



JOHN MOORE HERITAGE SERVICES

ARCHAEOLOGICAL RECORDING ACTION

AT

ANN DUEL'S HOUSE

HOLYPORT STREET, HOLYPORT,

MAIDENHEAD, BERKSHIRE

(NGR SU 89335 77850)

On behalf of

Mr. J. Drewett

January 2009

REPORT FOR	John Drewett Anne Duel's House Holyport Street Holyport Maidenhead SL6 2JR
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Summary

John Moore Heritage Services conducted archaeological recording of a trench excavated after the erection of a new extension. A watching brief was also conducted during the ground-work for drainage. Remains of a 19th century building were recorded as well as several modern pits.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Site Location (Figure 1)

The site is located on the south side of Holyport Street, Holyport (NGR SU 89335 77850). The underlying geology is London Clay. The development was carried out within a domestic garden area.

1.2 Planning Background

Planning permission 07/00290 was been granted by The Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead for a two storey side extension and single story rear extension including conservatory. A condition was attached to the planning permission requiring the implementation of an archaeological watching brief during groundworks. This is in line with PPG 16 and Local Plan policies.

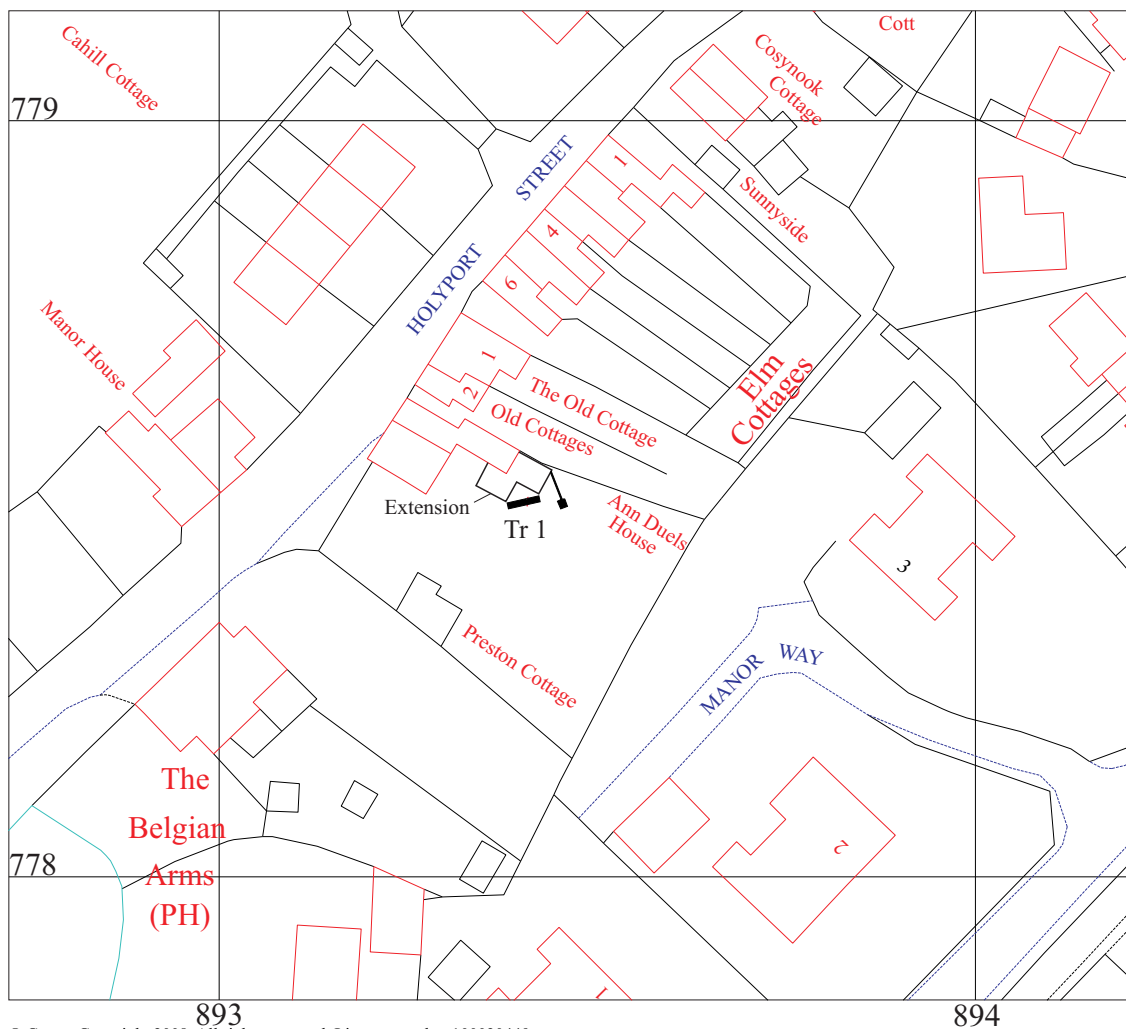
The ground-works for the single storey extension were carried out without an archaeologist present. Subsequently it was agreed with Berkshire Archaeology, on behalf of the Local Planning Authority, that a 10m long trench, diagonal to the new build, will be excavated under archaeological direction to determine whether, and to record, any archaeological remains were present in the area. The report only deals with work associated with this rear extension.

