

WHITE COURT, KENSINGTON PALACE

ROYAL LONDON BOROUGH OF

KENSINGTON AND CHELSEA

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

NOVEMBER 2007

KPD 07

P

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A

PRE-CONSTRUCT ARCHAEOLOGY

**An Archaeological Evaluation in White Court, Kensington Palace, Royal
Borough of Kensington & Chelsea**

Site Code: KPD 07

Central National Grid Reference: TQ 258 800

Written and Researched by Rebecca Lythe

Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited, November 2007

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1 ABSTRACT

- 1.1 This report details the results of an archaeological evaluation at White Court, Kensington Palace, undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd. on behalf of Historic Royal Palaces. The project was managed by Tim Bradley and supervised the author, both of Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd..
- 1.2 Three trenches were opened during the evaluation.
- 1.3 A thick layer of natural silty sand was found at the base of the sequence in all three trenches, which probably forms part of the Kempton Park sequence. This was truncated by a red and yellow fabric post-medieval brick structure in Trench 1, the function of which remains unknown, along with the foundations of the southern wall of White Court in Trench 2. Trenches 1, 2 and 3 all contained modern intrusions, probably associated with services, sealed by composite concrete slabs in concrete bedding. The slabs form the modern ground surface.
- 1.4 No evidence of Jacobean masonry associated with the entrance to the original mansion was recorded during the archaeological evaluation.

2 INTRODUCTION

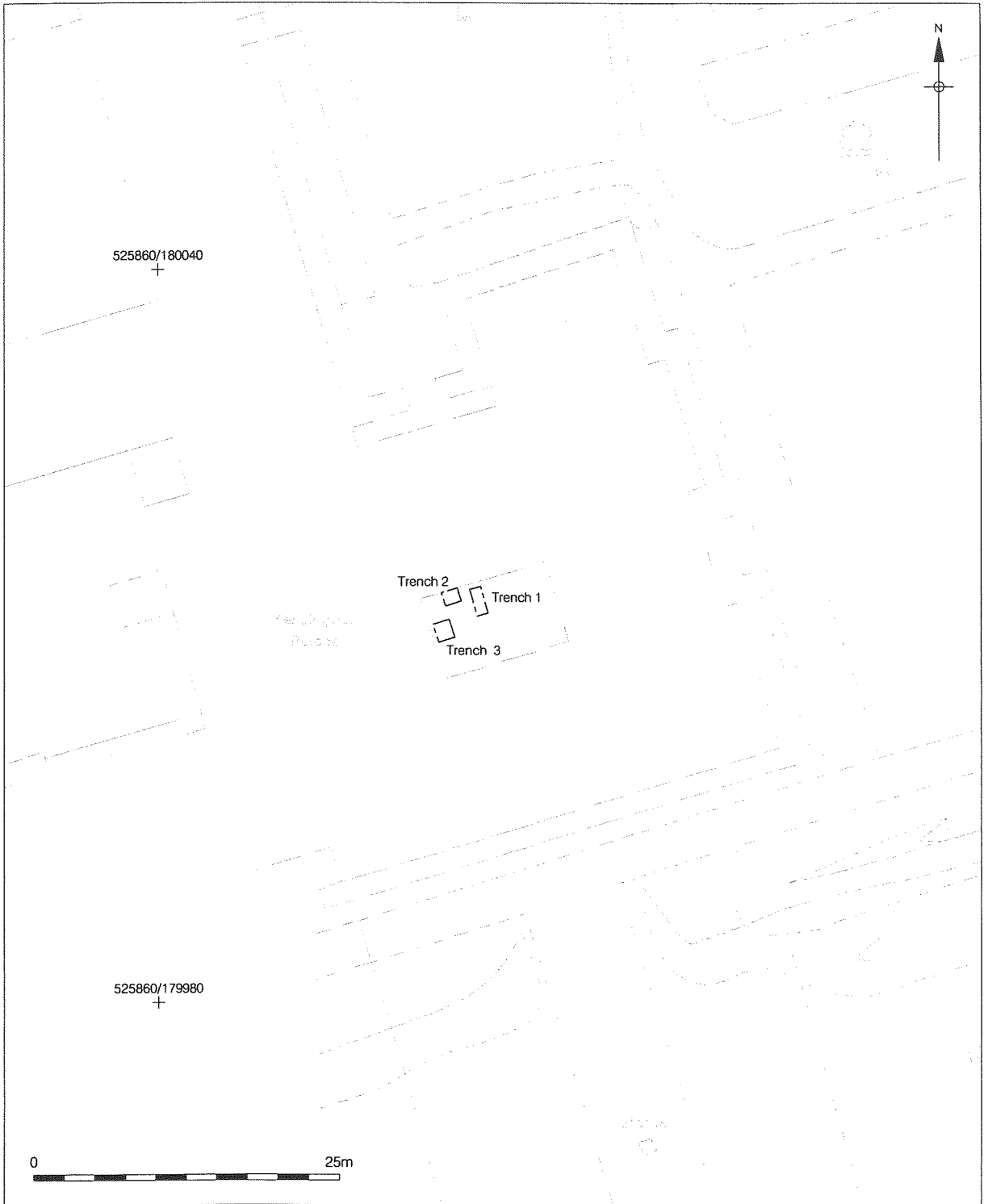
- 2.1 An archaeological evaluation was undertaken in White Court, Kensington Palace, in order to evaluate its archaeological potential prior to the construction of a new staircase and lift shaft. The evaluation was conducted by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd., between 24th and 31st October 2007, and was commissioned by Lee Prosser, Curator – Historic Buildings, on behalf of Historic Royal Palaces
- 2.2 The National Grid Reference of the site is TQ 258 800.
- 2.3 The site was given the code KPD 07.
- 2.4 The project was managed by Tim Bradley and supervised by the author.



