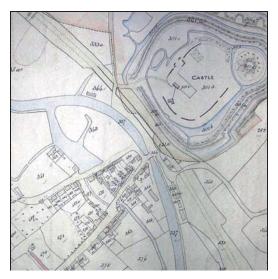


# Archaeological Services & Consultancy Ltd

# ARCHAEOLOGICAL DESK-BASED ASSESSMENT: CASTLE WHARF, BRIDGE STREET BERKHAMSTED HERTFORDSHIRE

on behalf of Fourth Avenue Estates Ltd



By Claire Griffiths BSc Dip Arch & Jonathan Hunn BA PhD MIFA

August 2004

ASC: 598/BCW/02

Letchworth House Chesney Wold, Bleak Hall, Milton Keynes MK6 1NE Tel: 01908 608989 Fax: 01908 605700 Email: office@archaeological-services.co.uk Website: www.archaeological-services.co.uk



### Site Data

ASC project code:	BCW		ASC Project No:	598			
County:		Hertfordshire					
Village/Town:		Berkham	Berkhamsted				
Parish:		Berkham	sted CP				
NGR:		SP 9959	0794				
Extent of site:		0.07ha ap	oprox.				
Present use:		Former c	anal hire boat base				
Planning proposal:		Residential Development					
Planning application	ref/date:	n/a					
Local Planning Auth	ority:	Dacorum					
Date of assessment:		Aug 4 <sup>th</sup> 2004					
Client:		Fourth A Jansel Ho Stopsley Hitchin F Luton LU	Green Road				
Contact name:		Colin Br	idge				
Telephone			Fax:				

### **Internal Quality Check**

Primary Author:	Claire Griffiths	Date:	13/08/04
Edited/Checked By:		Date:	
Revisions:		Date:	
Edited/Checked By:		Date:	

© Archaeological Services & Consultancy Ltd

No part of this document is to be copied in any way without prior written consent.

Every effort is made to provide detailed and accurate information. However, Archaeological Services & Consultancy Ltd cannot be held responsible for errors or inaccuracies within this report.

© Ordnance Survey maps reproduced with the sanction of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. ASC Licence No. AL 100015154

# CONTENTS

Su	nmary	5
1.	Introduction	5
2.	Setting	7
3.	Aims & Methods	8
4.	Archaeological & Historical Evidence	. 10
5.	Walk-Over Survey	. 21
6.	Statutory Constraints on Development	. 24
7.	Conclusions	. 25
8.	Acknowledgements	. 26
9.	Sites & Monuments Data	. 27
10.	References	. 29
11.	Cartographic Sources	. 30
12.	Extract from Borehole Data	. 31

### Figures:

1.	General location	4
2.	Site location	6
3.	Archaeological Sites in the Hertfordshire Sites and Monuments Record	9
4.	Extract from Tithe Apportionment Plan (1839)	. 14
5.	Extract from Tithe Apportionment Plan site in detail (1839)	. 15
6.	Extract from the 1 <sup>st</sup> edition Ordnance Survey 25 inch map (1878)	. 15
7.	Extract from the 2 <sup>nd</sup> edition Ordnance Survey 25 inch map (1898)	. 16
8.	Extract from the 1910 map	. 17
9.	Extract from Ordnance Survey 25 inch map 3 <sup>rd</sup> Edition (1925)	. 18
10.	Extract from Ordnance Survey 25 inch map (1938)	. 18
11.	Extract from Ordnance Survey 25 inch map (1972)	. 19

#### Plates:

1.	A late 19 <sup>th</sup> century view of Costin's Boatyard	.14
2.	Castle Wharf c.1910	. 17
3.	'Bridgewater Boats' boat shed	. 22
4.	'Bridgewater Boats' boat shed & concrete wharf	. 22
5.	Interior of boat shed	. 22
6.	Concrete hard-standing	. 23
7.	Concrete wharf & double garage	. 23
8.	Garage & wharf	. 23

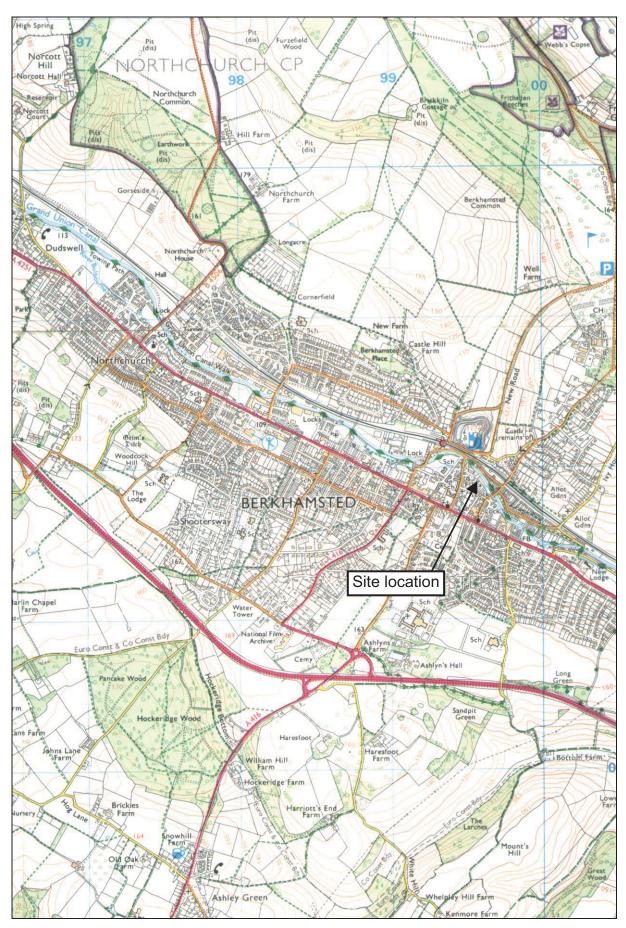


Figure 1: General location (scale 1:25,000)

### **Summary**

In August 2004, an archaeological desk-based assessment was undertaken of Castle Wharf, Berkhamsted. The work revealed that there are no archaeological remains currently known from the site and the upper 2.7m comprises disturbed/ re-deposited material. The land probably comprised open ground until the mid 19<sup>th</sup> century although buried peat deposits have been recorded. The site was developed as part of Castle Wharf during the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. It was extensively modified in the late part of the 20<sup>th</sup> century and currently comprises the buildings of the Bridgewater Boat Company.

