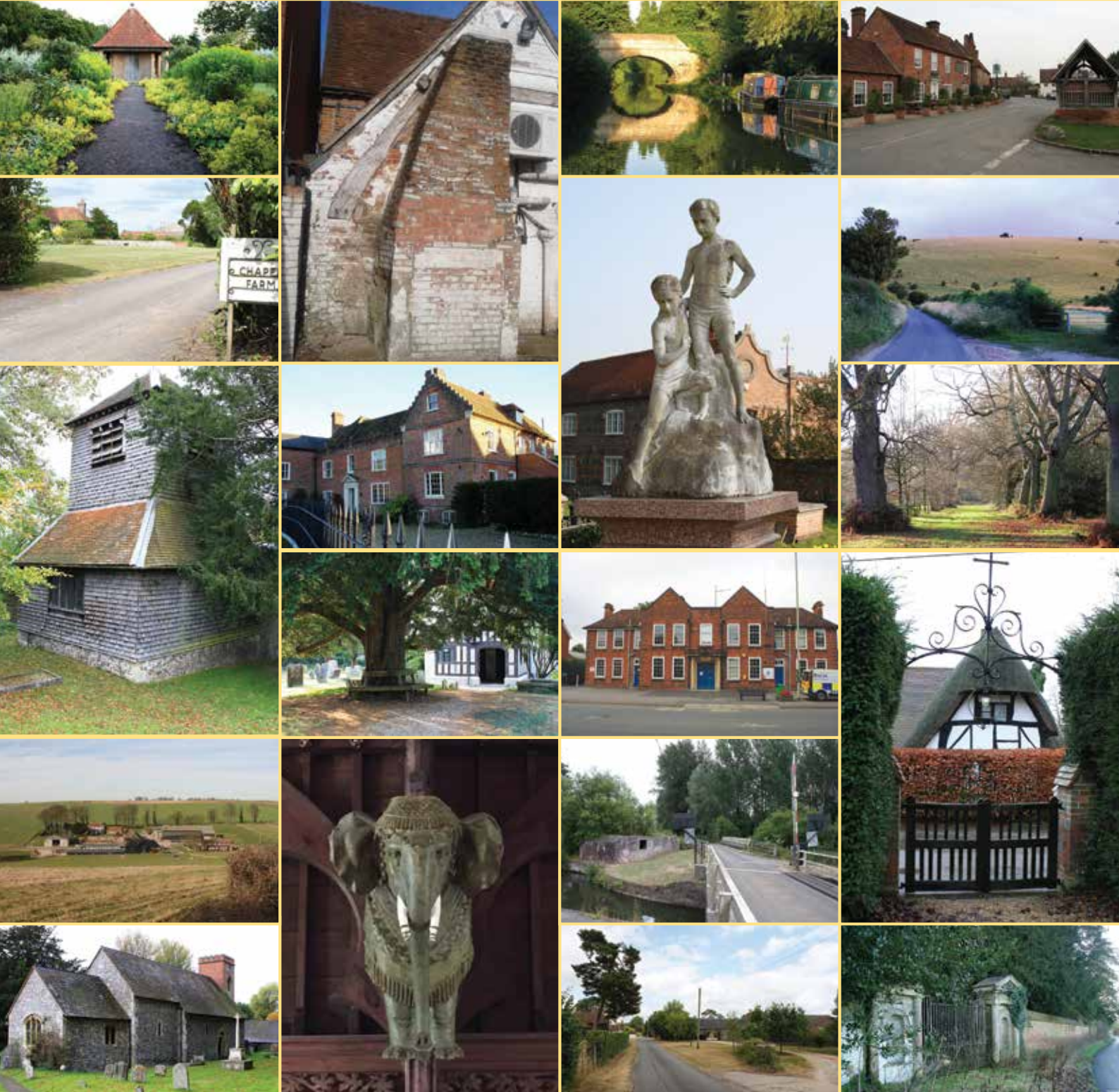




Heritage in West Berkshire



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Foreword

The economic, social and cultural value of the historic environment resource should not be forgotten amidst the ever growing requirement for housing and other development to support the continuing prosperity of West Berkshire.

I was appointed West Berkshire Council's Heritage Champion in 2014 to promote the value of the historic environment and to increase awareness of, and public access to, heritage resources and facilities in West Berkshire. The network of Heritage Champions across local authorities is supported by Historic England (formerly English Heritage).

We are very fortunate in the District to have dedicated West Berkshire Council officers in the Culture Team and within Planning, as well as many local heritage and historic organisations who work to ensure that our rich legacy of heritage is protected and sustained.

This report brings together these heritage activities in order to focus on the importance of this resource and the work that has been undertaken to protect, promote and understand it. It gives me great pleasure to introduce the report, compiled by Sarah Orr and Alex Godden, which is being made widely available. I hope it will also encourage more people to get involved.

Adrian Edwards
Heritage Champion
2015



Facts and Figures

Where is West Berkshire?

West Berkshire lies at the heart of Southern England – at the crossroads of a main east-west route (the A4 and subsequently the M4) and a north-south road (the A34). It is a unitary authority, created in 1998 from the western half of the former administrative county of Berkshire. West Berkshire stretches from Hungerford in the west to the outskirts of Reading in the east, and also contains the towns of Newbury, Thatcham and Lambourn.

West Berkshire's Character

Much of West Berkshire is rural, and over three quarters of the district lies within the North Wessex Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). In terms of National Character Areas, the AONB largely coincides with the chalk hills of [Berkshire and Marlborough Downs](#)¹ but the south-eastern part of the district including much of the Kennet Valley is considered part of the [Thames Basin Heaths Character Area](#)². The physical landscape, biodiversity and humans have all interacted for millennia to create the environment we see today.

Our Parishes and their Heritage Assets

West Berkshire's 63 parishes contain a great variety of buildings, structures, monuments, landscapes and areas of heritage. Those that have a degree of significance meriting consideration in planning decisions are termed heritage assets. The following table shows the number of designated assets in each parish. West Berkshire has many examples of the four main national designation types: Listed Buildings, Scheduled Monuments, Registered Parks and Gardens and Registered Battlefields. In addition there are [locally designated Conservation Areas](#)³. In 2014 five assets were added to a new [Local List for West Berkshire](#)⁴, through a process set up by the West Berkshire Heritage Forum and West Berkshire Council.



West Ilsley: The Ridgeway running along the chalk escarpment of the Berkshire Downs



Wokefield: The heathland landscape of Wokefield Common



Streatley: The River Thames

¹ <http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/4822422297509888?category=587130>

² <http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/4685559624630272?category=587130>

³ <http://info.westberks.gov.uk/conservationareas>

⁴ www.westberks.gov.uk/localist

For more information about what national designation means, visit Historic England's pages

[Scheduled Monuments](#) ⁵



Brimpton: One of the scheduled monuments of the Borson barrow cemetery

[Listed Buildings](#) ⁶



Kintbury: The Grade I listed Norman church at Avington

[Registered Battlefields](#) ⁷



Enborne: The Registered Battlefield of The First Battle of Newbury 1643

[Registered Parks and Gardens](#) ⁸



Englefield: Part of the Registered Park of Englefield House

The statistics indicate something about the different evolution and historic character of each parish: Lambourn for example has the largest number of scheduled monuments in West Berkshire, mainly prehistoric barrows and earthworks concentrated on the Downs; Newbury has many listed buildings due in part to its role as the market town of the district. Most of the Registered Parks lie in the Kennet Valley or close to the River Thames. However the number of designations in each parish may also reflect levels of assessment and investigation as much as survival or significance.

In many cases the boundaries of designations overlap into more than one parish: the Registered Battlefield of the First Battle of Newbury for example is predominantly in Enborne parish but also extends into Newbury and Speen. A definitive example of parishes sharing a designated site would be a listed parish boundary stone.

More information about any of these assets can be obtained from the [West Berkshire Historic Environment Record](#)⁹ as well as by searching the [National Heritage List for England](#)¹⁰ for national designations.

⁵ www.historicengland.org.uk/listing/what-is-designation/scheduled-monuments/

⁶ www.historicengland.org.uk/listing/what-is-designation/listed-buildings/

⁷ www.historicengland.org.uk/listing/what-is-designation/registered-battlefields/

⁸ www.historicengland.org.uk/listing/what-is-designation/registered-parks-and-gardens/

⁹ www.westberks.gov.uk/HER

¹⁰ www.historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list

Table of designated heritage assets by West Berkshire parish 2015



Bradfield: The Conservation Area seen from the church tower



Farnborough: The Grade II listed Old Smithy



Greenham: One of the scheduled Cruise missile shelters



Newbury: The Grade II* listed St Bartholomew's Hospital Almshouses

Parish

Parish	No of Listed Buildings	No of Scheduled Monuments	No of Registered Parks and Gardens	No of Registered Battlefields	No of Conservation Areas	No of Locally Listed Assets	No of De-listed or de-scheduled assets
Aldermaston	50	3	1	0	2	1	0
Aldworth	18	2	0	0	1	0	1
Ashampstead	23	0	0	0	1	0	0
Basildon	55	1	1	0	1	0	0
Beech Hill	14	0	0	0	0	0	0
Beedon	18	1	0	0	0	0	1
Beenham	27	0	0	0	1	0	0
Boxford	50	1	0	0	1	0	1
Bradfield	41	0	0	0	1	0	0
Brightwalton	16	0	0	0	3	0	0
Brimpton	20	5	0	0	2	0	0
Bucklebury	62	0	0	0	1	0	0
Burghfield	14	1	0	0	1	0	0
Catmore	4	0	0	0	0	0	0
Chaddleworth	33	1	0	0	1	0	0
Chieveley	26	1	0	0	1	1	0
Cold Ash	10	0	0	0	0	0	0
Combe	14	2	0	0	0	0	0
Compton	12	1	0	0	1	0	2
East Garston	36	0	0	0	1	0	0
East Ilsley	27	3	0	0	1	0	1
Enborne	15	0	1	1	0	0	0
Englefield	19	0	1	0	1	0	0
Farnborough	9	0	0	0	1	0	0
Fawley	4	2	0	0	0	0	0
Frilsham	4	0	0	0	1	0	0
Great Shefford	29	1	0	0	1	0	1
Greenham	15	1	1	0	2	0	0
Hampstead Norreys	31	1	0	0	1	0	1
Hamstead Marshall	27	3	1	0	1	0	0
Hermitage	7	1	0	0	0	0	0
Holybrook	7	0	0	0	0	0	0

Parish

Parish	No of Listed Buildings	No of Scheduled Monuments	No of Registered Parks and Gardens	No of Registered Battlefields	No of Conservation Areas	No of Locally Listed Assets	No of De-listed or de-scheduled assets
Hungerford	138	1	1	0	2	0	1
Inkpen	25	8	1	0	1	0	0
Kintbury	54	1	0	0	1	0	0
Lambourn	137	21	0	0	4	0	0
Leckhampstead	16	0	0	0	1	0	0
Midgham	11	1	0	0	1	0	0
Newbury	217	3	0	1	7	2	10
Padworth	12	2	0	0	1	0	0
Pangbourne	42	0	0	0	1	0	0
Peasemore	11	0	0	0	1	0	0
Purley on Thames	20	0	1	0	0	0	1
Shaw cum Donnington	35	1	2	0	3	0	0
Speen	54	0	2	1	4	0	0
Stanford Dingley	23	0	0	0	1	0	0
Stratfield Mortimer	15	4	0	0	0	0	0
Streatley	38	2	0	0	1	0	0
Sulham	14	0	1	0	0	0	0
Sulhamstead	27	1	1	0	1	0	0
Thatcham	53	2	0	0	2	1	1
Theale	32	1	0	0	4	0	0
Tidmarsh	16	0	0	0	0	0	0
Tilehurst	6	0	0	0	0	0	1
Ufton Nervet	14	7	0	0	1	0	0
Wasing	9	1	1	0	0	0	0
Welford & Wickham	20	0	0	0	0	0	1
West Ilsley	17	3	0	0	1	0	0
West Woodhay	8	1	0	0	0	0	0
Winterbourne	20	0	0	0	0	0	0
Wokefield	4	0	0	0	0	0	1
Woolhampton	33	0	0	0	1	0	1
Yattendon	32	2	0	0	1	0	0



Lambourn: The core of the famous Seven Barrows Bronze Age cemetery



Stanford Dingley: The Grade II listed The Bull Inn



Theale: The Conservation Area of the High Street



Wasing: A lodge at the entrance to the Registered Park

In order to facilitate greater engagement with the historic environment in local decision making, the Heritage Champion has approached parishes across the District. The Archaeology Service has been providing parish and local groups with information about the heritage of their area, which can then be used for various purposes including neighbourhood and community planning. Many parishes incorporate information about the history and evolution of their area on parish council websites and in parish plan documents. A library of [approved community plans](#)¹¹ can be accessed from West Berkshire Council's website, and [contact details of Parish and Town Councils](#)¹² are also available.

West Berkshire HER West Berkshire Historic Environment Record - Monument List

HER Mon No	Old BSMR (if different)	Site Name	Summary	Number of records
MWB3604	01561.00.000	St Bartholomew's, Basildon	Grade I listed 13th century church with 18th century tower, extensively altered and restored in 1975-8	
MWB5360	03965.01.000	The Beehive, Upper Basildon	Grade II listed iron, comprising a 16th century hall house with later additions	
MWB5361	03965.02.000	Emery's Farmhouse	Grade II mid 16th century farmhouse with 19th century re-facing and additions	
MWB15763	MWB15763	Basildon Park (House)	Grade II listed late 18th century Gothic style lodge on western edge of Basildon Park	
MWB15972	MWB15972	Godwin's Lodge, Basildon Park	Grade II listed late 18th century Gothic style lodge on western edge of Basildon Park	
MWB16109	MWB16109	Church Farm House, Lower Basildon	Grade II listed 18th century country house, originally with an attached pictureque battlements	
MWB16394	MWB16394	The Grotto, Lower Basildon	Grade II listed 18th century country house, originally with an attached grotto	
MWB16395	MWB16395	St Stephen's Church, Upper Basildon	20th century church built to serve the growing population of Upper E from Bonwood in Wiltshire	
MWB16396	MWB16396	Pavilion at Beagle Park (formerly named Child Beale Trust)	Pavilion designed by landowner G E Child-Beale in 1956 with stone courses, separating an earlier lodge	
MWB16539	MWB16539	Oxtora Lodges, Basildon Park	Grade II listed 18th century Gothic style lodge on southeast in late 18th century with later additions to gates and walls	
MWB16540	MWB16540	Tower Lodge, Basildon Park	Grade II listed 19th century lodge, built of flint with stone quoins and courses, separating an earlier lodge	
MWB17566	MWB17566	Coddesson Lodge, Basildon Park	Grade II listed stable built around 1845	
MWB17569	MWB17569	Basildon Park - stable block, yard and walls	Unlisted public house, documented in the 18th century	
MWB17570	MWB17570	The Old Lion, Upper Basildon	Grade II listed former endowed school and school teacher 1858 and converted to a private house in the mid 20th century	
MWB17572	MWB17572	The Old Schoolhouse, Lower Basildon	Unlisted Church of England primary school built in 1875 and still in use in the 21st century	
MWB17586	MWB17586	Basildon Primary School	Grade II listed 17th century to Late 20th century pair of still in use in the 21st century	
MWB18422	MWB18422	2-3 Hill Corner Cottages, Upper Basildon	Grade II listed 17th century timber framed barn and brick cottages	
MWB18423	MWB18423	BARN AT KILN FARM	Grade II listed 17th century timber framed barn	
MWB18490	MWB18490	THE COTTAGE, Basildon	Grade II listed 18th century house	

Report generated by HBSMR from exGEO5 SDM List

Historic Environment Information Pack Provided for Basildon Parish by West Berkshire Archaeology Service

West Berkshire Council maintains a Historic Environment Record. HERs are defined in the National Planning Policy Framework as 'Information services that seek to provide access to comprehensive and dynamic resources relating to the historic environment of a defined geographic area for public benefit and use.' A wide variety of reports can be provided by the archaeology service for many purposes, such as neighbourhood planning, local engagement or education. The database is continually being updated through new research and discoveries.

Summary of Area
Basildon is an ancient parish although historic settlement is dispersed and likely to have been shifted or relocated, and there has been much 20th century change. The Thames and Basildon Park have been major influences on the historic environment.

Information Categories
All Known Monuments in the West Berkshire HER database
Summary list and map indicating all historic environment individual 'monuments' (sites, archaeological features and findspots, buildings, landscapes and places) recorded in your area. Fuller reports are available for each entry. Quick access to most of these records is available online via the Heritage Gateway, using the unique 'MWB' reference number near the end of this url, eg http://www.heritagegateway.org.uk/Gateway/Results_Single.aspx?uid=MWB15492&resourceID=1030 for MWB15492, Nobe's Tomb.

Designated Heritage Assets
Spreadsheet of designated assets (buildings, monuments, landscapes, etc) with links to the National Heritage List for England.
For more information on what designation means, see <https://www.historicengland.org.uk/listing/what-is-designation/>

National Designations	Number Present	Note
Scheduled Monuments		
Listed Buildings	1	
Registered Parks & Gardens	55	
Registered Battlefields	1	
Assets considered by EH but not nationally designated	0	
	0	

West Berkshire Council designates Conservation Areas, and there is now a process to select assets for a Local List – see <http://info.westberks.gov.uk/localist>.

Local Designations	Number Present	Note
Conservation Areas	1	Lower Basildon – church and farm
Locally Listed Assets	0	

Information about the historic environment of each parish has been provided to community groups and parish councils in the form of parish packs.

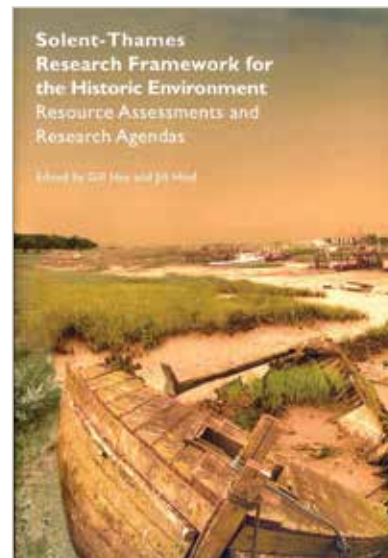
¹¹ <http://decisionmaking.westberks.gov.uk/ecCatDisplay.aspx?sch=doc&cat=13291&path=0>

¹² <http://decisionmaking.westberks.gov.uk/mgParishCouncilDetails.aspx?LS=17&SLS=1&bc=1>

News and Events

Recent Discoveries

New archaeological discoveries are taking place all the time in West Berkshire, and from all types of work, whether it is research by individuals or archaeological societies, or as a result of excavations commissioned through the planning process. It is worth mentioning the publication in 2014 of the Solent Thames Research Framework for the Historic Environment. Covering Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire, Berkshire, Hampshire and the Isle of Wight, this important document is an overview of our current archaeological knowledge of the region, as well as a compilation of research aims and priorities for all archaeological periods. The framework provides a context within which all new discoveries sit, as well as a foundation for future questions to be asked.



