

# Report



## Archaeological Strip, Map and Sample Excavation Report:

16 Cow Roast, Tring Road, Tring, Hertfordshire

Report By: Charlotte Barley BSc (Hons) PCIfA

Issued by: Diarmuid O'Seaneachain PhD BA MCIfA

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Submitted to:

Mr Marchant & Mr Martin

Prepared by:

RSK ADAS Limited  
11D Park House  
Milton Park  
Abingdon  
OX14 4RS

Tel. no:

Tel. no: 01235 355638



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## Quality Assurance

| ADAS Contract Code | ADAS Project Code | Document No.             | Date Issued             |                     |
|--------------------|-------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------|
| 1051151            | ART69105-623      | 01 (00)                  | 06.04.2021              |                     |
| NGR                | Site Code         | Planning Permission Ref. | Museum Accession Number | OASIS Reference No. |
| SP9563010362       | CRT21             | 20/03123/FHA             | TBC                     | adasuklt1-417567    |

| Author   | Technical Reviewer  | Approved  |
|--|---|---|
| <br>Charlotte Barley BSc (Hons) PCIfA | <br>Diarmuid O'Seaneachain PhD<br>BA MCIfA | <br>Diarmuid O'Seaneachain PhD<br>BA MCIfA |



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Where field investigations have been carried out, these have been restricted to a level of detail required to achieve the stated objectives of the work.

This work has been undertaken in accordance with the quality management system of RSK ADAS Ltd.

## Revision History

| Revision | Date | Amendment |
|----------|------|-----------|
|          |      |           |

## Summary

In March 2021 ADAS carried out an archaeological strip, map and sample excavation for Mr Marchant and Mr Martin to address Conditions 3 & 4 attached to the planning consent (20/03123/FHA) for a new rear and side extension to the existing property at No 16 Cow Roast, Tring.

No archaeological features, deposits or artefacts were observed during the strip, map and sample excavation. It is likely that the area within the strip, map and sample area had been previously truncated down to the depth of the natural substrate during the construction of the existing house and associated services on the Site. However, there was no evidence of significant previous truncation in the rear garden area further to the south.

These results indicate that the methodology used was effective in ensuring that the development resulted in no harm to the historic environment resource.

By carrying out these works, the Client has complied with the archaeological requirements set out in the planning conditions 3 & 4 attached to the planning consent for this development (20/03123/FHA). The Client has also fulfilled their obligations to the historic environment in accordance with the National Planning Policy Framework 2019.

## Acknowledgements

This archaeological strip, map and sample excavation was commissioned by Mr Marchant and Mr Martin and thanks are due in this regard. Fieldwork was carried out by Charlotte Barley. The report and supporting illustrations were prepared Charlotte Barley, and checked by Diarmuid O'Seaneachain. The archive was compiled by Charlotte Barley.

# 1 Introduction

## Project Background

- 1.1 In March 2021, ADAS carried out an archaeological strip, map and sample excavation for Mr Marchant and Mr Martin of groundworks required for a two-storey side and rear extension on land at 16 Cow Roast, Tring. The objective of the strip, map and sample excavation was to identify and record all archaeological remains exposed during the groundworks (Figure 1).
- 1.2 Hertfordshire County Council Historic Environment Team (HHET) advised that the development was located within Area of Archaeological Significance No.23 as identified in the Local Plan. This contains the significant Late Iron Age and Roman settlement at Cow Roast which is a Scheduled Monument (NHLE 1005254). The southern boundary of 16 Cow Roast is directly adjacent to part of the Scheduled area. The development site is also located c.70 m to the north-east of the major Roman Road of Akeman Street. Archaeological investigations at No. 8 Cow Roast in 2003 discovered evidence for Roman metalworking, along with sherds of Roman pottery.
- 1.3 Based on this potential archaeological mitigation was required to address Conditions 3 and 4 of the planning consent (Planning Ref: 20/03123/FHA).
- 1.4 RSK ADAS Ltd subsequently prepared a Written Scheme of Investigation (ADAS, 2021). The strip, map and sample excavation was carried out in accordance with this Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI).
- 1.5 The fieldwork followed the *Standard and guidance for an archaeological excavation* (CIfA 2014), *the Management of Archaeological Projects 2* (English Heritage, 1991) and the *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MORPHE): Project Manager's Guide* (Historic England, 2015).
- 1.6 In carrying out this work the Client complied with their obligations to the historic environment, and with Conditions 3 and 4 of the planning condition 20/03123/FHA.

