

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

ARCHAEOLOGICAL

S E R V I C E S

**20 High Street, Tring,
Hertfordshire**

Archaeological Watching Brief

by Andy Taylor and Daniel Strachan

Site Code: 20HST14/152

(SP 9245 1132)

**20 High Street,
Tring, Hertfordshire**

**An Archaeological Watching Brief
For Beechcroft Developments Ltd**

by Andy Taylor and Dan Strachan
Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code HST 14/152

December 2014

Summary

Site name: 20 High Street, Tring, Hertfordshire

Grid reference: SP 9245 1132

Site activity: Archaeological Watching Brief

Date and duration of project: 18th– 20th July 2014

Project manager: Steve Ford

Site supervisor: Dan Strachan

Site code: HST 14/152

Area of site: c. 2200 sq m

Summary of results: Most of the site area was stripped of overburden to expose the natural chalk geology. Footing trenches were also observed. However no finds or deposits of any archaeological interest were observed during the watching brief.

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

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www.tvas.co.uk/reports/reports.asp.*

Report edited/checked by: Steve Ford ✓ 29.12.14 Steve Preston ✓ 24.12.14

20 High Street, Tring, Hertfordshire An Archaeological Watching Brief

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Report 14/152

Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological recording action carried out at 20 High Street, Tring, Hertfordshire HP23 5AH (SP 9245 1132) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Mr Kevin Feeney of Beechcroft Developments Ltd, 1 Church Lane, Wallingford, Oxfordshire, OX10 0DX.

A planning consent (4/00237/14/FUL) has been granted by Dacorum Borough Council for the construction of four new houses on the site. The consent is subject to a condition (5) requiring a watching brief to be carried out during groundworks.

This is in accordance with the Department for Communities and Local Government's *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF 2012) and the Borough's policies on archaeology. The field investigation was carried out to a specification approved by Ms Kate Batt, Historic Environment Advisor at Hertfordshire County Council. The fieldwork was undertaken by Dan Strachan between 18th–20th July 2014.

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

Location, topography and geology

The site is located to the rear of 20 High Street, Tring, on its southern side, set well back from the street frontage (Fig. 2). The site lies at approximately 135m above Ordnance Datum and the underlying geology is Upper Chalk (BGS 1946). The site slopes very slightly down to the north. At the time of the fieldwork the site was a rear garden with some mature trees.

Archaeological background

The archaeological potential of the site stems from its location within an Area of Archaeological Significance within the settlement. Tring has its origins as a medieval village, and the parish church of St Peter and St Paul, which lies about 200m north of the the current site dates from the 14th century. There is very little archaeological evidence for earlier periods within the town. The development area lies within what is thought to be the area of medieval settlement (Hunns 2000, fig. 4). However an archaeological recording action carried out on an adjacent site to the east (the Rose and Crown) did not reveal any archaeological deposits (Dawson 2013).

A building recording was also carried out on the Rose and Crown (Elliot 2013) that showed it to have been built in 1905 by Lord Rothschild on the site of an earlier coaching inn.

Objectives and methodology

The aim of the watching brief was to excavate and record any archaeological deposits affected by the groundworks. This was to comprise overburden removal and the digging of trenches for foundations and services.

Results

Overburden removal

Overburden, comprising topsoil and subsoil with some made ground and Tarmacadam with made ground beneath (to the north-east) (Pl. 4) was stripped from an area of the site marginally larger than the footprint of the new buildings. The overburden was removed using a 360° type machine fitted with a toothless grading bucket. Due to a slight slope of the ground down to the north, the south-western portion of the site was stripped to cleanly expose the natural chalk geology, whereas to the north-east, an increasing skim of subsoil and in places topsoil, was left on top of the chalk (Pls 1 and 6). Typically 0.3m of topsoil and *c.* 0.1m of subsoil were removed, to the south. Where possible the spoilheaps were monitored for finds. However, no deposits of archaeological interest were revealed. Areas disturbed by tree roots were noted.

