

T H A M E S V A L L E Y

ARCHAEOLOGICAL

S E R V I C E S

**Yardleys, 32 Camp Road, Gerrards Cross,
Buckinghamshire**

Archaeological Watching Brief

by Luis Esteves

Site Code: YGX 16/81

(SU 9963 8784)

**Yardleys, 32 Camp Road, Gerrards Cross,
Buckinghamshire**

An Archaeological Watching Brief

For Heywood Real Estate

by Luis Esteves

Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code YGX 16/81

June 2016

Summary

Site name: Yardleys, 32 Camp Road, Gerrards Cross, Buckinghamshire

Grid reference: SU 9963 8784

Site activity: Watching Brief

Date and duration of project: 4th to 17th May 2016

Project manager: Steve Ford

Site supervisor: Andy Taylor

Site code: YGX 16/81

Summary of results: The soakaway area and the foundations for the new house and garage were observed and recorded. No archaeological features were observed during the course of the watching brief.

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

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Report edited/checked by: Steve Ford ✓ 09.06.16 Steve Preston ✓ 06.06.16

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by Luis Esteves

Report 16/81

Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological watching brief carried out at Yardleys, 32 Camp Road, Gerrards Cross, Buckinghamshire (SU 9963 8784) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Mr Patrick Clarke on behalf of Heywood Real Estate Ltd, Westminster House, Packhorse Road, Gerrards Cross, SL9 8HY.

Planning permission (15/01453/FUL) has been granted by South Buckinghamshire District Council for the construction of a house on the site, following the demolition of the existing building. The consent is subject to a condition (14) which requires a watching brief to be maintained during the groundworks.

This is in accordance with the Department for Communities and Local Government's *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF 2012) and the District Council's policies on archaeology. The field investigation was carried out to a specification approved by Mr Phil Markham, Senior Archaeology Officer for Buckinghamshire County Council, advising the District Council. The fieldwork was undertaken by Andy Taylor and Luis Esteves between the 4th and 17th May 2016 and the site code is YGX 16/81.

The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited with Buckinghamshire Museum Service in due course.

Location, topography and geology

Gerrards Cross is located between the M25 and the M40, north of Slough and west of Uxbridge. The site is located at 32 Camp Road, south of Bulstrode Camp and east of Bulstrode Park (Fig. 1). The site lies in a residential area, immediately adjacent to the earthworks of Bulstrode Camp (Fig. 2). The site is mapped as lying on the Gerrards Cross Gravel (BGS 2004) and this geology was observed on the site.

Archaeological background

The archaeological potential of the site stems from its location in an area where Roman pottery kiln sites have been recorded with further production deposits (wasters) recorded to the west. However, watching briefs carried out at two sites (500m to the west, and 400m to the northwest) failed to reveal any pottery production deposits

and similarly neither did a watching brief to the west of the site (Anthony 2002a). It is also considered that a possible Roman road lies to the north of the site.

To the north is the Scheduled Ancient Monument (Bucks SAM 11) of the Iron Age hillfort of Bulstrode Camp which is the largest of its kind within Buckinghamshire with an area of 8.5ha enclosed by a double rampart for most of its perimeter. Small scale fieldwork in 1924 recovered a few fragments of early Iron Age pottery and a hearth (Fox and Clark 1925) and more recent geophysical survey suggests the presence of internal features such as hut circles and possibly structures of earlier date (possibly long barrows, Gover 2003). Small watching briefs at 90 Camp Road, just to the north and 59 Camp Road to the south, did not reveal any deposits of archaeological interest (Taylor 2002; Anthony 2002b; Oram and Pine 2006) but fieldwork at 92 Camp Road recorded part of a recently damaged section of the rampart of the hillfort (Hammond 2005). It is possible that ancillary Iron Age occupation is present within the proposal area.

Objectives and methodology

The purpose of the watching brief was to excavate and record any archaeological deposits affected by the groundworks. This was to involve examination of all areas of intrusive groundworks, in particular the stripping of overburden and the digging of foundation trenches and service runs.

Any archaeological deposits threatened by the groundworks were to be excavated and recorded with sufficient time allowed within the groundworks schedule without causing undue delay.

Results

Soakaway

A small area to the rear of the demolished house was stripped for a soakaway to a depth of 0.35m (Fig. 3; Pl. 1). The stratigraphy showed 0.13m topsoil, above 0.31m of subsoil above the grey gravel natural geology. No archaeological features or finds were observed.

