

1 ABSTRACT

An archaeological evaluation revealed evidence of medieval and post medieval between the High Street and River Bulbourne in Berkhamsted.

The work was undertaken by AOC Archaeology Group between 26th February and 7th March 2008 at New Lodge, Bank Mill Lane, Berkhamsted on behalf of Village Homes (Southern).

The evaluation comprised of 10 machine-excavated trenches. Natural chalk was only exposed in two of the trenches, alluvium sealing the chalk across the rest of the site; this was reached between 99.99m and 96.73m OD. Much of the western part of site was disturbed by modern intrusions.

In the north eastern area of the site a Roman ditch was excavated, although this appeared heavily truncated. In the southern part of site were a number of pits of medieval date, containing finds suggesting direct occupation of the site, although no occupation horizons remain.

The post-medieval character of the site is typified by a number of large pits, and by several lines of post-holes defining fence lines, and possibly, a building. Garden features are also present.

2 SITE LOCATION

- 2.1 The site is centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) SP 0022 0736, and is within land bounded by Bank Mill Lane to the north and west, London Road to the south and open land to the east. It is roughly triangular in shape. (Fig 2). The area affected by the development covers a total area of approximately 1.95 hectares.

3 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

- 3.1 The British Geological Survey map (BGS Sheet 286) indicates that the base geology is a bedrock of Chalk (Holywell Nodular chalk formation), with a superficial geology of Alluvium.
- 3.2 The site lies along the base of the Bulbourne River valley, which runs roughly southeast to northwest, at a height of *c* 100 m above sea level. The base of the valley extends approximately 1km both to the north and south of the site, with the river Bulbourne forming the northern boundary.

4 PLANNING BACKGROUND

- 4.1 The local planning authority is the Dacorum Borough Council, advice to the council is provided by Hertfordshire County Council's Archaeology Officer.
- 4.2 A planning application has not yet been submitted to develop the site. However, the County Archaeology Officer recommended that an archaeological investigation comprising the field evaluation of the site and a Historic Building Record of the New Lodge building should be undertaken before the application is submitted.
- 4.3 The site lies within an Area of Archaeological Significance, which contains a number of important prehistoric, Roman and medieval, including part of the medieval town area.
- 4.4 The proposed scheme, noted within the sites development brief (Dacorum Borough Council 2007), is for a residential development involving the refurbishment of the existing New Lodge building. However, at this time no formal planning application has been made.

5 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

- 5.1 A number of evaluations, excavations, and watching-briefs having been undertaken in Berkhamsted, and there are numerous entries within the Hertfordshire Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) for archaeological features or chance finds within the 1km radius of the site.

- 5.2 The following background information is drawn from the Desk Based Assessment (AOC 2007).

Prehistoric (before c.AD 43)

- 5.3 The early history of Berkhamsted area has been greatly determined by its position in the valley of the River Bulbourne. Hastie suggests that early man would avoid settlement along the base of the valley, preferring the better draining, less densely wooded upland areas. He also highlights that evidence of early Palaeolithic to Neolithic presence along the river valleys have a likely chance of being washed away by flood waters (Hastie, 1999, 7).
- 5.4 Evidence of Neolithic activity has been found along the slopes of the River Valley at Berkhamsted. This evidence includes flint mines, ditches, post holes and worked flint artefacts such as scrapers and flint axe heads. A Neolithic settlement has been identified at nearby Oakwood (Hastie, 1999:7, BEUS, 2005:2).
- 5.5 Further evidence for later prehistoric activity has been identified in the area, present in the format of several Bronze Age barrows recorded at nearby Great Firthsden and evidence of substantial Iron Age iron smelting at nearby Cow Roast. The most significant Iron Age feature is Grim's Dyke, an earthwork that runs from the south west through the valley, disappearing as it approaches Berkhamsted, reappearing to the north of the town at Berkhamsted Common. Its exact date is unknown, but sherds of Iron Age pottery have been found in the ditch fill at Berkhamsted (Hastie, 1999, 8-9, BEUS, 2005, 2). A gold Stater, a type of early coin (AOC 2007), found in a back garden in the Meadway area represents the only other Iron Age find of significance within the area.

Roman (c. AD 43 - 450)

- 5.6 Historical evidence suggest that the route of the Roman road of Akeman Street ran through the Bulborne Valley, along which alignment the present day High Street likely now runs. Further down the valley, substantial Roman finds and an early Roman town have been discovered at Cow Roast, and in Berkhamsted itself there have been a number of Roman finds including Samian ware, brick, tile, and several coins. The substructure of a large Roman building was found on Berkhamsted Common (Birtchnell, 1972, 11), while a Roman villa is also known at Northchurch where the present day Springwood estate is situated (Hastie, 1999, 10).
- 5.7 A Roman coin (AOC 2007) was found on Swingate Lane, showing the Emperor Augustus (27 BC – AD 14).

Anglo-Saxon (c.451-1065)

- 5.8 The manor of Berkhamsted is mentioned in the Domesday Book as being held by Edmar, a thegn of Earl Harold before 1066, implying that the settlement was established at some stage during the Anglo Saxon period. The evidence suggests

that the settlement held a degree of importance. Reference is also made to two mills being present at Berkhamsted.

