

**35 WEST HILL, WANDSWORTH, SW18 1RB**

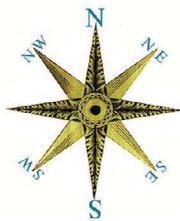
**LONDON BOROUGH OF WANDSWORTH**

**AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION AND PHOTOGRAPHIC  
STANDING BUILDING RECORD**



May 2006

COMPASS



ARCHAEOLOGY



35 WEST HILL, WANDSWORTH, SW18 1RB

LONDON BOROUGH OF WANDSWORTH

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION AND PHOTOGRAPHIC  
STANDING BUILDING RECORD

SITE CODE: WEW06

SITE CENTRE NGR: TQ 25135 74600

PLANNING REFERENCES: 2003/4792 & 2006/1290

COMPASS ARCHAEOLOGY LIMITED

5-7 SOUTHWARK STREET

LONDON SE1 1RQ

Telephone: 020 7403 9660

Facsimile: 020 7403 9661

e-mail: [mail@compassarchaeology.co.uk](mailto:mail@compassarchaeology.co.uk)

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Project 344

### ***Abstract***

*Archaeological recording of a proposed redevelopment site at 35 West Hill, SW18, took place in March/April 2006. The project included a photographic record of a late 18<sup>th</sup> century Listed building, plus evaluation trenching of land to the rear.*

*The area has potential for prehistoric to post-medieval remains, although it is outside the early settlement. Rocque's survey of 1746 shows a number of properties fronting onto West Hill, with gardens and orchards to the rear. The present Listed building occupies the northern part of the site, and forms one of a pair of detached houses.*

*Three trial trenches covering some 28 sq. metres were opened in the proposed redevelopment area, but did not yield very significant results. The higher southern part of the site retained a more or less intact soil profile over natural silty sand (Head), but only produced evidence for 19<sup>th</sup> and earlier 20<sup>th</sup> century cultivation. To the north the ground had been heavily truncated by terracing, possibly during construction of the present Listed building, and in most places recent deposits overlay natural clay.*

*There was one notable feature, in the form of an 18<sup>th</sup> century pit with associated pottery assemblage. The pottery is dated to c 1750-70 and was probably discarded at one time or over a short period from a single fairly affluent household. The assemblage included a fairly wide range of fabrics, including common kitchen and storage wares as well as teawares and pieces from good quality dinner services.*

*The pottery has some intrinsic and more general significance, although this is reduced by the lack of any associated features or surfaces. Also the pit itself was substantially truncated, so the assemblage may well represent only part the original deposit.*

*In view of these results it is suggested that no further archaeological measures should be undertaken in relation to the proposed development.*

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## **1. Introduction**

- 1.1** This report presents a summary of archaeological evaluation of a proposed redevelopment site on the south side of West Hill, SW18, London Borough of Wandsworth (Figure 1). The report also includes a photographic record of a Listed building that is to be refurbished and incorporated within the development.

The evaluation and photographic fieldwork was undertaken by Compass Archaeology in late March and early April 2006.

- 1.2** The site was considered to have potential for a range of archaeological remains. There are several prehistoric references in the area, and the plot is located on an historic route to the west of the Saxon and medieval settlement of Wandsworth. Contemporary maps show that this part of West Hill was developed by the first half of the 18<sup>th</sup> century.

The Listed building occupies the northern end of the site, facing onto West Hill. This structure probably dates to the late 18<sup>th</sup> century and forms one of a pair of detached houses, the other being No. 37 West Hill just to the west (*cf.* Front cover illustration).

- 1.3** Archaeological assessment of the site was required as part of the planning process. English Heritage advised that the evaluation and photographic record should be undertaken as a condition of planning consent, before the commencement of development (LB. of Wandsworth Planning Refs. 2003/4792 & 2006/1290).

It was agreed that three trial trenches should be dug within the area of the proposed redevelopment, to cover *c* 28 sq. metres at the level of potential archaeology or undisturbed natural ground. The photographic record would cover both external and internal aspects of the standing building.

## **2. Acknowledgements**

The archaeological evaluation was commissioned by Mr Steve Bradley of London View Limited.

Diane Walls (English Heritage Greater London Archaeology Advisory Service) monitored the project on behalf of the London Borough of Wandsworth.

## **3. Location and topography**

- 3.1** The dimensions of the site are approximately 45m by 18m, the width increasing slightly to the rear. The plot includes the Listed building, plus open ground and a number of single storey outbuildings and garages to the rear. This latter area covers *c* 560 sq. metres and will be cleared and redeveloped.

- 3.2** The site lies on rising ground some 450m to the west of the River Wandle, and is approximately centred at NGR TQ 25135 74600. The British Geological Survey (*Sheet 270*, 1998) indicates that the area overlies a natural ground surface of Head (silt, sand & clay with variable gravel), which here forms a north-south band between two separate River Terraces.

- 3.3** The surface of the site rises quite steeply to the rear, from about 14.2m to 16.7m OD. It was thought that the land had been terraced in the past, although prior to investigation

the extent to which ground may have been dug away or built up was unknown. However, a process of terracing was clearly indicated by the present topography and by the historic boundary that divided the site into two parts of the site (see below 4.3 & Figure 13).

#### **4. Archaeology and history**

- 4.1** There are several references in the vicinity to finds of Neolithic flint tools and flakes (GLSMR Nos. 031198; 031199 & 031200), although none of these are conclusively linked to *in situ* activity.

The site lies to the west of the Saxon and medieval settlement of Wandsworth that grew up around the river crossing, and on the historic route to Putney/Richmond and Kingston.

- 4.2** Rocque's map of 1746 shows ribbon development along the south side of West Hill, with gardens and orchards to the rear. The Ordnance Survey First Edition of 1804-6 gives a similar picture, though with an indication of further buildings set back from the road.

- 4.3** A much more detailed view is provided by the Wandsworth Tithe map of 1838 (Figure 13), including the present Listed building (within plot no. 398). The southern part of the site is separate but open, and forms a part of a much larger property (no. 400). This latter is subsequently identified by the 1894-96 OS map as Lebanon House.

By 1913 Lebanon House had been demolished, although the site was still divided and the upper part contained two large glasshouses. It is likely that these structures were replaced by the present garages and outbuildings after the two areas had been incorporated into one landholding.

#### **4.4 The Listed Building**

- 4.4.1** No. 35 West Hill is a nationally Listed Building (Ref. LB/204/1). The Listing Description (which also refers to the adjacent property, No.37) is as follows:

*Late 18<sup>th</sup> Century. Structurally separate pair of houses one bay wide to the road, 3 bays deep on the return. Basement, 2-storeys and a dormer. Stock brick (No 35 partly painted) with hipped slate roof. Recessed single-storey entrance with round-arched door (now closed) and fanlight of radiating pattern to No 35. Entrance bay of No 37 now altered. Main front. Flat giant piers frame the elevation. Basement-plinth with gauged cambered-arch window (No 37 now altered). Ground-floor tripartite window with delicate acanthus pilasters, frieze and dentil cornice. First floor window similar but with gauged cambered arch above and fan motif in spandrel (removed from No 35). Stone coping to parapet. Flat-headed dormer. Stacks with oversailing courses.*

- 4.4.2** The present building on the site includes both that described above and to the east an adjoining and much simpler 2-storey structure. The latter is clearly an addition, which the OS map record indicates was built sometime between 1865 and 1894. It also replaced an earlier structure set back further from the road, that appears in 1865 and on the 1838 Tithe map (Fig 13).



## **5. Aims and objectives of the evaluation**

### **5.1 Archaeology and planning**

The proposed development comprises erection of four new residential units with associated access and parking to the rear of the site, plus refurbishment of the existing Listed building also for residential use (Planning Application Refs. 2003/4792 & 2006/1290).

Planning permission granted by the London Borough of Wandsworth includes an archaeological condition in accordance with Council policies TBE 14 and TBE 15. An archaeological evaluation of the site was recommended by English Heritage to take place before commencement of development, plus a photographic record of the Listed Building.

### **5.2 The archaeological brief**

The accepted brief for archaeological evaluation is to determine, as far as is reasonably possible, the location, extent, date, character, condition, significance, and quality of any surviving archaeological remains liable to be threatened by the proposed redevelopment (English Heritage, *Model Brief for an Archaeological Evaluation*). This will provide a basis on which decisions can be taken as to the need for any further archaeological action (eg, preservation *in situ* or further archaeological investigation), or for no further action.

