

HCP 157

Groom's House Gate Conservation, Hampton Court Palace

An Archaeological Evaluation



Accession Code: 3910053

NGR: TQ 15967 68781

Alexandra Stevenson

January 2017



Summary

Between the 9th and 10th November 2016 an archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Historic Royal Palaces located at the foot of Groom's House Gate, East Front, Hampton Court Palace. Initially the top soil was removed from around the plinth stones, piers, backstays and the threshold in order to view the architectural feature more clearly. However, further excavation was required to understand the full nature of the construction. A small trench was opened up against the eastern side of the gate threshold and the northern plinth stone supporting the 18th century Tijou wrought-iron box pier. No archaeological features or remains were observed but the upper level of the brick foundation, the extent of the plinth stone structure and the base of the threshold were all recorded. The threshold of the gate was heavily disturbed and damaged by the growth of tree roots; the northern most blocks having been lifted upwards and the brickwork underneath crumbling away.



Contents

1	LOCATION AND SCOPE OF WORK.....	3
2	AIMS AND METHODOLOGY.....	3
3	ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND	4
4	DESCRIPTION OF FINDINGS.....	5
5	INTERPRETATION	7
6	ARCHIVE, ARTEFACTS, AND ECOFACTS	8
7	ILLUSTRATIONS.....	9
8	BIBLIOGRAPHY	21
9	APPENDIX	22
10	OASIS DATA FORM	26



1 Location and Scope of work

- 1.1 This archaeological evaluation report has been prepared by the Curatorial Department of Historic Royal Palaces to outline the results of a small evaluation trench at the base of the Groom's House Gate located at the north-eastern corner of the Great Fountain Garden. The Gate, which is part of the 20th Century Garden railings, has not been in use for some time, possibly since WWI, and has fallen into disrepair. The ornate wrought-iron gate piers have particularly suffered as well as the gate threshold, and to a lesser extent, the plinth stones supporting the railings.
- 1.2 This archaeological project was undertaken in advance of conservation works on the Groom's House Gate to observe the condition of the Portland stone plinths supporting the railings, the gate threshold and the foundation levels.
- 1.3 The excavation took place between 9th and 10th November 2016 and was carried out by Historic Royal Palaces' Assistant Curator, Alexandra Stevenson.
- 1.4 The works were centred on National Grid Reference TQ 15967 68781
- 1.5 The site code assigned to this project was HCP 157. An accession number, 3910053, was allocated to encompass the physical, digital and paper archives associated with this project.

2 Aims and Methodology

Aims

- 2.1 The main aims of this project were to:
- Fully expose the gate and piers so that they could be surveyed in detail.
 - Expose the foundations of the gate threshold and the piers to establish their condition and build.
 - Provide a brief summary of the history and phasing of the gate.
 - Compare the findings with the 20th Century Gate Evaluation Project (HCP 141).
 - Identify any evidence of a pathway associated with the gate.
 - Create an ordered archive of the work for deposition with Historic Royal Palaces.
- 2.2 There is no intention to publish the results of this archaeological investigation any further. However, the report will be logged on the *Oasis* website and HRP will submit a summary of the project for the annual round-up section of *London Archaeologist*.

Methodology

- 2.3 Conservation is the overriding priority in all of HRP's aims and objectives; guided by strict in-house Conservation Principles. These include a commitment to the continued use and occupation of the palaces, but with minimum intervention to historic fabric. Any interventions are preceded by informed research and study of the physical and documentary evidence, and meticulous recording of the fabric before, during and after all work.
- 2.4 Members of HRP's Gardening Team and Assistant Curator Alexandra Stevenson initially cleared the area around Groom's House Gate, removing leaves and topsoil covering the plinth stone railing and the backstays on the 9th November 2016. This work enabled architects to survey and scan the structure.



2.5 On the 10th November 2016 a small trench measuring 0.45 m 1.80 m x 0.45 m was hand-excavated by Assistant Curator, Alexandra Stevenson in order to observe and record the condition and construction of the plinths, threshold and foundation levels.

2.6 A digital SLR camera was used to record observations made. The photographic record was supported by sketch drawings and written records using HRP Pro Forma context.

3 Archaeological Background

3.1 Hampton Court Palace is a Scheduled Ancient Monument (Surrey No. 83). The palace, gardens and grounds form an archaeological and historical site of national importance. However, the historical background to Hampton Court is well documented and will not be repeated here.

Brief Historical Background of Home Park and the East Front

3.2 The area to the east of Hampton Court Palace was previously used as open grazing land but during the second quarter of the 16th century, Cardinal Wolsey enclosed the land as park space using timber palings (Thurley 2003, p.97). Henry VIII later constructed walls along the present day Hampton Court Road that separates Bushy Park from Home Park. Throughout the Tudor period and up until the 1660's, the East Front thus looked out onto a flat expanse of land known as the 'Course' and 'The House Park'. This vast area of land extended eastwards directly in front of the palace from the moat. A wall is said to have separated these two sections of land and a drawbridge, known as Course Gate, spanned the moat providing direct access from the Tudor palace (Travers Morgan 1982, p.12).

3.3 During Jacobean and Carolingian times (1603-1641), it is thought that the East Front acquired a balcony garden that would have been located in the moat with a bowling green just beyond it, however no trace of these features have been found and nor do they appear clearly on illustrations of the palace.

3.4 By the second half of the 17th century, the palace buildings, surrounding gardens and parks were beginning to look old-fashioned and neglected. Between 1660 and 1668 Charles II instigated major changes that would set the layout for the future gardens. The most significant of these alterations included a canal extending three-quarters of a mile into the park lined with an avenue of Dutch lime trees, which is thought to have been designed by André Mollet.

3.5 By the reign of William III and Mary II (1689), two more radiating avenues of lime trees were planted in Home Park stretching out into the distance with a cross-avenue linking their far ends. Once the avenue was completed thoughts turned to the terminus of the Long Water and a geometrical plantation was formed at the end known as the Lower Wilderness. However, this garden fared badly since it had been built on a flood plain and thus suffered successive inundation and was dismantled sometime before the mid-18th century.

3.6 The Royal Stud was also begun by William III enclosing paddocks and stables on both sides of the Kingston Road. The stud was maintained by later monarchs but was expanded by George IV in 1812 to include 17 paddocks in Home Park and 26 in Bushy Park. Henry Sayer's plan (Fig. 13) shows these paddocks with stables built at intervals along the walls as well as several lodgings along the northern side beside Hampton Court Road.

3.7 During World War I the Paddocks were converted to Grace and Favour allotments and part of the main park was used for agriculture. The Paddocks became derelict and all but four had their walls demolished between 1931 and 1935, the western-most of which is now occupied by the 20th Century Garden.



