

**Diana, Princess of Wales Memorial Fountain, West Carriage Road, Hyde Park, W2 TQ 2693 8010 PCA (Karl Hulka) evaluation** Sept-Oct 2002 Royal Parks WTG02

The earliest features recorded were a group of postholes truncated by a later scoop and ditch, the latter dated to the late 3rd-4th c. Roman features in the S of the site may represent agricultural land use during this period, with a settlement of some kind nearby. Later activity had truncated a number of the larger features. The remains of an early-18th-c sunken garden feature, a ha-ha, were exposed to the S of the Serpentine Gallery car park. This comprised a ditch with a wall supporting its vertical W side; the E face of the wall was

decorated with a continuous series of arched recesses and showed signs that it had originally been clad with Portland limestone. The overall plan of this wall coincides with the layout of the South Bastion on the N-S boundary between Kensington Gardens and Hyde Park. The ditch and wall were sealed by the contemporary ground surface. A borehole in the SE of the site identified a spread of vitrified brick, which may be evidence of brick production near to the site. Evidence of 19th-c activity related mainly to the demolition of the ha-ha wall and the infilling of the large ditch. To the N of the Serpentine Gallery car park, the remains of the Serpentine Restaurant, built in 1963 and demolished in 1989, were exposed.

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# London Archaeological Bibliography 2002

Compiled by Isabel Holroyd, with contributions from Gustav Milne and Clive Orton. Final layout by Clive Orton.

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