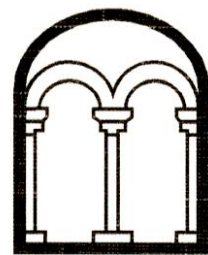


**LAND BETWEEN  
10 AND 19 ROMAN LANE  
BALDOCK  
HERTFORDSHIRE**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL OBSERVATION,  
INVESTIGATION, RECORDING,  
ANALYSIS AND PUBLICATION**

**Albion**  
archaeology



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## Preface

*Every effort has been made in the preparation of this document to provide as complete an assessment as possible, within the terms of the specification. All statements and opinions in this document are offered in good faith. Albion Archaeology cannot accept responsibility for errors of fact or opinion resulting from data supplied by a third party, or for any loss or other consequence arising from decisions or actions made upon the basis of facts or opinions expressed in this document.*

*The project was monitored on behalf of the Local Planning Authority by Andy Instone, Senior Historic Environment Advisor of Hertfordshire County Council.*

*The fieldwork and reporting were undertaken by Ian Turner (Archaeological Supervisor), with finds input from Jackie Wells (Artefacts Officer) and illustrations by Joan Lighting (CAD Technician). The project was managed by Gary Edmondson (Project Manager). All Albion projects are under the overall management of Drew Shotliff (Operations Manager).*

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## Version History

<i>Version</i>	<i>Issue date</i>	<i>Reason for re-issue</i>
<i>1.0</i>	<i>26/07/16</i>	<i>n/a</i>

## Key Terms

Throughout this document the following terms or abbreviations are used:

CIfA	Chartered Institute <i>for</i> Archaeologists
Client	MP Building Ltd.
DA	Development area
HCC	Hertfordshire County Council
NHDC	North Hertfordshire District Council
Procedures Manual	<i>Procedures Manual Volume 1 Fieldwork</i> , 2nd edn, 2001 Albion Archaeology
SHEA	Senior Historic Environment Advisor
WSI	Written Scheme of Investigation



## **Non-technical Summary**

*North Hertfordshire District Council (NHDC) granted consent for the development of land between 10 and 19 Roman Lane, Baldock, Hertfordshire (reference 05/00591/1). The development comprised the construction of two new detached, four-bedroom dwellings with integral garages and associated car parking, with access from Roman Lane.*

*The site was evaluated in 2005, revealing an undated ditch in Plot 1 and the remains of part of a small 19th-century whitewash factory in Plot 2. As a result, Hertfordshire County Council's Senior Historic Environment Advisor required a programme of archaeological observation, investigation and recording during the development. The work was carried out by Albion Archaeology between 4th and 16th June 2015.*

*The site is located in the southern part of Baldock, on the south-western side of Roman Lane, which comes off the A507 Clothall Road. It lies on level ground at c. 80m OD and is centred on grid reference TL 24998 33555.*

*The first edition OS map of 1884 shows the factory, with the main building occupying the central area of the land parcel. The main building comprises two elongated NE-SW ranges that are linked in the NE. Two smaller outbuildings of contrasting form are also shown: a narrow rectangular building at the northern boundary of the site, with a smaller structure to the east. The factory had been demolished by the time of the 1900 second edition map.*

*The investigations indicated that the ditch revealed in the evaluation was Roman in date. However, the majority of the evidence related to the former whitewash factory — a long-vanished small-scale industry on the chalk. At least two phases of activity were defined. The later phase was easier to understand, with a series of rectangular vats apparently correlating to the footprint of the NW range of the building shown on the 1884 OS map. The SE range would appear to have served a different function — possibly the drying or even the milling of the 'cake', as well as ancillary activity, such as offices or the cart shed for delivery of the product. The elongated building along the north wall of the land parcel could have been another external drying shed.*

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

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### 1.1 *Planning Background*

North Hertfordshire District Council (NHDC) granted consent for the development of land between 10 and 19 Roman Lane, Baldock, Herts. (reference 05/00591/1). The development comprised the construction of two new detached, four-bedroom dwellings with integral garages and associated car parking, with access from Roman Lane.

The Hertfordshire County Council's Senior Historic Environment Advisor (SHEA), acting as advisor to NHDC, recommended that a condition should be attached to the planning consent for the evaluation and investigation of the archaeological potential of the development area (DA). This was in accordance with Planning Policy Guidance Note no. 16 (PPG 16), the legislation for the management of archaeology within the planning process at the time.