# 2 The Site, Development and Geology

## The Site

- 2.1 The Site is a two-storey semi-detached private residence located in the ribbon settlement of Cow Roast situated along Tring Road (A4251) (NGR SP 9563010362). The hamlet of Cow Roast is located approximately 1 km to the north-west of the combined settlements of Dudswell, Northchurch and Berkhamstead and 3.30 km to the south-east of Tring (Figure 1).



## The Development

- 2.2 The development will involve the construction of a two-storey side and rear extension with a single-storey rear component and porch extension to the front of the property (Scropton & Partners, 2020).
- 2.3 The two-storey side extension would extend to the side by a maximum of 1.65 m. The two-storey rear extension would protrude from the rear elevation of the existing dwelling by 3.25 m. The front porch would be 2.90 m wide and protrude beyond the front elevation by 1.30 (Scropton & Partners, 2020).
- 2.4 The total gross internal floor area of the existing building is 59.0 square metres. The total gross internal floor area of the proposed extensions is 52.77 square metres (Scropton & Partners, 2020).

## The Geology

- 2.5 The underlying bedrock geology is recorded as Holywell Nodular Chalk Formation and New Pit Chalk Formation (undifferentiated) – Chalk, which is overlain by Head, 1 – Clay, Silt, Sand and Gravel superficial deposits (BGS, 2021).
- 2.6 The closest recorded borehole (SP91SE2 – NORTHCHURCH) is approximately 200 m to the east of the development. The borehole was put down within an existing well measuring 23.16 m deep and the borehole log recorded 0.49 m of silt overlying 20.30 m of chalk from the base of the well (BGS, 2021). This indicated that the natural substrate was likely to be encountered at a depth of approximately 0.5 m below present ground level (bpgl) on this Site.

# 3 Objectives

## Aims and Scope

- 3.1 The aims of this strip, map and sample excavation were:
  - *To ensure that any archaeological features/deposits exposed during the strip, map and sample and record investigation and ground works associated with the development area were identified, recorded and interpreted to an acceptable standard;*
  - *To ensure that any significant discoveries of artefactual evidence were recorded and analysed to an acceptable standard;*
  - *To inform a strategy to avoid or mitigate the impacts of the proposed development on any surviving archaeological remains identified*
  - *The specific aims of the project were to;*

- *Ensure that Conditions 3 and 4 attached to the granted planning permission are discharged in full; and*
- *To identify and record any unknown buried archaeological remains, artefacts or earthworks associated with the roman settlement at the Cow Roast Inn Scheduled Monument and to relate any new discoveries to the previous finding of the excavations carried out by the Berkhamstead and District Archaeological Society between 1972 and 1976.*
- *To ensure that the fieldwork took place within, and contributes to the goals of the Research and Archaeology Revisited: a revised framework for the east of England (East Anglian Archaeology, 2011)*
- *To report the results as appropriate.*

## 4 Copyright

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## 5 Archaeological and Historical Context

### Introduction

- 5.1 The Hertfordshire Historic Environment Record (HER) was consulted to obtain data to assess the historic environment potential of a 1 km Study Area around the development. A summary of the most relevant assets and events relating to the Site outlined below. All designated heritage assets are referred to in the text by their Historic England and/or HER reference numbers. Recorded previous archaeological investigations within the Study Area are referenced by their Hertfordshire Historic Environment Record (HER) Excavation Index number.
- 5.2 The Hertfordshire Historic Environment Record (HHER), Historic England and Dacorum Borough Council record no World Heritage Sites, Grade I or II\* Listed Buildings, Conservation Areas, Designated Wrecks, Designated Battlefields or Registered Parks and Gardens within the Study Area (Figure 2).
- 5.3 The Roman Settlement at the Cow Roast Inn Scheduled Monument (1005254) is recorded as five distinct areas surrounding the Site. The largest area is recorded to the south-west and is