The foundation trenches

The footing trenches were also observed and measured between 0.50m and 0.60m wide and were dug to a depth of *c.*0.70m (Fig. 3). Where topsoil remained the stratigraphy observed typically consisted of up to 0.10m of topsoil overlying 0.10m of subsoil overlying natural chalk (Fig. 4; Pls 3 and 4).

No archaeological deposits were observed during the course of the watching brief.

Finds

No finds of archaeological interest were recovered.

Conclusion

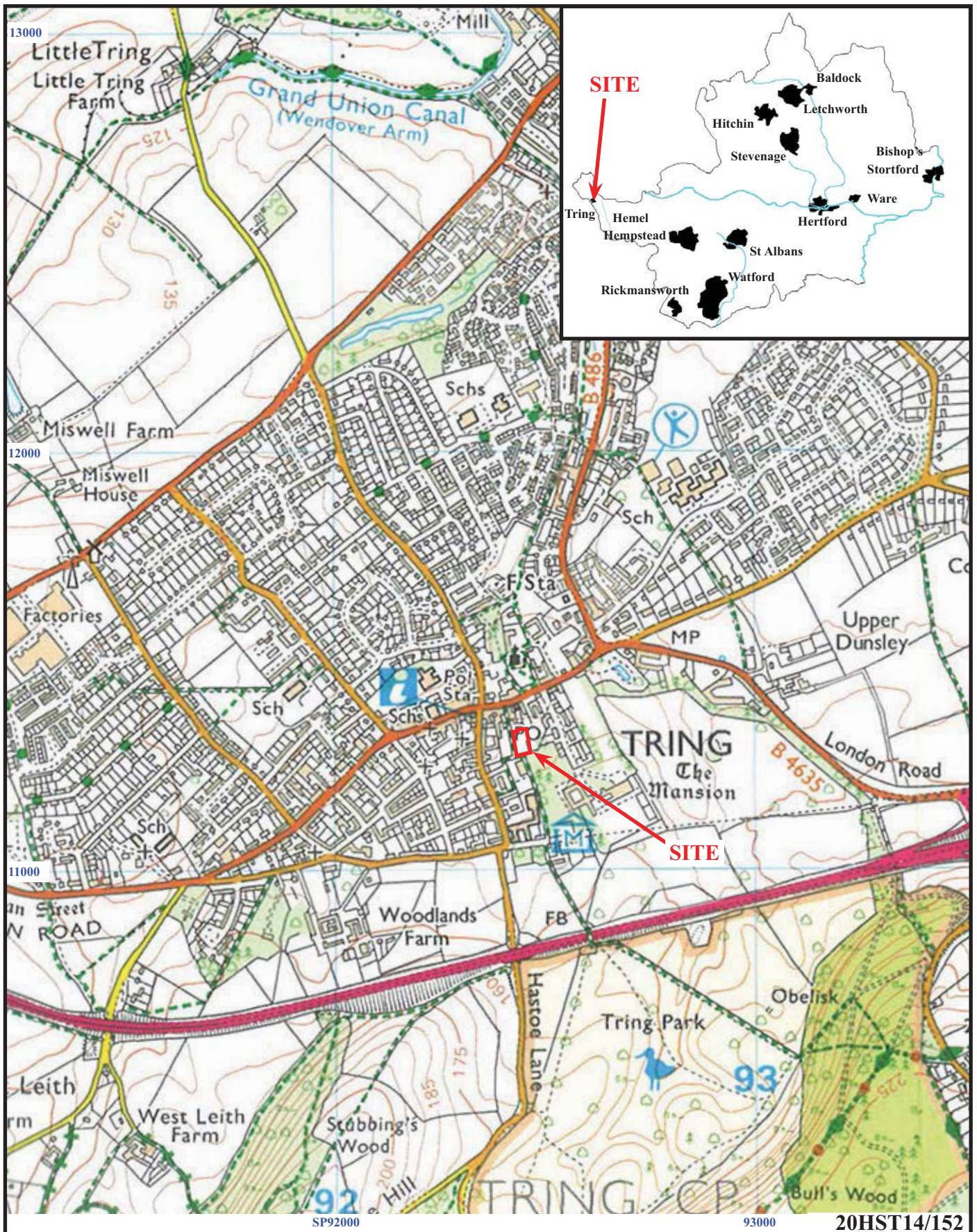
Despite its location in close proximity to the centre of medieval Tring, the site did not reveal any deposits or finds of any archaeological interest.

