

Hampshire Archaeological Dowsers

Affiliated to The British Society of Dowsers



REPORT NUMBER 003

ARCHAEOLOGICAL - DOWSING SURVEY

AT

IBM HURSLEY PARK

WINCHESTER

HAMPSHIRE

D P BRYAN BA (Hons)

AUGUST 2012



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1. Introduction

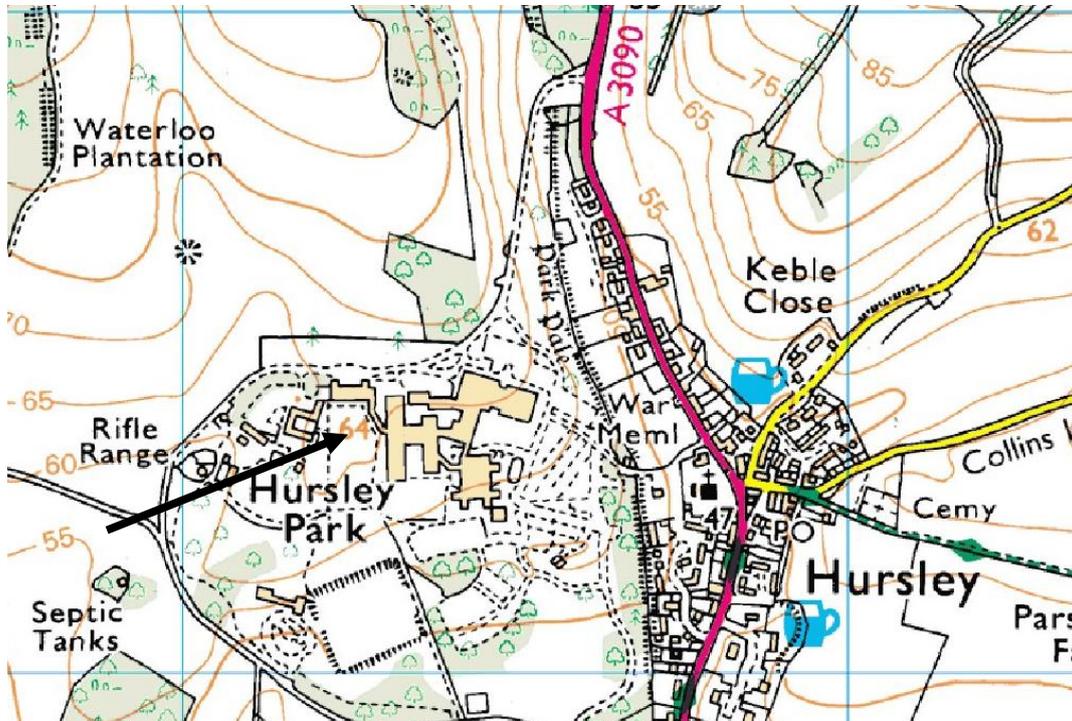
1.1 Project Background

Due to an increase of membership of HADS, the Officers and Committee decided that there was a need for a formal training session on methods of dowsing, surveying and the recording of underground features. Ideally this training would take place where there were known to be areas of historical and archaeological interest.

Several sites were evaluated before the South Lawn at IBM Hursley House was chosen and contact was made with Rick Kellaway, Hursley Site Facilities IBM. A site meeting between Don Bryan, Archaeological Director HADS and Rick Kellaway was made and the area of archaeological and historical interest discussed and a formal request for a practical weekend of archaeo-dowsing survey was made.

