Dacorum Site Allocations Development Plan
Heritage Asset Impact Assessments

Project Design for Desk-Based Archaeological Impact Assessments
on behalf of Dacorum Borough Council

David Fell MA MI&A

April 2013

ASC: 1605/DHI/1

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## Site Data

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## Internal Quality Check

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Figure 1: General location (Scale 1:50,000)
Figure 2: Site plan LA1 Marchmont Farm (scale as shown)
Figure 4: Site plan: LA4 Hanbury, Berkhamsted (scale as shown)
1. **Introduction**

1.1 This Project Design has been prepared by *Archaeological Services & Consultancy Ltd* (ASC) on behalf of the clients, *Dacorum Borough Council*, as a specification for Heritage Asset Impact Assessment of five separate areas in Dacorum, Hertfordshire. The work has been required under the terms of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), and has been defined in a brief (Batt 2013) prepared on behalf of the local planning authority (LPA), *Dacorum Borough Council*, by their archaeological advisor (AA), the *Historic Environment Unit of Hertfordshire County Council*.

1.2 This document provides the following information:
- The aims and methodology of the assessment, as defined in the brief (Section 2);
- The methods to be adopted for presenting the results (Section 3);
- A statement regarding deposition of the site archive (Section 4);
- The proposed staffing structure (Section 5);
- The proposed programme of work (Section 6);
- Health and safety, insurance and other matters relevant to the project (Section 7);
- Reference works used in compiling this Project Design (Section 8).

1.3 *Archaeological Services & Consultancy Ltd*

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

1.4 **The Sites**

1.4.1 *Location & Description*

The assessment will consider five separate Land Allocations (LA), totaling c.43 ha. LA3 has been the subject of a separate phase of assessment and is not included in this phase of the assessment process.

*LA1 Marchmont Farm* (Fig. 2; TL 0590 0904)

Area LA1 has been assessed on a previous occasion (Chadwick & Dicks 2004). The current project will include a walkover survey and will update the existing assessment in line with current planning policy.

The area comprises an irregular shaped area of c.28ha on the north side of Hemel Hempstead. It comprises into two principal areas separated by a minor road named *Piccotts End Lane*, which links Piccotts End with Grovehill. It is bounded to the east by the Grovehill housing development and to the south by the A4147 road. Open fields lie to the west and north. The area currently comprises arable fields and the land drops from northeast to southwest, towards the river Gade. Access is from the south, off the A4147 and from Piccotts End Lane in the centre.
LA2 Old Town, Hemel Hempstead (Fig. 2; TL 0554 0815)

Area LA2 lies on the periphery of Old Hemel Hempstead and comprises an approximately triangular area of c.2.8 ha. Modern housing developments lie to the east and a minor road named Cherry Bounce forms the southern boundary. Fletcher Way defines the northwest boundary. The land slopes gently down from east to west and is currently laid out to grass with a number of mature trees. Access is from the west, off Fletcher Way and from the south via Cherry Bounce.

LA4 Rear of Hanburys (Fig. 4; SP 9636 0704)

Area LA4 is situated on the southern periphery of Berkhamsted and covers an area of c.1.9ha. It is bounded to the north by buildings off Shootersway, by the buildings and grounds of the National Film Archive to the east, an arable field to the south and the Shooters Way Playing Field to the west. The area is essentially flat and access is from the north, off Shooters Way.

LA5 West Tring (Fig. 5; SP 9099 1126)

Area LA5 lies west of Tring and comprises a triangular area of c.10.5ha. It is currently divided into six separate land parcels which comprise grass and arable fields. A group of farm buildings lie in the southern part of the area. The chapel and burial ground of Tring Cemetery lies beyond the southeast corner of the area and residential streets named Donkey Lane, Highfield Road and Okeley Lane flank the remainder of the east side of the area. The B488 Ichnefield Way and the B4635 Aylesbury Road define the south and north sides of the site and intersect with the A41 Tring bypass immediately to the west of the area.

