

**T H A M E S      V A L L E Y**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL**

**S E R V I C E S**

**Land at Glascoed Road, St Asaph,  
Denbighshire, Wales**

**Archaeological Evaluation**

**by David Platt**

**Site Code: GRS12/180**

**(SJ 0100 7385)**

# **Land at Glascoed Road, St Asaph, Denbighshire**

**An Archaeological Evaluation  
for Memoria Ltd**

by David Platt

Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code GRS12/180

**December 2015**

## Summary

**Site name:** Land at Glascoed Road, St Asaph, Denbighshire, Wales

**Grid reference:** SJ0100 7385

**Site activity:** Archaeological Evaluation

**Date and duration of project:** 17th November 2015

**Project manager:** Steve Ford

**Site supervisor:** David Platt

**Site code:** GRS 12/180

**Area of site:** c.1.6ha

**Summary of results:** No finds or features of archaeological significance were encountered.

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

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[www.tvas.co.uk/reports/reports.asp](http://www.tvas.co.uk/reports/reports.asp).*

Report edited/checked by: Steve Ford ✓ 09.12.15 Steve Preston ✓ 08.12.15
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# Land at Glascoed Road, St Asaph, Denbighshire An Archaeological Evaluation

by David Platt

**Report 12/180b**

## **Introduction**

This report documents the results of an archaeological field evaluation carried out at Glascoed Road, St Asaph, Denbighshire (SJ 0100 7385) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Mr Michael Hackney of Memoria Ltd, The Pool House, Bicester Road, Stratton Audley, Oxfordshire OX27 9BS.

Planning consent (app 31/2013/1069/PF) has been granted on appeal (app APP/R6830/A/14/2218954) from Denbighshire County Council and the Welsh Inspectorate to construct a new crematorium on a 1.6ha parcel of land adjacent to Glascoed Road, St Asaph, Denbighshire (SJ 0100 7385) (Fig. 1). The consent includes a condition (14) relating to archaeology. As a requirement of the planning consent, a watching brief has been requested as set out in the *Planning Policy Wales* (PPWF 2012) and the Council's policies on archaeology. This work was to take place during groundworks as a result of the possibility of damage or destruction of archaeological deposits. This, however, did not take place and it was agreed that a number of trenches excavated in the area of the works would compensate for this oversight and allow an assessment of what if any archaeological deposits were present.

The field investigation was carried out to a specification approved by Mr Mark Walters, Development Control Archaeologist for Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust, who act as archaeological advisers to the Council. The fieldwork was undertaken by David Platt and Peter Banks on 17th November 2015 and the site code is GRS12/180. The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited at Rhyl Museum in due course.

## **Location, topography and geology**

The site is located to the south of Glascoed Road, on the western edge of St Asaph (Fig. 1). The underlying geology was Boulder Clay (BGS 1973) and this was observed in the trenches as a mid reddish brown clay with mudstone inclusions. The previous land use was pastoral and the land sloped down from *c.*50m above Ordnance Datum in the south to around 42m aOD in the north.

## **Archaeological background**

The archaeological potential of the site has been documented in desk-based assessment of the site (Preston 2013). In summary the site lies in an area that has little recorded archaeology, but Glascoed Road is thought to follow the line of a Roman road, and there is a modest amount of prehistoric evidence in the area.

## **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 were:

- to determine if archaeologically relevant levels had survived on this site;
- to determine if archaeological deposits of any period were present; and
- to determine if any archaeologically significant deposits were present so as to inform any further mitigation.

Three trenches were to be dug in close proximity to the areas affected by the groundworks of the crematorium. These were dug using a 360<sup>0</sup> excavator fitted with a flat bucket and under constant archaeological supervision but with buckets of variable width. Trench 1 was located in an area that had already been partly reduced (Fig. 2 and Pl. 3).

## **Results**

The trenches ranged in length from 13.6m to 19.0m and in depth from 0.30m to 0.40m. A complete list of trenches giving lengths, breadths, depths and a description of sections and geology is given in Appendix 1.

### Trench 1 (Fig. 2)

Trench 1 was aligned N - S and was 19.0m long, 0.95m wide and 0.40m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.40m of subsoil overlying the natural geology, topsoil having already been removed. No archaeological features were observed or finds recovered.

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

Trench 2 was aligned NE - SW and was 14.8m long, 1.50m wide and 0.35m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.15m of topsoil overlying 0.20m of subsoil which in turn overlay the natural geology. No features were observed or finds recovered.

### Trench 3 (Fig. 2; Pl. 3)

Trench 3 was aligned E - W and was 13.6m long, 1.03m wide and 0.30m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.20m of topsoil overlying 0.10m of subsoil which in turn overlay the natural geology. No features were observed or finds recovered.

### **Finds**

No finds were recovered.

