

# HERITAGE NETWORK



**31 ICKNIELD WAY EAST  
Baldock, Hertfordshire**

HN952

***ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
MONITORING REPORT***



# *THE HERITAGE NETWORK LTD*

*Registered with the Institute of Field Archaeologists as an Archaeological Organisation*

Archaeological Director: David Hillelson, BA MIFA

## 31 ICKNIELD WAY EAST Baldock, Hertfordshire

Project ref.: HN952  
Planning ref.: 11/02092/1HH  
HER Enquiry ref: 214/11

### *Archaeological Monitoring and Recording*

*Prepared on behalf of Mrs S Kroath*

by

James Snee, BSc (HONS) AIFA

Report no.699

*December 2011*

© The Heritage Network Ltd

11 FURMSTON COURT, LETCHWORTH HERTS. SG6 1UJ  
TEL: (01462) 685991 FAX: (01462) 685998



## Contents

	Summary.....	Page i
Section 1	Introduction.....	Page 1
Section 2	Fieldwork.....	Page 2
Section 3	Discussion.....	Page 3
Section 4	Schedule of site visits.....	Page 4
Section 5	Bibliography.....	Page 4
Section 8	Illustrations.....	following Page 5
Appendix	OASIS Data Entry.....	Page 6

*The cover photograph the area of investigation, looking northwest*

## Acknowledgements

The fieldwork for this project was carried out by Greg Jones. The report text and illustrations were prepared by James Snee and edited by David Hillelson.

The Heritage Network would like to express its thanks to Andy Instone & Isobel Thompson, Historic Environment Unit, HCC, for their co-operation and assistance in the execution of this project.

## Summary

<b>Site name and address:</b>	31 Icknield Way East, Baldock, Hertfordshire, SG7 5DE		
<b>County:</b>	Hertfordshire	<b>District:</b>	North Hertfordshire
<b>Village/town:</b>	Baldock	<b>Parish:</b>	Baldock
<b>Planning reference:</b>	11/02092/1HH	<b>NGR:</b>	TL 24697 34261
<b>Client name and address:</b>	Mrs S. Kroath, c/o John Crockart, 5 Gernon Walk, Letchworth, SG6 3HW		
<b>Nature of work:</b>	Residential Extension	<b>Former use:</b>	Residential
<b>Site Status:</b>	Area of Archaeological Significance	<b>Reason for investigation:</b>	Direction of LPA (PPS5)
<b>Position in planning process:</b>	After full determination	<b>Project brief originator:</b>	Local Authority
<b>Site Code:</b>	HN952	<b>HER consultation:</b>	214/11
<b>Organisation:</b>	Heritage Network	<b>Site Director:</b>	David Hillelson
<b>Project type, methods etc.</b>	Recording project	<b>Archive Recipient:</b>	North Hertfordshire Museum Service
<b>Start of work</b>	01/11/2011	<b>Finish of work</b>	01/11/2011
<b>Related HER Nos:</b>	n/a	<b>Periods represented:</b>	None
<b>Oasis UID</b>	heritage1-104413	<b>Significant finds:</b>	None
<b>Monument types:</b>	None		
<b>Physical archive:</b>	None		
<b>Previous summaries/reports:</b>	None		

### Synopsis:

As the result of an archaeological condition placed on planning consent for the construction of a two storey extension to 31 Icknield Way East, Baldock, Hertfordshire, the Heritage Network was commissioned to undertake archaeological monitoring of the development groundworks.

It was considered that the present investigation had the potential to contribute to an understanding of the origins and development of the settlement at Baldock from the prehistoric period onwards.

Monitoring of the footing trenches revealed the natural chalk overlain by modern building rubble and overburden, suggesting that any potential archaeological remains had been severely truncated when the house was constructed. No archaeological features, deposits or artefacts were encountered.

# 1. Introduction

**1.1** This report has been prepared on behalf of *Mrs S. Kroath*, as part of a programme of archaeological works carried out during the construction of a two storey extension at 31 Icknield Way East, Baldock, Hertfordshire.

**1.2** The planning permission for the development (ref: 11/02092/1HH) granted by North Hertfordshire District Council (NHDC), has been subject to an archaeological condition (Condition 3) issued in line with the Department of Communities and Local Government's *Planning Policy Statement 5* (PPS5).

**1.3** The development site lies within an area of Area of Archaeological Significance, which notes that Baldock is an important Iron Age, Roman and medieval town.

**1.4** The proposed development entails the construction of a two storey extension on the southern side of the existing house.

**1.5** The present report, together with the deposition of the project archives with North Hertfordshire Museums Service, and the publication of a short note in *Hertfordshire Archaeology and History*, is intended to complete the archaeological requirements of the planning consent and allow Condition 3 to be discharged.