Prehistoric

Tracing Their Steps is an exciting partnership project between Wessex Archaeology, the University of Reading and West Berkshire Council archaeology service, to better understand and protect the nationally important Mesolithic sites along the River Kennet and its tributaries in the District. Data from many sources has been brought together to build a predictive model of the distribution of this significant archaeological resource. Geophysical survey and coring was carried out to test this model at Wawcott near Kintbury, in Thatcham Reedbeds and in Newbury.



Newbury: Coring in Victoria Park

This led to excavations in Victoria Park in 2014 supervised by Time Team's Phil Harding. A single test pit was opened initially with the aim of obtaining environmental samples, but perfectly demonstrated the predictive methodology by revealing a probable Mesolithic flint working site and possible hearth. Interesting radio carbon results have been retrieved from the site, as well as others along the Kennet

Valley – all of which are helping us to understand the importance of this landscape during the Holocene period.



Newbury: Test pit in Victoria Park

In 2014, developer funded fieldwork was carried out at Hungerford and on land to the north of Newbury – both of these sites have uncovered evidence of prehistoric land-use. This includes a possible Neolithic land boundary at Hungerford, which raises interesting regional questions about land-use in this period. A ring ditch, possibly representing a Bronze Age burial mound, was found in Shaw-cum-Donnington, along with evidence of low scale occupation and industrial activity up to the Iron Age.

Roman

The Boxford History Project has continued to explore three Roman sites in the parish assisted by the Berkshire Archaeology Research Group and other partners. Geophysical work has identified what is possibly the largest winged villa in Berkshire, along with what may be evidence of a planned landscape and earlier Iron Age features, including enclosures. A programme of excavations is planned to shed light on what are potentially very important Romano-British sites.

Medieval

Work carried out by Dick Greenaway and Nick Hopton has identified the possible site of a mill mentioned under the manor of Yattendon in the Domesday Book of 1086. The mill's location has never been verified in the past, but fieldwork over several years has suggested that the most likely candidate is at St Abb's on the boundary between Yattendon and Hampstead Norreys. Analysis of the Environment Agency's LiDAR data covering this area has identified several features, including a raised flat surface on the river bank and possible leat, which suggest the location of a watermill on the Pang that had disappeared before 18th century mapping. The mill may have been constructed during the Saxon period.



Hamstead Marshall: A view down the brick tunnel

Post Medieval

In Hamstead Marshall, two underground tunnels were unearthed that were part of an extensive network associated with the large 17th century mansion that once existed nearby. These brick culverts probably represent high status drainage for the house, but these discoveries are nonetheless significant, and the archaeological investigation allowed for the gathering of evidence to link to local accounts of underground passages.

Modern

Projects to record West Berkshire's important military heritage have also been undertaken. A World War II pillbox has been surveyed in Woolhampton and buildings associated with the Atomic Weapons Establishment (AWE) sites at Aldermaston and Burghfield have been subject to an ongoing programme of recording in association with development. The AWE sites have a history of usage that dates from World War II through the Cold War and to the present, and it is important that their nationally significant structures are not lost without record.



Burghfield: Accommodation outside AWE

Outreach

Walks and talks

The Archaeology Service has given talks at the Newbury District Field Club History Days on the archaeology of Bartholomew Street and Cheap Street, as well as at the Berkshire Archaeology Society Day Schools on recent archaeological discoveries in the District. A guided heritage walk was also led by the Archaeological Officer around Inkpen Beacon and Walbury Hill, and team members were on hand to chat to Newbury residents about the Mesolithic investigations in Victoria Park associated with the Tracing their Steps project.

The Archaeological Officer has been liaising with other colleagues in West Berkshire Council with the aim of developing a series of heritage walks around the District to tie in with schemes such as [Walking for Health](#)¹³. This could encourage residents to get out walking around West Berkshire, and also engage with local heritage.



Newbury: Outreach at the 2014 excavation in Victoria Park

Interpretation boards

An interpretation panel about the Second Battle of Newbury was erected at Speen recreation ground. This was an initiative by the Battlefields Trust to increase understanding of the Civil War conflicts in the area, but fund-raising was coordinated by the West Berkshire Heritage Forum. Shaw House provided a venue for three evening lectures on the battles and sieges around Newbury, and a wide group was involved with discussions regarding the text on the board.

A further panel was also erected at the Falkland Memorial in Newbury through the initiative of local historian Dave Stubbs, explaining the significance of this Victorian monument and its connections to the First Battle of Newbury. The unveiling was well attended by representatives from the Battlefields Trust, the National Trust, Newbury District Field Club, the Sealed Knot and many members of the public.

Opportunities have been taken to include heritage information on way-finding monoliths erected in Newbury and Theale.

Annual Events

The West Berkshire Council Culture team participated in the Council for British Archaeology's [Festival of Archaeology](#)¹⁴, with the Museum hosting a series of talks and activity days all aimed at getting the residents of West Berkshire engaged with our diverse heritage. These included prehistoric pottery making workshops for children, and talks on Jack of Newbury and the nationally important Mesolithic archaeology of the Kennet Valley.



Newbury: Monolith in the Marketplace

¹³ <http://info.westberks.gov.uk/index.aspx?articleid=30242>

¹⁴ <http://new.archaeologyuk.org/festival-of-archaeology>

Community outreach

The Archaeology Service gave a heritage walk and talk to pupils from Shaw-cum-Donnington Primary School at Donnington Castle as part of an Arts Education project named after Open Studios' founder Pat Eastop – this was a highly successful opportunity to promote heritage to schools and engage with the arts community. The Archaeology Officer also led the 2nd Newbury Cubs on an evening walk around the Castle.



Shaw cum Donnington: Outreach at the castle

West Berkshire Museum is a community museum which works with people from all sections of our community. This means that the museum's Learning and Participation Officer is responsible for not only working with schools, she also runs activity sessions for children under 5 and devises trails, quizzes and hands-on activities for younger visitors to the museum exhibitions. For older children there are regular holiday activities and projects with Brownies and Scouts and the chance to gain an Arts Award. For adults the museum offers a regular programme of talks and activities on a wide range of cultural

and historical topics.

The museum team are always looking for community groups and individuals who want to be involved in the co-creation of exhibitions. Recent projects have celebrated Black History Month, Museum Takeover Day and the Civil War Battles of Newbury.



Newbury: Community involvement at West Berkshire Museum

Designation

Buildings recently listed by the Secretary of State

Two former military buildings that were an integral part of the Cold War phase of RAF Greenham Common were designated as Listed Buildings in 2014:

- [Former Wing Headquarters Building \(Building 274\), listed at Grade II*¹⁵](#)
- [Former Combat Support Building \(Building 273\), listed at Grade II¹⁶](#)

They join the Grade II listed Control Tower and the Scheduled GAMA Cruise Missiles shelter complex as heritage assets of national significance at the former airbase.

Historic England's latest [Designation Yearbook¹⁷](#) highlights the Greenham Common Cold War buildings along with other sites, buildings, structures and landscapes that have received official recognition of their importance by the Government.

Delisted buildings and descheduled monuments

Although designation generally confers some level of protection to heritage assets, occasionally levels of significance are reassessed in the light of new evidence, and a decision is taken to delist or deschedule buildings or monuments. Earthworks previously described as a Deserted medieval settlement west of Compton Church were reassessed in 2014, and the site was removed from the Schedule and the National Heritage List for England. Designation decision reports produced since 2013, such as this one for Compton, can be accessed via the [Heritage Gateway¹⁸](#)

Heritage at Risk

An annual survey by Historic England identifies designated historic environment sites that are most at risk of being lost through decay, neglect or inappropriate development. This is issued as the Heritage at Risk (HAR) Register. Although Listed Buildings are one of the categories on the Register, only Grade I and Grade II listings are assessed. A mechanism for reporting the condition of Grade II listed buildings at risk is being established by Historic England, and it is likely that local volunteers will be able to play an important role in this project.

The [full list of sites¹⁹](#) on the HAR in West Berkshire is available online.

The register is a dynamic one, and progress has been made in improving the condition of buildings and monuments that were previously seen to be at risk. Examples include the Grade I listed pairs of gate piers in Hamstead Marshall park which were conserved in association with an agri-environment scheme.

¹⁵ <http://www.historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1419593>

¹⁶ <http://www.historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1419547>

¹⁷ <https://content.historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/designation-yearbook-2014-15/designation-yearbook-2014-15.pdf>

¹⁸ http://www.heritagegateway.org.uk/Gateway/Results_Single.aspx?uid=1420773&resourceID=8

¹⁹ [http://risk.historicengland.org.uk/register.aspx?rs=1&rt=0&pn=1&st=a&ua=West+Berkshire+\(UA\)&ctype=all&crit=](http://risk.historicengland.org.uk/register.aspx?rs=1&rt=0&pn=1&st=a&ua=West+Berkshire+(UA)&ctype=all&crit=)



Greenham: the interior of the Grade II listed Building 274, seen during a Heritage Open Day visit*



Greenham: Grade II listed Combat Support Building 273

West Berkshire Museum



WEST BERKSHIRE
MUSEUM

Owned and managed by West Berkshire Council, West Berkshire Museum is a new kind of museum. Re-opening in August 2014, after nearly four years of major refurbishment, the museum has moved on from the old concept of a permanent exhibition, which visitors saw time after time, and introduced ten galleries with regularly-changing temporary exhibitions. The exhibitions tell stories about the people and history of West Berkshire and are created in partnership with local communities, clubs and individuals.

There are over 40,000 items in the museum's collections ranging in time from the Palaeolithic era to the present. The collections include Social History and Everyday Life, Industrial History, Fine and Decorative Arts, Costume, Natural History and Archaeology. The collections are stored away from the main museum building but are accessible by appointment.

West Berkshire Museum is the agreed depository for archives of all archaeological work carried out in West Berkshire. The museum works closely with the Archaeology Service, archaeological units and The Portable Antiquities Scheme to ensure that knowledge of our ancient past is recorded, preserved and made accessible in a variety of ways.

West Berkshire Museum has an active programme of collecting and is always looking to add to its collections, especially in under-represented parts of the district. The museum has a strictly geographical collecting policy which says that items to be collected must have a significant link with West Berkshire – that is they should be made in, bought in or have a strong connection to a resident of West Berkshire.

Acquisitions in the period 2013-15 have included

- A model of Thatcham Ordnance Depot which used to hang in the base
- Mugs issued by Bucklebury Parish Council to mark royal events
- A baker's cart and associated material from Whitehorn's bakery, Newbury
- A large collection of local ephemera, especially theatre and concert programmes
- Flyers for political candidates in the 2015 General and Local Elections
- Photographs of an early 20th century plane crash in Hungerford
- Paintings by local artists Christopher Hall and John Perkin
- Via the Portable Antiquities Scheme, numerous archaeological and metal-detector finds including coins, seals and horse fittings from the roman period to the 18th century.



West Berkshire Museum is open Wednesday – Sunday, 10 am – 4pm, entrance is free

The Wharf, Newbury, Berkshire RG14 2NA

www.westberks.gov.uk/museum

www.facebook.com/WestBerkshireMuseum

<https://twitter.com/wberksmuseum>

Shaw House



Shaw House, owned and managed by West Berkshire Council, is the largest and one of the finest Elizabethan houses in Berkshire and is a Grade I listed building. It was built in 1581 for the Dolman family who had been very successful in the cloth trade, and it remained a private home until 1939. In October 1644 Shaw House was famously within the site of the Second Battle of Newbury during the English Civil War.

At the beginning of the Second World War Shaw House was requisitioned by the military for wartime use. The house then became emergency accommodation for pupils from the Newbury Council School after it was bombed in 1943. Berkshire County Council purchased the house in 1949 and Shaw House School continued to use the house until the mid 1980s when structural defects were identified.

A £6.3M restoration project was planned and funded to bring Shaw House back into use. Monies came from the Heritage Lottery Fund and the restoration work was completed in 2007. Today Shaw House leads a vibrant life as a flourishing meetings and events centre and also as a historic cultural attraction.

Increasingly Shaw House and its grounds are being used for major outdoor events such as theatre, cinema, concerts and fairs bringing a whole new audience to the house and offering the residents of West Berkshire and beyond a new cultural venue. The house is open for the public to visit on weekends from mid February to end of September and during some holidays. Entrance is free.

www.westberks.gov.uk/shawhouse

<https://www.facebook.com/Shaw-House-107713834438/>

https://twitter.com/Shaw_House



Archaeology Service

www.westberks.gov.uk/archaeology

The archaeology service provides information and advice about the archaeological resource of West Berkshire. Its mission is to promote the understanding, preservation and presentation of this resource to the communities of the district, visitors and other interested parties. This work is underpinned by the Historic Environment Record (HER), the primary index of West Berkshire's historic environment.

Planning and Development

West Berkshire's Archaeological Officer is consulted on proposals for land use change and development, as well as on planning policy. Archaeological advice is provided on the implications of planning applications.



Woolhampton: The old cricket pavilion, Douai



Lambourn: A Second World War turret trainer, recently identified at Membury



Cold Ash: A plaque on the former pumping station

There are now three levels of government advice and guidance relating to the historic environment and planning:

The [National Planning Policy Framework \(NPPF\)](#)²⁰, which was published in 2012, is a top level document which aimed to make the planning system less complex and so vastly simplified the number of policy pages. However its section on Conserving and Enhancing the historic environment still contains key messages such as the fact that the heritage assets are an irreplaceable resource and that conserving them can bring wider social, cultural, economic and environmental benefits. A heritage asset is a building, monument, site, place, area or landscape identified as having a degree of significance meriting consideration in planning decisions. They can be both designated, such as Scheduled Monuments or Listed Buildings and non-designated - sites and structures that are considered locally significant. Non-designated archaeological sites that are recognised as being of equal importance as scheduled monuments should be considered subject to the policies for designated heritage assets.

Supporting the NPPF, and linked to it, is [National Planning Policy Guidance](#)²¹. This was launched as a web-based resource in 2014 and will be updated as needed. For the historic environment,

it clarifies and expands on topics such as non-designated heritage assets.

Most recently, in March 2015, a third tier of Good Practice Advice in Planning Notes was published by English Heritage (now Historic England). There are three notes about Historic Environment Good Practice Advice.

- Note 1 – [The Historic Environment in Local Plans](#)²²
- Note 2 – [Managing Significance in Decision-Taking in the Historic Environment](#)²³
- Note 3 – [The Setting of Heritage Assets](#)²⁴

Note 2 indicates the important role that local groups can play in the planning process alongside local authority heritage advisers when a proposal is likely to affect the significance of heritage assets:

National amenity societies and local groups, such as civic and historical societies, museums and local records/archives can also be particularly valuable sources of advice and information. Where a heritage asset may have a cultural or faith interest to a particular community, it is important to consult them as their views and information may add to the understanding of the asset's significance.

²⁰ www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-planning-policy-framework-2

²² <http://planningguidance.planningportal.gov.uk/blog/guidance/conserving-and-enhancing-the-historic-environment/>

²³ www.historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/gpa1-historic-environment-local-plans/

²⁴ www.historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/gpa2-managing-significance-in-decision-taking/

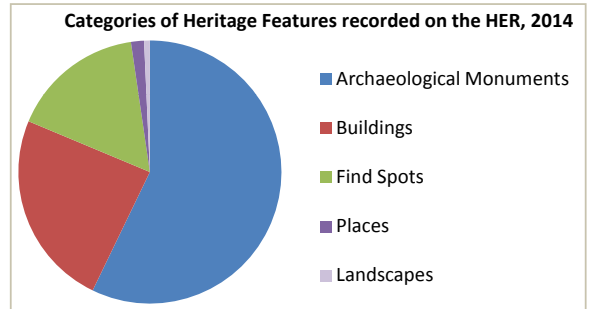
²⁵ <https://www.historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/gpa3-setting-of-heritage-assets/>

The Historic Environment Record

The Historic Environment Record’s database holds information on more than 10,000 archaeological monuments and sites, historic buildings, findspots and landscapes as well as nearly 1300 archaeological investigations or events, and 8000 sources.

The record is growing all the time: during 2014-15 about 200 new ‘Monument’ records were added and 2600 existing records edited and improved.

These changes are largely as a result of including new archaeological work that has been carried out in the district but geographical and thematic enhancement also takes place. Our long standing volunteer Ben has assisted in putting several previously neglected categories of sites onto the HER: war memorials; non-conformist churches and chapels; railway bridges, tunnels and other structures; public houses and inns; and most recently all school buildings, historic and current. He also worked through the revised Pevsner guide to the Buildings of Berkshire published in 2010, ensuring that all West Berkshire references were incorporated on the HER.



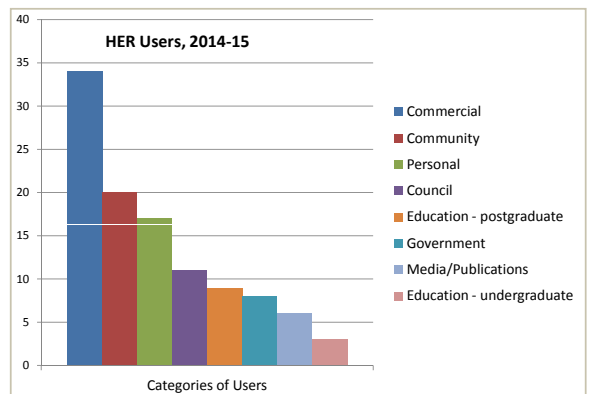
Kintbury: The war memorial

All new publications relevant to West Berkshire such as local histories are entered onto the HER, making an index of sources as well. Most of these books can be accessed through local libraries or the West Berkshire Museum’s reference collection.

The HER is used as a tool in land development and management, but it is also a public record that can be consulted for a wide variety of reasons such as research, education and community-led projects. Examples of enquiries received in recent years range from questions about the Cold War buildings at Greenham Common in relation to their national designation, to postgraduate research on Bronze Age settlements and barrows.

HER enquiries can be made using an [online](#)

[form](#)²⁵. This route should be used for all enquiries relating to development, planning and land-use changes. For general use and interest it is also possible to search extracts from the West Berkshire HER via the [Heritage Gateway](#)²⁶, a portal to many different historic environment datasets including those maintained by Historic England and other national bodies.