East Front Railings

- 3.8 The East Front Garden was designed by Daniel Marot and was an integral part of the remodelling of Hampton Court undertaken by William III and Mary II in the late 17th century. Charles II's canal became a dominant feature in the layout of the new palace. A great *parterre de broderie* was created and included 13 fountains that would eventually give it its name: *The Great Fountain Garden*. The whole garden was then fenced off from Home Park to prevent deer from entering the formal gardens with an elaborate wrought-iron palisade set on a low plinth. Jean Tijou, one of the major artistic figures of the age, is thought to have manufactured the railings forming this important boundary.
- 3.9 During Queen Anne's reign the Great Parterre and the East Front Gardens were reconfigured. Anne disliked the gardens as they were both too expensive and complicated to maintain with the continued problem of maintaining the fountains that had apparently never functioned properly in any case. The changes that were made simplified the gardens and bore a resemblance to the original proposals put forward by Hawksmoor in 1689¹ (Thurley, P.240).
- 3.10 In 1710-11 Queen Anne carried out a final phase of redesign increasing the area of ornamental water by constructing a semi-circular canal following the already existing avenues with extending transverse arms northwards and southwards. It has been suggested, and would seem logical that this required the railings bordering the parterre to be moved further east to their present location in 1710/11² adding six more acres to the Great Fountain Garden. As of yet, any existing foundations demonstrating that William and Mary's palisade existed further to the west in relation to the present ones have yet to be found.

Previous archaeological investigations

- 3.11 During spring 2016 an archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Historic Royal Palaces at the 20th Century Garden Gate as part of the East Front Garden Railings Phase 5 conservation project as well as along the northern branch of the East Front canal as part of a project to install a temporary bridge. These two archaeological projects were combined as project HCP 141. Two test trenches were excavated at the base of the 20th Century Garden Gate exposing a substantial brick foundation associated with the railing plinth observed to a depth of 0.7 m (the base was not reached during the excavation). The threshold of the 20th Century Garden Gate was also exposed. It was composed of two levels of stone steps and a foundation composed of two courses of brick. The Plinth stones supporting the gate piers were misaligned, probably due to incurring some damage from moving vehicles, not an uncommon occurrence in the gardens of Hampton Court. Meanwhile, three trenches were excavated alongside the northern branch of the canal feature in the East Front Garden revealing earlier timber shoring possibly relating to the original construction of the canal in around 1710.

4 Description of Findings

- 4.1 The results of the archaeological evaluation located at the base of Groom's House Gate between the 20th Century Garden and the East Front Garden are presented below with a general description of soils encountered as well as the structural elements.
- 4.2 A trench measuring 0.45 m x 2.8 m was excavated at the base of the gate threshold and the northern-most gate pier to a depth of 0.4 m. The excavation proved difficult due to the presence

¹ See Thurley p.140: "Nicholas Hawksmoor, site plan and survey of the Tudor palace showing proposals for replacing the eastern quadrangle."

² Travers Morgan Planning, 1982. *Royal Parks Historical Survey Report: Hampton Court and Bushy Park*. Department of the Environment, (p.46).



- of large tree roots particularly at the base of the threshold; as a consequence it was not possible to investigate the foundations beyond two to three courses of brick.
- 4.3 The earliest element observed was the primary brick foundation supporting the gate threshold (**1006**), which appeared to be interlinked with the foundation supporting the plinth stones and box piers; it was therefore grouped together as one element (Fig. 8). It was composed of orangey weathered-looking bricks with an uneven texture, individually measuring 220 mm x 100 mm x 60 mm. These bricks were most akin to ‘Type G’ in Daphne Ford’s Brick Typology of Hampton Court Palace, which would place them between the late 17th century and the early 18th century. Two courses of brick were observed beneath the northern pier of the gate alternating between header and stretcher bond. The bonding material was composed of hard gritty lime mortar. Whilst this section of the foundation was well preserved, the section observed beneath the stone threshold was heavily weathered and damaged, mostly because of the growth of large tree roots, some of which had pushed their way through structure. The majority of the mortar here had crumbled and weathered away from the brick face. The uppermost course of bricks was abutted by a gravelly deposit (**1004**) (Figs. 6, 7, 8, 9), which in turn was overlain by the topsoil (**1001**) that in places abutted the railing plinth. This deposit contained a large quantity of rubble mainly including pinkish yellow 18th century stock bricks, of which a sample was taken. Several fragments of animal bone and sherds of pottery were also collected.
- 4.4 Overlying the brick foundation were three elements, the northern plinth stone bases (**1002**), the southern plinth stone bases (**1008**), and the threshold (**1003**). All these structural elements were composed of dressed Portland stone. The plinth stone bases (**1002**) and (**1008**) supported the plinth stone caps (**1001**) and (**1007**), which in turn supported the ornamental wrought-iron box piers. The Northern plinth stone base (**1002**) was made up two squared blocks of Portland stone; Blocks A and B. Block A measured 0.23 m x 0.23 m x 0.14 m and had a mottled face with small chiselled indents, whilst block B measured 0.23 m x 0.45 m x 0.27 m and had a smooth finish; it was overlain by plinth stone cap (**1001**). The southern plinth stone base (**1008**) was comprised of three squared blocks of stone; Blocks G, H, and I (see table 2), which were overlain by plinth stone cap (**1007**). Blocks G and Block H both had a narrow rectangular recess cut into their uppermost face measuring 0.18 m x 0.05 m containing a redundant small iron fixture. Block G also had a Lewis Hole cut into northern end of the upper-most face (Figure 7). Block I filled the space behind Block G.
- 4.5 The gate threshold (**1003**) was composed of four squared blocks of Portland stone: Blocks C, D, E, and F (see table 3). Blocks C and D had been displaced 0.07 m upwards by the growth of tree roots. Block F had a patch a cementitious mortar securing the gate fixtures to the northern end of the stone, the western face had pronounced tool marks on the lower half. Block D was weathered and worn on the southern end with two keep holes on the upper face, one with lead caulking still present. Block E also had two keep holes on its upper face. The threshold was partially overlain by plinth stone caps (**1001**) (north) and (**1007**) (south).
- 4.6 The northern plinth stone cap (**1001**) measured 0.67 m x 0.67 m x 0.20 m and was composed of dressed Portland stone (Figs. 8 and 9). A small extended section to the north creating a ‘T’-shape connected the plinth stone cap to the railing plinth and measured a length of 0.1 m and a width of 0.4 m. It partially sat on threshold (**1003**) as well as plinth stone (**1002**) in between which was a 0.03 m thick layer of hard cementitious mortar. The wrought-iron box-pier was partially secured to the top of the stone cap by a hard cementitious mortar that has in great part weathered away; at the same time the base of the box pier was heavily corroded with the vast majority missing. The plinth stone cap was split into three parts. This architectural element has clearly been disturbed as it is slightly off-centre in relation to the stone blocks below (**1002**), and the railing plinth probably due to having been knocked by passing vehicles.
- 4.7 The southern plinth stone cap (**1007**) above plinth stone (**1008**) differed in that it was conserved as one block and was in a relatively better state of conservation (Fig. 5). The measurements were the same, though the ‘T’-shaped extension had a pronounced recess on the surface into



which one of the palings was inserted. This recess seems to be superfluous in this case, possibly indicating that a different fixture had been in place or that the stone has been reused.

