

Archaeological Services & Consultancy Ltd

**DESK-BASED ASSESSMENT:
REAR OF ICKNIELD WAY
BALDOCK
HERTFORDSHIRE**

NGR: TL 24169 34103

on behalf of Robert Lombardelli Partnership for North Hertfordshire Homes



Karin Semmelmann MA MIFA

March 2010

ASC: 1277/BIW/1



Letchworth House
Chesney Wold, Bleak Hall
Milton Keynes MK6 1NE
Tel: 01908 608989 Fax: 01908 605700
Email: office@archaeological-services.co.uk
Website: www.archaeological-services.co.uk



Site Data

<i>ASC site code:</i>	BIW	<i>Project no:</i>	1277
<i>OASIS ref:</i>	Archaeol2-73566	<i>Event/Accession no:</i>	
<i>County:</i>	Hertfordshire		
<i>Village/Town:</i>	Baldock		
<i>Civil Parish:</i>	Baldock		
<i>NGR (to 8 figs):</i>	TL 24169 34103		
<i>Extent of site:</i>	0.275ha		
<i>Present use:</i>	Industrial buildings		
<i>Planning proposal:</i>	Demolition of existing and building new development for residential use		
<i>Planning application ref/date:</i>	N/A		
<i>Local Planning Authority:</i>	North Hertfordshire District Council		
<i>Date of assessment:</i>	16 th March 2010		
<i>Commissioned by:</i>	Robert Lombardelli Partnership Ltd St Luke's House 5 Walsworth Road Hitchin Hertfordshire SG4 9SP		
<i>Client:</i>	North Hertfordshire Homes Rowan House Avenue One Letchworth Garden City Hertfordshire SG6 2WW		
<i>Contact name:</i>	Milan Curcic		

Internal Quality Check

<i>Primary Author:</i>	Karin Semmelmann	<i>Date:</i>	30 th March 2010
<i>Revisions:</i>		<i>Date:</i>	
<i>Edited/Checked By:</i>	Bob Zeepvat	<i>Date:</i>	30 th March 2010

© Archaeological Services & Consultancy Ltd

No part of this document is to be copied in any way without prior written consent.

Every effort is made to provide detailed and accurate information. However, Archaeological Services & Consultancy Ltd cannot be held responsible for errors or inaccuracies within this report.

© Ordnance Survey maps reproduced with the sanction of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office.
ASC Licence No. AL 100015154

CONTENTS

Summary	4
1. Introduction	4
2. Aims & Methods	8
3. Archaeological & Historical Evidence	10
4. Walkover Survey	19
5. Statutory Constraints on Development	24
6. Conclusions	25
7. Acknowledgements	27
8. Sites & Monuments Data	28
9. References	31
10. Cartographic Sources	32
11. List of Photographs	33

Figures:

1. General location	3
2. Site layout	6
3. Proposed development	7
4. Archaeological sites in the Hertfordshire HER	14
5. Extract from Drury and Andrews map of 1776	15
6. Extract from the 1796 enclosure map	15
7. Extract from the 1880 Ordnance Survey Map	16
8. Extract from the 1898 Ordnance Survey Map	16
9. Extract from the 1922 Ordnance Survey Map	17
10. Extract from the 1937 Ordnance Survey Map	17
11. Extract from the 1959 Ordnance Survey Map	18
12. Extract from the 1959 Ordnance Survey Map	18

Plates:

Cover: Buildings 1 and 2 from the southwest

1. General view looking west	20
2. General view looking east	20
3. Drive looking towards Icknield way	20
4. Northeast corner of the site	20
5. Building 1: north and west elevations	20
6. Building 1: north and east elevations	20
7. Building 1: west elevation, north	21
8. Building 1: west elevation, south	21
9. Building 1: industrial unit looking south	21
10. Building 1: industrial unit looking north	21
11. Buildings 1 and 2	21
12. Building 2: east end	21
13. Building 2: west end	22
14. Building 2: south elevation, west end	22
15. Building 2: south elevation, east end	22
16. Building 2: eastern workshop looking west	22
17. Building 2: eastern workshop looking east	22
18. Building 2: central store	22
19. Building 2: western workshop looking northwest	23
20. Building 2: western workshop, northwest corner	23



Figure 1: General location (scale 1:25,000)

Summary

In March 2010 Archaeological Services and Consultancy carried out an archaeological desk-based assessment of a site to the rear of Icknield Way, Baldock Hertfordshire to inform development proposals for the site. The site, which is located between the railway line, Norton Road and buildings fronting the Icknield Way, contains two 20th century industrial units, only one of which is still operational.

The site is south of the Ivel springs, which was clearly a significant feature in the Neolithic landscape as a cursus terminates at this point. This was only a small part of a larger ritual landscape with round barrows dotted to north and south of the site and extending along the Icknield Way in both directions. Iron Age ditches and pottery have also been discovered close to the springs. The focus of activity shifted initially to the Arbury Bank hillfort, 5km to the east of the town, then to the oppidum which later became a Roman small town.

The development site is peripheral to the Roman and medieval towns, and was actually located just within the parish of Norton until the late 19th century. It was initially part of a larger plot of land on which a house was built in the late 19th century. In the early 20th century the gasworks took over the eastern part of the site for a gasometer and various permutations of gasworks and industrial buildings ensued.

The significance of the location is tempered by the 19th and 20th century development of the site. The construction of the railway embankment would have had a significant impact on any surviving archaeological remains, which would have suffered further during the time the land was in the hands of the gasworks.

1. Introduction

1.1 In March 2010 *Archaeological Services and Consultancy Ltd* (ASC) carried out an archaeological desk-based assessment of a site to the rear of Icknield Way, Baldock Hertfordshire, to inform development proposals for the site. The project was commissioned by *Robert Lombardelli Partnership Ltd* on behalf of *North Hertfordshire Homes*, and was carried out following discussions with the *Hertfordshire County Council Historic Environment Unit*, archaeological advisor (AA) to the local planning authority (LPA), *North Hertfordshire District Council*.

1.2 *Archaeological Services & Consultancy Ltd*

ASC is an independent archaeological practice providing a full range of archaeological services including consultancy, field evaluation, mitigation and post-excavation studies, historic building recording and analysis. ASC is recognised as a *Registered Organisation* by the Institute for Archaeologists and is also accredited ISO 9001, in recognition of its high standards and working practices.

1.3 *Management*

The assessment was managed by Karin Semmelmann BA MA MIFA, and was carried out under the overall direction of Bob Zeepvat BA MIFA.

1.4 *The Site*

1.4.1 *Location & Description*

The site is located in the town and parish of Baldock, in the administrative district of North Hertfordshire. It lies to the north of the parish church at National Grid Reference (NGR TL 24169 34103) (Fig. 1).

The L-shaped site is bounded to the west by Norton Road, to the north by the railway line and to the south and east by industrial buildings. It is accessed by a drive from Icknield Way at the eastern end of the site (Fig. 2).

A detailed description of the site appears in Section 4 of this report.

1.4.2 *Geology*

Soils in the site area comprise the *Swaffham Prior Association*, namely well drained calcareous coarse and fine loamy soils over chalky drift (Soil Survey 1983, 511e). The underlying solid geology is Upper Cretaceous Chalk (BGS, Sheet 221).

