

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

—ARCHAEOLOGICAL

S E R V I C E S

**18 Barkham Ride, Finchampstead,
Berkshire**

Archaeological Watching Brief

by Will Attard and Kyle Beaverstock

Site Code: BRF18/03

(SU 7888 6577)

y

**18 Barkham Ride,
Finchampstead, Berkshire**

An Archaeological Watching Brief

For Ms Gloria Mann

by Will Attard and Kyle Beaverstock

Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code BRF 18/03

April 2018

Summary

Site name: 18 Barkham Ride, Finchampstead, Berkshire

Grid reference: SU 7886 6576

Site activity: Watching Brief

Date and duration of project: 23rd -24th April 2018

Project coordinator: Tim Dawson

Site supervisor: Will Attard

Site code: BRF 18/03

Summary of results: An archaeological watching brief was conducted to monitor the excavation of footings for a proposed dwelling, trenches for a soakaway and septic tank and connecting pipe trench. No archaeological horizons were encountered. A single flint scraper was the only archaeological material recovered.

Location and reference of archive: The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited an appropriate designated museum or repository 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 All TVAS unpublished fieldwork reports are available on our website: www.tvas.co.uk/reports/reports.asp.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 ✓ 27.04.18 Steve Preston ✓ 27.04.18

18 Barkham Ride, Finchampstead, Berkshire An Archaeological Watching Brief

by Will Attard and Kyle Beaverstock

Report 18/03

Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological watching brief carried out at 18 Barkham Ride, Finchampstead, Berkshire (RG40 3EU) (SU 7886 6576) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Ms Gloria Mann of the same address.

Planning permission (170518) has been gained on appeal (APP/X0360/W/17/3169796) from Wokingham Borough Council for the construction of a new house and garage. The consent is subject to an archaeological condition (5) requiring a watching brief during groundworks. 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 Ms Kathelen Leary, Archaeology Officer for Berkshire Archaeology, advising the Borough. The fieldwork was undertaken by Will Attard between the 23rd and 24th April 2018 and the site code is BRF18/03.

The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited at an appropriate designated museum or repository in due course.

Location, topography and geology

The site is located approximately 3km south-west of Wokingham (Fig. 1) on the north-western edge of Wick Hill. The site is bounded by Barkham Ride to the north, fences to the east and west and a field boundary to the south (Fig. 2). This relatively flat rectangular parcel of land was formally a residential structure and gardens and is located approximately 60m above Ordnance Datum (aOD). The underlying geology is mapped as Bagshot formation sands of the Bracklesham group (BGS 2000). Clayey sand was observed during the project.

Archaeological background

The archaeological potential of the site derives from its location within an area containing a number of upstanding Bronze Age round barrows. Fieldwork immediately next to the site at Rooks Nest Farm (JMHS 2010) identified a number of ditches, pits and postholes, all, unfortunately lacking dating evidence, though a few prehistoric flint flakes and a sherd of Roman pottery was recovered. A Late Bronze Age burnt mound is

recorded to the west of the site (Torrance and Ford 2003) and a Bronze Age barrow to the south (Scheduled Monument 1013244). Approximately 750m to the north-west of the site lies a medieval moated site (Scheduled Monument 1013181).

Objectives and methodology

The purpose of the watching brief was to excavate and record any archaeological deposits affected by the groundworks associated with the demolition and removal of existing structures as well as those for a new development. All excavation was to be done by a 360^o-type machine fitted with a toothless ditching bucket and under constant archaeological supervision. Any features uncovered were to be cleaned, excavated and recorded using the appropriate tools. All spoilheaps would be monitored for finds.

Results

During the watching brief, demolition of the existing standing structures (consisting of a series of storage sheds) was observed. These appeared to be constructed on wooden sleepers resting on the topsoil and thus their demolition could not affect any underlying archaeological horizons (see Section 1 for relative depths of topsoil, subsoil and underlying geology). To the north of these a series of trenches measuring 0.6m wide and 1m deep outlining the footprint of the new building were observed (Fig. 3; Pls 1 and 2). A representative section showed that there was 0.43m of topsoil and 0.2m of subsoil overlying the pale greyish yellow clayey sand natural geology (Fig. 4). To the south-east of these was a septic tank and soakaway connected by a pipe trench. The soakaway measured 1.5m long and 1.35m wide and 2m deep. Running from this on a north-east to south-west alignment was a pipe trench measuring 0.4m wide and 0.6m deep and yielded the struck flint which connected to the septic tank measuring 4.65m long, 2.5m wide and 1.4m deep.