Medieval (c.1066 - 1485)

- 5.9 A charter of 1156 from Henry II refers to the men and merchants of Berkhamsted who were to regain the 'privileges they enjoyed during the reign of Edward the Confessor', and it was at Berkhamsted that William Duke of Normandy, in 1066, met with the Saxon lords and accepted their surrender, thus becoming William the Conqueror (EUS, 2005, 6, Hastie, 1999, 11, Birtchnell, 1972, 12).
- 5.10 During the medieval period, Berkhamsted started developing both in terms of size and importance. A newly constructed motte and bailey castle came to dominate the early Norman settlement, establishing Berkhamsted's position as an important strategic and administrative centre. Its location on a major route to and from London meant it was used as a royal residence and hunting lodge. It is likely that the medieval town was situated near the junction of the modern day High Street and Castle Street, close to the 13th century parish church of St. Peter.
- 5.11 Three mills are mentioned in the 13th century accounts of the Earldom of Cornwall including 'moleninii de Banke Mulle' (Bank Mill) (Ministers Accounts of the Earldom of Cornwall *in* Camden Society vol. I, 3rd Series LXVI, 1942, 12-27).
- 5.12 Through the latter half of the medieval period Berkhamsted grew in prosperity due to a growth in trade along the highway and the development of the wool trade. This caused the castle to go into decline (15th Century), prompted a decline in the local markets and put an end to the prestigious visitors to Berkhamsted (Birtchnell, 1972).
- 5.13 A medieval soakaway (AOC 2007) was uncovered close to the site, at 97 – 101 High Street, and three skeletons (two adults, one child) were discovered aligned east to west within Priory Gardens, Chesham Road during the construction of the new rectory in 1976.

Post-Medieval (c.1485 - modern)

- 5.14 Through the Elizabethan period development in the town was renewed and Berkhamsted gained a grammar school, market house, court house and a new manor house – Berkhamsted Place (Birtchnell, 1972, 13). In the 16th to 17th century the town capitalized on its position along a major route way, with many coaching inns springing up along the high street, and the building of large and impressive private houses. In this period only two mills are mentioned (VCH II, 167), referred to as the 'Upper' and 'Lower' mills. The lower mills, presumably previously known as Bank Mill, later became the Old Mill situated just to the north of the site.

- 5.15 Further economic growth was provided by the construction of the Grand Union Canal in 1793, and accompanying trades such as barge construction began (EUS, 2005, 23). The canal construction affected the river Bulbourne by removing much of its water supply and reducing it to little more than a stream. The local water mills with wheels driven by the river would have suffered in turn. Despite this according to Kelly's Directory of 1899 (p324) the Old Mill was still driven by water.
- 5.16 By 1801 Berkhamsted was a relatively small market town, with a population of 1,690, with the building of the railway doubled in size to 3,395 by 1851. The town was still concentrated around the old medieval center until the latter half of the 19th century when various manors and farmland was sold off. From this point development expanded to the east of Castle Street and to the south (EUS, 2005, 23, Birtchnell, 1972, 15).
- 5.17 Building development continued through the early part of the twentieth century; west along to Northchurch, north of the Railway line and more upon land that once belonged to the large and wealthy houses. By 1951 population reached 10,783 rising to 15, 439 by 1971 (Birtchnell, 1972, 17).
- 5.18 Within the area there is a Grade I listed building; the Old School building at Berkhamsted Collegiate School (AOC 2007), which dates to 1544. This is located *c.* 1km northwest of the site and will not be visually impacted by the proposed development.
- 5.19 There are two Grade II* listed buildings locally. This includes 129-131 High Street (AOC 41) which was the home of Dean Incent who founded the Grammar School in 1523, and St. Peter's Church (AOC 2007), a five phase church originally dating to *c.*1200. 129-131 High Street (AOC 2007) is located *c.*1km north west of the site, while St. Peter's Church (AOC 2007) is *c.*1km northwest of the site.
- 5.20 The earliest buildings on the site are shown in a late 18th century map, which shows buildings in the approximate location of New Lodge, with gardens laid out to the east. An early 19th century map also depicts the site, but a possible building illustrated is little more than an amorphous smudge. The name 'New Lodge' is given for the first time, which may suggest that the building on the site is a replacement for an earlier house (see Historic Building Report, AOC Archaeology 2008b)

6 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 6.1 The aims of the Evaluation were defined as being:
- To establish the presence/absence of archaeological remains within the site.
 - To determine the extent, condition, nature, character, quality and date of any archaeological remains encountered.
 - To record and sample excavate any archaeological remains encountered.
 - To assess the ecofactual and environmental potential of any archaeological features and deposits.
 - To determine the extent of previous truncations of the archaeological deposits.
 - To enable Hertfordshire County Council to make an informed decision on the status of the planning application, and any possible conditions for further work required if the application is approved.
- 6.2 The specific objectives of the Evaluation were to:
- Determine the presence of any Roman archaeological remains.
 - Assess the potential of the site to inform on the medieval development and chronology of Berkhamsted.
 - Assess the degree and extent of truncation of earlier deposits by the late post-medieval and modern buildings on the site.
- 6.3 The final aim is to make public the results of the investigation, subject to any confidentiality restrictions.

