

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

ARCHAEOLOGICAL

S E R V I C E S

**Hardwick House, Hardwick Close,
Maidenhead, Berkshire**

Archaeological Watching Brief

by James McNicoll-Norbury

Site Code: HHM14/242

(SU 8594 8163)

Hardwick House, Hardwick Close, Maidenhead, Berkshire

An Archaeological Watching Brief For Burfield Construction

by James McNicoll-Norbury
Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code HHM 14/242

March 2015

Summary

Site name: Hardwick House, Hardwick Close, Maidenhead, Berkshire

Grid reference: SU 8594 8163

Site activity: Watching Brief

Date and duration of project: 10th–11th March 2015

Project manager: Steve Ford

Site supervisor: James McNicoll-Norbury

Site code: HHM 14/242

Area of site: 45 sq m

Summary of results: A possible pit, but probably a natural depression, was recorded on the western side of the site. No deposits nor artefacts certainly of archaeological interest were recorded.

Location and reference of archive: The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited at an approved museum 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 All TVAS unpublished fieldwork reports are available on our website: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✓ 24.03.15 Steve Preston✓ 23.03.15

Hardwick House, Hardwick Close, Maidenhead, Berkshire An Archaeological Watching Brief

by James McNicoll-Norbury

Report 14/242

Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological watching brief carried out at Hardwick House, Hardwick Close, Maidenhead, Berkshire (SU 8594 8163) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Mr Neil Barr of DLK Architects, Chiltern Chambers, St Peter's Avenue, Caversham, RG4 7DH on behalf of Burfield Construction, 19-22 Victoria Villas, Richmond, Surrey, TW9 2JX.

Planning permission (app no 13/03709) has being gained on appeal from the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead for the construction of an extension to the existing building. The consent includes a condition (18) relating to archaeology which requires that a watching brief 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 Royal Borough's policies on archaeology. The field investigation was carried out to a specification approved by Mr Roland Smith of Berkshire Archaeology, who advise the Royal Borough on archaeological matters. The fieldwork was undertaken by James McNicoll-Norbury between 10th and 11th March 2015 and the site code is HHM 14/242.

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

Location, topography and geology

The site is located in the gardens of Hardwick House which stands at the western end of Hardwick Close in the north western suburbs of Maidenhead (Figs 1 and 2). The garden lies on the southern side of the house and is generally flat with trees forming the boundary to the south, east and west and with the house itself directly to the north. The underlying geology is described as Seaford and Newhaven Formations (Chalk with flints) (BGS 2005) which was observed in the footing trenches and the site lies at *c.* 60m above Ordnance Datum.

Archaeological background

In summary, this site has been identified as having archaeological potential from its location *c.* 50m to the west of the site of medieval pottery kilns (Pike 1965). More generally, the site lies in an area of eastern Berkshire

which is relatively rich in finds of prehistoric and Roman date (Ford 1987). There are a number of archaeological entries for this area in the Berkshire Historic Environment Record, such as a Mesolithic tranchet axe, but most notably the Cox Green Roman villa (Bennett 1962) located some 2km to the south. Closer to the site, evaluation at Little Lowbrook Farm to the south-east revealed some prehistoric finds and undated gullies (Pine 2005) and likewise, to the south at Holyport Manor School, a small quantity of prehistoric pottery was recorded (McNicoll-Norbury 2008). On Maidenhead Thicket to the west there is an Iron Age linear earthwork (Bowden et al 1982) and enclosure (Cotton 1961). Fieldwork during construction of the A404 bypass also revealed a dense cluster of struck flint (Boismier 1995).

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 all areas of intrusive groundworks, in particular any overburden stripping prior to ground reduction, the digging of foundation trenches and service runs and any deeply invasive landscaping as necessary. Archaeological deposits which were threatened by groundworks were to be excavated and recorded.

Results

Two sets of footings were dug on the southern side of the house at its eastern and western ends, measuring 0.65m in width and up to 1.20m deep (Fig. 3; Pl. 1). The stratigraphy of the trenches consisted of up to 0.37m topsoil and up to 0.38m orange brown subsoil overlying chalk with flints to a depth of 1.20m.

A possible pit (1) was recorded in the westernmost footing, which measured 1.10m wide and was 0.30m deep and was filled with orange brown silty clay (52) similar to that of the overlying subsoil (Fig. 4; Pl. 2). No finds were recovered and it is more likely that the feature is a natural depression in the chalk.