1.4.3 *Proposed Development*

The proposed development comprises the demolition of the existing buildings and the construction of 21 dwellings with associated car parking and landscaping (Fig. 3).

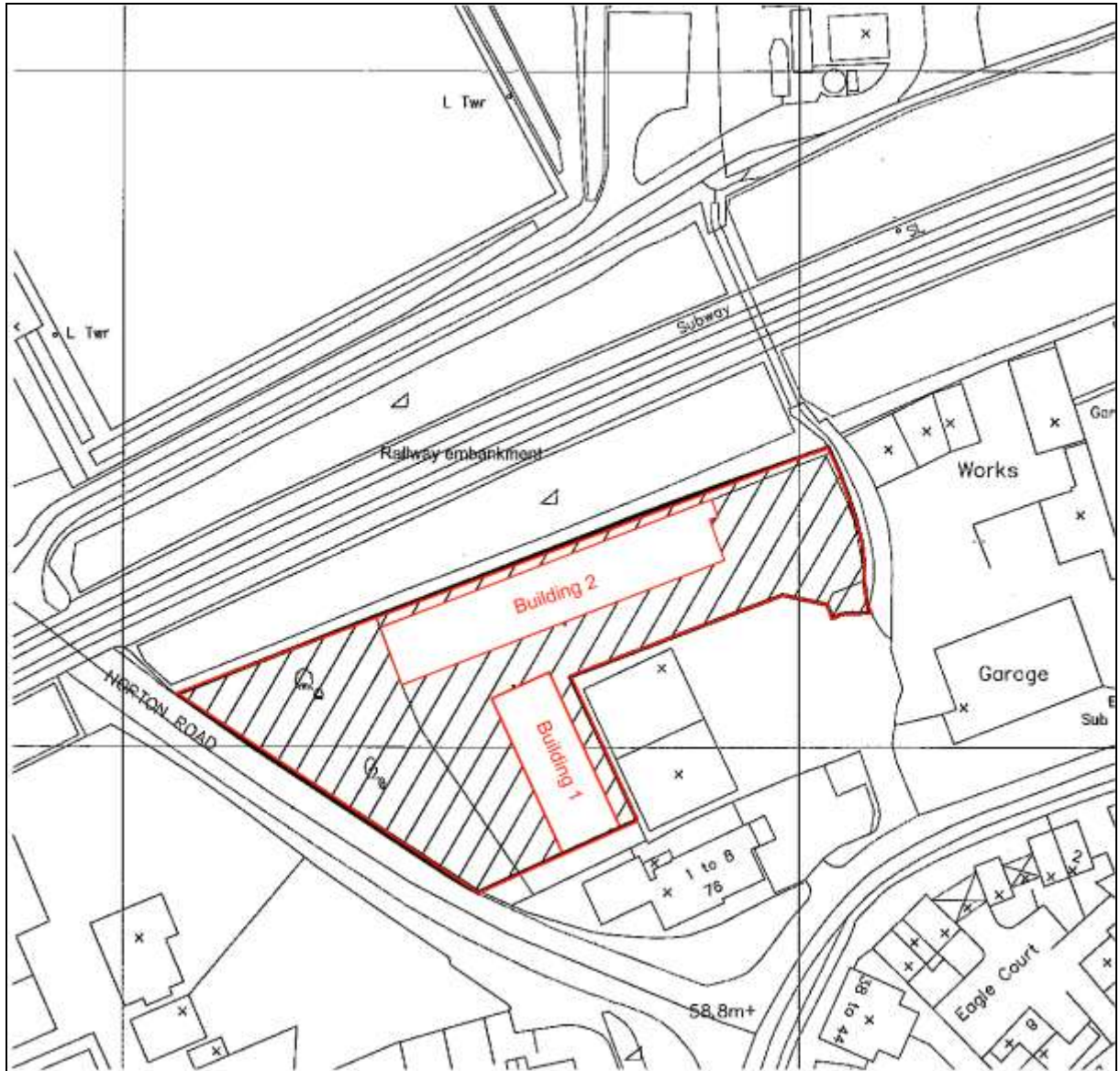


Figure 2: Site layout (scale 1:1250)



Figure 3: Proposed development plan (scale as shown)

2. Aims & Methods

2.1 ‘Archaeological desk-based assessment is an assessment of the known or potential archaeological resource within a given area, consisting of a collation of existing information in order to identify the likely extent, character and quality of the known or potential archaeological resource, in order that appropriate measures might be considered’ (IFA 2000).

2.2 The assessment was carried out according to the requirements of the AA, and the Institute for Archaeologists’ *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Desk-Based Assessments* (IFA 2001).

2.3 The following readily available sources of information were consulted for the desk-based assessment:

2.3.1 *Archaeological Databases*

Archaeological databases represent the standard references to the known archaeology of an area. The principal source consulted was the Hertfordshire Historic Environment Record (HER), Hertford. The study area employed in the HER search includes the site itself, and a surrounding study area of approximately 0.5km radius.

2.3.2 *Historic Documents*

Documentary research provides an overview of the history of a site and its environs, suggesting the effects of settlement and land-use patterns. The principal source consulted was Hertfordshire Archive and Local Studies (HALS), Hertford.

2.3.3 *Cartographic & Pictorial Documents*

Old maps and illustrations are normally a very productive area of research. The principal source consulted was HALS.

2.3.4 *Air Photographs*

No aerial photographs were consulted.

2.3.5 *Geotechnical Information*

A description of the topography and solid and surface geology of the site and its environs was compiled, so as to appreciate the potential condition of any archaeological remains, to assess the hydrological conditions, and to appraise the potential for the survival of buried waterlogged archaeological and palaeoenvironmental deposits.

2.3.6 *Secondary & Statutory Sources*

The principal sources consulted were Hertfordshire Archive and Local Studies, ASC’s own library and the internet.

2.4 *Walkover Survey*

As part of the assessment a walkover survey of the site was undertaken on 16th March 2010, with the following aims:

- To examine any areas of archaeological potential identified during research for the assessment, in particular with a view to gauging the possible survival or condition of any remains present.
- To consider the significance of any above-ground structures, historic buildings or historic landscape features present.
- To assess the present site use and ground conditions, with a view to the appropriate deployment of fieldwork techniques, if required by the AA.

3. Archaeological & Historical Evidence

3.1 The local and regional settings of archaeological sites are factors that are taken into consideration when assessing the planning implications of development proposals. The following sections provide a summary of the readily available archaeological and historical background to the development site and its environs.

The study area lies within an area of archaeological and historical interest, and the site has the potential to reveal evidence of a range of periods. The location of known archaeological and historical sites recorded in the HER is shown in Fig. 4, and details appear in Section 9.

