

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

ARCHAEOLOGICAL

S E R V I C E S

**Walnut Tree Farmhouse, Upper Up,
South Cerney, Gloucestershire**

Archaeological Watching Brief

by Kyle Beaverstock

Site Code: WTC19/180

(SU 0442 9690)

Walnut Tree Farmhouse, Upper Up, South Cerney, Gloucestershire

**An Archaeological Watching Brief
for Armour Heritage**

by Kyle Beaverstock

Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code WTC 19/180

March 2020

Summary

Site name: Walnut Tree Farmhouse, Upper Up, South Cerney, Gloucestershire

Grid reference: SU 0442 9690

Site activity: Watching Brief

Date and duration of project: 16th March 2020

Project coordinator: Tim Dawson

Site supervisor: Kyle Beaverstock

Site code: WTC19/180

Area of site: c. 0.27ha

Summary of results: Despite the potential for archaeological remains to be present on this site, no deposits or finds of any archaeological interest were observed during the course of the watching brief.

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

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Report edited/checked by: Steve Ford ✓ 31.03.20 Steve Preston ✓ 31.03.20

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Report 19/180

Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological watching brief carried out at Upper Up, South Cerney, Gloucestershire (SU 0442 9690) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Sue Farr on behalf of Armour Heritage, Greystone Cottage, Trudoxhill, Frome, Somerset BA11 5DP.

A revised planning consent has been granted by Cotswold District Council (19/04001/FUL) for a new dwelling at the site. A previous application (16/05351/FUL) was consented with a condition (4) that a programme of archaeological work is undertaken. The revised application was subject to the same archaeological watching brief previously proposed. This is in accordance with the *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF 2019) and the District's policies on archaeology. The field investigation was carried out to a specification approved by county archaeologist for Gloucestershire County Council. The fieldwork was undertaken by Kyle Beaverstock on the 16th March 2020 and the site code is WTC 19/180.

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

Location, topography and geology

The site is located on the western side of South Cerney in the Upper Thames Valley, 5.6km south east of Cirencester and 340m south of the River Churn (Fig. 1). The site is a relatively flat rectangular parcel of land that was not being utilised. The site sits at a height of 91m above Ordnance Datum and the underlying geology is First Terrace River Gravel (BGS 1997).

Archaeological background

The archaeological potential of the site stems from its location both within the archaeologically rich Upper Thames Valley and the Late Saxon and Medieval village of South Cerney. A number of investigations have taken place within the village and have revealed medieval deposits which suggests that the modern village overlies a medieval settlement. Some Roman and possible Iron Age deposits were also discovered in the vicinity

of the site suggesting some activity (Oakeshott 1999; GCCAS 2003). In a wider context, the Upper Thames Valley is notable for the extensive remains of Prehistoric, Roman and later settlement and landscape activity as at sites such as Cotswold Community to the south west and Latton to the south east (Powell et al 2009; 2010; Pine and Weale 2016).

Objectives and methodology

The purpose of the watching brief was to excavate and record any archaeological deposits affected by the works. This would involve the monitoring of areas of intrusive groundworks and the excavation of foundation and service trenches. The intrusive groundworks were to be excavated by a 360°-type machine fitted with a toothless ditching bucket and under constant archaeological observation. Any features were to be cleaned, excavated and recorded using the appropriate hand tools.

Results

All foundation trenches for the footprint of the proposed structure were monitored. The trenches observed measured 0.60m wide and were dug to a depth of c.0.9m (Fig. 3, Pl. 1 and 2). The stratigraphy consisted of 0.52m of topsoil, 0.3m of dark yellowish brown sandy silt with frequent gravel inclusions overlying the natural geology of river gravel (Fig. 4).

