

T H A M E S      V A L L E Y

ARCHAEOLOGICAL

S E R V I C E S

**Hurley Manor, High Street,  
Hurley, Berkshire**

**Archaeological Evaluation**

**by James McNicoll-Norbury**

**Site Code: HMH14/51**

**(SU 8252 8378)**

# **Hurley Manor, High Street, Hurley, Berkshire**

**An Archaeological Evaluation**

**for Mr. Charles Stone**

by James McNicoll-Norbury

Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code HMH 14/51

**June 2014**

## Summary

**Site name:** Hurley Manor, High Street, Hurley, Berkshire

**Grid reference:** SU 8252 8378

**Site activity:** Evaluation

**Date and duration of project:** 16th June 2014

**Project manager:** Steve Ford

**Site supervisor:** James McNicoll-Norbury

**Site code:** HMH 14/51

**Summary of results:** No archaeological deposits were identified

**Location and reference of archive:** The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited at an approved local museum in due course.

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[www.tvas.co.uk/reports/reports.asp](http://www.tvas.co.uk/reports/reports.asp).*

Report edited/checked by:	Steve Ford ✓ 18.06.14
	Steve Preston ✓ 18.06.14

# Hurley Manor, High Street, Hurley, Berkshire An Archaeological Evaluation

by James McNicoll-Norbury

**Report 14/51**

## **Introduction**

This report documents the results of an archaeological field evaluation carried out at Hurley Manor, High Street, Hurley, Berkshire (SU 8252 8378) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Mr Hamish Herford, Hamish and Lyons, Upper Court, Kemerton, Tewksbury, Gloucestershire, GL20 7HY on behalf of Mr. Charles Stone, 11 Westover Road, Wandsworth, London, SW18 2RE.

Planning permission (app no 14/00020) has been gained from the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead for the demolition of existing structures on part of the site and the construction of a new extension with basement. The consent includes a condition (4) relating to archaeology requiring a programme of archaeological work on the site. It was determined that this should take the form, initially, of a field evaluation, based on the results of which further work might be required in order to mitigate the effects of the development on any buried archaeological remains.

This is in accordance with the Department for Communities and Local Government's *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF 2012), and the Royal Borough's policies on archaeology. The field investigation was carried out to a specification approved by Mr Roland Smith of Berkshire Archaeology. The fieldwork was undertaken by James McNicoll-Norbury on 16th June 2014 and the site code is HMH 14/51. The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited at an approved local museum in due course.

## **Location, topography and geology**

The site is located in the gardens of Hurley Manor, to the west of High Street in Hurley village, south of the Thames (Fig. 1). The gardens are bounded on all sides by trees with Shepherds Lane to the south of the site. Hurley Manor itself is located on the eastern side of the site with a garage and a second outbuilding located to the immediate north of the development area (Fig. 2). The site is generally flat with the underlying geology described as flood plain terrace river gravels (BGS 1990) which was observed in the trench and the site lies at 28.9m above Ordnance Datum.

## **Archaeological background**

The archaeological potential of the site has been highlighted in a briefing note for the project prepared by Berkshire Archaeology. In summary, the site lies in the archaeologically rich Thames Valley with a wide range of sites recorded (Ford 1987; Gates 1975). More specifically though, the site itself lies within the historic core of Hurley which contained the site of a Benedictine Priory founded in 1086 and suppressed in 1536. The priory complex is a scheduled monument (SAM 19020) and a number of the components are still extant such as the fishponds and moat, with more evidently preserved below ground (cf Pitt 2012). The medieval village grew up next to the priory and various fieldwork projects both within and beyond the scheduled area have revealed deposits of archaeological interest, such as on Mill Lane at Monks Garden (Pine 1999), Tuckenhay (Ford 2004) and on the High Street, just to the north of the proposal site at Florence House (Pine 2004). Several small investigations in the near vicinity, however, had recorded nothing of interest (Taylor 2006; Hammond 2006, Lowe 2007).

## **Objectives and methodology**

The purpose of the evaluation was to determine the presence/absence, extent, condition, character, quality and date of any archaeological deposits within the area of development. This work was to be carried out in a manner which would not compromise the integrity of archaeological features or deposits which might warrant preservation *in situ*, or might better be excavated under conditions pertaining to full excavation.

The specific research aims of this project are:

to determine if archaeologically relevant levels have survived on this site;

to determine if archaeological deposits of any period are present;

to determine if deposits are present of medieval which reflect the presence of the medieval village and priory; and

to determine if any archaeologically significant deposits are present so as to inform the development of a mitigation strategy.

