

**18 TWEED CLOSE  
BERKHAMSTED, HERTFORDSHIRE**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
MONITORING AND RECORDING**

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21<sup>st</sup> May 2008

Produced for:  
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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.*

*This report has been prepared by Ian Turner (Archaeological Supervisor). It was edited by Drew Shotliff (Operations Manager). The fieldwork was undertaken by Ian Turner. Joan Lightning (CAD Technician) produced the figures. All Albion Archaeology projects are under the overall management of Drew Shotliff (Operations Manager).*

## Version History

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## Structure of the Report

After the introductory Section 1, there is a summary of the results of the fieldwork in Section 2, followed by a brief conclusion (Section 3). Section 4 is a bibliography.

## Key Terms

Throughout this report the following terms or abbreviations are used:

|                   |  |
|-------------------|--|
| Albion            | Albion Archaeology   |
| CAO               | County Archaeological Officer  |
| Client            | Ms Holly Green, 18 Tweed Close, Berkhamsted.   |
| IFA               | Institute of Field Archaeologists  |
| LPA               | Local Planning Authority   |
| Procedures Manual | <i>Procedures Manual Volume 1 Fieldwork, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition 2001.</i><br>Bedfordshire County Council |



## **Non-Technical Summary**

*A planning application was submitted to Hertfordshire County Council for the extension of an existing dwelling at 18 Tweed close, Berkhamsted, Hertfordshire.*

*The site lies within an area of archaeological significance and a condition was attached to planning permission by the LPA requiring that excavation works associated with the development should be monitored by an archaeologist.*

*Subsequently, Albion Archaeology was commissioned by Ms Holly Green to prepare a written scheme of investigation (Albion Archaeology 2008) and undertake a programme of archaeological monitoring and recording at the site. The work was overseen by Kate Batt and Alison Tinniswood, on behalf of the Local Planning Authority.*

*The development area (SP 985082) is situated to the north of Berkhamsted High Street on the western edge of the current town centre. The proposed extension covers an area of 22.2sqm and extends 3m from the eastern end of the existing house.*

*The programme of archaeological observation was undertaken on 29<sup>th</sup> April 2008 when all excavations which required monitoring were completed. A mechanical excavator was used to excavate three adjoining foundation trenches to a depth of between 1.2m and 2.1m.*

*A late medieval to post-medieval pit, a modern pit and a modern concrete manhole were revealed during the groundworks.*

*The archive will be kept in secure storage at the offices of Albion Archaeology at St Mary's Church, Bedford until deposition with Dacorum Borough Council under The accession number DACT:2642.*





## **1. INTRODUCTION**

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### **1.1 Background**

Planning permission was granted by Hertfordshire County Council for development at 18 Tweed Close, Berkhamsted, Hertfordshire. A condition was attached to the permission requiring the implementation of a programme of archaeological work. In order to discharge the condition, Albion Archaeology was commissioned by Ms Holly Green of 18 Tweed Close, Berkhamsted to undertake a programme of archaeological monitoring and recording.

### **1.2 Site Location and Description**

The development area (SP 985082) is situated to the north of Berkhamsted High Street on the western edge of the current town centre (Fig. 1). The development comprised the construction of a 3m extension to the eastern end of the existing house (Fig. 2).

### **1.3 Archaeological Background**

The site is situated within Area of Archaeological Significance No. 21, as described in the Local Plan. This notes that the area contains a number of important prehistoric, Roman and medieval sites. In particular, recent archaeological discoveries have been made at Stag Lane, some 100m to the west of Tweed Close. There, in 2007, archaeological investigations in advance of housing development uncovered significant evidence for the medieval town, including the remains of three lime kilns.



## 2. RESULTS OF OBSERVATION AND RECORDING

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### 2.1 Introduction

The program of archaeological observation was undertaken on 29<sup>th</sup> April 2008 when all groundworks which required monitoring were completed. The groundworks consisted of three adjoining, 0.5m wide foundation trenches which were excavated to a depth of between 1.2m and 2.1.

