

**T H A M E S      V A L L E Y**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL**

**S E R V I C E S**

**SANG Infrastructure, West End,  
North Bracknell, Berkshire**

**Archaeological Watching Brief**

**by Lizzi Lewins**

**Site Code: NBB10/69**

**(SU 8650 7100)**

**SANG Infrastructure, West End,  
North Bracknell, Berkshire**

**An Archaeological Watching Brief**

**For Berkeley Homes (Oxford and Chiltern) Limited**

by Lizzi Lewins

Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code NBB 10/69

**January 2016**

## Summary

**Site name:** SANG Infrastructure, West End, North Bracknell, Berkshire

**Grid reference:** SU 8650 7100

**Site activity:** Watching Brief

**Date and duration of project:** 13th August 2015

**Project manager:** Steve Ford

**Site supervisor:** David Platt

**Site code:** NBB 10/69

### **Area of site:**

**Summary of results:** No archaeological features were observed as the depth of the groundworks during construction of a new footpath were insufficient to expose the archaeologically relevant horizon.

**Location and reference of archive:** The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited with an appropriate designated museum willing to accept the material in due course.

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Report edited/checked by: Steve Ford ✓ 29.01.16 Steve Preston ✓ 25.01.16
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# **SANG Infrastructure, West End, North Bracknell, Berkshire An Archaeological Watching Brief**

by Lizzi Lewins

**Report 10/69f**

## **Introduction**

This report documents the results of an archaeological watching brief carried out on infrastructure work on land designated for Suitable Alternative Natural Greenspace (SANG), at West End, North Bracknell, Berkshire (SU 8650 7100) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Mr Simon Abreu, of Berkeley Homes (Oxford and Chiltern) Limited, Berkeley House, Farnham Lane, Farnham Royal, Buckinghamshire, SL2 3RQ.

Planning consent (13/01007/OUT) has been gained from Bracknell Forest Borough Council to construct new housing on a large site at North Bracknell. This consent was subject to a condition requiring a phased programme of archaeological fieldwork, of which two stages of archaeological evaluation have been conducted, (Platt and Pine 2013; Taylor 2015a) as well as one small area excavation (Taylor 2015b). A large area of the site was designated for use as SANG and a reserved matters application (15/00144/REM/AREMZ) connected to the SANG area of the site was subject to a condition (2) requiring an archaeological watching brief to be carried out during the ground works. This report details the results of that watching brief.

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 Mr Roland Smith, Archaeology Officer with Berkshire Archaeology, the archaeological advisers to the Borough Council. The fieldwork was undertaken by David Platt on 13th August 2015 and the site code is NBB 10/69.

The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited with an appropriate designated museum willing to accept the material in due course.

## **Location, topography and geology**

The overall development site is located on the northern edge of Bracknell on former arable and pasture land. (Fig. 1) The SANG area of site is bordered to the north by the B3034 (Forest road) and Harvest Ride to the south and forms the westernmost part of the overall site (Fig. 2). The underlying geology is recorded as London Clay and Plateau Gravel (BGS 1981). It is a wide expanse of sloping land and lies at a height of between *c.*55m and *c.*75m above Ordnance Datum.

## **Archaeological background**

The archaeological potential for the overall site was highlighted in a desk-based assessment (Wallis 2010) and in an Environmental Statement accompanying the planning application. In summary, the site lies in an area of with archaeological deposits of Bronze Age, Iron Age and Roman date being found during fieldwork to the south (Torrance and Durden 2003; Lowe 2013) and west (Roberts 1995), as well as a Roman site on Cabbage Hill (Mees 1989) immediately adjacent to the site. Previous projects within the boundaries of the site as a whole have revealed Mesolithic flintwork and Bronze Age and Roman deposits (Ford 1989). However, extensive evaluation to the south and south-east of the SANG revealed only a modest volume of archaeological deposits of medieval date (Platt and Pine 2013; Taylor 2015a and b). The SANG area is, however, located close to the Roman finds on Cabbage Hill (Fig. 2)

## **Objectives and methodology**

The purpose of the watching brief was to excavate and record any archaeological deposits affected by the works. The works were to create a footpath across the SANG. The groundworks were expected to be superficial but there was thought to be potential to disturb archaeological deposits in some instances.

