THAMES VALLEY

ARCHAEOLOGICAL

SERVICES

Land adjacent to Gatehampton Bridge, Streatley, West Berkshire

Archaeological Evaluation

by David Platt

Site Code: GBS13/114

(SU 6055 7947)

Land Adjacent to Gatehampton Bridge, Streatley, West Berkshire

An Archaeological Evaluation

for Goring Gap Boat Club

by David Platt

Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code GBS13/114

June 2013

Summary

Site name: Land adjacent to Gatehampton Bridge, Streatley, West Berkshire

Grid reference: SU 6055 7947

Site activity: Archaeological Evaluation

Date and duration of project: 14th June 2013

Project manager: Steve Ford

Site supervisor: David Platt

Site code: GBS 13/114

Area of site: *c*. 0.85ha

Summary of results: A single ditch was found in the evaluation trenches but no dating evidence was recovered and no artefacts of archaeological interest were found. It is considered that the site has relatively low archaeological potential.

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

Report edited/checked by:	Steve Ford✓ 18.06.13
	Steve Preston✓ 18.06.13

Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd, 47–49 De Beauvoir Road, Reading RG1 5NR

Tel. (0118) 926 0552; Fax (0118) 926 0553; email tvas@tvas.co.uk; website: www.tvas.co.uk

Land Adjacent to Gatehampton Bridge, Streatley, West Berkshire
An Archaeological Evaluation

by David Platt

Report 13/114

Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological field evaluation carried out on land adjacent to Gatehampton Bridge, Streatley, West Berkshire (SU6055 7947) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Mr Mick Waite, Church Lane, Wallingford, Oxon, OX10 0DX on behalf of Goring Gap Boat Club, Hardwick Road, Goring-on-Thames, West Berkshire.

An area of land on the Thames floodplain adjacent to Gatehampton Bridge, Streatley, West Berkshire is being considered for the construction of a new boat store with associated car parking and landscaping. It is possible that the development area may contain archaeological deposits and in order to provide sufficient information on the archaeological potential of the site so as to mitigate the effects of the development, a field evaluation has been requested. This is in accordance with the Department for Communities and Local Government's *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF 2012), and West Berkshire Council's policies on archaeology. The field investigation was carried out to a specification approved by Ms Sarah Orr, Archaeological Officer for West Berkshire Council and based on a brief supplied by her (Orr 2013), and the work was monitored by her. The fieldwork was undertaken by David Platt and Kyle Beaverstock on 14th June 2013 and the site code is GBS13/114. The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited at West Berkshire Museum in due course.

Location, topography and geology

The site is located on the southern bank of the River Thames adjacent to the Gatehampton Bridge, 0.8km north west of Lower Basildon and south of Goring (Fig. 1). The site is approximately 40m above Ordnance Datum and slopes down from south to north. The underlying Geology is mapped as on the border between alluvium and valley gravels (BGS 1946) and these geologies were observed in the test pits and trenches along with calcareous deposits probably head.

Archaeological background

The archaeological potential of the site has been highlighted in a brief prepared by Ms Sarah Orr of West Berkshire Council. In summary this potential stems from its location in a rich area of archaeological deposits recorded by excavation and as cropmarks visible from the air (Gates 1975). An extensive complex of enclosures of uncertain but probably Iron Age or Roman date lies to the south of the site, and a Roman building was recorded when the railway was constructed. On the opposite bank of the river is a round barrow (ring ditch) cemetery and to the north-east, a Roman villa of 3rd-4th century date has been the subject of long-running excavations by the local society, showing, among other points of note, a corn dryer containing pottery dating to the 5th-6th century indicating a continued usage into Saxon times (SOAG *passim*). An excavation on the north bank of the river has also recorded a rare Upper Palaeolithic site, which had been interpreted as a kill/butchery site, along with Mesolithic occupation and a possible Neolithic causewayed enclosure (Allen 1995). A Saxon sunken featured building was also revealed (Allen 1995).

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 were:

to determine if archaeologically relevant levels have survived on the site;

to determine if archaeological deposits of any period are present; and

to provide information with which to draw up a mitigation strategy if required.

