

Archaeology in West Berkshire

In March 2021, Beth Asbury, West Berkshire Council's Assistant Archaeologist (HER and Outreach), and Philip Smither, the Portable Antiquities Scheme's Finds Liaison Officer for Berkshire, gave a talk to introduce West Berkshire's Archaeology Service and the heritage resources available to anyone interested in local research.

The talk can be watched here: www.youtube.com/watch?v=KCHNf9UPSxI and the resources mentioned in the presentation are listed here.

West Berkshire Council Archaeology Service

- <https://info.westberks.gov.uk/archaeology>
- www.westberkshireheritage.org/local-heritage
- Planning/development-led archaeology: <https://info.westberks.gov.uk/planningarchaeology>
- Historic Environment Record (HER): <https://info.westberks.gov.uk/her>
- HER enquiry form: www.westberks.gov.uk/article/36726/Make-an-Historic-Environment-Record-HER-Enquiry
- Reporting heritage issues form: <https://citizen.westberks.gov.uk/article/37148/Report-Heritage-Information-or-Issues>
- Historic environment projects: <https://info.westberks.gov.uk/historicenvironmentprojects>
- Social media
 - www.facebook.com/WestBerkshireHeritage
 - <https://twitter.com/WbHeritage>
 - www.instagram.com/west_berks_heritage

The Portable Antiquities Scheme

- <https://finds.org.uk>
- Database: <https://finds.org.uk/database/search>
- The Treasure Act: <https://finds.org.uk/treasure>
- Guides and advice: <https://finds.org.uk/guides>
- Finds Liaison Officer (FLO) contacts: <https://finds.org.uk/contacts>
- Berkshire FLO blog: <https://finds.org.uk/counties/berkshire>
- Berkshire FLO social media
 - www.facebook.com/berkshireflo
 - <https://twitter.com/BerkshireFlo>
 - www.instagram.com/berkshire_flo

National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)

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

Historic England resources

- Guide to HERs: <https://historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/guide-to-historic-environment-records-england>
- The National Heritage List for England (NHLE or 'The List') of nationally designated heritage assets: <https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list>
 - To apply for Listing: <https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/apply-for-listing>
 - Criteria for Listing: <https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/selection-criteria>

- National Mapping Programme
 - Berkshire and Thames Valley:
<https://research.historicengland.org.uk/Report.aspx?i=15670>
 - Lambourn Downs:
<https://research.historicengland.org.uk/Report.aspx?i=15663&ru=%2fResults.aspx%3fp%3d1%26n%3d10%26t%3dlambourn%2520downs%26ns%3d1>
- Hungerford Common, Freeman's Marsh and Environs Aerial Survey:
<https://research.historicengland.org.uk/Report.aspx?i=16233&ru=%2fResults.aspx%3fp%3d1%26n%3d10%26t%3dhungerford%26ns%3d1>
- Tracing Their Steps: Predictive Mapping of Upper Palaeolithic and Mesolithic Archaeology, Middle Kennet Valley, Berkshire:
<https://research.historicengland.org.uk/Report.aspx?i=16469&ru=%2fResults.aspx%3fp%3d1%26n%3d10%26t%3dtracing%2btheir%2bsteps%26ns%3d1>
- Silchester Iron Age Environs Project: Results of the Aerial Photograph and Lidar Survey:
<https://research.historicengland.org.uk/Report.aspx?i=15871&ru=%2fResults.aspx%3fp%3d1%26n%3d10%26rn%3d77%26ry%3d2017%26ns%3d1>

Local designations

- Conservation Areas: <https://info.westberks.gov.uk/conservationareas>
- Local Listing: <https://info.westberks.gov.uk/localist>
 - West Berkshire Heritage Forum: www.westberkshireheritageforum.org.uk
 - Criteria for Local Listing: <https://info.westberks.gov.uk/localist>

Heritage Gateway

- www.heritagegateway.org.uk
- Step by step guide to searching for West Berkshire records:
<https://info.westberks.gov.uk/her>
- Other HER Officers: www.heritagegateway.org.uk/gateway/chr/default.aspx

West Berkshire Council resources

- Online map: <https://gis2.westberks.gov.uk/webapps/OnlineMap>
- Planning applications: <https://publicaccess.westberks.gov.uk/online-applications/search.do?action=simple&searchType=Application>

Historic maps

- <https://maps.nls.uk>
- www.old-maps.co.uk
- Berkshire Record Office enclosure maps: www.berkshireenclosure.org.uk
- Rocque's map of 1760: www.rct.uk/collection/search#/3/collection/700042/rocques-map-of-berkshire

Aerial photos

- www.britainfromabove.org.uk
- www.cambridgeairphotos.com/areas/west+berkshire
- www.americanairmuseum.com

LiDAR

- www.lidarfinder.com

- Environment Agency open source data:
<https://environment.data.gov.uk/DefraDataDownload/?Mode=survey>
 - Historic England's guide to using it:
<https://historicengland.org.uk/content/docs/research/using-ea-lidar-data-pdf>

Archaeology Data Service

- <https://archaeologydataservice.ac.uk/search.xhtml>
- Grey literature: <https://archaeologydataservice.ac.uk/archives/view/greylit/query.cfm>
- John Wymer Archive:
https://archaeologydataservice.ac.uk/archives/view/wymer_eh_2008/index.cfm
- Defence of Britain database: <https://archaeologydataservice.ac.uk/archives/view/dob>
- The Rural Settlement of Roman Britain:
<https://archaeologydataservice.ac.uk/archives/view/romangl>
- Berkshire Archaeological Society Journal:
https://archaeologydataservice.ac.uk/archives/view/berks_bas_2007

West Berkshire Museum

- www.westberkshireheritage.org/west-berkshire-museum
- www.westberkshireheritage.org/museum-collections/collecting-archaeology

Other heritage records

- Church Heritage Record: <https://facultyonline.churchofengland.org/churches>
- National Trust Heritage Records: <https://heritagerecords.nationaltrust.org.uk>

Societies

- West Berkshire Heritage Forum list of local societies:
www.westberkshireheritageforum.org.uk/about/members
 - Heritage Action Plan:
<https://info.westberks.gov.uk/CHttpHandler.ashx?id=36464&p=0>
- Council for British Archaeology Wessex Group: <https://cba-wessex.org.uk>

Other local sources of information

- Berkshire Record Office: www.berkshirerecordoffice.org.uk
- West Berkshire Libraries: <https://info.westberks.gov.uk/libraries>

Thames Valley Archaeological Services' site in Greenham

- <http://tvas.co.uk/news/post036-Greenham.html>
- www.newburytoday.co.uk/news/out---about/33841/thames-valley-archaeological-services-uneearths-bronze-age-and-iron-age-settlements-at-greenham-dig.html