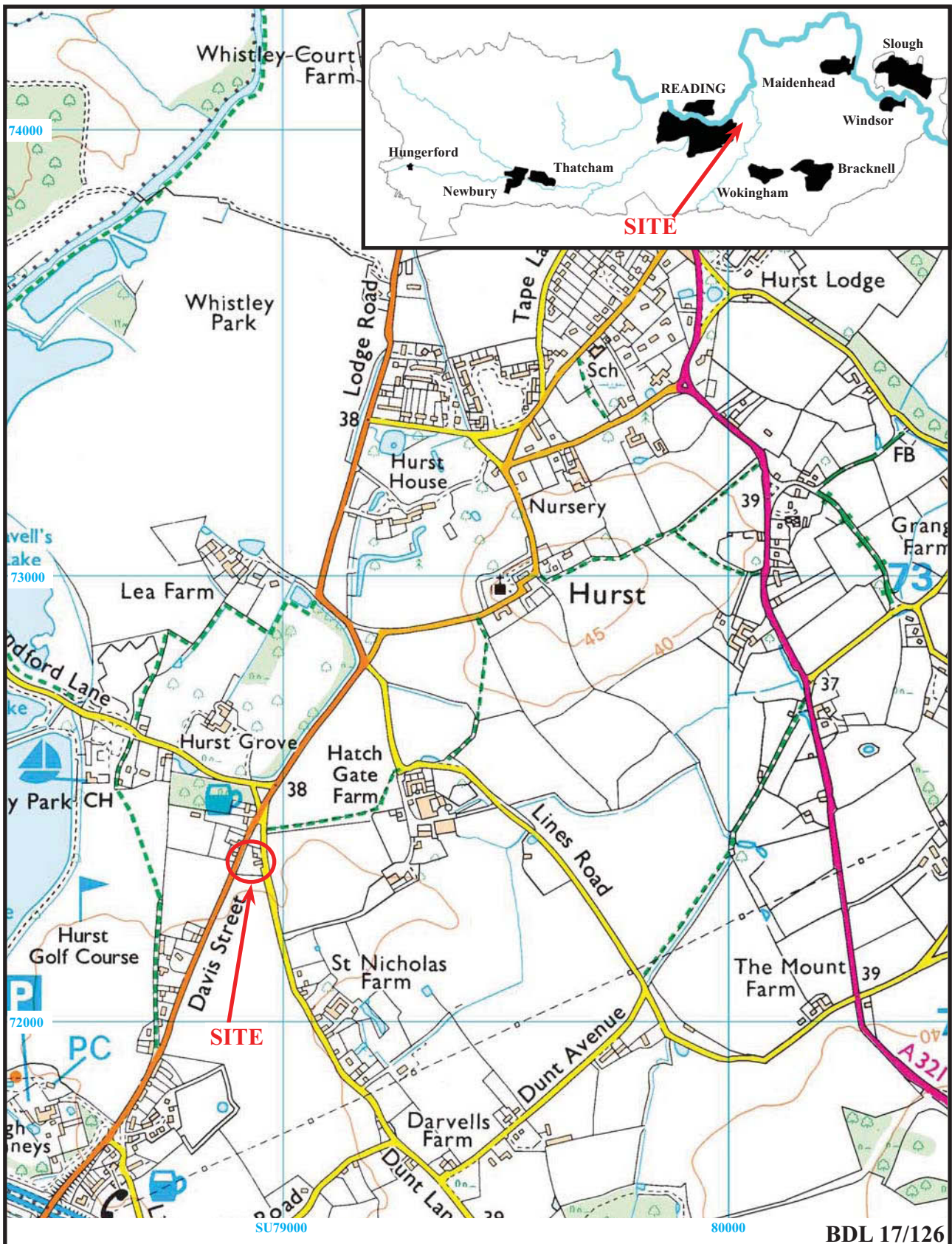
No archaeologically relevant finds were uncovered.

Conclusion

No finds or features of archaeological relevance were uncovered during excavation of the footings.

