PERK'S FIELD LANDSCAPING, KENSINGTON PALACE, KENSINGTON GARDENS, LONDON W8 4PX

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION



SITE CODE: PKG18

AUGUST 2018

PRE-CONSTRUCT ARCHAEOLOGY

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AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

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Site Code: PKG18

Central NGR: TQ 25749 80334

Commissioning Client: The Royal Household

Written/Researched By: Leonardo Penades

Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited

August 2018

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1 ABSTRACT

- 1.1 Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited was commissioned by The Royal Household to undertake an archaeological evaluation upon an area of the lawn at the south-east corner of Perk's Field, to the immediate north of Kensington Palace. The purpose of the evaluation was to determine the presence or absence of any archaeological features and inform upon ground conditions in advance of a proposed landscaping project. During the works three trenches were excavated.
- 1.2 The trenches revealed two linear ditches which probably relate to a sunken garden designed and installed in the early 18th century. These features were sealed by 19th-20th century madeground and the modern lawn. No evidence was observed of activity pre-dating the 18th century.
- 1.3 All recorded archaeological features discussed in this report were investigated and recorded in accordance with an approved Written Scheme of Investigation (Mayo, 2018).

2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited was commissioned by The Royal Household to undertake an archaeological evaluation comprising three trenches within the south-east corner of Perk's Field at Kensington Palace, Kensington Gardens, London, W8 4PX in the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea. The site is centred at National Grid Reference TQ 25749 80334 (Figure 1).
- 2.2 Kensington Palace is a Grade I Scheduled Monument, however Perk's Field is just outside the scheduled area.
- 2.3 The scheme of works involved the excavation and recording by archaeologists of three trenches, each proposed to measure 2m by 1m, excavated to the natural deposits dept using hand tools. Because of extreme weather and soil conditions, the proposed trench measurements were reduced to 2m by 0.5m, and natural strata could only be reached within two trenches.
- 2.4 The evaluation was carried out between 1st to 7th August 2018, was supervised by Leonardo Penades and project managed by Chris Mayo both of Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd. The works were commissioned by Mark Lane for The Royal Household, and were conducted in accordance with an approved Written Scheme of Investigation (Mayo 2018) and monitored by Diane Abrams of Historic England's Greater London Archaeological Advisory Service, Heritage Advisor to the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea.
- 2.5 Upon completion of the project the site archive will be transferred to Museum of London Archaeological Archive (LAA) identified with the unique site code PKG18.

3 PLANNING BACKGROUND

3.1 National Policy: National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)

- 3.1.1 The revised National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) was published on 24 July 2018 and replaces the previous NPPF published in March 2012. The NPPF constitutes guidance for local planning authorities and decision-takers both in drawing up plans and as a material consideration in determining applications.
- 3.1.2 Chapter 16 of the NPPF concerns the conservation and enhancement of the historic environment, with the following statements being particularly relevant to the proposed development:
 - 189. 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.
 - **190.** Local planning authorities should identify and assess the particular significance of any heritage asset that may be affected by a proposal (including by development affecting the setting of a heritage asset) taking account of the available evidence and any necessary expertise. They should take this into account when considering the impact of a proposal on a heritage asset, to avoid or minimise any conflict between the heritage asset's conservation and any aspect of the proposal.

3.1.3 Additionally:

199. Local planning authorities should require developers to record and advance understanding of the significance of any heritage assets to be lost (wholly or in part) in a manner proportionate to their importance and the impact, and to make this evidence (and any archive generated) publicly accessible^[1]. However, the ability to record evidence of our past should not be a factor in deciding whether such loss should be permitted.

3.1.4 In considering any planning application for development, the local planning authority will now

^[1] Copies of evidence should be deposited with the relevant historic environment record, and any archives with a local museum or other public depository

be guided by the updated policy framework set by the NPPF.

3.1.5 The NPPF also states:

- **212.** The policies in this Framework are material considerations which should be taken into account in dealing with applications from the day of its publication. Plans may also need to be revised to reflect policy changes which this replacement Framework has made. This should be progressed as quickly as possible, either through a partial revision or by preparing a new plan.
- **213.** However, existing policies should not be considered out-of-date simply because they were adopted or made prior to the publication of this Framework. Due weight should be given to them, according to their degree of consistency with this Framework (the closer the policies in the plan to the policies in the Framework, the greater the weight that may be given).
- **214.** The policies in the previous Framework will apply for the purpose of examining plans, where those plans are submitted69 on or before 24 January 2019. Where such plans are withdrawn or otherwise do not proceed to become part of the development plan, the policies contained in this Framework will apply to any subsequent plan produced for the area concerned.

3.2 Regional Policy: The London Plan

3.2.1 The London Plan, first published July 2011, updated March 2016, includes the following policy regarding the historic environment in central London, which should be implemented through the Local Development Framework (LDF) being compiled at the Borough level:

POLICY 7.8 HERITAGE ASSETS AND ARCHAEOLOGY

Strategic

- **A.** London's heritage assets and historic environment, including listed buildings, registered historic parks and gardens and other natural and historic landscapes, conservation areas, World Heritage Sites, registered battlefields, scheduled monuments, archaeological remains and memorials should be identified, so that the desirability of sustaining and enhancing their significance and of utilising their positive role in place shaping can be taken into account.
- **B.** Development should incorporate measures that identify, record, interpret, protect and, where appropriate, present the site's archaeology.

Planning decisions

- **C.** Development should identify, value, conserve, restore, re-use and incorporate heritage assets, where appropriate.
- **D.** Development affecting heritage assets and their settings should conserve their significance, by being sympathetic to their form, scale, materials and architectural detail.

E. New development should make provision for the protection of archaeological resources, landscapes and significant memorials. The physical assets should, where possible, be made available to the public on-site. Where the archaeological asset or memorial cannot be preserved or managed on-site, provision must be made for the investigation, understanding, recording, dissemination and archiving of that asset.

LDF preparation

- **F.** Boroughs should, in LDF policies, seek to maintain and enhance the contribution of built, landscaped and buried heritage to London's environmental quality, cultural identity and economy as part of managing London's ability to accommodate change and regeneration.
- **G.** Boroughs, in consultation with English heritage, natural England and other relevant statutory organisations, should include appropriate policies in their LDFs for identifying, protecting, enhancing and improving access to the historic environment and heritage assets and their settings where appropriate, and to archaeological assets, memorials and historic and natural landscape character within their area.

3.3 Local Planning Policy: Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea Local Plan

3.3.1 The local planning authority responsible for the study site is the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea, whose Local Plan was consolidated in July 2015. The Core Strategy contained within the plan includes the following policies relating to the historic environment:

Policy CL3

Heritage Assets - Conservation Areas and Historic Spaces

The Council will require development to preserve and to take opportunities to enhance the cherished and familiar local scene.

