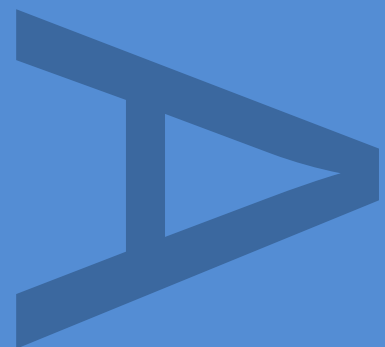


**STRAWBERRY HILL HOUSE, LONDON
BOROUGH OF RICHMOND UPON
THAMES**

**REVIEW OF PREVIOUS GROUNDWORK
AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING
BRIEF ON CONSTRUCTION WORKS
ASSOCIATED WITH A NEW ANCILLARY
BUILDING**

**LOCAL PLANNING AUTHORITY:
LONDON BOROUGH OF RICHMOND UPON
THAMES**

**PCA REPORT NO:R11873
SEPTEMBER 2014**




PRE-CONSTRUCT ARCHAEOLOGY

DOCUMENT VERIFICATION

STRAWBERRY HILL HOUSE, LONDON BOROUGH
OF RICHMOND UPON THAMES

REVIEW OF PREVIOUS GROUNDWORK AND
ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF ON
CONSTRUCTION WORKS ASSOCIATED WITH A
NEW ANCILLARY BUILDING

Quality Control

Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited			K3518
	Name & Title	Signature	Date
Text Prepared by:	Richard Humphrey		August-September 2014
Graphics Prepared by:	Josephine Brown		September 2014
Graphics Checked by:	Hayley Baxter		September 2014
Project Manager Sign-off:	Tim Bradley		September 2014

Revision No.	Date	Checked	Approved

Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd
Unit 54
Brockley Cross Business Centre
96 Endwell Road
London
SE4 2PD

**Strawberry Hill House, London Borough of Richmond upon Thames:
Review of Previous Groundwork and an Archaeological Watching Brief on
Construction Works Associated with a New Ancillary Building**

Local Planning Authority: London Borough of Richmond upon Thames

Site Code: SRB14

Central National Grid Reference: TQ 1588 7230

Written by: Richard Humphrey

Project Manager: Tim Bradley

Commissioning Client: The Strawberry Hill Trust

Contractor: Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited
Unit 54, Brockley Cross Business Centre
96 Endwell Road
Brockley
London SE4 2PD

Tel: 020 7732 3925

Fax: 020 7732 7896

E-mail: tbradley@pre-construct.com

Web: www.pre-construct.com

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1 ABSTRACT

- 1.1 Archaeological Investigations were conducted at Strawberry Hill House, London Borough of Richmond upon Thames, TW1 4ST. This report reviews previous archaeological investigations undertaken within the development area and reports on the archaeological watching brief on works associated with the construction of a new ancillary building monitored by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd (PCA) intermittently between 24th March and 21st May 2014. The work was commissioned by The Strawberry Hill Trust and monitored by English Heritage (GLAAS) on behalf of the London Borough of Richmond.
- 1.2 Previous trial trenches had been excavated by Compass Archaeology between 12th and 30th November 2007. These were positioned across various parts of the grounds in an attempt to expose evidence of 18th century features contemporary with Horace Walpole's occupation and development of the property between 1747 and 1797. The positioning of these trenches considered documentary evidence and historical cartographic maps. This work will be reviewed when considering the impact of the construction of slab of the new ancillary building, which occurred in advance of the watching brief reported herein (see para. 2.7 below).
- 1.3 The PCA watching brief exercise involved monitoring of screen and fencepost foundations, steel gatepost foundations and access footpath and buggy store bases as well as new service trenches associated with a new ancillary building. Some of these works were positioned towards the location of a 19th century garden maze feature, also seen on historic maps.
- 1.4 The Compass Archaeology trenches observed very little evidence for 18th century occupation during the course of the project. Modern service trenches and recent groundworks are likely to have destroyed any surviving archaeological remains. Post 18th-century additions and alterations to the grounds suggest destruction of earlier phases and successive reuse of materials. Later 19th century drains and ground-raising deposits were seen as well as a small pit that contained residual struck lithic finds.
- 1.5 The PCA watching brief similarly did not record any evidence of 18th century or later occupation of the site. Stratigraphic sequences observed typically consisted of natural clay overlain by topsoil or an amalgamation of redeposited clay and topsoil.
- 1.6 This report aims to collate both archaeological investigations to produce a single document that considers the presence or absence of 18th century features contemporary with Horace Walpole's occupation and development of the property, the character and date of other surviving archaeological remains and the impact on archaeological stratigraphy as a result of past post-depositional impacts.

2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 An archaeological watching brief was conducted by PCA at Strawberry Hill House, London Borough of Richmond upon Thames, TW1 4ST (Figure 1). The works are associated with a new ancillary building and related specifically to screen and fencepost foundations, steel gatepost foundations, access footpath and buggy store bases and service runs for the new building.
- 2.2 The site has previously been the subject of archaeological works in the form of trial trenching conducted by Compass Archaeology in 2007¹. The results of these works will be considered and reviewed in this report.
- 2.3 The site is bounded to north by A309 Waldegrave Road, to the east by terraced housing, to the south by open grounds of St Mary's College and to the west by buildings of St Mary's College itself.
- 2.4 Strawberry Hill House is a Grade II* listed landscape and Grade I listed building, the creation of the 18th century writer and social observer Horace Walpole.
- 2.5 The PCA watching brief was conducted intermittently between 24th March and 21st May 2014, and was commissioned by The Strawberry Hill Trust. The works were supervised by Amelia Fairman and Richard Humphrey and managed by Tim Bradley, all of PCA. The archaeological works were monitored by the archaeological advisor to the London Borough of Richmond upon Thames, Gillian King, of English Heritage. All work was undertaken following the appropriate English Heritage (GLAAS) guidance (2014).
- 2.6 A Conservation Management Plan for Strawberry Hill House has been prepared² in which the historical development of Strawberry Hill House and the grounds have been extensively discussed. This includes historical maps that suggest the presence and location of garden features, paths and buildings contemporary with Horace Walpole's 18th occupation and development of the house grounds.
- 2.7 The work was undertaken in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation³. This stated two distinct components to the investigation:

- *Phase 1: Review of Groundwork Undertaken to Date in the Context of the Archaeological Potential for this Area of the Site*

¹ Cummings, R. (2008) *Strawberry Hill House, Twickenham, London Borough of Richmond: An Archaeological Investigation*. Compass Archaeology, unpublished report

² Inskip and Jenkins, (2007) *Conservation Management Plan for Strawberry Hill House*.