### 2.2 Methodology

The archaeological works adhered to the standards and field methods set out in the WSI (Albion Archaeology 2008), specifically:

- 1 Any stripping of overburden or excavation of foundation trenches was monitored to try to identify *in situ* archaeological deposits.
- 2 All disturbed soil was scanned for artefacts.
- 3 Any excavated deposits were fully recorded in accordance with Albion's *Procedures Manual*.
- 4 All archaeological observations were recorded at a suitable scale on base plans that were tied in to the OS national grid.
- 5 A photographic record was kept.

Throughout the project, the standards set out in the Institute of Field Archaeologists Codes of Conduct and Standards and Guidance documents (specifically *Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief*, September 1999), in English Heritage's *Management of Archaeological Projects* (1991) and in Albion Archaeology's *Procedures Manual* were adhered to.

### 2.3 Results

The groundworks revealed a late medieval to early post-medieval pit, a modern pit and a modern concrete manhole.

#### 2.3.1 Geological deposits

A topsoil layer (100) of dark brown grey clay silt with occasional small and medium stones, 0.18m thick, overlay undisturbed geological deposits.

The undisturbed geological deposits comprised a 0.3m thick subsoil of light orange brown clay silt (101), above a c. 1.5m thick mid brown orange clay with frequent small and medium stones (102). At the bottom of the trenches gravel with mid yellow grey sandy clay (103) was observed.

#### 2.3.2 Late medieval to early post-medieval pit

Pit [104] was identified in the north trench. It had a concave base and was at least 3.75m long and 0.5m wide and contained a firm mid grey brown clay silt with charcoal flecks (105). The profile of the pit was not observed as it continued beyond the trench to the north and south. It was also truncated to the west by the extant dwelling, to the east by the cut of a manhole and to the top by a modern pit.



The presence of an abraded, sand-tempered brick fragment (12g) suggests the feature is no earlier than late medieval to early post-medieval in date.

### **2.3.3 Modern concrete manhole with lime fragments contained in the backfill**

The side of a modern concrete manhole [106] was revealed in the north side of north trench. Above the manhole was a backfill deposit of loose black grey sandy silt (108). It contained modern bricks, single pieces of window glass (3g) and brown bottle glass (47g), two fragments of flower pot (46g), and two sizeable pieces of lime with a vesicular structure (296g), which may be fragments of building blocks. The latter cannot be dated, but it is interesting to note that, during the medieval period, there were lime kilns c.100m to the west of Tweed Close.

### **2.3.4 Modern pit and post-hole**

The east side of a large shallow pit [109] was cut into the top of the deposit which sealed the manhole and is thus judged to be modern in date. It was at least 2m long, 0.5m wide and 0.4m deep. An abraded, sand-tempered brick fragment (64g) recovered from the deposit may be a residual Roman find, although its fragmentary nature precludes positive identification.

A post-hole [111] at the east end of the north trench was associated with the modern fence removed as part of this development.



### **3. SYNTHESIS**

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#### **3.1 Interpretation**

The only pre-modern feature identified was a pit. The limited artefactual dating evidence recovered from it suggests it is no earlier than late medieval / post-medieval in date. Its presence is suggestive of a low level of activity in the vicinity of the development area.

The other features identified during the monitoring are judged to be modern in date and are not of archaeological significance.

#### **3.2 Significance**

The possible late medieval / early post-medieval pit identified is of local significance only and sheds little light on the historical development of Berkhamsted.

