

T H A M E S V A L L E Y

ARCHAEOLOGICAL

S E R V I C E S

**New Swimming Pool, Holyport House, The Green,
Maidenhead, Berkshire**

Archaeological Recording Action

by Maisie Foster

Site Code: HHH19/95

(SU 8933 7768)

New Swimming Pool, Holyport House, The Green, Maidenhead, Berkshire

An Archaeological Recording Action

For Mr John O'Hara

by Maisie Foster and Anne-Michelle Huvig

Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code HHH19/95

September 2019

Summary

Site name: New Swimming Pool, Holyport House, The Green, Maidenhead, Berkshire

Grid reference: SU 8933 7768

Site activity: Recording Action

Date and duration of project: 16th-19th September 2019

Project coordinator: Danielle Milbank

Site supervisor: Anne-Michelle Huvig

Site code: HHH 19/95

Area of site: 11m x 4m

Summary of results: Trenching for a new outside swimming pool took place under archaeological supervision. No deposits of archaeological interest were revealed but a Victorian access chamber and associated drains were observed.

Location and reference of archive: The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited at a local museum willing to accept the archive

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Report edited/checked by:	Steve Ford ✓ 30.09.19
	Steve Preston ✓ 30.09.19

New Swimming Pool, Holyport House, The Green, Maidenhead, Berkshire An Archaeological Recording Action

by Maisie Foster and Anne-Michelle Huvig

Report 19/95

Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological recording action carried out at Holyport House, The Green, Maidenhead, Berkshire (SU 8933 7768) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Mr John O'Hara of Holyport House, The Green, Maidenhead, Berkshire, SL6 2JN.

Planning permission (19/01037) has been gained from the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead for the construction of a new swimming pool. The consent is subject to a condition (2) requiring a recording action to be undertaken during groundworks.

This is in accordance with the Department for Communities and Local Government's *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF 2019) and the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead Council's policies on archaeology. The field investigation was carried out to a specification approved by Mr Matt Saywood, Archaeology Officer for Berkshire Archaeology, the archaeological advisor to the Borough. The fieldwork was undertaken by Anne-Michelle Huvig between 16th-19th September 2019 and the site code is HHH 19/95.

The archive is presently held at TVAS, Reading and will be deposited with a local museum willing to accept the archive.

Location, topography and geology

The site is located in the village of Holyport, a small village *c.* 2km outside the town of Maidenhead (Fig. 1). The house is positioned just off the junction between Moneyrow Green and Holyport Road opposite the village green and is sat back from the road (Fig. 2). The site is thought to be located beyond the historic and medieval core of the village. The site lies at a height of *c.* 27m above Ordnance Datum on a London Clay Formation - clay, silt and sand. No superficial deposits have been recorded for this area (BGS 1981).

Archaeological background

The archaeological potential of the site stems from its location within the archaeologically rich Thames Valley (Booth *et al.* 2007; Lambrick *et al.* 2009) with a wide range of sites and finds recorded in the Berkshire Archaeology Historic Environment Record (HER). Of particular note is a Neolithic occupation recorded at

Canon Hill to the east (Bradley *et al* 1976) with an early Mesolithic occupation site and Saxon features to the north east (Ames 1993). Recent fieldwork has recorded Late Neolithic pits, early Saxon occupation and a Bronze Age ring ditch (levelled burial mound) at Braywick to the north (Colyer 2019) with a possible Bronze Age ring ditch and Roman enclosure on land to the east of the village (Ford 2018). The house itself, is a Grade II listed building, which may date from the 15th century.

Objectives and methodology

The purpose of the recording action was to excavate and record any archaeological deposits affected by the groundworks for the new swimming pool. This consisted of monitoring the excavation of the swimming pool area. All ground level reduction was undertaken with a small 360°-type excavator fitted with a 1.25m and 0.3m wide toothless ditching buckets under constant archaeological supervision. Spoil heaps were monitored frequently for archaeological material.

