

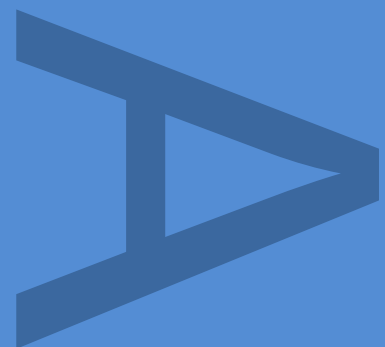
**ADAMS GATE WIDENING SCHEME,  
ADAMS GATE,  
HAMPTON COURT PALACE**

**SUMMARY REPORT OF AN  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING  
BRIEF**

**PCA REPORT NO: 11891**

**SITE CODE: HCP120**

**OCTOBER 2014**



**PRE-CONSTRUCT ARCHAEOLOGY**


DOCUMENT VERIFICATION

ADAMS GATE WIDENING SCHEME, ADAMS  
GATE, HAMPTON COURT PALACE

SUMMARY REPORT OF AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
WATCHING BRIEF

Quality Control

Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd	
Project Number	K3520
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**ADAMS GATE WIDENING SCHEME, ADAMS GATE, HAMPTON COURT  
PALACE**

**SUMMARY REPORT OF AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF**

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**Site Code:** HCP120

**Central NGR:** TQ 1588 6879 (515880,168795)

**Commissioning Client:** HISTORIC ROYAL PALACES

**Written/Researched by:** IAN CIPIN and RICHARD HUMPHREY  
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**October 2014**

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## **1 ABSTRACT**

- 1.1 Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd was commissioned by Historic Royal Palaces to monitor the excavation of two foundation pits in advance of the relocation and widening of the east and west pillar at Adams Gate at Hampton Court Palace in the London Borough of Richmond.
- 1.2 The sequence revealed earlier Tudor masonry remains that have been interpreted as the foundations for the existing wall, dated to 1515.
- 1.3 On the western side the Tudor foundations existed with the 20<sup>th</sup> century pillar being constructed directly on top.
- 1.4 On the eastern side it would appear that the pillar had been relocated approximately 1.00m to the east as some form of earlier gate widening scheme.
- 1.5 The works extended to a depth of approximately -0.50m below ground level and did not remove the remains observed.

## **2 INTRODUCTION**

- 2.1 Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd was commissioned by Historic Royal Palaces to undertake an archaeological watching brief at Adams Gate, Hampton Court Palace in the London Borough of Richmond.
- 2.2 The works being carried out were part of the proposed widening of Adams Gate in order to allow for better vehicular access.
- 2.3 The objective of the watching brief was for an archaeologist to attend after the demolition of the existing 19th/20<sup>th</sup> century gate pillars and observe the below ground excavations which were due to be carried out in order to prepare the foundations for the new pillars to Adams Gate.
- 2.4 This observation allowed for the recording of any earlier phases of Adams Gate as it is believed that there has been an opening in the wall at this location since the late 17<sup>th</sup> century.
- 2.5 The works were carried out on 16<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2014, were supervised by Ian Cipin and Richard Humphrey and Project Managed by Chris Mayo, all of Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd. The work was monitored by Fiona Keith-Lucas, Assistant Curator at Historic Royal Palaces.
- 2.6 The works necessitated the reduction of the ground by some 0.50m in order to allow for the pouring of concrete foundations to support the reconstruction of new pillars on either side of Adams Gate.
- 2.7 A stepped footing was seen in the eastern foundation trench, on to which the Tudor wall was constructed. In addition it seems likely that the pillar was originally situated approximately 0.40m to the west of the 20<sup>th</sup> century pillar.
- 2.8 An east to west aligned redbrick footing was also seen in the western foundation trench on top of which is the extant Tudor wall. A north to south post-medieval wall was built at ninety-degrees to this on the southern side, reusing the earlier foundation. The later pillar base was seen towards the eastern side of the trench as built directly on top of the Tudor foundation.
- 2.9 Upon completion of the works the archive will be transferred to HRP's archive store at Hampton Court Palace under unique site code HCP120.

