THAMES VALLEY

ARCHAEOLOGICAL

SERVICES

New Water Pipeline at Chamberhouse Farm, Crookham Common, Thatcham, West Berkshire

An archaeological recording action

By Jo Pine

CFB12/108
(SU 5210 6586 to SU 5232 6564)

New Water Pipeline at Chamberhouse Farm, Crookham Common, Thatcham, West Berkshire

An Archaeological Recording Action

for Optimise

By Jo Pine

Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

CFB 12/108

February 2013

Summary

Site name: New Water Pipeline at Chamberhouse Farm, Crookham Common, Thatcham, West Berkshire

Grid reference: SU 5210 6586 to SU 5232 6564

Site activity: Archaeological Recording Action

Date and duration of project: 5th July to 8th October 2012

Project manager: Jo Pine

Site supervisor: Jo Pine

Site code: CFB 12/108

Summary of results: A complex series of palaeohydrological deposits on the floor of the Kennet Valley were overlain by a series of early Roman occupation deposits that were abandoned by the end of the 3rd century AD. Subsequently, medieval and post-medieval drainage ditches were dug.

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

Report edited/checked by:	Steve Ford✓ 05..02.13 Steve Preston✓ 25.01.13

Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd, 47–49 De Beauvoir Road, Reading RG1 5NR

Tel. (0118) 926 0552; Fax (0118) 926 0553; email tvas@tvas.co.uk; website: www.tvas.co.uk

New water pipeline at Chamberhouse Farm, Crookham Common, West Berkshire
An Archaeological Recording Action

by Jo Pine

Report 12/108

Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological recording action carried out on the line of a pipeline from the banks of the River Kennet (SU 5210 6586) to the east of Chamberhouse Farm, Crookham Common, West Berkshire (SU 5232 6564) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Mr Mike Hall of Optimise (Water) LLP, Rose Kiln Court, Rose Kiln Lane, Reading, Berkshire RG2 0HP on behalf of Optimise (Water) LLP, Hiview House, Highgate Road, London, NW2 1TW.

The field investigation was carried out to a specification approved by Mr Duncan Coe, Archaeological Officer with West Berkshire Council. The fieldwork was undertaken by Jo Pine along with Aidan Colyer, Steve Crabb and James Earley, between July and October 2012. The site code is CFB 12/108. The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited with West Berkshire Museum in due course.

Location, topography and geology

The site is located on the bank and floodplain of the River Kennet. It runs from the Kennet to a drain to the east of Chamberhouse Farm, Crookham Common, Thatcham, West Berkshire. The route traverses the floor of the Kennet Valley close to its confluence with the River Lambourn covering a length of *c.*230m (Figs 1 and 2). The underlying geology consists of floodplain gravels, sealed by a variable distribution and thickness of peats, alluvium and occasional tufa with relict palaeochannels containing a similar range of deposits. (BGS 1947). The surface elevations typically range between 65.5m and 67m above Ordnance Datum.

Archaeological background

The Kennet Valley is generally considered to be a zone rich in archaeological finds and deposits as well as deposits suitable for palaeoenvironmental reconstruction. This stretch of the valley is notable for the presence of large numbers of Mesolithic sites, which have been found in association with organic preservation, for which a wealth of economic and subsistence data has been recorded (Wymer 1962; Healy et al 1992). The wider environs of Chamberhouse Farm have been subject to intensive archaeological investigations which included fieldwalking,

trenching and test pitting in the 1990s, and a watching brief during the laying of experimental drainage (WA 2006). These works generated data to create a palaeo-topographic model of the site which suggested an ancient peat and alluvial filled palaeochannel aligned on an east–west axis bisecting the landscape. On the northern bank of this, at least 12 *in-situ* possible Late Glacial and Early Mesolithic occupation sites were located (flint scatters and bone), within the peat and sealed by later alluvium. The area then appears to have been occupied during the late Iron Age and Roman periods with evidence of field systems and a Roman midden, which suggests a settlement site near by. Medieval and post-medieval drainage ditches were also recorded. To the west during works prior to gravel extraction a Bronze Age ring ditch (levelled round barrow) was excavated, along with Roman deposits (Heaton and Smith 1990; Wallis 2005).

Objectives and methodology

The general objectives of the project were to:

excavate and record all archaeological deposits and features within the areas threatened by the proposed development;
produce relative and absolute dating and phasing for deposits and features recorded on the site;
establish the character of these deposits in 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 specific aims of the project were to answer the following research questions:

When was the site first occupied?
Is there any evidence of Mesolithic occupation and utilisation?
Is there any evidence of Roman settlement and landscape layout and development?
What is the medieval layout? Is there any evidence of drainage manipulation?
What is the evidence of post-medieval use of the site? Is there any evidence of drainage layouts and channel manipulation?
What is the vegetation and palaeohydrological sequence of the site and its environs and how does that change through time?
Is the peat/alluvial formation historical or archaeological or are there multiple phases of peat and alluvial formation?
Can we establish a chronological framework by using such techniques as radiocarbon dating?
Can we relate the alluvial deposit episodes to change in flow patterns caused by human agency?
Can the timing and causes of flooding and alleviation during the Holocene be related to clearance and agricultural activity in the catchment area, or is it climactically driven?

Topsoil and overburden were to be removed under continuous archaeological supervision by mechanical diggers fitted with a toothless bucket to expose the uppermost surface of archaeological deposits. This was expected to coincide with the top of the alluvium, gravel or peat. Machines were not to be allowed to track over the stripped areas until archaeologically sensitive locations had been excavated or protected from the passage of traffic.

All archaeological features were planned for the whole width of the easement as a minimum objective, but in general only archaeological features located on the cut line for the pipe trench were to be excavated, along with any 'fragile' features, such as cremation burials, located elsewhere on the easement and which could not be preserved *in situ*. Isolated, discrete features on the cut line such as pits and postholes were to be half-sectioned as a minimum. Linear features such as ditches and gullies on the cut line were excavated in 1–1.5m wide slots.

The excavated features are summarized in Appendix 1.

Results

Geotechnical test pits

Four geotechnical test pits were excavated prior to the easement strip. These were c.2m by c.1m and between 0.30–0.75m deep (Fig. 2). These indicated the presence of calcareous silts and peat deposits.

Easement strip and pipe trench

An easement strip *c*.10m wide was stripped of topsoil along the full route, using a 360^0 machine under continuous archaeological supervision (Fig. 2; Pls 1 and 2). Beneath the topsoil was a calcareous marl alluvial deposit (variously numbered 52, 57, 61, 90, 95, 179 and 187) and redeposited tufa (62) which alternated through the length of the trench, at the same stratigraphic level, and through which all of the Roman and later archaeological features were cut.

The pipe trench, which was 1.40m wide and excavated to a depth of 1.70–2.00m was also monitored as it was to be excavated through peat and alluvial deposits and possibly expose horizons of Mesolithic and earlier date which may contain occupation deposits. Two interceptor pits at either end of the pipe trench were excavated to join the new pipe work to the existing (Fig. 2). Both areas had been significantly disturbed by the laying and maintenance of the old pipe work.

Phase 1: Late-glacial and Post-glacial channel deposits

A complex sequence of alluvial and peat deposits was revealed during excavation of the pipe trench to a depth of 1.70–2.00m below the present land surface. Various deposits of peat were observed separated by clayey silts and tufas. In some places the peats also sealed tufa deposits. These peats were seen along the whole length of the pipe trench, with no gravel being exposed in the cutting. In a number of places there were visible palaeochannels; a

likely channel and its recut was seen *c*. 20m from southern end of pipe trench (Figs 2 and 6). This was shown as a thick deposit of tufa eroded by a channel (43) which was filled with dark brown peat (192) over 1.50m deep. This peat was later eroded by another channel (44) filled with peat (195) then a deposit of clayey silt (194) then another episode of peat formation (193). At 150m from the southern end another possible channel (45) was identified, there being a dip in the underlying peat at this point filled with tufa and calcareous silts (Fig. 2). Channel 45 could not be fully recorded for health and safety reasons.

The complexity of the fluvial sequence was also shown in a box slot through later post-medieval channels 104 and 105 (Fig. 6). The section excavated showed a series of thin bands of peats, calcareous silts and tufa likely in shallow channels. These deposits indicate the dynamic hydrology of the floodplain. These channels were then sealed by calcareous silts (including 95 and 179) that covered the floodplain. These deposits were then eroded by a large shallow channel (41); *c*.6m wide and *c*.0.30m deep, the fills of which contained three sherds of 3rd-century AD (Roman) pottery and a sherd of earlier Roman pottery. It is unlikely that this pottery, although the pieces do appear fresh, provides anything but the most general *terminus post quem* for the filling of these channels, and cannot date their formation at all. This channel was in turn disturbed by channels 104 and 105 which were likely late medieval or post-medieval in date (see below). No early prehistoric deposits or struck flints were recorded in association with the earlier channel deposits.

Phase 2: Roman

Pottery from various features excavated, and some limited stratigraphy, allows some sub-division of the Roman period, although where stratigraphic relationships are absent and only a few sherds of pottery were recovered, the sub-phasing should be regarded as tentative.

Phase 2a: early Roman (c.AD 43–100)

A number of linear cut features were recorded.

Ditch 4 (Figs 4 and 5)

This was aligned E-W at the southern end of the easement. A single slot was excavated and this revealed it to be 1.00m wide and 0.20m deep with an uneven southern side, a concave northern side and an irregular base. This ditch contained two fills; the primary fill (60) was a mottled reddish brown clayey silt with occasional small shell inclusions, the secondary fill (63) was a dark greyish brown silt with very occasional small shell inclusions. A single sherd of 1st-century pottery and two tiny fragments of Roman tile were recovered from fill 63 which means this ditch is far from securely dated.

Ditch 102 (Figs. 3 and 5)

Two slots (24 and 39) were dug through ditch 102, which was aligned approximately N-S, towards the northern end of the easement. This feature was 2.5m wide but shallow only being 0.23m deep (maximum). It was filled with a brownish grey silt (89) which contained two sherds of pottery dated no later in manufacture than AD60. This ditch was cut by ditch 103.

Ditch 109 (Figs 4 and 5)

Two slots (15 and 34) dug across it revealed it to be between 0.81–1.10m wide and *c*. 0.30m deep, with shallow sides and a rounded base. It contained two fills, which produced a substantial assemblage of early Roman pottery, together with bone, shell and tile. This ditch was stratigraphically earlier than ditch 16 and the pottery allows its filling to be reliably dated within the first three decades of Roman rule. The almost complete absence of pre-Roman wares (just three sherds from slot 34 and one from slot 15 might, but need not, be earlier) suggests it was both dug and filled very soon after the Conquest.

