

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

ARCHAEOLOGICAL

S E R V I C E S

**Land at Watersplash Lane, Newell Green,
Warfield, Berkshire**

Archaeological Evaluation Part 2

by Cecilia Galleano

Site Code: WLW17/105

(SU 8714 7118)

Land at Watersplash Lane, Newell Green, Warfield, Berkshire

**An Archaeological Evaluation Part 2
for Millgate Developments Ltd**

by Cecilia Galleano

Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code WLW 17/105

December 2017

Summary

Site name: Land at Watersplash Lane, Newell Green, Warfield, Berkshire

Grid reference: SU 8714 7118

Site activity: Evaluation

Date and duration of project: 24th November – 29th November 2017

Project manager: Steve Ford

Site supervisor: Andy Taylor, Luis Esteves

Site code: WLW 17/105

Area of site: c. 1.8ha

Summary of results: Six trenches were dug to complete the evaluation of the site. However, no further archaeological features nor finds were uncovered.

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

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Report edited/checked by:	Steve Ford✓ 21.12.17
	Steve Preston✓ 21.12.17

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Report 17/105

Introduction

This report documents the results of the second part of an archaeological field evaluation carried out on land at Watersplash Lane, Newell Green, Warfield, Berkshire (SU 8714 7118) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Mr Conor Roberts of Millgate Developments Ltd, Berkshire RG10 9JT.

Planning consent (app 16/01274/FUL) has been sought from Bracknell Forest Borough Council for the construction of new houses on the site. The consent is expected to be subject to a condition relating to archaeology. As a consequence of the possibility of archaeological deposits on the site which may be damaged or destroyed by groundworks, a field evaluation has been requested in order to inform the planning process. This is as set out in the *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF 2012) and the Council's policies on archaeology. The field investigation was carried out to a specification approved by Mr Roland Smith, Archaeology Officer with Berkshire Archaeology, who advise the Council on matters relating to archaeology. Due to access constraints, all parts of the site could be evaluated at the same time. This report therefore completes the work proposed in the written scheme of investigation. The fieldwork was undertaken by Andy Taylor, Luis Esteves, Benedikt Tebbit, Sarah Gallagher between 24th and the 29th November 2017 and the site code is WLW 17/105.

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

Location, topography and geology

The site is located on an irregular parcel of land located 200m to the south of the village of Warfield, and to the north of Bracknell (Fig. 1). It is bounded by Watersplash Lane to the south, houses to the east and north and open field to the west. The land is fairly flat overall at 60m above Ordnance Datum, and comprises garden areas. The underlying geology is mapped as London Clay (BGS 1981), which was encountered in the trenches as an yellowish brown silty clay.

Archaeological background

The archaeological potential of the site has been highlighted in a desk-based assessment (CgMs 2016). In summary, the site lies within an area of East Berkshire previously not noted for its rich archaeological heritage (Ford 1987). To the south of Bracknell lies the Iron Age hillfort of Caesar's Camp and there are a number of upstanding round barrows also to the south. However, fieldwork carried out in more recent times within greater Bracknell has recorded more archaeology with Bronze Age, Iron Age and post-medieval remains at the former Staff College to the south-east (Lowe 2013) and Fairclough Farm to the south (Torrance and Durden 2003). Further to the west at Park Farm, Binfield, Mesolithic occupation and Iron Age and Roman enclosure have been excavated (Roberts 1995). Medieval enclosure has recently been recorded at West End, Warfield (Taylor 2015). Other finds in the area include possible cropmark enclosures to the south, an Iron Age coin hoard recorded from Jealots Hill to the north, an Iron Age pit at Buckle Lane Farm and various stray finds of Bronze Age, Roman and medieval pottery from the wider area.

The initial part of the evaluation located a feature of Roman date (Galleano 2017).

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.

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;
- to provide sufficient information to construct an archaeological mitigation strategy.

It was proposed to dig 18 trenches across the site, each 25m long and 1.6m wide. 13 trenches (12 as planned and one contingency trench) were excavated and described in the previous report, and the remaining 6 trenches are the subject of this report. The trenches were excavated using a JCB-type machine fitted with a toothless grading bucket.

The trenches were excavated under constant archaeological supervision and all spoilheaps were monitored for finds. Where certain or possible archaeological features were present, the stripped areas were cleaned using appropriate hand tools, and sufficient of the archaeological features and deposits exposed were to be excavated or sampled by hand to satisfy the aims outlined above, without compromising the integrity of any features.

