



JOHN MOORE HERITAGE SERVICES

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL RECORDING ACTION

AT

LADYE PLACE, HIGH STREET,

HURLEY, BERKSHIRE

SU 8251 8405

On behalf of

Mr & Mrs Armstrong

April 2012

REPORT FOR Mr & Mrs Armstrong
Layde Place
High Street
Hurley
Maidenhead
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Summary

John Moore Heritage Services undertook the supervision of a 1m x 1m geotechnical pit on the 27th March 2012. A modern quarry pit was uncovered.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Site Location (Figure 1)

The development site is located at Layde Place, High Street, Hurley, Maidenhead (NGR SU 8251 8405) on the High Street toward the north end of the village. Hurley itself lies just south of the River Thames and approximately 10.3km northwest of Maidenhead. It is situated at about 30.8m OD and the underlying geology is Shepperton Gravels. This was confirmed during the exercise.

1.2 Planning Background

As part of the proposal for the erection of a detached double garage at Ladye Place, High Street, Hurley the excavation of a geotechnical investigation pit was required. Due to the site's potential to contain archaeological remains Berkshire Archaeology recommended that this work was archaeological monitored, with a view to informing on the potential for further works. This was in line with PPS 5 (in place at the time) and the Local Plan. Berkshire Archaeology did not issue a *Brief for an Archaeological Watching Brief*, but had been consulted. The Written Scheme of Investigation outlined the method by which the archaeological work would be carried out in order to preserve by record any archaeological remains of significance. The first part of the document was site specific while the appendices detailed John Moore Heritage Services' standards and general procedures.

1.3 Archaeological Background

The site is located just outside of the Scheduled Ancient Monument of Hurley Priory, but is within an area of known Medieval and Post-medieval activity.

The manor of Hurley was held under Edward the Confessor by Asgar (or Esgar). his staller or master of the horse. It was granted by William the Conqueror to Geoffrey de Mandeville, who at the instance of his second wife Lasceline and for the soul of his first wife Athelaise, the mother of his sons, granted the vill of Hurley and the adjoining wood to the priory. In February 1236 the prior obtained a royal charter confirming the liberties of soc and sac, toll and theam, infangentheof and outfangentheof, and all the other liberties enjoyed by the Abbot of Westminster throughout his lands (VCH 1923).

The HER records that Hurley Priory was a Benedictine monastery founded as a cell of St. Peter's, Westminster by Geoffrey de Mandeville and dedicated to the memory of his first wife, Athelais. It remained in Benedictine hands until 1536 when the monastery was dissolved, the land then passing into secular ownership. Several families subsequently held Hurley until 1550 when John Lovelace had a house built, Ladye Place mansion, in the area south of the church. The crypt is all that survives of this house following its demolition in 1837. Due to the Priory being at constant risk of