Ditch 108 (Figs 4 and 5)

This ditch was aligned ENE–WSW. Two slots (2 and 33) dug across it revealed it to be 0.81m wide and *c*. 0.50m deep with concave sides and a slightly rounded base. This ditch contained three fills (53, 54 and 55), two of which contained pottery of early Roman date, together with bone, shell and tile. This ditch is only 0.20m away from ditch 109 but on a slightly different alignment. It is possible that one of these represents a slightly later event than the other, for which the limitations of pottery chronology cannot be used to differentiate. This ditch was truncated or recut to the north by ditch 3.

Phase 2b: c. AD100–250

A small number of features have been tentatively dated to this phase of site development

Pit 17 (Figs 4 and 5)

Pit 17 was oval in plan, 1.30m wide and 1.70m long. It was 0.34m deep with gently sloping sides and an irregular base. This feature yielded 34 sherds (665g) of 2nd- to 3rd-century pottery and 12 residual earlier sherds.

Hollow/midden 31/32 (Figs 4 and 5)

An irregular shallow hollow which was no more than 0.10m deep was filled with a silt deposit (152, 153) which contained 41 sherds of pottery which span the period *c*. AD120–250, together with animal bone, one piece of Roman tile, and a large shaped limestone block.

Pit/treehole 11 has been placed in this phase as it was cut by ditch 10. It was *c*. 2.50m by *c*. 1.50m and shallow at just 0.13m deep. An iron chain link was recovered from its soft clayey silt fill (66).

Phase 2c. AD250–400

Ditch 3 (Figs 4 and 5)

This ditch was aligned ENE–WSW and truncated ditch 108. It was 1.60m wide and *c*. 0.35m deep with shallow sides and a slightly rounded base. It contained pottery mainly of early Roman date, together a single beaker rim sherd dated to between AD200–300 thus this, along with its stratigraphy, has meant it being placed in this late phase of site development. It may be that it belongs early in this sub-phase. In any case it seems to represent continuity from the previous phase in that it appears to, remark the same boundary as ditch 108.

Ditch 10 (Figs 4 and 5)

This linear ditch was aligned E-W and terminated to the west within the easement strip. A single slot (10) was dug across it and showed it to be 1.7m wide and 0.30m deep with shallow sides and a concave base. The ditch contained two fills, the primary fill (65) was a mid brownish grey silty clay with occasional flint inclusions, and the secondary fill (64) was a light greyish brown clayey silt. Both contained pottery of middle to later Roman date, animal bone and tile. This ditch was seen in the section to cut hollow/treehole 11 and was therefore stratigraphically later.

Ditch 16 (Figs 4 and 5)

This was aligned ENE–WSW, about 90m from the south end of the easement. A single slot (16) was excavated showing it to be 1.20m wide and 0.30m deep with concave sides and a rounded base. This ditch contained two fills. The primary fill (78) was a mid brownish bluish grey silt with occasional calcareous inclusions, the secondary fill (77) was a mottled reddish brownish grey silt with occasional small rounded flint and occasional chalk calcareous inclusions. The 22 sherds of pottery from this feature (both fills) can be dated with some certainty

to later than around AD270 but it need not be very much later. This ditch was stratigraphically later than ditch 109 but the relationship with pit 17 was uncertain.

Pit/scoop 28 (Figs 4 and 5)

This was 1.00m by 0.80m and 0.09m deep with concave sides and a rounded base. Its fill (98) contained three sherds of pottery which can be dated with some certainty to after AD250.

Phase 3. Medieval

There is a hint of medieval activity on the site with the presence of peg tile in some deposits and two sherds of medieval pottery. This means the features assigned to this phase are not securely dated, but their placing in this phase is not contradicted on a landscape perspective and they are either medieval or post-medieval in date.

Droveway (Figs 3 and 5 and Pl. 4)

A possible droveway at the northern end of the route is suggested by ditches 106 and 23. These were aligned on a NNE–SSW axis with a gap of between the ditches of *c.*5m. Ditch 106 (27, 37) was 1.60m wide and 0.46m deep with concave sides and a rounded base and contained a sherd of medieval pottery dated to between 1200-1350 (and an abraded sherd of probably Roman tile). It was truncated by linear 36. Ditch 23 was 1.60m wide and 0.35m deep with concave sides and a rounded base, only non-diagnostic tile was recovered from this feature.

Two ditches (100 and 101) (Figs 3 and 5) are likely to represent the northern and western drainage ditch elements of a field with the remaining elements to be found to the NW and SE of the narrow easement strip.

Ditch 100

Two slots (1and 21) were dug through this ditch, which was aligned due east–west, indicating it to be 0.80m wide and 0.15m deep. It contained five non-diagnostic tile fragments and a large iron belt buckle and truncated a redeposited tufa layer (52) which contained medieval peg tile. Slot 21 appeared to cut through one of the ploughmarks (20) but this was far from conclusively demonstrated.

Ditch 101

Two slots (25 and 26) were dug through this ditch which was aligned due north–south and presumably formed a corner with ditch 100. This feature was between 0.90 and 1.18m wide and 0.15 and 0.22m deep but contained no finds.

Channel deposit 41

The calacareous silts that covered the floodplain were eroded by a shallow channel (41) which truncated earlier channels (13 and 42) (Fig. 6) This channel, *c*.6m wide and *c*.0.30m deep, contained deposits (75, 76, 175, 177, 189) of calcareous silts and or peaty/clays. From fill 76, three sherds of 3rd-century pottery and one of the 1st century were recovered. Yet it is likely these finds were residual and given the fact that the channel was then disturbed by channels 104 and 105 which were likely late medieval or post-medieval in date, it is plausible given river dynamics that this channel could date to the earlier medieval period. However a Roman date for some of these channels is not inconceivable.

Various, broadly parallel plough marks were also recorded at this level. As they are broadly parallel to ditches 4 and 10, and some did contain Roman tile or pottery, they may be Roman. One (20) appeared to be cut by a medieval ditch, adding some support to this tentative dating, but it can only be tentative.

Phase 4. Post-Medieval

Ditch 103 (Figs. 3 and 5; Pl. 3)

This ditch (22, 40) was aligned east- west was 2.9m wide and 0.23m deep. It contained multiple fills one of which (164) contained a late post-medieval glass medicine bottle base, while fill 87 also had medieval pottery and peg tile. It truncated Roman ditch 102.

Channel deposits 104 and 105

Two meandering channels 104 (14, 30) and 105 (12, 29) were recorded cutting earlier channels 13/41 (Figs 4 and 6 and Pl. 2). These were both filled with a similar dark grey brown humid friable silt, unfortunately the relationship between the two channels was not clear: they could be a single channel. Retrieved from channel 105 was a large peg tile fragment of medieval (or later) date. However their location does not correlate with any of various channels depicted in this area on Rocque's map of 1754 (Fig. 7) (which otherwise match the modern topography quite well) and it is tempting to suggest that these must all have been cut off and silted up before the later 18th century.

Ditch 36

This ditch truncated droveway ditch 106 and was itself truncated by linear 107. The ditch was 1.00m wide and 0.35m deep aligned east-west and contained a large square headed nail or gate hinge pin, a fragment of tile and clearly residual late Iron Age pottery.

Ditch? 107

This was a humic peaty clay-filled feature (slots 35 and 38) at the far north of the easement, it was not fully exposed and had been truncated to the north-east and thus its true nature could not be discerned. It was over 1.30m wide and over 0.25m deep and contained a fragment of slate and metallic lump, a single tiny sherd of probably late Iron Age pottery, and several large fragments of tile. It truncated ditches 36 and 106.

Tree throw hole 18/19

This was an irregular shaped hollow filled with silt (82–4, 96–7), which contained no finds.

Finds

Pottery by Malcolm Lyne

The site yielded 275 sherds (3638g) of pottery from 32 contexts: a further eight sherds (69g) were retrieved from environmental samples. The bulk of the pottery is of Late Iron Age and Roman date, with nothing which has to be later than *c*. AD300. Two sherds from medieval cooking-pots are also present.

All of the assemblages were quantified by numbers of sherds and their weights per fabric (Appendix 2). These fabrics were identified using a x8 magnification lens with built-in metric graticule in order to determine the natures, forms, sizes and frequencies of added inclusions and three numbered fabric series drawn up with the prefixes LIA, R and M for Late Iron Age/Pre Flavian, Roman and Medieval respectively. None of the assemblages are large enough for further quantification by EVEs (Estimated Vessel Equivalents) based on rim sherds.

Fabrics

Late Iron Age-Pre-Flavian.

LIA.1. Coarse handmade black with profuse <2.00mm calcined-flint filler fired rough brown.
LIA.2. Handmade carbon-soaked black with moderate <1.00mm calcined-flint filler
LIA.3. Handmade fabric with profuse <0.75mm multi-coloured quartz and <1.00mm calcined-flint filler
LIA.4. Handmade patchy-fired fabric with profuse <0.30mm quartz-sand and sparse <1.00mm calcined flint filler
LIA.5. 'Belgic' coarse-grog tempered ware
LIA.6. Grog-tempered greyware fired orange externally with occasional <1.00mm flint inclusion.
LIA.7. Handmade carbon-soaked black with profuse <0.30mm multi-coloured quartz-sand filler
LIA.8. Rough handmade carbon-soaked black with profuse <0.50mm mainly rounded white quartz-sand filler
LIA.9. Handmade lumpy carbon-soaked fabric fired orange-brown internally with <2.00mm cream grog filler and occasional flint and rock inclusions. Smooth black exterior.
LIA.10. Handmade grey-black fabric with profuse ill-sorted <3.00mm crushed limestone and grog and <0.50mm quartz-sand filler
LIA.11. Handmade black fabric with profuse <0.30mm multi-coloured quartz-sand, occasional <3.00mm red ironstone, some larger <1.00mm quartz and ferrous inclusions, fired lumpy buff-grey

Roman

R.1. Rough greyware fabric with profuse <1.00mm multi-coloured quartz-sand filler
R.2. Rough wheel-turned greyware with profuse <0.50mm multi-coloured quartz-sand filler
R.3. Very-fine grey fabric with profuse <0.30mm quartz-sand filler fired polished black
R.4. Silty grey fired smooth black with <0.10mm quartz-sand filler. Occasional larger sand grains
R.5. Silty pale grey fired yellow with rim edge blackening
R.6. Silty brown fabric with dark brown ferrous inclusions and mica
R.7. BB1
R.8. Hard wheel-turned grey with profuse <0.10mm quartz-sand filler and occasional black ferrous inclusions.
R.9A. Alice Holt/Farnham Fabric A ware (Lyne and Jefferies 1979, 18)
R.9B. Alice/Holt Fabric C ware
R.10. Very-fine-sanded smooth cream fabric with profuse <0.10mm quartz-sand filler.
R.11. Very-fine-sanded rough orange fabric with profuse <0.10mm quartz-sand filler and occasional soft red ferrous inclusions
R.12. Silty grey fabric with profuse <0.10mm quartz-sand filler fired orange with external white slip.
R.13A. South Gaulish La Graufesenque samian
R.13B. Central Gaulish samian
R.14. Silty pale grey with yellow margins and exterior brown colour-coat.
R.15. Oxfordshire Whiteware

Medieval

M.1. Rough brown-black with profuse <0.50mm multi-coloured quartz-sand and sparse shell filler.
M.2. Grey fabric with profuse <2.00mm white alluvial flint, limestone and slate filler.