The general methodology is set out in DOE Planning Policy Guidance 'Archaeology and Planning' No.16, November 1990 (PPG16).

### **5.3 Archaeological research questions**

The evaluation presented an opportunity to address the following research questions, as defined in the preliminary Written Scheme of Investigation (*Compass Archaeology, March 2006*):

- Is there any evidence for prehistoric activity, including *in situ* features? How does this relate to other finds made in the area, specifically those of Neolithic date?
- Is there any evidence for Saxon or medieval activity, and can this be related to the development/extent of the early settlement?
- What evidence is there for post-medieval activity, including any evidence for development predating the present Listed building? Also, what evidence is there for terracing of the site and can this event be dated, including any remains of the boundary wall that previously divided the plot?
- Can the photographic record be used to illustrate/define the development of and changes to the existing Listed building?

## 6. Methodology

- 6.1 The Written Scheme was produced and agreed prior to the fieldwork. The evaluation and photographic record were carried out in accordance with English Heritage guidelines (including *Standards and Practices in Archaeological Fieldwork*, 1998, and *Understanding Historic Buildings.... 2006*) plus those of the Institute of Field Archaeologists (*Standard and Guidance for Field Evaluations*).
- 6.2 The evaluation comprised three trial trenches located within the area of proposed redevelopment, as shown on Figure 2. The fieldwork took place under present site conditions, before clearance of the existing garages and other outbuildings. The two larger trenches (TRs 1 & 2) were approximately 1.5m wide by 10m and 6m in length, whilst the third trench (TR3) was *c* 1.3m by 3m in plan.

The trenches were opened by a 5 ton 360° mechanical excavator using a breaker and toothless bucket and working under archaeological supervision. Recent deposits and undifferentiated soil horizons were removed to a general depth of between 0.6m and 1.0m. Thereafter the exposed surfaces and sections were investigated by hand, recorded and photographed by the on-site archaeologists.

At the conclusion of the field evaluation the trenches were backfilled by machine with removed spoil.

- 6.3 The deposits and features exposed in the evaluation were recorded on *pro-forma* context sheets (excluding the present surface) and by scaled plan and section, supplemented by 35mm photography. Levels were derived from an OSBM located about 100m to the east of the site, on the southwest corner of No. 8 West Hill: value 10.47m OD (Figure 1).

The evaluation trench positions were located to the existing site boundaries and buildings by taped measurement, with the resultant plan in turn related as a 'best fit' to the Ordnance Survey grid as derived from the 1:1250 map (Figure 2).

The records from the evaluation have been allocated the site code: WEW06 by the Museum of London Archaeological Archive. An ordered and indexed site archive will be compiled in line with the MoL *Guidelines* and will be deposited in the Museum of London Archive.

## 7. The archaeological evaluation (Fig 2)

### 7.1 Summary of the findings

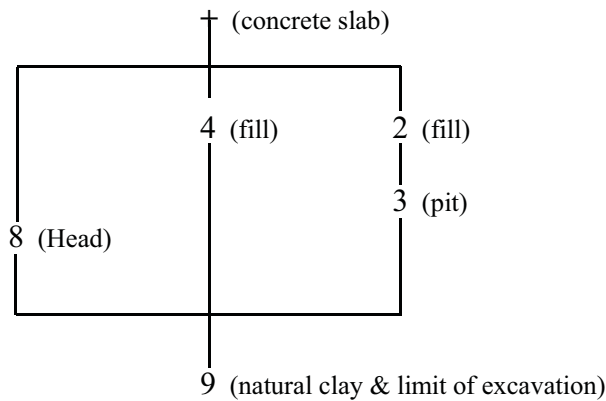
The evaluation trenches were dug from a surface that rose quite steeply to the south, from *c* 15.2m to 16.7m OD. Machine excavation was generally to the top of clean natural deposits, removing the overlying and fairly recent reworked or disturbed material.

The exposed sequence was quite straightforward, with deposits truncated to the north and a simple soil horizon over natural to the south. There were three deeper cut features with associated fills, of which one (context [3] in Trench 1) proved to be of significance.

### 7.2 List of recorded contexts:

Context	Trench	Description	Interpretation
1	1	Mixed ground: generally dark grey to mid brown sandy/clayey silt with some gravel/pebbles and occasional ceramic building material (CBM) frags.	Disturbed & made ground. May date to <i>c</i> 1800 but probably further disturbed by construction of the present concrete hardstanding and outbuildings
2	"	Dark brown organic sandy silt with lighter brown clay patches & some pebbles. Includes frequent pottery & occ. CBM & mortar frags.	Truncated lower fill of pit [3]
3	"	Cut feature at level of natural clay, <i>c</i> 1.4m square in plan (but running into section to west) and <0.5m deep. Near-vertical sides onto fairly flat base	Truncated pit, perhaps originally for rubbish/cess. Land surface to south suggests that <i>c</i> 1m may have been lost in past terracing
4	"	Pocket of dark grey sandy silt with moderate pebbles and occasional CBM plus mortar/charcoal flecks	Fill of probable pit, but only seen at the western edge of excavation
5	2, 3	Mottled dark grey sandy silt with frequent pebbles, occasional CBM frags./charcoal flecks and a few sherds of C19 <sup>th</sup> or later pot	Reworked/cultivated soil horizon, of quite recent date
6	3	Mixed clayey/sandy silt with occasional CBM, potsherds & fragments of mica. Contained within a near-vertical sided cut across the western end of trench, at least 0.8m deep	Fairly recent backfill, late 19 <sup>th</sup> century+. The associated cut was not bottomed, and only part of the eastern edge recorded in plan: function unknown
7	2, 3	Mid-light grey/brown sandy silt with occ. to moderate pebbles & some root mottles	Subsoil/weathered top of natural
8	All	Light brown very sandy silt with moderate pebbles/gravel, becoming more gravelly to the west (Tr 3). At lowest level of investigation in Tr 2 became darker & overlay firm silt	Natural Head Deposit in trenches 2 & 3; a remnant also seen at the southern end of Trench 1, but otherwise truncated
9	1	Solid light brown/greenish brown clay with pockets of more sandy & gravelly material	Natural deposit, possibly the weathered top of London Clay

### 7.3 Trench 1 (Figs 3 & 4)



The northernmost and largest trench revealed truncated natural clay [9] throughout most of its length. Only at the southern end where the ground rose quite steeply was this overlain by a remnant of the later Head deposit [8].

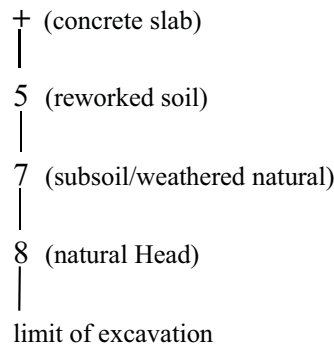
The clay was further cut in two areas, in the western section by a small feature containing fill [4], and just to the north of this within a larger area by the pit [3]. Both these features were truncated at the level of the surrounding natural clay, although not otherwise related and in the case of [4] not closely dated.

The larger pit [3] covered an area approximately 1.4m square in plan and continued beyond the western edge of excavation. The fill [2] contained a substantial amount of pottery, although relatively few fragments of ceramic building material or any other finds. A total of ninety potsherds were recovered, comprising nineteen separate vessels (and in several cases substantially complete). These finds provide a date for the pit fill of *c* 1750-70 (see below, Section 8 & Figures 5-8). There was also one clay pipe bowl of similar date (*cf.* 9 below).

The general truncation of features and deposits within Trench 1 is assumed to relate to terracing of the site, perhaps during construction of the present Listed building in the late 18<sup>th</sup> century. Historic plans such as the Tithe map of 1838 (Fig 13) show a property boundary crossing the southern part of the site, and this still exists to the east of Trench 1 as a retaining wall with a substantial break of slope. Although no trace of a wall was found within the trench itself it seems clear that the ground over this area has been heavily reduced, perhaps by as much as a metre in the area of pit [3]. The pit survives to a level of *c* 14.85m OD, whilst undisturbed natural is present in Trench 3 to almost 16.00m OD.

The deposit [1] overlying the truncated surface was quite mixed, containing both 19<sup>th</sup> century and more recent material. In the 19<sup>th</sup> and earlier 20<sup>th</sup> centuries this area would presumably have been garden, and the present appearance of the ground may well derive from its most recent conversion to outbuildings and concrete hardstanding.