### **3 METHODOLOGY**

- 3.1 The excavations were carried out by contractors appointed by Historic Royal Palaces and necessitated the demolition of the existing pillars and part of the wall followed by the excavation below ground to a depth of 0.50m in order to allow for the construction of new foundations to support the new pillars.
- 3.2 Where necessary, hand-held mechanical breakers were used to remove existing brickwork and concrete followed by excavation using appropriate hand tools.
- 3.3 The east and west pits were then cleaned by the attending archaeologist, again using appropriate hand tools with plans then being drawn at a scale of 1:20 and relevant sections drawn at a scale of 1:10.
- 3.4 Deposits and features were recorded on *pro-forma* sheets in accordance with standard single context recording methods.
- 3.5 Upon completion of the project the site archive will be transferred to HRP's archive store at Hampton Court Palace under unique site code HCP120.

## 4 SUMMARY OF OBSERVATIONS

### 4.1 Phase 1: Tudor Period

- 4.1.1 The earliest remains observed during the works date to the Tudor period. On the west side of the gate this is represented by the east to west aligned foundation [12]. It was composed of some whole, but mainly fragmentary, unfrogged red bricks bonded with hard lime mortar. The full thickness of the masonry was not seen as it extended below the necessary impact level of the works, but it was at least three courses high. In plan, it measured greater than 0.80m wide by 0.76m north to south. The top of the masonry was seen at approximately 9.92m OD.



*Plate 1: The western pillar, post-excavation, looking west*

- 4.1.2 Wall [2] measured between 0.30m and 0.40m wide and was greater than 100m in length, this being the wall enclosing the northern side of the palace and built c. 1515. It was built directly on top of foundation [12] and was seen to be greater than 47 courses high.
- 4.1.3 To the north of masonry [12] was backfill [6]. This appeared as a loose sandy deposit that abutted the northern side of the foundation. Towards the northwest corner of the trench, several bricks were seen against the foundation that at first glance appeared as potentially representing a northern turn of the foundation. However, this is thought to be unlikely and the bricks representative of either material dislodged and incorporated into the fills matrix from recent truncation to the wall, or an original component part of the foundations backfill. Also, these extended beyond the trenches limits and are therefore unlikely to be impacted upon during these works.



- 4.1.4 Overlying foundation [12] and backfill [6] was a modern ground raising horizon that contained tarmac. It measured 0.30m thick and was directly overlain by topsoil.
- 4.1.5 Backfill [11] was seen abutting the southern side of foundation [12] and unlike [6], is thought to be late post-medieval in date and related to building later masonry on top of the earlier foundation as seen by a wall extending at ninety-degrees to the south as well as a parallel brick feature associated with drainage.
- 4.1.6 At the eastern side of the gate a Tudor stepped foundation [3] was observed on to which the later construction of the wall is directly built. It has maximum dimensions of 1.00m (E-W) by 0.80m (N-S) and was seen at a height of 9.97m OD. As with the brickwork discussed above it comprised of red and purple red unfrogged brick with typical brick dimensions of 23cms x 10.5cms x 5cms with a light yellow brown lime mortar.



*Plate 2: The eastern pillar, post-excavation*

- 4.1.7 To the north of footing [3] it was also possible to see deposit [6] running 0.60m (E-W) and 0.30m (N-S) at a height of 9.97m OD.
- 4.2 Phase 2: 17<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> Century**
- 4.2.1 At the western side of the gate this phase is represented by the existing wall [2] that is still *in situ* today together with a pillar [7] on to which the 20<sup>th</sup> century reconstruction seems to have been directly built. As seen, it has dimensions of 0.90m (E-W) by 1.15m (N-S) with a depth of 0.50m at the limit of excavation and was seen at a height of 10.37m OD. It comprised of red unfrogged brick with a light grey lime mortar.

- 4.2.2 At the eastern side of the gate wall [2] is also still standing to its full extent. Once the 20<sup>th</sup> century pillar was removed, it became apparent that the pillar was originally located approximately 1.00m further west. In plan, just under the tarmac it was possible to see the line of the existing wall [4] extending to the west for a further 0.40m before it meets up with what must be assumed to be an earlier pillar [5].
- 4.2.3 As seen, pillar [5] had dimensions of 0.48m (E-W) by 1.00m (N-S) and was seen at a height of 10.32m OD.

### **4.3 Phase 3: 20<sup>th</sup> Century**

- 4.3.1 At the western pillar a layer of modern made ground was noted that is believed to be the backfill of more recent works to the pillar. It comprised of friable, mid grey, sandy silt with inclusions of tarmac, cbm and stones with dimensions of 0.40m (N-S) x 0.80m (E-W) with a thickness of 0.30m.
- 4.3.2 The latest deposit encountered by both the east and west pillars was a layer [1] of modern topsoil comprising of a dark greyish brown sandy silt with moderate inclusions of pebbles, 20<sup>th</sup> century pot, clay tobacco pipe (CTP) and modern material such as plastic which can be considered to relate to recent landscaping of the grounds of Hampton Court Palace.