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Figure 1
 Site location
 1:25,000 at A4



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Figure 2
Trench Location
1:500 at A4

3 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

- 3.1 The underlying geology consists of Kempton Park gravel (British Geological Survey of England and Wales).
- 3.2 The modern ground surface within White Court slopes slightly towards a drain located in its centre, from a level of 23.07m OD to a level of 23.04m OD. The original ground surface was presumably higher before the Palace's construction, when the underlying natural deposits were truncated in order to construct the ground floor (which is partially subterranean in comparison with the modern ground level) and the foundations.

4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

A search of the records held by the ADS Archsearch online database was made in order to establish the presence or absence of archaeological activity within a 2km radius of the site.

4.1 Prehistoric

4.1.1 A piece of prehistoric worked flint was recovered from Kensington Gardens in 1999. A prehistoric ditch was also uncovered during an archaeological evaluation of what is now the Diana Memorial Playground, less than 0.5km to the north of site (ADS Archsearch 2006).

4.1.2 Prehistoric and Iron Age features, suggestive of settlement, are recorded approximately 1km to the southwest of Kensington Palace, concentrated around Marloes Road and Wright's Lane to the south of High Street Kensington. Several evaluations and watching briefs were undertaken in the area, along with an excavation at St Mary Abbots Hospital. This revealed the remains of an Iron Age earthwork, accompanied by pits and postholes (ADS Archsearch 2006).

4.2 Roman

4.2.1 The Iron Age settlement detailed above seems to have continued into the Roman period. Roman buildings were unearthed at Marloes Road, St Mary Abbots Hospital and Kensington Barracks, along with Roman ditches at the latter two sites. Roman remains were also uncovered during works at Wright's Lane (ADS Archsearch 2006).

4.2.2 A Roman beacon is recorded as being present at Notting Hill Gate, less than 2km to the northwest. This may be due to the fact that a Roman road probably ran along what is now Bayswater Road (Ordnance Survey Historical Maps: Roman Britain 5th Edition; ADS Archsearch 2006).