Bradley, T. (2014) *Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Watching Brief at Strawberry Hill House (Ancillary Building), London Borough of Richmond upon Thames*. Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd, unpublished report.

The slab for the new ancillary building was cast in advance of the archaeological watching brief commencing and the construction work associated with this process was not archaeologically monitored. Due to the location of the building within the root protection zone of a native Black Poplar tree the slab was designed with no below ground disturbance other than the nine <200mm diameter screw piles. PCA undertook initial site visits and collated information including site records, plans, and photographs confirming the minimal impact of the construction work, which was undertaken in accordance with the requirements of the approved Tree Preservation Plan and Method Statement. As part of the current investigation PCA has reviewed both documentary and previous archaeological evidence, particularly the archaeological investigations within the grounds of Strawberry Hill House, which includes a trench within the footprint of the ancillary building (see Figure 3), in the context of the construction to date to assess the impact of the construction work on heritage assets.

- *Phase 2: Watching Brief on Associated Works*

Due to the necessary design of the foundation slab discussed above, the principal intrusive elements of work associated with the ancillary building, although in themselves minimal, related to the surrounding associated works including the excavation of screen and fence post foundations, the excavation of steel gate post foundations and access footpath and buggy store bases. These works were subject to archaeological monitoring and recording during excavation.

- 2.8 The central National Grid Reference for the site is TQ 1585 7225
- 2.9 The site was allocated the unique site code SRB14.
- 2.10 The completed archive comprising all site records from the fieldwork will be deposited with LAARC.

3 PLANNING BACKGROUND

3.1 National Guidance: Planning Policy Framework NPPF

3.1.1 In March 2012 the Department for Communities and Local Government issued National Planning Policy Framework (superseding Planning Policy Statement 5 (PPS5): Planning for the Historic Environment) which provides guidance for planning authorities, property owners, developers and others on the investigation and preservation of archaeological remains. The conservation of heritage assets in a manner appropriate to their significance is one of the Core Principles underlying the NPPF. In Section 12 “Conserving and enhancing the historic environment”, page 30 paragraph 128 it states:

In determining applications, local planning authorities should require an applicant to describe the significance of any heritage assets affected, including any contribution made by their setting. The level of detail should be proportionate to the assets’ importance and no more than is sufficient to understand the potential impact of the proposal on their significance. As a minimum the relevant historic environment record should have been consulted and the heritage assets assessed using appropriate expertise where necessary. Where a site on which development is proposed includes or has the potential to include heritage assets with archaeological interest, local planning authorities should require developers to submit an appropriate desk-based assessment and, where necessary, a field evaluation.

In considering any planning application for development, the local planning authority will be guided by the policy framework set by government guidance, in this instance NPPF by current Unitary Development Plan policy and by other material considerations. The relevant Strategic Development Plan framework is provided by the London Plan, published February 2004. It includes the following policy of relevance to archaeology within central London:

Policy 4B.15 Archaeology

The Mayor, in partnership with English Heritage, the Museum of London and Boroughs, will support the identification, protection, interpretation and presentation of London’s archaeological resources. Boroughs in consultation with English Heritage and other relevant statutory organisations should include appropriate policies in their UDPs for protecting scheduled ancient monuments and archaeological assets within their area.

3.1.2 Local Policy: Archaeology in the London Borough of Richmond upon Thames

Policy DM HD 4 - Archaeological Sites

The Council will seek to protect, enhance and promote its archaeological heritage (both above and below ground), and will encourage its interpretation and presentation to the public. It will take the necessary measures required to safeguard the archaeological remains found, and refuse planning permission where proposals would adversely affect archaeological remains or their setting.

- 3.2 4.3.18 Archaeology can include industrial sites, buildings, machinery, artifacts, air raid shelters and modest domestic buildings. The preservation of archaeological remains is a material consideration when determining planning applications. As set out in PPS 5, there is a presumption in favour of preservation in-situ, where the remains are of national importance. While it is desirable to treat all remains in this manner, it is recognised that it may not always be practical to do so.
- 3.3 4.3.19 However, regardless of their status, established procedures of consultation and evaluation as set out in PPS 5 and other advice must be followed in preparing development proposals. Prospective developers should make an initial assessment of whether the site is known or likely to contain archaeological remains by consultation with the appropriate specialist bodies, normally English Heritage and the Greater London Archaeological Advisory Service. The Proposals Map identifies scheduled ancient monuments. The Archaeological Constraints map (Map 1) identifies areas with archaeological potential where sites of importance could exist, but not all sites of archaeological importance will necessarily be on the constraints map; developers should check the latest known information with English Heritage.
- 3.4 4.3.20 The Council wishes to endorse the spirit of the Code of Practice already established by The British Archaeologists and Developers Liaison Group and developers are also referred to advice published by English Heritage.
- 3.5 3.1.3 Planning permission has been granted for the construction of the new single storey timber clad building containing visitor and staff facilities with alterations to existing landscape, planting, and car park, and the formation of new footways (DC/CAM/12/2948/FUL/FUL).
- 3.6 3.1.4 In accordance with NPPF, the planning permission includes a condition relating to archaeological investigations as follows:

U58045 Archaeological work

No development shall take place until the applicant has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written scheme for investigation which has been submitted by the applicant and approved by the Local Planning Authority. The development shall only take place in accordance with the detailed scheme pursuant to this condition. The archaeological works shall be carried out by a suitably qualified investigating body acceptable to the Local Planning Authority.