The Assemblages

***c.* AD43–100**

Assemblage 1. From the fills of ditch 109 slot 34 (contexts 155 and 156).

These fills yielded 108 sherds (1662g) of pottery between them, with nothing which needs to be earlier than AD43 or later than AD70. There are no imported Continental finewares but two fragments from a ?flagon in silty cream fabric R10 are present.

Fig. 7. 1. Bead-rim jar in patchy-fired Silchester ware fabric LIA1. Ext. rim diameter 220mm. Paralleled at Silchester in Periods 1 to 3 assemblages (Timby 2000, fig.126, 490). c. AD 1–60. One of two. Contexts 155 and 156.
Fig. 7.2. Necked-bowl in dirty grey/brown fabric R3 with polished black surfaces. Ext. rim diameter 160mm. Also paralleled at Silchester in pre-AD60 assemblages (Timby 2000, fig. 133, 627). Context 155.
Fig. 7.3. Neck-cordoned jar in grey/brown fabric R2 fired rough dirty grey. Ext. rim diameter 140mm. *c*. AD43–70. Context 155.

c. AD100–250

Assemblage 2. From the fill of hollow 31 (context 152).

The 41 sherds (556g) of pottery from this feature span the period *c*. AD120–250 and include 13 fresh fragments from the following vessel:

Fig. 7. 4. Figure 7 rim jar in coarse dirty-grey Alice Holt fabric R9B (Lyne 2012, Fabric C, Type 3A-5). Ext rim diameter 22 mm. c. AD100–170.

The other sherds include three from a Central Gaulish Samian Dr. 33 cup (*c*. AD120–200) and one from an everted-rim jar in sandy fabric R8 (*c*. AD170–250)

Assemblage 3. From the fill of pit 17 (context 81).

This feature yielded 43 sherds (665g) of *c*. AD150–250 dated pottery, including 10 abraded fragments from a large necked storage-jar in coarse mixed-grit tempered fabric LIA10 (*c*. AD70–200), fresh sherds from Alice Holt/ Farnham greyware jar forms 1-25 and 3B-9 (Lyne and Jefferies 1979), of *c*. AD.150–200 and 170–250 respectively, and four fresh fragments from a cavetto-rim cooking-pot in Dorset BB1 fabric (c. AD160–280).

c. **AD250-300/400**

Assemblage 4. From the fills of ditch 16 (contexts 77 and 78).

The 22 sherds (182g) of pottery from this feature include an abraded fragment from a Dr. 31 platter in Central Gaulish samian (*c*. AD150–200), one fresh sherd each from an obtuse-latticed cooking-pot and a bowl of uncertain type in Dorset BB1 fabric (*c*. AD200–400), as well as eight jar sherds in silty blue-grey Late Roman fabric R8 (*c*. AD.270–400) and the following:

Fig. 7. 5. Bowl similar to Oxfordshire Red Colour-coat form C47 (Young 1977) but in silty pale-grey fabric R5 fired yellow with rim edge blackening. c.AD.270-400.

Assemblage 5. From the fill of scoop/pit? 28 (context 98).

The three sherds (154g) of pottery from this feature make up the only other Roman pottery assemblage from the site which can be dated with any certainty to after AD250. These three fragments comprise two from an Oxfordshire Whiteware *mortarium* of Young's type M17 (*c*. AD240–300) and one from an open form in Dorset BB1 fabric.

<u>Medieval</u>

The medieval material comprises a cooking-pot rim sherd in fabric M1 from ditch 22 and a cooking-pot sherd in fabric M2 from ditch 27.

Ceramic Building Materials by Danielle Milbank

A total of 4.6kg of ceramic building material (98 fragments) was recovered during the excavation (Appendix 3). Of these, two were identified with certainty as brick and the remainder were tile fragments, including seven *tegula* fragments and three peg tile fragments. Several smaller fragments could not be identified. The brick and tile fabrics were examined under x10 magnification.

Tile

The majority of the pieces identified as tile were small fragments, which were flat and fairly even, typically 12-14mm thick, and are not closely datable. The fabric varied from slightly soft and friable to hard and evenly-fired, with sparse grog and flint inclusions.

Pit 17 (81) contained a fragment of plain tile of probable Roman date, which was hard and evenly-fired, with very sparse small inclusions and one large (10mm) flint pebble. The fragment has a rough underside indicating a sandy mould.

A fragment of probable Roman date from post-medieval feature 107 has parallel grooves (*c*. 2mm wide and 2mm deep) to provide keying, and one groove contains a small amount of grey-white plaster. It is possible that this is a fragment of box tile or flue tile.

Tegulae were identified as those fragments with a flange along one side. A complete *tegula* would have a flange on each side, however no complete examples were recovered. *Tegula* fragments were recovered from three contexts, with two fragments from ditch 10 (65), two from ditch 16 (77) and three from pit 17 (81). The typical *tegula* fabric was slightly soft orange red fired clay with occasional sand inclusions, with one of the fragments from 16 (77) notably a very fine, homogenous fabric with no visible inclusions and a particularly neat form. A few fragments were slightly darker and/or greyish at the core. The majority were 22–24mm thick, which is fairly typical (Brodribb 1987).

The forms of the flange fall into two types, rounded down toward the face, or squared off and sloping slightly toward the face. Examples of both forms were found together in features 16 and 17, but no co-joining pieces were recovered. Although Chauffin (1956) suggests that these basic forms tend to be of the earlier (1st to 3rd century) Roman period, they are not overall considered to be closely datable, as simple forms are easier and cheaper to mass-produce (Brodribb 1987).

The flat tile fragments were *c*.22mm thick, of a similar fabric to the *tegulae*, with a small number of fragments of a darker red, harder fabric. None of the fragments co-joined, and no complete tiles were found. Although it is difficult to date such pieces, it is likely that they are Roman based on the similarity of the fabric.

One tile fragment from post-medieval channel 105 (cut 29, fill 150) and two from alluvial layers (52, 61) have part of a peg-hole present, and are thus of later medieval or post-medieval date.

Bricks

The two bricks fragments were recovered from post-medieval channels 104 and 105 (contexts 12 (67) and 30 (151)). The fragment from channel 12 was 34mm thick, and was of evenly-fired hard fabric with grog inclusions and sparse small (1–2mm) rounded quartz. The colour is a mid to dark orange red, and the piece has a rough base and could conceivably represent part of a *bessalis* type brick of Roman date. These were square and typically 198mm by 198mm, and were used for a variety of purposes, and were commonly used to build the small columns (*pilae*) for a suspended hypocaust floor (Brodribb 1987, 34). The piece from channel 30 is fairly abraded and none of the flat surfaces have survived, so it was not possible to measure the width or thickness of the whole brick. The fabric is an evenly fired fine clay with no visible inclusions and a fairly open texture.

Overall, the assemblage of Roman tile and possible brick is modest. It is not possible to determine whether this represents a tile-roofed building on the site, or were derived from a building elsewhere, as this durable material is widely reused for many purposes, not necessarily roofing. However, it is not likely to have been transported very far from source, so a Roman building somewhere nearby can be expected.

Animal Bone by Ceri Falys

A total of 82 pieces of animal bone was recovered from 17 contexts, weighing 957g (Appendix 4). The surface preservation of the remains was generally good, although all pieces displayed significant fragmentation. The small fragment size hindered species identification of the majority of pieces of bone.

The usual domesticates were present: horse, cow and sheep/goat, although no pig was positively identified. The horse was identified by the presence of two loose teeth in ditch 3, context (56). The presence of at least one cow was also represented by loose teeth in ditches 3 and 15 (contexts 56 and 79), as well as pit 17 (81). Deposit 79 also contained a proximal articular surface of a bovine left metacarpal. A layer in the channel (76) had both a left and a right distal sheep/goat humerus. There was no evidence of butchery and no further information could be retrieved from this small assemblage of animal bone.

Other Finds

Oyster Shell

A small assemblage of oyster shell was recovered from Roman contexts. From Phase 2a, ditch 109 cut 34 (55) contained 36 frgaments of oyster shell. From Phase 2b, pit 17 (81) contained 14 oyster shells and from midden 31

(152) one fragment was recovered. In Phase 2c, ditch 16 (77) contained two oyster shell fragments whilst from ditch 3 (56) a single fragment was retrieved. Oyster was a staple part of the Roman diet, even relatively far inland, but the shells are both fragile, and when ground into powder, useful for a variety of purposes, so that the contribution of oyster to the diet is often under-represented on archaeological sites. Its presence here, even in such small quantities, suggests a settlement of some sort should be not far distant.

Metal

A small assemblage of iron finds was recovered.

From Roman contexts **:** Hollow 11 (66) an iron chain link, pit 17 (81) a iron nail fragment, Ditch 4 (63) iron nail fragment. From the surface of ditch 15 an iron blade was recovered.

From Medieval contexts: Ditch 100, 1 (51) an iron belt buckle and from the surface of ditch 15 an iron blade was recovered.

From Post-medieval contexts: Ditch 36 (159) a large iron nail (square head), ditch 107, 35 (157) iron concretion.

Glass

The base of a light green medicine bottle was recovered from post-medieval ditch 103, slot 40 (164)

Slate

A small fragment of slate was recovered from post-medieval feature 107 (35 (158)).

Macrobotanical plant material and charcoal by Jo Pine

Nine bulk soil samples were processed from the site. The flots were wet sieved to 0.25mm and air dried. The flots were examined under a low-power binocular microscope at magnifications between x10 and x40. Sample 7 from hollow 31 (153) contained a single grain of spelt wheat (*Triticum spelta)*. No other sample produced any charred grain or charcoal.