4.3 Saxon

4.3.1 As noted in the Domesday Book of 1086, an Anglo-Saxon thegn (a minor land-holder in the service of a greater one) named "Edwin", owned the Manor of Kensington before 1066 (Impey, 2003).

4.3.2 To date, no direct archaeological evidence of Saxon activity has been recovered within a 2km radius of the site. However, the Church of St Mary Abbots, still situated on the corner of High Street Kensington and Kensington Church Street, may have Saxon origins (ADS Archsearch 2006). If this is the case, occupation may have continued into the Saxon period.

4.4 Medieval

4.4.1 After the Norman Conquest, the manor passed to Aubrey de Vere, a feudal tenant of Geoffrey of Montbray, Bishop of Coutances. According to the Domesday Book of 1086, it extended for 1500 acres and contained woodland for 200 pigs, pasture, plough-land and a *vinea* (vinyard). "Land to support a priest" (Impey, 2003 p.11) is also mentioned, implying the presence of a church, presumed to be St Mary Abbots. A church requires a congregation, and as a result the presence of a small medieval settlement can be inferred (Impey, 2003). The results of archaeological work at Wright's Lane (immediately southwest of the junction between Kensington Church Street and High Street Kensington) supports this, as remains indicative of medieval occupation were recovered. As detailed above, the settlement may date back to the Saxon period or earlier, perhaps continuing unbroken from Roman times (Weinreb & Hibbert 1995, ADS Archsearch 2006).

4.4.2 The manor of Eia, located to the immediate east of the manor of Kensington, had been partitioned into three smaller manors by 1100. One section, later called "Hyde", was situated in the approximate position of modern-day Hyde Park, between the Tyburn and West Bourne streams (Impey, 2003). Two newly created roads, now known as Kensington High Street and Kensington Church Street, ran parallel with the manor's southern and western limits (ADS Archsearch 2006).

4.4.3 By the 12th Century, part of the Manor of Hyde had been granted to the Abbot of Abingdon by the de Vere family. It consisted of a long strip of land termed "Abbots' Manor", 270 acres in size, situated to the east of Kensington Church Street. The manor of Hyde became the property of the monks of Westminster from 1100 onwards, before falling into the hands of the Crown in the 16th Century (Impey, 2003).

Post-Medieval

4.5 16th Century

- 4.5.1 Hyde 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 p.11).

4.6 17th Century

- 4.6.1 Unless referenced otherwise, the information contained within this section has been taken from "A Building History" compiled by Historic Royal Palaces (<http://www.hrp.org.uk/KensingtonPalace/stories/buildinghistory/default.aspx>).
- 4.6.2 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 bound 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).
- 4.6.3 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).
- 4.6.4 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 approximate 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 location of its demolished eastern wall. It was thought that the remains of some Jacobean masonry could survive 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, although the results of this evaluation suggest the foundations belong to a later phase.

- 4.6.5 The estate remained property of the Coppins for a further two generations, before passing to the Finch family some time 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).
- 4.6.6 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).
- 4.6.7 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).
- 4.6.8 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.

- 4.6.9 The building became known as Kensington House when the Royal Court took up residence, some time 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.
- 4.6.10 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.
- 4.6.11 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.

4.7 18th Century

- 4.7.1 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.
- 4.7.2 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.
- 4.7.3 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.

- 4.7.4 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.

4.8 19th Century

- 4.8.1 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 Wyattville, 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.
- 4.8.2 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".
- 4.8.3 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 Queen's 80th birthday, on 24th May 1899.

4.9 20th Century

- 4.9.1 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).
- 4.9.2 In 1932-1933, further restorative work was carried out on Queen Victoria's apartments at the request of Queen Mary.

4.9.3 The State Apartments were subject to bomb damage during the Second World War (1935-1945), 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 1976.

