

Titlarks Acre, Sunningdale, Berkshire

An Archaeological Evaluation Report

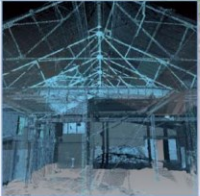
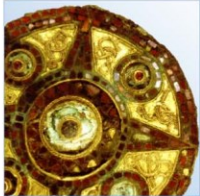
Planning Application Number: 09/02111/FULL

National Grid Reference Number: SU 9586 6610

Site Code: REDMG:2010.63

AOC Project No: 30763

Date: June 2010



ARCHAEOLOGY

HERITAGE

CONSERVATION

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Non-Technical Summary

On the 15th June 2010, an archaeological evaluation was undertaken by AOC Archaeology Group on behalf of Prides Crossing Property at the site of Titlarks Acre, Sunningdale, Berkshire (NGR: SU 9586 6610).

The evaluation comprised the machine excavation of a single trench measuring 6.50 x 1.50m at base. Natural clays were encountered at a height between 72.38m OD and 72.27m OD. The natural clay was sealed by a sequence of subsoil and topsoil. No archaeological features were observed.

1. Introduction

- 1.1 This document is a report documenting the findings from the archaeological evaluation works on the site of the proposed development at Titlarks Acre, Sunningdale, Berkshire (Figure 1).
- 1.2 The site was located on the southern outskirts of the town of Sunningdale, approximately 1km southeast of the town centre. It is centred on national grid reference (NGR) SU 9586 6610. The site was bounded by Titlarks Hill Road to the southeast, a wooded area to the southwest, a golf course to the northwest, and a residential property to the northwest. The site was rectangular in shape and covered an area of approximately 0.4ha (Figure 2).
- 1.3 The proposed development is for the construction of a new residential property and associated landscaping (Figure 2). At the time of writing the site consists of open ground and the demolished remains of the previous residential property.

2. Planning Background

- 2.1 The local planning authority is Windsor and Maidenhead Royal Borough Council. The site lies within an area of archaeological potential as noted on the Berkshire Historic Environment Record. The site did not contain any known Scheduled Monuments or Listed Buildings. Archaeological advice to the council is provided by Berkshire Archaeology's Fiona MacDonald.
- 2.2 Berkshire Archaeology decided that a programme of archaeological investigation was required (Planning Ref: 09/02111/FULL) under Planning Policy Guidelines (PPG 16) to determine the impact of the proposed development on any surviving archaeological remains. This archaeological investigation consisted of an archaeological evaluation.
- 2.3 Planning Policy Guidance 16 (PPG16) has now been superseded by Planning Policy Statement 5 (PPS 5).
- 2.4 This Written Scheme of Investigation (AOC 2010) was prepared as a detailed project design for the archaeological evaluation trenching following consultation with the Berkshire Archaeology as to the scope of works required. The WSI was approved by Fiona MacDonald prior to the commencement of site works.
- 2.5 This report details the results of the archaeological evaluation.

3. Geology and Topography

- 3.1 According to the British Geological Survey map (BGS Sheet 269) the site was situated upon solid geology of Bracklesham Beds, which consists of a pebble bed overlying a mix of loams and clays which varies locally in thickness.
- 3.2 The site was located on a moderate incline traversing east to west, with the localised high ground located to the south west. The site lay at an approximate height of 70m Above Ordnance Datum (AOD).
- 3.3 No known geotechnical site investigations have been undertaken on site.