To deliver this the Council will:

- a. require development to preserve or enhance the character or appearance of the conservation area and protect the special architectural or historic interest of the area and its setting;
- **b.** resist the change of use of any building where the current use contributes to the character of the surrounding area and to its sense of place;
- **c.** resist substantial demolition in conservation areas unless it can be demonstrated that:
 - i. in the case of substantial harm or loss to the significance of a heritage asset it is necessary to achieve substantial public benefits that outweigh that harm or loss;
 - ii. in the case of less than substantial harm to the significance of a heritage asset, that the public benefits, including securing the optimum viable use, outweigh that harm;
 - iii. the building or part of the building or structure makes no positive contribution to the character or appearance of the area;
- **d.** require full planning applications in conservation areas

Policy CL4

Heritage Assets - Listed Buildings, Schedules Ancient Monuments and Archaeology

The Council will require development to protect the heritage significance of listed buildings, scheduled ancient and sites of archaeological interest.

To deliver this the Council will:

- A. require all development and any works for alterations or extensions related to listed buildings, scheduled ancient monuments and sites of archaeological interest, to preserve the heritage significance of the building, monument or site or their setting or any features of special architectural or historic interest;
- **B.** resist the demolition of listed buildings in whole or in part, or the removal or modification of features of architectural importance, both internal and external;
- **C.** require the preservation of original architectural features, and later features of interest, both internal and external;
- **D.** take opportunities to:
- reinstate internal and external features of special architectural or historic significance,
 commensurate with the extent of proposed development;
- ii. take opportunities to remove internal and external features that harm the architectural or historic significance of the asset, commensurate with the extent of proposed development;
- **E.** resist the change of use of a listed building that would materially harm its character;
- **F.** require any work to a listed building to sustain the significance of the heritage asset and as such strongly encourage any works to a listed building to be carried out in a correct, scholarly manner by appropriate specialists;
- **G.** require desk based assessments and where necessary archaeological field evaluation before development proposals are determined, where development is proposed on sites of archaeological significance or potential.

4 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

- 4.1 The British Geological Survey 1:50,000 series Sheet 256 (North London) and Sheet 257 (South London) indicate that the site is underlain by Quaternary Post-diversionary Thames river deposits composed of Lynch Hill Gravels. These overly London Clay. Previous investigations undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited at Kensington Palace show a natural slope from north to south.
- 4.2 Perk's Field occupies a rectangular plot to the immediate north of Kensington Palace. Its topography is marked by a sunken area at the southern half, derived from the 18th century sunken garden of Henry Wise. The upper eastern edge of the sunken garden lies at heights of approximately 27.50m OD in the south rising to around 28.80m OD. The central, lower sunken area is largely flat between approximately 26.30m OD in the southeast rising to approximately 29.20m OD in the northwest (Mayo 2018).

5 HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

5.1 A comprehensive archaeological and historical background has previously been outlined in a report covering an archaeological evaluation carried out by PCA at Kensington Palace in 2007 (Lythe 2007). The brief synopsis reproduced below was taken from the Written Scheme of Investigation prepared for this project (Mayo 2018)

16th Century

5.2 Hyde Park was acquired by King Henry VIII in 1536 and 600 acres were converted into a deer park. Bayswater Road, named Acton Road in the 16th century, marked the northern boundary of the park, whilst the forerunner of High Street Kensington delineated the southern boundary. In 1538, during the Reformation, Abbot's Manor also passed to the Crown, remaining property of the King until the end of the century. In 1599, it was sold to Sir Walter Cope, joint Keeper of Hyde Park and Chamberlain of the Exchequer. He also bought the neighbouring manors of West Town in 1591 and Notting Barns (Impey 2003).

17th Century

- 5.3 At some point before his death in 1614, Sir Walter Cope sold off a strip of land that would later become the grounds of Kensington Palace. It was bounded by Hyde Park to the east, Kensington Church Street to the west, Acton Road to the north and the forerunner of Kensington High Street to the south. George Coppin, Clerk of the Crown and friend of Cope's, purchased the land between 1605 and 1614 (Impey 2003).
- 5.4 Coppin was responsible for the first phase of Kensington Palace's construction, between 1605 and 1620. He commissioned a villa-style Jacobean mansion, probably designed by land surveyor and antiquary John Thorpe. The villa was rectangular in plan, its long axis being orientated east-west. Bay windows were centrally placed on the north, east and west facing exterior walls, whilst the main entrance was located in the middle of the southern wall. Internally, the building consisted of a long, central hall, orientated north-south, with rooms leading off to the east and west. This would later become the Palace's core, around which later additions would be added (Impey 2003).
- Whilst much was replaced, vestiges of the Jacobean core can still be recognised in the modern-day layout of Kensington Palace. A series of architectural drawings (reproduced in Impey 2003) suggest the north and south facing walls of what is now the Cupola Room are in the probable positions of the northern and southern walls of the original core, whilst the northern and southern entranceways of the King's Drawing Room appear to mark the approximate position of its demolished eastern wall. It remains a possibility that some Jacobean masonry survives along the northern side of what is now known as White Court, possibly below ground level in the form of stairs associated with the mansion's main entrance.
- 5.6 The estate remained the property of the Coppins for a further two generations, before passing to the Finch family sometime around 1630. Deeds suggest the grounds consisted of ornamental

gardens combined with orchards, woodland, pastoral and arable land at the time of sale. A series of outbuildings are also listed, including barns and stables. The writings of Samuel Pepys, who visited the house in 1664, mention the presence of a fountain. A "marble conduit" and a grotto, situated in a plot next to the southwest corner of the main building, were documented in 1662 (Impey 2003).

- 5.7 An inventory, compiled in 1676, suggests the property contained at least thirty rooms, indicating a phase of enlargement, perhaps in the location of the Queens Apartments. The estate remained in the possession of the Finch family for three generations. It became known as Nottingham House after Sir Heneage Finch II was made 1st Earl of Nottingham in 1681 (Impey 2003).
- 5.8 Before the reign of William (1689-1702) and Mary (1689-1694), the main royal residence in London was Whitehall Palace. This changed in 1689, when the Monarchs purchased Nottingham House from Daniel Finch, 2nd Earl of Nottingham. The King and Queen then commissioned a series of works designed to modernise the building. They were carried out under the instruction of Sir Christopher Wren (Surveyor of the King's Works, 1669 to 1718) and Nicholas Hawksmoor (appointed Clerk of Works, 1689-1715).
- It is thought that, in order to save time and money, the Jacobean core of Nottingham House was left intact. Wren's modifications were then added to its four corners, creating a more modern, classical look. The extensions, known as "pavilions", were three storeys high with attics, providing additional space for the Royal Court. Wren also re-orientated the building by designing a new entrance and service courtyard, known as Great Court or Clock Court, on its western side. Kitchens were situated on the northern side of this and an archway and clock tower (still extant today) were added to the west. On the south side, a narrow range containing The Stone Gallery was constructed. This connected Wren's new main entrance with the southwest pavilion.
- 5.10 The building became known as Kensington House when the Royal Court took up residence, sometime after 1689. Shortly afterwards, Queen Mary instigated further building work with the intention of enlarging and improving her personal apartments. This resulted in the construction of The Queens Gallery, replete with its own staircase.
- 5.11 In November 1691, Kensington House was partially damaged by fire. Part of the southern range of Great Court was destroyed, necessitating repair work. The reconstructions provided an opportunity to remodel the approach to the Royal Apartments, during which the King's Staircase was rebuilt in marble and a lavishly decorated Guard Chamber was constructed at its base.
- 5.12 The last modification undertaken at the request of William III was the construction of the South Front, built in 1695, probably by Hawksmoor. This contained a long gallery at first-floor level.

