

# THAMES WATER, MAINS REPLACEMENT WORKS IN THE AREA OF HOLLAND PARK

(AMP5, District Metering Area Barrow Hill 14)

ROYAL BOROUGH OF KENSINGTON AND CHELSEA, W14

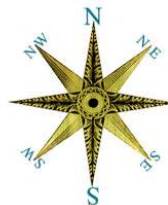
AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF



February 2012



COMPASS



ARCHAEOLOGY

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IN THE AREA OF HOLLAND PARK

(AMP5, DMA Barrow Hill 14)

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## ***Abstract***

*An Archaeological Watching Brief was undertaken during water mains renewal and replacement works in the Holland Park Area, Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea, (Thames Water District Metering Area Barrow Hill 14). Archaeological monitoring was undertaken during contractors groundworks between February 2011 and February 2012, and consisted of the inspection and recording of all groundworks accessible during monitoring visits.*

*Natural geology was observed surviving at a relatively shallow depth across the study area, as little as 500mm below the existing ground surface. It was evident from historic map evidence that the area had been largely undeveloped, existing as open fields, until the middle of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Other than a small segment of 19<sup>th</sup> century brick wall on the corner of Kensington High Street and Addison Road no significant archaeological deposits were observed. It appears that the natural geology / original ground surface had been truncated to create level planes and then deliberately raised by dumping mixed soils prior to and during the development of the housing and road network.*

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## **1 Introduction**

- 1.1** This report details the results of an Archaeological Watching Brief carried out during mains water replacement works in the area around Holland Park in the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea, W8, between 6<sup>th</sup> February 2011 and 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2012. The groundworks were undertaken by Optimise on behalf of Thames Water Utilities.
- 1.2** Archaeological monitoring was undertaken during contractors groundworks and formed a response to recommendations made by English Heritage for an archaeological watching brief. The area does not lie within an Archaeological Priority Area, as outlined in the Unitary Development Plan, however it is within a designated Conservation Area. The monitoring was proposed owing to the area's potential for prehistoric and Roman remains, and for historic remains associated with Holland House and Little Holland House (see below).
- 1.3** The archaeological monitoring included an on-site photographic and written record. As a minimum *pro forma* Trench Record sheets were completed for individual excavations or sections of open-cut trench; recording the nature of exposed deposits and details of any archaeological finds and features. Where suitable finds/samples were collected from deposits for dating purposes. Photographs, recording representative trench sections and general site location, were also taken.
- 1.4** The archaeological work followed consultation with and advice from Rob Whytehead and Diane Abrams; English Heritage.

The watching brief was commissioned by Optimise, on behalf of Thames Water.



## 2 Site Location and Geology

The area covered by this Watching brief is located in north-west London, and is centred around Holland Park House. It is bounded to the north by Holland Park Avenue, to the east by Holland Walk, Kensington High Street to the south and, a course largely parallel with Addison Road to the west, (see below).

