



**203 HOLLAND PARK AVENUE
LONDON W11
LONDON BOROUGH OF KENSINGTON AND CHELSEA**

Archaeological Evaluation Report

203 HOLLAND PARK AVENUE

LONDON W11

LONDON BOROUGH OF KENSINGTON AND CHELSEA

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT

Prepared on behalf of
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Contents

Summary	ii
Acknowledgements	iii
1 INTRODUCTION	1
1.1 Project Background	1
1.2 The Site	1
2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND.....	2
3 METHODOLOGY	2
3.1 Excavation Strategy	2
3.2 Health and Safety	2
4 RESULTS	2
5 INTERPRETATION AND CONCLUSION	4
5.1 Interpretation	4
5.2 Conclusion	4

Figure List

Figure 1 – Site and Trench Location Plan

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ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

Summary

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Phillimore Hill Ltd to undertake an archaeological evaluation at 203 Holland Park Avenue, London W11, London Borough of Kensington and Chelsea (the Site), centred on NGR 523970, 179910. The archaeological works were conducted in advanced of an approved development.

Work was carried out on 16th June 2004 and consisted of two machine excavated trenches each measuring 5m x 2m.

Trenches revealed material relating to the destruction of the former Duke of Clarence Public House and its ancillary buildings, prior to which the Site appeared to consist of a top/subsoil horizon overlying a London clay natural.

No archaeological features were present on Site and there is thought to be little or no threat to archaeologically significant deposits by the approved development.

Acknowledgements

Wessex Archaeology would like to thank Phillimore Hill Ltd for their co-operation and assistance in the successful completion of this project.

Susan Clelland undertook the fieldwork and compiled this report; the illustrations were prepared by Mark Roughley; Lawrence Pontin managed the project on behalf of Wessex Archaeology.

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ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project Background

- 1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Phillimore Hill Ltd (hereafter the “Client”) to conduct an archaeological evaluation on land at the site of an approved development at 203 Holland Park Avenue, London W11 centred on NGR 523970, 179910 (hereafter the “Site”).
- 1.1.2 The works were carried out in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (Wessex Archaeology 2004) approved by the Greater London Archaeological Advisory Service (GLAAS) of English Heritage.
- 1.1.3 A Museum of London Site Code HPV04 was allocated for this project.

1.2 The Site

- 1.2.1 The Site consists of a cleared area of land containing the former basement of the Duke of Clarence Public House to the north, which stood at 203 Holland Park Avenue. The remainder of the Site to the south had previously been occupied by ancillary buildings and gardens. (**Figure 1**).
- 1.2.2 The evaluation consisted of two machine excavated trenches, each measuring 5m x 2m which were positioned within the footprint of the proposed development towards the central and southern area of the site away from the exposed basement to the north.
- 1.2.3 Rubble and weeds covered the ground surface of the evaluation area. Natural geological deposits beneath the Site were found to comprise yellow London clay.

2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1.1 The Site lay adjacent to an Archaeological Priority Zone as defined within the London Borough of Kensington and Chelsea Unitary Development Plan. This Zone reflects the location of Roman roads and Roman cemetery evidence in the area.
- 2.1.2 Holland Park Avenue is believed to follow the alignment of a Roman route. It was therefore important to ascertain the archaeological potential of the area at risk from the approved development.

3 METHODOLOGY

3.1 Evaluation Strategy

- 3.1.1 The evaluation was carried out on the 16th June 2004 prior to construction.
- 3.1.2 Trench 1, orientated north-south was situated at the southern extent of the Site, equidistant from the northern and southern site limits, in accordance with the agreed trench location issued in the *Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological Evaluation* (W.A. 2004). The trench measured 5m x 2m and was excavated using a JCB mechanical excavator with a toothless grading bucket under constant archaeological supervision.
- 3.1.3 Trench 2, orientated northeast-southwest was situated in the centre of the Site. The trench measured 5m x 2m and was excavated using a JCB mechanical excavator with a toothless grading bucket under constant archaeological supervision. The orientation of the trench was altered on Site from that stated in the *Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological Evaluation* (W.A. 2004) to allow safe working access for the JCB mechanical excavator away from the northern and southern site limits. Phillimore Hill Ltd representatives present on Site approved this alteration prior to excavation.

3.2 Health and Safety

- 3.2.1 All work was carried out in accordance with the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974 and the Management of Health and Safety regulations 1992 and all other relevant Health and Safety legislation and regulations and codes of practice in force at the time.
- 3.2.2 Prior to the commencement of the fieldwork a Risk Assessment was produced. All site staff involved in works signed and complied with this document.