### **1** Introduction

- 1.1 In August 2003 *Archaeological Services and Consultancy Ltd* (ASC) carried out an archaeological desk-based assessment of a site at Castle Wharf, Berkhamsted (NGR SP 9959 0794: Fig. 1). The project was commissioned by *Fourth Avenue Estates*, and was carried out before the submission of the planning application for the development of the site. The work was carried out in accordance to the brief prepared by the Hertfordshire County Archaeological Office (Batt 2004) and a written scheme of investigation prepared by ASC (Zeepvat 2004).
- 1.2 The desk-based assessment is required as the site is situated within Area of Archaeological Significance (AAS) 21. This covers an area containing significant archaeological sites of prehistoric, Roman and medieval date, and incorporates Berkhamsted Castle (Scheduled Monument number 20626) and the area of the medieval town.

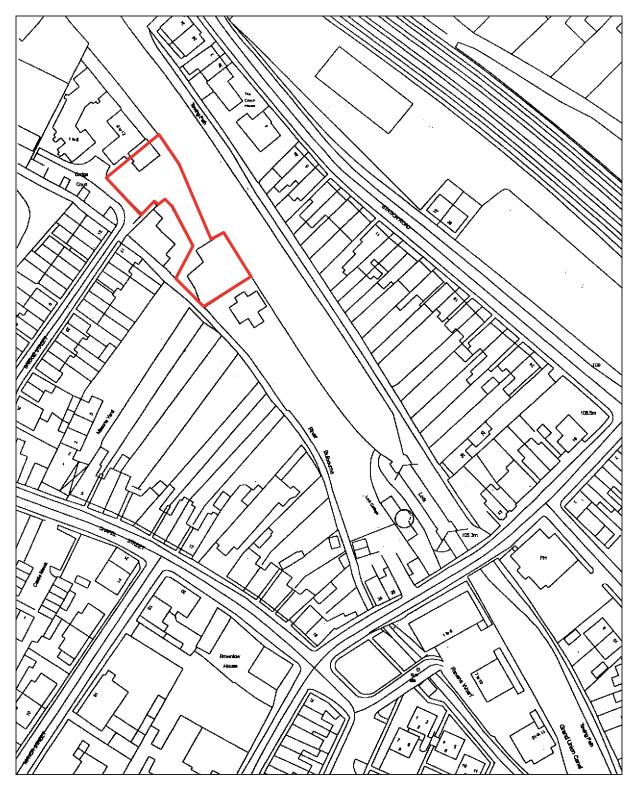


Figure 2: Site location plan (scale 1:1,250)

### 2 Setting

#### 2.1 *Location & Description*

Castle Wharf is located within the town of Berkhamsted, c.300m south-east of the railway station, at NGR SP 9959 0794 (Fig. 1). The site occupies a C-shaped area of land c.0.07 hectares, between the river Bulbourne and the Grand Union Canal, at the north end of Bridge Street (Fig. 2). Access is from Bridge Street by land, and by boat from the canal.

#### 2.2 *Geology & Topography*

As the site is within an urban area soils have not been mapped. The natural soils of the locality would have belonged to the Gade Complex, which are derived from mixed alluvium over chalk. These are described as 'well defined, dark-coloured 'A' horizons containing moderate to high amounts of organic matter. The sub-soils consist of interstratified beds of water-laid flint or chalk gravel, loam and chalky silt, with occasional peaty layers, forming an intricate pattern which is often related to minor differences in level, the gravels forming low terraces or levees raised a few feet above the lowest ground' (Avery 1964, 102). To what extent these conditions apply here is not certain, since the sub-soil can vary in character with bands of calcareous marl and peat occurring locally (Hodge et al 1984, 2002-3). The borehole data (Appendix 1) reveals that to a depth of 2.7 m the ground comprised of disturbed/made up ground of dark brown sandy clay with brick, ash and concrete fragments. Below that to a depth of 2.9 m the ground was soft silty organic clay underlain by brown amorphous peat to a maximum depth of 3.8 m (Hart 2003).

### 2.2 Existing Buildings and Access

Castle Wharf was last used as the headquarters of a hire-boat company, Bridgewater Boats. It consists of a concrete wharf to the north-east, with concrete hard-standing bounded by a brick wall and a double garage on the north side of the site. A large boat shed/workshop is situated to the south side of the site.

### 3 Aims & Methods

- 3.1 An archaeological desk-based assessment is an assessment of the known or potential archaeological resource within a given area, consisting of a collation of existing archaeological, historical and topographical information in order to identify the likely extent, character and quality of the known or potential archaeological resource, in order that appropriate measures might be considered.
- 3.2 The desk-based assessment was carried out according to the Brief, and the Institute of Field Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Desk-Based Assessments* (IFA 2001).
- 3.3 The following readily available sources of information were consulted for the deskbased assessment:
  - 3.3.1 Archaeological Databases

Archaeological databases represent the standard references to the known archaeology of an area. The principal source consulted was the Hertfordshire Sites & Monuments Record (SMR), in Hertford. The study area employed in the SMR search includes the site itself, and a surrounding study area of approximately *c*. 500 m radius.

3.3.2 *Historic Documents* 

Documentary research provides an overview of the history of a site and its environs, suggesting the effects of settlement and land-use patterns. The principal source consulted was that held in the Local Studies Library at Herfordshire and the School Archives.

#### 3.3.3 Cartographic & Pictorial Documents

Old maps and illustrations are normally a very productive area of research. The principal sources consulted were parish maps, Tithe Apportionment and Ordnance Survey.