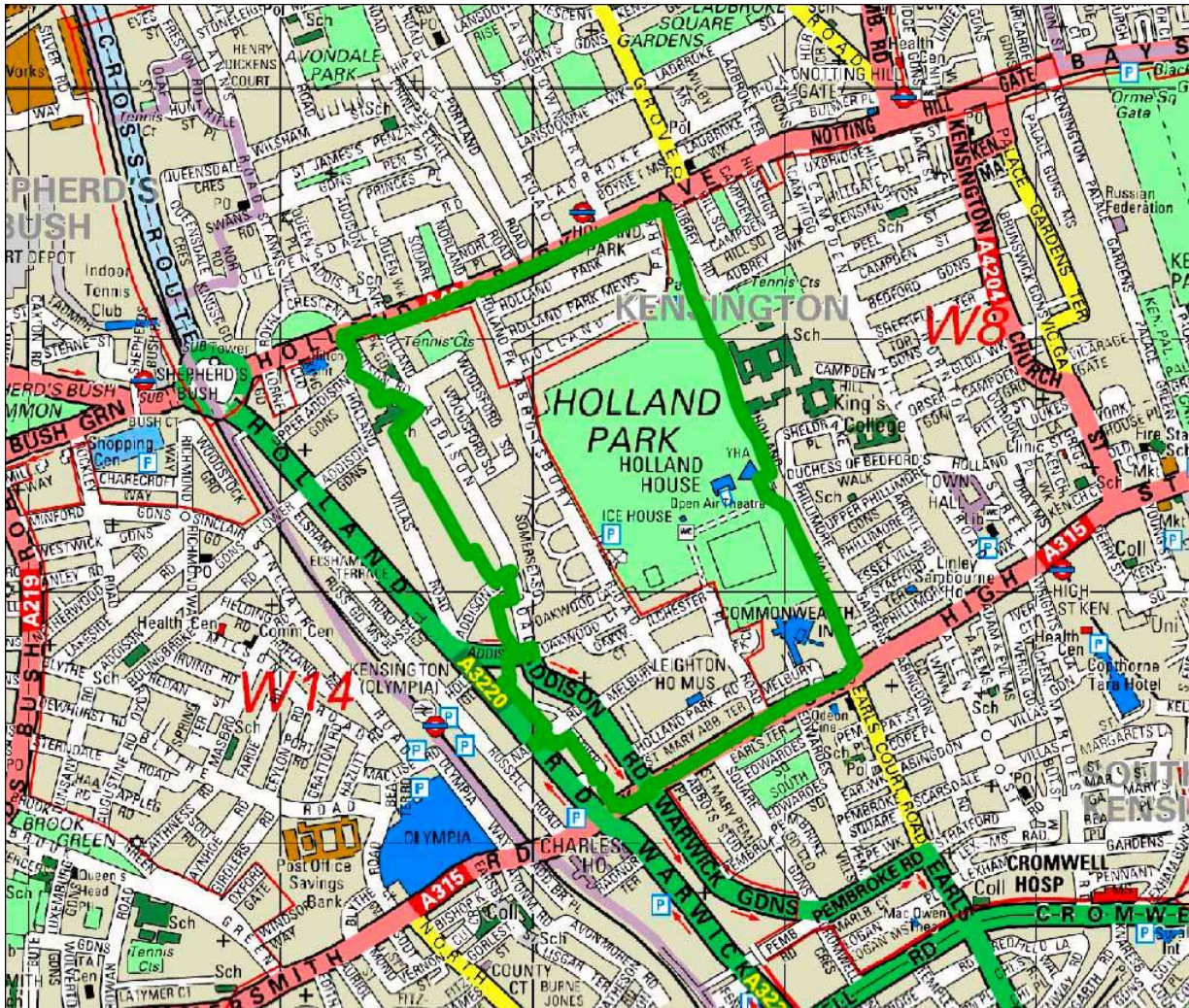


Fig. 1: Location of the Barrow Hill 14 Study area, adapted from A-Z map of London. Reproduced from OS data with the permission of the Ordnance Survey on behalf of The Controller of HMSO. © Crown Copyright 1999. All rights reserved. Compass Archaeology Ltd., licence no. AL 100031317

The British Geological Survey Sheet 270, indicates that the area is covered by a River Terrace Deposit (Boyn Hill Gravel), which to the west extends just to within Holland Park. Outside of this area much older London Clay is exposed, although to the south and east only in a narrow band which is then overlain by further River Terrace material (Lynch Hill).

The area stands on a platform of relatively high ground rising to c.+39m OD.



### **3 Archaeological and Historical Background**

#### **3.1 Prehistoric**

The Barrow Hill area has archaeological potential for prehistoric deposits, with several findspots and sites such as the ‘burnt mound’ at the Phillamores, just immediately to the east on Campden Hill. Interestingly this site had Bronze Age deposits surviving at quite high levels.

Established prehistoric settlement is most likely to have been located on the higher ground within the northern half of the DMA. On the south-facing slope of the former Queen Elizabeth’s College site, Campden Hill Road, (site code CAN00), pits, postholes and a gully containing burnt and struck flint of possible Bronze Age date were encountered. Nearby the Sir John Atkins Building, (code CIH02) produced Bronze or Iron Age features containing burnt flint and pottery, sealed by a probable Early Iron Age ploughsoil. A range of other features of Early to Late Iron Age date were also recorded, including postholes, pits, gullies and a north-south ditch.

In 2003 archaeological investigation at Vicarage Gate House, just to the east of the DMA, revealed field boundary ditches containing pottery, struck flint, daub and other finds (site code VGH03). The ditches were largely dated between the middle Bronze Age and mid-late Iron Age, suggesting a continuity of land use. A collection of sites at Holland Park school, Vicarage Gate, the Phillimores and St Mary Abbots Hospital indicate an established prehistoric landscape in this area, probably using well established trackways and trade routes. This land use pattern appears to continue into the early Roman period without any sign of change or decline.

#### **3.2 Roman**

LAARC has several references to Roman sites, findspots and the early road network.

The principal Roman road heading westwards from the City appears to have followed the line of the present Bayswater Road, Notting Hill Gate and Holland Park Avenue. A change of alignment occurs at Notting Hill Gate, and as the ground rises here it is possible that Notting Hill was used as a sighting point.

Investigations at the Sir John Atkins Building produced two ditches and a pit datable to the Roman period. Other Roman finds further afield include a probable cemetery, including stone sarcophagi, which was found piecemeal in the Notting Hill/Ladbroke Grove area during the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The burials are some distance from the City and are more likely related to a local, extramural settlement or villa.

The discovery in 1994 of a settlement site at St Mary Abbots Hospital, (to the south of Kensington village), has also provided evidence for Iron Age settlement continuing until at least the 2<sup>nd</sup> century AD. However, it is likely that the area was primarily agricultural in the Roman period. Excavations by

Wessex Archaeology in 2010 on the site of Holland Park School, Airlie Gardens, just immediately east of the DMA, have also revealed Late Iron Age to Roman farmstead features.<sup>1</sup>

### 3.3 Saxon

Evidence for Saxon settlement in this area is limited to a probable agricultural ‘darksoil’ deposit at the Sir John Atkins Building on Campden Hill and other features from Earl’s Terrace, on the south side of Kensington High Street (site code ETR97). There is also some place-name evidence for the Saxon origin of Notting Hill.

### 3.4 Medieval

By the medieval period several small villages are recorded in the locality, though it is clear that the area remained predominantly rural in nature. This is clearly shown on 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century maps (*cf.* 2-3), although there was some development along the main road around the present junction of Notting Hill Gate and Holland Park Avenue.<sup>2</sup> On the western side of the area Rocque’s survey records the location of *Kensington Wells*, perhaps originating from a natural spring line at the junction of Terrace Gravels and underlying clay.

### 3.5 Post Medieval

The major post medieval influence within the DMA is the Jacobean mansion of ‘*Holland House*’ (originally built for Sir Walter Cope in 1605 and originally known as ‘Cope House’), which is shown on Rocque and the OS first edition. Cope House later changed its name to Holland House after the Earl of Holland’s wife Mrs Rich inherited the property. A smaller dwelling ‘*Little Holland House*’, the dower house to Holland House (also known as ‘Paradisino’ and demolished in 1871) is also shown on Rocque as ‘*The Farm Yard*’, (*cf.* Fig 2). Both houses were set out as part of formal, planned estates with other numerous historic elements dotted across the landscape, and lent the locale its name. This very affluent area of London has a fascinating social history, with links, for example, to the Civil War, and the late 19<sup>th</sup> century artistic movement ‘The Holland Park Circle’ (to name but two examples).