3.2 *Archaeological & Historical Background to the Study Area*

3.2.1 *Prehistoric (before 600BC)*

Apart from the odd isolated flint tool, such as the Palaeolithic hand axe found at Walls Field (HER 0217), there is little archaeological evidence for human activity in Baldock before the Neolithic period. From the Neolithic onwards the landscape became increasingly densely occupied. The focus of Neolithic activity in Baldock appears to have been the area to the north of the present site as it is here that there are two springs for the river Ivel as well as a major prehistoric route, the Icknield Way, linking Wessex with East Anglia. The archaeological remains consist largely of ring ditches (HER 7422-3; 2425-6 and 6444), the nearest of which are approximately 220m and 208m from the site respectively. A Bronze Age barrow (HER 4765), which is located to the northwest of the site, was excavated in the 1980s and found to contain Neolithic and Bronze Age pottery (Thompson 2002: 2). The earliest of the archaeological features is a late Neolithic cursus (HER 9449), a double ditched avenue that terminates at the springs. Neolithic and Bronze Age occupation evidence has also been recovered from Clothall Common (HER 4705) approximately 750m east of the development site. This settlement evidence is located to the north of an arc of ring ditches.

3.2.2 *Iron Age (600BC-AD43)*

The present evidence suggests that the significance of Baldock dwindled in the early Iron Age when a hill fort known as Arbury Banks was established some 5km to the northeast. The earlier sites were not totally abandoned as the mid Iron Age ditches in the vicinity of the cursus testify.

By the end of the Iron Age the focus of settlement appears to have returned to Baldock with the nucleation of a settlement in the middle of the 1st century BC (Thompson 2002: 3). This settlement or *oppidum* was located at the intersection of some prehistoric tracks to Welwyn, Braughing and Sandy and the Icknield Way, close to the source of the river Ivel. It covered at least 20 hectares and was defined by a burial zone behind a line of large postholes to the east and a burial zone to the west. It consisted of a collection of enclosed farmsteads separated by paddocks, vegetable plots and tracks (Burleigh 1995: 103). The significance of Baldock is further indicated in the two chieftains' burials dating from the mid 1st century AD (Thompson 2002: 3).

By the end of the 1st century, the settlement had expanded and a new enclosure some 120m long with some cremation burials around a small circular timber structure appears to have provided a ritual focus (*cf* Burleigh 1995: 106).

3.2.3 *Roman* (AD43-c.450)

The *oppidum* prospered and developed into a small Romano-British town, covering some 40 hectares at its most active period in the late 2nd century. Much of the evidence for the Romano-British settlement has been recovered from Clothall Common and Walls Field, but sites elsewhere in the town have revealed archaeological remains from this period. The evidence suggests that the Romano-British town may have been a mixture of the earlier farmsteads consisting of roundhouses within enclosures combined with new rectangular buildings within a planned layout. The religious significance of the town is testified in the Romano-Celtic temple discovered in Bakers Close and the high number of religious or ritual finds (*cf* Thompson 2002: 4). It is thought that the town was more important for its ritual significance than for its market, and the relationship between Baldock and the recently identified religious centre close to Ashwell requires further investigation.

The archaeological work undertaken between 1968 and 1972 gave rise to the theory that Baldock had been abandoned by the beginning of the 5th century AD (*cf.* Stead & Rigby 1986:87). Since then further evidence has been recovered to suggest that the settlement shifted further northeast where cemeteries and buildings post dating 400AD have been identified (Fitzpatrick-Matthews 2010; Phillips 2009).

3.2.4 *Saxon* (c.450-1066)

The Saxon settlement of Hertfordshire is still poorly understood, particularly for the period before the Scandinavian incursions in the 9th century. Archaeological evidence for early Saxon settlement has been found at Blackhorse Farm, 700m north of the development site and a mid-Saxon pagan cemetery has also been found nearby (HER 1618). Late Saxon settlement is known from Norton and Green Lane Letchworth. However, it has been suggested that the manor of Weston was of particular significance in the development of Baldock. At the time of the Domesday Survey, Weston consisted of 75 households, two priests and a mill and was worth about ten times that of a comparable rural manor. It appears that there may have been a late Saxon settlement in Baldock around the junction of the ancient highways, which functioned as a proto-town (Thompson 2002: 5).

3.2.5 *Medieval* (1066-1500)

The medieval town of Baldock can be historically traced to the 10 librates of land given to the Knights Templars by Gilbert de Clare, Earl of Pembroke out of his manor of Weston around the year 1142 (VCH 1912: 66; Gray n.d: 7). The site of the new town lay to the west of the Roman and pre-Roman settlements, and some of the earlier features, such as Clothall Road, South Road and Crabtree Lane became medieval routes and boundaries (Thompson 2002: 6). It shows a fairly standard layout for a medieval planned town with burgage plots laid out along the streets and a triangular market close to the

church. Here, as is quite common in Hertfordshire, were two markets; one along the High Street and the other in Whitehorse Lane.

In 1199 the Templars received a grant of a market and a fair, and the borough of Baldock was formally established (VCH 1912: 66). Various other grants for fairs were given over time, many of which lapsed within just a few years. A high tax assessment at the end of the 13th century and the number and diversity of tradesmen in the town in the mid 14th century are indicative of a prospering town, the basis of which appears to have been the wool trade (Hunn 2003: 12).

In 1309 the Order of the Knights Templar was dissolved and the land and property granted to the Knights Hospitallers, who held the manor until the Dissolution of 1546.

St Mary's Church, which stands at the corner of the crossroads, dates from the early 13th century (Pevsner 1977: 82). The Guild of Jhesu in the Church of the Blessed Marye in Baldock, which had been founded to maintain and repair the church, was given license in 1459 to maintain a chaplain in Holy Trinity Chapel (Gray n.d: 44-5). In 1462 the Guild petitioned the Pope with the plea that Baldock had fallen on such hard times that the parishioners were unable to repair or maintain the church. As a result, an indulgence was granted for those attending the church on a certain day and donating to the church or guild (Brendan King *pers. comm*). The strategy appears to have been successful as the church was seriously overhauled in the 15th century.

3.2.6 *Post-Medieval (1500-1900)*

By 1550 the town was described as much decayed (VCH 1912: 67). The church had undergone the overhaul required by the Reformation and the Guild's holdings were sold to John Crock of Broxbourne (Croydon 1928: 139-41).

The emergence of the Great North Road linking London with York and Edinburgh in the 16th century allowed Baldock to develop as a coaching town. The Great North Road followed the Roman road between Stevenage and Baldock, Baldock High Street and then the Roman road to Biggleswade and Sandy. The Icknield Way continued in use and linked the university towns of Cambridge and Oxford (Thompson 2002: 9).

The Great North Road and the Icknield Way were turnpiked in the 18th century and the layout of the town changed to accommodate the increasing traffic. A pesthouse was built in Tavern Lane in 1736, a workhouse opened in 1759 in Whitehorse Street and a lock-up was built in 1787 in Middle Row (Thompson 2002: 16). All three were defunct by 1850 when the railway arrived.

The railway caused a decline in the coaching trade and no real development of the townscape itself. Malting, lime burning, barley growing and straw plaiting became the mainstay of the local economy and the town layout remained much the same in 1859 as in the 12th century (*ibid*: 23). However, by the end of the 19th century Orchard Road had been sold off to the British Land Company and laid out for new housing. The medieval parish boundary was extended in 1882 to incorporate the development site, which had been in Norton parish until this time.