²⁵ www.westberks.gov.uk/index.aspx?articleid=28030

²⁶ www.heritagegateway.org.uk

There is a national network of HERs and reference is made in the National Planning Policy Framework to the need for local planning authorities to maintain or have access to an HER. The Core Strategy of West Berkshire Council's Local Plan notes that heritage assets identified through the HER should be considered within the Policy on Historic Environment and Landscape Character. Historic England has continued to emphasise the key role that HERs play: the new [Heritage Information Access Strategy](#)²⁷ has as its first principle that 'Local Authority HERs should be the first point of call for and primary trusted source of investigative research data and knowledge'

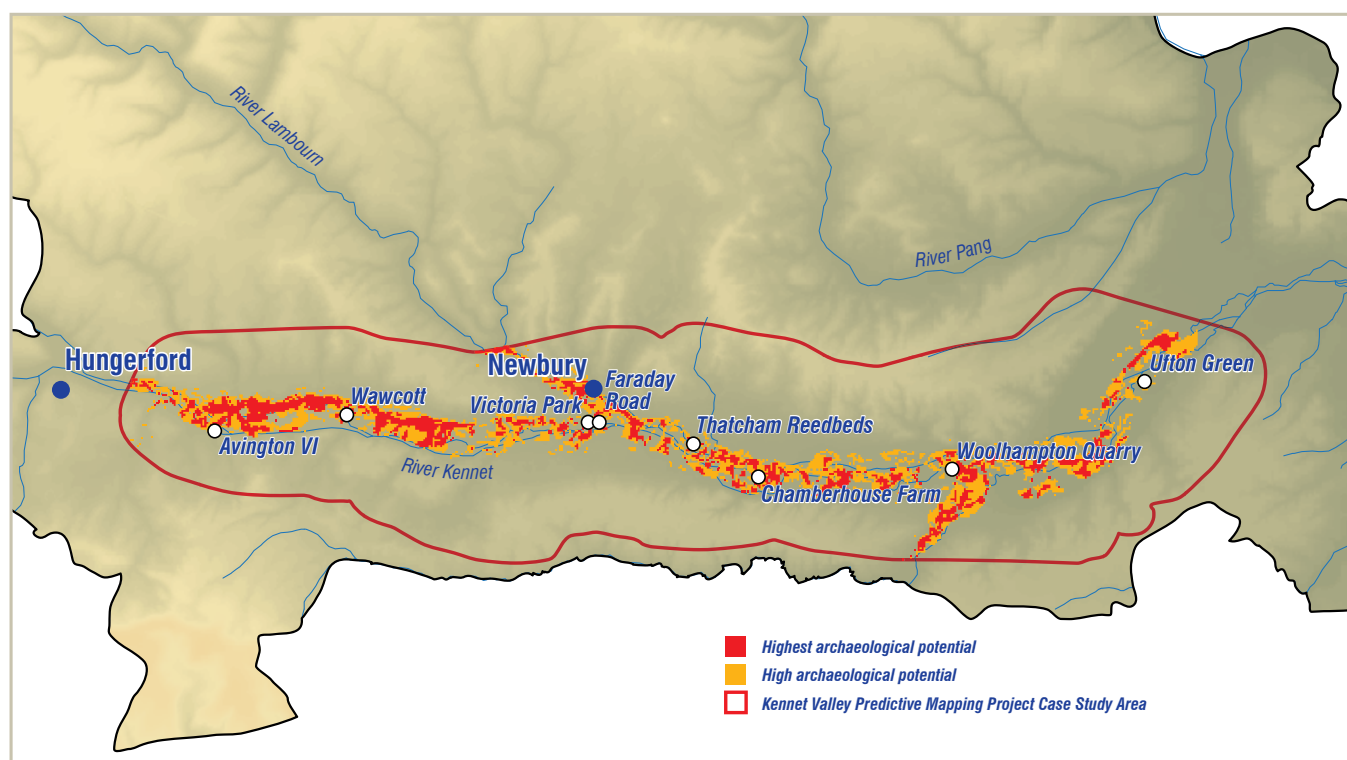
Historic England also provides help for managers of HERs through a programme of audits. A full audit of the West Berkshire HER was carried out in 2009, and an audit revisit is underway in 2015 to track progress and set new objectives.

The HER developed from a Berkshire wide SMR in the 1970s. Although the original card index and paper mapping have been superseded by a database and GIS (computerised mapping), there are still supporting files of material in print and paper, as well as a library of unpublished reports or 'grey literature'. Digitisation of this collection would improve its accessibility and will be scoped out for the West Berkshire HER. Most new archaeological work is now created in a digital format, and initiatives such as the Archaeological Data Service's [Grey Literature library](#)²⁸ mean that reports can be retrieved online.

Historic Environment Projects

Late Palaeolithic and Mesolithic Archaeology in the Kennet Valley

One of the products of the Tracing Their Steps partnership project with Wessex Archaeology and the University of Reading has been a GIS curatorial tool showing the potential for encountering Later Upper Palaeolithic and Mesolithic archaeology.



Map to show West Berkshire and Areas of High Potential for Upper Palaeolithic and Mesolithic remains identified in the Kennet Valley Predictive Mapping Project

Predictive modelling was undertaken by Dr Michael Grant, COARS, University of Southampton

²⁷ <https://historicengland.org.uk/research/support-and-collaboration/heritage-information-access-strategy/>

²⁸ <http://archaeologydataservice.ac.uk/archives/view/greylit/>

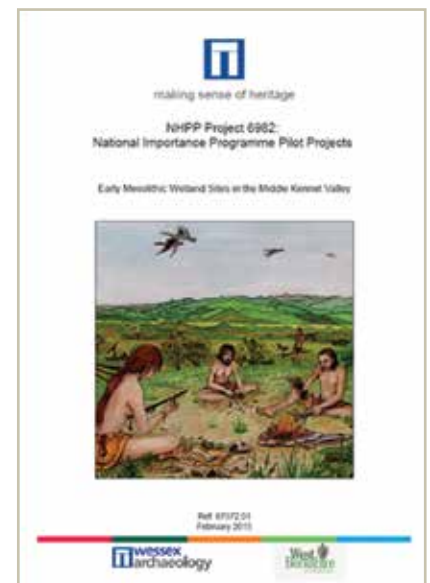
National Importance

Areas of West Berkshire have been analysed during 2015 in two other projects commissioned by Historic England under the National Heritage Protection Plan (NHPP). The first project relates to a better understanding of archaeological sites that are of national importance but are not designated as scheduled monuments because they do not fit the criteria. The many Mesolithic sites along the Kennet Valley do not have structures but comprise groups of objects and associated deposits – currently this excludes them from scheduling, despite their significance. However planning guidance makes it clear that 'non-designated heritage assets of archaeological interest that are demonstrably of equivalent significance to scheduled monuments, should be considered subject to the policies for designated heritage assets'. (NPPF)

Scheduling is discretionary and deliberately selective. There may be other ways of protecting these kinds of archaeological sites apart from adding them to the National Heritage List for England, and these issues are being explored in pilot projects including the one in the Middle Kennet Valley.

National Importance Programme Pilot Project - [Early Mesolithic Wetland Sites in the Middle Kennet Valley](#)²⁹

The second project considered the role of agri-environment schemes in identifying and protecting nationally important sites in grassland, by looking at selected holdings in West Berkshire, Oxfordshire and Hampshire. Increasingly, new information can be gathered about archaeological sites through remote techniques such as LiDAR and the use of Google Earth. The opportunity for greater heritage gains through management needs to be maximised, and steps need to be taken to ensure archaeological advice is followed. Under the new schemes local archaeology services such as West Berkshire's will be able to notify farmers about manageable sites on their land. However damage may still occur to buried archaeology and earthworks if other management options are chosen.



Management and Conservation

As well as seeking to prevent damage to archaeological sites from development, the archaeology service engages with landowners, agents and farmers to conserve and manage the historic environment. One of the most successful mechanisms for this in the last decade has been Environmental Stewardship, an agri-environment scheme in England which aimed to secure widespread



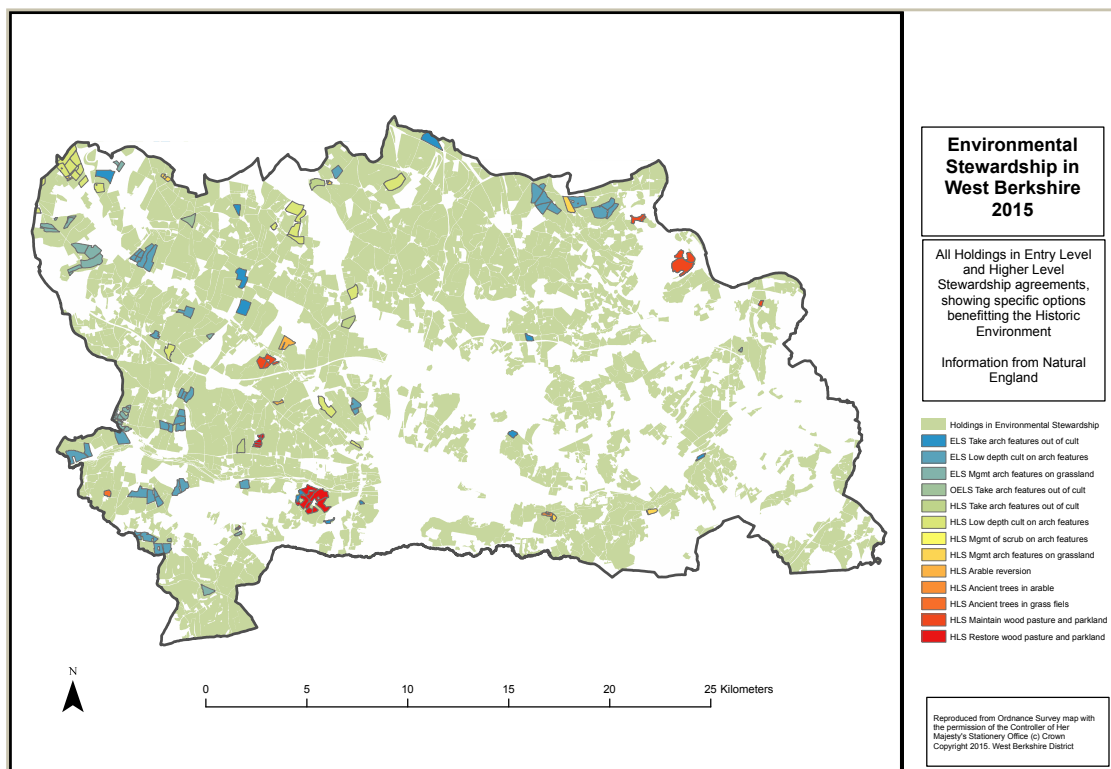
Kintbury: A woodland under management



Lambourn: Site visit to discuss management of Stancombe barrows under an agri-environment scheme

²⁹ <http://historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/early-mesolithic-wetland-sites-middle-kennet-valley/>

environmental benefits. The scheme was administered by Natural England but the protection of the historic environment sat alongside the other objectives of wildlife conservation, natural resource protection, maintenance of landscape quality, and promotion of public access.



The Archaeology Service engaged directly with over 100 applicants for Higher Level Stewardship (HLS) through consultations to the HER, and also provided archaeological information remotely for the non-competitive whole farm Entry Level Stewardship (ELS). Farmers could gain subsidies for positive management, choosing from a wide range of options, some of which have specific archaeological benefits (such as reducing plough damage over buried sites and managing scrub on upstanding earthworks). Other management options such as the restoration of heathland or maintenance of boundary hedges and woodland are advantageous to wildlife, our landscape character and the historic environment, emphasising the interwoven nature of past human influence with the natural world.

The benefits of the Scheme have been confirmed recently through the receipt of data from Natural England confirming that nearly 50% of the total area of West Berkshire was under Environmental Stewardship – urban areas of course being ineligible.

Capital spending from HLS has helped many historic farm buildings, parklands and areas of water meadow. Where appropriate, recommendations were made for Management Plans; liaison with Natural England has created guidance for some of our most important heritage sites – for example the excellent Historical Environmental Survey and Management Plan for Greenham and Crookham Commons. This has led to further discussions with the Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire Wildlife Trust (BBOWT) on how this important heritage can be conserved and promoted through the installation of waymarked trails and information boards.

Environmental Stewardship ran from 2005 to 2015 and has now been replaced by a new scheme, called [Countryside Stewardship](#) (a name also used prior to 2005, although for a different system of grants). The new Countryside Stewardship has a focus on water framework directives, biodiversity and climate change but there should still be options for enhancing the protective man made heritage. This is a fast evolving situation but every opportunity will be taken by the archaeology service to reap the benefits for West Berkshire.

Another aspect of protection is the prevention of [heritage crime](#). An initiative has been set up by Historic England, the police and the Crown Prosecution Service to combat criminal activity that directly or indirectly affects heritage assets.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/countryside-stewardship-get-paid-for-environmental-land-management>
<https://historicengland.org.uk/advice/caring-for-heritage/heritage-crime/>

The Portable Antiquities Scheme

www.finds.org.uk

The Portable Antiquities Scheme is a national voluntary project to encourage the reporting of archaeological objects found by the public. These finds offer an important way of understanding our past, made more valuable when we know their context or provenance. There is a network of Finds Liaison Officers (FLOs) across England and Wales – Anni Byard covers West Berkshire as well as Oxfordshire. She holds regular Finds Surgeries at West Berkshire Museum and attends meetings of metal detecting clubs. Anni also gives advice on whether finds should be counted as treasure under the Treasure Act.

Objects reported through the scheme are entered onto a database which can be searched online. Over three thousand artefacts have been recorded from West Berkshire during the 11 years that the scheme has been in place locally. Examples of some interesting finds are shown below; even incomplete items can add a vital piece of archaeological information and contribute to research.

[Early medieval \(ie Saxon\) strap end,](#) ³⁰

Great Shefford



[Romano-British figurine of a boy with a goose](#),³³

Winterbourne



[Iron Age gold stater,](#) ³¹

Basildon



[Copper alloy Roman coin](#)³⁴

Beedon (recorded by Lindsey Bedford)



[Medieval seal matrix,](#) ³²

Beech Hill



[Post medieval trader's token](#)³⁵

Burghfield



³⁰ <https://finds.org.uk/database/artefacts/record/id/656862>
³¹ <https://finds.org.uk/database/artefacts/record/id/711819>
³² <https://finds.org.uk/database/artefacts/record/id/633762>
³³ <http://finds.org.uk/database/artefacts/record/id/649791>
³⁴ <https://finds.org.uk/database/artefacts/record/id/407378>
³⁵ <https://finds.org.uk/database/artefacts/record/id/569253>

Conservation and Design

The Conservation Team within West Berkshire's Planning & Countryside service advises on the protection and enhancement of the historic built environment. Although much of their work concentrates on listed buildings and conservation areas they keenly promote high quality design in buildings.

The Conservation Team:

- Provides specialist advice on planning matters relating to the historic environment, particularly concerning listed buildings, conservation areas, historic park and gardens and non-designated heritage assets. During 2014/15 the Conservation Team responded to approximately 900 consultation requests.
- Promotes good design, in both buildings and the public realm.
- Provides advice on heritage matters to the Council, owners, agents, developers and other bodies.
- Defends applications at appeals which relate to the historic environment. During 2014/15 the Council has achieved a 100% success rate in listed building consent appeals. The Conservation Team has played a key role in successfully defending these applications at appeal.
- Administers and manages the Local List of Heritage Assets
- Works closely with planning enforcement officers to protect listed buildings that are at risk through neglect and decay or unauthorised development.

Local Listing

www.westberks.gov.uk/localist

The Conservation Team has also been heavily involved in setting up and managing the Local List of Heritage Assets and the accompanying Local List website. The process is managed jointly by West Berkshire Council and the West Berkshire Heritage Forum, whereby nominations for Local Listing are considered by a Selection Panel set up by the West Berkshire Heritage Forum, and then submitted to the Conservation Team for final consideration and eventual adoption under the Council's scheme of delegation.

The West Berkshire Local List recognises buildings, monuments, sites, places, areas and landscapes with special local architectural, artistic, archaeological or historic interest. These assets are valued by the local community and the council, but do not meet the criteria for national designation. Any member of the public or organisation can propose a site for local listing, and the nominations are judged against the agreed criteria. Information collected during assessment is added to the West Berkshire Historic Environment Record.

The first five assets to be added to West Berkshire's Local List are:

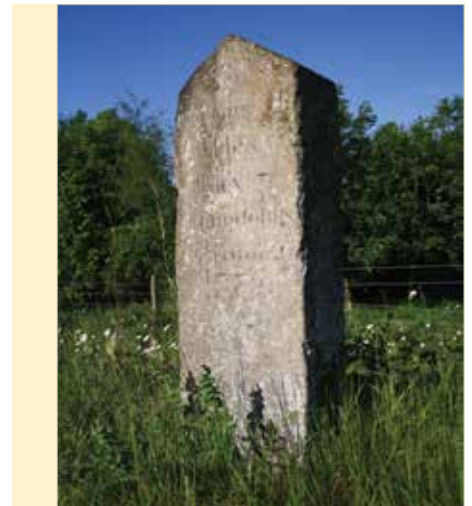
Coxedd and Pearce's Almshouses, Newbury – a terrace of four almshouses built in the 1880s

Crookham House, Thatcham – a mid 19th century mansion built in a Neo-Classical style

Village Farm Barn, Aldermaston – a brick barn with ventilation slits and an old tile roof, converted to residential use in the 1980s

War Memorial, Newbury – constructed in 1922 to a design by architect Sir Mervyn Macartney

Milestone on Newbury to Oxford road, outside the Fox & Hounds, Chieveley – late 18th century rectangular milestone.



The Berkshire Record Office

The Berkshire Record Office is the archives of the Royal County of Berkshire. They look after nearly nine hundred years of the county's history. West Berkshire Council owns the building, which is in Reading and is open to the public, and manages the service in conjunction with the other 5 local authorities in Berkshire.

The normal opening hours are: Tuesday and Wednesday 9.00am to 5.00pm, Thursday 9.00am to 9.00pm, Friday 9.00am to 4.30pm. Entrance is free.

It is advisable to book before you visit. Please call on 0118 937 5132.

For further information please visit www.berkshirerecordoffice.org.uk

Small objects of West Berkshire power

Between April and August 2014, visitors to the Record Office could see a display of medieval wax seals – rare and often beautiful symbols of personal power. They included a number with links to West Berkshire places.

Edmund Guest, onetime Bishop of Salisbury, affixed his seal of St James the Apostle to a list of priests for the chapelries of Englefield and Brimpton between 1315 and 1330.

Christopher Twynho, Archdeacon of Berkshire in 1507, chose a design of the Virgin Mary, flanked by lilies and holding a flowering rod. This miniature work of art was placed on a deed confirming the foundation of a chantry and free school in Lambourn.

A catalogue of the seals displayed is available on request.