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<sup>1</sup> Robert Whytehead, English Heritage GLAAS, *pers comm.*

<sup>2</sup> Weinreb, B & Hibbert, C. 1983 *The London Encyclopædia*, p 117

### 3.6 Historic map regression

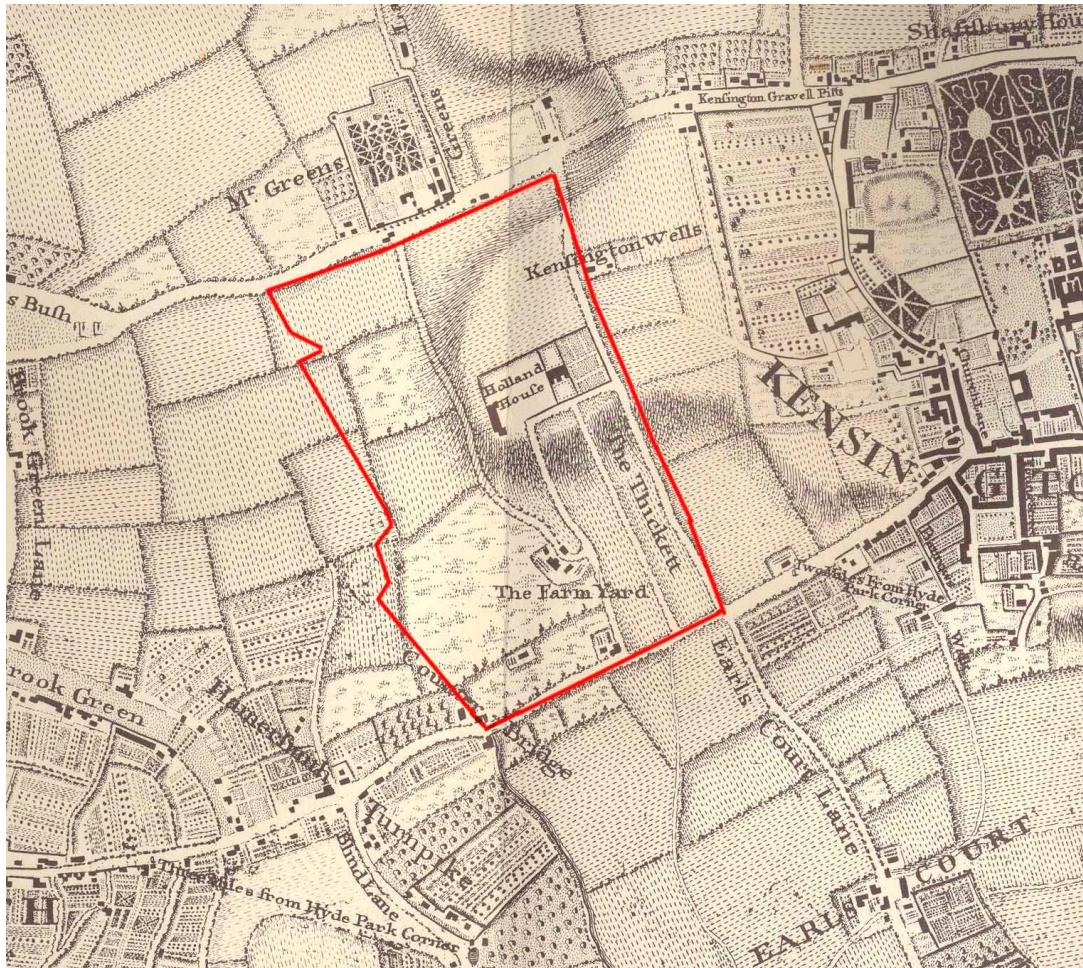


Fig.2: An extract from John Rocque's Survey of London and its Surrounds, (1746), with the DMA area outlined in red

Rocque's Survey depicts the area of Holland Park as open fields with the western end of Kensington Gardens demarking the edge of the City of Westminster. Holland House and Earl's Court along with "Mr Green's" form a string of mansions / large farm complexes that would have been the centres of the major landowners in the area. The major roads to the north and south of the survey area were well established by this time, but no housing on the modern day scale is situated within the study area at this time.