## **Results**

Construction of a path 1.6m wide and edged with wood was observed (Fig 2; Pls 1-2). Overburden was removed under archaeological supervision using a 360° type machine fitted with a toothless ditching bucket. The depth of topsoil removed was only 0.15m and the works did not penetrate below topsoil so the archaeologically relevant level was not exposed at any point, and no archaeological features or finds were observed. The spoil from the overburden was monitored for finds but none were revealed.

## **Finds**

No finds of archaeological interest were recovered.

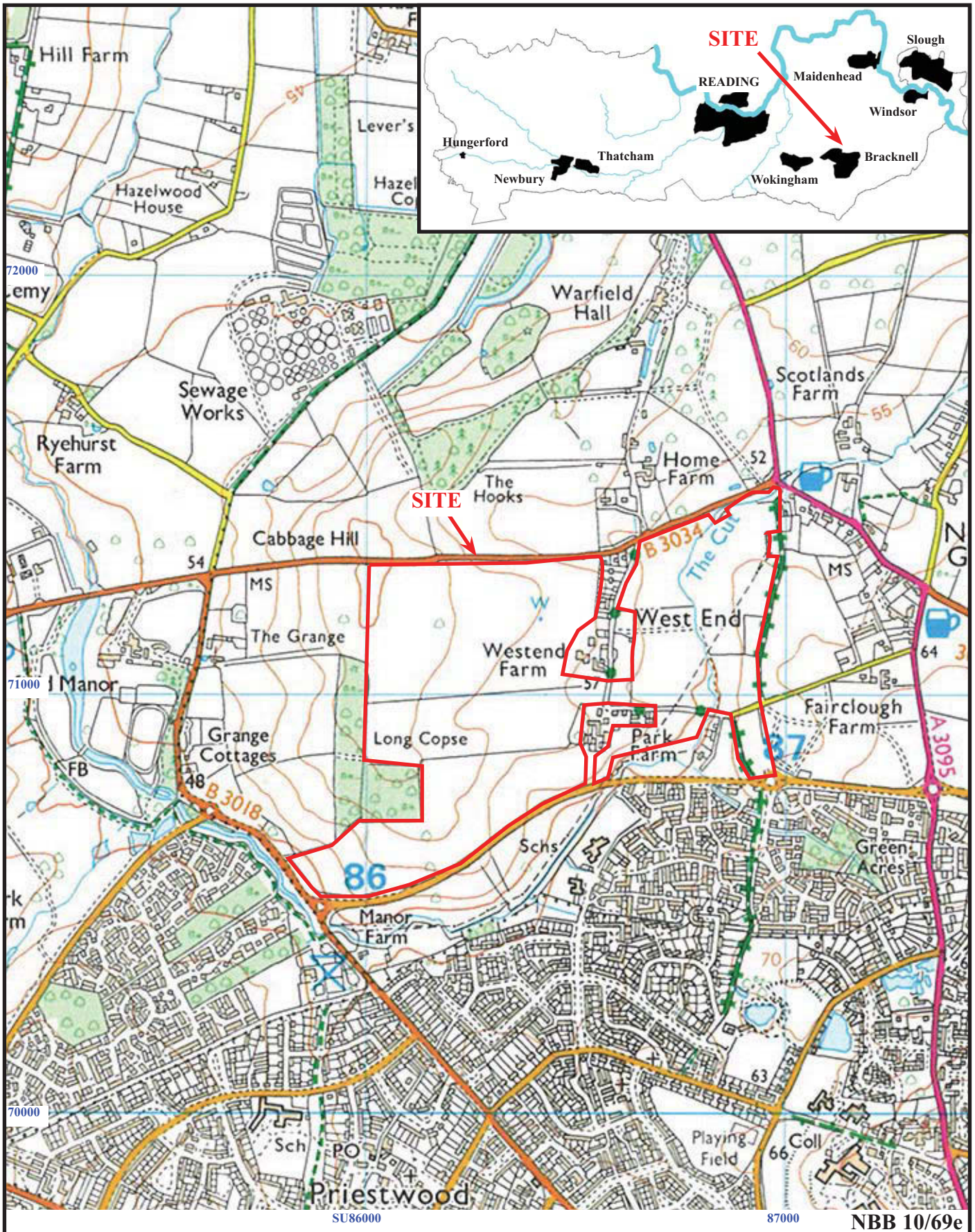
## **Conclusion**

Despite the high potential for archaeology the archaeologically relevant level was not exposed during the stripping of the pathway and no archaeological features or finds were observed.

