

**HYDE PARK NURSERY,  
Richmond Park,  
London Borough of Richmond-upon-Thames  
Summary of Archaeological watching brief HYD11  
Site centre NGR: TQ2210 7315**

This report forms a brief summary of the results of an Archaeological watching brief carried out on the 13<sup>th</sup> December 2011 on land north of the former Hyde Park Nursery in Richmond Park, London Borough of Richmond-upon-Thames. A single pit, 1.6m wide by 3.35m long, was dug to be used in the filming of a new Cadbury's chocolate TV commercial. The pit was wedge-shaped in profile; sloping from the NW end of the pit to the base at the SE end, reaching a maximum depth of approximately 1.3m. The pit was dug using a JCB fitted with a toothless grading bucket under constant archaeological supervision. Works were commissioned by the Production company MJZ.

The exposed stratigraphy comprised a layer of grey-brown, silty loam topsoil, up to 150mm thick, over a pale-brown clay-silt subsoil of medium compaction and containing occasional flint pebbles. This deposit was quite thick, measuring 320mm, and is probably accumulated colluvium which has graduated down-slope from the north. This material overlay a successive number of naturally formed geological layers; the whole presumed to represent the Taplow Gravels River Terrace deposit as identified by the British geological Survey, (Sheet 270). These included a pale-brown/yellow clay containing frequent gravels, 200mm thick, which formed an interface between the lower subsoil and underlying gravels. The lower, undisturbed gravels were densely compacted, coarse, flint-based and orange-brown in colour, these formed a deposit 380mm thick, and overlay a thick, grey-brown clay containing occasional orange sand pockets, but otherwise sterile. This clay formed the lowermost 300mm of the pit, and continued below the base of the excavation, and is likely to be the top of the London Clay.

No archaeologically significant features or deposits were observed during the excavation or in profile. Therefore the first four research questions put forward in section 4 of the WSI have been answered in the negative on this occasion, however the results should not necessarily be seen as representative of the area as a whole due to the limited nature of the groundwork. Natural geology occurs from 450mm below the present ground surface and corroborates the information provided by the 1998 Geological Survey, answering the last question put forward in the WSI.

