

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

ARCHAEOLOGICAL

S E R V I C E S

**21 Rosemary Lane, Haddenham,
Buckinghamshire**

Archaeological Recording Action

by Andrew Muddin

Site Code: RLH15/96

(SP 7418 0933)

**21 Rosemary Lane, Haddenham,
Buckinghamshire**

An Archaeological Recording Action

For Ms R. Boulton

by Andrew Muddin

Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code RLH 15/97

May 2015

Summary

Site name: 21 Rosemary Lane, Haddenham, Buckinghamshire

Grid reference: SP 7418 0933

Site activity: Recording Action

Date and duration of project: 14th May 2015

Project manager: Steve Ford

Site supervisor: Andrew Munding

Site code: RLH 15/96

Area of site: 133.2 sq m

Summary of results: An excavation on the footprint of a new house dug in the garden of 21 Rosemary Lane was observed under archaeological supervision. No archaeological deposits nor finds of interest were encountered.

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.

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Report edited/checked by:	Steve Ford ✓ 15.05.15
	Steve Preston ✓ 15.05.15

21 Rosemary Lane, Haddenham, Buckinghamshire An Archaeological Recording Action

by Andrew Muddin

Report 15/96

Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological watching brief carried out in the garden of 21 Rosemary Lane, Haddenham, Buckinghamshire, HP17 8JS (SP 74185 09335) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by the homeowner, Ms Rebecca Boulton.

Planning permission (15/00518/APP) has been granted by Aylesbury Vale District Council for the construction of a single detached house with associated access to Rudd's Lane (Fig. 2). The consent is subject to a condition requiring a programme of archaeological recording. It was determined that this should take the form of a recording action during site stripping and prior groundworks.

This is in accordance with the Department for Communities and Local Government's *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF 2012) and the District Council's policies on archaeology. The field investigation was carried out to a specification approved by Mr Phillip Markham, Senior Archaeological Officer with Buckinghamshire County Council Environment Services. The fieldwork was undertaken by Andrew Muddin on 14th May 2015 and the site code is RLH 15/96.

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

Location, topography and geology

The site is located in the north of modern Haddenham, just to the east of the junction of Rosemary Lane and Rudd's Lane (SP 74185 09335) (Fig. 2). The new house would be accessed from Rudd's Lane, with the area cleared of trees for access. The remainder of the stripped area was small vegetable plots and lawn, with an ornamental pond impeding the full strip to the east (Fig. 3). The underlying geology sits on the edge of Purbeck Formation chalk marl and clay, and the site sits at a height of between 81 and 82m above Ordnance Datum (OD).

Archaeological background

The archaeological potential of the site stems from its location close to the historic core of Haddenham and a detailed summary of the history of Haddenham has been produced by Buckinghamshire County Archaeological

Service (BCC 2008). Modern Haddenham has three greens and four ponds, and it is considered that the settlement was formed by the merger of a number of smaller settlements centred on these greens. One of the historic greens is thought to exist at the opposite end of Rosemary Lane. The site lies in an area highlighted as having Medieval potential as it is relatively close to where an extensive series of deposits have been revealed by an archaeological investigation. Fieldwork to the rear of 5 Townsend to the south, revealed a long sequence of activity from late Saxon into Medieval times, followed by abandonment during the 14th century with sporadic activity afterwards (Bray and Weale 2014).

Roman pottery and prehistoric flintwork have also been recovered from the village.

Objectives and methodology

The purpose of the recording action was to excavate and record all archaeological deposits and features within the areas threatened by the development.

Specific research objectives were as follows:

to determine when the site was first utilised and when it was abandoned;

to determine the nature of any occupation on the site and how this changed through time, and if its use is continuous or discontinuous; and

to determine if deposits representing Late Saxon and medieval occupation are present on the site.

Ground reduction was to be carried out under archaeological supervision, removing overburden to expose to the top of the archaeologically relevant horizon (top of the natural geology).

Results

An area roughly 140 sq m was marked out for the new house footing (Fig. 3; Pl. 1). The north-eastern part of this included an ornamental pond, which was left undisturbed, with a 2m standoff. Overburden was removed using a machine fitted with a ditching bucket under archaeological supervision. The stratigraphy revealed comprised 0.33m of turf/topsoil above 0.27m of subsoil. The natural geology which was a calcareous marl was encountered at a depth of 0.6m deep (Fig. 4). Other than a tree root disturbing the natural geology in the western corner, no deposits nor finds of archaeological interest were encountered.

Conclusion

Despite the archaeological potential for this site no archaeological deposits were uncovered.