Finds

No finds were recovered from the site.

Conclusion

Despite the site lying within 50m of previously identified medieval pottery kilns the watching brief did not reveal further evidence of any features related to the nearby pottery kilns. A single possible pit was identified

however given the similarity of it's fill to the overlying subsoil, and lack of artefacts, it is considered to be natural feature.

References

- Bennett, C M, 1962, 'Cox Green Villa', *Berkshire Archaeol J* **60**, 62–91
- BGS, 2005, *British Geological Survey*, 1:50000, Sheet 255, Solid and Drift Edition, Keyworth
- Boismier, W A, 1995, 'An analysis of worked flint artefact concentrations from Maidenhead Thicket, Maidenhead', in I Barnes, W A Boismier, R M J Cleal, A P Fitzpatrick and M R Roberts (eds), *Early settlement in Berkshire: Mesolithic-Roman occupation sites in the Thames and Kennet valleys*, Wessex Archaeol Rep **6**, 52–64 Salisbury
- Bowden, M, Ford, S and Gaffney, V, 1983, 'The excavation of an earthwork on Maidenhead Thicket, 1982', *Berkshire Archaeol J* **71**, (for 1981–2), 21–32
- Cotton, M A, 1961, 'Robin Hood's Arbour; and rectilinear enclosures in Berkshire', *Berkshire Archaeol J* **59**, 1–35
- Ford, S, 1987, *East Berkshire Archaeological Survey*, Berkshire County Counc Dept Highways and Planning Occas Pap 1, Reading
- McNicoll-Norbury, J, 2008, 'Holyport Manor School, Highfield Lane, Cox Green, Maidenhead, Berkshire, an archaeological watching brief', Thames Valley Archaeological Services unpubl rep **08/87b**, Reading
- NPPF 2012, *National Planning Policy Framework*, Dept Communities and Local Govt, London
- Pike, G, 1965, 'A medieval pottery kiln site on the Camley Gardens Estate, Maidenhead', *Berkshire Archaeol J* **62**, 22–33
- Pine, J, 1995, 'Little Lowbrook Farm, Maidenhead: an archaeological evaluation', Thames Valley Archaeological Services unpubl rep **95/65**, Reading

APPENDIX 1: Feature details

<i>Cut</i>	<i>Fill (s)</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Dating evidence</i>
1	52	Pit/natural?	Unphased	None

