

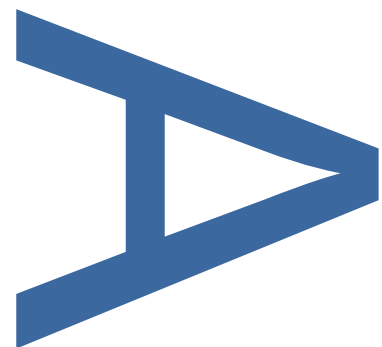
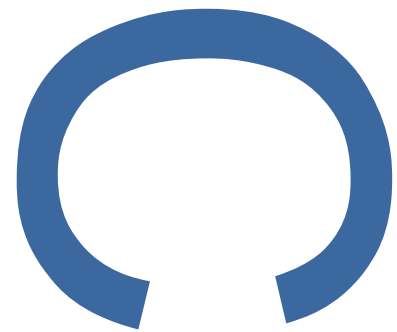
**SOUTH FRONT LAWN LIGHTING,
KENSINGTON PALACE,
KENSINGTON GARDENS,
LONDON W8 4PX**

**AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING
BRIEF**

PCA REPORT NO: R12060

SITE CODE: KEN26

APRIL 2015



PRE-CONSTRUCT ARCHAEOLOGY

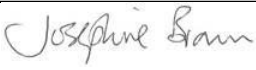

DOCUMENT VERIFICATION

SOUTH FRONT LAWN LIGHTING,
KENSINGTON PALACE, KENSINGTON GARDENS,
LONDON W8 4PX

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

Quality Control

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Project Number	K3925
Report Number	R12060

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Revision No.	Date	Checked	Approved

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**SOUTH FRONT LAWN LIGHTING, KENSINGTON PALACE, KENSINGTON
GARDENS, LONDON W8 4PX
AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF**

Site Code: KEN26

Central NGR: TQ 2592 7996 (525922,179964)

Commissioning Client: Historic Royal Palaces

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April 2015

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1 ABSTRACT

- 1.1 Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited was commissioned by Historic Royal Palaces to undertake an archaeological watching brief during groundworks undertaken in order to lay ducting for lighting cables for permanent path-lighting on Meadow Walk and along the South Front Lawn of Kensington Palace, Kensington Gardens (Figure 1).
- 1.2 The works involved the excavation of a short east-west trench along the southern edge of the South Front Lawn to connect the ducting to an existing manhole; this trench then turned into a long narrow North-South which ran parallel to Meadow Walk, which runs along the South Front from Kensington Gardens to the Palace (Figure 2).
- 1.3 The watching brief has revealed natural superficial deposits beneath a series of walls which are considered to relate to the 18th century layout and development of the palace gardens. Some possible evidence for terracing and embankment was found, dating from the 19th century or later. Modern activity in the form of service trenches was also seen.
- 1.4 No evidence was observed of activity at the site from before the 18th century. All recorded archaeological features discussed in this report were left undisturbed and *in situ*.

2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited was commissioned by Historic Royal Palaces to undertake an archaeological watching brief during groundworks carried out in order to place ducting for electrical cables for permanent path lighting on Meadow Walk and the South Front Lawn of Kensington Palace, Kensington Gardens, London, W8 4PX in the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea. The site is centred at National Grid Reference TQ 2592 7996 (525922,179964) (Figure 1). Kensington Palace is a Grade I Scheduled Monument.
- 2.2 The scheme of works involved the excavation of a narrow trench which ran east-west parallel to a path within Kensington Gardens for a short distance before turning north and running parallel to a recently constructed path along the South Front Lawn, known as Meadow Walk (Figures 1 and 2). This path had been the subject of previous archaeological works between 2010 and 2012 (Bashford 2012).
- 2.3 The works were carried out between 11th March and 18th March 2015 and were supervised by David Taylor and project managed by Chris Mayo both of Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd. The works were monitored by Fiona Keith-Lucas, curator for Historic Royal Palaces and by Michael Turner, Inspector of Historic Buildings and Areas at the Government Historic Estates Unit, English Heritage. The works were conducted in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (Mayo 2015).
- 2.4 A “Statement of Significance” was prepared for the project by Fiona Keith-Lucas (2015), which detailed the archaeological background and potential to the project.
- 2.5 Upon completion of the project the site archive will be transferred to HRP’s archive store at Kensington Palace, identified with the unique site code KEN26.

Plate 1: View northeast of South Front Lawn; the author is shown standing halfway along the cable trench



Plate 2: View north of cable trench



3 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

- 3.1 The British Geological Survey 1:50,000 series Sheet 256 (North London) and Sheet 257 (South London) indicates that the site is underlain by Quaternary Post-Diversionary Thames river deposits composed of Lynch Hill Gravels.
- 3.2 A topographic survey of the site provided by HRP shows spot heights ranging from approximately 21.88m OD and 23.72m OD in the area of the works. These heights reflect a rise in ground level from the south to the north as Meadow Walk traverses an artificial bank towards the palace.

