Summary

Site name: Bramley Grange, Horsham Road, Bramley, Surrey

Grid reference: TQ 0070 4510

Site activity: Archaeological evaluation

Date and duration of project: 8th October 2003

Project manager: Steve Ford

Site supervisor: Stephen Hammond

Site code: BGB 03/95

Area of site: c. 390 sq m

Summary of results: No finds or archaeological features were encountered during the investigation.

Monuments identified: None

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

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Report edited/checked by: Steve Ford  24.10.03
                          Steve Preston  24.10.03
Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological field evaluation carried out on a parcel of land fronting Horsham Road, Bramley on part of the Bramley Grange Hotel complex (TQ 0070 4510) (Fig. 1). Planning consent (WA/2003/0422) has been granted by Waverley Borough Council to construct affordable housing on the site subject to a condition (13) relating to archaeology which required an evaluation to be carried out prior to groundworks commencing. The work was commissioned by Mr James Taylor, Development Manager for English Village Housing Association, 59 Conduit Lane, Woodham Mortimer, Essex, CM9 6SZ.

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 Tony Howe, Surrey County Council Archaeological Officer. The fieldwork was undertaken by Stephen Hammond with the assistance of Danielle Colls and the site code is BGB 03/95. The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited with Guildford Museum in due course.

The archaeological potential of the area has been highlighted by a desktop study for an adjacent parcel of land (Ford 2001). This indicated that the site lies close to the margins of what is considered to be the historic core of Bramley. Recent fieldwork immediately to the south (Moore 2001) failed to locate any deposits of interest.

Location, topography and geology

The site is located on the western side of Horsham road close to the crossroad with Snowdenham Lane (Figs 1 and 2) and is currently being used as a car parking area. It lies on the north-westerly edge of the village and covers an area c. 390 sq m. The site lies at a height of around 42.6m above Ordnance Datum (AOD). The river Wey flows to the east of the site, and the topography shows that the ground slopes in this direction. The underlying geology according to maps (BGS 1976) is Hythe Beds, part of the lower greensand formation. This is adjacent to the valley gravels from the floor of the Wey valley. An orange/yellow sand natural was observed in both trenches.
Archaeological background

For the area surrounding Bramley, the Surrey Sites and Monuments Record indicates that the period most represented by archaeological finds is the Mesolithic. Many find spots of flint tools from this period have been found to the west and east of Bramley on the same underlying geology. This geological outcrop may have sustained a diverse range of plant and animal species, which would account for the prevalence of finds in this area (Ford 2001).

Later prehistoric periods are not so well represented with finds being more scarce, perhaps indicating less intensive use of this area. The reason for this is not certain, as river valleys in other regions would be typical areas to find prehistoric activity. Finds for the Neolithic period include a modest spread of axeheads. Dense spreads of arrowheads dating from the later Neolithic and early Bronze Age have been found to the east and west of Bramley. The middle and later Bronze Age and Iron Age produced relatively few find spots as too did the Roman period. This could possibly be due to early impoverishment of the sandy soils (Ford 2001) making it an undesirable area to farm.

Our knowledge of the Saxon and medieval periods for Bramley is poor and is gained largely from place names and historic sources (Blair 1991). There is little information to help map the progression of the settlement.

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. The specific research aims for the project were:

- To determine if archaeologically relevant levels have survived on this site.
- To determine if archaeological deposits of any period are present.
- To determine if any finds or deposits of Mesolithic date are present on the site.
- To determine if any medieval occupation is present on the Horsham Road frontage.

This was to be done in a manner which would not compromise the integrity of any archaeological features or deposits that might warrant preservation in situ, or might better be excavated under conditions pertaining to full excavation.

In order to achieve these objectives it was decided to dig two trenches 10m long and 1.6m wide to evaluate the site using a small 360° type tracked excavator under constant supervision. These trenches were to be located in areas likely to be affected by the development proposals. All spoil heaps created would be monitored for
finds. A complete list of trenches giving lengths, breadths, depths and a description of sections and geology is given in Appendix 1.

