White Hart Public House, Bath Road, Cranford, London Borough of Hillingdon

An Archaeological Evaluation

for Scottish and Newcastle Retail

by Sian Anthony
Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code WRC 03

February 2003
Summary

Site name: White Hart Public House, Bath Road, Cranford, London Borough of Hillingdon

Grid reference: TQ 09880 76960

Site activity: Evaluation

Date and duration of project: 14th–18th February 2003

Project manager: Steve Ford

Site supervisor: Sian Anthony

Site code: WRC 03

Area of site: 0.3 ha

Summary of results: Two modern features and tree bowls were uncovered.

Monuments identified: None

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

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Report edited/checked by: Steve Ford 19.02.03
Steel Preston 20.02.03
Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological field evaluation carried out at The White Hart Public House, Bath Road, Cranford, London Borough of Hillingdon (TQ 09880 76960) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Mr Mark Thackeray, of Cliff Walsingham and Company, Bourne House, Cores End Road, Bourne End, Buckinghamshire, SL8 5AR on behalf of Scottish and Newcastle Retail.

Planning permission (App no. 4129/APP/2002/1453) has been granted for the demolition of the existing structures and the construction of a 137 bed hotel on the site. This permission is subject to a planning condition which requires the implementation of a programme of archaeological evaluation.

This is in accordance with the Department of the Environment’s Planning Policy Guidance, *Archaeology and Planning* (PPG16 1990), and the Borough’s policies on archaeology. The field investigation was carried out to a specification approved by Ms Kim Stabler, Archaeology Adviser, Greater London Archaeology Advisory Service. The fieldwork was undertaken by Sian Anthony, Andy Mundin and Julie Cassidy between the 14th and 18th February 2003. The site code is WRC 03. The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited at the Museum of London in due course.

Location, topography and geology

The site is located in the west of Cranford, 200m to the west of the River Crane and on the northern perimeter of Heathrow Airport (Fig. 1). The area is a flat river terrace plateau at 23.5m above Ordnance Datum. The geology is mapped as Brickearth overlying Taplow gravels (BGS 1979), and this was confirmed in trench observations.

Archaeological background

The site lies within an area of significant archaeological potential. River terrace sites are favoured locations for prehistoric activity of all periods, and cropmarks directly to the south of the site appear likely to be of prehistoric origin (K Stabler, pers. comm.). Cranford Lane to the north of the site has a moderate level of Bronze Age activity, with separate sites of pits, ditches and a cremation recorded, along with isolated finds (MOLAS 2000,
Isolated Iron Age and Neolithic find spots are also recorded in the same area (MOLAS 2001, 78 and 116). A possible Roman building/enclosure is recorded further to the west (MOLAS 2000, 167).

The medieval period is represented by a moated manor house at Park Lane, Cranford, and Cranford Bridge itself is also medieval (K Stabler, pers. comm.).

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. Specific research aims were to:

a) To determine if archaeologically relevant levels have survived on this site given that parts of the site have been previously developed.

b) To determine if there are any deposits of prehistoric date representing an extension of the known cropmarks to the south.

c) To determine if there are any deposits of medieval date representing occupation of the nearby manor house.

d) The potential and significance of any such deposits located, would be assessed according to the research priorities of such, as set out in Exploring Our Past (English Heritage 1991) and English Heritage Research Agenda (English Heritage 1997), or any more local or thematic research priorities as necessary.

Three trenches were required by the agreed scheme, each 20m long and 1.6m wide, positioned to cover the footprints of the proposed buildings. For safety and access reasons Trench 1 was slightly repositioned further to the south.

The trenches were excavated by a JCB-type machine with a toothless bucket, operated under direct and continuous archaeological supervision. Tarmac and modern demolition rubble were removed in thin spits onto the appropriate archaeological horizon.

To maximize archaeological visibility, the trenches were first machined down to the level of the brickearth and then left for three days to allow any potential features to weather in order to increase their visibility if present. The trenches were subsequently subject to a second phase of machine cleaning to an average additional depth of 0.08m to ensure that no features were missed at a lower level. Archaeological and potentially archaeological deposits were hand cleaned and excavated with hand tools.

A complete list of trenches giving lengths, breadths, depths and a description of sections and geology is given in Appendix 1.
Results (Figs 3 and 4)

Trench 1 (Plate 1)
This trench was aligned west-east and was 21.9m long, with a depth of 0.95m. Tarmac (0.08m) lay above a mixed demolition rubble (0.51m) above clean brick earth. Two pipe trenches were uncovered at the eastern end with large amounts of disturbance; only small strips of natural had survived, from which a piece of unworked burnt flint was recovered. At the western end a modern rectangular pit, 2.6m long and at least 0.8m wide was excavated. It was shallow, only 0.18m deep and contained modern brick and a timber in situ. Other finds from the fill included modern glass and pottery.

Trench 2 (Plate 2)
Trench 2 was aligned north-west–south-east to avoid known services. It was 19.9m long and 0.61m deep. Stratigraphy consisted of turf and topsoil (0.29m) above a mid grey brown gravel (0.19m) at the north-west end, lying above brick earth. The grey gravel represents slump from a high mound of modern demolition rubble created to make a viewing platform for aeroplanes (public house landlady, pers. comm). A 19th century pit (1) was revealed against the south wall of the trench. It was excavated to reveal two fills; (51) a secondary fill of dark grey brown silty clay to a depth of 0.18m with frequent gravel and modern Willow Pattern pottery, animal bone and glass and the primary fill (52) of light yellow brown silty sand that contained modern glass fragments. It was 0.52m deep.