It was proposed to dig 2 trenches each 10m in length and 1.6m wide. These are located where most of the 'cut' into the terrace for the new proposed building would take place. A contingency for an additional 10m of trench was included within the proposal should it be required to clarify the nature of the initial findings. Three test pits were also to be dug, 1.6m wide and *c*. 1.6m long in order to examine the alluvial strata of the site in the area of the reedbeds/new inlet and front of building. All the trenches were to be excavated by a JCB backhoe type machine fitted with a toothless ditching bucket and under constant archaeological supervision. The trenches were to be dug down to the top of the natural geology or the top of the relevant archaeological level. All spoilheaps were to be monitored for finds. Where archaeological features were certainly or probably present, the stripped areas were to be cleaned using appropriate hand tools, and sufficient of the archaeological features and deposits exposed were to be excavated or sampled by hand to satisfy the aims of the brief, without compromising the

integrity of any which might warrant preservation *in situ* or might better be investigated under the conditions pertaining to full excavation.

Results

All test pits and Trench 2 were dug as intended, Trench 1 was extended to a T-Shaped plan as a ditch was observed aligned E – W along the edge of the trench so a decision was made to use some of the contingency to excavate an additional length of trench across this feature (Fig. 2). This was done after consultation with the monitor.

Evaluation Trenches

Trenches 1 and 2 were respectively 11.2m and 10.0m long and ranged in depth from 0.90–1.05m. 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, Pls 1 and 4)

Trench 1 was T-shaped aligned roughly E - W with an extension to the north, and was 11.20m in total length and 1.05m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.30m of topsoil and 0.40m of dark grey clayey silt with frequent flint inclusions, this overlay 0.35m of reddish brown clayey silt with frequent flint inclusions, this in turn overlay the natural chalk geology. A ditch (1) was recorded (Pl. 4) which was 1.30m wide and 0.65m deep and filled with a primary fill (54) consisting of a dark brown grey silty clay with occasional flint. The secondary fill (53) was a mid yellowish brown silty sandy clay with frequent chalk inclusions. The tertiary fill (52) was a dark brownish grey silty clay with occasional chalk and frequent flint inclusions. No finds were recovered.

Trench 2 (Pl. 2)

Trench 2 was aligned SE - NW and was 10m long and 1.0m deep. The stratigraphy varied between the south and north. At the south end the stratigraphy consisted of 0.30m of topsoil and 0.45m of reddish brown clayey silt with very frequent flint inclusions, this overlay 0.15m of dark brownish grey clayey silt with frequent flint inclusions, this overlay the natural chalk geology. At the north end the stratigraphy consisted of 0.30m of topsoil overlaying 0.30m of mid reddish brown clayey silt which overlay 0.20m of dark grey clayey silt, this in turn overlay the natural chalk geology. No features were observed or finds recovered.

Test Pits

Test Pit 1

Test Pit 1 was 1.6m square and was 2.5m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.35m of topsoil overlying 1.15m of mid yellowish brown silty clay alluvium this in turn overlay 0.60m of dark grey sandy clayey silt with frequent small shell inclusions, this overlay the natural geology which consisted of light grey sandy gravel.

Test Pit 2

Test Pit 2 was 1.6m square and was 1.10 deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.30m of topsoil overlying 0.50m of dark brownish grey clayey silt with frequent flint inclusions, this in turn overlay 0.15m of dark reddish brown silty clay with frequent flint inclusions, this overlay the natural chalk geology.

Test Pit 3 (Pl. 3)

Test Pit 3 was 1.6m square and 2.0m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.25m of topsoil overlying 0.35m of light brown grey silty clay alluvium, which in turn overlay 0.45m of mottled reddish brown and mid grey silty clay. This overlay a dark grey clayey silt with shell and organic matter inclusions, which overlay a mid brownish grey silty clay, and this overlay the natural geology which consisted of light grey sandy gravel.