LA6 Chesham Road, Bovingdon (Fig. 6; TL 0087 0360)

Area LA6 comprises an irregular area of c.2.6ha on the west side of Bovingdon. It currently forms part of the grounds of HM Prison Bovingdon and lies between the principal buildings and Chesham Road. Housing development lies to the east and Bovingdon Airfield is situated to the west. The site largely comprises open ground but a small reservoir lies on the east side of the area, with a telephone exchange immediately to the north. Access is from the southeast from Chesham Road.

1.4.2 Geology

A detailed description of the topography of each site, the soils and solid geology will be compiled as part of the assessments. Hemel Hempstead is situated on the plateau of the Chiltern hills, adjacent to the confluence of the rivers Gade and Bulbourne which have formed valleys through the chalk hills. Areas LA 1 and LA 2 are situated north of Hemel Hempstead town centre and occupy sloping land on the east side of the Gade valley. Area LA 4 comprises an area on the plateau above the south side of the Bulbourne valley in Berkhamsted while Area LA 5, which lies further to the west, is situated at the top of the Chiltern scarp. Area LA 6 occupies a position south of the river Bulbourne on elevated land at the top of the Chiltern ridge.

The Chiltern hills comprise a band of chalk topped with plateau drift comprising clay with flints. The natural soils of the plateau comprise the
Batcombe Association (Soil Survey 1983, 582) and these are expected to be present in areas LA 1, LA 4 and LA 6. Area LA 2 occupies a position lower in the valley of the river Gade, where the soils comprise the Coombe 1 Association (Soil Survey 1983, 511f), which have formed directly over the cretaceous chalk of the Chiltern ridge.

1.4.3 Proposed Development
The areas have been allocated for residential development. Associated landscaping, tree planting, etc. will also be undertaken. Detailed development plans are not currently available.

1.5 Archaeological and Historical Background

HER = Historic Environment Record

1.5.1 Dacorum is an area of considerable archaeological and historical importance (Page 1971) and Extensive Urban Surveys have been prepared for the principal settlements in the area eg Hemel Hempstead (Hunns 2000a), Tring (Hunns 2000b), Berkhamsted (Thompson & Bryant 2005), etc. Heritage assets are not currently known within the allocation sites but a number are known in the surrounding areas.

1.5.2 The river valleys have attracted settlement since the prehistoric periods and prehistoric sites are known at Gadebridge (HER 7981) and have been identified during the construction of the A41 dual carriageway. A late prehistoric earthwork referred to as Whelpley Hiltfort is located on the plateau at Bovingdon and a major Bronze boundary known as Grims Ditch traversed the plateau above Berkhamsted.

1.5.3 The area was extensively occupied during the Roman period and a major Roman road, now known as Akeman Street traversed the area (Copeland 2009). A number of Roman villa estates developed in the river valleys, eg Gadebridge (Neal et al 1990), Boxmoor (Neal 1977) and a temple has been identified at Wood Lane End (Neal 1984).

1.5.4 The pattern of Saxon and early medieval occupation in the area is not understood in detail. Hemel Hempstead, Tring and Berkhamsted may have Saxon origins and a small Saxon inhumation cemetery has been recorded to the west of Tring, close to site LA 5 (Masefield 2008, site D). Hemel Hempstead and Berkhamsted were included in the Domeday survey (1086) where they were referred to as Hamelamstede and Berchehastede (Morris 1976). Berkhamsted developed into an important political centre following the construction of the castle during the Norman period and the medieval town developed in the river valley. The medieval settlement at Hemel Hempstead developed along the High Street and may have extended close to the LA 2 site. Bovingdon and Tring also developed during the medieval period and sites LA 5 and LA 6 lie on the periphery of the areas of medieval settlement.