The evaluation was undertaken in 2005 (Heritage Network 2005). This revealed an undated ditch in Plot 1 and a small 19th-century whitewash factory in Plot 2 (see Section 1.3).

Based on these results, a brief was issued by the SHEA for archaeological mitigation in the form of strip, map and record with continuous observation of the areas subject to development, and the recording of any archaeological remains thereby revealed (HCC 2009). This was in accordance with Planning Policy Statement no. 5 (PPS 5), which replaced PPG 16 on 23 March 2010. PPS 5 was subsequently replaced by the National Planning Policy Framework in March 2012, which advises that heritage assets such as archaeological deposits are a material consideration in the planning process.

Albion Archaeology was commissioned by the client in May 2010 to undertake the archaeological mitigation works in accordance with a written scheme of investigation approved by the SHEA (Albion Archaeology 2009a).

### 1.2 *Site Location and Description*

The DA is located in the southern part of Baldock, on the south-western side of Roman Lane, which comes off the A507 Clothall Road (Figure 1). It lies on level ground at c. 80m OD and is centred on grid reference TL 24998 33555.

Immediately prior to the commencement of the mitigation works, the plot of land was very overgrown with small trees, chest-high shrubs and weeds, and several large trees along the northern perimeter. This was cleared before work commenced.

### 1.3 *Archaeological and Historical Background*

The DA lies in an area of Baldock that is part of a landscape rich in Iron Age, Roman and medieval remains. The archaeological and historical background of the area has been discussed in the Extensive Urban Survey for Baldock (Thomson 2002) and also in the most recent publications on archaeological sites in the area,



notably Burleigh and Fitzpatrick-Matthews (2010) and Phillips (2009). Only a short synthesis of information directly relevant to the PDA is given here.

The DA lies to the south of Clothall Road, an important Roman routeway that skirts the southern edge of Walls Field, an open area that defines the location of the centre of the Iron Age and Roman settlement at Baldock. The Iron Age occupation consisted of enclosed farmsteads, paddocks and vegetable plots within a series of major boundary dykes and pit alignments that controlled movement within the area.

The Iron Age settlement developed into a Roman small town that largely preserved the previous layout and boundaries. By the 2nd century AD it covered an area of at least 50ha (Duncan in Phillips 2009). Investigations to the east of Walls Field and along the route of the A505 Baldock Bypass (Albion 2009b, Phillips 2009) also confirmed the existence of extensive prehistoric and Roman remains to the east of modern Baldock.

A large number of Iron Age and Roman burials, including high-status graves and temple sites, also confirm that Baldock was a place of some importance in those periods (Thomson 2002).

Several find spots of Iron Age and Roman material and evidence of occupation (HER 106, 9994 and 12754), including a small cremation cemetery (HER 13191) and other isolated cremations (HER 1077), are recorded in the HER close to the DA. Several Roman artefacts and coins and a Roman inhumation (HER 9924, 1060 and 1073) were also found in Pinnocks Lane just to the north of Roman Lane. A Romano-British inhumation cemetery (HER 6082) was found during development between Pinnocks Lane and the High Street.

The evaluation of the DA revealed an undated ditch in Plot 1 (Heritage Network 2005). Considering the alignment of the ditch parallel to the Roman Clothall Road and the existence of several other Iron Age and Roman ditches in the immediate vicinity (HER 9994 and HER 12754), it is likely that the ditch is also Roman in date.

The medieval settlement of Baldock developed with a slightly different geographical focus to the NW of the DA, centred on the High Street and Royston Road crossing. It was a planned town, laid out by the Knights Templars in the middle of the 12th century. Despite a lack of Saxon archaeological evidence, it is thought that the area always remained an important centre due to the existence of several important roads that continued in use after the end of the Roman occupation (Thomson 2002).

Baldock prospered throughout the medieval period due to the wool trade and further with the establishment of the Great North Road in the 16th century. Malting and brewing were the dominant trades in the 18th century. An extensive lime-burning industry developed outside the southern edge of town in the 19th century. A chalk pit and lime kiln still existed in 1925 in Limekiln Lane to the east of Roman Lane (Thomson 2002).