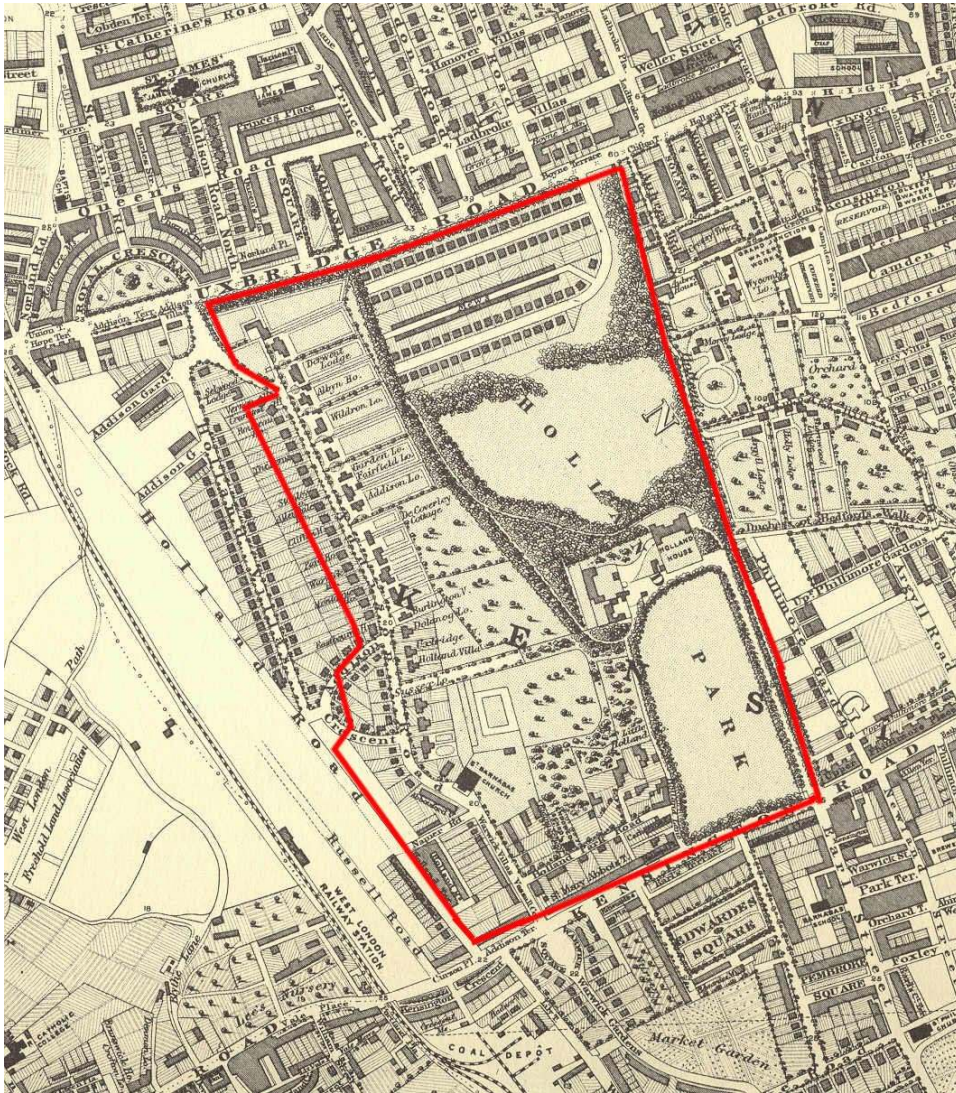


Fig.4: Extract from Stanford's Plan of London and its Suburbs, 1862

By 1862, ten years later, the area now largely resembles the modern day layout with roadside development having increased considerably either side of Addison Road, and also in the northern half of Holland Park itself, where the modern day Holland Park street is located. The frontage onto Kensington Road is also more densely developed. The newly opened Addison Road railway station is depicted in the lower left of frame. This station replaced its loss-making predecessor and was opened on 2<sup>nd</sup> June 1862. This station closed in 1940, only to be re-opened as Kensington (Olympia) in 1946.





Fig.5: An extract from the 1<sup>st</sup> Edition OS Map, (c.1867) outlining the study area

The First Edition shows a broadly similar layout to the study area.





Fig.6: Extract from Bartholomew's 1908 London Atlas

Other than Abbotsbury Road, aligned along the western side of Holland Park, down the centre of the study area, the landscape remains largely unchanged from the layout of this map. The majority of Abbotsbury Road is 1950s in build and Woodford Square, (obviously not yet depicted, but located on the NW corner of the Park, east side of Addison Road), was constructed between 1968-70.

## **4 Archaeological Research Questions**

The research objectives of the archaeological watching brief as set out in the preliminary *Specification*, (Compass Archaeology October 2010, Section 4), were as follows:

- Is there any evidence for prehistoric or Roman activity, and what is the nature of this – for example, settlement or agriculture?
- Is there any evidence for the line of the Roman road or for associated roadside activity (such as burial practices)?
- Is there any evidence for Saxon or medieval activity, and what is the nature of this?
- What evidence is there for post-medieval activity, and can this be related to the cartographic evidence – in particular for development and occupation up to the early 19<sup>th</sup> century?
- Is there any evidence for the historic estates of Holland House and Little Holland House?
- At what levels do any archaeological deposits survive across the area?
- At what levels do natural deposits survive, and do these accord with the Geological Survey record?
- Can the watching brief works inform on the research questions of the Museum of London and English Heritage's '*A Research Framework for London Archaeology*' publication 2002?

## **5 The Archaeological Programme**

### **5.1 Standards**

The watching brief was carried out in accordance with current English Heritage guidelines (in particular, *Standards and Practice in Archaeological Fieldwork, Guidance Paper 3*) and to the standards of the Institute of Field Archaeologists (*Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs*). Overall management of the project was undertaken by a full member of the Institute.

### **5.2 Fieldwork**

The archaeological watching brief took place during contractors groundworks, and generally involved one archaeologist on site, as required, monitoring works and investigating and recording any archaeological remains. Contact was maintained with the groundworks team to ensure a presence on site as and when necessary.

Where archaeological remains were exposed adequate time was given for investigation and recording, although every effort was made not to disrupt the contractor's programme.

The Client and the representatives of English Heritage were kept advised of the progress of the fieldwork.

### **5.3 Methodology**

Archaeological deposits and features were investigated and recorded in stratigraphic sequence and, where appropriate, finds/dating evidence recovered. Archaeological deposits and features were recorded on *pro-forma* context or trench sheets, and drawn in plan. The investigations were recorded on a general site plan and related to the Ordnance Survey grid. The fieldwork record was supplemented as appropriate by digital photography.

## **6 Post Excavation Work**

The fieldwork was followed by off-site assessment and compilation of this report, and by ordering of the site archive.

### **6.1 Finds and samples**

Finds and samples were treated in accordance with the appropriate guidelines, including the Museum of London's *'Standards for the Preparation of Finds to be permanently retained by the Museum of London'*. Finds and brick samples were retained and bagged with unique numbers related to the context record. Assessment of finds and samples was undertaken by appropriately qualified staff. Brick samples and low-grade late post-medieval finds were not retained after analysis.