Results

A complete list of trenches giving lengths, breadths, depths and a description of sections and geology is given in Appendix 1. All features cutting the natural geology level were investigated. The excavated features, with dating evidence, are summarized in Appendix 2. All trenches were excavated as intended (Fig. 2).

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

Trench 1 was aligned WSW-ENE and was 24m long and 0.5m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of topsoil, which was 0.15m thick, and subsoil, which was 0.30m thick, both overlaying the light yellowish brown silty clay natural geology.

Trench 2 (Fig 2.; Pl. 2)

Trench 2 was aligned NW-SE and was 23m long and 0.30m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of topsoil, which was 0.10m thick, and subsoil, which was 0.10m thick, both overlaying the light yellowish brown silty clay natural geology.

Trench 3 (Figs 2, 3)

Trench 3 was aligned WSW – ENE and was 25.7m. The stratigraphy consisted of topsoil, which was 0.12m thick, and subsoil, which was 0.15m thick, both overlying the light yellowish brown silty clay natural geology. A furrow base running NE-SW was noticed in the west end of the trench.

Trench 9 (Fig 2.; Pl. 3)

Trench 9 was aligned WSW - ENE and was 25m long and 0.32m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of topsoil, which was 0.10m thick, and subsoil, which was 0.10m thick, both overlying the light yellowish brown silty clay natural geology.

Trench 10 (Fig 2)

Trench 10 was aligned NW-SE and was 16.2m long and 0.49m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of topsoil, which was 0.23m thick, and subsoil, which was 0.22m, both overlying the light yellowish brown clay natural geology, with patches of silty clay and gravel.

Trench 12 (Figs 2, 3; Pl. 4)

Trench 12 was aligned WSW-ENE and was 24m long and 0.33m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of topsoil, which was 0.10m thick, and subsoil, which was 0.10m thick, both overlying the light yellowish brown silty clay natural geology.

Conclusion

This part of the evaluation revealed no further archaeological finds nor deposits

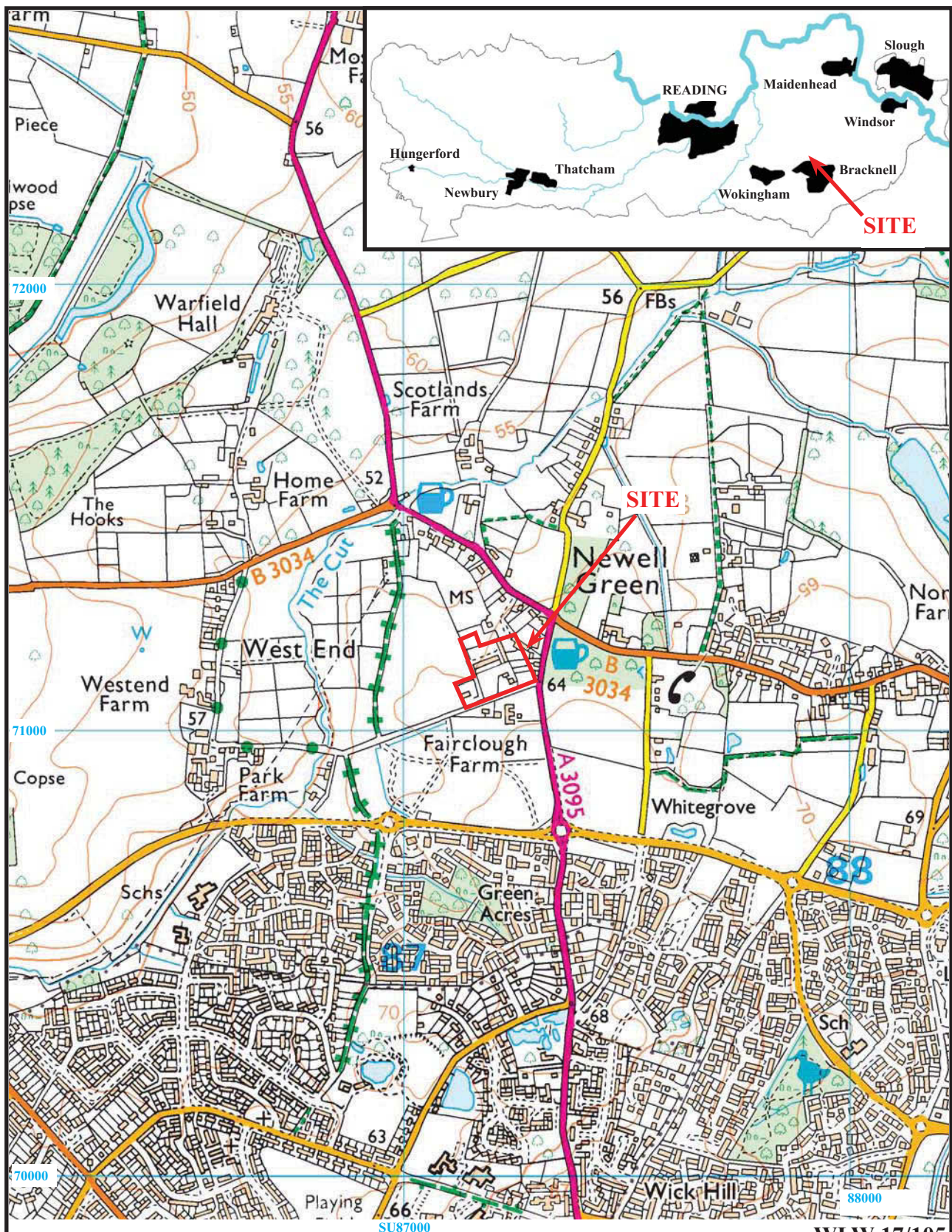
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APPENDIX 1: Trench details