18th Century

5.13 Few modifications were made to the Palace during the reign of Queen Anne (1702-1714), although her apartments were extended with the addition of several new rooms. The same

cannot be said of the gardens, upon which £26,000 was spent. Several outbuildings were constructed, the most famous being The Orangery, which still stands to the north of the Palace. This was used as a greenhouse for the wintering of exotic plants, a "summer supper house" and a place of entertainment.

- 5.14 A survey conducted in 1716 at the request of George I (1714-1727) found Kensington House to be in a very poor state of repair. As a consequence, a restorative campaign was launched under the supervision of William Benson, Surveyor of the King's Works (1718 to 1719). It is thought that the core of the Jacobean building was partially replaced by three new State Rooms, known as the Privy Chamber, the Cupola Room and the Withdrawing Room. They were probably designed by Colen Campbell, Deputy Surveyor of the King's Works, and elaborately decorated by the painter William Kent. The palace played an important role in the courtly life of George II, until his death in 1760.
- 5.15 George III (1760-1830) did not live at Kensington Palace after his father's death, which marked the last time a reigning monarch would reside there. As a result, the palace gradually fell into disrepair throughout the latter half of the 18th century.
- 5.16 In 1798, George III's brother, the Duke of Kent, was granted two dilapidated floors in the south-east corner of the Palace. He therefore instigated repair work, accompanied by a series of modifications to the lower floors. A new porch was constructed on the eastern side of Great Court, along with an entrance hall and a double staircase, which lead into the Red Saloon and others beyond. The work was carried out under the supervision of the architect James Wyatt, Surveyor-General to the Board of Works.

19th Century

- 5.17 The future Queen Victoria was born at Kensington Palace in 1819, living there with her mother, the Duchess of Kent, until her accession in 1837. Throughout the reign of William IV (1830-1837), the Duchess made several changes to the building. Under the supervision of architect Sir Jeffry Wyatville, the King's Gallery was partitioned into three rooms for the use of Princess Victoria. The Duchess' personal living quarters were also extended into the unused State Apartments on the second floor.
- 5.18 After Victoria became Queen (1837-1901), Kensington Palace ceased to be occupied as a residence. The State Apartments were neglected, being used as a storage area for objects from other palaces. As a result, the structural fabric of the building deteriorated; the brickwork began to degrade and much of the woodwork became infested with dry rot. An article in an 1888 issue of "The Queen's Homes" described the State Apartments as being "...empty, bare, dreary and comfortless...nothing but bare walls and bare boards".
- 5.19 During the 1890s, a plan concerning the Palace's demolition was put forward, a proposition that may have come to pass were it not for the intervention of the Queen. In 1897, Parliament was persuaded to pay for restorative building work, the aim of which was to recreate the Palace of George II. After the work was completed, the State Apartments were opened to the public and

used as an exhibition space. This took place on the Queens 80th birthday, on 24th May 1899.

20th Century

- 5.20 The State Apartments were acquired by London Museum in 1911, before being used as offices for charitable organisations throughout the First World War (1914-1918). In 1932-1933 further restorative work was carried out on Queen Victoria's apartments at the request of Queen Mary.
- 5.21 The State Apartments were subject to bomb damage during the Second World War (1939-1945), the Queen's Apartments being particularly badly affected. It was therefore necessary to close the Palace to the public for a total of five years, whilst repairs were made. It was then reoccupied by London Museum, which remained there until 1976¹.

Perk's Field

- 5.22 The historical background to Perk's Field and the gardens previously located within has been detailed within the Conservation Management Plan for Kensington Palace (Cookson & Tickner Ltd 2016, 24-29). The following presents a summary of the development of this area.
- 5.23 As stated within the Conservation Management Plan, "In April 1702 the planting of a Wilderness to the north of the Palace was started by Henry Wise [1653-1738]... The Wilderness garden included the much-acclaimed "mount" [formed of trees of different heights designed to give the appearance of a mount] to which the adjacent sunken terraced garden by Wise provided a counterpoint" (Cookson & Tickner Ltd 2016, 6).
- 5.24 The sunken garden has been illustrated on contemporary maps and plans but not extensively investigated. According to the Kensington Palace Conservation Plan of 2014 (uncredited), "The Wilderness and Sunken Gardens were built on the site of 'nothing but a gravel pit' that exploited to build a sunken garden (as a foil to the Mount in the neighbouring garden division). The area is now an open field [Perk's Field], and the depression of the former 'Pit' can still be clearly seen.
- 5.25 A watching brief (code KEN17) in 2012 was conducted during the excavation of a service trench within the gardens immediately to the north of the structural complex of Kensington Palace. A brick structure was also unveiled, which was interpreted as likely being a section of wall that enclosed the southern side of the sunken garden (Historic Royal Places 2017).
- 5.26 The gardens were again redesigned by Henry Wise for Queen Anne in 1711, and were largely complete by her death in 1714.
- 5.27 Henry Wise was retained as Master Gardener by George I in 1714 and was appointed Royal Gardener in 1726. He retired in March 1728 and was replaced as Royal Gardener by Charles Bridgeman, who set about a series of stark changes from Wise's earlier schemes which are depicted in his plan of around 1733. These suggest limited change, however, to Wise's sunken

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¹ http://www.hrp.org.uk/KensingtonPalace/stories/buildinghistory/default.aspx

garden.

