

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

ARCHAEOLOGICAL

S E R V I C E S

**Eton-Dorney pipeline, Windsor Racecourse,
Windsor, Berkshire**

Archaeological Watching Brief

by Daniel Bray and Andy Taylor

Site Code: WRC12/64

(SU 9402 7755 - 9413 7715)

Eton-Dorney pipeline, Windsor Racecourse, Windsor, Berkshire

An Archaeological Watching Brief

For Optimise

by DanielBray andAndyTaylor
ThamesValleyArchaeologicalServices
Ltd

SiteCodeWRC12/64

June 2012

Summary

Site name: Eton-Dorney pipeline, Windsor Racecourse, Windsor, Berkshire

Grid reference: SU 9401 7720

Site activity: Watching Brief

Date and duration of project: 12th – 16th May 2012

Project manager: Steve Ford

Site supervisor: Daniel Bray

Site code: WRC 12/64

Summary of results: No archaeological deposits were observed

Location and reference of archive: The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited at an approved local museum willing to accept it in due course.

This report may be copied for bona fide research or planning purposes without the explicit permission of the copyright holder. All TVAS unpublished fieldwork reports are available on our website: www.tvas.co.uk/reports/reports.asp.

Report edited/checked by:	Steve Ford ✓ 29.06.12
	Steve Preston ✓ 29.06.12

Eton-Dorney pipeline, Windsor Racecourse, Windsor, Berkshire An Archaeological Watching Brief

by Daniel Bray and Andy Taylor

Report 12/64

Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological watching brief carried out at the Eton-Dorney pipeline, Windsor, Berkshire (SU 9401 7720) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Mr Mike Lang-Hall, Archaeological Adviser to Optimise (Water) LLP, Rose Kiln Court, Rose Kiln Lane, Reading, Berkshire RG2 0HP.

This project was carried out under the terms of the Town and Country Planning Acts (General Development Order). Under the Code of Practice on Conservation, Access and Recreation (Water Industry Act 1991) the utilities company is obliged to consider and mitigate the consequences of its activities. A watching brief was required on a c.250m long twin water pipeline as a result of the possibility of damage or destruction of archaeological deposits. The field investigation was carried out to a specification agreed with the project consultant Mr. Mike Lang-Hall in consultation with Ms Fiona MacDonald, Principal Archaeologist of Berkshire Archaeology. The fieldwork was undertaken by Daniel Bray and Tim Dawson between 8th–16th May 2012 and the site code is WRC 12/64.

The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited at an approved local museum willing to accept it in due course.

Location, topography and geology

The site is located between the A308 at Windsor Racecourse and Eton Rowing Lake, Dorney via a crossing beneath the Thames (Fig. 2). The pipe crosses Sutherland Grange Nature Reserve adjacent to Windsor racecourse. The underlying geology comprises alluvium (BGS 1981) and the site lies at a height of c. 21m above Ordnance Datum.

Archaeological background

The site lies in the archaeologically rich Thames Valley with a wealth of sites and finds recorded by aerial photography, excavation, river dredging and casual finds (Ford 1987). Immediately adjacent to the site on the opposite bank of the Thames lies the important Eton Rowing Lake complex where extensive Early Neolithic,

Bronze Age, Iron Age and Roman occupation has been excavated (Allen and Welsh 1998). Further to the east lies the early Neolithic causewayed enclosure and oval barrow complex at Eton Wick, which is overlain by Bronze Age and Iron Age deposits (Ford 1993).

Objectives and methodology

The purpose of the watching brief was to excavate and record any archaeological deposits affected by the groundworks. This was to involve examination of all areas of intrusive groundworks, in particular the digging of the pipe trench and the pit to accommodate the directional drill beneath the Thames. The stripping of any overburden for the creation of a contractors compound was also to be monitored in case it was deep enough to expose the archaeologically relevant levels.