References

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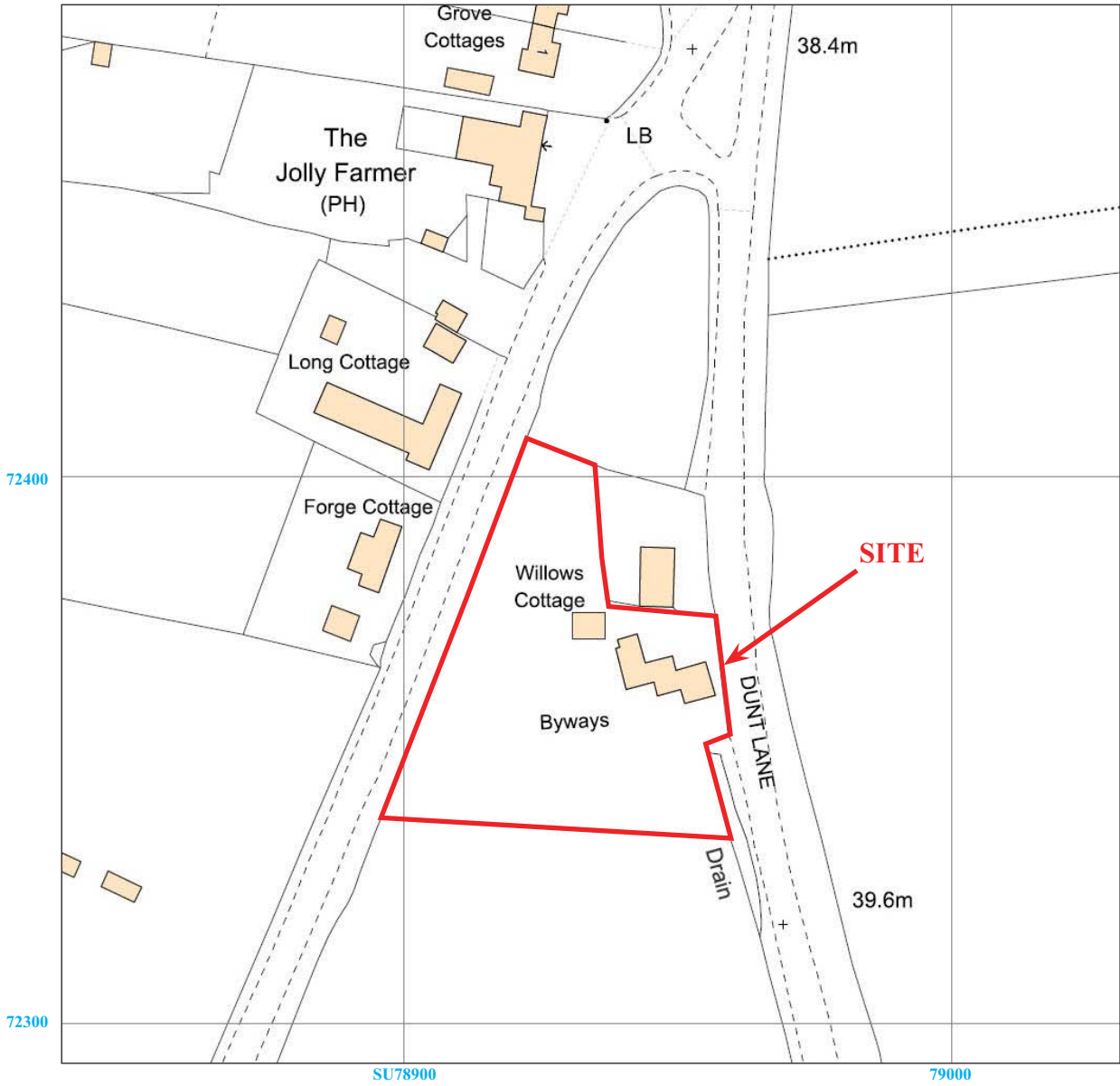


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Archaeological Desk-based Assessment**
Figure 1. Location of site within Hurst and Berkshire.