- 4.8 The wrought-iron box piers **(1009) and (1010)** were in an advanced state of disrepair in a similar way to those located at the 20th Century Garden Gate. They were heavily corroded, with parts missing including the finial on the southern box pier **(1010)**. The backstays connected to and supporting the box-piers, were both in a fair state of conservation, though were marked by the effects of corrosion. Only the southern-most backstay was fully exposed showing sweeping, curved lines (Fig. 4). It was connected to a dressed roughly rectangular Portland stone block **(1013)**.

5 Interpretation

- 5.1 The archaeological investigation carried out on Groom's House Gate in the East Front Gardens in November 2016 provided the opportunity to closely observe the condition of the gate, the threshold and the upper-most section of the foundation. Our observations could also be compared with those made during the 20th Century Garden Gate Evaluation undertaken in March 2016.
- 5.2 Groom's House Gate was comparable in design to the 20th Century Garden Gate, though there were a number of clear differences. The design of the elaborate wrought-iron box piers appear to be similar, though those located at the 20th Century Garden Gate were in a more advanced state of disrepair. The railing plinths and plinth stones caps were also identical, both gates displaying a slight misalignment of the plinth stones suggesting that they had been knocked by passing vehicles. A number of the dressed stones displayed evidence of re-use with the presence of redundant fixtures and curious recesses.
- 5.3 The Groom's House gateway was much wider than the 20th Century Garden Gate, at 3.80 m compared with 2 m. The threshold was of a different construction as there was no evidence of stone steps as were present at the 20th Century Garden Gate, which provided pedestrian access to the park. The threshold of the Groom's House Gate was composed of four blocks of dressed Portland stone that had been heavily disturbed by the growth of tree roots, the northern most blocks having been raised upwards by several centimetres. It was supported by a brick foundation, though due to the presence of roots it was only possible to observe the upper-most three courses. Nevertheless, this was enough to reveal that the brick foundation was more substantial here than it was at the 20th Century Gate where it was made up of a mere two courses of brick. The evidence thus all points to gate's use as an access for carts and other heavy vehicles into the park and later to the paddocks, meaning that it required stronger more substantial foundation as well as a wider opening.
- 5.4 The brickwork observed beneath the plinth stones and threshold appeared to correspond most closely to Brick Type G in Daphne Ford's Brick Typology of Hampton Court Palace, with their bright reddish orange colour. This type is described as Wren Kentish Stock Brick and dates from the late 17th century to the early 18th century, which correlates with the creation of this boundary fence line, and indicates, along with the Tjhou design of the wrought-iron piers that Groom's House Gate was inserted when the railings were originally erected.
- 5.5 No indication of the existence of a pathway was uncovered in the Fountain Garden during the excavation. However, it is possible that any evidence may have been destroyed by the growth of substantial tree roots, erosion and successive turfing in the area.
- 5.6 The ostentatious wrought iron-box piers were highly corroded and decayed, with certain elements missing including the finial on the southern pier. They were nonetheless in a better state of conservation than the box-piers associated with the 20th Century Garden Gate, which have lost most of their decorative elements. This may be because Groom's House Gate is less exposed and is protected by the boundary wall to the north. The design of the box piers is echoed in Cart Track Gate located at the southern end of the boundary line (Figs. 10 and 14).



5.7 Groom's House Gate has been in a state of disuse for some time. A modern timber boundary fence located directly in front of the gate to the east impedes this entrance into the 20th Century Garden, and a large Plane Tree 2.6 m to the west in the East Front Garden creates an obstacle. Though it is uncertain when exactly the gate went out of use, it seems logical to presume its decline after WWI, when the paddocks also fell into a state of dilapidation.

In the 1980's a pedestrian gate entrance was inserted into the early 18th century palisade further to the south when the 20th Century Garden was opened to the public for the first time, but Groom's House gate lay hidden amongst shrubbery and at some point had become part of the land owned by Ivy Cottage.

5.8 Groom's House Gate does not consistently appear on general maps and plans of the gardens; it cannot be seen on the detailed Bridgeman Survey of 1713 for example. Knyff's view from the south c.1702 (Fig.10) illustrates the northern end of the Great Fountain Garden, and whilst clearly showing the presence of 20th Century Garden Gate, the presence of Groom's House Gate is rather more obscure and does not seem to be indicated. Cart Track Gate and the 20th Century Garden Gate are illustrated on Knyff's c.1705 painted view of Hampton Court Palace from the east, though the view does not extend to the far north of the Great Fountain Garden, thus excluding Groom's House Gate (Fig.11). However, a map of the palace and its grounds from 1710-14 (Soane Folio II, No.39, Fig. 12) clearly shows a gateway into Home Park at the far northern end of the East Front railings, which surely corresponds to the Groom's House Gate. An opening at the very northern end of the East Front fence line can also be seen in a plan of Hampton Court Gardens dated sometime between 1784 and 1805 (Fig.12).

5.9 A drawing by Spyers from the 1770's portrays Cart Track Gate illustrating the gate piers in detail. They are remarkably similar to those in place today and comparable to those observed at Groom's House Gate. The drawing does not illustrate the cumbersome backstays that are present both at Cart Track and Groom's House Gate. This may suggest that these were inserted at a later date as increasingly heavier and more frequent vehicle activity passed through by the 1800's when the paddocks were expanded. At the same time it may simply be that Spyers did not illustrate this particular detail in his drawing.

Based on the archaeological and historical evidence, we can be confident an opening has been present in the East Front fence line since the early 18th century. Comparable metal work and architecture observed at the 20th Century Garden and Cart Track Gates indicate that the Groom's House Gate was inserted during the same period (c.1701-1710). Furthermore, there was no obvious archaeological evidence indicating that the gate was inserted at a later date.

6 Archive, Artefacts, and Ecofacts

6.1 The paper archive consists of HRP Pro Forma record sheets including: 1 context register and 14 context sheets. There is an onsite photographic register listing 53 photographs. Sketches were drawn on archive appropriate permatrace. A paper copy of the site report is also included in the paper archives.

6.2 The digital archive contains scanned copies of all written records, photographs (JPEG and TIFF files), archaeological brief, evaluation report, research material used, maps, plans, correspondence and various miscellaneous material.

6.3 The physical archive contains 2 medium/large sized bags of brick, 1 medium bag of pottery sherds, and 1 medium bag of animal bone fragments.

6.4 The physical, digital and paper archives will be deposited according to the HRP *Deposition of Archaeological Excavation Archives Guidelines 2015*.