### **6.2 Report procedure**

Copies of this report will be supplied to the client, English Heritage and the local studies library. A short summary of the fieldwork is also appended using the OASIS Data Collection Form, and in paragraph form suitable for publication within the 'excavation round-up' of the *London Archaeologist*.

## **7 The Site Archive**

The records from the archaeological project will be ordered in line with MoL *Guidelines for the Preparation of Archaeological Archives* and will be deposited in the Museum of London Archaeological Archive.



## 8 The Archaeological Watching Brief

The archaeological watching brief was undertaken during contractors groundworks in the area around Holland Park. The groundworks took place as part of a Thames Water scheme of Victorian water mains replacement. Archaeological monitoring was undertaken on areas of open-cut trenching, trial pits and in launch pit areas, access pits and exit points of other methods. Approximately 960m of trenching was observed within the study area. The results of the archaeological watching brief are listed below, and are discussed in alphabetical order.



Fig.7: Map of groundworks observed during the Watching Brief. Trenches / pits in red  
*Adapted from map provided by Thames Water*

### Abbotsbury Close

One small pit, directly outside No.19 Abbotsbury Close, was recorded. The modern road-surface (tarmac over reinforced concrete) was 0.25m thick, and overlay a thin (0.15m thick) black silty layer. This sealed the underlying natural, taking the form of clean and compact orange-brown silty-clay deposits, present from as little as 0.35m beneath the modern road-surface to the base of the pit and beyond.



Fig.8: *Natural ground exposed in pit on Abbotsbury Close. (1<sup>st</sup> November 2011)*

Two further pits were observed in Abbotsbury Close, in the area of Nos. 52-66. Modern tarmac over steel-reinforced concrete (0.3m thick) overlay the natural sterile mid-brown clays with occasional sub-angular gravels.

### Abbotsbury Road

On the 21<sup>st</sup> July 2011, eleven service pits, (used for insertion), were observed on the eastern pavement of Abbotsbury Road extending north from outside No. 89. The modern road-surface – tarmac over black crushed tarmac for a thickness of 0.2m - directly overlay the natural deposits; truncated sterile mid-brown clay.

Nine pits, plus two small stretches of trenching, were observed on the eastern side of Abbotsbury Road (on the pavement), between Nos. 59 and 77. Paving slabs over an orange sand levelling deposit (0.14m thick) was observed overlying a possible buried soil (a mid-brown silty deposit with root matter and pebbles, c.0.2m thick), over the natural sterile brown clay (with occasional root disturbance, c.0.35m beneath the modern road-surface).





Fig.9: *Section through service pit, Abbotsbury Road, facing E. (9<sup>th</sup> August 2011)*

12.5m of trenching was observed on the 22<sup>nd</sup> August along the eastern side of Abbotsbury Road, opposite No.25. In this trench, tarmac over concrete for a depth of 0.35m was observed overlying the natural mid-brown clay. One possible feature, consisting of a possible cut with ceramic building material and pebbles was noted.

Another 28m of trenching was observed on the 31<sup>st</sup> August aligned north-south along the centre of Abbotsbury Road, between Nos. 17 and 23. The modern road-surface (tarmac over concrete, 0.4m thick), overlay dark brown silty-clay containing occasional ceramic building fragments and pebbles. This was probably an imported subsoil brought in to form part of the original road bed. At the southern end of the trench was a dump of red crushed brick fragments representing another made-ground deposit. This overlay the natural deposit, a sterile orange-brown silty-clay present from *c.*1m beneath the modern ground-surface. This crushed brick layer was observed in several locations across the study area and appears to have been deposited to form a levelling/build up layer and to form a consolidation layer over the natural clay.





Fig.10: *Abbotsbury Road, facing N. (31<sup>st</sup> August 2011)*



Fig.11: *Crushed brick layer overlying truncated natural within trenching, facing E. (31<sup>st</sup> August 2011)*

## Addison Road

On the 5<sup>th</sup> June 2011 a small stretch of open-cut trenching on the corner of Addison Road and Kensington High Street was observed. The trench measured c.9m long by 0.5m wide and up to 1.06m in depth. Stratigraphy comprised the modern road-surface, (tarmac over road consolidation layers), overlying disturbed service backfills, over truncated natural deposits of compact blue-grey London Clay. These clays were present from 0.8m beneath the modern ground-surface to the base of the trench and continuing below.



*Fig.12: Trenching on the corner of Addison Road and Kensington High Street. Facing NNE. (5<sup>th</sup> June 2011)*

On the 13<sup>th</sup> September a further 6m of trenching along the eastern side of Addison Road, outside No. 45 and just north of Holland Park Road, was recorded. The modern road-surface (tarmac over concrete for c.0.4m thick) was observed overlying a made-ground deposit (dark brown silty-clay with gravel), over natural orange brown clays.

Three east-west sections of open-cut trenching (each about 6.5m long) were observed on the western side of Addison Road, at the southern end, between High Street Kensington and Holland Park Road. The road-surface (tarmac over concrete for 0.38m thick) overlay service backfills. In the centre of the road, a thin lens of dark grey clay-silt, containing early 19<sup>th</sup> century pottery (*cf.* Appendix III) and ceramic building material was observed. This overlay truncated natural comprising brown-yellow silty-clay deposits.





Fig.13: *N facing section through pit in Addison Road. Note grey silt lens containing pottery and CBM overlying truncated natural. (27<sup>th</sup> November 2011)*

Another L-shaped trench, this time running north-south for 11m along the eastern side of Addison Road and then east-west for 14m into Oakwood Court, was monitored on the 29<sup>th</sup> November 2011. The road-surface (tarmac over bedding material) was observed overlying service backfill (gravel-rich silts and brown-grey clays) in the north-south section of trenching; and a crushed red brick deposit over natural sterile brown clay (from 0.5m beneath the modern ground-surface) in the east-west running section. A lens of dark-grey sandy-silt containing 19<sup>th</sup> century pottery, similar to that observed on the 27<sup>th</sup> November, was also present towards the southern end of the trench and samples of this were retained for dating purposes, (*cf.* appendix III).