Conclusion

A complex of alluvial and peat deposits was revealed during excavation of the pipe trench. Various deposits of peats, separated in some areas by clayey silts and tufa deposits, and then sealed by calcareous silts, were shown along the *c*. 230m route. The peat formation episodes indicate that the area was waterlogged in the past, and former river channels were blocked by vegetation and debris to cause peat to develop. Whether human agency caused this is a matter of debate, but beaver activity could also be considered a viable explanation (Cole and Orme

1983). At the Mesolithic site excavated by Wymer in nearby Thatcham, fully 20% of the animal bone was beaver (King 1962) and they have also been noted at Dorney (Parker and Robinson 2003), Runnymede (Coles 1992) and several sites further afield, but their remains rarely seem to be found on archaeological sites in Britain after the Iron Age.

There is also in certain areas along the pipe trench some indication of channel formations, where the peat and/or tufa appears to be scoured out, by river action, before the channel is once again filled with clays and tufa and other peats. This is a highly complex fluvial landscape and the box slot through the calcareous silts shows how detailed, with numerous channels scoured and reworked.

A further major development on the floodplain is that the river channels in the area become very low energy, depositing tufa and calcareous marl across the floodplain. These deposits were cut by Roman and later features. The sedimentary sequence shown in the pipe trench and easement strip is not dissimilar to that noted in previous work in this area and along the Kennet valley (WA 2006; Pine 2008). The earlier peat is likely to date to the Late Glacial *c*. 10,000BP with later peats forming in the later Mesolithic (from 8000BP) and Neolithic (6000BP). There was, however, no evidence of i*n-situ* possible Late Glacial and Early Mesolithic occupation sites (flint scatters and bone) along the pipeline route. These have been shown elsewhere to be sealed within the peat and sealed by later alluvium. It may be; as shown by the depth of peat; in some places up to 1.50m deep, that this area was always too wet and well within the floodplain at that time. The flint scatters found previously were suggested to be on the northern bank of an east-west palaeochannel, with this current site likely within its floodplain.

The excavation has uncovered more evidence of the Roman occupation in this area of the Kennet floodplain. Previously, *c*. 500m to the west, late Iron Age and Roman field systems and a Roman midden indicate the presence of occupation deposits (WA 2006), though it is unclear, as yet, whether these two locations are part of one large complex site.

The archaeology revealed on the pipeline easement, although restricted in extent being a long but narrow strip, has uncovered evidence of boundary features which could represent field, paddock or settlement enclosure together with a small number of pits and a moderate volume of material culture. This is indicative of Roman occupation in this location. What form the settlement took it is not possible to state, but future work could uncover the form of the occupation and its topographical focus relative to higher valley side rather than the flood prone valley floor. However the evidence of plough marks cutting the alluvium, albeit not dated more closely than 'Roman or later' does suggest that there may have been periods when this area itself was habitable and arable. The evidence here suggests the earliest Roman occupation did not begin before the mid the 1st century AD, with

occupation continuing into the 2nd and 3rd centuries. There is nothing that need be later than AD300, until the area is exploited again in the medieval period.

This site is a noteworthy addition to the debate about the nature and causation of changes in regional settlement patterns in the Roman period. In particular, recent studies within central and eastern Berkshire and the Upper Thames Valley have observed a pattern that indicates the abandonment of sites of earlier Roman date before the end of the Roman period (Milbank 2010, 18; Ford 2012, 180; Booth et al 2007, 43). Few established sites seem to continue up to the end of the Roman times and also few appear to have been founded in the later period compared to earlier.

However, whatever socio-economic developments these observations might relate to, they may not be relevant in this particular instance. The late Roman period is now well-documented as becoming increasingly wet, with sharply rising water tables, accompanied by increasing alluviation. The causes were primarily climatic but denudation of woodland and over-exploitation of farmland may have exacerbated the problem by increasing soil mobility, meaning that rivers in flood would carry more silt. This is graphically illustrated for the Thames floodplain at Yarnton, for example (Hey *et al*. 2004, 27–8). At Whelford Bowmoor, further upstream on the Thames, early Roman ditches were sealed by later Roman peat (Booth *et al.* 2007, 19). Here, the silts deposited by overbank flooding seem to signal the complete abandonment of the area by the 4th century. Similar patterns of late Roman alluviation overlying early Roman occupations sites are to be found in the lower Thames Valley in London and further east such as on the Isle of Dogs (Anthony and Ford 2004). Perhaps a more rational argument for abandonment of this floodplain site may well be that it has become too wet for intensive occupation with relocation of the settlement to higher and drier ground.

The final historic activity on the site took place in medieval and post-medieval periods, a time that the fieldwork has recorded a complex of likely medieval and post-medieval palaeochannels indicating what a dynamic landscape this was. Medieval and later activity is restricted to the digging of what are considered to be primarily drainage ditches rather than boundaries and which were necessary if this land as to have any useful agricultural function.

References

Anthony, S and Ford, S, 2004, 'An early Roman occupation site and prehistoric finds at Westferry Road, Isle of Dogs, Tower Hamlets', *Trans London and Middlesex Archaeol Soc* **54** (for 2003), 1–7

BGS, 1947, *British Geological Survey*, 1:50000, Sheet 267, Solid and Drift Edition, Keyworth

Booth, P, Dodd, A, Robinson, M and Smith, A, 2007, *The Thames through Time: The Archaeology of the Gravel Terraces of the Upper and Middle Thames: The early historical period AD1–1000*, Oxford Archaeology Thames Valley Landscapes monogr **27**, Oxford

Brodribb, G, 1987, *Roman Brick and Tile,* Gloucester
Brown, A G 1997, *Alluvial Geoarchaeology; Floodplain archaeology and environmental change,* Cambridge: Cambridge University Press
Butzer, K W, 1982, *Archaeology as Human Ecology*. Cambridge
Chauffin, J 1956, 'Les Tuiles Gallo Romaines du Bas-Dauphiné', *Gallia*, **14,** 81-8
Coles, J M and Orme, B J, 1983, 'Homo sapiens or Castor fiber?', *Antiquity,* **57**, 95–102
Coles, B, 1992, 'Further thoughts on the impact of beaver on temperate landscapes', in S Needham and M G Macklin (eds), *Alluvial Archaeology in Britain*, Oxbow Mongr 27, Oxford, 93–9
Ford, S, 2012c, 'Middle Bronze Age occupation and enclosure and Roman occupation at All Souls Farm Quarry, Wexham, Buckinghamshire', in S Preston (ed), *Settlement and Landscape Archaeology in the Middle Thames Valley: Slough and Environs,* TVAS Monograph **14**, Reading, 87–182
Heaton, M and Smith, R, 1990, 'The excavation of a ring ditch at Lower Farm, Greenham, Berkshire', Wessex Archaeol rep, Salisbury
Healy, F, Heaton, M and Lobb, S, 1992, 'Excavations of a Mesolithic site at Thatcham, Berkshire', *Proc Prehist Soc* 58, 41–76
Hey, G, Robinson, M and Munby, J, 2004, 'Chapter 2: settlement and Landscape', in G Hey *Yarnton: Saxon and Medieval Settlement and Landscape,* Oxford Archaeology Thames Valley Landscapes Monogr **20**, Oxford, 27–58
King, J E, 1962, 'Report on Animal bones' in J Wmyer, 'Excavations at the Maglemosean site of Thatcham, Berkshire, England', *Proc Prehist Soc* **28**, 355–60
Lyne, M A B and Jefferies, R S, 1979*, The Alice Holt/Farnham Roman Pottery Industry*, CBA Res Rep **30**, London
Lyne, M, 2012, *Archaeological Research in Binsted, Kingsley and Alice Holt Forest, Hampshire,* BAR Brit Ser **514**, Oxford
Milbank, D, 2010, 'Roman landscape features at Mereoak Lane, Three Mile Cross', in S Preston (ed), *Archaeological Investigations to the South of Reading, 2002-2008: Exploring Late Iron Age and Roman settlement south of Reading, Berkshire*, TVAS Monograph **13**, Reading, 1–19

Parker, A G and Robinson, M A, 2003, 'Palaeoenvironmental investigations on the Middle Thames at Dorney, UK', in A J Howard, M Macklin and D G Passmore (eds), *Alluvial archaeology in Europe*, Rotterdam, 43–60
Pine, J 2008, 'Ufton Nervet, A geoarchaeological appraisal', Univ of Reading unpubl fieldwork rep, Reading
Timby, J R, 2000, 'The pottery', in M Fulford and J Timby, *Late Iron Age and Roman Silchester: Excavations on the site of the Forum-Basilica 1977, 1980–86*, Britannia Monogr Ser **15**, London, 180–312
WA, 2006, 'Chamberhouse Farm, Thatcham, West Berkshire, archaeological watching brief report', Wessex Archaeol Ref 613000.03, Salisbury
Wallis, S, 2005, 'Lower Farm Quarry, Newbury, West Berkshire, An archaeological watching brief', Thames Valley Archaeology Services unpubl rep 05/85, Reading
WBCAS 2008, *Kennet Valley Historic Environment Character Zones*, West Berkshire Council Archaeology Service, Newbury
Wymer, J J, 1962, 'Excavations at the Maglemosean site of Thatcham, Berkshire, England', *Proc Prehist Soc* **28**, 329–361
Young, C J, 1977, *The Roman Pottery Industry of the Oxford Region*, BAR Brit Ser **43**, Oxford