No features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed in any of these works.

Finds

Struck Flint by Will Attard

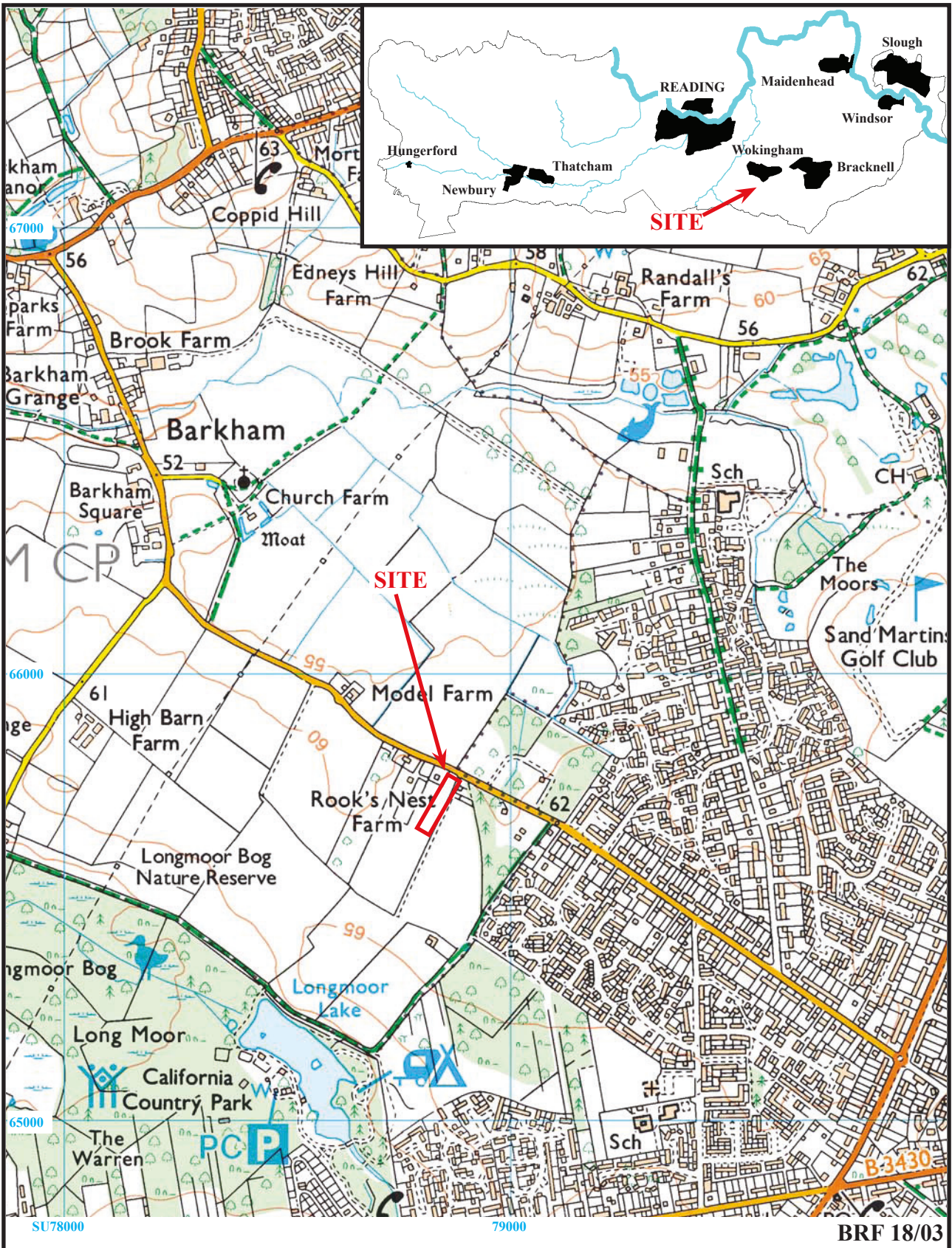
A single piece of struck flint was recovered from the base of the topsoil in the pipe trench connecting the new septic tank and associated soakaway. The implement is made from mottled grey flint, and is fairly roughly worked, typical of later Bronze Age flintwork.