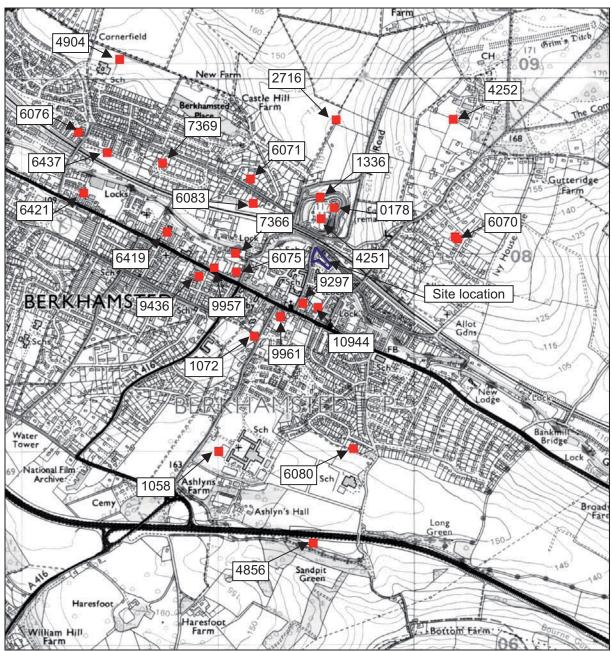


Figure 3: Archaeological Sites in the Hertfordshire Sites and Monuments Record (*not to scale*. All spot locations approximate)

### 4 Archaeological & Historical Evidence

The local and regional settings of archaeological sites are factors that are taken into consideration when assessing the planning implications of development proposals. The following sections provide a summary of the readily available archaeological and historical background to the development site and its environs.

The study area lies within an area of archaeological and historical interest, and the site has the potential to reveal evidence of a range of periods. The location of known archaeological and historical sites recorded in the Site and Monument Record (SMR) shown in Fig. 3, and details appear in Section 9.

Berkhamsted is an area of considerable archaeological and historical importance. This has been recognised by Hertfordshire County Council through the designation of the area as an Area of Archaeological Significance (AAS) 21. The character of the area has been defined by in the *Berkhamsted Extensive Urban Survey Assessment* (Herts County Council 1998).

### 4.1 Archaeological & Historical Background to the Study Area

#### 4.1.1 *Prehistoric* (before 600BC)

Few prehistoric sites and artefacts are known from the Berkhamsted area and evidence for this period is limited to a small number of isolated finds. A late Bronze Age brooch has been found c.300m north of the site, at Berkhamsted Castle (SMR 4251) and a neolithic axe head was recovered on the edge of the plateau c.1km to the north east (SMR 4252).

#### 4.1.2 *Iron Age* (600BC-AD43)

A number of Iron Age (late prehistoric) artefacts have been found in the area. Gold staters (coins) have been recorded west of the site at Ashlyns (SMR 4856) and Meadway (SMR 6070). A bronze coin of Addedomaros found at Lower King's Road (SMR 6075) *c*.300m south west of the site and a brooch found at Berkhamsted Castle (SMR0178) *c*.300m north of the site. A variety of unprovenanced coins have also been recorded in the town centre. There is evidence for late Iron Age iron smelting at Dellfield (SMR 4904) *c*.1km north west of the site.

#### 4.1.3 *Roman* (AD43-c.450)

The Bulbourne valley was an area of considerable importance during the late Iron Age and Roman periods and a number of sites of these periods are known in the area (Branigan 1987, 135-6). There is evidence for dispersed occupation along the length of the upper Bulbourne valley (Morris and Wainwright 1995, 68-75). There is a degree of similarity between the location of the late Iron Age 'sites' and Roman sites and an important site of these periods was situated at Cow Roast *c*.4km northwest of the site (Zeepvat 1997).

A major Roman Road, now known as *Akeman Street* passed through the valley and linked *Verulamium* (St Albans) with *Corinium* (Cirencester). The road followed the approximate course of Berkhamsted High Street *c*.300m south of the site.

Roman occupation sites have been identified 900m to the north (SMR 2716), 800m to the north west (SMR 6421) and 1 km to the north west (SMR 6437). A possible fourth site was identified on Berkhamsted High Street (SMR 7369). There is evidence for industrial activity in the form of shaft furnaces at Dellfield c 1km to the north west of the site (SMR 4904) and a pottery kiln in Bridgewater road (SMR 6083). A concentration of pottery has also been recorded further along Bridgewater Road (SMR 6071) and may indicate the presence of another kiln.

The remaining evidence for Roman activity in the area comprises random coin loss. Several Roman coins came from the castle (SMR 1336), a gold coin was found at Meadway (SMR 6070) and individual coins have been found at Dellfield (SMR 6076) and Swingate Lane (SMR 6080).

#### 4.1.4 Saxon (c.450-1066)

Berkhamsted is known to have existed in the late Anglo-Saxon period and is mentioned in the Anglo-Saxon chronicle for the year 1066 (Garmonsway 1955, 200). Almost a century earlier, the name appears in the Will of Aelgifu (Sawyer 1968, 415, no. 1484).

The location of the Anglo-Saxon settlement has never been precisely defined. The earliest physical evidence survives in the form architectural detail in the church of St Mary, '*North Berkhamsted*', i.e. the 'North church' (SMR 4447; Smith 1973, 11). In addition, only Northchurch was a rectory manor and may have been a minster church (Doggett and Hunn 1985, 22). A quantity of early/middle Saxon pottery has recently been recorded south of the site at Chesham Road and suggests that a settlement had been established by the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> centuries (Hunn 1999).

The analysis of peat deposits at Castle Mill c.300m NW of the site revealed that the valley floor, where the site is situated, changed from free flowing streams (gravels) to boggy conditions (Hunn 2003). During the 9<sup>th</sup> century the area was 'saturated and permanently boggy' (Rackham 2003) and was either a flood-plain pasture and or grass-sedge fen (Scaife 2003). It has been suggested that this was the result of the growth of human settlement in the valley bottom and the greater exploitation of the river (Hunn 2003).

#### 4.1.5 *Medieval*

(1066-1500)

Berkhamsted is mentioned in the Domesday survey (1086) where it is recorded as *Berchehastede* (Morris 1976, 15.1). It was recorded as a *burbium* (borough) whose burgesses paid £4 from tolls and held half a hide of land. The number of burgesses was 52, although this has been questioned (Doggett and Hunn 1985, 22). However, if this were accurate then it would make one of the most important boroughs in the county along with Hertford and St Albans.