References

- BGS, 1946, *British Geological Survey*, 1:50,000, Sheet 238, Drift Edition, Keyworth
- Dawson, T, 2013, 'Rose and Crown, High Street, Tring, Hertfordshire, an archaeological recording action, Thames Valley Archaeological Services report **13/98b**, Reading
- Elliott, G, 2013, 'Rose and Crown, High Street, Tring, Hertfordshire Building Recording', Thames Valley Archaeological Services report **13/98**, Reading
- Hunns, T, 2000, 'Tring Extensive Urban Survey Project Assessment Report', Hertfordshire County Council
- NPPF 2012, *National Planning Policy Framework*, Dept Communities and Local Govt, London

APPENDIX 1: HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT RECORD SUMMARY SHEET

Site name and address: 20 High Street, Tring		
County: Hertfordshire		District: Dacorum
Village/Town: Tring		Parish: Tring
Planning application reference: 4/00237/14/FUL		
Client name, address, and tel. no.: Beechcroft Developments Ltd, 1 Church Lane, Wallingford, Oxfordshire, OX10 0DX		
Nature of application: Residential		
Present land use: Garden		
Size of application area: 2200 sq m		Size of area investigated:
NGR (to 8 figures): SP 9245 1132		
Site code (if applicable): 20HST14/152		
Site director/Organization: Dan Strachan, Thames Valley Archaeological Services		
Type of work: Watching brief		
Date of work:	Start: 18th July 2014	Finish: 20th July 2014
Location of finds & site archive/Curating museum: to go to Dacorum Museum		
Related HER Nos:		Periods represented: Nil
Relevant previous summaries/reports		
<p>Summary of fieldwork results: No finds or deposits of any archaeological interest were observed during the watching brief.</p>		
Author of summary: Kyle Beaverstock		Date of summary: 23/12/2014