4. Archaeological and Historical Background

- 4.1 A limited number of prehistoric features are known in the area. Evidence for activity of this date is primarily represented by several Bronze Age Barrows or burial mounds located near Sunningdale Station, approximately 1km to the northwest of the proposed development site (AOC 2004). The site itself is known to be located within a large earthen-banked enclosure, identified through the use of aerial photography. The enclosure is thought to date to the prehistoric period (BHER – 04063.00.00).
- 4.2 During the construction of the Sunningdale Station a tessellated floor dating to the Roman period was discovered in the vicinity of where a Roman Road, known as the Devil's Highway, is thought to intersect with the railway line. However, the exact course of the Roman road through the area has not been reliably established.
- 4.3 Evidence for medieval and post-medieval activity in the area is limited. During the medieval period it is thought Sunningdale may have consisted of a small settlement, although it is known that a nunnery was established in the Broomhall area during the 12th century and was present at least until the 15th century. By the 18th century the village of Sunningdale had not developed much, represented on contemporary maps by a small cluster of houses. The town only started to expand after the arrival of the railway in the mid 19th century (AOC 2004).

5. Aims of the Investigation

The aims of the evaluation were defined as being:

- To establish the presence/absence of archaeological remains within the site.
- To determine the extent, condition, nature, character, quality and date of any archaeological remains encountered.
- To record and sample excavate any archaeological remains encountered.
- To assess the ecofactual and environmental potential of any archaeological features and deposits.
- To determine the extent of previous truncations of the archaeological deposits.
- To enable the representative from Berkshire Archaeology to make an informed decision as to the requirement for any further archaeological work.
- To make available to interested parties the results of the investigation.

5.2 The specific aims of the investigation were:

- Identify any remains associated with known prehistoric enclosure.

5.3 The final aim was to make public the results of the investigation, subject to any confidentiality restrictions, through ADS OASIS website.

6. Methodology

6.1 The field evaluation comprised the machine excavation of one 6m x 1.5m (at base) trench (Figure 3). The trench had been located to evaluate the potential for archaeological remains within the main areas of impact. There was a contingency of an additional 4m of trenching to allow any features partially exposed to be fully investigated.

- 6.2 All machining during the evaluation was carried out using a 360° excavator with a smooth bladed ditching bucket, under the constant supervision of the archaeological supervisor
- 6.4 An accession code has been requested from Reading Museum for the project, and this will be added to all fieldwork records.
- 6.5 All evaluation trenches were accurately located to the National Grid and their levels calculated using a temporary benchmark established on site by the fieldwork team having moved the level from a BM on Chobham Road The value of the BM was 59.30mOD whilst the TBM on site was valued at 73.93mOD.
- 6.6 All recording was in accordance with the standards and requirements of the Museum of London's *Archaeological Field Manual* (MoL 1994).
- 6.7 All of the work was carried out in line with:
- *Archaeological Guidance Paper (AGP): 3, Standards and Practices in Archaeological Fieldwork* (English Heritage 1998)
 - *IFA Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (IfA 2008).
 - *IFA Code of Conduct* (IFA 2010).
- 6.8 A continuous unique numbering system was employed. For the trench, a block of numbers in a continuous sequence was allocated.
- 6.9 Written descriptions, comprising both factual data and interpretative elements, were recorded on standardised sheets.
- 6.10 For a full methodology please refer to the written scheme of investigation (AOC 2010).

7. Results

Trench 1 (Figure 4)

Context No	Depth	Height of Deposit (mOD)	Description/Interpretation
100	0.33m	73.12 – 72.79	Dark brownish grey clay silt. Topsoil.
101	0.37m	72.79 – 72.42	Mid greyish brown, clay silt. Subsoil.
102	0.15m	72.42 – 72.27	Pale brownish orange, silty clay. Natural.

- 7.1 Trench 1 measured 6.50m x 1.50m and was aligned roughly northeast-southwest, the top of the trench was at a height of 73.12m OD at the south-western end, and 72.79m OD at the north-eastern end.
- 7.2 The earliest deposit in Trench 1 was (102), a pale brownish orange silty clay at a height of 72.42mOD interpreted as a natural deposit. The natural deposit was overlain by (101), a deposit of mid greyish brown clay silt subsoil 0.37m thick. The subsoil was overlain by a deposit of dark brownish grey clay silt topsoil (100), this deposit contained occasional ceramic building material (CBM) fragments. No archaeological features were encountered in this trench.