Fig.14: *Addison Road facing N from junction with Oakwood Court.* (29<sup>th</sup> November 2011)

A series of pits and trenches, (eight in total), were investigated on the 19<sup>th</sup> January 2012 along the eastern side of Addison Road, between No.15 and the junction of Addison Crescent. Underlying stratigraphy comprised 0.4m of tarmac and concrete road-surface over occasional dark grey silty-clay service backfill, (where existing pipes were exposed), and elsewhere, the natural sterile brown-orange silty-clay.





Fig.15: Pit opened on Addison Road 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2012, facing N

A number of pits and trenches were observed on the eastern side of Addison Road, running approximately alongside Woodsford Square. The modern road-surface (tarmac over concrete) was between 0.4 and 0.6m thick, over a mixed gravel and aggregate backfill where there are older pipes, and redeposited natural sterile brown-orange clays elsewhere (from 0.4m beneath the modern ground-surface).

### **Holland Park**

On the 8<sup>th</sup> February 2011 50m of open-cut trenching was monitored between the junction of Holland Park and Abbotsbury Road, eastwards to opposite No.61 Holland Park. The trench was very narrow at c.0.33m wide and averaged 0.9m in depth across the entire length. The existing road surface was set atop a compacted layer of loose tarmac and imported yellow gravels amounting to 0.3m thickness. This overlay a made ground deposit of brick/stone/chalk and cobbling within a sandy-soil matrix, extant to a depth of 0.8m across the trench. This represented a deliberate raising of the ground levels to construct the current road. Below this demolition-based spread was the truncated surface of natural brown clays.

Similar stratigraphy was observed in lengths of trenching excavated between the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> of March as far as No.74 Holland Park Road. On each occasion the exposed stratigraphy was similar in that the existing tarmac road surface overlay previous road make-up layers containing either large quantities of crushed brick and mortar, or large worn pebbles within a sandy silt matrix. These dumps truncated the upper levels of the natural ground which were exposed at 0.8m below the current ground surface to the base of the trench and beyond.



Fig.16: Sections through trenching on 8<sup>th</sup>, (left), and 14<sup>th</sup>, (right), March 2011 both facing N



Fig.17: Fragment of a decorative stone banister similar to those seen on front steps elsewhere along Holland Park. Found in made ground during trenching works. (14<sup>th</sup> March 2011)



A short stretch of trench 5m long by 1.2m wide and up to 1.4m deep was observed on the 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2011 and revealed similar stratigraphy of tarmac overlying made ground deposits, sealing natural clays. This was also true on the 30<sup>th</sup> March when a 50m long stretch of trench was dug along the far eastern curve of Holland Park.

These observations regarding the underlying stratigraphy were repeated along Holland Park during numerous visits between 6<sup>th</sup> April and the 17<sup>th</sup> June all of which produced generally the same results. In all, a total of approximately 260m of trenching and pits were observed on the roads making up Holland Park and no deposits of particular archaeological significance were observed. It was shown that the natural geology had been truncated in its uppermost regions and the ground subsequently raised in a series of deliberate dumping episodes to create the road surface that is evident today.



*Fig.18: Section through eastern end of trenching along Holland Park on 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2011. Note the sharp contacts between each made ground layer suggesting deliberate truncation of the previous layer each time before laying down the next. Facing N*

## Ilchester Place

49m of trenching was observed along the northern side of Ilchester Place, running east from the junction with Abbotsbury Road. The modern road-surface (tarmac over tar base) overlay a layer of crushed and broken red / yellow stock bricks, *c.*0.32m thick, directly overlying 0.1m of black silt pea-gravel, and presumably representing a previous levelling surface. This overlay the natural sterile yellow-brown clay, *c.*0.56m beneath the modern road-surface.



Fig.19: *Ilchester Place, open-cut trench facing WSW*  
(27<sup>th</sup> September 2011)



Fig.20: *Oblique shot of section through trenching on Ilchester Place. The crushed brick levelling layer is clearly visible below the current road surface Facing E. (27<sup>th</sup> September 2011)*

### **Kensington High Street**

20m of trenching was observed on the northern side of Kensington Road on the 20<sup>th</sup> April 2011. A thick modern road-surface, made up of 0.5m of tarmac and concrete, directly overlay the truncated natural deposit, which was a compact, clean, mid-light brown clay extending to the base of the trench and beyond. No archaeologically significant deposits were observed.

On the 5<sup>th</sup> of June 15m of trenching was observed on the northern side of Kensington High Street, from the end of the trench observed on Addison Road, to the end of the trench observed on the 20<sup>th</sup> April. In this section of trenching, a short length of red brick wall bonded with a lime mortar was recorded running north-south across the trench for a distance of 0.5m. This wall was 0.6m in width, and its top was 0.44m beneath the modern ground-surface, continuing for at least six courses, down to 0.9m beneath modern ground-surface and beyond. It was located on the line of the garden walls fronting Addison Road, and was therefore presumably once an extension of one of these garden walls, (*cf.* fig.23 below). This can therefore be used as evidence to illustrate how Kensington High Street must have been widened in this area. Different deposits were observed either side of the exposed wall – to the east of the wall were cess and clayey-silt fills in a fine silt matrix, (presumably disturbed / degraded garden deposits); to the west, fine rubbly silt. This stretched down to approximately 0.8m beneath the modern ground-surface, beneath which was the natural clay.

The brick samples from this wall, (*cf.* appendix IV), were identified as London Fabric Series type [3047] brick, and was dated to the period 1700-1900AD.