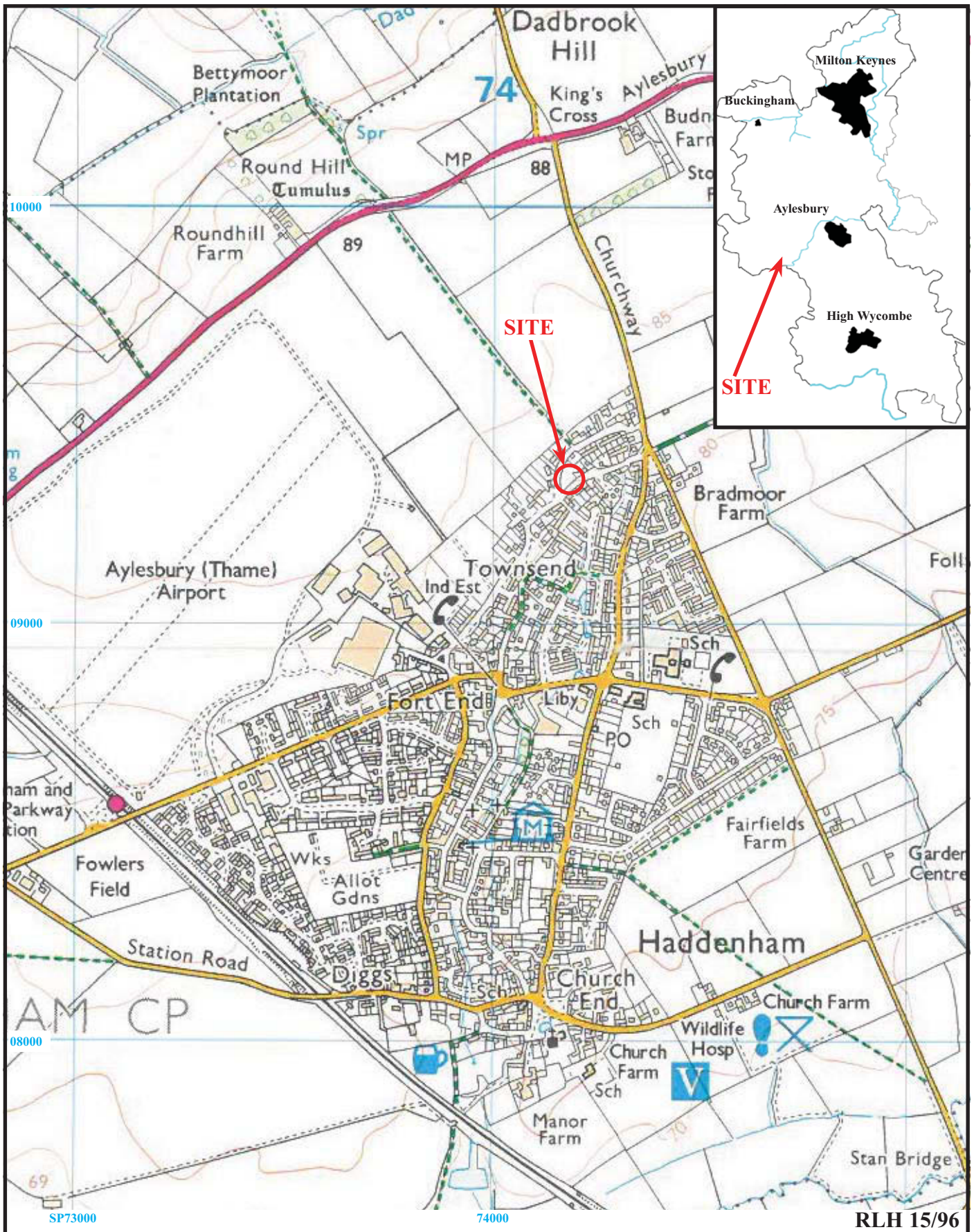
References

Bray, D and Weale, A, 2014, *Medieval Haddenham, Buckinghamshire: Excavations at Townsend and Fort End, 2011 and 2013*, TVAS Occas pap **6**, Reading

BGS, 1994, *British Geological Survey*, 1:50 000, Sheet 237, Solid and Drift Edition, Keyworth

BCC, 2008, *Haddenham, Historic Town Assessment Report*, Buckinghamshire County Council, Aylesbury

