

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

ARCHAEOLOGICAL

S E R V I C E S

**Land at Beechgrove, Church Lane,
Ascot, Sunninghill, Berkshire**

Archaeological Evaluation

by Kyle Beaverstock

Site Code: BAS18/90

(SU 9384 6843)

Land at Beechgrove, Church Lane, Ascot, Sunninghill, Berkshire

An Archaeological Evaluation for Millgate Homes

by Kyle Beaverstock
Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code BAS19/80

June 2019

Summary

Site name: Land at Beechgrove, Church Lane, Ascot, Sunninghill, Berkshire

Grid reference: SU 9384 6843

Site activity: Evaluation

Date and duration of project: 12th June 2019

Project coordinator: Tim Dawson

Site supervisor: Kyle Beaverstock

Site code: BAS19/80

Summary of results: No features or finds of archaeological interest were uncovered over the course of the evaluation and the site is considered to have no archaeological potential.

Location and reference of archive: The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited in an appropriate designated museum or repository to be decided by the local planning authority in due course.

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|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| Report edited/checked by: | Steve Ford ✓ 28.06.19 |
| | Steve Preston ✓ 28.06.19 |

Land at Beechgrove, Church Lane, Ascot, Sunninghill, Berkshire An Archaeological Evaluation

by Kyle Beaverstock

Report 19/80

Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological field evaluation carried out on land at Beechgrove, Church Lane, Sunninghill, Berkshire (SU 9384 6843)(Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Richard Barter on behalf of Millgate Homes Limited, Millgate House, Ruscombe Lane, Twyford, Berkshire, RG10 9JT. Planning permission (19/00729/FULL) is being sought from the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead for the construction of a new apartment block following demolition of the existing structure.

In order to inform the planning process with regard to archaeological implications, in accordance with the Ministry of Communities and Local Government's *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF 2018), and the Borough Council's policies on archaeology an archaeological evaluation has been carried out. The field investigation was carried out to a specification approved by Mr Matt Saywood, Archaeological Officer for Berkshire Archaeology, the archaeological advisers to the Royal Borough. The fieldwork was undertaken by Kyle Beaverstock on 12th June 2019 and the site code is BAS19/80. The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited with an appropriate designated repository to be decided by the local authority in due course.

Location, topography and geology

The site is located within the grounds of a large house to the north of Sunninghill, and 1.5km east of Ascot (Fig. 1). The area of interest lies within the abandoned property of Beechgrove with buildings proposed to be demolished to the south and west and a sloped lawn to the north (Fig. 2; Pl. 1). This parcel of land sits at a height of c. 68m above Ordnance Datum and the underlying geology is mapped as Bracklesham Beds (BGS 1981).

Archaeological background

The site lies within an area of Berkshire that has a modest range of archaeological finds and deposits recorded (Dils and Yates 2014). Nevertheless throughout the Thames Valley there is a persistent presence of prehistoric, Roman and medieval sites and finds recorded in the Berkshire Archaeology Historic Environment Record. Also,

numerous Bronze Age burial mounds (round barrows) are located in the heathland areas of east Berkshire (Ford 1987). The site itself lies close to the historic core of Ascot and 200m south-east from St Michael and All Angels Church which may date back to the Saxon period.

Objectives and methodology

The purpose of the evaluation was to determine the presence/absence, extent, condition, character, quality and date of any archaeological deposits within the area of development. 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 if any deposits of Bronze Age or Medieval date are present on the site.

It was proposed that three trenches, each 10m long and 1.6m wide were to be dug within the footprint of the proposed building. These were to be dug with a JCB-type machine fitted with a toothless ditching bucket and under constant archaeological observation and all spoil heaps would be monitored. Any archaeological deposits uncovered would be cleaned and excavated using the appropriate handtools and fully planned and recorded.

Results

All three trenches were dug as intended. They were 1.6m wide and ranged in length from 10 to 10.5m and in depth from 0.5 to 0.62m. A complete list of trenches giving lengths, breadths, depths and a description of sections and geology is given in Appendix 1.

Trench 1 (Figs 3 and 4; Pl. 2)

Trench 1 was aligned SW – NE and was 10.2m long and 0.5m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.2m of turf/topsoil above 0.3m of brown/yellow silty sand subsoil which contained some flint gravel and some brick/tile. This overlay a pale grey/yellow silty sand with a few flint gravel pieces which was the natural geology. Apart from a modern service at the NW end, no cut features of archaeological interest were observed and no finds recovered.