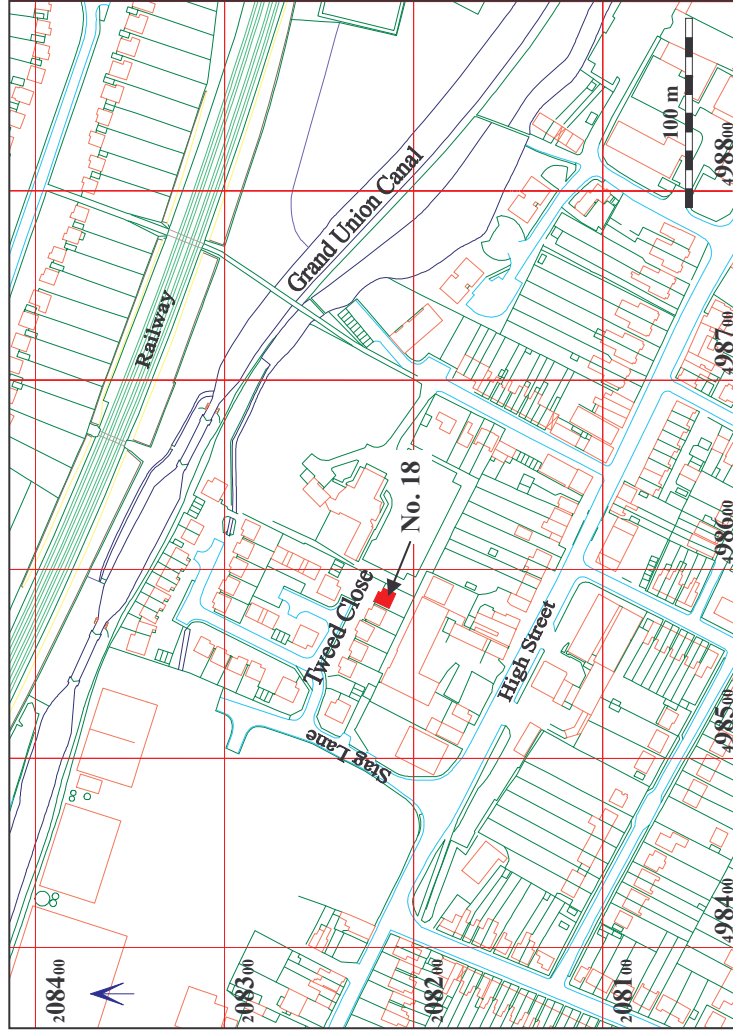
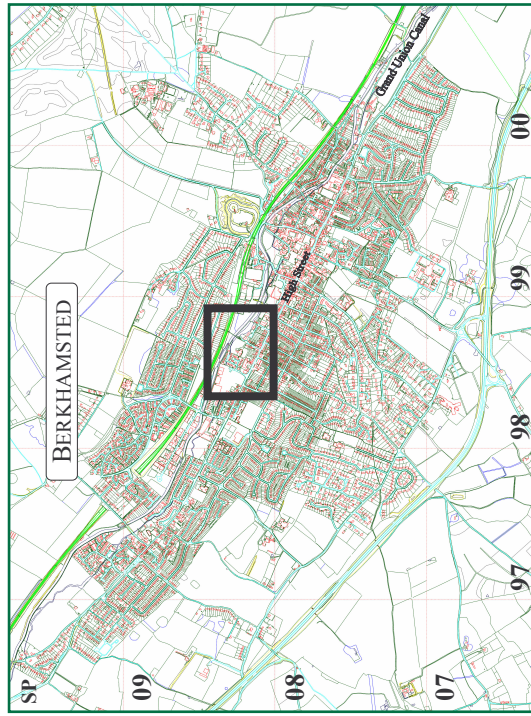
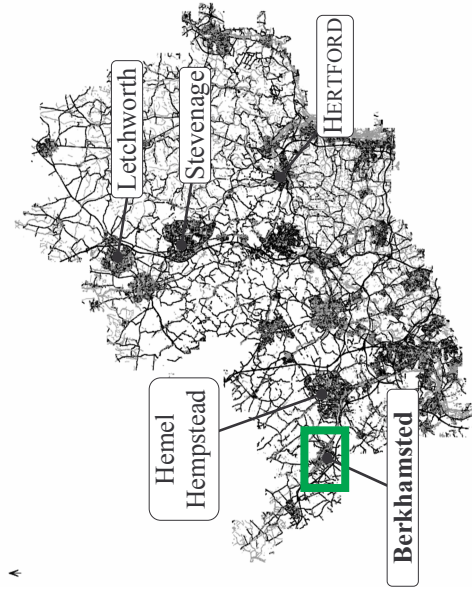
Despite its proximity to Stag Lane, the development area produced no evidence for significant archaeological deposits of medieval date.