## 2. Fieldwork

### TOPOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY

**2.1** The present study area is located on the northern side of Icknield Way East, centred on NGR TL 2468 3425 (Figure 1) at a height of approximately 70mOD. It is bounded by Icknield Way East to the south, a communal area with a public path to the east, and residential properties adjacent to the north and west.

**2.2** As Baldock is a urban area, the soils are unmapped, however it is likely that the local soils are a continuation of the soils of the Swaffham Prior Association (511e) identified to the northwest. These are described as *Well drained calcareous coarse and fine loamy soils over chalk rubble. Some similar shallow soils. Deep non-calcareous loamy soils in places. Striped and polygonal soil patterns locally. Slight risk of water erosion.* (SSEW 1983).

**2.3** The underlying geology consists of White Chalk (BGS).

### METHODOLOGY

**2.4** The timetable for the fieldwork followed the client's groundwork schedule. A single site visit was made to monitor the excavation of the extension footprint. A further site visit to monitor the excavation of new services was cancelled when the decision was made to use those already existing.

**2.5** The footing trenches were excavated using a tracked mini-digger fitted with a 0.45m toothed bucket.

**2.6** All work was carried out in accordance with the approved Project Design, current health and safety legislation, and both IfA and ALGAO standards.

### MONITORING AND RECORDING

**2.7** The footing trenches were 0.50m wide and excavated to a depth 0.80m deep.

**2.8** The natural chalk was encountered at a depth of 0.40-0.50m below the existing surface. Above the chalk was an intermittent layer of modern building debris, up to 0.10m thick. The site was sealed by a 0.40m thick layer of grey (10YR 6/1) sandy clayey silt overburden.

**2.9** No features, deposits or finds of archaeological significance were encountered in this area.

### 3. Discussion

#### *HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONTEXT*

**3.1** Baldock is an important Iron Age, Roman and medieval town and the site lies within an area of known archaeological remains. Extensive Romano-British cemetery remains lie to the east of the site, at the junction of Icknield way East and Royston Road, extending into California and stretching across clothall common. To the south west lies the junction of the Icknield Way, and the road from Braughing, which has acted as a focus for occupation. These two important routes would also have brought trade and wealth into the community.

**3.2** A Roman greyware flagon was found on the site of the Stationmaster's House (now Laurel Mews), approximately 120m to west of the present site, in January 1910 (Applebaum 1932).

**3.3** Archaeological investigation of the same site, consisting of trial trenches in 1991 (Atkinson and Burleigh 1992), and a watching brief on development groundworks in 1994 (Ashworth 2004), identified a large late Roman chalk quarry, as well as a series of ditches and pits, two of which appear to have been used for the disposal of domestic rubbish. Pottery evidence from the investigation indicated domestic activity starting in the late 1<sup>st</sup>/early 2<sup>nd</sup> century AD, and continuing to the 4<sup>th</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> century AD. The remains have been interpreted as forming a small property established in an enclosure bounded by ditches; similar small domestic enclosures are known from other parts of Baldock.

**3.4** Recent work at Baldock station (*Heritage Network 2011, forthcoming*), approximately 90m north west of the site, identified Romano-British remains, including the continuation of pit alignments and boundary ditches observed within other excavations in the vicinity of the site.

#### *Conclusion*

**3.5** It was considered that the present investigation had the potential to contribute to an understanding of the origins and development of the settlement at Baldock from the prehistoric period onwards.

**3.6** Monitoring of the footing trenches revealed the natural chalk overlain by modern building rubble and overburden, suggesting that any potential archaeological remains had been severely truncated when the house was constructed. No archaeological features, deposits or artefacts were encountered.

#### *Confidence Rating*

**3.7** During the course of the monitoring of groundworks, the overall conditions were generally acceptable for the identification of potential features and deposits, and for their investigation. On this basis the confidence rating for the work should be considered to be *High*.



## 4. Schedule of Site Visits

Date	Staff	Hours	Comments
01/11/2011	GJ	5	Monitoring Groundworks – footing trenches.

