



JOHN MOORE HERITAGE SERVICES

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATION
AT
DUCK BOTTOM, 15 FLINT STREET, HADDENHAM,
BUCKINGHAMSHIRE

SP 7396 0802

On behalf of
Sir Roderick and Lady Floud

JANUARY 2008

REPORT FOR	Sir Roderick and Lady Floud c/o F J Thompson & Co. Old Kings Arms 30 Church Street Rickmansworth Hertfordshire WD3 1DJ
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Summary

John Moore Heritage Services concluded an archaeological investigation on 24th January 2008. This involved the inspection of foundation trenches and the digging of an evaluation trench through the location of a proposed swimming pool.

No archaeological finds or features were noted in the extension footings whilst machining in the area for the swimming pool down to the level of impact was not deep enough to disturb any potential deposits. One partially excavated pit containing a single sherd of pottery datable to the 16th-19th centuries was revealed in this area.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Site location (Figure 1)

The site is located to the rear of 15 Flint Street, Haddenham (NGR SP7396 0802). The underlying geology is Upper Jurassic Portlandian, Portland stone formation (mainly limestone) known locally as witchert. This was observed during the investigation.

1.2 Planning Background

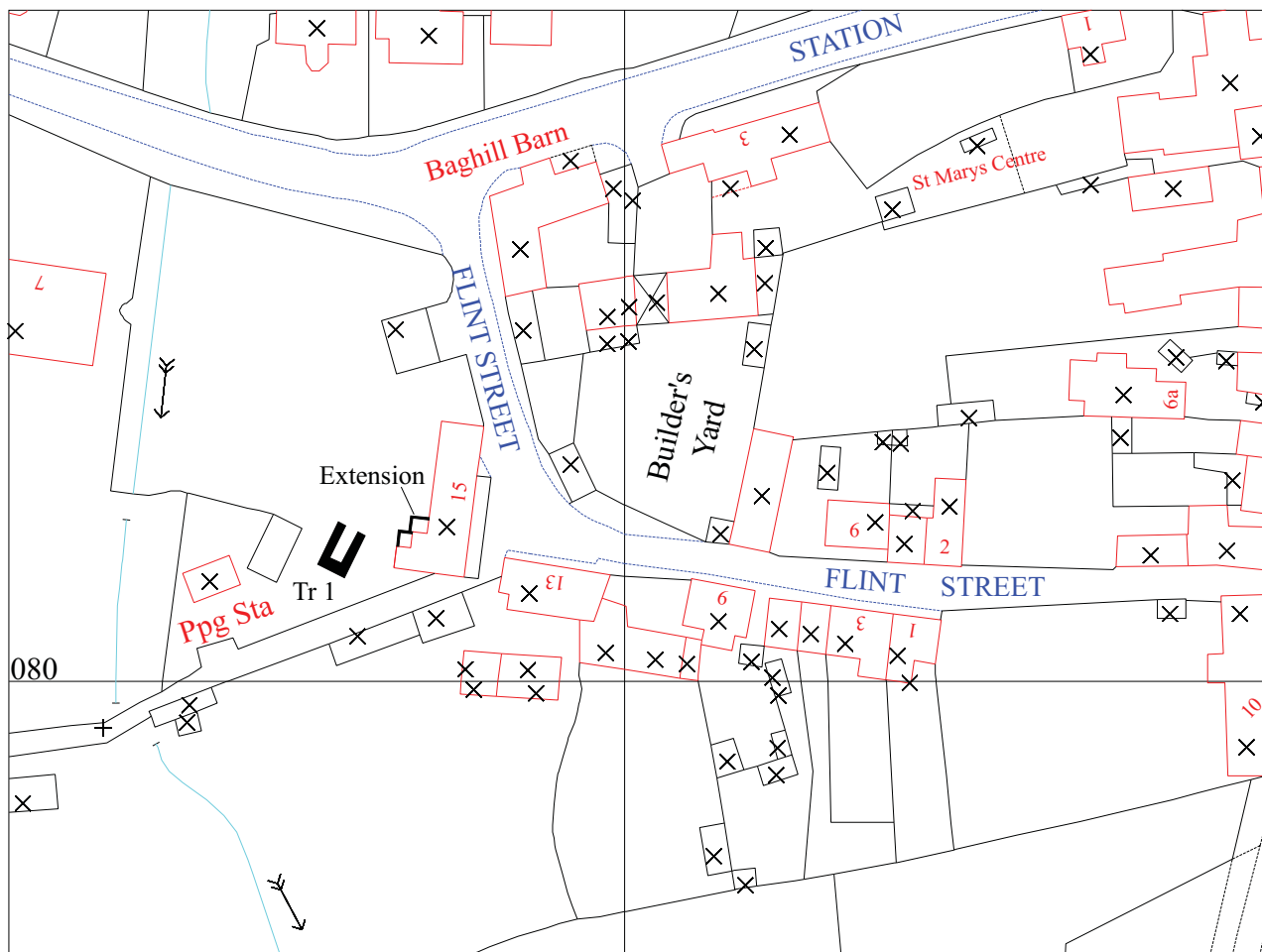
Aylesbury Vale District Council granted planning permission for the erection of a single storey extension and swimming pool at 15 Flint Street, Haddenham. A condition was attached to the permission for a programme of archaeological work. Buckinghamshire County Archaeological Service (BCAS) prepared a *Brief* for the work recommending that the site should be investigated by trenching totalling at least 8m in length, with contingency for a second stage of further works. An inspection would also be made of foundation trenches dug for a new single storey extension to the house.

