

PROJECT PINWOOD, BUCKINGHAMSHIRE

An Archaeological Watching Brief Report

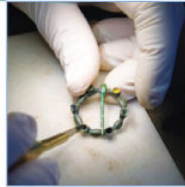
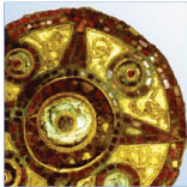
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Museum Accession No: AYBCM: 2008.73

National Grid Reference: TQ 0220 8450

AOC Project no: 30132

May 2008



ARCHAEOLOGY

HERITAGE

CONSERVATION

PROJECT PINEWOOD, BUCKINGHAMSHIRE

An Archaeological Watching Brief Report

On Behalf of:	Concept Unit 8 Warple Mews Warple Way Acton London W3 0RF
National Grid Reference (NGR):	TQ 0220 8450
AOC Project No:	30132
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Date of Excavation:	01-05-2008 to 09-05-2008
Date of Report:	May 2008

This document has been prepared in accordance with AOC standard operating procedures.

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Non-Technical Summary

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by AOC Archaeology Group at Pinewood Studios, Buckinghamshire between 1st May and 10th May 2008 on behalf of Concept. Seven geotechnical test pits were monitored. Natural clay was observed in all of the pits. In two test pits modern layers probably related to the M25 construction were found, in all other test pits a sequence of natural deposits and topsoil was observed.

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This document is a report on an archaeological watching brief carried out at Pinewood Studios, Pinewood Road, Iver Heath, Buckinghamshire, SL0 0NH.
- 1.2 The site is centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) TQ 0220 8450 and is within land bounded by fields to the north, a small area of woodland (known as The Clump) and the M25 to the east, fields to the south and Pinewood Studios to the west. The site is irregular in shape and measures roughly 370.00m by 190.00m. The area affected by the development covers a total area of approximately 7 hectares (70,300m²). Currently the site consists of 2 fields and is occupied by an open grass field.

2. PLANNING BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The local planning authority is Buckinghamshire County Council (BCC). Archaeology advice to the council is provided by the archaeological advisor to BCC.
- 2.2 Geotechnical test-pits were excavated across the site to inform on any possible contamination during the pre-planning process.
- 2.3 While the archaeological potential of the site is currently unknown, several stone tools were recovered during the construction of the M25 to the immediate east of the site. Therefore archaeological investigation during the excavation of the geotechnical test pits was recommended by Arup as an early indication of the probable survival of archaeological remains on the site.

3. GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

- 3.1 The British Geological Survey (sheet 255) shows that the site lies upon glacial sands and gravels including undifferentiated head (BGS Sheet 255, 1990)
- 3.2 The site is situated on generally flat grassland.

4. ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

- 4.1 Little in the way of archaeology has been found in the immediate area of the site. A number of lithics were discovered during the construction of the M25 immediately to the east of the site.
- 4.2 A number of archaeological sites have been excavated in Uxbridge, approximately 3 km east of the site; this includes a possible Bronze Age settlement at Vine Street in central Uxbridge. Bronze Age features were also found at Windsor Road in Uxbridge. This site also included the discovery of a series of medieval buildings.
- 4.3 Pinewood Studios borders Black Park to the west, which along with Langley Park was originally a medieval Royal Park stocked with deer from Windsor. In the Tudor period they became hunting parks, improvements were made to drainage and the woodland was altered. Later in the 18th century the parks were altered again with the construction of lakes, a temple, avenues and a Palladian villa style House all reflecting the influence of Lancelot 'Capability' Brown. The 19th century saw the the parks enlarged by the adding of surrounding heathland, further alterations were made with the building of an arboretum and rhododendron garden. In the 20th century the land was acquired by Buckinghamshire County Council and was designated a country park.