Stories about local communities

During the year Ellie Thorne, one of the Record Office archivists, spoke to local groups about the history of Plenty's, one of Newbury's best-known firms. Ellie was also the guest of SPX at Hambridge Road, the site of Plenty's works, where she told stories from the firm's family history. The most scandalous was the case of Edward Pellew Plenty the third, who ran off with nearly £5,000 of the firm's assets – and a local chambermaid – in 1899.

The local media picked up on our story of a medieval bake-off at Welford Park. This – from one of



Part of the assize of bread

the monthly 'highlights' that we post online - coincided with the Berkshire venue becoming home to the BBC's Great British Bake-off. The story was based on an 'assize of bread' that is amongst the Archer-Houblon family archives from Welford. Dating from 1337, it lists the expected ingredients to be found in different types of loaf. Failure to cook according to the document's recipes would have found offending bakers fined, or even sent to spend a day in the stocks.

The full list of monthly highlights during the last year is [available online³⁶](#).

³⁶ www.berkshirerecordoffice.org.uk/this-months-highlight/2014-archive/

Oscar Wilde's 'dark-eyed chap'

The BRO's biggest public engagement project during the year related to Reading Prison. What was once Berkshire's county gaol closed at the end of 2013, so together with the University of Reading the BRO bid for a small sum from the Heritage Lottery Fund to mark the prison's passing.

The result was 'Oscar Wilde and Reading Gaol', an exhibition launched with a free public event, at which Merlin Holland, Wilde's grandson, spoke movingly about his grandfather and wider family.

But it was a boy from Theale who stole the show: Henry Bushell, a prisoner at the same time as Wilde, and who has provided the first glimpse of one of the working class lads to whom Wilde was attracted.

Henry was both a gardener and a serial, unsuccessful thief. When Wilde met him, he was near the end of a six month sentence for stealing two pots of primulas. He was 21 years of age, and was spending his fifth spell in jail. Though the 'separate system' of prison life afforded them little contact, Bushell is mentioned in Wilde's letters and the author even sent him money.

Henry's story was featured in the Guardian, Mail Online and BBC website, as well as the Irish press.



Prison mugshot of Henry Bush[n]ell

Community Projects - Local Archaeological and History Societies in West Berkshire

What follows is a list of the many groups in West Berkshire and adjacent areas, with a summary of the activities and events that they have organised in 2014-15.

National and Regional Groups

The [Council for British Archaeology \(CBA\)](http://new.archaeologyuk.org)³⁷ is a charity that has worked for over 70 years throughout the UK to involve people in archaeology and to promote the appreciation and care of the historic environment. It coordinates the annual Festival of Archaeology and offers a range of ways to get involved from Young Archaeologists' Clubs to fieldwork projects such as Home Front Legacy 1914-18. Its most recent initiative is the Local Heritage Engagement Network, providing a toolkit of information and best practice guidance to support groups who want to speak up for heritage and archaeology services in their area. The CBA has published many books and reports and also produces the British Archaeology magazine.

As well as the national organisation, there are affiliated regional CBA groups – in West Berkshire this is [CBA Wessex](http://cba-wessex.org.uk/),³⁸ which arranges lectures, conferences and field visits as well as managing ancient monuments through work such as clearing scrub.

³⁷ <http://new.archaeologyuk.org>

³⁸ <http://cba-wessex.org.uk/>

Local History and Archaeology Societies and Groups

Name of Organisation	Basildon History Group
Contact Details – Name Address Telephone No e-mail address	Robert Greasley 5 Emery Acres, Upper Basildon, Berks RG8 8NG 01491 671359 robertgreasley@hotmail.com
Web address	c/o Basildon Parish council due to close tie in - . No individual website planned.
Date when founded if known	2014
Objectives/ Aims	To cover off a number of proposed Parish Council projects covering history and rural themes and generally research / enjoy the local area.
Number of members (approx)	8
Annual Programme (if so structured)	n/a
Recent projects and events	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review and update of existing Basildon parish footpath leaflet (including local facts) • Oak tree survey – measuring and recording oaks over 4 metres in circumference • Society's day – information sharing with the village. • General building, names and research / sharing • Metal detecting project at Lion Meadow • Presentation of locally found coins to the primary school.
Future plans	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Put together a booklet / secondary leaflet covering heritage / folklore / nature of the Parish (started) • Tree Trial / Geo Cache – share walk around a dozen old oaks (2.5 miles) and include Geo cache for kids plus a display at old phone box and largest oak tree (almost done) • Explore the possibility of a small Archaeological dig in the Parish with input from the local school. • Iron Age Basildon – build up our knowledge by pulling together various sources.
Any other comments	We are happy to take on any projects as suggested by West Berks Council / Archaeology team

Name of Organisation	Battlefields Trust
Contact Details – Name Address Telephone No e-mail address	Simon Marsh 7, Little Park, Princes Risborough, Bucks, HP27 0HS 01844274112 Mercia@battlefieldstrust.com
Web address	www.battlefieldstrust.com
Date when founded if known	1992
Objectives/ Aims	The preservation, interpretation and presentation of battlefields as historical and educational resources
Number of members (approx)	1260
Annual Programme (if so structured)	An annual programme of walks and talks alongside standalone research, advocacy and interpretation projects
Recent projects and events	<p>Newbury I interpretation panel 2012 Newbury II interpretation panel 2014 Edgehill battlefield interpretation hub at Radway Church 2015 Finding Bosworth 2009 Magna Carta 800 battlefield and siege project Battlefield walks at many of the EH registered battlefields in the last year Battlefield talks on Northampton, Naseby, Edgcote, Newbury I, Newbury II, Sieges of Donnington Castle, Stow on the Wold, WWI blitz, Banbury in the Civil War, Bosworth</p>
Future plans	Further interpretation at the Newbury battlefields, a Newbury Back Garden Battlefield community archaeology project, a battlefield survey at Stow on the Wold, Barnet battlefield survey and interpretation project, Newburn Ford Project, schools battlefields as local history projects in Tyne and Wear, ongoing research at Mortimer's Cross, Cheshire Battlefield talks, Carham 1018 project



Speen: A new interpretation board about the Second Battle of Newbury was unveiled at the Recreation Ground

Name of Organisation Berkshire Archaeological Society	
Contact Details – Name	Andrew Hutt
Address	19 Challenor Close, Wokingham, Berks RG40 4UJ
Telephone No	0118 973 2882
e-mail address	andrew_hutt@talktalk.net
Web address	www.berksarch.co.uk
Date when founded if known	1878
Objectives/ Aims	The Society's objects are to advance the education of the public in the fields of archaeology and history in the past and present county of Berkshire.
Number of members (approx)	130
Annual Programme (if so structured)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Archaeology on Saturday lectures: September to April • Day School: March • Spring Tour: May • Archaeological walks and site visits: April to September • Berkshire Historic Environment Forum: October • Publishing Berkshire Archaeological Journal • Fieldwork – geophysics, excavations and building surveying • Archaeological discussion group monthly
Recent projects and events	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fieldwork: Usability trial of a ground penetrating radar on Streatley Meadows in March 2015 • Spring Tour – May 2015 • Fieldwork: Blounts Court South Oxfordshire April 2015
Future plans	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fieldwork: geophysics and topographical surveys La Hyde – between Pangbourne and Purley on Thames – June 2015 • Fieldwork: geophysics Caversham Park
Any other comments	All of the above activities involve teams of people who are developing specific areas of archaeological knowledge and skills and welcome new members



Streatley: Archaeological Officer Alex Godden testing a new geophysical technique with the BAS

Name of Organisation Berkshire Archaeology Research Group	
Contact Details – Name	Isobel MacLean
Telephone No	01189 429 712
e-mail address	mail@barg-online.org
Web address	www.barg-online.org/
Date when founded if known	1958
Objectives/ Aims	Investigating the archaeology of Berkshire
Number of members (approx)	50
Annual Programme (if so structured)	Quarterly meetings and lectures
Recent projects and events	Recent fieldwork in West Berkshire has included a multi-disciplinary survey of the parish of Peasemore and an on-going programme of geophysics and excavation at a number of Roman sites within the parish of Boxford
Future plans	Further fieldwork at Boxford

Name of Organisation Berkshire Gardens Trust	
Contact Details – Name	Fiona Hope
Address	23, St. James Close, Pangbourne, Berkshire RG8 7AP
Telephone No	0118 984 3504
e-mail address	berks-gardens-trust@live.com
Web address	www.berks-gardens-trust.org.uk
Date when founded if known	2008 with official launch in 2009
Objectives/ Aims	These cover several areas including encouraging members and partners to help us celebrate, research, enhance and protect Berkshire's parks and gardens by contributing to planning and management issues, liaising with the relevant unitary authority officials and also participating in appropriate regional and national fora.
Number of members (approx)	85 Individual & 4 Corporate (inc. West Berkshire Council)
Annual Programme (if so structured)	In addition to continuing research, planning and liaison activity, we aim to have 2 evening lectures (Spring, Autumn) with the latter linked to AGM, 2 Newsletters during the year, 2 to 3 garden visits, occasional study days/workshops.
Recent projects and events	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BGT's Spring lecture 2015 was held at Shaw House, Newbury and supported by the Archaeology Service, Shaw House Manager and Facilities Manager within the West Berkshire Council Culture Team. • We are currently finalising our initial 'gazetteer' of Berkshire's designed parks & gardens, as well as planning events including a lecture, exhibitions and walks for 2016, the Tercentenary of Capability Brown. Extant examples of Brown's West Berkshire projects are found at Sandford Park (St. Gabriel's) and Benham Valence. • Our next event is a guided tour of West Green Gardens, Hampshire, followed by tea.
Future plans	We wish to continue with activities on a basis similar to the outline above. In particular, we recognise that we need to develop more outreach into the wider Berkshire community, both in terms of potential members and other organisations with whom we share interests and also in particular developing relationships with conservation and planning officer contacts.
Any other comments	We value the support which the Archaeology Service in general and Sarah Orr in particular, have provided from the beginning of BGT's activities.

Speen: Benham Valence gate piers



Name of Organisation Berkshire Industrial Archaeology Group	
Contact Details – Name	Peter J. R. Trout (NB Newbury contacts also given as Ron Neal and Graham Smith)
Address	7 West Chiltern, Woodcote, Reading, RG8 0SG
Telephone No	01491 682002
e-mail address	marytrout27@yahoo.co.uk (temporary)
Web address	www.biag.org.uk
Date when founded if known	c 1975
Objectives/ Aims	To inform, educate and promote interest and concern on matters of industrial history and archaeology, and to take action if possible on such issues
Number of members (approx)	30
Annual Programme (if so structured)	Programme of talks and visits. Expression of concern re Mac's Cafe Heritage Days involvement
Recent projects and events	Programme attached (hard copy)
Future plans	Seek to increase membership as the present one is aging and not able to undertake projects. Would like to involve young people in industrial archaeology projects, surveying industrial history, etc
Any other comments	Affiliated to AIA and other bodies. Hosted SERIAC (South East Industrial Archaeology Conference) in Newbury 3 years ago and due to host again in 2017. Leaflet produced for Reading Borough Council on Industrial Reading (hard copy enclosed)

Name of Organisation Boxford History Project	
Contact Details – Name	Joy Appleton
Address	Appledene, School Lane, Boxford RG20 8DX
Telephone No	01488 608422
e-mail address	joy@appleton.uk.net
Objectives/ Aims	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To write a simple parish history book • To build a Heritage Centre • To extend knowledge and understanding of the ancient history of the parish
Number of members (approx)	All within the parish
Annual Programme (if so structured)	Archaeological Feedback session already held Archaeological Training session if HLF bid successful
Recent projects and events	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parish History Book completed • Parish Room and Heritage Centre now completed • Surveys and evaluation excavation of one Roman site in 2012, 2013 and 2014 • Surveys of two further Roman sites within the parish 2014
Future plans	Fit out Heritage Centre – currently underway – Official Opening later this year HLF bid for a 3 year programme of excavations, training and lectures associated with the 3 Roman sites already confirmed with a view to starting this August.

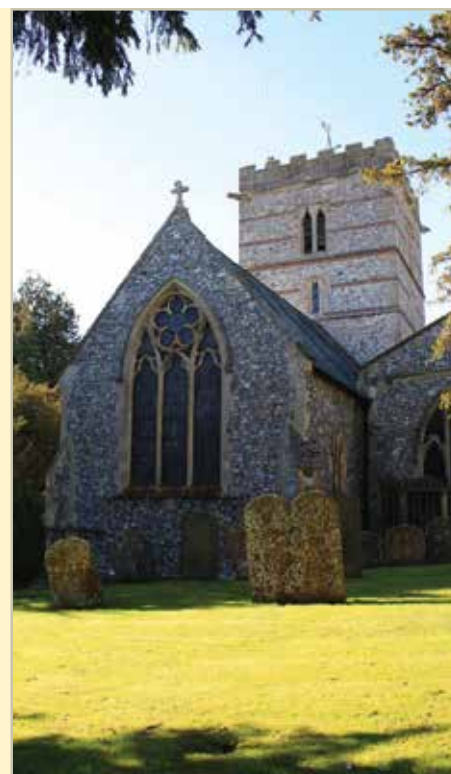


Boxford: Hoar Hill excavations

Name of Organisation Bucklebury History Group	
Contact Details – Name Address Telephone No e-mail address	Helen Relf 1 Woodside Close, Upper Bucklebury, RG7 6QR 01635 867619 or 07742 324346 grannyrelf@btinternet.com
Date when founded if known	1999 - to produce Bucklebury in Focus
Objectives/ Aims	To research and preserve the history of the parish of Bucklebury
Number of members (approx)	15 core & other parishioners
Recent projects and events	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • History day at Bucklebury House open to all • Several open meetings with variety of local speakers and their memories • Recording of memorials at St Mary's Church (to be completed) • Recording of memorials in local cemetery (ongoing) • 1851 census research (ongoing)
Any other comments	Very small number of researchers - more interested in open meetings, etc

Name of Organisation Cold Ash Parish Heritage Group	
Contact Details – Name Address Telephone No e-mail address	Dr Fred Davison Goran, Bucklebury Alley, Cold Ash, Thatcham RG18 9NJ 01635 202605 CAPHGroup@gmail.com
Date when founded if known	2014
Objectives/ Aims	Monthly meetings, one public exhibition per annum
Number of members (approx)	10
Annual Programme (if so structured)	November 2014 - Exhibition 'Men of the Memorial' telling stories of the Fallen Men named on Cold Ash War Memorial. April 2015 – Exhibition on the history of St Mark's Church to celebrate the 150th Anniversary
Recent projects and events	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Further research on those individuals named on the War Memorial and Roll of Honour of survivors of WW1 - a public exhibition will follow. • Digitally recording historic documents, photographs and other materials relating to Cold Ash Parish. • Oral History project to collect the memories of long-term residents of the parish. • Establishing a Heritage Website to share information.
Future plans	The long-term goal is to raise funds and establish a Cold Ash Parish Virtual Museum

Name of Organisation East Garston Local History Society	
Contact Details – Name Address Telephone No e-mail address	Jonathan Haw Goldhill House, Front Street, East Garston RG17 7EU 01488 648265 jonathan.haw@btopenworld.com
Date when founded if known	2010
Objectives/ Aims	To promote interest in the local history of East Garston and district, and historical matters in general; to arrange a regular programme of speaker meetings and visit places of historical interest; to initiate and encourage research into the history of East Garston and district and to publish results as and when necessary; and to support attempts to promote an interest in local history elsewhere in the county where appropriate.
Number of members (approx)	30
Recent projects and events	Recent talks. 17 January 2014 the Lambourn Valley Railway by Kevin Robertson 14 March 2014 The Burdett baronets – East Garston's 19th c. Landlords 20 March 2015 East Garston's Trooper Wooldridge and his rôle in Oscar Wilde's "The Ballad of Reading Gaol"
Future plans	More talks



East Garston: All Saints Church

Name of Organisation		East Ilsley Local History Society	
Contact Details – Name Address	1) Sue Burnay 1) White Hollow, High Street, East Ilsley, RG20 7LE	2) Eric Saxton 2) School House, Narrow Lane, East Ilsley, RG20 7LG	
Telephone No e-mail address	1) 01635 281308 1) sue.burnay@btinternet.com	2) 01635 281388 2) eric.saxton@btinternet.com	
Web address	www.eastilsleyhistory.com		
Date when founded if known	pre 2002		
Objectives/ Aims	The society is dedicated to preserving East Ilsley's heritage (village records, photos, maps, documents etc.), researching aspects of village life and history, then making this information available for the benefit of anyone with an interest in the village.		
Number of members (approx)	40		
Annual Programme (if so structured)	Annual exhibition (usually Oct) plus display at annual Sheep Fair (usually June) Twice yearly newsletter to all members and other interested parties		
Recent projects and events	Recent exhibition on "They also served" – stories of the people who served in WW1 and returned to the village (complementing an earlier exhibition on those on the War Memorial who died). On-going project to transcribe and index the accounts books of the Overseers of the Poor for 1744–90.		
Future plans	Research on the horse racing industry in E.Ilsley History of various houses in the village Famous people with links to the village Continued support to queries on family history (often from overseas)		
Any other comments	Much of our work is published in a series of booklets and CDs which are available to anyone. Funds from the sale of these publications are fed back into further research.		

Name of Organisation		Friends of Newtown Road Cemetery	
Contact Details – Name Address	Maureen Hudd 100 Enborne Road, Newbury, RG14 6AN		
Telephone No e-mail address	01635 30108 maureen.hudd@btinternet.com		
Web address	www.fnrcnewbury.org.uk/		
Date when founded if known	2009		
Objectives/ Aims	Bringing a Victorian Cemetery back to life		
Number of members (approx)	75		
Annual Programme (if so structured)	Ongoing activities by members include: Monument Recording Group crawling in the wet grass to ensure all grave inscriptions will be available on the web-site; History group meetings and filing afternoons; Nature group working with the Town Council to explore the plants and wildlife in this area of "unimproved grassland" and providing experiences for youngsters from schools and groups (art, nature, grave rubbing, photography)		
Recent projects and events	The Tragedy on Enborne Road, the story of a murder and suicide in 1892. Dramatic production 2014 Welcome day at the cemetery April 2015 – guided tours Talks to local history and social groups Remembrance events in November each year		
Future plans	Evening opening with guided tours and displays Wednesday 24th June 2015 New dramatic production by the Resurrection Players October 2015 'Residents Resurrected'		
Any other comments	We are very interested to talk to all those local people who know about the lives of those buried in our cemetery – and what happened to the Burial Plot book, and when did the Dissenters Chapel catch fire etc.		