This was due to the possibility of archaeological deposits being damaged or destroyed as a result of the development and in order to ascertain any further possible mitigation strategies which might be needed. This was designed to establish the presence/absence and condition of any archaeological deposits thought to present within the site and is in line with PPG 16 and Local Plan Policies.

1.3 Archaeological Background

An archaeological evaluation was considered necessary for this site because it lies within the historic core of Haddenham. The importance of the area has been highlighted in the Haddenham Conservation Area draft document of July 2007. An assessment of the site was carried out through the examination of material held by the County Sites and Monuments Record and historic maps at the County Record Office.

There are modest quantities of prehistoric flintwork recovered from the north and west of Haddenham (CAS 4401, 4241). An Iron Age brooch fibulae (CAS 2551) was recovered from a garden off the High Street. These finds indicate prehistoric activity in the area, albeit at a low density.



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0 50 m

Figure 1. Site Location

Roman material is also scattered to the north and west again in low densities, although a 3rd century coin was recovered 50m from the site (CAS 0631). At least two previous excavations within Haddenham have uncovered pottery dated to the Saxon period (CAS 2311, 4572). These also recorded undated features, which may be Saxon. Several inhumations in the area have also been dated to the Saxon period (CAS 2416, 2501). Recent work within the town 1.2km to the north of the site produced a large number of Saxon pits, gullies, postholes and ditches (TVAS 2007).

The area is noted as part of the Conservation Area, Identity Area 15, as a zone of 13th century buildings with later 16th century redevelopment. There are two noted post-medieval gardens listed on the SMR in the area, that of Hopefield House (CAS 0426) 200m to the west and the garden and pond at Haddenham Manor House (CAS 0343) 250m to the south-east.

During the reign of Edward the Confessor, Haddenham was held by Earl Tostig the brother of Harold. The Domesday Book records that in 1086 it was a settlement of 40 villagers with 16 smallholders and 15 slaves in the hands of Archbishop Lanfranc. At the request of Lanfranc William II Rufus gave the manor to the Priory of Rochester. Later Bishop Ernulph (d.1194) gave the monks of Rochester the church of Haddenham.

In 1294 Edward I granted a charter for a Thursday market and a 3 day fair for the festival of the Assumption; however in 1301 this market was put down as it was found to prejudice the market at Thame. Edward III obtained possession of the manor from Sir Edward North. It was then leased from time to time by the crown until the reign of James I.

James I assigned Haddenham to Henry Prince of Wales in 1611, until his death. The rental income was then paid to Prince Charles from 1617.

The evolution of Haddenham is of particular interest as by the late medieval period Haddenham had developed into a poly-focal settlement with areas of nucleation around a series of 'ends' at Church End, Towns End, and Fort End (Chadwick 2002, Rouse 2005).

The town of Haddenham has suffered at least two major fires destroying 30 houses in 1701 and at least 60 in 1760. The area around Flint Street appears to have escaped these fires.

The Jeffrey's map of 1770 shows the site within the town core. The Building is seen on the Tithe map of 1820. The Map of the Parish of Haddenham of 1825 shows the site on land plot 89, known as Duck Lane. There are dove houses marked to the south.

The 1st edition OS map of 1885 shows the area very similar to today. A well is noted in the rear of the property.

The earliest name for the road was Duck Lane, this is sometimes referred to as Duck Street. It was later changed to Flint Street (Jeffery 2006)

2 AIMS OF THE INVESTIGATION

The aims of the investigation as laid out in the Written Scheme of Investigation were as follows:

- To establish the presence or absence of archaeological remains within the site.
- To aim to gather sufficient information to generate a reliable predictive model of the extent, character, date state of preservation and depth of burial of important archaeological remains within the study area.
- To assess the ecofactual and environmental potential of the archaeological features and deposits.
- To determine the impact of the proposed development on any remains present.
- To make available to interested parties the results of the investigation.