1.5.5 The area has developed considerably during the post-medieval and modern periods. The construction of the Grand Junction Canal and the London and North Western Railway during the early 19th century improved...
communications in the area and Dacorum was a significant area during the Second World War. Site LA6 is adjacent to the former Bovingdon Airfield.

1.5.6 Sites LA1 and LA 2 are situated on a periphery of Hemel Hempstead New Town. Following implementation of the Greater London Plan in 1947 Hemel Hempstead was designated as the location of one of the new towns and the town expanded rapidly as a result. The current Dacorum Development Plan will address the need for additional housing in the area and the impact assessments will provide baseline information for managing heritage issues within the allocated areas.
2. **Aims & Methods**

2.1 **Aims**

In general terms, the aims of the desk-based impact assessments shall be:

- To determine the location, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of heritage assets of the sites, from documentary sources
- To provide a comprehensive assessment of the regional context within which the archaeological evidence rests, and to highlight any research priorities relevant to any further investigation of the site.
- To provide predictive models of the heritage assets likely to be present on the sites and to assess their significance and the impact of any proposed development on that significance
- To provide sufficient information to enable the formulation of an appropriate strategy for the management and/or investigation of the historic environment of the sites.

2.2 **Standards**

The assessment will be carried out in accordance with the Historic Environment Planning Practice Guide (HEPPG) the *brief*, (Batt 2013) and the By-Laws of the Institute for Archaeologists (IFA 2008, 2010). This specification has been prepared with reference to the *brief*, and the IFA’s *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Desk-Based Assessments* (IFA 2011).

2.3 **Methods**

‘Desk-based assessment is a programme of study of the historic environment within a specified area or site … that addresses agreed research and/or conservation objectives. It consists of an analysis of existing written, graphic, photographic and electronic information in order to identify the likely heritage assets, their interests and significance and the character of the study area, including appropriate consideration of the settings of heritage assets and, in England, the nature, extent and quality of the known or potential archaeological, historic, architectural and artistic interest. Significance is to be judged in a local, regional, national or international context as appropriate’ (IFA 2011).

2.3.1 **Archaeological Databases**

Archaeological databases represent the standard references to the known archaeology of an area.

**SOURCE TYPE:**

**SOURCE LOCATION:**
National Heritage Bodies, Royal Commissions, Local Authorities, Museums, Archaeological Trusts & Units, Universities, Ordnance Survey, Local Archaeological & Historical Societies.
2.3.2 *Historic Documents*

Documentary research provides an overview of the history of a site and its environs, suggesting the effects of settlement and land-use patterns. The potential for further detailed documentary research will also be considered in the assessment.

**SOURCE TYPE:** Charters, Registers, Manuscript Collections (secular and ecclesiastical), Deeds, Wills, Estate Papers, Electoral Rolls, Contemporary Published Accounts (e.g. County & Agricultural Surveys), Industrial Investigations, Trade Directories.


2.3.3 *Cartographic & Pictorial Documents*

Maps, old photographs and illustrations are normally a very productive area of research.

**SOURCE TYPE:** Early Maps, Prints and Paintings, Inclosure & Tithe Maps, Ordnance Survey maps, Estate Plans, Goad Maps.


2.3.4 *Aerial Photographs*

Given favourable light and crop conditions, aerial photographs can reveal buried features in the form of crop and soil marks. They can also provide an overview of and more specific information about land use at a given time.

**SOURCE TYPE:** Air Photographs.

**SOURCE LOCATION:** National Registers of Air Photographs (inc. RAF & OS flights), Museum Collections, National Heritage Bodies, Sites & Monuments/Historic Environment Records, University Collections, Private Collections, the English Heritage Archive and Hertfordshire Archives & Local Studies (HALS).

2.3.5 *Geotechnical Information*

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

**SOURCE TYPE:** Borehole & Test-Pit Logs, Site Surveys, Geological Maps.

**SOURCE LOCATION:** Client’s Engineers Records, Ordnance Survey, British Standards Institute, British Geological Publications.

