

15 The Green, Richmond, London Borough of Richmond-Upon-Thames An Archaeological Watching Brief Report

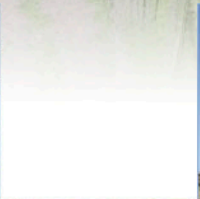
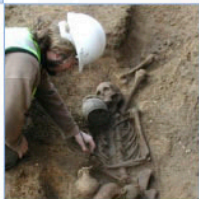
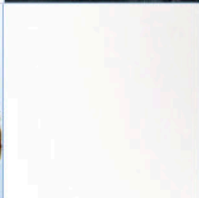
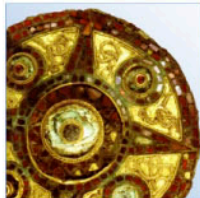
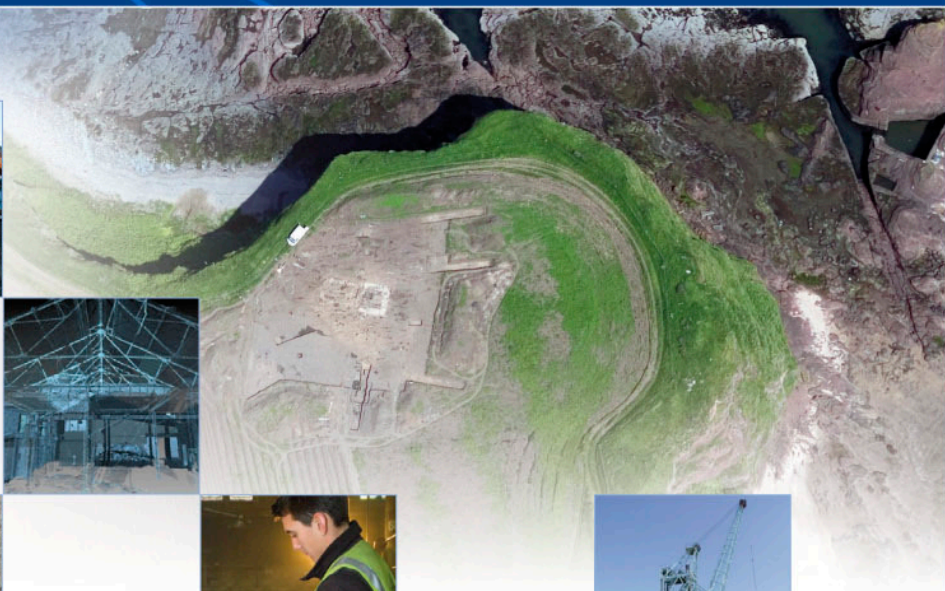
Planning Application Number: 074/2076/HOT

National Grid Reference: TQ 1782 7490

Site Code: GNM 07

Project No.: 7959

June 2008



**15 The Green, Richmond,
London Borough of Richmond-Upon-Thames
An Archaeological Watching Brief Report**

On Behalf of:	Featherstone Leigh Ltd. 2nd Floor 34 Hill Street Richmond Surrey TW9 1TW
National Grid Reference (NGR):	TQ 1782 7490
AOC Project No:	7959
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Date of Excavation:	24th April 2008
Date of Report:	June 2008

This document has been prepared in accordance with AOC standard operating procedures.

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Contents

	Page
List of illustrations	iii
Non-Technical Summary	iv
1. Introduction.....	1
2. Planning Background.....	1
3. Geology & Topography	1
4. Historical & Archaeological Background	1
Prehistoric (before c.AD 43).....	2
Roman (c. AD 43 - 450).....	2
Anglo-Saxon (c.451-1065).....	2
Medieval (c.1066 - 1485).....	2
Post-Medieval (c.1485 - modern).....	3
5. Aims of the Investigation	5
6. Methodology	5
7. Results.....	5
8. Finds	5
9. Conclusions and Recommendations	6
10. Bibliography.....	6
Appendix A – Oasis Form.....	11

List of illustrations

Figure 1	Site Location
Figure 2	Detailed Site Location

Non-Technical Summary

On the 24th April 2008 AOC Archaeology carried out an archaeological Watching Brief on basement floor reduction works at 15 The Green, Richmond, London Borough of Richmond-Upon-Thames.

