

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

ARCHAEOLOGICAL

S E R V I C E S

**Sands Farm, Orchard Extension,
Low Lane, Calne, Wiltshire**

An archaeological watching brief

by
James McNicoll-Norbury and Steve Crabb

**SFC10/31
(SU 0140 7090)**

Sands Farm, Orchard Extension, Calne, Wiltshire

An Archaeological Watching Brief For Aggregate Industries

by James McNicoll-Norbury

and Steven Crabb

Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code SFC 10/31

April 2012

Summary

Site name: Sands Farm, Orchard Extension, Calne, Wiltshire

Grid reference: SU 0140 7090

Site activity: Watching Brief

Date and duration of project: 19th – 22nd April 2010

Project manager: Steve Ford

Site supervisor: James McNicoll-Norbury

Site code: SFC 10/31

Area of site: 1.0ha

Summary of results: No archaeological deposits nor artefacts were observed

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

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Report edited/checked by:	Steve Ford✓ 20.04.12 Steve Preston✓ 26.04.12
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Sands Farm, Orchard Extension, Calne, Wiltshire An Archaeological Watching Brief

by James McNicoll-Norbury

Report 10/31

Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological watching brief carried out on an extension to the quarry at Sands Farm, Low Lane, Calne, Wiltshire (SU 0140 7090) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Ms Jo Baker of Aggregate Industries, Estates Department, Marston House, Marston Bigot, Frome, Somerset, BA11 5DU.

Planning permission (app no N/08/07016) has been gained from Wiltshire County Council to extract sand from an extension to the existing Sands Farm Quarry at Calne, Wiltshire. The site comprises a former orchard and lies south of the former farm complex. The consent included a condition (4) relating to archaeology.

This was in accordance with *Archaeology and Planning* (PPG16 1990) and the County's policies on archaeology. The field investigation was carried out to a specification approved by Mr Roy Canham former archaeological officer of Wiltshire Council. The fieldwork was undertaken by James McNicoll-Norbury between the dates of 19th April and 22nd April 2010 and the site code is SFC10/31.

The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited at Devizes Museum in due course.

Location, topography and geology

The site is located in an irregular patch of land that occupies an area of c. 1ha just to the south of Sands Farm off Low Lane which itself is located on the eastern side of Calne (Fig. 2). The land was a former orchard and the underlying geology is described as greensand (BGS 1974). The site lies at 96.3m above Ordnance Datum.

Archaeological background

The archaeological potential of the site is considered to be modest and stems from its location close to Sands Farmhouse which is a listed building. The building is of early 19th-century date and is grade II listed. The farm is of medieval origin and was called Little Sands in AD 1549. It is possible that early post-medieval or even medieval deposits representing a precursor to the farmhouse may be present nearby. There is a scattering of prehistoric struck flints and Roman finds from the general area, such as at Freeth Farm 2 km to the north east.

Closer to the site to the south, evaluation in 1992 revealed a scatter of Mesolithic flints and Bronze Age, Roman and medieval pottery, but no cut features.

Objectives and methodology

The purpose of the watching brief was to excavate and record all archaeological deposits and features within the areas threatened by the extraction programme, produce relative and absolute dating and phasing for deposits and features recorded on the site, establish the character of such deposits in an attempt to define functional areas on the site such as industrial, domestic etc and produce information on the economy and local environment and compare and contrast this with the results of other excavations in the region.

The overburden on the site was to be removed under continuous archaeological supervision using a 360° digger fitted with a toothless bucket to expose the uppermost surface of archaeological deposits.

Results

The area of the site shown in Figure 3 was stripped by a 360° machine with a toothless ditching bucket, under continuous archaeological supervision. The south west boundary was extended to include the bund zone of a previously extracted area.

A number of field boundaries present on modern maps, animal burrows and rotholes were noticed but no features of archaeological importance were observed during this process. The north east area of the site had been previously occupied by a soil bund which had led to extensive disturbance of the underlying geology. Once the extent of this was realised, no further monitoring of that zone took place.