7 METHODOLOGY

- 7.1 The field Evaluation comprised the excavation of 10 n° 30m x 2m trenches with selected hand excavation of archaeological features where present. This represents 3% of the site area. The integrity of any archaeological features or deposits which might better be excavated in conditions pertaining to full excavation, or might warrant preservation *in situ*, will not be compromised.
- 7.2 The trial trenches were situated as shown in Figure 3. Trenches 3 to 7 all had to be moved from the planned locations due to the presence of trees and buildings on site.
- 7.3 The entire site was visually inspected before the commencement of any machine excavation. This included the examination of any available exposures (e.g. recently cut ditches and geotechnical test pits). Each Trench was CAT scanned prior to excavation.
- 7.5 All machining was carried out by a JCB 3CX excavator, under the constant supervision of the Archaeological Project Supervisor. A 1.8m wide toothless

- ditching bucket was used, except where this is impractical. Undifferentiated topsoil or overburden of recent origin was removed in successive level spits down to the first significant archaeological horizon, or the natural geology, whichever was encountered first.
- 7.6 Most trenches did not exceed 1.2m in depth, however where the trenches were deeper than this they were stepped where practical.
 - 7.7 All recording was undertaken in accordance with the standards and requirements of the Archaeological Field Manual (Museum of London Archaeology Service 3rd edition 1994) and the Written Scheme of Investigation.
 - 7.8 A Temporary Bench Mark was set up on the site, transferred from a previously surveyed point at the bridge over the Grand Union Canal immediately to the north of the site. Levels were recorded for each deposit.
 - 7.9 After recording, the trenches were backfilled with excavated material.
 - 7.10 At the beginning of the project (prior to commencement of fieldwork) the landowner and the relevant museum were contacted regarding the preparation, ownership and deposition of the archive and finds.

8 RESULTS

Trench 1

8.1 Table of results.

Height	Description
99.91m to 99.77m OD	(1/001) Mid brownish grey silty topsoil
99.77m to 99.49m OD	(1/002) Pale brown silt subsoil
99.49m to 99.39m OD	(1/003) Orangey brown sandy silty made ground
99.39m to 99.21m OD	(1/004) Black silt layer
99.21m to 98.92m OD	(1/005) Orangey brown silty clay
98.92m to 98.71m OD	(1/006) Orangey brown clay rubble filled layer
98.71m to 98.01m OD	(1/007) Brownish orange chalky clay layer
98.01m to 97.29m OD	(1/008) Orangey brown clay alluvium
97.29m to 97.12m OD	(1/009) Hard white chalk natural

8.2 The chalk natural (1/009) was observed at a height of 97.29m OD, overlying this was a layer of natural alluvium 0.72m thick (1/008). Sealing the alluvium was a rubble-rich layer of made ground 0.70m thick (1/007). Overlying this were two similar layers of made ground (1/006) and (1/005), these were 0.21m and 0.29m deep respectively. These were below a very dark silty layer (1/004) 0.18m thick and further made ground (1/003) was above this. Subsoil (1/002) and topsoil (1/001) continued the stratigraphic sequence, 0.28m and 0.14m thick respectively.

8.3 No archaeological features were identified in trench 1, the sequence revealing made ground over natural deposits, which may derive from recent use of the land as gardens and workshops.

Trench 2

8.4 Table of results.

Height	Description
99.75m to 99.55m OD	(2/001) Very modern organic layer
99.55m to 99.45m OD	(2/002) Loose greyish brown topsoil
99.45m to 99.36m OD	(2/003) Mid brownish grey silty clay subsoil
99.36m to 99.91m OD	(2/004) Compacted chalk and mortar layer
99.31m to 99.17m OD	(2/005) Compacted black tarmac track
99.17m to 98.96m OD	(2/006) Brownish grey sandy clay old subsoil
98.96m to 98.68m OD	(2/007) Brownish grey sandy clay natural alluvium
98.68m OD	(2/008) Brownish orangey gravelly alluvium

8.5 The natural gravelly alluvium (2/008) was reached at a height of 98.68 OD, overlying this was a second layer of sandy clay natural alluvium (2/007) 0.28m thick. An old subsoil (2/006) sealed the alluvium, it was 0.21m thick, Overlying this was a modern tarmac track (2/005) 0.14m thick. Overlying the track was a layer of compacted mortar (2/004) this was 0.45m thick. Subsoil (2/003) sealed this layer 0.09m thick. Sealing the subsoil was topsoil (2/002) 0.1m thick. This was overlaid by a very modern layer of rotting organic material (2/001) was 0.2m thick.

- 8.6 No archaeological features were observed in this trench, the stratigraphy deriving from modern use of the site.

Trench 3

- 8.7 Table of results.

Height	Description
99.69m to 99.39m OD	(3/001) Greyish brown sandy silt topsoil
99.39m to 99.19m OD	(3/002) Black tarmac track
99.19m to 99.04m OD	(3/003) Orange rubble sand, made ground
99.04m to 98.90m OD	(3/004) Mid brown clay subsoil
98.90m to 98.70m OD-	(3/005) Pale brown sandy clay natural; alluvium

- 8.8 Natural alluvium (3/005) was observed at a height of 98.90m OD, overlying this was subsoil (3/004) 0.14m thick. Over the subsoil was 0.15m of made ground (3/003) and overlying this was the same tarmac track (3/002) observed in trench 2, this was 0.2m thick. Overlying this was the modern topsoil (3/001), 0.3m in thickness.

- 8.9 No archaeological features were observed in this trench, all layers above natural deposits being of modern origin.

Trench 4

- 8.10 Table of results.

Height	Description
99.71m to 99.37m OD	(4/001) Mid brown rubble filled topsoil
99.37m to 99.29m OD	(4/002) Dark brown gravelly old topsoil
99.29m to 99.14m OD	(4/005) Brownish black silty clay organic layer
99.29m to 98.99m OD	(4/003) Dark brown silty clay subsoil
98.99m to 98.70m OD-	(4/004) Orangey clay alluvial natural

- 8.11 Natural alluvial clays (4/004) were observed at a height of 98.99m OD, sealed by subsoil (4/003) 0.3m thick. At the northern end of the trench an organic layer (4/005) was overlying the subsoil, it was 0.15m thick. Sealing these layers was a buried n old topsoil (4/002) 0.08m thick.

