



## How you can help us

Data in the HER has been gathered over many years from various sources: antiquarians' writings, Ordnance Survey records, county journals, excavation reports and archaeological surveys. Research is collected from both academic institutions and local societies, and the HER is continually being amended. People who know about the area where they live can provide very valuable information – if you have seen cropmarks or uncovered building foundations for example, do get in touch. If you have found any interesting objects whilst digging your garden or metal detecting, the archaeology service's Finds Liaison Officer is the first point of contact.



## How to consult the HER

The HER is a public record, managed by the archaeology service in Newbury. Enquiries are best submitted in writing either by post or email, or by using our on-line enquiry form which can be found on our web pages. Please be as specific as possible about your area of interest. A wide variety of reports can be generated from the database to suit your needs. You may also view the HER collections by prior appointment from Monday to Friday during office hours. There is normally no charge for this service unless the data is being collected for commercial use.



### Contact Information

Archaeology Service  
Culture and Environmental Protection  
West Berkshire Council  
Market Street  
Newbury RG14 5LD

Tel: 01635 519805 Fax: 01635 519811  
email: [archaeology@westberks.gov.uk](mailto:archaeology@westberks.gov.uk)  
[www.westberks.gov.uk/archaeology](http://www.westberks.gov.uk/archaeology)

If you require this information in an alternative format or translation, please call the Archaeological Officer on 01635 519534.

WB/CEP/SO/0613

Our past is precious  
Treasure and enjoy it



# West Berkshire Historic Environment Record



Recording our past





## SMR or HER?

The HER was formerly known as the SMR, or Sites and Monuments Record, and is part of a network of such registers across the United Kingdom. The name change reflects a broader scope for these records to include buildings and landscapes as well as earthworks and below ground

remains. HERs will be required to achieve benchmark standards, and the West Berkshire archaeology service is already working towards this goal.

## The Historic Environment and archaeology

The historic environment includes all aspects of our surroundings that have been built, formed or influenced by human activities from prehistoric to modern times. Archaeology is the study of these physical remains in order to understand and explain past societies. For most people the historic environment represents the area in which they live as well as what past generations have made of it, and these layers of human activity create a strong and valuable sense of place.

## The West Berkshire Historic Environment Record

The Historic Environment Record (HER) is a register of all known archaeological and historical sites in the unitary authority of West Berkshire. It also contains information on fieldwork and excavations, found objects and documentary sources. Much of this knowledge is stored in a database which is linked to a computerised map (GIS). The HER contains details of all West Berkshire's nationally designated sites (Listed Buildings, Scheduled Monuments, Registered Parks and Gardens and Battlefields) as well as structures and buildings of local interest. Resources also include photographs, books and journals, unpublished reports and historic and modern maps. A national project, Historic Landscape Characterisation, has recently been undertaken for West Berkshire and can be accessed through the HER, showing land-use history and evolution.



## Uses of the HER

Historic Environment Records make information accessible in order to advance understanding of our man-made surroundings and inform its care and conservation. The West Berkshire HER underpins the work of the archaeology service, and contributes to decision-making on land-use planning and management. Its information is used by members of the public, community groups, developers, landowners and farmers, schools and university students – anyone who wants to know more about West Berkshire's past.