## 5. Bibliography

- Applebaum, E.S. 1932. 'Excavations at Baldock in 1932' in *Transactions of the St Albans Architectural & Archaeological Soc*, 1932 p238
- Ashworth, H. 2004 *Small Sites, 1994-1996, Baldock, Hertfordshire*. Heritage Network report no.237
- Atkinson, M. & Burleigh, G.R., with Went, D. 1992 *An archaeological Investigation of the Stationmaster's House: 16 Station Road, Baldock, Hertfordshire*. NHDC Field Archaeology Section, Report no.14.
- British Geological Survey: <http://www.bgs.ac.uk/opengeoscience>
- Brown, N. & Glazebrook, J. 2000, *Research and Archaeology: a framework for the eastern counties, 2. Research agenda and strategy*. East Anglian Archaeology
- Burleigh, G. & Fitzpatrick-Matthews, K. 2010 *Excavations at Baldock, Hertfordshire, 1978-1994. Volume 1: An Iron Age and Romano-British Cemetery at Wallington Road*. North Hertfordshire Museums Archaeology Monograph 1
- Dept. of Communities and Local Government, 2010, *Planning Policy Statement 5: Planning for the Historic Environment*. (TSO)
- English Heritage, 1991, *Management of Archaeological Projects*. (HBMC)
- English Heritage, 2006, *Management of Field Projects in the Historic Environment: The MoRPHE Project Managers' Guide*. (HBMC)
- English Heritage, 2010, *Historic Environment Planning Practice Guide*. (HBMC)
- Gurney, D. et al, 2003, *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England*. ALGAO (EER)
- Heritage Gateway, [www.heritagegateway.org.uk](http://www.heritagegateway.org.uk)
- Institute for Archaeologists, 2008, *Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief*. (IfA)
- Medlycott, M. 2011 *Research and Archaeology Revisited: a revised framework for the East of England*. EAA OP24.
- Soil Survey of England & Wales (SSEW) 1983 *1:250,000 Soil Map of England and Wales. Sheet 4: Eastern England*. Harpenden: Soil Survey of England and Wales

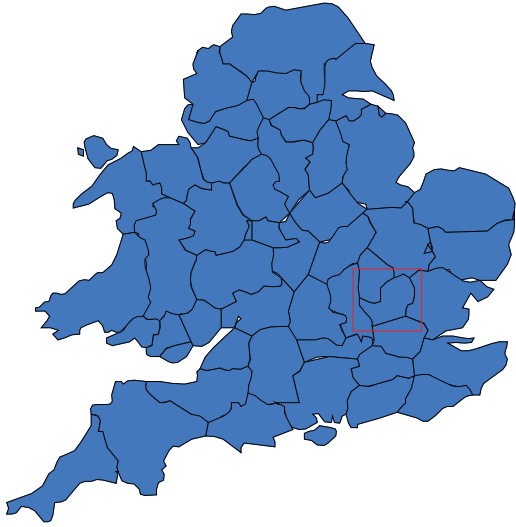
## 6. Illustrations

Figure 1 ..... Site location  
Figure 2 ..... Site layout  
  
Plate 1.....General view of site, looking east.  
Plate 2.....Footing trench, showing the stratigraphy, looking north.