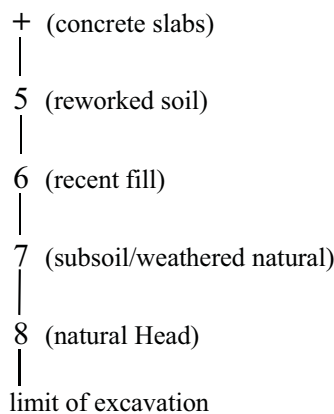
#### 7.4 Trench 2 (Figs 9 & 10)



The lowest deposit exposed in Trench 2 was the clean sandy silt [8], which is assumed to be a Head deposit as recorded by the Geological Survey (3.2 above). Near the limit of excavation the composition of the natural changed to a firm slightly sandy silt, and presumably at a lower level this overlies the solid clay that was exposed in Trench 1.

The natural was present to a maximum height of *c* 15.9m OD, and was overlain by a shallow (*c* 180mm) weathered deposit merging to subsoil [7]. This in turn was sealed by the darker reworked soil [5], which formed a thick deposit extending to the base of the present concrete slab. This produced a few sherds of 19<sup>th</sup> and earlier 20<sup>th</sup> earthenware as well as occasional fragments of brick and tile, and is presumably the product of cultivation during this period. However, there was no sign of the glasshouses that are shown on the OS plan of 1913.

#### 7.5 Trench 3 (Figs 11 & 12)



The earliest deposit was a natural sandy silt, clearly part of the same Head deposit as [8] in Trench 2 although considerably more gravelly. This was overlain by a thin ( $\leq 60$ mm) layer of weathered/subsoil material, analogous to context [7].

Both deposits [7] and [8] were cut across the western end of the trench by a deep and fairly modern feature containing a mixed clayey/sandy silt fill [6]. Only part of the feature was exposed, in an area some 1.4m by 1.2m in plan and at least 0.8m deep. However, it continued beyond the trench edges to the north, south and west, and there is no reliable guide to its overall size or depth.

The fill [6] and adjacent subsoil [7] were overlain by a reworked soil horizon, assumed to be contiguous with [5] in Trench 2.

## 8. The post-medieval pottery from pit fill [2] (*Figs 5-8*)

*Jacqui Pearce, MoLSS*

### 8.1 Introduction

A total of 90 sherds of post-medieval pottery from 19 vessels (weight 6,050g) were recovered from the single pit fill (context [2]). There is a very high proportion of joining sherds, many of them large, allowing the reconstruction of 14 complete vessel profiles, and several pots are substantially complete though fragmented. The pottery is not abraded and is in good condition, which is not unusual for the period. It was recorded in accordance with standard MoLSS procedure, employing fabric, form and decoration codes in current use. Quantification was carried out by sherd count and weight in grammes; the level of reconstruction possible means that an exact vessel count can be given. The data were entered onto an Excel spreadsheet, and also broken down by fabric, form and function (see Tables 1-4 below).

### 8.2 The pottery

The assemblage from the pit fill is an extremely interesting one, which can be closely dated to *c* 1750-70, and probably represents dumping over a short period or perhaps as a single event such as a household clearance. In view of the date of the standing building it is possible that the pottery could have been in use during the last quarter of the 18<sup>th</sup> century, and discarded by the first occupants very early in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. However, the assemblage does not include any creamware or fabrics and forms introduced after *c* 1770 (such as pearlware). Also it is much more likely that the terracing of the site and consequent reduction of the ground surface in this area took place at the time of this development (and certainly not later). This event clearly postdated and truncated the pit [3] and its fill [2].

Coarsewares for food preparation, storage and general kitchen use consist of a deep, flared bowl with a single side handle, glazed inside, in London-area post-medieval redware (PMR), and part of a large storage jar with opposed horizontal loop handles and a large applied rosette on the shoulder. The jar has been glazed inside and out and the rosette formed with some care, embellished with fingertip impressions and nail nicks. The bowl has what may be a batch or tally mark scratched lightly underneath the base; this takes the form of four roughly parallel lines crossed out with a single diagonal right across. Marks such as this are extremely rare. A large flared dish in Surrey-Hampshire red border ware (RBOR) has an internally lid-seated rim, 360mm in diameter and is glazed inside only. Evidence for sooting outside suggests that it was used for heating food. There is also a near-complete rounded bowl in RBOR, with a single upturned, horizontal loop handle, and a good glossy glaze inside and out. This is a common form in the 18<sup>th</sup> century redware fabric, and would have been used for serving as well as in the kitchen. An unusual feature is the presence of a lightly incised web-like pattern underneath the base, made after firing.

Two vessels in London stoneware (LONS) can be substantially reconstructed (Fig 5). One is a medium-sized shouldered jar, with a brown dip covering the upper half of the body under a salt glaze. The rim is thickened and rounded and there is a band of incised horizontal grooves around the shoulder. The form was developed during the 18<sup>th</sup> century

for shop purposes and food preservation and is related to the 17<sup>th</sup> century ‘pickling pots’ recorded at the Fulham Pottery. These were used for pickles, pastes and other preserves, and the West Hill jar compares closely with examples dated at Fulham to the mid to late 18<sup>th</sup> century (Green 1999, 158, fig 127, nos 33-35). The other stoneware vessel is a bottle with a narrow neck, thickened, rounded rim and a strap handle terminating in a tail with a single thumb impression. The base is slightly flared and the shape compares closely with Fulham vessels dated to *c* 1740–75 (*ibid.*, 151–53; fig 126, nos 315-21). Part of an inscription incised in cursive script has survived on the body of the bottle, opposite the handle. It is impossible to read, although the letters ‘*J Jo...*’ can be identified. Inscriptions such as this were added at the pottery to specific orders, usually for taverns and alehouses.

There are sherds from five vessels in tin-glazed ware or delftware (TGW; Fig 6). Two plates and a dish have blue-painted decoration on a pale blue tin glaze, in styles typical of London manufacture in the mid 18<sup>th</sup> century. One of the plates has bands of blue painted around the rim and inside the base, with *sgraffito* designs incised through to reveal the underlying glaze colour, a kind of decoration popular in the 1740s and ’50s. The second plate has an elaborately painted floral design in the centre and around the rim, and dates to the 1750s or ’60s. The dish, possibly a soup plate, has a broad flanged rim with sketchy birds in flight at intervals, separated by stylised willow trees. Part of a bowl, represented by four small non-joining sherds, has polychrome floral decoration in blue, and yellow with red outlining. Both vessels are of mid 18<sup>th</sup> century date.

The only other delftware piece in the group is part of a posset pot with plain white glaze. The body is rounded or pear-shaped and one of a pair of opposed vertical loop handles survives with a prominent coiled terminal at the upper end, and probably at the lower end too (now missing). The form would originally have had a long spout issuing from just above the base and finishing near the rim, and was designed for the serving of posset. This was a drink popular in the 17<sup>th</sup> century, made from milk, spices and either wine or ale. As the warmed milk curdled, the curds would rise and the whey containing the alcohol could be sipped through the spout from the bottom of the pot. This vessel is the earliest piece in the assemblage, dating from the last quarter of the 17<sup>th</sup> century (*cf* Austin 1994, 68, no 12).

Three vessels in white salt-glazed stoneware (SWSG) are all related to drinking (Fig 7). The base of a large cylindrical mug, and complete profile of a baluster mug both date to the mid 18<sup>th</sup> century, and would most likely have been used for alcohol. Part of a saucer would have come from a tea service, for which SWSG was a popular fabric in the mid 18<sup>th</sup> century.

Finally, there are sherds from five vessels in Chinese export porcelain, four of them teabowls in blue and white (CHPO BW; Fig 8). These are again decorated in styles typical of the mid 18<sup>th</sup> century, and include two with floral designs, and one with the popular fence motif, with bamboo. The rim of a rounded bowl in Chinese Imari (CHPO IMARI) again has floral decoration in underglaze blue, with red and gold enamels overlaze.



### **8.3 Potential and significance of the assemblage**

The assemblage is an important one in that it can be closely dated, and includes no residual or intrusive material. It probably represents a part of the household goods of one family, thrown away together at one time or over a short period. Clearance groups of this kind are always of value in providing a snapshot of domestic life, allowing analysis of buying patterns, wealth and status, functional choices and much more. The group from West Hill includes a high proportion of teawares in different fabrics, as well as pieces from dinner services of good quality, and everyday kitchen and storage wares: the overall impression is of a reasonably well-off household.