Despite the slow growth in the 19th century, modern services were introduced with the establishment of the Baldock Gas Light and Coke Company in 1837 (see Section 3.3.6). However, water was not piped until 1902 (Thompson 2002: 25).

3.2.7 *Modern* (1900-present)

Baldock is not renowned for its industry, other than the Kayser Bonder factory, which opened as the Fully Fashioned Hosiery Company in 1928 (Thompson 202: 25). The factory closed in 1983 and is now a supermarket.

3.3 ***The Known Archaeology & History of the Site***

3.3.1 *Prehistoric* (before 600BC)

The site was undoubtedly within a Neolithic and Bronze Age ritual landscape incorporating Bronze Age burial mounds all around and the source of the river Ivel and a Neolithic cursus to the northeast. Despite the significance of the landscape, no archaeological remains are known directly from this site.

3.3.2 *Iron Age* (600BC-AD43)

No Iron Age features or finds are known from the site.

3.3.3 *Roman* (AD43-c.450)

No Roman features or finds are known from the site.

3.3.4 *Saxon* (c.450-1066)

Until 1880 the development site was located on the southern boundary of the parish of Norton. Norton manor is mentioned in documents dating from 1007 confirming that it was then held by St Albans Abbey (VCH online). The development site was liminal to the manor and settlement, and may have been under cultivation. There are no Saxon features or finds known from this site.

3.3.5 *Medieval* (1066-1500)

The site remained peripheral to the town of Baldock and the parish of Norton in the medieval period and no archaeological remains of this period have been discovered.

3.3.6 *Post-Medieval* (1500-1900)

Although Baldock was mapped as early as 1676, and the site appears to have been built upon in Drury and Andrews' map of 1766 (Fig. 5), the earliest detailed depiction of the site shown on the enclosure map of 1796 (Fig. 6). This shows a series of cottages immediately to the south of the site. The site itself was owned by Richard Clutterbuck at this time.

The development site was part of a larger plot of land until the early 20th century. The first edition Ordnance Survey map (1880) shows this to have been a garden or park (Fig. 7). By 1898 a detached house and glass house had been built on the plot (Fig. 8). The house was located to the southeast of the development site, and the glasshouse stood where Herts and Beds Transmissions is now.

3.3.7 *Modern (1900-present)*

The site altered several times in the 20th century. The eastern end of the plot had been subdivided by 1922 to provide for another gasometer (Fig. 9). By 1937 another gasometer had been built to the south of the development site (Fig. 10). No changes are recorded in the 1959 Ordnance Survey map (Fig. 11). The 1980 Ordnance Survey map shows the building to the rear of the site for the first time and that the eastern gasometer had been demolished (Fig. 12).

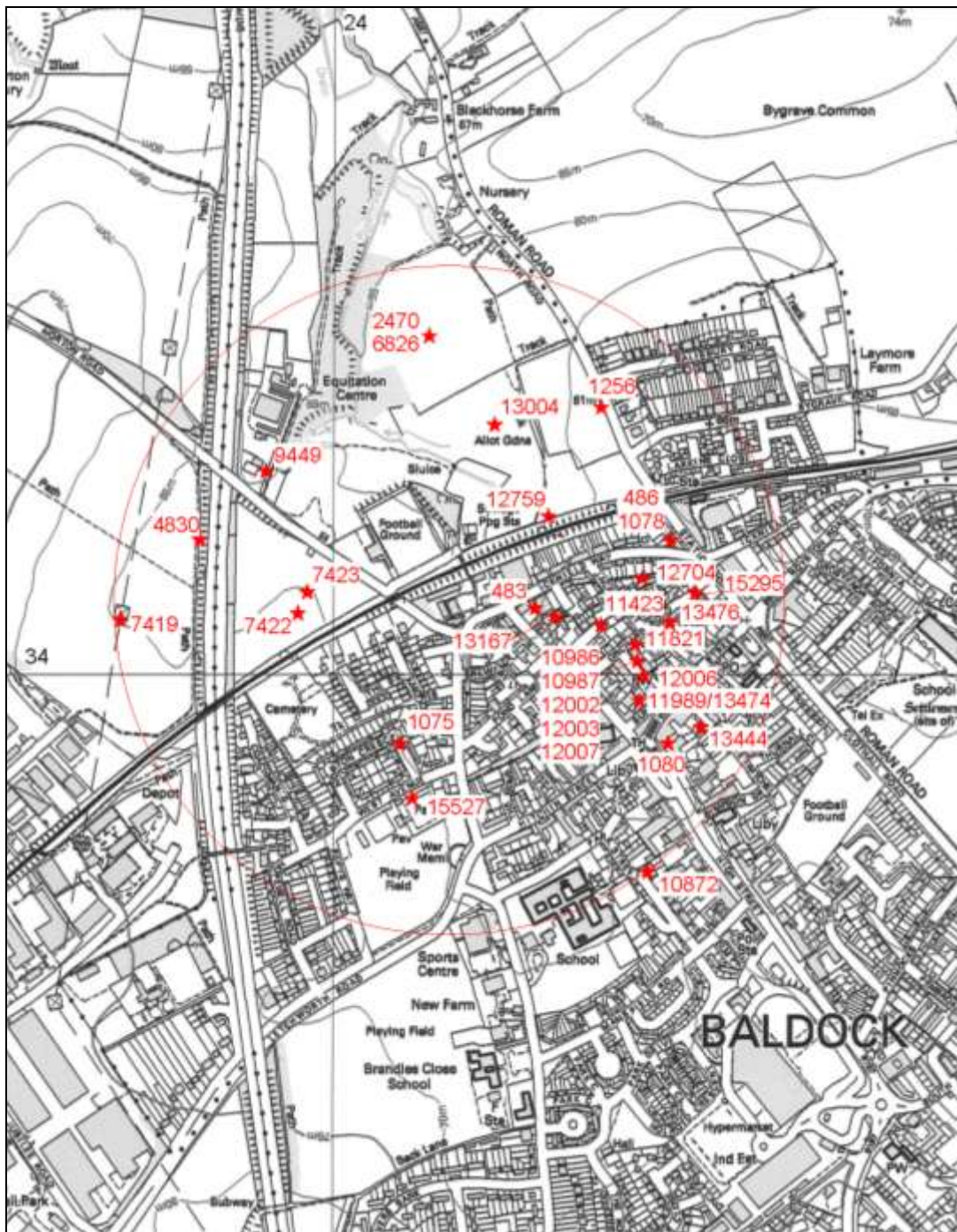


Figure 4: Archaeological sites in the Hertfordshire HER.