One trench, 10m long and 1.6m wide, was to be dug within the footprint of the new structures using a JCB-type machine fitted with a ditching bucket to expose archaeologically sensitive levels. Should archaeological deposits be found these were to be cleaned and excavated by hand.

## Results

Due to the presence of trees in the proposed trench location it was moved very slightly from its intended position but still lay within the development area (Fig. 3). Details of the trench are given in Appendix 1.

### Trench 1 (Figs 3 and 4, Pls 1 and 2)

Trench 1 was aligned WSW - ENE and was 10.1m long and 1.18m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.41m of topsoil, which was very rooty, and 0.55m of brown silty sand subsoil overlying 0.21m of light brown silty clay (alluvium) which in turn overlay natural gravel geology. No archaeological deposits were identified.

## Finds

No finds were recovered from the site.

## Conclusion

The evaluation failed to reveal any archaeological deposits in the trench. Based on these findings, the archaeological potential for the site is considered to be low.

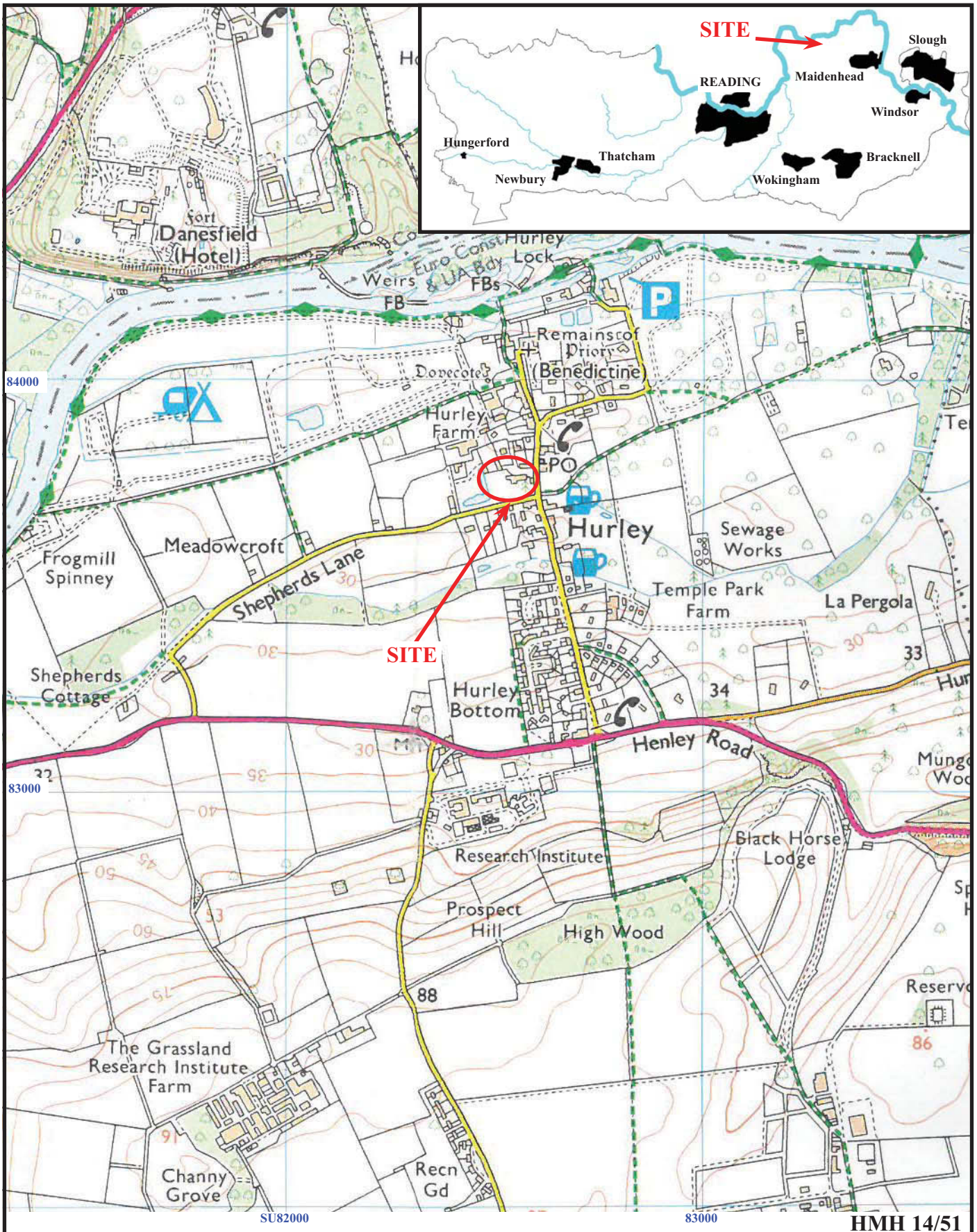
## References

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**APPENDIX 1: Trench details**