- 5.28 The Conservation Management Plan states that "In 1784 William Forsyth, a founding member of the Royal Horticultural Society, was appointed Gardener to the King at Kensington and made a number of changes...Plans made by Forsyth (dated 1787) show that the sunken garden made by Wise, most of the Upper Wilderness and the serpentine walks had been lost by the mid 1780s" (Cookson & Tickner Ltd 2016, 13). The change can be seen on the historic maps within Appendix 1.
- 5.29 As the sunken garden and Wilderness was lost, they were replaced with the lawn which survives to this day, mapped as such by the First Edition Ordnance Survey of 1867

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6 METHODOLOGY

- 6.1 The archaeological evaluation was designed to determine the presence or absence of remains 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.
- 6.2 The excavations were undertaken by hand by archaeologists working for PCA. All deposits and features were investigated as far as was reasonably practicable and safe.
- 6.3 Following each individual excavation the relevant faces of each test pit were cleaned using appropriate hand tools and were recorded in section at a scale of 1:10.
- 6.4 All deposits were recorded on pro forma context sheets. Where archaeological layers or features were found a detailed 1:20 plan was produced and also recorded in section at 1:10. A digital photographic record was maintained of all of the site works and remains found.
- 6.5 The locations of the three trenches were agreed on the ground with the Project Manager Chris Mayo on the first day of work (Figure 2). The trenches were located to a single base line located through triangulation from fixed points at the south-east corner of the slope of the sunken garden.
- 6.6 Site records were compiled in accordance with the approved WSI and the guidance set out in PCA's *Operations Manual 1* (Taylor 2009).
- 6.7 All site records and finds were identified with the unique site code PKG18, devised and issued by Museum of London.
- 6.8 The trenches were designed to each measure 2m by 1m at ground level. However, the extreme dry conditions coupled with the obdurate ground meant that the trench dimensions were reduce to improve the chance of reaching the desired natural level. In the end, as excavated the trenches had the following dimensions:

Trench	Dimensions	Max depth
Trench 1	N-S 1m x E/W 2m	1.15m
Trench 2	N-S 1m x E/W 2m	0.60m
Trench 3	N-S 0.5m x E/W	1.22m
	2m	

- 6.9 Only Trenches 1 & 3 were completely excavated to natural deposits. Trench 2 was excavated to approximately 0.60m BGL (Plates 1, 2 & 3)
- 6.10 Levels were calculated from a site TBM established using a topographic survey provided by Martin Steel Partnership.

7 ARCHAEOLOGICAL SEQUENCE

7.1 Introduction

- 7.1.1 The archaeological sequence at the site has been divided into four phases, as follows:
 - Phase 1: Natural, characterised by natural deposits of Lynch Hill Gravels;
 - Phase 2: Garden Features, comprising two linear cut features, relating to the layout of the formal garden in the early 18th century by Henry Wise;
 - Phase 3: 19th made-ground; comprising two different layers, relating to the abandonment of the former Sunken Garden
 - Phase 4: The current lawn across the site.
- 7.1.2 Specialist assessments of the artifacts which were recovered during the fieldwork are presented as Appendices to this report, with the pertinent findings discussed within the sequence below.

7.2 Phase 1: Natural

7.2.1 The earliest deposit encountered during the excavation of trenches was natural yellowish red sandy gravels representing the Lynch Hill Gravels. It was observed in Trench 1 and Trench 3 at heights as follows:

Trench	Context	Upper Height
TR1	[5]	26.58m OD
TR3	[11]	26.86m OD

7.2.2 Two linear garden features dating from the early 18th century were truncating this natural deposit.

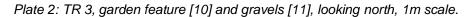
7.3 Phase 2: Early 18th century Garden Features

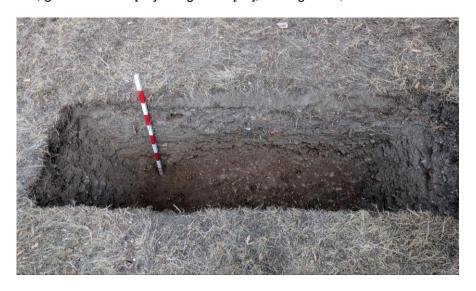
- 7.3.1 The features included within Phase 2 are considered to be planting beds / trenches which, on the basis of datable material found within them, may relate to the layout of the sunken garden such as it was established by Henry Wise between 1711 and 1712. This interpretation is made based upon the cultural material recovered from the features only, not from the exposure of a full cut by which the feature can be convincingly identified. Features from Phase 2 were identified within Trenches 1 & 3.
- 7.3.2 In Trench 1 was found a NW-SE aligned garden feature [4] (Plate 1) which had a nearly vertical side (only its southern edge was exposed) and a horizontal base. The cut measured at least 0.50m N-S, continuing beyond the north-eastern section of the trench, with a depth of 0.35m from an upper height of 26.60m OD. It contained a single fill [3] which yielded one sherd of pottery; from these a likely spot date between 1550 and 1700 was deduced.



Plate 1: TR 1, garden feature [4] and gravels [5], looking east, 1m scale.

7.3.3 In Trench 3 was seen the cut [10] of another feature aligned N-S (Plate 2); it was recorded at an upper height of 26.72m OD with a shallow eastern side horizontal base. Its depth was 0.32m, and its width was at least 0.90m, continuing to the west beyond the edge of the trench. It contained fill [9] which yielded no datable finds.





7.4 Phase 3: 19th Century Made-Ground

7.4.1 The Phase 3 layers are dated by artefactual material within them to the late 19th century and are considered to represent the later landscaping of the former sunken garden. As stated within the Conservation Management Plan:

'In 1784 William Forsyth, a founding member of the Royal Horticultural Society, was appointed Gardener to the King at Kensington and made a number of changes...Plans made by Forsyth (dated 1787) show that the sunken garden made by Wise, most of the Upper Wilderness and the serpentine walks had been lost by the mid 1780's'.

Trench	Context	Upper Height
TR 1	[1]	27.21m OD
TR 1	[2]	26.93m OD
TR 2	[6]	27.19m OD
TR 3	[7]	27.34m OD
TR 3	[8]	27.08m OD



Plate 3: TR 2, made-ground layer [6], looking east, 1m scale.

- 7.4.2 Layers [2] and [8] were recorded in Trench 1 and Trench 3 respectively covering the 18th century garden features. They were interpreted as disturbed horticultural soil. These layers were composed by mid brownish yellow silt/clay deposit with frequent gravels. The finds recovered during the excavation provide a spot date between late 19th to 20th centuries (see Appendices 4, 5, 7 & 8).
- 7.4.3 Sealing the above layers, made-ground layers [1], [6] and [7] were recorded in Trenches 1 to 3

respectively. These three layers were made of very compact / obdurate dark greyish brown silt/sand/clay with frequent medium size gravels, finds from which imply a deposition date between the late 19th to 20th centuries.

7.5 Phase 4: Late 19th Century Lawn

7.5.1 The current turfed surface to Perk's Field was firstly illustrated as such by the First Edition Ordnance Survey of 1867. The lawn was present at the top of each excavated trenches and was recorded as [+].