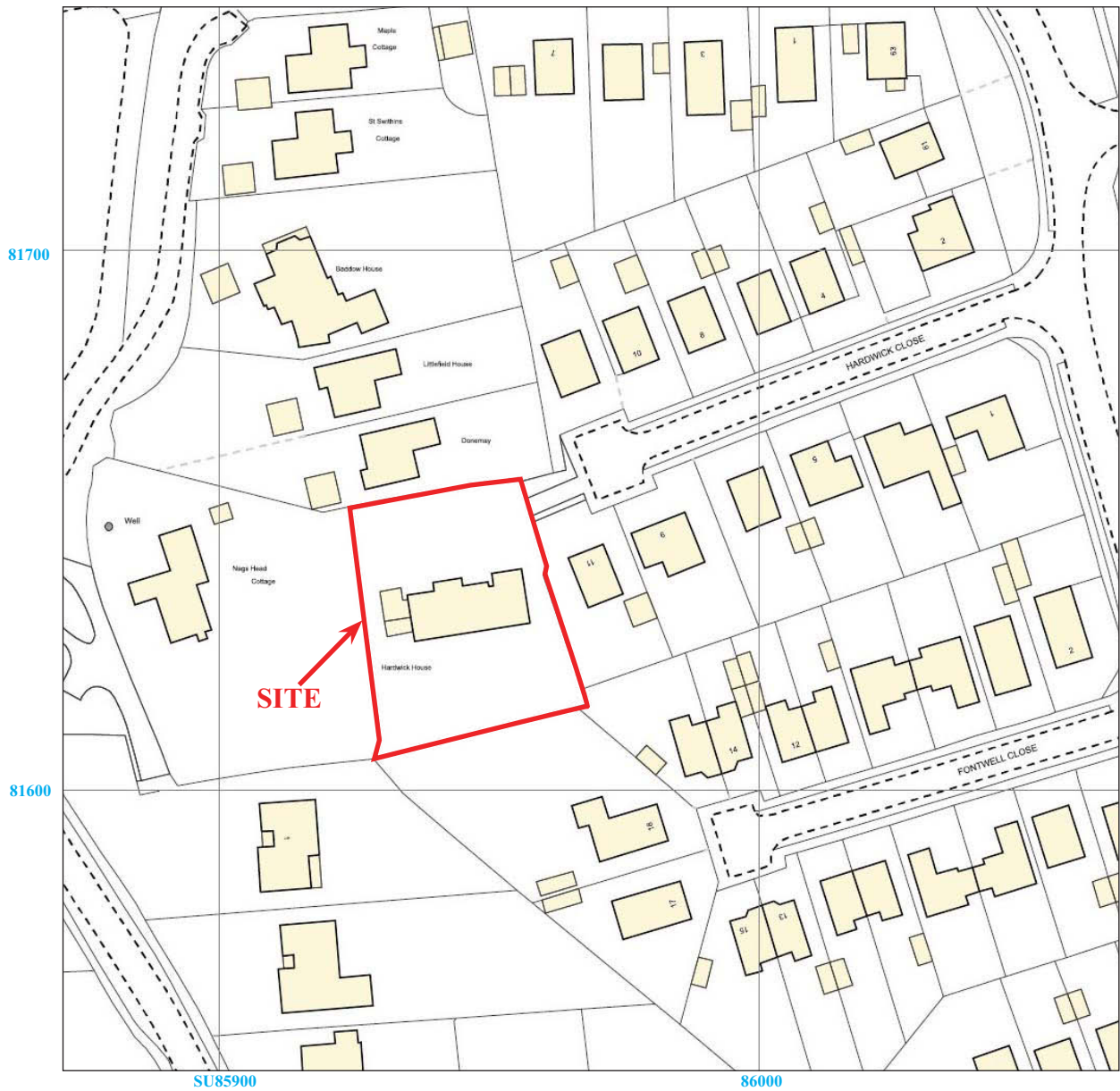


**Hardwick House, Hardwick Close, Maidenhead,
Berkshire, 2015**
Archaeological Watching Brief
Figure 1. Location of site within Maidenhead and Berkshire.

Reproduced from Ordnance Survey Explorer 172 at 1:12500
Ordnance Survey Licence 100025880