0m at SW end

<i>Trench</i>	<i>Length (m)</i>	<i>Breadth (m)</i>	<i>Depth (m)</i>	<i>Comment</i>
1	10.1	1.6	1.18	0-0.41m topsoil, 0.41-0.96m brown sandy subsoil, 0.96-1.17m yellow brown alluvial silty clay, 1.17m+ gravels (natural geology). <b>[Pls 1 and 2]</b>

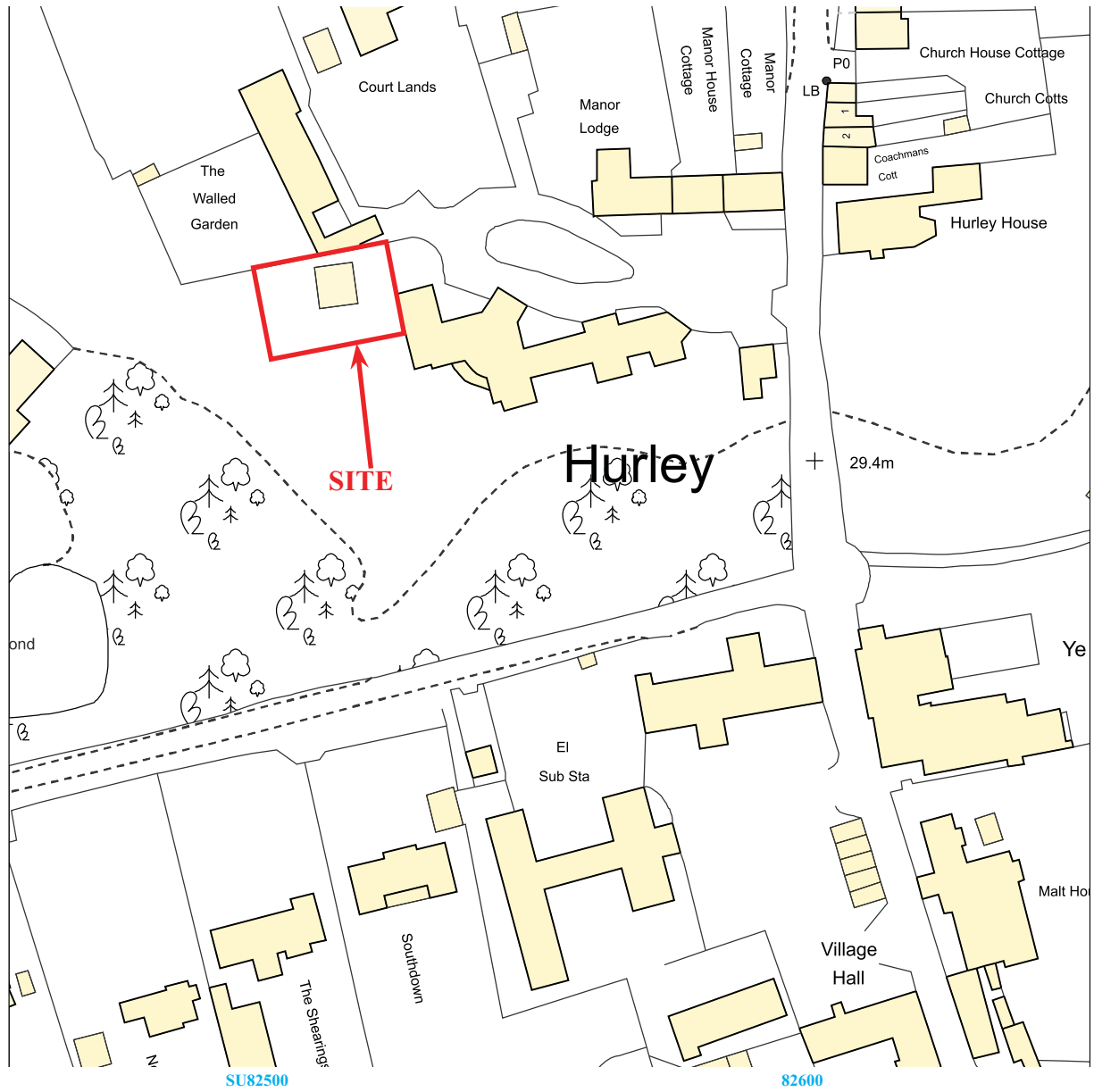


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Figure 1. Location of site within Hurley and Berkshire.