Conclusion

A single ditch was uncovered with no dating evidence found. The test pits revealed no evidence of Palaeolithic or Neolithic flint working sites nor any artefactual finds of later periods. It is considered that despite the presence of the undated ditch, the site has relatively low archaeological potential.

References

Allen, T, 1995, *Lithics and landscape: archaeological discoveries on the Thames water pipeline at Gatehampton Farm, Goring, Oxfordshire 1985-92*, Oxford Archaeol Unit, Thames Valley Landscapes **7**, Oxford

BGS, 1946, *British Geological Survey*, 1:50000, Sheet 268, Drift Edition, Keyworth

Gates, T, 1975, *The Thames Valley, An archaeological Survey of the River Gravels*, Berkshire Archaeol Comm Pubn 1, Reading

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

Orr, S, 2013, 'Land adjacent to Gatehampton Bridge, Basildon, Berkshire: Brief for Archaeological Field Evaluation', West Berkshire Council Archaeology service, Newbury

SOAG, 1990s onwards, *South Oxfordshire Archaeology Group newsletter*, many issues, Goring

APPENDIX 1: Trench details

0m at south or west end

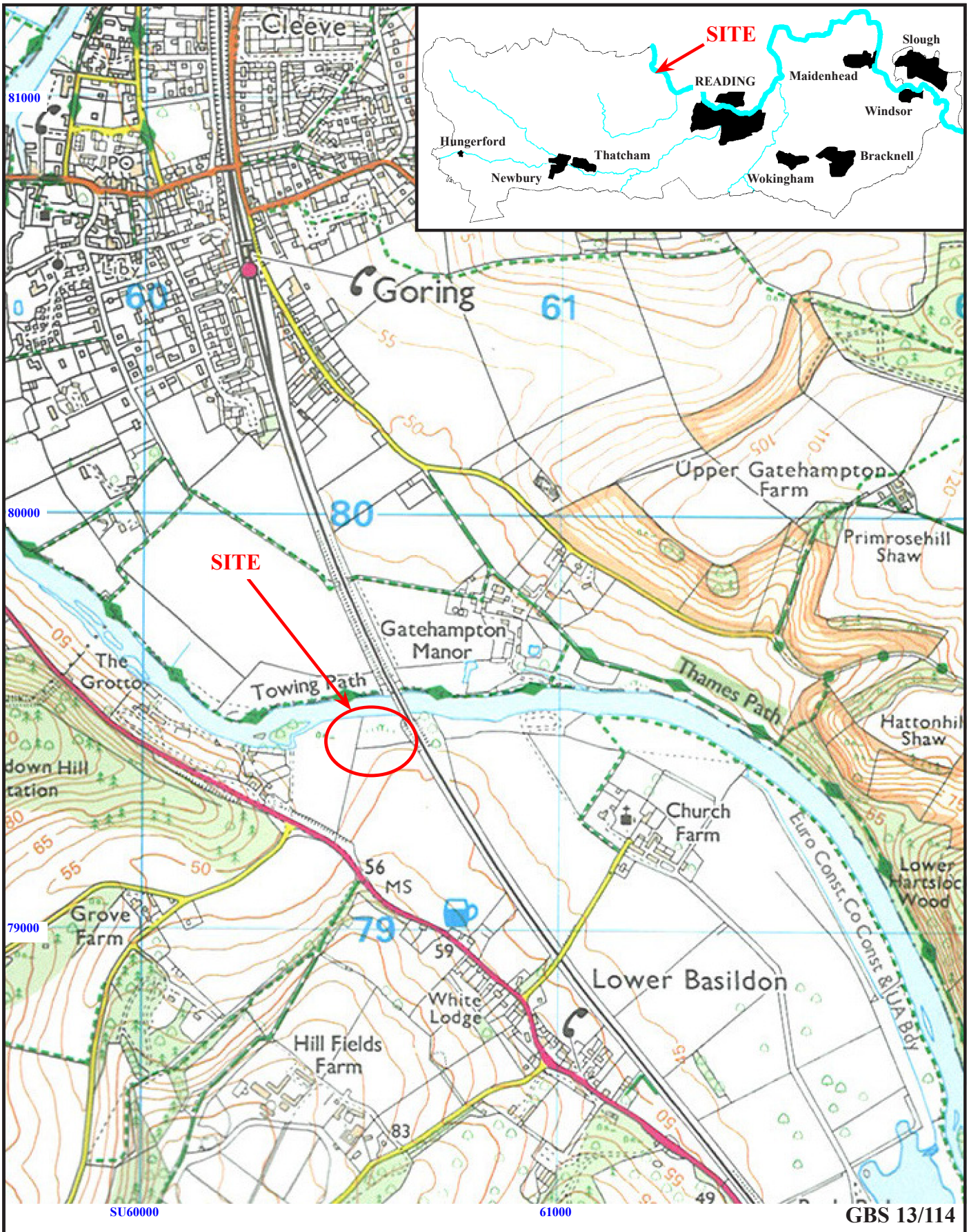
Trench	*Length (m)*	*Breadth (m)*	*Depth (m)*	*Comment*
1	11.20	1.6	1.05	0–0.30m topsoil; 0.30-0.70m dark grey clayey silt; 0.70-1.05 reddish brown clayey silt; 1.05m+ natural chalk head geology. **[Pls 1 and 4]**
2	10	1.6	0.90 – 1.0	0-0.30m topsoil; 0.30-0.75m reddish brown clayey silt; 0.75-0.90 dark brownish grey clayey silt; 0.90m+ natural chalk head geology [**Pl. 2]**