Conclusion

The watching brief successfully proved that the level of the natural geology has survived relatively undisturbed. A single flint scraper of possible Bronze Age date was recovered from the topsoil, however no other features or finds of archaeological significance were revealed over the course of the watching brief and therefore in the areas observed little or no impact was made by the groundworks.

References

- BGS, 2000, *British Geological Survey*, 1:50,000, Sheet 268, Solid and drift Edition, Keyworth
- JMHS, 2010, 'Archaeological Watching Brief and Evaluation at Barkham Ride, Barkham, East Berkshire', John Moore Heritage Services unpublished report SRM14089, Beckley
- NPPF 2012, *National Planning Policy Framework*, Dept Communities and Local Govt, London
- Torrance, L and Ford, S, 2003, 'A Late Bronze Age Burnt Mound at Barkham Square, Wokingham, 1992', in S Preston (ed), *Prehistoric, Roman and Saxon Sites in Eastern Berkshire: Excavations 1989-1997*, TVAS Monogr **2**, Reading



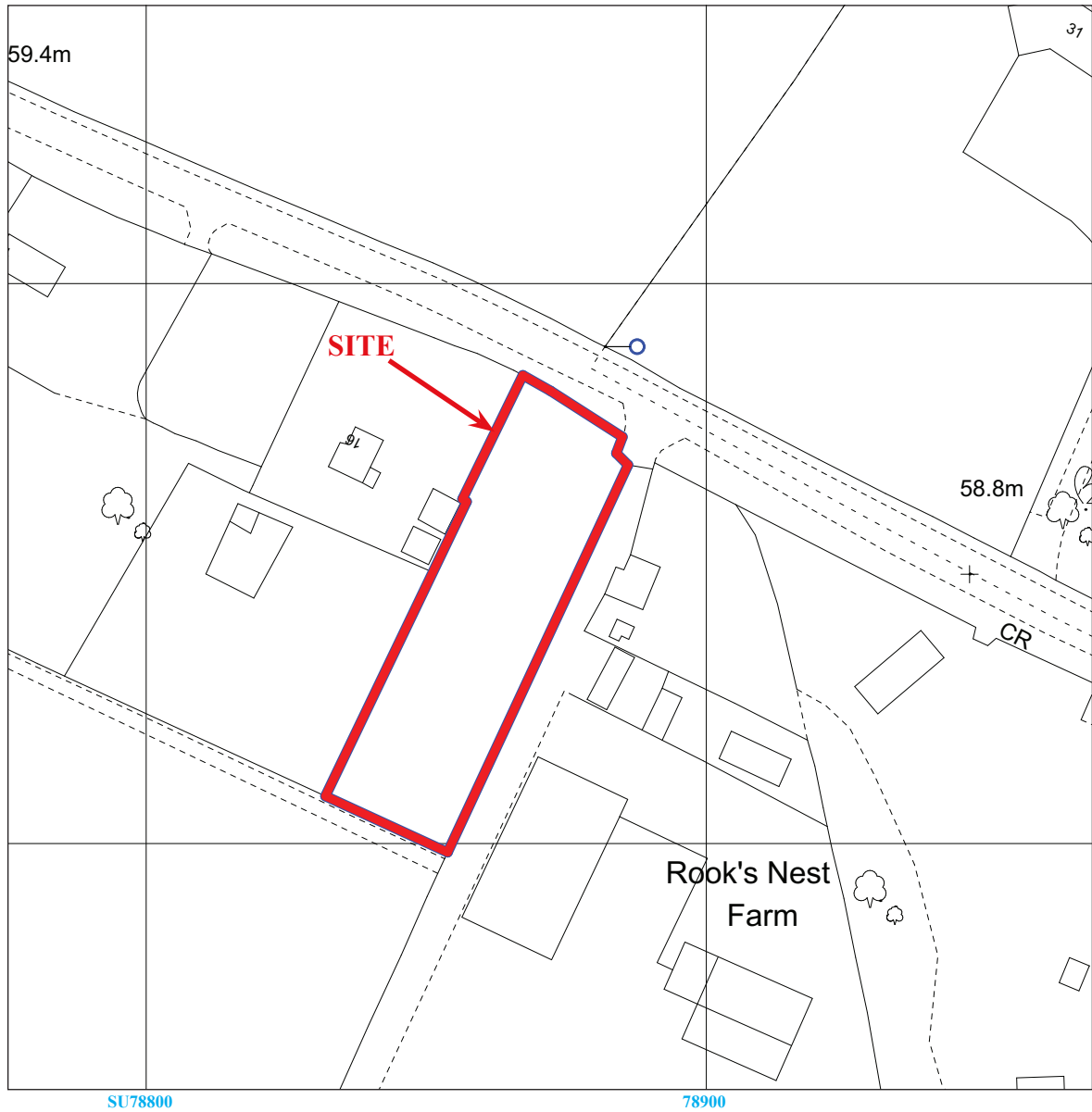
**18 Barkham Ride,
Finchampstead, Berkshire, 2018
Archaeological Watching Brief**