Figure 5: Extract from Drury and Andrews map of 1776 (not to scale)

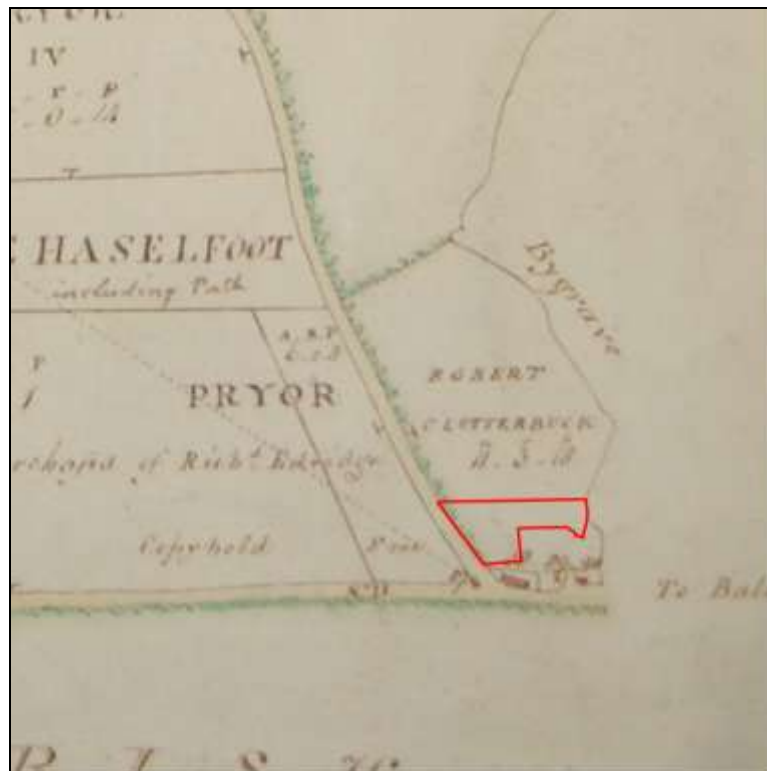


Figure 6: Extract from the 1796 enclosure map (not to scale)



Figure 7: Extract from the 1880 Ordnance Survey Map (scale 12½ inches to 1 mile)



Figure 8: Extract from the 1898 Ordnance Survey Map (scale 12½ inches to 1 mile)

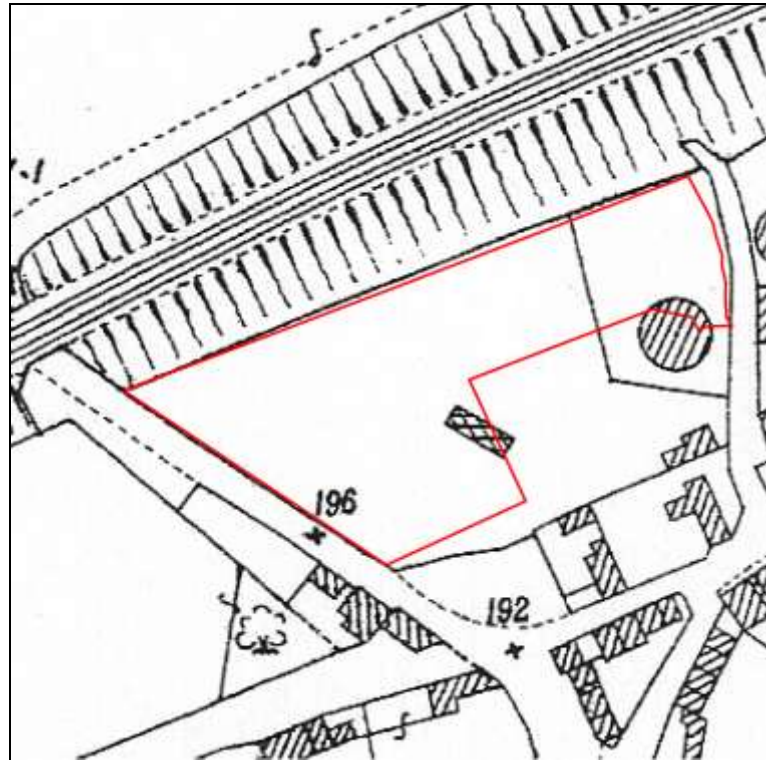


Figure 9: Extract from the 1922 Ordnance Survey Map (scale 12½ inches to 1 mile)

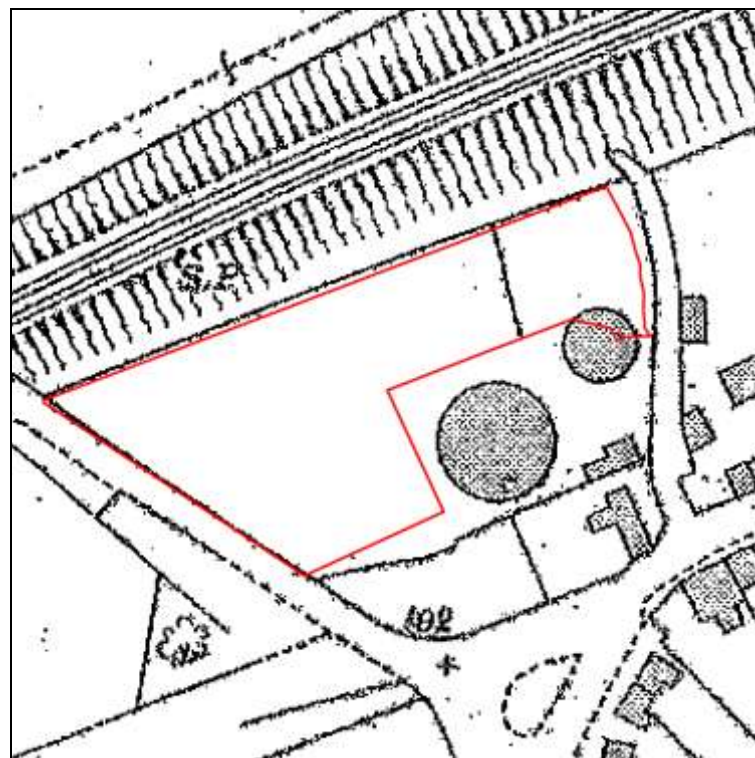


Figure 10: Extract from the 1937 Ordnance Survey Map (scale 12½ inches to 1 mile)

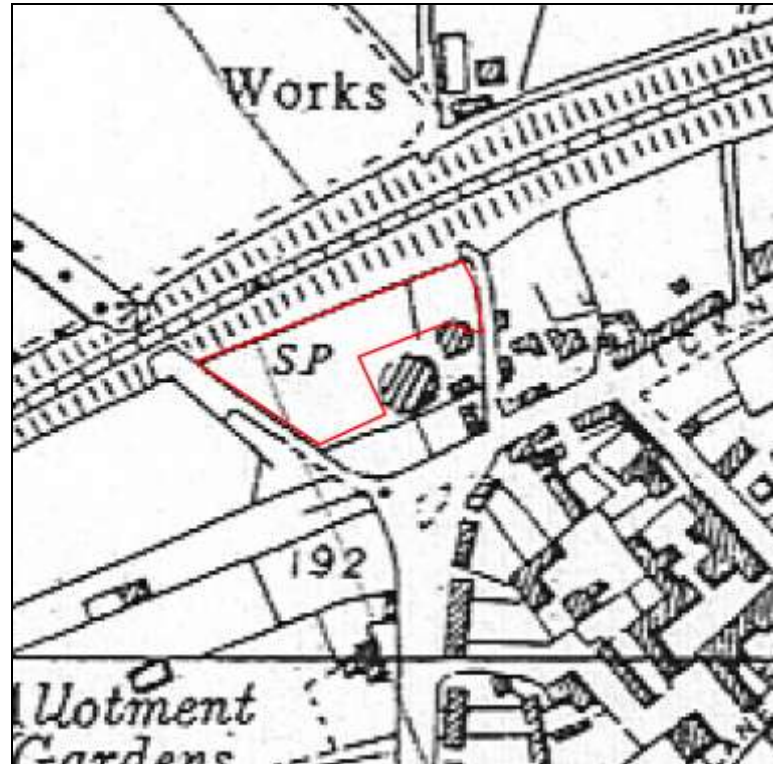


Figure 11: Extract from the 1959 Ordnance Survey Map (scale 1:5000)