Trench	Context	Surface Height	Basal level
TR 1	[+]	27.38m OD	27.23m OD
TR 2	[+]	27.44m OD	27.17m OD
TR 3	[+]	27.51m OD	27.20m OD

8 INTERPRETATION AND CONCLUSIONS

- 8.1 The evaluation trenches undertaken at Perk's Field reached natural Lynch Hill gravels in two of the three interventions. This was a natural yellowish red sandy gravel at heights between 26.86m OD in TR 3 and 26.58m OD in TR 1.
- Archaeological remains considered to relate to the arrangement designed by Henry Wise were found in Trench 1 and 3. These comprised linear features, perhaps planting beds or trenches, which may have contained the hedges which defined Wise's sunken garden. Cultural remains recovered from the excavations suggest a date between the late 17th and early 18th centuries, fitting neatly both with Henry Wise's initial garden and then Bridgeman's era as Royal Gardener during which his plan's imply that Wise's layout to the sunken garden was respected rather than being redesigned (compare Plates 1 and 4 in Mayo, 2018). An overlay of the remains to Bridgeman's plan of c1733 suggests a close correlation between the features and the illustrated (?)parterre (Figure 4).
- 8.3 The sunken garden was lost by the mid 1780s (see para 7.4.1). It was landscaped, presumably by the deposition of imported material (or material site-won from elsewhere in the gardens and park). This landscaping deposit was observed in all three trenches, and artefacts recovered from these layers imply a deposition date between the 19th century and the beginning of the 20th century.
- These layers were sealed with the lawn that has been undisturbed to the present day. This lawn appeared illustrated for the first time in the First Edition Ordnance Survey of 1867.
- 8.5 The results of the archaeological investigation will be published as an entry in the *London Archaeologist* 'Round Up'.
- The site archive is currently held by PCA at its headquarters in Brockley, London. The entire site archive will be deposited at LAA archive store using unique site reference number PKG18.

9 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- 9.1 Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited would like to thank The Royal Household for funding the work. We thank Alexandra Attelsey, Peter May and Mark Lane of The Royal Household for their support. We also thanks Martin Steele for his assistance during the project design and execution.
- 9.2 The author wishes to thank Chris Mayo for project management and editing this report, Ray Murphy for the CAD illustrations and specialists Kevin Haywood, Amparo Valcarcel, Chris Jarrett, and Karen Deighton, for their input.

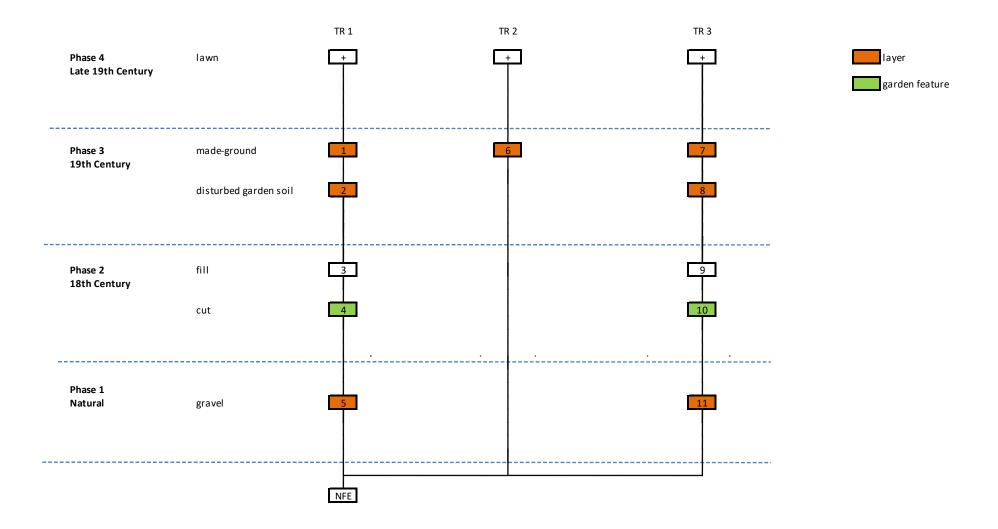
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11 APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT INDEX

Site Code	Context	Type	Trench	Interpretation	E-W (m.)	N-S (m.)	Depth (m.)	Highest Ivl.	Lowest Ivl.
PKG18	1	Layer	TR1	Modern made ground	2.00	1.00	0.30	27.21	27.09
PKG18	2	Layer	TR1	Post-medieval garden soil layer	2.00	1.00	0.32	26.93	26.80
PKG18	3	Fill	TR1	Post-medieval fill of garden feature	1.15	0.50	0.37	26.60	26.58
PKG18	4	Cut	TR1	Cut of linear garden feature	1.15	0.50	0.35	26.60	26.23
PKG18	5	Natural	TR1	Natural gravel	2.00	0.50	0.40	26.58	26.23
PKG18	6	Layer	TR2	Modern made-ground	2.00	1.00	0.28	27.19	27.06
PKG18	7	Layer	TR3	Modern made-ground	2.00	0.50	0.36	27.34	27.20
PKG18	8	Layer	TR3	Post-medieval gardening layer	2.00	0.50	0.22	27.08	26.75
PKG18	9	Fill	TR3	Post-medieval fill of linear garden feature	0.90	0.50	0.32	26.72	26.61
PKG18	10	Cut	TR3	Cut of linear garden feature	0.90	0.50	0.32	26.72	26.40
PKG18	11	Natural	TR3	Natural gravel	2.00	0.50	0.20	26.86	26.38

12 APPENDIX 2: SITE MATRIX



13 APPENDIX 3: OASIS FORM

OASIS ID: preconst1-325490

Project name Perk's Field Landscaping, Kensington Palace, Kensington

Gardens, London W8 4PX. An Archaeological Evaluation

Short description of the project
The purpose of the evaluation was to determine the

presence or absence of any archaeological features and inform upon ground conditions in advance of a proposed landscaping project. During the works three trenches were excavated. The trenches revealed two linear ditches which probably relate to a sunken garden designed and installed in the early 18th century. These features were sealed by 19th-20th century made-ground and the modern lawn. No evidence was observed of activity pre-dating the 18th

century.