Results

Direction drilling access pit

One of the pits dug to accommodate the directional drill measured 3m by 1m and was excavated to a depth of 1.1m (Pl. 2). The stratigraphy comprised 0.20m of dark brown clayey silt topsoil which overlay 0.90m of a grey brown clay silt (over-bank flood alluvium). The pit was not dug deep enough to expose any underlying gravel. No archaeological deposits were observed.

Pipe trench

The pipe trench was dug without recourse to a prior easement strip (Pl. 1). The trench measured 1m wide and was excavated to a typical depth of 0.70m. For the northern section adjacent to the race course the trench was located wholly within modern made ground with neither alluvium nor gravel deposits exposed. This section of the pipeline was only cursorily inspected once this detail had been ascertained.

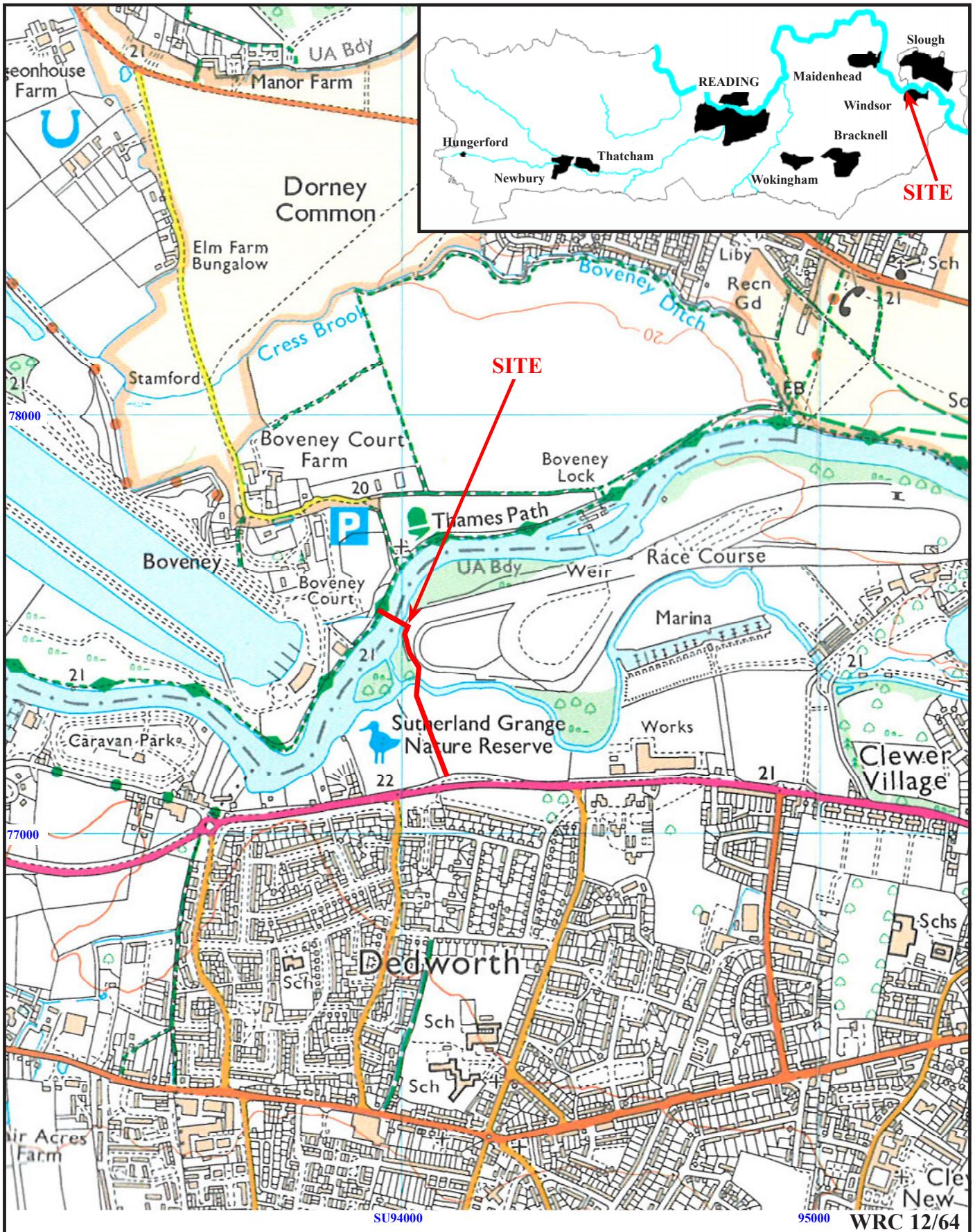
To the south, made ground was not present and the pipe trench was dug through alluvium very similar to the drilling pit. The stratigraphy comprised 0.30m of dark brown clayey silt topsoil which overlay 0.40m of grey brown clay silt (alluvium). Again, the base of the trench was of insufficient depth to expose any underlying gravel geology. No archaeological deposits were observed.