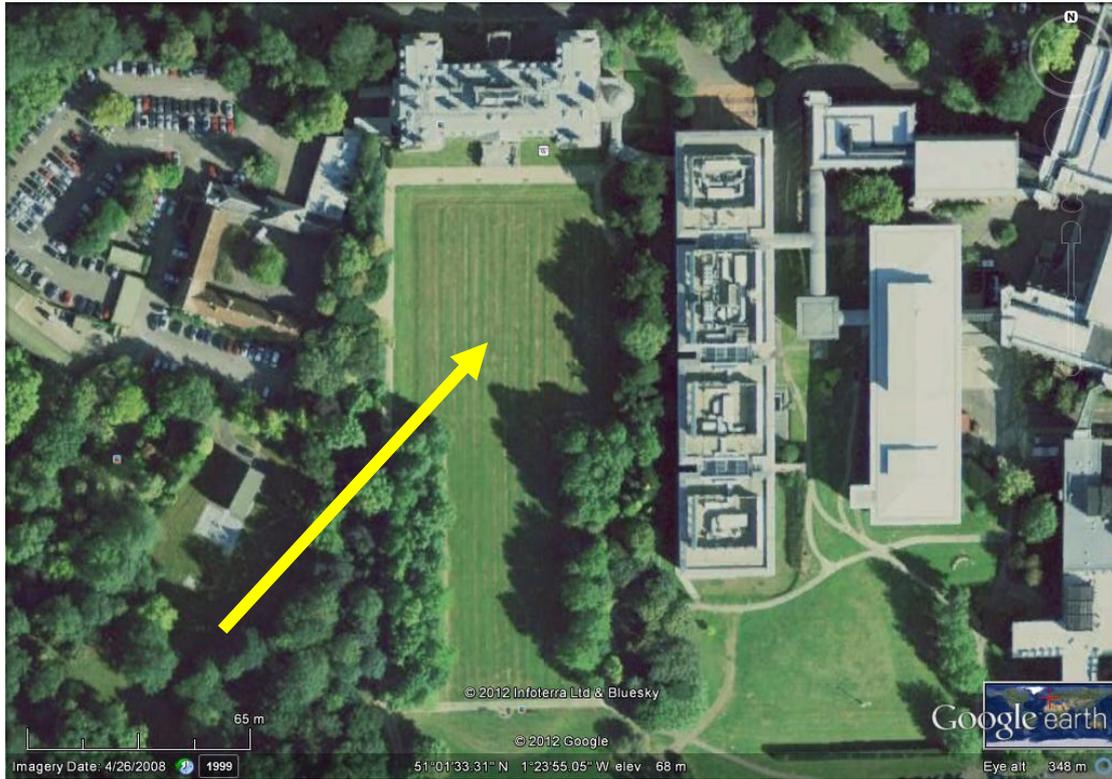
1.2 Site Location

The proposed site of survey lay under the South Lawn of Hursley House, the possible site of “The Old Lodge” of Hursley Park.



Location of the South Lawn

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Area of survey.

1.3 Aims and Objectives

The aim of the weekend research programme was to train novice dowsers how to locate the buried walls of “The Old Lodge” by using basic archaeology and dowsing techniques.

The objectives were to identify buried walls, mark on the surface their shape and dimensions and then record them to scale so that a report could be produced.

1.4 Risk Assessment

A risk assessment was written before any research activity was carried out on the site. Every member of the HADS working party was issued with their own copy and this was read by all participants before they were permitted onto the site.

A copy of this risk assessment can be found in **Appendix 1** of this report.

2.0. Methodology

2.1. Summary

Don Bryan, HADS Archaeological Director, had visited the site many years ago and was shown the area where it was thought that “The Great Lodge” had stood. Before any field work was commenced, a desk based research programme was carried out. Various reports were studied, maps and photographs were examined. It was decided that normal archaeological “best practices” would be followed in all cases.

2.2. Written Sources

The main written source used in this report is *Merdone, the History of Hursley Park* compiled by D. L. Peach, a member of the IBM team for many years and also a local historian.