APPENDIX 2: Test pit details

Test Pit	*Length (m)*	*Breadth (m)*	*Depth (m)*	*Comment*
1	1.6	1.6	2.5	0–0.35m topsoil, 0.35-1.5m mid yellowish brown clayey silt (alluvium), 1.5-2.1m dark grey sandy clay silt with frequent small shell inc. 2.1m+ natural sand and gravel geology.
2	1.6	1.6	1.10	0-0.30m topsoil, 0.30-0.80m dark brown grey clayey silt, 0.80-0.95m reddish brown silty clay, 0.95m+ natural chalk head geology
3	1.6	1.6	2.0	0-0.25m topsoil, 0.25-0.60m light brown grey silty clay, 0.60-1.05m mottled reddish brown and mid grey clay, 1.05-1.50m dark grey clayey silt with organic matter and shell inc. 1.50-1.70m mid brownish grey silty clay, 1.70m+ natural gravel geology. **[Pl 3]**

APPENDIX 3: Feature details

Trench	*Cut*	*Fill (s)*	*Type*	*Date*	*Dating evidence*
1	1	52, 53,54	Ditch		None

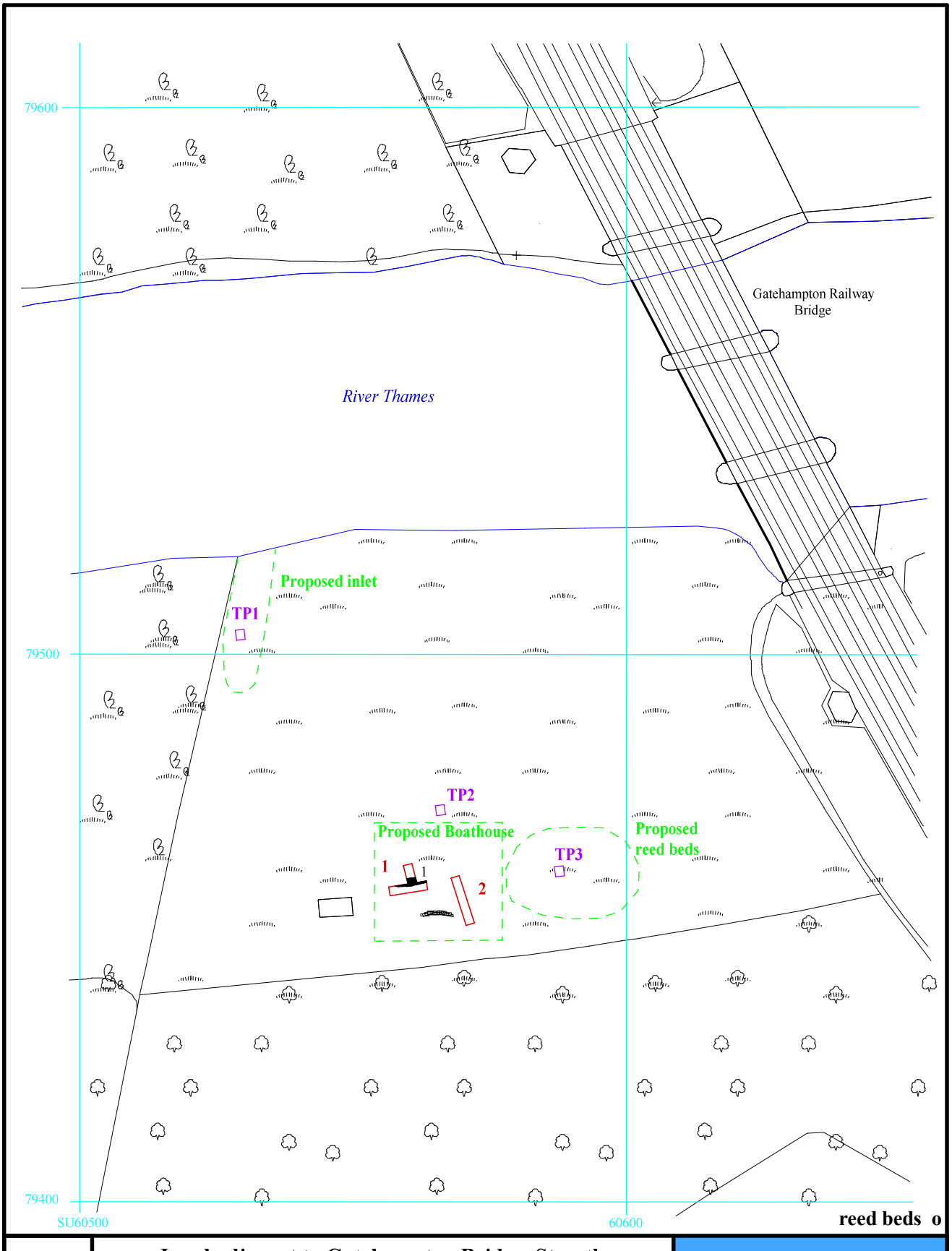


GBS 13/114

Land adjacent to Gatehampton Bridge, Streatley, West Berkshire, 2013
Archaeological Evaluation

Figure 1. Location of site in relation to Gatehampton and West Berkshire.

THAMES VALLEY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES



N

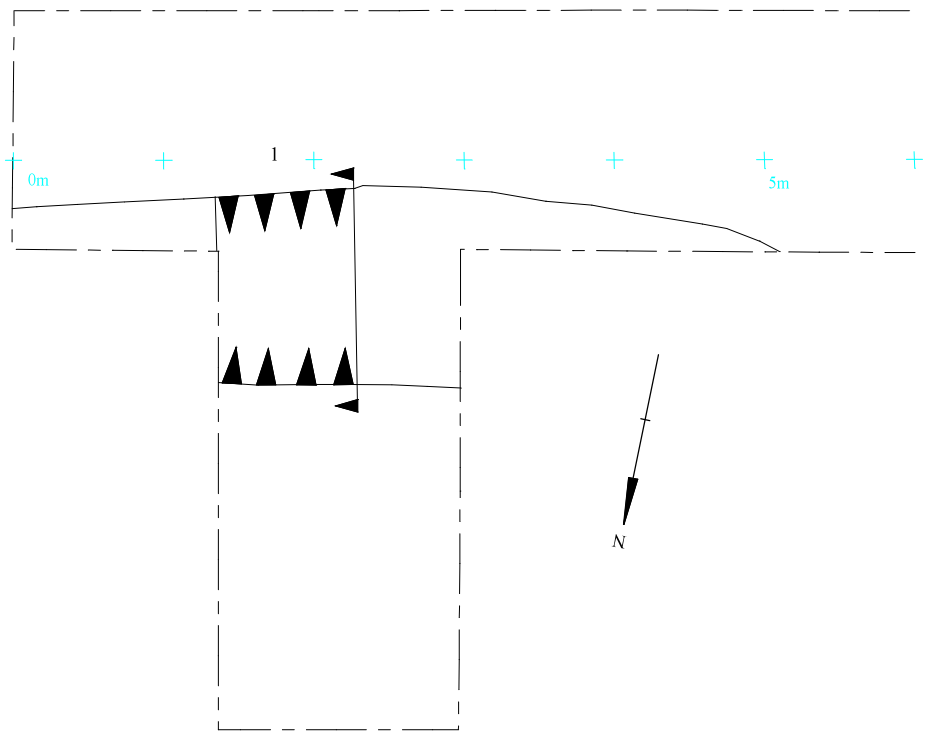
Land adjacent to Gatehampton Bridge, Streatley, West Berkshire , 2013 Archaeological Evaluation