### **9. The clay tobacco pipe**

A single clay pipe bowl was recovered from the pit fill [2]. The bowl is quite plain, and without any maker's marks. It is of a type dated to *c* 1730-80 by reference to the Simplified General Typology (Oswald 1975, 37), although more probably in the middle/latter part of this period (Atkinson & Oswald 1969). This dating is also borne out by the associated pottery within the context (*c* 1750-70; *cf* above).

The tobacco pipe has no further potential.



Ctxt	TPQ	TAQ	Size	Fabric	?	Form	?	Function	Dec	SC	ENV	Wt	Ste	Con	Comments
2	1750	1770	M	CHPO BW		TBOWL		TEAWARE		5	1	73			Profile
2	1750	1770	M	CHPO BW		TBOWL		TEAWARE	PEONY	1	1	18			Profile
2	1750	1770	M	CHPO BW		TBOWL		TEAWARE	FENCE	2	1	19			Profile
2	1750	1770	M	CHPO BW		TBOWL		TEAWARE	WILL	1	1	16			Profile
2	1750	1770	M	CHPO IMARI		BOWL RND		SERV/DISP	FLOR	2	1	29			Rim
2	1750	1770	M	LONS		BOT		SERV/STOR BEV	INSC	6	1	601			Pt inscription on front
2	1750	1770	M	LONS		JAR SHL		STORAGE	INCH	10	1	1238			Nr cpte/brown dip top half
2	1750	1770	M	PMR		BOWL 1HFL		PREP	GLI	4	1	869			Nr cpte
2	1750	1770	M	PMR		JAR ST		STORAGE	ROSE	2	1	440			GLIE/handled/applied rosette
2	1750	1770	M	RBOR		BOWL HRN		PREP	MARK	5	1	418			Post-firing marks scratched under base in web pattern
2	1750	1770	M	RBOR		DISH FLAR		PREP	GLI	10	1	1032	S		Profile
2	1750	1770	M	SWSG		MUG BAL		DRINK		11	1	157		R	Profile
2	1750	1770	M	SWSG		MUG CYL		DRINK		2	1	40			Base
2	1750	1770	M	SWSG		SAUC		TEAWARE		2	1	73			Nr cpte
2	1750	1770	M	TGW		BOWL		SERV/DISP	POLY	4	1	49			Rim/body/floral decoration
2	1750	1770	M	TGW		DISH		SERV/DISP	BIRD	4	1	135			BW profile/birds and willow trees
2	1750	1770	M	TGW		PLATE		SERV FOOD	SGR	5	1	301			Profile
2	1750	1770	M	TGW		PLATE		SERV FOOD	FLOR	11	1	389			Profile
2	1750	1770	M	TGW C		POSS		DRINK		3	1	153			Handle with scrolled terminal
<b>Totals</b>										<b>90</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>6050</b>			

Table 1 The post-medieval pottery

Fabric	SC	% SC	ENV	% ENV	Wt	% Wt
CHPO BW	9	10.0%	4	21.1%	126	2.1%
CHPO IMARI	2	2.2%	1	5.3%	29	0.5%
LONS	16	17.8%	2	10.5%	1839	30.4%
PMR	6	6.7%	2	10.5%	1309	21.6%
RBOR	15	16.7%	2	10.5%	1450	24.0%
SWSG	15	16.7%	3	15.8%	270	4.5%
TGW	24	26.7%	4	21.1%	874	14.4%
TGW C	3	3.3%	1	5.3%	153	2.5%
<b>Total</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>6050</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

Function	SC	% SC	ENV	% ENV	Wt	% Wt
DRINK	16	17.8%	3	15.8%	350	5.8%
PREP	19	21.1%	3	15.8%	2319	38.3%
SERV FOOD	16	17.8%	2	10.5%	690	11.4%
SERV/DISP	10	11.1%	3	15.8%	213	3.5%
SERV/STOR BEV	6	6.7%	1	5.3%	601	9.9%
STORAGE	12	13.3%	2	10.5%	1678	27.7%
TEAWARE	11	12.2%	5	26.3%	199	3.3%
<b>Total</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>6050</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

Form	SC	% SC	ENV	% ENV	Wt	% Wt
BOT	6	6.7%	1	5.3%	601	9.9%
BOWL	4	4.4%	1	5.3%	49	0.8%
BOWL 1HFL	4	4.4%	1	5.3%	869	14.4%
BOWL HRN	5	5.6%	1	5.3%	418	6.9%
BOWL RND	2	2.2%	1	5.3%	29	0.5%
DISH	4	4.4%	1	5.3%	135	2.2%
DISH FLAR	10	11.1%	1	5.3%	1032	17.1%
JAR SHL	10	11.1%	1	5.3%	1238	20.5%
JAR ST	2	2.2%	1	5.3%	440	7.3%
MUG BAL	11	12.2%	1	5.3%	157	2.6%
MUG CYL	2	2.2%	1	5.3%	40	0.7%
PLATE	16	17.8%	2	10.5%	690	11.4%
POSS	3	3.3%	1	5.3%	153	2.5%
SAUC	2	2.2%	1	5.3%	73	1.2%
TBOWL	9	10.0%	4	21.1%	126	2.1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>6050</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

Tables 2-4 Breakdown of the pottery by fabric, form and function

## 10. The Listed Building (*Figs 14-20*)

A series of external and internal photographs were taken of the Listed building, using 35mm and digital media. These included general views of the building, views of the principal elevations and internal areas, and details of particular features. The main elements of the photographic record are presented in Figures 14-20 below.

The building had evidently undergone various alterations, particularly internally, but a number of apparently original features survived. The major changes indicated by the historic map record relate to the late 19<sup>th</sup> century construction of an adjoining building to the east, which is not included within the Listing Description.

Only the basement had undergone substantial and relatively recent change, and little of the original structure was visible. These changes included a new floor and rendering of the walls, replacement of the windows and staircase and removal of the lathe and plaster ceiling.

The Description also gives a late 18<sup>th</sup> century date for construction. Brief examination of the adjacent property (No. 37) revealed exposed stock brick with a shallow (c 7.5mm) frog: this would suggest that the actual date is close to the end of the century, or even around 1800.

## 11. Assessment of the results

The archaeological evaluation has provided an opportunity to address the site-specific objectives that were defined within the preliminary *Written Scheme* (5.3 above). The responses to these are outlined below:

- *Is there any evidence for prehistoric activity, including in situ features? How does this relate to other finds made in the area, specifically those of Neolithic date?*

There was no evidence for any prehistoric activity on the site, nor were any residual artefacts recovered.

- *Is there any evidence for Saxon or medieval activity, and can this be related to the development/extent of the early settlement?*

There was no evidence of any Saxon or medieval activity, and in fact it is likely that this area lay some way outside the contemporary settlement.

- *What evidence is there for post-medieval activity, including any evidence for development predating the present Listed building? Also, what evidence is there for terracing of the site and can this event be dated, including any remains of the boundary wall that previously divided the plot?*

The only evidence for activity predating the present Listed building is represented by the infilled pit [2/3] and its associated finds, although it is possible that the small area of fill [4] is of similar date. The pit produced a large quantity of 18<sup>th</sup> century domestic pottery, including substantially complete vessels, and probably represents dumping over a short period or in a single event such as a household clearance. It is likely that the material derives from a nearby property, one of the buildings shown fronting onto West Hill by Rocque's plan of 1746.

It is clear that the site has been terraced, specifically by reduction of the land surface to the north. However, there was no surviving evidence for the boundary wall that from contemporary map evidence would have crossed the site towards the southern end of Trench 1. Nor was there any direct dating for this event, although it clearly postdated the mid 18<sup>th</sup> century pit [3] and may well be associated with construction of the present Listed building around the end of the century.

- *Can the photographic record be used to illustrate/define the development of and changes to the existing Listed building?*

The photographic record shows a number of obvious changes to the building, notably the doorframe in the southern wall and the blocking or alteration of windows at ground and first floor level in the western elevation (*cf.* Figs 15 & 16). Research has shown that the adjoining structure to the east is much later and quite unrelated to the original Listed building, and this too is clearly shown in the photographic record.

Within the building a number of changes are apparent, for example the blocking of the original doorway to the front ground floor room and insertion of a new entrance-cum-stairway to the east (Fig 17). Alterations in room divisions or subdivisions are also apparent on the first and second floors, respectively to the rear and front of the building. Some fixtures and fittings appear to be original, as in window frames and shutters, but others such as doors have been largely replaced.

