27 Welley Road, Wraysbury, Berkshire

An Archaeological Watching Brief

For Mr Martin Booth

by Richard Oram and Roy Krakowicz
Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code WRW 05/24

April 2005
Summary

Site name: 27 Welley Road, Wraysbury, Berkshire

Grid reference: SU9999 7429

Site activity: Watching Brief

Date and duration of project: 21st–24th March 2005

Project manager: Steve Ford

Site supervisor: Roy Krakowicz

Site code: WRW 05/24

Area of site: c. 216 sq m

Summary of results: No archaeological deposits were found

Monuments identified: None

Location and reference of archive: The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited at Reading Museum in due course.

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Report edited/checked by: Steve Ford 27.04.05
Steve Preston 27.04.05
Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological watching brief carried out at 27 Welley Road, Wraysbury, Berkshire (SU 9999 7429) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Mr Martin Booth of 27 Welley Road, Wraysbury, Berkshire TQ19 5DW.

A planning consent (02/81771) has been granted by the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead to erect a new house on the site. This is subject to a condition which requires the implementation of an archaeological watching brief to be carried out during groundworks.

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 Ms Fiona Macdonald, Principal Archaeologist for Berkshire Archaeology, advisers to the Royal Borough. The fieldwork was undertaken by Sarah Coles and Roy Krakowicz between 21st and 24th March 2005 and the site code is WRW 05/24.

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 to the north-west of Wraysbury itself and consists of a fairly flat plot of land that was already cleared of topsoil prior to our arrival (Fig. 2). The site lies at approximately 17m above Ordnance Datum. The underlying geology is flood plain gravel (BGS1981) and this was noted as yellow hard gravel on site.

Archaeological background

The archaeological potential of the site is derived from its location within the historic core of Wraysbury. The site lies to the north of the late Saxon and medieval centre with deposits of these periods discovered during excavation, south of the site close to St Andrews Church (Astill and Lobb 1989). Other finds from the area include stray finds of Bronze Age metalwork and three Saxon inhumations found at Wraysbury Combined School opposite the site. One of these skeletons was associated with a *scramasax* knife (SMR no. 36.05). An
extensive excavation was carried out at Wayland's Nursery just across the road from the site in advance of a housing development. This investigated a Bronze Age occupation site, a Roman enclosure and early Saxon occupation (Pine 2003).

**Objectives and methodology**

The purpose of the watching brief was to excavate and record any archaeological deposits affected by the new construction work. This was to involve examination of areas of topsoil stripping, landscaping, ground reduction and the digging of trenches for foundations and services.

On site the digging of foundation trenches through topsoil was observed and spoil heaps were monitored for finds. The trenches were nominally 0.6m wide by 1m deep but this varied a little due to site conditions.

**Results**

Initial observation was carried out on the digging of the foundation trenches before they were filled with concrete. This was done over a number of visits. The trenches were typically 0.6m wide and 1m deep but could be as much as 0.8m wide in areas of softer ground. The stratigraphy typically comprised 0.5m of topsoil onto 0.2m – 0.5m of yellowish brown subsoil onto the natural yellow sandy gravel (Fig. 4). No archaeological deposits or features were noted and no finds were recovered from the spoil.

**Conclusion**

No archaeological deposits were found during this investigation despite all trenches being examined. It is likely that despite its location and the presence of archaeological sites in the vicinity the archaeological potential of this site is very low.

**References**

Figure 1. Location of site within Wraysbury and Berkshire.

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Figure 2. Detailed location of site within Wraysbury.

Scale 1:1250
Figure 3. Detailed location of watching brief.

Scale 1:200
Figure 4: Representative section of footing trench.