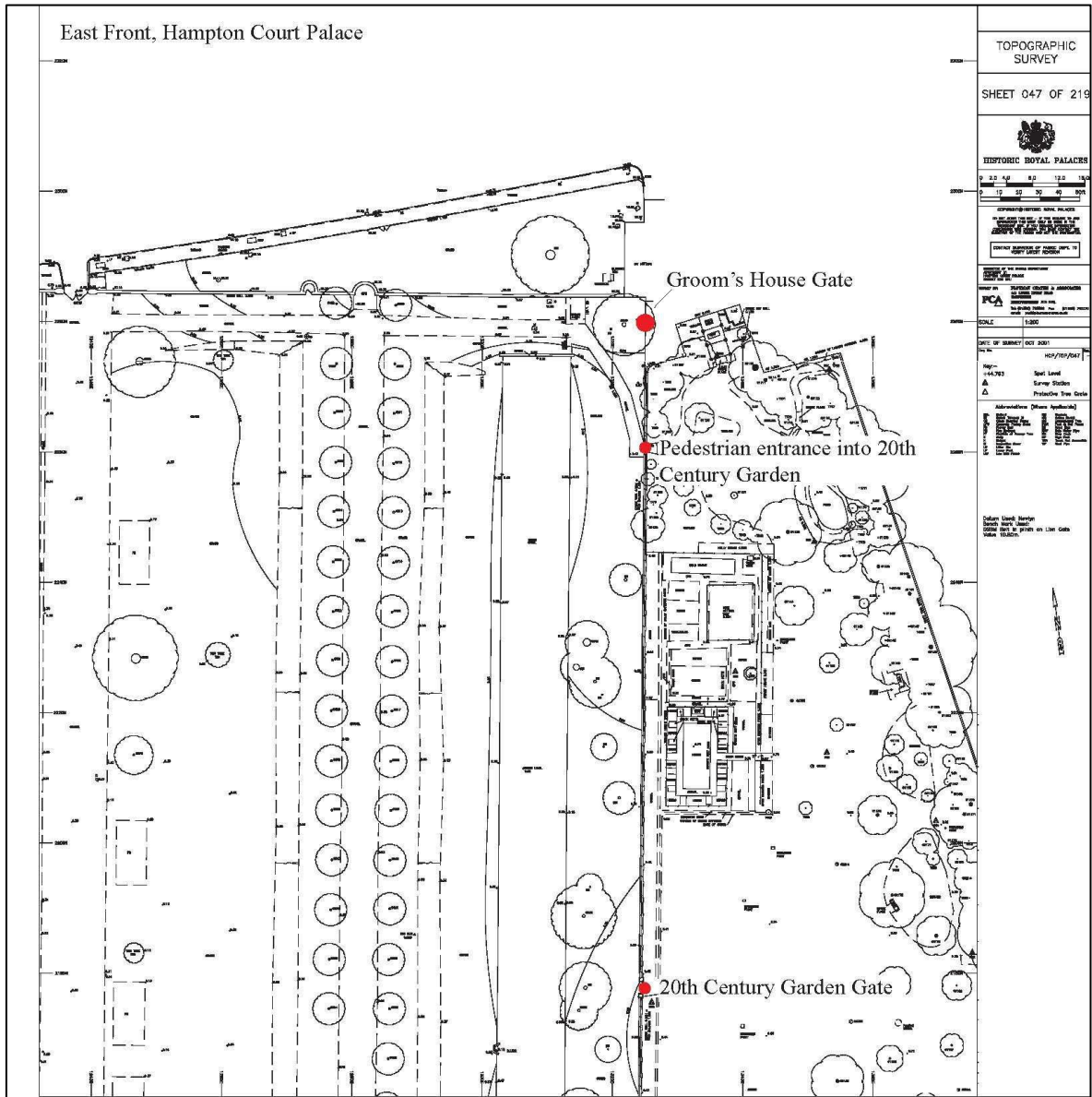


Figure 1: Location of the northern end of the East Front Railings





Figure 2: General view of Groom's House Gate after soil clearance viewed from the south-west



Figure 3: Groom's House Gate box-piers, (1009) and (1010)

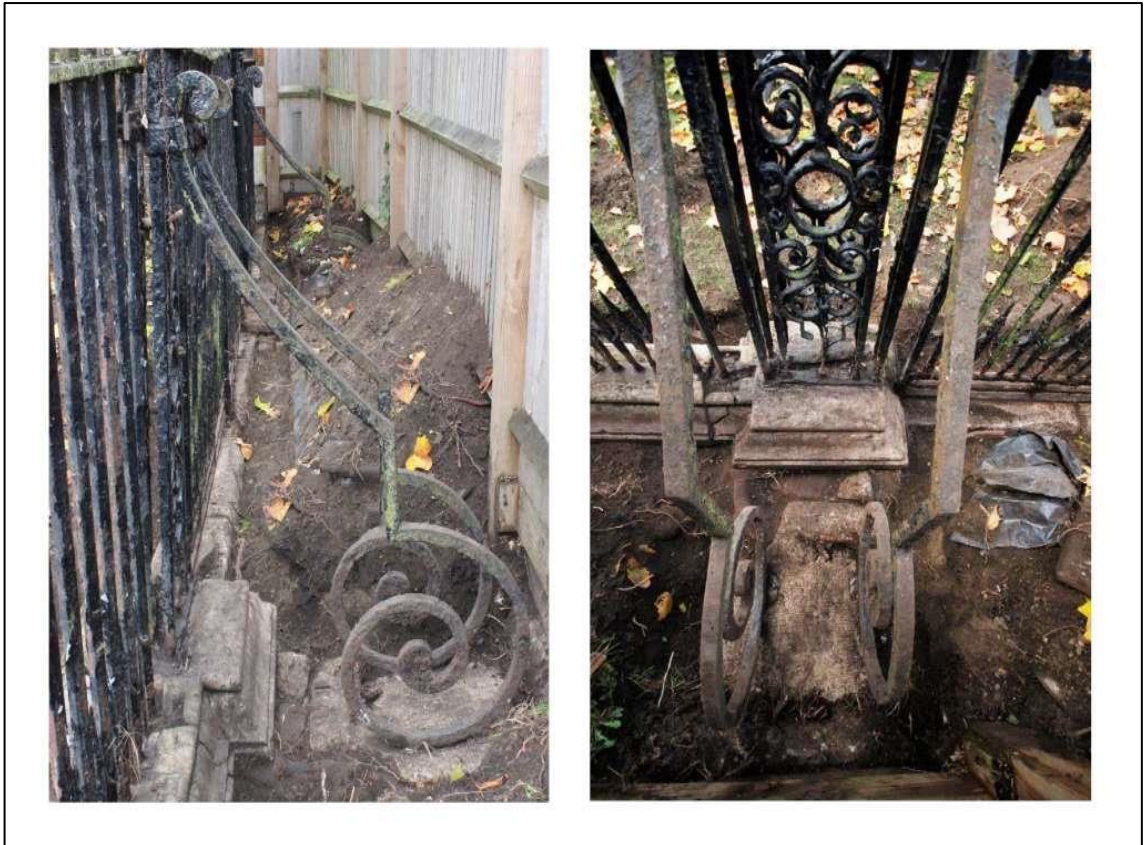


Figure 4: Backstay (1012) supporting the southern box-pier (1010)