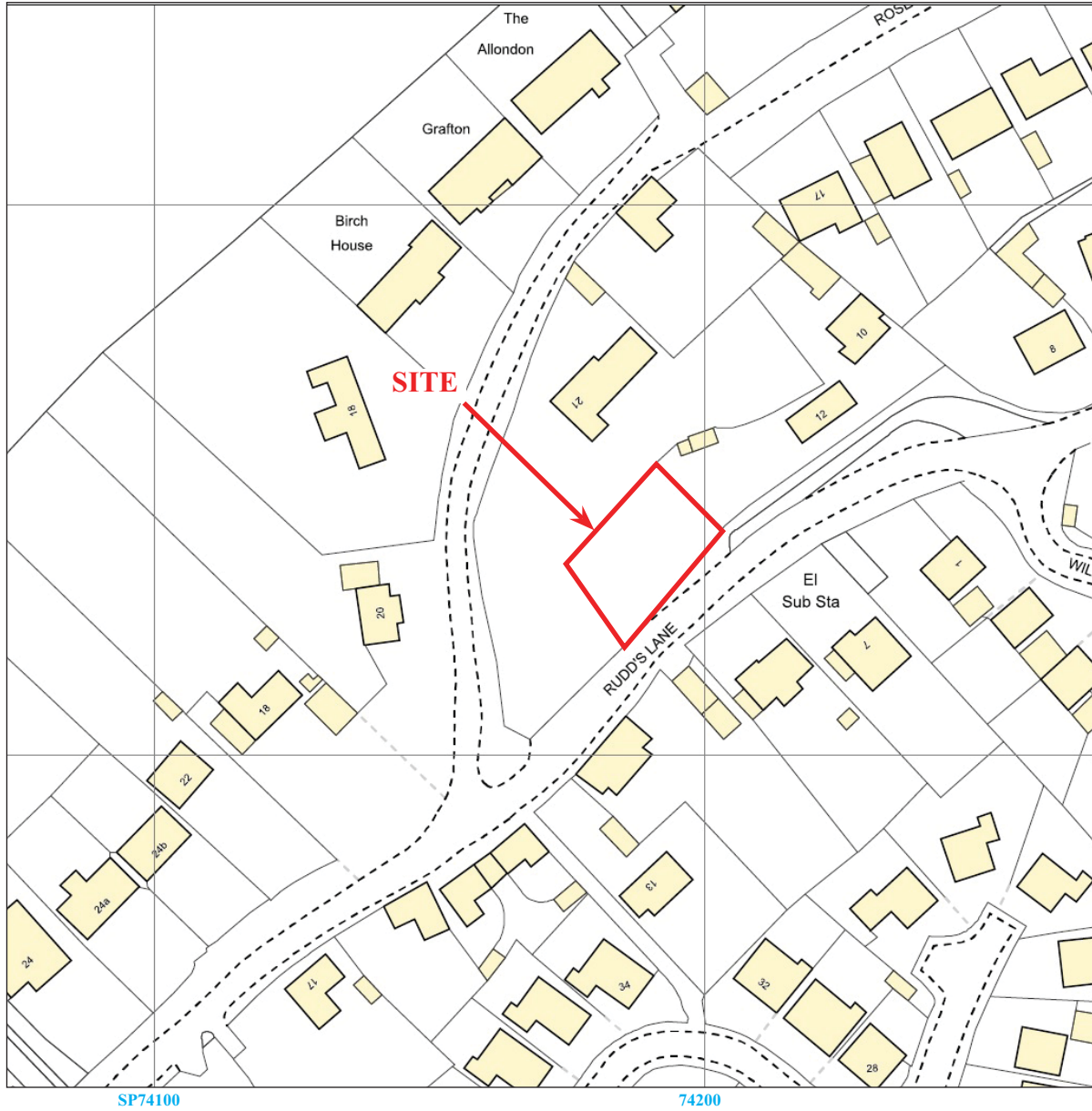
NPPF 2012, *National Planning Policy Framework*, Dept Communities and Local Govt, London



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Figure 1. Location of site within Haddenham and Buckinghamshire.