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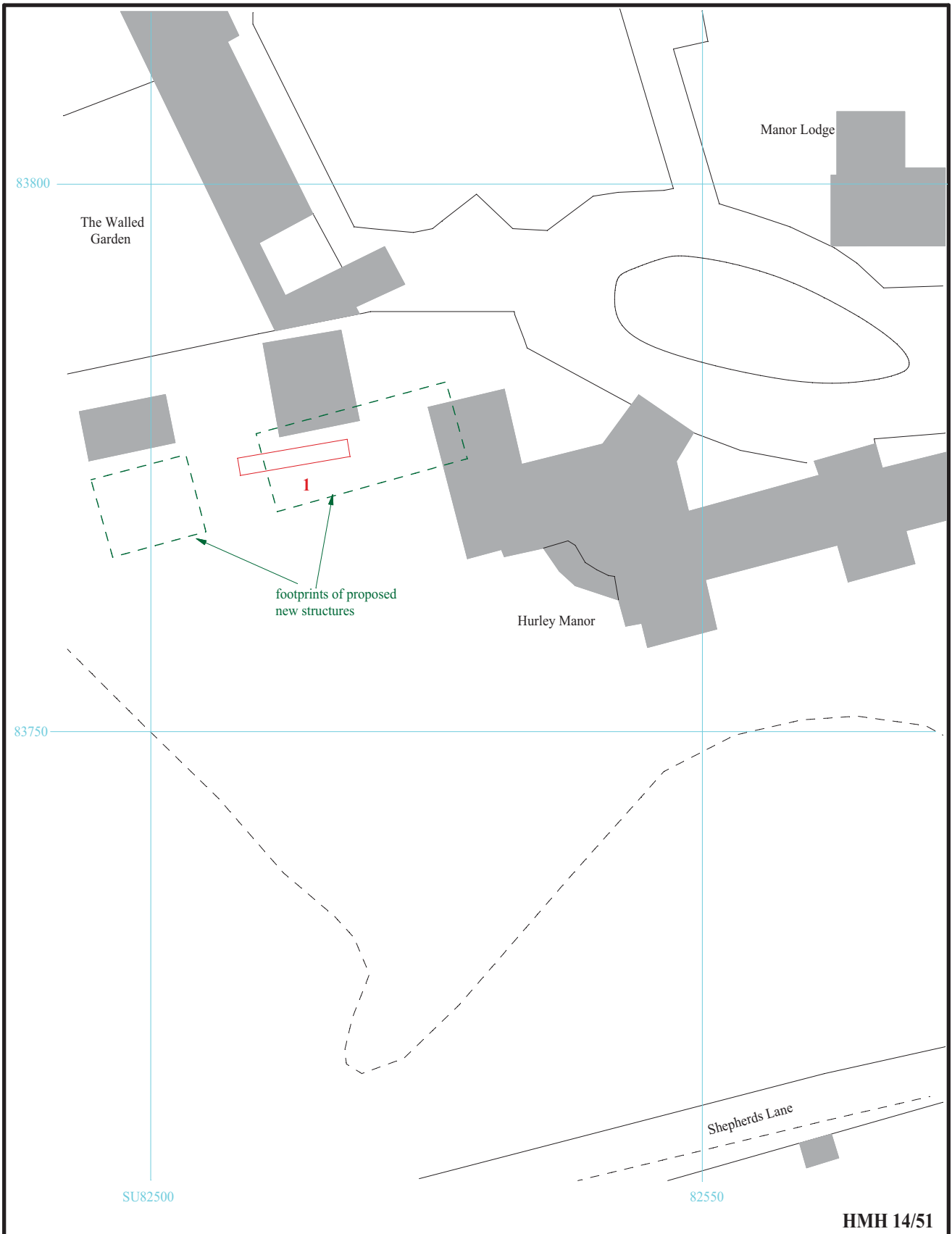
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Figure 2. Detailed location of site off High Street.

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Figure 3. Trench Location



NE

SW

28.9m a OD

Topsoil (rooty)

Brown silty sand (Subsoil)

Light brown clayey silt (alluvium)

Gravel (natural geology)  
Base of trench

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Figure 4. Representative section.



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Plate 1. Trench, looking north east, Scales: 2m and 1m.



Plate 2. Section of Trench 1 looking south east, Scales: 2m and 1m.