### **Conclusion**

The evaluation did not reveal the presence of any archaeological finds or features in the areas examined. On the basis of these results, it seems unlikely that other elements of the development will have encountered any archaeological deposits.

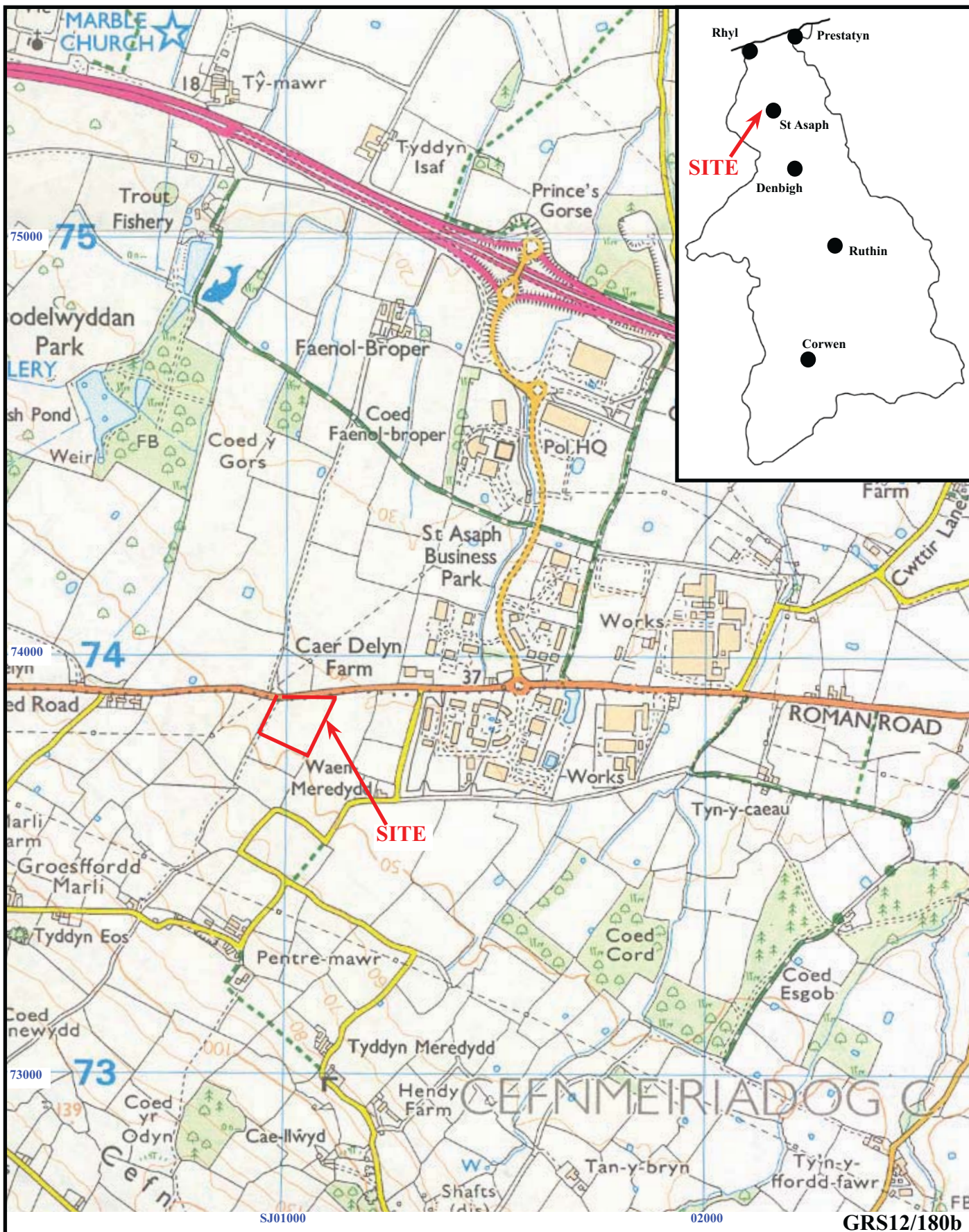
### **References**

- BGS, 1973, *British Geological Survey*, 1:50000, Sheet 107, Drift Edition, Keyworth  
PPWF, 2012, *Planning Policy Wales*, Edition 5, Llywodraeth Cymru, Welsh Government, Cardiff  
Preston, S, 2013, Land at Glascoed Road, St Asaph, Denbighshire, Desk-based heritage assessment, Thames Valley Archaeological Services unpubl rep **12/180**, Reading