The Domesday survey mentions two mills (Morris, 1976, 15.1) and by the end of the  $13^{\text{th}}$  century the accounts of the Earldom of Cornwall mentions four mills: 'molendinii castri' (Castle mill) worth 10/- per annum; 'molendinii de Synek' (uncertain) worth 8/8 per annum; 'molendinii de Banck mulle' (Bank mill) worth 6/- per annum. There is also mention of 'molendini du North' (North mill) (Ministers Accounts of the Earldom of Cornwall in Camden Society vol I, 3<sup>rd</sup> Series LXVI, 1942, 12-27). In a foot not in the same article it states that 'In 1272, when Earl Richard died, there were apparently, three water-mills in the manor of Berkhamsted (worth £4) and two water-mills in the borough (worth £6 13s 4d)' referring to P.R.O Chan. Inq. p.m Hen III, file 42, no.13.

In a survey of the manor in 1357 there is mention of two water mills called '*eastemule* and *Sischemulle*' and 1 other called '*northmulle*' (PRO SVC 11 271). By 1437/8 there are references to '*le Eastemill*', '*le castelmyll alias le Newemill*' and '*Bankmyll*'. There is also mention to '*le Northmil mede*' which suggests that there is a possibility that some mills may have been referred to by different names. The 1849 Lower Mill was an alternative name for Bank Mill and Upper Mill was probably an alternative name for Castle mill (HALS 56485).

The site is situated close to Berkhamsted Castle, which was probably built in the late 11<sup>th</sup> century following the Norman Conquest (Remfry 1998). The castle is not mentioned directly in Domesday survey but there is a reference to a *'fossarius'* or ditcher, who was in effect an overseer or engineer responsible for the excavation of the defensive ditches and moats (Morris 1976, 15.1). At the time of the Domesday survey the castle belonged to William the Conqueror's half brother the Count of Mortain and it became Crown property following the Count's abortive insurrection in the early 12<sup>th</sup> century. Thereafter, it developed from a simple motte and bailey castle into a substantial concentrically defended seat of royal authority.

The castle has been associated with such national figures as Thomas à Becket in the 12<sup>th</sup> century and Geoffrey Chaucer in the 14<sup>th</sup> century. The castle was a royal palace in the 14<sup>th</sup> century and held such dignitaries as King John of France prisoner. It was a favourite residence of the Edward the Black Prince (1330-1376) who enjoyed hunting in the adjoining deer park. The castle remained a royal residence up until the end of the 15<sup>th</sup> century when the Countess Cecily died there in 1495.

The precise limits of the medieval borough have never been satisfactorily established. For example, it is possible that the late Anglo-Saxon 'burgh' lay towards what is now called Northchurch. However, there is a mention of land called '*Oldeburgh*' in the vicinity of the old Post Office on the High Street some 100m to the west which might also indicate an earlier settlement focus. Even if this is uncertain there is no question that the post-Conquest core of medieval Berkhamsted lay along the axis of the present day High Street.

According to the *Extensive Urban Survey Project* (1998) the site of the proposed development lies outside the historic core of the medieval settlement. The core of the town was in existence by the 12<sup>th</sup>/13<sup>th</sup> century and was situated to the south of the site. The town comprised the High Street, a market place (now occupied by development backing onto Back Lane), Castle Street, Water Lane and Mill Street (effectively running between the market place and St Peter's church to the south and the castle to the north), Raven's Lane and Chesham Road (formerly Elvenway). There are other names which have not been preserved (*Benethenstrete, Striche Lane, Bouestrete, Le Corour Strete and Froggemorlane*). Those ending in 'street' are almost certainly to be small 'alleyway' type features leading off the High Street towards the castle (Doggett and Hunn 1985, 32).

In addition to peat deposits of earlier periods, there are potentially rich horizons of peat and alluvium on the Kingsgate site, *ie*. Waitrose, *c*.250m southwest of the site (Guttman 1996, fig 5). These have been tentatively dated to the  $13^{th}/14^{th}$  century. Peat deposits containing  $12^{th}/14^{th}$  century pottery, wood and leather artefacts have also been recorded at 125 High Street (SMR 9961). Further deposits, also containing  $13^{th}/14^{th}$  century pottery has also been recorded 500m to the south east of Castle Mill (Thompson *pers. comm.*).

#### 4.1.6 Post-Medieval (1500-1900)

The earliest representation of the town is Norden's survey of the early 17<sup>th</sup> century. This shows the general topography of the town and the site is situated beyond the built up area, which largely comprised ribbon development along the High Street and Castle Street.

The layout of the northern side of the town was radically altered by the construction of the Grand Junction Canal in 1798 (Faulkner 1993). Berkhamsted became a centre for trade and industry with Castle Wharf at the centre of Berkhamsted's canal trade and boat building activities. Another development that altered the landscape and improved Berkhamsted's trade and communication network was the construction of the railway from London to Birmingham in 1836-7 (Cockman 1983, 9).

In the 1839 (Fig. 5) Tithe Apportionment the area that became known as Castle Wharf was described as 'House, wharf, yard and garden' owned and occupied by John Tompkins. Kelly's directory of 1838 describes John Tompkins as a 'coal merchant and wharfinger'.

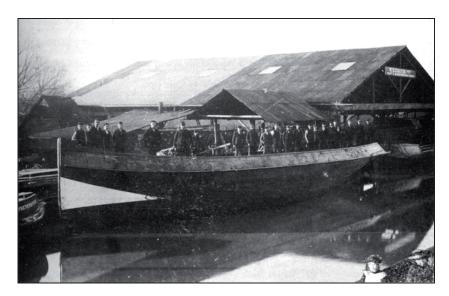
Faulkner (1993) reports that soon after the arrival of the canal, Peacock & Willetts opened a boat yard in Castle Wharf, which by 1826 was operated by John Hatton. John Hatton is mentioned previously in *Pigot's Commercial Directory* 1823-24 as a 'boat builder in Castle Wharf', where he remained for at least 55 years (Kelly's Directory 1938, 9; 1851,178; 1862, 328 & 1870,421; 1878,466). He is described in the 1851 census (Goose 1996) as a 'boat builder and coal merchant' with a staff of 5 men. By 1878, John Hatton was also a salt merchant as well as a coal merchant and boat builder (Kelly's Directory 1878,

466). Berkhamsted expanded rapidly during the mid and late 19<sup>th</sup> century and the layout of the northern part of the town is shown on the first edition Ordnance Survey 25 inch map, dated 1887 (Fig. 4). Considerable development had taken place, with housing development along Castle Street and Chapel Street.