Foundation trenches

The foundations for the new house and the garage were observed and recorded (Fig. 3). They were typically 0.6m wide with a depth between 1m and 1.10m. The stratigraphy revealed was variable. In places up to 0.20m of topsoil was present above 0.6m of a subsoil of light grey silty clay with some gravel and modern ceramic

building material This lay above a yellow/grey natural gravel (Fig. 4; Pl. 2). In other places no topsoil was present and the subsoil contained remains from the demolished building.

No archaeological features were observed.

Finds

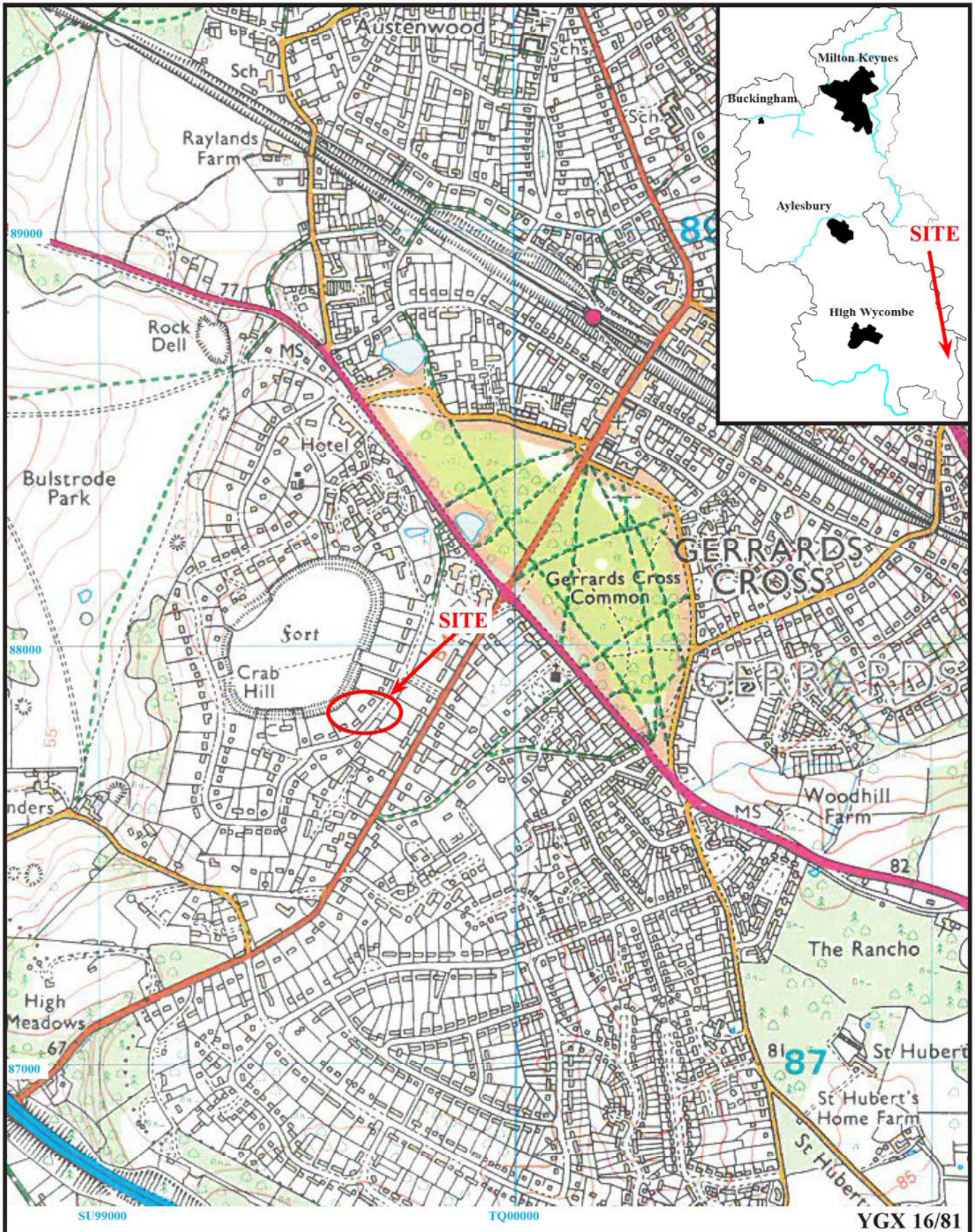
No finds of archaeological interest were observed.

Conclusion

No finds or features of archaeological interest were observed in either the previously disturbed or undisturbed areas of the site. This adds to the pattern noted from the other watching briefs carried out in the area of the unexpected absence of evidence for activity contemporary with the hillfort in the zone immediately outside the ramparts.