Finds

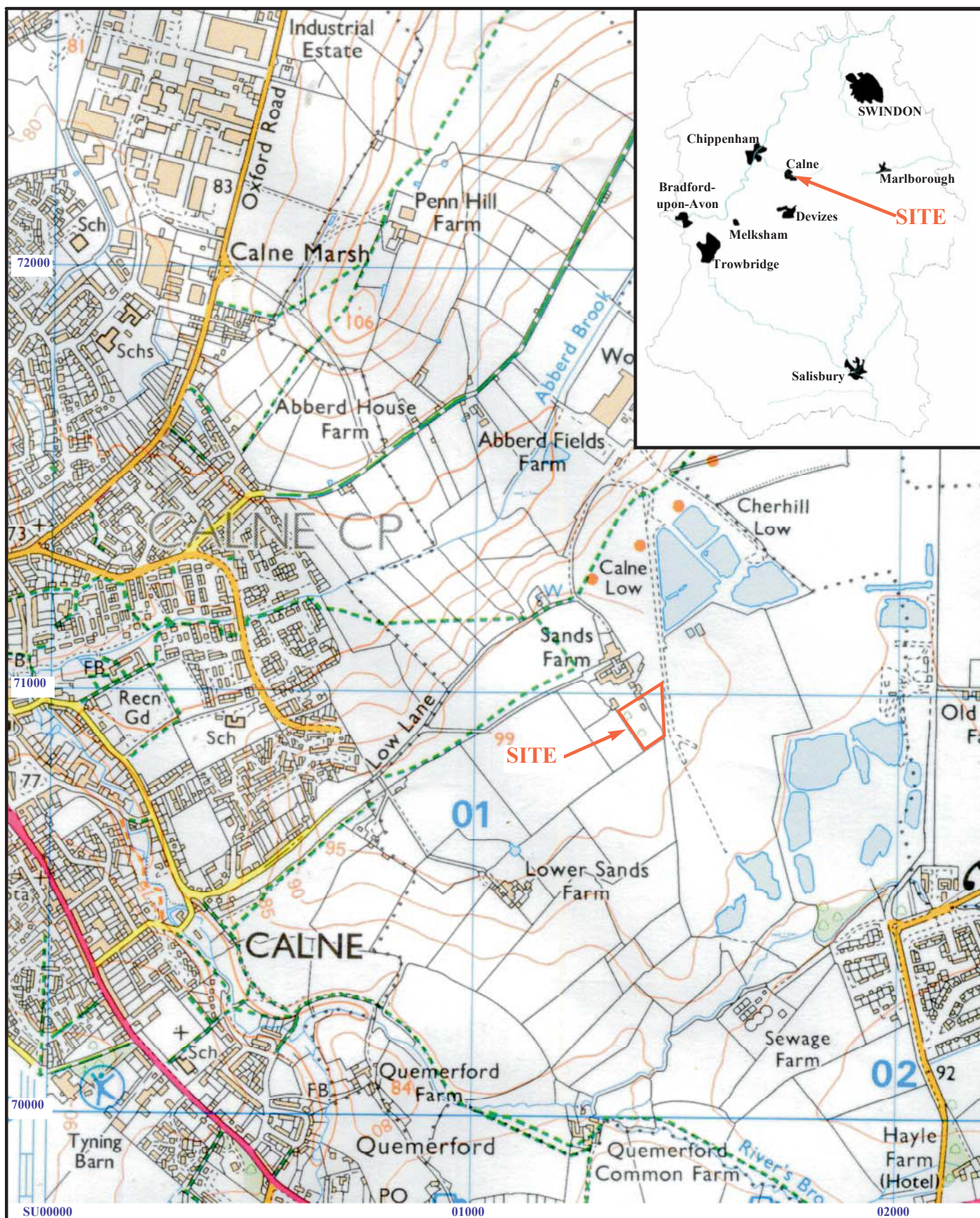
No artefacts of archaeological interest were recovered from this site.

Conclusion

No deposits nor artefacts of archaeological interest were recorded during monitoring of the overburden removal.