APPENDIX 1: Feature details

Cut	*Deposit*	*Group*	*Feature Type*	*Date*	*Dating evidence*	
	50		Topsoil			
	52		Alluvium	Medieval ?	Tile	
	57		Alluvium	Roman or earlier	Stratigraphy	=61, 90, 95
	58		Alluvial tufa	Roman or earlier	Stratigraphy	
	59		Alluvial tufa	Roman or earlier	Stratigraphy	
	61		Alluvium	Roman or earlier	Stratigraphy	=57, 90, 95
	62		redeposited ?Tufa	Roman or earlier	Stratigraphy	
	90		Alluvium	Roman or earlier	Stratigraphy	=57, 61, 95
	94		Alluvium		Pottery	
	95		Alluvium	Roman or earlier	Stratigraphy	=57, 61, 90
	174		Peat	Post glacial		
	178		Peat	Post glacial		
	179		Alluvium	Post glacial		
	180		Alluvium	Post glacial		
	181		Alluvial tufa	Post glacial		
	182		Alluvial tufa	Post glacial		
	183		Peat	Post glacial		
	184		Silt with peat lens	Post glacial		=187
	185		Peat	Post glacial		
	186		Peat	Post glacial		
	187		Tufa	Post glacial		=184
	188		Tufa	Post glacial		
	190		Peat	Post glacial		
	197		Tufa	Post glacial		
1	51	100	Ditch	Medieval	Stratigraphy and tile	
2	53–5	108	Ditch	Roman 2b	Pottery	
3	56, 172		Ditch	Roman 2c	Pottery, stratigraphy	
4	63		Ditch	Roman 2a	Pottery	
5	68		Ploughmark	?	?	
6	69		Ploughmark	Roman or later	Tile	
7	70		Ploughmark	Roman or later	Tile	
8	71		Ploughmark	Roman or later	Tile	
9	72		Ploughmark	?	?	
10	65		Ditch	Roman 2c	Pottery	
11	66		Hollow	Roman 2b	metal, stratigraphy	
12	67	105	Channel	Post-medieval	tile, map	
13	74		Channel	Medieval?	Stratigraphy	
14	99	104	Channel	Post-medieval	tile, map	
15	79	109	Ditch	Roman 2a	Pottery	
16	77–8		Ditch	Roman 2c	Pottery	
17	81		Pit	Roman 2b	Pottery	
18	82–3, 96–7		Treebole	no date	?	
19	84		Treebole	?	?	
20	85		ploughmark	?	?	
21	86	100	Ditch	Medieval	Stratigraphy and tile	
22	87, 169–71, 173	103	Ditch	Post-medieval	Glass	
23	88		Ditch	Medieval	association	
24	89	102	Ditch	Roman 2a	Pottery	
25	91	101	Ditch	Medieval	association	
26	92	101	Ditch	Medieval	association	
27	93	106	Ditch	Medieval	Pottery	
28	98		Scoop/pit	Roman 2c	Pottery	
29	150	105	Channel	Post-medieval	tile, map	
30	151	104	Channel	Post-medieval	tile, map	
31	152		Hollow	Roman 2b	Pottery	
32	153		Hollow	Roman 2b	Pottery	
33	154	108	Ditch	Roman 2b	Pottery	
34	155-156	109	Ditch	Roman 2a	Pottery	
35	157-158	107	Feature	Post-medieval	Slate	
36	159, 167–8		Ditch	Medieval	Pottery	
37	162	106	Ditch	Medieval	Pottery	
38	160-161	107	Feature	Post-medieval	Slate	
39	163	102	Ditch	Roman 2a	Pottery	
40	164–6	103	Ditch	Post-medieval	Glass	
41	73, 75–6, 175–7, 189		Channel	Medieval		(Roman pottery in 76 not relied on for dating)
42	191		Channel	Post glacial		
43	192		Channel	Post glacial		

Cut	*Deposit*	*Group*	*Feature Type*	*Date*	*Dating evidence*	
44	193–6		Channel	Post glacial		

APPENDIX 2: Pottery Catalogue

Cut	*Deposit*	*Group*	*Fabric*	*Form*	*Date–range*	*No. sherds*	*Wt (g)*	*Comments*
	50		LIA3		0–60	1	2	
2	53	108	LIA7	Necked jar	0–60	4	34	Underfired
			R3		50–250	1	9	Fresh
2	54	108	R1	Beaker	Roman	1	1	Abraded from sample
			Misc			1	1	Abraded from sample
2	55	108	R1	Jar	50–100	1	4g	Fresh. Ditch slot
3	56		LIA8	Necked-jar	30–60	1	16	Fresh
			R2	Girth-cordoned jar	c70–250	1	8	Fresh
			R4	Closed forms	50–150	5	23	Fresh and abraded
			R14	Beaker	200–300	1	1	
4	63		LIA6	Jar	25BC–AD.50	1	1	Fresh
8	71		R9A	Closed	200–400	1	1g	Fresh.
10	64		R6	Jar		1	5	Slightly abraded
			R9A		200–400	1	1	
10	65		R3	Jar base	70–250	1	72	Fresh
			R11	?Flagon	70/250–300	1	1	
12	67	105	LIA8	Jar base	30–60	1	119	Abraded
			R13A		43–110	1	1	Abraded
15	79		R4	Neck-cordoned jar	50–100			Fresh
				Bead-rim jar	50–100	4	60	Fresh
				Necked jar	43–70	1	15	Fresh
			LIA1		0–60	1	2	Fresh
16	77		LIA8	Jar	30–60	1	4	Abraded
			R4	Closed		3	10	fresh
			R5	C47 bowl	270–400	3	16	Fresh
			R8	Jar	200–400	8	92	Fresh
			R13A		43–110	1	1	Abraded
			R13B	Dr 31	150–200	1	2	Abraded
			Fired clay			1	12	
16	78		R2	Jars	70–300+	2	11	Abraded
			R7	Obtuse latticed c pot	200–400			Fresh
				Bowl	200–400	2	17	Fresh
			Misc	Jar		1	29	Slightly abraded
17	81		LIA5		25BC–AD.50	10	45	Abraded
			LIA7		30–60	2	3	Abraded
			LIA10	Storage jar	70–200	12	337	Abraded
			R2	Jar	70–200	1	20	Abraded
			R3	Closed		1	4	Fresh
			R7	Cooking-pot	160–280	4	32	Fresh
			R8	Jar		8	168	Fresh
			R9A	1-25 Jar	150–200	1	11	Fresh
				3B-9 jar	170–250	2	32	Fresh
			R10	Flagon		1	5	Fresh
			R13B	Dr 31	150–200	1	8	Fresh
19	84		LIA5	Jar	25BC–AD.50	1	4	Abraded
			R2	Jar	50–250	3	32	Slightly abraded
			R4	Biconical	50–150	1	1	
			Fired clay			2	3	
22	87	103	M1	Cooking-pot	1200–1350	1	18	Abraded
24	89	102	Misc	Jar	43–60	1	9g	
27	93	106	M2	Cooking-pot	1200–1350	1	8	Fresh
28	98		R7	Open form	250–300	1	7	Fresh
			R15	M17 mortarium	240–300	2	147	Fresh
31	152		LIA2	Closed	0–60	1	2	Fresh
			LIA5		25BC–AD.50	1	4	Abraded from sample
			R1	Jar	43–100	8	58	Fresh
			R2	Necked jar	130–200	5	57	
			R8	Ev rim jar	170–250			
				Lid		6	92	Fresh
			R9A	Closed	200–300	3	3	Sl abraded
			R9A	Ev.rim jar	170–300	4	60	from sample
			R9B	Cl.3A jar	150–200	13	300	Fresh. 1 jar
			R12	Closed	70–250	1	7	Fresh
			R13A		43–110	1	2	Fresh
			R13B	Dr 33	120–200	3	35	Fresh
32	153		LIA5	Storage jar	25BC–AD.50	3	83	
			LIA7	Jars	0–60	7	82	Abraded
			R2	Jars	50–150	1	20	Abraded
			R4	Jar		2	12	Fresh
			R7		200–400	1	3	Abraded from sample

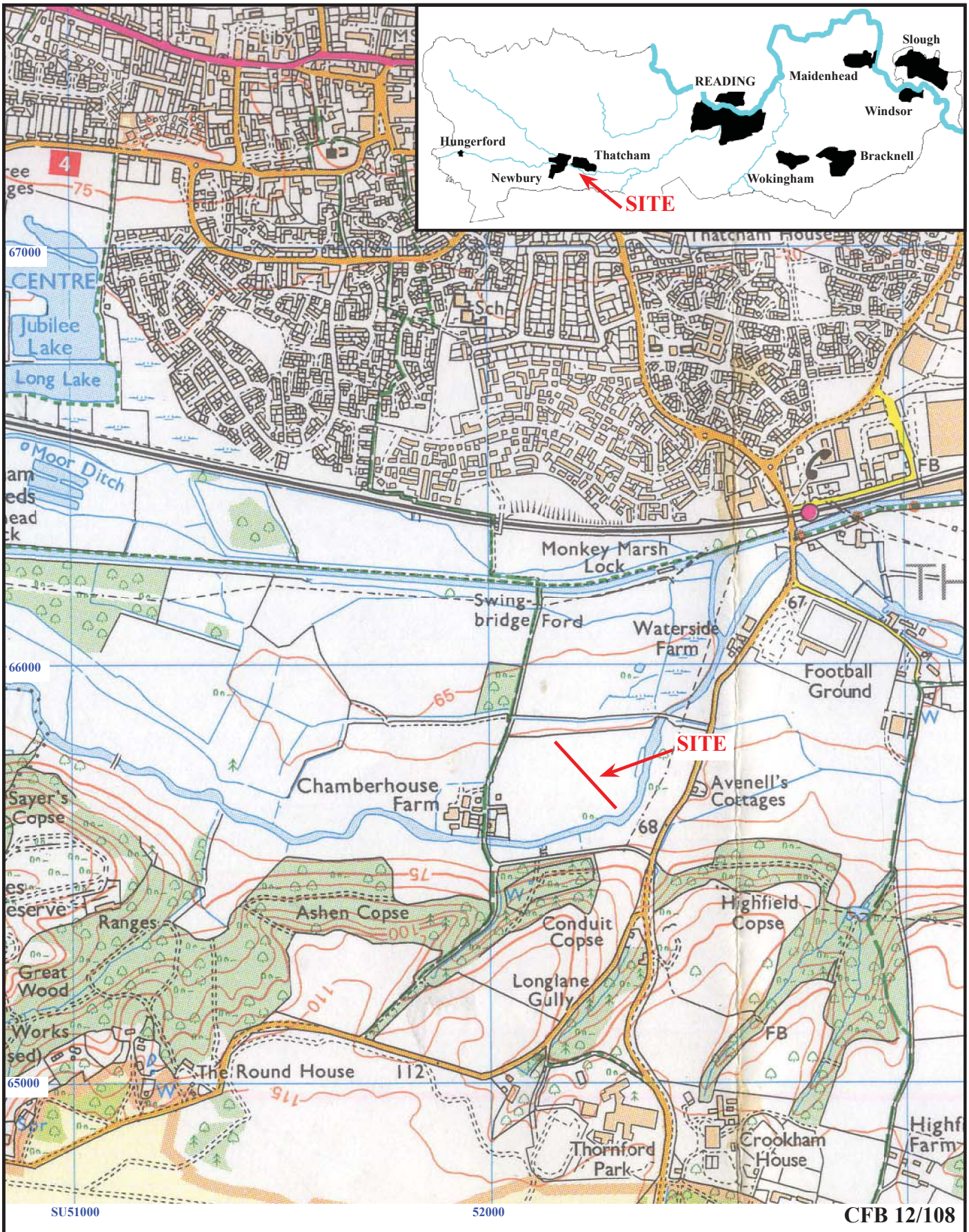
Cut	*Deposit*	*Group*	*Fabric*	*Form*	*Date–range*	*No. sherds*	*Wt (g)*	*Comments*
34	155	109	LIA1	Jar	0–60	3	29	
				Bead-rims	30–60	9	180	fresh
			R1	Jars	43–60	2	18	abraded
			R2	Jars	50–150	26	376	Fresh
				Necked jar	43–70	33	363	Fresh
			R3	Necked bowl	43–70	8	102	Fresh
			R10	Flagon	43–150	1	5	Abraded
			Misc		43–60	1	6	
34	156	109	LIA1	Bead-rim jar	43–60	3	186	Fresh
			LIA7	Cl 1 jar	43–70			Fresh
				Fig.7 rim	43–70	9	137	Fresh
			R3	Jars	50–150	12	243	Fresh
			R10	Flagon	43–70	1	17	Fresh
36	159		LIA4	Closed	0–60	1	3g	
38	160	107	LIA9		43–60	1	1	Abraded
39	163	102	LIA4	Jar	0–60	1	14g	
41	76		LIA9	Bead-rim jar	43–60	1	35	Fresh
			R4	Str sided dish	200–300	3	54	Fresh joining