References

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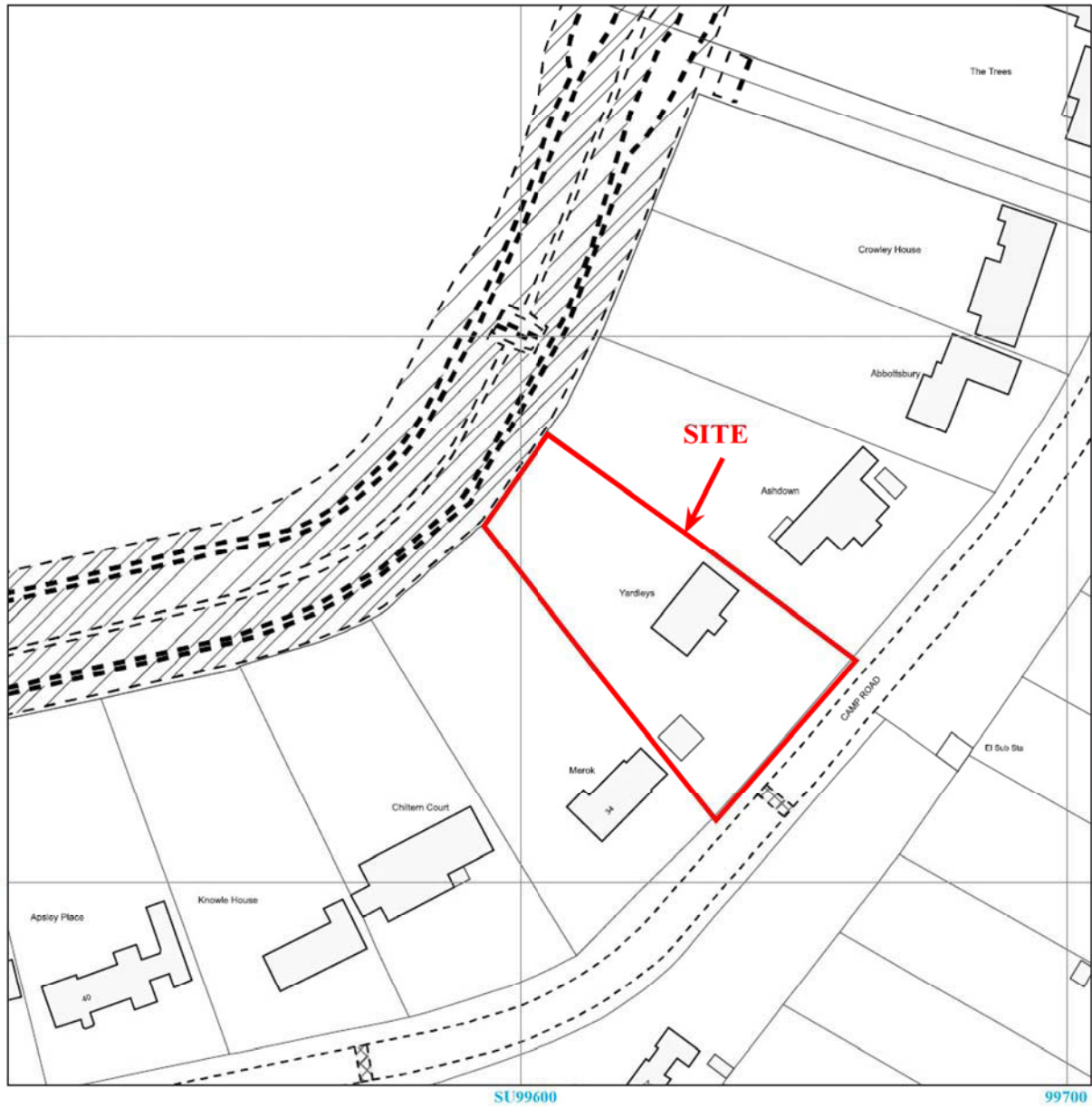


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Figure 1. Location of site within Gerrards Cross and Buckinghamshire.

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Figure 2. Detailed location of site off Camp Road.

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Figure 3. Location of observed areas.



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NE

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Light grey silty clay with gravel and brick/tile



Gravel (natural geology)



Base of trench

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Figure 4. Representative section of foundation trench.



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Plate 1. Strip for soakaway, looking north east, Scales: horizontal 2m and 1m, vertical 0.3m.



Plate 2. Footing section, looking north east, Scales: 1m.