**Results**

Two trenches were excavated, one being 11.00m and the other 11.60m (Fig. 3). Due to the location of a live sewer pipe towards the western corner of the site it was decided to invert the positioning of the original trench location plan so to avoid the possibility of inadvertently damaging the service.

**Trench 1** (Plate 1)

This trench was 11.00m long and was aligned NE–SW. The section revealed 0.12m of Tarmac covering 0.22m of compacted stone scalpins which in turn covered 0.17m of compacted brick rubble. Below this a buried dark brown/grey silty sand topsoil 0.10m thick was observed overlying a mid orange/brown silty sand subsoil 0.30m thick. This was noted to change to a clean mid orange sand thought to be the first natural horizon. To confirm this interpretation, the trench was dug down further to reveal that the orange sand continued to a depth of 1.10m before a mid/orange yellow sand was seen, which continued to the total trench depth of 1.19m. No finds or archaeological features were observed.

**Trench 2** (Plate 2)

Aligned NW–SE, this trench was 11.60m long. The section consisted of 0.07m of Tarmac overlying 0.24m of compacted stone scalpins above 0.27m of compacted brick rubble. Below this a silty sand topsoil was seen 0.10m thick covering 0.25m of mid brown/orange silty sand subsoil. At a depth of 0.93m a clean mid orange sand was noted 0.22m thick. This was removed to reveal a mid orange/yellow sand that continued to the total trench depth of 1.21m. No finds or archaeological features were revealed.

**Finds**

No archaeological finds were encountered during the evaluation exercise.

**Conclusion**

No finds or features of any archaeological significance were discovered during the evaluation. In particular no evidence was uncovered to suggest any form of medieval occupation on the Horsham Road frontage at this
point, nor any Mesolithic activity. It is very unlikely therefore that any ground intrusive construction work proposed on the site would effect or destroy any archaeological deposits. The evaluation results indicate that the site has no archaeological potential.

References
Blair, J, 1991, Early Medieval Surrey, Sutton, Stroud
Ford, S, 2001, ‘Bramley Grange Hotel, an Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment’, Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd report 01/19, Reading
Moore, H, 2001 ‘Bramley Grange Hotel, Horsham Road, Bramley, Surrey, an Archaeological Evaluation’, Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd report 01/19b
## APPENDIX 1: Trench details

0m at S or west end

<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>11.00</td>
<td>1.6</td>
<td>1.19</td>
<td>0.12m of Tarmac covering 0.22m of compacted stone scalpings which in turn covered 0.17m of compacted brick rubble. Below this was a buried dark brown/grey silty sand topsoil with occasional charcoal and brick inclusions 0.10m thick. This was overlying a mid orange/brown silty sand subsoil 0.30m thick. This change to a clean mid orange sand thought to be the first natural horizon. The trench was dug down further to reveal that the orange sand continued to a depth of 1.10m before a mid/orange yellow sand was seen. This continued to the total trench depth. [Plate 1]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>11.60</td>
<td>1.6</td>
<td>1.21</td>
<td>0.07m of Tarmac overlying 0.24m of compacted stone scalpings above 0.27m of compacted brick rubble. Below this a silty sand buried topsoil 0.10m thick with occasional charcoal and brick inclusions was seen covering 0.25m of mid brown/orange silty sand subsoil. At a depth of 0.93m a clean mid orange sand was noted 0.22m thick. This was removed to reveal a mid orange/yellow sand that continued to the total trench depth. [Plate 2]</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Figure 1. Location of site within Bramley and Surrey.
Bramley Grange, Horsham Road, Bramley, Surrey, 2003
An Archaeological Evaluation

Figure 2. Location of site within Bramley and Horsham Road.

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Figure 2. Location of trenches in relation to the new development footprint.
Plate 1. Trench 1, looking south-south east, scales: 1m and 2m.

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