

**CHILTERN YOUNG RIDERS' LODGE
BERKHAMSTED
HERTFORDSHIRE**

ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD EVALUATION

Project: CY1552

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Produced for:
Simon Newell



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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 Written Scheme of Investigation. 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 commissioned by Simon Newell, and was monitored by Kate Batt of Hertfordshire County Council's Historic Environment Unit.

Fieldwork for this project was undertaken by David Ingham (Project Officer), who also prepared this report, which was illustrated by Joan Lighting (CAD Technician). The report was edited by Joe Abrams (Project Manager). All Albion projects are under the overall management of Drew Shotliff (Operations Manager).

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Structure of the Report

Section 1 is an introduction to the project, the methodology for which is presented in Section 2. Section 3 comprises the results of the fieldwork, and discusses their significance. Section 4 is a bibliography.

Key Terms

Throughout this report the following terms or abbreviations are used:

HEU	Hertfordshire County Council's Historic Environment Unit
CPA	Hertfordshire County Council's County Planning Archaeologist
Client	Simon Newell
IfA	Institute for Archaeologists
LPA	Local Planning Authority
PDA	Potential Development Area
<i>Procedures Manual</i>	<i>Procedures Manual Volume 1 Fieldwork</i> , 2nd edn, 2001 Albion Archaeology



Non-Technical Summary

The construction of a lodge has been proposed at the Chiltern Young Riders' Track, Berkhamsted. Hertfordshire County Council's Historic Environment Unit (HEU) has informed Simon Newell (client) that the Potential Development Area (PDA) lies within Area of Archaeological Significance No. 22, advising him that an archaeological field evaluation targeting the proposed building footprint would be required prior to submission of a planning application.

Mr Newell commissioned Albion Archaeology to undertake this evaluation, the results of which are presented in this report. The objective of the evaluation was to determine whether archaeological remains were present within the PDA, establishing the extent, condition, date, nature and significance of any remains that were identified.

The PDA lies to the immediate south of the existing Chiltern Young Riders' Track, west of Berkhamsted, and is centred on (NGR) SP 9622 0857. Topographically, it lies on the upper slopes of the Bulbourne valley at c. 175m OD, with land dropping away towards the River Bulbourne to the north-east. The underlying geological deposits comprise flinty clay overlying chalk bedrock.

The PDA lies within an area of rich archaeological potential, particularly for Iron Age remains. The line of Grim's Ditch — a series of Bronze Age linear earthworks which run through this part of Hertfordshire — passes c. 30m north of the proposed lodge, beneath the existing riders' track. Investigations have suggested that it was perhaps a tribal boundary and/or a means of controlling livestock movements, and remained in use throughout the Iron Age. One section of the ditch (HER11476) was investigated during construction of the A41 Berkhamsted and Kings Langley bypass, c. 400m north-west of the PDA, while another at Hamberlin's Wood (c. 500m to the north-west) is a Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM35348).

Other known remains within the immediate vicinity of the PDA include a substantial late Iron Age settlement (HER11480) at Pea Lane, c. 500m south-west of the PDA. Three square, ditched enclosures of unknown date on land immediately south-east of the PDA (HER2530) may have been associated with the Pea Lane settlement.

Trial trench evaluation of the PDA identified no remains of archaeological significance, despite the PDA's location within an area that is rich in archaeological remains. It is therefore reasonable to extrapolate that the PDA contains negligible archaeological potential.



1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project Background

The construction of a lodge, with associated drainage facilities, has been proposed at the Chiltern Young Riders' Track, Berkhamsted. Hertfordshire County Council's Historic Environment Unit (HEU) has informed Simon Newell (client) that the Potential Development Area (PDA) lies within Area of Archaeological Significance No. 22, advising him that an archaeological field evaluation targeting the proposed building footprint would be required prior to submission of a planning application.

Albion Archaeology was commissioned by Mr Newell to undertake the evaluation, the results of which are presented in this report.

1.2 Site Location, Topography and Geology

The PDA lies immediately south of the Chiltern Young Riders' Track, west of Berkhamsted (Fig. 1), and is centred on (NGR) SP 9622 0857. Topographically, it lies on the upper slopes of the Bulbourne valley at *c.* 175m OD, with land dropping away towards the River Bulbourne to the north-east. The PDA is bounded by trees to the south and east. The underlying geological deposits comprise flinty clay overlying chalk bedrock.