0m at southern and western ends

<i>Trench</i>	<i>Length (m)</i>	<i>Breadth (m)</i>	<i>Depth (m)</i>	<i>Comment</i>
1	24	1.6	0.5	0-0.15m topsoil; 0.15-0.45m subsoil;0.45m+ of natural geology [Pl. 1]
2	23	1.6	0.3	0-0.10m topsoil; 0.10-0.20m subsoil;0.20m+ of natural geology [Pl. 2]
3	25.7	1.6	0.31	0-0.12m topsoil; 0.12-0.27m subsoil;0.27m+ of natural geology
9	25	1.6	0.32	0-0.10m topsoil; 0.10-0.20m subsoil;0.20m+ of natural geology [Pl. 3]
10	16.2	1.6	0.49	0-0.23m topsoil; 0.23-0.45m subsoil;0.45m+ of natural geology
12	24	1.6	0.33	0-0.10m topsoil; 0.10-0.20m subsoil;0.20m+ of natural geology [Pl. 4]



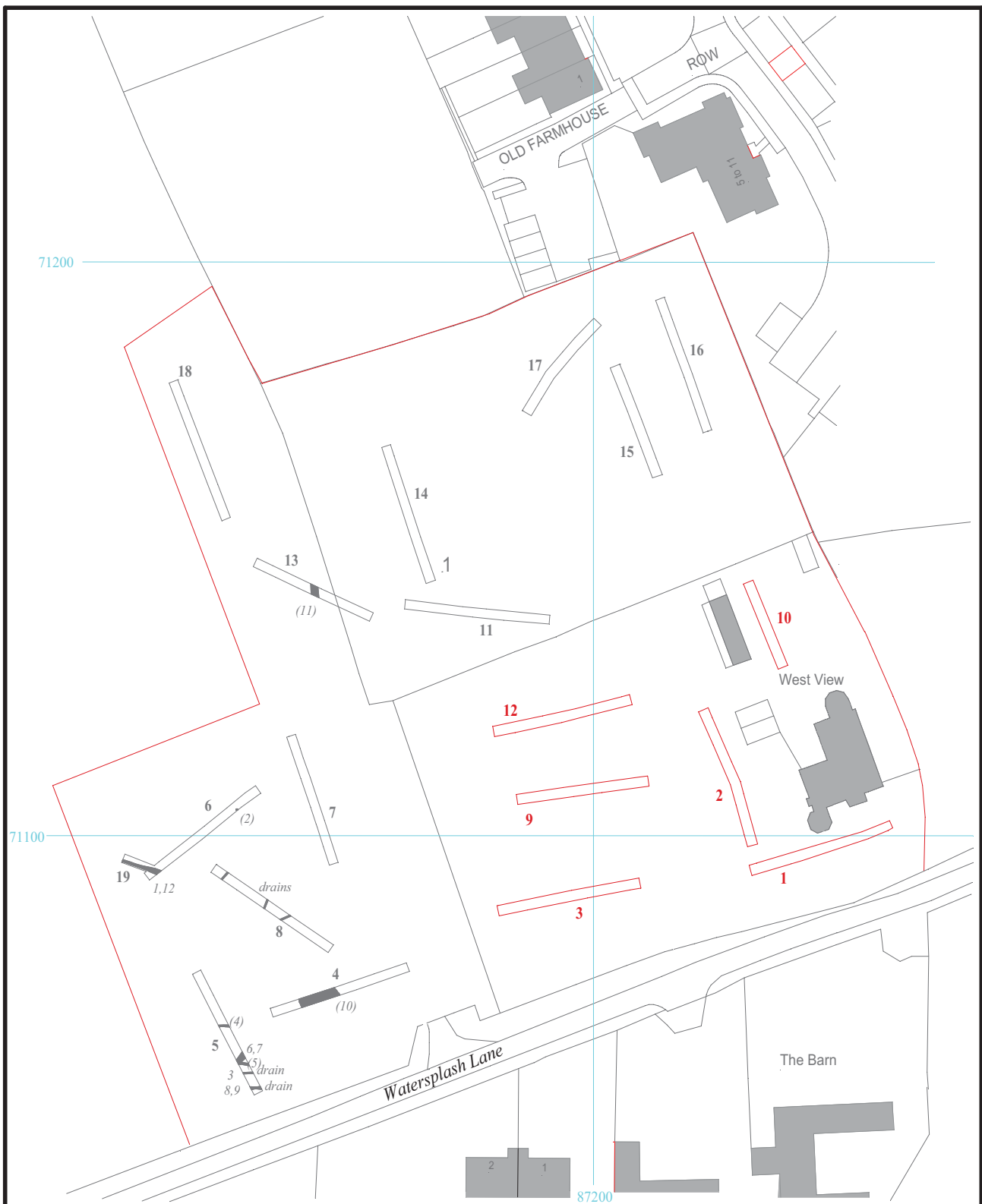
WLW 17/105

**Land at Watersplash Lane, Newell Green,
Warfield, Bracknell, Berkshire, 2017
Archaeological Evaluation - Part 2**

Figure 1. Location of site within Bracknell and Berkshire.

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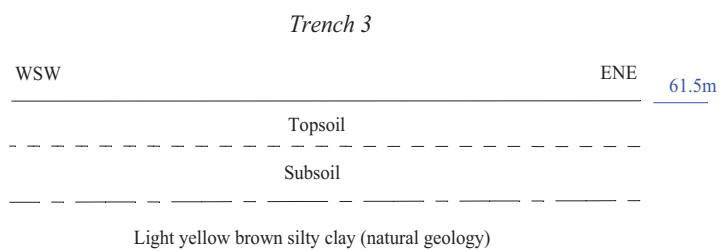
