59 Camp Road, Gerrards Cross, Buckinghamshire

An Archaeological Watching Brief

For Mr and Mrs Chadha

by Richard Oram and Jo Pine

Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code CRG05/138

February 2006
Summary

Site name: 59 Camp Road, Gerrards Cross, Buckinghamshire

Grid reference: SU 9929 8754

Site activity: Watching Brief

Date and duration of project: 21st February 2006

Project manager: Steve Ford

Site supervisor: Richard Oram

Site code: CRG 05/138

Summary of results: No archaeological deposits were identified nor finds recovered

Monuments identified: None

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

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Report 05/138

Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological watching brief carried out on land at 59 Camp Road, Gerrards Cross, Buckinghamshire (SU9929 8754) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Ms Helen Adams, Beanland Associates Architects Limited, Unit 4, Observation Court, 84 Princes Street, Ipswich, IP1 1RY on behalf of their clients, Mr and Mrs Chadha.

Planning consent (05/00727/Ful) has been granted by South Bucks District Council to demolish an existing house on the site and replace it with a new house and vehicular access. This planning permission is subject to a condition (2) relating to archaeology, which requires a watching brief to be carried out during 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 Mr David Radford, Archaeological Planning and Conservation Officer of Buckinghamshire County Archaeological Service who advises the District Council on matters of archaeology. The fieldwork was undertaken by Richard Oram on the 21st February 2006 and the site code is CRG 05/138.

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

Location, topography and geology

The site is located on the southern side of Camp Road, on the western side of Gerrards Cross (Figs 1 and 2). At the time of the work, the site consisted of a demolished house plot and its former gardens and driveway. The geology is described as glacial sand and gravel (BGS 1990) and gravel was observed within the excavated foundation trenches. The site is at an elevation of c. 70m above Ordnance Datum.

Archaeological background

The project brief by Mr Radford of Buckinghamshire County Archaeological Services has highlighted the potential of the site. In summary, the site lies in an area where Roman pottery kiln sites have been recorded with further production deposits (wasters) recorded to the west. However, a watching brief just to the south 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. Also 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 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 did not reveal any deposits of archaeological interest (Taylor 2002; Anthony 2002b) and 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 involved the examination of all areas of intrusive groundworks, in particular the digging of foundation trenches and service runs.

**Results**

The new house was located mostly over the footprint of the previous house. The site of the new house had been cleared of demolition debris and other overburden. The foundation trenches excavated for the new house were between 0.50m and 0.70m wide and 0.90m deep (Fig. 3). The stratigraphy revealed in the foundation trenches was a subsoil comprising a brown/grey silty clay with 50% gravel which was c. 0.60m deep (Fig. 4). This overlay a reddish yellow gravel (the natural geology) which was excavated to a depth of 0.90m below the present ground surface.

A test pit/soakaway was excavated to the rear of the new build. This was 2 m square and was excavated to a depth of 1.40m. It showed similar stratigraphy to the foundations, a silty clay subsoil above the natural gravel. Apart from disturbed areas relating to foundations of the previous building, no archaeological features were revealed during any of the fieldwork and no artefacts were recovered.

**Finds**

No finds of archaeological interest were noted and modern detritus was not retained
Conclusion

No finds or deposits of any archaeological interest were observed during this fieldwork and no evidence was recovered relating to either the Roman pottery kilns or settlement associated with the Iron Age hill fort.

References
Anthony, S, 2002a, ‘Polkerris, 65 Camp Road, Gerrards Cross, Buckinghamshire, an archaeological watching brief’, Thames Valley Archaeological Services rep 02/89, Reading
Anthony, S, 2002b, ‘Woodside, 90 Camp Road, Gerrards Cross, Buckinghamshire, an archaeological watching brief’, Thames Valley Archaeological Services rep 01/55b, Reading
Fox, C and Clarke, L, 1925, ‘Excavations at Bulstrode Camp’, Recs Buckinghamshire, 11, 283–8
Hammond, S, 2005, ‘92 Camp Road, Gerrards Cross, Buckinghamshire, an archaeological recording’., Thames Valley Archaeological Services rep 05/78, Reading
Taylor, A, 2002, ‘Woodside, 90 Camp Road, Gerrards Cross, Buckinghamshire, an archaeological watching brief’, Thames Valley Archaeological Services rep 01/55, Reading
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Figure 1. Location of site within Gerrards Cross and Buckinghamshire.

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Figure 2. Detailed location of site on Camp Road. Reproduced from Ordnance Survey digital mapping.

Scale: 1:1250
Figure 3. Location of foundations observed.

Scale: 1:500
Figure 4. Representative section

Brown/grey silty clay with frequent gravel

Gravel

Base of trench