Figure 4: Extract from Tithe Apportionment Plan (1839)

According to Faulkner (1993) the John Hatton's boat yard was taken over by William Edmund Costin. William E. Costin is recorded in the 1881 census as a Boat Builder living in Castle Street, which backs onto Castle Wharf with his wife Emily, and in Kelly's Directory 1882 there was mention of 'William Edmund Costin Ltd' a 'boat and barge building'.



**Plate 1:** A late 19<sup>th</sup> century view of Costin's Boatyard (after Faulkner 1993) Figures 4-11 show the later development of the area. The 1839 Tithe Map (Fig. 5) is the earliest map to show the area in detail which comprised open land with small scale urban development to the north west of the site. By this time, the area is already known as Castle Wharf and includes a small cluster of houses to the north, with a house, wharf, yard and gardens in tithe apportionment 356, a canal slip and open meadow in tithe apportionment 380, and a house in tithe apportionment 381.

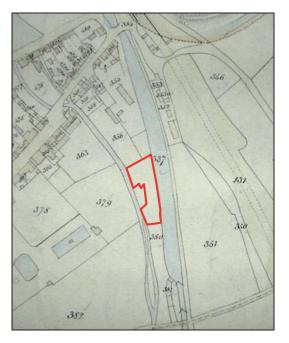
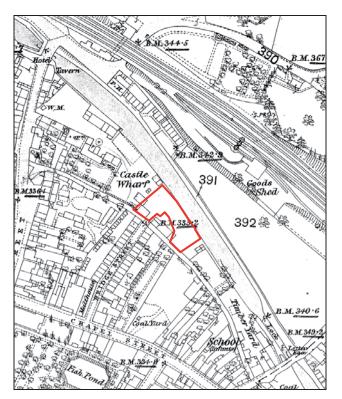


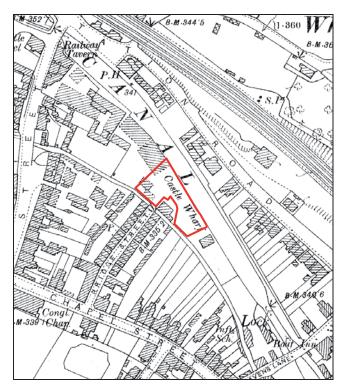
Figure 5: Extract from Tithe Apportionment Plan, site in detail (1839)



**Figure 6:** Extract from the 1<sup>st</sup> edition Ordnance Survey 25 inch map (1878) *(not to scale)* 

By the time of the next available O.S. map, in 1878 (Fig 6), the area around Castle Wharf had developed into a landscape similar in character to the present day. The area had been rapidly developed with housing and industrial

buildings encroaching on all sides of the site. Within Castle Wharf, to the south west and north east, there was light industrial expansion and an increase in housing to the west.



**Figure 7:** Extract from the 2<sup>nd</sup> edition Ordnance Survey 25 inch map (1898) *(not to scale)* 

The 1898 O.S. map (Fig. 7) shows that further industrial development had taken place in the north west of Castle Wharf.

#### 4.1.7. Modern (1900 – Present Day)

William E Costin Ltd traded on Castle Wharf for at least twenty-nine years and is last mentioned in an insurance survey dated 1910 (Fig. 8), although there is no mention of the company in Kelly's Directory for that year (Kelly's Directory 1882, 576; 1886, 623; 1895, 42; 1898, 50; 1902, 49; 1908, 55). On the 1910 map (Fig. 8) the land occupied by W.E. Costin Ltd is described as a 'dock, sheds & yard, House & water house'.

In 1910 William Key & Sons were 'timber merchants' at Castle Wharf (Kelly's Directory 1910, 56). The address given for William Key & Sons for from 1914 until 1955 was 45 Castle Street, which backs onto Castle Wharf (Kelly's Directory 1914; 1917; 1922; 1926; 1944-1945, 5).

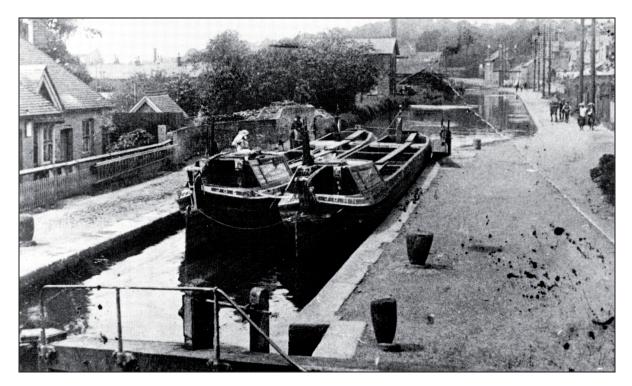


Plate 2: Castle Wharf c.1910, William Key's timber Yard in the distance on the left, previously Costin's Boatyard (after Ward & Lacey 1992)

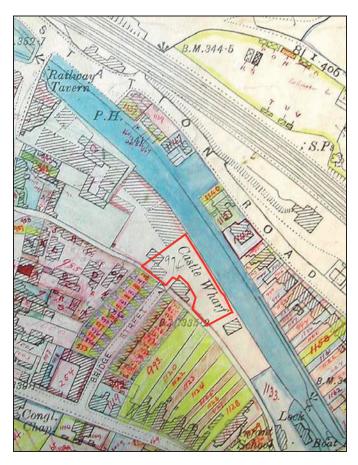
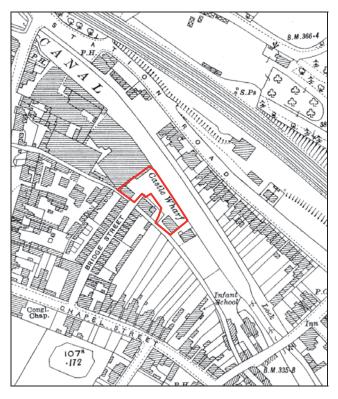


Figure 8: Extract from Map 1910 (not to scale)



**Figure 9:** Extract from Ordnance Survey 25 inch map 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition (1925) *(not to scale)* 

By 1925, (Fig. 9) the northern part of Castle Wharf had undergone intensive industrial development, which had spread to the south by 1938 (Fig. 10). The buildings to the north west of the site are described as joinery works.