Finds

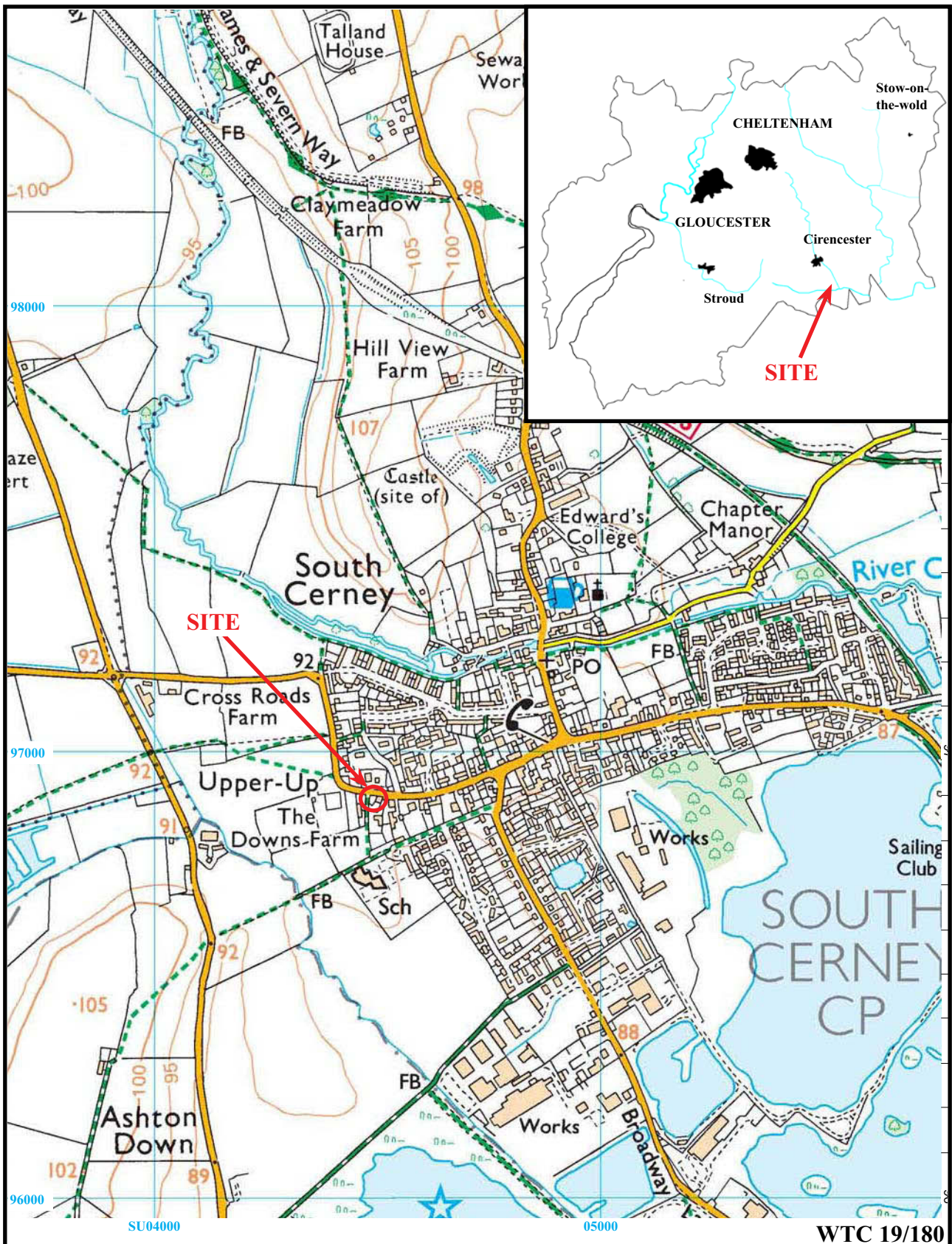
All artefacts encountered were modern and of no archaeological interest. They were not retained.

Conclusion

Despite the potential for archaeological remains to be present on this site, no deposits nor finds of any archaeological interest were observed during the course of the watching brief.