2.3.6 *Secondary & Statutory Sources*

This area of study may overlap with any of those areas described above. Secondary sources are normally more readily available than primary sources, and can often provide an initial insight into the most profitable areas of study.

**SOURCE TYPE:** Regional & Period Archaeological Studies, Landscape Studies, Local Knowledge, Dissertations, Policy Statements and Research
2.3.7 Walkover Survey
As part of the assessment a walkover survey of each site will be undertaken with the following aims:

1. To examine any areas of archaeological potential identified during research for the assessment, in particular with a view to gauging the possible survival or condition of any remains present.
2. To consider the significance of any above-ground structures, historic buildings or historic landscape features present.
3. To assess the present site use and ground conditions, with a view to the appropriate deployment of fieldwork techniques, if required.
4. To obtain a rapid assessment of the depth of topsoil and any areas of soil disturbance of disturbance.
5. With regard to (3), to carry out a Health & Safety Risk Assessment of the sites.
3. Reporting

3.1 Upon completion of the research stage of the project, reports on the results obtained will be prepared in line with section 6 of the brief. A separate report will be prepared for each site, which will be produced in ASC’s house style, and will typically include:

- a concise non-technical summary of the results
- information relating to the circumstances of the project
- a summary of the aims of the project and the sources examined
- a description of the site, with appropriate background information (geology and topography, land use etc.)
- a description of the known archaeology and history of the site and its environs, based upon the results of the research undertaken, supported by appropriate illustrative material
- a conclusion, summarising the results, examining their significance, and providing an assessment of the archaeological potential of the site
- appendices (information from the various sources consulted, e.g. HER, County Records Office, aerial photos)

3.2 Copies of the reports will be provided as required to the client and the AA.
4. Archive

4.1 All archaeological projects generate a quantity of records and related material (paper, photographic and electronic records, finds and environmental samples). Together, these constitute the project archive. While the report may describe the project's findings in some detail, the archive contains the evidence on which the report is based, and its importance cannot be too highly stressed. By its nature, archaeological fieldwork cannot normally be repeated, so the archive often constitutes the only surviving evidence for past activity on a site, and arrangements must therefore be made for its deposition and long-term storage.

4.2 In the case of desk-based assessments, the archive comprises information that is already recorded and available through a variety of sources. In this case original information may be gathered during the walkover surveys and further stages of archaeological fieldwork are anticipated. The resultant archive will be deposited with the Dacorum Heritage Trust and the archive will be prepared and deposited according to the standards required by the specified depository.
5. **Staffing**

5.1 *Registered Postholder*

As a member of the IfA’s Registered Organisation scheme, ASC’s Responsible Post-Holder is **Bob Zeepvat BA MIFA**.

5.2 *Project Manager*

The project will be managed by **Bob Zeepvat BA MIFA**.

5.3 *Staff (core)*

Depending upon ASC’s work programme, any of the following staff may be involved in the fieldwork, research, reporting and archiving stages of the project:

- **Ralph Brown BSc**
- **Martin Cuthbert BA AIFA**
- **David Fell MA MIFA**
- **Alastair Hancock BSc PGDIP MIFA**
- **Jonathan Hunn BA PHD MIFA**
- **Janice McLeish BA**
- **Mo Muldowney BA AIFA**
- **Calli Rouse BA AIFA**
- **Bob Zeepvat BA MIFA**

Brief CVs for all current ASC archaeological staff can be found in Appendix 1.
6. **Programme**

6.1 The programme for the work outlined above will be implemented following agreement by the client, the AA and ASC.

6.2 The timing of the operation will be arranged so to that the objectives set out in Section 2 of this document can be achieved.

