11 Braywick Road, Maidenhead, Berkshire

An Archaeological Watching Brief

For Mr Patrick Noone

By James Lewis
Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code
11BRM07/148

November 2007
Summary

Site name: 11 Braywick Road, Maidenhead, Berkshire

Grid reference: SU 8892 8055

Site activity: Watching Brief

Date and duration of project: 6th-8th November 2007

Project manager: Steve Ford

Site supervisor: James McNicholl-Norbury and James Lewis

Site code: 11BRM07/148

Summary of results: No archaeological deposits were observed nor finds were recovered

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

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Report edited/checked by: Steve Ford✓ 16.11.07
                           Steve Preston✓ 16.11.07
Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological watching brief carried out at 11 Braywick Road, Maidenhead, Berkshire (SU 8892 8055) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Mr Patrick Noone, Dean Farm, Alleyns Lane, Cookham Dean, Berkshire, SL6 9AE.

A planning consent (07/00244/FUL) has been granted by the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead to erect a new house on land at 11 Braywick Road, Maidenhead following demolition of an existing outbuilding. This consent is subject to a condition relating to archaeology which required a watching brief to be carried out during groundworks.

This is in accordance with the Department of the Environment’s Planning Policy Guidance, Archaeology and Planning (PPG16 1990), and the Royal Borough’s policies on archaeology. The field investigation was carried out to a specification approved by Ms Mary O’Donoghue of Berkshire Archaeology, the Royal Borough’s archaeological adviser. The fieldwork was undertaken by James McNicholl-Norbury and James Lewis on the 6th and 8th November 2007 and the site code is 11BRM07/148.

The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited at Reading Museum in due course.

Location, topography and geology

The site is located within an urban area on the south side of Maidenhead (Fig. 2). It is directly adjacent to the present A308 and is situated south of the railway line. The physical landscape slopes down east to the River Thames. The site is at an elevation of c.25m above Ordnance Datum. The underlying geology is Taplow terrace gravel (BGS 1979). However, a brown sandy clay was encountered in the footing trenches.

Archaeological background

The archaeological potential for the site is due to its location within the archaeologically rich Thames Valley which has many sites recorded from the air (Gates 1975) and with many finds of tools and weapons dredged from the river dating from prehistoric to Roman times (Ford 1987). For this location there are a number of
findspots of Roman date nearby, however, of more interest are the Iron Age finds to the north east. It is possible that further deposits of similar date are present on the site.

**Objectives and methodology**

The purpose of the watching brief was to excavate and record any archaeological deposits affected by the new construction work. This involved examination of all intrusive groundworks, in particular ground reduction, landscaping and the digging of foundation trenches and service runs. Spoilheaps were to be monitored for finds.

**Results**

The area of the proposed new building measured approximately 11m by 10m (Fig. 3). The topsoil (c. 0.3m) and surface vegetation had initially been removed to the top of a brown sandy clay with occasional flint nodules and broken flint inclusions. The footings observed measured 0.70m wide and 1.40m deep (Fig. 4). The stratigraphy revealed the brown sandy clay down to the base of the trench. The only feature that had been identified within the trenches was a modern pit that had been truncated by the trench. This was located at the south-east corner of the trench.

**Finds**

No finds of any archaeological interest were recovered.

**Conclusion**

Despite the proximity of the site to Iron Age remains and Roman findspots no archaeological deposits were observed or artefacts found.

**References**

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Figure 1. Location of site within Maidenhead and Berkshire.

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Figure 2. Detailed location of site off Braywick Road.

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Figure 3. Location of areas observed.
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Figure 4. Representative section of footing trench.

Topsoil

Brown sandy clay with flints

Base of trench

0 1m