Naturally-lain gravels were revealed as a result of the works. No archaeological finds or features were present.

1. Introduction

- 1.1 This document is a report on an archaeological watching brief carried out at 15 The Green, Richmond, London Borough of Richmond-Upon-Thames (Figure 1). The work was carried out on behalf of Featherstone Leigh Ltd.
- 1.2 The site is centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) TQ 1782 7490 and within land bounded by The Green to the north and residential properties to the south, west and east. The site is sub-rectangular in shape (Figure 2). The area affected by the development covers a total area of approximately (195 m²).
- 1.3 Currently the site is occupied by a 15 The Green, a domestic dwelling. The proposed development is for the demolition of external timber clad single-storey extensions and internal remodelling; relocation of rear stairs in the garden/basement and new fenestration.

2. Planning Background

- 2.1 The local planning authority is London Borough of Richmond upon Thames. Archaeological advice to the council is provided by Diane Walls of the Greater London Archaeology Advisory Service (GLAAS).
- 2.2 Planning permission to undertake the development was granted under the Town & Country Planning Act (1990) (Ref No.:074/2076/HOT), subject to a condition for a programme of archaeological work.
- 2.3 The site lies within an area of high archaeological importance, as defined by the Unitary Development Plan for the London Borough of Richmond upon Thames.
- 2.4 The proposed scheme is a residential development involving the demolition of the current extension, refurbishment of the existing basement on the site, and the construction of a new extension. The new build is principally to the rear of the property.
- 2.5 A Desk Based Assessment was not required due to the limited scale of the development. The watching brief was the first stage in the process to fulfil the requirement for a programme of archaeological work. The watching brief was conducted in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation, prepared by AOC Archaeology and approved by GLAAS, (AOC 2007).

3. Geology & Topography

- 3.1 The British Geological Survey map (BGS Sheet 270) indicated that the site was situated upon River Terraces (1).
- 3.2 No geotechnical investigations were conducted within the proposed development area.

4. Historical & Archaeological Background

- 4.1 A number of evaluations, excavations, and watching-briefs having been undertaken around the Old Richmond Palace, and there are numerous entries within the Greater London Sites and Monuments Record (GLSMR) for archaeological features or chance finds within the 1km radius of the site.
- 4.2 A Desk Based Assessment was not been prepared for this project due to its limited scale.
- 4.3 No previous archaeological investigations have been undertaken on the site itself.

- 4.4 The following information has been taken from An Archaeological Desk Based Assessment written for a nearby site, *17 King Street, Richmond*, (AOC 2002).

Prehistoric (before c.AD 43)

- 4.5 The underlying geology of the site, gravel terraces adjacent to alluvium and a water source, are conditions that are often associated with prehistoric settlements, being situated close to reliable and often navigable sources of water and demonstrating good drainage.
- 4.6 A number of prehistoric finds have been discovered within the 300m radius of the site, the earliest of them dating to the Bronze Age. The majority of the finds of prehistoric date are, however, isolated finds. They include a Bronze Age barbed flint arrowhead found near Richmond Bridge and a Bronze Age socketed gouge from the Surrey Bank of the River Thames. A further isolated find of an Iron Age pottery sherd discovered during an excavation in 1981.
- 4.7 Further prehistoric finds of an unknown date have been recovered from excavations conducted within the vicinity of the site including prehistoric worked flints found in a deposit overlaying natural gravels and some struck flints. Otherwise little in the way of prehistoric settlement has been discovered within close proximity of the site.

Roman (c. AD 43 - 450)

- 4.8 The main focus for Roman settlement in the London area was Londinium where the City of London is now situated. There were other Roman settlements known in the environs of Londinium, however little evidence exists for such a settlement existing within the vicinity of the site. In fact the GLSMR records the finding of only one isolated find of Roman date within 400m of the site; a Denarius of Trajan (98-117AD) coin discovered in Richmond in 1870 at Denton Road across the river from the site.