6.3 The desk-based assessment reports will be prepared in line with the requirements of the client. The timetable set out below has been agreed:

- 5 April 2013: Inception meeting to be attended by the Project Manager
- 8 April 2013: Completion of the written scheme of investigation and submission to the Historic Environment Unit (this document)
- Research for the assessments will commence immediately following acceptance of the written scheme of investigation
- Report preparation will commence immediately following completion of the research and site visits
- 30 April 2013: Submission of Draft Stage 1 reports
- 3 May 2013: Meeting with the client and HEU to discuss the draft Stage 1 reports and approach to Stage 2
7. **Other Requirements**

7.1 **Health & Safety**

7.1.1 All work by ASC staff will conform to ASC’s *Health & Safety Manual*, and will be carried out according to the relevant Health and Safety legislation. This includes, in particular, the following regulations (the list is not intended to be exhaustive):

- *Health and Safety at Work Act 1974*
- *Construction (Design and Management) Regulations 2007*
- *The Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999*
- *Personal Protective Equipment at Work Regulations 1992*
- *Work Equipment Regulations 1998*
- *Workplace (Health, Safety and Welfare) Regulations 1992*

7.1.2 A copy of ASC’s *Health and Safety Policy* will be supplied if requested by client or AA. The policy makes particular reference to the FAME (Federation of Archaeological Managers & Employers) Health & Safety Manual (Allen & Holt 1986, with more recent updates).

7.2 **Insurance**

ASC holds the following insurance cover:

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Further details can be provided if required.

7.3 **Copyright**

7.3.1 ASC shall retain full copyright of any commissioned reports, tender documents or project designs under the *Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988*, with all rights reserved, excepting that it hereby provides an exclusive licence to the client for the use of such documents by the client in all matters relating to the project, as described in the *Project Design*.

7.3.2 ASC will assign joint copyright on completion of the project to the museum or repository undertaking curation of the archive, but will retain the right to be identified as author of all project documentation and reports, as defined in the above Act (Chapter IV, sec.79)
8. References

Standards & Specifications


Batt K, 2013 *Design Brief for Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment, Geophysical Survey and Targeted Field Evaluation*. Hertfordshire County Council


Ferguson L.M. & Murray D.M. 1997 *Archaeological Documentary Archives: Preparation, Curation and Storage*. Institute for Archaeologists’ Paper I (Manchester).

IFA 2010 *Institute for Archaeologists’ Code of Conduct*.

IFA 2008 *Institute for Archaeologists’ Code of Approved Practice for the Regulation of Contractual Arrangements in Field Archaeology*.

IFA 2011 *Standards & Guidance for Archaeological Desk-Based Assessments*. Institute for Archaeologists (Reading).

Secondary Sources

Chadwick P & Dicks S, 2004 *Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment: Marchmont Farm, Hemel Hempstead, Hertfordshire. Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment. CgMs.*

Copeland T, 2009 *Akeman Street. Moving through Iron Age and Roman Landscapes*. The History Press

Hunns T, 2000a *Hemel Hempstead Extensive Urban Survey. Historic Environment Unit. Hertfordshire County Council*

Hunns T, 2000b *Tring Extensive Urban Survey. Historic Environment Unit. Hertfordshire County Council*

Masefield R, 2008 *Prehistoric and Later Settlement and Landscape from Chiltern Scarp to Aylesbury Vale. The archaeology of the Aston Clinton Bypass, Buckinghamshire*. British Archaeological Reports no 473


Neal D S, 1984 ‘A Sanctuary at Wood Lane End, Hemel Hempstead’ *Britannia* 15, 193-215. Society for the Promotion of Roman Studies


Page W, 1971 *The Victoria History of the County of Hertfordshire. 2. Dawsons of Pall Mall*


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Appendix 1: Current ASC Staff

**Ralph Brown** BSc holds a degree from Sheffield University. He has been a professional archaeologist since 2004 and has worked for a number of contracting organisations, including *Oxford Archaeology* and *Cotswold Archaeology*, as a Site Assistant and in supervisory roles. He has fieldwork experience in both urban and rural environments, covering a wide chronological period.