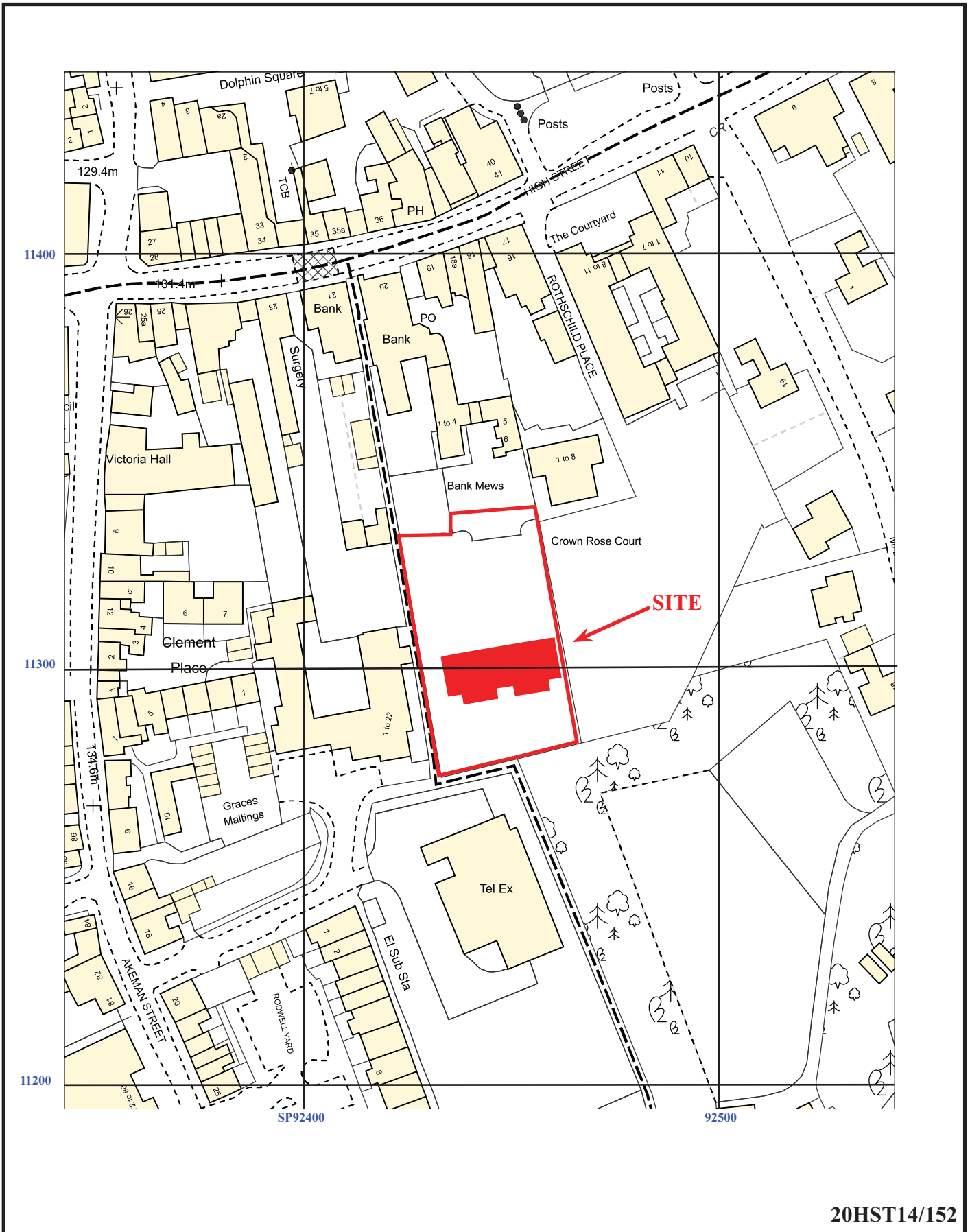


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Figure 1. Location of site within Tring and Hertfordshire.

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Figure 2. Detailed location of site.

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Plate 1. Footings, looking north-west, Scales: 2m and 1m.



Plate 2. Footings, looking west.

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Plates 1 - 2.

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Plate 3. Footing, looking north-east, Scales: 2m and 0.5m.



Plate 4. Footing (north side), looking north-east, Scales: 2m and 1m

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Plates 3 - 4.

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Plate 5. Site, looking south-west, Scales: 2m and 1m.



Plate 6. Site looking north-east

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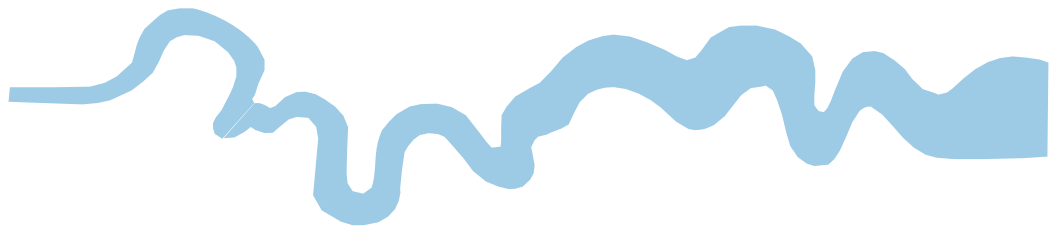
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Plates 5- 6.

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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**