Land adjacent to Barra Hall, Wood End Green Road, Hayes, London Borough of Hillingdon

An Archaeological Evaluation

for George Wimpey West London Ltd

by Andy Taylor
Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code BWO 04

May 2004
Summary

Site name: Land adjacent to Barra Hall, Wood End Green Road, Hayes, London Borough of Hillingdon

Grid reference: TQ 0930 8120

Site activity: Evaluation

Date and duration of project: 24th–26th May 2004

Project manager: Steve Ford

Site supervisor: Andy Taylor

Site code: BWO 04

Area of site: 0.81 ha

Summary of results: No archaeological finds or deposits were identified

Monuments identified: None

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

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Report edited/checked by: Steve Ford 27.05.04
Steve Preston 27.05.04
Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological field evaluation carried out at Land adjacent to Barra Hall, Wood End Green Road, Hayes, London Borough of Hillingdon (TQ 0930 8120) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Mr Paul Slingo, of George Wimpey West London Ltd, Stratfield House, Station Road, Hook, Hampshire, RG27 9PQ.

Planning permission (Application no. 8134/APP/2003/2831) has been gained from London Borough of Hillingdon for the development of the site for residential purposes with associated space for car parking. A desktop study highlighted the archaeological potential of the site (Lowe 2004). As a result of this potential an archaeological evaluation was requested.

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 Ms Kim Stabler, Archaeology Advisor with the Greater London Archaeology Advisory Service, and monitored by her.

The fieldwork was undertaken by Andy Taylor and Natasha Bennett on the 24th and 26th May 2005 and the site code is BWO 04. The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited at the Museum of London due course.

Location, topography and geology

The site is located to the west of the historic core of Hayes. It is situated on the corner of Wood End Green Road and Botwell Lane. Two pre-fabricated structures front onto Botwell Lane as does a smaller modern brick building. The council offices of Barra Hall lie immediately to the east overlooking a large park.

The site is located on Boyn Terrace river gravels (BGS 1990) and lies at a height of approximately 38m above Ordnance Datum.
**Archaeological background**

A desktop survey (Lowe 2004) identified the archaeological potential of the site. The Boyn Terrace river gravels on which the site lies are known to contain evidence of Palaeolithic activity. Limited finds from the Bronze Age include a barbed and tanged arrowhead as well as a socketed axe from Botwell Lane (Cotton et al. 1986) and a pre-Roman trackway is thought to have passed through the general area. The majority of evidence is from the medieval period, with two moated sites to the south-west, and the Dawley Road, to the west, is believed to be medieval in origin. To the east is the church of St Mary’s, dated to the 13th century with an associated Lych Gate, which is a Grade II listed building.

**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.

Specific aims of the project were;

a) To determine if archaeologically relevant levels have survived on this site given that parts of the site have been previously developed.

b) To determine if archaeological deposits of any period are present.

c) To determine if there are any deposits of medieval date present which relate to the nearby use of a moated site.

Trenches measured between 8.7m and 21m in length and all were 1.6m wide. All were opened with a JCB-type machine fitted with a toothless ditching bucket, under constant archaeological supervision and all spoilheaps were monitored for finds.

All trenches were positioned as near to their original intended locations as possible. However, due to presence of buildings and live services some had to be moved slightly and some shortened (4, 5). After consultation with the monitor, to compensate, the lengthening of others was attempted but resulted in further services being located. Due to space restrictions the original Trench 8 was divided into two (8 and 9) (Fig. 2).

A complete list of trenches giving lengths, breadths, depths and a description of sections and geology is given in Appendix 1.
Results

Trench 1 (Plate 1)
This trench consisted of topsoil overlying a mid grey brown subsoil overlying a yellow grey sandy clay natural. At the western end Tarmac overlay a made ground layer consisting of scalpings over brick rubble, overlying the natural geology. The eastern end consisted of turf/topsoil overlying subsoil overlying an orange brown gravelly clay.

Trench 2
This trench consisted of Tarmac overlying a concrete layer overlying a grey green clay overlying sandy gravelly clay natural at the eastern end. The western end consisted of turf/topsoil overlying subsoil overlying clay natural.

Trench 3
Trench 3 consisted of turf/topsoil overlying made ground overlying gravelly clay natural.

Trench 4
This trench consisted of Tarmac overlying scalpings overlying orange brown gravelly clay natural. Numerous live services were encountered in this trench as well as modern concrete footings.

Trench 5
This trench consisted of turf/topsoil overlying subsoil overlying a dirty clay overlying gravelly clay natural.

Trench 6 (Plate 2 and Figure 3)
Trench 6 consisted of Tarmac overlying scalpings overlying a grey green clay gravelly clay natural.

Trench 7
This trench contained topsoil overlying subsoil overlying gravelly clay natural. A modern service trench ran the whole length of this trench.

Trench 8
This trench consisted of topsoil overlying subsoil overlying a dirty clay overlying gravelly clay natural.
Trench 9

This trench consisted of topsoil overlying subsoil overlying gravelly clay natural.

All subsoil encountered contained fragments of modern brick and tile and pottery, not retained.

Finds

The only finds encountered consisted of modern pottery and brick and tile fragments from the subsoil and made ground layers.

Conclusion

No archaeological finds or deposits were located in any of the trenches and it would seem that the development would be unlikely to damage any archaeology on the site. It would appear that the majority of the development area has been disturbed to some extent by the previous building work that has taken place on the site with its associated services.