**Martin Cuthbert** BA AIFA graduated from the University of Winchester with a degree in Archaeological Practice in 2004. After leaving university Martin worked initially as a Site Assistant for ASC, moving to the *Suffolk County Council Archaeological Unit* where he worked on a range of both urban and rural sites, including the Saxon wet docks in Ipswich. Martin has a particular interest in industrial and Second World War archaeology.

**David Fell** MA MIFA is an experienced archaeologist with extensive fieldwork and post-excavation experience, and also of historical research and building recording. David holds a first degree from the University of York, and a master’s degree from Birmingham University. He has held a range of supervisory appointments since 1990, including *Milton Keynes Archaeology Unit, Bucks County Archaeology Service, Beds County Archaeology Service, Archaeological Project Services, Hertfordshire Archaeological Trust* and the *Museum of London Archaeology Service*.

**Alastair Hancox** BSc PGDIP MIFA holds a first degree in Archaeological Science and a PgDip in Archaeological Prospection from the University of Bradford. He has extensive fieldwork, post excavation and managerial experience. Alastair joined ASC from *West Yorkshire Archaeological Services* in 2004 and subsequently established ASC’s geophysical survey branch. He has also held posts with *The University of Bradford, Farnham Archaeological Partnership, Lancaster University Archaeological Unit* and has undertaken research in Nepal.

**Jonathan Hunn** BA PHD MIFA is an established archaeologist with extensive experience in managing archaeological projects in England. Jonathan holds a first degree in Archaeology and History from the University College of North Wales (Bangor), and a PhD from the University of Southampton (Dept of Geography). Jonathan has held managerial posts with *English Heritage, Hertfordshire Archaeological Trust, Oxford Archaeological Unit* and *Tempos Reparatorum Ltd*, and has acted as archaeological consultant for *Hertfordshire County Council* and *English Heritage*.

**Janice McLeish** BA graduated from Glasgow University in 2005. Prior to joining ASC in 2007, she worked for *Oxford Archaeology* as Site Assistant and Assistant Supervisor and has experience of a wide range of sites in most periods.

**Mo Muldowney** BA AIFA graduated from Cardiff University in 2000 and since then has worked as a professional archaeologist for a variety of contracting units predominantly in the East of England and East Anglia. She has seven years’ experience of directing fieldwork and building recording projects, and experience of excavating deeply stratified urban remains with Canterbury Archaeological Trust. She has published articles in CBA Newsletters and the *Medieval Settlement Research Group*.

**Calli Rouse** BA AIFA graduated from University College, Winchester in 2004 with a first degree in archaeology. Before joining ASC she spent time as a volunteer assistant with the Archaeological Officer at Milton Keynes Council. Since joining ASC she has worked on a wide variety of sites, ranging from excavations on a large-scale Roman site at Willen, to building recording of major industrial sites at Duston and Nash Mills.

**Carina Summerfield-Hill** BA MSC AIFA holds a first degree in archaeology from Liverpool University, and an MA in human osteology and funerary archaeology from the University of Sheffield, and has been working as a professional archaeologist since 2004. She has experience of a wide range of sites in the Midlands and southern England, and has worked for *Archaeological Solutions, Cotswold Archaeology, Allen Archaeological Associates, Archaeological Project Services* and *Albion Archaeology*. She has also undertaken archaeological research in Sudan.

**Bob Zeepvat** BA MIFA is an established archaeologist with extensive experience in managing archaeological projects, of a wide range of fieldwork in both rural and urban environments of post-excavation, publication and presentation projects, and of work on a wide range of historic buildings and structures. He holds a first degree from the University of Leicester, and has been a validated Member of the Institute for Archaeologists since 1986. He has been involved in the management of archaeological projects since the late 1970s, formerly as Senior Field Archaeologist for the *Milton Keynes Archaeology Unit*, and as project manager for *Hertfordshire Archaeological Trust*.