5 METHODOLOGY

5.1 Three trenches were opened during the evaluation, in order to investigate the underlying drift geology and identify the presence or absence of archaeology. They were all located in the north-eastern and north-central portions of White Court. This area was specifically targeted in order to establish whether remnants of a set of Jacobean stairs survive. The stairs once formed part of the main entrance to the earliest phase of the palace (the Jacobean core, as described in section 4.6.3 to 4.6.4), and are depicted on a series of historical architectural plans dated 1689 and 1696-99 (reproduced in Impey 2003, p. 14-15).

5.2 The dimensions of the trenches are detailed below:

Trench 1	2.24m north-south x 0.90m east-west
Trench 2	1.14m north-south x 1.36m east-west
Trench 3	1.48m north-south x 1.32m east-west

5.3 White Court was paved with composite concrete slabs at the time of the evaluation, which had been lain on a bed of concrete. Contractors removed the slabs and concrete with a hand-held kango. The attendant archaeologists then excavated the underlying deposits by hand to a depth of 1.20m.

5.4 The sides and bases of the trenches were hand-cleaned prior to recording. Representative sections were then drawn, along with plans of the trenches. All recording systems were fully compatible with those most widely used elsewhere in London that is those developed out of the Department of Urban Archaeology Site Manual, now published by the Museum of London Archaeology Service (MoLAS 1994). Individual descriptions of all archaeological strata and features excavated and exposed were entered onto pro-forma recording sheets. Plans and sections were recorded on polyester based drawing film, the plans being drawn at a scale of 1:20 and the sections at 1:10. The OD heights of all principal strata were calculated and indicated on the appropriate plans and sections. A full photographic record of the investigations was prepared, including both black and white prints and colour transparencies on 35mm film.

5.4 Levels were taken from a Temporary Bench Mark (TBM) with a value of 23.51m OD, situated on top of the modern steps that form the northern entrance to White Court. This was traversed from an Ordnance Survey benchmark with a value of 27.66m OD, located on a boundary marker on the eastern side of The Broad Walk. The trenches were located using a total station and were tied into the Ordnance Survey grid.

6 ARCHAEOLOGICAL PHASE DISCUSSION

6.1 Phase 1- Natural

6.1.1 The earliest deposit to be encountered was a layer of mid reddish yellow sand, termed context [50] in Trench 1, [56] in Trench 2 and [62] in Trench 3. It was roughly flat, the top being at a level of 22.86m OD in Trench 2 and 22.82m OD in Trench 3. In Trench 1, the deposit had been truncated horizontally by later intrusions, and as a consequence was observed at a lower level of 22.34m OD. It was interpreted as a layer of natural sand, forming part of the Kempton Park sequence.

6.2 Phase 2- Post-Medieval

6.2.1 A masonry structure was observed in the base of Trench 1. It had been built in two phases, the earliest of which was composed of predominantly header bonded, 3034 fabric, unfrogged bricks, termed context [54]. This was seven courses long, one to two courses wide and one course deep, the top being at a level of 22.18m OD. The brick fabric suggested a late 17th to 19th century date for this phase of the structure (Seddon, B, *pers comm.*).

6.2.2 Sealing [54] was [51], a predominantly stretcher bonded 3035 fabric rebuild, composed of frogged bricks, one to two courses wide and two courses deep, the top being at a height of 22.38m OD. The brick fabric suggests the rebuild was created some time between the late 18th century (post 1780) and the 19th century (Seddon, B, *pers comm.*).

6.2.3 The masonry structure was orientated north-south and was 0.23m wide and 1.16m long as seen, continuing beyond the limit of excavation to the south and being truncated by a modern concrete intrusion to the north. It was found within a 0.62m wide construction cut, termed context [53], which was over 0.62m wide, continuing beyond the edge of excavation to the west. It had been partially backfilled with mid yellowish red sandy silty clay, termed context [52] / [55], deposited after the last phase of the masonry structure had been created. Given the probable fact that only a small percentage of the total structure has been uncovered to date, any interpretation of its function is speculative. It could represent the foundations of a thin internal wall, or may form the eastern side of a drain (the western side and the base of the drain being beyond the horizontal and vertical limits of the evaluation trench). Further work is required in order to establish its function with greater certainty.