## **12. Conclusion and recommendations**

- 12.1** The archaeological evaluation did not produce very significant results. The southern part of the site retained a more or less intact soil profile, but this only produced evidence for 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century cultivation. To the north the ground had been heavily truncated, probably as a result of terracing at the end of the 18<sup>th</sup> century, and in most places disturbed and recent deposits overlay natural clay.

There was one notable feature, in the form of the 18<sup>th</sup> century pit [3] and its associated pottery assemblage. The pottery can be dated to *c* 1750-70, and was probably discarded at one time or over a short period from a single fairly well-off household in the immediate vicinity. The assemblage included common domestic wares, but also a range of teawares in different fabrics and pieces from good quality dinner services. One unusual item is the post-medieval redware flared bowl with a batch or tally mark scratched on the base.

The pottery thus has some intrinsic and more general significance, although this is reduced by the extent of later disturbance and lack of any associated features or surfaces. Also the pit itself was substantially truncated, so the assemblage may well represent only part of what was originally deposited.

- 12.2** Photography of the Listed building has provided a record of the external and internal appearance prior to conversion, and has also highlighted features relating to previous development.
- 12.3** In view of the results that have been obtained, it is suggested that no further archaeological measures should be undertaken in relation to the proposed development.



Fig 1 Site location in relation to the Ordnance Survey 1:1250 map

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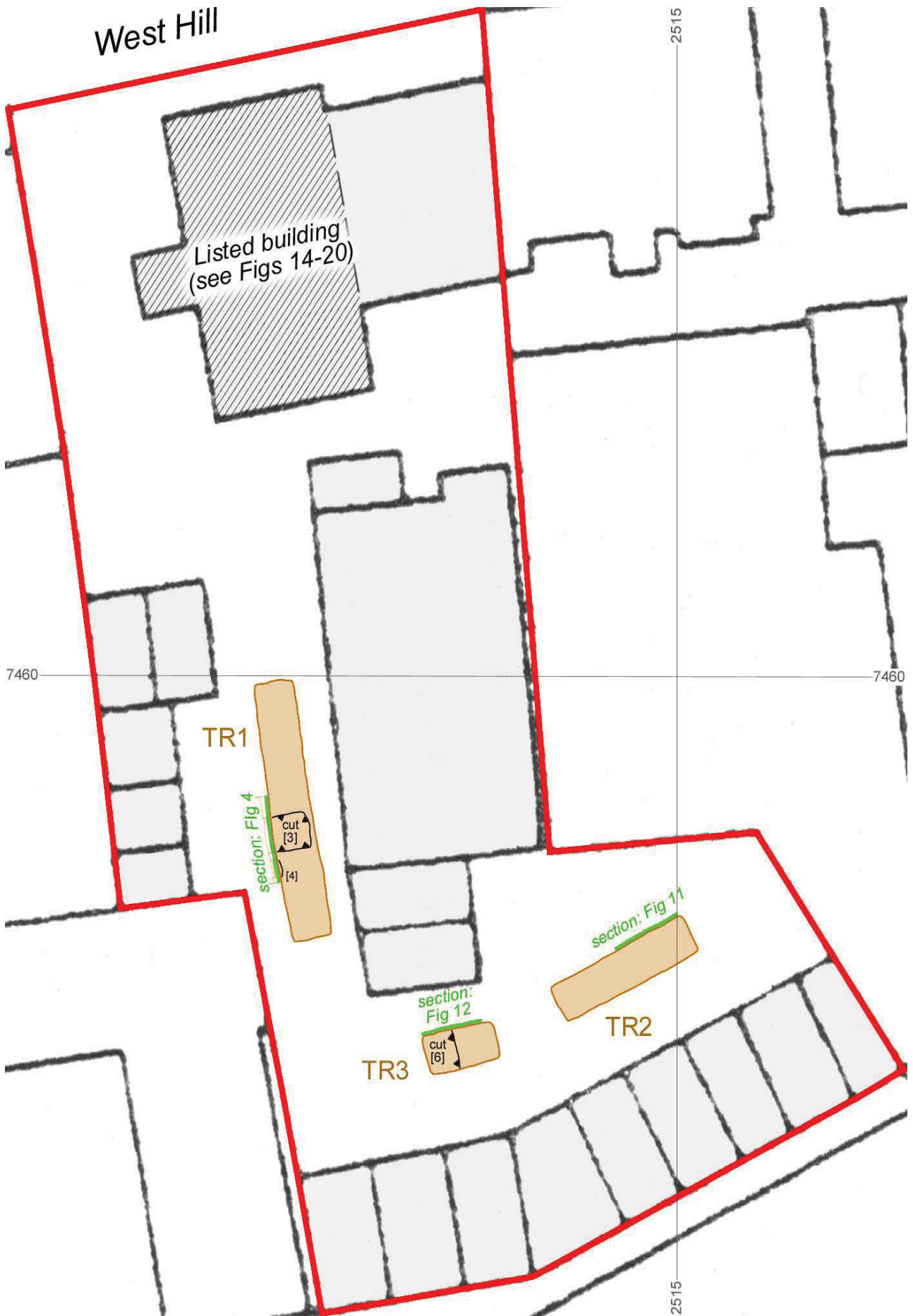


Fig 2 1: 200 site plan showing the location of the evaluation trenches (TR1-3), drawn sections and cut features, plus the Listed Building (based on the Ordnance Survey 1:1250 map, Figure 1)



Fig 3 View of Trench 1 looking south, showing the exposed surface of the natural clay with overlying disturbed ground [1] and remnant Head deposit [8] (0.5m scale)



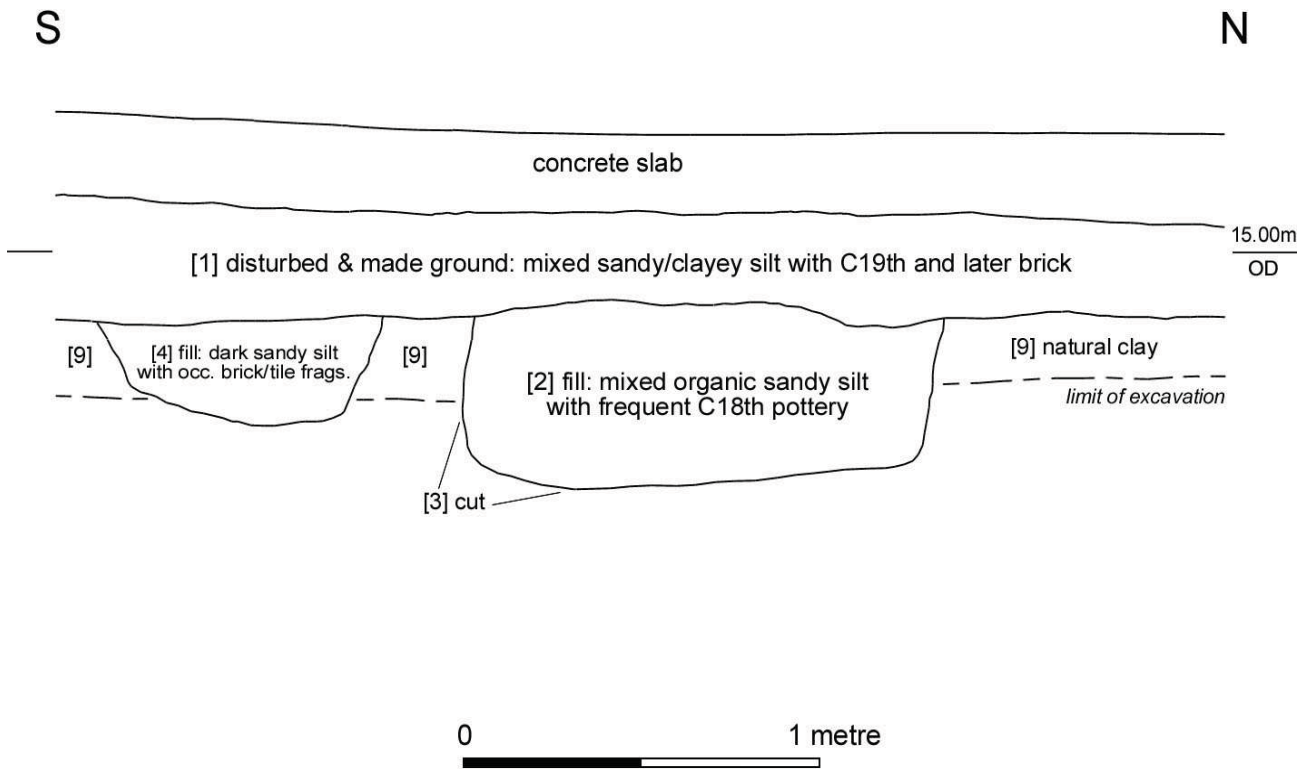


Fig 4 Drawing and photograph of part of the western section of Trench 1, the photo showing the mid 18<sup>th</sup> century pit [3] during excavation  
*Located on Figure 2: 0.5m scale*