- 8.12 At the southern end of the trench was a large modern feature [4/007] filled with very loose redeposited natural (4/006). The feature did not have any clear edges and was not fully excavated due to the looseness of the fill making further excavation unsafe. Overlying this was modern, rubble filled topsoil (4/001) that was 0.34m thick.

- 8.13 No archaeological features were present. The feature with the loose fill may be a recent disturbance such as a tree-pit, or the result of intrusive modern gardening.

Trench 5

8.14 Table of results.

Height	Description
100.50m to 100.34m OD	(5/005) Greyish brown clayey silt topsoil
100.34m to 100.25m OD	(5/006) Mid orangey brown subsoil
100.25m to 97.51m OD-	(5/007) Brownish orangey clayey gravel natural alluvium

8.15 Natural alluvium was reached at a height of 100.25m OD. Three features cut the alluvium. The largest and most significant was a sub-circular pit [5/001] that was being 1.7m in diameter and 0.35m deep. It contained a single fill (5/002) which was friable pale brown silt. The pit was clearly of medieval date, containing frequent sherds of domestic pottery. Also within the fill were a quantity of animal bones, further evidence of a domestic origin. Burnt clay was also retrieved from the pit.

8.16 Also cutting the alluvium were two post holes [5/003] and [5/008]; they were both shallow due to previous truncation from stripping of topsoil and subsoil. One post hole [5/003] was sub-circular and steep sided, it was 0.35m in diameter and 0.15m deep and the fill was loose grey silt (5/004). The other [5/008] was 0.4m in diameter and 0.08m deep, subcircular and very gradual sided, it again contained a single fill (5/007), loose grey silt. These two features are thought to be of modern date.

8.17 All these features were sealed by a thin layer of subsoil (5/006) 0.09m thick and overlying this was the topsoil (5/005) which was 0.14m thick. It seems the reason for the lack of topsoil and subsoil in this area of site is that it has been removed at some date. This can be seen by the difference in height between this trench and the verge of the London Road just 10m to the south west. The trench is around 2m lower than the verge.

Trench 6

8.18 Table of results.

Height	Description
100.48m to 100.27m OD	(6/001) Dark brownish grey topsoil
100.27m to 99.95m OD	(6/002) Pale brownish grey subsoil
99.95m OD-	(6/005) Mid orange silt clay alluvial natural

8.19 Natural alluvium (6/005) was observed at a height of 99.95m OD and lay level along the trench. The alluvium was cut by a small v-shaped ditch [6/004] running roughly north-east to south-west; it was 1.0m wide and 0.3m in depth. It contained a single fill (6/003) which was mid yellow silt and quite loose. Although undated, the character of the fill suggested a post-medieval date. The ditch appeared to be sealed by subsoil (6/002), between 0.15m and 0.32m thick.

- 8.20 A post hole [6/008] was cut through the subsoil; it was 0.75m in diameter and 0.8m deep. The post hole contained two fills; the lower fill (6/007) was dark brownish grey sand 0.25m thick. The upper fill (6/006) was mid yellowish brown sandy silt and was 0.55m thick. No dating evidence was present, but is thought likely to be of post-medieval date.
- 8.21 The uppermost deposit was topsoil (6/001) which was 0.21m thick.

Trench 7

- 8.22 Table of results

Height	Description
98.64m to 98.42m OD	(7/001) Dark greyish brown topsoil
98.42m to 98.01m OD	(7/002) Dark Brown subsoil
98.01m OD-	(7/006) Pale yellowish grey sand natural

- 8.23 Natural alluvium (7/006) was observed at a height of 98.01m OD. Cut into the natural was a very shallow pit [7/008] disturbed but tree roots, roughly rectangular in shape and flat based, it contained a single fill (7/007) 0.12m deep, it was mid yellowish brown sandy clay.
- 8.24 A large post-medieval feature was present at the southern end of the trench [7/005], this feature was probably a pit or pond, only the northern edge was visible, this was straight and steep sided, the base was flat. The feature although not fully excavated was at least 8.5m long and 0.8m deep. It contained two fills; the lower fill (7/004) was bright orange puddled clay 0.55m deep. The upper fill (7/003) was mid brown silt containing a lot of rubble, this was 0.3m deep. The presence of a pond on a site occupied by an 18th century house is not unexpected, so this is most likely a garden feature relating to one phase of development of New Lodge.
- 8.25 The infilled pond was sealed by subsoil (7/002) 0.41m thick. Overlying this was topsoil 0.22m thick.

Trench 8

- 8.26 Table of results.

Height	Description
98.00m to 97.74m OD	(8/001) Dark brown silt topsoil
97.74m to 97.50m OD	(8/008) Greyish brown silty clay subsoil
97.50m OD-	(8/011) Whitish grey gravel natural

- 8.27 Natural alluvial gravel was observed at a height of 97.50m OD. The earliest feature on site cut this alluvial deposit, a ditch of probable Roman date. The ditch was straight-sided with a v-shaped profile. However, at only 0.8m width and 0.25m depth, this is shallow and may have suffered horizontal truncation. The

single fill (8/009) was firm, mid-grey clayey sand, and contained a single sherd of heavily abraded Roman greyware.