References

BGS, 1974, *British Geological Survey*, 1:50000, Sheet 266, Drift Edition, Keyworth
PPG16, 1990, *Archaeology and Planning*, Dept Environment Planning Policy Guidance 16, HMSO

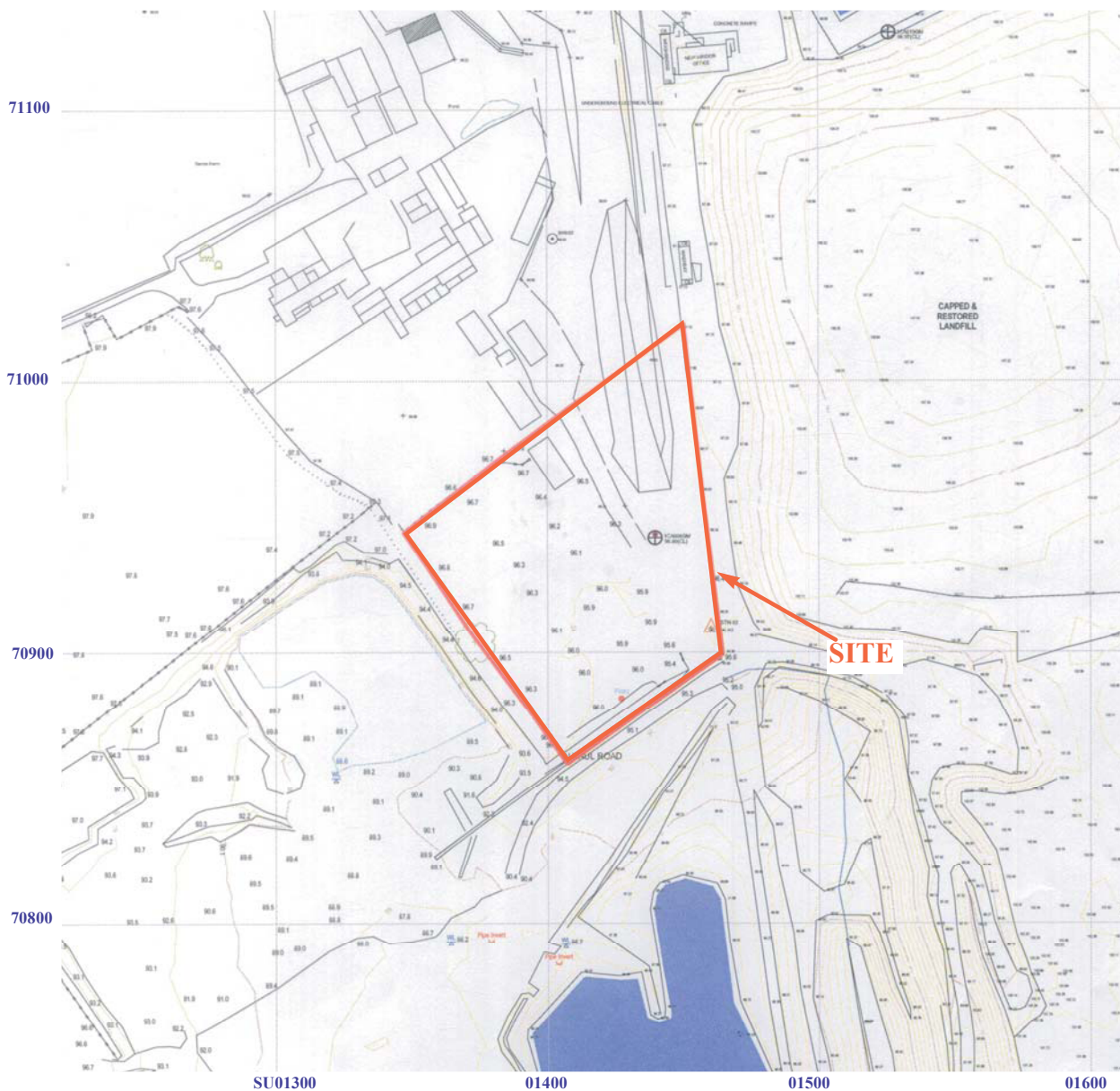


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Archaeological watching brief
Figure 1. Location of site within Calne and Wiltshire.