## References

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**Land at West End, Warfield, North Bracknell,  
Berkshire, 2015**

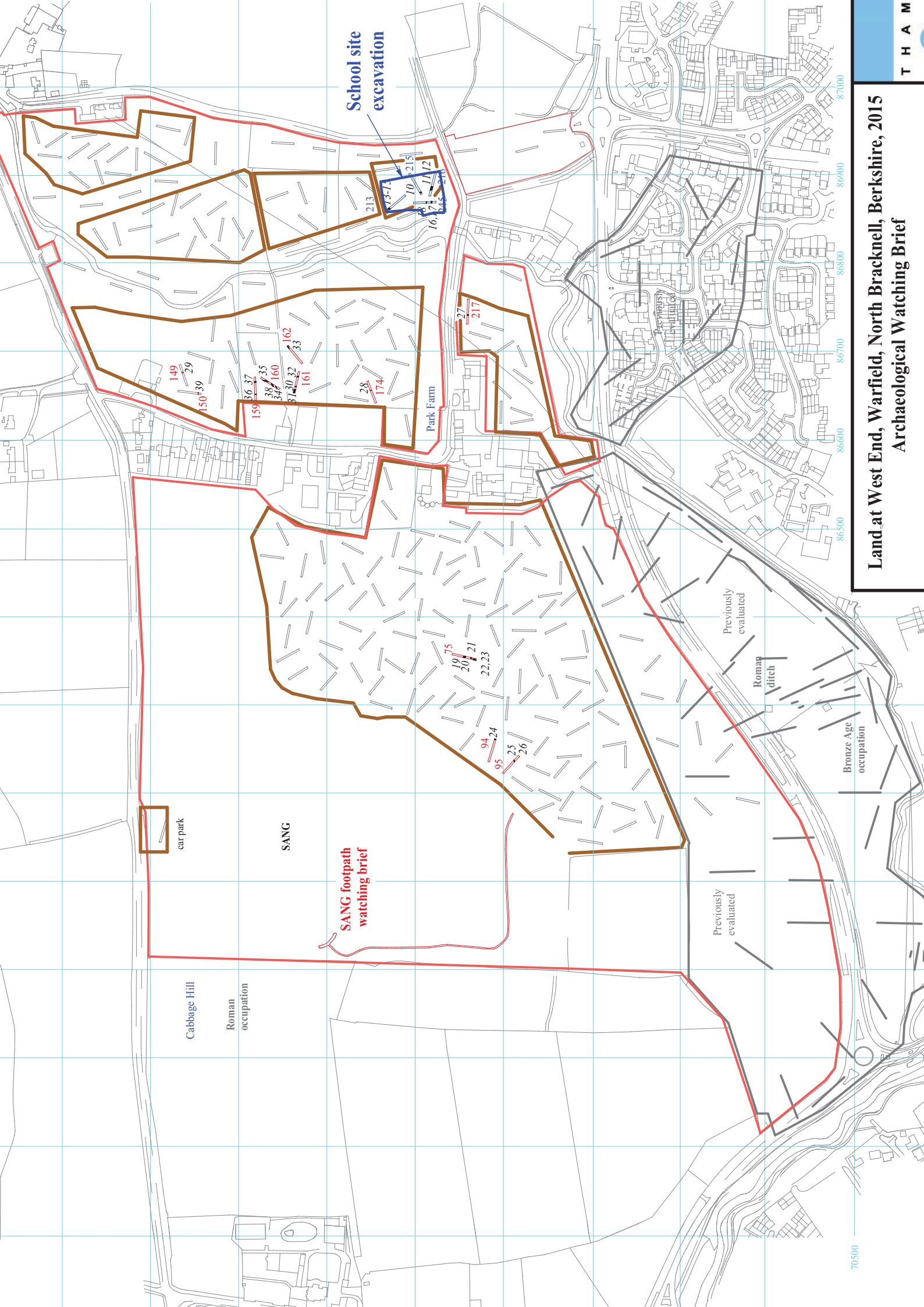
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Figure 1. Location of site in relation to North Bracknell and West End and within Berkshire.