- 6.2.4 The foundations of the northern wall of White Court, termed context [58], were exposed in the northern edge of Trench 2, running east-west. Five courses were observed below ground level, composed of purple fabric, predominantly header bonded bricks with occasional stretcher bricks and half bricks. They were 0.38m deep and 1.36m wide, as observed within the confines of the trench, the top being at a level of 22.89m OD. They had been built within a 0.15m wide, 0.38m deep construction cut, termed context [59], which truncated natural sand layer [56]. This had subsequently been backfilled with [57], a deposit of mid greyish brown sandy silt. Above ground, the wall was covered with thick grey render making observation of fabric types and bonding impossible. The bricks appeared to be 17th to 18th century in date, suggesting they did not form part of the Jacobean core of Kensington Palace (Seddon, B, *pers comm.*).
- 6.2.5 A late post-medieval intrusion, termed context [61], was also observed within Trench 2, partially truncating the construction cut for the masonry structure, context [57]. The cut was orientated north-south, its dimensions being 1.15m by 0.40m, continuing beyond the eastern limit of excavation. It was 0.28m deep as seen, the top being at a height of 22.86m OD. It had been backfilled with [60], a loose, mid greyish brown deposit of sandy clayey silt containing occasional yellow fabric, frogged bricks that dated it to the 19th to 20th century (Seddon, B, *pers comm.*). Further work is required in order to establish the motive behind its creation, as only a small section of the feature was exposed during the evaluation.
- 6.2.6 A large truncation containing 20th century concrete fragments was found within Trench 1. Two objects of possible archaeological interest were redeposited within the modern cut. These included a wooden and lead object (Small Find 1), which may represent part of a late post-medieval locking mechanism (Gaimster, M, *pers. comm.*). Several large fragments of worked stone were also found, which were approximately 0.43m in width and 0.35m in depth with lengths varying between 0.45m and 0.80m. They were composed of lower greensand, sourced from the Maidstone area. It is possible that they may represent fragments of building material associated with a flight of steps (Figure 3-Trenches 1 to 3).