5. AIMS OF THE INVESTIGATION

5.1 The general aims of the investigation were:

- to establish the presence/absence of any archaeological remains within the development site
- to establish the ecofactual and environmental potential of any archaeological deposits and features and to establish the depositional sequence.
- to record and sample excavate any such archaeologically important material.
- to enable the archaeology advisor to make an informed decision on the status of any condition imposed on planning consent in the future.
- the final aim will be to make public the results of the archaeological work.

5.2 The specific aims of the project were:

- Is there any evidence of prehistoric activity?

6. STRATEGY

6.1 Fieldwork procedures followed the Museum of London Archaeological Site Manual (3rd Edition) (MoL 1994).

6.2 The excavation, recording and reporting conformed to current best archaeological practice and local and national standards and guidelines:

- English Heritage – Management of Archaeological Projects (EH 1991).
- English Heritage – Archaeological Guidance Paper 3: Standards and Practices in Archaeological Fieldwork (EH 1998a).
- English Heritage – Environmental Archaeology: A guide to the theory and practice of methods, from sampling and recovery to post-excavation (EH 2002).
- Institute of Field Archaeology – Standards and Guidance and Guidelines for Finds Work (IFA 1992).
- Institute of Field Archaeologists – Code of Conduct (IFA 1997).
- United Kingdom Institute for Conservation – Conservation Guidelines No.2 (UKIC 1983).
- United Kingdom Institute for Conservation – Guidance for Archaeological Conservation Practice (UKIC 1990).
- Council for British Archaeology – First Aid for Finds (Second Edition) (CBA 1987).

6.3 A unique site code for the project was obtained and confirmed to Arup.

6.4 The Watching Brief was undertaken by a Project Supervisor under the overall direction of Andy Leonard, Fieldwork Manager of AOC Archaeology Group. Further staff were made available as required.

7. SCOPE OF WORKS

7.1 The watching brief was conducted upon the excavation of all geotechnical test pits which required archaeological monitoring at the site.

7.2 Geotechnical pits were excavated to investigate the presence and extent of contamination on the site and were excavated to approximately 4m in depth.

8. METHODOLOGY

8.1 Seven geotechnical test pits were machine excavated across the site for which archaeological monitoring was needed.

8.2 The Project Supervisor was present to observe and record any deposits revealed by the excavation. The Supervisor was positioned outside the working area of the mechanical excavator, in the normal working arrangement.

8.3 At no time did the Project Supervisor enter the excavated test pits; recording was carried out from ground level only.

8.4 Archaeological recording, where not precluded by Health & Safety considerations, consisted of

- The collection of dating evidence from *in-situ* deposits and spoil scans.
- A scaled photographic recording of representative exposed sections and surfaces, along with sufficient photographs to establish the setting and scale of the groundworks.

9 RESULTS

9.1 Test Pit 113

113/001	0.10m	Topsoil
113/002	0.40m	Made ground
113/003	3.50m	Brownish grey clay natural

9.1.1 Test Pit 113 was situated on the eastern border of the northern field. Natural clay (113/003) was observed at a depth of 0.40m below ground level, overlain by a layer of loose, reddish orange sandy clay made ground (113/002) 0.40m thick which contained pieces of plastic. This was overlain by mid grey, loose sandy clay topsoil (113/001). No archaeology was observed in this pit.

9.2 Test Pit 114

114/001	0.15m	Topsoil
114/002	0.12m	Made ground
114/003	0.53m	Concreted layer
114/004	0.70m	yellowish orange sandy gravel natural
114/005	1.60m	Brownish grey clay natural

9.2.1 Test pit 114 was located in the northwest corner of the northern field. Natural clay (114/005) was observed at a depth of 1.48m, sealed by a layer of natural gravels (114/004) 0.70m thick. This was overlain by a layer of concrete and rubble (114/003) 0.53m thick,. It was sealed by a layer of yellowish grey sandy clay made ground (114/002) 0.12m thick and dark brownish grey silty clay topsoil (114/001) 0.15m thick. No archaeology was observed in this pit.

