

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

ARCHAEOLOGICAL

S E R V I C E S

**Badrick's Farm, Bierton,
Buckinghamshire**

Archaeological Watching Brief

by Steve Crabb

Site Code: BFB09/103

(SP 8375 1548)

Badrick's Farm, Berton Buckinghamshire

An Archaeological Watching Brief

For Mr P J Gollins

by Steven Crabb

Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code BFB 09/103

May 2014

Summary

Site name: Badrick's Farm, Bierton, Buckinghamshire

Grid reference: SP 8375 1548

Site activity: Watching Brief

Date and duration of project: 20th February - 29th April 2014

Project manager: Steve Ford

Site supervisor: Steven Crabb and Andy Taylor

Site code: BFB 09/103

Area of site: c. 1.25ha

Summary of results: No features or finds of archaeological interest were observed.

Location and reference of archive: The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited at Buckinghamshire County Museum in due course, with accession code AYBCM:2010.68.

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Report edited/checked by: Steve Ford✓ 16.05.14 Steve Preston✓ 25.04.14

Badrick's Farm, Bierton, Buckinghamshire An Archaeological Watching Brief

by Steven Crabb

Report 09/103c

Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological watching brief carried out at Badrick's Farm, Bierton, Buckinghamshire (SP83750 15475) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Mr Robert Burns, of Station Cottage, Wootton Underwood, Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire on behalf of Mr. P J Gollins, Grange Cottage, Aylesbury Road, Askett, Princes Risborough, Buckinghamshire, HP27 9LY. Planning permission (10/00786/APP) and listed building consent (10/00785/ALB) have been granted by Aylesbury Vale District Council to convert a barn to three new dwellings and demolish several extensions. The consents are subject to archaeological conditions (20 and 13 respectively) requiring a programme of archaeological work. It was determined that this should take the form of a watching brief to be carried out during any groundworks and a building recording on the barn and stables. The building recording has already been reported on (Milbank and Ford 2009) and this report concerns the watching brief phase of works only.

This was in accordance with *Planning for the Historic Environment* (PPS5 2010) and the District Council policies on archaeology. It is acknowledged that PPS5 has since been superseded by the *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF 2012). The field investigation was carried out to a specification approved by Ms Eliza Alqassar, Archaeological Planning Officer for Buckinghamshire County Council, the archaeological adviser to the District. The fieldwork was undertaken by Steven Crabb and Danielle Milbank between 20th February and 29th April 2014 and the site code is BFB 09/103. The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited at Buckinghamshire County Museum in due course, with accession code AYBCM:2010.68.

Location, topography and geology

The site is situated in the centre of the ribbon development of the settlement of Bierton, on the northern side of the A418 as it leaves Aylesbury (Fig. 1). The development area is centred on NGR SP 8375 1548. The site is located on Portland Beds (limestones, clays and sands) dating to the Jurassic period (BGS 1946). It is at a height

of approximately 90m above Ordnance Datum. The site covers approximately 1.25ha and currently consists of a complex of farm buildings around three sides of a concrete courtyard (Fig. 2).

Archaeological background

The archaeological potential for this site was identified in a desk-based assessment (Hopkins 2009) and by further study of the historic buildings on site (Milbank and Ford 2009). The village of Bierton has documentary evidence for late Saxon and Medieval settlement, while archaeological investigations have indicated the presence of earlier remains. The building survey has shown that whilst much of the brick frame of the barn is quite early in date, possibly dating to the late 18th century, the building has been substantially altered over the years. The small northern part of the stable is also likely to be 18th century, with only minor alterations but the larger southern extension seems to be largely rebuilt.

Objectives and methodology

The aims of the project are to excavate and record any archaeological deposits affected by the groundworks. This was to involve examination of any groundworks associated with the new development, including the excavation of any new foundation trenches, service trenches and overburden removal as necessary if this was to be of sufficient depth to impinge on the archaeologically relevant levels.

The specific research aims of this project are:

- to determine if archaeologically relevant levels have survived on this site;
- to determine if archaeological deposits of any period are present; and
- to determine whether archaeological deposits relating to Late Saxon or medieval settlement are present.