Conclusion

Excavation of the pipe trench and pit for the directional drill were observed but no archaeological deposits were found. Excavation revealed only alluvium and not the underlying gravel deposits.

References

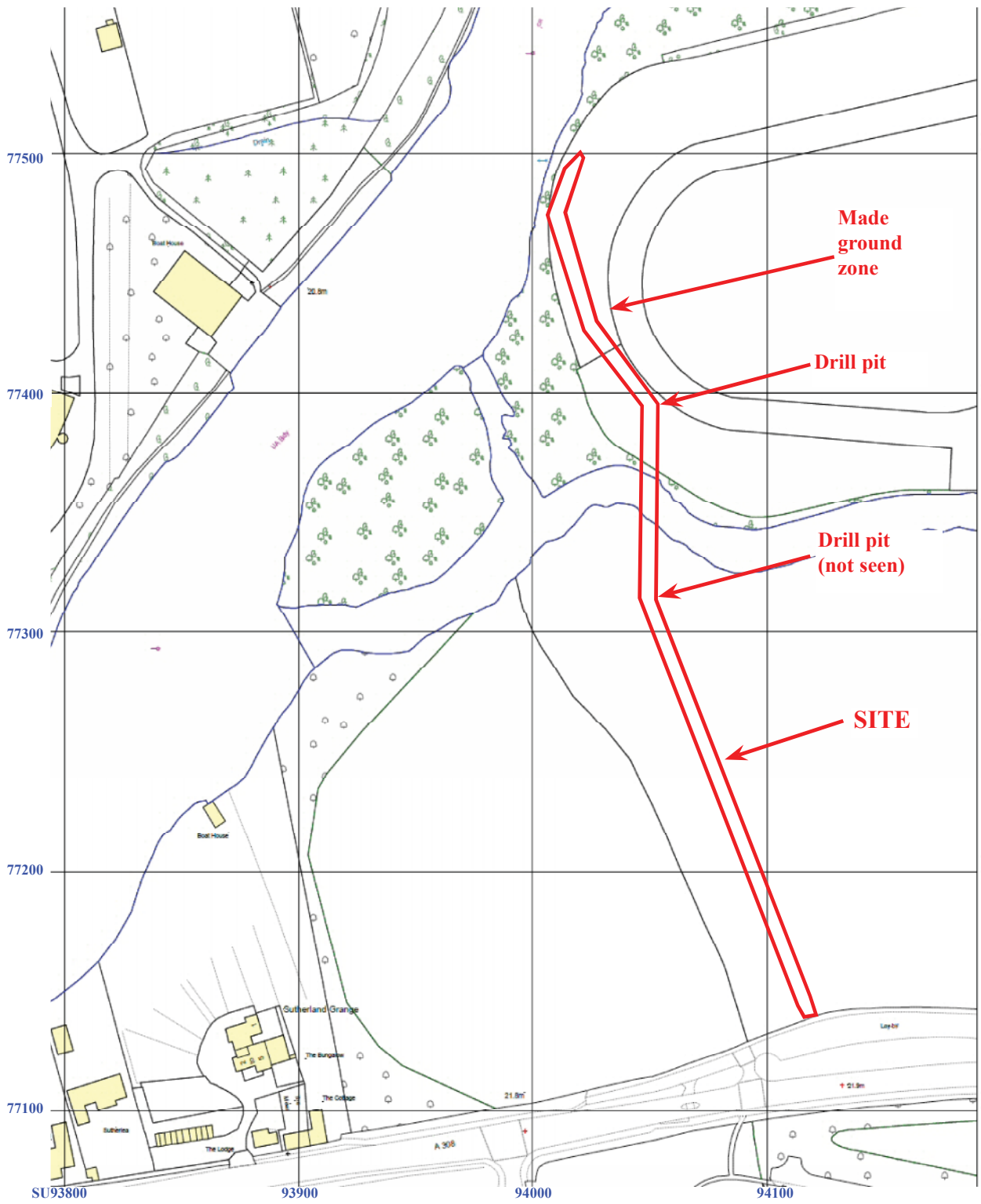
- Allen, T and Welsh, K, 1998, 'Eton Rowing Lake, Dorney, Buckinghamshire Third interim report' *South Midlands Archaeol* **28**, 75–84
- BGS, 1981, *British Geological Survey*, 1:50000, Sheet 269, Solid and Drift Edition, Keyworth
- Ford, S, 1987, *East Berkshire Archaeological Survey*, Berkshire County Council Dept Highways and Planning Occas Pap **1**, Reading
- Ford, S, 1993, 'Excavations at Eton Wick', *Berkshire Archaeol J* **74**, (for 1991–3), 27–36