Fig.21: Detail from Stanford's map of 1862. Is the highlighted wall the same as found within trenching on the 5<sup>th</sup> June 2011



Fig.22: Wall exposed in trenching on Kensington High Street. Facing E, (5<sup>th</sup> June 2011)



Fig.23: *Brick wall exposed on 5<sup>th</sup> June 2011. Facing NE*



## Melbury Road

A 10m stretch of trenching was observed on the southern side of Melbury Road, opposite the junction with Abbotsbury Road. A modern road-surface (tarmac over a mixed gravelly road-base) was observed over heavily disturbed loose, orange-brown, silty-clay; disturbed by the large watermain plus several other services running across the trench.



Fig.24: Trenching on Melbury Place, facing NE. (1<sup>st</sup> November 2011)

Four pits and one trench were observed on 17<sup>th</sup> November on the western side of Melbury Road, adjacent to the kerb, and south from the junction with Ilchester Place. These varied in depth and dimensions, from 1.5-2.0m long and 0.92m –1.6m wide and from 0.95m up to 1.5m in depth. Each of these revealed a modern road-surface of tarmac and orange aggregates; overlying made-ground deposits; compact mortar / clay and gravels, dark grey clay silts, and dumps of demolition rubble. These overlay the ‘natural’ deposits – sterile orange brown clays, from c. 1m beneath the modern ground-surface to the base of the excavations.



## **Napier Road**

A single pit was observed on the SE corner of Napier Road at the junction with Addison Road. This took place on the 1<sup>st</sup> November 2011. The pit measured 2.5m E-W by 0.85m N-S and up to 1.1m deep, revealing underlying stratigraphy of the existing tarmac road surface on a bed of concrete overlying heavily disturbed service cut backfills.

## **Park Close**

Two small, 1m x 2m, pits in Park Close were observed on the 22<sup>nd</sup> August 2011, and revealed modern tarmac over concrete (in the top 0.38m), overlying the natural, sterile, brown clays observed elsewhere.

## **St Mary Abbots Terrace**

35m of trenching was observed on the northern side of St Mary Abbots Terrace, running west from the far eastern end of this road. The modern tarmac / rubble road-surface (0.25m thick) was observed overlying further rubble (to 0.5m), over the sterile, fine, mid-brown-grey clayey-silt natural deposits.

## **Woodsford Square**

On the 8<sup>th</sup> June 2011 50m of open-cut trench between Nos.43 and 47 Woodsford Square revealed simple underlying stratigraphy of existing cobbles / tarmac ground surface over a concrete rubble bedding layer down to 0.4m below current ground level and then an extra 0.2m of dark-grey silty clay made ground sealing the natural brown clays beneath. The trench measured 0.6m wide and up to 0.9m deep.

The same stratigraphy was observed in trench-work between 116-123 and a series of launch and connection pits between Nos.83-100 Woodsford Square on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> July respectively. *In situ*, compacted natural clays were exposed as little as 0.4m below the present ground surface sealed beneath concrete bedding and tarmac road surfaces.

The final visit to Woodsford Square investigated 52.5m of open-cut trenching running north-south along the western side of Woodsford Square, between Nos.68 – 73. The modern road-surface (tarmac over concrete and a sandy levelling deposit, 0.3m thick) directly overlay the natural light-brown clayey-silt (from 0.3m beneath the modern ground-surface), totally sterile in content.



Fig.25: Trenching in Woodsford Square, facing E (9<sup>th</sup> August 2011)

## 9 Summary and Conclusions

The Watching Brief in BH14 revealed that the natural clay geology survived at quite a shallow depth, often within 500mm of the existing ground surface. The underlying stratigraphy was broadly similar across the entire study site; comprising the natural clays sealed by various made ground deposits relating to the creation of the road network and nearby housing developments, overlain by the concrete bedding and tarmac of the existing road surface.

Other than the small segment of 19<sup>th</sup> century boundary wall recorded on the corner of Kensington High Street and Addison Road, no earlier significant archaeological features or deposits were observed. This corroborates the historic map evidence which shows the area to have been open land up until the mid 19<sup>th</sup> century. The creation of the surrounding road networks and housing appears to have involved the truncation of the upper levels of the natural geology in order to create level planes and then the deliberate building up of the ground prior to construction. This process would have disturbed any earlier archaeological deposits and this could explain why such deposits were not observed. However the narrow dimensions of the trenches and the siting of them over existing services also effects the results and archaeological deposits may still survive elsewhere in the survey area in less heavily disturbed areas.

## 10 Bibliography

British Geological Survey, (1994)

The Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea, [www.rbkc.go.uk](http://www.rbkc.go.uk)

Thompson, A., Westman, A. and Dyson, T. (eds) *Archaeology in Greater London 1965-1990. The Archaeological Gazetteer Series, Volume 2*, (1998)

Walford, E. *Old and New London Vol.5*, (1878)

Weinreb, B & Hibbert, C. *The London Encyclopædia*, (1987)



## APPENDIX I: Pottery Report by Paul Blinkhorn

The pottery assemblage comprised 17 sherds with a total weight of 186g. It was all post-medieval, unstratified, and mainly dated to the 19<sup>th</sup> century. It was recorded using the fabric codes of the Museum of London post-Roman type-series (Vince 1985), as follows:

CHINA: **'Ironstone' China**, 1800-1900. 11 sherds, 91g.  
EYGE: **English Yellow-Glazed Earthenware**, 1785-1835. 2 sherds, 4g.  
LONS: **London Stoneware**, 1670-1900. 1 sherd, 14g.  
PMR: **Post-medieval Redware**, 1580 – 1900. 2 sherds, 62g.  
REFR: **Refined Red Earthenware**, 1740-1800. 1 sherd, 15g.