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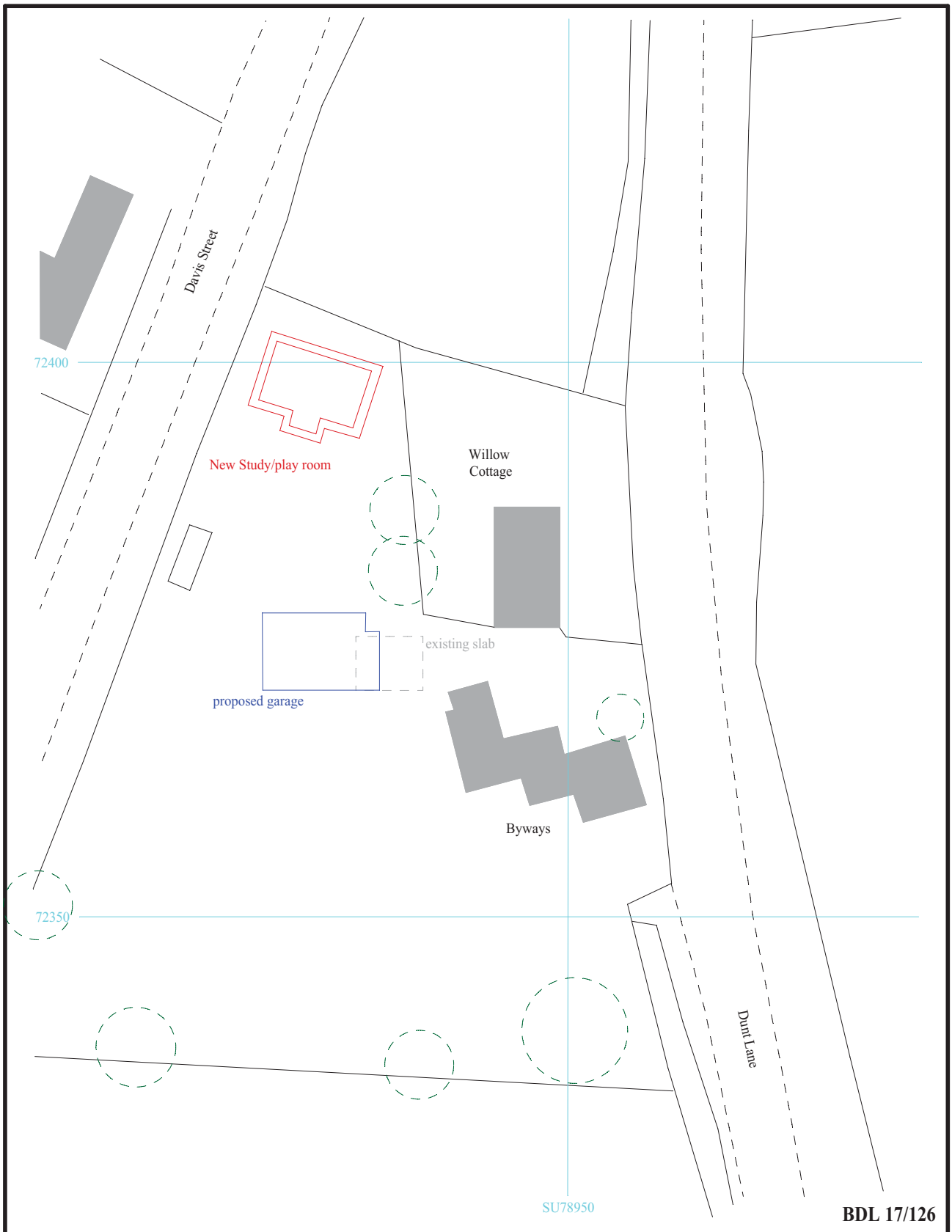
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Figure 2. Detailed location of site off Dunt Lane.

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Figure 3. Plan of footings observed.



NW

SE

38.9maOD

Topsoil

Subsoil

Natural geology (mid grey sand and gravel)

base of trench

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Figure 4. Representative section of foundation trench.



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Plate 1. New footing, looking north east, Scales: 2m and 1m.



