

T H A M E S      V A L L E Y

ARCHAEOLOGICAL

S E R V I C E S

**Rear of 18 Weald Rise, Tilehurst,  
Reading, Berkshire**

**Archaeological Watching Brief**

**by David Platt**

**Site Code: WRT12/69**

**(SU6787 7470)**

# **18 Weald Rise, Tilehurst, Reading, Berkshire**

**An Archaeological Watching Brief**

**For Mr Ken Barter**

by David Platt

Thames Valley Archaeological Services

Ltd

Site Code WRT 12/69

**August 2012**

## Summary

**Site name:** 18 Weald Rise, Tilehurst, Reading, Berkshire

**Grid reference:** SU6787 7470

**Site activity:** Watching Brief

**Date and duration of project:** 13th – 14th August 2012

**Project manager:** Steve Ford

**Site supervisor:** David Platt

**Site code:** WRT12/69

**Area of site:** 0.1ha

**Summary of results:** No finds or features of archaeological interest were discovered

**Location and reference of archive:** The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited at Reading Museum in due course, with accession code 2012.869

*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 All TVAS unpublished fieldwork reports are available on our website:  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](http://www.tvas.co.uk/reports/reports.asp).*

Report edited/checked by: Steve Ford ✓ 16.08.12 Steve Preston ✓ 15.08.12
---

# **18 Weald Rise, Tilehurst, Reading, Berkshire An Archaeological Watching Brief**

by David Platt

**Report 12/69**

## **Introduction**

This report documents the results of an archaeological watching brief carried out at 18 Weald Rise, Tilehurst, Reading, Berkshire (SU 6787 7470) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Mr Ken Barter, of The Firs, Nuney green, Mapledurham, Reading, Berkshire, RG4 7UR.

Planning permission (app no 09/00730/FUL) has been gained from Reading Borough Council to construct a new house in the rear garden of number 18. The consent is subject to a condition (10) relating to archaeology. As a requirement of the planning consent, as a result of the possibility of damage or destruction of archaeological deposits, fieldwork was proposed as set out in PPG16 (1990) and the Borough Council's policies on archaeology. It is acknowledged that both PPG16 and its replacement (PPS5) have since been superseded by the National Planning Policy Framework. This work was determined to take the form of a watching brief to take place during the groundworks and in accordance with a written scheme of investigation approved by Mrs Mary Neale, of Berkshire Archaeology, the archaeological adviser to Reading Borough Council. The fieldwork was undertaken by David Platt on the 13th and 14th August 2012 and the site code is WRT 12/69. The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited at Reading Museum in due course, with accession code 2012.869.

## **Location, topography and geology**

The site is located on the west side of Weald Rise, and north side of Sandgate Avenue, within Tilehurst in the western suburbs of Reading, (SU 6787 7470) (Fig. 1). The site itself is on the corner of Weald Rise and Sandgate Avenue and was formerly the garden of 18 Weald Rise. The site access is from Sandgate Avenue (Fig. 2). The bedrock geology is Seaford chalk (BGS 1946) with a superficial capping of sand and gravel, perhaps a solifluxion deposit formed on the slope of the valley side. This was observed in the trenches as a reddish brown sand with frequent gravel inclusions. Occasional patches of chalk bedrock were also observed. The height of the site is *c.*50m above Ordnance Datum (aOD).

## **Archaeological background**

The archaeological potential of the site stems from its location within the archaeologically rich Thames Valley with riverside and river terrace margins having been favoured for settlement in all periods. However, the site lies in an area where a modest range of prehistoric and Roman finds have so far been recorded in the Berkshire Historic Environment Record. To the west is a linear earthwork that may have functioned as a boundary in later prehistoric (Iron Age) times, though limited examination of it produced little dating evidence (Taylor 2005). A second linear earthwork on the Thames floodplain to the north-east, known as Coombe Bank may be of similar date though it is documented in medieval times.

## **Objectives and methodology**

The purpose of the watching brief was to excavate and/or record any archaeological deposits affected by the groundworks. This was to involve examination of all areas of intrusive groundworks, in particular the digging of foundation and service trenches and geotechnical test pits.