The following text is taken from this publication: -

“The history of buildings on the site of Hursley Park House seems to have a definite starting date of 1413. The Pipe Rolls for that year give an account for an expense of £8 0s 7d credited to a carpenter who “made a new building called a logge in the park”. The design of the logge was geared to hunting, and as such it lasted for 100 years. Prior to 1552, the hunting activities must have dwindled, for in that year the bishop of Winchester, one John Poynt, surrendered to King Edward VI the Merdon estate and other lands around Winchester. The fact that an established deer park was part of the Merdon estate must have added enormously to its value.

A conjectured plan of this first building on the site of Hursley Park House surmises that it had two/three main rooms facing south, with a butchery and pantry/kitchens at one end under an extension of the thatched roof reaching down to the ground. Behind the three principal rooms would have been the stables, probably with open access to the north side, with an entrance through to the domestic quarters. The thatch roof over the whole building would have doubled as a hay loft and sleeping quarters for the farrier, groom and any servants. A building larger than this would have exceeded the recorded building costs. The exact site of the logge is not completely certain. However, pictorial evidence and the position of a well suggest that it could have stood in the area of the present well-house and bothy (a small cottage to house estate workers, T Block today)”.

2. 2 Written Sources (continued)

THE GREAT LODGE (THE OLD LODGE)

“After the Merdon estate was surrendered to the crown in 1552, Edward VI granted the Manor of Merdon to Sir Philip Hoby in the same year “to be held in chief for the fortieth part of a knight’s fee”. Sir Philip Hoby is credited with building the Great Lodge in Hursley Park around 1554. However, owing to the legal problems created by the death of Edward VI, which thwarted the progress of the necessary act of parliament, Sir Philip Hoby was unable to enjoy the benefits of the king’s generosity because Mary Tudor revoked the original surrender of the church lands and restored the manor of Merdon to Bishop John White of Winchester. In 1559 the “Stewards Roll” shows evidence of the regranting of the estate by Elizabeth I to William Hoby, half-brother of Sir William Hoby – this time permanently.

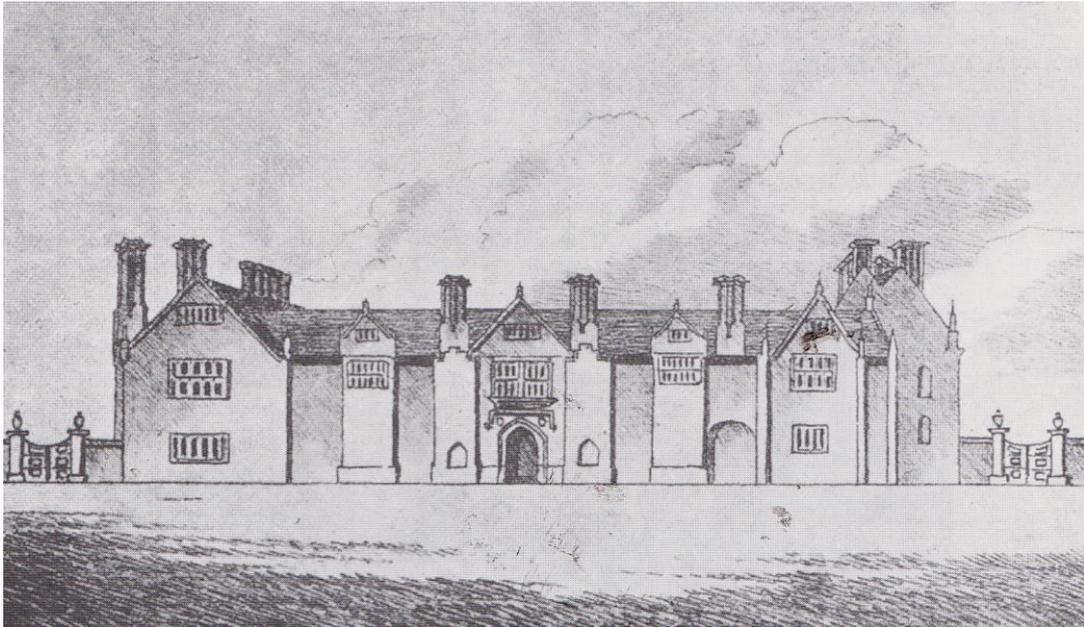
The Great Lodge stood on the site of the present lawn on the south side of Hursley House, and its traces are still visible from the roof of the house in dry weather. The print of the north elevation of the Great Lodge was made prior to its demolition, probably for record and proposed alteration purposes. The print shows that there were two wings – the west wing being wider and longer than the east wing. These wings formed a courtyard on the southern side. The print also shows the garden wall with gates either side of the house; this wall continued round to form an almost square walled garden of about one acre (0.4 hectare). The wings appear to have been part of the original design and not additions. A map dated 1588 (some 33 years after the Great Lodge was built) shows the wings, the garden wall and - to the west – a smaller building roughly where the present bothy stands. This smaller building could be a replacement for the original wooden lodge of 1413, subsequently used as a stable and having a tiled roof. This building lasted in part through to about 1728 and being originally made of wood it must have been renovated several times. Also evident in the print are the Great Lodge’s mullioned windows which are small in number and size. These windows, together with the unpractical design and run down state of the building were among the decisive factors that resulted in the demolition of the Great Lodge in the 1720’s – some 170 years after its erection”.