4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

- 4.1 The following information is reproduced from the "Statement of Significance", prepared for the project by Fiona Keith-Lucas (2015).
- 4.2 The site of Kensington Palace was established between 1605 and 1614 when George Coppin built a villa-style Jacobean mansion designed by John Thorpe. Accompanying this was a series of gardens, their layout unknown, but deeds from c.1630 suggest a landscape of ornamental gardens, orchards, woodland, pasture and arable with a number of outbuildings including barns and stables. In 1661 the property passed to the Finch family, becoming known as 'Nottingham House' when Heneage Finch became the 1st Earl of Nottingham in 1681. During his occupancy the building was extended to thirty rooms. Evidence for ornamental terracing from Nottingham House was found immediately to the northeast and southeast of the current palace during the archaeological watching brief of 2011 (Bashford, 2012).
- 4.3 Nottingham House was sold to William III and Mary II in 1689. Almost immediately Sir Christopher Wren began work to expand and improve the house. For speed and economy the core of the existing building was retained, with pavilions built at each of the corners. The precise footprint of the pavilions is not fully understood, and it may be that archaeological remains from the 2011 watching brief revealed the original extent of the southeast pavilion. In 1695, the King's Gallery was built; spanning the two southern pavilions and creating a new South Front.
- 4.4 William III and Mary II spent vast amounts of capital on the building and gardens, and took a keen interest in the surrounding landscape. George London and Henry Wise designed the layout of the gardens which had ornamental gardens to the east and south.
- 4.5 Meadow Walk was only reinstated in 2011, but reflecting the historical layout of the garden. Its original date remains unclear; perhaps dating back to Wren's pavilions in 1689, or to the construction of the King's Gallery; these, after all, created the eastern extent of the palace that is respected by the path. It is felt most likely that the original path is attributable to London and Wise as part of the formal gardens of William and Mary.
- 4.6 Queen Anne (1702 to 1714) undertook no major building work at Kensington, but spent £26,000 expanding and enhancing the gardens and parkland. The Wilderness and Orangery were built to the north of the Palace. In 1704-5, the works accounts record "coping the walls at the end of the baytree walk before the south front of the house" (TNA AO 1/2446/140). These walls are thought to have been found during Oxford Archaeology's 2011 watching brief on the south lawn; showing parts of Wise's scheme to remain preserved archaeologically in the study area.

- 4.7 Under George I, Henry Wise remained as Master Gardener, answerable to Vanbrugh; Surveyor-General of Gardens and Waters. From 1726, Wise was supported by Charles Bridgeman. Minor changes to the gardens were ongoing, for instance the aforementioned baytree walk lasted until at least c.1720, but appears to have been removed by the time of Kip's engraving in 1724 and replaced with paving, tentatively for a fountain.
- 4.8 In 1726 Bridgeman and Wise's scheme for the Broad Walk, round pond and Great Bow of trees was instigated, and in 1727-8, Queen Caroline directed that lawn was to be laid "from the Orangery down to the southern extent next the town"; allowing uninterrupted views to the new landscaping to the east, and providing pleasant open areas. The line of the path, later to be reinstated as Meadow Walk, was still partially defined by terracing. The watching brief of 2011 covered the construction of Meadow Walk, but this cut only c.250mm deep into topsoil. The proposed cable would require a trench c.600mm deep which could well reveal significant archaeological evidence from the gardens of Wise and/or Bridgeman. A watching brief would therefore be essential, but it is not thought that the significance of these potential remains should preclude the installation of the new lighting.
- 4.9 It is of course possible that archaeological deposits pre-dating Kensington Palace, or indeed Nottingham House, will be encountered in the trenched area. A prehistoric ditch has been uncovered less than 500m to the north of the palace, with scattered find-spots of prehistoric material in the wider vicinity. With strong evidence of Roman farming to the east, and speculated Iron Age settlement c.1km to the south-west, one must keep an open mind and a keen eye to finding archaeology from these early periods. Clusters of Saxon and medieval activity are perhaps more predictable, and although the church and settlement of Kensington was within 1km, it is less likely that archaeology from these periods will be encountered at the Palace. The layout of the garden changed little from 1727 to 2012, so it is unlikely that significant archaeological remains will be found from the 19th century or later.

5 METHODOLOGY

- 5.1 The archaeological watching brief was designed to determine the presence or absence of surviving deposits and features at the site and, where appropriate, to record them accordingly. It also sought to clarify the nature and extent of existing disturbance and intrusions and hence assess the degree of archaeological survival.
- 5.2 The excavations were undertaken by HRP's contractor using a combination of mechanical and hand-held tools, continuously monitored by the attendant archaeologist. All deposits and features were investigated as far as was reasonably practical and safe.
- 5.3 Following all excavations the relevant faces of each intervention were cleaned using appropriate hand tools and were recorded in plan at a scale of 1:100 and in section at a scale of 1:10.
- 5.4 All deposits were recorded on proforma context sheets. Trench plans and sections were drawn at a scale of 1:100 and 1:10 respectively. Where archaeology was found a detailed 1:20 plan was produced. A digital photographic record was maintained of all of the site works and remains found.
- 5.5 Figure 2 shows the trench locations as excavated. The trenches were set out by HRP's contractor. For the purpose of archaeological recording, topographic data provided by HRP was used to locate the trenches (drawing reference "Gardens Topographic Survey" by Glanville Consultants 2007; Dwg No KEN07T01 (GS270858/101); dated Nov 2007). Topographic data from that document was used to calculate all spot-heights during site recording and within this report.
- 5.6 Site records were compiled in accordance with the approved WSI and the guidance set out in PCA's Operations Manual 1 (Taylor, 2009).
- 5.7 All site records and finds were identified with the unique site code KEN26. Upon completion of the works the site archive will be transferred to HRP's archive store at Kensington Palace using that unique site reference number.
- 5.8 During the fieldwork the following interventions, required for the implementation of the new scheme, were monitored:

Trench	Dims at GL	Max depth
Cable Trench	55m x 0.4m	0.60m
Cable Trench (western arm)	7.70m x 0.40m	0.60m
Cable Trench spurs	0.15m x 1m	0.30m

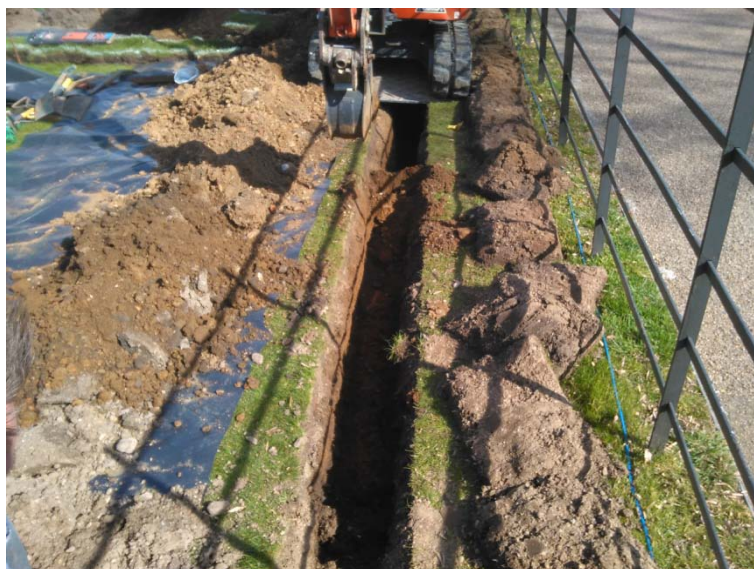
- 5.9 For the main length of the cable trench the area was de-turfed and then excavated using a combination of hand tools and a 1.5 tonne machine using a 9-inch ditching bucket. The trench was dug in spits to allow the archaeologist to ensure no archaeological remains were disturbed without being recorded. This part of the trench was 55m long and ran parallel to Meadow Walk north-south along the South Lawn; the trench was 0.4m wide and 0.6m deep apart from in those places where archaeological remains were observed. As can be seen from Plate 3 the trench was located directly to the south-east of the current building.

Plate 3: Northern length of cable trench –view north



- 5.10 In order to connect the new cable trench with an existing manhole an east west arm was dug from the south-western corner of the main length of trench along the southern edge of the Palace lawn, which was 7.70m x 0.4m and was dug to a depth of 0.6m by hand and machine.

Plate 4: Cable Trench, Western Arm excavation – view east



- 5.11 In addition to the main trench, small spurs approximately 0.15m x 1m in size were dug towards the fence line to a depth of around 0.3m. They were excavated by hand to encompass smaller ducts that the lights were to be sat upon. There were a total of nineteen of these.

Plate 5: Side spurs –view east



6 PHASED ARCHAEOLOGICAL SEQUENCE

6.1 Phase 1: Natural

- 6.1.1 The earliest deposit encountered during the watching brief were natural sands [8] belonging to the Lynch hill gravel group. The deposit was recorded at heights ranging from 22.16m OD to 21.80m OD.

6.2 Phase 2: Undated Terracing

- 6.2.1 Towards the middle of the cable trench was seen a distinct drop in the level the natural sands, which fell at an angle of approximately 45° from north to south (Figure 4, section 3). This edge was so stark that it is considered to be the result of terracing, possibly during one of the many garden configurations carried out by the Finch family in the early 17th century or in the late 17th/early 18th century carried out by Wise and Bridgeman. The cut [19] was sealed by a homogenous deposit which is crudely dated to 19th century or later.

6.3 Phase 3: 18th Century Features

- 6.3.1 Within the study area four 18th century brick features were observed. From south to north within the trench, the first [6] was a well preserved wall, at least two courses high by two courses wide. It was orientated east-west and spanned the whole width of the trench as shown in Plates 6 and 7. The wall was at least 0.4m long by 0.2m wide and 0.18m high. It was built using red unfrogged brick, fabric 3032/3033, dating from the 18th century (B.Seddon pers.comm.). It was trench-built within construction cut [15], and the top of the wall was recorded at 21.52m OD.

Plates 6 and 7: South and west views of wall [6]



- 6.3.2 The second of these brick features [7] was probably a wall also running east-west; however as can be seen in Plate 8, it was very degraded and was obscured by modern security cables, the excavation for which may have impacted upon the wall. It was constructed of red unfrogged brick, and measured at least 0.4m long by 0.2m wide. It was recorded at approximately 21.42m OD.

Plate 8: Truncated wall [7] and location of modern security cables



- 6.3.3 The third brick feature [9] was aligned NE-SW and had dimensions of 0.4m E-W and 0.6m N-S with an unknown thickness, shown in Plate 9. A brick sample from this feature is described as red unfrogged brick, fabric 3032/3033, with the shape of the edges indicating an 18th century date (B.Seddon pers. comm.). The top of the feature, which may be a garden wall, was recorded at approximately 20.55m OD. It was trench built within construction cut [17].

Plate 9: View north of brick feature [9]



- 6.3.4 The fourth brick feature [12] was an E-W aligned wall, built in header courses and one brick thick (0.2m). It spanned the trench (>0.4m) and was at least 0.1m high from an upper height of approximately 22.05m OD. It was built with unfrogged 18th century red brick (Plate 10) within construction cut [18].