REASON: To safeguard any archaeological interest of the site.

- 3.7 3.1.5 The archaeological investigations reported herein have been undertaken in accordance with the approved written scheme of investigation in response to the above archaeological condition.

4 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

4.1 Geology

4.1.1 The British Geological Survey⁴ indicates that the site lies on Kempton Park Gravel, a type of natural river terrace deposit composed of gravel, sand and clay in part. A thin strip of alluvium is indicated running along the river to the west of the study site, composed mainly of sand, silt and clay⁵.

4.2 Topography

4.2.1 Strawberry Hill House and grounds stand on relatively flat land close to the River Thames in the southern part of Twickenham Parish. A slight rise in ground levels is noticeable from the river towards the house, now somewhat obscured by the suburban residential development in the surrounding area⁶.

⁴ 1:50'000 Series, Sheet 270

⁵ Cummings, R. (2008) *Strawberry Hill House, Twickenham, London Borough of Richmond: An Archaeological Investigation*. Compass Archaeology, unpublished report

⁶ Ibid.

5 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

- 5.1 The watching brief was carried out in accordance with a methodology set out in the Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI)⁷. The two phases of this strategy are detailed below.
- 5.2 Phase 1: A concrete slab for the new ancillary building was cast. This was positioned within the root protection zone of a native Black Poplar tree and therefore a foundation design was formulated that would have a minimal impact on the tree roots and undertaken in accordance with the requirements of the approved Tree Preservation Plan and Method Statement. Nine screw-piles measuring <200m in diameter were hand excavated for the slab from ground level. Although these were not archaeologically monitored, PCA undertook site visits to collate information from this activity such as site records and plans as well as a photographic record of the works that was provided by the developer. This impact will be reviewed taking in to account documentary evidence and considering a Compass Archaeology trench excavated across this area⁸ in order to assess the potential damage to heritage assets that may have arisen from the works.
- 5.3 Phase 2: Archaeological monitoring works commenced following the casting of a concrete slab for the new ancillary building. The additional impacts associated with the new building included:
- Screen and fencepost foundations
 - Steel gate post foundations
 - Access footpath and buggy store bases
 - Service trenches
- 5.4 Excavation was carried out by a mini-digger and groundworkers using hand tools. These works were archaeologically monitored and recorded.
- 5.5 Features and deposits identified within the trenches were cleaned and investigated by hand. Investigation was limited to identifying the extent and nature of the deposits and to recover dating evidence. The archaeological deposits were assigned individual context numbers and recorded onto *pro-forma* sheets and recorded in plan and section as appropriate. Upon completion of the trench excavations, 1:20 scale plan drawings were made as well as 1:10 scale section drawings. Natural and archaeological levels were recorded on *pro forma* context sheets using the Museum of London single context recording system. Heights of deposits in relation to ground level were also recorded. A digital photographic record was made.
- 5.6 Trench locations were recorded using scaled architect drawings provided by the client.

⁷ Bradley, T. (2014) *Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Watching Brief at Strawberry Hill House (Ancillary Building), London Borough of Richmond upon Thames*. Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd, unpublished report.

⁸ Cummings, R. (2008) *Strawberry Hill House, Twickenham, London Borough of Richmond: An Archaeological Investigation*. Compass Archaeology, unpublished report

6 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

- 6.1 This archaeological and historical background aims to synthesise the background to Strawberry Hill House as detailed in the Conservation Management Plan⁹ and other documentary sources as well as fulfil Part 1 of the Written Scheme of Investigation¹⁰ by reviewing the results of the Compass Archaeology site investigations conducted in 2007¹¹.
- 6.2 It is believed that a settlement was founded at Twickenham from as early as 704 AD. The church was established in its present location by the late 11th century. At this time the area formed part of the manor of Isleworth, with the settlement clustered around the church. The livelihood of its inhabitants was likely to have been provided by the numerous fish weirs and passing river traffic. At this time the common fields of the village lay to the south, while common land, part of Hounslow Heath, lay to the west¹².
- 6.3 By 1635, and throughout the following hundred and fifty years, open fields and parts of the common began to be enclosed. These parcels of land eventually formed market gardens, orchards and pleasure grounds for the growing population of the parish. The first occurrence of the name 'Strawberry Hill' appears in 1631, and may illustrate the predominance of soft-fruit growing near or on the subject site. By the mid 18th century, Twickenham's horticultural traditions were firmly established.
- 6.4 '*Chopp'd Straw Hall*', a small three storey lodging house, was constructed by the Earl of Bradford's coachman in 1698. The name is believed to have derived from local opinion that the coachman financed construction by feeding the Earl's horses on chopped straw rather than hay. Cartographic sources indicate that by the mid 18th century, the property stood immediately south of the Hampton Court Road, within 5 acres of grounds. Within these grounds were a scatter of farm buildings to the southwest and kitchen gardens to the south.
- 6.5 Horace Walpole, man of letters and son of England's first Prime Minister, acquired the lease for the property from Mrs Chevenix on 20 May 1747. At this time, a year's lease was agreed, and Walpole considered the property to be a '*little rural bijou*'. Purchase of freehold was completed two years later. Between 1748 and 1765 a further 41 plots of land were purchased from seventeen owners by Walpole to add to his estate, eventually comprising a total of 46 acres.

⁹ Inskip and Jenkins, (2007) *Conservation Management Plan for Strawberry Hill House*.

¹⁰ Bradley, T. (2014) *Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Watching Brief at Strawberry Hill House (Ancillary Building)*, London Borough of Richmond upon Thames. Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd, unpublished report.

¹¹ Cummings, R. (2008) *Strawberry Hill House, Twickenham, London Borough of Richmond: An Archaeological Investigation*. Compass Archaeology, unpublished report

¹² Weinreb and Hibbert (1983) *London Encyclopaedia*. Macmillan

6.6 Walpole's intent was to create a '*little gothic castle*'. His systematic programme of reordering, formalising and enlargement of the house was all directed by his '*Committee on Taste*', and building did not stop until 1790. The Committee was appointed to arbitrate on the use and fashion of the gothic style. The exterior of the property was chiefly designed by John Chute, a well travelled amateur gentleman architect, in adherence to the Venetian model. Walpole's Strawberry Hill therefore represented the birth of the neo-gothic, based on real gothic models. The property remains Britain's finest example of Georgian Gothic Revival architecture and interior decoration.