APPENDIX 3: Catalogue of brick and tile

Cut	*Deposit*	*Group*	*Type*	*B-T*	*No*	*Wt (g)*
	52		Alluvium	Peg tile	1	45
	61		Layer	Tile, peg-tile	7	145
1	51	100	Ditch	Tile	6	28
2	53	108	Ditch	Tile	1	1
2	54		Ditch	tile	1	2
4	63		Ditch	tile	2	6
6	69		Ploughmark	tile	1	9
7	70		Ploughmark	tile	1	2
10	64		Ditch	tile	9	57
10	65		Ditch	tile	5	616
11	66		Hollow	tile	2	12
12	67	105	Channel	brick, tile, peg tile	5	554
16	77		Ditch	tile	9	727
16	78		Ditch	tile	1	5
17	81		Pit	tile	12	1397
22	87	103	Ditch	tile	2	31
23	88		Ditch	tile	4	47
27	93	106	Ditch	tile	3	97
29	150		Channel	tile	6	184
30	151		Channel	tile, brick	5	392
31	152		Hollow	tile	1	7
32	153		Hollow	tile	1	10
35	157		Ditch	tile	10	238
36	159		Ditch	tile	1	98
38	160	107	Feature	tile	2	3
39	163	102	Ditch	tile	1	56
40	164	103	Ditch	tile	3	22
41	76		Channel	tile	4	23
					97	4608

APPENDIX 4: Inventory of animal bone

Cut	*Deposit*	*No. frags*	*Wt (g)*	*Horse*	*Cow*	*Sheep/goat*	*Large*	*Medium*	*Unidentified*
2	54	1	1				-	-	1
2	55	4	14				-	-	4
3	56	6	124	1	1		6	-	-
10	64	1	12				1	-	-
10	65	3	44				-	-	3
12	67	3	14			1	-	-	2
	76	2	34			2	-	-	-
16	77	6	232				6	-	-
16	78	16	156				16	-	-
15	79	5	71		5		-	-	-
17	81	10	20		2		-	1	7
19	84	2	4				-	-	2
22	87	3	8				-	-	3
30	151	2	62				2	-	-
31	152	5	37				-	-	5
32	153	7	80				3	-	4
34	155	6	44				-	-	6
Total / MNI		**82**	**957**	1	1	1	-	-	-

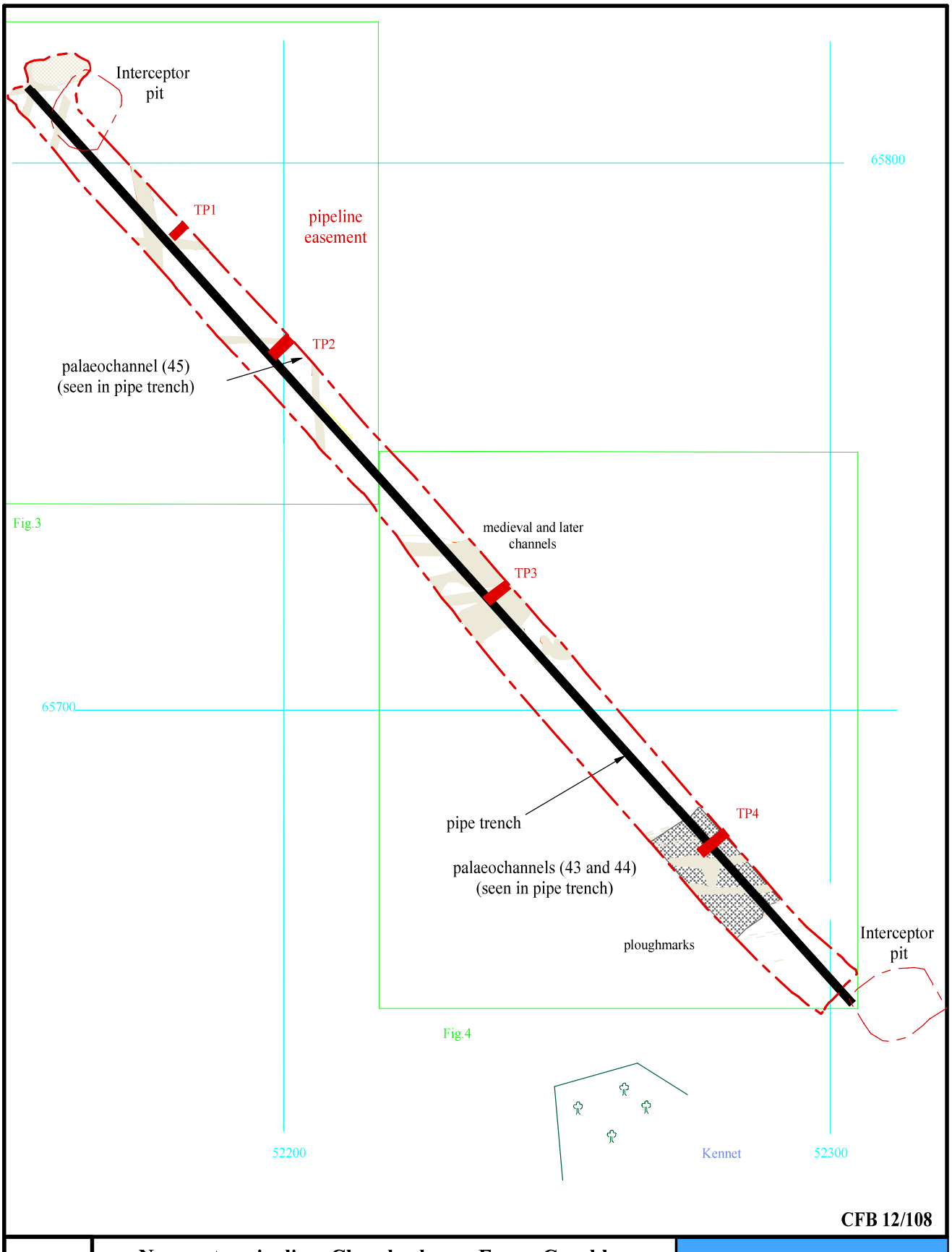


CFB 12/108

New Water pipeline at Chamberhouse Farm, Crookham Common, Thatcham, West Berkshire, 2012
Archaeological recording action

Figure 1. Location of site within Thatcham and Berkshire.

THAMES VALLEY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES



CFB 12/108

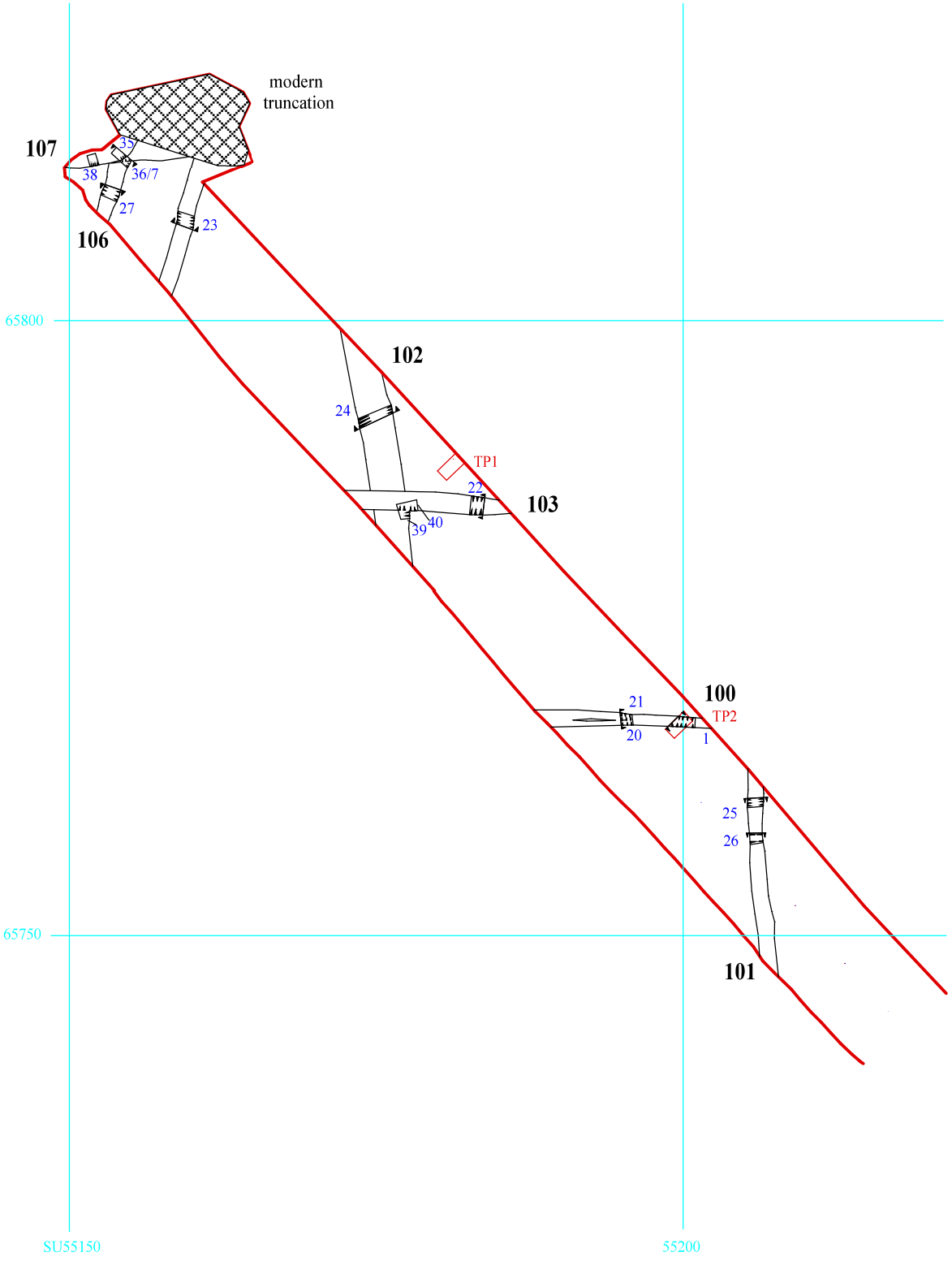
N

New water pipeline, Chamberhouse Farm, Crookham Common, Thatcham, West Berkshire, 2012 Archaeological recording action

Figure 2. Location of new pipe trench and testpits on easement.