References

- BGS, 1997, *British Geological Survey*, 1:50,000, Sheet 252, Solid and Drift Edition, Keyworth
- GCCAS 2003, An archaeological evaluation of land at Walnut Tree Farmhouse, Upper-Up, South Cerney, Gloucestershire, Gloucestershire County Council Archaeology Service
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- Oakeshott, M, 1999. Saxon South Cerney, *Trans Bristol and Glos Archaeol Soc* **117**, 119-126
- Pine, J, Lowe, J and Weale A, 2016, *Archaeological excavations at Latton Quarry, Wiltshire*, TVAS Monograph **23**, Reading
- Powell, K, Laws, G and Brown, L, 2009, 'A late Neolithic / early Bronze Age Enclosure and Iron Age and Romano-British settlement at Latton Lands, Wiltshire', *Wilts Stud (Wiltshire Archaeol Natur Hist Mag)* **102**, 22–113
- Powell, K, Smith, A and Laws, G, 2010, *Evolution of a farming community in the Upper Thames Valley: excavation of a prehistoric, Roman and post-Roman landscape at Cotswold Community, Gloucestershire and Wiltshire; vol. 1: Site Narrative and Overview*, Oxford Archaeol Thames Valley Landscapes Monogr **31**, Oxford



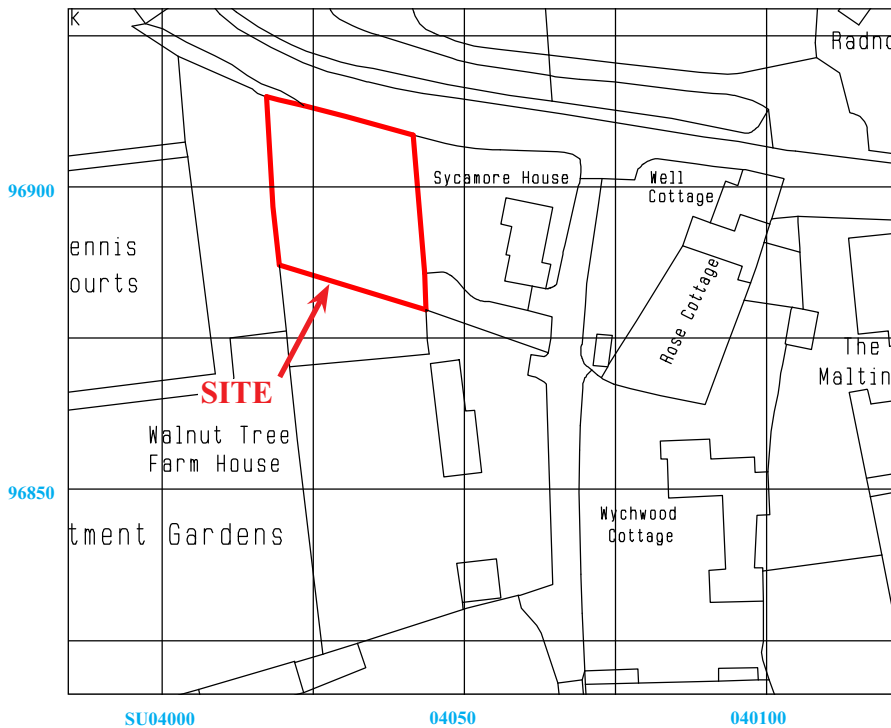
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Figure 1. Location of site within South Cerney and Gloucestershire.