Two areas of groundworks were observed immediately adjoining the stable (Fig. 3). The south-eastern wall was underpinned requiring excavation by machine and by hand adjacent to the wall and immediately below it. Footings for an extension were excavated on the south-western side of the stable.

Results

The underpinning trench

The underpinning of the south-eastern wall of the stable took place after demolition of the former extension. It required excavation by small tracked excavator and by hand to a depth of 1m below the lowest level of existing

foundations and beneath the standing structure. To allow access for this and to form a stable base the hole extended 1.3m from the wall (Pl. 1; Fig. 3). The underpinning trench revealed that the standing stable structure had been built directly on top of the natural substrate with prior removal of topsoil and subsoil. No archaeological features were identified.

The footing trench

The footings consisted of a trench 0.6m wide and 1m deep extending 2.3m south-west from the existing structure before extending parallel to the stable for 7m and returning at the other (Fig. 3 and Pl. 3). The stratigraphy revealed consisted of 0.30m of rooty topsoil over 0.20m of subsoil above the natural clay geology geology (Fig. 4 and Pl. 2).

Refurbishment of stables and barn

The previous historic building recording (Milbank and Ford 2009) had substantially full access to the components of the retained structures,. Nevertheless an opportunity was also taken to take additional photographs of the retained structures and if necessary record any new features exposed following demolition of the adjoining extensions (Pls 4 and 5). No additional features of note were revealed.

Finds

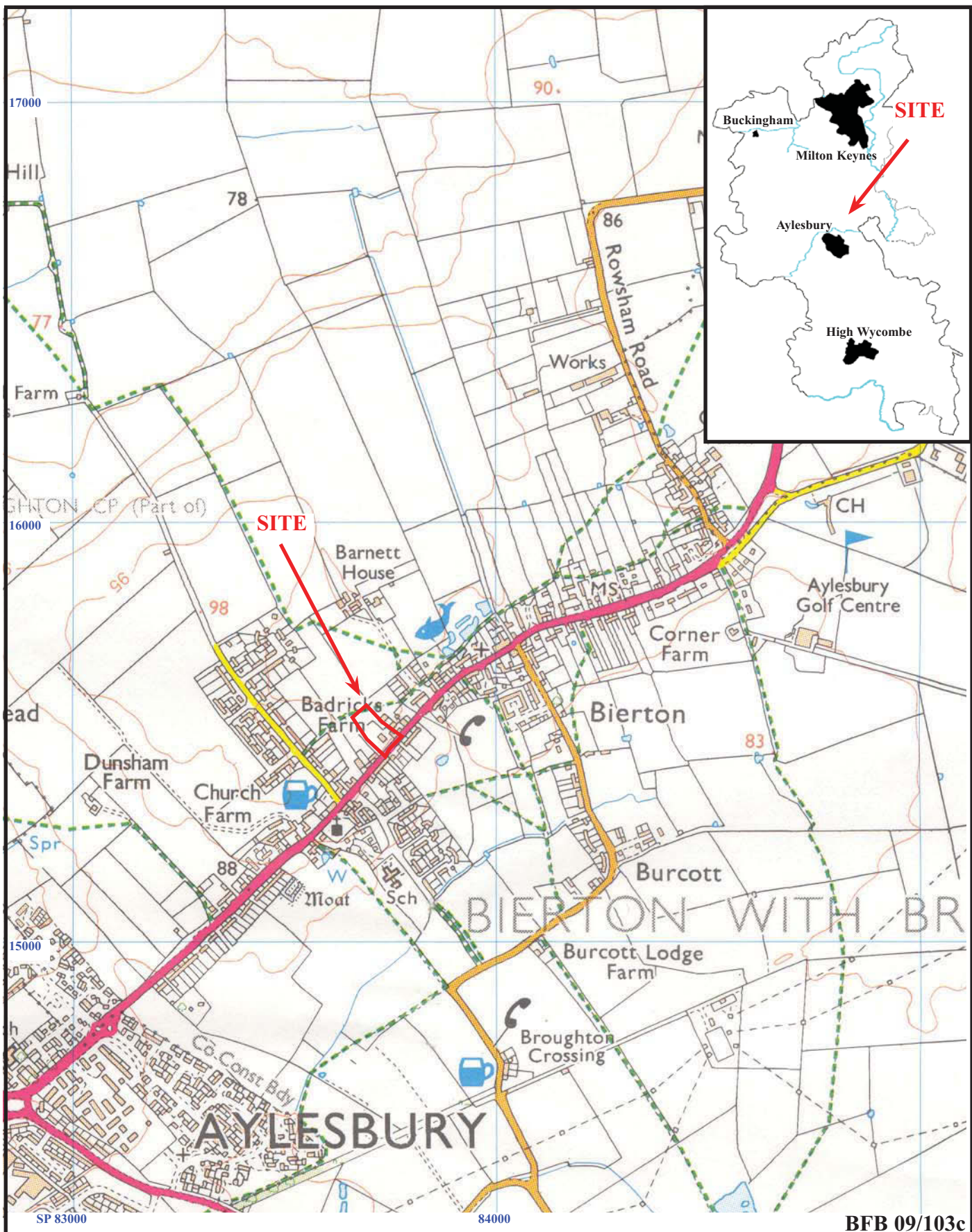
No finds were recovered from this site.