1.3 Archaeological Background

Locally thought to mean literally what it says, "Holy Port", a stopping off point for pilgrims on their way from Canterbury to St. Davids, old documents show that the name originally stemmed from *Horrig-Port* or "Muddy Market" (Nash_Ford 2001).

Holyport was in the manor of Cresswell in 1352 when it was sold to Edward III. Shortly afterwards the king granted it in frankalmoign to the warden and college of St. George's Chapel, Windsor, in whose possession it remained until 1649, when the Parliamentary commissioners sold it to Edward Curle and Richard Spencer. Curle and Spencer leased it in 1652 to Thomas and Peregrine Wilcox, who continued to hold it on lease after the Restoration, when the Dean and Canons of Windsor recovered their land. During the 18th century it was held of them by the Meeke family, who sold their lease about 1780 to Mr. Fuller. His descendants held it for almost a century, being still the tenants in 1860, when the manor was bought from the dean and canons by Mr. Charles Pascoe Grenfell, whose grandson Lord Desborough is the present owner (VCH 1923).

The house is listed and described as an early 15th century hall house (pers. com. Fiona MacDonald). Holyport lies within the parish of Bray. The common lands in the parish were inclosed in 1817 under an Act of 1814.



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Figure 1. Trench location

2 AIMS OF THE INVESTIGATION

The aims of the investigation as laid out in the Written Scheme of 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.

In particular:

- to record any remains relating to the hall house and to any earlier occupation of the site.
- to inform on the likelihood of archaeological remains having been disturbed without recording by the previous excavations of foundations for the single storey extension.

3 STRATEGY

3.1 Research Design

John Moore Heritage Services carried out the work to a Written Scheme of Investigation agreed with Berkshire Archaeology. 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

A single trench of 10m in length was proposed to be excavated diagonally adjacent to the new extension. Upon investigation of the site it was obvious that such a trench would not fit in the area of the garden. To comply with the plans provided the trench was reduced in length to 5.5m. This work was conducted using a mechanical excavator employing a toothed 0.7m wide bucket.

All groundwork associated with the drainage and soak-away was monitored. This work was conducted using a mechanical excavator employing a toothed 0.3m wide bucket.

4 RESULTS (Figure 2)

All features were assigned individual context numbers. Numbers in () show feature fills or deposits of material. A general description of the feature fills is given.