Trench 2 (Fig 3; Pl. 3)

Trench 2 was aligned SE – NW and was 10m long and 0.62m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.2m of turf/topsoil above 0.42m of brown/yellow silty sand subsoil which contained some flint gravel and some

brick/tile. This overlay a pale brown/grey silty sand with frequent gravel pieces which was the natural geology. A modern service was observed towards the NW end and a modern brick wall and concrete foundation cutting the subsoil was observed at the SE end. No cut features of archaeological interest were observed.

Trench 3 (Figs 3 and 4; Pl. 4)

Trench 3 was aligned S – N and was 10.5m long and 0.52m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.2m of turf/topsoil above 0.32m of brown/yellow silty sand subsoil which contained some flint gravel and some brick/tile. This overlay a pale grey/yellow silty sand with a few flint gravel pieces which was the natural geology. Apart from a modern service at the south end, no cut features of archaeological interest were observed

Conclusion

Three trenches were dug as intended. However, no deposits nor artefacts of archaeological interest were observed but a few modern features including a brick wall were noted. The site is considered to have no archaeological potential.

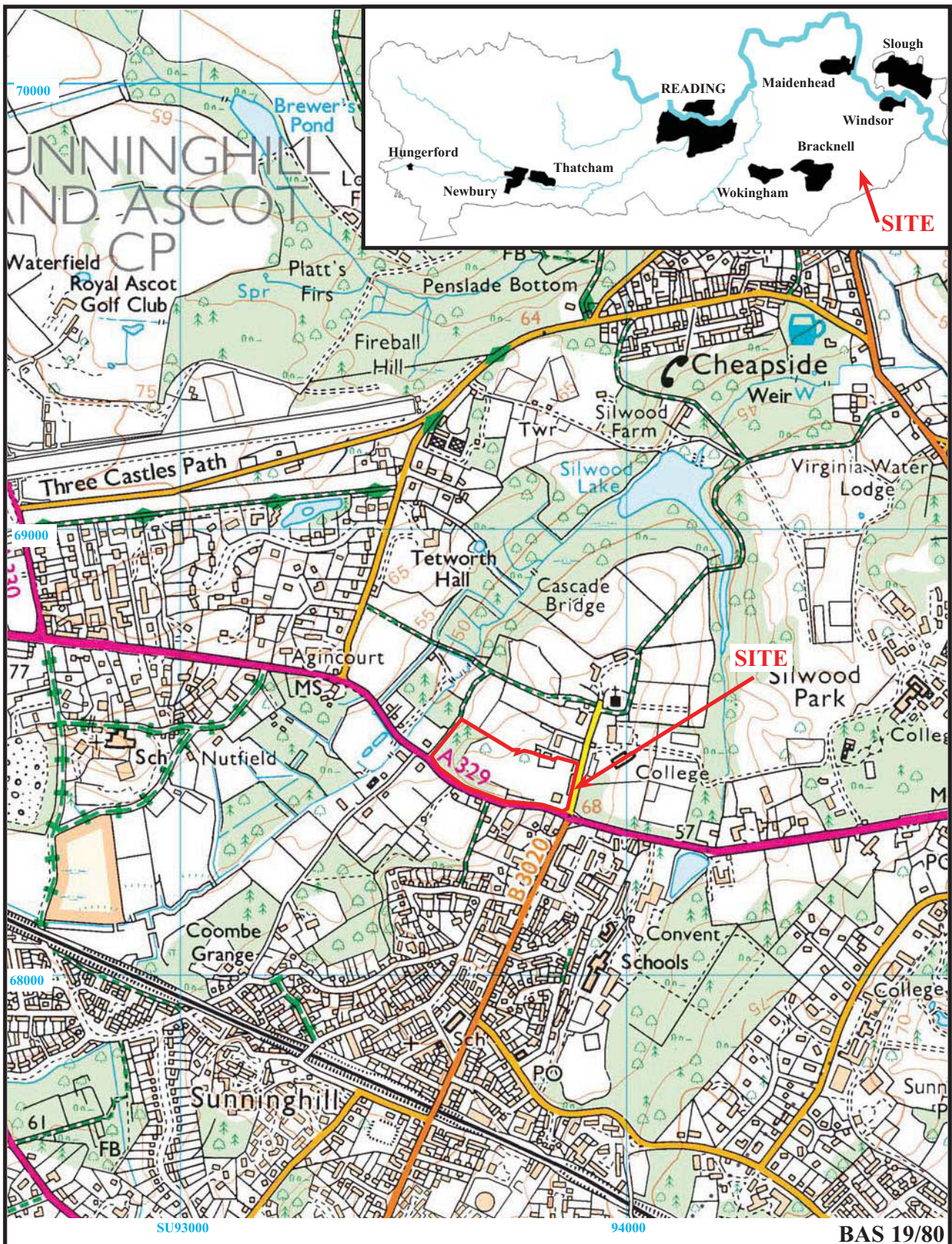
References

- BGS, 1981, *British Geological Survey*, 1:50,000, Sheet 269, Solid and Drift Edition, Keyworth