- 8.28 The ditch was sealed by subsoil (8/008) 0.24m thick. At the western end of the trench a series of pits were cut through the subsoil, the earliest of these was [8/007] a very large and relatively shallow pit some 15m across, 0.8m deep and continuing beyond the limit of excavation. It contained a single fill (8/006) of loose yellowish grey gravel. Cutting through this were two smaller pits [8/003] and [8/005]. [8/003] was 1.4m wide, 0.7m deep, subcircular and gradual sided. It had a single fill (8/002) which consisted of loose grey brown gravel with brick inclusions. [8/005] was similar in shape to [8/003] and was 4.0m wide and 1.1m deep, again it contained a single fill (8/004) very similar in nature to (8/002). Each of these inter-cutting pits contained building material; bricks post-dating 1700. It is tempting to ascribe the origin of these pits as quarrying activities, but there is no firm evidence for this. Sealing these features was the topsoil 0.26m in thickness.

Trench 9

- 8.29 Table of results.

Height	Description
99.98m to 99.71m OD	(9/001) Dark brownish grey silt natural
99.71m to 99.43m OD	(9/010) mid orangey brown gravelly clay made layer
99.43m to 99.19m OD	(9/011) Dark greyish brown silt made layer
99.19m OD-	(9/012) Brownish orange natural alluvial gravel
99.44m OD-	(9/013) Hard, white chalk natural

- 8.30 Natural chalk (9/013) was located at the western end of the trench at a level of 99.44m OD: this seems to be a high spur of chalk as it dives away to the east. Sealing this was alluvial gravel (9/013), 1.0m thick at the western end of the trench. Two pits cut into this natural horizon. One pit [9/009] was circular and quite shallow, being 1.0m wide and 0.22m deep. It contained a single mid brown clay fill (9/008) with no finds to date it. However, truncating this was a second pit securely dated to the medieval period. This second pit [9/007] was a large, round, vertical sided and flat based pit 2.5m wide and 1.3m deep. The single fill may indicate rapid infilling; this was mid brown clay (9/006) with frequent large flint nodules. The finds consist of medieval greyware (pottery), peg tiles that indicate a roofed building in the immediate vicinity, and animal bones which probably had a domestic origin.
- 8.31 Two other pits [9/003] and [9/005] were located at the western end of the trench. One [9/003] was a large pit of unknown shape as it was only partially visible in the trench. It was 3.3m wide and 1.2m deep and contained a single fill (9/002) of dark brown loose silt with frequent rubble inclusions of post-medieval date. The other feature [9/005] was either a small pit or large post hole 0.8m wide, 0.82m deep and circular in shape with vertical sides. It had a single fill (9/004) a loose

grey silty fill containing very frequent flint nodules. No finds were present, so its date is unclear, but the loose character of the fill may suggest a post-medieval date.

- 8.32 At the eastern end of the trench two made layers were visible, (9/011) was 0.24m thick and was sealed by layer (9/010) 0.28m thick and consisting of redeposited natural. Overlying all features and layers in the trench was the topsoil (9/001) 9/001) 0.27m thick.

Trench 10

- 8.33 Table of results.

Height	Description
97.56m to 97.35m OD	(10/023) Dark greyish brown silt topsoil
97.35m to 96.83m OD	(10/024) Dark brownish grey silty clay subsoil
96.83m to 97.57m OD-	(10/026) Pale whitish grey gravel natural

- 8.34 Natural alluvial gravel was observed at a height of 96.83m OD. The alluvial gravel was cut by twelve post holes. At the southern end of the trench was a large isolated sub-circular post hole [10/018], 0.90m wide and 0.45m deep, it contained a single fill (10/017) which was loose grey gravel. Around 1.2m west of this was a second isolated post hole [10/022], also sub-circular, 0.4m wide and 0.2m deep. It again contained a single fill (10/021) similar in nature to (10/017).

- 8.35 A line of three post holes on a north south alignment was also in the southern part of the trench, [10/014], [10/016] and [10/020]. All three of these post holes were subcircular, approximated 0.3m wide and 0.1m deep. They each contained a single fill; (10/013), (10/015) and (10/019) respectively, all of these consisted of very loose pale grey gravel with occasional charcoal inclusions.

- 8.36 Further north east are two post holes that are probably related [10/012] and [10/027]. They are on an east west alignment, both are subcircular and very steep sided, they are both around 0.3m wide and between 0.3 and 0.4m deep. They both contained a single fill (10/011) and (10/026) respectively, both of these fills consisted of a dark brown sandy silt and were disturbed by roots.

- 8.37 Heading on a north east to south west alignment was a line of five post holes; [10/002], [10/004], [10/006], [10/008] and [10/010]. All of these post holes were subcircular, steep sided, 0.6 to 0.7m wide and 0.2 to 0.45m deep. With the exception of [10/002] the post holes were spaced about 1.9m apart, [10/002] was 6.1m north east of [10/004]. It could be that the postholes in between have been truncated away. All of these postholes contained a single fill; (10/001), (10/003), (10/005), (10/007) and (10/009) respectively. All of these fills were very similar being loose dark brown sandy silts with frequent small gravel inclusions.

9 FINDS

- 9.1 The finds have not yet been analysed and so only a brief description of the finds and tentative dating has been provided.

Pottery

- 9.2 The earliest pottery from the site was collected from the ditch in Trench 8. This is initially identified as Roman. The sherd is heavily abraded, so could be residual. However, the lack of other finds suggests that this find dates the feature.
- 9.3 The fill of the pit in trench 5 (5/002) contained significant quantities of grey medieval pottery including part of the handle of a storage vessel. This suggests a domestic setting. The assemblage from the pit also included a sherd of shell-tempered pottery.
- 9.4 One pit in Trench 9 [9/007] also contained significant amounts of grey medieval pottery as well as a single sherd of slipware.

