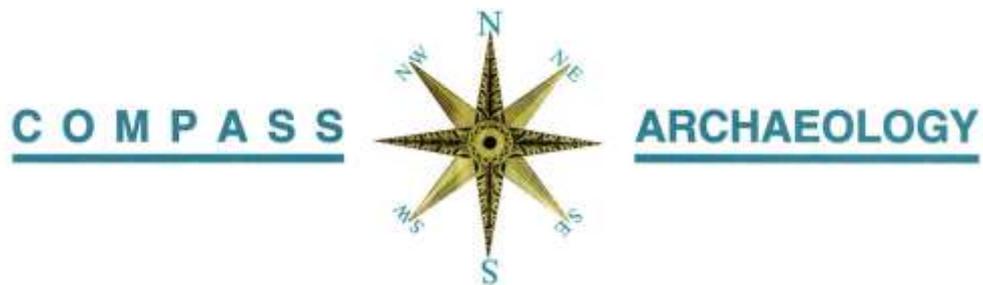


**A WATCHING BRIEF
DURING THE INSTALLATION OF ACRO-PROPS AT
RED LION HOUSE,
CHISWICK MALL, CHISWICK, W4 2PP**



MAY 2016



1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1** This document forms a summary of the results of a watching brief carried out at Red Lion House in Chiswick, London Borough of Hounslow, W4 2PP, (fig.1), focussed on TQ 21700 77895.
- 1.2** The watching brief took place between the 7th and 11th of April 2016, within the northwestern half of the cellar which was undergoing renovation following flooding the previous year. The watching brief entailed monitoring of two pits dug to accommodate acro-props for supporting the ceiling during renovation, (fig.2).
- 1.3** The watching brief was commissioned by Adrian Radford-Shute on behalf of the client; Prof. Caroline Tisdall and Loss Adjustors Crawford and Co. The aim of the watching brief was to make observations below an earlier cellar floor that had been exposed during clearance works and to ascertain the date / nature of the floor construction.
- 1.4** There follows a brief description of the observations made during two site visits to the property on the 7th and 11th of April respectively. An OASIS data collection form has also been appended alongside a summary suitable for publication in London Archaeologist fieldwork round-up.

2 SITE VISITS

2.1 *7th April 2016*

- 2.1.1** A pit dug on the NE side of the cellar was observed, measuring approximately 1400mm long by 700mm wide and excavated to a depth of up to 720mm below cellar floor level.
- 2.1.2** The exposed earlier brick floor of the cellar overlay 220mm of mixed gravels and crushed CBM and a further 60mm of fine grey-white sand acting as a bedding layer / levelling deposit. This in turn sealed the natural coarse yellow sand containing smooth water-worn flint gravels to the base of excavation and beyond, (fig.3). This represents the Thames foreshore deposits onto which the property and the surrounding housing stock has been built.
- 2.1.3** General observations made regarding the earlier exposed floor were that the bricks were largely hand-made, with smooth faces worn by regular footfall, and unfrogged; probably indicating a pre-1750 date. The bricks were regularly laid with a single course on stretchers end to end around the edge of the cellar and the main bulk of the floor laid in a stretcher-bonded brick pattern. The bricks were tight-fitting and seemingly dry-bedded. Occasional signs of later patching were observed but the majority seemed relatively contemporary and *in situ*, (figs.4-7).

2.2 *11th April 2016 (figs.)*

- 2.2.1** A single pit dug in the SW side of the cellar was recorded as 1500mm long by 500mm wide and up to 500mm deep.

2.2.2 A similar stratigraphic sequence of the extant brick floor overlying 180mm of mixed gravels and fine sand bedding sealed the natural sand deposits, (fig.8). The projecting wall adjacent to the main SW-NE dividing wall of the cellar was shown to be a later addition, abutting but not keyed into, the wall and partially overlying the earlier brick floor, with the foundations of this later addition truncating the floor, (fig.9).

3 CONCLUSIONS

Brick samples taken from the floor were shown to represent two types of brick and could be dated to two distinct periods; one to the 17th century and conforming to fabric type 3033, and a second, shallow-frogged brick to c1750-1800. The two phases both tie in with the known history of the property and probably represent an original or near contemporary floor surface with minor repairs. No archaeological deposits were observed below the exposed floor bar a thin levelling / bedding deposit for the original construction, and this directly sealed the natural foreshore deposits of the Thames.