The pottery occurrence by number and weight of sherds per context by fabric type is shown in Table 1. Each date should be regarded as a *terminus post quem*. The range of fabric types is typical of late post-medieval and early modern sites in the region.

Table 1: Pottery occurrence by number and weight (in g) of sherds per context by fabric type

	PMR		LONS		EYGE		REFR		CHINA	
Cntxt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt
1					2	4			5	21
2			1	14					3	46
3	2	62					1	15	3	24
Total	2	62	1	14	2	4	1	15	11	91

## Bibliography

Vince, AG, 1985 The Saxon and Medieval Pottery of London: A review  
*Medieval Archaeology* 29, 25-93

## APPENDIX II: Ceramic Building Material Analysis by Sue Pringle

On the 5<sup>th</sup> June 2011 a chunk of masonry, composed of a brick, half brick and fragment, bonded with lime mortar was taken as a sample from a section of wall found in trenching on Kensington High Street. The sample weighed 4400g and the most complete sample of brick measured 200mm+ long and was 105mm broad and 67mm deep. The brick conformed to London fabric Series type 3047, was made from fine moulding sand and was notable for its sharp arrises and finely creased stretcher faces. The sample can be dated to c.1700-1900AD. The brick and mortar samples were not retained.

### APPENDIX III: OASIS Form

*OASIS ID: compass1-120221*

#### Project details

Project name	Thames Water Mains Replacement Works in BH14
Short description of the project	An Archaeological Watching Brief was undertaken during water mains renewal and replacement works in the Holland Park Area, Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea, (Thames Water District Metering Area Barrow Hill 14). Archaeological monitoring was undertaken during contractors groundworks between February 2011 and February 2012, and consisted of the inspection and recording of all open works accessible during monitoring visits. Natural geology was observed surviving at a relatively shallow depth across the study area, as little as 500mm below the existing ground surface. It was evident from historic map evidence that the area had been largely undeveloped, existing as open fields, until the middle of the 19th century. Other than a small segment of 19th century brick wall on the corner of Kensington High Street and Addison Road no significant archaeological deposits were observed. It appears that the natural geology / original ground surface had been truncated to create level planes and then deliberately raised by dumping mixed soils prior to the development of the housing and road network.
Project dates	Start: 08-02-2011 End: 02-02-2012
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	TXG11 - Sitecode
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	Conservation Area
Current Land use	Other 3 - Built over
Monument type	BRICK WALL Post Medieval
Significant Finds	POTTERY SHERDS Post Medieval
Investigation type	'Watching Brief'
Prompt	Water Act 1989 and subsequent code of practice

### Project location

Country	England
Site location	GREATER LONDON KENSINGTON AND CHELSEA KENSINGTON AND CHELSEA Holland Park, DMA Barrow Hill 14
Postcode	W14 8EQ, (centre point)
Study area	63.50 Hectares
Site coordinates	TQ 2413 8000 51.5047878369 -0.211286381597 51 30 17 N 000 12 40 W Polygon
Site coordinates	TQ 2472 8025 51.5069046956 -0.202700535255 51 30 24 N 000 12 09 W Polygon
Site coordinates	TQ 2513 7933 51.4985448853 -0.197121726119 51 29 54 N 000 11 49 W Polygon
Site coordinates	TQ 2472 7911 51.4966583016 -0.203103677063 51 29 47 N 000 12 11 W Polygon
Height OD / Depth	Min: 0.47m Max: 1.45m

### Project creators

Name of Organisation	Compass Archaeology
Project brief originator	English Heritage/Department of Environment
Project design originator	Compass Archaeology
Project director/manager	Geoff Potter
Project supervisor	Gill King
Project supervisor	Emma Jeffery
Project supervisor	James Aaronson
Type of sponsor	Water utility/company
Name of	Thames Water



sponsor/funding  
body

### Project archives

Physical Archive recipient	Museum of London Archive
Physical Contents	'Ceramics'
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	'Context sheet','Correspondence','Map','Miscellaneous Material','Notebook - Excavation',' Research',' General Notes','Plan','Unpublished Text'

### Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	THAMES WATER MAINS REPLACEMENT WORKS IN THE AREA OF HOLLAND PARK
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Aaronson, J and Jeffery, E
Date	2012
Issuer or publisher	Compass Archaeology
Place of issue or publication	5-7 Southwark Street
Description	Report of the results of the watching brief. Includes historical and archaeological background of the site, details of the methodology used, photographs and descriptions of all trenches monitored, and brief conclusions reached.

Entered by James Aaronson  
Entered on 28 February 2012

#### **APPENDIX IV: London Archaeologist Summary**

Site Address: Thames Water District Metering Area BH14, Holland Park,  
Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea, W14  
Project type: Watching Brief  
Dates of Fieldwork: 8<sup>th</sup> February 2011-2nd February 2012  
Site Code: TXG11  
Site Supervisor: Compass Archaeology  
NGR: TQ 2437 7943  
Funding Body: Optimise

An Archaeological Watching Brief was undertaken during water mains renewal and replacement works in the Holland Park Area, Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea, (Thames Water District Metering Area Barrow Hill 14). Archaeological monitoring was undertaken during contractors groundworks between February 2011 and February 2012, and consisted of the inspection and recording of all open works accessible during monitoring visits.

Natural geology was observed surviving at a relatively shallow depth across the study area, as little as 500mm below the existing ground surface. It was evident from historic map evidence that the area had been largely undeveloped, existing as open fields, until the middle of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Other than a small segment of 19<sup>th</sup> century brick wall on the corner of Kensington High Street and Addison Road no significant archaeological deposits were observed. It appears that the natural geology / original ground surface had been truncated to create level planes and then deliberately raised by dumping mixed soils prior to the development of the housing and road network.