D L Peach second edition 1995, Printed by Gabare Limited Winchester
Merdonne – The History of Hursley Park p23 –p25

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2.3 Photographic sources

The two photographs shown below are also taken from *Merdonne, the history of Hursley Park* compiled by D L Peach.



North Elevation of The Great Lodge c 1725



Outline of Great Lodge's foundations.

Photographs © IBM Hursley Park

3.0 Survey

3.1 Grid Lay Out.

In order to accurately record located underground features and to abide by archaeological best practices, a 10 metre square grid was set up over the whole of the South Lawn. The system involved the use of measuring tapes and “pig-tails” The diagonals of each grid were accurately measured to ensure that each grid was square to an accuracy of 10 cm. The “pig-tails” were used to identify the corners of each grid.



Setting out the 10 metre Grid.

The grid was numbered commencing at the south-east corner of the South Lawn and the first grid laid out was numbered as A1.

3.2 Dowsing Survey

Members of HADS were allocated a series of 10 metre grids to survey. By simply walking across the ground surface it was possible to locate by dowsing the lines of possible walls beneath the surface. At intervals a “flag” was placed on the ground surface to indicate the location of the possible walls. Extra attention was paid to the corners of possible buildings and possible doorways. Both the corners and doorways were clearly marked by extra “flags”.

To clearly identify possible rooms or buildings, red and white hazard tape was used to mark out any of the features located. These would then be drawn to scale for further reference and photographed.

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3.3 Interpretation

Over the course of the weekend several possible features or buildings were located. It appears that the buildings to the south-west of the site were larger than those on the south-east side. The walls also appear to be wider on the south-west side.



Possible buildings/rooms on the south-west of the site.
Identified by dowsing and marked by hazard tape



South-West corner of the South Lawn with possible
buildings in the foreground.

4.0 Results

4.1 Drawn Linear Features

All features located were recorded onto graph paper to a specific scale. These drawings were later reproduced in an TurboCad format.

These TurboCad diagrams appear in this report as **APPENDIX 2**.



HADS member recording results onto a site plan.

4.2 Photographic Results

A series of photographs were taken during the survey including some taken from the upper rooms of Hursley Park House. The photographs clearly show that buildings are present below the surface of the South Lawn.



South-west wing of the Great Lodge.

4.2 Photographic Results (continued)



Part of the south-west wing of the Great Lodge



Part of the south-east wing of the Great Lodge

5.0 Geophysical Survey

A geophysical survey was undertaken by Dr Kate Clarke and a team from Southampton University Archaeology Department during October 1999.

A report appeared in *Archaeology in Hampshire – Annual Report 1999*.