**Eton-Dorney Pipeline, Windsor Racecourse, Windsor,
Berkshire, 2012
Archaeological watching brief**

Figure 1. Location of site within Windsor Racecourse and Berkshire.

Reproduced from Ordnance Survey Explorer 171 at 1:12500
Ordnance Survey Licence 100025880



WRC 12/64



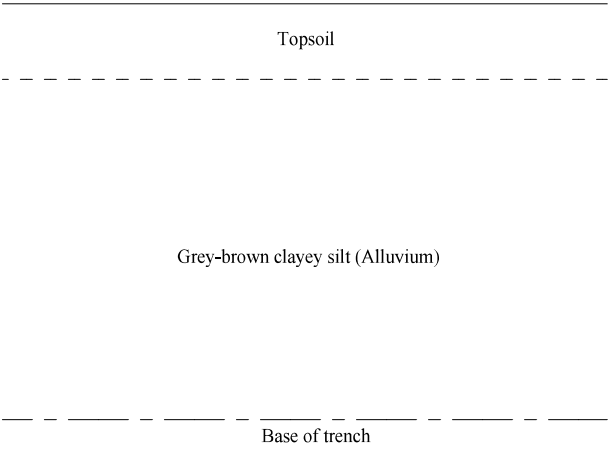
**Eton-Dorney Pipeline, Windsor Racecourse, Windsor,
Berkshire, 2012**

Archaeological watching brief

Figure 2. Detailed location of site at Windsor Racecourse.

Reproduced from Ordnance Survey digital mapping under licence.
Crown copyright reserved. Scale: 1:2500





WRC 12/64

**Eton-Dorney Pipeline, Windsor Racecourse, Windsor,
Berkshire, 2012**
Archaeological watching brief

Figure 3. Representative section of pipe trench.





Plate 1. Pipe trench, looking southwest, Scales: 2m and 0.3m.



Plate 2. Drilling pit, looking southwest.