THE HERITAGE NETWORK LTD

31 Icknield Way East, Baldock

HN952

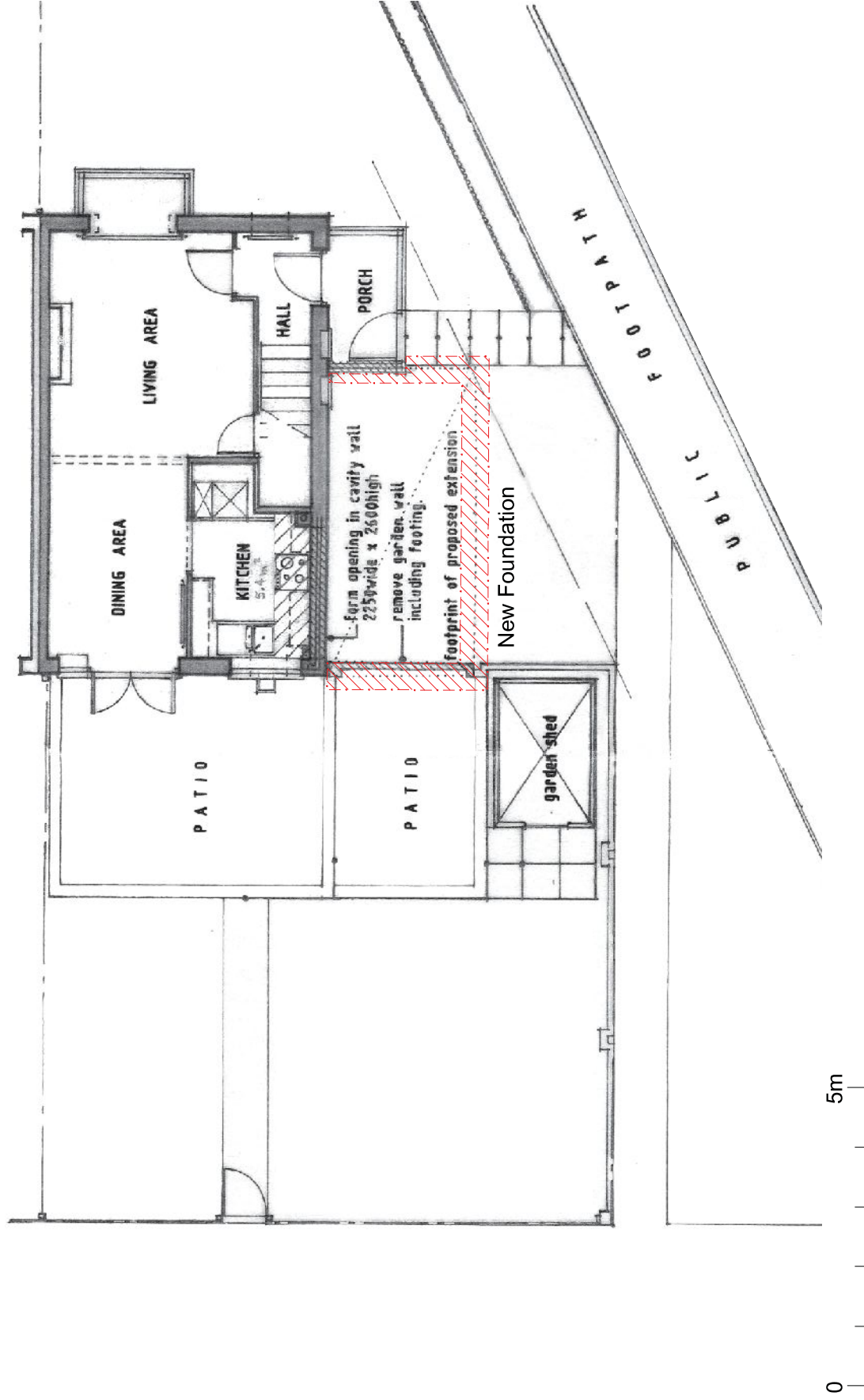
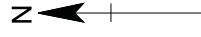


Site Location

Scale 1:2500

Reproduced from the Ordnance Survey with the permission of the controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office, Licence no.AL100014861

Figure 1



Site Layout





Plate 1: General view of site, looking east.



Plate 2: Footing trench, showing the stratigraphy, looking north.



# Appendix

## OASIS Data Entry

<i>OASIS ID: heritage1-112542</i>	
<b>Project details</b>	
Project name	Baldock, 31 Icknield Way East
Short description of the project	As the result of an archaeological condition placed on planning consent for the construction of a two storey extension to 31 Icknield Way East, Baldock, Hertfordshire, the Heritage Network was commissioned to undertake archaeological monitoring of the development groundworks. It was considered that the present investigation had the potential to contribute to an understanding of the origins and development of the settlement at Baldock from the prehistoric period onwards. Monitoring of the footing trenches revealed the natural chalk overlain by modern building rubble and overburden, suggesting that any potential archaeological remains had been severely truncated when the house was constructed. No archaeological features, deposits or artefacts were encountered.
Project dates	Start: 01-11-2011 End: 01-11-2011
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Associated project reference codes	HN952 - Contracting Unit No.
Type of project	'Watching Brief'
Site status	Area of Archaeological Importance (AAI)
Current Land use	Residential 1 - General Residential
Monument type	NONE None
Significant Finds	NONE None
Methods & techniques	'Watching Brief'
Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPS
<b>Project location</b>	
Country	England
Site location	HERTFORDSHIRE NORTH HERTFORDSHIRE BALDOCK 31 Icknield Way East
Postcode	SG7 5DE
Study area	15.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	TL 24697 34261 51.9923410734 -0.183658914820 51 59 32 N 000 11 01 W Point
<b>Project creators</b>	
Organisation	Heritage Network
Brief originator	Local Planning Authority (with/without advice from County/District Archaeologist)
PD originator	Heritage Network
Project director	David Hillelson
Project supervisor	David Hillelson
Funding body	Developer
<b>Project archives</b>	
Physical Archive?	No
Digital Archive	North Herts Museums Service

recipient	
Digital Contents	'other'
Digital Media	'Images raster / digital photography','Text'
Paper Archive recipient	North Herts Museums Service
Paper Contents	'other'
Paper Media	'Context sheet','Diary','Drawing','Photograph','Report'
<b>Project bibliography 1</b>	
Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	31 ICKNIELD WAY EAST, Baldock, Hertfordshire
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Snee. J.
Other bibliographic details	Report no.699
Date	2011
Issuer or publisher	Heritage Network
Place of issue	Letchworth, Herts.
Description	A4 booklet, comb bound, green cover, 8 pages, 2 figures, 7 plates