## APPENDIX 1: Trench details

0m at S, SW and W end

<i>Trench</i>	<i>Length (m)</i>	<i>Breadth (m)</i>	<i>Depth (m)</i>	<i>Comment</i>
1	19.0	0.95	0.40	0–0.40m subsoil; 0.40m+ natural reddish brown mudstone geology.
2	14.8	1.50	0.35	0–0.15m topsoil; 0.15–0.35m subsoil; 0.35m+ natural reddish brown mudstone geology. <b>[Pl. 1]</b>
3	13.6	1.03	0.30	0–0.20m topsoil; 0.20–0.30m subsoil; 0.30m+ natural reddish brown mudstone geology. <b>[Pl. 2]</b>



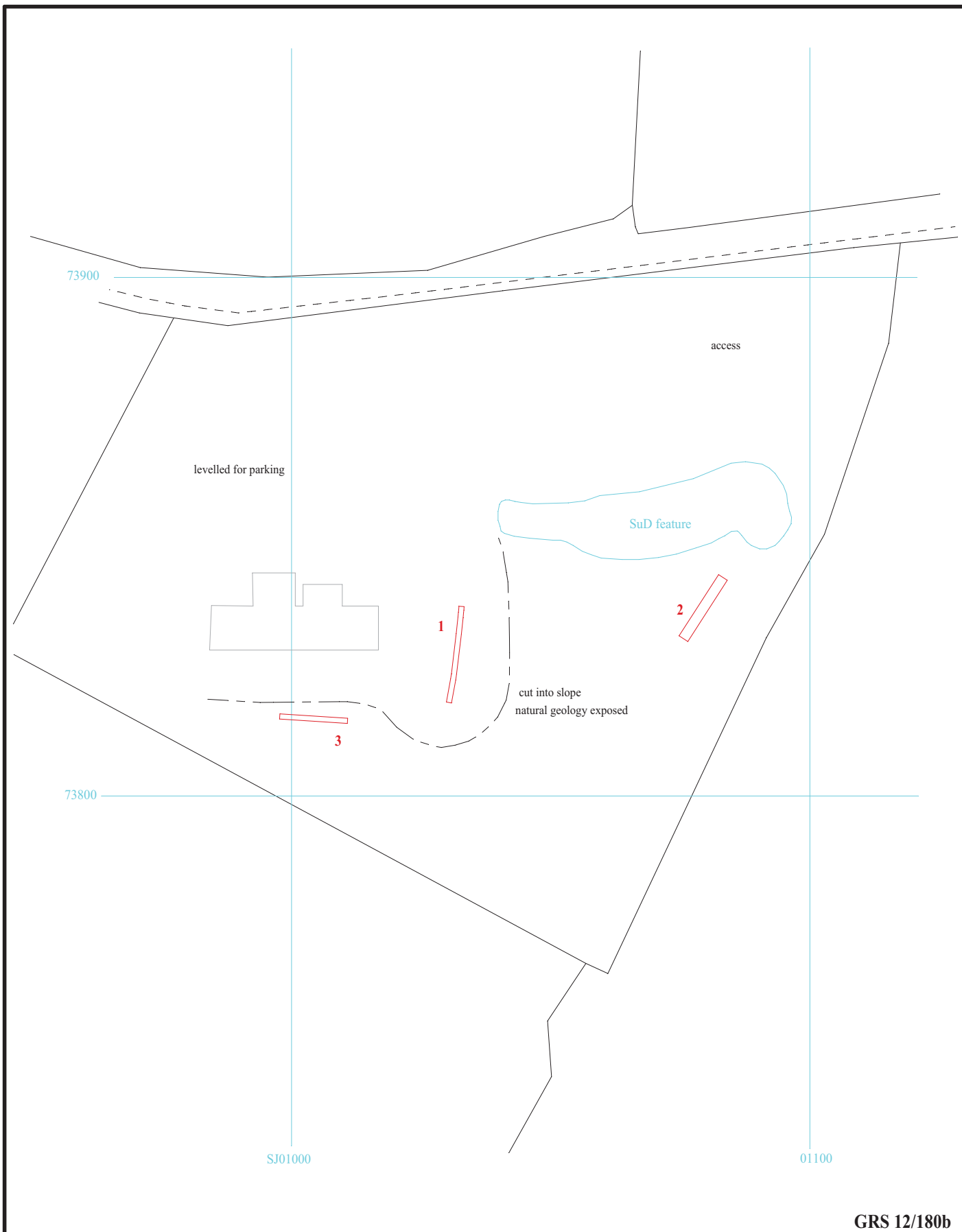
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Figure 1. Location of site within St Asaph and Denbighshire.

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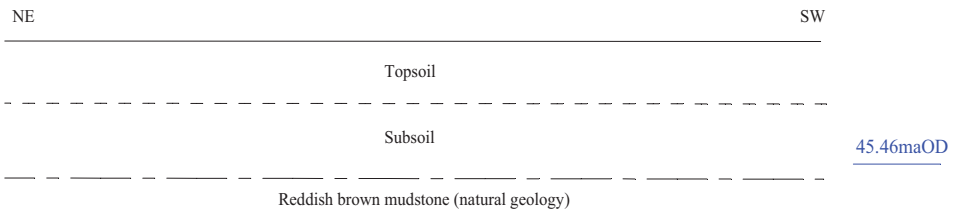


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Figure 2. Location of trenches.



