

BERKSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGY

Berkshire Record Office
9 Coley Avenue
Reading
RG1 6AF

☎ 0118 937 5976

E-Mail: info@berkshirearchaeology.org.uk

25th November 2025

INFORMATIVE

Planning Application - 252631 58 Hilltop Road

The application site for this proposed development falls within an area of archaeological significance and has potential for Medieval remains. This is due to its proximity to a former chapel dating from the 12th century. There is the possibility for artefacts related to the chapel to remain underground. Further information regarding the archaeology in the area can be found online at www.heritagegateway.org.uk/gateway/

This property, along with its adjacent neighbours, lies above the likely site of the former Chapel of Erleigh St. Bartholomew, which was first mentioned in the late 12th century. The chapel, which stood within the vicinity of Erleigh Court has documentary references from Medieval to the 1800s, after which the building stone was probably robbed out and used in buildings elsewhere. The application site is shown on the OS 25" 1892 maps as "site of chapel" – although the exact location is uncertain, whilst earlier mapping shows a range of buildings at Erleigh Court.

Whilst no above ground evidence remains for the chapel it is possible that below ground evidence may exist, including dressed stone. It is not known if there was a burial ground associated with this chapel, but this should be considered as a possibility.

There is a potential for archaeological remains, including human remains, to be damaged by any necessary ground disturbance, therefore you are requested to inform Berkshire Archaeology as soon as possible if any artefacts are discovered.

It is helpful if you can email us of details of the context of any finds, along with a photograph of the artefact, including something in the shot to help give an idea of scale.

Should human remains be encountered, there is a *legal requirement to contact the coroner*, and such remains may not be disturbed without obtaining a Ministry of Justice licence. In this case, therefore, we would recommend contacting an archaeology consultancy for assistance. We, at Berkshire Archaeology, should also be informed and can advise on next steps.

Many thanks

Linden Ellicott
Archaeology Officer

Berkshire Archaeology is part of Reading Borough Council's Museum and Town Hall Services and provides historic environment advice to the five unitary authorities of Bracknell Forest Council, Reading Borough Council, Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead, Slough Borough Council and Wokingham Borough Council. This response relates solely to buried archaeological heritage; the Council's Conservation Officer should be consulted for any matters relating to the historic built environment.