

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 team 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 (updated in March 2025).

West Berkshire Council Archaeology team

- www.westberks.gov.uk/archaeology
- www.westberkshireheritage.org/local-heritage
- Planning/development-led archaeology: www.westberks.gov.uk/planningarchaeology
- Historic Environment Record (HER): www.westberks.gov.uk/her
- HER enquiry form: www.westberks.gov.uk/her-enquiry
- Reporting heritage issues form: www.westberks.gov.uk/report-heritage-issue
- Historic environment projects: www.westberks.gov.uk/historicenvironmentprojects
- Social media
 - www.facebook.com/WestBerkshireHeritage
 - <https://twitter.com/WbHeritage> (no longer in use from February 2025)
 - www.instagram.com/west_berks_heritage
- Local heritage walks: www.westberkshireheritage.org/local-heritage/heritage-walks
 - Kintbury
 - Hungerford
 - Pangbourne
 - Inkpen
 - Shaw house and St Mary's Church Conservation Area
 - Second World War Newbury

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> (no longer in use from February 2025)
 - 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://historicengland.org.uk/research/results/reports/70-1994>
 - Lambourn Downs: <https://historicengland.org.uk/research/results/reports/132-2002>
- Hungerford Common, Freeman's Marsh and Environs Aerial Survey: <https://historicengland.org.uk/research/results/reports/105-2005>
- Tracing Their Steps: Predictive Mapping of Upper Palaeolithic and Mesolithic Archaeology, Middle Kennet Valley, Berkshire: <https://historicengland.org.uk/research/results/reports/87-2019>
- Silchester Iron Age Environs Project: Results of the Aerial Photograph and Lidar Survey: <https://historicengland.org.uk/research/results/reports/77-2017>
- Aerial photo explorer: <https://historicengland.org.uk/images-books/archive/collections/aerial-photos>
- Aerial archaeology mapping explorer: <https://historicengland.org.uk/research/results/aerial-archaeology-mapping-explorer>

Local designations

- Conservation Areas: www.westberks.gov.uk/conservationareas
- Local Listing: www.westberks.gov.uk/locallist
 - West Berkshire Heritage Forum: www.westberkshireheritageforum.org.uk
 - Criteria for Local Listing: www.westberks.gov.uk/local-listing-process

Heritage Gateway

- www.heritagegateway.org.uk
- Step by step guide to searching for West Berkshire records: www.westberks.gov.uk/guide-to-using-heritage-gateway
- Other HER Officers: www.heritagegateway.org.uk/gateway/chr/default.aspx

West Berkshire Council resources

- Online map: <https://gis2.westberks.gov.uk/webapps/OnlineMap>
- Online map showing historic environment layers: <https://gis2.westberks.gov.uk/webapps/OnlineMap/?vln=HISTORIC%20ENVIRONMENT%20RECORD>
- Planning applications: <https://publicaccess.westberks.gov.uk/online-applications/search.do?action=simple&searchType=Application>

Historic maps

- <https://maps.nls.uk>
- www.oldmapsonline.org
- Berkshire Record Office enclosure maps: www.berkshireenclosure.org.uk
- Berkshire Record Office tithe maps: https://berksrecords.access.preservica.com/index.php?name=SO_7d133eb8-c2ea-4140-9254-aaad1e937885
- Rocque's map of 1760: www.rct.uk/collection/search#/3/collection/700042/rocques-map-of-berkshire

- Willis' map of 1768: www.flickr.com/photos/britishlibrary/50263734041

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/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-data>
- Grey literature: <https://archaeologydataservice.ac.uk/library/index.xhtml>
- 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
- <https://westberkshiremuseumcollections.org/online-collections>
- <https://westberkshiremuseumcollections.org/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
 - Historic Environment Action Plan: www.westberks.gov.uk/media/36464/West-Berkshire-Historic-Environment-Action-Plan-HEAP/pdf/West_Berkshire_Historic_Environment_Action_Plan_HEAP.pdf
- Council for British Archaeology Wessex Group: <https://cba-wessex.org.uk>
- Reading Young Archaeologists' Club: www.yac-uk.org/clubs/reading

Other local sources of information

- The Royal Berkshire Archives (former Berkshire Record Office): www.berkshirerecordoffice.org.uk
- West Berkshire Libraries: <https://westberks.gov.uk/libraries>