THAMES VALLEY
ARCHAEOLOGICAL
SERVICES

HHM 14/242



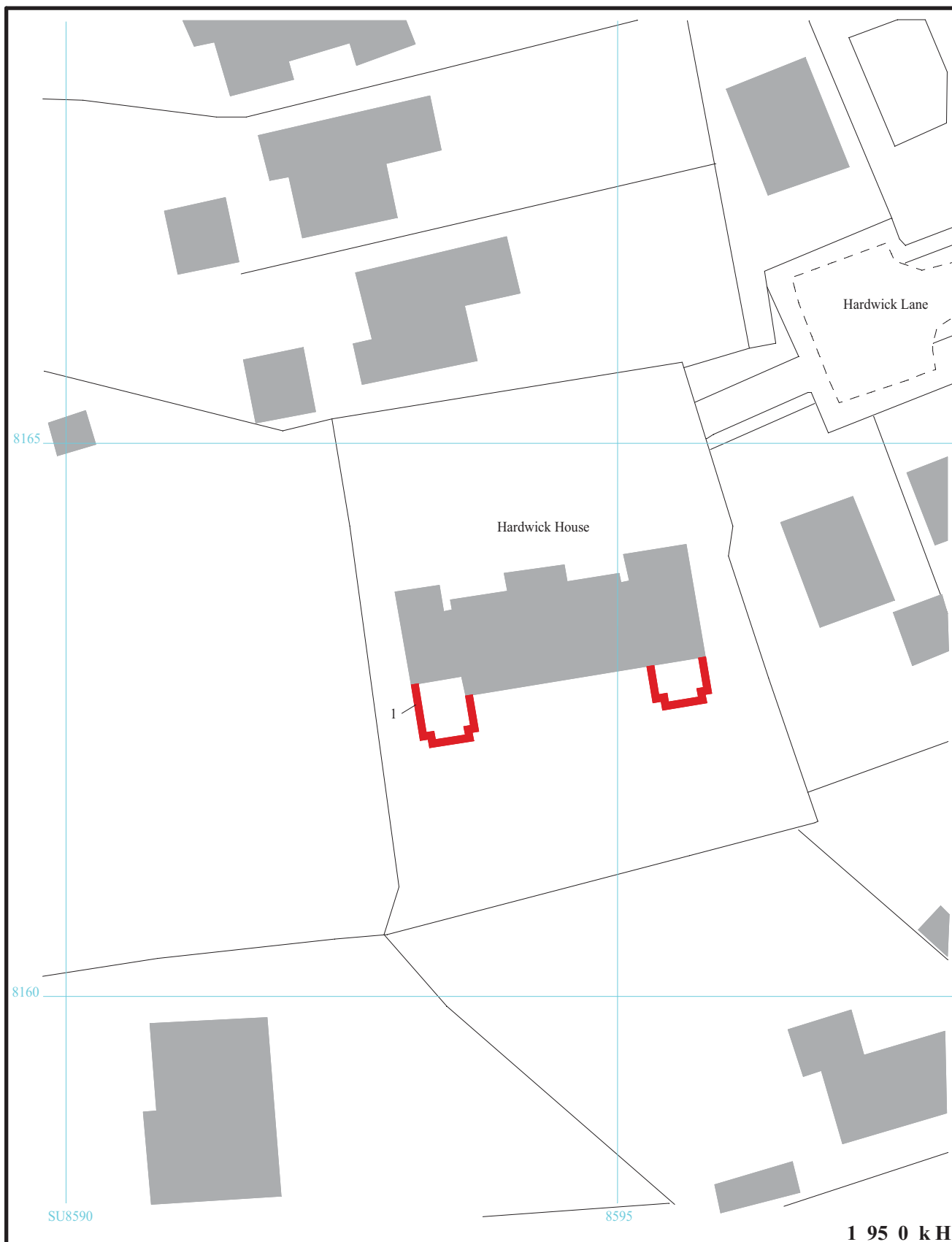
HHM 14/242



**Hardwick House, Hardwick Close, Maidenhead,
Berkshire, 2015**
Archaeological Watching Brief
Figure 2. Detailed location of site off Hardwick Close.

Reproduced from Ordnance Survey Digital Mapping under licence.
Crown copyright reserved. Scale 1:1250

THAMES VALLEY
ARCHAEOLOGICAL
SERVICES

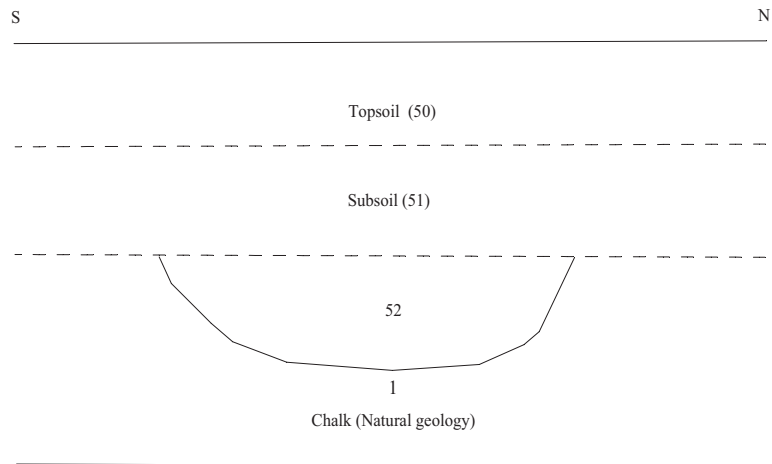


**Hardwick House, Hardwick Lane,
Maidenhead, Berkshire, 2015
Archaeological Watching Brief**

Figure 3. Areas of Groundworks



THAMES VALLEY
ARCHAEOLOGICAL
SERVICES



HHM 14/242

**Hardwick House, Hardwick Lane,
Maidenhead, Berkshire, 2015
Archaeological Watching Brief**

Figure 4. Representative section and possible pit 1.



THAMES VALLEY
ARCHAEOLOGICAL
SERVICES



Plate 1. Western footing under excavation, looking north.



Plate 2. Pit 1, looking west, Scales: horizontal 0.5m, vertical 0.5m.

