Borland Road, Nunhead
London Borough of Southwark

An Archaeological Evaluation

for St James Homes Ltd

by Andy Taylor
Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code BOF 02

September 2002
Summary

Site name: Borland Road, Nunhead, London Borough of Southwark

Grid reference: TQ 3550 7520

Site activity: Evaluation

Date and duration of project: 18th - 23rd September 2002

Project manager: Steve Ford

Site supervisor: Andy Taylor

Site code: BOF 02

Area of site: 0.54 hectares

Summary of results: No archaeological finds or deposits were identified

Monuments identified: None

Location and reference of archive: The archive is presently held by Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd, 47-49 De Beauvoir Road, Reading, RG1 5NR and will be deposited with the Museum of London in due course.

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Report edited/checked by: Steve Ford  25.09.02
                     Sian Anthony  25.09.02
Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological field evaluation carried out at Borland Road, Nunhead, London Borough of Southwark (TQ 3550 7520) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Mr Bill Luck of St James Homes Ltd, Marlborough House, 298 Regents Park Road, Finchley, London, N3 2UA. Planning permission is to be sought for the redevelopment of the site for the construction of 85 apartments which is subject to a condition pertaining to archaeology. This is in accordance with the Department of the Environment’s Planning Policy Guidance, *Archaeology and Planning* (PPG16 1990), and the boroughs policies on archaeology. The field investigation was carried out to a specification approved by Ms Sarah Gibson, Senior Archaeologist with Southwark Council. The fieldwork was undertaken by Andy Taylor and Andy Mundin between the 18th and 24th September 2002 and the site code is BOF 02. The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited with the Museum of London in due course.

A desktop study (Hardy 2002) considered the potential that the site has for archaeological remains. A small number of entries in the Sites and Monuments record of Prehistoric and Roman date were noted for the area with the majority of records relating to post-medieval structures and sites in the vicinity of the site.

Location, topography and geology

The site is located on a rectangular plot of land bounded by the Brockley footpath and Nunhead Cemetery to the east, allotment gardens to the north and west and Borland Road and residential development to the south. The underlying geology of the site is London Clay (BGS 1981), which was observed in all trenches. The site lies at a height of approximately 41.51m AOD.

Archaeological background

A single prehistoric find had been identified nearby comprising a Palaeolithic flint flake with the projected course of a Roman Road lies to the east of the site. Several Grade 2 listed, post medieval, buildings can be found nearby including the Cemetery and a 19th century gate lodge.
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.

The specific aims of the project are to;

a) To determine if archaeologically relevant levels have survived on this site given that parts of the site have been previously developed.
b) To determine if archaeological deposits of any period are present.
c) The potential and significance of any such deposits located will be assessed according to the research priorities such as set out in Exploring our past (English Heritage 1991, 36) and English Heritage Research Agenda (English Heritage 1997, 44).

All trenches were dug as near to their intended positions as possible and were dug under constant archaeological supervision. All spoilheaps were monitored for finds. The trenches varied in length between 18.5m and 20.6m and between 1.5m and 2.3m in width.

A complete list of trenches giving lengths, breadths, depths and a description of sections and geology is given in Appendix 1.

Results

Trench 1
This trench was 18.6m long and the stratigraphy consisted of Tarmac overlying brick rubble made ground overlying yellow-brown London Clay natural. The London Clay in this and other trenches was discoloured with several irregular grey patches present. No archaeological deposits were observed and no finds recovered from the spoilheaps.

Trench 2
This trench was 20.1m long and the stratigraphy consisted of Tarmac and concrete overlying a gravel spread overlying clay natural. No archaeological deposits were observed and no finds recovered from the spoilheaps.
Trench 3
This trench was 20.6m long and the stratigraphy consisted of Tarmac overlying brick rubble made ground overlying London Clay natural. No archaeological deposits were observed and no finds recovered from the spoilheaps.

Trench 4 (Plate 1)
This trench was 19.8m long and the stratigraphy consisted of concrete overlying gravel made ground overlying clay natural. No archaeological deposits were observed and no finds recovered from the spoilheaps.

Trench 5 (Plate 2)
Trench five was 20.2m long and the stratigraphy consisted of concrete overlying gravel made ground overlying alluvium overlying clay natural. No archaeological deposits were observed and no finds recovered from the spoilheaps.

Trench 6
This trench was 18.5m long and the stratigraphy consisted of Tarmac overlying brick rubble made ground overlying London Clay natural. A land drain crossed the trench between 9.50m and 11.70m. No archaeological deposits were observed and no finds recovered from the spoilheaps.

Finds
No finds were recovered during the evaluation.