Building Material

- 9.5 Building material was recovered from pit fill (9/006), this consisted entirely of roof tiles many of the pegged variety. These would concur with the late medieval pottery from the pit.
- 9.6 Brick was not introduced as a building material in this area until the 1800's this explains its presence only in the most modern features across site (Kate Batt pers.comm). The upper fill of the possible pond in trench 7 (7/003) contained significant amounts of frogged bricks. Similar bricks were also observed in the intercutting pits of trench 8 [8/003], [8/005] and [8/007]. Pits [9/003] and [9/005] also contained brick.

Animal Bone

- 9.7 Animal bone was a relatively uncommon find on this site, only being found in two pit fills (5/002) and (9/006), the bone from the contexts appeared to be ribs and longbones from large farm animals, which are probably food residue.

Other Finds

- 9.8 A single small flint blade was found in pit fill (9/006), this must be residual considering the amount of medieval pottery discovered in the same context. It may show some prehistoric activity in the area however.
- 9.9 Burnt flint was found in ditch fill (8/009) and burnt clay was discovered in pit fill (5/002).

Environmental Evidence

- 9.10 Environmental samples were taken from pit fill (5/002), ditch fill (8/009) and layers (1/004) and (4/005). The results of this sampling will be made available at a later date.

10 CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- 10.1 Evidence of both the natural and man-made environment was present in the evaluation trenches. The natural slope of the site runs down to the east from 100.48m OD in Trench 6 to 97.56m OD in Trench 10. The alluvial deposits present across site may be of prehistoric date since the earliest feature seems of Roman date. The alluvium itself varies across the site, from white gravels to orange sandy clays. The depth of the alluvium made it impossible to excavate to the chalk natural in the majority of trenches, trenches 1 and 9 being the exceptions.
- 10.2 The lack of prehistoric evidence on the site could be due to the alluvium overlying the prehistoric horizons; alternatively they have been truncated by later activity: the shallowness of the Roman ditch [8/009] does suggest some degree of truncation.
- 10.3 It is surprising that so little Roman activity was found considering the proximity of Akeman Street. Again it could be that the majority of features are truncated or that the trenches simply missed any features. The evidence found suggests limited rural activity. If the ditch is truly of Roman date, then it may be a small boundary ditch.
- 10.4 Medieval activity is concentrated in the southern part of site and probably dates entirely to the late medieval period, this was when most of Berkhamsted wealth was dependent on trade along the High Street, and it may therefore not be coincidence that these features occur towards that part of the site. The features themselves are all pits of varying size and shape and all of unclear purpose. They do not appear to have been cess pits, since no residual traces were present. They may be storage pits. However, the presence of fragments of storage jars, food waste and building materials do indicate direct occupation of the site in the medieval period.
- 10.5 The majority of features on site are post medieval; this is unsurprising as this is when Berkhamsted started to expand at a faster rate. The features on site included postholes and pits. Many of the features are likely to be associated with ornamental gardens on the site. The probable pond [7/005] is likely to be one of these features. None of these features appear in maps however. The effects of gardening have potentially removed direct occupation horizons.

- 10.6 Several postholes in Trench 10 are of a size to suggest a structure more significant than a mere fence line. They are on a similar alignment to New Lodge and the neighbouring stable block and could represent a post-built structure.
- 10.7 A second line of postholes was observed in the southern part of trench 10; this consisted of three very shallow postholes [10/014], [10/014], [10/020] and presumably formed part of a fence line.
- 10.8 The western side of the site was contained virtually no features and the only the dark organic layers in trenches 1 and 4 are of any real interest. These may be associated with some post medieval industrial process taking place in the area, possibly associated with the nearby mill. Until these samples are analysed it is impossible to say more.
- 10.9 Trench 9 had a concentration of pits at the western end, these included 2 pits of 19th to 20th century date [9/003] and [9/005]. Trenches 6 and 7 contained a few isolated pits and ditches containing no dating evidence.
- 10.10 All of the features across the site were observed at a depth of less than 1.0m, although trenches were excavated up to 3.0m deep they did not uncover any further features.
- 10.11 The evaluation met its aims in establishing the presence or absence of archaeologically significant features.
- 10.12 Publication of the results will be through the ADS OASIS form (Appendix B).

