

**78–84 Waterloo Road, Crowthorne,
Bracknell, Berkshire**

**An Archaeological Evaluation
for CgMs Consulting**

by Simon Cass
Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code WRC07/150

November 2007

Summary

Site name: 78–84 Waterloo Road, Crowthorne, Bracknell, Berkshire

Grid reference: SU 8322 6401

Site activity: Evaluation

Date and duration of project: 15th November 2007

Project manager: Steve Ford

Site supervisor: Simon Cass

Site code: WRC 07/150

Area of site: c. 3200 sq m

Summary of results: No finds or deposits of archaeological relevance were encountered during the course of this evaluation

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 ✓ 19.11.07

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Report 07/150

Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological field evaluation carried out 78-84 Waterloo Road, Crowthorne, Bracknell, Berkshire (SU 8322 6401) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Mr Duncan Hawkins of CgMs Consulting, Morley House, 26 Holborn Viaduct, London, EC1A 2AT on behalf of Barratt Thames Valley, Barratt House, Clivemont Road, Maidenhead, Berkshire, SL6 7BZ.

Planning consent (app no 07/00015/FUL) was granted by Bracknell Forest District Council to demolish existing dwellings on site and construct new blocks of apartments and housing with associated car parking, access and landscaping. This consent was subject to a condition relating to archaeology requiring a programme of archaeological work, taking the form of an archaeological evaluation in the first instance. The results of this evaluation would then be used to inform a scheme for archaeological mitigation if required.

This is in accordance with the Department of the Environment's Planning Policy Guidance, *Archaeology and Planning* (PPG16 1990), and the District Council's policies on archaeology. The field investigation was carried out to a specification approved by Ms Mary O'Donoghue, Archaeological Officer with Berkshire Archaeology, advisers to the District Council on matters of archaeology.

The fieldwork was undertaken by Simon Cass and Illya Santos on the 15th–16th November 2007 and the site code is WRC 07/150. 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 east of the centre of the village of Crowthorne. The village itself lies a short distance to the south of Wokingham and Bracknell (Fig. 1). The underlying geology is Barton Beds with outcrops of Plateau Gravels in the vicinity (BGS 1981). The geology observed in the trenches was consistent with the Barton Beds. The site lies at an approximate height of 80m above Ordnance Datum and is currently used for residential purposes, with all the properties extending from the north side of Waterloo Road to the south side of Duke's Ride.

Archaeological background

The archaeological potential of the site stems in the main from its location in an area where a range of sites has been recorded (Ford 1987). Berkshire Sites and Monuments Record entries exist for a number of finds of Mesolithic tools in the area, while the projected course of the Roman road from London to Silchester passes c. 200m to the north of the site. Further north, medieval deposits have been encountered (Moore 2003).

Objectives and methodology

The purpose of the evaluation was to determine the presence/absence, extent, condition, character, quality and date of any archaeological deposits within the area of development. Specific aims of the evaluation were to determine if archaeologically relevant levels have survived on the site, to determine if archaeological deposits of any period are present and to determine if any deposits of prehistoric occupation are present.

Four trenches were excavated using a JCB-type machine under constant archaeological supervision. The trench locations were constrained by a number of tree preservation orders and the standing buildings, though a reasonable spatial distribution was still possible across the site. The trenches were all 1.6m wide and 15m varied in length.

Results

Four trenches were dug and varied in length from 14.2m to 17.2m, with depths up to 0.76m below ground level. Where live services were encountered the services were left in-situ on plinths. The spoilheaps were searched for finds. A complete list of trenches giving lengths, breadths, depths and a description of sections and geology is given in Appendix 1.

Trench 1

This trench was 14.5m long and 0.76m deep, orientated east-west. The stratigraphy encountered in this trench consisted of 0.49m of dark brown sandy silt topsoil above 0.16m of light brown/yellow mottled silty sand subsoil. This lay over pale yellow/cream sands, interpreted as natural geology. No finds or deposits of archaeological relevance were encountered in this trench.

Trench 2 (Plate 1)

This trench was 14.7m long and 0.67m deep, orientated east-west. The stratigraphy encountered in this trench consisted of 0.27m of topsoil above 0.27m of light brown silty sand subsoil. This lay above natural geology. No finds or deposits of archaeological relevance were encountered in this trench.

