

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

ARCHAEOLOGICAL

S E R V I C E S

**Land at Moat Farm, Winkfield,
Bracknell, Berkshire**

Archaeological Evaluation

phase 2

by Will Attard

Site Code: MFW18/133

(SU 8968 7288)

Land at Moat Farm, Winkfield, Bracknell, Berkshire

An Archaeological Evaluation (Phase 2)

for Millgate Homes Ltd

by Will Attard

Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code MFW18/133

July 2021

Summary

Site name: Land at Moat Farm, Winkfield, Bracknell, Berkshire

Grid reference: SU 8968 7288

Site activity: Evaluation (Phase 2)

Date and duration of project: 5th July 2021

Project manager: Tim Dawson

Site supervisor: Will Attard

Site code: MFW 18/133

Area of site: c. 0.63ha

Summary of results: Two trenches were excavated to complete the evaluation of the site. No archaeological deposits, cut features nor finds were encountered within the trenches opened. On the basis of these results and those of the phase 1 evaluation, the site is considered to have no archaeological potential

Location and reference of archive: The archive is presently held at TVAS, and will be deposited in an appropriate designated museum in due course.

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www.tvas.co.uk/reports/reports.asp.*

Report edited/checked by: Steve Ford ✓ 20.07.2021 Steve Preston ✓ 20.07.2021

Land at Moat Farm, Winkfield, Bracknell, Berkshire An Archaeological Evaluation (Phase 2)

by Will Attard

Report 18/133c

Introduction

This report documents the results of a second phase of archaeological field evaluation carried out on land at Moat Farm, Winkfield, Bracknell, Berkshire, SL4 4SR (SU 8971 7285) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Mr Richard Barter of Millgate Developments Ltd, Millgate House, Ruscombe Lane, Twyford, Berkshire, RG10 9JT.

Planning consent (19/00343/FUL) has been granted by Bracknell Forest Borough Council to redevelop a 0.63ha parcel of land for residential use with associated parking, access and landscaping following demolition of existing structures. The consent is subject to a condition (25) requiring an archaeological field evaluation to provide information regarding the potential of archaeological deposits at the site, and allow a scheme to be drawn up for appropriate mitigation measures if required. This is in accordance with the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government's *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF 2019), and the Borough Council's policies on archaeology. The field investigation was carried out according to a written scheme of investigation approved by Mr Roland Smith, (former) Archaeological Officer for Berkshire Archaeology, advisers to the Borough. The trenching had to be undertaken in two phases due to site access restrictions, namely the temporary retention of in use buildings. The first phase of work has been reported on previously (Attard 2019) and this report covers the final two trenches.

The second phase of fieldwork was undertaken by Will Attard on 5th July 2021. The site code is MFW 18/133. The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited when a local museum willing to accept archive material.

Location, topography and geology

The site is located on an irregular shaped piece of land west of Winkfield Lane, in Maiden's Green, which is part of the large parish of Winkfield, c.4km north of Bracknell (Fig. 1). The site was previously occupied by a small group of commercial buildings in the north west corner of a larger land parcel (1.8ha) that is not to be developed. The buildings had been demolished prior to the second phase of work. The environs of the site are mostly resid-

ential. The underlying geology is mapped London Clay (BGS 1981), and a silty clay was observed in undisturbed areas. The site lies at a height of *c* .63m above Ordnance Datum.

Archaeological background

The potential of the site has been highlighted in an archaeological desk-based assessment (Baljkas 2018). The site is in proximity to an earthwork forming a medieval moated enclosure. At the Norman Conquest, the settlement was known as Wenesfelle, in the Hundred of Ripplesmere held by Abingdon Abbey, which had been reduced from 10 hides in AD1066 to 3.5 by 1086 (Williams and Martin 2002, 146). The Scheduled Monument is likely to have been established in Early Medieval times, as a homestead enclosure, which would have been a key component of a village complex (Clarke 1984, 49). Based on its location within the Royal Windsor Forest, it is also possible that the enclosure could have contained a hunting lodge for royal use. Another of these enclosures, less than 1km to the north, marks the historic manor of Crawridge which was granted 151 acres of woodland by Henry III (VCH 1923). The existing 17th century Crawridge Manor Farm (Grade II; 1390427) possibly marks this location, but no archaeological investigation seems to have occurred on either site. Iron Age deposits are known nearby, at such sites as Fairclough Farm (Torrance and Durden 2003) and Park Farm, Binfield (Roberts 1995). Other finds, such as Mesolithic flint scatters, and pottery within Bronze Age or Roman deposits have also been found near the site, in the environs of Bracknell.