## **5 SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS**

- 5.1 The works revealed that there does appear to be some of the Tudor brickwork remaining under the later 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> century reconstructions of the wall and pillars.
- 5.2 On the eastern side of the gate were the remnants of an earlier Tudor phase of the wall together with a pillar to the original gate. On the western side of the gate Tudor brickwork is represented by a brick footing onto which the later wall was also built.
- 5.3 The 17<sup>th</sup>/18<sup>th</sup> century pillar at the western side of the gate is still largely *in situ* with the 20<sup>th</sup> century rebuild having been constructed directly on top.
- 5.4 On the eastern side, however, it seems that the original pillar has been relocated approximately 1.00m to the east from its original location probably to facilitate better vehicle access.

## APPENDIX 1: OASIS REPORT FORM

**OASIS ID: preconst1-192991**

### Project details

Project name	ADAMS GATE WIDENING SCHEME, ADAMS GATE, HAMPTON COURT PALACE
Short description of the project	Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd was commissioned by Historic Royal Palaces to monitor the excavation of two foundation pits in advance of the relocation and widening of the east and west pillar at Adams Gate at Hampton Court Palace in the London Borough of Richmond. The sequence revealed earlier Tudor masonry remains that have been interpreted as the foundations for the existing wall, dated to 1515. On the western side the Tudor foundations existed with the 20th century pillar being constructed directly on top. On the eastern side it would appear that the pillar had been relocated approximately 1.00m to the east as some form of earlier gate widening scheme.
Project dates	Start: 16-04-2014 End: 23-04-2014
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	HCP120 - Sitecode
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	Scheduled Monument (SM)
Current Land use	Other 11 - Thoroughfare
Monument type	FOUNDATION Post Medieval
Significant Finds	NONE None
Investigation type	"Watching Brief"
Prompt	Scheduled Monument Consent

### Project location

Country	England
Site location	GREATER LONDON RICHMOND UPON THAMES TEDDINGTON AND HAMPTON Adams Gate, Hampton Court Palace
Postcode	KT8 9AU
Study area	2.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	TQ 1588 6879 51.4057791187 -0.333786361036 51 24 20 N 000 20 01 W Point
Lat/Long Datum	Unknown

### Project creators

Name of Organisation	Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited
Project brief originator	City/Nat. Park/District/Borough archaeologist
Project design originator	Fiona Keith-Lucas
Project director/manager	Chris Mayo
Project supervisor	Ian Cipin
Project supervisor	Richard Humphrey
Type of sponsor/funding body	Charitable Trust
Name of sponsor/funding body	Historic Royal Palaces

### Project archives

Physical Archive recipient	None
Digital Archive recipient	Hampton Court
Digital Archive ID	HCP120
Digital Contents	"Stratigraphic"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography","Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Hampton Court
Paper Archive ID	HCP120
Paper Contents	"Stratigraphic"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet","Notebook - Excavation',' Research',' General Notes","Plan","Section"

#### **Project bibliography 1**

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Adams Gate Widening Scheme, Adams Gate, Hampton Court Palace: Summary Report of an Archaeological WB
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Cipin, I.
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Humphrey, R.
Other bibliographic details	PCA R11891
Date	2014
Issuer or publisher	Pre Construct Archeaology Limited
Place of issue or publication	London
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Entered by	Chris Mayo (cmayo@pre-construct.com)
Entered on	20 October 2014

