

West Berkshire HER Guidance

April 2020

West Berkshire Historic Environment Record on Heritage Gateway

Important Guidance for Users

The West Berkshire Historic Environment Record (HER) is the primary index about the physical remains of past human activity in the unitary authority, which covers the western half of the post-1974 county of Berkshire. The HER is a register of all known archaeological and historical sites, and is constantly being updated. The database, with linked digital mapping, includes an index of fieldwork and excavations, bibliographic references and found archaeological objects. It also contains information on designated sites (Scheduled Monuments, Listed Buildings, Registered Parks and Gardens, and Registered Battlefields) and locally listed heritage assets. The HER holds details of characterisation projects in West Berkshire ([Historic Landscape Characterisation](#), the [Newbury Historic Character Study](#) and [Historic Environment Character Zoning](#)) and there is a library of reports, journals and books which can be consulted by appointment at our offices in Newbury. The eastern Berkshire unitary authorities are covered by a separate service called [Berkshire Archaeology](#).

Limitations of the Gateway data

Extracts from the West Berkshire HER are available online via the [Heritage Gateway](#); currently only 'Monument' records are searchable. This data is made accessible to increase understanding and enjoyment of the finite, non-renewable archaeological resource. It is important to note, however, that not all records are published on the Gateway:

- There is a backlog of information, as there is a continuing cycle of new reports and new finds being received and entered onto the database.
- Some records require further enhancement and will be released once this has been completed.
- Grid references are only displayed to show sites to the nearest 100 metres.

For the above reasons, data derived from the Gateway is not acceptable for use in desk-based studies associated with development, planning and land-use changes. For these purposes and all other commercial enquiries, please [contact the Archaeology Service](#).

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West Berkshire
C O U N C I L

Terms and conditions of use of Heritage Gateway data

- Information obtained from the Heritage Gateway should not be used to the detriment of the historic environment. Many of the sites and buildings recorded on the HER are nationally designated and protected. It is a criminal offence to damage a **Scheduled Monument**, and permission is needed to undertake 'works' on such a site or to use a metal detector here. Any alteration to a **Listed Building** requires permission from West Berkshire Council; **Registered Parks and Gardens**, **Registered Battlefields** and **locally listed heritage assets** are also subject to extra consideration in the planning process. Please contact the Archaeology Service if more information is required.
- The information on the HER database is subject to intellectual property rights and should not be reproduced without the written permission of West Berkshire Council.
- HER data has been compiled from a wide variety of sources. Whilst every effort is made to check the accuracy of the HER, no liability can be accepted for errors, omissions or inaccuracies. Users who identify inaccuracies or omissions in the data are requested to notify the Archaeology Service; this can be done from individual Gateway records using the hyperlink.
- The absence of data in certain areas should not be taken as an absence of archaeological features.
- Although the HER is a public record, the inclusion of a site does not in any way imply public access to that location - most are on privately owned land.

Contact Details

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