## **Results**

A total of c.60m of foundation trenching was observed ranging from between 0.90–1.30m deep and from 0.50–0.75m wide (Fig. 3). The stratigraphy typically consisted of 0.13m topsoil overlying 0.30m of mid brownish grey sandy silt subsoil, this in turn overlay the reddish brown sand and gravel natural geology (Fig. 4; Pls 1 and 2). In places the underlying chalk was observed.

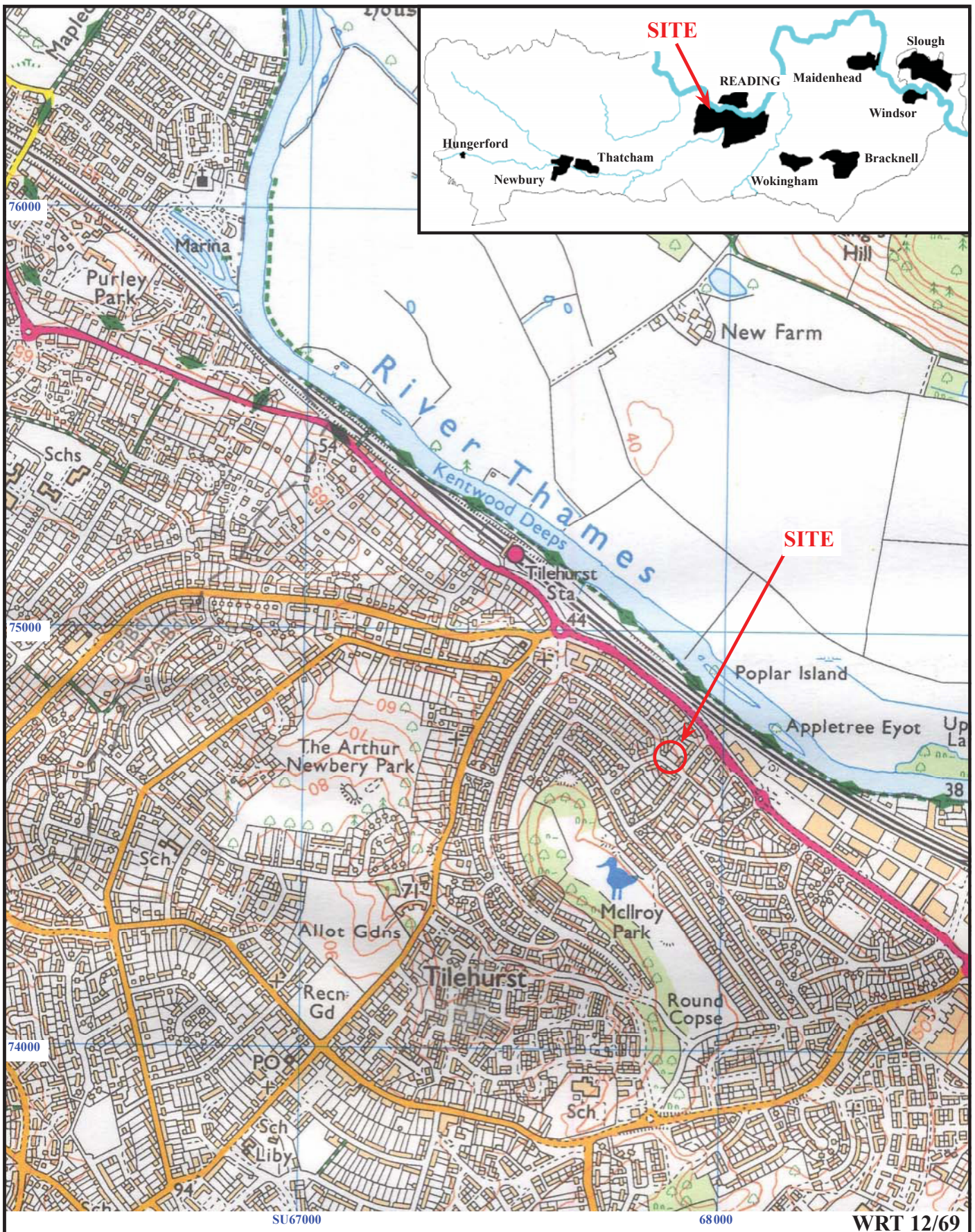
No finds or features of archaeological significance were discovered.

## **Conclusion**

The watching brief successfully examined the areas to be disturbed by the new buildings. Although the natural geology was observed in all the trenches, and it appeared relatively undisturbed, no archaeological deposits or features were observed.