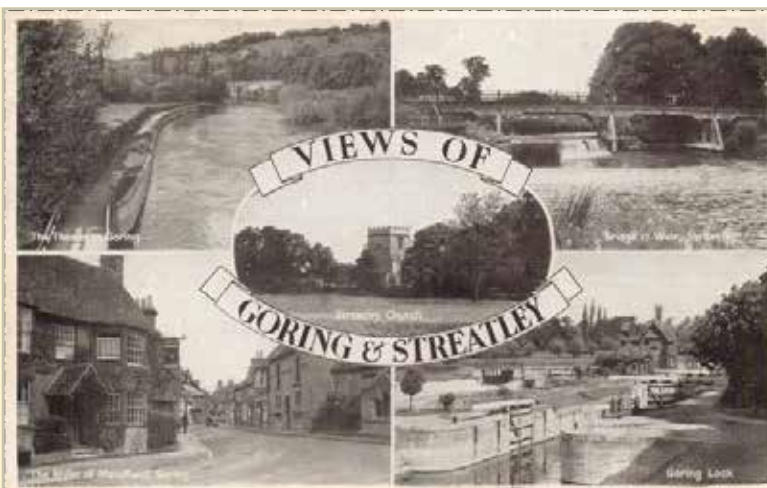


Newbury: Newtown Road Cemetery

Name of Organisation	
Friends of West Berkshire Museum	
Contact Details – Name	Mrs J P Hoggood
Address	23 Lipscombe Close, Newbury, RG14 5JW
Telephone No	01635 33388
e-mail address	jhopgood1@hotmail.co.uk
Web address	www.friendsofwestberksmuseum.org.uk/
Date when founded if known	2012
Objectives/ Aims	To be advocates of the museum within the local community. To be a fund raising body
Number of members (approx)	40+
Annual Programme (if so structured)	A series of talks and visits
Recent projects and events	Liaison with Pitt Rivers Museum, Oxford. Lectures by eminent local historians
Future plans	Continuation of above aims.

Name of Organisation	
Goring & Streatley Local History Society	
Contact Details – Name	Janet Hurst
Address	6 Nun's Acre, Goring, Reading, RG8 9BE
Telephone No	01491 871022
e-mail address	goringgaphistory@gmail.com
Web address	www.goringgaphistory.org.uk
Date when founded if known	1966
Objectives/ Aims	To promote and study the history of the villages of Goring and Streatley and the surrounding area
Number of members (approx)	180
Annual Programme (if so structured)	Monthly talks and regular outings: 9 November, 2.30 pm Liz Woolley - The common lodging house in Victorian England 14 December, 2.30 pm Hazel Williams - The Roman Villa at Gatehampton 2016 11 January, 2.30 pm Stephen Barker - The Oxfordshire Home Front 1914-1918 8 February, 2.30 pm Tim Healey - The Green Man in Oxfordshire 14 March, 2.30 pm TALKS BY MEMBERS 11 April, 8.00 pm Simon Wenham - The rise of leisure on the Thames
Recent projects and events	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Society has an on-going oral history project to record the memories of current inhabitants 1-2 November 2014 Exhibition: World War I and the Goring Gap Participation in Family & Community History Research Society's World War I Home Front project
Future plans	2016: Local History Festival to mark the Society's 50th anniversary: one day conference & exhibition, followed by a reception for members Date to be announced 2018: Book launch - World War I and the Goring Gap
Any other comments	In addition to running a programme of monthly talks, the Society publishes an annual journal, organises occasional articles and has an archive of books, documents and photographs open to researchers by appointment. The Society has a popular Transport History Group which runs regular outings relating to its theme and publishes an occasional newsletter.

Goring and Streatley: Historic views



Name of Organisation Hungerford Historical Association	
Contact Details – Name	Mrs Margaret Smallwood (Treasurer)
Address	12a Ermin Street, Stockcross, Newbury, RG20 8LG
Telephone No	01488 608326
e-mail address	margaretsmallwood@tiscali.co.uk
Web address	www.hungerfordhistorical.org.uk
Date when founded if known	1979
Objectives/ Aims	To research, collate and preserve any information and items of interest relating to the town of Hungerford and the surrounding area. To hold meetings of members. To stimulate public interest in and appreciation of local history.
Number of members (approx)	200
Annual Programme (if so structured)	Monthly talks (4th Wednesday) and at least one day visit annually.
Recent projects and events	See website

Name of Organisation Hungerford Virtual Museum	
Contact Details – Name	Dr Hugh Pihlens
Web address	http://hungerfordvirtualmuseum.co.uk/
Date when founded if known	2009
Objectives/ Aims	To share the research and knowledge on Hungerford's heritage and history.
Number of members (approx)	over 4000 unique visitors each month



Hungerford: St Lawrence's Church

Name of Organisation The Kennet & Avon Canal Trust	
Contact Details – Name Address Telephone No e-mail address	Rob Dean CMG - Chairman of Trustees c/o Canal Centre, Couch Lane, Devizes SN10 1EB 07795 116223 chair@katrust.org.uk
Web address	www.katrust.org.uk
Date when founded if known	1962
Objectives/ Aims	a) promote, facilitate, and assist in the conservation, protection and improvement of the Kennet and Avon Canal and its associated watercourses, towpaths, structures and buildings; b) advance the education of the public in general of the significance; c) protect and conserve, objects, sites and buildings of archaeological, architectural, engineering or historic interest on, in the vicinity of, or otherwise associated with the Kennet & Avon Canal; d) promote and facilitate recreational use of the Kennet and Avon Canal by a wide section of the community in order to improve conditions of life for the public.
Number of members (approx)	2500
Recent projects and events	Within West Berkshire we have delivered the following to the community in the past year: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 passenger boats (Newbury & Hungerford) providing access to the canal to around 10,000 residents and visitors • A new Canal Information Centre in Newbury dedicated to restoration pioneer, John Gould • The Newbury Waterways Festival, our annual celebration of Newbury as an inland waterway town • Public talks to many groups on the heritage of the canal • Monitoring and challenge of planning proposals around the canal • Schools visits to the canal • Oversight and support of the use made by the Canal & River Trust of maintenance funding provided by West Berks Council
Future plans	We will continue to be the voice of the Kennet & Avon canal, working to protect, enhance and promote it. We will develop ways of engaging the community, especially the younger generation, in the use and care of their canal. Our mission is to inspire and engage a new generation of canal lovers.
Any other comments	The Kennet & Avon is central to the life of West Berkshire, providing a 30 mile heritage, wildlife and leisure playground across the county. The canal is one of West Berkshire's greatest and most accessible assets Its restoration and reopening 25 years ago this summer was a great achievement. We all have a responsibility to care for it and ensure it is used widely and sustainably.




Newbury: The Waterways Festival

Name of Organisation Mortimer Local History Group	
Contact Details – Name Address Telephone No e-mail address	Carolyn Owen The Jackdaw, Mortimer West End, Reading, Berks, RG7 2AD 01189332533 cojackdaw@aol.com
Date when founded if known	c1976
Objectives/ Aims	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To research past local history and draw together information from disparate sources to present a picture of our local history. This is done by providing exhibitions at village events, and for specific local groups. • To record the history of the last 100 years, which is ephemeral and often never recorded because “everybody knows it”. This is done through recorded interviews with older residents and dated and annotated photographs. • To digitise our archives, and to make accurate and good quality information freely available on the web, so that interested people from around the world can access it.
Number of members (approx)	25
Recent projects and events	A small exhibition of the work of the group at Mortimer Fun Day on The Fairground, Mortimer Common Remembrance of the fallen of World War 1 through the production of a poster
Future plans	Research on Spanish Basque children who were given shelter in the UK from 1937 – on the Whitsun Bank Holiday of the 6th June 1938 some of these children gave an exhibition of traditional dance in Mortimer. There appear to have been colonies of these children staying in both Newbury and Reading and the Mortimer Local History Group would like to find out more from anyone who could help.

THE MORTIMER LOCAL HISTORY GROUP WISH TO REMEMBER MEN OF THE VILLAGE LOST IN 1915

Although 1918 saw the worst total number of villagers killed of all the four years of the first world war, it was in 1915 when the numbers of local dead started to increase. The worst day for Mortimer was 15th May 1915.




Pte. E. Wilde, Wheat's Cottage, Mortimer - Missing

The four local men who died on this day were:

- Private William James McGraw, 21, son of James and Martha McGraw of Railway Terrace, near the station.
- Lance Corporal Charles Wickens, age unknown, son of Charles and Sarah Wickens.
- Lance Corporal Ernest Wheeler, 33, son of Joseph and Sarah Wheeler. Ernest married a Sarah Elizabeth (in Essex) prior to going to France.
- Private Fredrick Wilde, 25, son of the late Thomas and widow Mrs Jane Wilde.


All of the above were members of the 1st Battalion, Royal Berkshire Regiment. Three are together remembered at Le Touret, France, with Lance Corporal Wickens buried at Vieille Chapelle, Laconture, France.




The late Lt.-Corpl. Charles Wickens, Mortimer - Killed in action

The full list of the honourable dead for 1915 are:

2nd Batt. Royal Berkshire Regiment.	Henry G Bushne	15.3.1915
133rd Heavy Batt. Royal Garrison Artillery.	Ernest George Andrews.	24.3.1915
1st Batt. Royal Berkshire Regiment.	Jesse Sweetzer	24.4.1915
2nd Batt. Royal Berkshire Regiment	John Gosling	9.5.1915
1st Batt. Royal Berkshire Regiment	William J McGraw	15.5.1915
1st Batt. Royal Berkshire Regiment.	Ernest Wheeler	15.5.1915
1st Batt. Royal Berkshire Regiment	Charles Wickens	15.5.1915
1st Batt. Royal Berkshire Regiment	Fredrick Wilde	15.5.1915
14th Batt. Quebec Reg. Canadian Infantry	Sidney Raggett	21.5.1915
10th Batt. Hampshire Regiment	Albert H Steel	21.8.1915
8th Batt. Royal Berkshire Regiment	Charles G Paramor	25.9.1915
2nd Batt. Royal Berkshire Regiment.	Albert J Bailey	25.9.1915
1st Batt. Royal Berkshire Regiment.	Henry Stephen Barrett.	29.9.1915
Berkshire Yeomanry	Arthur E Illman	11.12.1915



Le Touret Memorial



Vieille-Chapelle New Military Cemetery, Laconture

Name of Organisation		Newbury District Field Club
Contact Details – Name	Philip Wood	
Address	Walnut Tree Cottage, Oxford Road, Donnington	
Telephone No	01635 46497	
e-mail address	secretary@ndfc.org.uk	
Web address	www.ndfc.org.uk	
Date when founded if known	1870	
Objectives/ Aims	To encourage and promote the study of all aspects of the history, natural history, geology etc of Newbury and the surrounding district.	
Number of members (approx)	60	
Annual Programme (if so structured)	Afternoon and evening talks (see website) plus annual History Day.	
Recent projects and events	History Days in 2013 (Aspects of the History of Northbrook St) and 2014 (Aspects of the History of Bartholomew St) West Berkshire War Memorials website www.westberkshirewarmemorials.org.uk Newbury Remembers exhibition @ Town Hall, Nov 2014 Newbury 1914 lecture @ Town Hall, Feb 2015	
Future plans	History Day 2015 (Aspects of the History of Cheap St and the Market Place) – 6 June 2015, 10am to 4.30pm @ St Nicolas Church Hall (tickets from Visitor Information Centre). Continuation of Newbury Remembers Exhibitions, Lectures and Website through to 2018.	

Name of Organisation		Newbury Geological Study Group
Contact Details – Name	Helen Weideli	
Address	35 Bartlemy Road, Newbury, RG14 6LD	
Telephone No	01635 42190	
e-mail address	helen@ngsg.org.uk	
Web address	www.ngsg.org.uk	
Date when founded if known	2003	
Objectives/ Aims	To encourage the study and appreciation of geology in an enjoyable way	
Number of members (approx)	50	
Annual Programme (if so structured)	Monthly day trips and occasional weekend trips	
Recent projects and events	Evening classes and monthly field meetings	
Future plans	12 week evening class planned for winter. Continuation of field meeting programme.	

Name of Organisation		The Newbury Society
Contact Details – Name	Jeremy Holden-Bell	
Address	14 Speen Lodge Court, Speen, Newbury RG14 1QS	
Telephone No	01635 30868	
e-mail address	chairman@newbury-society.org	
Web address	www.newbury-society.org	
Date when founded if known	1974	
Objectives/ Aims	Promote high standards of planning and architecture. Preservation and protection of historic assets. Promote Civic pride.	
Number of members (approx)	145	
Annual Programme (if so structured)	Monthly talks September to May	
Recent projects and events	Contributed to new plaques at The Clock House, The Broadway. Previously organised Heritage Open Days.	
Any other comments	Represented on Heritage Working Group, Town Trail, etc. Comments on planning applications within the Newbury Area, particularly on historic buildings.	

Name of Organisation Newbury Town Council - Heritage Working Group	
Contact Details – Name Address Telephone No e-mail address	Anthony Pick, Chairman Newbury Town Council, Town Hall, Market Place, Newbury RG14 5AA 01635 35486 (Town Council) / 01635 32085 (Chairman) towncouncil@newbury.gov.uk / anthony.pick@newburyweb.net (Chairman)
Web address	www.newbury.gov.uk
Date when founded if known	2006 (as Conservation of Historic Buildings Working Group - name changed in 2013)
Objectives/ Aims	To promote the recognition and conservation of Newbury's built heritage, in collaboration with local heritage organisations and volunteers and West Berkshire Council.
Number of members (approx)	8, comprising Newbury Town Councillors, the West Berkshire Heritage Champion, and local volunteers. Secretarial services are provided by the Town Council.
Recent projects and events	Interpretation panels for the Clock Tower and the Second Battle of Newbury. Dendro-dating of 102/103 Northbrook Street. Revised Historic England listing details for 40 London Road and 102/103 Northbrook Street. Local listing of Newbury War Memorial and Coxedd and Pearce's Almshouses by West Berkshire Council. Re-establishment of Town Walks, in collaboration with the Visitor Information Centre.
Future plans	More along the lines of recent projects. Plaques for some historic Newbury sites. If possible, Conservation Area Appraisals for Newbury
Any other comments	The Heritage Working Group was founded by the late Cllr Gina Houghton, whose work it continues. Additional volunteers, especially to lead the Town Walks, would be welcome. The panel to commemorate the victims of the February 1943 pre-dated the re-establishment of the HWG

Name of Organisation Pangbourne Heritage Group	
Contact Details – Name Address Telephone No e-mail address	Lyn Davies 1 Hartslock Court, Shooters Hill, Pangbourne, Berkshire, RG8 7BJ 0118 984 2026 Lynndav87@aol.com
Web address	https://twitter.com/pangbournehg
Date when founded if known	2004
Objectives/ Aims	To research, record, document and publicise the heritage of Pangbourne
Number of members (approx)	40-50
Annual Programme (if so structured)	Members meeting/talks, every 2nd Wednesday in month
Recent projects and events	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Major exhibitions on WW2 (2005), Pangbourne, 1830-1930 (2010) and Do You Remember, 1947-1953 (2012), a smaller display on WW1 and the Roll of Honour for Pangbourne (2014). • Recent talks included Managing Archaeology in West Berkshire; Evidence of Roman History in the wider Pangbourne area; Unusual Berkshire Churches, Agatha Christie, Artistic and Literary Footprints of Pangbourne and surrounding area; Copyright and Data protection; Living with Dylan Thomas; and The History of Wine. • Other recent activities included Village walks, visit to Mapledurham house and watermill. • Research and activities included the material for the Exhibitions and other topics such as Bere Court, the Breedon family and the sale of the Breedon Estate; Benjamin Baker, a local man, designer of the Forth Bridge; the military use of Bailey Bridges at Pangbourne, in WW2, a time-line of Pangbourne, and work on local place names. • Collection and digitisation of 60,000 photographs and other documents in the PHG Archive.
Future plans	Currently being reviewed under the new chairman. Possible future topics for research and exhibition might include the contributions of the river, roads and railway to the growth of Pangbourne, or the incidence of plague deaths in the 14th century in Pangbourne; further improvement of our archive: and preparation of a Guide to Pangbourne.
Any other comments	Lyn Davies, Acting Chairman following the retirement of our first chairman, after ten years, Rosie Nurick.

Name of Organisation Project Purley	
Contact Details – Name Address Telephone No e-mail address	Catherine Sampson (Chair) 32 Waterside Drive, Purley on Thames, Reading, RG8 8AQ 0118 9422255 chairman@project-purley.eu
Date when founded if known	1982
Objectives/ Aims	Its main aim is to carry out research on Purley on Thames and the surrounding area and to catalogue a vast collection of artifacts gathered over the years and to make these available to anyone wanting to carry out their own research.
Number of members (approx)	c 100
Annual Programme (if so structured)	Meet on the 3rd Friday of the month from September to April in The Barn, Goosecroft Lane, off Beech Road, Purley on Thames. (Our last three meetings covered Farming in Purley, a talk on Purley Park and Catholic Recusancy). During the summer months we have two outings and a barbecue; this year we have a trip to Portsmouth Historic Dockyard in May, a visit to Sutton Courtenay in July and the barbecue will be held in June.
Recent projects and events	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two members are researching the River Estate in Purley and the Society is carrying out a survey of St.Mary's churchyard. • We produce a Journal three times a year which is distributed free to members and, in 2010, we published our first book, Purley in Old Images. • During the year, we raise money for local charities by hosting two performances of plays put on by the travelling theatre company, Rain or Shine. Since the theatre company started coming to Purley in 2005, we have raised over £9,000 for charity.
Future plans	In future, we will continue our research and hope to encourage more of our members to get involved with ongoing projects. We will endeavour to arrange a programme that is varied and informative.



Purley: Project Purley members and their meeting place in The Barn

Name of Organisation Ridgeway Military and Aviation Research Group	
Contact Details – Name Address Telephone No e-mail address	Jonathan Sayers (Group Secretary) RMARG, Bldg 229, RAF Welford, Newbury, RG20 7EX 0771 8128621 rmarg@hotmail.co.uk or fencer_js@yahoo.com
Web address	www.rmarg.org.uk/
Date when founded if known	1991
Objectives/ Aims	The Ridgeway Military and Aviation Research Group is dedicated to the research and preservation of all types of wartime and post war military heritage in the Oxfordshire, Berkshire, and Wiltshire, areas of the UK surrounding the area known as the Ridgeway. The group has been actively recording and preserving the area's vast wartime and post war military heritage and working with the local community in the erection of memorials and researching events.
Number of members (approx)	67
Annual Programme (if so structured)	Monthly meetings are held on the last Thursday of the month in building 229 at RAF Welford (unless advised otherwise) and are open to members only.
Recent projects and events	The group at RAF Welford works very closely with the US Air Force which maintains command at the base. RMARG also works closely with the RAF and as such holds memorial ceremonies each March for the loss of the 101 Squadron Lancaster at Welford and in November for Remembrance. The group has also been involved with the launch of the Mello Field road sign at Greenham.
Future plans	RAF Welford comes under a command structure at RAF Croughton in Northamptonshire and as such, the group has been invited to bring along some objects on the history of RAF Welford to display at a WW2 anniversary event on June 5th.
Any other comments	We welcome new members and are happy to help if we can on questions of local military history. It should be stressed that our collection is not open to the public except by prior arrangement, access is restricted as it sits on a secure MoD site and photo identification is required for all visitors who must get prior permission to visit.

