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S E R V I C E S

**Former Dog and Partridge Public House,  
Basingstoke Road, Riseley, Berkshire**

**Archaeological Evaluation**

**by Susan Porter**

**Site Code: DPR14/19**

**(SU 7205 6294)**

# **Former Dog and Partridge Public House, Basingstoke Road, Riseley, Berkshire**

**An Archaeological Evaluation  
for Riseley Heritage Homes Limited**

by Susan Porter

Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code DPR 14/19

**March 2014**

## Summary

**Site name:** Former Dog and Partridge Public House, Basingstoke Road, Riseley, Berkshire

**Grid reference:** SU 7205 6294

**Site activity:** Archaeological Evaluation

**Date and duration of project:** 4th March 2014

**Project manager:** Steve Ford

**Site supervisor:** Susan Porter

**Site code:** DPR 14/19

**Area of site:** c. 100 sq m

**Summary of results:** No deposits of archaeological interest were observed.

**Location and reference of archive:** The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited with an appropriate designated museum or repository (to be decided by the local planning authority) in due course.

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[www.tvas.co.uk/reports/reports.asp](http://www.tvas.co.uk/reports/reports.asp).*

Report edited/checked by:	Steve Ford✓ 06.03.14 Steve Preston✓ 05.03.14
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# **Former Dog and Partridge Public House, Basingstoke Road, Riseley, Berkshire An Archaeological Evaluation**

by Susan Porter

**Report 14/19**

## **Introduction**

This report documents the results of an archaeological field evaluation carried out at the Former Dog and Partridge Public House, Basingstoke Road, Riseley, Berkshire SU 7205 6294 (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Mr Ian Mathewson, of Riseley Heritage Homes Limited, Studio 3, Eastlands Court, Wade Road, Basingstoke, RG34 8PL

Planning permission (app no F/2011/2660) has been gained from Wokingham Borough Council for the demolition of existing buildings and erection of three new dwellings on the site. This consent is subject to a condition relating to archaeology, requiring a programme of archaeological works prior to development. This was to take the form, initially, of field evaluation (trial trenching), based on the results of which, further work might be required.

This is in accordance with the Department for Communities and Local Government's *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF 2012), and the Borough Council's policies on archaeology. The field investigation was carried out to a specification approved by Mr Paul Falcini and monitored on site by Mr Roland Smith, Archaeology Officers for Berkshire Archaeology, advisers to the Borough on matters relating to archaeology. The fieldwork was undertaken by Susan Porter and Tom Stewart and the site code is DPR 14/19. The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited with an appropriate designated museum or repository (to be decided by the local planning authority) in due course.

## **Location, topography and geology**

The site is located on the south-eastern side of Basingstoke Road (B3349) on the western side of the village of Riseley c.5 km south of Reading (Figs 1 and 2). The site is located within a residential area and was formerly occupied by the Dog and Partridge Public house and associated car park, which had been demolished prior to commencement of archaeological works. The site lies at a height of c.65m above Ordnance Datum and the underlying geology is recorded as London Clay (BGS 1971) however what was observed in the trenches was a mix of London Clays and Plateau Gravel.

## **Archaeological background**

The archaeological potential of the site has been highlighted in a briefing note prepared by Ms Mary Neale formerly of Berkshire Archaeology. In summary the site's archaeological potential stems from its location within the archaeologically rich area of the Loddon Valley, with numerous sites identified by fieldwalking and aerial photography (Ford 1997; Gates 1975). To the east of the site a number of certain and possible sites have been noted; some of which have been partially examined and found to be of Bronze Age and Iron Age dates (Lobb and Morris 1993). Along the southern boundary of the site lies the projected line of the main Roman Road from *Londinium* (London) to *Calleva* (Silchester), known locally at 'The Devil's Highway', and Roman pottery has been recovered from small works to the south-west of the site. A substantial Roman settlement is known to be present further to the west (Ford 1997). Medieval settlement in the area is indicated by the presence of two timber-framed houses of 16th century date with several other early post-medieval buildings recorded nearby possibly reflecting the presence of earlier medieval occupation within the vicinity of the site.