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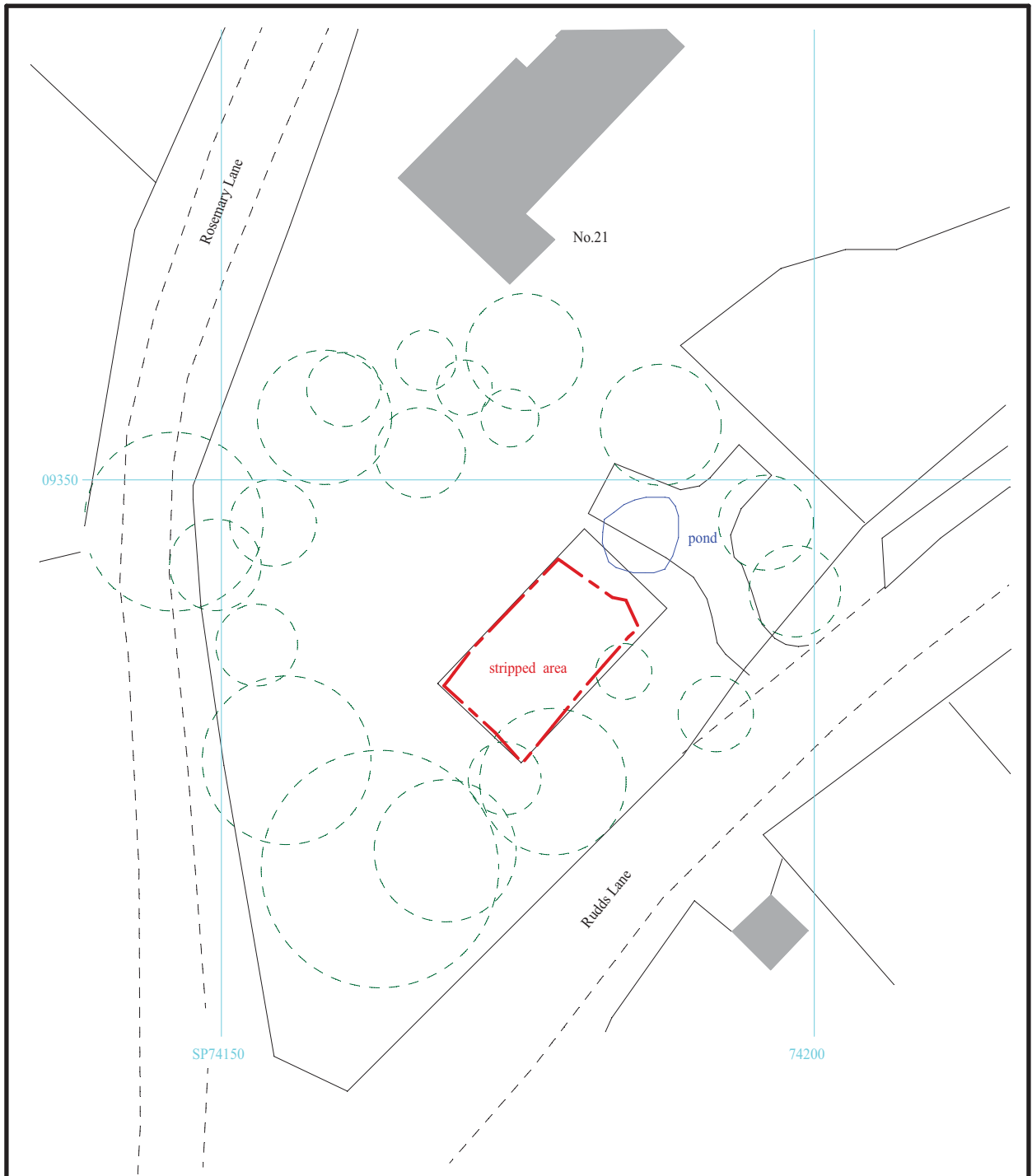
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Figure 2. Detailed location of site off Rosemary Lane.

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Figure 3. Detail of excavation area.



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SW _____ NE 81.32maOD

Topsoil



Subsoil



natural limestone geology

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Archaeological Recording Action**

Figure 4. Representative section.



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Plate 1. Reduced area of building footprint, looking south, Scale: 1m.

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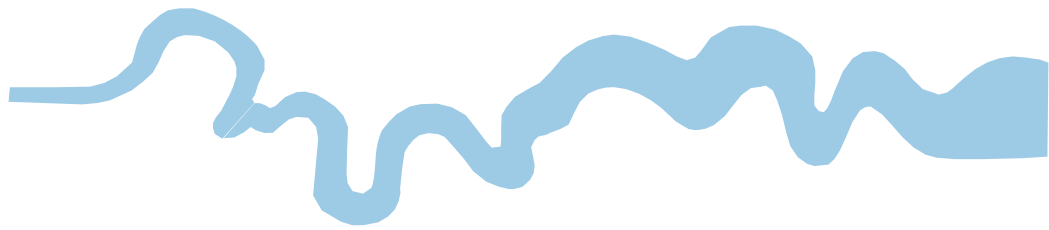
**21 Rosemary Lane, Haddenham,
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Plate 1.**

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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**