Conclusion
No deposits or finds of an archaeological nature were identified during the field evaluation. As a result of this it is most unlikely that the demolition of the existing building and construction of apartments will damage or destroy any archaeological deposits and the site can be considered to have very low archaeological potential.
References
Hardy, L.M, 2002, *Borland Road and Stuart Road, Nunhead, London Borough of Southwark*, An Archaeological Desk Based Assessment, Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading, Report 02/33
APPENDIX 1: Trench details
0m at S or W end

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Trench No.</th>
<th>Length (m)</th>
<th>Breadth (m)</th>
<th>Depth (m)</th>
<th>Comment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>18.60</td>
<td>2.30</td>
<td>0.60</td>
<td>0.00m-0.10m Tarmac; 0.10m-0.60m made ground; 0.60m+ London Clay natural.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>20.10</td>
<td>2.30</td>
<td>0.75</td>
<td>0.00m-0.30m Tarmac/concrete; 0.30m-0.50m hogging; 0.50m-0.60m made ground; 0.60m+ London Clay natural.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>20.60</td>
<td>1.70</td>
<td>0.40</td>
<td>0.00m-0.10m Tarmac; 0.10m-0.40m made ground; 0.40m+ London Clay natural.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>19.80</td>
<td>2.30</td>
<td>0.60</td>
<td>0.00m-0.30m concrete; 0.30m-0.50m hogging; 0.50m+ London Clay natural.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>20.20</td>
<td>1.50</td>
<td>0.75</td>
<td>0.00m-0.30m concrete; 0.30m-0.45m hogging; 0.45m-0.65m alluvium; 0.65m+ London Clay natural.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>18.50</td>
<td>2.30</td>
<td>0.60</td>
<td>0.00m-0.10m tarmac; 0.10m-0.60m made ground; 0.60m+ London Clay natural.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
APPENDIX 2: GLSMR/RCHME NAR ARCHAEOLOGICAL REPORT FORM

1. TYPE OF RECORDING

Evaluation

2. LOCATION

Borough: Southwark

Site Address: Borland Road, Nunhead, London Borough of Southwark

Site Name: Borland Road, Nunhead, London Borough of Southwark

Site Code: BOF 02

Nat. Grid Refs: SU 3550 7520

3. ORGANISATION

Name of archaeological unit: Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Address: 47–49 De Beauvoir Road, Reading RG1 5NR

Site director/supervisor: Andy Taylor

Project Manager: Steve Ford

Funded by: St James Homes Ltd

4. DURATION

Date fieldwork started: 18/9/02

Date finished: 23/9/02

Fieldwork previously notified? y/n No

Fieldwork will continue? No

5. PERIODS REPRESENTED

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Period</th>
<th>Date Range</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Palaeolithic</td>
<td>Roman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mesolithic</td>
<td>Saxon (pre-AD 1066)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neolithic</td>
<td>Medieval (AD1066-1485)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bronze Age</td>
<td>Post-Medieval</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Iron Age</td>
<td>Unknown</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
6. PERIOD SUMMARIES Use headings for each period (ROMAN, MEDIEVAL ETC.) and additional sheets if necessary.

None

7. NATURAL

Type: London Clay

Height above Ordnance Datum: 41.30m

8. LOCATION OF ARCHIVE

a) Please provide an estimate of the quantity of material in your possession for the following categories:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Notes Yes</th>
<th>Plans Yes</th>
<th>Photos Yes</th>
<th>Natives Yes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SLides Yes</td>
<td>Correspondence Yes</td>
<td>MScripts (unpub reports, etc.) Yes</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bulk finds</td>
<td>Small finds</td>
<td>Soil Samples</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other (please specify)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

b) The complete archive will be deposited in the following location: Museum of London

c) Approximate year of transfer: Unknown

b) Location of any copies: Microfiche copy to be deposited with RCHME, and one to be kept by TVAS

e) Has a security copy of the archive been made? y/n: No, but will be microfiched in due course

If not, do you wish RCHME to consider microfilming? y/n: No

9. LOCATION OF FINDS

a: In your possessions (delete as appropriate): None

b: All/some finds have been/will be deposited with the following museum: Museum of London

Approximate year of transfer: Unknown

10. BIBLIOGRAPHY:

Hardy, L.M, 2002, Borland Road and Stuart Road, Nunhead, London Borough of Southwark. An Archaeological Desktop Assessment, Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd report 02/33, Reading

Taylor, A, 2002, Borland Road, Nunhead, London Borough of Southwark: An Archaeological Evaluation, Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd report 02/33b, Reading

NAME: A TAYLOR           DATE: 25/9/02
Borland Road, Nunhead, London Borough of Southwark

Figure 1. Location of site within Nunhead and Greater London.

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Figure 2. Location of trenches
Plate 1. Trench 4 looking west. Scales: 1m and 2m

Plate 2. Trench 5 looking south. Scales: 1m and 2m