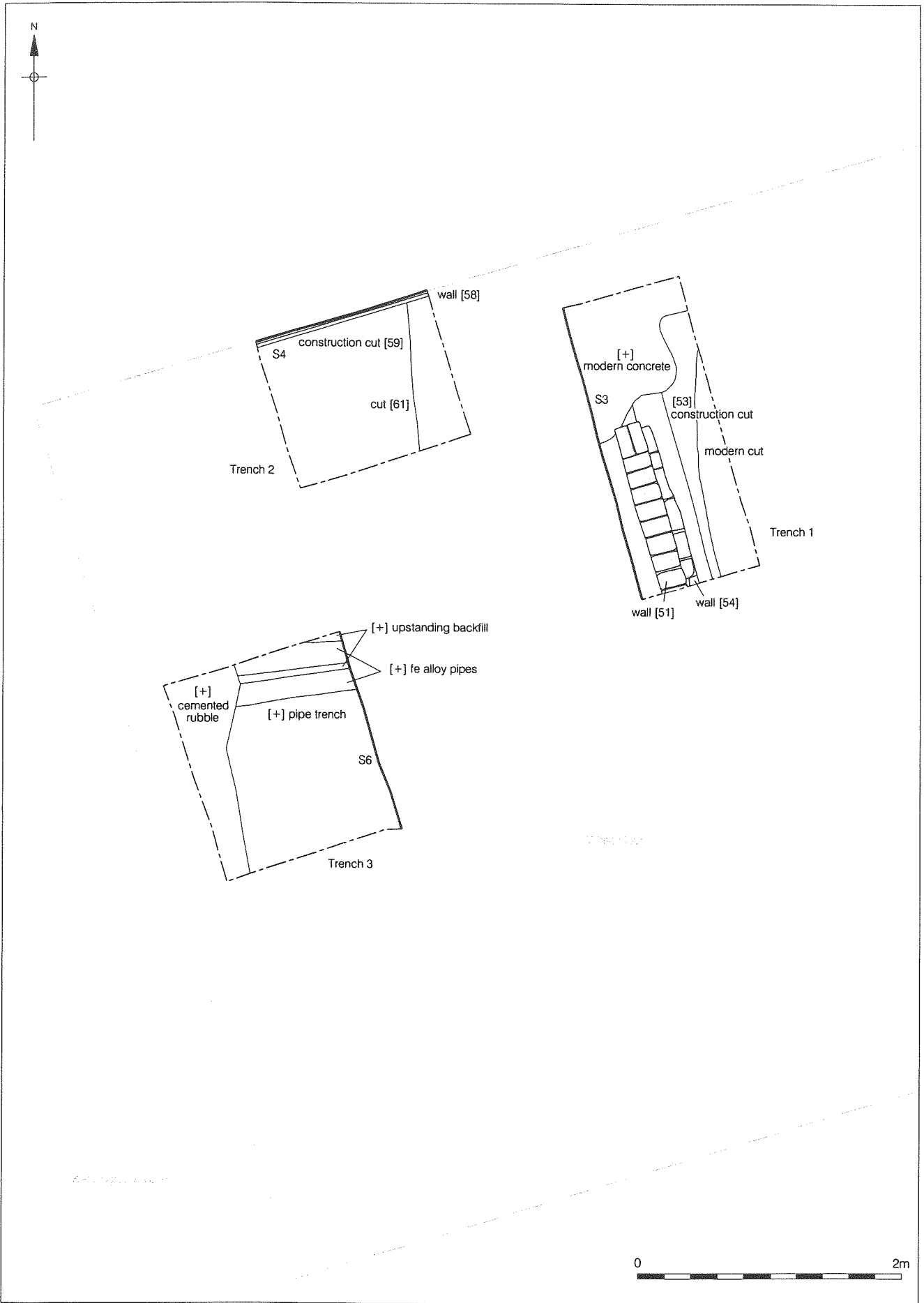
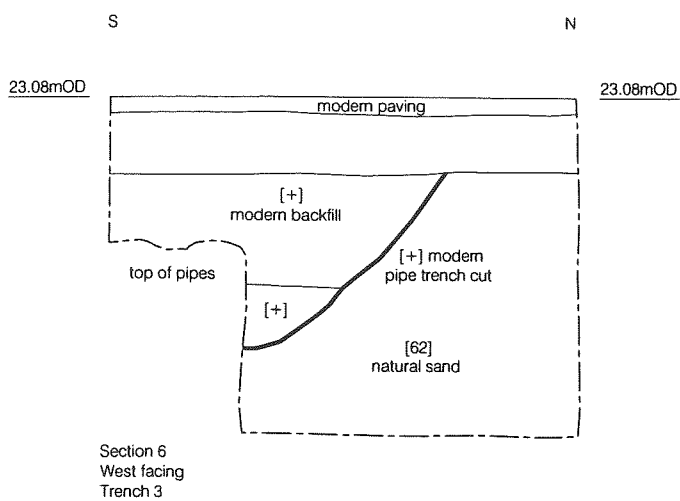
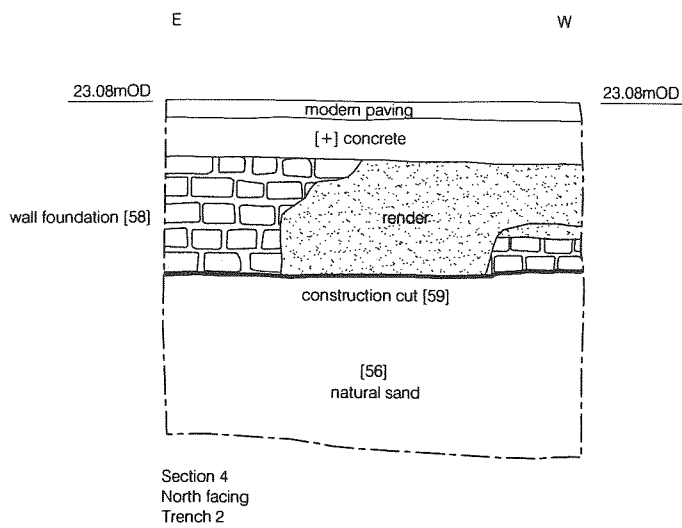
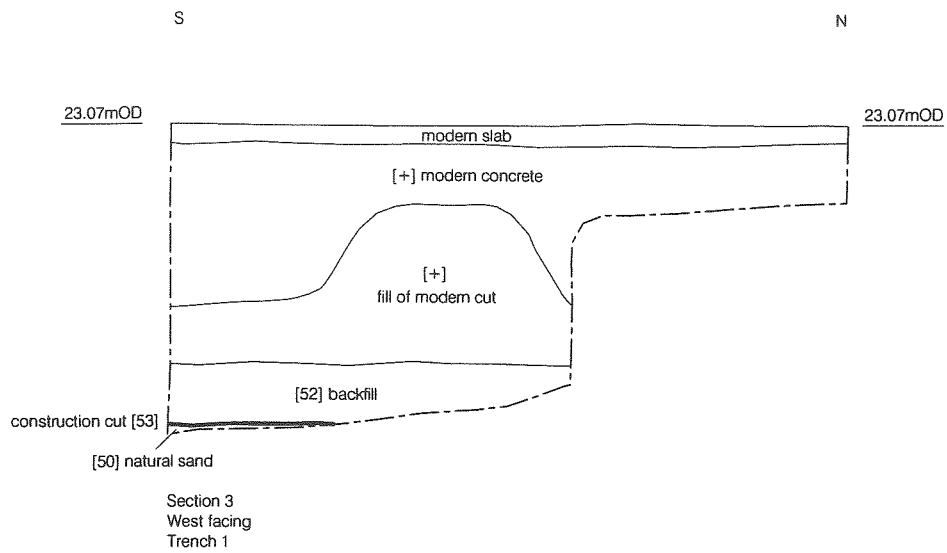