A small whitewash factory dating to the early to mid-19th century was recorded during the evaluation of Plot 2 on the DA. The production of whitewash relies on the ready availability of chalk that was quarried close by.

The establishment of Letchworth Garden City in 1903 shifted the focus of the urban centre within the area firmly to the west of Baldock. The need for housing nevertheless led to expansion of the town throughout the 20th century. Today, most of the immediate vicinity of Roman Lane is taken up by late 20th-century, small terraced housing and bungalows.

#### 1.4 **Historical Maps**

The first edition Ordnance Survey map of 1884 shows the factory, with the main building occupying the central area of the land parcel (Figure 2: Map 1). The main building comprises two elongated NE-SW ranges that are linked in the NE (Figure 3 – grey outline). Two smaller outbuildings of contrasting form are also shown: a narrow rectangular building at the northern boundary of the site, with a smaller structure to the east. By the 1900 second edition map, the factory had been demolished, with only two small buildings shown on the map. It is not clear if the NE structure, at least, had been part of the earlier factory (Figure 2: Map 2).

#### 1.5 **Project Objectives**

The immediate objective of the archaeological fieldwork was to monitor and supervise all groundworks that had the potential to impact archaeological remains, and to investigate, characterise and record any archaeological deposits encountered within them.

Based on the results of the evaluation, the aims of the project included investigating:

- the age and nature of the boundary revealed in Trench 1;
- the form and nature of the whitewash factory.

#### 1.6 **Methodology**

The development comprised the erection of two new detached, four-bedroom dwellings with integral garages and associated car parking, with access from Roman Lane. Initially a topsoil strip of the two house plots was undertaken, followed by the excavation of the foundation trenches for the two dwellings.

Throughout the project the standards and requirements set out in the following documents were adhered to:

• Albion Archaeology	<i>Procedures Manual: Volume 1 Fieldwork</i> (2nd edn, 2001)
• CfA	<i>Charter and by-law; Code of conduct</i> (2014)
	<i>Standard and guidance for an archaeological watching brief</i> (2014)



	<i>Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials (2014)</i>
• Historic England	<i>Environmental Archaeology: A guide to the theory and practice of methods, from sampling and recovery to post-excavation (2015)</i>
	<i>Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (2015)</i>



## 2. RESULTS AND CONCLUSIONS

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### 2.1 Introduction

The archaeological works associated with the construction of the new dwellings was undertaken periodically between 4th and 16th June 2015. Initially a topsoil strip of the two house plots was undertaken, followed subsequently by the excavation of the foundation trenches for the two dwellings.

In the following summary contexts in brackets refer to deposits recorded on site, with each area assigned a discrete block of contexts: e.g. [1009] defines a pit in Plot 1, whilst (2033) defines the upper fill of large pit [2031] in Plot 2. Figure 3 shows the all-features plan and selected sections; Figures 4–7 contain selected images. Finds information is integrated into the text. The results of the evaluation undertaken in 2005 are also integrated; three-digit context numbers have been allocated for this stage of the work, with 100's for Trench 1 in Plot 1 and 200's for Trench 2 in Plot 2.

The archaeological monitoring revealed layers, a rubbish pit that post-dated the whitewash factory, brick foundations, processing vats, a ditch and a pipe associated with the factory, as well as a ditch dating to the Roman period. The features are discussed chronologically from earliest to latest.

### 2.2 Overburden

The overburden comprised a c. 0.4m-thick topsoil layer (103) / (1000), (201) / (2000) of dark grey-black silt. It contained moderate amounts of modern brick, roof tile, bottle glass and china fragments. The thickness of the soil may indicate an imported soil to create a garden.

Beneath this, in the north-western half of Plot 1, 0.24–0.40m of undisturbed light brown silty subsoil (104) / (1003) was identified.

Within the south-eastern half of Plot 1 and generally across Plot 2, the topsoil was underlain by levelling layers (1001), (2001), (2013) and (2014) that sealed the foundations of the former whitewash factory and its associated features. The deposits contained modern finds including window glass, bottle glass, mass-produced table ware ceramics, brick, slate and tile.

The undisturbed geology was hard white chalk with large patches of sterile light brown orange silt (105) / (1002), (204) / (2002).