The first phase of evaluation on the site (Attard 2019) revealed no archaeological finds or features, although only one could be excavated fully due to the presence of contaminated made ground in the others.

Objectives and methodology

The aims of the evaluation were to determine the presence/absence, extent, condition, character, quality and date of any archaeological or palaeo-environmental deposits within the area of development.

Specific research aims of the project are:

to determine if archaeologically relevant levels are present of the site; to determine if archaeological deposits of any period are present;

to determine if any extra-mural deposits of medieval date are present with association to the nearby Scheduled Ancient Monument;

to provide sufficient information to inform a possible mitigation strategy.

It was proposed to dig the final two trenches (4 and 5) following demolition of the remaining buildings on the site. The trenches were excavated with a 360° type machine fitted with a toothless grading bucket under constant archaeological supervision. All spoil heaps were monitored for finds during and after excavation.

Results

Trenches 4 and 5 were initially located within in-use buildings but following demolition of the latter, they were successfully excavated as intended (Fig. 3). A list of the two trenches giving lengths, breadths, depths and a description of sections and geology is given in Appendix 1.

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

Trench 4 measured 13.5m in length, aligned approximately N-S. The original alignment of the trench had to be changed due to the presence of a large spoil heap, but the amended location still targets the footprint of the former warehouse. The stratigraphy observed consisted of 0.08m of sand and gravel bedding overlying 0.20m of hard standing. Beneath the hard standing was a very dark grey-blue layer of contaminated silty clay measuring 0.85m in thickness. 'Clean' natural geology was encountered at a depth of 0.93m, and consisted of mid yellow-brown silty clay. A large concrete pad with re-bar partially extended into the trench, and at the northern end a plastic borehole pipe was encountered, resulting in the intended 15m trench being shortened slightly to 13.5m. No archaeological features, deposits or finds were encountered.

Trench 5 (Fig. 3; Pl. 2)

Trench 5 was excavated in the intended location, and measured 15.2m in length, aligned N-S. The stratigraphy encountered in this trench consisted of 0.29m of hard standing overlying a heavily hydrocarbon contaminated layer of silty clay 0.12m in thickness overlying mid yellow-brown silty clay natural geology. No archaeological deposits or finds were encountered.

Conclusion

No archaeological finds were present in either of the trenches. Contamination was present across both trenches as it had been in three of the four previously excavated. The natural geology was often stained by the hydrocarbons in the overlying deposits, and it was necessary in trenches 4 and 5 to remove this staining to check