## **Objectives and methodology**

The purpose of the evaluation was to determine the presence/absence, extent, condition, character, quality and date of any archaeological or palaeoenvironmental deposits within the area of development. The work was to be carried out in a manner which would not compromise the integrity of archaeological features or deposits which might warrant preservation *in-situ*, or might be better excavated in conditions pertaining to full excavation.

The specific research aims of the project were:

- to determine if archaeologically relevant levels had survived on the site;
- to determine if archaeological deposits of any period were present; and
- to provide sufficient information to construct an archaeological mitigation strategy.

It was proposed to dig four trenches, each 9m long and 1.6m wide targeting the footprints of the proposed new buildings, excluding one which was to be built on the footprint of the existing building. A contingency of 5m of trench was included should it be required to clarify initial findings. Topsoil and other overburden was to be removed using a JCB-type machine equipped with a toothless ditching bucket to expose archaeologically relevant level. This was to take place under constant archaeological supervision, and spoil heaps were to be monitored for finds. Where archaeological features were present they were to be hand cleaned and excavated or sampled by hand to fulfil the aims of the brief.

## Results

All four trenches were dug as intended in the area of the former car park following the removal of all hard standing and demolition of the existing building. They ranged in length from 8.20m to 10.60m and in depth from 0.50m to 0.90m. A complete list of trenches giving lengths, breadths, depths and a description of sections and geology is given in Appendix 1.

### Trench 1 (Fig. 3, Pl. 1)

Trench 1 was aligned north-east – south-west and was 9.00m long and 0.70m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.70m of very dark brown clayey silt with frequent modern brick and tile inclusions (made ground) overlying light reddish brown clayey gravel with light bluish grey clay patches (natural geology). No deposits of archaeological interest were observed and no finds were recovered.

### Trench 2 (Figs 3 and 4; Pl. 2)

Trench 2 was aligned north-west – south-east and was 10.60m long and 0.60m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.60m of the same made ground as in Trench 1, overlying light reddish brown clayey gravel with light bluish grey clay patches natural geology. No deposits of archaeological interest were observed and no finds were recovered.

### Trench 3 (Fig. 3; Pl. 3)

Trench 3 was aligned north-west – south-east and was 8.20m long and 0.80m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.80m of the same made ground, overlying light reddish brown clayey gravel with light bluish grey clay patches natural geology. No deposits of archaeological interest were observed and no finds were recovered.

### Trench 4 (Fig. 3; Pl. 4)

Trench 4 was aligned north-east – south-west and was 9.90m long and 0.90m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.63m of brick and gravel made ground, overlaying 0.27m very dark brown grey silty clay made ground, which in turn overlay light reddish brown clayey gravel with light bluish grey clay patches natural geology. No deposits of archaeological interest were observed and no finds were recovered.

## Conclusion

The four trenches excavated in the area of the former car park revealed no deposits of archaeological interest and no finds were recovered. In particular, no deposits relating to the Roman road were present.. The site is considered to have no archaeological potential.

## References

- BGS, 1946, *British Geological Survey*, 1:63360, Sheet 268, Drift Edition, Keyworth
- Ford, S, 1997, 'Loddon Valley (Berkshire) fieldwalking survey', *Berkshire Archaeol J* **75**, (for 1994-7), 11-33
- Gates, T, 1975, *The Thames Valley, An Archaeological Survey of the River Gravels*, Berkshire Archaeol Comm Pubn 1, Reading
- Lobb, S. J, and Morris, E. L, 1993, 'Investigation of Bronze Age and Iron Age features at Riseley Farm, Swallowfield', *Berkshire Archaeol J* **74** (for 1991-3), 37-68 (and fiche)
- NPPF, 2012, *National Planning Policy Framework*, Dept Communities and Local Govt, London