- immediately adjacent to the Site. The settlement appears to have been established along the route of Akeman Street Roman road and ultimately expanded along and to the north-east of the road (NHLE, 2021; The Dacorum Heritage Trust, 2021).
- 5.4 Prior to becoming a Scheduled Monument (1005254), the settlement was excavated by the Berkhamsted and District Archaeological Society over a four year period from 1972 to 1976. The excavations revealed features including fourteen well shafts, beam slots and post holes from wooden buildings and flint masonry walls. The artefact assemblage included substantial quantities of iron slag and cinder, metal objects, pottery and animal bone (HHER 2021; The Dacorum Heritage Trust, 2021).
  - 5.5 Historic England and the HHER record three Grade II Listed Buildings within the Study Area (1077985, 1348469 and 1174821). The closest Listed Building to the development is The Cow Roast Inn (1077985), which is located 150 m to the south-east of the Site (HHER 2021; NHLE, 2021).
  - 5.6 Dacorum Borough Council records an Area of Archaeological Significance (No. 23), which encompasses both the hamlet of Cow Roast and the proposed development Site (Dacorum Borough Council, 2004). The Area of Archaeological Significance reflects the potential for a larger area around the Scheduled Monument to contain significant burial archaeological remains, which will most likely be associated with the Prehistoric or Romano-British occupation of the locality.
  - 5.7 The Hertfordshire Historic Environment Record contains four assets within 200 m of the Site (MHT12140, MHT1874, MHT6067 and MHT6956). The closest of these assets is MHT12140, which is recorded as a pale brown horizon 0.12 m in depth. It contained sherds of Romano-British pottery and three fragments of ironworking debris. This feature was located 23 m to the east of the Site (Hertfordshire HER, 2021).
  - 5.8 The findspot of a Roman coin (MHT6067) is located 50 m to the south of the Site (Hertfordshire HER, 2021).
  - 5.9 The site of a Roman settlement covers and large area around the Site (MHT1974). Much of this settlement corresponds with the Scheduled Monument recorded by Historic England (1005254). Aerial photographs show Akeman Street running across this settlement site with side roads enclosing buildings. Excavations revealed a well, ditch, pottery, coins and a cremation of late Iron Age date. A magnetometer survey showed results characteristic of an intensively occupied site with a high concentration of features including Akeman Street. A study of approximately 250 coins from this site suggested that it was a small early Roman settlement (Hertfordshire HER, 2021).
  - 5.10 The Hertfordshire HER contains another record associated with the same general Roman settlement (MHT6956). Evidence produced from two previous archaeological investigations carried out in the Scheduled Monument at Cow Roast revealed a possible turf horizon comprising

a gravelly loam which contained Roman and post-medieval finds. The layer was cut by four pits or hollows that contained early 2<sup>nd</sup> century pottery, including Hadham Wares (Hertfordshire HER, 2021).

- 5.11 The Hertfordshire Historic Environment contains five events within 200 m of the Site (EHT8390, EHT5219, EHT8458, EHT4325 and EHT4326). The closest event to the Site was a geophysical survey which took place at Cow Roast in 2016 (EHT8390). This geophysical survey identified the Roman course of Akeman Street (Hertfordshire HER, 2021).
- 5.12 A watching brief was carried out at No. 8 Cow Roast in 2003 (EHT5219). No further information on the watching brief was provided in the Hertfordshire HER event report (Hertfordshire HER, 2021). A strip, map and sample excavation and a watching brief was carried out at Beech House, No. 32 Cow Roast (EHT8458). The natural substrate was heavily disturbed. The footprint of the new extension was subject to the strip, map and sample excavation which revealed a couple of features and a levelling layer. The watching brief was undertaken on the removal of footings and revealed no archaeology (Hertfordshire HER, 2021).
- 5.13 An excavation was carried out at the electricity substation in Cow Roast in 1991 (EHT4325), but no further details on the results of this excavation are provided in the HER event report (Hertfordshire HER, 2021). Six archaeological trial trenches dug at the Northchurch service station in Cow Roast in 1989 identified no archaeological finds, features or deposits (EHT4326). Modern made ground was found to overlay a possible turf layer and river deposits of clay silt and gravelly silt at this location (Hertfordshire HER, 2021).

## 6 Methodology

### Introduction

- 6.1 The fieldwork followed the methodology set out within the Written Scheme of Investigation (ADAS, 2021a). An archaeologist was present during all intrusive groundworks for the strip, map and sample excavation.
- 6.2 Where archaeological deposits were encountered written, graphic and photographic records were compiled in accordance with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists *Standard and Guidance: Archaeological Excavation 2014*.