Anglo-Saxon (c.451-1065)

- 4.9 Richmond's original name of Shene is thought to be Anglo-Saxon in origin. Its origins are thought to be from the word sceo, meaning shelter or sciene meaning shining, the former is currently thought to be more likely. In AD 950 Bishop Theodred of London referred in his will, to a number of properties that he owned one of which was at Sceon (Shene), hence it is possible that some form of manor house existed in the area. However little is known of Anglo-Saxon Richmond, and there are no references to Anglo-Saxon finds within 300m of the proposed development sites

Medieval (c.1066 - 1485)

- 4.10 There is no mention of Shene in the Domesday Book of 1086, though this is probably due to the fact that the manor was included within the realms of the Manor of Kingston, which was held by the King during this period. The first record of the manor house of Shene was in the 12th century when it belonged to Henry I. It became separated from the Manor of Kingston when Henry I gave it to the important Norman Belet family. It remained in the Belet family's hands until it was reclaimed by the monarchy in the 14th century. King Edward II (1307-1327) founded a House of Carmelite Friars in

the manor house, but this was shortly moved to a new site in Oxford, after this the Manor of Shene once again, became the property of the royal family.

- 4.11 The site of the manor house at Shene was located within 300m to the west of the proposed development site, adjacent to Old Palace Lane. The building was divided into two courts, the upper court contained the farm and ancillary buildings, and the lower court which was located nearest to the river houses the kitchens and chapel.
- 4.12 The manor was first converted into a royal palace by Edward III in the 1360s, he died there in 1377 and it became a popular place to stay for a succession of royals. However the palace was demolished in 1395 by Richard II, distraught after the death of his wife, Queen Anne, at the house. The palace was rebuilt at Shene on the site of the previous manor house and palace site by Henry V in 1414. A temporary house was built at Shene, during the reconstruction of the Palace, much of the material for this building came from the nearby manor houses of Byfleet and Sutton, as a result the new house became known as 'the new timber building called Byfleet', and contained the principal royal apartments. This temporary building was later given to a convent of observant friars, it is believed that this building stood on land between Friars Lane and Water Lane, possibly immediately to the south of the proposed development site. Henry V also established a new monastery at Sheen which was located in what is now the Old Deer Park.
- 4.13 Richmond or Shene the settlement at this time essentially evolved and revolved around the palace. It is likely to have been a small settlement serving the needs of the palace. The river was probably crossed at this date by a horse ferry, linking Richmond to Twickenham first referred to in state papers of 1443; it was the property of the Crown.
- 4.14 Several archaeological excavations in the vicinity of the site have produced evidence of the medieval period. An evaluation in 1993 at 16-17 George Street found 12th and 13th century pottery sherds in a deposit which overlay natural gravels. Archaeologists also discovered a boundary or drainage ditch, cutting the aforementioned deposit and dated to the 12-13th century. Furthermore post holes and possible structure slots were found which predated the 18th century and were along the same alignment to later structures fronting George Street.

Post-Medieval (c.1485 - modern)

- 4.15 Shene Palace was partially destroyed by fire in 1497, but was rebuilt by Henry VII almost immediately. It is thought likely that the palace was built in much of the same layout as the earlier palace upon the site, however Henry VII renamed it Richmond or *Rychemonde* in 1501 after his earldom of Richmond in Yorkshire. Henry VII died at the palace in 1509, his son Henry (later Henry VIII) was born there.
- 4.16 Records dating from the 16th century suggest that the Palace was moated, however the moat was supposed to have been filled in on the extension of the palace by Henry VII. Evidence for a moat was discovered during an excavation conducted in 1972, the evidence from which suggested that the moat was not an original feature of the Tudor palace. The palace is thought to have consisted of a block of state apartments overlooking the river, arranged around a small courtyard. To the northeast stood the fountain courtyard, containing a large fountain of lead flanked by a great hall, chapel and kitchen.
- 4.17 Archaeologically there are several references in the GLSMR to finds of a post-medieval date, largely related to the remains of Richmond Palace. Rescue work by Richmond Archaeological Society on the presumed corner of Richmond Palace found no Tudor features, but two later phases of brick

walls at Tudor Palace Mews. A watching brief conducted at Richmond Green, The Old Palace 1992 recorded 16th century brick walls, as well as several brick structures dating from the 16th to the 19th century, and these included vaulted chambers and a circular cess pit with a domed roof.