## APPENDIX 1: Trench details

0m at South West or South East end

<i>Trench</i>	<i>Length (m)</i>	<i>Breadth (m)</i>	<i>Depth (m)</i>	<i>Comment</i>
1	9.00	1.60	0.70	0–0.70m dark grey brown clayey silt with frequent brick and tile inclusions (made ground); 0.70m+ light reddish brown clayey gravel with light bluish grey clay patches natural geology. <b>[PL. 1]</b>
2	10.60	1.60	0.60	0–0.60m made ground; 0.60m+ gravel with clay patches natural geology. <b>[PL. 2]</b>
3	8.20	1.60	0.80	0–0.80m made ground; 0.80m+ gravel with clay patches natural geology. <b>[PL. 3]</b>
4	9.90	1.60	0.90	0–0.63m made ground; 0.63–0.90m made ground, 0.90m+ gravel with light clay patches natural geology. <b>[PL. 4]</b>





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Figure 1. Location of site within Riseley and Berkshire.

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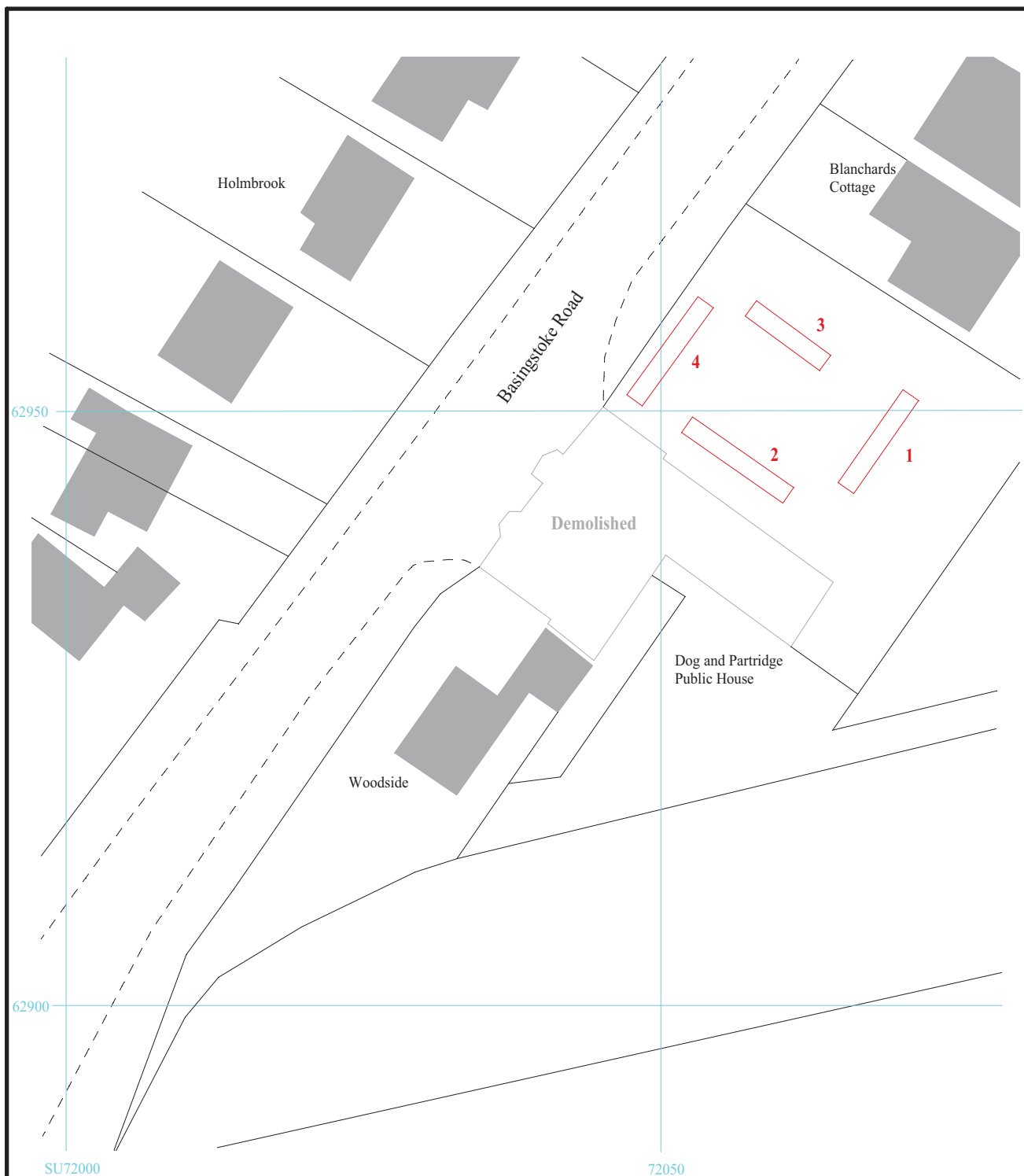