### 2.3 Roman Ditch

A NNW-SSE aligned ditch [102], [1012] / [1016] was identified at the northern margin of Plot 1. It was c. 2.5m wide and traceable for at least 6.5m – green feature on Figure 3. The ditch had a slightly asymmetric, roughly V-shaped profile 1.14m deep (Figure 3: section 4 and Figure 4: images 1 and 2). A series of three asymmetric silty fills were identified in the two recorded profiles; they ranged in colour from light brown to mid grey-brown. The nature and form of the primary fill (1017) may suggest that it was derived from an associated bank to the



SW. The fills produced a small assemblage of pottery, as well animal bone and oyster shell.

The upper and secondary fills of the ditch contained eight Roman pottery sherds (57g) of probable 2nd-century date. Fabric types are identified in Table 1 in accordance with the North Hertfordshire Museums Pottery Fabric Series (Ashworth and Fitzpatrick-Matthews 2010).

NHM code	Common name	Sherd No.	Wt (g)
Fabric 4	Shelly wares	1	6
Fabric 11	Fine sand-tempered grey wares	3	17
Fabric 12	Coarse sand-tempered grey wares	1	6
Fabric 24	Sandy gritty ware	2	9
Fabric 39	Black-burnished ware type 2	1	19

**Table 1: Pottery type series**

Sherds were fairly small, with a mean weight of 7g, and moderately abraded. Seven vessels are represented. The sand-tempered wares are likely to be locally manufactured, while the single shelly sherd is likely to derive from further afield; perhaps the regional production centre at Harrold, north Bedfordshire. Vessel forms are a jar with a simple everted rim (diameter 180mm) and a small jar or beaker (rim diameter 90mm). Other feature sherds are a bead rim and two body sherds with combed decoration.

Eight animal bone fragments (214g) were collected from secondary fill (1014) and upper fill (1019). They survive in poor condition, displaying extensive surface erosion, and have a mean fragment weight of 26g. Upper fill (1019) yielded pieces of metapodial, scapula, vertebra and molar, all probably deriving from a sheep (197g). Three undiagnostic long bone fragments (17g) were retrieved from the secondary fill (1014).

Twelve pieces of oyster shell (173g) derived from the upper fill of the ditch (1019).

The ditch is interpreted as a boundary ditch associated with the Roman settlement known to be located beneath Walls Field immediately NE of the development area. The fact that the ditch only contained moderate amounts of pottery, animal bone and oyster shell suggests that it was some distance from the settlement focus.

#### **2.4 Modern Whiting / Whitewash Factory**

A series of features and deposits associated with the former factory were identified within Plot 2 and the south-eastern part of Plot 1. They indicate several phases of activity on the site, with early features shown as light blue whilst the later features are in dark blue on Figure 3. It would appear that these early features predate the main building.

There are two ways to turn chalk into whiting — a wet process using washing and sieving, followed by settling of the material in water, the residue being formed into ‘balls’ or ‘cakes’; or a dry process in which the chalk is dried and then ground into a powder (Curran 1998). The archaeological evidence indicates that this site used



the wet process, involving soaking of the chalk in water tanks or vats to clean the material. Whiting has been used since at least the medieval period for cleaning and, by conversion to whitewash with the addition of several ingredients, to create a wall coating. From the industrial revolution, the demand for the product increased greatly, aided by improved transport and distribution links.

#### 2.4.1 Early features

The light blue features on Figure 3 identify stratigraphically early features that were cut by the later arrangement of vats. At least two of the features [2016] and [2027], located towards the southern margin of Plot 2, were also truncated by walls associated with the main building (Figure 3: sections 3 and 5 and Figure 6: image 6). These features are thought to be early vats, with a depth similar to the later forms (Figure 3: sections 3, 5 and 6). Further to the NW in Plot 1 [1024] / [1025] appears to define another feature with a deeper square element (Figure 3: section 1), whilst [1030] defines the NW margin of an extensive curving feature.

Curving ditch [1005] was visible for 6.5m, mirroring the curve of large pit [1030] immediately to the east; suggesting that the two were associated. In section the ditch was 0.55m wide and 0.25m deep, with a steep concave profile and a narrow concave base, filled with fine white chalk. This suggests that it was associated with the draining of the vats, once most of the chalked had settled.