- 4.18 A Franciscan Friary was also founded by Henry VII c. 1500; the friary was thought to have been established to the east of Richmond Palace, adjacent to where Old Friars Lane now runs approximately 50m to the south of the proposed development area. Remains of the friary have been uncovered during excavation beneath 'Old Friars', Old Palace Terrace immediately adjacent to the site where cellars dating to c. 1500 were discovered. An excavation at The Retreat, Retreat Road, (immediately to the south west of the proposed development site) on the presumed site of the Friary, did not find any structures, only post-medieval pits, Tudor demolition rubble and wooden barrels.
- 4.19 Old Palace Place itself is thought to date from the late 16th century to early 17th century, with the existing exterior being added c.1700, by the London Lawyer, Vertue Radford, the owner of Old Palace Place at this date. Oak House, which is situated immediately to the south of Old Palace Place was built in the 1760s and was originally an extension to Old Palace Place.
- 4.20 The palace was demolished after the English Civil War, when all royal lands were taken by Oliver Cromwell, the Lord Protector, and sold off. Much of Richmond Palace had been demolished by the 1650s as the parks; the palace and the lordship of the Manor of Richmond were divided up. Charles II tried to rebuild some of the palace to house his mother, but she did not like it, therefore by 1660 the ruins of Richmond house were 'divided into twenty seven inhabited houses or tenements'. All that remains of Richmond Palace today is the Gateway on the Green bearing the arms of Henry VII and the wardrobe.
- 4.21 From the 1690s Richmond began to develop from a small village into a small town; this was due to rich London merchants increasingly searching for summer rural retreats close to London. In the early 18th century the famous architect John Price built many of the existing houses surrounding The Green and Little Green including six mansions and two smaller houses. These are visible on the earliest available detailed map of Richmond, Rocque's map of 1741-45. Richmond Green is clearly labelled surrounded by buildings to the north, south and west. Richmond itself is shown to be a small settlement, focused on the whole to the south of Richmond Palace, the village is surround by fields and formal gardens. Old Palace Place is depicted, with the majority of the site occupied by gardens.
- 4.22 In the 18th century Richmond prospered further and became a popular resort for a summer retreat, which lead to an increase in amusements in the town including medicinal spring waters, pleasure gardens and theatres. The development of Richmond and the proposed development site is further illustrated by the Manor map of Richmond dated to 1771. This map and associated records note the ratepayers in Richmond and the sum that they paid in the years between 1726 and 1771.
- 4.23 Generally archaeological works have revealed other evidence of post-medieval remains. An excavation conducted along George Street revealed finds including deep brick-lined chambers of mid 19th century date and 17-18th century wells, building foundations and post-medieval ditches.
- 4.24 Excavation at Heron Court revealed evidence of medieval/post-medieval pottery fragments. A limited archaeological test pit evaluation was undertaken by AOC Archaeology in the areas of the basement that would be affected by lowering the floor level (AOC December 2002). This demonstrated that in the rear area beneath the dirt floor there were no earlier floor layers or other archaeological layers, the only feature recorded being a small, truncated post-medieval pit. The natural deposits revealed were sand and gravel. The test pit located at the front of the property revealed natural sand and gravel directly beneath the modern concrete and hardcore.

5. Aims of the Investigation

5.1 The aims of the Evaluation were defined as being:

- To establish the presence/absence of archaeological remains within the site.
- To determine the extent, condition, nature, character, quality and date of any archaeological remains encountered.
- To record and sample excavate any archaeological remains encountered.
- To assess the ecofactual and environmental potential of any archaeological features and deposits.
- To determine the extent of previous truncations of the archaeological deposits.
- To enable GLAAS to make an informed decision on the status of the condition on the planning permission, and any possible requirement for further work in order to satisfy that condition.
- To make available to interested parties the results of the investigation in order to inform the mitigation strategy as part of the planning process.

5.2 The specific objectives of the Watching Brief were to:

- Determine the presence of any remains of Anglo-Saxon date on the site.
- Assess the potential of the site to inform on the medieval development and chronology of Richmond.
- Assess the degree and extent of truncation of earlier deposits by the phases of late post-medieval and modern buildings on the site.