Project dates Start: 01-08-2018 End: 07-08-2018

Previous/future work Yes / Not known
Any associated project reference PKG18 - Sitecode

Any associated project refere

codes

FRG 10 - Sitectude

Type of project Field evaluation

Site status None

Current Land use Other 5 - Garden

Monument type GARDEN FEATURE Post Medieval

Significant Finds CBM Post Medieval
Significant Finds CTP Post Medieval

Significant Finds POTTERY Post Medieval
Significant Finds GLASS Post Medieval

Significant Finds METAL Post Medieval

Significant Finds ANIMAL BONES Post Medieval

Methods & techniques "Targeted Trenches"

Development type Not recorded Prompt Research

Position in the planning process Not known / Not recorded

Project location

Country England

Site location GREATER LONDON KENSINGTON AND CHELSEA

KENSINGTON PERK'S FIELD LANDSCAPING, KENSINGTON PALACE, KENSINGTON GARDENS, LONDON W8 4PX. AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

Postcode W8 4PX

Study area 60 Square metres

Site coordinates TQ 25749 80334 51.507431186716 -0.187849927932 51 30

26 N 000 11 16 W Point

Lat/Long Datum Unknown

Height OD / Depth Min: 26.58m Max: 26.86m

Project creators

Name of Organisation Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited

Project brief originator Local Authority Archaeologist and/or Planning

Authority/advisory body

Project design originator Chris Mayo
Project director/manager Chris Mayo

Project supervisor Leonardo Penades

Type of sponsor/funding body Client

Name of sponsor/funding body The Royal Household

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient LAA
Physical Archive ID PKG18

Physical Contents "Animal Bones", "Ceramics", "Glass", "Metal"

Digital Archive recipient LAA

Digital Archive ID PKG18

Digital Contents "Stratigraphic"

Digital Media available "Images raster / digital photography", "Images

vector", "Spreadsheets", "Text"

Paper Archive recipient LAA

Paper Archive ID PKG18

Paper Contents "Stratigraphic"

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

Text"

Project bibliography 1

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

Title Perk's Field Landscaping, Kensington Palace, Kensington

Gardens, London W8 4PX. An Archaeological Evaluation.

Author(s)/Editor(s) Penades, L
Other bibliographic details PCA R13374

Date 2018

Issuer or publisher Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited

Place of issue or publication London

Description A4 grey literature pdf document with PCA covers

Entered by Chris Mayo (cmayo@pre-construct.com)

Entered on 26 August 2018

14 APPENDIX 4: CERAMIC BUILDING MATERIAL ASSESSMENT

By Amparo Valcarcel, Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited, August 2018

14.1 Quantification / Typology / Dating

Context	Fabric	Form	Size	Date range of material		•		Latest date	ed material	Spot date	Spot date with mortar
1	2276,2279, 3032R	Post-medieval peg and pan tiles; post Great fire brick	3	1480	1900	1666	1900	1666-1900	No mortar		
2	3035;2271; 2276	Medieval/post- medieval peg tiles; London stock brick	3	1180	1940	1770	1940	1770-1900	No mortar		
6	2281;3046; 2586	Drain pipe; medieval/post- medieval peg tiles and sandy red brick	6	1180	1950	1700	1950	1700-1900	No mortar		
7	2276;2279	Post-medieval pan and peg tiles	3	1480	1900	1480	1900	1630-1900	No mortar		

14.2 Review

- 14.2.1 A small assemblage of ceramic building material was collected from the archaeological work. The assemblage (15 fragments, 1.33 kg) consists of pieces of fragmentary post-medieval ceramic building material (peg tiles; red sandy and post great fire bricks). Roofing tiles are the most commonly represented form.
- 14.2.2 One fragment of sandy red brick fabric (3046) was identified from context [6]. This fabric was manufactured for use in the City of London using local London brick clay between 1450 and 1700. This fabric continued to be used outside of the confines of the City, where local brickearth was exploited until 1900 (Ken Sabel pers. comm.). The absence of sunken margins indicates a 1700-1900 date. Brick from context [1], made of purple post-Great fire fabric 3032, is highly abraded. The example collected from context [2] is made of London stock fabric, manufactured from 1770 to 1950. The presence of this brick shows a phase of building development at the end of 18th and late 19th century.
- 14.2.3 Flat rectangular peg tiles attached to roofing battens by two nails (as represented by two nail holes), made of fabric 2276, are the main type of roofing material recovered from this site. The introduction of pan tiles is also noted by the presence of fabric 2279. The different roofing tile fabrics (2279, 2276, 2586) and forms (pan and peg tiles) suggests the existence of different types of roof coverings in the area and from several different buildings. A fragment of drain pipe was collected from context [6].

14.3 Conclusions

14.3.1	The building material	assemblage re	flects the lat	er post-medie	val development	of this site a	and
	none of the material is	s of intrinsic int	erest. No fur	ther work is re	ecommended.		

15 APPENDIX 5: CLAY TOBACCO PIPE ASSESSMENT

By Chris Jarrett, Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited, August 2018

- 15.1 A total of six fragments, all of which are stems, were recovered from the archaeological work and these were found in two contexts. Three stems were each found in contexts [2] and [6] and both contain either medium thick stems with medium bores or later thin stems with fine bores. Clay tobacco pipe stems can only be cautiously and broadly dated, although fine bores tend to date to the 18th century onwards and thin stems date to after *c*. 1730. Therefore both contexts are likely to date to between *c*. 1730–1910 according to the clay tobacco pipes.
- The stems have no significance at a local level as they are plain and have very little meaning. The only potential of the material is to broadly date the contexts it was recovered from. There are no recommendations for further work on the finds.

16 APPENDIX 6: FAUNAL REMAINS ASSESSMENT

By Karen Deighton, Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited, August 2018

16.1 Introduction

16.1.1 A small amount of animal bone was recovered from four contexts during the course of evaluation of which three were modern made ground and one was a post medieval garden soil.

16.2 Method

16.2.1 Material was analysed using standard zooarchaeological methods (see references) and recorded onto an access database.

16.3 Preservation

16.3.1 Fragmentation was fairly heavy with most bone at the fragment stage and bone surface condition was good which no evidence of weathering or chemical or root erosion. Some evidence of butchery in the form of chopping and knife marks was observed. Canid gnaw marks were also noted on two bones.

16.4 The taxa present

Table 1: taxa by context

Context	Туре	Cattle size	Sheep/goat	Sheep/goat size	Pig
1	Made ground	1	1		
2	Garden soil		1		1
6	Made ground		1	1	
7	Made ground	1	1		

16.5 Conclusion

16.5.1 The significance and potential of the animal bone is severely limited by the paucity of material and the fact that the majority was recovered from modern contexts. No further work is recommended

16.6 References

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17 APPENDIX 7: POST-ROMAN POTTERY ASSESSMENT

By Chris Jarrett, Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited, August 2018

17.1 Introduction

17.1.1 The post-Roman pottery assemblage consists of 31 sherds, representing 29 estimated number of vessels (ENV) and weighing 382g. The pottery dates to the post-medieval period and particularly the 19th century or later. The condition of the pottery is fragmentary and comprises only sherd material that could be assigned to a form type. None of the material is abraded and only two sherds are residual, although the fragmentary nature of the material indicates that secondary or tertiary deposition processes are involved. The finds were recovered from five contexts containing only small sized groups of pottery (fewer than 30 sherds). The assemblage is discussed as an index.