COMPASS ARCHAEOLOGY  
*December 2011*

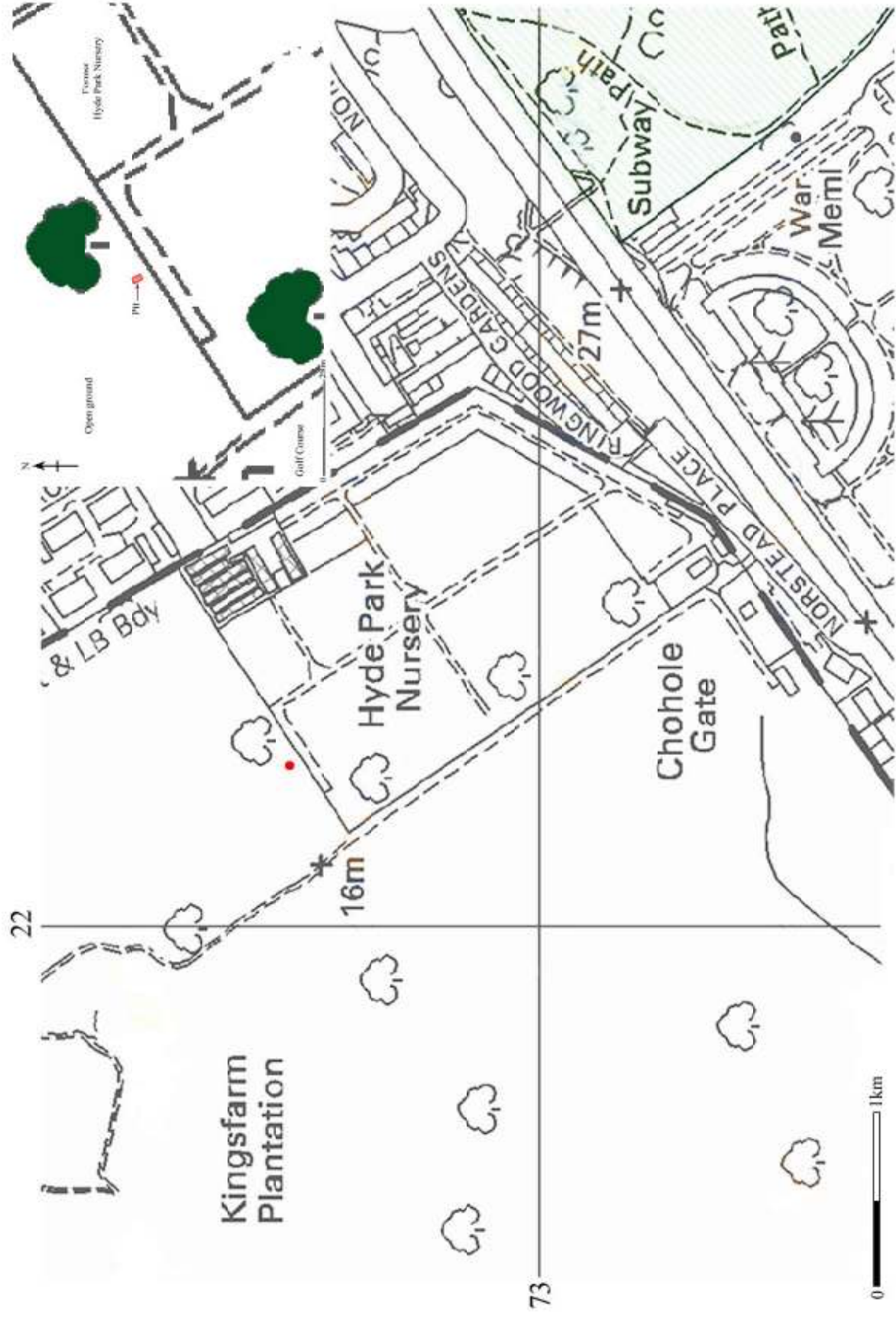


Fig.1: Location plan of works; main plan at 1:2500 scale, insert at 1:500 scale



Fig.2: *Excavated pit, view to E*



Fig.3: *SW facing section through pit*

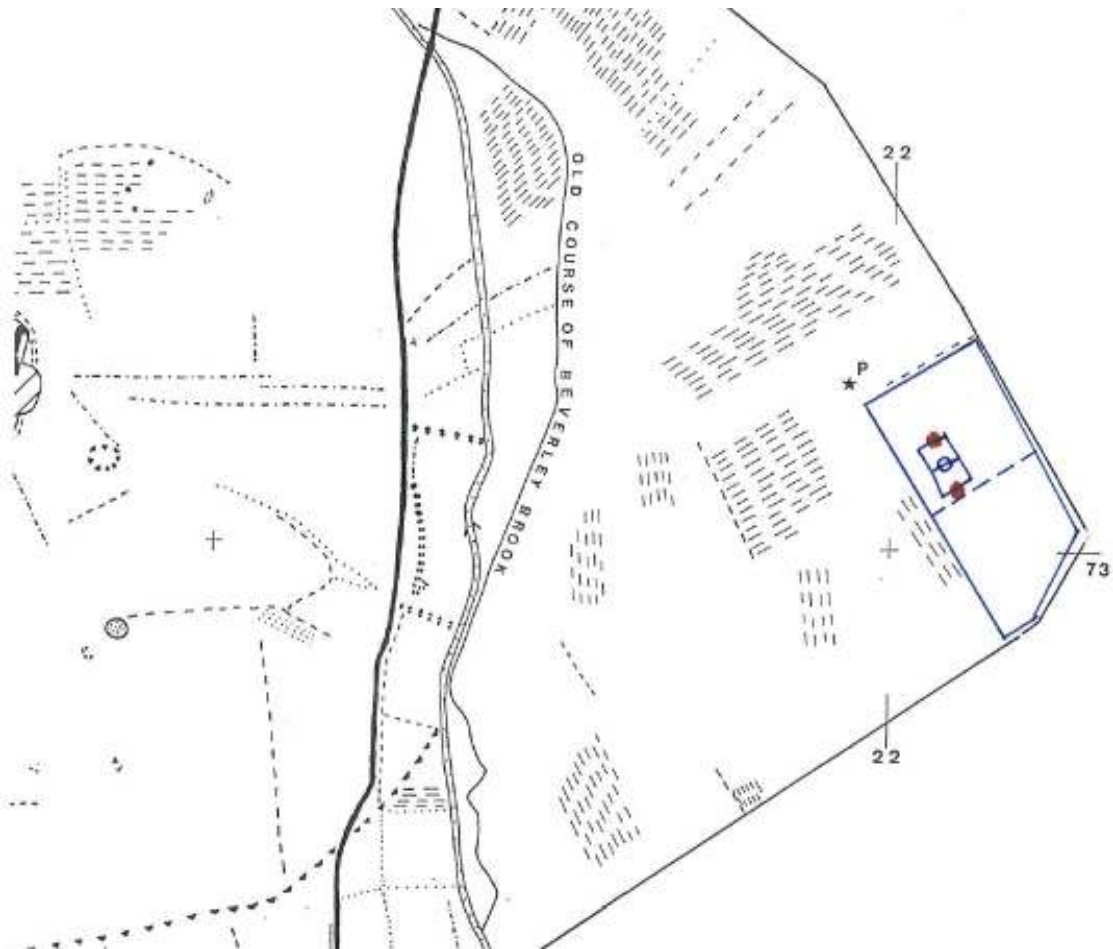


Fig.4: Approximate location of site in relation to known earthworks, provided by the Royal Parks, (lower red dot is the pit excavated)

**Project details**

Project name	Hyde Park Nursery, Richmond Park, Film unit
Short description of the project	<p>This report forms a brief summary of the results of an Archaeological watching brief carried out on the 13<sup>th</sup> December 2011 on land north of the former Hyde Park Nursery in Richmond Park, London Borough of Richmond-upon-Thames. A single pit, 1.6m wide by 3.35m long, was dug to be used in the filming of a new Cadbury's chocolate TV commercial. The pit was wedge-shaped in profile; sloping from the NW end of the pit to the base at the SE end, reaching a maximum depth of approximately 1.3m. The pit was dug using a JCB fitted with a toothless grading bucket under constant archaeological supervision. Works were commissioned by the Production company MJZ.</p> <p>The exposed stratigraphy comprised a layer of grey-brown, silty loam topsoil, up to 150mm thick, over a pale-brown clay-silt subsoil of medium compaction and containing occasional flint pebbles. This deposit was quite thick, measuring 320mm, and is probably accumulated colluvium which has graduated down-slope from the north. This material overlay a successive number of naturally formed geological layers; the whole presumed to represent the Taplow Gravels River Terrace deposit as identified by the British geological Survey, (Sheet 270). These included a pale-brown/yellow clay containing frequent gravels, 200mm thick, which formed an interface between the lower subsoil and underlying gravels. The lower, undisturbed gravels were densely compacted, coarse, flint-based and orange-brown in colour, these formed a deposit 380mm thick, and overlay a thick, grey-brown clay containing occasional orange sand pockets, but otherwise sterile. This clay formed the lowermost 300mm of the pit, and continued below the base of the excavation, and is likely to be the top of the London Clay.</p> <p>No archaeologically significant features or deposits were observed during the excavation or in profile.</p>