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Cabbage Hill

Roman occupation

SANG

SANG footpath watching brief

Park Farm

School site excavation

car park

Previously evaluated

Previously evaluated

Roman ditch

Bronze Age occupation

70500

86500 86600 86700 86800 86900 87000

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Plate 1. Pathway, looking south.



Plate 2. Pathway, looking north.

NBB 10/69e

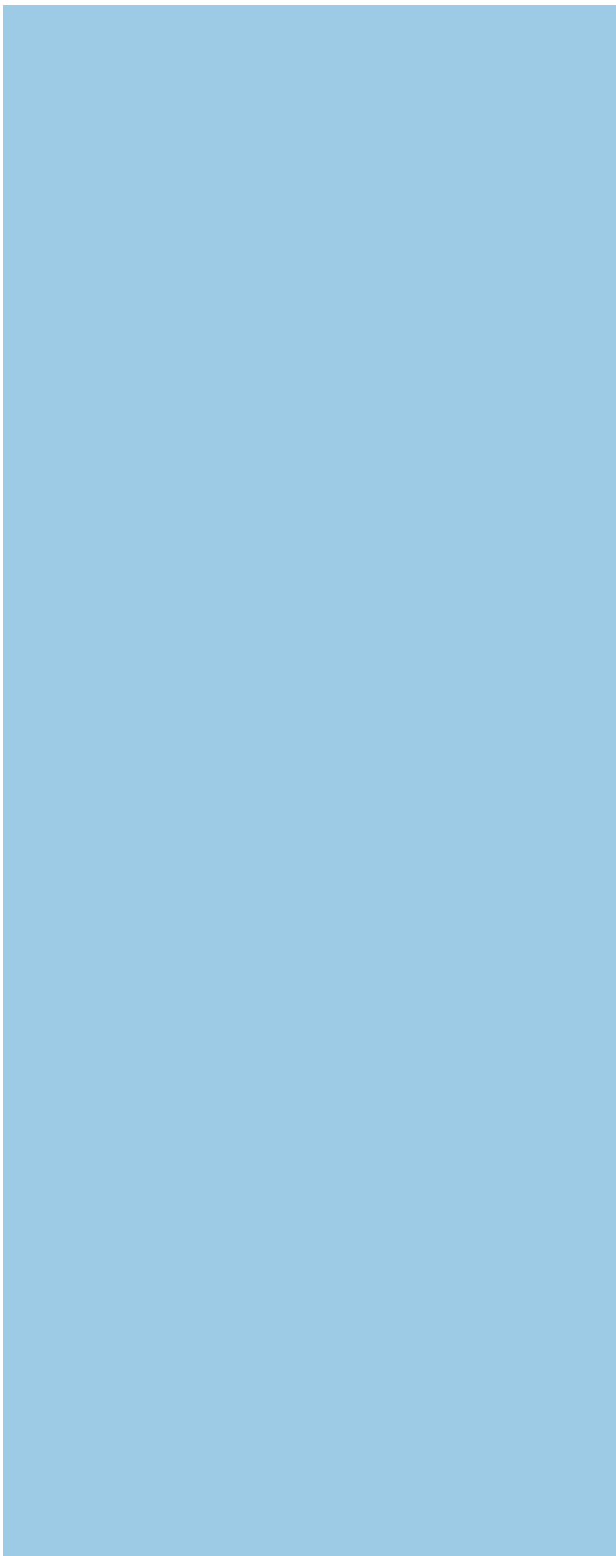
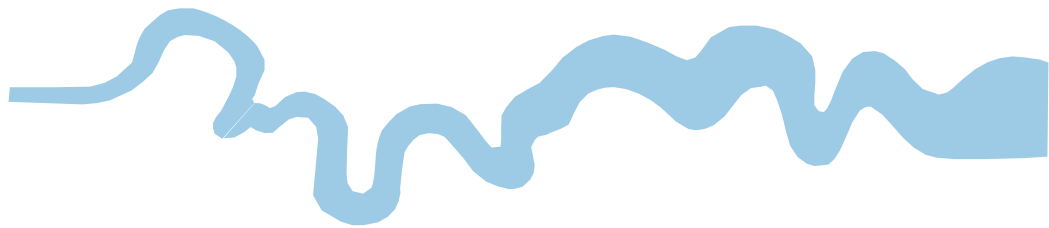
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Plates 1 - 2.

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## TIME CHART

	<b>Calendar Years</b>
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





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