17.2 Index

17.2.1 Context [1], spot date: 1740-1830

- Creamware (CREA), 1740–1830, 1 sherd, 1 ENV, 5g, form: unidentified. Body sherd
- London stoneware (LONS), 1670–1926, 1 sherd, 1 ENV, 5g, form: unidentified. Body sherd, the top of the sherd has an iron wash broad band
- London-area post-medieval redware (PMR), 1580–1900, 4 sherds, 4 ENV, 96g, form: flower pot. Base (large vessel), body sherds
- London-area post-medieval redware (PMR), 1580–1900, 1 sherd, 1 ENV, 11g, form: unidentified. Body sherd, internal and external glaze
- Surrey-Hampshire border redware (RBOR), 1550–1900, 1 sherd, 1 ENV, 29g, form: jar.
 Collared rim with a narrow combed band below. Internal glaze, external reddish brown wash

17.2.2 Context [2], spot date: 1830-1900

- English brown salt-glazed stoneware (ENGS), 1700–1900, 1 sherd, 1 ENV, 8g, form: bottle, cylindrical. Shoulder
- English stoneware with Bristol glaze (ENGS BRST), 1830–1900, 1 sherd, 1 ENV, 3g, form: unidentified. Body sherd
- London-area post-medieval redware (PMR), 1580–1900, 6 sherds, 6 ENV, 64g, form: flower pot. Rim sherds, simple and bevelled triangular section. Body sherds
- Refined whiteware with under-glaze transfer-printed decoration (TPW), 1780–1900, 1 sherd,
 1 ENV, 17g, form: plate. Base, Willow pattern

17.2.3 Context [3], spot date: 1550-1700

• Surrey-Hampshire border whiteware with olive glaze (BORDO), 1550-1700, 1 sherd, 1 ENV,

12g, form: unidentified. Body sherd, internal glaze

17.2.4 Context [6], spot date: late 19th-early 20th century

- English brown salt-glazed stoneware (ENGS), 1700–1900, 1 sherd, 1 ENV, 18g, form: bottle, ale/beer. Shoulder stamped '[b]ate[y]'
- London-area post-medieval redware (PMR), 1580–1900, 2 sherds, 2 ENV, 13g, form: flower pot. Rim sherd, rounded with two incised lines below, body sherd

17.2.5 Context [7], spot date: late 19th-early 20th century

- Frechen stoneware (FREC), 1550–1700, 2 sherds, 1 ENV, 10g, form: jug, rounded. Body sherds
- London-area post-medieval redware (PMR), 1580–1900, 3 sherds, 3 ENV, 31g, form: flower pot. Rim sherd, thin collar type, base, body sherd
- Refined whiteware with under-glaze transfer-printed decoration (TPW), 1780–1900, 1 sherd,
 1 ENV, 4g, form: dish. Rim-wall carination, Willow pattern
- Refined whiteware with under-glaze transfer-printed decoration (TPW), 1780–1900, 1 sherd,
 1 ENV, 16g, form: plate. Rim sherd, Asiatic pheasant design, poor quality

17.3 Significance, potential and recommendations for further work

17.3.1 The pottery has little significance at a local level as the pottery are of types and forms frequently found in the London region and the material occurs in small groups without much meaning. The main potential of the pottery is to date the contexts it was recovered from. There are no recommendations for further work and should a publication report be required then it is suggested that the information is taken from this report.

18 APPENDIX 8: GLASS ASSESSMENT

By Chris Jarrett, Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited, August 2018

18.1 Introduction

18.1.1 The glass recovered from the archaeological investigation consists of thirteen fragments, representing some 12 estimated number of vessels (ENV) and weighing 180g. The material dates to the late 19th-early 20th century. The condition of the glass is good, although it is in a very fragmentary state and indicates secondary and tertiary depositional circumstances. The glass was recovered from four contexts and it is described as an index.

18.2 Index

- 18.2.1 Context [1], spot date: late 19th-20th century
 - Bottle, -sectioned: clear HLLA glass, moulded, 1 fragment, 1 ENV, 8g, wall fragment,
 ?octagonal section. Late 19th-20th century
 - Bottle, cylindrical-sectioned: dark olive green HLLA glass, moulded, 2 fragments, 1 ENV, 58g, body sherd, ?wine bottle. Late 19th-20th century
 - Window pane: clear soda glass, moulded, 1 fragment, 1 ENV, 8g, fragment, fine ribbed surface. Late 19th-20th century
- 18.2.2 Context [2], spot date: 19th-20th century
 - Bottle: olive green HLLA glass, moulded, 1 fragment, 1 ENV, 3g, body sherd. 19th-20th century
 - Vessel glass: clear soda glass, moulded, 1 fragment, 1 ENV, 4g, curved body sherd,
 ?lampshade. 19th-20th century
- 18.2.3 Context [6], spot date: late 19th-20th century
 - Bottle: green-tinted soda glass, moulded, 1 fragment, 1 ENV, 7g, base, rounded concave underside. 19th-20th century
 - Bottle, cylindrical-section: dark olive green soda glass, moulded, 1 fragment, 1 ENV, 8g, wall fragment. 19th-20th century
 - Bottle, octagonal-section: green-tinted soda glass, moulded, 1 fragment, 1 ENV, 9g, base.
 19th-20th century
 - Window pane: clear soda glass, machine made, 1 fragment, 1 ENV, 17g, patterned (fine ribbed) fragment.
 - Window pane: clear soda glass, machine made, 1 fragment, 1 ENV, 4g, fragment, 3mm thick.
 19th-20th century
- 18.2.4 Context [7], spot date: 19th-20th century

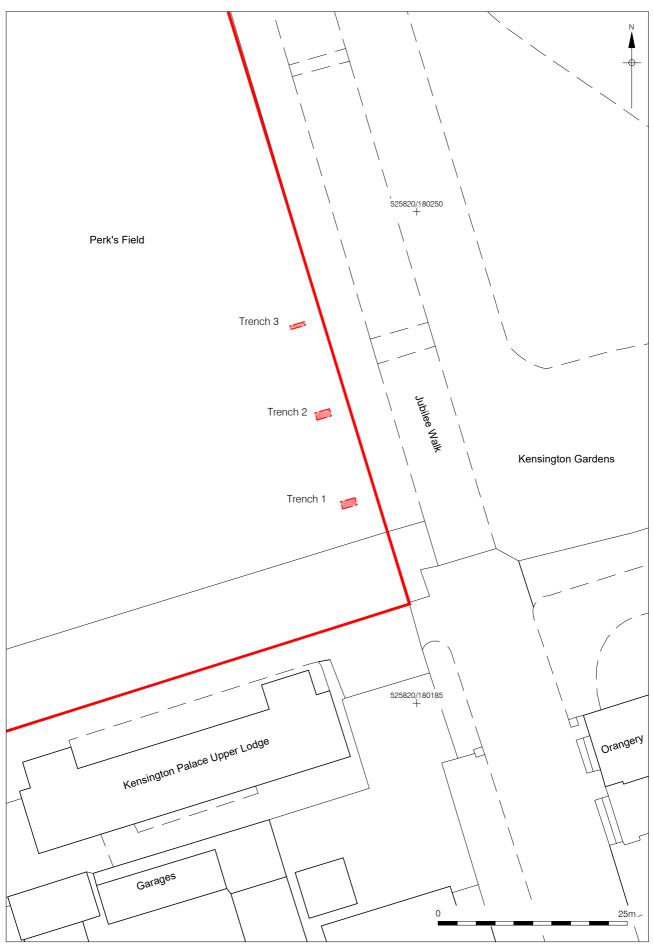
- Bottle, -sectioned: clear soda glass, moulded, 1 fragment, 1 ENV, 5g, wall fragment. 19th-20th century
- Bottle, cylindrical section: blue-green HLLA glass, moulded, 1 fragment, 1 ENV, 49g, base, concave underside. 19th-20th century