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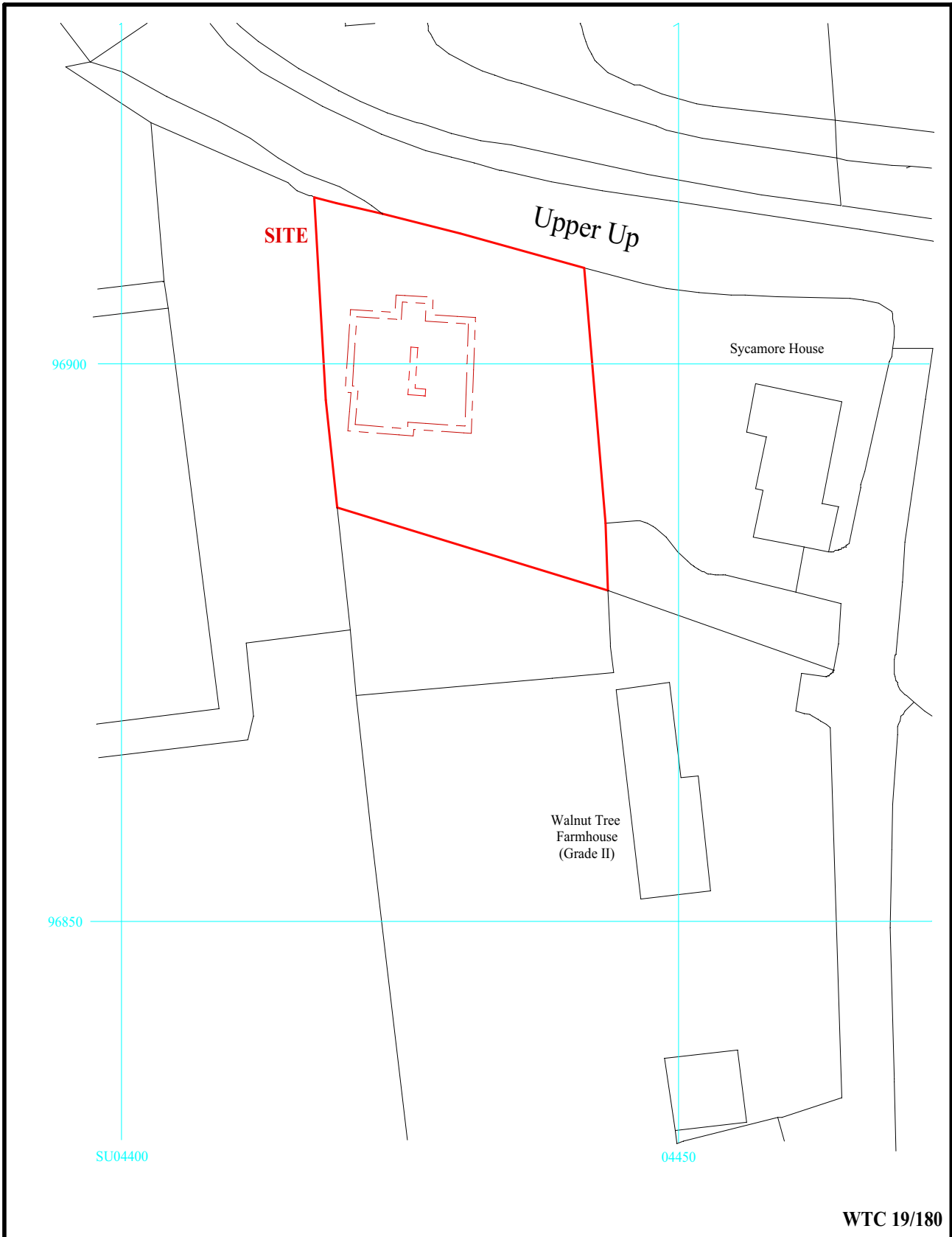
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Figure 2. Detailed location of site.**

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Figure 3. Location of observed areas.



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Topsoil

Dark yellow brown sandy silt (subsoil)

Brown yellow sandy gravel (natural gelyogy)

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Figure 4. Representative section.



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Plate 1. Northern trench footing, looking west, Scales: 2m and 1m.



Plate 2. Southern trench footings, looking west, Scales: 2m and 1m.