Plate 10 West view of wall [12]



6.4 Phase 4: 19th Century Landscaping

- 6.4.1 At the northern end of the cable trench was seen a considerable deposit of homogenous dark greyish brown sandy clay deposit [13] that contained frequent ceramic building material (CBM) and pot, dated to 1805-1900 (C.Jarrett pers comm). The deposit is considered to be part of the construction of the landscaped bank at the northern side of the south lawn. It measured at least 0.65m thick from an upper level of approximately 22.90m OD (Figure 4, section 5).

6.5 Phase 5: Post 19th Century terracing

- 6.5.1 Sealing the landscaped bank [13] was a homogenous subsoil deposit [5] which was observed along almost the whole length of the cable trench (Figure 4), ranging in thickness from around 0.2m to 0.5m. Its' surface was recorded at heights between 21.85m OD to the south and 22.90m OD to the north. The deposit was sterile and is therefore undated, however it is phased here by its stratigraphic position above the 19th century layer [13]. The deposit is attributable to the late post-medieval / modern landscaping of the palace grounds.

6.6 Phase 6: Modern

- 6.6.1 Modern activity was represented by a number of service cuts: [14] filled by [4]; [3] filled by [2]; [10] filled by [11]. Sealing all of the above was a topsoil horizon [1].

7 INTERPRETATION AND CONCLUSIONS

- 7.1 The watching brief has revealed natural superficial deposits beneath a series of walls which are considered to relate to the 18th century layout and development of the palace gardens. Some possible evidence for terracing and embankment was found, dating from the 19th century or later. Modern activity in the form of service trenches was also seen.
- 7.2 The work by OA in 2011 recorded two walls aligned E-W at the southern end of their Trench 61, located just to the west of the cable trench (Figure 5). The walls found in 2011 were interpreted as remains of an earlier gate configuration (Bashford 2011, 22) and were much wider than the walls encountered in PCA's work. It is therefore considered that the newly discovered walls have no direct relationship with those found by OA, but are likely instead to be remnants of garden walls or planter beds. The remains from both phases of work have been shown on Figure 5.
- 7.3 The possible undated terracing cut may be related to the garden designs implemented by Bridgeman in 1733 (Keith-Lucas 2015, Figure 9) – although at a high scale and perhaps with a degree of artistic license, this plan suggests terracing in the area of the South Lawn.
- 7.4 No evidence was observed of activity at the site from before the 18th century.
- 7.5 All recorded archaeological features discussed in this report were left undisturbed and *in situ*.
- 7.6 Natural sands [8] were encountered across the majority of the site at heights ranging from approximately 22.16m OD to 21.80m OD.
- 7.7 The results of the archaeological investigation will be published as an entry in the London Archaeologist 'Round Up'.
- 7.8 The site archive is currently held by PCA at its headquarters in Brockley, London. Following approval of this report by HRP, the entire site archive will be deposited at HRP's archive store at Hampton Court Palace using unique site reference number KEN26.

8 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- 8.1 Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited would like to thank Historic Royal Palaces for funding the work, which was commissioned by Alex Attelsey of HRP. We also thank Fiona Keith-Lucas, Curator at Historic Royal Palaces, and Michael Turner, Inspector of Historic Buildings and Areas at the Government Historic Estates Unit, Historic England, for monitoring the project.
- 8.2 The author wishes to thank Chris Mayo for project management and editing this report, Adela Murray-Brown for the illustrations, and Chris Jarrett and Berni Seddon for dating the finds.

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9.2 Internet Sources

Historic Royal Palaces website:

<http://www.hrp.org.uk/KensingtonPalace/stories/buildinghistory/default.aspx>

APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT INDEX

Site Code	Context	Type	Plan	Section	Comments	Date	Phase
KEN26	1	Layer	-	1,2,3,4,5	Topsoil	Modern	6
KEN26	2	Fill	-	-	Backfill of service trench [3]	Modern	6
KEN26	3	Cut	Tr1	-	Service trench	Modern	6
KEN26	4	Layer	-	1	Backfill around modern security cables	Modern	6
KEN26	5	Layer	-	1,2,3,4,5	Sandy clay subsoil	Post C19	5
KEN26	6	Masonry	6	1	E-W aligned wall	C18	3
KEN26	7	Masonry	7	-	E-W aligned wall	C18	3
KEN26	8	Layer	Tr1	1,2,3,4,5	Natural sands	natural	1
KEN26	9	Masonry	9	2	NE-SW aligned brick feature	C18	3
KEN26	10	Cut	-	-	Cut of service trench	Modern	6
KEN26	11	Fill	-	-	Fill of [10]	Modern	6
KEN26	12	Masonry	12	4	E-W aligned wall	C18	3
KEN26	13	Layer	-	5	19th century ground raising	C19	4
KEN26	14	Cut	-	1	Service trench	Modern	6
KEN26	15	Cut	6	1	Construction cut for [6]	C18	3
KEN26	16	Cut	-	-	Construction cut for [7]	C18	3
KEN26	17	Cut	9	2	Construction cut for [9]	C18	3
KEN26	18	Cut	12	4	Construction cut for [12]	C18	3
KEN26	19	Cut	-	3	Terracing cut?	undated	2