### Artefacts, Human Remains, Treasure and Environmental Sampling

- 6.3 No artefacts or human remains were encountered during the archaeological fieldwork. No archaeologically significant deposits were disturbed by the groundworks, so no environmental sampling was undertaken.

## Post-Excavation Analysis

- 6.4 No archaeological artefacts or deposits were encountered during the strip, map and sample excavation, and therefore no specialist post-excavation analysis was required.

## Archives and Deposition

- 6.5 The archive is currently held by ADAS at their offices in Milton Park. No artefacts were recovered during the excavation and therefore no artefacts will need to be deposited with an approved local museum. A paper archive will be deposited with Hertfordshire Museum within six months of the completion of the fieldwork under an accession number which will be issued upon deposition. A summary of information from this project, set out within Appendix C, will be entered onto the OASIS database of archaeological projects in Britain. An OASIS form, ID reference adasuklt1-417567 has been provisionally completed and will be submitted at the time of completion.

## ADAS Project Team

- 6.6 Fieldwork was undertaken by Charlotte Barley. The report was written by Charlotte Barley. The illustrations were prepared by Charlotte Barley. The archive was compiled and prepared for deposition by Charlotte Barley. The project was managed for ADAS by Diarmuid O'Seaneachain.

# 7 Results

- 7.1 This section provides an overview of the excavation results; detailed summaries of the recorded contexts and finds are to be found in Appendix A.
- 7.2 The ground works consisted of topsoil and subsoil being stripped from the excavation area using a mechanical excavator with a flat bladed 800 mm bucket to a depth of 0.5 m under constant archaeological supervision. Within this stripped area, the natural geology was exposed using a mechanical excavator with a flat bladed 800 mm bucket also under constant archaeological supervision. The works were completed over four days (Monday 8<sup>th</sup> to Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> January 2021).

### Strip, Map and Sample Area

- 7.3 The area of the strip map and sample at the rear of the house measured 6.3 m long and 3.3 m in width. The excavated area along the side of the house measured 11 m in length and 2.3 m in width. The topsoil (1001) was approximately 0.3m deep and consisted of dark-brown soft silty clay. This overlay a mid-brown silty clay subsoil (1002) measuring 0.4 m in depth. The undisturbed natural substrate (1003) underlay both of the above and was comprised of compact orange brown gravelly clay with flint inclusions (Figure 4 and 5; Plates 1-5).

- 7.4 A modern drainage pipe was observed in the strip, map and sample excavation area to the rear of the house. This was removed during the excavation. A modern gas service was also noted along the eastern edge of the excavation area in the rear garden.
- 7.5 A new soakaway measuring 1 m X 1m and connecting service trench measuring 5.7 m in length and 0.3 m in width was also stripped to the natural substrate in the rear garden area under archaeological supervision. The stratigraphic sequence in this trench and soakaway was the same as that observed within the strip, map and sample area (Figure 5; Plates 6 & 7).
- 7.6 No archaeologically significant features or artefacts were observed or recovered from any of the groundworks.

## 8 Discussion and Conclusions

- 8.1 No archaeological features, deposits or artefacts were observed during the strip, map and sample excavation. It is likely that the area within the strip, map and sample area had been previously truncated down to the depth of the natural substrate during the construction of the existing house and associated services on the Site. However, there was no evidence of significant previous truncation in the rear garden area further to the south.
- 8.2 These results indicate that the methodology used was effective in ensuring that the development resulted in no harm to the historic environment resource.

## 9 References

ADAS (2019) Archaeological Standards Manual, Internal Document

ADAS (2021) Written Scheme of Investigation for a Strip, Map and Record and Archaeological Monitoring 16 Cow Roast, Tring Road, Tring, Hertfordshire. Unpublished Document.

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East Anglian Archaeology (2011) Occasional Papers 24, 2011: Research and Archaeology Revisited: a framework for the East of England, by Maria Medlycott (ed.), Available at [http://eaareports.org.uk/publication/occ\\_pap24/](http://eaareports.org.uk/publication/occ_pap24/) [accessed March 2021].

English Heritage 1991 *The Management of Archaeological Projects 2*.