6.7 Following the death of Horace Walpole in 1797, the property passed through a succession of owners including Anne Damer, the Waldegrave family and the de Stern family. In 1923 the house and grounds were purchased by the Catholic Education Council, for the St Mary's Catholic Teacher Training College, under whose ownership the property remains.

6.8 Compass Archaeology Trial Trenching

6.8.1 The archaeological work involved the excavation of 14 trenches at various locations across the site, located in relation to potential 18th century features belonging to Horace Walpole's occupation and development of Strawberry Hill House and its grounds. The following table relates to the trench number and the objective of the trench (The locations of Trenches 2 & 13 are also illustrated in Figure 3):

6.9

Trench	Objective	Summary
1	Position of 18 th century path indicated on the 1780s plan; any indication of historic position of trellis, road bed and flower garden	No evidence for earlier road bed or 18 th century garden features. Later 19 th century path base, small possibly prehistoric pit with worked flint and modern rubbish pit
2	Location, progress and width of perimeter path.	No archaeological finds or features
3	Determine location/boundary of path relating to the door and house, its 18 th century position and sample its material for identification	Late 19 th or 20 th century path and 19 th century brick drain- numerous services and truncation from existing ground levels
4	Location of free-standing building shown in some 18 th century views. Record foundation (if found) in preparation for construction of new ticket hut	Mains electricity cable exposed 0.38m below ground level- no further excavation possible due to proximity of other services
5	Location, progress and width of 18 th century perimeter path. Sample historic surface material for geological identification	Modern service and other truncation – no archaeological finds or features
6	Position of 18 th century screen, position of paths and beds in the Prior's Garden	Not excavated due to boarding of existing screen wall and deep drain chamber
7	18 th century treatment of area before cloister openings. If found, sample material of made-up surface for identification	Foundations of existing buildings exposed and probable 19 th century brick drain. Otherwise, no evidence of 18 th century activity.
8	Position of 18 th Century boundary wall, position of paths and beds in Prior's Garden	Robber trench (c. 1860) exposed containing brick rubble of 18 th century origin- clearly represents demolition of northern boundary wall
9	Location and construction of additional room marked on 1781 ground plan, and position of western screen of Prior's Garden	Corner wall with north-south and east-west stretches, butting further brick wall continuing east – probable multi-phase mid 18 th – early 19 th century. No evidence of screen wall, probably removed by second phase build.
10	Location, progress and width of perimeter path	Evidence for earlier path phases, but nothing conclusively pre 20 th century
11	Location, progress and width of perimeter path	Evidence for earlier path phases, but nothing conclusively pre 20 th century
12	Location, progress and width of perimeter path	Mid 19 th century+ brick structure and recent ditch, no evidence for 18 th century

		boundary path
13	Location, progress and width of perimeter path	Probable 19 th century brick land drain in west end of trench – heavy service truncation and modern ground working
14	Position of 18 th century screen wall of Prior’s Garden and junction with northern boundary wall	No evidence for screen or boundary walls- modern rubbish pit in east side of trench
15	Presence and nature of earlier ground levels and construction/surfacing of carriage drive of c. 1860	Cut and make-up levels for existing tarmac driveway – no 19 th or 18 th century evidence.

Table 1: Trench number, objective and results of Compass Archaeology Evaluation Trial Trenches (locations of trenches indicated on Figure 3)¹³

¹³ *Ibid.*

- 6.9.1 The results of the Compass Archaeology Evaluation suggested that modern disturbance as a result of landscaping and service truncation had had a detrimental effect on the underlying archaeological resource, with often complete removal of historical levels. Other modern services were immovable and as such as the trenches were abandoned. Where archaeological results were achieved, they suggested later phase activity, namely from 19th century drainage features, ground raising and paths. However, as was seen in Trench 8, 18th century brick rubble from the wall surrounding Prior's Garden was demolished c. 1860 when the road to the north was realigned. This confirms the destruction of earlier phase activity and the successive reuse of materials. Also, masonry seen in Trench 9 was determined to be from a later phase of 18th century construction: bricks were seen abutting a wall of the original structure. These represent a hitherto unknown construction phase for the main building.
- 6.9.2 Of particular relevance to this report and the PCA watching brief results are the results of Compass Archaeology Trenches 2 and 13. This area of the site was impacted on by the nine screw piles for the new ancillary building. Although this groundwork was not archaeologically monitored, the results of Trenches 2 and 13 can be used to predict what the likely preservation and survival of archaeological remains over this area might be. Both were targeted on the 18th century pathway that bounded the garden. Trench 2 observed modern ground disturbance to extend to a depth greater than the 1.2m below ground level with a similar sequence seen in Trench 13. An armoured electricity cable was seen extending north to south approximately parallel with the proposed course of the historical path: it seems plausible that truncation from this surface will have removed all historical levels.
- 6.9.3 Historical cartographic sources also suggest a garden maze was positioned towards the northeast of the study site in the 19th century (Figure 3). This is in an area away from the Compass Archaeology investigations although the PCA watching brief would observe a service trench excavated very close to this area.

7 ARCHAEOLOGICAL SEQUENCE

7.1 Introduction

7.1.1 The following represents an account of the observations made from during the watching brief exercise conducted by PCA. The results from the Compass Archaeology evaluation trial trenches are summarised in Section 6- Archaeological and Historical Background.

7.2 Electricity trench

7.2.1 An electricity service trench was excavated on the 24th March 2014. The trench was positioned towards the northwest of the new ancillary building. It extended to a depth of -0.30m Below Ground Level (BGL) and revealed a stratigraphic sequence of 0.1m of modern sharp sand to be overlain by 0.20m of modern top soil.