Pit [1024] / [1025] was situated in the SW corner of Plot 1. This is a distinctive feature with a stepped form of two components. The main element [1024] was an extensive, possibly square, vat, at least 3.5m by 3.5m and *c.* 0.6m deep, with near vertical sides and a flat base, (Figure 3: section 1 and Figure 3: section 2). The lower mid grey-brown fill (1027) was up to 0.25m thick, above which were re-deposited chalk fragments mixed with charcoal (indicating deliberate backfilling of the feature). This backfill also extended into the deeper sub-square element [1025], which was at least 0.6m across and 0.8m deep with vertical sides; it continued below the base of the foundation trench for the new dwelling.

In the west [1030] defined a large pit at least 5.7m long by at least 1.75 m wide and 0.6m deep, with a shallow concave edge and flattish base. It was filled with a light brown-grey deposit and was truncated by later rectangular vat [1020].

Located at the SE corner of Plot 2, the possible sub-rectangular vat [2016] was at least 3.3m NE-SW by 1.85m wide, continuing beyond the investigation area. In section it was up to 1.7m deep, with vertical sides and a flat base (Figure 3: section 3). The pit had been backfilled with topsoil, containing a variety of modern artefacts (including metal buckets) that were not retained. The upper fill of this feature was truncated by the wall footings of the SE range of the main building.

Two features [2027] and [2028] were partly exposed in the SW corner of Plot 2, severely truncated by a later feature in this area [2019] – Figure 3: sections 5 and 6. In plan, [2027] was linear, 1.2m long NW-SE by at least 0.48m wide and a maximum 1.15m deep. It had a near vertical lower edge and flat base (Figure 3: section 5 and Figure 6: image 6). The lower fill was light yellow-grey chalky silt, above which were a series of backfilled deposits that varied in colour from mid



grey-brown to light brown-yellow, indicating material derived from a variety of sources. Located a short distance to the NE was pit [2028] that was considerably shallower at 0.6m deep. It had a flat base and its edges were obscured by later features and deposits. The lower fill was mid grey-brown silt with moderate medium-sized fragments of chalk, suggesting deliberate backfilling of the feature. It is possible that these features were similar to the stepped form of [1024] / [1025] a short distance to the north.

#### 2.4.2 Whitewash factory building

Remnants of the foundations for the main building were present within Plot 2, with five segments of brick wall foundation being identified. Four of the walls were aligned NE-SW, with a perpendicular footing [2009] aligned NW-SE in the east.

##### *SE range*

Orientated NE-SW and traceable for at least 6.5m, foundation trenches [2003] and [2005] define elements of the SE range of the main building shown on the 1884 Ordnance Survey map (Figure 3 and section 3, Figure 5: image 3 and Figure 6: image 5). The foundations trenches were up to 0.27m wide and 0.34–0.44m deep. They contained mid red to dark brown-red unfrogged bricks and half bricks, (2004) and (2006). The bricks measured 218–238mm long, 105–120mm wide and c. 60mm thick and were bonded with light white-grey to grey-yellow coarse sandy mortar that survived in variable to good condition. The two walls were identified in the 2005 evaluation trench as [205] and [207] respectively.

To the SE, two perpendicular segments of wall [2007] and [2009] probably define elements of the SE range that appears to have had at least two structures on this side, resulting in an irregular wall line on the 1884 map. The NW-SE aligned foundation [2009] was at least 2.2m long and butted up to the main wall [2003], indicating a later addition with a possible doorway defined by a gap (Figure 5: image 4). To the SW [2007] was aligned NE-SW and was traced for c. 1.5m. The wall comprised a single course of light grey-yellow frogged bricks and half bricks (2008), with no surviving mortar bonding. This would appear to define a narrow passageway c. 1.2m wide. This wall footing truncated the fill of earlier vat [2016] – Figure 3: section 3.

##### *Rectangular vats*

The NW range of the main building was associated with a series of at least three rectangular vats [1020], [2019] and [2031] for the soaking of the chalk (Figure 3 – dark blue features, Figure 6: image 6 and Figure 7: image 7) and associated ceramic drain (1031). It is possible that a fourth feature [1011] that only emerged from the NE corner of Plot 1 was also associated, having a possible rectangular form and being set between the two rows of main vats.