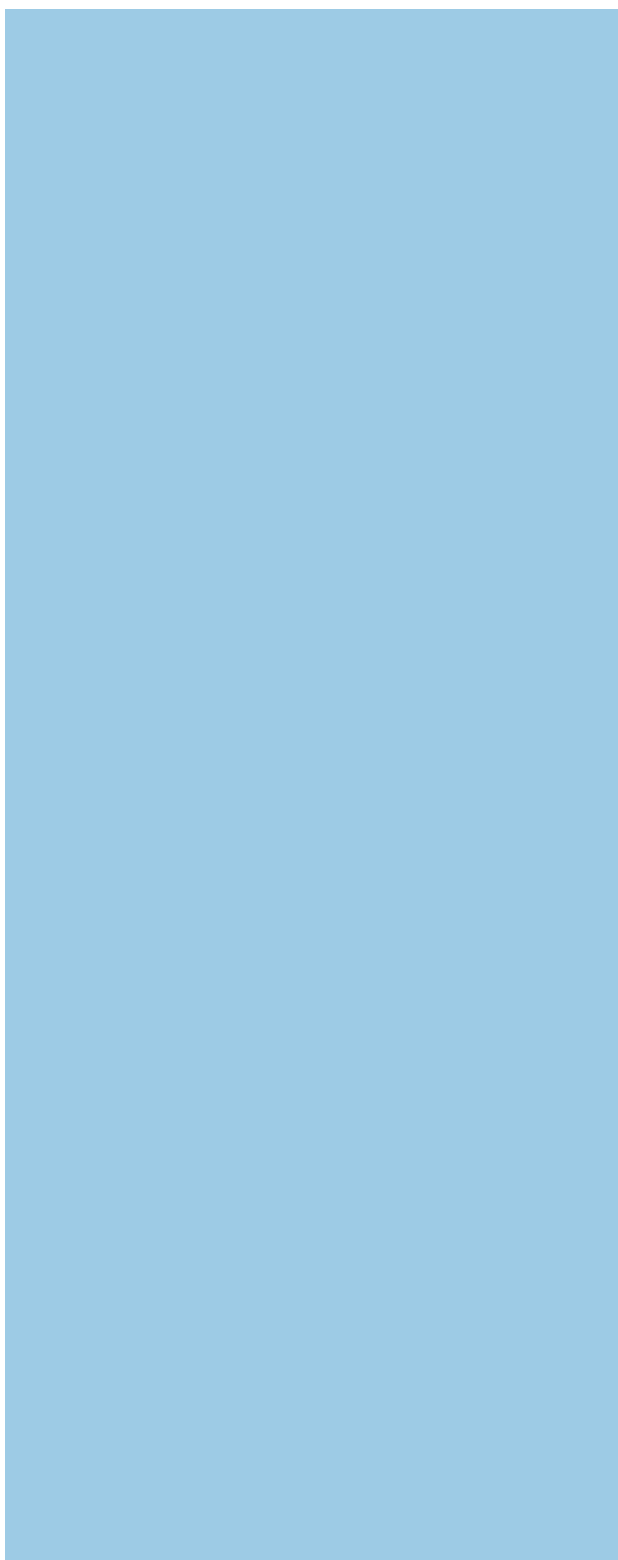
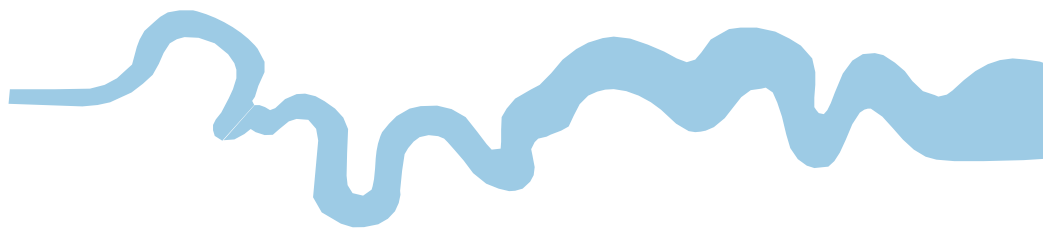
HHM 14/242

**Hardwick House, Hardwick Close, Maidenhead,
Berkshire, 2015**
Archaeological Watching Brief
Plates 1 - 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**