APPENDIX 3: OASIS FORM

OASIS ID: preconst1-206850

Project details

Project name	South Lawn Lighting, Kensington Palace, Kensington Gardens, London W8 4PX: An Archaeological Watching Brief
Short description of the project	An archaeological watching brief on excavation in preparation for path lighting along the South Lawn. The watching brief revealed garden walls dating to the 18th century and a sequence of terracing / ground raising from the 19th century, all overlying natural sands.
Project dates	Start: 11-03-2015 End: 18-03-2015
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	KEN26 - Sitecode
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	Scheduled Monument (SM)
Current Land use	Other 8 - Land dedicated to the display of a monument
Monument type	GARDEN PATH Post Medieval
Monument type	GARDENS Post Medieval
Significant Finds	POT Post Medieval
Significant Finds	CBM Post Medieval
Investigation type	"Watching Brief"
Prompt	Scheduled Monument Consent

Project location

Country	England
Site location	GREATER LONDON KENSINGTON AND CHELSEA KENSINGTON Kensington Palace
Postcode	W8 4PX
Study area	70.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	TQ 2592 7996 51.5040315296 -0.185520560931 51 30 14 N 000 11 07 W Point
Lat/Long Datum (other)	unknown
Height OD / Depth	Min: 21.80m Max: 22.16m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited
Project brief originator	Historic Royal Palaces
Project design originator	Chris Mayo
Project director/manager	Chris Mayo
Project supervisor	David Taylor
Type of sponsor/funding body	Charity
Name of sponsor/funding body	Historic Royal Palaces

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient	Historic Royal Palaces
Physical Archive ID	KEN26
Physical Contents	"Ceramics"

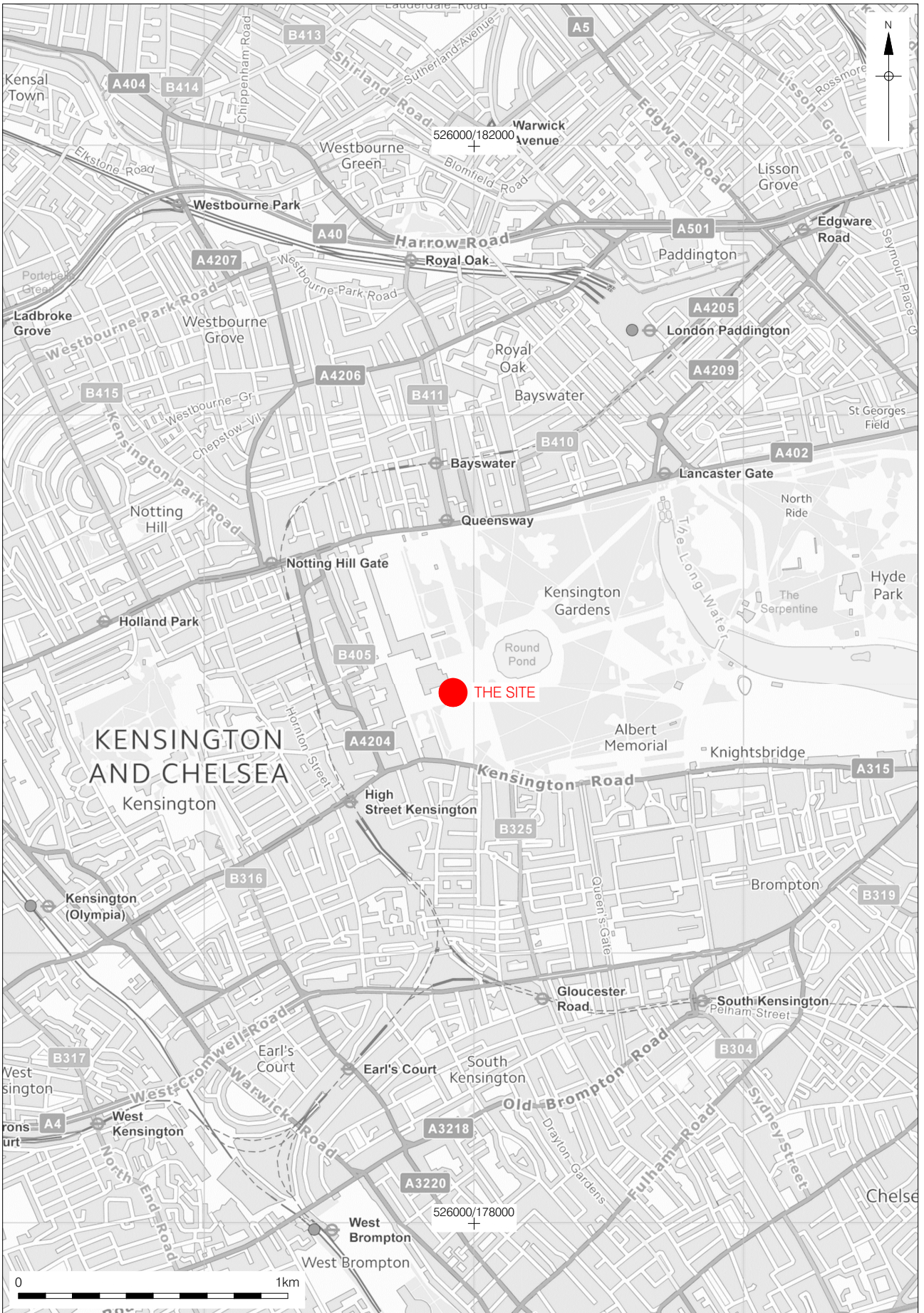
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Digital Archive ID	KEN26
Digital Contents	"Stratigraphic"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography","Images vector","Spreadsheets","Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Historic Royal Palaces
Paper Archive ID	KEN26
Paper Contents	"Stratigraphic"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet","Drawing","Matrices","Photograph","Plan","Report","Section"