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Figure 2. Detailed location of site off Basingstoke Road.

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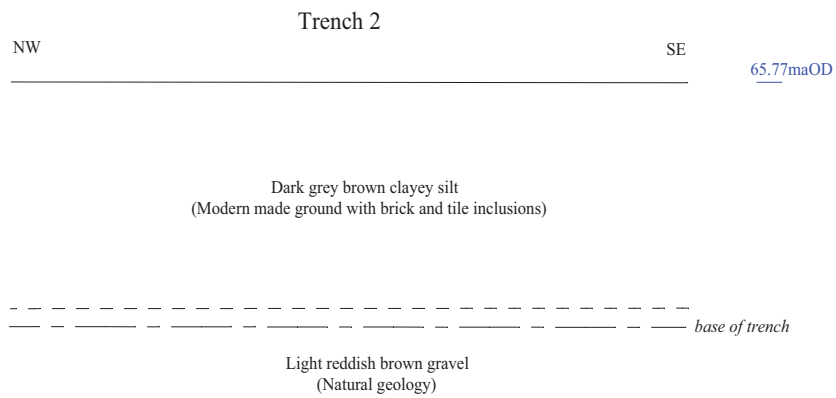


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Figure 3. Location of trenches.



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Figure 4. Representative section.



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Plate 1. Trench 1, looking south east, Scales: horizontal 2m and 1m, vertical 0.3m.



Plate 2. Trench 2, looking north west, Scales: horizontal 2m and 1m, vertical 0.3m.

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Plates 1 - 2.**

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Plate 3. Trench 3, looking north west, Scales: horizontal 2m and 1m, vertical 0.3m.



Plate 2. Trench 4, looking south west, Scales: horizontal 2m and 1m, vertical 0.3m.