9.3 Test Pit 115

115/001	0.30m	Topsoil
115/002	4.00m	Orangey grey clay natural

9.3.1 Test pit 115 was situated on the western border of the northern field. Natural clay (115/002) was observed at a depth of 0.30m, sealed by dark orangey brown silty clay topsoil (115/001) 0.30m thick. No archaeology was present.

9.4 Test Pit 116

116/001	0.25m	Topsoil
116/002	3.80m	Orangey grey clay natural

9.4.1 Test pit 116 was located in the southern part of the northern field. Natural clay (116/002) was observed at a depth of 0.25m, this was overlain by dark orangey brown silty sand topsoil (116/001) 0.25m thick. No archaeology was observed.

9.5 Test Pit 117

117/001	0.30m	Topsoil
117/002	3.80.	Brownish grey clay natural

9.5.1 Test pit 117 was located in the northern part of the southern field. Natural clay (117/002) was observed at a depth of 0.30m and was sealed by mid brown silty clay topsoil (117/001) 0.30m thick. No archaeology was found in this pit.

9.6 Test Pit 118

118/001	0.30m	Topsoil
118/002	4.20m	Brownish grey clay natural

9.6.1 Test pit 118 was situated in the southwest corner of the southern field. Natural clay (118/002) was observed at a depth of 0.30m, this was overlain by (118/001) loose mid brownish grey silty clay topsoil 0.30m thick. No archaeology was observed.

9.7 Test Pit 119

119/001	0.30m	Topsoil
119/002	3.90m	Orangey grey clay natural

9.7.1 Test pit 119 was situated in the southeastern part of the southern field. Natural clay was observed at a depth of 0.3m, overlain by (119/001), a loose mid brown silty clay topsoil 0.30m in thickness. No archaeology was observed in this trench.

10. FINDS

10.1 No archaeologically significant finds were identified in any of the test pits.

11. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

11.1 The investigation did not identify any archaeological remains. The majority of the pits observed contained a sequence of topsoil directly overlying natural clay. The absence of any subsoil deposits in these pits, and the presence of recent made ground in the remainder (Pits 113 and 114), would suggest that a level of horizontal truncation has taken place although this does not necessarily preclude the survival of any cut features that may exist upon the site.

11.2 Publication of the results will be through the on-line ADS OASIS form.

12. BIBLIOGRAPHY

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Museum of London 2002. *A research framework for London Archaeology*



Appendices

Appendix A: Context Register

Context	Length	Width	Thickness	Description
113/001	2.00m	0.60m	0.10m	Topsoil
113/002	2.00m	0.60m	0.40m	Made ground
113/003	2.00m	0.60m	3.50m	Brownish grey clay natural
114/001	2.00m	0.70m	0.15m	Topsoil
114/002	2.00m	0.70m	0.12m	Made ground
114/003	2.00m	0.70m	0.53m	Concreted layer
114/004	2.00m	0.70m	0.70m	yellowish orange sandy gravel natural
114/005	2.00m	0.70m	1.60m	Brownish grey clay natural
115/001	2.00m	0.60m	0.30m	Topsoil
115/002	2.00m	0.60m	4.00m	Orangey grey clay natural
116/001	2.00m	0.60m	0.25m	Topsoil
116/002	2.00m	0.60m	3.80m	Orangey grey clay natural
117/001	2.00m	0.60m	0.30m	Topsoil
117/002	2.00m	0.60m	3.80.	Brownish grey clay natural
118/001	2.00m	0.60m	0.30m	Topsoil
118/002	2.00m	0.60m	4.20m	Brownish grey clay natural
119/001	2.00m	0.60m	0.30m	Topsoil
119/002	2.00m	0.60m	3.90m	Orangey grey clay natural

Appendix B: OASIS FORM

OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: England

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Printable version

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OASIS ID: aocarcha1-42654

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Project details

Project name Project Pinewood, Buckinghamshire

Short description of the project A watching brief was undertaken by AOC archaeology at Pinewood Studios, Buckinghamshire. Seven geotechnical test pits were monitored for any archaeological remains. None were found.