The best example of a vat was [1020]; it was at least 7m long NE-SW, by 1.8m wide and 0.75m deep with vertical sides and a flat base (Figure 3: section 2). The other two vats were partly exposed in the NW margin of Plot 2; they had similar vertical edges and flat bases (Figure 3: sections 5 and 6). The size of these vats suggests that they were settling vats, in which, following sieving of the slurry, the



material was allowed to settle for an extended period of time (probably several weeks), before the water was drained and the chalk was removed and formed into ‘cakes’ or ‘balls’ for drying.

Revealed intermittently in the foundation trenches for the new dwelling, wall foundation [2027] was up to 1.18m high, composed of light grey-yellow frogged bricks and half bricks (2020) – Figure 3: section 5 and Figure 6: image 6. The bricks measured *c.* 232mm x 108mm x 67mm, being bonded with light yellow-grey sandy mortar in variable condition. [2027] appears to have been the retaining wall for two of the later rectangular vats, although it is not clear if it also formed part of the structure for the NW range. Often the vats would be within an open timber shed, with access from all sides, rather than forming part of the structure of the building.

Only the southern limit of pit [1011] was revealed, indicating a squared or rectangular form, 1.7m wide and at least 0.05m deep; it was clipped by the footing trench for the new dwelling. This feature would appear to have been located between the two rows of vats, which may indicate that it was slightly different to the other vats — possibly the wash mill (the initial stage of the process when the chalk was mixed with water to create slurry, before being sieved and sent to the large settling vats).

The vats contained deposits that varied from mid grey-brown silt to light grey-white contaminated, re-deposited chalk. Vat [2019] contained deposits of fine white chalk, interpreted as surviving *in-situ* chalk slurry from the final processing of the works at the time that it closed.

Pits [1020] and [2019] had a shallow horizontal dark primary deposit that contained large brick and tile fragments (Figure 3: sections 5 and 6). This could indicate lack of maintenance and repair of the vats towards the end of the life of the works. A layer (2024) of whitewash mix spillage was observed between pit [2019] and wall foundation [2005] (discussed above).

Segmented pipe (1031) was similar to a land drain pipe but with a slightly larger internal diameter of *c.* 90mm. It was aligned NNW-SSE and would appear to have linked rectangular pits [1020] and [2031]. The pipe contained a deposit of fine white chalk, interpreted as *in-situ* chalk/lime whitewash mix.

### 2.4.3 Features that post-date the whitewash factory

A small pit [1009] containing frequent modern glass bottles was identified at the northern limit of Plot 1 (Figure 4: image 1).

## 2.5 Summary and Conclusions

The investigations revealed the continuation of the ditch identified in the evaluation, with the small assemblage of finds indicating that it dated to the Roman period. No associated activity was identified, possibly due to extensive modern disturbance. However, the small assemblage of finds would suggest that the feature was located some distance from the associated focus of human activity.



The majority of the remains revealed during the mitigation works were associated with the former whitewash factory — a long-vanished small-scale industry on the chalk. The investigation revealed that the wet manufacturing process was employed, with evidence for at least two phases of activity being defined. The later phase was easier to understand, with a series of rectangular vats apparently correlating to the footprint of the NW range of the building shown on the 1884 Ordnance Survey map. The SE range would appear to have served a different function — possibly the drying or even the milling of the ‘cake’, as well as ancillary activity, such as offices or the cart shed for delivery of the product. The elongated building along the north wall of the land parcel could have been another external drying shed.