## **References**

- BGS, 1946, *British Geological Survey*, 1:63,360, Sheet 268, Drift Edition, Keyworth  
PPS5, 2010, *Planning for the Historic Environment*, The Stationery Office, Norwich  
Taylor A, 2005, 'Land at 885 Oxford Road, Reading, Berkshire, an archaeological evaluation', Thames Valley Archaeological Services report 05/09, Reading



**Rear of 18 Weald Rise, Tilehurst, Reading,  
Berkshire, 2012  
Archaeological watching brief**

Figure 1. Location of site within Reading and Berkshire.

Reproduced from Ordnance Survey Explorer 159 at 1:12500  
Ordnance Survey Licence 100025880



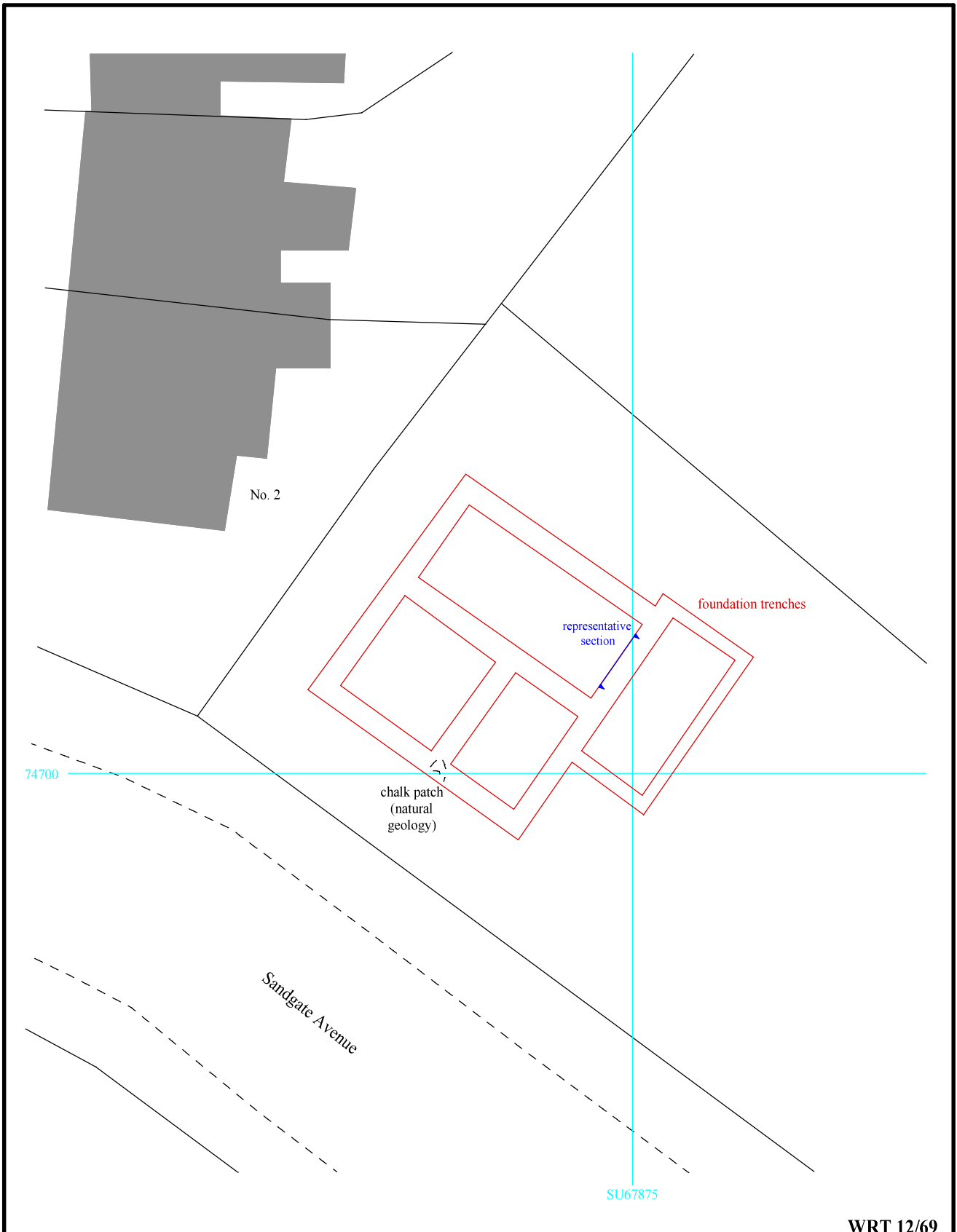
WRT 12/69



**Rear of 18 Weald Rise, Tilehurst, Reading,  
Berkshire, 2012**  
**Archaeological watching brief**  
Figure 2. Detailed location of site off Weald Rise.