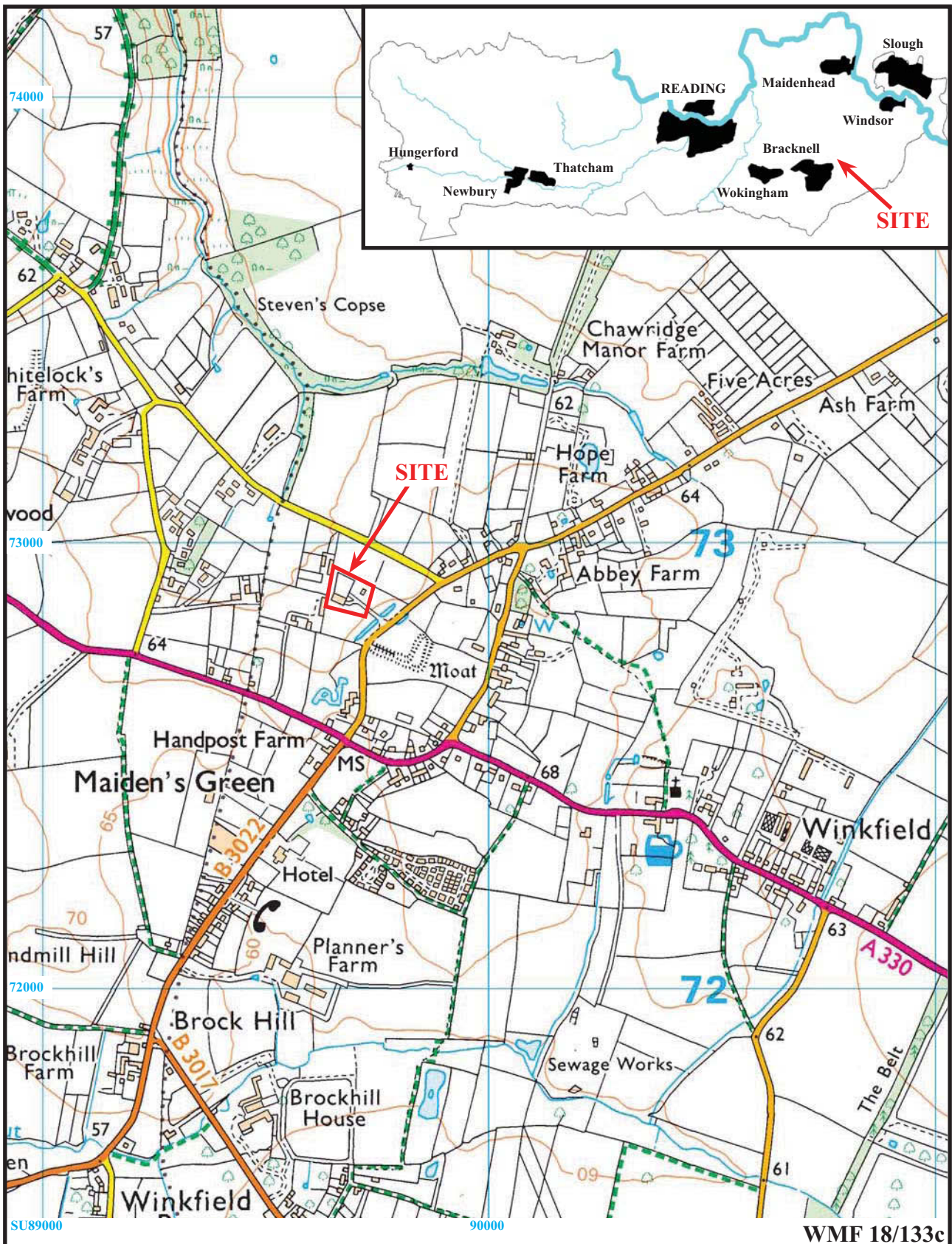
for the remnants of underlying features below, but none were present. Taking the results of both phases of evaluation together, the site is considered to have no archaeological potential.

References

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APPENDIX 1: Trench details

<i>Trench</i>	<i>Length (m)</i>	<i>Breadth (m)</i>	<i>Depth (m)</i>	<i>Comment</i>
4	13.5	1.8-	0.9-1.13	0-0.08m sand and gravel bedding layer; 0.08-0.28m hard standing; 0.28-1.13m very dark grey-blue layer of contaminated silty clay; 0.93m+ mid yellow-brown silty clay natural geology. Modern services. [Pl. 1] .
5	15.2	1.8	0.45	0-0.29m hard standing; 0.29-0.41m contaminated silty clay; 0.41m+ mid yellow-brown silty clay natural geology [Pl. 2] .