7.3 Timber Screen 1

7.3.1 The excavation of a linear, north-east to south-west aligned trench for a timber screen that separates the visitor car park from the garden was monitored on the 15th April 2014. The trench measured 7.50m long and was 0.50m wide and extended to a depth of -0.90m BGL.

7.3.2 The archaeological sequence at the western end of the trench was recorded as approximately 0.25m to 0.30m of modern topsoil, [1], to overlie greater than 0.65m of sandy-clay subsoil, [2]. No archaeological finds, features or deposits were observed. Towards the eastern end of the site, subsoil [2] was truncated by a large modern terracing cut [5]. This measured over 2m wide in section and was greater than 0.80m thick. The lowest fill observed in the trench was [4] - an indurated sandy-gravel fill with no inclusions. This measured 0.50m thick at 0.4m BGL. It was sealed by the subsequent fill of [5], deposit [3], which was recorded as a 0.70m thick modern concrete and rubble horizon. Between 0.30m and 0.10m of topsoil [1] completed the archaeological sequence at this end of the trench.

7.4 Service Trench

7.4.1 A service trench for a telecommunications cable measuring approximately 0.50m wide that extended from the eastern side of the new ancillary building was excavated by mini-digger and by hand under archaeological supervision on 29th April 2014. The trench was roughly 44m long and extended over an area suggested by historical cartographic records to have once been very close to the location of an 19th century garden maze. Sections recorded along the length of the trench typically observed 0.12m of topsoil to overlie a mixed horizon of garden soil, reburied topsoil, redeposited natural clay and root disturbance ([6]). Towards the southern end of the trench at -0.55m BGL, natural clay layer [7] was directly overlain by modern topsoil/garden soil, suggestive of modern landscaping of the area.

7.4.2 This service trench was joined to the new ancillary building by a further excavation that abutted the earlier monitored timber screen trench (7.2). This extended to a depth of -0.40m BGL and was made through disturbed modern ground.

7.5 Gateposts (Figure 2)

7.5.1 Two foundation pits were excavated for gateposts to the south of the new ancillary building between 20th and 21st May 2014. The first and most northerly of the two (Gatepost 1) was positioned closest to the new structure and measured 1.60m by 0.60m in plan. A root thought to belong to the nearby Poplar tree was encountered and the trench shifted slightly to one side. This trench extended to a depth of -0.55m BGL and revealed a stratigraphic sequence dominated entirely by modern topsoil.

7.5.2 To the south of Gatepost 1, Gatepost 2 was 0.60m² in plan and extended to a depth of -0.75m BGL. Natural clay [7] was seen at a height of -0.45m BGL. No cut features were seen cut into the surface of this layer. It was directly overlain by modern topsoil. The sequence suggests modern landscaping has removed all overlying strata down to natural heights the area has been raised with modern topsoil deposits.

7.6 Access Path & Buggy Store

7.6.1 Excavations for the access path and buggy store consisted of leveling the ground only, and had no below-ground impact.

8 REVIEW & CONCLUSIONS

8.1 Casting of the Ancillary Building Slab

8.1.1 Prior to the archaeological evaluation being undertaken, the slab for the new ancillary building had been cast – the construction work associated with this process was not archaeologically monitored. Due to the location of the building within the root protection zone of a native Black Poplar tree the slab was necessarily designed with no below ground disturbance other than the nine <200mm diameter screw piles. An initial site visit following the casting of the slab by PCA confirmed that, in accordance with the requirements of the approved Tree Preservation Plan and Method Statement, the impact to the area was restricted to the pile locations only.

8.2 Previous archaeological investigation across the grounds of Strawberry Hill House

8.2.1 As discussed previously within the report, of particular relevance to the reviewing the archaeological potential below ancillary building slab were the results of Compass Archaeology Trenches 2 and 13. This area of the site was impacted on by the nine screw piles for the new ancillary building. Although these works were not archaeologically monitored, the results of Trenches 2 and 13 can be used to predict what the likely preservation and survival of archaeological remains over this area might be. Both were targeted on the 18th century pathway that bounded the garden and would have extended through the ancillary building footprint. Trench 2 observed modern ground disturbance to extend to a depth greater than the 1.2m below ground level with a similar sequence seen in Trench 13. An armoured electricity cable was seen extending north to south approximately parallel with the proposed course of the historical path. On the basis of the results of this trenching it appears the likely impact to buried heritage assets from the screw piles will have been negligible.

8.3 Watching Brief Results

The PCA watching brief did not record any evidence of 18th century or later occupation of the site. Stratigraphic sequences observed typically consisted of natural clay overlain by topsoil or an amalgamation of redeposited clay and topsoil. Taken as a whole, the review of previous work and the construction of the slab of the ancillary building together with watching brief on associated groundwork has demonstrated that the new development has not impacted on earlier archaeological remains within the main building footprint or associated groundworks. This is due both to the fact that the construction techniques employed for the ancillary building where by necessity low impact, and also because archaeological investigations in this area of site have shown the presence of heritage assets is demonstrably limited or altogether absent.

9 ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

- 9.1 Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd would like to thank The Strawberry Hill Trust for commissioning the work, and Gillian King of English Heritage for monitoring the project. We would also like to thank Don Delaney, Link Design & Build, for facilitating the site work, and Peter Jenkins, Peter Inskip + Peter Jenkins Architects, for coordinating the work and providing initial information on the project.
- 9.2 The author thanks Josephine Brown for the figures and to Tim Bradley for editing this report.