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Scropton & Partners (2020) Planning Statement 16 Cow Roast, Tring. Published Planning Document (Ref. 1244).

The Dacorum Heritage Trust (2021) Cow Roast Dig, Available at: <http://www.dacorumheritage.org.uk/article/cow-roast-dig/> [accessed March 2021].

### Online Resources

(BGS 2020) British Geological Survey Geology of Britain Viewer. Available at: <http://www.bgs.ac.uk/discoveringGeology/geologyOfBritain/viewer.html> [accessed May 2020].

Google Maps 2020. Available at: <https://www.google.co.uk> [accessed September 2020].

NHLE (2021) Search the List, Available at: <https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/> [accessed March 2021].

## Appendix A: Context Descriptions

### Trench 1

| No.    | Type  | Description   | Length (m) | Width (m) | Depth/ Thickness (m) |
|--------|-------|---|------------|-----------|----------------------|
| (1001) | Layer | Topsoil: Dark-brown soft silty clay   | 11 m       | 3.3 m     | 0.3 m                |
| (1002) | Layer | Subsoil: Mid-brown silty clay   | 11 m       | 3.3 m     | 0.4 m                |
| (1003) | Layer | Natural Substrate: Compact orange brown gravelly clay with flint inclusions | 11 m       | 3.3 m     | 0.1 m                |



## Appendix B: The Finds

No artefacts were identified during the course of the strip, map and sample excavation.

## Appendix C: Oasis Report Form

**OASIS ID: adasuklt1-417567**

### Project details

|  |   |
|--|---|
| Project name                           | 16 Cow Roast, Tring   |
| Short description of the project       | No archaeological features, deposits or artefacts were observed during the strip, map and sample excavation. It is likely that the area within the strip, map and sample area had been previously truncated down to the depth of the natural substrate during the construction of the existing house and associated services on the Site. However, there was no evidence of significant previous truncation in the rear garden area further to the south. These results indicate that the methodology used was effective in ensuring that the development resulted in no harm to the historic environment resource. |
| Project dates                          | Start: 08-03-2021 End: 11-03-2021   |
| Previous/future work                   | Not known / Not known   |
| Any associated project reference codes | CRT21 - Sitecode  |
| Type of project                        | Recording project   |
| Site status                            | None  |
| Current Land use                       | Other 5 - Garden  |
| Monument type                          | NONE  |
| Significant Finds                      | NONE  |

### Project location

|                  |  |
|------------------|--|
| Country          | England  |
| Site location    | HERTFORDSHIRE DACORUM TRING 16 cow Roast, Tring                              |
| Postcode         | HP23 5RF   |
| Study area       | 500 Square metres  |
| Site coordinates | SP 495630 210362 51.885240426011 -1.27980547794551 53 06 N 001 16 47 W Point |

### Project creators

|                              |                        |
|------------------------------|------------------------|
| Name of Organisation         | RSK ADAS Ltd           |
| Project brief originator     | RSK ADAS Ltd           |
| Project design originator    | Diarmuid O Seaneachain |
| Project director/manager     | Diarmuid O Seaneachain |
| Project supervisor           | Diarmuid O Seaneachain |
| Type of sponsor/funding body | County Council         |

## Project archives

|                          |  |
|--------------------------|--|
| Physical Archive Exists? | No   |
| Digital Contents         | "none"   |
| Digital Media available  | "Images raster / digital photography", "Text"  |
| Paper Contents           | "none"   |
| Paper Media available    | "Diary", "Photograph"                          |
| <hr/>                    |  |
| Entered by               | charlotte barley (charlotte.barley@adas.co.uk) |
| Entered on               | 31 March 2021                                  |

## Plates



**Plate 1:** South facing section in rear garden, looking towards the Roman settlement at the Cow Roast Inn Scheduled Monument (1005254).



**Plate 2:** South-east facing view of excavated area to the rear of the house



**Plate 3:** North facing section to the rear of the house



**Plate 4:** South facing view of the excavation area to the side of the house



**Plate 5:** North-west facing view of the excavated area and footing trenches to the rear of the house.



**Plate 6:** North facing section of the new soakaway in the rear garden.



**Plate 7:** North-west facing view of the new drainage trench connecting the new extension to rear of the house to the new soakaway in the rear garden.