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## 4. HER SUMMARY

Site name and address: Land between 10 and 19 Roman Lane, Baldock, Hertfordshire		
County: Hertfordshire		District: North Hertfordshire
Village/Town: Baldock		Parish: Baldock
Planning application reference: 05/00591/1		
HER Enquiry reference: –		
Client name, address, and tel. no.: MP Building Ltd, Thrifty House, 4 Bilton Road, Hitchin, SG4 0SB; tel. no. 01462 450555		
Nature of application: construction of two detached dwellings with integral garages.		
Present land use: plot of land not built upon.		
Size of application area: c. 1,030m <sup>2</sup>		Size of area investigated: 250m <sup>2</sup>
NGR (to 8 figures): TL 2499 3355		
Site code (if applicable): RB1606		
Site director/Organization: Gary Edmondson / Albion Archaeology		
Type of work: Archaeological Observation, Investigation, Recording, Analysis and Publication		
Date of work:	Start: 04/06/2016	Finish: 16/06/2016
Location of finds & site archive/Curating museum: North Hertfordshire District Council Archaeology Services		
Related HER Nos: N/A		Periods represented: Roman and modern.
Relevant previous summaries/reports: Heritage Network, 2005, <i>Land Between 10 &amp; 19 Roman Lane, Baldock, Herts. Archaeological Evaluation</i> . Archive report no. 299		
<p>Summary of fieldwork results:</p> <p>The investigations revealed a Roman ditch that produced a small assemblage of pottery.</p> <p>The majority of the remains revealed during the investigations were associated with a former whitewash factory — a long-vanished small-scale industry on the chalk. The investigation revealed that the wet manufacturing process was employed, with evidence for at least two phases of activity being defined. The later phase was easier to understand, with a series of rectangular vats apparently correlating to the footprint of the NW range of the building shown on the 1884 Ordnance Survey map. The SE range would appear to have served a different function — possibly the drying or even the milling of the ‘cake’, as well as ancillary activity, such as offices or the cart shed for delivery of the product. The elongated building along the north wall of the land parcel could have been another external drying shed.</p>		
Author of summary: Gary Edmondson		Date of summary: 26/07/2016



## 5. OASIS SUMMARY

**OASIS ID: albionar1-258177**

### Project details

Project name	Land between 10 and 19 Roman Lane, Baldock
Short description of the project	North Hertfordshire District Council (NHDC) granted consent for the development of land between 10 and 19 Roman Lane, Baldock, Hertfordshire. The development comprised the construction of two new detached, four-bedroom dwellings with integral garages and associated car parking, with access from Roman Lane. The site was evaluated in 2005, revealing an undated ditch in Plot 1 and the remains of part of a small 19th-century whitewash factory in Plot 2. As a result, Hertfordshire County Council's Senior Historic Environment Advisor required a programme of archaeological observation, investigation and recording during the development. The first edition OS map of 1884 shows the factory, with the main building occupying the central area of the land parcel. The main building comprises two elongated NE-SW ranges that are linked in the NE. Two smaller outbuildings of contrasting form are also shown: a narrow rectangular building at the northern boundary of the site, with a smaller structure to the east. The factory had been demolished by the time of the 1900 second edition map. The investigations indicated that the ditch revealed in the evaluation was Roman in date. However, the majority of the evidence related to the former whitewash factory - a long-vanished small-scale industry on the chalk. At least two phases of activity were defined. The later phase was easier to understand, with a series of rectangular vats apparently correlating to the footprint of the NW range of the building shown on the 1884 OS map. The SE range would appear to have served a different function - possibly the drying or even the milling of the 'cake', as well as ancillary activity, such as offices or the cart shed for delivery of the product. The elongated building along the north wall of the land parcel could have been another external drying shed.
Project dates	Start: 04-06-2015 End: 16-06-2015
Previous/future work	Yes / No
Any associated project reference codes	RB1606 - Contracting Unit No. 05/00591/1 - Planning Application No.
Type of project	Recording project
Monument type	DITCH Roman WHITING WORKS Modern PIT Modern
Significant Finds	POTTERY Roman ANIMAL BONE Roman
Investigation type	"Watching Brief"
Prompt	Planning condition

### Project location

Country	England
Site location	HERTFORDSHIRE NORTH HERTFORDSHIRE BALDOCK Land between 10 and 19 Roman Lane, Baldock



Study area 1030 Square metres

Site coordinates TL 2499 3355 Point

### Project creators

Name of Organisation Albion Archaeology

Project brief originator No Brief

Project design originator Albion Archaeology

Project director/manager Gary Edmondson

Project supervisor Ian Turner

### Project archives

Physical Archive recipient North Herts Museums Service Resource Centre

Physical Contents "Animal Bones" ,"Ceramics" ,"Glass"

Digital Archive recipient Albion Archaeology

Digital Media available "Database" ,"GIS" ,"Images raster / digital photography" ,"Text"

Paper Archive recipient North Hertfordshire Museum Service

Paper Media available "Context sheet" ,"Correspondence" ,"Drawing" ,"Miscellaneous Material" ,"Photograph" ,"Plan" ,"Report" ,"Section"

### Project bibliography 1

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

Title Land between 10 and 19 Roman Lane, Baldock, Hertfordshire: Results of Archaeological Observation

Author(s)/Editor(s) 'Edmondson, G'

Other bibliographic details 2016/141

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