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British Geological Survey 1:50'000 Series, Sheet 270

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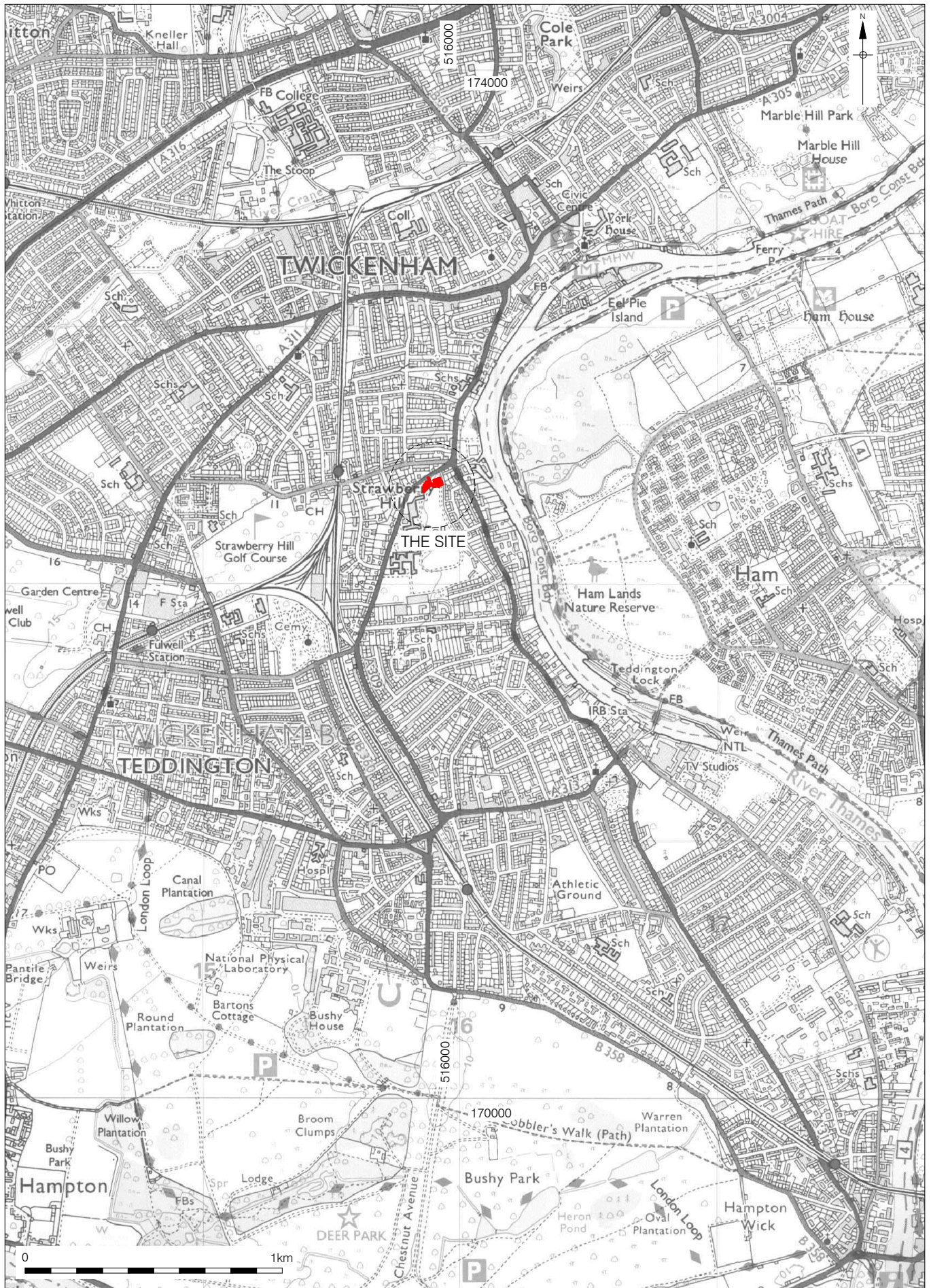
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30/09/14 JB