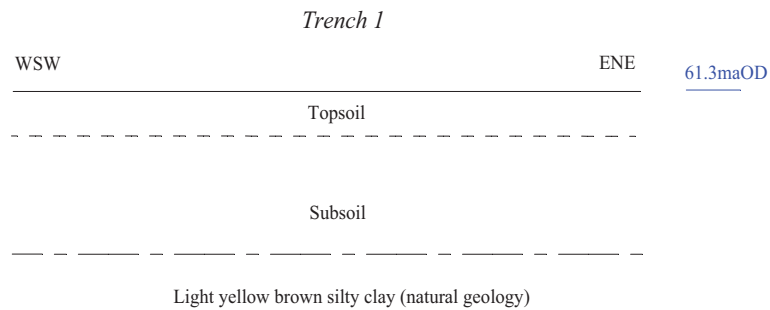
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Warfield, Bracknell, Berkshire, 2017
Archaeological Evaluation Part 2**

Figure 2. Location of trenches (red).

0 50m

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WLW 17/105

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Warfield, Bracknell, Berkshire, 2017
Archaeological Evaluation - Part 2**

Figure 3. Representative trench sections.



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Plate 1. Trench 1, looking north east, Scales: horizontal 2m and 1m, vertical 0.3m.



Plate 2. Trench 2, looking north west, Scales: horizontal 2m and 1m, vertical 0.3m.

WLW 17/105

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Warfield, Bracknell, Berkshire, 2017
Archaeological Evaluation - Part 2 trenching
Plates 1 and 2.**

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Plate 3. Trench 9, looking east, Scales: horizontal 2m and 1m, vertical 0.3m.