18.3 Significance, potential and recommendations for further work

18.3.1 The glass has no significance at a local level as it is in a fragmentary condition and has very little meaning. None of the items demonstrate a high-socio economic status, which might be expected to be recovered from a royal residence such as Kensington Palace. The main potential of the glass is to broadly date the contexts it was recovered from. There are no recommendations for further work on the glass.

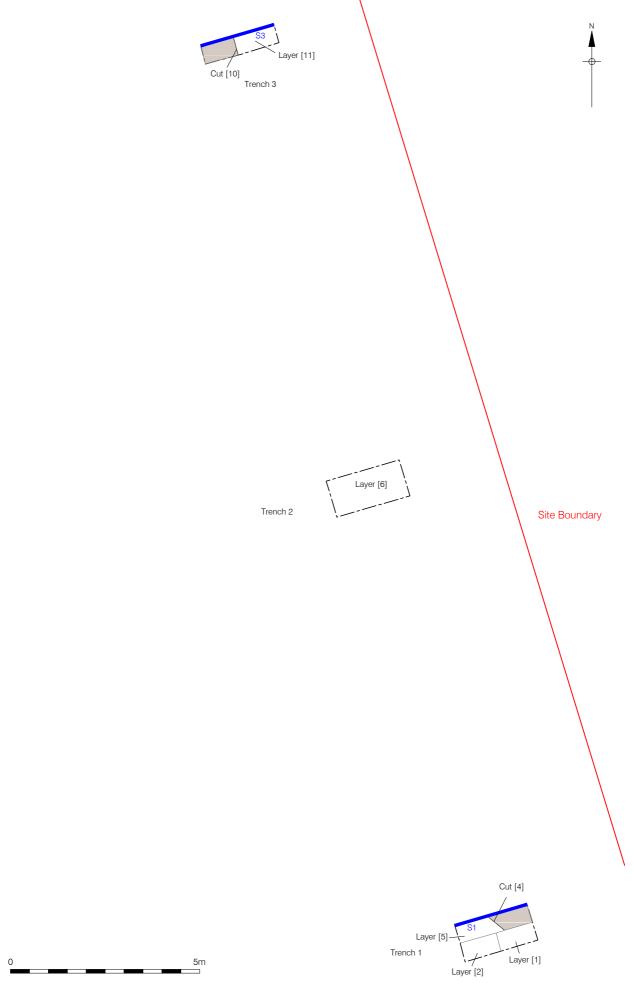


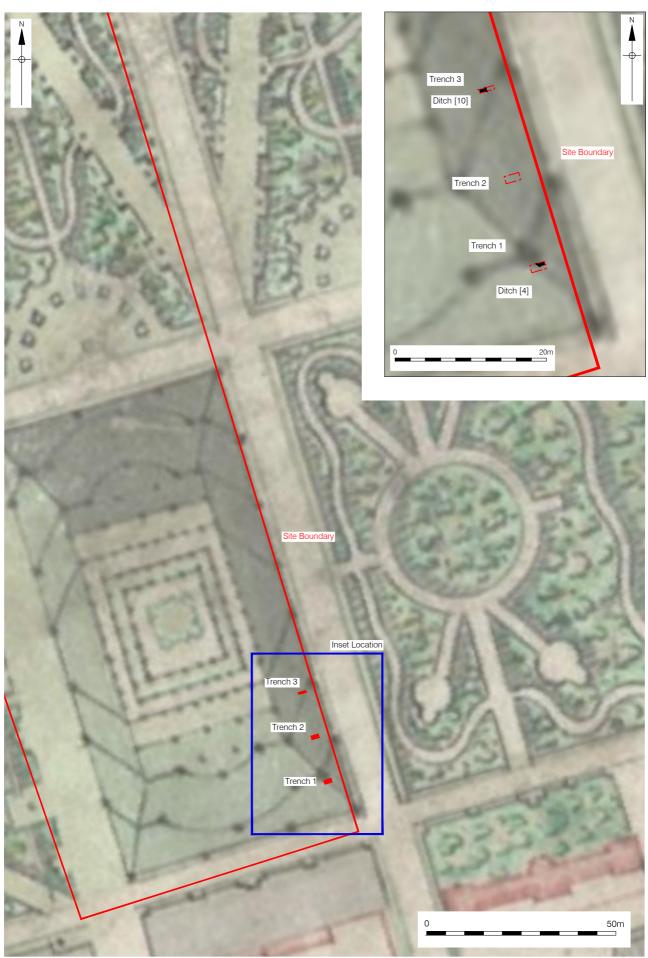
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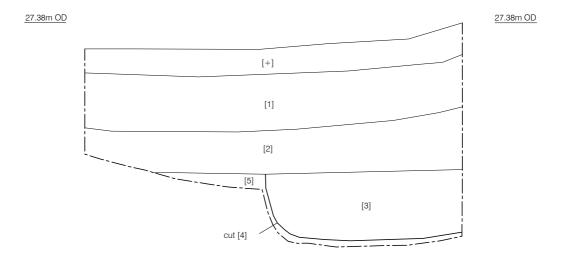




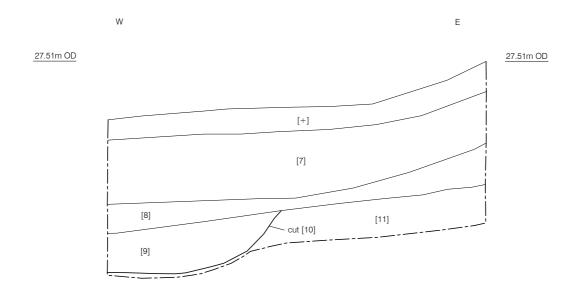
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Figure 4
Trenches and Features overlain on Bridgeman Plan, 1733
1:1,000 and Inset 1:500 at A4

 ${\tt W}$



Section 1 South Facing Trench 1



Section 3 South Facing Trench 3



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