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Figure 1 – Site Location

Figure 2 – Detailed Site location

Figure 3 – Trench Location

Figure 4

Figure 5

Figure 6

Figure 7

Figure 8

Figure 9

Figure 10

Figure 11

APPENDIX A – CONTEXT REGISTER

HWT029 Context Register							
Context No.	Context Description	Length	Width	Depth	Single Ctxt. Plan?	Plan No.	Section No.
1/001	Topsoil	19.00m	2.00m	0.15m	No	6	1
1/002	Subsoil	19.00m	2.00m	0.30m	No	6	1
1/003	Made Ground	19.00m	2.00m	0.10m	No	6	1
1/004	Made Ground	19.00m	2.00m	0.20m	No	6	1
1/005	Made Ground	19.00m	2.00m	0.30m	No	6	1
1/006	Made Ground	19.00m	2.00m	0.20m	No	6	1
1/007	Made Ground	19.00m	2.00m	0.70m	No	6	1
1/008	Alluviul natural	19.00m	2.00m	0.70m	No	6	1
1/009	Chalk natural	19.00m	2.00m		No	6	1
2/001	Modern organic layer	30.00m	2.00m	0.20m	No	1	2
2/002	Topsoil	30.00m	3.00m	0.10m	No	1	2
2/003	Subsoil	30.00m	2.00m	0.09m	No	1	2
2/004	Layer of mortar	30.00m	2.00m	0.45m	No	1	2
2/005	Tarmac track	30.00m	2.00m	0.15m	No	1	2
2/006	Subsoil	30.00m	2.00m	0.28m	No	1	2
2/007	Alluvial clay	5.50m	2.00m		No	1	2
2/008	Alluvial sand	25.50m	2.00m		No	1	2
3/001	Topsoil	30.00m	2.00m	0.30m	No	2	3
3/002	Tarmac track	30.00m	2.00m	0.20m	No	2	3
3/003	Made layer	30.00m	2.00m	0.12m	No	2	3
3/004	Subsoil	30.00m	2.00m	0.16m	No	2	3
3/005	Natural Alluvium	30.00m	2.00m		No	2	3
4/001	Modern rubble	28.00m	2.00m	0.34m	No	3	4
4/002	Topsoil	28.00m	2.00m	0.08m	No	3	4
4/003	Subsoil	28.00m	2.00m	0.30m	No	3	4
4/004	Natural Alluvium	28.00m	2.00m		No	3	4
4/005	Organic Layer	6.50m	2.00m	0.15m	No	3	4
4/006	Fill of modern pit	7.50m	2.00m	2.10m	No	3	4
4/007	Cut of modern pit	7.50m	2.00m	2.10m	No	3	4
5/001	Cut of pit	1.70m	1.20m	0.35m	No	4	6
5/002	Fill of pit	1.70m	1.20m	0.35m	No	4	6
5/003	Cut of post hole	0.35m	0.30m	0.16m	No	4	7
5/004	Fill of post hole	0.35m	0.30m	0.16m	No	4	7
5/005	Topsoil	24.00m	2.00m	0.15m	No	4	5
5/006	Subsoil	24.00m	2.00m	0.10m	No	4	5

5/007	Natural	24.00m	2.00m		No	4	5
5/008	Cut of Post hole	0.40m	0.30m	0.12m	No	4	8
5/009	Fill of Post Hole	0.40m	0.30m	0.12m	No	4	8
6/001	Topsoil	24.00m	2.00m	0.21m	No	5	9, 10
6/002	Subsoil	24.00m	2.00m	0.32m	No	5	9, 10
6/003	Ditch fill	2.00m	1.00m	0.30m	No	5	9
6/004	Ditch cut	2.00m	1.00m	0.30m	No	5	9
6/005	Natural	24.00m	2.00m		No	5	9, 10
6/006	Post hole fill	0.55m	0.40m	0.50m	No	5	10
6/007	Post hole fill	0.45m	0.40m	0.25m	No	5	10
6/008	Post hole cut	0.55m	0.40m	0.80m	No	5	10
7/001	Topsoil	29.5m	2.00m	0.25m	No	7	11, 12
7/002	Subsoil	29.5m	2.00m	0.50m	No	7	11, 12
7/003	Pond fill	8.50m	2.00m	0.30m	No	7	12
7/004	Pond fill	8.50m	2.00m	0.60m	No	7	12
7/005	Pond cut	8.50m	2.00m	0.90m	No	7	12
7/006	Natural	29.5m	2.00m		No	7	12
7/007	Pit fill	1.00m	0.70m	0.20m	No	7	11
7/008	Pit cut	1.00m	0.70m	0.20m	No	7	11
8/001	Topsoil	45.50m	2.00m	0.30m	No	10	29
8/002	Pit fill	1.40m	0.70m	0.40m	No	10	29
8/003	Pit cut	1.40m	0.70m	0.40m	No	10	29
8/004	Pit fill	4.00m	1.00m	0.40m	No	10	
8/005	Pit cut	4.00m	1.00m	0.40m	No	10	
8/006	Pit fill	15.00m	2.00m	1.00m	No	10	29
8/007	Pit cut	15.00m	2.00m	1.00m	No	10	29
8/008	Subsoil	45.50m	2.00m	0.30m	No	10	29
8/009	Ditch fill	2.50m	0.80m	0.20m	No	10	28
8/010	Ditch cut	2.50m	0.80m	0.20m	No	10	28
8/011	Natural	45.50m	2.00m		No	10	29
9/001	Topsoil	35.00m	2.00m	0.20m	No	9	27, 30, 31
9/002	Pit fill	3.35m	2.00m	1.20m	No	9	27
9/003	Pit cut	3.35m	2.00m	1.20m	No	9	27
9/004	Pit fill	0.80m	0.80m	0.75m	No	9	30
9/005	Pit cut	0.80m	0.80m	0.75m	No	9	30
9/006	pit fill	1.70m	2.70m	1.25m	No	9	26
9/007	pit cut	1.70m	2.70m	1.25m	No	9	26
9/008	pit fill	1.10m	1.0m	0.25m	No	9	26
9/009	pit cut	1.10m	1.0m	0.25m	No	9	26
9/010	redeposited natural	12.00m	2.00m	28.00m	No	9	31
9/011	made layer	12.00mm	2.00m	30.00m	No	9	31
9/012	natural alluvium	35.00m	2.00m		No	9	31
9/013	natural chalk	35.00m	2.00m		No	9	27