Figure 1. Location of site within Finchampstead and Berkshire.

Reproduced under licence from Ordnance Survey Explorer Digital mapping at 1:12500
Crown Copyright reserved

THAMES VALLEY
ARCHAEOLOGICAL
SERVICES

BRF 18/03



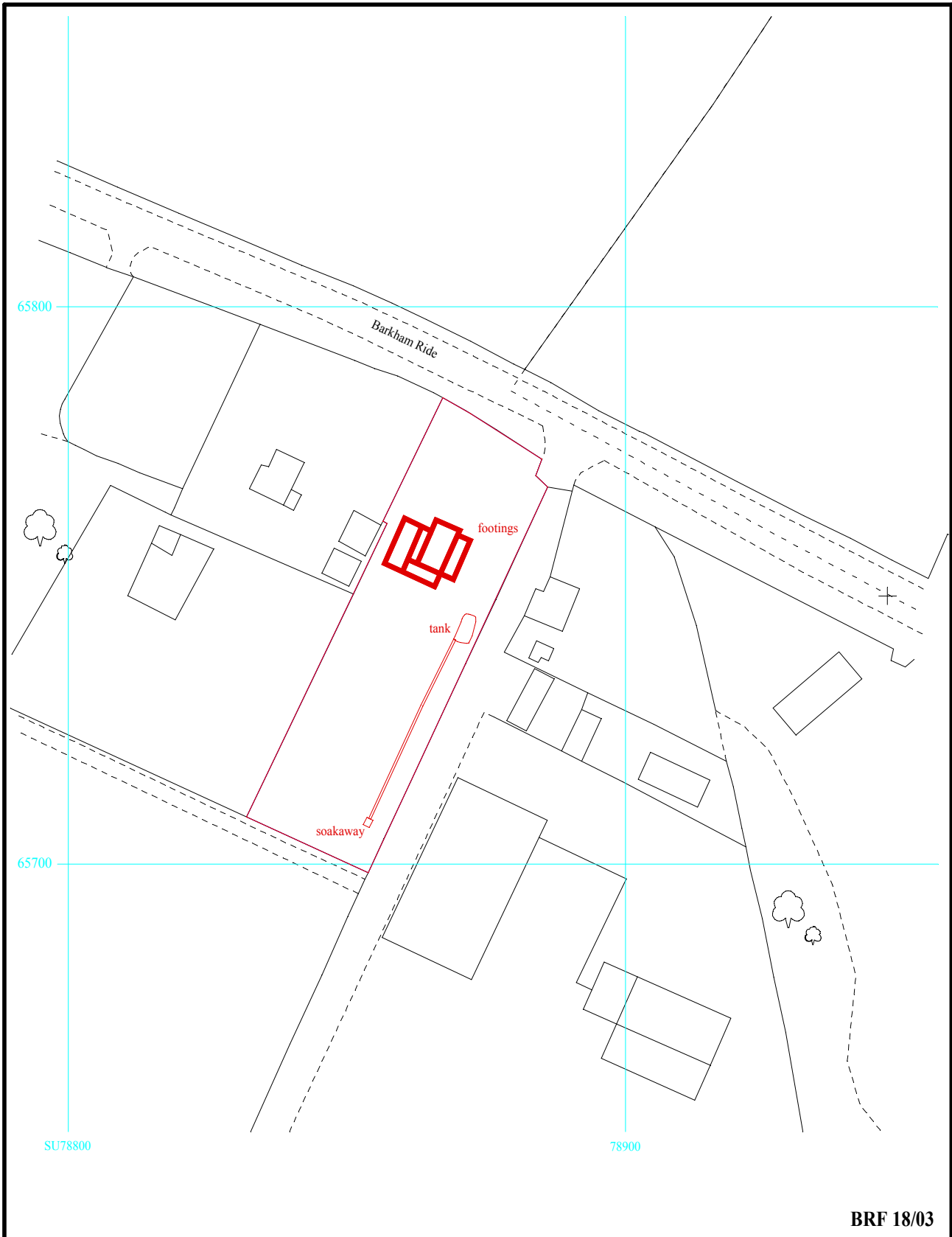
BRF 18/03



**18 Barkham Ride,
Finchampstead, Berkshire, 2019
Archaeological Watching Brief**
Figure 2. Detailed location of site off Barkham Ride.

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

THAMES VALLEY
ARCHAEOLOGICAL
SERVICES



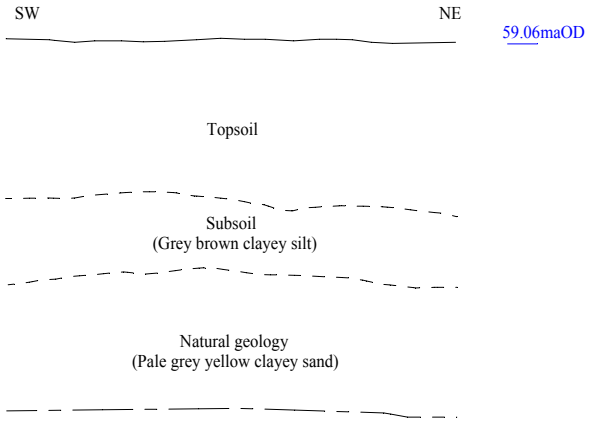
BRF 18/03

**18 Barkham Ride,
Finchampstead, Berkshire, 2018
Archaeological Watching Brief**

Figure 3. Location of observed areas.



THAMES VALLEY
ARCHAEOLOGICAL
 SERVICES



BRF 18/03

**18 Barkham Ride,
Finchampstead, Berkshire, 2018
Archaeological Watching Brief**