Figure 1
Site Location
1:20,000 at A4

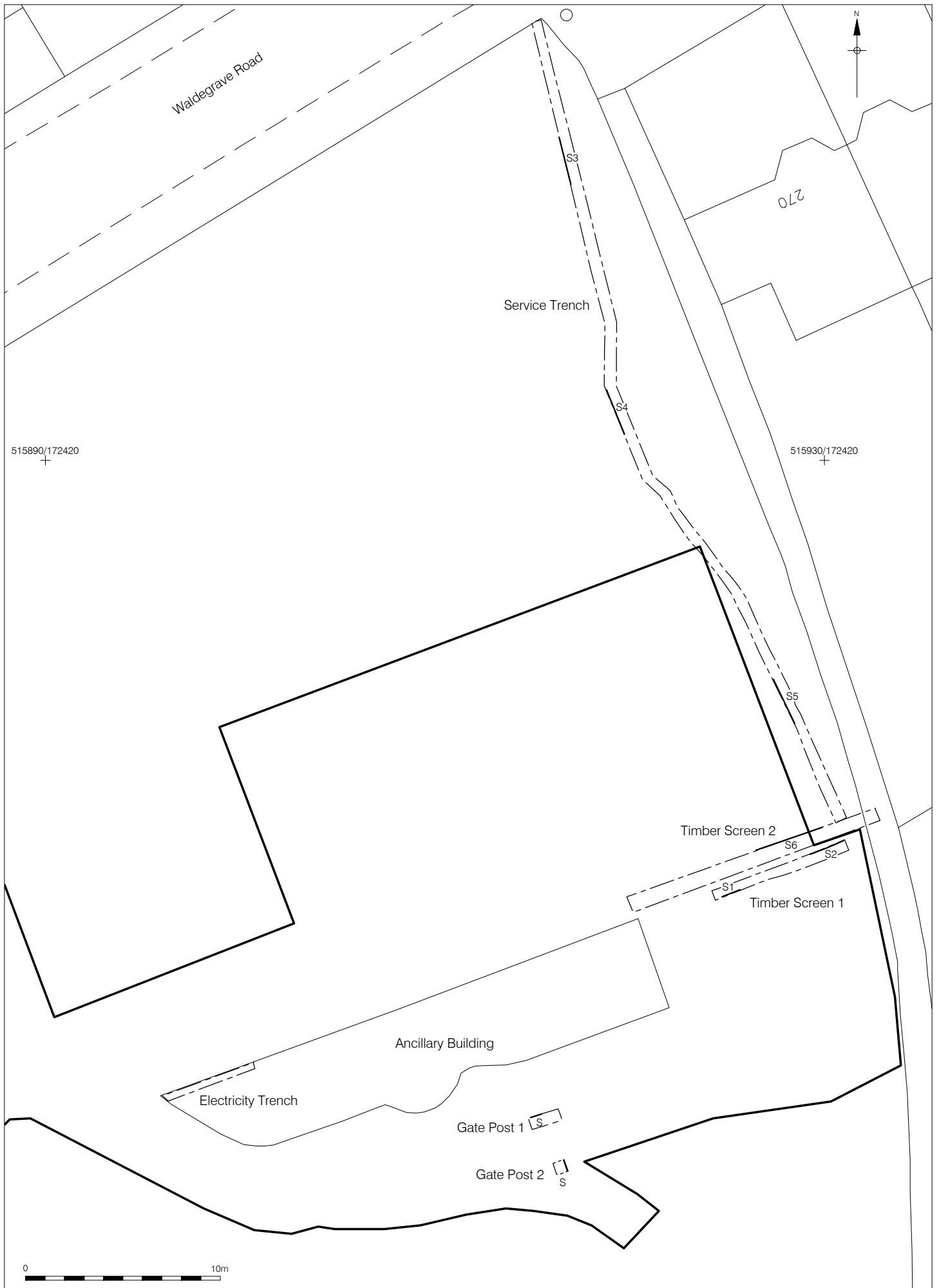


Figure 2
Trench Locations
1:250 at A4

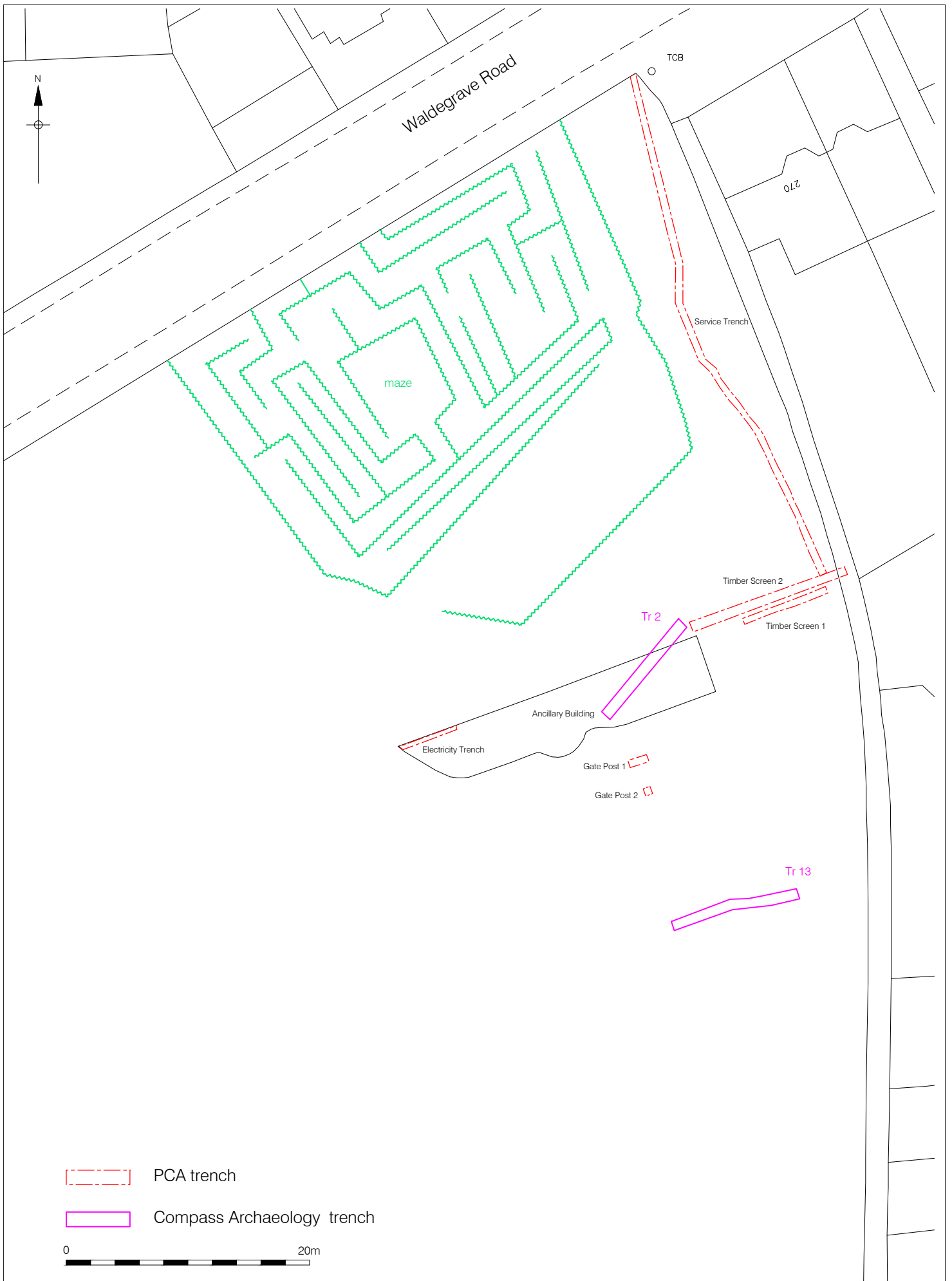


Figure 3
 Location of other archaeological interventions
 and maze from historic mapping
 1:400 at A4