10/001	Post hole fill	0.60m	0.60m	0.30m	No	8	24
10/002	Post hole cut	0.60m	0.60m	0.30m	No	8	24
10/003	Post hole fill	0.60m	0.60m	0.30m	No	8	23
10/004	Post hole cut	0.60m	0.60m	0.30m	No	8	23
10/005	Post hole fill	0.60m	0.40m	0.17m	No	8	22
10/006	Post hole cut	0.60m	0.40m	0.17m	No	8	22
10/007	Post hole fill	0.60m	0.60m	0.30m	No	8	21
10/008	Post hole cut	0.60m	0.60m	0.30m	No	8	21
10/009	Post hole fill	0.60m	0.60m	0.45m	No	8	20
10/010	Post hole cut	0.60m	0.60m	0.45m	No	8	20
10/011	Post hole fill	0.30m	0.30m	0.40m	No	8	19
10/012	Post hole cut	0.30m	0.30m	0.40m	No	8	19
10/013	Post hole fill	0.35m	0.35m	0.07m	No	8	14
10/014	Post hole cut	0.35m	0.35m	0.07m	No	8	14
10/015	Post hole fill	0.30m	0.30m	0.05m	No	8	15
10/016	Post hole cut	0.30m	0.30m	0.05m	No	8	15
10/017	Post hole fill	0.80m	0.50m	0.50m	No	8	17
10/018	Post hole cut	0.80m	0.50m	0.50m	No	8	17
10/019	Post hole fill	0.30m	0.30m	0.07m	No	8	16
10/020	Post hole cut	0.30m	0.30m	0.07m	No	8	16
10/021	Post hole fill	0.40m	0.40m	0.23m	No	8	18
10/022	Post hole cut	0.40m	0.40m	0.23m	No	8	18
10/023	Topsoil	26.50m	2.00m	0.21m	No	8	13
10/024	Subsoil	26.50m	2.00m	0.57m	No	8	13
10/025	Natural	26.50m	2.00m		No	8	13
10/026	Post hole fill	0.27m	0.25m	0.30m	No	8	24
10/027	Post hole cut	0.27m	0.25m	0.30m	No	8	24

APPENDIX B: OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: England

OASIS ID: aocarcha1-39276

Project details

Project name	New Lodge, Bank Mill Lane, Berkhamsted
Short description of the project	An archaeological evaluation revealed evidence of medieval and post medieval between the high street and River Bulbourne in Berkhamsted. The evaluation comprised of 10 machine excavated trenches. Natural chalk was only exposed in two of the trenches, alluvium sealing the chalk across the rest of the site. Much of the western part of site was disturbed by modern intrusions. In the southern part of site a series of pits were excavated, these produced finds of a late medieval and post medieval date. In the north eastern area of the site a Roman ditch and several lines of post holes were excavated. The postholes were undated but are probably post medieval. Post medieval pits were also observed in this area.
Project dates	Start: 26-02-2008 End: 07-03-2008
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	7846 - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	BDAS 1634 - Museum accession ID
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	Local Authority Designated Archaeological Area
Current Land use	Vacant Land 1 - Vacant land previously developed
Monument type	PITS Post Medieval

Monument type	DITCH Roman
Monument type	PITS Medieval
Monument type	DITCH Uncertain
Monument type	PITS Modern
Monument type	POND Modern
Monument type	POSTHOLES Post Medieval
Significant Finds	POTERY Roman
Significant Finds	BUILDING MATERIAL Medieval
Significant Finds	POTTERY Medieval
Significant Finds	BUILDING MATERIAL Post Medieval
Significant Finds	ANIMAL BONE Uncertain
Methods & techniques	'Environmental Sampling','Sample Trenches'
Development type	Rural residential
Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPG16
Position in the planning process	Pre-application

Project location

Country	England
Site location	HERTFORDSHIRE DACORUM BERKHAMSTED New Lodge, Bank Mill Lane, Berkhamsted

Postcode	HP4 2NS
Study area	1.95 Hectares
Site coordinates	SP 0022 0736 51.7644679999 -1.996811761520 51 45 52 N 001 59 48 W Point
Height OD	Min: 96.73m Max: 99.99m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	AOC Archaeology
Project brief originator	Local Planning Authority (with/without advice from County/District Archaeologist)
Project design originator	AOC Archaeology
Project director/manager	Andy Leonard
Project supervisor	Ian Hogg
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer
Name of sponsor/funding body	Village Homes (Southern) LLP

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient	Dacorum Heritage Trust
Physical Archive ID	BDAS 1634

Physical Contents	'Animal Bones','Ceramics','Worked stone/lithics'
Digital Archive recipient	Dacorum Heritage Trust
Digital Archive ID	BDAS 1634
Digital Contents	'Stratigraphic'
Digital Media available	'Images raster / digital photography'
Digital Archive notes	digital images
Paper Archive recipient	Dacorum Heritage Trust
Paper Archive ID	BDAS 1634
Paper Contents	'Stratigraphic'
Paper Media available	'Context sheet','Drawing','Photograph','Plan','Report','Section'

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	New Lodge,Bank Mill Lane. An archaeological evaluation report
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Hogg,I.
Date	2008
Issuer or publisher	AOC Archaeology
Place of issue or	AOC Twickenham

publication

Description A4 in-house format text and graphics

**Project
bibliography 2**

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

Title New Lodge,Bank Mill Lane. A Historic Building Record

Author(s)/Editor(s) Capon,L.

Date 2008

Issuer or publisher AOC Archaeology

Place of issue or
publication AOC Twickenham

Description A4 text and colour graphics

Entered by Fitz (paul.fitz@aocarchaeology.com)

Entered on 8 April 2008