- Dils J and M Yates, 2014, *An Historical Atlas of Berkshire*, Berkshire Record Society, Reading,
- Ford, S, 1987, *East Berkshire Archaeological Survey*, Berkshire County Council Dept Highways and Planning Occas Pap 1, Reading
- NPPF, 2018, *National Planning Policy Framework (revised)*, Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government, London

APPENDIX 1: Trench details

0m at S or W end

| <i>Trench</i> | <i>Length (m)</i> | <i>Breadth (m)</i> | <i>Depth (m)</i> | <i>Comment</i> |
|---------------|-------------------|--------------------|------------------|---|
| 1 | 10.2 | 1.6 | 0.5 | 0–0.2m turf/topsoil; 0.2–0.5m brown/yellow silty sand subsoil which contained some gravel and some brick/tile. (subsoil); 0.5m+ pale grey/yellow silty sand with a few flint gravel pieces (natural geology). A modern service at 9m [PI. 2] |
| 2 | 10 | 1.6 | 0.62 | 0–0.2m turf/topsoil; 0.2–0.62m brown/yellow silty sand subsoil which contained some gravel and some brick/tile. (subsoil); 0.62m+ pale brown/grey silty sand with many flint gravel pieces (natural geology). A modern service at 8m and a concrete and brick wall at 2m [PI. 3] |
| 3 | 10.5 | 1.6 | 0.52 | 0–0.2m turf/topsoil; 0.2–0.5m brown/yellow silty sand subsoil which contained some gravel and some brick/tile. (subsoil); 0.5m+ ,pale grey/yellow silty sand with a few flint gravel pieces (natural geology). A modern service at 1m [PI. 4] |