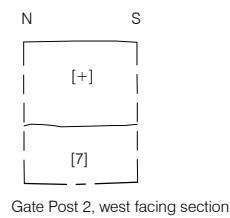
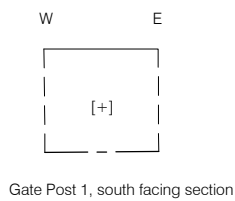
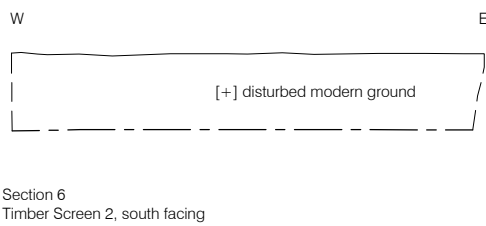
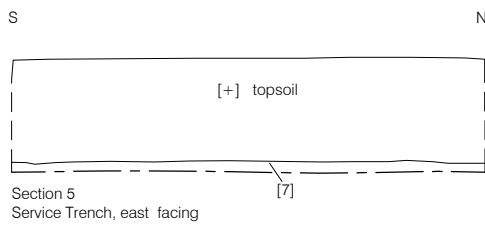
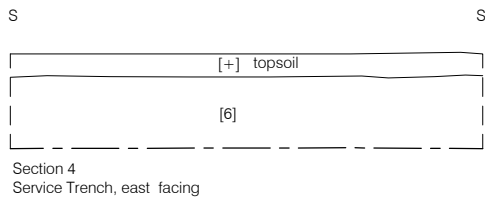
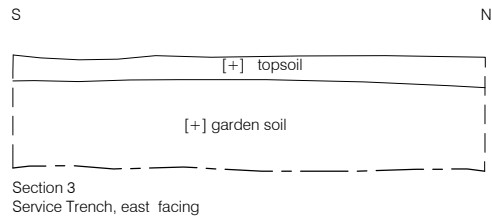
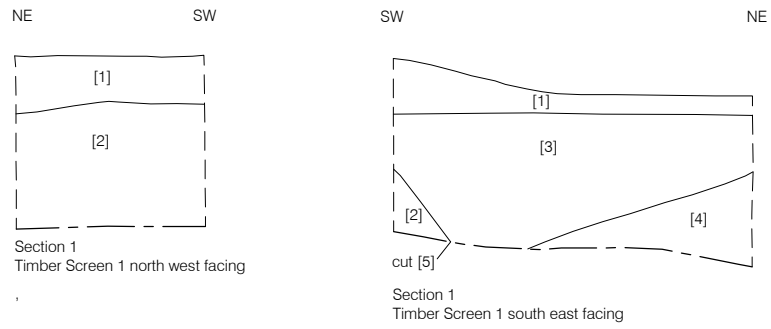


Plate 1: Pre-ex shot of proposed footprint of ancillary building following removal of temporary container. The levelling visible for the previous temporary container caused greater impact than the casting of the new slab.



Plate 2: Gatepost 2, looking south



Plate 3: Telecommunications trench, looking northeast across area of former 18th century garden maze



Plate 4: Electricity Service Trench, looking west



APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT INDEX

Context No.	Type	Comments
1	Layer	Topsoil
2	Layer	Subsoil
3	Fill	Concrete backfill of [5]
4	Fill	Gravel backfill of [5]
5	Cut	Modern terracing cut
6	Layer	Mixed clay/topsoil deposit
7	Natural	Natural Clay

APPENDIX 2: OASIS ARCHAEOLOGICAL REPORT FORM

Project details

Project name	Strawberry Hill House, London Borough of Richmond upon Thames:
Short description of the project	The project reviews previous archaeological investigations undertaken within the development area and reports on the archaeological watching brief on works associated with the construction of a new ancillary building monitored by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd (PCA) intermittently between 24th March and 21st May 2014. The PCA watching brief did not record any evidence of 18th century or later occupation of the site. Stratigraphic sequences observed typically consisted of natural clay overlain by topsoil or an amalgamation of redeposited clay and topsoil. Taken as a whole, the review of previous work and the construction of the slab of the ancillary building, together with watching brief on associated groundwork, has demonstrated that the new development has not impacted on earlier archaeological remains within the area of development. This is due both to the fact that the construction techniques employed for the ancillary building where by necessity low impact, and also because archaeological investigations in this area of site have shown the presence of heritage assets is demonstrably limited or altogether absent.
Project dates	Start: 24-03-2014 End: 21-05-2014
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	SRB14 - Sitecode
Type of project	Recording project
Site status (other)	Grade II* Listed Historic Landscape
Current Land use	Other 5 - Garden

Project location

Country	England
Site location	GREATER LONDON RICHMOND UPON THAMES TWICKENHAM Strawberry Hill House
Postcode	TW1 4ST
Study area	1300.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	TQ 1588 7230 51.4373298419 -0.332638385433 51 26 14 N 000 19 57 W Point

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited
Project brief originator	English Heritage

Project design originator Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd

Project director/manager Tim Bradley

Project supervisor Richard Humphrey

Type of sponsor/funding body Charitable Trust

Name of sponsor/funding body The Strawberry Hill Trust

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists? No

Digital Archive recipient LAARC

Digital Contents "Stratigraphic"

Digital Media available "Spreadsheets", "Text"

Paper Archive recipient LAARC

Paper Contents "Stratigraphic"

Paper Media available "Context sheet", "Drawing", "Plan", "Report", "Section", "Unpublished Text"

Entered by Tim Bradley (tbradley@pre-construct.com)

Entered on 30 September 2014

PCA

PCA SOUTH

UNIT 54
BROCKLEY CROSS BUSINESS CENTRE
96 ENDWELL ROAD
BROCKLEY
LONDON SE4 2PD
TEL: 020 7732 3925 / 020 7639 9091
FAX: 020 7639 9588
EMAIL: info@pre-construct.com

PCA NORTH

UNIT 19A
TURSDALE BUSINESS PARK
DURHAM DH6 5PG
TEL: 0191 377 1111
FAX: 0191 377 0101
EMAIL: info.north@pre-construct.com

PCA CENTRAL

THE GRANARY, RECTORY FARM
BREWERY ROAD, PAMPISFORD
CAMBRIDGESHIRE CB22 3EN
TEL: 01223 845 522
FAX: 01223 845 522
EMAIL: info.central@pre-construct.com

PCA WEST

BLOCK 4
CHILCOMB HOUSE
CHILCOMB LANE
WINCHESTER
HAMPSHIRE SO23 8RB
TEL: 01962 849 549
EMAIL: info.west@pre-construct.com

PCA MIDLANDS

17-19 KETTERING RD
LITTLE BOWDEN
MARKET HARBOROUGH
LEICESTERSHIRE LE16 8AN
TEL: 01858 468 333
EMAIL: info.midlands@pre-construct.com