Results

The previous use of the land prior to the ground reduction for the new swimming pool was a grassed lawn. No signs of previous disturbance were visible from the surface.

Ground reduction for the new swimming pool and a small pipe trench was excavated under archaeological supervision, and went down to a maximum depth of 1.4m (Fig. 3, Pl. 1 and 2). The stratigraphy exposed consisted of 0.2m of topsoil and 0.4m of mid-grey brown compact silt with occasional flint gravel inclusions subsoil (Fig. 4). The subsoil was observed directly overlying the underlying natural geology which consisted of a mid to light orange-brown silty clay with occasional gravel inclusions and extended from 0.4m below ground level to the maximum depth of excavation (*c.*1.4m below ground level).

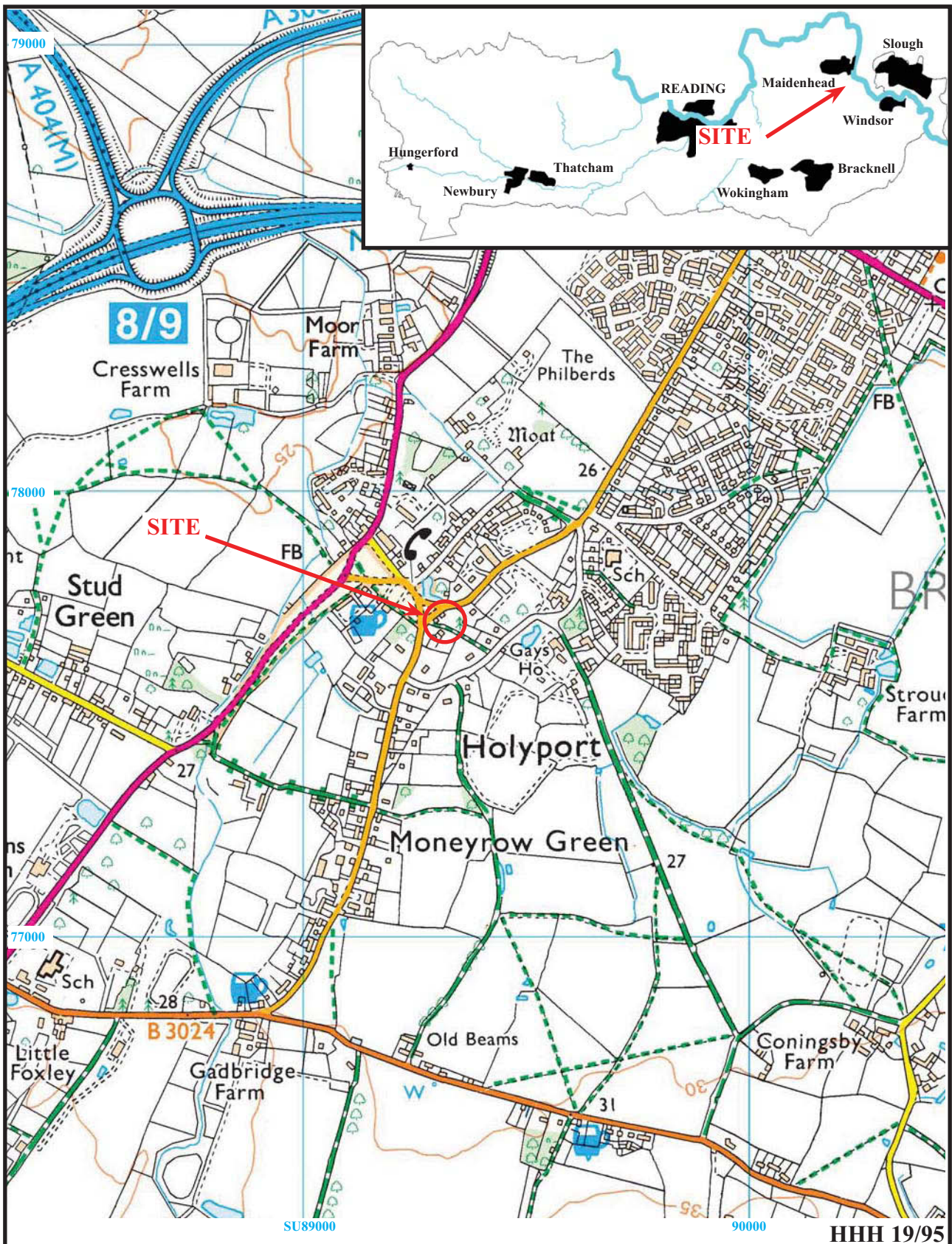
Two relatively modern disturbances were observed: a series of Victorian drains and an associated access chamber. These were recorded at 0.2m under the surface ground level in the main swimming pool area (Pl. 3 and 4). The modern truncations were photographed and then removed. No deposits of archaeological interest were noted.

