Land adjacent to Rosebank, Boulters Lane, Maidenhead, Berkshire

An Archaeological Evaluation

for Ms Debbie Howarth

by Pamela Jenkins
Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code RBM03/120

December 2003
Summary

Site name: Land adjacent to Rosebank, Boulters Lane, Maidenhead, Berkshire

Grid reference: SU 9011 8253

Site activity: Evaluation

Date and duration of project: 12–15th December 2003

Project manager: Steve Ford

Site supervisor: Steve Ford

Site code: RBM 03/120

Area of site: c.550 sq m

Summary of results: No archaeology was observed and no finds were retrieved

Monuments identified: None

Location and reference of archive: The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, 47–49 De Beauvoir Road, Reading RG1 5NR and will be deposited at Reading Museum in due course.

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Report edited/checked by: Steve Ford✓ 17.12.03
Steve Preston✓ 17.12.03
Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological field evaluation carried out on land adjacent to Rosebank, Boulters Lane, Maidenhead, Berkshire (SU 9011 8253) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Ms Debbie Howarth, Cornerways, Abbotsbrook Estate, Bourne End, Buckinghamshire, SL8 5RE.

Planning application 03/39873 has been submitted to the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead for the construction of a four-bed detached dwelling with garage. To enable the planning authority to make an informed and reasonable decision regarding the planning application, a programme of archaeological works by means of a field evaluation has been requested in order to assess the archaeological sensitivity of the site.

This is in accordance with the Department of the Environment’s Planning Policy Guidance, *Archaeology and Planning* (PPG16 1990), and the Royal Borough’s policies on archaeology. The field investigation was carried out to a specification approved by Mr Kev Beachus, Senior Archaeologist for Babtie Group, archaeological advisers to the Royal Borough. The fieldwork was undertaken by Steve Ford and Pamela Jenkins and the site code is RBM03/120. The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited at Reading Museum in due course.

Location, topography and geology

The site is located on Boulters Lane, to the west of Boulters Lock on the River Thames (Fig 2). The underlying geology is Flood Plain Terrace (BGS 1990) which was observed in all trenches. The site lies at 25m above Ordnance Datum, some 150m from the Thames, opposite a steep cliff face.

Archaeological background

Numerous finds and sites have been located within the Thames Valley for many different periods; some from the air (Gates 1975). Riverside locations were preferred areas for occupation in earlier prehistoric times and the River Thames, particularly in the Maidenhead area, has produced a large range of prehistoric and historic tools and weapons of stone, flint, bronze and iron (Ford 1987). A recent watching brief during riverbank disturbance in Bray resulted in the recovery of butchered cow bone and struck flints of Mesolithic or early Neolithic date.
Prehistoric occupation was also represented by a dense scatter of struck flint including imported chert at Sheephouse Farm to the north-west (Bowden et al. 1982).

Objectives and methodology

The aims of the evaluation were to determine the presence/absence, extent, condition, character, quality and date of any archaeological or palaeoenvironmental deposits within the area affected by the development. The work was to be carried out in such a manner as not to compromise the integrity of archaeological features or deposits which warrant preservation in situ or might better be excavated under conditions pertaining to full excavation.

Specific research aims were:

- To determine if archaeologically relevant levels have survived
- To determine if archaeological deposits of any period are present

Three trenches were proposed, to examine the footprint of the building. These were each to be 1.6m wide and 9m long, in the positions shown in Figure 3, with a contingency for further trenching if required. Topsoil and overburden were removed by a JCB-type machine operated under continuous archaeological supervision. Where archaeological or potentially archaeological deposits were encountered, these were to be cleaned and excavated or sampled by hand.

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

Results

Trench 1 (Pl. 1)
This trench was aligned east-west and dug to a depth of 0.50 m at the east and 0.40 m at the west end. No subsoil was observed in this trench. A layer of dark orange brown, humic sandy garden topsoil overlay a brown-orange sandy gravel natural which consisted of pea grit and small and medium sized rounded and sub-rounded gravel. No finds or archaeological features were discovered.

Trench 2
Alignment of this trench was NE–SW and it was dug to a depth of 0.50 m at the north-east end and 0.40 m to the south-west. The stratigraphy revealed was 0.25 m of topsoil above 0.15 m of brown-orange slightly silty sand
with small chalk inclusions and small rounded and sub-rounded gravel. This overlay the natural gravel. No archaeology was revealed and no finds retrieved.

**Trench3 (Pl. 2)**

This trench was aligned SE–NW and dug to a depth of 0.45m. The stratigraphy revealed was 0.25m of topsoil above 0.20m of subsoil overlying the natural gravel. No archaeology was revealed and no finds retrieved.

**Finds**

No finds were recovered.

**Conclusion**

No deposits of either prehistoric or later times were observed nor finds recovered during this evaluation, and the site appears to have no archaeological potential.

**References**

Jenkins P, 2002, ‘New Wet dock, Somerville, Bray Road, Maidenhead, Berkshire, An archaeological watching brief’, Thames Valley Archaeological Services report 02/26, Reading
**APPENDIX 1: Trench details**

0m at S/W 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>10.10</td>
<td>1.60</td>
<td>0.40m (W)</td>
<td>0.50m (E)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>0-0.50m dark orange brown medium sand topsoil; 0.50m+ sandy gravel natural. (<a href="#">Plate 1</a>)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>8.00</td>
<td>1.60</td>
<td>0.40m (SW)</td>
<td>0.50m (NE)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>0.25m topsoil; 0.25-0.50m mid brownish slightly silty medium sand subsoil with small chalk flecks and small and medium sized rounded and sub rounded gravel; 0.50m+ sandy gravel natural.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>9.30</td>
<td>1.60</td>
<td>0.40m (SE)</td>
<td>0.45m (NW)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>0.20. topsoil: 0.20-0.45m subsoil; 0.45m+ sandy gravel natural (<a href="#">Plate 2</a>)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Land adjacent to Rosebank, Boulters Lane, Maidenhead, Berkshire, 2003
Archaeological Evaluation

Figure 1. Location of site within Maidenhead and Berkshire.

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Figure 2. Location of site on Boulters Lane.
Figure 3. Location of trenches RBM03/120
Plate 1. Trench 1 looking west. Scales: 2m and 1m.

Plate 2. Trench 3 looking north west. Scales: 2m and 1m.