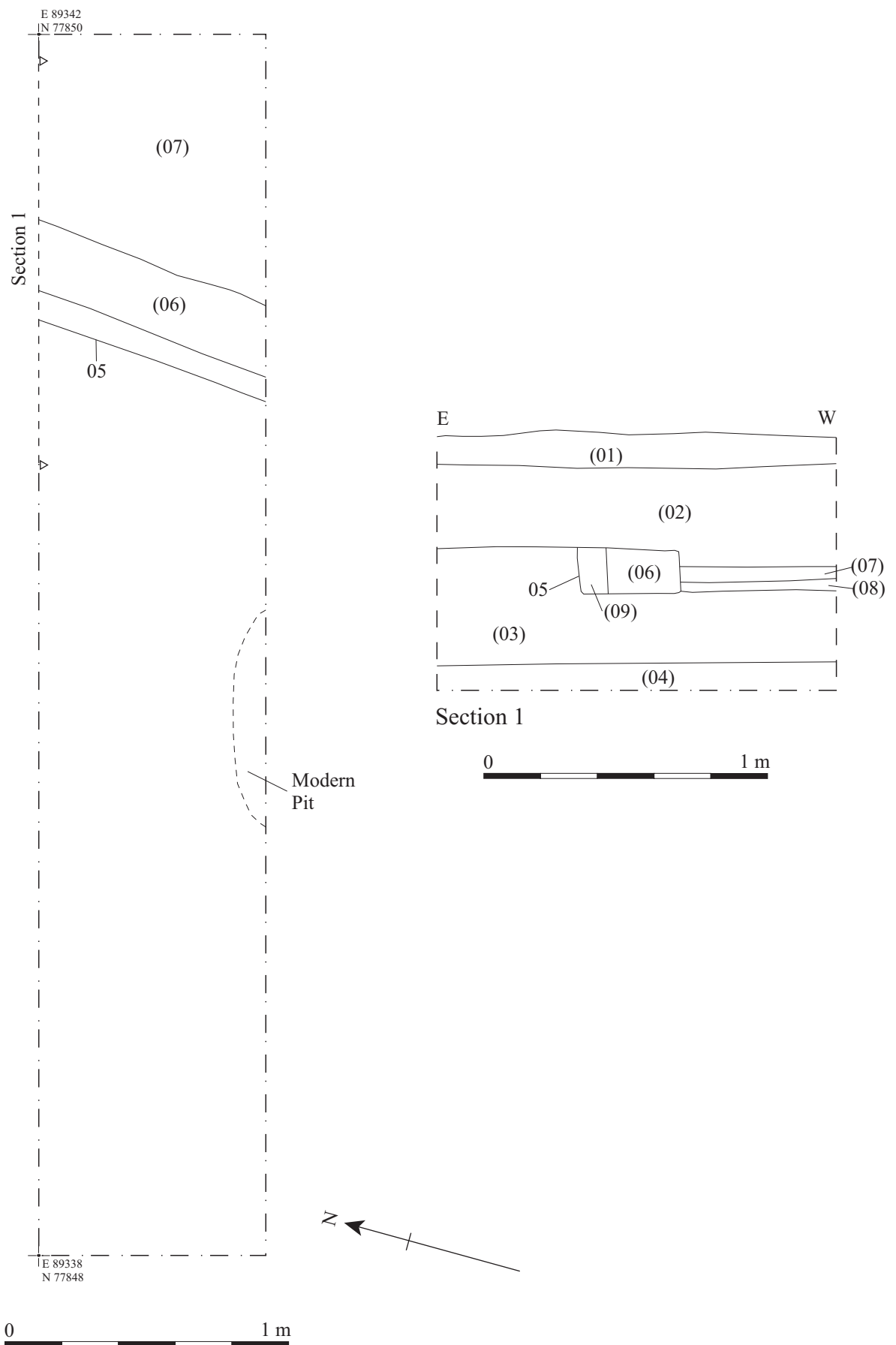


Figure 2. plan and section

4.1 Excavation Results

The natural geological deposit in the area was a yellow-brown sandy-clay related to the London Clay solid geology (04). Above this was a mid grey-brown sandy-clay (03) flecked with charcoal up to 0.4m thick. Cut into this was a foundation trench 05 for a wall (06) and floor layer (Fig. 2).

The wall (06) was a single brick length wide, 0.25m and survived at best to only two bricks high. There was some evidence of a heavily degraded pale yellow sandy mortar. The outer fill of the foundation cut was a dark grey silt-clay (09) up to 0.15m thick that contained some brick fragments, bone and pottery.

The associated interior floor layer, to the east of the wall, consisted of a make-up deposit of dark grey silt-clay (08) with charcoal that was 0.03m thick. Above this was a layer of brick or tile (07) up to 0.07m thick. This material was in very poor condition and it was difficult to ascertain if it was in fact a layer of previously crushed brick used as hard-core, with the actual floor surface missing.