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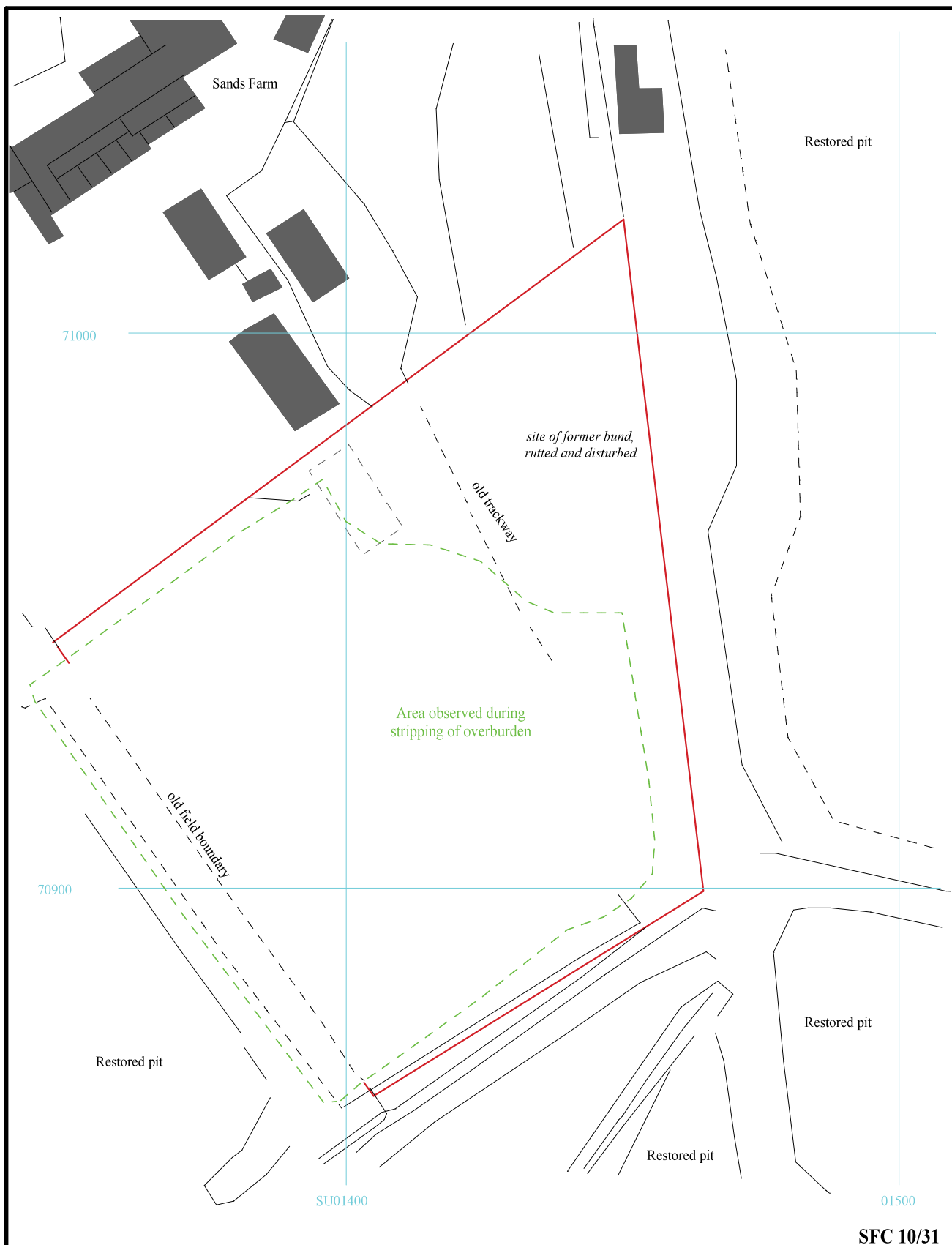


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Figure 2. Detailed location of site off Sands Farm.