#### 4. BIBLIOGRAPHY

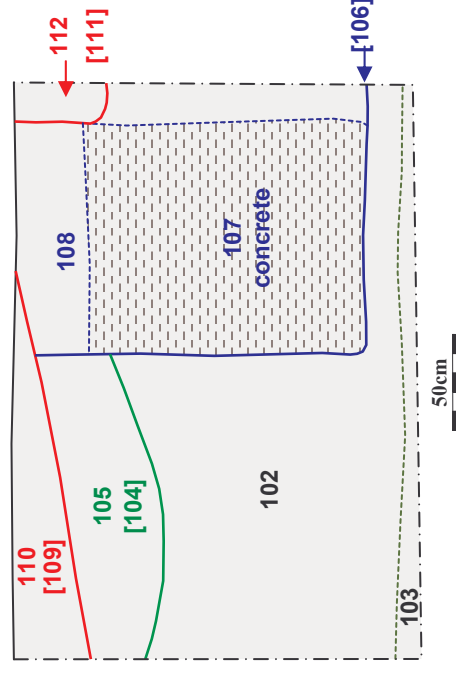
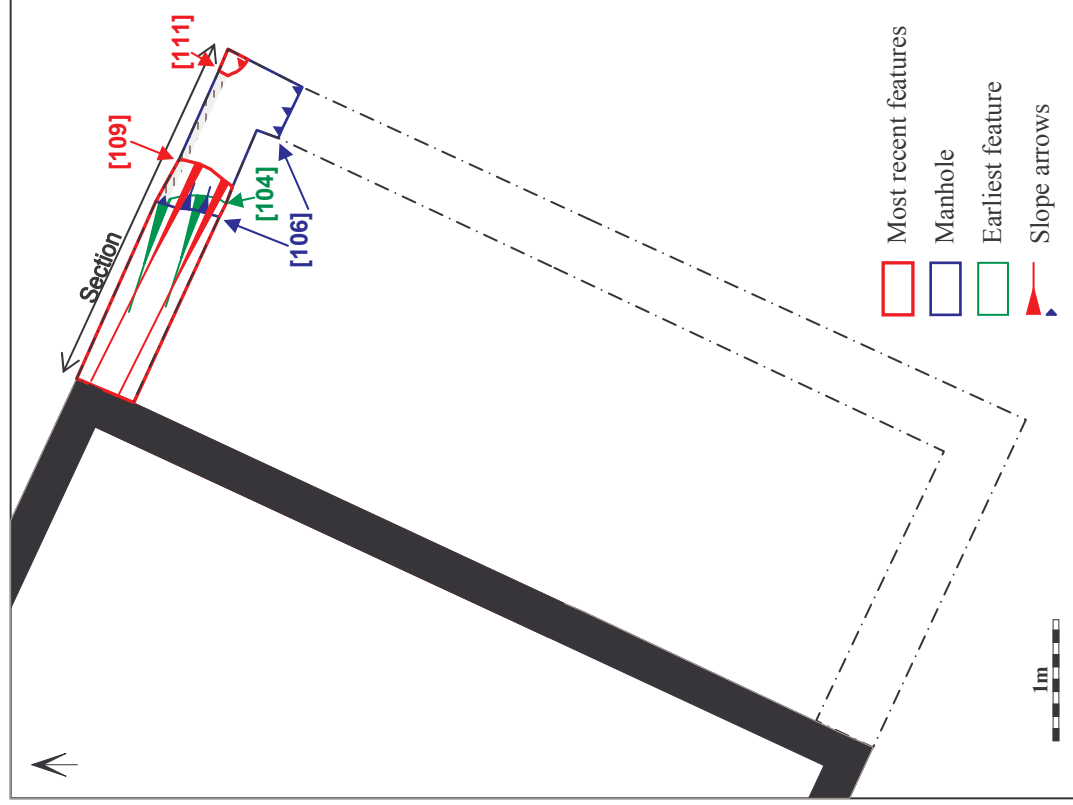
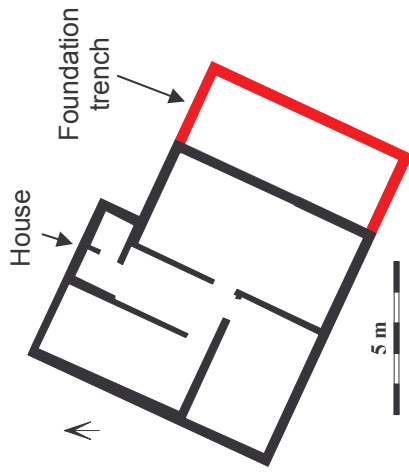
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Albion Archaeology 2008, *18 Tweed close, Berkhamsted, Hertfordshire.*  
*Written scheme of investigation for archaeological monitoring and*  
*recording.* Report 2008/32