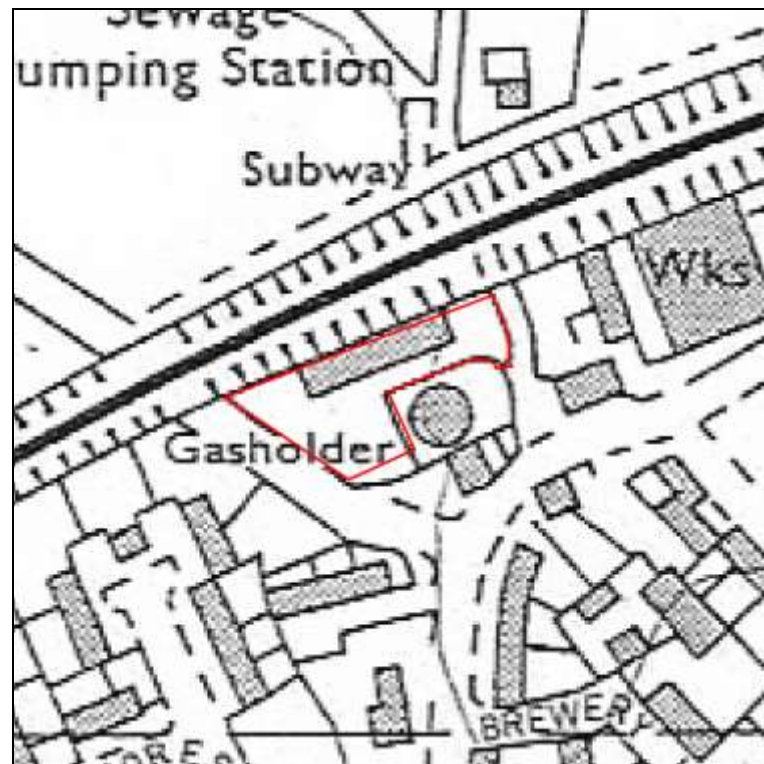


Figure 12: Extract from the 1980 Ordnance Survey Map (scale 1:5000)

4. Walkover Survey

4.1 *Extent, Access & Present Use*

The development site covers an area of 0.275 hectares between Icknield Way and Norton Road. It is located to the rear of a block of flats that fronts Icknield Way and extends behind and to one side of an industrial unit also to the rear of the flats. It is accessed by a driveway located to the eastern end of the site.

The site is currently being used by Bowman and Sanderson, an engineering company. Another building stands empty, but was formerly used by Herts and Beds Transmissions. The buildings are described below.

To the north of the site is the railway embankment, which is covered with tress and shrubs. The northern end of the western boundary also consists of trees and shrubs, but the southern end of the same has the remains of low level fencing. The southern and eastern boundaries are defined by high level metal fencing.

There is hard standing throughout the site.

4.2 *Buildings*

Building 1, the former Herts and Beds Transmissions, is located to the south of Building 2 and is orientated north to south. It consists of a 2-storey, brick built office under a pitched roof to the rear of which is a single storey industrial unit. A covered area is attached to the west elevation providing shelter for activities in the vicinity of the roller door into the unit. The office block is accessed by a door in the north elevation and is lit by seven windows in the north elevation, four in the west elevation and three in the east elevation. The brickwork and window style suggests that the building may have been constructed in the late 1970s or early 1980s.

Building 2 is located to the rear of the site and runs parallel to the railway line, the embankment of which forms the northern boundary of the site. It is a single storey, brick building under a pitched roof. At the eastern end is a small single storey office block under a flat roof. A breeze block lean to has been added to the western end of the building. The building first appears on the 1980 Ordnance Survey Map, but was clearly built in the mid 20th century. It has functioned as two workshops as is evident in the maps and in the external aspect of the building itself. Internally there are no solid divisions between the workshops or the store in between.

4.3 *Services*

Both buildings are supplied with power, water and presumably sewage pipes, which would indicate the presence of a number of below ground service runs.

4.4 *Geotechnical Information*

This was not available at the time of the assessment.



Plate 1: General view looking west



Plate 2: General view looking east



Plate 3: Drive looking towards Icknield way



Plate 4: Northeast corner of the site



Plate 5: Building 1: north and west elevations



Plate 6: Building 1: north and east elevations



Plate 7: Building 1: west elevation, north



Plate 8: Building 1: west elevation, south



Plate 9: Building 1: industrial unit looking south



Plate 10: Building 1: industrial unit looking north



Plate 11: Buildings 1 and 2



Plate 12: Building 2: east end



Plate 13: Building 2: west end



Plate 14: Building 2: south elevation, west end



Plate 15: Building 2: south elevation, east end



Plate 16: Building 2: eastern workshop looking west



Plate 17: Building 2: eastern workshop looking east



Plate 18: Building 2: central store



Plate 19: Building 2: western workshop
looking northwest



Plate 20: Building 2: western workshop,
northwest corner

5. Statutory Constraints on Development

5.1 A range of planning constraints are in place in the area of the site. These constraints relate both to the area as a whole, and to individual buildings and sites. These constraints are taken into consideration when assessing the implications of planning and other proposals made to the local authority and to other local and national bodies.

5.2 *Conservation Areas*

The development site lies outside the Baldock Conservation Area.

5.3 *Areas of Archaeological Significance*

The development site lies immediately to the west of an Archaeological Area of Significance.

5.4 *Scheduled Ancient Monuments*

There are no Scheduled Ancient Monuments on the site.

5.5 *Listed Buildings*

There are no listed buildings on the site.

5.6 *Archaeology & Planning*

The framework for the management of archaeological issues in the planning system is currently set out in the document PPG16 *Archaeology and Planning*. Decisions relating to archaeological matters within the area of the site are taken by the local planning authority, acting on the advice of the AA.

6. Conclusions

6.1 *Summary of the Archaeological Significance of the Site*

The archaeological interest in the development site is that it has been both central and peripheral to human settlement patterns since the Neolithic period. At this time the site was located within a ritual landscape that included a cursus and burial mounds. This landscape was widely dispersed and extended along the length of the Icknield Way which is now defined by a narrow road to the south of the site. The prehistoric trackway was considerably wider and would have encompassed the development site itself, although the nature of the track would have left little other than stray finds to mark its passage here.

The significance of water to prehistoric societies, not only as a daily necessity but also for ritual purposes is hinted at in the surviving archaeological remains close to the Ivel springs. Ceramic finds indicate long term use of the area in the prehistoric period, and this may well have extended as far as the development site. Again, this activity need not have resulted in any substantial archaeological remains.