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Plates 3 - 4.**

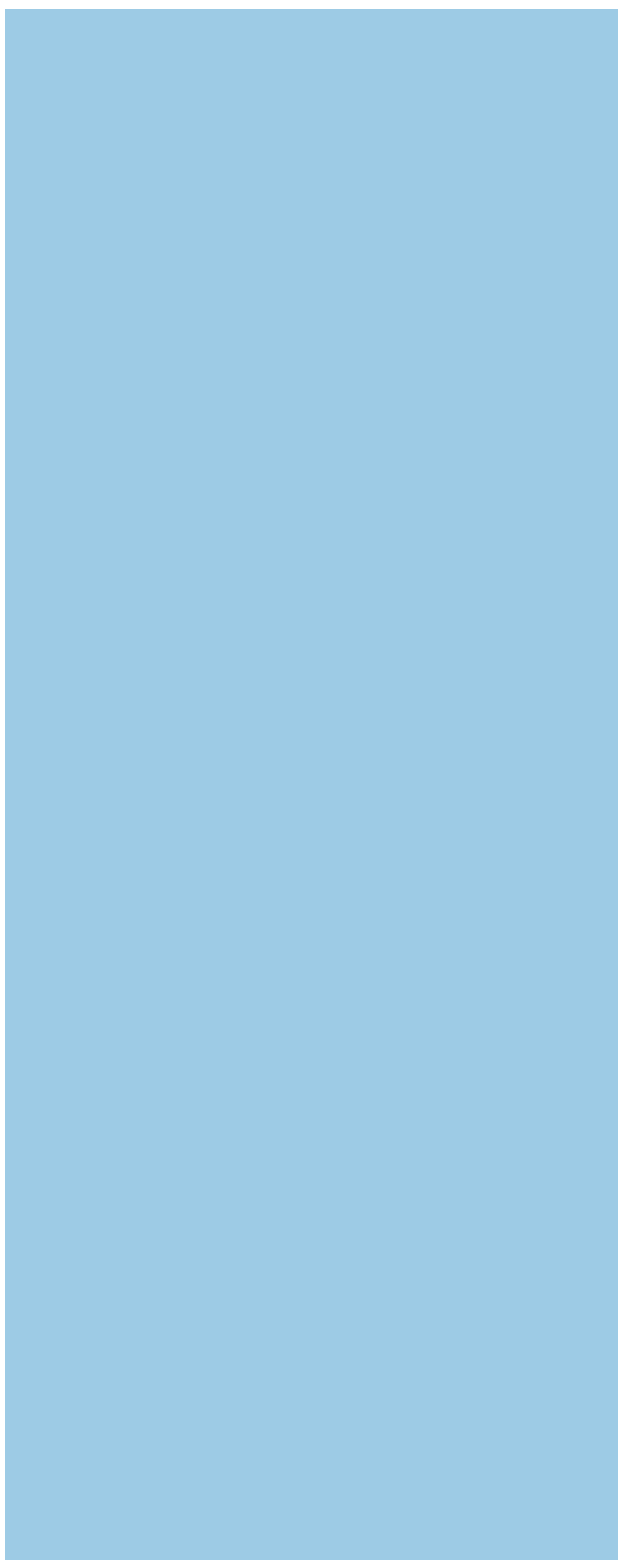
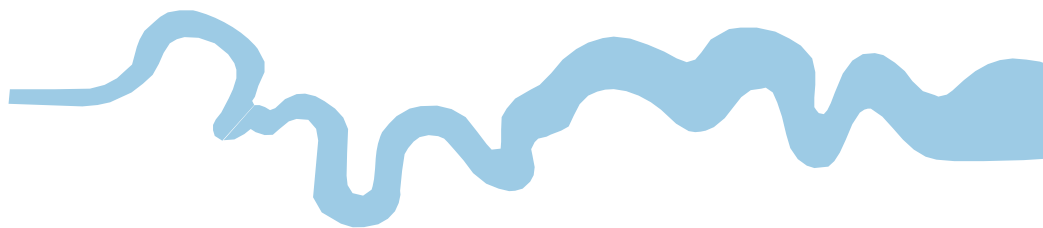
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## TIME CHART

### Calendar Years

Modern _____	AD 1901
Victorian _____	AD 1837
Post Medieval _____	AD 1500
Medieval _____	AD 1066
Saxon _____	AD 410
Roman _____	AD 43
Iron Age _____	BC/AD 750 BC
Bronze Age: Late -----	1300 BC
Bronze Age: Middle -----	1700 BC
Bronze Age: Early -----	2100 BC
Neolithic: Late .....	3300 BC
Neolithic: Early .....	4300 BC
Mesolithic: Late .....	6000 BC
Mesolithic: Early .....	10000 BC
Palaeolithic: Upper .....	30000 BC
Palaeolithic: Middle .....	70000 BC
Palaeolithic: Lower .....	2,000,000 BC





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