References

**APPENDIX 1: Trench details**

0m at S or W ends

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Trench No.</th>
<th>Length (m)</th>
<th>Breadth (m)</th>
<th>Depth (m)</th>
<th>Comment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>19.80</td>
<td>1.60</td>
<td>0.81 (SW)</td>
<td>Wend: 0.00m-0.40m topsoil; 0.40m-0.80m subsoil; 0.80m-0.81m+orange brown gravelly clay natural at 37.31m AOD. E End 0.00m-0.25m tarmac; 0.25m-0.72m scalpings; 0.72m-0.90m made ground; 0.90m+ natural.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>21.00</td>
<td>1.60</td>
<td>0.72</td>
<td>SE End: 0.00m-0.27m topsoil; 0.27m-0.67m subsoil; 0.67m-0.72m+ orange brown gravelly clay natural at 37.40m AOD. NW End: 0.00m-0.05m tarmac; 0.05m-0.40m concrete; 0.40m-0.65m grey green clay; 0.65m+ natural.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>15.80</td>
<td>1.60</td>
<td>1.03</td>
<td>0.00m-0.36m topsoil; 0.36m-1.00m made ground; 1.00m-1.03m+ orange brown gravelly clay natural at 37.60m AOD.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>10.00</td>
<td>1.60</td>
<td>0.63</td>
<td>0.00m-0.40m Tarmac; 0.40m-0.60m scalpings; 0.60m-0.63m+ orange brown gravelly clay natural at 37.60m AOD.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>12.00</td>
<td>1.60</td>
<td>1.09</td>
<td>0.00m-0.32m topsoil; 0.32m-0.82m subsoil; 0.82m-1.00m dirty clay; 1.00m-1.09m+ orange brown gravelly clay natural at 37.35m AOD.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>20.10</td>
<td>1.60</td>
<td>0.72</td>
<td>0.00m-0.24m Tarmac; 0.24m-0.60m scalpings; 0.60m-0.72m grey green clay; 0.72m+ orange brown gravelly clay natural at 37.23m AOD.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>18.00</td>
<td>1.60</td>
<td>0.55</td>
<td>0.00m-0.25m topsoil; 0.25m-0.55m subsoil; 0.55m+ orange brown gravelly clay natural at 37.75m AOD.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>10.10</td>
<td>1.60</td>
<td>0.85</td>
<td>0.00m-0.21m topsoil; 0.21m-0.75m subsoil; 0.75m-0.82m dirty clay; 0.82m-0.85m+ orange brown gravelly clay natural at 37.58m AOD.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>10.05</td>
<td>1.60</td>
<td>0.77</td>
<td>0.00m-0.25m topsoil; 0.25m-0.77m subsoil; 0.77m+ orange brown gravelly clay natural at 37.33m AOD.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
GLSMR/RCHME NAR ARCHAEOLOGICAL REPORT FORM

1. TYPE OF RECORDING

Evaluation

2. LOCATION

Borough: Hillingdon

Site Address: Land adjacent to Barra Hall, Wood End Green Road, Hayes

Site Name: Land adjacent to Barra Hall, Wood End Green Road, Hayes                   Site Code: BWO 04

Nat. Grid Refs:  

centre of site: TQ 0930 8120

limits of site:

a)  
b)  
c)  
d)

3. ORGANISATION

Name of archaeological unit: Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Address: 47–49 De Beauvoir Road, Reading RG1 5NR

Site director/supervisor: Andy Taylor  
Project manager: Steve Ford

Funded by: George Wimpey West London Ltd

4. DURATION

Date fieldwork started: 24th May 2004  
Date finished: 26th May 2004

Fieldwork previously notified?  NO

Fieldwork will continue?  NO

5. PERIODS REPRESENTED

Palaeolithic  
Roman

Mesolithic  
Saxon (pre-AD 1066)

Neolithic  
Medieval (AD1066-1485)

Bronze Age  
Post-Medieval

Iron Age  
Unknown
6. PERIOD SUMMARIES
No archaeology was present

7. NATURAL
Type: Boyn Terrace River Gravels
Height above Ordnance Datum: c.37.50m AOD

8. LOCATION OF ARCHIVE
a) Please provide an estimate of the quantity of material in your possession for the following categories:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Notes</th>
<th>Plans</th>
<th>Photos</th>
<th>Negatives</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td></td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Slides</td>
<td></td>
<td>Correspondence</td>
<td>MScripts (unpub reports, etc.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bulk finds</td>
<td>Small finds</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other (please specify)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

b) The complete archive has been/will be deposited in the following location: Museum of London

c) Approximate year of transfer: 2006

d) Location of any copies: Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

e) Has a security copy of the archive been made? YES
If not, do you wish RCHME to consider microfilming? YES / NO

9. LOCATION OF FINDS
a: In your possessions (delete as appropriate): N/A
b: All/some finds have been/will be deposited with the following museum/other body: Museum of London
Approximate year of transfer: 2006

10. BIBLIOGRAPHY:


NAME: ANDREW TAYLOR
DATE: 27th May 2004
Land adjacent to Barra Hall, Wood End Green Road, Hayes, London Borough of Hillingdon, 2004

Figure 1. Location of site within Hayes and Greater London.

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Land adjacent to Barra Hall, Wood End Green Road, Hayes, London Borough of Hillingdon, 2004

Figure 2. Location of Trenches
Land adjacent to Barra Hall, Wood End Green Road, Hayes, London Borough of Hillingdon

Representative Section-Trench 6

- Tarmac
- Scalpings
- Grey Green Clay
- Orange/Brown Gravelly Clay
Plate 1. Trench 1 looking west, scales: 1m and 2m.

Plate 2. Trench 6 looking south, scales: 1m and 2m.