1.3 Archaeological Background

The PDA lies within an area of rich archaeological potential, particularly for Iron Age remains. The line of Grim's Ditch — a series of linear earthworks (ditch and bank) which run through this part of Hertfordshire — passes *c.* 30m north of the proposed lodge, beneath the existing riders' track. Investigations have suggested that it was constructed in the Bronze Age, perhaps as a tribal boundary and/or a means of controlling livestock movements, and remained in use throughout the Iron Age.

A section of the ditch was investigated, along with other remains (HER11476), during construction of the A41 Berkhamsted and Kings Langley bypass, *c.* 400m north-west of the PDA. A further section of this monument at Hamberlin's Wood (*c.* 500m to the north-west) is a Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM35348).

Other known remains within the immediate vicinity of the PDA include a late Iron Age settlement (HER11480) at Pea Lane, *c.* 500m south-west of the PDA, also investigated during construction of the A41 bypass. This was a substantial settlement, comprising a rectilinear enclosure, four roundhouses, five four-post structures and over 300 associated pits. It is also possible that three square, ditched enclosures of unknown date on land immediately south-east of the PDA (HER2530) were related to this Iron Age settlement, but the remains were bulldozed prior to investigation, and remain undated.

1.4 Project Objectives

The objective of the evaluation was to determine whether archaeological remains were present within the PDA, and, if so, to establish their extent, condition, date, nature and significance. This information would be used to augment knowledge of the archaeological potential of the area and assess the need for mitigation works.



2. METHODOLOGY

The trial trenching took place on 6th August 2009. Two trenches were opened, covering a total area of *c.* 21m² (Fig. 1). The trench plan was agreed by the HEU before trenching began. In addition, the client machined a 10m long pipe trench (0.3m wide x 0.6m deep) on the same day. This was not done as part of the archaeological evaluation, but was observed as an *ad hoc* mitigation measure.

The trial trenches were opened by a mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless bucket, under close archaeological supervision. As no significant archaeological deposits were identified, overburden was removed down to the top of the undisturbed geological deposits. The spoil heaps were visually scanned for artefacts.

A digital photographic record was compiled of each trial trench. All deposits were recorded using a unique number sequence, commencing at 10 for Trench 1 and 20 for Trench 2. A full methodology is provided in the written specification (Albion Archaeology 2009).

The project adhered throughout to the standards set out in the following documents:

- IfA *Code of Conduct
Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field
Evaluation*
- Albion Archaeology *Procedures Manual. Volume 1: Fieldwork* (2nd edition)
- Albion Archaeology *Chiltern Young Riders Lodge, Berkhamsted,
Hertfordshire: Written Scheme of Investigation for
Archaeological Field Evaluation*
- ALGAO (east) *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England*
- English Heritage *The Management of Archaeological Projects, 2nd edition*

Permission was gained from the HEU before the trial trenches were backfilled.



3. RESULTS AND CONCLUSIONS

3.1 Results

No archaeological features were revealed within the trial trenches, nor within the pipe trench. The overburden consisted of 0.1–0.2m of made ground, compacted to act as a track or car park surface, beneath which 0.2m of topsoil survived. No subsoil was present, with the topsoil directly overlying (and compacted into) the undisturbed geological deposits. No artefacts predating the post-medieval period were identified.

Trench	Maximum length (m)	Maximum width (m)	Depth of overburden (m)	OS grid ref.	
1	8.5	1.6	0.3	SP 96218 / 08570	SP 96225 / 08575
2	5	1.6	0.4	SP 96222 / 08584	SP 96227 / 08583

Table 1: Trench summary

Context	Type	Description
10	Modern surface	Compacted dark grey stone chippings and gravel, 0.1m thick
11	Buried topsoil	Compacted mid-grey silty clay, moderate small–medium stones, 0.2m thick
12	Natural	Firm mid-brownish orange clay, frequent medium–large flints

Table 2: Trench 1 — context summary

Context	Type	Description
20	Modern surface	Compacted dark grey stone chippings and gravel, 0.2m thick
21	Buried topsoil	Compacted mid-grey silty clay, moderate small–medium stones, 0.2m thick
22	Natural	Firm mid-brownish orange clay, frequent medium–large flints

Table 3: Trench 2 — context summary

3.2 Interpretation and Significance of Results

Trial trench evaluation of the Potential Development Area at the Chiltern Young Riders' Track identified no remains of archaeological significance, despite the PDA's location within an area that is rich in archaeological remains. This may be due to the small size of the area being evaluated, although it is also possible that the absence of any subsoil between the topsoil and geological deposits indicates relatively modern truncation of the ground level.