0 50m

THAMES VALLEY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES



CFB 12/108

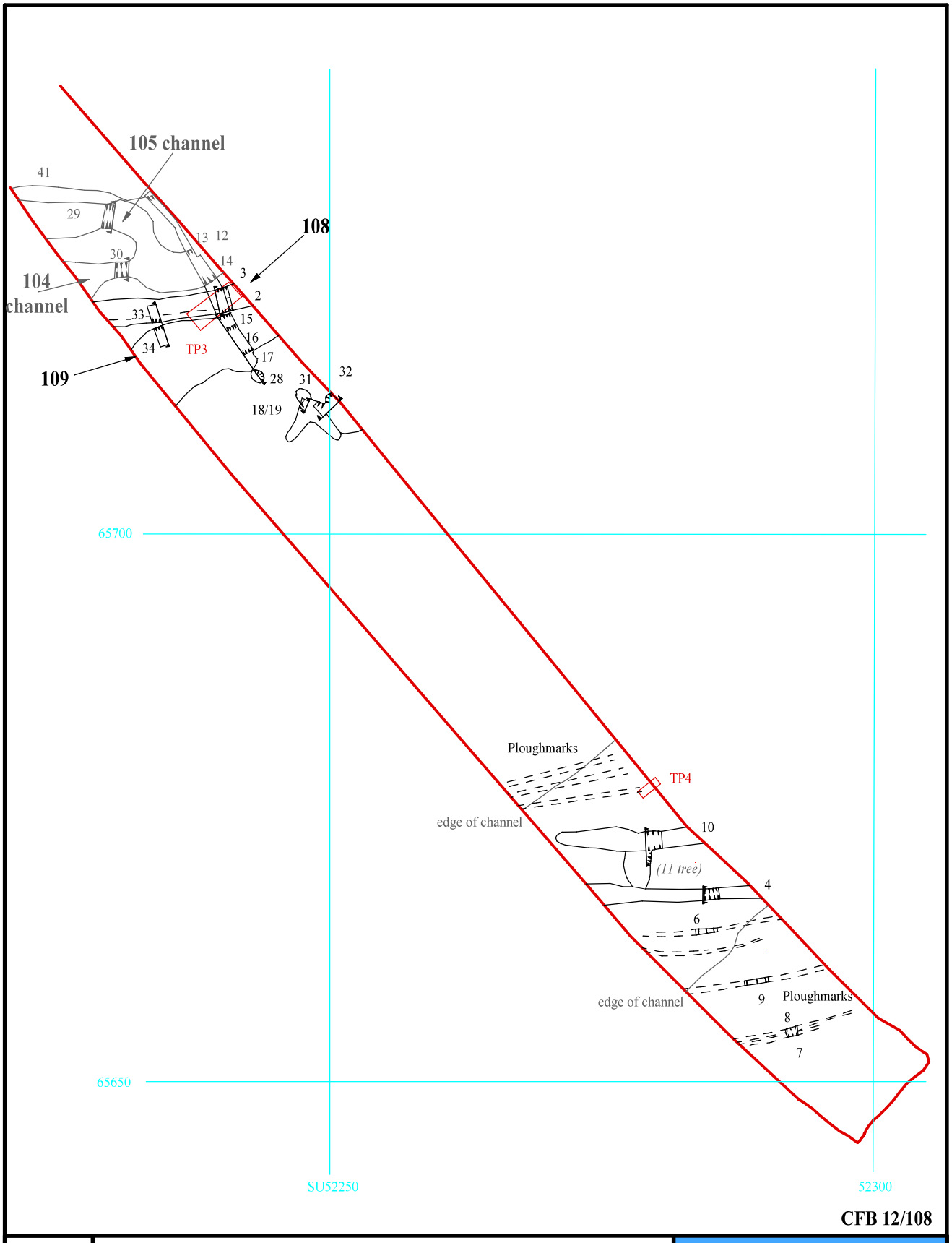
N

New water pipeline, Chamberhouse Farm, Crookham Common, Thatcham, West Berkshire, 2012
Archaeological recording action

Figure 3. Detail at north end of easement strip.

0 25m

THAMES VALLEY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES



CFB 12/108

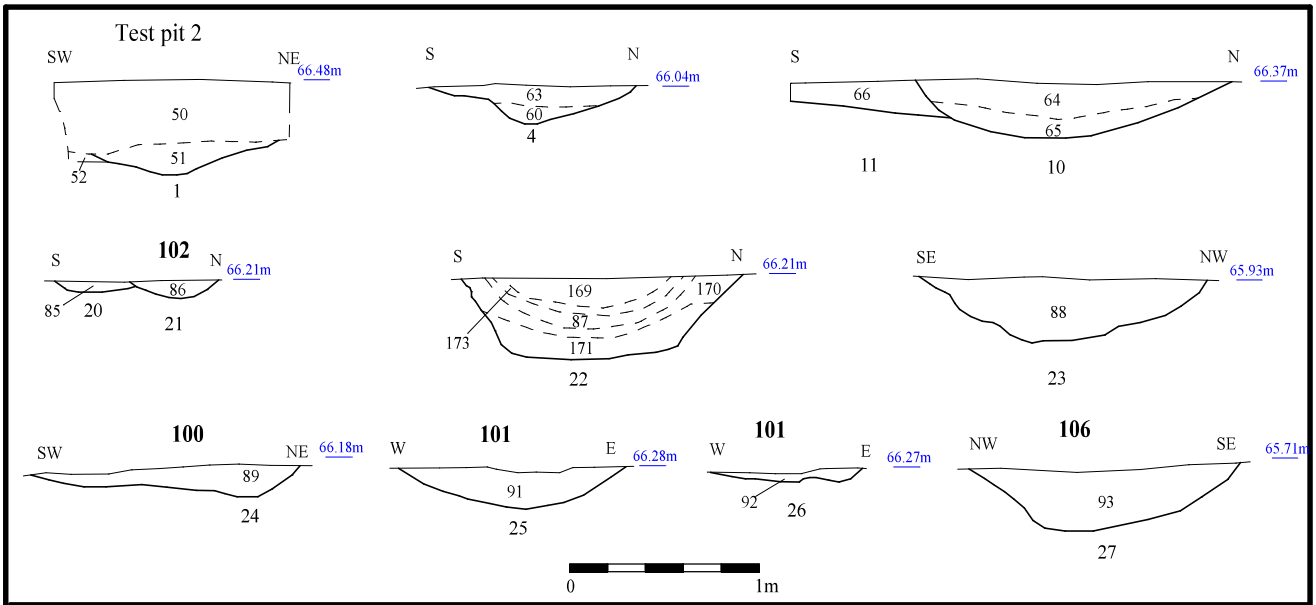
N

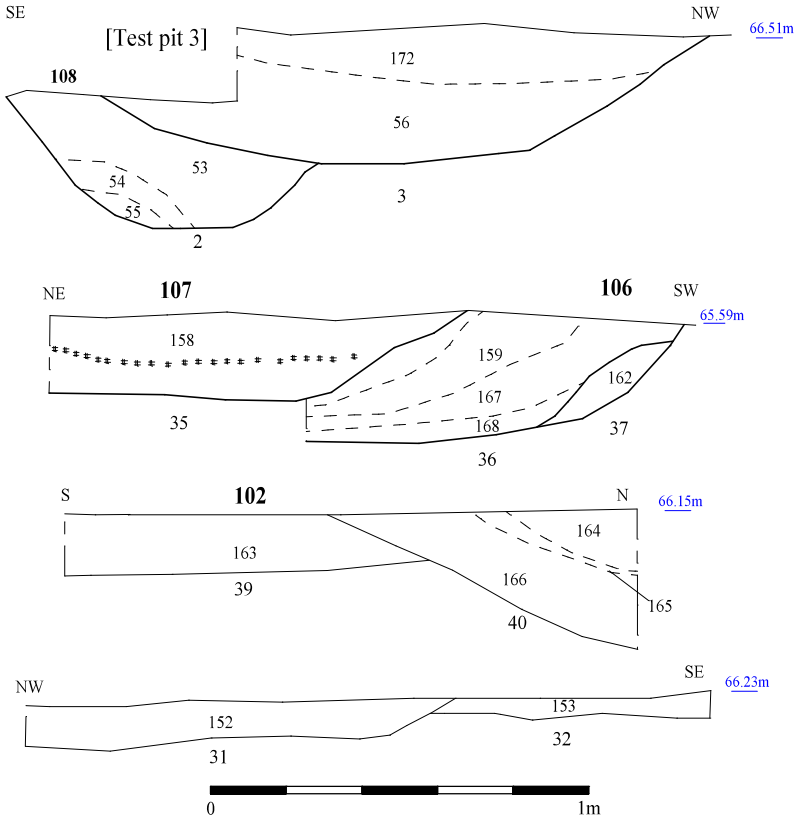
New water pipeline, Chamberhouse Farm, Crookham Common, Thatcham, West Berkshire, 2012
Archaeological recording action

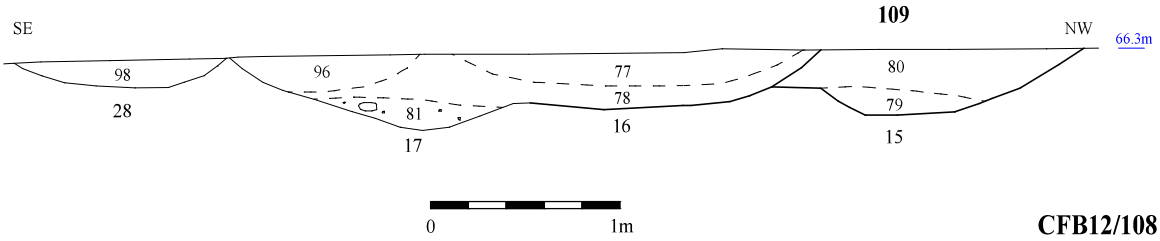
Figure 4. Detail at south end of easement strip.

