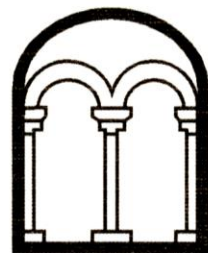


**LAND AT IVY FARM  
LONGWICK  
BUCKINGHAMSHIRE**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
FIELD EVALUATION**

**Albion**  
archaeology



**LAND AT IVY FARM  
LONGWICK  
BUCKINGHAMSHIRE**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
FIELD EVALUATION**

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Compiled by	Approved by
David Ingham	Drew Shotliff

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Produced for:  
Rectory Homes Ltd



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## Preface

*Every effort has been made in the preparation of this document to provide as complete a summary as possible within the terms of the method statement. 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.*

## Acknowledgements

*The project was commissioned by Rectory Homes Ltd, and was monitored on behalf of the Local Planning Authority by Phil Markham, Senior Archaeology Officer (SAO) at Buckinghamshire County Council.*

*The fieldwork was undertaken by David Ingham, who prepared this report. The project was managed for Albion by Robert Wardill, under the overall management of Drew Shotliff.*

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## Version History

<i>Version</i>	<i>Issue date</i>	<i>Reason for re-issue</i>
<i>1.0</i>	<i>09/01/2017</i>	<i>n/a</i>

## Key Terms

The following abbreviations are used throughout this report:

BCAS	Buckinghamshire County Archaeological Service
CIfA	Chartered Institute for Archaeologists
PDA	Proposed development area
SAO	Senior Archaeology Officer, Buckinghamshire County Council
TVAS	Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd
WSI	Written Scheme of Investigation



## **Non-Technical Summary**

*Rectory Homes Ltd is seeking outline planning permission for a residential development on land at Ivy Farm, Longwick, Buckinghamshire. Longwick lies c. 1km north-west of Princes Risborough and c. 10km south of Aylesbury, with the development site covering c. 0.6ha on the eastern edge of the village.*

*A possible Neolithic occupation site has been identified in the field to the north of the proposed development site, and the Lower Icknield Way — an ancient routeway with suggested origins in the prehistoric or Roman period — also borders the site. Because of the consequent archaeological potential of the site, Buckinghamshire County Council’s Senior Archaeology Officer advised the Local Planning Authority that it should be subject to an archaeological evaluation, in order to provide more detailed information concerning the potential impact of the proposed development on any archaeological remains.*

*Rectory Homes Ltd appointed Albion Archaeology to carry out the evaluation (geophysical survey and trial trenching) in accordance with a written scheme of investigation, agreed in advance with the SAO.*

*The evaluation identified no archaeological remains within the proposed development site. In accordance with policy HE19 (Archaeology - Unscheduled Sites and Monuments) of the adopted Local Plan, policy CS17 (Environmental Assets) of the adopted Core Strategy and the National Planning Policy Framework, it can be concluded, therefore, that the proposed development will not harm archaeological remains.*



## 1. INTRODUCTION

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### 1.1 *Planning Background*

Rectory Homes Ltd is seeking outline planning permission for the erection of nine dwellings — including access, parking and garaging with ancillary works — on land at Ivy Farm, Longwick, Buckinghamshire.

A heritage statement (TVAS 2015) was submitted as part of a planning application in 2015 (15/07209/OUT); it recognised the potential for the preservation of archaeological remains within the proposed development area (PDA). One of the grounds for refusal of the 2015 application was the failure of the proposal to demonstrate that it would not harm archaeological remains.

Accordingly, Rectory Homes Ltd commissioned Albion Archaeology to carry out an archaeological evaluation, which was carried out in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) (Albion Archaeology 2016) that had been approved beforehand by Buckinghamshire County Council's Senior Archaeology Officer (SAO), who advises the LPA on archaeological matters.

The first part of the field evaluation comprised a geophysical survey, which identified no anomalies that were likely to be archaeological in origin (Stratascan 2016). The second part consisted of a programme of archaeological trial trenching, the results of which are set out in this report.

### 1.2 *Site Location and Description*

Longwick lies *c.* 1km north-west of Princes Risborough and *c.* 10km south of Aylesbury, in the Wycombe District of Buckinghamshire. The PDA is located south of the junction between the Lower Icknield Way and Longwick Road (the A4129) at (NGR) SP 7943 0456; it is bordered to the east and west by residential land, and by pasture to the south. The site itself is also pasture, covering an area of *c.* 0.6ha, with trees and shrubs along its northern edge.