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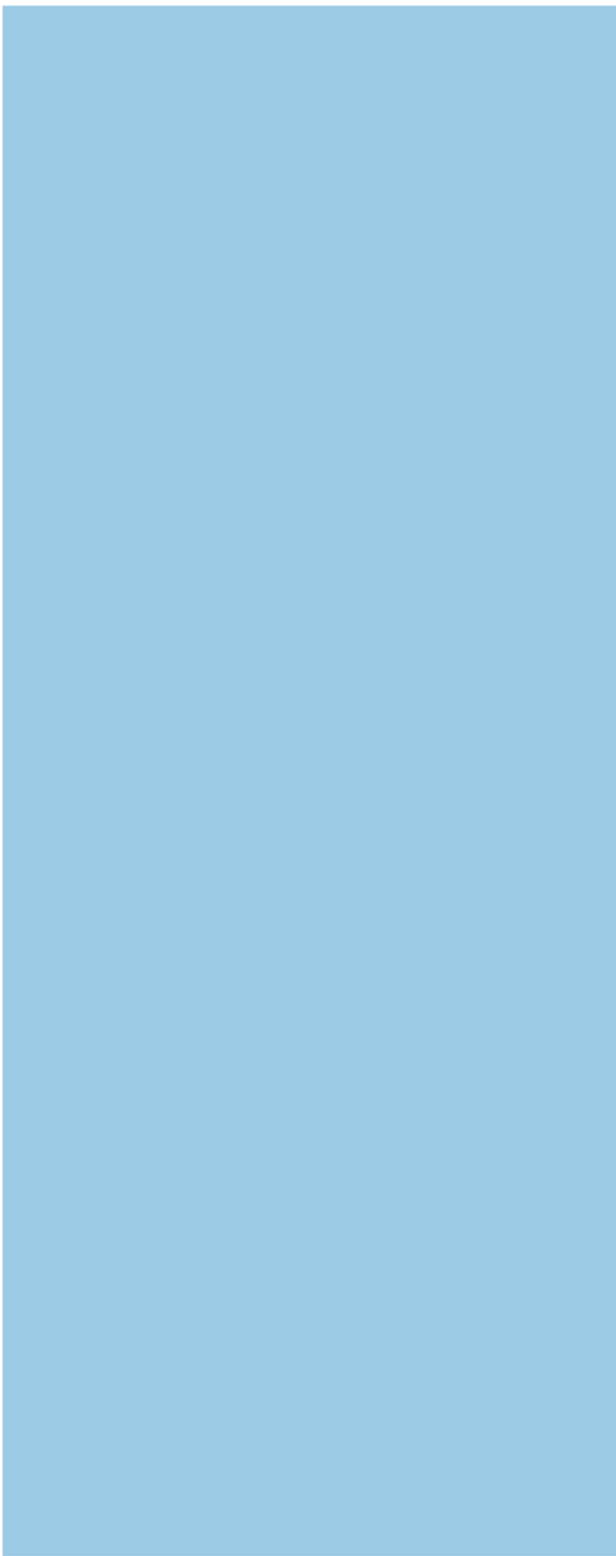
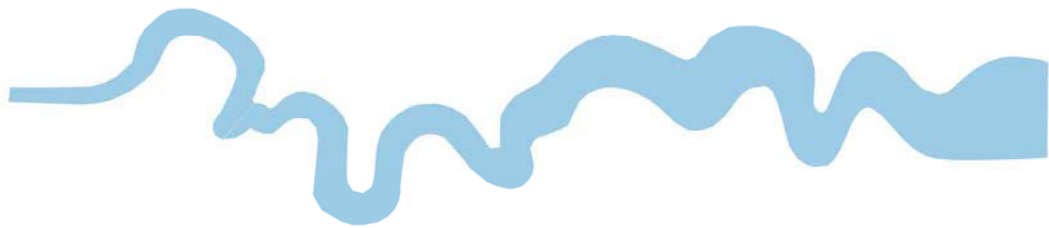
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Plates 1 - 2.**

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TIME CHART

	Calendar Years
Modern _____	AD 1901
Victorian _____	AD 1837
Post Medieval _____	AD 1500
Medieval _____	AD 1066
Saxon _____	AD 410
Roman _____	AD 43
Iron Age _____	BC/AD 750 BC
Bronze Age: Late -----	1300 BC
Bronze Age: Middle -----	1700 BC
Bronze Age: Early -----	2100 BC
Neolithic: Late	3300 BC
Neolithic: Early	4300 BC
Mesolithic: Late	6000 BC
Mesolithic: Early	10000 BC
Palaeolithic: Upper	30000 BC
Palaeolithic: Middle	70000 BC
Palaeolithic: Lower	2,000,000 BC





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