“The site of “the great lodge” of Hursley, built in the 16th century and demolished early 18th century, has been assumed to lie on the south lawn of the present Hursley House (erected in 1725). Parched cropmarks have indicated a series of rectilinear features, and a resistivity survey was undertaken at 0.5m sample intervals over the lawn in October 1999 to investigate these anomalies further.

The survey results clearly show the position of surviving foundations of a substantial building, orientated SSW. The image indicates a plan of a “U” shaped house, and the internal dividing walls are clearly defined. The northern part of the building is taken up by a rectangular area of higher resistance, suggesting that some flooring is still extant, and there is evidence of a perimeter wall to the north of this enclosing an area of similar size to the house. On the western face of the building a further structure is visible against the south west corner”.

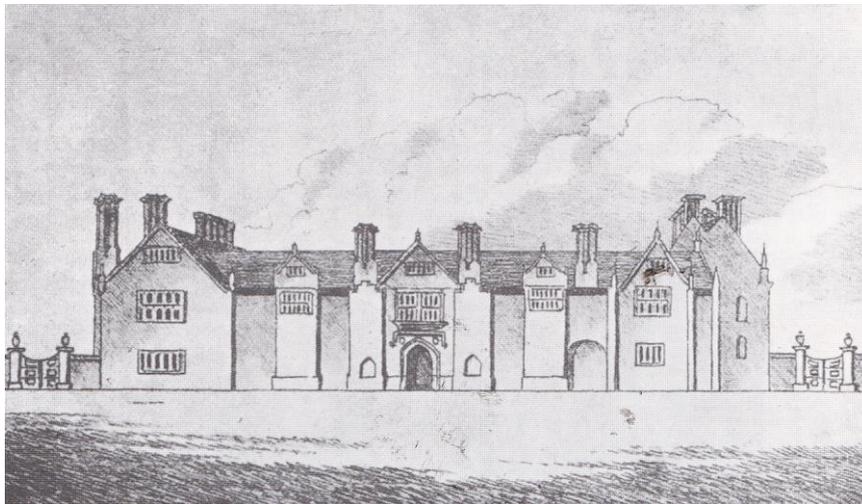


Hursley House south lawn.

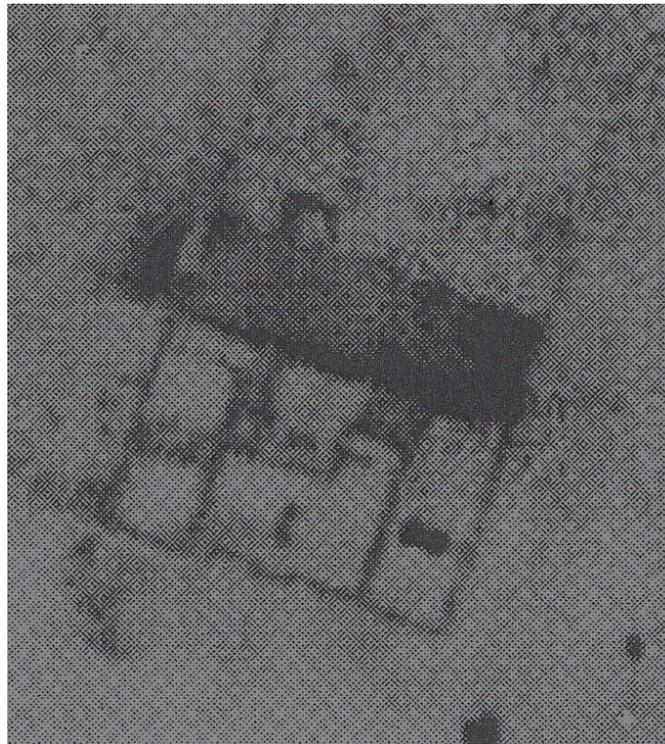
5.0 Geophysical Survey (Continued)

“The image corresponds to the arrangement suggested in an early 18th century sketch of the lodge which shows the north elevation of the house and indicates two wings to the south with a courtyard between. The print shows part of the enclosing garden wall to the north. The late 16th century estate map also depicts a winged house, although here the garden wall is shown on the opposite side to that suggested by the 18th century print and the geophysical results”.