Longwick lies just beyond the north-west edge of the Chiltern Hills, in a gently undulating landscape. A spring-fed brook runs to the south of the village. The PDA itself falls in height slightly from east to west towards the brook, at a general height of 96–98m OD. The underlying geology is Upper Greensand Formation Siltstone and Sandstone bordering onto Gault Clay, with no superficial layers recorded (British Geological Survey 2016).

### 1.3 *Archaeological and Historical Background*

A detailed overview of the archaeological and historical background of the PDA's surroundings has been provided in a Heritage Statement (TVAS 2015). A brief summary is included below.

A large assemblage of Neolithic flint artefacts was collected from the surface of the field to the north (HER 0250700000), suggesting a possible occupation site. The Lower Icknield Way also runs adjacent to the PDA, and is an ancient routeway with suggested origins in the prehistoric or Roman period (HER 0414600000).



The Old English roots of ‘*lang*’ and ‘*wic*’ suggest a Saxon origin for the village of Longwick, although the settlement was not recorded in the Domesday Survey of 1086, probably because its manor was subservient to Princes Risborough to the south-east. The possible route of a late Saxon estate boundary, probably of Monks Risborough, is located north-east of the PDA (HER 0274901000). Medieval Longwick is likely to have been a small hamlet, with settlement first recorded there in the 14th century.

Cartographic evidence shows no buildings within the PDA in the post-medieval and modern periods, and it is likely to have been agricultural land from at least the medieval period onwards. There are no known historical or archaeological remains within the PDA itself.

#### **1.4 Project Objectives**

The general aim of the evaluation was to establish the character, date and function of any archaeological remains within the PDA, thereby determining whether the proposed development would have an impact on archaeological remains in the event of planning permission being granted.



## 2. METHOD STATEMENT

The methodological approach to the project is summarised below. A more detailed statement can be found in the WSI (Albion Archaeology 2016).

### 2.1 Standards

The project adhered throughout to the standards prescribed in the following:

• Albion Archaeology	<i>Procedures Manual: Volume 1 Fieldwork</i> (2nd edn 2001)
• Archaeological Archives Forum	<i>Archaeological Archives: A guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation</i> (2nd edn 2011)
• BCAS	<i>Generic Brief for an Archaeological Evaluation (Trial Trenching)</i> ( <a href="http://www.buckscc.gov.uk/media/3008888/Generic-brief-for-archaeological-evaluation-trial-trenching-.pdf">http://www.buckscc.gov.uk/media/3008888/Generic-brief-for-archaeological-evaluation-trial-trenching-.pdf</a> )
• Buckinghamshire County Museum	<i>Procedures for Notifying and Transferring Archaeological Archives</i> (revised 2013)
• CIfA	<i>Code of Conduct</i> (2014); <i>Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation</i> (2014); <i>Standard and Guidance for the Collection, Documentation, Conservation and Research of Archaeological Materials</i> (2014)
• Historic England	<i>Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)</i> (2015)

### 2.2 Archaeological Trial Trenching

The trial trenching was undertaken on 5–6 January 2017. It comprised the excavation of six trenches that were each 21m long and 1.8m wide (Fig. 2). The layout of the trenches was designed to achieve an even coverage of the area. The eastern end of Trench 6 had to be rotated 4m to the south in order to avoid an obstacle.

The trenches were opened by a mechanical excavator fitted with a flat-edged ditching bucket. The machine was operated by an experienced driver under the supervision of an archaeologist. Overburden was removed down to the top of the undisturbed geological deposits, and the spoil heaps were scanned for artefacts.

Any potential archaeological features were investigated by hand, and each trench was subsequently drawn and photographed as appropriate. All deposits were recorded using a unique number sequence, commencing at 10 for Trench 1, 20 for Trench 2 *etc.* A full methodology is provided in the WSI (Albion Archaeology 2016).

The trenches were inspected by the SAO prior to their backfilling.