Project dates	Start: 13-12-2011 End: 13-12-2011
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	HYD11 - Sitecode
Any associated project reference codes	RICH021 - Contracting Unit No.
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	None
Current Land use	Other 14 - Recreational usage



Monument type	N/A None
Significant Finds	N/A None
Investigation type	'Watching Brief'
Prompt	Advised by English Heritage
<b>Project location</b>	
Country	England
Site location	GREATER LONDON RICHMOND UPON THAMES RICHMOND AND KEW Former Hyde Park Nursery, Richmond Park
Postcode	SW15 4NR
Study area	5.36 Square metres
Site coordinates	TQ 2210 7315 51.4436611007 -0.242891522315 51 26 37 N 000 14 34 W Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 0.45m Max: 1.30m
<b>Project creators</b>	
Name of Organisation	Compass Archaeology
Project brief originator	English Heritage/Department of Environment
Project design originator	Compass Archaeology
Project director/manager	Compass Archaeology
Project supervisor	James Aaronson
Type of sponsor/funding body	MJZ
Type of sponsor/funding body	Production Company
<b>Project archives</b>	
Physical Archive Exists?	No

Digital Archive recipient	Museum of London archive
Digital Contents	'other'
Digital Media available	'Images raster / digital photography','Survey','Text'
Paper Archive recipient	Museum of London Archive
Paper Contents	'other'
Paper Media available	'Correspondence','Miscellaneous Material','Plan','Report','Survey ','Unpublished Text'
<b>Project bibliography</b>	
<b>1</b>	
Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	HYDE PARK NURSERY, Richmond Park, London Borough of Richmond-upon-Thames Summary of Archaeological watching brief HYD11
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Aaronson, J
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Description	A brief summary of archaeological observations during the watching brief near Hyde Park Nursery, Richmond Park. Contains brief description of work locations, dimensions, context descriptions and some pictures illustrating main points.
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