Name of Organisation Stockcross & Surroundings Historical Association	
Contact Details – Name	Viv Wilson
Address	2 Foley Cottages, Stockcross
Telephone No	01635 523963
e-mail address	info@stockcrosshistory.org.uk
Web address	www.stockcrosshistory.org.uk
Date when founded if known	2013
Objectives/ Aims	The aim of the Group shall be to research, collect, preserve and make available archives, artefacts and information relating to Stockcross and the surrounding area and to encourage active interest and participation in our local history.
Number of members (approx)	18
Annual Programme (if so structured)	Monthly meetings. Last Monday of the month. Some open to guests with Speakers, some for members only.
Recent projects and events	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research WW1 memorial tablet at St John's Church. • Exhibition of above in St John's Church Aug 2014 • Book Launch relating to above Nov 2014 • Development of Website
Future plans	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As a new group we are currently working on analysis of censuses. • Members are individually looking at various topics. • We have applied to be included in the new Dig My Village programme
Any other comments	We are a new group of enthusiastic amateurs and would like to work with established groups & professionals to help us learn more.

Name of Organisation Thattham Historical Society	
Contact Details – Name	Sue Ellis
Address	Open View, New Road Hill, Midgham, RG7 5RY
Telephone No	01189712428, work 01635 519747
e-mail address	susancarveth@gmx.com
Web address	www.thatthamhistoricalsociety.org.uk
Date when founded if known	1967
Objectives/ Aims	Research into the local history of Thattham and its surroundings, local history events including regular speaker meetings
Number of members (approx)	70
Annual Programme (if so structured)	AGM in January, speaker meetings February to June and September to November
Recent projects and events	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work being carried out to record the gravestones at St Matthew's, Midgham. • National History Month lecture, 9th May 2015-05-05 • Peter Allen Memorial Lectures 2010-2014
Future plans	Revision and publication of Thattham Over 2000 Years

Name of Organisation Theale Local History Group	
Contact Details – Name	Evelyn Fuller (Chairman)
Address	58 The Crescent, Theale Reading RG7 5AZ
Telephone No	0118 930 3125
e-mail address	thealehistory@aol.com and evelynfuller58@gmail.com
Web address	http://thealevillage.com/
Date when founded if known	2004
Objectives/ Aims	To promote interest in the history of our locality and its inhabitants past and present by discussion meetings, research, and document publication.
Number of members (approx)	20
Annual Programme (if so structured)	5 bi-monthly meetings of members and guests with speakers and a summer visit to a place of historic interest.
Recent projects and events	Publications: Theale Trails Leaflet (walks), Theale War Memorial (Stories behind the Berkshire names) 2005, Theale in Old Photographs 2008 and 2009 reprint, The Theale I Remember 2010 A-Z of Theale people in World War One (Researched by Daphne Spurling)
Future plans	To promote interest in local history by presentations at local events such as the Theale carnival on 18 July 2015

Name of Organisation West Berkshire Countryside Society	
Contact Details – Name	Dick Greenaway
Address	The Cottage, Ashampstead Common, Pangbourne, Reading RG8 8QT
Telephone No	01635 201386 / 07780 568656
e-mail address	Rg.greenaway@btinternet.com
Web address	www.westberks countryside.org.uk
Date when founded if known	c.1998 as 'The Pang Valley Project'
Objectives/ Aims	The Society exists to promote the understanding, appreciation and conservation of the West Berkshire Countryside by its residents and visitors and all other groups and businesses involved in its care and management. The Society will also promote practical work to further these aims within West Berkshire. The Society shall be a not-for-profit body
Number of members (approx)	c 300
Annual Programme (if so structured)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quarterly newsletter 'Upstream' (1200 copies circulated) • regular weekly working parties • guided walks to introduce people to the historical and natural heritage of West Berkshire • books and publications which include history, archaeology and heritage
Recent projects and events	'Yattendon for Visitors' 2014 a history of Yattendon parish. Studies of a number of sites using LiDAR data. Solving of a 10th century charter boundary at Stanford Dingley (submitted to BAJ for publication).
Future plans	A history of the WW2 airfield at Hampstead Norreys. (early 2016) A book on the origins and development of West Berkshire woodland. (late 2016).
Any other comments	We aim to demonstrate how geology, natural history, human history and archaeology are interrelated and are best studied as a whole – rather than as separate subjects.

Name of Organisation West Berkshire Heritage Forum	
Contact Details – Name	Sue Ellis, Secretary
Address	Open View, New Road Hill, Midgham, RG7 5RY
Telephone No	01189712428 work 01635 519747
e-mail address	susancarveth@gmx.com
Web address	www.westberkshireheritageforum.org.uk
Date when founded if known	2009
Objectives/ Aims	Partnership organisation providing support for history and heritage organisations in West Berkshire. Also involved in Local Listing process (arranging Panel meetings and supporting assessors with training).
Number of members (approx)	70+ (mainly local organisations and parish councils rather than individuals)
Annual Programme (if so structured)	AGM in April, additional event held in period September to November
Recent projects and events	Local Listing – currently five heritage assets approved for Local Listing

Thatcham: Local listing training for assessors



West Berkshire Heritage Forum and the Historic Environment Action Plan

The [forum](#)³⁹ was set up in 2010 as an alliance that aims to encourage partnership working to protect and promote the district's heritage.

The forum has adopted a [Historic Environment Action Plan \(HEAP\)](#)⁴⁰, a document that seeks to highlight what is special and important about the local historic environment, what the key challenges are and what the priorities for action should be in West Berkshire. An important message is that a shared ownership of the actions can provide a more focussed set of activities, delivering long term benefits.

HEAP Progress report

The HEAP was produced in 2011 and has a 5 year timeframe. It has regularly been reviewed to measure progress against defined action points.

Over the past few years a number of the key action points have been fulfilled, including the establishment of the Local List, as well as the ongoing commitment to supporting community based and sustainable projects that seek to understand the heritage of the district and promote the benefits of high standards for archaeological and historic building recording, as well as good practice in all aspects of research and investigation. A good example of this is the recent discussions to safeguard the deposition of the archaeological archive from the Beedon Iron Age site excavations with the West Berkshire Museum – ensuring that they are properly conserved and available for future study.

A new initiative spearheaded by the Heritage Champion and Archaeology Service is the promotion of heritage to local communities for consideration in planning and management schemes. This concept has been championed in the past by English Heritage (now Historic England) with the publication of 'Knowing Your Place: Heritage and Community-Led Planning in the Countryside' and the 'Guide To Neighbourhood Planning': both of these documents have highlighted the positive role of heritage within these processes. To allow parish groups to fully engage with their local heritage, the Archaeology Service have supplied Heritage Packs to several parishes (more are planned in the future) as well as attended several events to promote the role of heritage in community planning and management.

There are some HEAP action points that are still to be initiated, but nevertheless it remains a solid tool for the promotion and understanding of West Berkshire's heritage, as well as providing a framework for all interested parties when designing their own projects or strategies.

³⁹ <http://www.westberkshireheritageforum.org.uk/>

⁴⁰ <http://info.westberks.gov.uk/CHttpHandler.ashx?id=36464&p=0>



**The West Berkshire
Historic Environment Action Plan**
West Berkshire Heritage Forum - 2011

Report by the archaeology service on the progress of the HEAP high priority objectives:

Theme A. Understanding and Recording the Historic Environment

No.	Objective	2012-2015 Progress Report
A.1	Supporting Community-based Historic Environment projects	WBHF AGM, Newsletter, Berkshire Archaeology Society Day School, Newbury History Day, talks etc
A.1.1	Support sustainable projects that seek to understand the heritage of the district.	Projects known to have started/completed in 2014-15 – Local list, war memorials, BGT gardens audit, Kennet Valley Aggregates Resource Assessment, Tracing Their Steps Project to map Holocene potential along Kennet Valley, Boxford Archaeology Project and History Group, deposition of excavation archives from the Beedon Iron Age site.
A.1.2	Promote co-operation between local groups and individuals, share best practice and develop a common agenda for action.	<p>Despite activities such as the WBHF website, the AGM and others it is recognised that more can be done to co-ordinate the activities of different groups. Two positive developments towards achieving this goal is the Heritage Report spearheaded by Cllr Adrian Edwards, and a possible 'Heritage Bazaar' to be held in 2016, along with a mooted West Berkshire Archaeology Conference</p> <p>It is also important to announce the publication of the Solent Thames Research Framework in 2014 – this allows a common research agenda that can be used as a reference point for research being carried out by local groups/individuals.</p>
A.2	Promote the benefits of high standards for all archaeological and historic building investigation, recording, analysis and publication.	<p>Advice has been provided to local groups when requested. For example, Written Schemes of Investigation have been looked at and approved for the Boxford Archaeology Project and geophysical surveys undertaken by the Berkshire Archaeology Society.</p> <p>The potential Historic Buildings Recording project may offer training opportunities for volunteers and members of local societies.</p>
A.2.1	Promote and monitor professional standards	WBC archaeology team continues to monitor commercial archaeological activity and to provide advice and support to the voluntary sector here appropriate.
A.3	Recognise HER as the primary record for the HE in West Berkshire	<p>English Heritage/ Historic England have emphasised the core role that HERs play in policy and research; for example in the recent Historic Environment Advisory Notes and the 'Heritage Counts 2014' report. These national documents have recognised the principle that HERs are the first point of call for information on the historic environment.</p> <p>Internal discussions at WBC have been undertaken to promote greater awareness of the HER and its function – a key outcome is the development of a historic environment 'constraint layer' to be embedded in WBC mapping systems in order to better flag up heritage assets in procedures. HER policy documents are being drafted for adoption to provide a firmer foundation for HER and its role.</p> <p>An audit of the HER, funded by Historic England, will be undertaken by WBC staff this year – this will ensure that this resource is as efficient as possible, thus ensuring its continuing relevance and functionality.</p>
A.3.1	Increase accessibility of HER, create an on-line presence	HER available on the Heritage Gateway since 19/05/2011, other heritage data such as HLC and HECZ documents are available through the WBC website. The WBC HER completes a bi-annual upload of information to the Heritage gateway, thus increasing the number of records that are publicly available each year.

Theme B. Designation of Heritage Assets

No.	Objective	2012-2015 Progress Report
B.2	Develop a 'local list' of heritage assets	This has been completed and implemented – a very positive step forward
B.2.1	Agree criteria for inclusion on local list with sector	Completed
B.2.2	Promote creation of local list amongst community groups	Progress has been reported through events and newsletter. WBC webpages and local media have also highlighted the list.

Theme C. Development and the Planning System

No.	Objective	2012-2015 Progress Report
C.1	Promote Community engagement with planning and management	Parish plans have now been superseded by neighbourhood planning. The WBC Archaeology Service have provided parish heritage packs to a number of parish groups, with more planned in the future – so far reactions have been positive. Government initiatives are pushing communities into self-determination; this has been reflected in WBC core policies.
C.1.1	Utilise community groups in production of Conservation Area Appraisals (CAA).	Little progress with this. It has been decided to focus on local listing, with the hope that this will provide a pool of people with the skills and experience to undertake the more complex assessments required to complete CAAs.
C.1.5	Promote the use of heritage data in parish planning	EH published 'Knowing Your Place: Heritage and Community-Led Planning in the Countryside' which is being promoted to local groups as a good guide to how heritage can be brought in to Parish Planning. More recent documents have been produced e.g. English Heritage Guide To Neighbourhood Planning that continue to highlight the positive role of heritage within this process. WBC Archaeology Service have produced parish heritage packs (see C.1), as well as attended several events to promote the role of heritage in community planning and management.
C.2	Promote the full use of PPS5 in WBC and amongst developers	PPS5 has been replaced with the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) – this is a satisfactory document that has been fully implemented within WBC procedures.
C.2.1	Ensure heritage significance is fully considered in the development management process	WBC has been promoting the 'significance led' approach to assessment of impact.
C.2.2	Ensure that appropriate policies and supporting evidence is included in local planning policy documents	A WBC Core Strategy has been produced, that contains good cross references to the Historic Environment, the HER, HECZ and the HEAP. HER information and advice has also been embedded in WBC policies on mineral extraction and SHLAA site allocation.
C.2.4	Ensure that the most significant elements of the historic environment are protected from inappropriate development.	WBC archaeology and Conservation teams are vigilant to threats.
C.2.5	Complete the Conservation Area Appraisals for the district.	This has not been progressed as yet.

Theme D. Agriculture and Land Management

No high priority objectives lay within this theme, but the medium priority objective of using agri-environment schemes to improve management of the historic environment has been very successful.

Theme E. Promotion and Outreach

No.	Objective	2012-2015 Progress Report
E.1	Explore mechanisms for promoting the relevance of the Historic Environment for all communities	WBC website, conferences/seminars, Parish Plan meetings and heritage walks and talks are all mechanisms being undertaken to promote the Historic Environment.
E.1.1	Seek opportunities to engage a broader audience to participate in projects	The Victoria Park dig in 2014 attracted a lot of enthusiastic attention from residents – offering an opportunity for the Archaeology Team and project leads from Reading University and Wessex Archaeology to provide on-site education on the Mesolithic potential of the District.
E.1.3	Promote Heritage Open Days, festivals and other local and national schemes for promoting Heritage	Festival of British Archaeology and Heritage Open Days events held.
E.3	Improve publication record	
E.3.1	Ensure that there is an active vehicle for the publication of heritage based investigations	The Berkshire Archaeological Society and the Newbury District Field Club are working towards publishing their next volumes.
E.3.3	Create online access to information and reports	Increasing number of reports available via the Grey Literature Library on the Archaeology Data Service website – currently the figure stands at nearly 100
E.4	Create consistent and accessible archives from all investigation and survey projects	WBC Museum Service is responsible for ensuring that all archives resulting from projects are accessible and managed
E.4.1	Support and promote West Berkshire Museum as the primary depository for archaeological archives	More regular checks have been introduced to the process to ensure accession numbers are requested at appropriate time during the life cycle of a project. West Berkshire is fortunate to have the Museum resource, not only to provide storage for archives but also expertise on management and long term curation.

Theme F. Specific Assets/ Issues

No high priority objectives lay within this theme, but the medium priority objective of promoting the protection of historic parks and gardens is being delivered through liaison with the Berkshire Gardens Trust. The second objective of recognizing the Kennet and Avon Canal as a key component of the district's heritage will also be more achievable through improved communication with the newly formed Canal Trust.



Hamstead Marshall

Archaeological Investigations

New information about West Berkshire's historic environment is continually being added to the HER. This may come through the reporting of sites or finds by local societies, or because research has been carried out by universities, national bodies or individuals. The majority of archaeological reports received by the archaeology service, however, arise from work carried out by archaeological contractors in connection with development, funded by the developer.

About 80 new Archaeological Event records are created on the HER each year, following the receipt of the reports, also known as 'grey literature'. For large scale or complex investigations, the post-excavation work examining and analysing finds may take a while. The major report to come out in 2014 was the results from the Newbury Parkway investigations of 2007-09. The Excavations and Historic Building Recording volumes can be accessed online at [Oxford Archaeology's website⁴¹](#). Hard copies of the reports can also be viewed by appointment with the archaeology service.



Archaeological investigations and historic building recording at Parkway



There are various techniques that can be used to investigate and record features of the historic environment. They can be broadly divided into intrusive and non-intrusive work, the difference being whether the activities have a physical impact or not on the archaeological resource. As archaeological remains are finite and non-renewable, it is important that they are not needlessly or thoughtlessly destroyed. Any excavation for example should be carried out within a research framework, with careful and thorough record-keeping of the features and finds that are uncovered. New techniques for understanding the past are being developed all the time, so it is also important to preserve remains for future study.

⁴¹ <https://library.thehumanjourney.net/1970/>

Some common archaeological investigation techniques and their meaning

Archaeological Investigation	Description
DESK BASED ASSESSMENT	A programme of assessment of the known or potential archaeological resource within a specified area or site on land, inter-tidal zone or underwater by the consultation and collation of existing written, graphic, photographic and electronic data.
EVALUATION	A limited programme of intrusive fieldwork which determines the presence or absence of archaeological features, structures, deposits, artefacts or ecofacts within a specified area or site on land or within the inter-tidal zone. Can be via TEST PITS or TRIAL TRENCHES
EXCAVATION	Controlled intrusive fieldwork which examines, records and interprets archaeological deposits, features and structures and, as appropriate, retrieves artefacts and ecofact remains within a specified area or site on land or within the inter-tidal zone. Most work now would use OPEN AREA EXCAVATION or a STRIP, MAP AND SAMPLE technique.
WATCHING BRIEF	A formal programme of observation and investigation conducted during any operation carried out for non-archaeological reasons that may damage archaeological deposits.
ENVIRONMENTAL SAMPLING	Removal of samples from deposits, including archaeological contexts to recover information about past environments and economies, retrieve material for scientific dating and for the investigation of the deposits themselves e.g. formation processes
BUILDING SURVEY	A descriptive survey involving the systematic measurement and recording of the dimensions or features of a building.
GEOPHYSICAL SURVEY	Ground-based or marine subsurface mapping of archaeological features using different sensing technologies. Most commonly applied are magnetometers, electrical resistance meters, ground penetrating radar, side scan sonar, and electromagnetic conductivity.
METAL DETECTING SURVEY	Structured & carefully executed scanning of the ground surface with a metal detecting device in order to recover surface scatters of metal objects & plot them spatially within the study area as part of an archaeological survey or metal detecting rally.
LIDAR SURVEY	Light detection and ranging is a type of aircraft based remote sensing which records reflected laser pulses. The data can be used to produce very accurate digital elevation models.

From the [Event Types Thesaurus](#), maintained by the Forum on Information Standards in Heritage (FISH)

The following pages list, by parish, details of selected archaeological investigations carried out between 2010 and 2015. Each archaeological event has a unique reference number in the Historic Environment Record, with a prefix EWB.

Brightwalton

Manor Farm Barn

John Moore Heritage Services (EWB1152, 2010)

A watching brief and historic building recording was undertaken on Manor Farm Barn, which is located within the ancient dry moat of a manor complex. No archaeological evidence was uncovered, but different phases of the barn's construction were noted – the earliest dating to the 18th century.

44 Brightwalton

John Moore Heritage Services (EWB1164, 2011)

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken in advance of development, due to the possible 10th century origin of the area, but no evidence was found of either Saxon or Medieval settlement.

