6 Lovelace Close, Hurley, Berkshire

An Archaeological Watching Brief

for Mr Kevyn Stanley

by M J Saunders
Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code LCH00/53

November 2000
Summary

Site name: 6 Lovelace Close, Hurley, Berkshire, SL6 5NF

Grid reference: SU 8276 8399

Site activity: Watching brief

Date and duration of project: 14th and 18th September 2000

Site code: LCH00/53

Summary of results: No archaeological features or deposits were observed

Monuments identified: None

Location and reference of archive: The site archive is currently held by Thames Valley Archaeological Services, 47–49 De Beauvoir Road, Reading, Berkshire, RG1 5NR. It is anticipated that the archive will be deposited with Reading Museum in due course (Accn no. REDMG 2000.109).

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

Report edited/checked by:  Steve Ford✓ 2.11.00
                             Melanie Hall✓ 3.11.00
Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological watching brief carried out at 6 Lovelace Close, Hurley, Maidenhead, Berkshire, SL6 5NF (NGR SU 8276 8399) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Mr Kevyn Stanley of the same address.

The development proposals are for a garage extension. An application for planning permission (appn. no. 99/34444) has been granted by the Council of the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead, subject to a condition requiring a programme of archaeological work in the form of a watching brief. This is in accordance with the Department of the Environment’s Policy and Planning Guidance Note, Archaeology and Planning (PPG16 1990). Scheduled Monument consent has also been required (and granted) as the site lies within the Scheduled Ancient Monument of Hurley Priory (National Monument no. 19020). The watching brief was carried out to a specification approved by Mr Peter Fasham, Principal Archaeologist for Babtie who advise the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead Council on archaeological matters related to planning. The fieldwork was undertaken by Mr Leigh Torrance on September 14th and 18th and the site code is LCH00/53.

Location, topography and geology

The site is located on the east side of Lovelace Close and to the north of Mill Lane, Hurley, Berkshire (Fig. 2). It lies a short distance to the south of the River Thames. According to geological maps (BGS 1990) the underlying geology is flood plain terrace river gravels.

Archaeological background

The site lies within the boundary of part of the Scheduled Ancient Monument of Hurley Priory; a Benedictine Priory founded in 1086. There is, therefore, a possibility that groundworks for the new extension may damage or disturb archaeological deposits associated with medieval use of the site. Several previous watching briefs have taken place within the bounds of the scheduled monument in Hurley, with mixed results. For example, watching briefs at Abbey House and Warren Lane (Ford 1996; Hammond 2000; Huscroft 1999) produced negative results...
(apart from a stray find of Roman pottery at Abbey House) but at Monks Garden, Mill Lane (Pine 1999) a probable ditch and two pits dating to the 12th/13th centuries were observed.

**Objectives and methodology**

The purpose of the watching brief was to observe, excavate and record all archaeological deposits within areas of ground disturbance associated with construction of the new extension and the associated services (Fig. 3). All spoilheaps were to be monitored for finds.

**Results**

The foundation trenches were c. 0.6m wide and between 1.00m and 1.20m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.80m of made ground over dark brown alluvium. No archaeological features or deposits were observed and no finds recovered.

**Conclusion**

From the observations made during the course of the watching brief it can be concluded that no archaeological deposits were damaged or disturbed by groundworks associated with the construction of the new extension.

**References**

Hammond, S, 2000, Abbey House, Mill Lane, Hurley, Thames Valley Archaeological Services report 00/23, Reading
Huscroft, L, 1999, Abbey House, Mill Lane, Hurley, Thames Valley Archaeological Services report 99/36, Reading
Pine, J 1999, Monks Garden, Mill Lane, Hurley, Thames Valley Archaeological Services report 98/83, Reading
Figure 1. Location of site within Hurley and Berkshire.

Reproduced from Ordnance Survey Pathfinder SU88/98 1:25000
Ordnance Survey Licence AL52324A0001
6 Lovelace Close, Hurley, Berkshire, 2000

Remains of Priory
(Benedictine Founded 1086

Figure 2. Location of site.
Figure 3. Location of foundation trench monitored during watching brief.