Figure 5: Top - Detail at the base of the southern box pier (1010). Bottom – recess cut into the southern plinth stone (1008)



Figure 6: Northern plinth stone base and cap showing the recess and iron fixture in blocks C and D

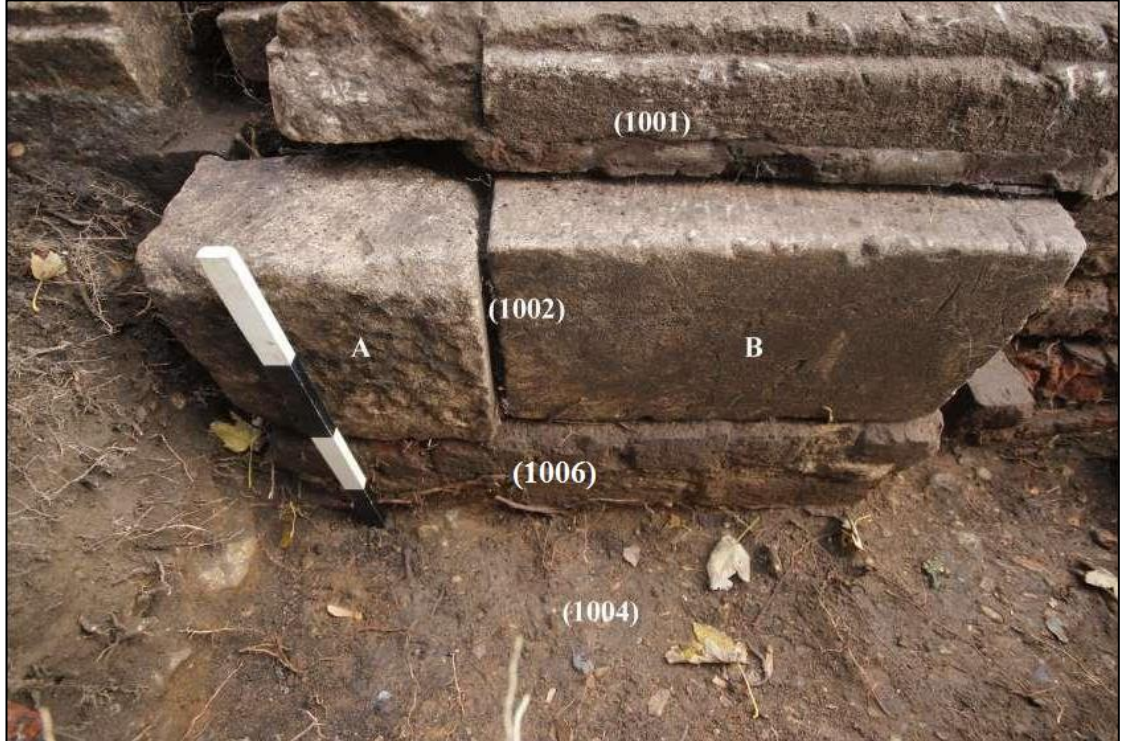


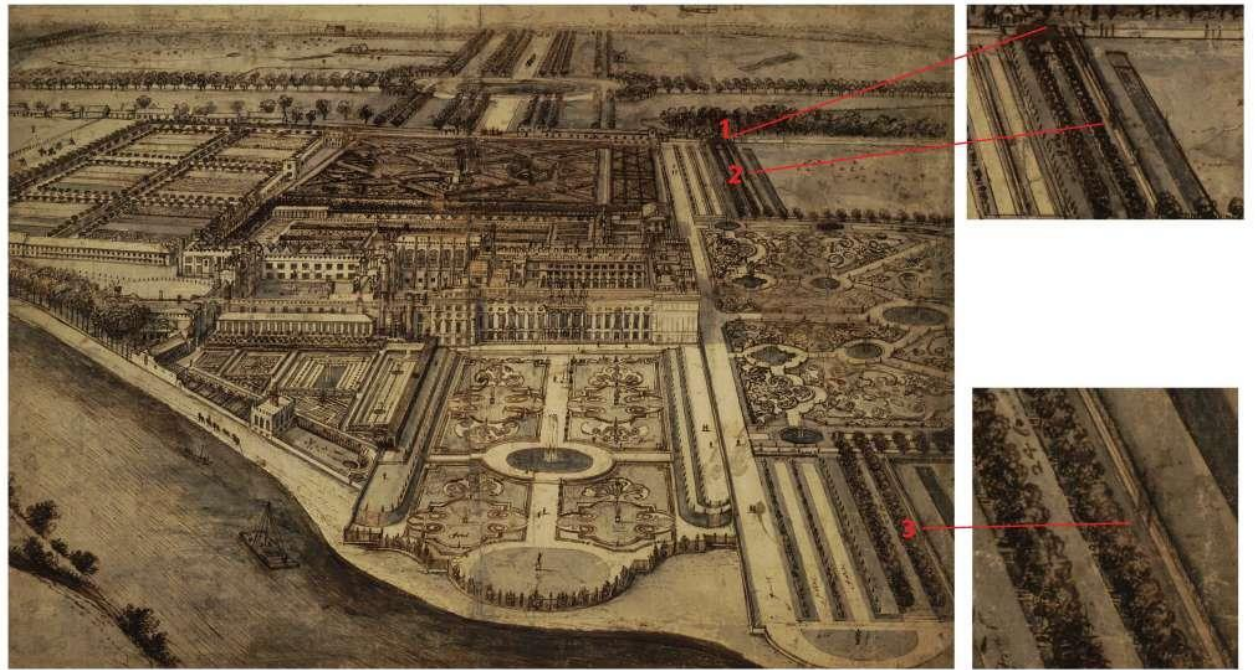
Figure 7: Northern plinth stone base and cap and brick foundation beneath the southern box-pier



Figure 8: View of the southern plinth stones and brickwork



Figure 9: View of the damage caused to the threshold by the Plane Tree roots



- 1: Location of Groom's House Gate - not clearly visible on Knyff's view of the gardens from the south
- 2: 20th Century Garden Gate
- 3: Cart Track Gate

Figure 10: View of Hampton Court Palace and Gardens from the south, Leonard Knyff c.1702