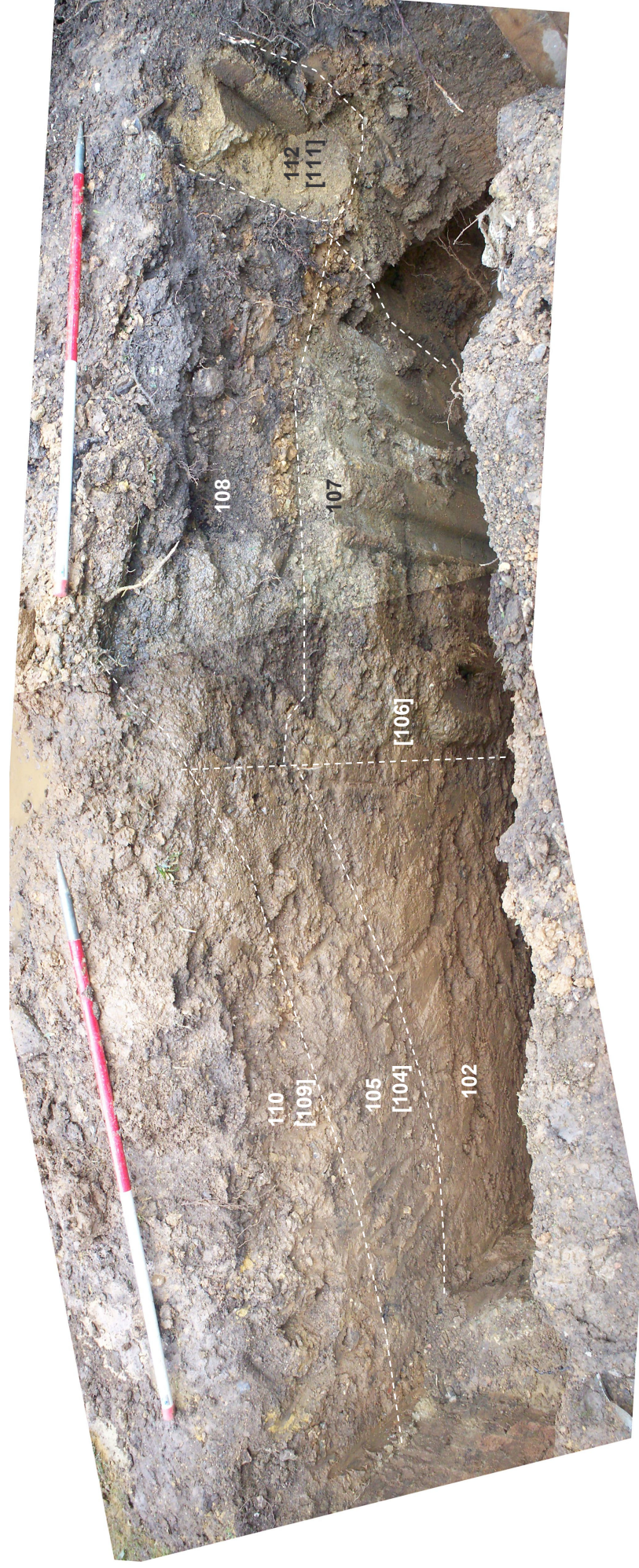
**Figure 1: Site location map**

Base map reproduced from the Ordnance Survey Land-line Map (2004), with the permission of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationary Office, by Bedfordshire County Council, County Hall, Bedford. OS Licence No. 100017358.. © Crown Copyright.



**Figure 2:** All features plan and section





**Figure 3:** Annotated mosaic photograph of features (south-west facing, scale 1m)