It is reasonable to extrapolate from the results of the trial trenching, and from observation of the pipe trench, that the Potential Development Area contains negligible archaeological potential.



4. BIBLIOGRAPHY

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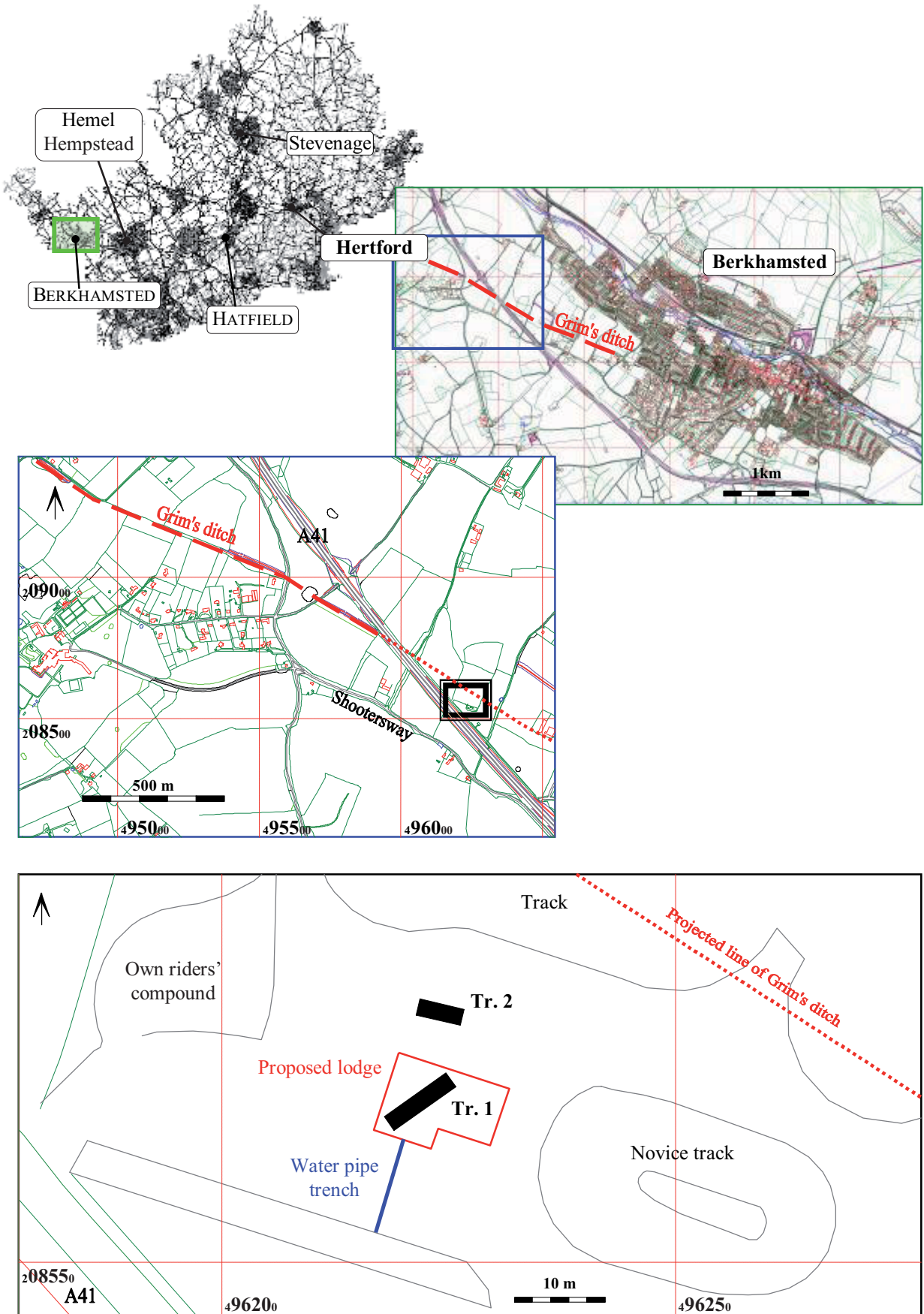


Figure 1: Site location

Base map reproduced from the Ordnance Survey Map with the permission of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office, by Albion Archaeology, Central Bedfordshire Council. OS Licence No. 100017358(LA). © Crown Copyright.



Trench 1, looking south-west. Scale 1m



Trench 2, looking east. Scale 1m



Water pipe trench, looking south

Figure 2: Selected photographs