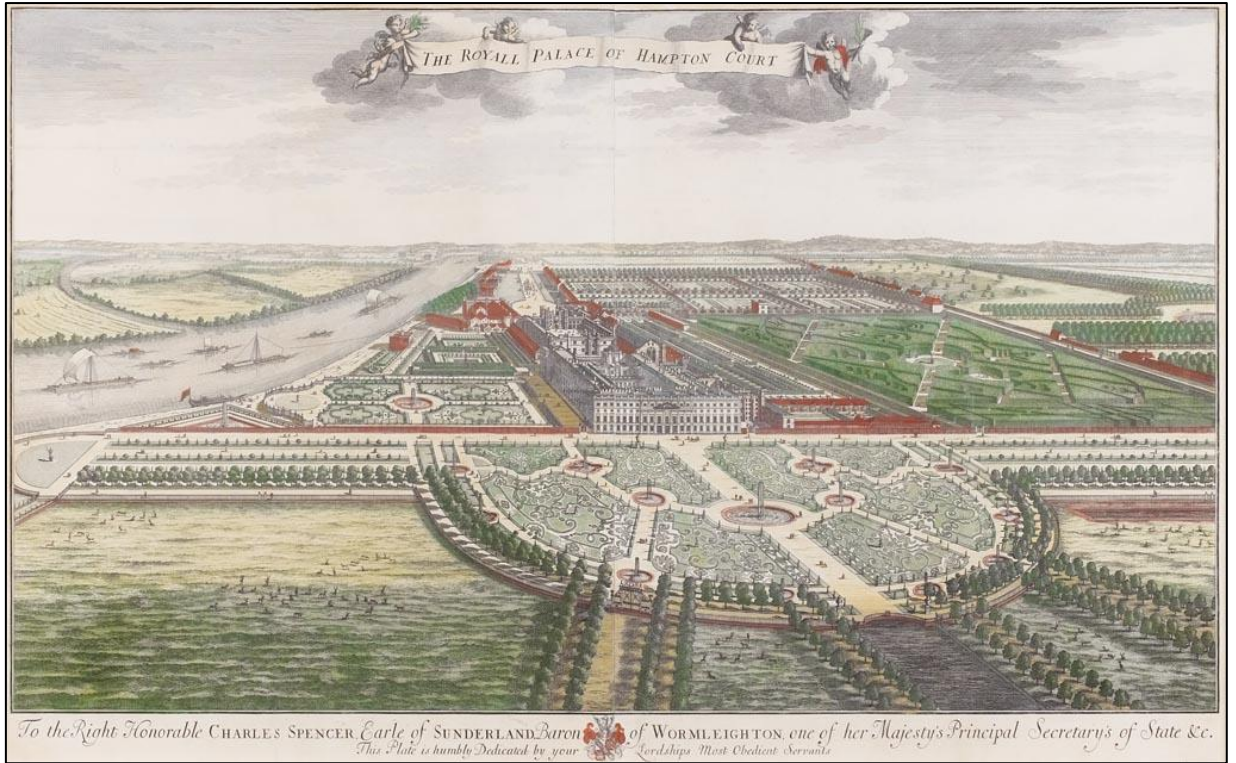


Figure 11: View of Hampton Court Palace and Gardens from the East, Leonard Knyff, C.1705



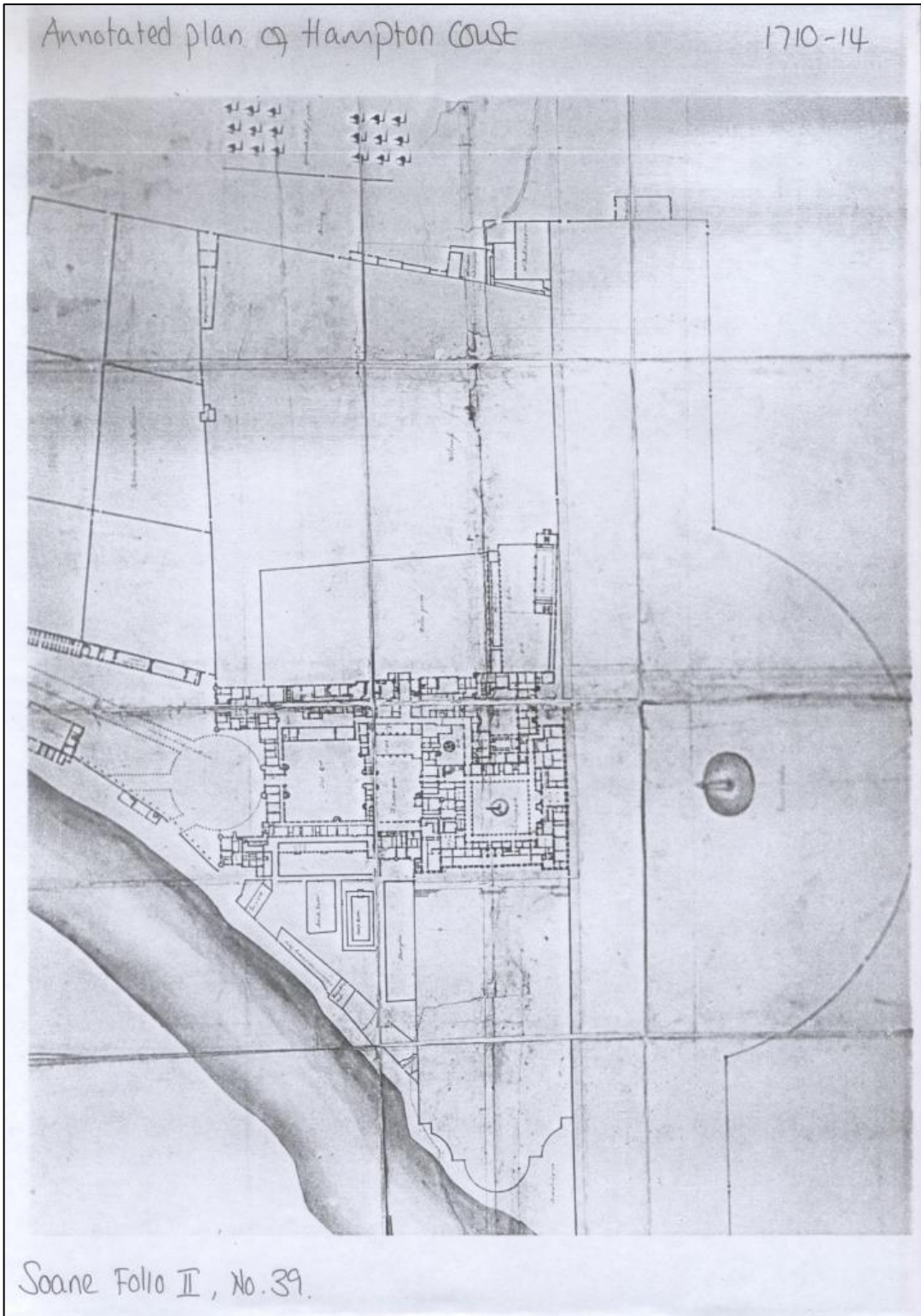
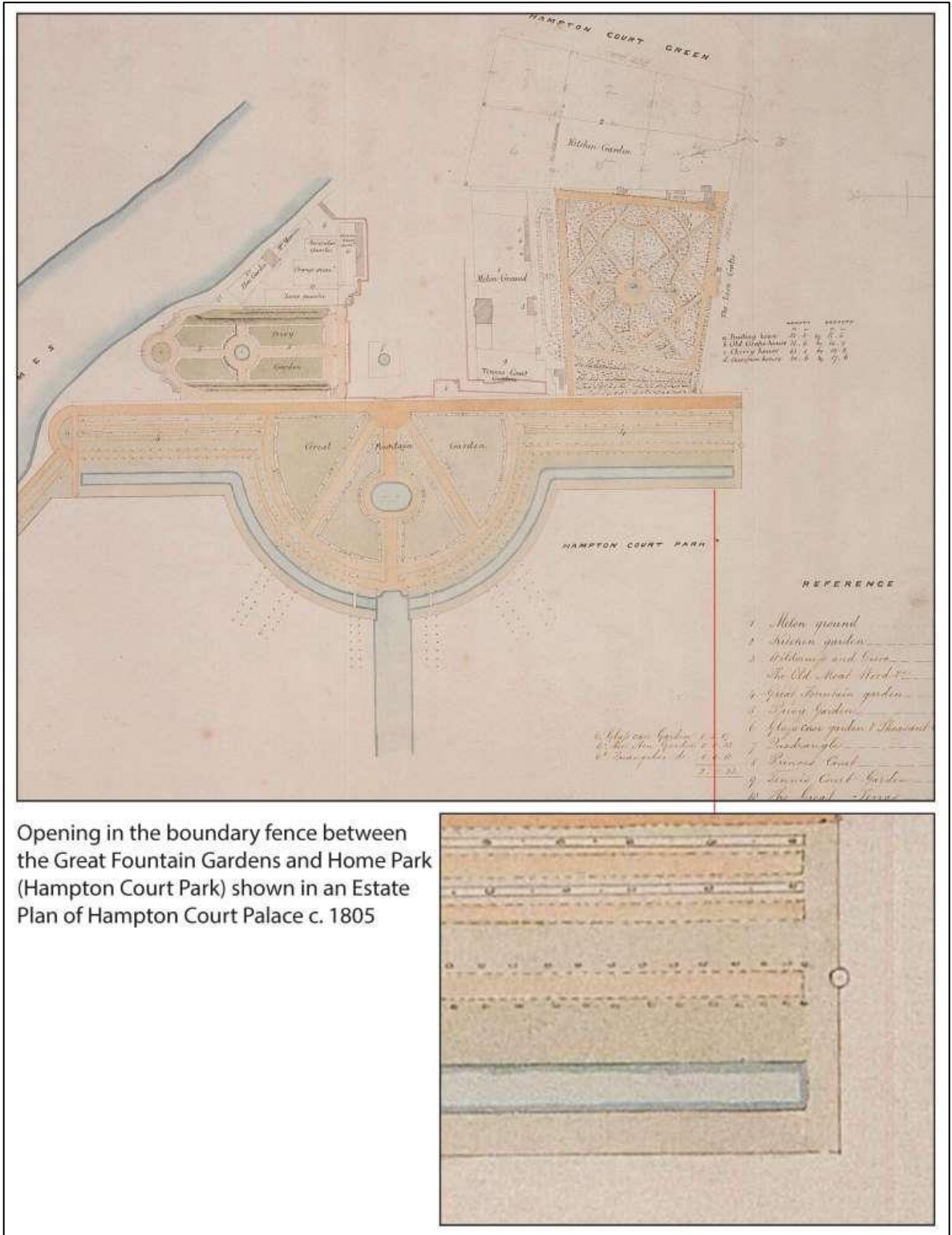