The development of the Roman and later the medieval town left the development site on the periphery of activity, which is amply demonstrated by its location immediately to the north of the Norton parish boundary. Its proximity to the Icknield Way and the Great North Road as well as the mill that is thought to have existed at Blackhorse Farm meant that it was not an isolated location, and the site may have seen some activity that could have added to the archaeological record.

The site underwent dramatic transformations in the post-medieval period with the construction of the railway line and the establishment of the gasworks. Both activities would have severely affected any archaeological remains in the immediate vicinity. The construction of the A1 alongside the site and the industrial units on the site itself would also have had a detrimental effect on any surviving archaeological remains.

Nonetheless, the location of the site in relation to the prehistoric landscapes and historic townscapes raises the possibility of exploring a number of themes raised by the Regional Research Agenda (2000). These particularly concern the transition between periods, in this case most importantly the Roman to Saxon transition, and the relationship of significant areas to their hinterland. The location of the development site as initially within a significant area and then as part of the hinterland is unlikely to be a linear progression, as the significance of the surrounding area waxed and waned over time.

6.2 *The Possible Impact of the Proposed Development*

The development proposal is for the demolition of the existing buildings on the site and the construction of five houses and two blocks of flats with associated parking and landscaping. Although not finalised, it is currently thought the buildings will have strip footings, which will have a localised and observable impact on any surviving archaeological remains. The footings need not be excessively deep as the underlying geology is chalk, but they and the associated services will nonetheless truncate or destroy any archaeological features within their path.

The parking and landscaping will by their nature have a lesser impact on any surviving archaeological features.

6.3 ***Archaeological Potential of the Site***

The level of archaeological survival on the development site is likely to be limited. It has suffered significant industrial development, most particularly with the railway and its embankment, which has undoubtedly had an adverse effect on ground levels and archaeological remains. Nonetheless, the site is located within a very active archaeological landscape, which raises the potential archaeological significance of any feature or artefact the site could yield.

7. Acknowledgements

ASC is grateful to North Hertfordshire Homes for commissioning and funding this assessment. Particular thanks are due to Milan Curcic of Robert Lombardelli Partnership and Stuart King of Davies King Chartered Surveyors for their practical aid in providing information and access in order to prepare this report. Thanks are also due to Isobel Thompson, HER officer of the Hertfordshire Historic Environment Unit for providing access to the HER data. The assistance of the staff of Hertfordshire Archive and Local Studies Library (HALS) is also gratefully acknowledged.

The project was managed for ASC by Karin Semmelmann MA MIFA. The research for the assessment, and the walkover survey, were undertaken by Karin Semmelmann. The report was prepared by Karin Semmelmann and edited by Bob Zeepvat BA MIFA.

8. Sites & Monuments Data

Sites listed below are those within the study area, *i.e.* 500m

HER No.	NGR	Monument type	Period	Description
9	TL 245 338	Market town	Medieval	Town founded on Roman settlement
358	TL 2434	Findspot	Neolithic	Neolithic arrowhead flint knife and scraper
483	TL 243 341	Findspot	Late Iron Age	Burial vessels
486	TL 245 342	Occupation site	Roman	Small enclosed property dating from late 1st/early 2nd - 4th cent at Stationmaster's House
1075	TL 241 339	Findspot	Roman	Pottery and animal bone near 23 Norton Crescent
1078	TL 245 342	Building	Roman	Possible Roman building foundations
1080	TL 245 339	Occupation site	Roman	Ditch and ceramic finds on the High Street
1256	TL 244 344	Findspot	Roman	Coin, possibly of Constantine (406-11)
2470	TL 2415 3450	Cropmarks	Unknown	Maculae, enclosures and pits, part of multi-phase occupation south of Blackhorse Farm (see 6826)
4062	TL 243 339	Church	Medieval	St Mary's church. 13th century origins, rebuilt in 14th & 15th centuries.
4830	TL 238 342	Findspot	IA & Roman	Flints, IA and Roman pottery and worked/polished bone
5340	TL 2445 3373	Building	Post-medieval	Seven Roes Malting, Park Street
5341	TL 2431 3381	Building	Post-medieval	Malting, 16B Hitchin Street
5342	TL 2433 3379	Building	Post-medieval	Musgrove Maltings, 33 Hitchin Street
5345	TL 2462 3403	Building	Post-medieval	Double maltings on site of Ind's Brewery, 44 Whitehorse Street
5441	TL 2433 3399	Building	Post-medieval	Site of brewery
5531	TL 246 343	Railway Station	Post-medieval	1850 Great Northern station on branch from Hitchin to Cambridge
5621	TL 241 341	Bridge	Post-medieval	Railway bridge
5622	TL 2450 3426	Bridge	Post-medieval	Railway bridge
6336	TL 24 33	Prison	Post-medieval	Site of parish cage, Middle Row, Whitehorse Street
6826	TL 2415 3450	Occupation site	Multi-phase	Occupation south of Blackhorse Farm dating from late Iron Age to medieval
7419	TL 2368 3408	Cropmarks	Prehistoric	Cropmarks of at least three ring ditches
7422	TL 23947 34090	Cropmarks	Prehistoric	Cropmarks of ring ditch and bowl barrow

HER No.	NGR	Monument type	Period	Description
7423	TL 2395 3411	Cropmarks	Prehistoric	Cropmark of incomplete circular enclosure, probably the remains of a round barrow
9449	TL 239 343	Cursus	Neolithic	Pair of V-shaped ditches running NW-SE terminating at source of R. Ivel
10871	TL 2450 3384	Market	Medieval	Two market places at right angles to each other. One in Whitehorse Street and the larger one in the High Street
10872	TL 2447 3371	Wall	Post-medieval	Occupation behind 24 High Street
10886	TL 2457 3410	Building	Post-medieval	Old White Horse Public House. Stands on the site of an earlier inn.
10926	TL 243 340	Building	Post-medieval	Part of parish workhouse, Butler's Yard, Orchard Road
10986	TL 2445 3402	Occupation	Roman	Occupation evidence from 2nd to 4th centuries, 2-24 Orchard Road
10987	TL 2445 3402	Inhumation	Roman	Inhumation burial in a well, 2- 24 Orchard Road. Another burial within a well found nearby (see 12002)
11199	TL 2444 3390	Building	Post-medieval	George and Dragon Inn, 2 Hitchin Street
11423	TL 2454 3407	Occupation	Roman & Medieval	Roman and medieval occupation, 33 Whitehorse Street
11820	TL 2448 3405	Buildings	Post-medieval	17th century and later buildings, Butler's Yard, Orchard Road
11821	TL 2450 3404	Occupation	Roman to medieval	Late medieval ditch and undated pits at Butler's Yard, Orchard Road
11989	TL 2445 3397	Building	Post-medieval	Site of Oliver's/The Baldock Brewery, Whitehorse Street
11996	TL 2447 3397	Building	Post-medieval	Brewer's House, 13 Whitehorse Street
12002	TL 2445 3404	Inhumation	Roman	Skull and other bones found within large pit
12003	TL 2445 3401	Garden	Post-medieval	19th century garden/landscaping features, Orchard Road
12004	TL 2448 3400	Building	Post-medieval	Wesleyan Chapel, Whitehorse Road opened 1853
12006	TL 2446 3400	Farmyard	Post-medieval	Farmyard found below the northwest wall of the Methodist chapel. May have been part of the Baldock Brewery (11989)
12007	TL 2446 3402	Occupation	Post-medieval	19th century outhouses and soakaway possibly related to Baldock Brewery or line of cottages on Orchard Road
12704	TL 2446 3414	Occupation	Roman and medieval	Ditches, pits and wells from Roman and medieval periods, Football Close
12759	TL 2432 3424	Findspot	Roman and later	Roman and later pottery found during fieldwalking along Ivel springs
12866	TL 2455 3383	Building	Post-medieval	Manor House (Brewery House) 21 High Street
13004	TL 2424 3437	Building	Post-medieval	Anderson shelter, Allotments, North Road

