Acrefield Cottage, Winkfield Street, Maidens Green, Winkfield, Windsor, Berkshire

An Archaeological Watching Brief

For Mr and Mrs Elia

by Pamela Jenkins

Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code ACW 05/41

December 2005
Summary

Site name: Acrefield Cottage, Winkfield Street, Maidens Green, Winkfield, Windsor, Berkshire

Grid reference: SU 9001 7285

Site activity: Watching Brief

Date and duration of project: 28th September - 16th December 2005

Project manager: Steve Ford

Site supervisor: Pamela Jenkins and Richard Oram

Site code: ACW 05/41

Area of site: 1450sqm

Summary of results: No archaeological features or deposits were observed

Monuments identified: None

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

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Joanna Pine ✓ 22.12.05
Introduction
This report documents the results of an archaeological watching brief carried out at Acrefield Cottage, Winkfield Street, Maidens Green, Winkfield, Windsor, Berkshire (SU 9001 7285) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Mr Patrick Mackrory of 17 Bissley Drive, Maidenhead, Berkshire, SL6 3UX, on behalf of Mr and Mrs Elia of Acrefield Cottage, Winkfield Street, Maidens Green, Winkfield, Windsor, Berkshire.

Planning consent (03/00477/FUL) has been granted for the erection of house extensions, a new garage and an access road subject to the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in the form of an archaeological watching brief during the groundworks.

This is in accordance with the Department of the Environment’s Planning Policy Guidance, *Archaeology and Planning* (PPG16 1990), and the Borough’s policies on archaeology. The field investigation was carried out to a specification approved by Mr Kev Beachus, Senior Archaeologist for Babtie Group Ltd, the previous archaeological advisors to the Borough. The fieldwork was undertaken by Pamela Jenkins and Richard Oram between 28th September and 16th December 2005 and the site code is ACW 05/41.

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 which comprises a private dwelling and garden is located on the west side of Winkfield Street in Winkfield, to the west of Windsor Great Park (Fig. 2). The garden was seen to slope gently downwards from east to west and is bounded by a ditch along its eastern edge parallel with Winkfield Street. The height above Ordnance Datum is c.70m and the geology observed was London clay (BGS 1981).

Archaeological background
The village of Winkfield is known to have late Saxon origins, being first mentioned in a charter of AD 942 and later described in Domesday Book. The site of Acrefield Cottage lies to the east of Maidens Green Moat which is considered possibly to be the site of a medieval manor or hunting lodge.
An archaeological watching brief carried out a few hundred metres to the south-west at Maidens Green Cottage, Winkfield (Hall 1994) and an evaluation to the south-east at Church Cottage in Church Road (Taylor 2001) produced only a couple of sherds each of medieval pottery which were consistent with finds accidentally incorporated in manure which was spread onto farmland in the vicinity of a medieval settlement. A further watching brief only a hundred metres north-west of Acrefield Cottage at Oxford Cottage Farm, Winkfield Land, Maidens Green revealed nothing of archaeological interest (Ford 1993).

**Objectives and methodology**

The purpose of the watching brief was to excavate and record any archaeological deposits affected by the new construction work. This was to involve the examination of areas of ground reduction for the access route into the garage and the digging of trenches for foundations and services. All spoil heaps were monitored for finds. Excavations were carried out using a mini digger with a toothed bucket, or by hand.

**Results**

**Service trenches**

Drainage trenches aligned east-west and north-south alongside the northern and eastern walls of the existing house were 0.55-0.75m wide and 0.74m deep. The stratigraphy revealed within the first was a single layer of paving stones approximately 0.07m thick above 0.06m of imported fine sand. Below this a further surface of concrete 0.05m was noted above 0.56m of modern made up ground within which earlier pipe work had been laid. The latter showed only made ground relating to the construction of the existing house. A further drainage trench 0.40m wide was dug from the north-east corner of the new garage for a distance of 6m into a 1.60m x 1.60m soakaway revealing turf and topsoil (50) onto 0.25m of firm mid orangey brown silty clay subsoil (51) above natural clay. An electric cable trench aligned north-south at a distance of 10.40m from the garage showed the same stratigraphy.

**Access route**

Ground reduction for the access route involved stripping in places of only a thin layer of topsoil to reveal the underlying subsoil. However where the access route met Winkfield Street, in an area approximately 5m x 2.5m, Topsoil and subsoil were removed to reveal the surface of the clay natural at 0.33m below the present ground surface. However in this area no archaeological deposits or finds were observed.
Garage

The originally intended construction method for the garage was for traditional strip foundations. However, the method was altered to piling and groundbeams. As such this did these groundworks would not expose the archaeologically relevant levels and thus they were not observed in this location.

House extension

The foundations for the new extension located on the north side of the existing house comprised piles and groundbeams. Once the piles had been inserted, the groundbeam trenches were typically 0.65m wide and 0.8m deep (Fig. 4). The stratigraphy revealed topsoil up to 0.3m thick overlying a thin layer of subsoil 0.1m thick above the natural silty clay. The northwest corner of the extension had been previously truncated by a large modern pit. Elsewhere, no cut features, modern or archaeological were seen. No archaeological finds were recovered.

Finds

No finds of archaeological interest were revealed

Conclusion

Despite examination of various locations across the site and with some larger areas stripped of topsoil, this did not result in the observation of any deposits of archaeological interest. Similarly no finds of archaeological interest were recovered from the spoil arising from any of the groundworks.

References

Ford, S, 1993, Oxford Cottage Farm, Winkfield Lane, Maidens Green, Berkshire, archaeological watching brief, Thames Valley Archaeological Services report 93/23, Reading
Hall, M, 1994, Maidens Green Cottage, Winkfield, archaeological watching brief, Thames Valley Archaeological Services report 94/03, Reading
Taylor, K, 2001, ‘Church Cottage, Church Road, Winkfield, Berkshire: Archaeological Evaluation’, Thames Valley Archaeological Services Report 01/47, Reading
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Figure 1. Location of site within Winkfield and Berkshire.

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Figure 2. Location of site on Winkfield Street.

Scale: 1:1250
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Figure 3. Location of watching brief observations.

Scale: 1:500
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Topsoil

Subsoil

Natural geology (yellow-brown silty clay)

Base of trench

Figure 4. Representative section of extension groundbeam trench.