8 Finds

- 8.1 No finds were retained from this site; the only finds seen were fragments of modern brick within topsoil deposit (100). No environmental samples were taken.

9 Conclusions and Recommendations

- 9.1 The archaeological evaluation met its primary aim; to determine the presence or absence of archaeological remains. No archaeological remains were recorded on site. Trench 1 indicated that a natural sequence of subsoil and topsoil overlay the natural deposit, and the only disturbance to the sequence stemmed from the recently demolished building on the site.
- 9.2 Due to the lack of archaeological remains it is recommended that no further work be undertaken on the site. Publication will be limited to a short summary submitted to the local journal and via the OASIS project (Appendix B).

10. Bibliography

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Figure 1 Site Location

Figure 2 Detailed Site Location

Figure 3 Trench Location

Figure 4 Trench 1

Appendices

Appendix A – Context Register

Context	Length	Width	Depth	Description
100	6.50m	1.50m	0.33m	Dark brownish grey clay silt. Topsoil
101	6.50mm	1.50m	0.37m	Brick and mortar Hardcore.
102	6.50	1.50m	0.15m	Pale brownish orange, silty clay. Natural.

Appendix B – OASIS Form

OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: England

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Printable version

OASIS ID: aocarcha1-78307

Project details

Project name Titlarks Acre, Sunningdale, Berkshire

Short description of the project The evaluation comprised the machine excavation of a single trench. Natural clays were encountered at a height between 72.38 and 72.27m OD. The natural clay was sealed by a sequence of subsoil and topsoil. No archaeological features were observed.

Project dates Start: 15-06-2010 End: 15-06-2010

Previous/future work No / Not known

Any associated project reference codes 30763 - Contracting Unit No.

Type of project Field evaluation

Site status None

Current Land use Residential 1 - General Residential

Monument type NONE None

Significant Finds NONE None

Methods & techniques 'Targeted Trenches'

Development type	Urban residential (e.g. flats, houses, etc.)
Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPG16
Position in the planning process	After full determination (eg. As a condition)
Project location	
Country	England
Site location	BERKSHIRE WINDSOR AND MAIDENHEAD SUNNINGDALE Titlarks Acre, Sunningdale, Berkshire
Postcode	SL5 0JD
Study area	0.40 Hectares
Site coordinates	SU 9586 6610 51.3853390486 -0.622277680415 51 23 07 N 000 37 20 W Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 72.27m Max: 72.38m
Project creators	
Name of Organisation	AOC Archaeology
Project brief originator	Local Planning Authority (with/without advice from County/District Archaeologist)
Project design originator	AOC Archaeology
Project director/manager	Melissa Melikian
Project supervisor	Ian Hogg
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer

Name of sponsor/funding body	Prides Cross Property Co.
Project archives	
Physical Archive Exists?	No
Physical Archive recipient	n/a
Digital Archive recipient	Reading Museum
Digital Contents	'Stratigraphic'
Digital Media available	'Images raster / digital photography', 'Images vector', 'Text'
Paper Archive recipient	Reading Museum
Paper Contents	'Stratigraphic'
Paper Media available	'Context sheet', 'Photograph', 'Plan', 'Report', 'Section'
Project bibliography	
1	
Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	TITLARKS ACRE, SUNNINGDALE, BERKSHIRE: A WRITTEN SCHEME OF INVESTIGATION FOR AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Clarke, C.
Date	2010
Issuer or publisher	AOC Archaeology

Place of issue or publication London

Description A4 text, 2 illustrations, 17 pages bound between plastic covers

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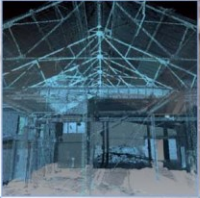
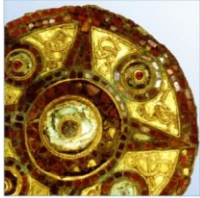
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OASIS:

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