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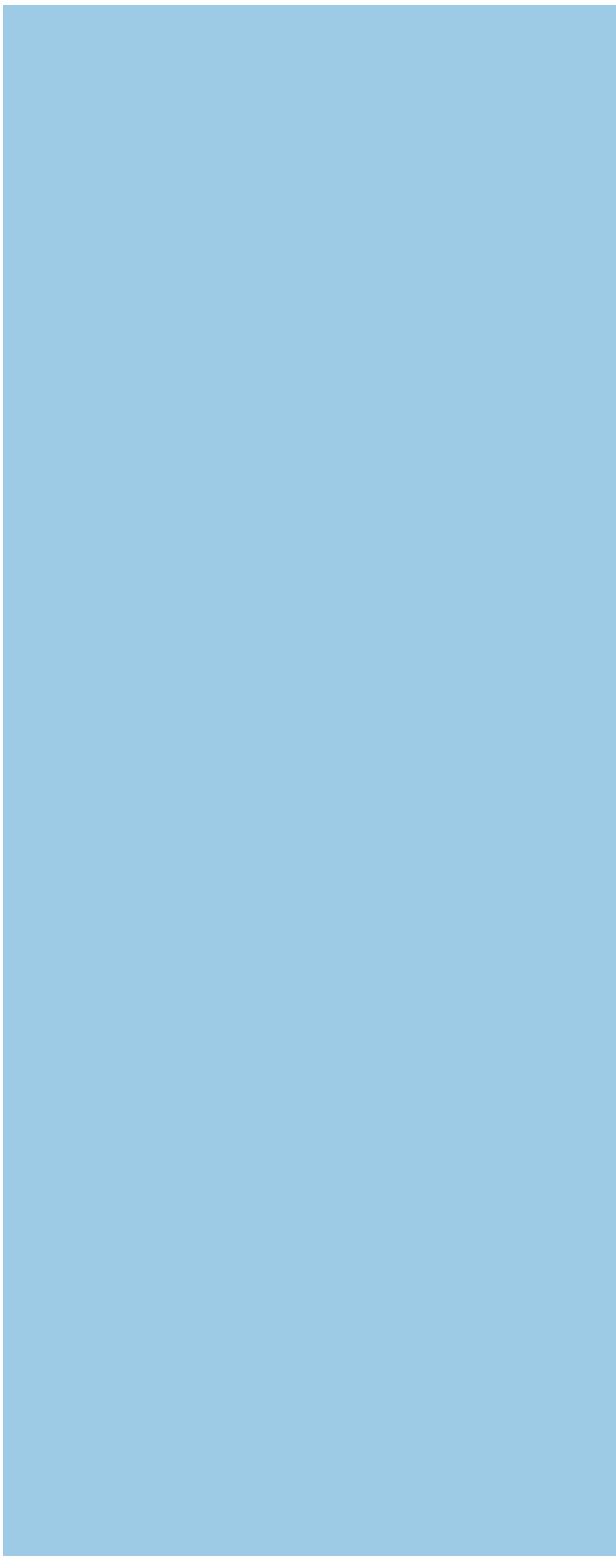
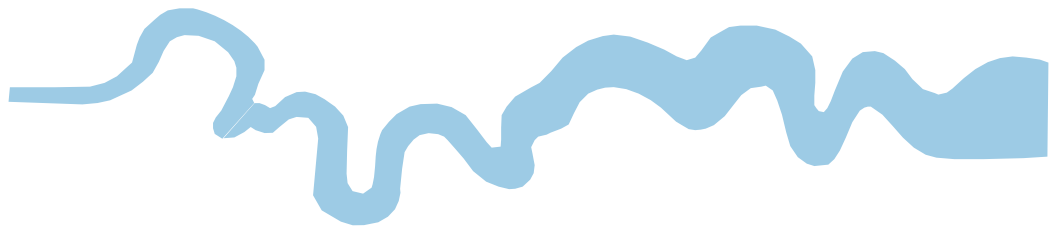
Plates 1 - 2.

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## TIME CHART

	<b>Calendar Years</b>
Modern _____	AD 1901
Victorian _____	AD 1837
Post Medieval _____	AD 1500
Medieval _____	AD 1066
Saxon _____	AD 410
Roman _____	AD 43
Iron Age _____	BC/AD 750 BC
Bronze Age: Late -----	1300 BC
Bronze Age: Middle -----	1700 BC
Bronze Age: Early -----	2100 BC
Neolithic: Late .....	3300 BC
Neolithic: Early .....	4300 BC
Mesolithic: Late .....	6000 BC
Mesolithic: Early .....	10000 BC
Palaeolithic: Upper .....	30000 BC
Palaeolithic: Middle .....	70000 BC
Palaeolithic: Lower .....	2,000,000 BC





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