4 RESULTS

Trench 1

- 4.1.1 Trench 1 revealed a topsoil/subsoil horizon of mid greyish brown silty clay that contained occasional modern ceramic building rubble and evidence of tree/plant intrusions. This deposit existed to a depth of 0.35m below ground level.
- 4.1.2 Located 1.8m north of the southern trench limit an east-west modern concrete plinth, 0.75m in width and 0.2m in depth and extending across the full width of the trench, was uncovered. This was left in situ, as its function was unclear.
- 4.1.3 The topsoil/subsoil horizon directly overlay the yellow London clay natural found across the Site. The upper interface of this natural deposit showed signs of some root disturbance. No archaeological features were present.

Trench 2

- 4.1.4 The uppermost deposit recorded in Trench 2 consisted of an uneven mixed modern ceramic building rubble layer thought to be derived from the destruction of the former Duke of Clarence Public House and its ancillary buildings. The deposit increased in depth towards the south of the Site and was recorded at a depth of 0.2m at the south-western and 0.35m at the south-eastern of the trench. This destruction layer overlay a deposit of coarse yellow sand that was recorded as having a consistent depth of 0.1m. The material was similar to that associated with building sand and is also thought to relate to the former Duke of Clarence Public House and its ancillary buildings.
- 4.1.5 The layer of coarse yellow sand did not cover the southeastern quarter of the trench where a loose friable mid grey silty clay and light orange friable silty clay was recorded filling a deconstructed building foundation. The deposits contained modern ceramic building material and occasional modern willow pattern pottery fragments, which were noted but not retained. The material in texture and structure indicated relatively recent backfill and is thought to relate to the destruction of the former Public House. The foundation extended to a depth of 1.9m below ground surface and was excavated using the JCB mechanical excavator under constant archaeological supervision until natural yellow London clay was observed.
- 4.1.6 Elsewhere in the trench the layer of coarse yellow sand overlay a topsoil/subsoil horizon of mid greyish brown silty clay that contained occasional modern ceramic building rubble and evidence of tree/plant intrusions. This deposit was found to be 0.4m in depth and existed at a depth below ground level consistent with that recorded in Trench 1.

- 4.1.7 As in Trench 1, this topsoil/subsoil horizon where present directly overlay the yellow London clay natural found across the Site. The upper interface of this natural deposit showed signs of some root disturbance. No archaeological features were present.

5 FINDS

- 5.1.1 Modern finds, consisting of fragments of blue & white transfer printed earthenware and 20th century brick fragment were observed during machine excavation and disposed of onsite.