The section of possible floor and wall within the trench was removed to check for the possibility of any earlier remains being sealed beneath.

This building and deposit (03) to the north was sealed by a 0.3m thick deposit of mid grey silt-clay (02) that displayed some charcoal flecks. It also contained small quantities of brick, pottery, bone and oyster shell.

To the south of the building, in the area of the soak-away was a layer of mid grey silt-clay (10) up to 0.35m thick, with the rare pottery sherd. This overlay (03) and may represent a less disturbed area of (02).

Within the trench a modern pit was noted cut into this layer (02) to the west of wall (06). Another was seen in the drainage trench. Both appear to have been planting beds for small shrubs associated with the garden. A recent dog inhumation was also seen in the vicinity of the new soak-away.

The uppermost layer was a dark grey-black silty-loam topsoil (01) that had previously be subject to a soil-strip close to the standing building. It varied in thickness from 0.1m near the house to over 0.35m towards the garden area in the south.

4.2 Reliability of Techniques and Results

The results can on the whole be considered to be good. The work took place on a dry, overcast day with no frost. The only small problem was the largest bucket the on-site contractors had for the excavator was 0.7m and toothed. This obviously made quick identification of deposits excavated difficult.

5 FINDS

5.1 Pottery (By Paul Blinkhorn)

The pottery assemblage comprised 11 sherds with a total weight of 417g. Only one fabric type was noted:

GRE: Post-medieval Glazed Red Earthenwares, Mid 16th – late 18th century. Fine sandy earthenware, usually with a brown or green glaze, occurring in a range of utilitarian forms. Such 'country pottery' was first made in the 16th century, and in some areas continued in use until the 19th century. Probably manufactured at a number of local centres, such as those in the Kennet Valley at Inkpen or on the Berkshire Downs at Ashton Keynes (Mephams 1997, 65). 11 sherds, 417g.

The pottery occurrence by number and weight of sherds per context by fabric type is shown in Table 1. Each date should be regarded as a *terminus post quem*. The range of vessel types is typical of the tradition in the region. All the bodysherds had green-glazed inner surfaces, and many had runnels and splashes of the same on the outer surface. Each context produced one or more rimsherds; Context 2 produced three, two of which were from large bowls or pancheons, and the other, with a handle, is probably from a cauldron or similar cooking vessel. A handle from another vessel of uncertain type was also present. The assemblage from context 9 comprised another pancheon rim, and that from context 11 included a large sherd from the rim of a jug or cistern. Overall, the group appears entirely domestic in nature, and is most likely to date to the mid 16th – 17th century.

Table 1: Pottery occurrence by number and weight (in g) of sherds per context by fabric type

	GRE		
Context	No	Wt	Date
2	7	248	M16thC
9	1	19	M16thC
10	3	150	M16thC
Total	11	417	

5.2 CBM (Brick and Tile)

Samples of CBM from the wall (06) and from floor (07) were retained.

5.3 Environmental Remains

Due to the nature of the deposits encountered no environmental samples were taken.

6 DISCUSSION

The deposit (10) to the south of the House contained pottery of a mid 16th to 17th century date and appears to be relatively undisturbed. No direct relationship could be made between this and the wall (06). It is possible that this deposit formed the subsoil

or even topsoil at the time of construction and that deposit (02) is a mixed material derived from this, later used as a covering for the demolished building and incorporating demolition material into it. It would seem likely therefore that the pottery retrieved from (02) and (09) are residual.

The angle of the wall (06) is unusual it is not parallel to the road or the rear of Ann Duel's House, but at roughly 30-45 degrees to it. There appears to be a small outbuilding on the same alignment marked on the first edition OS map of 1881, 1:10,560.

It is likely that the building associated with wall (06) is in fact a 19th century out-building, the black discolouration of layer (08) could be due to the presence of coal dust as much as charcoal as originally thought.

7 ARCHIVE

Archive Contents

The archive consists of the following:

Paper record

The project brief
Written scheme of investigation
The project report
The primary site records

Physical record

Finds

The archive currently is maintained by John Moore Heritage Services and will be transferred to the Reading Museum.

8 BIBLIOGRAPHY

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