Scale: 1:1250

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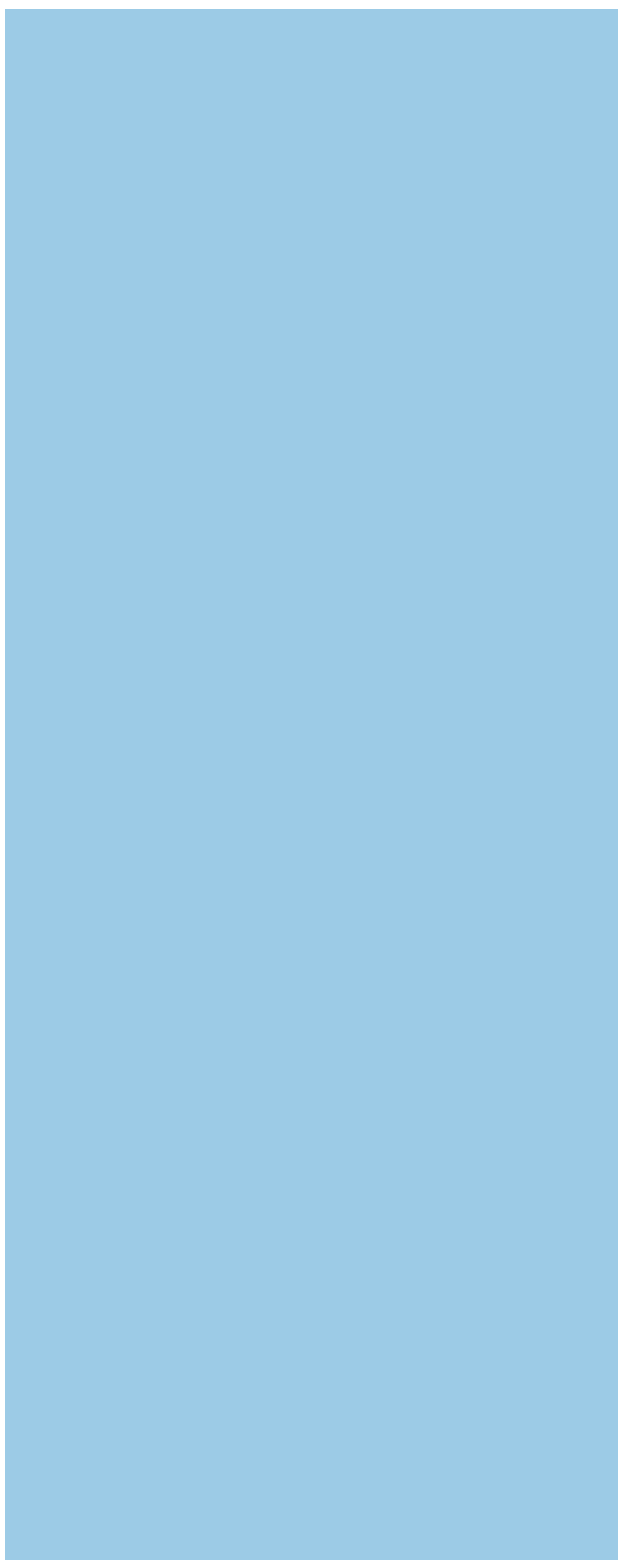
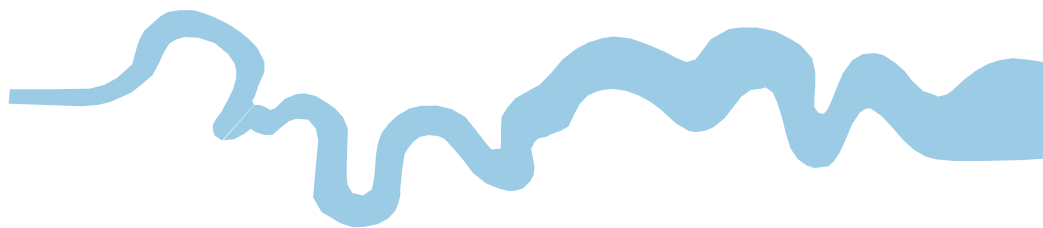
Figure 3. Detailed location of areas observed during watching brief



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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
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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**Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd,
47-49 De Beauvoir Road, Reading,
Berkshire, RG1 5NR**

**Tel: 0118 9260552
Fax: 0118 9260553
Email: tvas@tvas.co.uk
Web: www.tvas.co.uk**