More scoops of modern fill were visible midway along the trench. When excavated they were revealed to be only 0.05m deep and contained modern pottery, rusted metal and animal bone. A tree bowl was also excavated and produced moderate amounts of modern pottery, glass and animal bone. None of these finds were retained. The edge of a service trench was located at the far south-east of the trench disturbing the natural.

Trench 3
Trench 3 was aligned north-south and was 21.2m long and 0.57m deep. A test pit was excavated at the far north to locate the depth of the natural gravels, this reached a depth of 2.28m from the ground level, fixing the gravel at 21.22m above Ordnance Datum. Stratigraphy consisted of Tarmac (0.08m) above a yellow sand and gravel (0.33m) above brick earth. At 0.49m below ground level there was frequent root action along the length of the trench with no associated finds, further cleaning revealed only two pieces of burnt flint with no associated features.
Finds

Only three pieces of unworked burnt flint were recovered from the brickearth of Trenches 1 and 3, weighing 12g, they were not retained.

Conclusion

The evaluation has not been successful in locating either prehistoric or associated medieval features. Severe disturbance was encountered in Trench 1 on the north portion of site where the foundations of recently demolished modern buildings associated with the public house were encountered. These foundations and disturbance had truncated the archaeologically relevant levels. Trenches 2 and 3 revealed only modern features and tree activity.

References

APPENDIX 1: Trench details
0m at South or West 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>21.9</td>
<td>1.6</td>
<td>0.95</td>
<td>Tarmac (0.08m) onto mixed demolition rubble (0.51m) onto mid orange brown silty clay brick earth, reached at 22.55m AOD. Two services at eastern end and modern rectangular feature at west end.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>19.9</td>
<td>1.6</td>
<td>0.61</td>
<td>Turf and topsoil (0.29m) onto grey brown gravel (0.19m) at northwest end onto brick earth at 22.89m AOD. Modern pit, modern scoops and a tree bowl. Service disturbance at southeast end.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>21.2</td>
<td>1.6</td>
<td>0.57 (Test pit to 2.28)</td>
<td>Tarmac (0.08m) onto sand and gravel ballast (0.33m) onto brick earth at 22.93m AOD. Root disturbance at 0.49m depth carried along trench. Further cleaning revealed no archaeological features. A test pit at the north end reached 2.28m depth (21.22m AOD).</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
1. TYPE OF RECORDING

Evaluation

2. LOCATION

Borough: Hillingdon

Site Address: White Hart Public House, Bath Road, Cranford, Hillingdon

Site Name: White Hart Public House, Bath Road, Cranford, Hillingdon  Site Code: WRC 03

Nat. Grid Refs: centre of site: TQ 09880 76960

limits of site:  a)  b)

c)  d)

3. ORGANISATION

Name of archaeological unit: Thames Valley Archaeological Services

Address: 47–49 De Beauvoir Road, Reading RG1 5NR

Site director/supervisor: Sian Anthony  Project manager: Steve Ford

Funded by:

Scottish and Newcastle Retail

4. DURATION

Date fieldwork started: 14th February 2003  Date finished: 18th February 2003

Fieldwork previously notified?  NO

Fieldwork will continue?  NO

5. PERIODS REPRESENTED

Palaeolithic  -  Roman  -

Mesolithic  -  Saxon (pre-AD 1066)  -

Neolithic  -  Medieval (AD1066-1485)  -

Bronze Age  -  Post-Medieval  YES

Iron Age  -  Unknown  -
6. PERIOD SUMMARIES Use headings for each period (ROMAN, MEDIEVAL ETC.) and additional sheets if necessary.

7. NATURAL (state if not observed; please DO NOT LEAVE BLANK)

Type: Brickearth overlying Taplow gravel

Height above Ordnance Datum: Brickearth (max) 22.93m; Gravel 21.22m

8. LOCATION OF ARCHIVE

a) Please provide an estimate of the quantity of material in your possession for the following categories:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Notes</th>
<th>Plans</th>
<th>Photos</th>
<th>Negatives</th>
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<tbody>
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<td></td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Slides</th>
<th>Correspondence</th>
<th>MScripts (unpub reports, etc.)</th>
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<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
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<tr>
<th>BUlk finds</th>
<th>SMall finds</th>
<th>SOil Samples</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

OTher (please specify)

b) The complete archive will be deposited in the following location: Museum of London Approximate year of transfer: Not known
c) Location of any copies:
e) Has a security copy of the archive been made? YES

If not, do you wish RCHME to consider microfilming? YES / NO

9. LOCATION OF FINDS

a: In your possessions : N/A

b: All/some finds have been/will be deposited with the following museum/ other body: Museum of London

Approximate year of transfer:


SIGNED: DATE:

NAME (Block capitals): SIAN ANTHONY 19th February 2003
Figure 1. Location of site within Cranford and Greater London.

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White Hart Public House, Bath Road, Cranford
London Borough of Hillingdon

Figure 2. Detailed location of site in Cranford.
White Hart Public House, Bath Road, Cranford
London Borough of Hillingdon

Figure 3. Detailed location of trenches in site.
Figure 4. Plan and section of Trench 2, feature 1.

Turf/Topsoil
Grey brown gravel

23.5m AOD

0 1m

0 5m

White Hart Public House, Bath Road, Cranford
London Borough of Hillingdon

WRC 03
Plate 1. Trench 1 looking east, scales 2m and 0.5m.

Plate 2. Trench 2 looking north-east, scales 2m and 0.5m.