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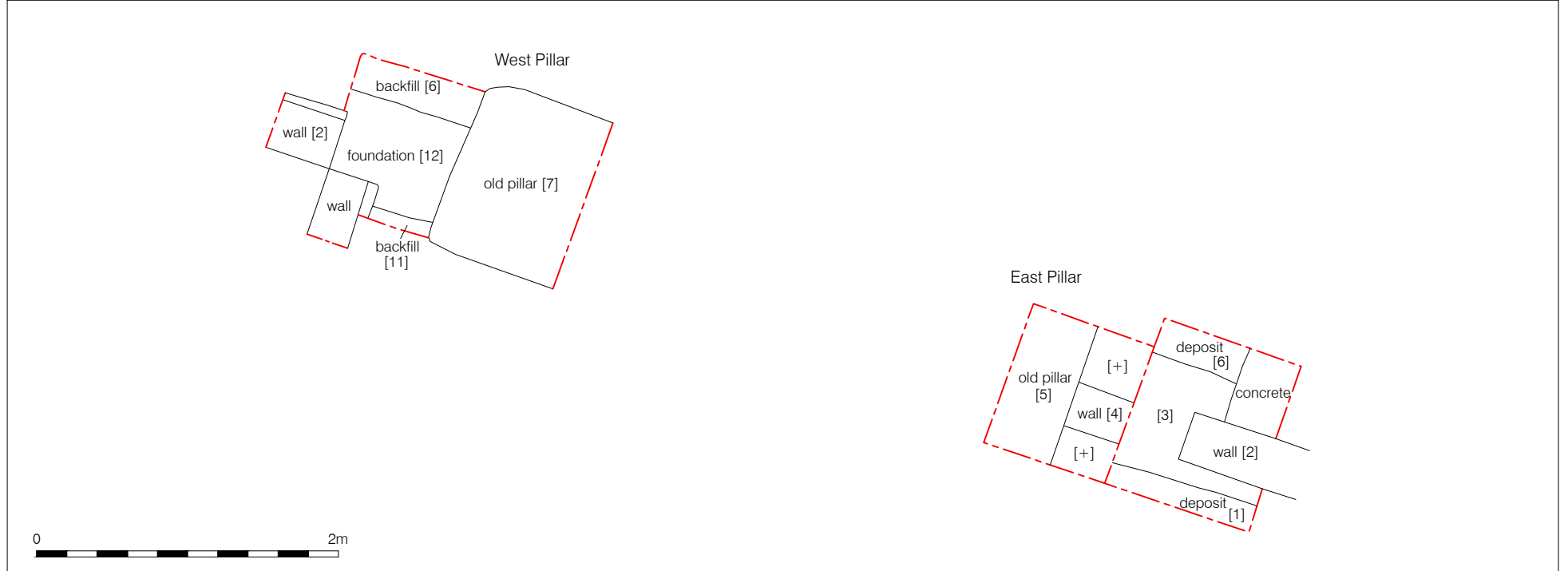
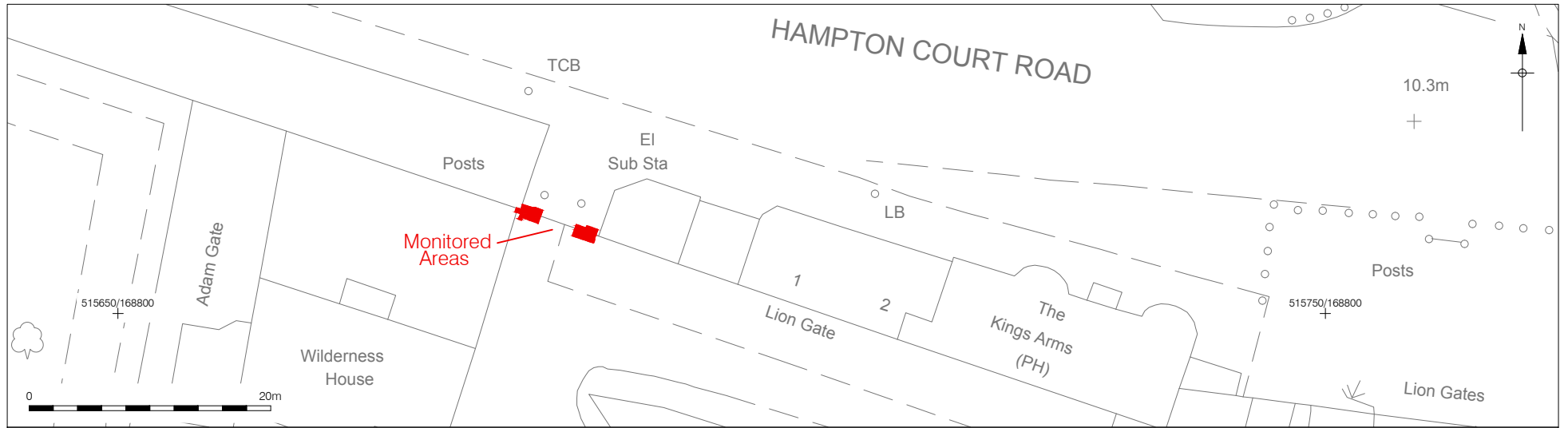


Figure 1  
 Location of Monitored Areas  
 1:500 & 1:40 at A4

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