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
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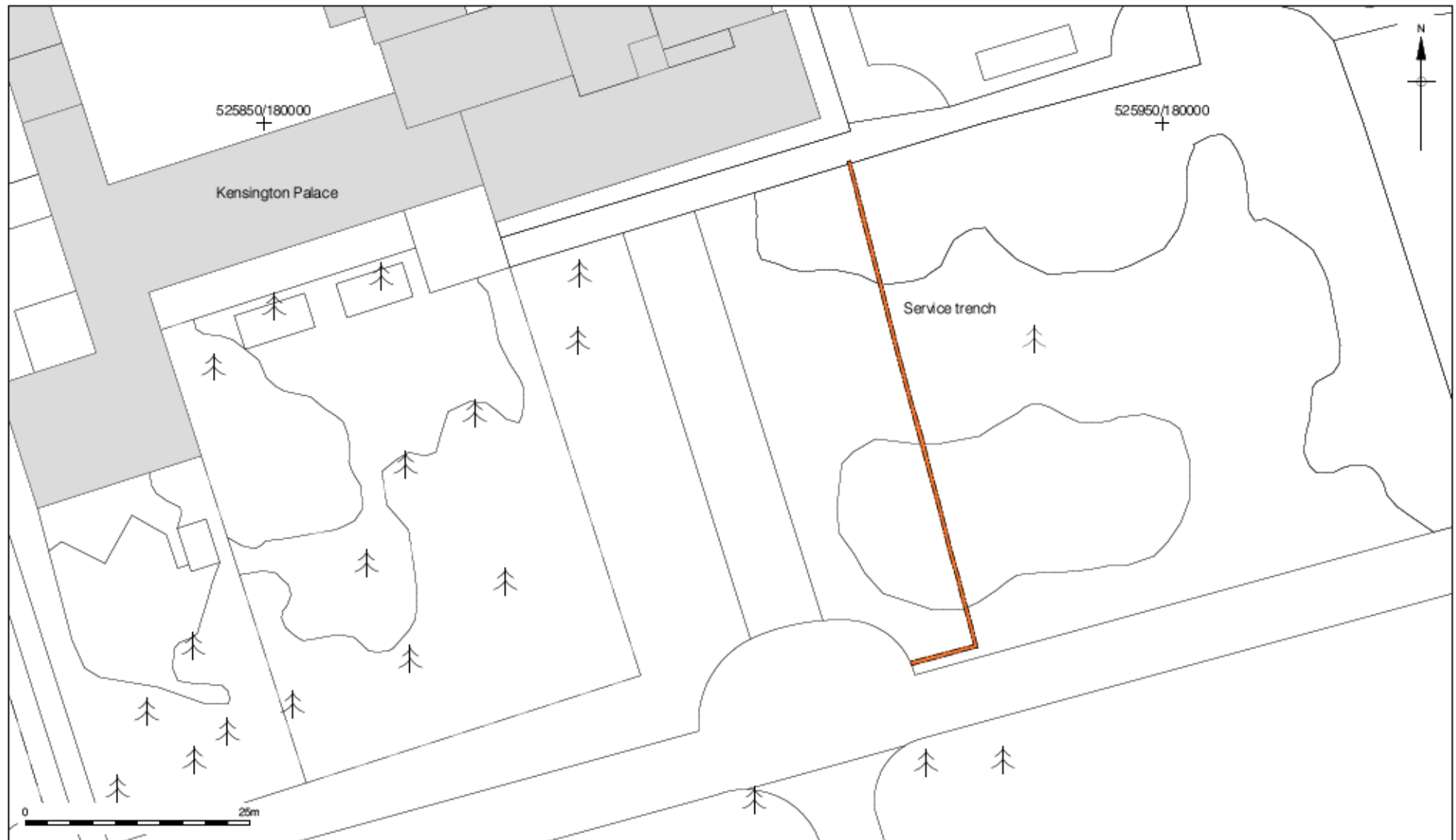
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Entered on	13 April 2015
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Figure 1
 Site Location
 1:20,000 at A4