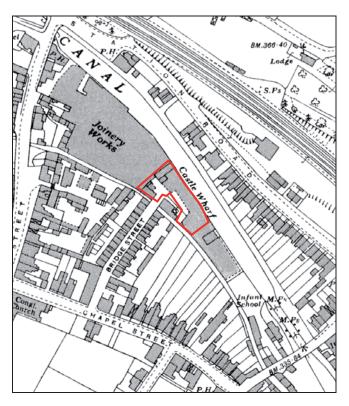


Figure 10: Extract from Ordnance Survey 25 inch map (1938) (not to scale)

In 1972 (Fig. 11) Castle Wharf was still intensively covered by industrial development but some of the buildings had been demolished and replaced by a wharf and timber yard.

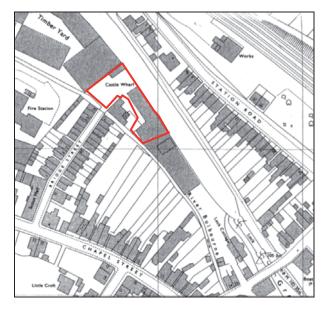


Figure 11: Extract from Ordnance Survey 25 inch map (1972) (not to scale)

### 4.2 The Known Archaeology & History of the Site

Archaeological remains are not known from the site and, given its location within what was once the flood plain of the river Bulbourne, the site would probably have been marshland for much of the year.

#### 4.2.1 Prehistoric – medieval (before 1500)

No archaeological remains have been recorded before the post medieval period *(before AD1500)*.

4.2.2 *Post-Medieval* (1500-1900)

The Tithe Apportionment map of 1839 (Fig. 5), shows the site to be meadow and canal slip (tithe apportionment 380) and possibly a garden or yard (tithe apportionment 356).

The site was still largely open in 1878 (Fig. 6), although by now it was probably a yard, with a building in the western portion of the site. Little had changed by 1898 (Fig. 7) with the exception of the shortening of the building on the south side of Bridge Street.

4.2.7 Modern (1900-present)

The construction of another building had taken place by 1925 (Fig. 9) within the southern end of the site. The wharf/yard area was still dominated the site at this time. By 1938 (Fig. 10), the site had changed dramatically with most of the wharf/yard now covered by buildings. The buildings to the north of the site had been demolished by 1972 (Fig. 11) and by 2004 (Fig. 2) the site is again largely open with only a large building (the boating shed) to the south and a small building (the garage) to the north.

### 5 Walk-Over Survey

As part of the assessment a preliminary walk-over survey of the site was undertaken on 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2004.

#### 5.1 *Aims*

The walk-over survey was undertaken with the following aims:

- To examine any areas of archaeological potential identified during research for the assessment, in particular with a view to gauging the possible survival or condition of any remains present.
- To consider the significance of any above-ground structures, historic buildings or historic landscape features present.
- To assess the present site use and ground conditions, with a view to the appropriate deployment of fieldwork techniques, if required by the CAO.

#### 5.2 **Results**

The site of the proposed development occupies a C-shaped area of c.0.07 hectares, between the river Bulbourne and the Grand Union Canal, at the north end of Bridge.

The site area between the river and canal is located on a substantial 'platform' up to 2m higher than land to the south of the river, possibly man-made. The canal frontage occupies the north-east side of the property, and consists of a concrete wharf. The north end of the site is a concrete hard-standing, bounded by a brick wall, with a double garage on the north side. The south end of the site is covered by a large boat shed or workshop, of partly timber construction.

Access to the site by land is from Bridge Street, and by boat from the canal.

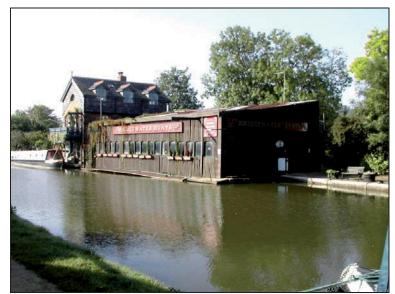


Plate 3: 'Bridgewater Boats' boat shed looking S



Plate 4: 'Bridgewater Boats' boat shed & concrete wharf looking SE



Plate 5: Interior of boat shed



Plate 6: Concrete hard-standing - bounded by a brick wall, looking SW



Plate 7: Concrete wharf & double garage, looking NW



Plate 8: Garage & wharf, looking SW

### 6 Statutory Constraints on Development

6.1 A range of planning constraints are in place in the area of the site. These constraints relate both to the area as a whole, and to individual buildings and sites. These constraints are taken into consideration when assessing the implications of planning and other proposals made to the local authority and to other local and national bodies.

#### 6.2 Areas of Archaeological Significance

The proposed development is situated within Area of Archaeological Significance (AAS) 21. This covers an area containing significant archaeological sites of prehistoric, Roman and medieval date, and incorporates Berkhamsted Castle and the area of the medieval town.

#### 6.3 Scheduled Ancient Monuments

No Scheduled Ancient Monuments are situated on the site. However, the proposed development is close to Berkhamsted Castle which is a Scheduled Monument (number 20626).

### 7 Conclusions

- 7.1 The desk-based assessment has provided information concerning the archaeology and history of the site from the prehistoric period onwards. Berkhamsted is an area of considerable archaeological and historical interest, but no archaeological remains are known from the site.
- 7.2 The site is considered to offer low archaeological potential (Table 1). The land was probably open ground until the mid to late 19<sup>th</sup> century and may have been waterlogged or subject to seasonal flooding. The landscape in this area of Berkhamsted was extensively modified during the construction of the canal and railway in the late 18<sup>th</sup> and early 19<sup>th</sup> centuries. The site lies between the canal and railway and the land will have been disturbed or modified during their construction.
- 7.3 The borehole data (Appendix 1) show that the top ground layer up to 2.7m is disturbed/re-deposited ground containing materials, such as concrete that are relatively modern. The site also contains deposits of peat, which may contain environmental data and/or associated archaeological artefacts.