Particular objectives are:

- To establish whether there is evidence for Saxon activity in this area.
- Establish whether there is evidence for occupation, property boundaries, domestic, commercial or industrial activities associated with the medieval and post-medieval settlement.
- Establish whether any traces of decayed wattle structures are present.

3 STRATEGY

The evaluation was to comprise the mechanical excavation of a single trench supplemented by limited hand investigation of any archaeological deposits.

The trench was to be 8m in length and 1.6m wide and located within the footprint of the proposed swimming pool. However this was to be altered to 6m by 2m as the pool was only to be 6m x 4m in area. Ultimately c. 65-70% of the area of the pool excavation was monitored.

Excavation was by mini-excavator using a ditching bucket.

Site procedures followed IFA guidelines (1994) and the requirements of the BCAS's Brief.

The work was carried out to a Written Scheme of Investigation approved by the Buckinghamshire County Archaeological Service.

4 RESULTS

All deposits and features were assigned individual context numbers. Context numbers in [] indicate features i.e. pit cuts; while numbers in () show feature fills or deposits of material.

4.1 Designated Swimming Pool area (*Figure 1*)

From initial digging it soon became apparent that the impact depth of the new construction would not be deep enough to damage or destroy any archaeological deposits. This allowed any archaeology present to be preserved *in situ* and meant that the natural was not reached. A large area was still inspected in order to confirm this.

Detailed measurements taken from this trench showed a compact orange-brown clay (03) with occasional charcoal flecking, possibly the same as deposit (05) (see below), overlay a pale grey-brown clay made ground (02) with occasional CBM fragments and sandstone flecking 0.3-0.4m thick. Two sherds of pottery dating to the 16th-19th century and a damaged piece of clay pipe bowl with the remains of a bearded face were recovered from the deposit. This was cut by a circular pit [07] c.3.5m+ wide and 0.45m+ deep containing a loose mottled yellow-grey-brown clay (08) with moderate stone inclusions and charcoal flecking. The pit continued beyond the limits of excavation and was not fully excavated. CBM, and one sherd of pottery dating from the 16th-19th century were collected from its fill. Overlaying and completing the sequence was a fine humic dark grey-black loam topsoil (01) ranging in depth from 0.45m towards the east to 0.65m towards the west.

4.2 Foundation trench for new extension (*Figure 1*)

The entire foundation trench was available for inspection. From observation made of the sections it could be seen that a pale green/grey witchert natural (04) was dug into by 0.60m. This was sealed by a compact orange/brown clay (05) with occasional stone inclusions and charcoal flecking c. 0.20m thick. Above this was a compact dark grey silty clay (06) c.0.20m thick with occasional fragments of ceramic building material and charcoal flecking. A modern pathway covered this deposit and a modern service trench aligned E-W was also seen. No finds or archaeological features were noted.

4.3 Reliability of Techniques and Results

The reliability of results is considered to be good. The archaeological investigation work took place during dry and bright weather.

5 FINDS

5.1 Pottery by *Paul Blinkhorn*

The pottery assemblage comprised 3 sherds with a total weight of 272g. It was all Red Earthenware, dateable to the 16th – 19th centuries, fabric PM8 of the Milton Keynes Archaeological Unit type-series (e.g. Mynard and Zeepvat 1992; Zeepvat et al. 1994).

Two sherds weighing 214g were noted in context 2, and a further sherd, weighing 58g, was noted in context 8. All were rimsherds from large bowls or pancheons, and are typical of the tradition. They were all in good condition, and appear reasonably reliably stratified.

5.2 Clay Tobacco Pipe by John Moore

A damaged piece of clay pipe bowl with the remains of a bearded face came from context 2. This dates from the late 19th century.

6 DISCUSSION

The depth of made ground discovered in the Swimming Pool trench was unexpected and varies considerably from the extension foundations. The lack of natural observed in this area could be the result of quarrying of the Witchert, perhaps being used in some nearby construction. The depth and condition of the topsoil also suggests that the area has perhaps been double dug and used intensively for growing at some point. One pit containing a single sherd of pottery dating to the 16th-19th century was discovered in this area with no earlier pottery noted anywhere else.

No finds or archaeological deposits were noted from the foundation trench for the extension.

The archaeological investigation was unsuccessful in locating any Saxon remains or evidence of decayed former witchert structures.

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