Brimpton

Kennetholme Farm, Brimpton Road

Wessex Archaeology (EWB1236, 2010-11)

A phased programme of archaeological strip, map and recording was undertaken on land prior to the extraction of sand and gravel. A small amount of probable Late Mesolithic or Neolithic flintwork was recovered from the surface of an undated ring-gully although it seemed unlikely that this was contemporary. No clear indication of the projected line of a Roman road running across the site was found, but possible evidence for the flanking ditches was recorded as a series of intermittent ditch lengths cut into a palaeochannel of possible early Holocene date. The remnants of an undated field system or possible water management system were recorded north of the road and palaeochannel, though no relationship with either could be demonstrated. The field system may have included a north-south droveway. Two undated partial ring-gullies were recorded just to the west of the possible droveway, which may indicate the presence of a round-house which was rebuilt at least once. PHOTO HERE April 2011.5

Riverside Cottage, Brimpton Mill

Historic Building Advisory Service (EWB1234, 2011)

A historic building assessment was carried out on the Grade II Listed Riverside Cottage, originally part of Brimpton Mill. The earliest part of the building would appear to date to the construction of the present mill in the 18th century and was probably a granary. The roof was probably restructured in the mid to late 19th century and then again in the first or second quartile of the 20th century. In the 1960s the building was converted into a house.

Bucklebury

Bucklebury Flood Alleviation Scheme

Oxford Archaeology (EWB1243, 2010)

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken during construction of new flood defences. No significant archaeological features or deposits were recorded in the route of the by-pass channel, although a fragment of Roman roof tile was recovered from topsoil at one location. It is suggested that this could have been washed downslope from the probable site of a Roman building on a hilltop to the south. A local archaeologist carried out metal detecting during the course of the works, liaising with Oxford Archaeology. A Roman coin from the early to mid 4th century was found, as well as about 30 other metal objects, some of which were post-medieval in date.

Barn near Briffons Cottage, Scotland Corner

The Historic Environment Consultancy (EWB1379, 2013)

Historic building recording was undertaken on a barn prior to demolition, revealing reused timbers dating to before the late 18th century.

Burghfield

AWE Burghfield – Phoenix project

Oxford Archaeology (EWB1288, 2011)

Excavations in advance of redevelopment produced scattered artefactual evidence for earlier prehistoric activity and two features of probable middle Bronze Age date. This was succeeded by a substantial ditched 'primary' enclosure of middle Iron Age date lying partly within the excavated area. Contemporary features lay outside the enclosure which continued to be

used into the Roman period. Further Roman features lay north and south of the primary enclosure. Features of medieval date concentrated in the southern part of the site with some associated finds suggestive of a relatively high status settlement.

Land at Firlands Farm, Hollybush Lane, Burghfield Common

Cotswold Archaeology (EWB1251, 2011)

An evaluation followed an appraisal and geophysical survey of agricultural land. Eight trenches were excavated, some of which were targeted on identified anomalies. A small number of undated pits and postholes and a shallow undated ditch terminal were the only archaeological features identified.

Chieveley

Chieveley Quarry

Oxford Archaeology (EWB1155, 2010)

Archaeological investigations were carried out on land proposed for gravel extraction. The evaluation revealed two Iron Age field boundary ditches, orientated northeast-southwest and five small undated pits. Post-medieval field boundaries and undated tree holes were also uncovered. The finds consisted of a flint flake and burnt unworked flints, 18 Iron Age sherds, two post-medieval sherds and some ceramic building material of ambiguous date.



Chieveley: Old Kiln Quarry evaluation

Land to the south of The Old Stables, Green Lane

Thames Valley Archaeological Services (EWB1341, 2013)

A field evaluation revealed a single large feature, possibly part of an old field boundary infilled during the Roman or later times (indicated via the presence of a single Roman pottery sherd). The deposit also contained a small collection of Mesolithic and later struck flint suggesting the presence of prehistoric occupation in the vicinity.

Cold Ash

Westrop Farm

Oxford Archaeology (EWB1135, 2010)

A historic building assessment noted an account that the farmhouse had been rebuilt after a fire in the 19th century. Two areas of the building demonstrated the existence of older fabric: the gable top at the west end and the entire gable wall at the east end. Both contained old brick but the east gable had been rebuilt. Other walls were rendered or tile-hung in a manner suggesting a late 19th century or later date. The interior of the house contained brick paved floors, old doors and a passage lined with tongue-and-groove dado leading from the front door to the old staircase. The stair structure might date from the late 18th century although it has been much altered.

Compton

Greens Yard, High Street

Wessex Archaeology (EWB1442, 2014)

Historic building recording was carried out on a number of redundant farm buildings as part of a planning application for the redevelopment of the site to create 25 residential units. The Coach House, Manor Barn, Old Bank and the 'Workshop' were the subject of a site survey and photographic recording. This was augmented by a detailed background search of available historic maps and documents.

East Garston

The Threshing Barn, Pounds Farm

Andrew Townsend Architects (EWB1335, 2012)

A review of documentary evidence and a site visit was carried out in order to report on the history and development of the Threshing Barn. A 1753 map shows an L-shaped range on the site of the barn range and another detached building to the west. The barn is a large structure, rectangular in plan with low roof eaves and hipped ends to the roof to the east and west. It has an 'aisled' form and the main structure consists of six main timber trusses, each with a tie, collar pair of vertical queen posts and a pair of principle rafters. The listing description suggests that the barn dates from the late 18th century; however analysis of the building shows that it could date back at least a century earlier than this, being built from re-used timbers.

East Ilsley

The Stables at Church Hill House

Anne Lloyd Morris (EWB1321, 2012)

A heritage report was prepared in connection with an application for the demolition of dilapidated stables. The report included historic maps, references to documentary sources and photographic evidence of the existing external and internal features. The earliest stable was built in the 18th century in a Georgian style with a half-hipped tiled roof and symmetrical frontage. In the later 18th or early 19th centuries a further stable was attached to the house, and subsequently the two stables were joined by a link section to form a U shaped block.

Enborne

Church Farm

Keevill Heritage Consultancy (EWB1129, 2010)

An archaeological watching brief was carried out during the removal of brick arches from the dining room of the Grade II Listed Church Farm House, revealing that the structures were probably decorative and of early 20th century date, rather than being the remains of a 19th century charcoal stove as had been previously suggested.

Englefield

Englefield House

Wessex Archaeology (EWB1263, 2010-11)

A detailed historic building survey and archaeological monitoring were undertaken during extension and restoration works to the West Range of Englefield House. It was established that the West Range had been subject to constant change and adaptation over a 200 year period. In the courtyard were a small number of foundations for walls/hearths and a brick-lined culvert dating from the mid 1850s expansion phase of the house. The mid 19th century range appears to have destroyed any evidence for earlier deposits and no trace of the turnpike road which formerly occupied the area was found. An arched brick culvert of likely 17th-18th century date was found below the foundations of the mid 19th century range.

Fawley

Barn at Fawley Manor, South Fawley

Mathewson Whittaker Waters Architects (EWB1270, 2012)

A basic photographic record was made of a 19th century agricultural building at Fawley Manor prior to its demolition and reconstruction.

Great Shefford

The Manor House

Berkshire Archaeological Services (EWB1205, 2011)

Two evaluation trenches were excavated within the site of the former farmyard. Three courses of well-preserved brickwork were uncovered: the size of the bricks pointed to a 16th or 17th century date, although if they represented the base of a wall, this was not depicted on maps until the Ordnance Survey First Edition of 1878. Machining exposed a surface of flint cobbles, in situ brickwork and rammed chalk flooring. Their location corresponded to the northern end of a barn shown for the first time as a separate building on the 1878 map, and pictured in a 1948 photograph. Its doorway and doorsill was in the same position as the in situ brickwork; the cobbled surface almost certainly represents the remains of the low ramp shown leading to the doorway in the photograph. Although the Manor House is known to have medieval origins, the evaluation only revealed post-medieval features.

Greenham

Land south of Newbury racecourse

Wessex Archaeology (EWB1350 and EWB1452, 2013-15)

An archaeological watching brief was carried out in advance of construction of a clubhouse associated with the golf course. The watching brief identified and confirmed the presence of low level later prehistoric activity in this area. The Iron Age ditch has confirmed part of the field system identified on the surface as crop marks and characterised during the evaluation. The results also show that the main archaeological activity extended to the south and east of the site in accordance with the visible crop marks. Romano-British and late Saxon residual finds from the tertiary fill of a ditch may suggest a later use of this land.

Hampstead Norreys

Land adjacent to Wing Cottage

Thames Valley Archaeological Services (EWB1227, 2011)

A watching brief was carried out during the excavation of foundation trenches of a new house. A deposit that was probably a small dump was seen in the stratigraphy; this contained dense quantities of peg tile with sand. Elsewhere a late medieval green glazed sherd and another of post-medieval date were recovered.



Hamstead Marshall: The discovery of the brick tunnel

Hamstead Marshall

East Gate Cottage

Thames Valley Archaeological Services (EWB1453, 2013-14)

A watching brief was carried out on groundworks at East Gate Cottage. Features from the medieval to post-medieval periods were uncovered. A well possibly of medieval date with an in situ wooden structure was identified, along with an undated pit and two brick tunnels or culverts of post-medieval date. These tunnels are likely to be part of a network associated with the nearby site of the former mansion of Hamstead Marshall.

Holybrook

Calcot Barn

Thames Valley Archaeological Services (EWB1293, 2012)

A building recording was conducted as a condition relating to the conversion of Calcot Barn into seven new residential units. This revealed that the building has four main phases of construction, the earliest being 17th or early 18th century.

Hungerford

Land at Charnham Lane

Thames Valley Archaeological Services (EWB1435, 2014)

An excavation followed an evaluation on land at Charnham Lane. This was carried out in advance of the development of the site as a hotel complex. Most of the features excavated were undated, but charcoal from a double-gully yielded two late Neolithic radiocarbon dates and pottery of comparable age; and a post hole and a large pit (possibly a sunken-featured building) contained Saxon pottery. Unstratified finds included a moderate number of struck flints, further Neolithic and Saxon pottery, Middle-to-late Bronze Age pottery, and just a single sherd of Medieval pottery.

Inkpen

Crocus Cottage, Pottery Lane

Foundations Archaeology (EWB1272, 2011)

A watching brief was undertaken during groundworks associated with alterations to Crocus Cottage. Archaeological monitoring identified an undated cobbled surface cut by a post-medieval ditch. The ditch was associated with charcoal fragments and may be related to known pottery production at the site.

Lambourn

Hill Drop Lane, Membury Dispersed Airfield Site 4

Foundations Archaeology (EWB1246, 2011)

A photographic survey was commissioned in order to record 18 Second World War structures and buildings off Hill Drop Lane. This was one of several dispersed sites around Membury Airfield. All buildings had already been demolished to ground level apart from Building 1 which was probably a pump house for sewage. Four buildings were the demolished remains of latrine blocks, and one which was possibly the site of the mess hall survived only as a concrete platform. Nine identical platforms for demolished structures were probably accommodation blocks. Three air raid shelters (Buildings 10, 11 and 16) were largely intact however, being underground and covered by an earthen mound.

Windmill Farm

John Moore Heritage Services (EWB1239, 2012)

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken in advance of development. One trench was excavated, revealing three features including a ditch containing densely packed waste iron objects of modern date. These objects may be related to the Second World War; a twisted metal coil seen in the ditch could have been used on barbed wire fences common in WWII camps. The site was used during the war by Canadians and American armed forces.

Pipeline from Baydon Water Tower to Bailey Hill Reservoir, Wiltshire

Thames Valley Archaeological Services (EWB1312, 2012)

Archaeological recording along the route of a pipeline on the West

Berkshire/Wiltshire border resulted in various features being identified; including a Bronze Age pit containing Beaker pottery. The main finding was an unenclosed Bronze Age occupation site which consists of two overlapping post-built roundhouses. Radiocarbon dates suggest one of these buildings is of Middle Bronze Age date, while associated pottery suggests later Bronze Age/early Iron Age date.

Triangle Wood, Sheepdrove Farm

Thames Valley Archaeological Services (EWB1342, 2013)

An archaeological field evaluation was carried out in order to inform planning proposals for the use of the wood as a natural burial ground. This revealed the presence of archaeological deposits in part of the site along with stray artefacts of flint and pottery. Two substantial Middle Iron Age pits were excavated with additional pottery finds present as residual finds in features of later date. A Roman pit and a gully were also revealed, along with pottery, struck flints and animal bones.

Newbury

St Bartholomew's School (Wormestall), Enborne Road

Cotswold Archaeology (EWB1195, 2011)

Historic building recording was undertaken prior to conversion of the former grammar school to residential use. The oldest part was built in 1885 in a gothic revival style, and the school was extensively refurbished and extended in 1929, with further remodeling in 1938 and later. Great care had been taken in matching additions stylistically.

West Berkshire Museum

Foundations Archaeology (EWB1317, 2012)

Archaeological monitoring was carried out during works associated with the redevelopment of the museum. Five trial hole pits were hand excavated. No contexts clearly pre-dating the post-medieval period were present. Layers pre-dating the museum buildings were present within three trial pits, including a brick wall with a possible associated brick surface. A layer of tiles set on-end may have been a surface and abutted the Cloth Hall foundations.

The trial pits exposed the foundations of each phase of the museum building. The foundations of the Cloth Hall were shallow and were of brick set upon a flint footing. The Corn Stores had deep brick foundations, 0.70m to 1.25m deep. The 1930s Link Building had brick foundations (0.36m to 1.08m deep) set upon a concrete footing.

15-21 West Mills

Michael Heaton Associates (EWB1384, 2013)

Building recording and dendrochronological analysis of a group of cottages on West Mills revealed that the nearly complete structure of a late 15th century jettied timber framed building survives within a complex of otherwise late 18th, 19th and 20th century structures. A date of felling of 1476 was established for the timbers of Nos 17-18.

102-3 Northbrook Street,

Tree Ring Services (EWB1402, 2013)

Dendrochronological analysis of oak timbers from the roof of 102-3 Northbrook Street was carried out on behalf of Newbury Town Council. It was possible to date the timbers to AD 1495-7, thus establishing that the building contains much earlier elements than the listed building description had suggested.

The Wellington Arms

Wessex Archaeology & Allen Archaeology (EWB1407 & EWB1421, 2013-2014)

Assessment and building recording were undertaken in connection with a planning application to redevelop the public house.

4 Oxford Street & 24-26 The Broadway

Wessex Archaeology (EWB1123, 2010)

A historical assessment and building survey of a group of Grade II listed buildings in Speenhamland revealed an interesting progression from the 16th-17th centuries onwards with substantial surviving evidence in the form of original and re-used timbers combined with timber wall framing. There were signs of smoke-blackening and a timber with decorative stencilled flowers. Some panelling was stylistically dated to 1650-1700 but cut down and re-used. Many early 18th century fixtures and fittings survived such as mock mahogany doors. To the rear many aspects of

earlier buildings survive mixed among other development, and some of the rear buildings contained evidence for the former brewing process. The rear ranges are typical of post-medieval development and had various uses that supported the frontage businesses from manufacturing to warehousing and stabling.

Padworth

The Round Oak public house

Archaeological Solutions Ltd (EWB1137, 2010)

An historic building appraisal and Level 1 building record were carried out at the Round Oak in connection with a redevelopment proposal. A brief analysis revealed several phases of development around a two storey historic core, probably dating to the 18th century. Planning permission for demolition was refused.

Pangbourne

Whitchurch Bridge

Oxford Archaeology (EWB1268 & EWB1345, 2011)

A heritage asset assessment was made prior to works required to strengthen the structure. The report details the historical background of the bridge, its construction and 20th century alterations. The current structure is the third toll bridge at this location, the first bridge being constructed in 1792.

An archaeological watching brief was also conducted during a gas main replacement across the river Thames. No evidence for earlier phases of bridge construction or river traffic activity was observed though there was some evidence for cultivation on the northern bank in Oxfordshire. The stratigraphy of the southern bank indicates flood meadows or seasonal grazing, with evidence of modern recreational use.

Purley on Thames

Land at the Westbury Lane Overpass

Archaeological Services WYAS/ Foundations Archaeology (EWB1224 & EWB1282, 2011)

A geophysical survey and subsequent evaluation were undertaken. Two ditches were uncovered at the approximate location of a linear feature identified in the geophysical survey, and probably represented parts of a field boundary. A small assemblage was recovered of abraded sherds and tile (possibly Roman) along with a struck flint and bone or teeth fragments.

The most significant feature revealed was a pit cut into the top of the natural substrates and sealed beneath the subsoil. It contained five layered fills which yielded a mix of artefacts including burnt flint, charcoal, flecks of heated clay or daub, bone fragments and pottery. Seven Middle Iron Age sherds were present in basal fills and two sherds of Iron Age pottery in upper fills. The feature was interpreted as a Middle Iron Age refuse pit, indicating settlement activity at or near this location.

New Hill Overbridge

Network Rail (EWB1305, 2012)

A survey and photographic record were conducted prior to partial demolition and reconstruction of the existing bridge. New Hill Overbridge forms part of the original Great Western Railway main line dating back to c 1840 and represents a relatively early development in the history of Britain's railway system. It was originally designed by Isambard Kingdom Brunel or his engineers. The bridge was extended in c1891 to accommodate a widened GWR railway line.

The Boathouse, River Gardens

(EWB1297, 2012)

A photographic and documentary recording of The Boathouse was conducted prior to its replacement. It was recorded on an 1877 Ordnance survey map and is within an area known to have been part of the riverside gardens to Purley Park. It is believed to have been built by the Storer family of Purley Park in the 19th century.

Shaw-cum-Donnington

Land to the north of Newbury

Cotswold Archaeology (EWB1400 & EWB1405, 2014)

Following desk-based assessment, a fieldwalking survey and an archaeological evaluation were carried out on two blocks of land to the north of Newbury. A metal detector survey was also carried out due to the site being known to be in the area of Civil War engagements. Mesolithic to post medieval artefacts were recovered across the whole site in varying quantities, as well as (mostly) residual prehistoric worked and burnt flint across the whole site. A ploughed out barrow ring ditch of Middle/Late Bronze Age or earlier date was also recorded in the north of the study area. Roman features of at least 2nd-3rd century AD date, including pits and ditches, as well as unstratified artefacts were concentrated on the high ground on the west side of the site. The only post medieval finds of note consisted of two copper alloy coins, a token and two lead shot of 17th century date, possibly from the Second Battle of Newbury.



Shaw cum Donnington: Evaluation on land to the north of Newbury

Speen

Benham Valence

Wessex Archaeology (EWB1398, 2013)

A report was produced to accompany a Conservation Management Plan. The report is designed to address the archaeological and historical potential and significance of the nationally designated Benham Park. Further conservation work is recommended throughout the house along with regular maintenance, and in the event of any excavations work anywhere within the grounds, there needs to be awareness for the potential of archaeological deposits and previous historic structures.