Classification	Certain	Probable	Possible	improbable	Impossible/ Destroyed	Unknown/ unavailable
Surface structures					*	
Aerial photos						*
Surface scatter				*		
Buried remains						*

7.3 The framework for the management of archaeological issues in the planning system is currently set out in the document PPG16 *Archaeology and Planning*. Decisions relating to archaeological matters within the area of the site are taken by Dacorum District Council, acting on the advice of Archaeological Planning Officer of Hertfordshire County Council.

### 8 Acknowledgements

The writer is grateful to *Fourth Avenue Estates* for commissioning and funding this assessment. Thanks are also due to Alison Tinniswood of the *Hertfordshire Sites & Monuments Record* for providing access to the SMR data. The assistance of the staff of the Hertfordshire Local Studies Library is also gratefully acknowledged.

The research for the assessment, and the walk-over survey, were undertaken for ASC Ltd by Jonathan Hunn. The report was prepared by Claire Griffiths and edited by Bob Zeepvat.

## 9 Sites & Monuments Data

SMR	NGR	Period	Туре	Location
No				
0178	Berkhamsted castle	Iron Age	brooch	Berkhamsted Castle
1336	SP 995-083	Roman	coins	Court of Berkhamsted castle
2716	SP 996-087	Roman	building	North of castle
4251	SP 995-082	Late Bronze Age	brooch	Berkhamsted castle
4252	TL 0025-0870	neolithic	Stone axe	Edge of Berkhamsted common
4856	SP 99-06	Late Iron Age	Gold coin	Ashlyns
4904	SP 985-090	Late Iron Age	Shaft furnaces	Dellfield
		/Roman		
6070	TL 002-081	Late Iron Age	Gold stater	Fairlight, Meadway
6071	SP 992-084	Roman	pottery	Bridgewater Rd
6075	SP 991-079	Late Iron Age	Coin	Lower Kings Rd
6076	SP 983-086	Roman	coin	Dellfield
6080	SP 997-070	Roman	Coin	Swingate Lane
6083	SP 992-083	Roman	Pottery kiln	Bridgewater Road
6419	SP 9878-0814	medieval	Occupation site	320-338 High Street
6421	SP 983-083	Roman	Occupation debris	East's Timber Yard
6437	SP 984-085	Roman	pottery	E of Billet lane/industrial ets.
7366	SP 9910-0800	medieval	occupation	Kingsgate, Berkhamsted
7369	SP 9877-0850	medieval	occupation	320a High St, Berkhamsted
9297	TL 99423-07721	medieval	occupation	112-118 High Street
9436	SP 98921-07900	Post-medieval	occupation	Cowper Road
9957	SP 9896507945	med/post-med	occupation	256, High Street Berkhamsted
9961	SP 9932-0770	medieval	occupation	125 High Street, Berkhamsted
10586	SP9900-0700	unknown	burial	Chesham Road
10725	SP 99200-07602	E/M Saxon/Med	occupation	Dean's Lawn Chesham Road
10944	SP 9955-0777	medieval	occupation	Aggro-Evo site, Berkhamsted

Sites listed below are those within the study area, *i.e.* 1.5 km radius

### **10** References

The following references were consulted in the course of this assessment:

- Avery, B. W. 1964: *The Soils and Land Use of the District around Aylesbury and Hemel Hempstead*. London. HMSO.
- Batt, K, 2004. Design Brief for Archaeological Assessment and Evaluation: Bridgewater Boats, Castle Wharf,Bridge Street, Berkhamsted. County Archaeological Office, Hertford County Council
- Branigan, K, 1987 The Catuvellauni The Peoples of Roman Britain. Alan Sutton.
- Camden 1942: *Ministers Accounts of the Earldom of Cornwall 1296-97 (from compotus of William Merre)*. Camden 3<sup>rd</sup> series. Vol. 1. LXVI, 12-27.
- Cockman, F.G. 1983: The Railways of Hertfordshire. Hertfordshire Publications (Stevenage).
- Doggett, N and Hunn, J. 1985: The Origins and Development of Medieval Berkhamsted, in *Hertfordshire's Past* no. 18, 18-36.
- Faulkner, A. 1993: *The Grand Junction Canal*. W.H. Walker & Brothers Ltd (Rickmansworth).
- Garmonsway, G. N. 1955: The Anglo-Saxon Chronicle. Dent. London.
- Gover, J.E.B., Mawer, A. and Stenton, F. M. 1970: *The Place-Names of Hertfordshire*. English Place-Name Society **15**. Cambridge University Press. Cambridge.
- Guttman, E., 1996: *Medieval Excavation at Kingsgate, Berkhamsted*. Unpublished interim report. Hertfordshire Archaeological Trust Report no. 172.
- Hart, J. 2003. *Ground Investigation Report: Bridgewater Boats, Bridge Street, Berkhamsted* (Geotechnical & Environmental Associates).
- Hastie, S. 1999: Berkhamsted: An illustrated History. Alpine Press. Kings Langley.
- Hertfordshire County Council: Berkhamsted: Extensive Urban Survey Project Assessment Report (draft version) 1998.
- Hodge, C.A.H., Burton, R.G.O., Corbett., W.M., Evans, R. and Seale, R.S. 1984: *Soils and their use in Eastern England*. Soil Survey of England and Wales Bulletin no. 13.
- Hunn, J.R., 2000 Incents Lawn, Chesham Road, Berkhamsted, Hertfordshire. An Archaeological Monitoring and Recording Programme Archaeological Services and Consultancy Ltd
- Hunn, J.R., 2003a An Archaeological Desk Based Assessment of Land at Castle Mill, Berkhamsted. BCM/455. Archaeological Services and Consultancy.