### 3. RESULTS AND CONCLUSIONS

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#### 3.1 Results

Machining of the trenches revealed a thin layer of topsoil, mostly *c.* 0.15m thick, overlying a layer of subsoil that was up to 0.3m thick. The uppermost band of undisturbed geological deposits mostly took the form of light grey clay, with occasional patches of sand, sandstone and orange-grey clay in the eastern trenches. More detailed information on all these deposits can be found in Appendix 1.

No archaeological features were identified in any of the trenches. The excavated topsoil and subsoil deposits were scanned for artefacts, but only occasional fragments of post-medieval tile and pottery (not retained) were observed.

#### 3.2 Conclusions and Heritage Statement

Archaeological evaluation of the PDA (by geophysical survey and trial trenching) revealed no features or deposits of archaeological origin.

In accordance with policy HE19 (Archaeology - Unscheduled Sites and Monuments) of the adopted Local Plan, policy CS17 (Environmental Assets) of the adopted Core Strategy and the National Planning Policy Framework, it can be concluded, therefore, that the proposed development will not harm archaeological remains.



## 4. BIBLIOGRAPHY

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Albion Archaeology 2016: *Land at Ivy Farm, Longwick, Buckinghamshire: Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (unpublished report 2016/230)

British Geological Survey 2016. Geology of Britain viewer [online]  
<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html> [Accessed: 25 November 2016]

Stratascan 2016: *Geophysical Survey Report: Land at Ivy Farm, Longwick* (unpublished report J10625)

TVAS 2015: *Lower Ickniel Way, Longwick, Buckinghamshire. Desk-Based Heritage Assessment* (unpublished report LIL 15/91)



## 5. APPENDIX 1: TRENCH SUMMARIES

**Trench: 1**  
**Length: 21m**                      **Width: 1.8m**                      **Depth to archaeological horizon: Min. 0.35m Max. 0.4m**

Context	Type	Description
10	Topsoil	Friable dark brown clay silt, 0.15m thick
11	Subsoil	Firm light yellowish grey silty clay, 0.2m thick
12	Natural	Firm light grey clay

**Trench: 2**  
**Length: 21m**                      **Width: 1.8m**                      **Depth to archaeological horizon: Min. 0.5m Max. 0.55m**

Context	Type	Description
20	Topsoil	Friable dark brown clay silt, 0.25m thick
21	Subsoil	Firm mid yellowish grey silty clay, 0.25m thick
22	Natural	Firm light grey clay

**Trench: 3**  
**Length: 21m**                      **Width: 1.8m**                      **Depth to archaeological horizon: Min. 0.25m Max. 0.35m**

Context	Type	Description
30	Topsoil	Friable dark brown clay silt, 0.2m thick
31	Subsoil	Firm mid brownish grey clay silt, 0.1m thick
32	Natural	Firm light orangey grey clay

**Trench: 4**  
**Length: 21m**                      **Width: 1.8m**                      **Depth to archaeological horizon: Min. 0.35m Max. 0.4m**

Context	Type	Description
40	Topsoil	Friable dark brown clay silt, 0.15m thick
41	Subsoil	Firm mid greyish brown clay silt, 0.2m thick
42	Natural	Firm light grey clay

**Trench: 5**  
**Length: 21m**                      **Width: 1.8m**                      **Depth to archaeological horizon: Min. 0.3m Max. 0.3m**

Context	Type	Description
50	Topsoil	Friable dark brown clay silt, 0.15m thick
51	Subsoil	Firm mid greyish brown clay silt, 0.15m thick
52	Natural	Firm light reddish grey clay with sandstone inclusions

**Trench: 6**  
**Length: 21m**                      **Width: 1.8m**                      **Depth to archaeological horizon: Min. 0.45m Max. 0.45m**

Context	Type	Description
60	Topsoil	Friable dark brown clay silt, 0.15m thick
61	Subsoil	Firm mid greyish brown clay silt, 0.3m thick
62	Natural	Firm light grey clay with sandstone inclusions