Kate Clarke, Department of Archaeology, University of Southampton

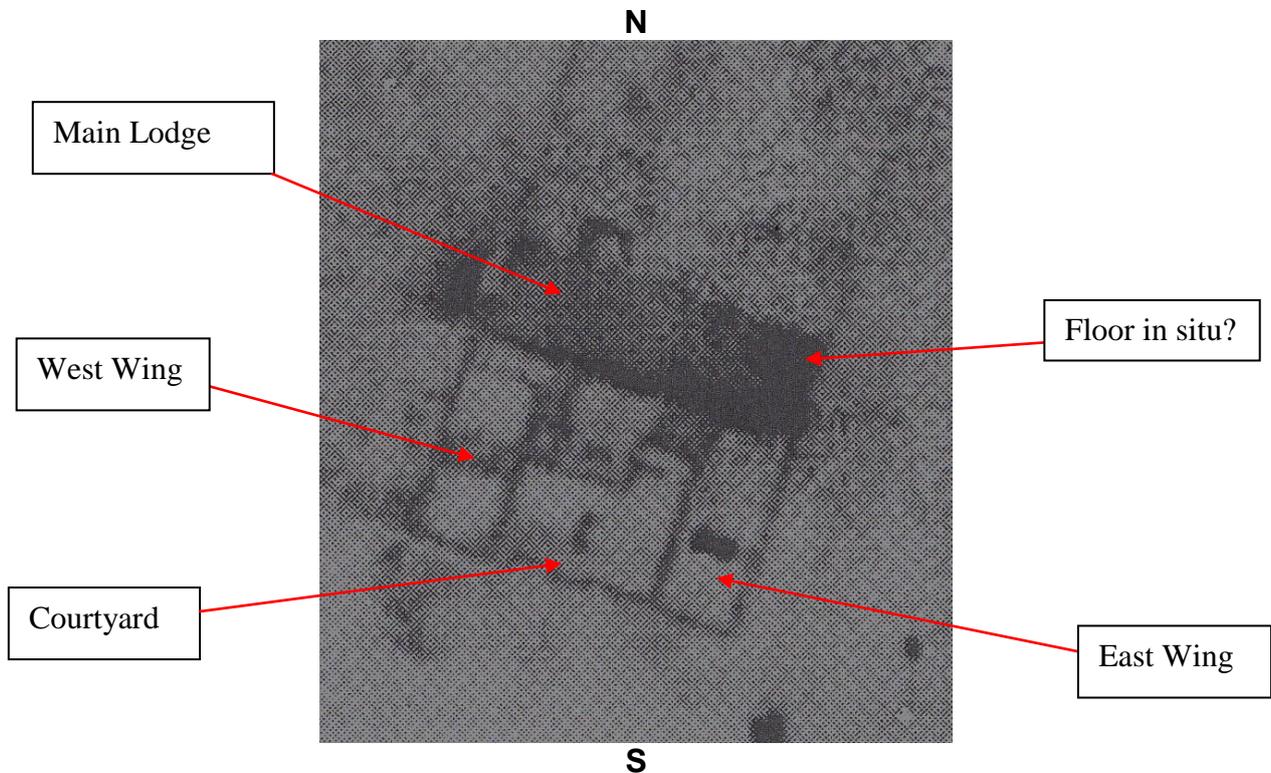


North elevation of the Great Lodge



Geophysical survey results

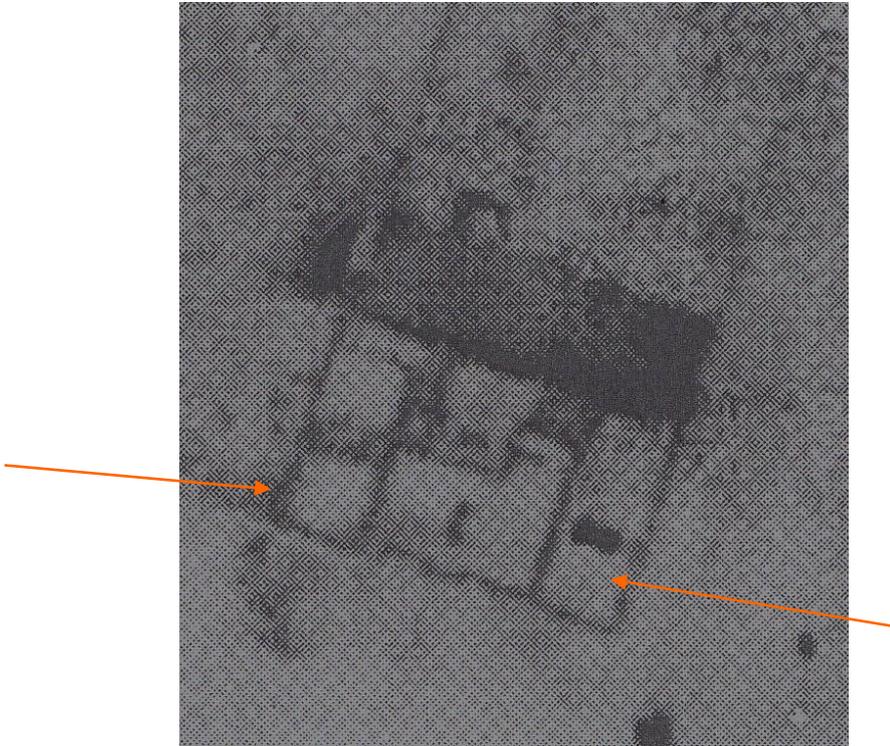
5.0 Geophysical Survey (continued)



The enhanced geophysical results clearly show the main lodge outline to the north with perhaps flooring still in situ showing as an area of very high resistance. The two wings to the west and east can also be seen.

The possible courtyard to the south and the main lodge between the two wings can also be identified..

Conclusions and Recommendations.



Area of survey

As a teaching exercise the weekend was a resounding success. Novice dowsers were able to locate some possible buried features and record them to scale after tuition.

The setting down of the 10 metre grid was a success with some members being trained for the first time on how to carry this out.

The survey was carried out on the area where the photograph, taken from the roof of Hursley House clearly showed where there were “parch-marks” showing on the South Lawn and indeed areas of the West and East wings were located by dowsing.

However, after extensive study of the geophysical results it is obvious that the main part of the Old Lodge lies more to the north of the area of study. It is probable that this area is deeper down in the soil and does not show up as a “parch-mark”.

If possible, a return visit to the site would enable HADS to complete another survey further to the north and on the site of the main part of the Old Lodge.

Dr Kate Clarke of Southampton University in her report states that, in her view there is an area of extensive flooring left in situ. It would be an interesting exercise if a small trial trench could be opened up to see what this flooring consists of.

7.0 Acknowledgements

Firstly, I would wish to thank all those members of HADS who gave up their time to assist on this weekend of dowsing activity. Without their support this exercise would not have been possible.

HADS owe a great deal of appreciation to Rick Kellaway of IBM Hursley Park. From the outset Rick was very enthusiastic and helpful about the project he could not have been more informative. He arranged the access to the site, the team who cared for us on site and even arranged the catering facilities for us. The house tour was appreciated by all members and we thank Rick for arranging this too.

HADS also appreciated the introduction to the site by David (Len) Peach. His knowledge of the history of the site is tremendous.

HADS would wish to thank the team who cared for us on site: -

Mike Blake

Dave Key

Terry Muldoon

Peter Short

Our appreciation also goes to the catering staff at the club house for arranging our meals in a very professional manner.