HER No.	NGR	Monument type	Period	Description
13167	TL 2433 3408	Occupation	Medieval/ post- medieval	Possible medieval ditch and post-medieval pit, Church Street
13444	TL 2454 3392	Ditch	Roman	Probable Roman ditch behind 5 High Street
13474	TL 2445 3395	Occupation	Post- medieval	Occupation behind 7-9 Sun Street
13476	TL 2450 3407	Ditch/pit	Roman	Pit or ditch containing silver brooch and copper alloy
13672	TL 2448 3381	Building	Post- medieval	High status town house, 14a High Street, built in 1728
15295	TL 2453 3411	Occupation	Iron Age & Roman	Iron Age - Late Roman building near crossroads between Orchard Road and Station Road
15527	TL 2412 3382	Findspot	Roman	Child's stone coffin found under hedge in West Avenue
15749	TL 2437 3396	Building	Post- medieval	15th or 16th century house, The Cottage, 1 Church Street
15750	TL 2437 3397	Building	Post- medieval	17th century house, 3 Church Street
15751	TL 2451 3386	Building	Post- medieval	Holford House built 1720-30
15752	TL 2450 33796	Building	Post- medieval	16 High Street built 1728 incorporating 16th century timber framed rear wing
15755	TL 2444 3387	Building	Post- medieval	Row of jettied houses built in 17th century, 1-5 Hitchin Street
15756	TL 2441 3385	Building	Post- medieval	15th century house brick faced in 18th century, 7 Hitchin Street
15759	TL 2444 3394	Building	Medieval	15th century timber framed house with red brick front, and 17th century timber framed house 3-5 Sun Street
15760	TL 2454 3398	Building	Post- medieval	Possible Wealden house, refronted in 18th century, 22 Whitehorse Street

9. References

Standards & Specifications

- ALGAO 2003 *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England*. East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Paper **14**.
- IFA 2000a Institute for Archaeologists' *Code of Conduct*.
- IFA 2000b Institute for Archaeologists' *Code of Approved Practice for the Regulation of Contractual Arrangements in Field Archaeology*.
- IFA 2001 Institute for Archaeologists' *Standards & Guidance documents (Desk-Based Assessments, Investigation and Recording of Standing Buildings)*.

Secondary Sources

- BGS *British Geological Survey 1:50,000 Series, Solid & Drift Geology*.
- Brown, N. & Glazebrook, J. 2000 *Research and Archaeology: a Framework for the Eastern Counties, 2: research agenda and strategy*. East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Paper **8**.
- Burleigh G. 1995 A Late Iron Age Oppidum at Baldock, Hertfordshire in *Chiltern Archaeology. Recent Work. a handbook for the next decade*. Dunstable: The Book Castle.
- Croydon, F.E. 1928 The Edwardine Reformation in a Hertfordshire Parish *St Albans Architectural and Archaeological Society Transactions*. 135-144.
- Fitzpatrick-Matthews, K. 2010 Collapse, Change or Continuity? Exploring the Three Cs in Sub-Roman Baldock in Moore, A. *et al* (eds) *Proceedings of the 19th Annual TRAC Conference* Oxford: Oxbow Books:
- Gray, H. J. n.d. *The Church of St Mary the Virgin, Baldock, Hertfordshire*.
- Page, W. (ed), 1971 *The Victoria History of the County of Hertfordshire*. 3. Dawsons of Pall Mall.
- Pevsner, N. & Cherry B. 2002 *The Buildings of England: Hertfordshire*. Yale University Press.
- Phillips, M.C. 2009 *Four Millenia of Human Activity Along the A505 Baldock Bypass, Hertfordshire*. East Anglian Archaeology Report **128**.
- Soil Survey 1983 *1:250,000 Soil Map of England and Wales, and accompanying legend* (Harpenden).
- Stead, I.M. & Rigby, V. 1986 *Baldock. The Excavation of a Roman and Pre-Roman Settlement, 1968-782*. Britannia Monograph Series **7**. Society for the Promotion of Roman Studies
- Thompson, I. 2002 *Baldock Extensive Urban Survey Project Assessment Report* HCC: Hertford:
- 'Parishes: Norton', A History of the County of Hertford: volume **2** (1908), pp. 361-364.
URL: <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/report.aspx?compid=43296&strquery=norton>

10. Cartographic Sources

The following maps and plans were consulted in the course of this assessment:

Date	Reference	Description
1676		John Sellers Map of Hertfordshire
1695		John Oliver's actual survey of the county of Hertford
1749		John Warburton's map of Hertfordshire
1766		Drury and Andrews topographical map of Hertfordshire
1796c	QS/E/54	Norton Parish Enclosure Map
1821		A. Bryant's map of the county of Hertford
1880	Sheet VII.8	1 st edition Ordnance Survey Map 25inch to 1 mile
1898	Sheet VII.8	Ordnance Survey Map 25inch to 1 mile
1922	Sheet VII.8	Ordnance Survey Map 25inch to 1 mile
1959	TL 23 SW	Ordnance Survey Map 6inch to 1 mile
1980	TL 23 SW	Ordnance Survey Map 1:10,000

11. List of Photographs

SITE NO/CODE: 1277/BIW			Site Name: Rear of Icknield Way, Baldock
Shot	B&W	Digital	Subject
1	X	X	Building 1: workshop looking south
2	X	X	Building 1: workshop looking north
3	X	X	Building 1: workshop looking southwest
4	X	X	Building 1: first floor office
5	X	X	Building 1 north and west elevations
6	X	X	Building 1: west elevation
7	X	X	Building 1: west elevation
8	X	X	Building 1: west elevation
9	X	X	Buildings 1 and 2 from the southwest
10	X	X	Building 1 from the northeast
11	X	X	Building 2: west end of south elevation
12	X	X	Building 2: butt joint between two workshops
13	X	X	Building 2: east end of south elevation
14	X	X	General view of the site from the west
15	X	X	Building 2: west elevation
16	X	X	General view of the site from the east
17	X		Driveway looking towards Icknield Way
18	X	X	Northeast corner of the site
19	X	X	Building 2: south elevation
20	X	X	Building 2: west elevation
21	X	X	Building 2: eastern workshop looking west
22	X	X	Building 2: eastern workshop looking east
23	X	X	Building 2: central area looking west
24	X	X	Building 2: eastern workshop looking west
25	X	X	Building 2: eastern workshop, northwest corner

A CDROM containing copies of all the digital photos listed above is included in the back cover of this report