7 Linden Avenue, Furze Platt, Maidenhead, Berkshire

An Archaeological Watching Brief

For Mr and Mrs Thornton

by Steve Ford

Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code 7LAM05/20

April 2005
Summary

Site name: 7 Linden Avenue, Furze Platt, Maidenhead, Berkshire

Grid reference: SU 87695 82110

Site activity: Watching Brief

Date and duration of project: 24th February 2005

Project manager: Steve Ford

Site supervisor: Andy Taylor

Site code: 7LAM 05/20

Summary of results: No archaeological finds or features were encountered during the watching brief.

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: Jennifer Lowe 05.04.05
                          Steve Preston 05.04.05
Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological watching brief carried out at 7 Linden Avenue, Furze Platt, Maidenhead, Berkshire (SU 87695 82110) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Mrs S Thornton of 7 Linden Avenue, Maidenhead, SL6 6HD.

Planning permission has been granted by the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead for the construction of a new two storey extension to the existing dwelling. The consent is subject to a condition which requires the implementation of an archaeological watching brief to be carried out during any invasive groundworks.

This is in accordance with the Department of the Environment’s Planning Policy Guidance, *Archaeology and Planning* (PPG16 1990), and the District’s policies on archaeology. The field investigation was carried out to a specification approved by Ms Fiona Macdonald, Archaeological Officer with Berkshire Archaeology, archaeological advisers to the Royal Borough. The fieldwork was undertaken by Andy Taylor on the 24th February 2005 and the site code is 7LAM05/20.

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 north-west of the centre of Maidenhead and to the south of Furze Platt (Figs 1 and 2). The site lies on the south side of Linden Avenue on level ground at a height of approximately of 50m above Ordnance Datum and the underlying geology is gravel of the Boyn Hill Terrace (BGS 1974).

Archaeological background

The archaeological potential of the site is mainly derived from its location within the Thames Valley. The Thames Valley generally is rich in archaeological deposits, the presence of which have been confirmed by field survey (Ford 1987) and from the air (Gates 1975). The environs of Furze Platt is also known to have prehistoric activity represented by Bronze Age occupation recorded during quarrying operations (Lobb 1980). However a
recent watching brief just to the east of the site, at 3 Linden Avenue, did not reveal anything of archaeological interest (Ford 2004).

**Objectives and methodology**

The purpose of the watching brief was to observe and record all archaeological deposits within areas of ground disturbance associated with the groundworks, and to excavate and record any deposits which would be damaged or disturbed during the groundworks. More specifically the aims were to:

a) Produce where possible, relative and absolute dating, and phasing for the site.

b) Provide, if possible, information on the economy and the local environment of the site, and

c) Establish the character of the deposits, in order to define functional areas of the site, such as industrial, domestic etc and produce a settlement history of the site.

**Results** (Figs 3 and 4)

The areas of ground disturbance monitored during this project comprised the excavation of the foundation trenches.

The trenches were dug using a machine fitted with a toothed bucket. The trenches were typically 0.6m wide and 1m deep. The stratigraphy was straightforward and comprised 0.25m of topsoil above sand and gravel natural. No archaeological deposits were observed and no finds were recovered from either the trenches or the spoil.

**Conclusion**

No archaeological finds or deposits were recorded during this small watching brief.

**References**


Gates, T, 1975, *The Middle Thames Valley: An archaeological survey of the river gravels*, Berkshire Archaeological committee publication 1, Reading


Ford, S, 2004, 3 Linden Avenue, Furze Platt, Maidenhead, Berkshire, An archaeological watching brief, Thames Valley Archaeological Services report 04/116, Reading


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Figure 1. Location of site within Maidenhead and Berkshire.

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Figure 2. Detailed location of site on Linden Avenue.

Scale 1:1250
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Figure 3. Detailed location of footings trenches observed.

Scale: 1:100
Plot 1

W

Topsoil

Subsoil

Clay Sand Natural

E

Figure 4: Representative Section