Reproduced from Ordnance Survey digital mapping under licence.  
Crown copyright reserved. Scale: 1:1250





WRT 12/69



**Rear of 18 Weald Rise, Tilehurst, Reading,  
Berkshire, 2012**  
**Archaeological watching brief**

Figure 3. Location of observed area.



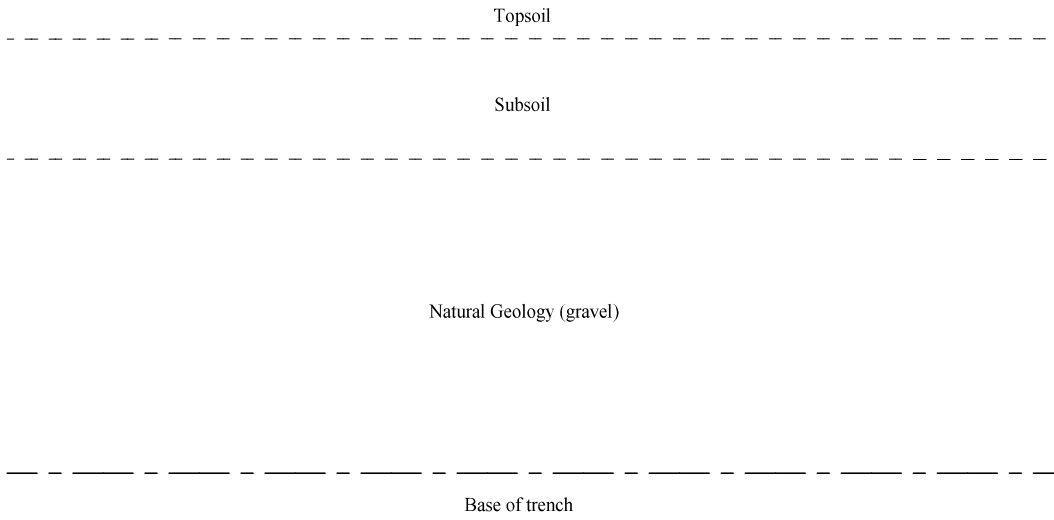
THAMES VALLEY  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
SERVICES



SE

NW

[51.14maOD](#)



WRT 12/69

**Rear of 18 Weald Rise, Tilehurst, Reading,  
Berkshire, 2012  
Archaeological watching brief**

Figure 4. Representative section.



THAMES VALLEY  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
SERVICES



Plate 1. Chalk in south, looking north west, Scales: 2m and 1m.



Plate 2. Representative section of undisturbed stratigraphy, Scales: 2m and 1m.

WRT 12/69

Rear of 18 Weald Rise, Tilehurst, Reading,  
Berkshire, 2012

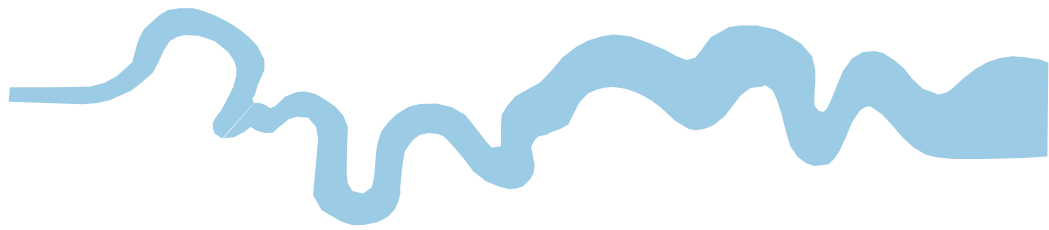
Archaeological watching brief

Plates 1 and 2.

THAMES VALLEY  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
SERVICES

## 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
↓	↓



**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](mailto:tvas@tvas.co.uk)  
Web: [www.tvas.co.uk](http://www.tvas.co.uk)**