Plate 4. Trench 12, looking east, Scales: horizontal 2m and 1m, vertical 0.3m.

WLW 17/105

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Warfield, Bracknell, Berkshire, 2017
Archaeological Evaluation - Phase 2 trenching
Plates 3 and 4.**

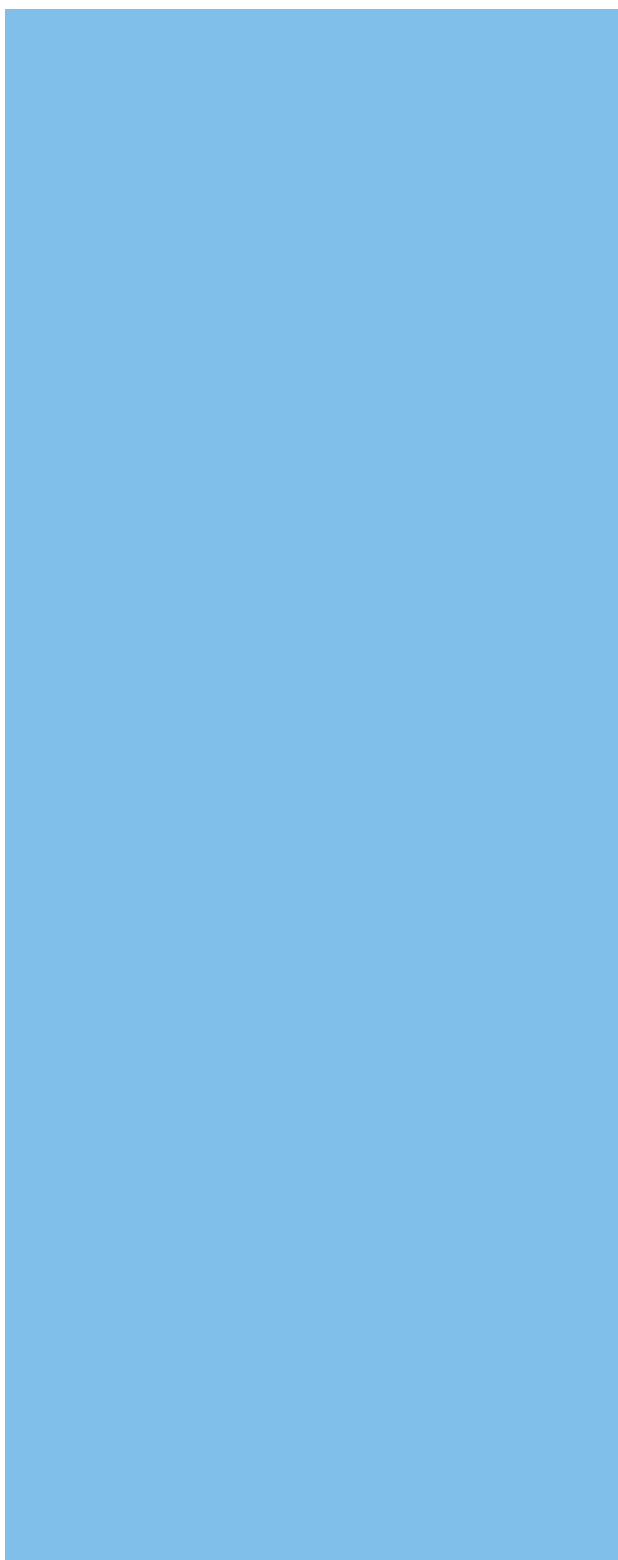
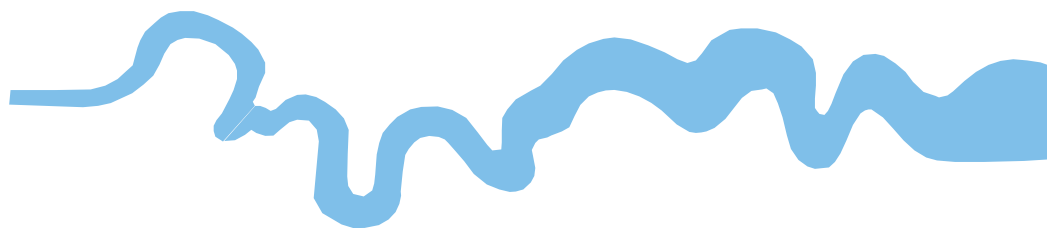
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TIME CHART

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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