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Sunninghill, Berkshire, 2019
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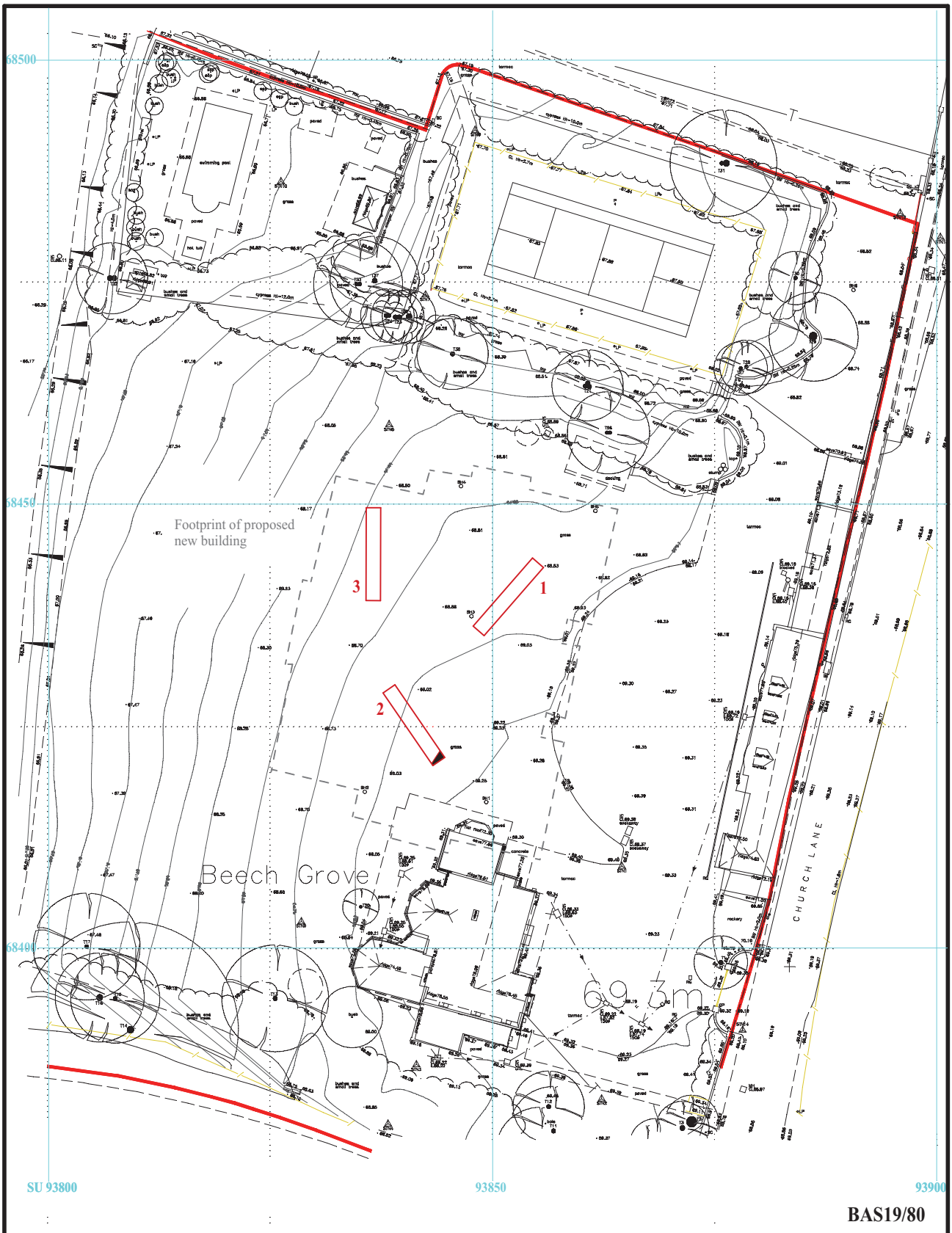
Figure 1. Location of site within Sunninghill and Berkshire.

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 Figure 2. Detailed location of site**



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Figure 3. Location of trenches



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Trench 1

SW

NE

68.8m aOD

Turf/topsoil

Brown /yellow silty sand with some brick/tile (Subsoil)

Grey/yellow silty sand with occasional flint (natural geology)

Trench 3

S

N

68.6m aOD

Turf/topsoil

Brown /yellow silty sand with some brick/tile (Subsoil)

Grey/yellow silty sand with occasional flint (natural geology)

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Figure 4. Representative sections.



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Plate 1. General view of site, looking South East.



Plate 2. Trench 1, looking South East, Scales: 2m, 1m and 0.5m.

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**Land at Beechgrove, Church Lane, Sunninghill, Berkshire
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Plates 1 and 2.

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Plate 3. Trench 2, looking South West, Scales: 2m, 1m and 0.5m.



Plate 4. Trench 3, looking West, Scales: 2m, 1m and 0.5m.

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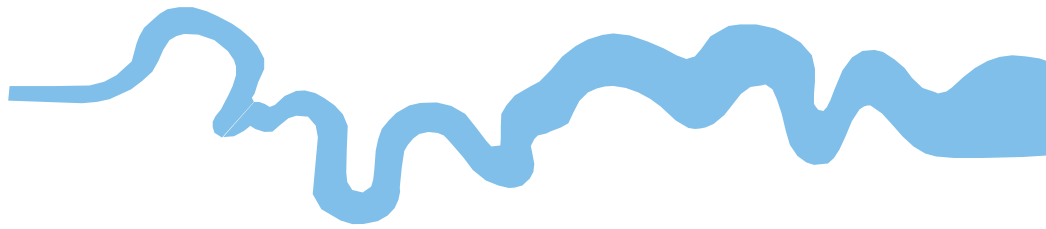
Plates 3 and 4.

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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 AD 0 BC |
| Iron Age _____ | 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 RG1 5NR**

**Tel: 0118 9260552
Email: tvas@tvas.co.uk
Web: www.tvas.co.uk**

*Offices in:
Brighton, Taunton, Stoke-on-Trent and Ennis (Ireland)*