Little Farm, Lovel Lane, Winkfield, Berkshire

An Archaeological Watching Brief

For Mr and Mrs J Humphries

by Andy Taylor

Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code LFW 05/82

November 2005
Summary

Site name: Little Farm, Lovel Lane, Winkfield, Berkshire

Grid reference: SU 9274 7147

Site activity: Watching Brief

Date and duration of project: 4th – 7th November 2005

Project manager: Steve Ford

Site supervisor: Andy Taylor

Site code: LFW 05/82

Area of site: c. 1225 sq m

Summary of results: No deposits or finds of archaeological interest 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 Reading Museum in due course.

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Report edited/checked by: Steve Ford✓ 11.11.05
                                            Steve Preston✓ 11.11.05
Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological watching brief carried out at Little Farm, Lovel Lane, Winkfield, Berkshire (SU 9270 7145) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Mrs Clare Humphries of Little Farm, Lovel Lane, Winkfield, Berkshire.

Planning consent (04/00118/FUL) has been granted by Bracknell Forest Borough Council to construct a replacement new house on the site. This is subject to a condition to archaeology, which requires a 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 Borough’s policies on archaeology. The field investigation was carried out to a specification approved by Ms Fiona Macdonald, Principal Archaeologist with Berkshire Archaeology. The fieldwork was undertaken by Andy Taylor on the 4th and 7th November 2005 and the site code is LFW 05/82.

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 the southern side of Lovel Lane, Winkfield, Berkshire and to the east of Winkfield village. To the south-west lies Bracknell and to the north-east lies Windsor (Fig. 1). The site is currently the back garden of Little Farm (Fig. 2) and is a relatively flat parcel of land. The underlying geology consists of London Clay (BGS 1981), which was observed in all foundation trenches. The site lies at a height of c. 60m AOD.

Archaeological background

The site lies close to an area of which contains listed buildings of early post-medieval date recorded in the Berkshire Sites and Monuments Record. It is possible that these structures represent the presence of an earlier small settlement and that further deposits of late medieval or early post medieval are present within the area. In general the London Clay areas of east Berkshire are lightly used in most periods but with increased usage in medieval and post-medieval times despite a location within Windsor Forest (Ford 1987).
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 all areas of intrusive groundworks, in particular any ground reduction, and the digging of foundation trenches and service runs. The spoilheaps were to be monitored for finds.

Results

The groundworks comprised two components of archaeological interest, namely removal of topsoil and subsoil from the entire area of the footprint of the new building, and the digging of footing trenches.

The stratigraphy observed consisted of up to 0.20m of topsoil, which was removed across the whole site, over 0.20m–0.35m of subsoil, which was again removed. This was overlying natural clay, which was noted as two separate colours, a light orange brown overlying a mid orange brown. No archaeological deposits were observed.

The digging of the footing trenches were also observed and these measured 0.60m wide and between 1.00m and 1.90m in depth (Fig. 3). No archaeological deposits were observed in these trenches.

The service runs were to be dug through the natural clay already exposed and examined. It was therefore deemed unnecessary to observe the digging of these trenches.

Finds

No finds of an archaeological nature were retrieved.

Conclusion

The watching brief failed to reveal any deposits or finds of archaeological interest. As the whole footprint of the proposed new building was stripped of topsoil and subsoil, the field conditions were unusually good for recording the presence, or in this case the absence of archaeological deposits. It seems that the early post medieval buildings located within the vicinity of the site do not have any associated deposits, nor indicate any earlier settlement in this area.
References
Little Farm, Lovel Lane, Winkfield, Berkshire, 2005
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Figure 1. Location of site within Winkfield and Berkshire.

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Figure 2. Location of site within Winkfield.

Scale: 1:1250
Figure 3. Plan of trenches with modern features 1 and 2.
Figure 4: Representative section of footing trench.