Figure 2. Location of trenches and test pits.

0 50m

THAMES VALLEY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES

Trench 1



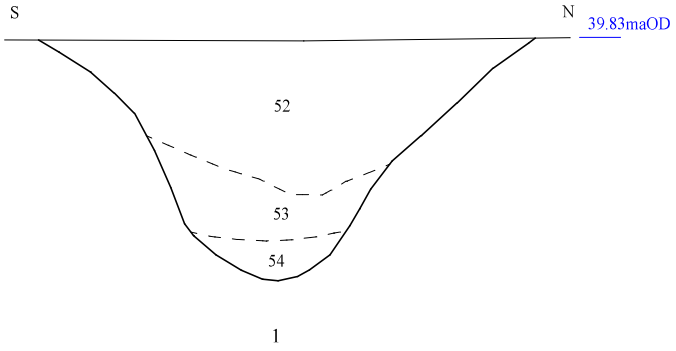
N nch 1

Land adjacent to Gatehampton Bridge, Streatley, West Berkshire 2013 Archaeological Evaluation

Figure 3. Plan of Trench 1

0 5m

THAMES VALLEY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES



GBS13/114

Land adjacent to Gatehampton Bridge, Streatley, West Berkshire 2013 Archaeological Evaluation

Figure 4. Section.

0 1m

THAMES VALLEY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES

Plate 1. Ditch 1 in Trench 1, looking north, Scales: 2m, 1m and 0.3m.

Plate 2. Trench 2, looking north, Scales: 2m and 1m.

GBS 13/114

Land adjacent to Gatehampton Bridge, Streatley, West Berkshire, 2013
Archaeological Evaluation

Plates 1 and 2.

THAMES VALLEY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES

Plate 3. Test pit 3, looking south east, Scales: 2m and 1m.

Plate 4. Trench 1, ditch 1, looking west, Scales: 1m and 0.3m.

GBS 13/114

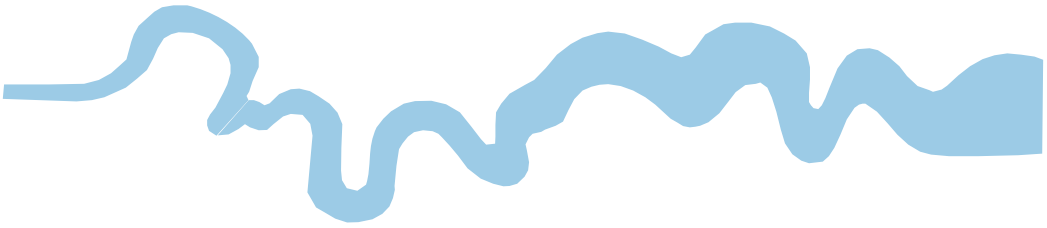
Land adjacent to Gatehampton Bridge, Streatley, West Berkshire, 2013
Archaeological Evaluation

Plates 3 and 4

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