Conclusion

The excavation of both the footings and underpinning holes revealed no archaeological features or finds on this site.

References

- BGS, 1946, *British Geological Survey*, Sheet 238, Drift Edition, Scale 1:50,000
Hopkins, H, 2009, 'Badricks Farm, Bierton, Buckinghamshire, an archaeological desk-based assessment', Thames Valley Archaeological Services unpubl rep 09/103, Reading
Milbank, D and Ford, S, 2009, 'Badricks Farm, Bierton, Buckinghamshire, historic building appraisal', Thames Valley Archaeological Services unpubl rep 09/103b, Reading
NPPF 2012, *National Planning Policy Framework*, Dept Communities and Local Govt, London
PPS5, 2010, *Planning for the Historic Environment*, The Stationery Office, Norwich



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Archaeological watching brief

Figure 1. Location of site within Bierton and Buckinghamshire

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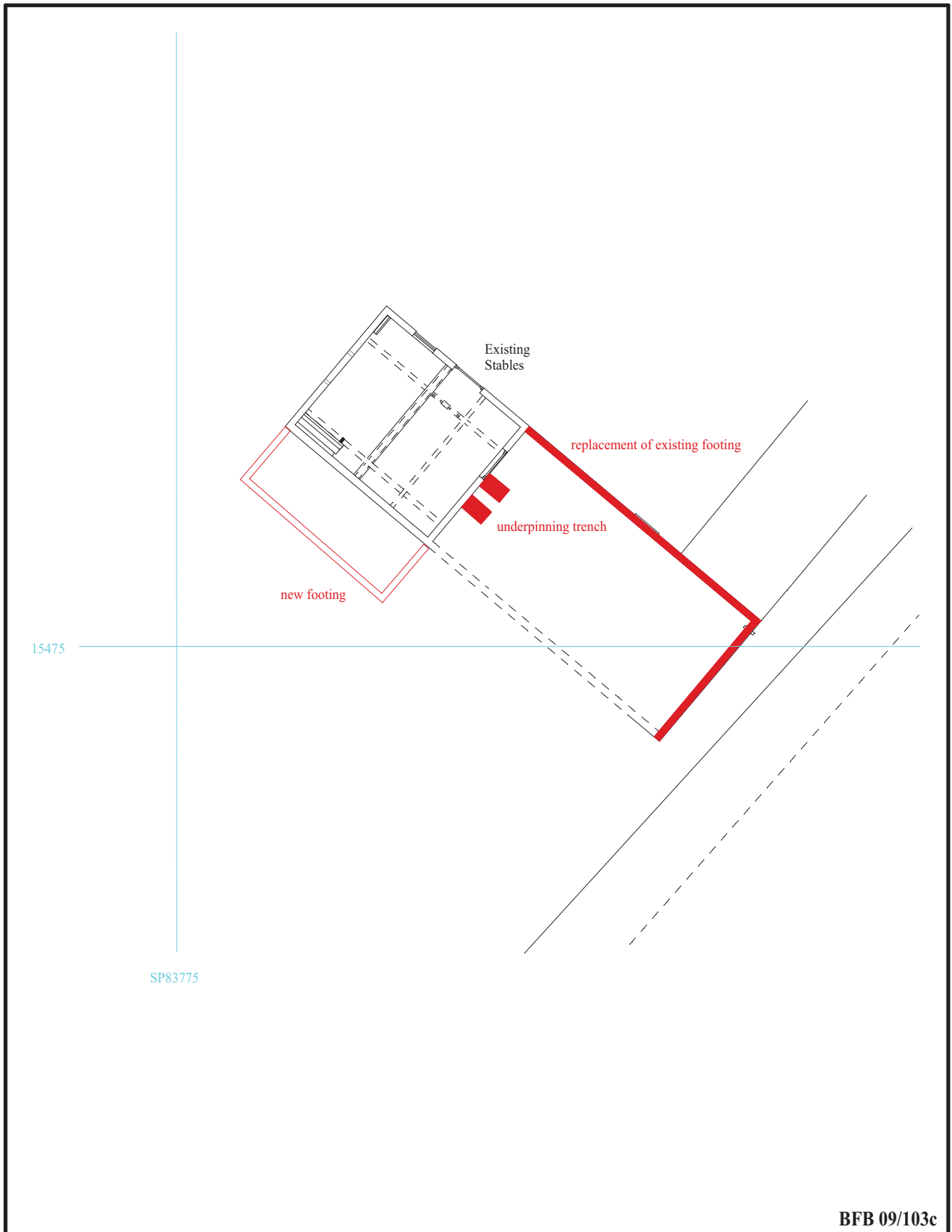