Fig 5 18<sup>th</sup> coarseware pottery from the fill of pit [3] (50mm scale)

*Clockwise from top left:* post-medieval redware bowl, London stoneware shouldered jar and inscribed bottle, Surrey-Hampshire red border ware bowl and large red border ware flared dish



Fig 6 Mid 18<sup>th</sup> century tin-glazed or delftware from pit [3]

*Top left of frame:* plate with *sgraffito* design inscribed through blue painted bands

*Top right:* large plate with elaborately painted floral design

*Bottom:* rim fragments of a possible soup plate decorated with birds in flight





Fig 7 Mid 18<sup>th</sup> century white salt-glazed stoneware from pit [3] (50mm scale)

*Top left of frame:* saucer from tea service

*Top right:* baluster mug, probably for alcohol

*Bottom:* fragments of a large cylindrical mug, use probably as above



Fig 8 Blue and white Chinese export porcelain from pit [3]: teabowls and at top left sherds of an Imari bowl with blue underglaze floral decoration and red and gold enamel overglaze





Fig 9 View of Trench 2 looking east and showing the exposed surface of the natural sandy silt Head [8] (*0.5m scale*)



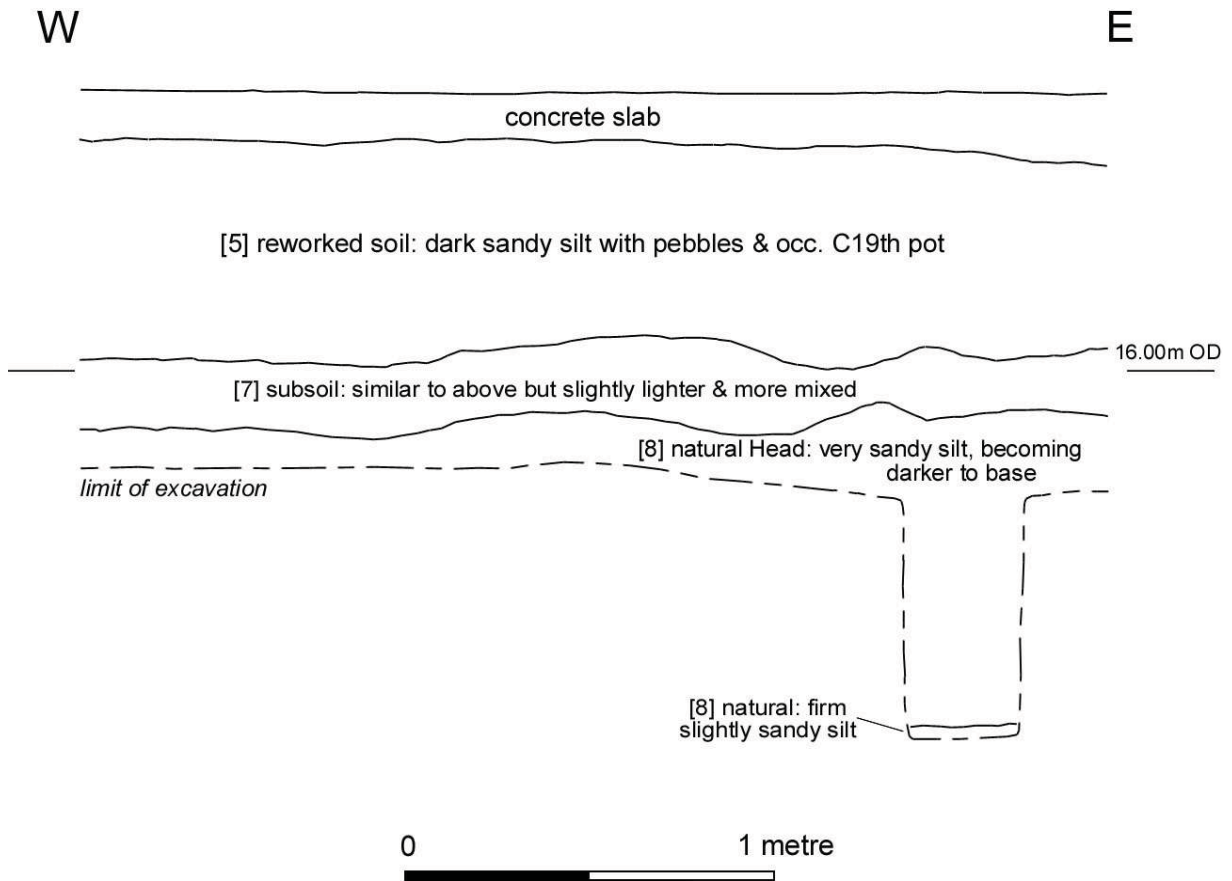


Fig 10 Drawing and photograph of part of the northern section of Trench 2, showing 19<sup>th</sup> century and later reworked soil horizons [5] over natural Head  
*Located on Figure 2: 0.5m scale*





Fig 11 Oblique view of Trench 3 looking northwest, showing the reworked soil horizon [5] overlying natural Head and to the west the fairly recent backfill [6] (0.5m scale)

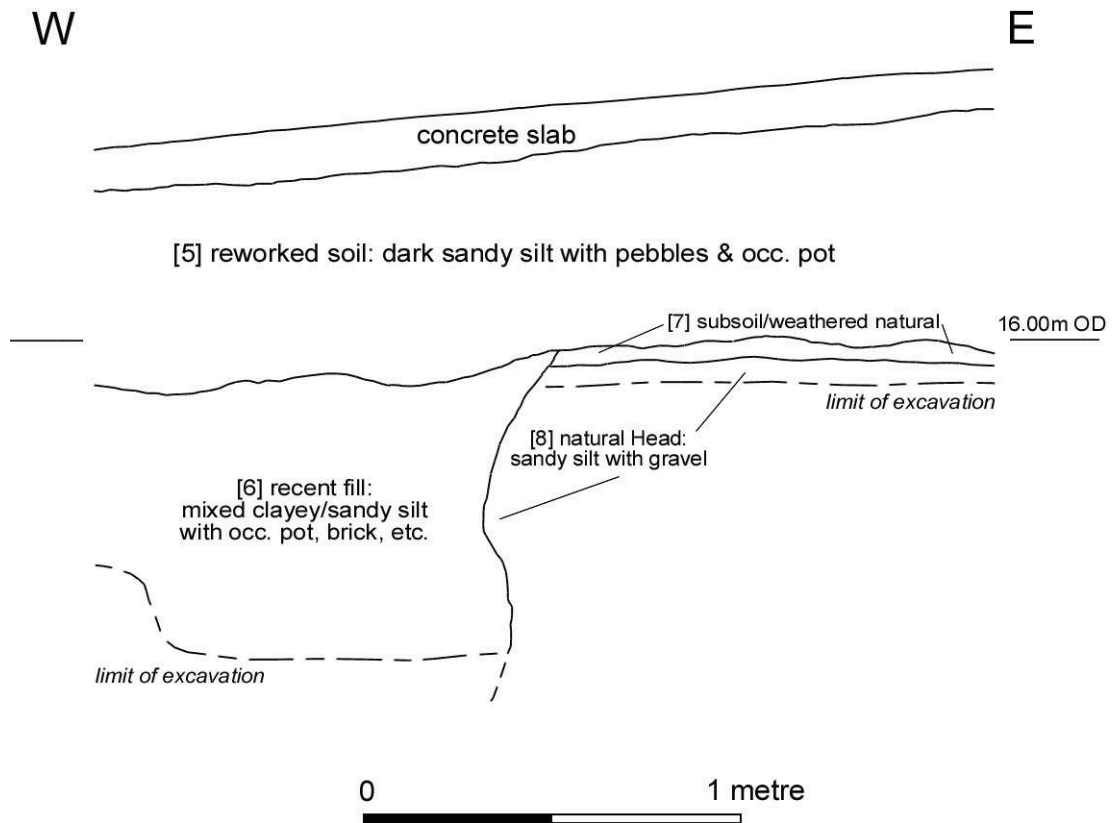


Fig 12 Drawing of the northern section of Trench 3, showing the deposits described above. Located on Figure 2