Project dates Start: 08-05-2008 End: 09-05-2008

Previous/future work No / Not known

Type of project Recording project

Site status None

Current Land use Grassland Heathland 2 - Undisturbed Grassland

Investigation type 'Watching Brief'

Prompt Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPG16

[Redacted]

Project location

Country England

Site location BUCKINGHAMSHIRE SOUTH BUCKS IVER Pinewood Studios, Pinewood Road, Iver Heath, Bucks

Postcode SL0 0NH

Study area 7.00 Hectares

Site coordinates TQ 0220 8450 51.5496396588 -0.525867365569 51 32 58 N 000 31 33 W Point

Project creators

Name of AOC Archaeology
Organisation

Project brief ARUP
originator

Project design AOC Archaeology
originator

Project Andy Leonard
director/manager

Project supervisor Paul Harris

Type of Developer
sponsor/funding
body

Name of Concept
sponsor/funding
body

Project archives

Physical Archive No
Exists?

Digital Archive Buckinghamshire County Museum
recipient

Digital Contents 'none'

Digital available Media 'Images raster / digital photography','Spreadsheets'

Paper recipient Archive Buckinghamshire County Museum

Paper Contents 'Stratigraphic'

Paper available Media 'Drawing','Photograph','Plan','Report','Section'

Entered by Ian Hogg (ian.hogg@aoc.com)

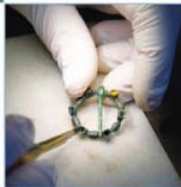
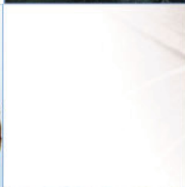
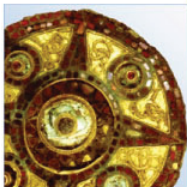
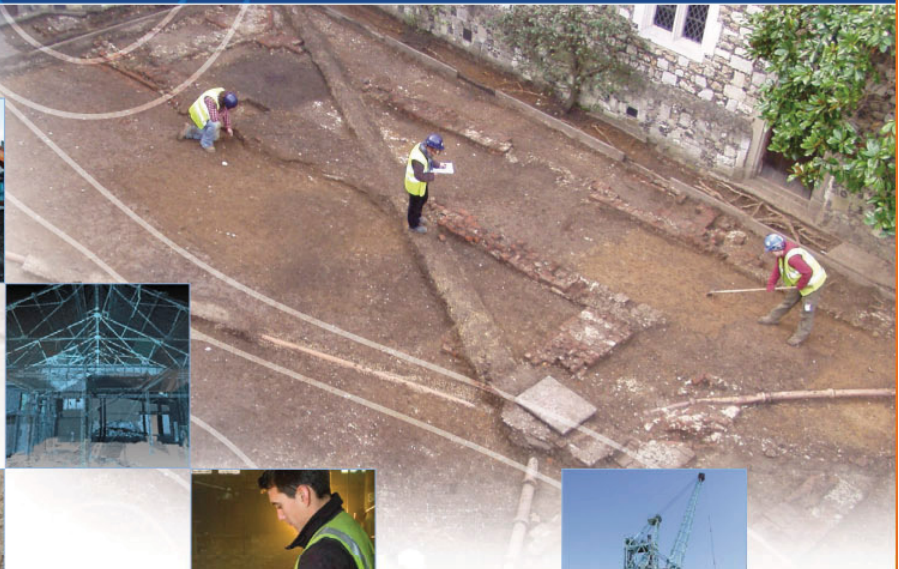
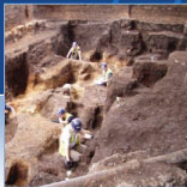
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