Conclusion

The recording action successfully investigated the area of the site which was going to be affected by the construction of a new swimming pool. No deposits of archaeological interest were observed.

References

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Figure 1. Location of site within Holyport and Berkshire.

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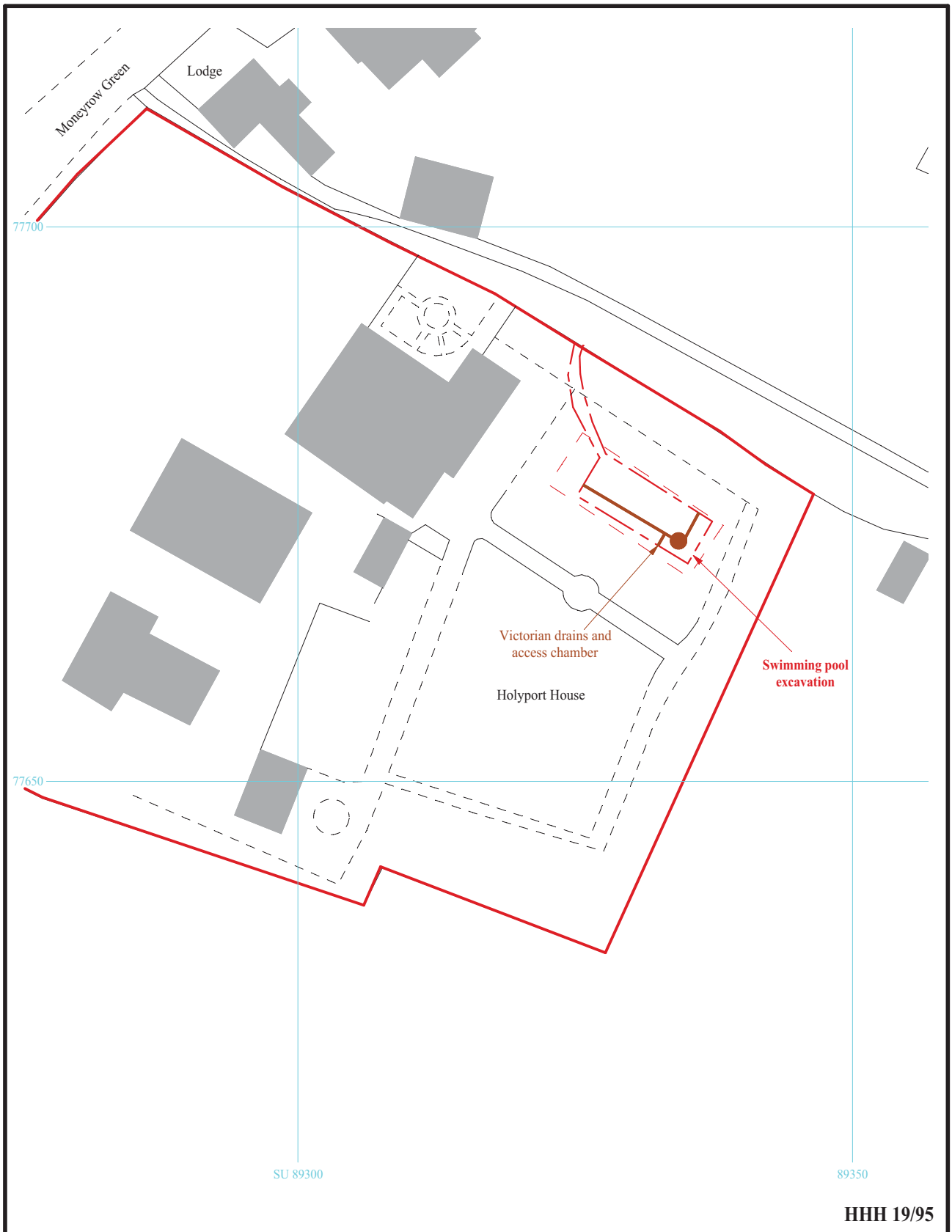
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Figure 2. Plan showing site location.