Figure 12: Plan of Hampton Court from the Soane Folio II, clearly showing the Groom's House, 20th Century Garden and Cart Track Gates, 1710-14.





Opening in the boundary fence between the Great Fountain Gardens and Home Park (Hampton Court Park) shown in an Estate Plan of Hampton Court Palace c. 1805

Figure 13: Hampton Court estate plan c.1805





Figure 14: Plan of Hampton Court Palace and Gardens, Henry Sayers, 1841





Figure 15: John Spyers, 1770's drawing of Cart Track Gate, East Front.

Bibliography

Ford, D, (1991). *Hampton Court Palace Brick Typology*. Historic Royal Palaces, Hampton Court Palace.

Longstaffe-Gowan, T, (2005). *The Gardens and Parks at Hampton Court Palace*. Francis Lincoln, London.

OAU, (2006). Home Park Archaeological Desktop Assessment.

Pickard, C, (2013). Triangle Garden, Hampton Court Palace: Archaeological Watching Brief Report. Oxford Archaeology.

Thurley, S, (2003). *Hampton Court Palace: A Social and Architectural History*. Yale University Press, London.

Stevenson, A, (2016). 20th Century Garden Gate Restoration and Temporary Garden Bridge Installation, Hampton Court Palace – An Archaeological Evaluation. Historic Royal Palaces, Hampton Court Palace.

Travers Morgan Planning, 1982. *Royal Historical Survey: Hampton Court and bushy Park Historical Report*. Department of the Environment.



Photographic Register

Photo No	Description	View	Scale
1	View of railings and Groom's House Gate on 20th Century Garden side	N	N/A
2	Backstay and stone support on southern side of Groom's House Gate	W	N/A
3	Back stay supporting northern pier of Groom's House Gate	N	N/A
4	Finial on northern pier of Groom's House Gate	SW	N/A
5	Northern end of railings connecting with Northern Boundary wall/ Groom's House	N	N/A
6	Back stay supporting southern pier	S	N/A
7	Two sections of railings	N	N/A
8	Railings and Groom's House Gate	N	N/A
9	Groom's House Gate	NE	N/A
10	Detail of metal work at the base of the southern pier	E	N/A
11	Central portions of Groom's House Gate	E	N/A
12	Northern pier	S/SE	N/A
13	Railings and Groom's House Gate	N/NE	1m
14	Groom's House Gate	E	1m
15	General view of the site	E	N/A
16	Southern Pier	E	1m
17	Southern Pier	E	N/A
18	Detail of metal work at the base of the southern pier	E	0.3m
19	Detail of metal work at the base of the southern pier	E	0.3m
20	Detail of metal work at the base of the southern pier	E	0.3m
21	Detail of recess in plinth stone cap on the southern pier	E	0.05m
22	Plinth stones 1007 and plinth 1008 supports seen in section (southern pier)	E	N/A
23	Plinth stone, contexts 1007, 1008, 1005	E	0.3m
24	Gateway	E	1m
25	Middle section of threshold, context 1003	E	0.3m
26	Northern pier	E	1m
27	Northern pier	E	N/A
28	Plinth stone, contexts 1001, 1005	E	N/A
29	Back stay supporting southern pier	N	N/A
30	Stone support for southern back stay	N	0.3m
31	Plinth stone context 1007	NW	N/A
32	Northern plinth stone, 1001	N	N/A
33	Northern back stay	N	N/A