WRC 12/64

**Eton-Dorney Pipeline, Windsor Racecourse, Windsor,
Berkshire, 2012**

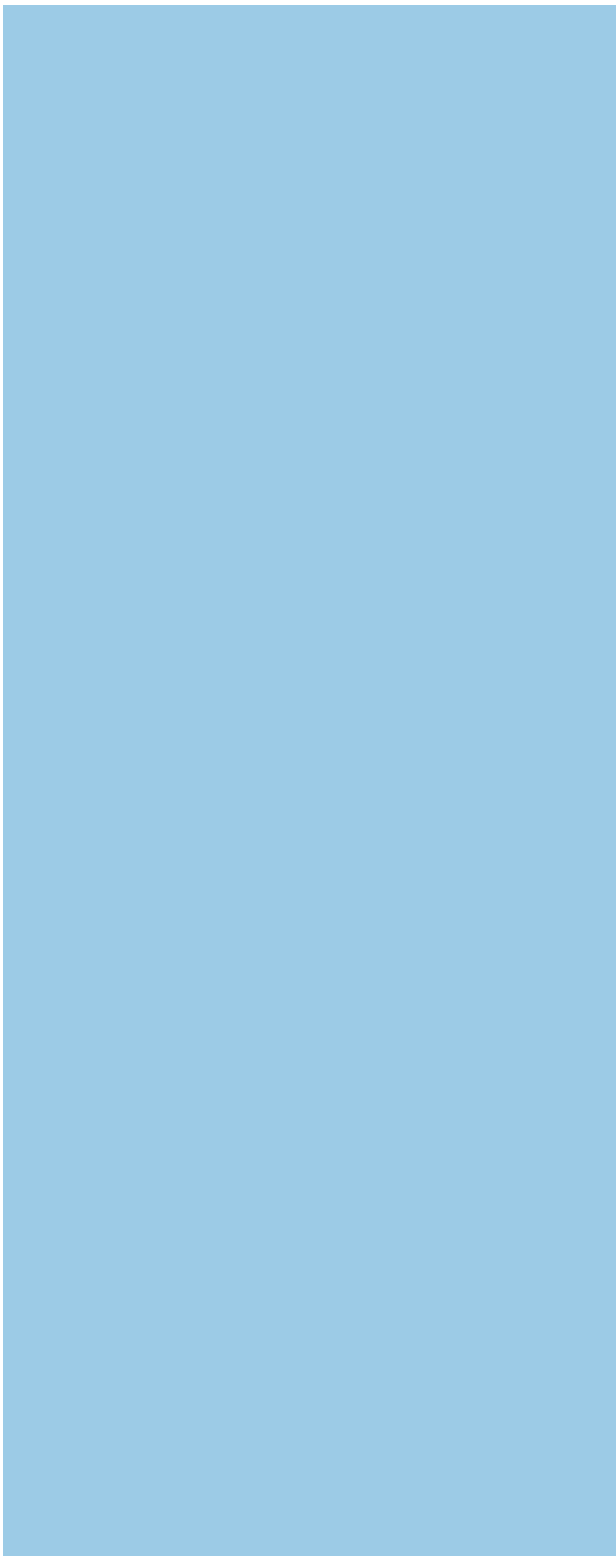
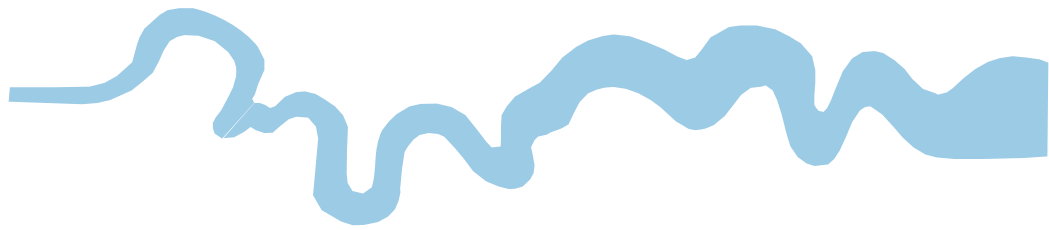
Archaeological watching brief

Plates 1 and 2.

THAMES VALLEY
ARCHAEOLOGICAL
SERVICES

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
↓	↓



**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**