- Hunn, J.R., 2003b Archaeological Evaluation: Land at Castle Mill, Berkhamsted. BCM/477. Archaeological Services and Consultancy
- Kelly, E.R. (ed): *The Post Office Directory of Hertfordshire*. Vols. 1838,1851,1862,1870,1878,1882,1886,1895,1898,1902,1908 1910,1914,1917,1922,1926 (London).
- Morris, J. 1976: Domesday Book vol 12 Hertfordshire. Phillimore. Chichester.
- Morris, M and Wainwright, A. 1995: Iron Age and Romano-British settlement, agriculture and industry in the upper Bulbourne valley, Hertfordshire: an interim interpretation, in Holgate (ed) *Chiltern Archaeology: Recent work,* 68-75. The Book Castle. Dunstable.
- Rackham, J. 2003. 'Radio-carbon date'. In Hunn 2003b.
- Remfry, P.M. 1998: *Berkhamsted Castle* 1066-1495. Dacoum Heritage Trust Ltd (Berkhamsted)
- Sawyer, P. H. 1968: Anglo-Saxon Charters: An annotated list and bibliography. Royal Historical Society. London.
- Scaife, R. 2003 'Pollen Analysis' in Hunn 2003b.
- Smith, T. P. 1973: The Anglo-Saxon Churches of Hertfordshire. Phillimore. Chichester.
- Ward, A.J. & R. Lacey 1992. The Canal: Tring Rickmansworth in camera. Quotes
- Youngs, F. A. 1979: *Guide to the Administrative units of England. Volume I: Southern England.* Offices of the Royal Historical Society. London.
- Zeepvat, R. J. 1997: The Roman Settlement at Cow Roast, Hertfordshire: Updated Project Design and Assessment Report. Hertfordshire Archaeological Trust report no. 230 Unpublished.
- Zeepvat, R. J. 2004: Castle Wharf, Bridge Street, Berkhamsted: Project Design for Archaeological Assessment & Evaluation on behalf of Forth Avenue Estates Ltd. 598/BCW Archaeological Services and Consultancy

**11 Cartographic Sources** *The following maps and plans were consulted in the course of this assessment:* 

Date	Reference	Description
c. 1616	PRO MR 603	Tracing of Norden's survey of Berkhamsted
1839	HALS DSA4 19/2	Tithe Apportionment map
c. 1878	OS 25" XXXIII.5	Ordnance Survey 1 <sup>st</sup> edition 25 inch scale
1898	OS 25" XXXIII.5	Ordnance Survey 2 <sup>nd</sup> edition 25 inch scale
1910	IR1/359 c no 974	Ordnance Survey 2 <sup>nd</sup> edition 25 inch scale
1925	OS 25" XXXIII.5	Ordnance Survey 3 <sup>rd</sup> edition 25 inch scale
1938	OS 25" XXXIII.5	Ordnance Survey 4 <sup>th</sup> edition 25 inch scale
1972	OS 1:2500 scale	Ordnance Survey sheet SP 9807-9907

Date Type		Location	Reference
1839	Ref Book	HALS	DSA4 19/1
1910	Ref Book	HALS	IR2/13/1

# 12 Extract from Borehole Data

Æ	Geotechnical 8 Environmenta Associates			The He	,	Business Centre Alexander Road London Colney Herts, AL2 1JG	Site Bridgewater Boats, Bridge Street, Berkhamsted	Borehol Number BH1
		iameter 150 mm dia to 19.20m				Client Halton Properties	Job Number J03161	
		Locatio 49	<b>n</b> 9580 207	/917	Dates 23 26	3/09/2003- 5/09/2003	Engineer PEP Civil & Structures Limited	Sheet 1/3
Depth (m)	Sample / Tests	Casing Depth (m)	Water Depth (m)	Field Records	Level (mOD)	Depth (m) (Thickness)	Description	Legend
2						0.10	Made ground (30 mm thickness of concrete over brown sand and concrete)	1
0.30	D1					L.I.	Made ground (dark brown sandy clay with brick, flint, ash, concrete and pockets of brown sandy clay)	
0.80	D2					-L-		
1.00-1.45 1.00	CPT N=5 B3	1.00	dry	1,1/1,1,2,1		(2.60) (2.60) (2.60) (1.50) (1.50) (1.60)		
						(2.00)		
1.70 2.00-2.45	D4 SPT N=4	2.00	dry	1/1,1,1,1				
2.00	D5							
.60 .80-3.25	D6 SPT N=3	2.80	day	1/,1,1,1		2.70	Soft grey and brown silty CLAY	*
.80	D7	2.00	dry	17, 1, 1, 1		2.90 2.90	Soft dark brown amorphous PEAT	23474 23474 23474 23474
						E (0.90)		ashta ashta ashta
						3.80		مالاد مالاد مالاد مالاد مالاد
.00-4.45	SPT N=9	4.00	dry	1/1,2,3,3			Soft becoming firm greyish brown silty gravelly CLAY	
1.00	D8							
.50 .80	D9 D10			seepage(1) at		(1.50)		v v v v v v v v v
5.00	D11		1.50	4.70m, sealed at 7.50m.				
5.00-5.45	SPT N=11	5.00	4.50	4,2/3,3,3,2 23/09/2003:4.50m		5.30	Medium dense grey sandy GRAVEL	
				25/09/2003:2.90m				
.00-6.45	CPT N=11 B12	6.00	2.90	4,2/3,3,3,2		(1.60)		
5.00	BIZ							
						6.90	Highly weathered very pale brown CHALK	
.50-7.95 .50	SPT N=6 D13	7.50	dry	1,2/2,1,2,1				
						-		┙┲╸┲╶┲ ╍┍╴┲ ┙┲╴┲╴┲
.00-9.45	SPT N=8 D14	9.00	dry	1,1/2,1,2,3		-		
	514					-		
·								
Remarks Chiselling on	hard chalk at 19.7 n	n for 1 hou	ır			<u> </u>	Scale (approx)	Logged By
hiselling on	a flint at 8.2 m for 3 ection pit excavated	0 minutes		and 15 minutes			1:50	JH
							Figure	1

Produced by the GEOtechnical DAtabase SYstem (GEODASY) (C) all rights reserved

ſ