34	Detail of plinth stone 1007 and stone support 1008	E	N/A
35	Detail of metalwork present on 1008	E	N/A
36	Southern plinth stone, context 1007 and 1008	E	0.3m
37	Southern plinth stone, context 1007 and 1008	E	0.3m
38	Detail of joints on the southern plinth stone, contexts 1007 and 1008, 1005	E	0.3m
39	Central portion of the threshold, context 1003	E	N/A
40	View in section of northern plinth and foundation levels, contexts 1001, 1002, 1006	E	0.5m
41	View in section of northern plinth and foundation levels, contexts 1001, 1002, 1006	E	0.5m
42	Northern pier and plinth	E	0.5m
43	Brickwork beneath the threshold, contexts 1003 and 1006	E	N/A
44	Brickwork beneath the threshold, contexts 1003 and 1006	E	N/A
45	Northern plinth, threshold and brickwork, contexts 1001, 1002, 1003, 1006	N	N/A
46	Northern end of threshold, contexts 1003 and 1006	E	N/A
47	Contexts 1001, 1002, 1003, 1006, 1005	E	N/A
48	Threshold, context 1003	E	N/A
49	Detail of the central portion of the threshold	E	N/A
50	Northern end of railings, plinth stone, threshold, contexts 1003, 1001, 1002, 1005	NE	N/A
51	Detail of base of northern plinth stone	S	N/A
52	Context 1008	S	N/A
53	Context 1008	S	N/A



Context Register

Context	Description
1000	Topsoil
1001	Plinth stone cap below northern box-pier 1009, below 1009 and above 1002
1002	Plinth stone support, north pier, below 1001, above 1006
1003	Portland stone threshold below 1001 and 1007
1004	Gravelly deposit below 1000
1005	Plinth stone baluster rail
1006	Brick foundation below 1006, 1002, 1008
1007	Plinth stone cap below southern box-pier 1010
1008	Plinth stone support below 1007
1009	Northern box-pier
1010	Southern box-pier
1011	Backstay against the northern pier
1012	Backstay against the southern pier
1013	Stone block support beneath 1012

Context 1002 – Dressed Portland plinth stones supporting stone cap 1001

Stone	Details	Measurements
A	Pronounced point chisel marks visible on west face	0.23m (l) x 0.23m (h) x 0.14m (w)
B	Mainly smooth surface, faint horizontal tool marks on upper face	0.45m (l) x 0.23m (h) x 0.27m (w)

Context 1003 – Threshold composed of 4 blocks of dressed Portland stone

Stone	Details	Measurements
C	Northern-most threshold stone, Partially sits under plinth stone cap 1001, displaced upwards by 0.07m. Pronounced tool diagonal tool marks particularly at the base of the west face	0.22m (h) x 0.87m (l) x 0.28m (w)
D	Displaced upwards by 0.07m, weathered and worn on northern end, small recess southern end, has 2 keep holes, one with lead caulking	0.16m (h) x 0.88m (l) x 0.28m (w)
E	Keep holes present on the surface, diagonal tool marks on west-face	0.16m (h) x 0.95m (l) x 0.28m (w)
F	Southern-most threshold stone, faint tool marks	0.16m (h) x 0.90m (l) x 0.30m (w)



Context 1008 – Dressed plinth stones supporting plinth cap 1007

Stone	Details	Measurements
G	Small recess with a narrow metal bar inserted adjoining block H (measures 0.18m x 0.05m, possible lewis hole)	0.38m (l) x 0.19m (h) x 0.1m (w)
H	Small recess with a narrow metal bar inserted adjoining block G (measures 0.18m x 0.05m)	0.3m (l) x 0.19m (h) x 0.15m (w)
I	Small stone block visible behind G	0.9m (w)



OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: England

[List of Projects](#) | [Manage Projects](#) | [Search Projects](#) | [New project](#) | [Change your details](#) | [HER coverage](#) | [Change country](#) | [Log out](#)

Printable version

OASIS ID: historic9-272630

Project details

Project name	Groom's House Gate, Hampton Court Palace
Short description of the project	Between the 9th and 10th November 2016 an archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Historic Royal Palaces located at the foot of Groom's House Gate, East Front, Hampton Court Palace. The gate forms an opening in the palisade separating the Great Fountain Garden from Home Park and the 20th Century Garden. Initially the top soil was removed from around the plinth stones, piers, backstays and the gate itself in order to view the architectural feature more clearly. However, further excavation was required to understand the full nature of the construction. A small trench was opened against the eastern side of the gate threshold and the northern plinth stone supporting the Tijou wrought-iron box pier. No archaeological features or remains were observed but the upper level of the brick foundation, the extent of the plinth stone structure and the base of the threshold were all recorded. The threshold of the gate was heavily disturbed and damaged by the growth of tree roots. Archaeological and historical evidence indicate that this gate was inserted in the early 18th century when the palisade was erected.
Project dates	Start: 09-11-2016 End: 10-11-2016
Previous/future work	No / Yes
Any associated project reference codes	HCP 157 - Sitecode
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	Scheduled Monument (SM)
Current Land use	Other 5 - Garden
Monument type	GATE Post Medieval
Significant Finds	NONE None
Investigation type	""Recorded Observation""; ""Test-Pit Survey""
Prompt	Conservation/ restoration

Project location

Country	England
Site location	GREATER LONDON RICHMOND UPON THAMES RICHMOND UPON THAMES Groom's House Gate, Hampton Court Palace Gardens

<http://www.oasis.ac.uk/form/print.cfm>

14/08/2017



Postcode KT8 9AU
 Study area 0 Square metres
 Site coordinates TQ 15967 68781 51.405680405089 -0.33253891824 51 24 20 N 000 19 57 W
 Point

Project creators

Name of Organisation Historic Royal Palaces
 Project brief originator Historic Royal Palaces
 Project design originator Historic Royal Palaces
 Project director/manager Charolotte Stockdale
 Project supervisor Alexandra Stevenson

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient Historic Royal Palaces
 Physical Archive ID 3910053
 Physical Contents "Animal Bones","Ceramics"
 Digital Archive recipient Historic Royal Palaces
 Digital Archive ID 3910053
 Digital Contents "none"
 Digital Media available "Images vector","Text"
 Paper Archive recipient Historic Royal Palaces
 Paper Archive ID 3910053
 Paper Contents "none"
 Paper Media available "Context sheet","Miscellaneous Material","Report"

Project bibliography 1

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
 Title Groom's House Gate Conservation, Hampton Court Palace - An Archaeological Evaluation
 Author(s)/Editor (s) Stevenson, A
 Other bibliographic details HCP 157
 Date 2017
 Historic Royal Palaces



Issuer or
publisher
Place of issue or
publication Hampton Court Palace
Description Digital, paper A4

Entered by Alexandra Stevenson (alexandra.Stevenson@hrp.org.uk)
Entered on 14 August 2017

