Church Cottage, Church Road, Winkfield, Berkshire

An Archaeological Evaluation
for John Andrews Associates

by Kate Taylor
Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code CCW01/47

May 2001
Summary

Site name: Church Cottage, Church Road, Winkfield, Berkshire

Grid reference: SU 9056 7233

Site activity: Evaluation

Site supervisor: Kate Taylor

Date and duration of project: 24/05/01 – 25/05/01

Site code: CCW01/47

Area of site: 0.32 ha


Location of archive: The archive is currently held by Thames Valley Archaeological Services, 47–49 De Beauvoir Road, Reading, Berkshire, RG1 5NR. It is anticipated that the complete archive will be deposited with Reading Museum, given that permission is received from the landowners to deposit the finds.

This report may be copied for bona fide research or planning purposes without the explicit permission of the copyright holder

Report edited/checkered by: Steve Preston 01/06/01
Melanie Hall 01/06/01
Introduction
This report documents the results of an archaeological field evaluation carried out at Church Cottage, Church Road, Winkfield, Berkshire (SU 9056 7233) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Aaran Daniel of Daniel Department Store, 96–122 Uxbridge Road, Ealing, London W13 8RF, on behalf of Sir David Checketts.

A planning application (01/00193/FUL) has been made to Bracknell Forest Council for the demolition of an existing garage and stable block and the construction of a new dwelling, two detached garages and an access road on land immediately to the east of Church Cottage. In order to provide sufficient information on the archaeological potential of the site, a field evaluation was requested in advance of the application being decided. This is in accordance with the Department of the Environment’s Policy and Planning Guidance Note, *Archaeology and Planning* (PPG16 1990). An additional plot of land to the west of the cottage, although not part of this application, was also evaluated.

The field investigation was carried out to a specification approved by Elizabeth Rowe, Archaeologist with Babtie Environmental, advisors to the Borough Council. The fieldwork was undertaken Kate Taylor, Jo Pine and Heather Hopkins on the 24th and 25th May 2001 and the site code is CCW01/47.

Location, topography and geology
The site is located near the centre of the village of Winkfield, approximately 120m south-east of the parish church of St Mary (Fig. 2). The ground is fairly flat and lies at approximately 66m above Ordnance Datum. According to the British Geological Survey (BGS 1981) the underlying geology is London Clay; however, the natural geological deposit observed in all trenches was a light greyish brown silty sand, perhaps representing a previously unidentified patch of plateau gravel, several of which are recorded in the area.

Archaeological background
The village of Winkfield is known to have medieval, if not late Saxon, origins, being first mentioned in a charter of AD 942 and later described in Domesday Book. Although the parish church of St Mary’s is largely of 15th-

century construction, it has 12th-century elements, and there is a possible moated site adjacent to it (Ford 1987). The current development site lies close to the church in the historic core of the village and it was thought that the plot might contain evidence of the early history 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, particularly Saxon or medieval remains. Thirteen trenches were positioned in the footprint of the proposed buildings and along the line of the proposed road to the east of the cottage; the trenches avoided areas of garden that are to be retained. The trenches were excavated under constant archaeological supervision with a small tracked machine using a toothless ditching bucket. Each was 1.3m wide and they varied in length from 5.5m to 13.5m. All spoil heaps were monitored for finds and all possible archaeological features were hand cleaned and investigated.

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

Results

In all trenches the turf and topsoil overlay a light greyish brown silty clayey sand which, where test pits were excavated, was seen to overlie a clean yellow sand. None of the trenches revealed any archaeological deposits although several late post-medieval and modern features were investigated. Slots were dug in three of these: a small pit (1) in Trench 1; a posthole (2) in Trench 5 and a ditch (3) in Trench 2. These all produced sherds of 19th/20th-century china. A small brick pedestal at the southern end of Trench 13 probably represents the base of a garden ornament. None of the trenches is illustrated in detail in this report.

Two sherds of mid–late 13th-century medieval pottery were recovered from the machined surface of Trench 3, they were not associated with any archaeological feature. A low concentration of brick and tile fragments was observed in the topsoil of all trenches, along with 19th/20th-century china, this was not retained.

Finds

Pottery by Paul Blinkhorn

The pottery assemblage comprised 6 sherds with a total weight of 56g. All the pottery was medieval or later, with most of 19th-century date. The following fabrics were noted:
Sandy coarseware 11th to 14th century? Reduced quartz-tempered greyware typical of the types found throughout the south midlands (Mellor 1994).


Red Earthenware 16th century+. Hard-fired, slightly sandy red earthenware with a pale core and orange-red surfaces and an pale olive-green to clear glaze.

Yellow wares. White, slightly sandy earthenware. Yellow wares have a thick, glossy lemon glaze, 1815–1830.