And finally, we would wish to thank the security staff who showed a great interest in our activities and were extremely helpful over the weekend

APPENDIX 1 - RISK ASSESSMENT

Risk Assessment

Hampshire Archaeological Dowsing Group

Issue number: 01 Date: 25/07/2012 Approved by: DON BRYAN ~ ARCHAEOLOGICAL DIRECTOR ~ HADS RICK KELLAWAY ~ HURSLEY SITE FACILITIES ~ IBM

Hazard Category	Who might be harmed and how	Standard actions in place to minimise risk	Additional actions, dependent on the nature of the fieldwork	Action by whom?	Action by when?	Done
General fieldwork safety	Fieldwork visit members and visitors	Failure to follow the safety rules below or instructions from the fieldwork supervisor will result in termination of participation in the fieldwork. There is to be no running, throwing of objects, use of radios or other sound equipment on site. Fencing and other safety barriers must not be moved or altered without consent or instruction from the fieldwork supervisor. High visibility tabards are to be worn unless otherwise instructed by the fieldwork supervisor.	As decided and/or agreed by the fieldwork supervisor according to site conditions during the fieldwork.	All members and visitors	Each fieldwork visit.	Ongoing for every fieldwork visit.
Accidents and Injuries.	Fieldwork visit members and visitors may be injured if they slip, trip, fall or suffer some other form of injury.	Risks for each fieldwork meeting location are assessed prior to and during each fieldwork visit. Immediately before their visit each member or visitor is advised of specific risks associated with the terrain being visited. Where required, areas that present unacceptable slip, trip or fall risks are cordoned off to prevent access. Where essential access presents risk, appropriate precautions are put in place to minimise risk before access takes place. Injuries, including minor injuries, are to be immediately reported to the fieldwork supervisor. Any incident is to be entered in the accident book so that it can be reviewed and procedures developed to avoid future occurrences. The fieldwork supervisor is to hold the accident book, a mobile telephone and have ready access to a first aid kit throughout the field trip.	Actions are to be planned when the site is surveyed prior to the fieldwork and put in place before the group are allowed site access. During the fieldwork the fieldwork supervisor, members and visitors are responsible to ensure that risk is continuously assessed and that appropriate measures are put in place to minimise it.	All members and visitors	Prior to and during each fieldwork visit.	Ongoing for every fieldwork visit.
Road Accidents	Fieldwork visit members and visitors may be at risk from road traffic accidents.	When fieldwork takes place near to or access is along roads or paths which may be used by vehicles all members and visitors must wear high visibility tabards. When using a public highway the group will keep together and post forward and rear lookouts to warn of impending hazards. Access routes to fieldwork sites are to be selected to minimise the need to walk on public highways that do not have footpaths.	Actions are to be planned when the site is surveyed prior to the fieldwork and put in place before the fieldwork group members and visitors are allowed site access.	All members and visitors	Prior to and during each fieldwork visit.	Ongoing for every fieldwork visit.
Personal health and safety	Fieldwork visit members and visitors may be at risk from sunburn, dehydration, hypothermia, or exhaustion.	All group members and visitors are to be responsible provision of their own sun screen, adequate drinking water, suitable clothing and footwear for the conditions likely to be encountered on the day. Each group member and visitor is to ensure they are physically able to safely undertake the fieldwork. The fieldwork supervisor should advise each member and visitor of exceptional requirements of a fieldwork visit when the visit notification is posted. Alcohol may not be consumed on the fieldwork site.	The fieldwork supervisor is to ensure each member and visitor has made adequate provision. The fieldwork supervisor will have ready access to spare sun screen and water throughout the fieldwork.	All members and visitors	Prior to and during each fieldwork visit.	Ongoing for every fieldwork visit.

ISSUE NUMBER ONE ~ RAY DAVIS HADS JULY 2012

APPENDIX 2 – TURBOCAD RESULTS