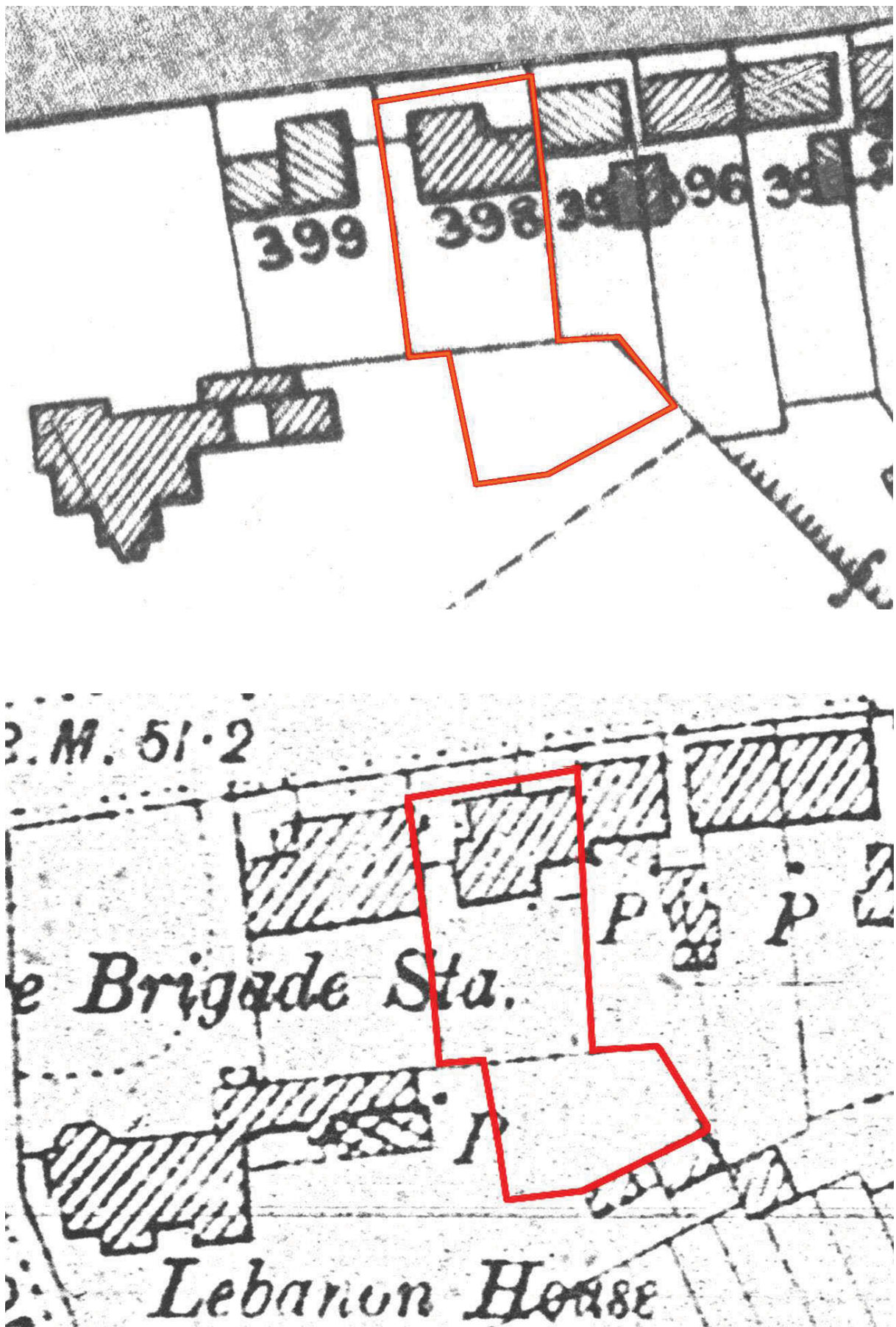


Fig 13 The Wandsworth Tithe Map of 1838 (top) and Ordnance Survey 25 inch map of c 1894, showing former property boundaries and changes in the outline of the standing building



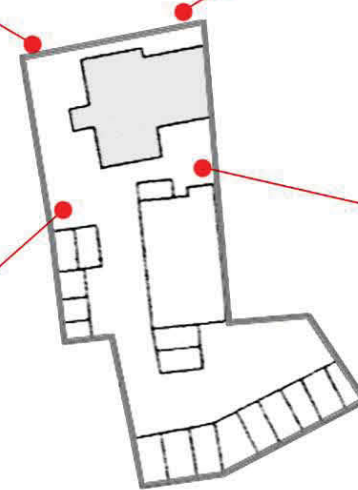


Fig 14 General external views of the Listed building





The first-floor tripartite window with decorated pilasters, frieze and dentil cornice, plus gauged cambered arch above the spandrel

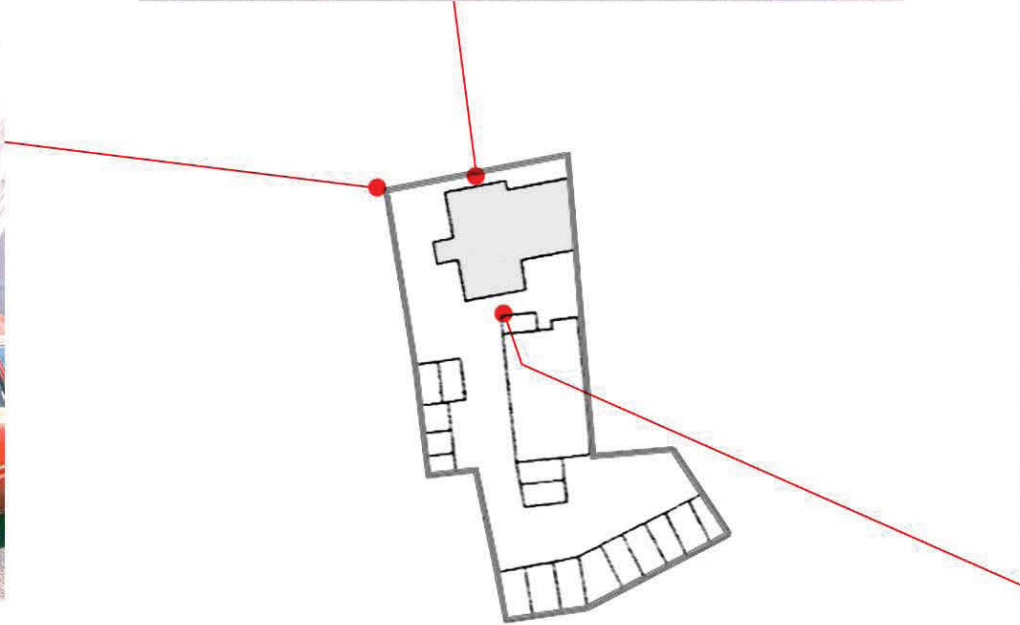
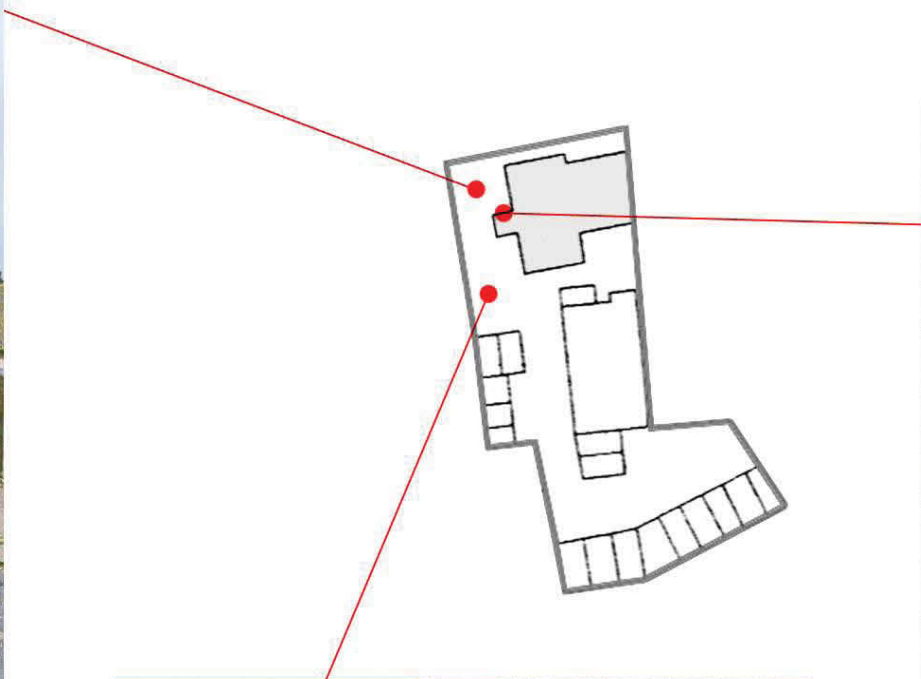