Figure 4. Representative footing section.



THAMES VALLEY
ARCHAEOLOGICAL
SERVICES



Plate 1. New footing trenches, looking south west.



Plate 2. Representative section of excavated footings, looking south east,
Scales: horizontal 2m, vertical 1m.

BRF 18/03

**18 Barkham Ride,
Finchampstead, Berkshire, 2018
Archaeological Watching Brief
Plates 1 and 2.**

THAMES VALLEY
ARCHAEOLOGICAL
SERVICES



Plate 1. New footing trenches, looking south west.

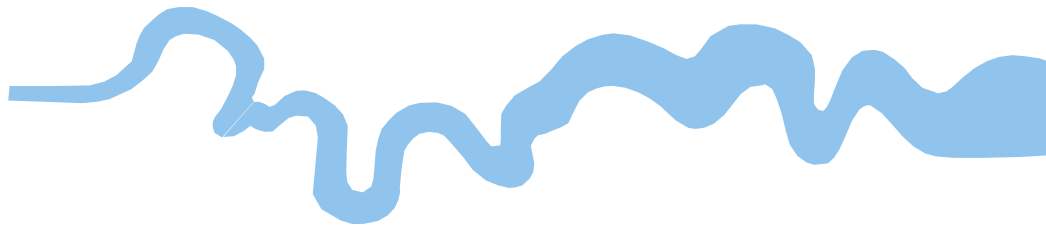


Plate 2. Representative section of excavated footings, looking south east,
Scales: horizontal 2m, vertical 1m.

BRF 18/03

**18 Barkham Ride,
Finchampstead, Berkshire, 2018
Archaeological Watching Brief
Plates 1 and 2.**

THAMES VALLEY
ARCHAEOLOGICAL
SERVICES



**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)***