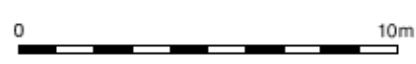
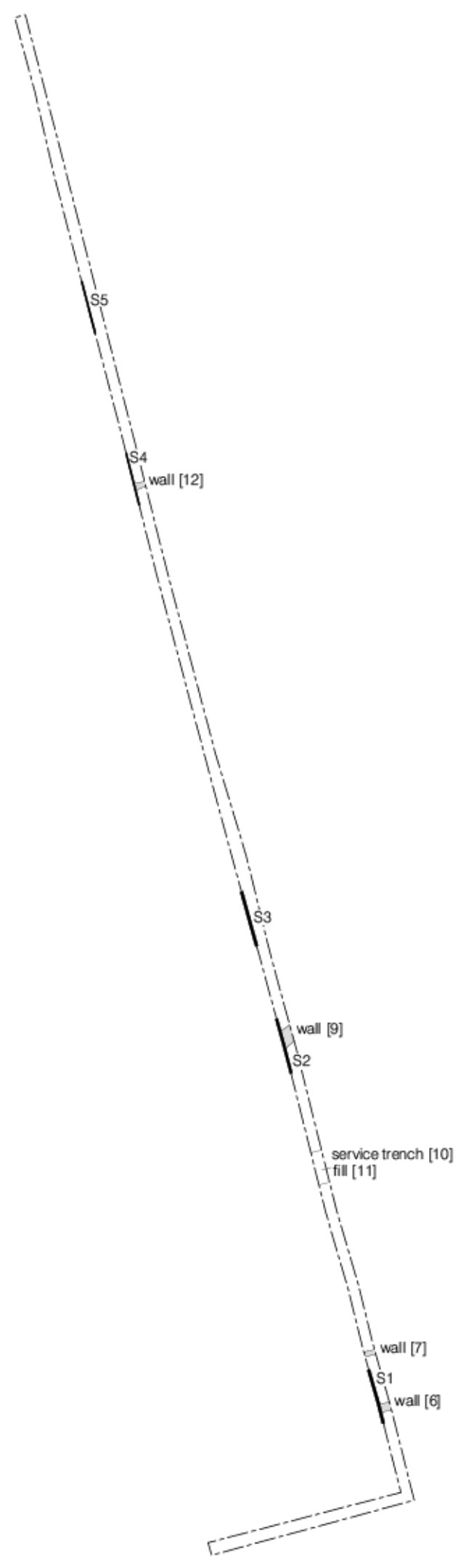
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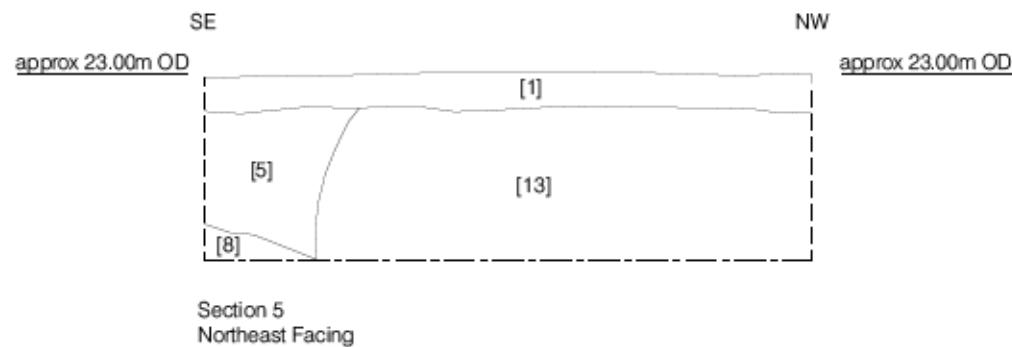
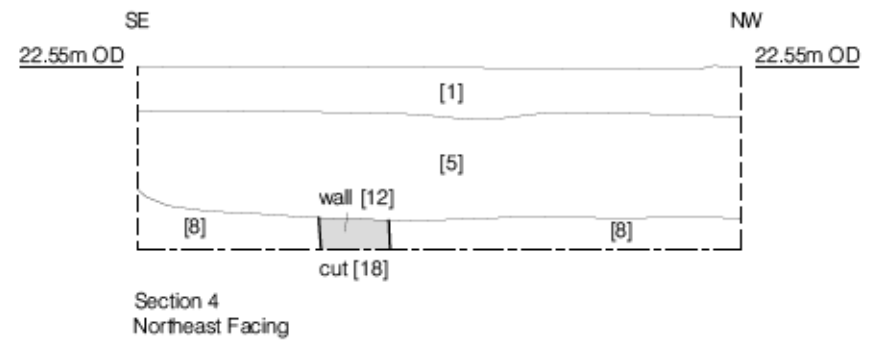
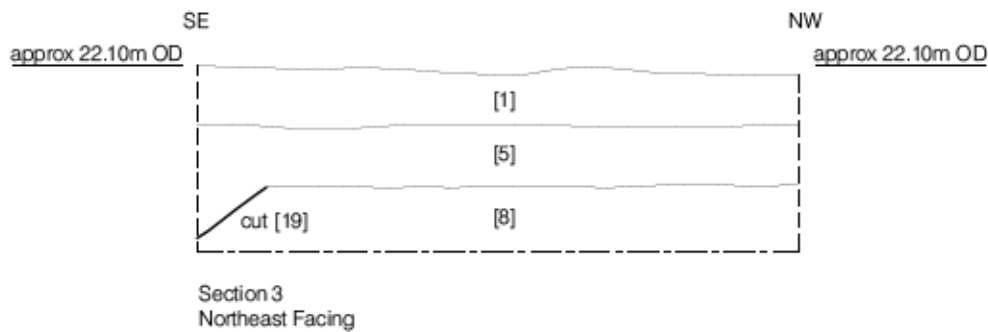
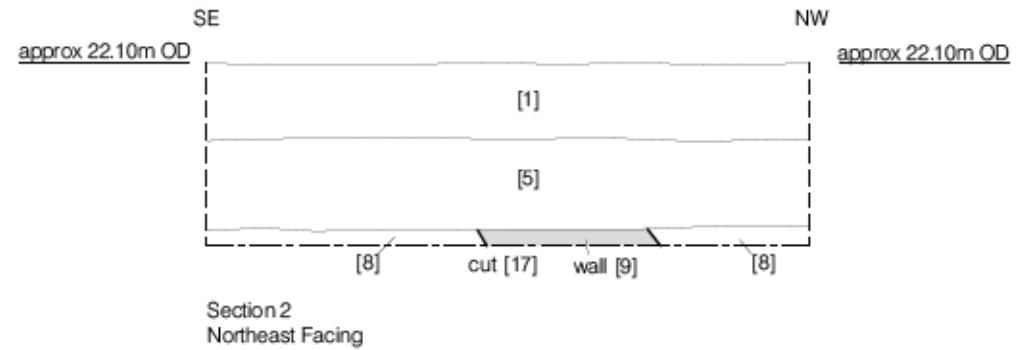
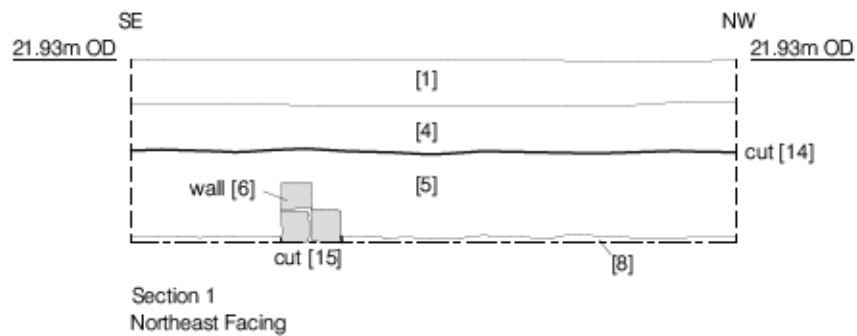