Figure 3
Trenches 1, 2 & 3
1:40 at A4



7 INTERPRETATIONS AND CONCLUSIONS

- 7.1 The principal objectives of the archaeological evaluation were to assess the nature of the underlying drift geology and to determine the presence or absence of archaeological activity. These objectives were achieved and the results are summarised below.
- 7.2 A layer of natural sand was found at the base of the sequence in all three trenches, presumably forming part of the Kempton Park Gravel. This was truncated by the foundations of the northern wall of the White Court in Trench 2, which were composed of late 17th to 18th century masonry. This suggests Jacobean foundations associated with the earliest phase of Kensington Palace do not survive in this location. A masonry structure, constructed in two phases from two distinctly different masonry types, was observed in Trench 3. It was dated to the late post-medieval period and its function remains uncertain.

8 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- 8.1 Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd. would like to thank Lee Prosser and Jo Thwaites for commissioning the work on behalf of Historic Royal Palaces.

- 8.2 The author would like to thank Tim Bradley for his project management and editing, Hayley Baxter for the illustrations and Iain Bright for his hard work and assistance in the field. The author would also like to thank Jem Roggers for the surveying and Lisa Lonsdale for her technical and logistical support. Thanks are also due to Maureen Roberts of Historic Royal Palaces, for logistical assistance on site.