Fig 15 External views of the Listed building, front and rear elevations





Fanlight of radiating pattern over the main entrance door, measuring c 980mm x 480mm

The lower window shown on the right hand side of this view has been blocked, but those above appear to be original blind windows

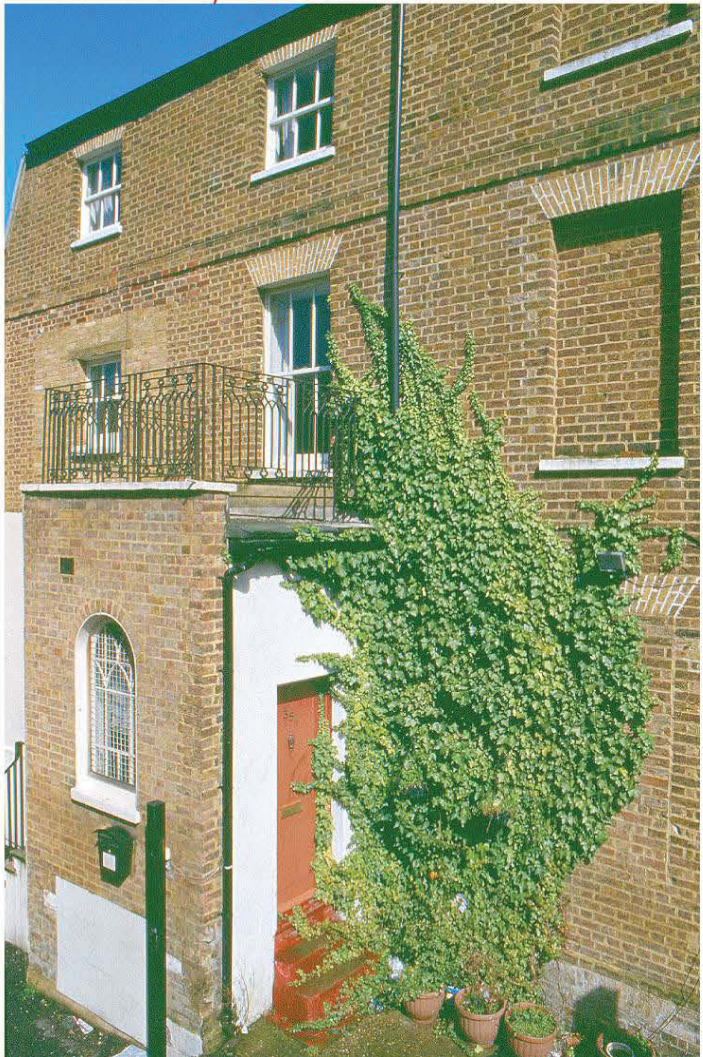


Fig 16 Detailed views of the west face and main entrance to the building



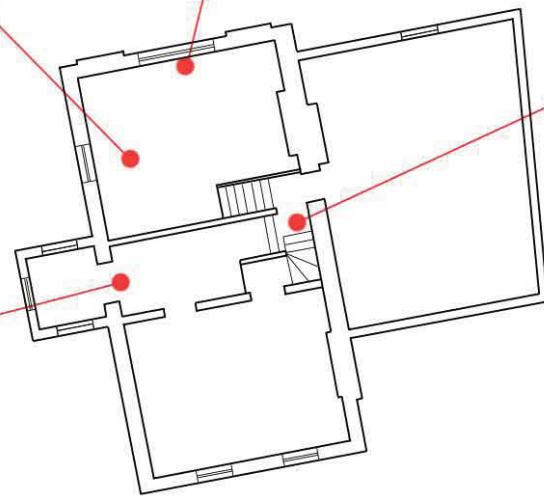
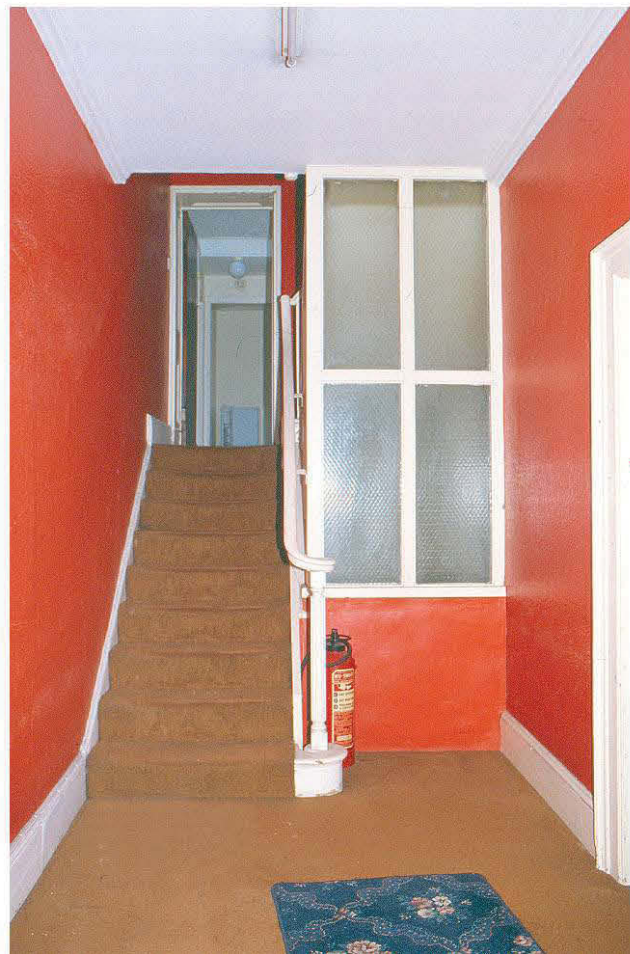


Fig 17 Ground floor internal views of the Listed building: front room and hallway/staircase, including the carved ?mahogany banister



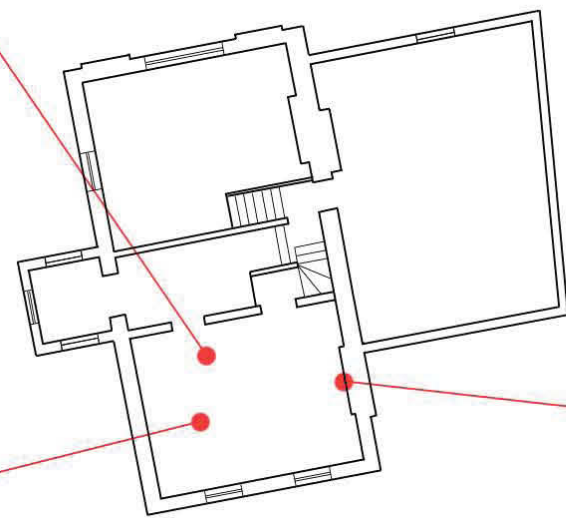


Fig 18 Ground floor internal views, rear room and detail of moulded wooden surround to the blocked fireplace





Fig 19 First floor internal views, including sash windows with shutters and a later cast iron and tiled fireplace inserted into the front room





Fig 20 Second floor or dormer internal views, likely to have been servants quarters and showing the simpler unshuttered windows and fireplace surrounds, plus softwood banister

## Appendix I. London Archaeologist summary

35 West Hill, Wandsworth SW18 1RB. TQ 25135 74600. CA (Geoff Potter). Evaluation & photographic standing building record. March-April 2006. London View Limited. WEW06

### Summary

Trial trenching to the rear of a late 18<sup>th</sup> century Listed building did not produce significant results. The southern part of the site retained a more or less intact soil profile but only provided evidence for 19<sup>th</sup>/20<sup>th</sup> century cultivation. To the north the ground had been heavily truncated by terracing, possibly during construction of the present Listed building.

One truncated pit did produce a substantial pottery assemblage, dated to *c* 1750-70. The pot was probably discarded at one time or over a short period from a single fairly affluent household. There was a fairly wide range of fabrics, common kitchen and storage wares as well as teawares and pieces from good quality dinner services.

Natural deposits were exposed in all areas: silty sand with gravel (Head) to the south and truncated clay to the north.

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