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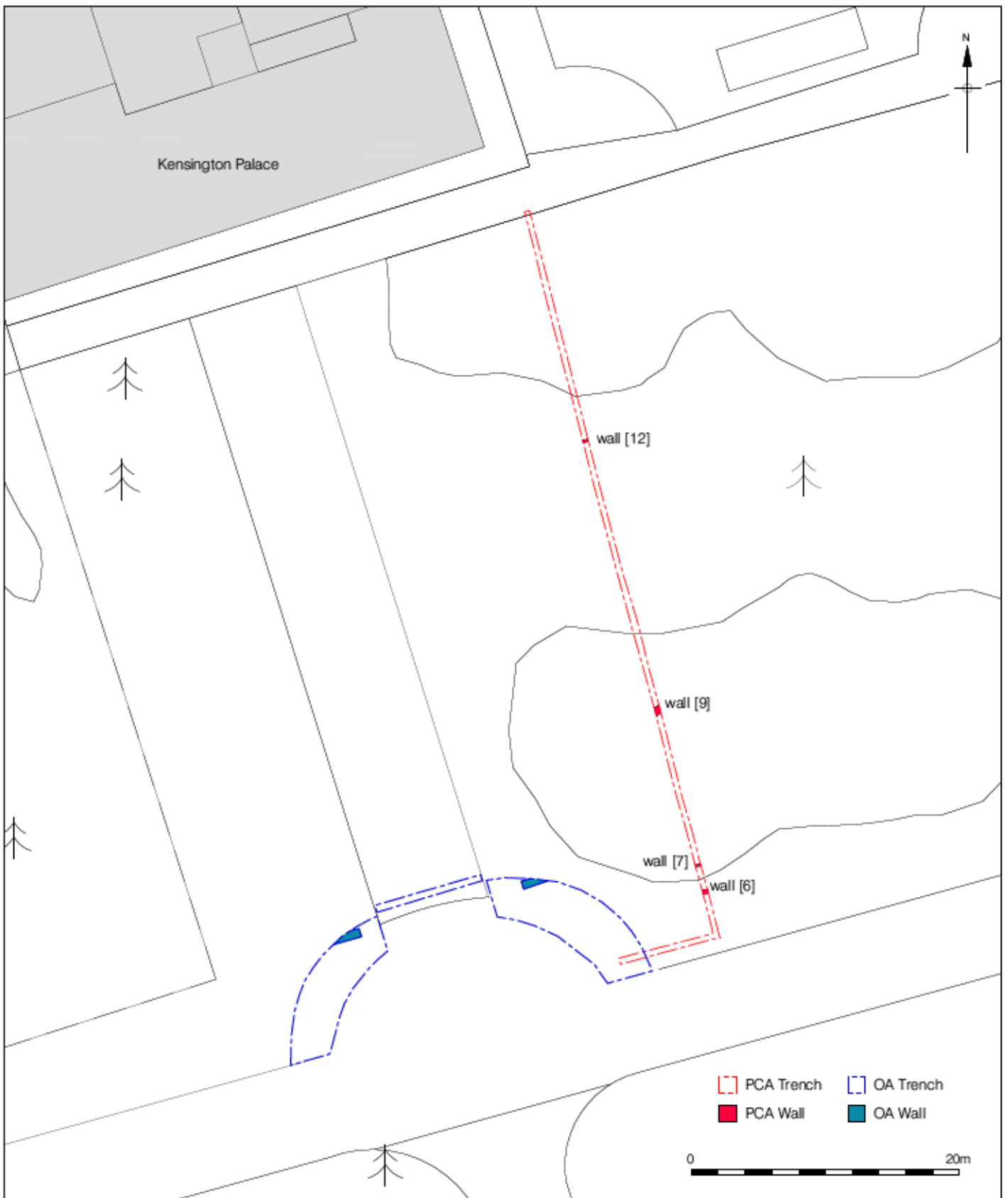
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Figure 2
Trench Location Plan
1:625 at A4







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Figure 2
 Archaeological Features from OA and PCA
 1:625 at A4

PCA

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