Trench 3

This trench was 14.2m long and 0.61m deep, orientated east-west. The stratigraphy encountered in this trench consisted of 0.39m of topsoil above 0.16m of light brown silty sand subsoil. This sealed pale cream/yellow sand, interpreted as natural geology. In this trench the natural geology appeared to have been disturbed by root action at several points and services were found at the east end of the trench. No finds or deposits of archaeological relevance were encountered in this trench.

Trench 4 (Plate 2)

This trench was 17.2m long and 0.68m deep, orientated north west-south east. The stratigraphy encountered consisted of 0.43m of topsoil above 0.16m of light brown sand subsoil. This sealed pale cream/yellow mottled sand which was the natural geology. A service cable was found in the north western end of the trench. No finds or deposits of archaeological relevance were encountered in this trench.

Finds

No finds were retained from this evaluation, a small amount of modern detritus (mostly modern brick) was encountered but was discarded on site.

Conclusion

No deposits or artefacts of archaeological interest were recorded on the site. The results of this evaluation therefore suggest that there is little or no archaeological potential for this site.

References

- BGS, 1981, *British Geological Survey*, 1:50000, Sheet 269, Solid and Drift Edition, Keyworth
- Ford, S, 1987, *East Berkshire Archaeological Survey*, Berkshire County Council Dept Highways and Planning Occas Pap 1, Reading
- Moore, H, 2003, Land at Lane End, Devil's Highway, Crowthorne, Thames Valley Archaeol Services report 03/112, Reading
- PPG16, 1990, *Archaeology and Planning*, Dept of the Environment Planning Policy Guidance 16, HMSO

APPENDIX 1: Trench details

0m at South or West end

Trench	Length (m)	Breadth (m)	Depth (m)	Comment
1	14.5	1.6	0.76	0-0.49m Topsoil (dark brown sandy silt), 0.49-0.65m Subsoil (light brown silty sand), 0.65-0.76m+ Natural pale cream/yellow sands.
2	14.7	1.6	0.67	0-0.27m Topsoil (dark brown sandy silt), 0.27-0.55m Subsoil (light brown silty sand), 0.55-0.67m Natural pale cream/yellow sands. [Plate 1]
3	14.2	1.6	0.61	0-0.39m Topsoil (dark brown sandy silt), 0.39-0.55m Subsoil (light brown silty sand), 0.55-0.61m Natural pale cream/yellow sands.
4	17.2	1.6	0.68	0-0.43m Topsoil (dark brown sandy silt), 0.43-0.59m Subsoil (light brown silty sand), 0.59-0.68m Natural pale cream/yellow sands. [Plate 2]



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Figure 1. Location of site within Crowthorne and Berkshire.

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Figure 2. Detailed location of site off Waterloo Road.

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Figure 3. Location of trenches.

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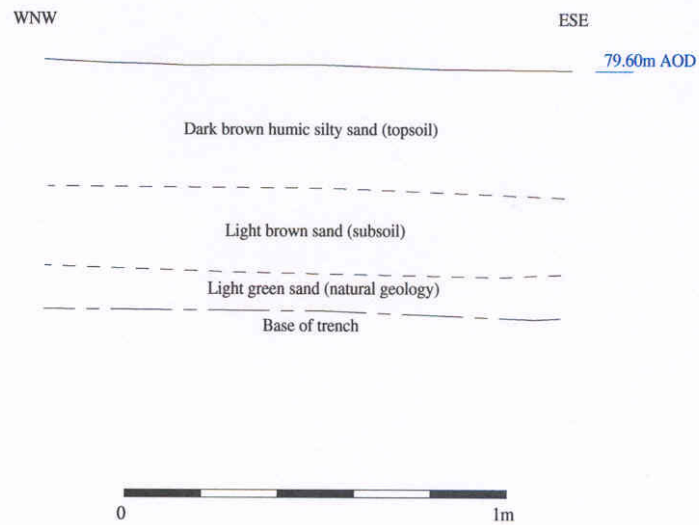


Figure 4. Representative section of Trench 2.



Plate 1. Trench 2 looking east, Scales 2m and 1m.



Plate 2. Trench 4 looking north west, Scales 2m and 1m.