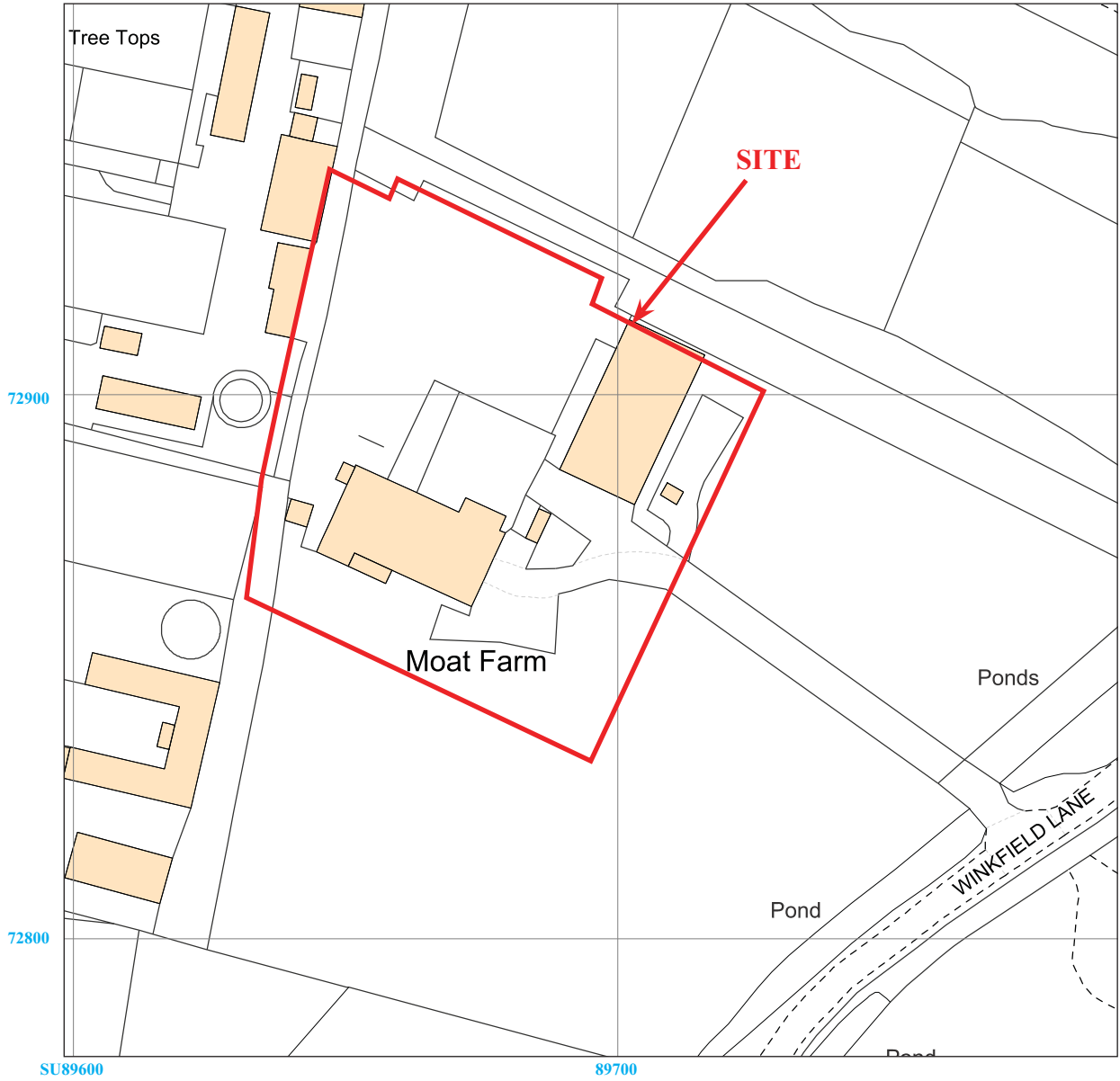


**Land at Moat Farm, Winkfield
Bracknell, Berkshire, 2021
Archaeological Evaluation Phase 2**

Figure 1. Location of site within Winkfield and Berkshire.