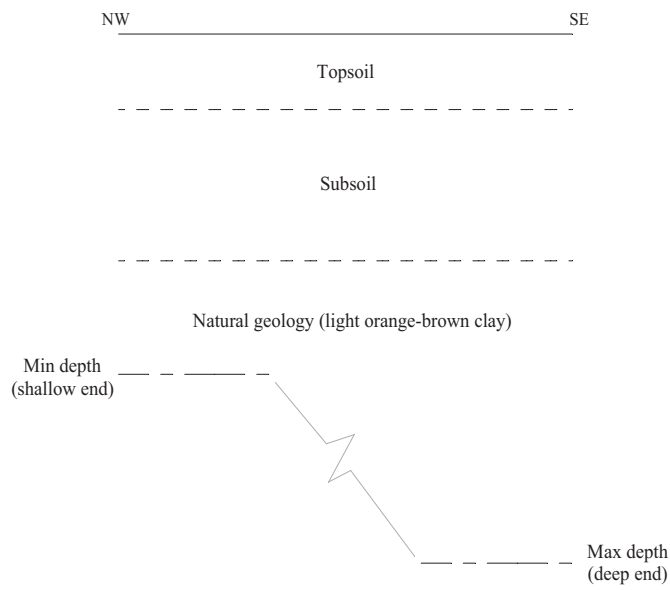
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Figure 3. Plan showing excavation area.





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Figure 4. Representative section.



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Plate 1. The fully-excavated pool area showing gradient of base, looking N, Scales: 1m



Plate 2. Section at NW (shallow) end of the pool looking NW, Scales: 1m.

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Plates 1 and 2.**

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Plate 3. The Victorian well or soakaway first exposed, looking NW, Scales: 1m



Plate 4. The Victorian well or soakaway, looking NW

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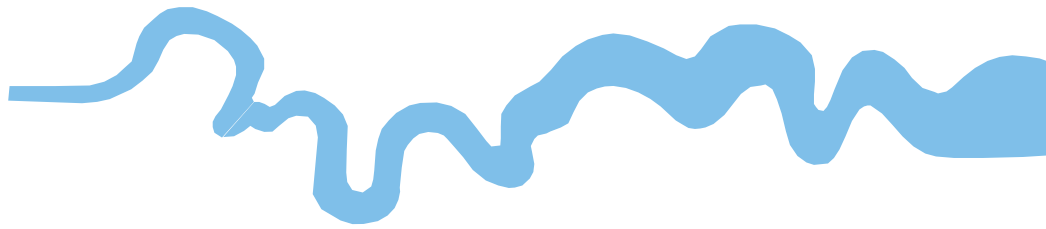
**New Swimming Pool, Holyport House, The Green
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Plates 3 and 4.**

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TIME CHART

	Calendar Years
Modern _____	AD 1901
Victorian _____	AD 1837
Post Medieval _____	AD 1500
Medieval _____	AD 1066
Saxon _____	AD 410
Roman _____	AD 43 AD 0 BC
Iron Age _____	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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