Wingate, High Street, Hurley, Berkshire

An Archaeological Watching Brief

For Mr M. Swadling

by Stephen Hammond and Andy Taylor

Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code WHH 06/62

May 2006
Summary

Site name: Wingate, High Street, Hurley, Berkshire

Grid reference: SU 8255 8385

Site activity: Watching Brief

Date and duration of project: 11th–12th May 2006

Project manager: Steve Ford

Site supervisor: Stephen Hammond and Andrew Taylor

Site code: WHH 06/62

Summary of results: No deposits or finds of an archaeological nature were observed

Monuments identified: None

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

This report may be copied for bona fide research or planning purposes without the explicit permission of the copyright holder

Report edited/checked by: Steve Ford ✓ 19.05.06
Steve Preston ✓ 19.05.06
**Wingate, High Street, Hurley**  
An Archaeological Watching Brief  
by Stephen Hammond  

**Report 06/62**

**Introduction**

This report documents the results of an archaeological watching brief carried out at Wingate, High Street, Hurley, Berkshire (SU 8255 8385) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Mr M. Swadling of Wingate, High Street, Hurley, Berkshire SL6 5NB.

Planning permission (app no 05/02618) has been gained from the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead for the construction of a new extension at Wingate, High Street, Hurley, Berkshire. The consent is subject to a condition (5) relating to archaeology which requires the site to be investigated during groundworks.

This is in accordance with the Department of the Environment’s Planning Policy Guidance, *Archaeology and Planning* (PPG16 1990), and the Royal Borough’s policies on archaeology. The field investigation was carried out to a specification approved by Ms Fiona MacDonald, Principal Archaeologist for Berkshire Archaeology, advisers to the Borough on matters relating to archaeology. The fieldwork was undertaken by Stephen Hammond and Andrew Taylor on 11th and 12th May 2006 and the site code is WHH 06/62.

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

**Location, topography and geology**

The site is located in a small cul-de-sac just off the High Street at Hurley at an approximate height of 30m above Ordnance Datum. The land subject to development was previously used as a garage and paving for the existing house prior to building work. According to Maps (BGS 1990) the underling geology consists of flood plain terrace gravel.

**Archaeological background**

The archaeological potential of the area stems from the presence of Hurley Priory, which was a Benedictine Priory founded in AD1086 and suppressed in 1536 (Ford 1987). The priory is a Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM19020) and the site lies just to the south of the scheduled area. Various watching briefs have been implemented both within and beyond the scheduled area. One of these revealed a probable ditch and two pits of
medieval date at Monks Garden (Pine 1999) while further medieval pits have been recorded at Tuckenhay (Ford 2004). Immediately adjacent, at Florence House, High Street, a feature of uncertain interpretation also produced medieval pottery (Pine 2004), The site also lies within the Thames Valley which is considered as being archaeologically rich in sites of all periods (Ford 1987; Gates 1975).

**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 areas of intrusive groundworks, in particular any ground reduction, and the digging of foundation trenches and service runs.

The foundation trenches observed measured 0.65m in width and between 0.95m and 1.50m deep. Spoilheaps were monitored for finds.

**Results**

The trenches observed at the northern end of the site consisted of 0.00m–0.40m of made ground overlying 0.40m–0.95m of dark grey brown clayey silt, which may be a buried topsoil and contained occasional fragments of brick and tile. This overlay a mid orange brown sandy clay. The remainder of the trenches consisted of 0.0m–0.25m concrete overlaying 0.25m–0.90m the same possible buried topsoil. This again overlay the orange brown sandy clay, which was overlying a yellowey brown sand natural.

**Finds**

No finds of an archaeological nature were observed.

**Conclusion**

Despite the site’s close proximity to the medieval priory and previously identified archaeological deposits at the nearby Monks Garden house, no deposits or finds of an archaeological nature were observed during the watching brief.

**References**

Ford, S, 1987, *East Berkshire Archaeological Survey*, Berkshire County Councl Dept Highways and Planning Occas Pap 1, Reading
Wingate, High Street, Hurley, Berkshire, 2006
An Archaeological Watching Brief

Figure 1. Location of site within Hurley and Berkshire.

Reproduced from Ordnance Survey Pathfinder 1157 SU88/98 at 1:12500.
Ordnance Survey Licence 100025880
Figure 2. Detailed location of site within Hurley.
Figure 3. Foundation trenches observed.
Wingate, High Street, Hurley, Berkshire, 2006

Concrete

Dark Grey Brown Clayey Silt

Orangey Brown Sandy Clay

Yellowey Brown Sandy Natural

Figure 4: Representative Section