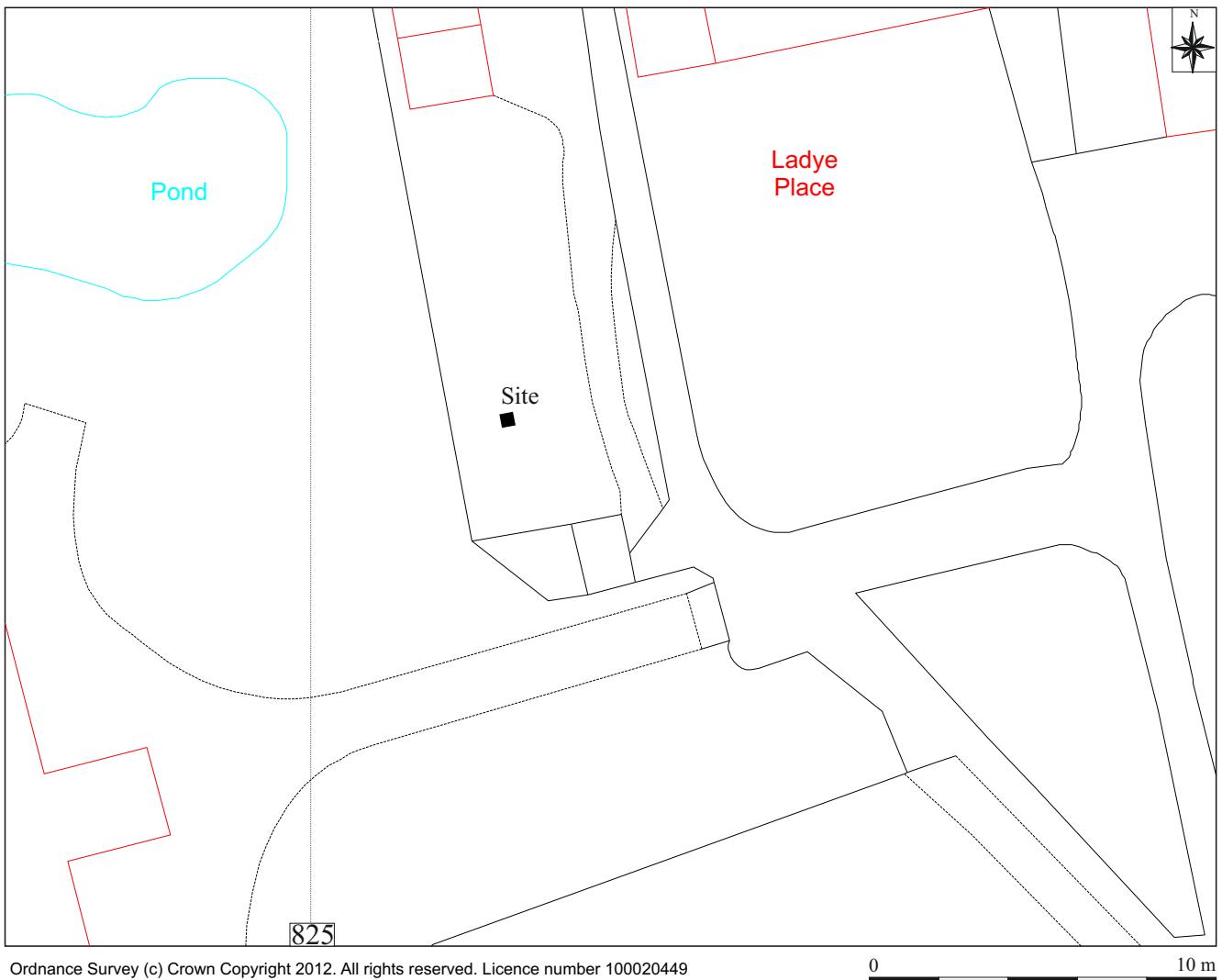
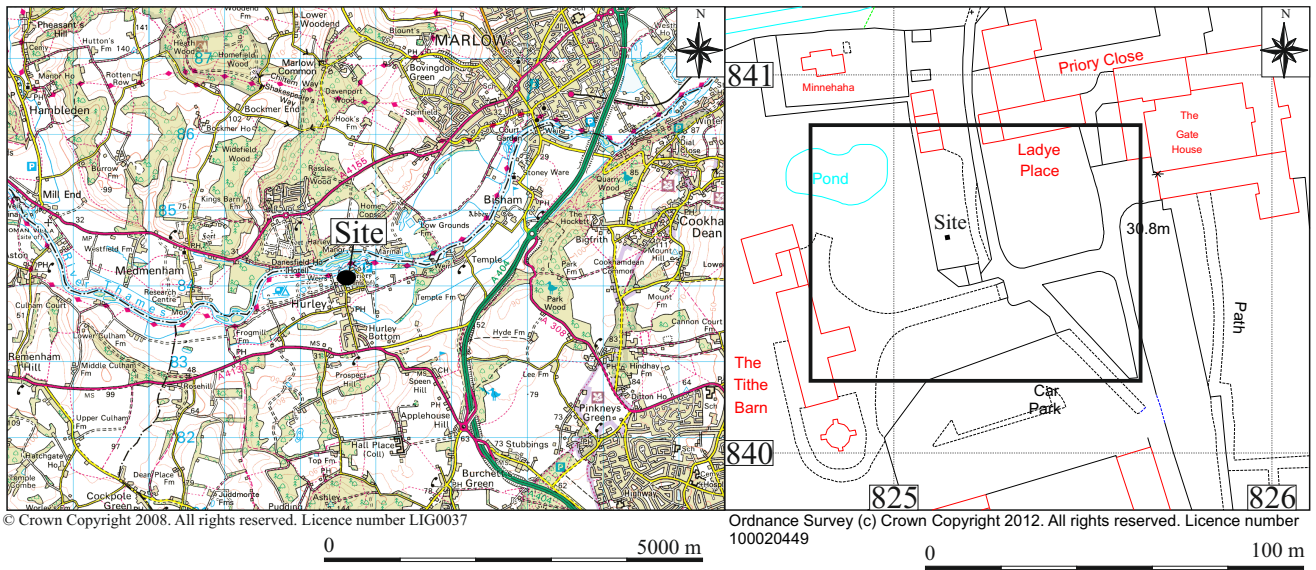