Plate 2. Representative section, looking south east, Scales: horizontal 2m, vertical 1m.

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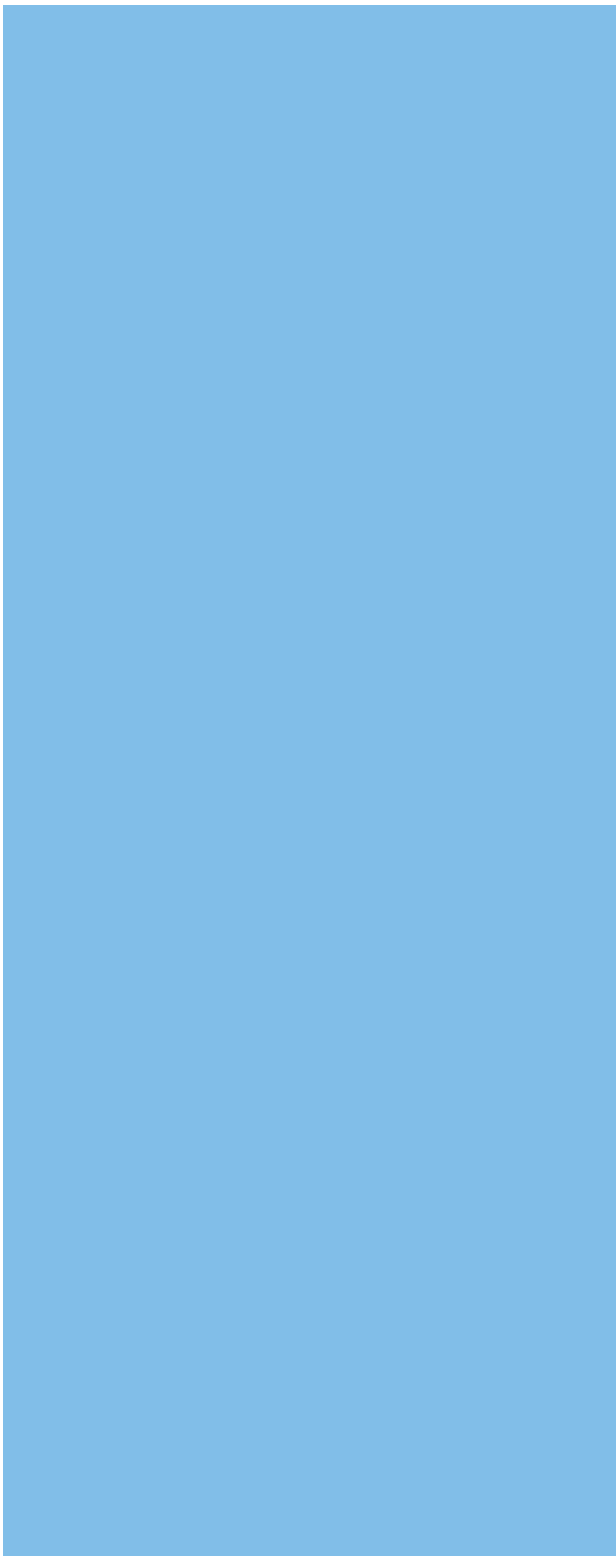
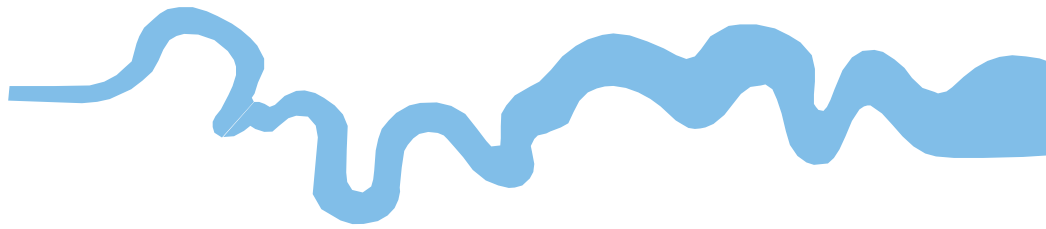
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Plates 1 and 2.**

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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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