Summary

Site name: New horse training area, Manor Farm, Great Kimble, Buckinghamshire

Grid reference: SP 8215 0606

Site activity: Watching Brief

Date and duration of project: 14th–16th June 2004

Project manager: Steve Ford

Site supervisor: Andy Taylor

Site code: MFGK 04/44

Area of site: c.1000 sq m

Summary of results: No archaeological deposits or finds 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 Buckinghamshire County Museum in due course.

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 22.06.04
                               Steve Preston 22.06.04
New horse training area, Manor Farm, Great Kimble, Buckinghamshire
An Archaeological Watching Brief

by Andy Taylor

Report 04/44

Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological watching brief carried out at Manor Farm, Great Kimble, Buckinghamshire (SP 8215 0606) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Mr Bernard Broad of Redwing Structures (Marlow) Limited, 1 The Square, Lane End, Buckinghamshire, HP14 3JE.

Planning consent (04/5269) has been granted by Wycombe District Council for the construction of a new manege. As a condition of the planning permission an archaeological watching brief was to take place during groundworks.

This is in accordance with the Department of the Environment’s Planning Policy Guidance, *Archaeology and Planning* (PPG16 1990), and the Districts policies on archaeology. The field investigation was carried out to a specification approved by Mr David Radford, Archaeological Officer with Buckinghamshire County Archaeological Service (Radford 2004). The fieldwork was undertaken by Andy Taylor on the 14th and 16th June 2004 and the site code is MFGK 04/44.

The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited at Buckinghamshire County Museum in due course.

Location, topography and geology

The site is located on an area of open grassland, which slopes gradually from the south-east to the north-west. The church of St Nicholas stands to the east of the site and a railway line is situated immediately to the north-west (Fig. 2). The underlying geology is lower chalk (BGS 1990), which was observed across the area and the site lies at a height of c.115m AOD.

Archaeological background

The archaeological potential of the site has been summarized in a brief for the site prepared by Mr David Radford of Buckinghamshire County Archaeological Service (BCAS 2004). The site lies close to the historic (medieval) core of Great Kimble close to the manorial site. Adjacent areas contain the site of the moated manor, fishponds and other earthworks thought to represent abandoned house platforms, boundary features and
cultivation features (ridge and furrow field systems). The earthworks are a Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM 29406). A round barrow, presumably of Bronze Age date, lies within the centre of the village close to the church. It was considered that there was a possibility that further components of the medieval village complex may be present in adjacent areas such as those occupied by the development proposal.

Objectives and methodology

The purpose of the watching brief was to excavate and record any archaeological deposits that may have been damaged or destroyed by the groundworks. This was to involve the examination of areas stripped of topsoil/overburden, and the excavation of drain and service trenches if appropriate.

Results

Construction of the new horse training area involved removal of the topsoil and its replacement with a soft training surface, with ancillary features such as drains and fences. No visible earthworks were present on the site area.

The stripped area observed measured 25m x 40m. The stratigraphy consisted of turf/topsoil to a depth of 0.15m overlying a light grey chalky clay subsoil to a depth of 0.38m. This directly overlay chalk natural. The stripped area of chalk was systematically searched for archaeological deposits and finds but none were observed.

Subsequently, a drain and fence postholes were constructed inside the stripped area and were dug through the natural chalk.

Finds

Occasional fragments of post-medieval tile were observed in the topsoil but not retained. No archaeological finds were retrieved.

Conclusion

No archaeological deposits or finds were noted. Stripping of the area down to the top of the natural chalk allowed a thorough examination of the area for archaeological deposits and it is clear that no archaeological deposits were present within this area.
References
BCAS, 2004, ‘Brief for an archaeological watching brief; Manor Farm Great Kimble’, Buckinghamshire County Archaeological Service
Figure 1. Location of site within Great Kimble and Buckinghamshire.

Manor Farm, Great Kimble, Buckinghamshire, 2004
Archaeological Watching Brief

Reproduced from Ordnance Survey Pathfinder 1118 SP80/90 at 1:12500 Ordnance Survey Licence 100025880
Figure 2. Location of site within Great Kimble.