Figure 1. Site location

flooding, blamed in part on a dam that had been built by the Knights Templar at Temple (which resulted in a law suit between the two orders in 1255), by 1391 the flooding had become so bad that the Prior petitioned Richard II to allow them to move to Warfield, a royal manor, which they duly did. After the Dissolution, a Deed of Saledated 1544 between Leonard Chamberlayn and John Lovelace (who demolished much of the Priory and built Ladye Place) lists the contents and grounds within the precinct as 'good land and waste'

The VCH (1923) records that “to the north of the church is Lady Place, a modern red brick building, the successor of an older house built on the site of the priory, which was the seat of the Lovelaces, lords of the manor in the 16th and 17th centuries. In the grounds of Lady Place are the remains of the walls of what was probably the frater of the priory”.

2 AIMS OF THE INVESTIGATION

The aims of the investigation were as follows:

- To make a record of any significant remains revealed during the course of any operations that may disturb or destroy archaeological remains.
- To record any activity related to Hurley Priory

3 STRATEGY

3.1 Research Design

Standard John Moore Heritage Services techniques were employed throughout, involving the completion of a written record for each deposit encountered, with scale plans and section drawings compiled where appropriate and possible.

The recording was carried out in accordance with the standards specified by the Institute of Field Archaeologists (1994).

3.2 Methodology

An archaeologist was on site to observe the excavation of one geotechnical pit. All resulting surfaces were inspected for any significant archaeological features.

Standard John Moore Heritage Services techniques were employed throughout, involving the completion of a written record for each deposit encountered, with scale plans and sections drawings compiled where appropriate.

4 RESULTS

All deposits and features were assigned individual context numbers. Context numbers without brackets indicate features i.e. pit cuts; while numbers in () show feature fills or deposits of material.

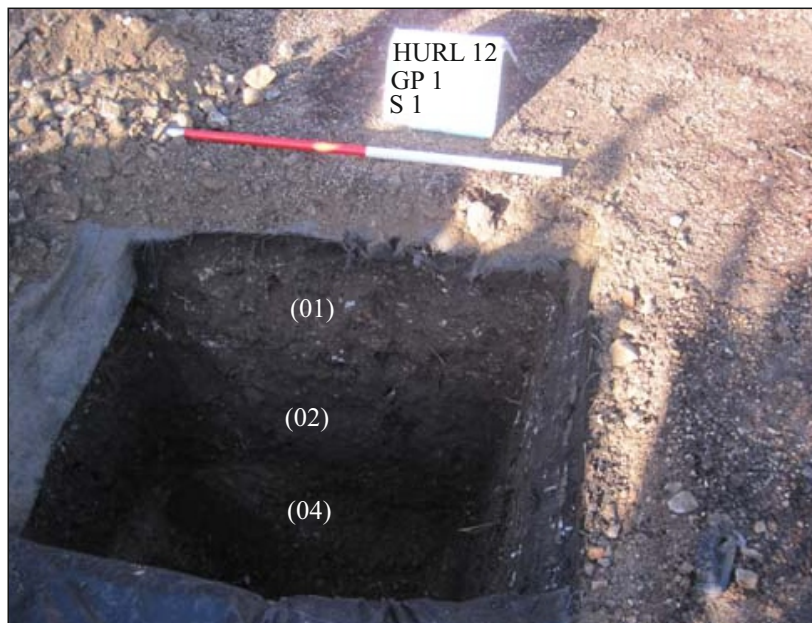
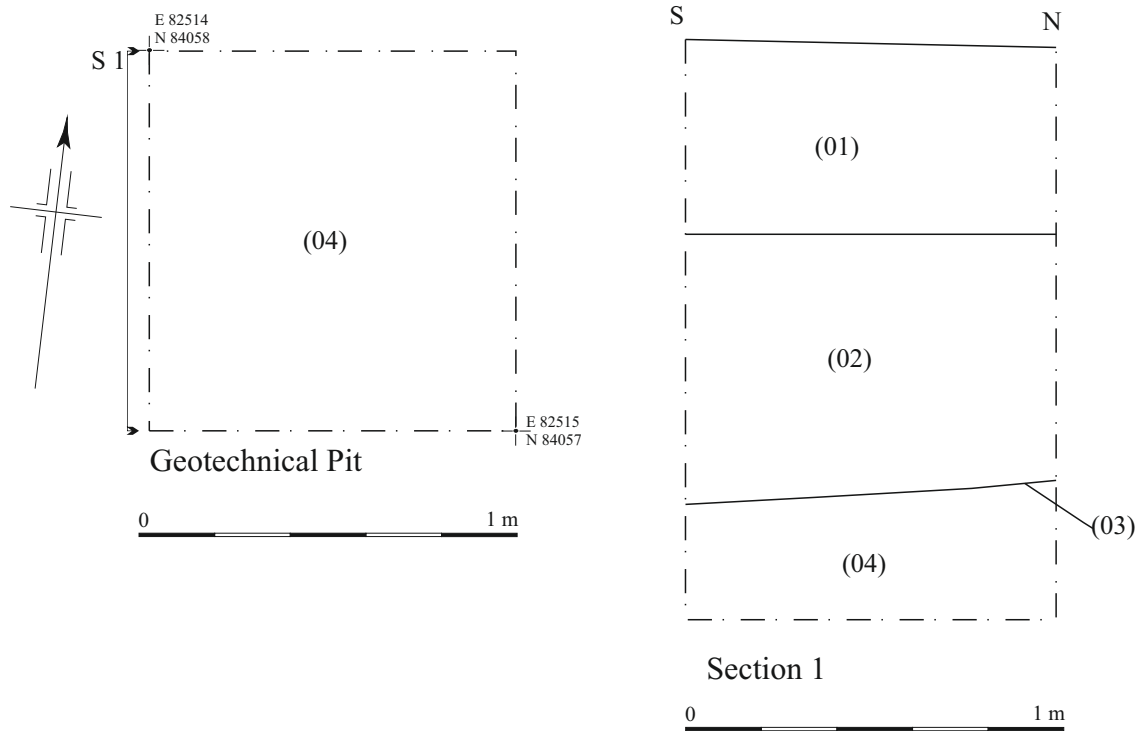