9 Bibliography

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Appendix 1 - Context Index

Site Code	Context No.	Plan	Trench No.	Section / Elevation	Type	Description	Date	M OD	Phase	Photos No.
	1 to 49	N/A	N/A	N/A	VOID	NOT USED	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	50	N/A	1	3	Layer	Natural clayey silt	Natural	22.34	1	Film 3, frames 5-7 Film 4, frames 2-4
	51	Post-Ex 1	1	N/A	Masonry	Wall	Post-medieval	22.38	2	Film 3, frames 5-7 Film 4, frames 2-4
	52	N/A	1	3	Fill	Backfill of [53]	Post-medieval	22.38	2	Film 3, frames 5-7 Film 4, frames 2-4
	53	Post-Ex 1	1	3	Cut	Construction cut for [51]	Post-medieval	22.38	2	Film 3, frames 5-7 Film 4, frames 2-4
	54	Post-Ex 1	1	N/A	Masonry	Wall	Post-medieval	22.18	2	Film 3, frames 5-7 Film 4, frames 2-4
	55	Post-Ex 1	1	3	Cut	Backfill of [53]	Post-medieval	22.18	2	Film 3, frames 5-7 Film 4, frames 2-4
	56	Post-Ex 2 Pre-Ex 2	2	4	Layer	Natural clayey silt	Natural	22.86	1	Film 3, frames 8-10 Film 4, frames 5-7
	57	Pre-Ex 2	2	4	Fill	Backfill of [59]	Post-medieval	22.89	2	Film 3, frames 8-10 Film 4, frames 5-7
	58	Post-Ex 2 Pre-Ex 2	2	4	Masonry	Foundations of southern wall of White Court	Post-medieval	22.89	2	Film 3, frames 8-10 Film 4, frames 5-7
	59	Pre-Ex 2	2	4	Cut	Construction cut for [58]	Post-medieval	22.89	2	Film 3, frames 8-10 Film 4, frames 5-7

60	Pre-Ex 2	2	5	Fill	Backfill of [61]	Post- medieval	22.86	2	Film 3, frames 8- 10 Film 4, frames 5-7
61	Pre-Ex 2	2	5	Cut	Late post-med linear intrusion	Post- medieval	22.86	2	Film 3, frames 8- 10 Film 4, frames 5-7
62	Pre-Ex 2	3	6	Layer	Natural silty sand	Post- medieval	22.82	1	Film 3, frames 2-4 Film 4, frames 11- 13

Appendix 2 – Oasis Report Form

OASIS ID: preconst1-35566

Project details

Project name White Court, Kensington Palace, Archaeological Evaluation

Short description of the project This report details the results of an archaeological evaluation at White Court, Kensington Palace, undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd. on behalf of Historic Royal Palaces. Three trenches were opened during the evaluation. A thick layer of natural silty sand was found at the base of the sequence in all three trenches, which probably forms part of the Kempton Park sequence. This was truncated by a red and yellow fabric post-medieval brick structure in Trench 1, the function of which remains unknown, along with the foundations of the southern wall of White Court in Trench 2. Trenches 1, 2 and 3 all contained modern intrusions, probably associated with services, sealed by composite concrete slabs in concrete bedding. The slabs form the modern ground surface.

Project dates Start: 24-10-2007 End: 31-10-2007

Previous/future work No / Not known

Type of project Field evaluation

Site status Scheduled Monument (SM)

Current Land use Other 2 - In use as a building

Monument type BRICK FOUNDATION Post Medieval

Significant Finds CERAMIC BUILDING MATERIAL Post Medieval

Project location

Country England

Site location GREATER LONDON KENSINGTON AND CHELSEA KENSINGTON
White Court, Kensington Palace

Postcode W8

Study area 100.00 Square metres

Site coordinates TQ 2580 8000 51.5044178270 -0.187234534240 51 30 15 N 000 11
14 W Point

Height OD Min: 22.86m Max: 22.86m

Project
creators

Name of Organisation Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd

Project brief originator Historic Royal Palaces

Project design originator Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd

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Type of sponsor/funding body Historic Royal Palaces

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Project
archives

Physical Archive recipient Historic Royal Palaces

Physical Contents 'Ceramics'

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