White earthenware. Usually with blue ‘willow pattern’ or multi-coloured transfer prints. Early 19th century+.

The pottery occurrence by number and weight of sherds per context by fabric type is shown in Table 1. Each date should be regarded as a terminus post quem. It should be noted that the medieval pottery from Trench 3 is somewhat abraded.

Table 1: Pottery occurrence by number and weight (in g) of sherds per context by fabric type

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tr</th>
<th>Cut</th>
<th>Deposit</th>
<th>Sandy Coarseware</th>
<th>Surrey Whiteware</th>
<th>Red Earthenware</th>
<th>Yellow Ware</th>
<th>White Earthenware</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Wt</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Wt</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Wt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>51</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>5</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Trench base 6m</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Total</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Tile

Two fragments of medieval or post-medieval tile weighing 68g were recovered from pit 1 (51) in Trench 1.

Conclusion

No archaeological features or deposits were recorded in the evaluation, and there is no evidence of previous occupation of this site. It may be that any medieval or earlier habitation was positioned adjacent to the road in the garden area that is to be retained, or below Church Cottage itself. Two sherds of 13th-century medieval pottery were recovered from one of the trenches but this quantity of pottery is consistent with manuring of fields in the vicinity of a medieval settlement. It would not appear that the proposed development will disturb any archaeological deposits.

References


London and Middlesex Archaeol Soc Special Paper 10
**APPENDIX 1: Trench details**

<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>10.3</td>
<td>1.3</td>
<td>0.35</td>
<td>Turf/topsoil 0.30m thick. Onto natural light greyish brown silty clayey sand. Pit 1.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>5.8</td>
<td>1.3</td>
<td>0.45</td>
<td>Turf/topsoil 0.35m thick. Onto natural light greyish brown silty clayey sand. Ditch 3.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>11.2</td>
<td>1.3</td>
<td>0.30-0.38</td>
<td>Turf/topsoil 0.25m - 0.27m thick. Onto natural light greyish brown silty clayey sand. Modern disturbance.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>10.0</td>
<td>1.3</td>
<td>0.40</td>
<td>Manure/topsoil 0.30m thick. Onto natural light greyish brown silty clayey sand. Modern disturbance.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>5.5</td>
<td>1.3</td>
<td>0.45-0.60</td>
<td>Turf/topsoil 0.35m - 0.45m thick. Onto natural light greyish brown silty sand. Posthole 2. Service trench in corner.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>8.1</td>
<td>1.3</td>
<td>0.34-0.55</td>
<td>Turf/topsoil 0.31m thick. Onto natural light greyish brown silty sand. Test pits reveal yellow sand at 0.50m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>13.5</td>
<td>1.3</td>
<td>0.35</td>
<td>Turf/topsoil 0.30m thick. Onto natural light greyish brown silty sand. Root disturbance at west, modern ditch at east.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>10.9</td>
<td>1.3</td>
<td>0.35-0.45</td>
<td>Turf/topsoil 0.25m thick. Onto natural light greyish brown silty sand. Test pit at east reveals yellow sand at 0.45m. Root disturbance at west.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>10.7</td>
<td>1.3</td>
<td>0.30</td>
<td>Turf/topsoil 0.20m thick. Onto natural light greyish brown silty sand. Field drain.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>11.0</td>
<td>1.3</td>
<td>0.35</td>
<td>Turf/topsoil 0.22m thick. Onto natural light greyish brown silty sand. Field drain.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>10.4</td>
<td>1.3</td>
<td>0.35</td>
<td>Turf/topsoil 0.30m thick. Onto natural light greyish brown silty sand. Modern postholes from realigned fence.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>11.4</td>
<td>1.3</td>
<td>0.55</td>
<td>Turf/topsoil 0.45m thick. Onto natural light greyish brown silty sand. Tree roots. 19th century ditch and drain.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>11.2</td>
<td>1.3</td>
<td>0.50</td>
<td>Turf/topsoil 0.48m thick. Onto natural light greyish brown silty sand. Plinth left for large tree roots. Brick pedestal at south. 19th/20th century drain or service trench.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Land at Church Cottage, Curch Road, Winkfield, Berkshire, 2001

Figure 1. Location of site within Winkfield and Berkshire.

Reproduced from Ordnance Survey Pathfinder 11173 SU87/97 1:25000
Ordnance Survey Licence AL52324A0001
Figure 2. Location of site.
Land at Church Cottage, Church Road, Winkfield, Berkshire, 2001

Figure 3. Plan of site showing location of trenches.
Land at Church Cottage, Church Road, Winkfield, Berkshire, 2001

Figure 4. Representative trench sections.