Stanford Dingley

Land adjacent to St Denys Church

John Moore Heritage Services (EWB1271, 2012)

An evaluation was carried out on land to the north of St Denys', a probable pre-Conquest church, and near the remains of a medieval moated enclosure which survives as Manor Farm. Trench 1 included an apparent imported layer of topsoil, with 2 sherds of 19th century earthenware, potentially related to a possible earlier medieval berm on the north side of the manorial moated enclosure; a negative feature is shown on the First Edition Ordnance Survey map north of the church. In the other trench, a ditch was revealed, extending beyond the edges of the investigation, with a fragment of brick in its fill. The dump of topsoil like material demonstrated the raising of the ground level within the field. The alignment of the revealed ditch did not tie in with other local features. Possibly the fragment of brick could indicate the presence of a Roman building.

Land at Middle Cottage, Stanford Dingley

Thames Valley Archaeological Services (EWB1273, 2012)

An evaluation revealed the brick-built foundations of structures depicted on late 19th and 20th century maps. A thick layer of peat was also revealed that may represent an old channel of the Pang.



Stanford Dingley: Evaluation north of St Denys' Church

Stratfield Mortimer

Land adjacent to St. Mary's Parish Church, Stratfield Mortimer *Berkshire Archaeological Services (EWB1267, 2012)*

An evaluation was carried out in support of a planning application for an extension to the existing burial ground at St. Mary's. The proposed site was located in arable farmland to the south-west of earlier investigations which returned prehistoric and Roman finds and evidence for medieval settlement. The evaluation revealed no significant archaeological finds or features. A small amount of post-medieval pottery suggests that the site lay at the south-western periphery of the main focus of medieval settlement.

Streatley

Streatley Meadows *Berkshire Archaeological Research Group (EWB1329, 2012)*

An archaeological field survey and a geophysical survey were conducted on the whole field, along with a resistance survey of any anomalies visible in the gradiometer survey results. The surveys identified 31 geophysics anomalies and two significant archaeological features. They may represent a Roman road and associated fields, the remains of some buildings to the west of Streatley Church, a garden, and the remains of properties along the north side of Streatley High Street.

Pipeline between Woods Farm, Streatley (West Berkshire) and Moulsoford Reservoir (Oxfordshire) *Thames Valley Archaeological Services (EWB1427, 2013)*

An archaeological recording action was undertaken along the 4.5km route of a pipeline between Woods Farm Pumping Station in West Berkshire and Moulsoford Reservoir. Within West Berkshire a post-medieval lynchet and possible Late Bronze Age ditch were recorded; just over the county boundary in Oxfordshire a previously unknown ring ditch was excavated. Unusually there was a treehole in the centre of this levelled round barrow, perhaps suggesting that the monument had been built around a tree. There was no central burial but finds from the ditch included Beaker pottery of Early Bronze Age data

Manor Farm, Southridge *Wessex Archaeology (EWB1454, 2014)*

A Heritage Statement was submitted in support of a planning application for proposed alterations to the Grade II listed two storey Manor Farmhouse in Southridge.

Sulham

Nunhide Manor *John Moore Heritage Services (EWB1202, 2011)*

An architectural investigation was carried out in advance of restoration and alteration work. This revealed that the farmhouse had a complex evolution, beginning with a timber framed structure (16th century at the earliest), with brick casing around a jettied building. The house was extended to the south during the early 18th century, but little as possible was done while attempting to retain a grand appearance, leading to several architectural inconveniences. It was enlarged again during the 19th century with the addition of two northern extensions.

Sulhamstead

Sulhamstead Police Training College *RPS (EWB1269, 2012)*

A Heritage Asset Impact Assessment was conducted in light of proposals for a new Officer Safety Training (and Conference) Facility at the college. Historic maps and accounts of the historical development of Sulhamstead House and its grounds were included within the report together with photographs of the modern site. A brief historical background and map regression was followed by a description of the development site, heritage designations and an assessment of their significance.

Thatcham

Church Gate House *Thames Valley Archaeological Services (EWB1219, 2010)*

An evaluation was carried out prior to development. Four areas were excavated, uncovering medieval occupation from the 11th to 15th century in the form of ditches, pits and a posthole. There was no evidence to suggest the site was occupied before the 11th century; however, the presence of a box flue tile and possible hypocaust suggested there had been a substantial Roman building, although this may have been imported from elsewhere as building material. Heavily heat-treated bricks might indicate metal-working in the area. Also found were fragments of a quernstone of a type common from the Roman period onwards.

Kennet House, 77-79 Bath Road, Thatcham *Absolute Archaeology (EWB1198, 2011)*

A field evaluation was carried out in the car park in connection with a planning application. Late Iron Age or early Romano-British activity was identified, in the form of a linear cut feature and probable post-hole. Pottery sherds from three identifiable vessels showed low levels of abrasion; this combined with a find of a piece of tegula tile suggested domestic activity rather than discards associated with field enclosures.

Thatcham Police Station *Cotswold Archaeology (EWB1185 and EWB1225, 2011)*

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in advance of the submission of a planning application. The proposed development area encloses an area of c 0.2ha on Chapel Street, and comprises the Police Station and Police Houses together with associated gardens and hardstanding. The evaluation identified a wall of 18th century date in Trench 4, and floors and a fireplace which represented the remains of a structure dating to the 19th century were identified in Trench 3.

A historic building appraisal also provided further information on the date and development of the police buildings. The police station, dated 1904, was inspected and photographs were taken. Historic maps and drawings were examined at the Berkshire Record Office.

Land South of Tull Way *Thames Valley Archaeological Services (EWB1244 & EWB1296, 2012)*

An archaeological evaluation was carried out in connection with proposed developments of the parcel of land. The archaeological potential for the site had previously been highlighted in a desk based assessment and stems from its proximity to the large Roman settlement at Thatcham Newtown sited to the south east. 50 trenches were dug, revealing linear features, pits and a posthole, with all of the dated features belonging to the 1st century AD and being located on the higher ground to the north of the site. Finds include sherds of pottery, ceramic building material, slag, fired clay, and burnt flint.

The Hollies, Church Lane

Berkshire Archaeological Services (EWB1300, 2012)

A watching brief was carried out during the excavation of a foundation trench for a new garage. One or two features were revealed cutting the gravel at a depth of 0.83m, no finds were present. These features may have been part of a boundary layout pre-dating the nearby medieval burghage plots.

New Water Pipeline at Chamberhouse Farm, Crookham Common

Thames Valley Archaeological Services (EWB1327, 2012)

Archaeological recording was undertaken on a pipeline from the banks of the River Kennet to the east of Chamberhouse Farm. A complex series of palaeohydrological deposits on the floor of the Kennet Valley were overlain by a series of early Roman occupation deposits that were abandoned by the end of the 3rd century AD. Subsequently, medieval and post-medieval drainage ditches were dug. The site yielded 275 sherds of pottery from 32 contexts; a further eight were retrieved from environmental samples. The bulk of the pottery is of Late Iron Age and Roman date

63 Bath Road, Thatcham

Absolute Archaeology (EWB1333, 2012)

An excavation and a watching brief were conducted in conjunction with the redevelopment. No archaeological finds or features were uncovered during the excavation, but residual finds within the topsoil and subsoil including tile and ceramics: possibly indicating a nearby villa or related building. However a watching brief carried out during the development phase located a 1.75m wide potential linear feature: the proximity of this feature to the Bath Road suggests that it may represent a roadside ditch (agger) associated with Ermin Street from Silchester to Cirencester.

29 High Street, Thatcham

Lang Hall Archaeology (EWB1331, 2013)

An archaeological evaluation was conducted prior to construction of three ground floor retail units. Two trenches were dug but no archaeological finds or structures were revealed. However a truncated ditch of unknown origin was exposed in one trench and a clay drain was also visible.

Outbuildings at Rainsford Farm, Crookham Hill

Wessex Archaeology (EWB1334, 2013)

A programme of historic building recording was carried out on selected buildings at the redundant farm prior to redevelopment and demolition. Two outbuildings were first shown on the Tithe map of 1841 and appear to date from the early 19th century. The buildings were used to feed and house livestock, both being fitted with troughs, mangers and water basins.

Theale

22-26 High Street, Theale

Berkshire Archaeological Services (EWB1145, 2010)

An evaluation was carried out in response to a proposal for the construction of flats at land to the rear of Nos 22-26 High Street in Theale. It involved the excavation of a single trench measuring 16.5m x 1.2m. The development site consists of land formerly occupied by the Theale Motor Works, and lies within the Conservation Area of the settlement, which is documented from 1208. The evaluation aimed to gain a better understanding of the historic character of Theale, but no features of archaeological significance were exposed by the machining and the only finds recovered from fragments of modern brick and ceramic tile.

Wickcroft Farm

Nicholas Kelly (EWB1330, 2012)

A brief building recording and photographic survey of a set of late Victorian, early Edwardian redundant wood clad timber-frame barns with a clay tiled roof was conducted. The report was commissioned to assess the condition and vulnerability of these heritage assets prior to proposed development and future management of the site – the buildings are largely redundant in farming terms.

Ufton Nervet

Former outbuilding at Ufton Court

Northamptonshire Archaeology (EWB1170, 2010)

The foundation layout of an outbuilding at the Grade I listed Ufton Court

was exposed during rebuild and repair work and the building's below ground features recorded and interpreted. The archaeological excavations showed that the building had been added to the east side of a freestanding brick garden wall. At some point the long range was sub-divided by the insertion of at least three partition walls, creating four equal sized rooms. In a second alteration, a WC was placed in the corner of each room over a soil pit. The pits in their last incarnation had been blocked off from the drains and had been allowed to infill. They were then floored over. The fills of the pits contained numerous finds including pottery and food-bone. The building was probably used by estate-workers.

Welford

RAF Welford

English Heritage (EWB1320, 2012)

A short report was compiled following a field visit to RAF Welford. The report gives an account of the site's history, landscape and settlement context, an assessment of the significance of the site as well as recommendations for future research.

Wokefield

Pierces Farm, Goring Lane, Grazeley

Bournemouth Archaeology (EWB1451, 2014)

A geophysical survey was carried out in support of a planning application to develop a solar park. No standing features were identified prior to the survey, but the area's archaeological potential derives from its historic landscape classification as a pre-18th century field system. A range of sites and finds have been recorded in the vicinity, but only limited indication of archaeological activity was found by the survey, although two discrete positive responses were noted.

Woolhampton

Pillbox by Bath Road

Oxford Archaeology (EWB1414, 2014)

Historic Building recording was carried out by Oxford Archaeology on a Type 28A pillbox, prior to its removal in a residential development.

The Falmouth Arms

Thames Valley Archaeological Services (EWB1423, 2014)

Building recording of a group of buildings was commissioned in connection with an application to refurbish the existing inn.

The Falmouth Arms was one of several coaching inns on the Great West Road linking London and Bristol. It seems likely to have previously been called the Angel (then the Old Angel) with a name change to the Falmouth Arms between 1844 and 1852. The survey indicated that the original inn probably dates between 1709 and 1760. The earliest phase consisted of a double-fronted double-pile building of typically Georgian style. The original building had a cellar, two stories and a slate roof and was part of a complex of buildings; the outbuildings in the yard may be of a similar date, with a coach house present by 1842. Major alterations were carried out in 1936 by Usher's Wiltshire Brewery when rear extensions were added and the interior redesigned. The central part of the original building was surmounted by a Dutch-style curvy pediment, with a similar gable ended roof on the eastern extension, and the roof was re-tiled with blue-green pantiles. Subsequently alterations had occurred internally and externally: however at the core of the building much of the original structure remains.

Yattendon

New Slurry Lagoon, north of Oaken Copse

Thames Valley Archaeological Services (EWB1440, 2014)

Archaeological supervision was carried out during the construction of a new slurry lagoon. A relatively large area of land, c 2 ha, was stripped of overburden consisting of up to 0.33m of topsoil to expose the natural clay with flints. Despite the archaeological potential of the area, no archaeological deposits were identified and no finds were recovered.

Multi-Parish investigations

Aldermaston, Wasing and Woolhampton

Land at Wasing Lane

Thames Valley Archaeological Services (EWB1199 & EWB1249, 2011)

Five irregular parcels of land were subject to field evaluation to inform a proposal for the extraction of sand and gravel on land at Wasing Lane. This work followed a desk-based assessment which suggested that the site had archaeological potential. A wide range and volume of archaeological features and deposits were recorded, dating from the Later Neolithic, Bronze Age, Iron Age, Roman, medieval and post-medieval periods. The later Iron Age and Roman periods were particularly well represented. Waterlogged deposits were encountered throughout the low lying areas of the site, with peat and alluvium observed, though correspondingly fewer archaeological deposits were found here. The dominant Roman remains were suggestive of modest rural settlement, and the site as a whole had moderate potential for the Late Neolithic, Bronze Age and Iron Age.

Bradfield, Bucklebury, Cold Ash, Englefield, Hermitage, Stanford Dingley and Theale

SPEEN WTW DO Reduction Pipeline

Air Photo Services (EWB1287, 2012)

A desk based assessment was conducted to provide information on archaeological sites and areas visible on aerial photographs within the route of a proposed pipeline running from Cold Ash Service Reservoir to Tilehurst. Seventeen areas of archaeological interest were identified. The sites include buried remains of prehistoric, Iron Age or Romano-British enclosures boundaries and tracks, and form a continuous eroded and buried archaeological landscape at the eastern end of the route near Englefield. Other sites within and in the immediate environs of the route include fragmentary remains of buried ditches, a ring ditch, heavily eroded traces of medieval ploughing, former extraction pits and former areas of probable water meadows.

Bradfield, Englefield and Theale

Pipeline between Cold Ash and Tilehurst

Thames Valley Archaeological Services (EWB1391, 2013)

Excavations were carried out on an easement in advance of pipe-laying between Cold Ash and Tilehurst, revealing a prehistoric pit containing possible Bronze Age pottery and three ditches of Roman date, most likely forming a field system.

Original non-intrusive archaeological research can be carried out by local groups and individuals – one of the best recent examples of this in West Berkshire is the woodland survey that has been undertaken by Dick Greenaway and his colleagues. Dick has investigated about 200 areas of woodland, most of which had never been examined in modern times. His audit surveys have looked at both archaeological and botanical features, highlighting the close relationship between the natural and historic environments.

The parishes that have been covered by Dick's woodland work are:

Aldworth, Ashampstead, Basildon, Bradfield, Bucklebury, Chieveley, Englefield, Frilsham, Hermitage, Hampstead Norreys, Hermitage, Lambourn, Pangbourne, Stanford Dingley, Streatley, Sulham, Winterbourne, Yattendon

The types of features found in woodland can be divided into two broad categories, those that relate to the creation and use of the wood, and those that have survived from earlier (or later) eras because of the protected nature of the land use.



Evidence of historic woodland management exists in the form of woodland banks, coppice stools, charcoal burning hut platforms, saw pits and hearths and potash pits.

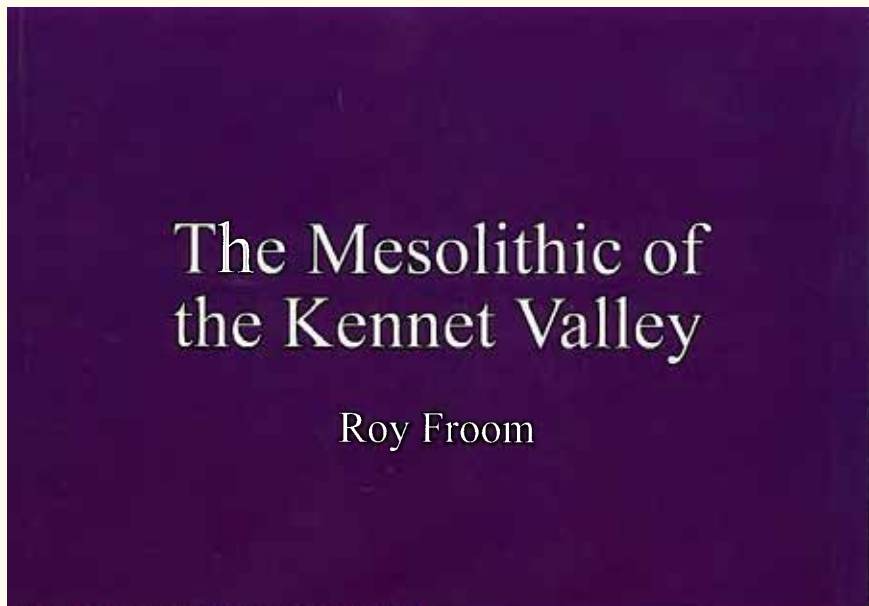
Earthworks created before the area became wooded often survive well because they have not been ploughed, unlike those in fields. Examples include barrows, linear banks and ditches, quarries, and ridge and furrow. Trees may also have grown up over structures such as ice houses or military buildings.

Academic research has also led important discoveries within West Berkshire. Enquiries are often made to the HER from students, leading to the deposition of completed dissertations and theses.

An undergraduate dissertation by Lindsey Bedford, *What can the Beedon Coin assemblage tell us about Romano-British activity in West Berkshire?* looked at evidence recovered from a site at Beedon Manor Farm, South Stanmore, excavated by Victor Pocock and the Beedon Archaeological Society from the 1980s through to the early 21st century. The study investigated coin loss distribution, site profile, mint marks and possible ritual treatment of some of the coins. The alteration of several coins is suggestive of a religious function while the rectangular anomaly observed during geophysical fieldwork resembles the early phase of the Hayling Island timber palisaded shrine; leading to a provisional interpretation that the site had a rural religious function.

Paula Levick's postgraduate research examined land-use and settlement within a study area stretching from the chalk escarpment by Segsbury Camp in Oxfordshire across the Downs to the Lambourn river valley. She used a multi-disciplinary approach of aerial photographs, LiDAR data, woodland survey and geophysical fieldwork to rebuild a landscape that has largely been masked or ploughed out by post-Roman land-use. This has been published in the British Archaeological Reports series as *Later Prehistoric and Roman Landscapes on the Berkshire Downs*.

Another notable publication in 2012 was local archaeologist Roy Froom's synopsis of a lifetime's interest in local Middle Stone Age sites – *The Mesolithic of the Kennet Valley*. This volume describing fieldwork, finds and stratigraphy, has been used to inform the English Heritage (now Historic England) funded projects on the Kennet Valley and its early prehistoric archaeological potential.



West Berkshire Council's services

Several officers within West Berkshire Council have responsibilities relating to the heritage of the district across the service units of Culture & Environmental Protection and Planning & Countryside.

Contact Details	
Culture Manager - Paul James	Manages the Council's culture team including Shaw House, West Berkshire Museum, heritage and cultural development
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Shaw House Manager - Nik Stewart	Manages the building, staff team and events and activities at Shaw House
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