5.3 The final aim was to make public the results of the investigation, subject to any confidentiality restrictions.

6. Methodology

6.1 The Watching Brief was carried out during ground reduction on the site by Paul Harris, Project Supervisor, under the overall direction of Andy Leonard, Project Manager of AOC Archaeology Group.

6.2 A unique site code for the project was obtained from The Museum of London; **GNM 07**, before commencing work on site.

6.3 All of the work was carried out in line with Archaeological Guidance Paper (AGP): 3, Standards and Practices in Archaeological Fieldwork (English Heritage June 1998); and IFA Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs (IFA October 1994).

7. Results

7.1 The floor surface of the basement was reduced by approximately 0.40m and revealed a natural layer of mid orange-brown sandy clay with occasional small river gravel inclusions. No archaeological finds or features were present.

8. Finds

8.1 No archaeological finds were present.

9. Conclusions and Recommendations

- 9.1 The watching brief revealed no archaeological finds or features. The previous construction of the modern basement appeared to have truncated the natural deposits.
- 9.2 The watching brief fulfilled its objective to “assess the degree and extent of truncation of earlier deposits by the phases of late post-medieval and modern buildings on the site”.
- 9.3 As a result of the watching brief, no further work is recommended on site. However, the final decision will rest with the London Borough of Richmond and its archaeology advisor, Diane Walls of GLAAS.
- 9.4 Due to the limited result of the project, publication will be limited to a summary in the London Archaeology Round-up and publication via the Archaeological Data Service OASIS form (Appendix A).

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Fig 1 Site Location

Figure 2 Detailed Site Location

Appendices

Appendix A – Oasis Form

OASIS ID: aocarcha1-43659

Project details

Project Name	15 The Green, Richmond, London Borough of Richmond
Short description of the project	On the 24th April 2008 AOC Archaeology carried out an archaeological watching brief on basement floor reduction works at 15 The Green, Richmond, London Borough of Richmond. The natural gravels were revealed as a result of the works. No archaeological finds or features were present.
Project dates	Start: 24-04-2008 End: 24-04-2008
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	GNM 07 - Sitecode
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	Area of Archaeological Importance (AAI)
Current Land use	Residential 1 - General Residential
Monument type	None None
Significant Finds	None None
Methods & techniques	'Visual Inspection'
Development type	Small-scale extensions (e.g. garages, porches, etc.)
Prompt	Planning condition
Position in the planning process	After full determination (eg. As a condition)

Project location

Site location	GREATER LONDON RICHMOND UPON THAMES RICHMOND UPON THAMES 15 The Green, Richmond, London Borough of Richmond
Study area	195 Square metres
Site coordinates	NGR - TQ 1782 7940 LL - 51.5007480346 -0.302369913307 (decimal) LL - 51 30 02 N 000 18 08 W (degrees) Point

Project creators

Name of Organisation	AOC Archaeology Group
Project brief originator	EH GLAAS
Project design originator	AOC Archaeology Group
Project	Andy Leonard

director/manager

Project supervisor Paul Harris

Type of
sponsor/funding
body Developer

Name of
sponsor/funding
body Featherstone Leigh Ltd.

Project archives

Physical Archive
Exists? 'No physical archive'

Digital Archive
recipient LAARC

Digital Media
available 'Database', 'Images raster / digital photography', 'Text'

Paper Archive
recipient LAARC

Paper Media
available 'Context sheet', 'Drawing', 'Map', 'Matrices', 'Microfilm', 'Photograph', 'Plan', 'Report'

Project bibliography

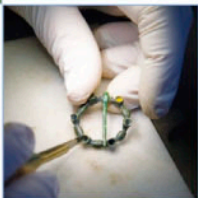
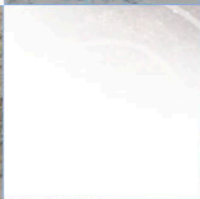
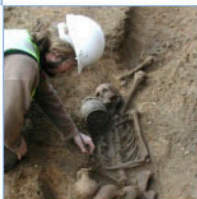
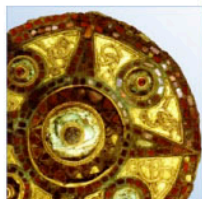
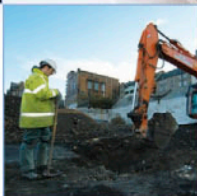
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