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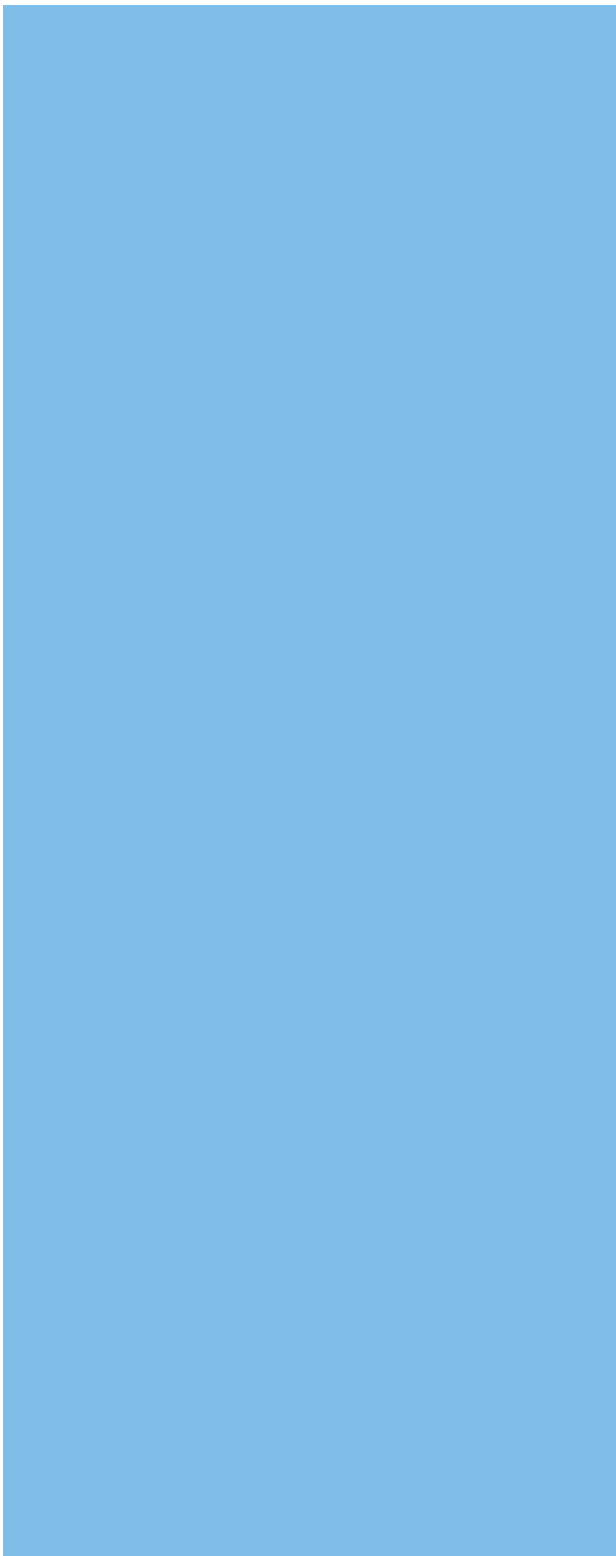
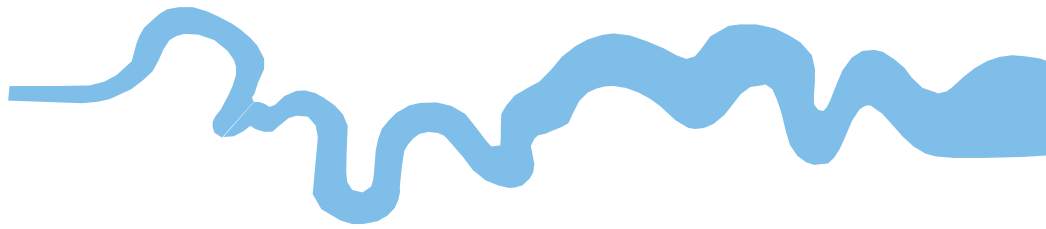
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Plates 1 and 2.

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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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