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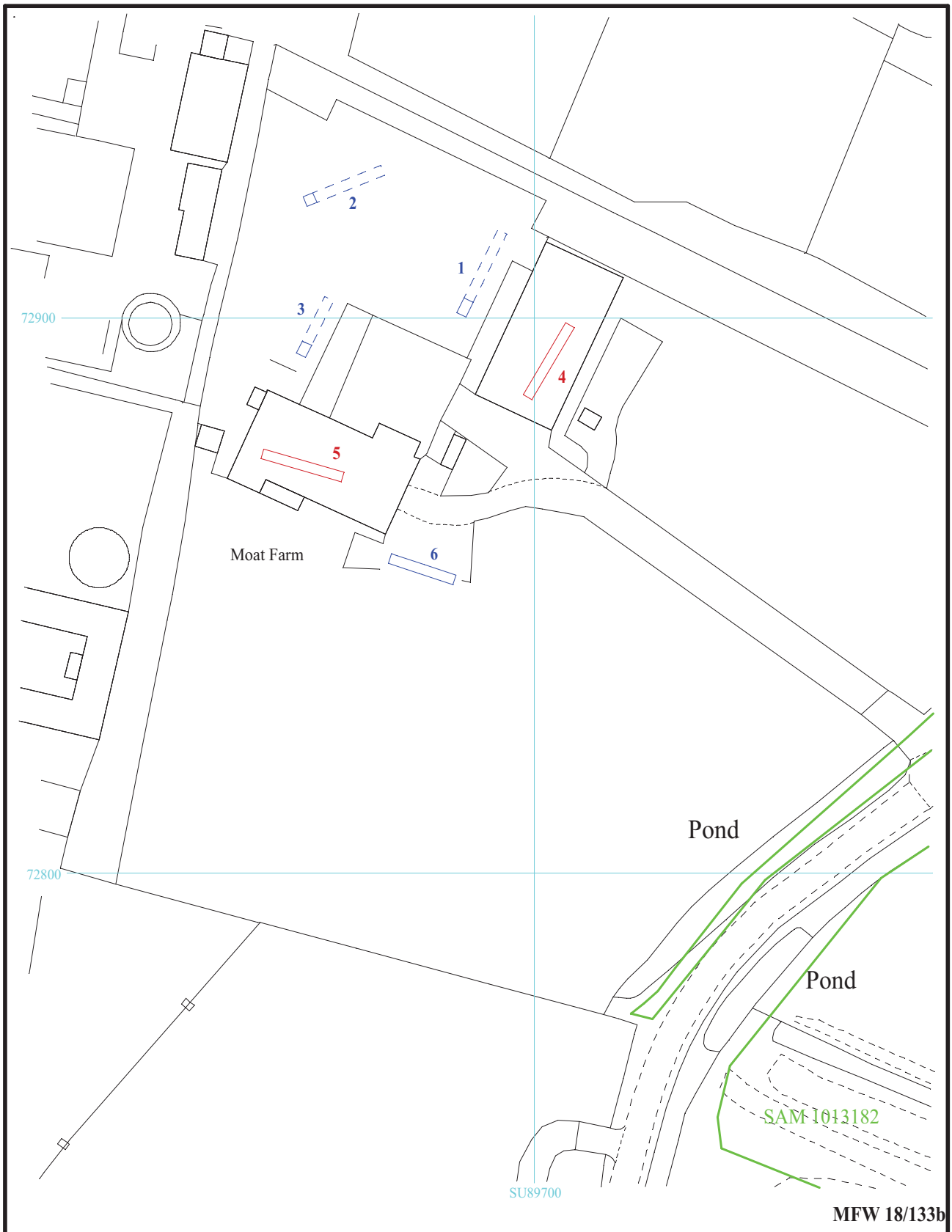
MFW 18/133b



**Land at Moat Farm, Winkfield,
Bracknell, Berkshire, 2021**
Archaeological Evaluation Phase 2
Figure 2. Detailed location of site off Winkfield Lane.

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Figure 2. Location of trenches.



Trench 4

W E [62.57maOD](#)

----- Sand and gravel bedding -----

Dark grey-blue silty clay (contaminated made ground)

----- Brown yellow silty clay (natural geology) -----

MFW 18/133c

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Figure 4. Representative section from Trench 4.





Plate 1. Trench 4, looking North, Scales: 2 x 1m and 0.5m.



Plate 2. Trench 5, looking North, Scales: 2 x 1m and 0.5m.

MFW 18/133b

**Land at Moat Farm, Winkfield,
Bracknell, Berkshire, 2021
Archaeological Evaluation Phase 2
Plates 1 and 2.**

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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





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