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Figure 3. Representative section, Trench 2



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



Plate 2. Trench 3, looking east, Scales: 2m and 0.5m.



Plate 2. Depth of reduction on parts of the site, looking north east.

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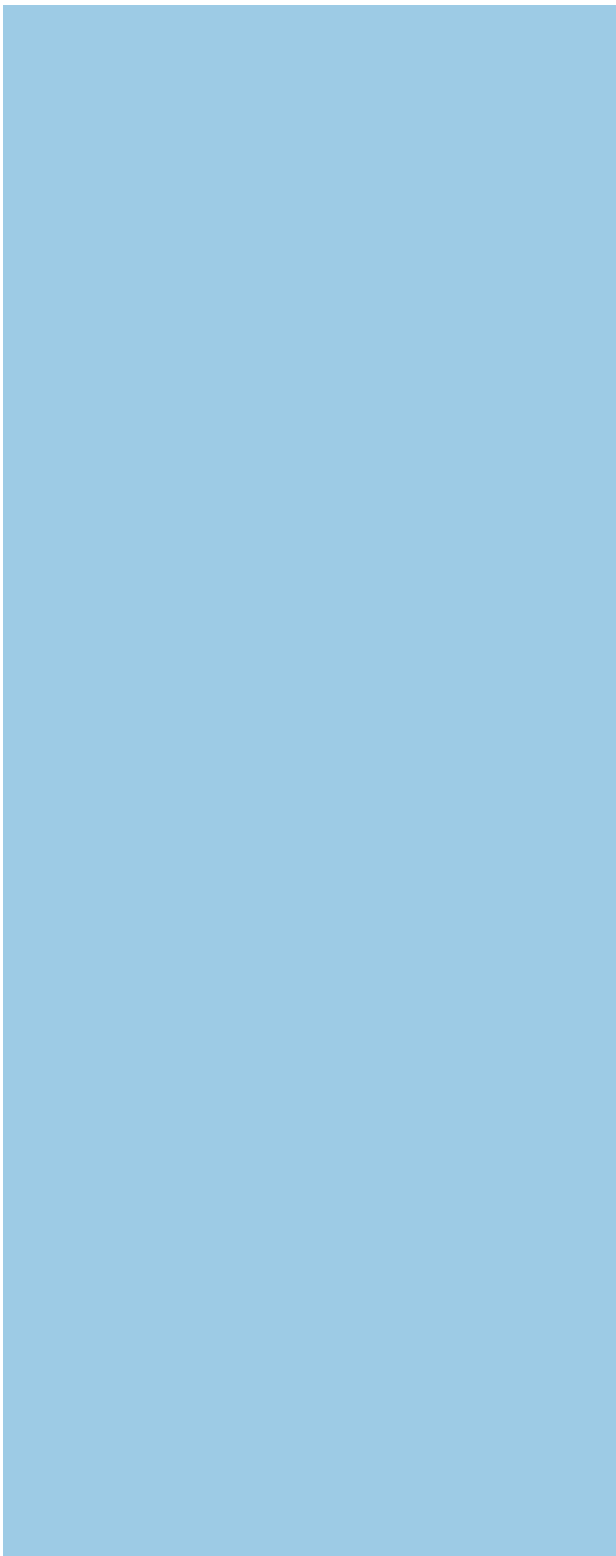
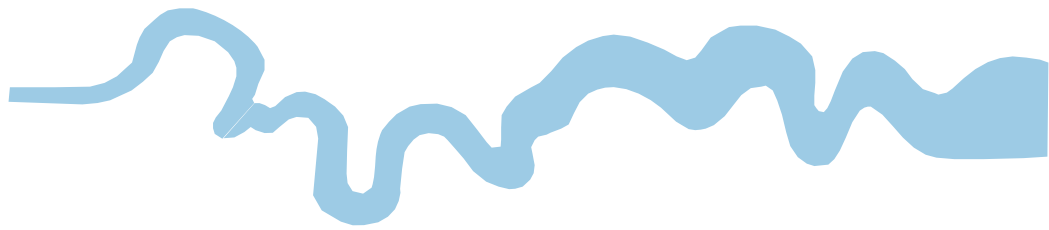
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Plates 1 - 3.**

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## TIME CHART

	<b>Calendar Years</b>
Modern _____	AD 1901
Victorian _____	AD 1837
Post Medieval _____	AD 1500
Medieval _____	AD 1066
Saxon _____	AD 410
Roman _____	AD 43
Iron Age _____	BC/AD 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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