SANG Infrastructure, West End, North Bracknell, Berkshire

Archaeological Watching Brief

by Lizzi Lewins

Site Code: NBB10/69
(SU 8650 7100)
SANG Infrastructure, West End, North Bracknell, Berkshire

An Archaeological Watching Brief

For Berkeley Homes (Oxford and Chiltern) Limited

by Lizzi Lewins
Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code NBB 10/69

January 2016
Summary

Site name: SANG Infrastructure, West End, North Bracknell, Berkshire

Grid reference: SU 8650 7100

Site activity: Watching Brief

Date and duration of project: 13th August 2015

Project manager: Steve Ford

Site supervisor: David Platt

Site code: NBB 10/69

Area of site:

Summary of results: No archaeological features were observed as the depth of the groundworks during construction of a new footpath were insufficient to expose the archaeologically relevant horizon.

Location and reference of archive: The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited with an appropriate designated museum willing to accept the material in due course.

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SANG Infrastructure, West End, North Bracknell, Berkshire
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Report 10/69f

Introduction
This report documents the results of an archaeological watching brief carried out on infrastructure work on land designated for Suitable Alternative Natural Greenspace (SANG), at West End, North Bracknell, Berkshire (SU 8650 7100) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Mr Simon Abreu, of Berkeley Homes (Oxford and Chiltern) Limited, Berkeley House, Farnham Lane, Farnham Royal, Buckinghamshire, SL2 3RQ.

Planning consent (13/01007/OUT) has been gained from Bracknell Forest Borough Council to construct new housing on a large site at North Bracknell. This consent was subject to a condition requiring a phased programme of archaeological fieldwork, of which two stages of archaeological evaluation have been conducted, (Platt and Pine 2013; Taylor 2015a) as well as one small area excavation (Taylor 2015b). A large area of the site was designated for use as SANG and a reserved matters application (15/00144/REM/AREM2) connected to the SANG area of the site was subject to a condition (2) requiring an archaeological watching brief to be carried out during the ground works. This report details the results of that watching brief.

This is in accordance with the Department for Communities and Local Government’s National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF 2012) and the Borough’s policies on archaeology. The field investigation was carried out to a specification approved by Mr Roland Smith, Archaeology Officer with Berkshire Archaeology, the archaeological advisers to the Borough Council. The fieldwork was undertaken by David Platt on 13th August 2015 and the site code is NBB 10/69.

The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited with an appropriate designated museum willing to accept the material in due course.

Location, topography and geology
The overall development site is located on the northern edge of Bracknell on former arable and pasture land. (Fig. 1) The SANG area of site is bordered to the north by the B3034 (Forest road) and Harvest Ride to the south and forms the westernmost part of the overall site (Fig. 2). The underlying geology is recorded as London Clay and Plateau Gravel (BGS 1981). It is a wide expanse of sloping land and lies at a height of between c.55m and c.75m above Ordnance Datum.
**Archaeological background**

The archaeological potential for the overall site was highlighted in a desk-based assessment (Wallis 2010) and in an Environmental Statement accompanying the planning application. In summary, the site lies in an area of with archaeological deposits of Bronze Age, Iron Age and Roman date being found during fieldwork to the south (Torrance and Durden 2003; Lowe 2013) and west (Roberts 1995), as well as a Roman site on Cabbage Hill (Mees 1989) immediately adjacent to the site. Previous projects within the boundaries of the site as a whole have revealed Mesolithic flintwork and Bronze Age and Roman deposits (Ford 1989). However, extensive evaluation to the south and south-east of the SANG revealed only a modest volume of archaeological deposits of medieval date (Platt and Pine 2013; Taylor 2015a and b). The SANG area is, however, located close to the Roman finds on Cabbage Hill (Fig. 2)

**Objectives and methodology**

The purpose of the watching brief was to excavate and record any archaeological deposits affected by the works. The works were to create a footpath across the SANG. The groundworks were expected to be superficial but there was thought to be potential to disturb archaeological deposits in some instances.

**Results**

Construction of a path 1.6m wide and edged with wood was observed (Fig 2; Pls 1-2). Overburden was removed under archaeological supervision using a 360° type machine fitted with a toothless ditching bucket. The depth of topsoil removed was only 0.15m and the works did not penetrate below topsoil so the archaeologically relevant level was not exposed at any point, and no archaeological features or finds were observed. The spoil from the overburden was monitored for finds but none were revealed.

**Finds**

No finds of archaeological interest were recovered.

**Conclusion**

Despite the high potential for archaeology the archaeologically relevant level was not exposed during the stripping of the pathway and no archaeological features or finds were observed.
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Land at West End, Warfield, North Bracknell, Berkshire, 2015
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Figure 1. Location of site in relation to North Bracknell and West End and within Berkshire.
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Land at West End, Warfield, North Bracknell, Berkshire, 2015
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- Park Farm
- Cabbage Hill
- Previously evaluated
- Roman ditch
- Bronze Age occupation
- SANG
  - SANG footpath watching brief
  - Car park
  - School site excavation

The map shows the location and boundaries of the site, along with important features and areas of interest.
Plate 1. Pathway, looking south.

Plate 2. Pathway, looking north.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TIME CHART</th>
<th>Calendar Years</th>
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<td>Modern</td>
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<tr>
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<td>AD 1837</td>
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