0 25m

THAMES VALLEY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES





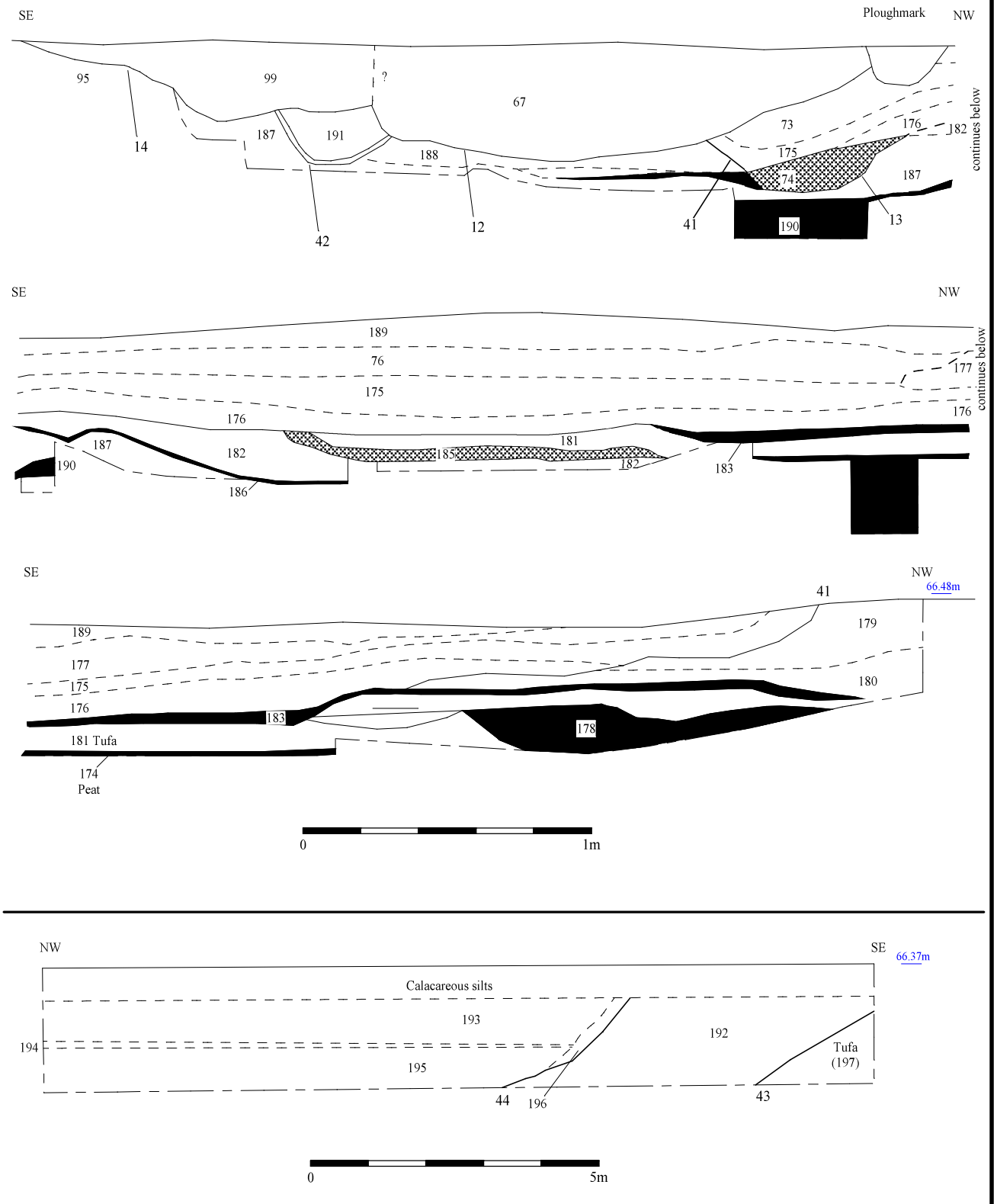


CFB12/108

New water pipeline, Crookham Common, Thatcham, West Berkshire, 2012
Archaeological recording action

Figure 5. Sections.

THAMES VALLEY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES

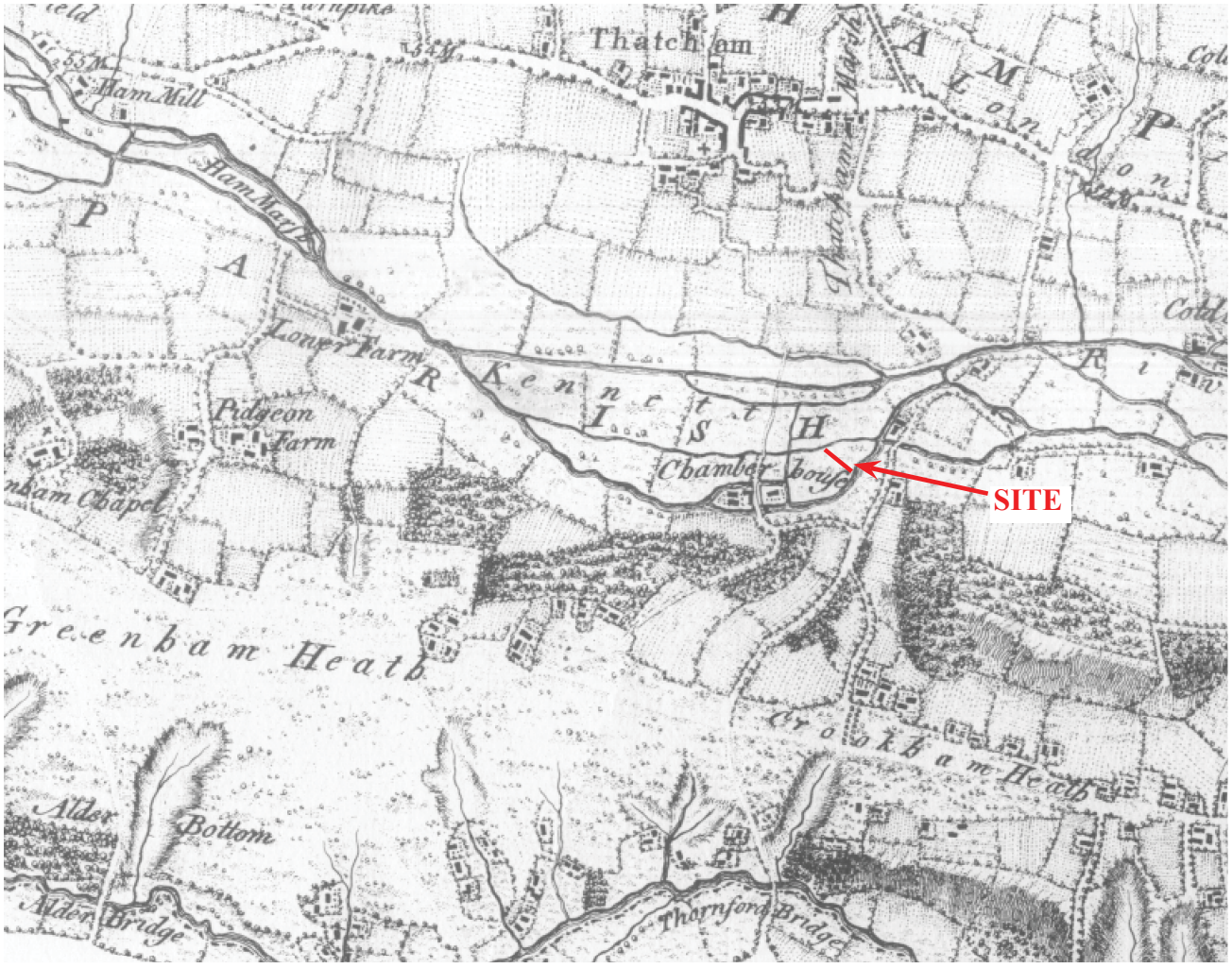


CFB12/108

New water pipeline, Crookham Common, Thatcham, West Berkshire, 2012
Archaeological recording action

Figure 6. Sections.

THAMES VALLEY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES



CFB 12/108

New Water pipeline at Chamberhouse Farm, Crookham Common, Thatcham, West Berkshire, 2012
Archaeological recording action

Figure 7. John Rocque's map of Berkshire 1754

THAMES VALLEY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES

Plate 1. General site shot on easement during feature excavation.

Plate 2. Long slot through palaeochannel, looking north west, Scales: horizontal scale 2m, vertical scales 1m and 0.3m.

CFB 12/108

New water pipeline, Chamberhouse Farm, Crookham Common, Thatcham, West Berkshire, 2012
Archaeological recording action

Plates 1 and 2.

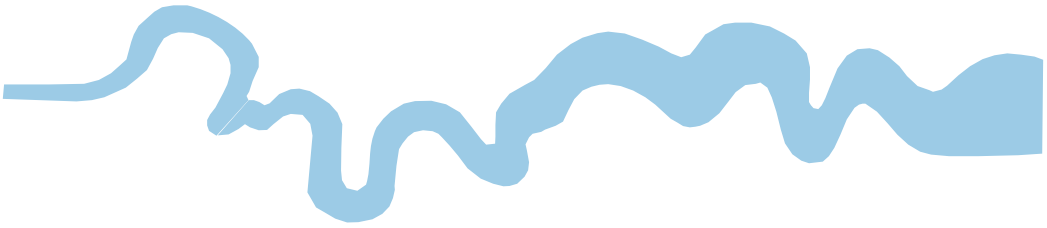
THAMES VALLEY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES

Plate 3. Ditch (slot 22), looking west, Scales: 1m and 0.3m.

Plate 4. Ditch (slot 27), looking north, Scales: 1m and 0.3m.

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