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Figure 2. Detailed location of site.

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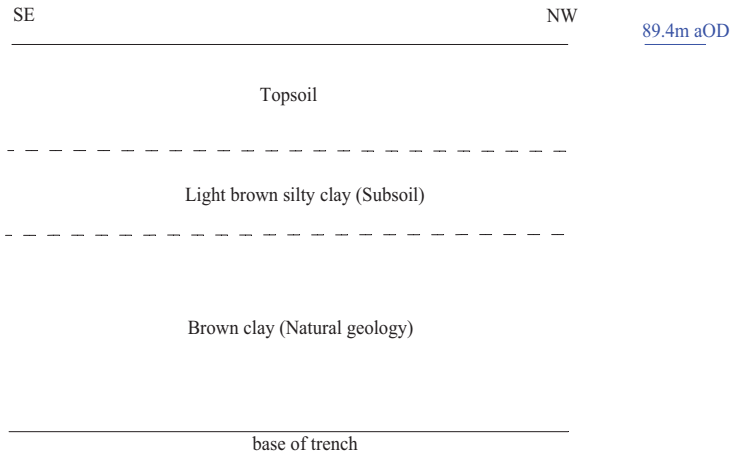


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Figure 3. Location of observed areas.



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Archaeological watching brief**

Figure 4. Representative section of new footing trench.



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Plate 1. Underpinning trench, looking north, Scales: 0.5m.



Plate 2. New footing, looking south east, Scale: 0.5m.

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Archaeological watching brief

Plates 1 - 2.

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Plate 3. New footing trench, looking north, Scale: 0.5m.



Plate 4. Barn during refurbishment, looking south, Scales: 2m and 1m.



Plate 5. Stables with re-built extension, looking south west, Scale: 2m.

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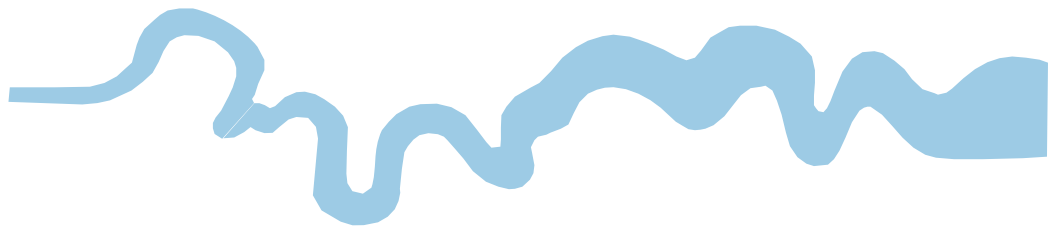
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Archaeological watching brief

Plates 3 - 5.

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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
↓	↓



**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**