## 6. APPENDIX 2: OASIS SUMMARY FORM

**OASIS ID: albionar1-269783**

### Project details

Project name	Land at Ivy Farm, Longwick, Buckinghamshire
Short description of the project	Geophysical survey and archaeological trial trenching on land south of the junction between the Lower Icknield Way and the A4129. No geophysical anomalies were recorded that are likely to be archaeological in origin, and the trenching revealed no archaeological features.
Project dates	Start: 05-01-2017 End: 06-01-2017
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	IF3052 - Contracting Unit No. AYBCM 2017.07
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Grassland Heathland 2 - Undisturbed Grassland
Methods & techniques	"Geophysical Survey", "Sample Trenches"
Development type	Rural residential
Prompt	National Planning Policy Framework - NPPF
Position in the planning process	Between deposition of an application and determination
Solid geology	UPPER GREENSAND AND GAULT
Drift geology	Unknown
Techniques	Magnetometry

### Project location

Country	England
Site location	BUCKINGHAMSHIRE WYCOMBE LONGWICK CUM ILMER Land at Ivy Farm, Longwick
Postcode	HP27 9RZ
Study area	0.6 Hectares
Site coordinates	SP 7943 0456 51.73365821813 -0.849665752876 51 44 01 N 000 50 58 W Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 96m Max: 98m

### Project creators

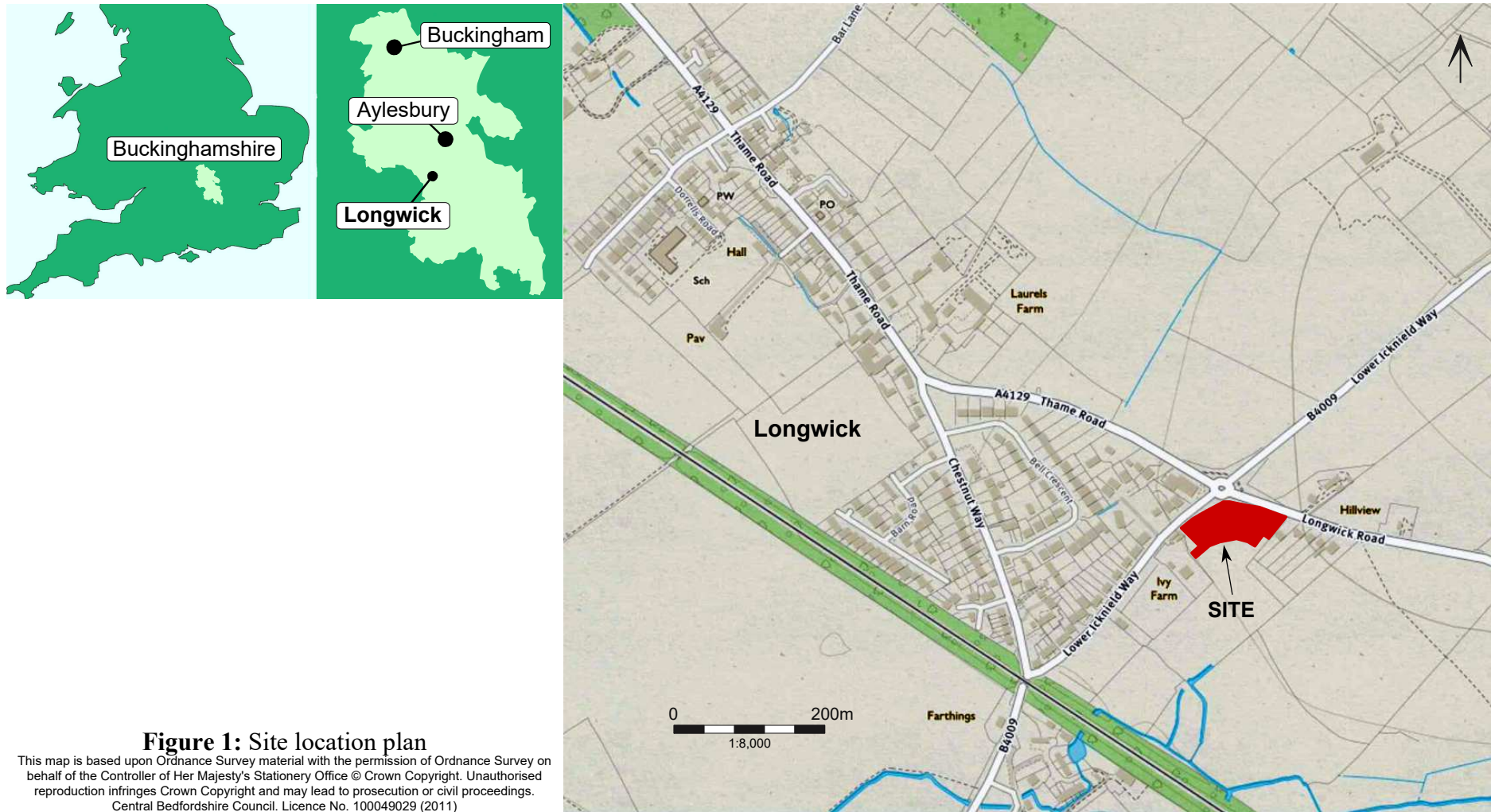
Name of Organisation	Albion Archaeology
Project brief originator	No Brief
Project design originator	Albion Archaeology
Project director/manager	Robert Wardill
Project supervisor	David Ingham
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer
Name of sponsor/funding body	Rectory Homes Ltd

### Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	Buckinghamshire County Museum



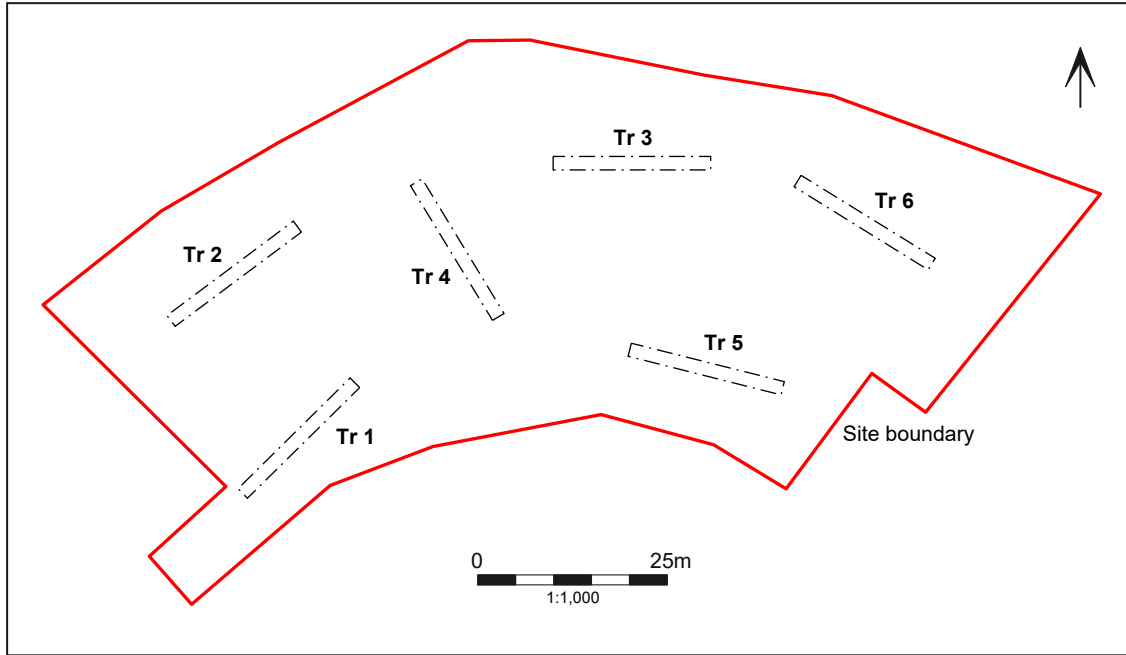
Digital Archive ID	AYBCM 201.07
Digital Contents	"none"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography"
Paper Archive recipient	Buckinghamshire County Museum
Paper archive ID	AYBCM 2017.07
Paper Contents	"none"
Paper Media available	"Photograph","Report","Unpublished Text"
<b>Project bibliography</b>	
Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Land at Ivy Farm, Longwick, Buckinghamshire: Archaeological Field Evaluation
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Ingham, D
Other bibliographic details	Report 2017/3
Date	2017
Issuer or publisher	Albion Archaeology
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Description	Ring-bound A4 colour unpublished document
Entered by	David Ingham (dp.ingham@albion-arch.com)
Entered on	9 January 2017



**Figure 1: Site location plan**

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Trench 3, looking west. Scale 1m



Trench 1, looking north-east. Scale 1m



Trench 5, looking west. Scale 1m

**Figure 2:** Plan of trench locations, and selected photographs

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