Plate 1. Geotechnical Pit section 1 east facing

Figure 2. Geotechnical Pit plan and section and Plate 1

4.1 Field Results (Figure 2)

The lowest deposit encountered within the Geotechnical pit was natural (04), which was a loose mid orange yellow sandy gravel, the gravel being no larger than 0.04m c.70%. Overlying (04) was quarry pit cut 03. Cut 03 was only visible in section. It had a flat bottom and was 0.70m thick and 1m x 1m as seen. No edges were visible within the Geotechnical pit. It contained fill (02), which was a moderately compacted mid grey brown sandy clay, containing circa 15% brick fragments no larger than 0.10m. A sherd of modern white ware pottery was also retrieved from this context. Both the brick and the modern pottery were not retained. Overlying this was a garden topsoil (01) which was a compact dark greyish brown clay containing circa 20% chalk fragments and a 20th Century frogged red brick, which was not retained. This deposit was 0.50m thick.

4.4 Reliability of Techniques and Results

The reliability is considered to be good. The work was carried out in excellent conditions.

5 FINDS

5.1 Environmental Remains

No environmental samples were taken.

5.2 Pottery (By David Gilbert)

A representative sample of sherds was taken, but not retained, from context (02) these sherds consisted of:

Creamware, dated late 18th – early 19th century
Refined white earthenware, dated c 1800+.

6 DISCUSSION

Judging from the deposits encountered, it would suggest that the geotechnical pit was placed in an area of a quarrying pit. Such quarrying is generally quite extensive. Discussions with Fiona McDonald of Berkshire Archaeology made it possible to recommend that no further archaeological work is needed.

7 ARCHIVE

Archive Contents

The archive consists of the following:

Paper record

Written scheme of investigation

The project report
The primary site record

The archive currently is maintained by John Moore Heritage Services and will be transferred to the appropriate museum in due course.

8 BIBLIOGRAPHY

English Heritage 1991 *Management of Archaeological Projects*

English Heritage 2006 *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment*

Institute of Field Archaeologists, 1994 (revised 2001), *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation*.

VCH 1923 *A History of the County of Berkshire: Volume 3*, pp. 152-160