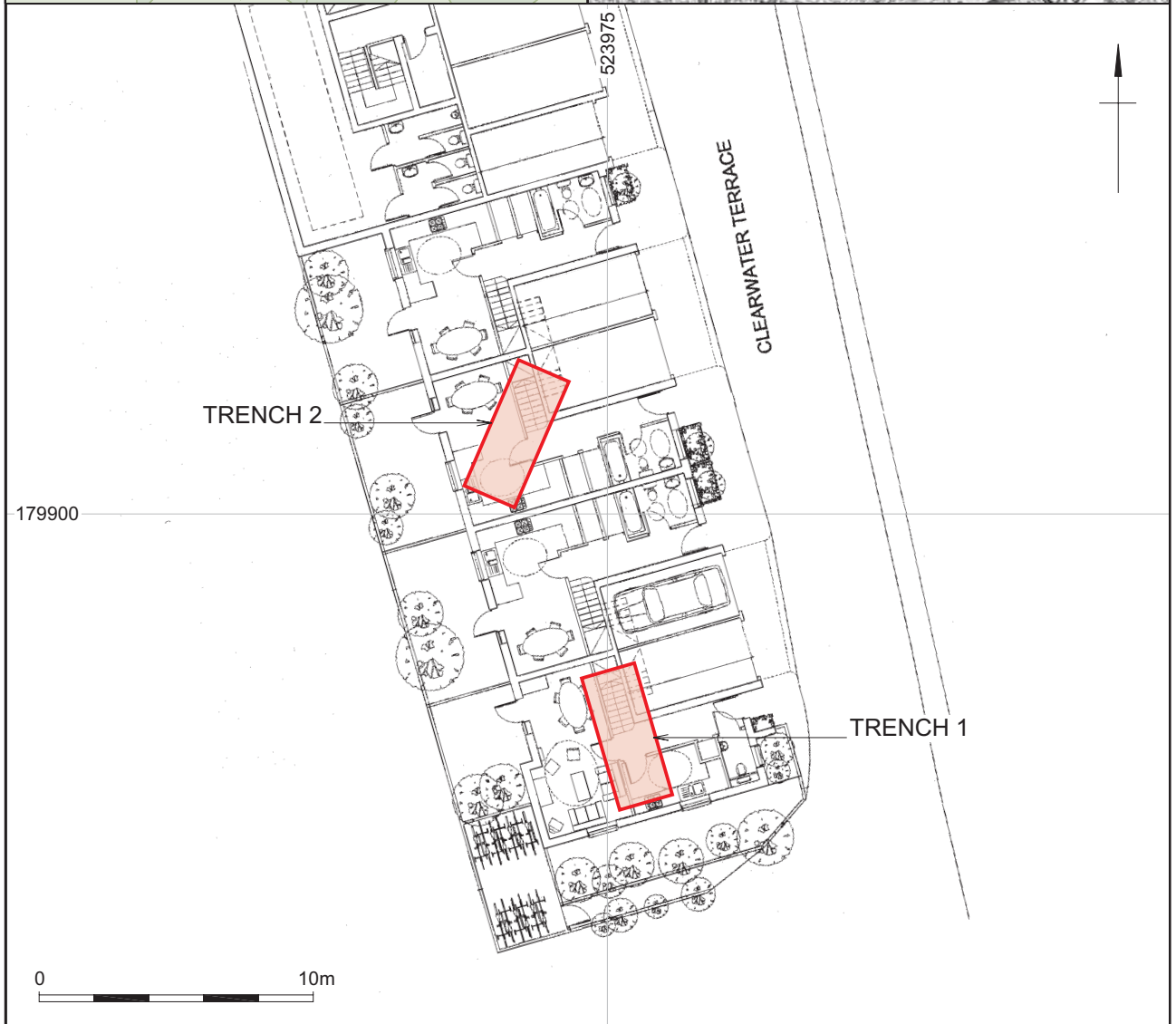
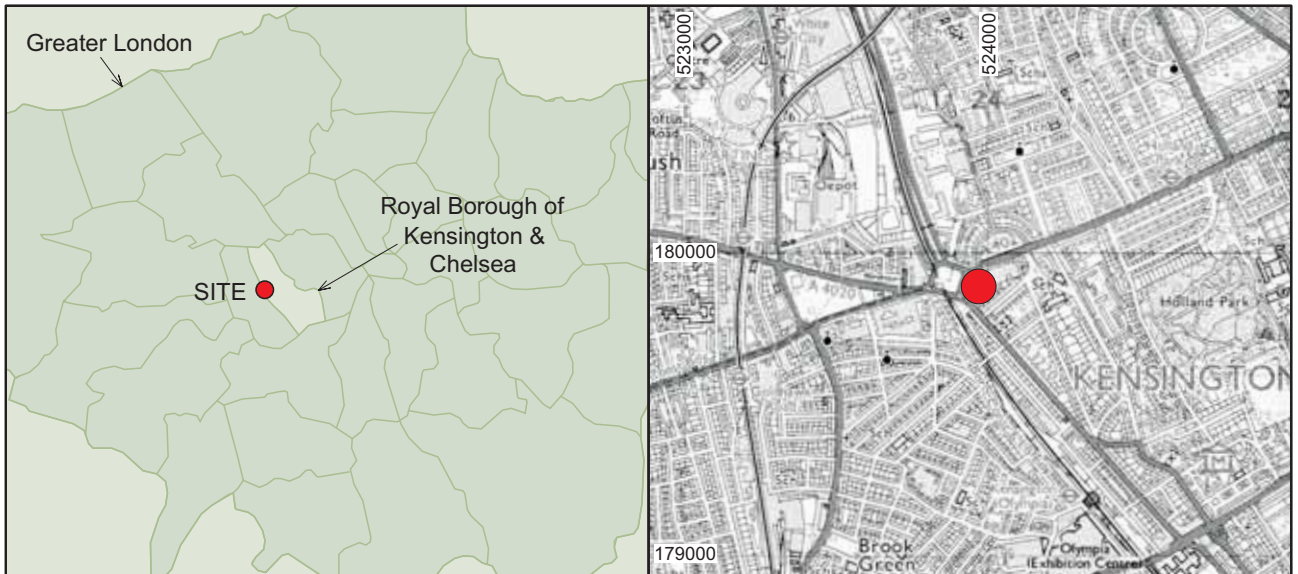
- 5.1.2 No other archaeological material was observed during the evaluation.

6 DISCUSSION

- 6.1.1 Evidence observed and recorded during the evaluation indicates that the construction of the former Duke of Clarence Public House and its ancillary buildings on the Site had removed any potential previous archaeological remains.

7 CONCLUSION

- 7.1.1 Results from the archaeological evaluation undertaken at the Site suggest that there is little or no threat to significant archaeological deposits from the approved development.



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Site and Trench location plans

Figure 1



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