Compass Archaeology Ltd.
May 2016

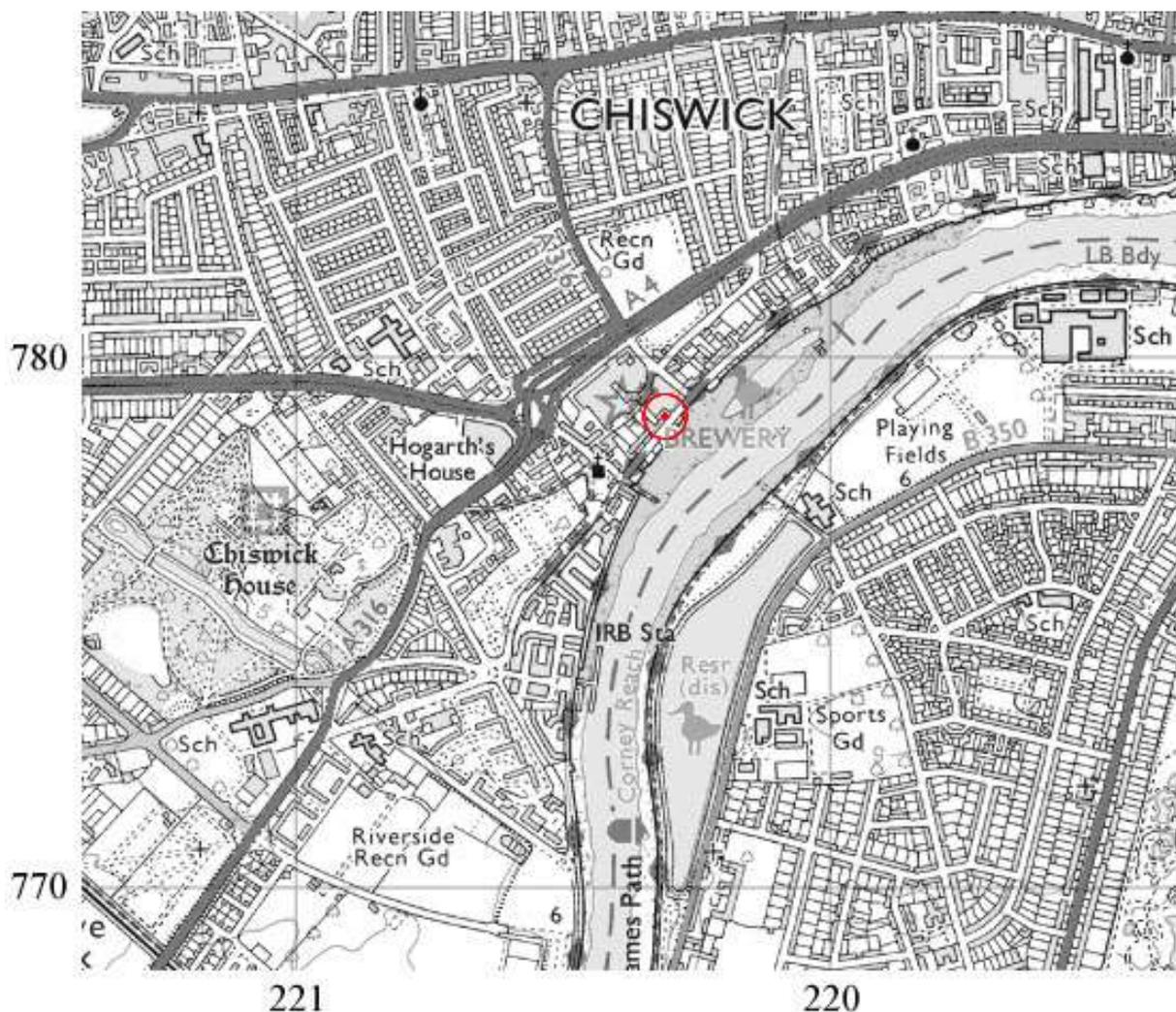


Fig.1: Location map of site

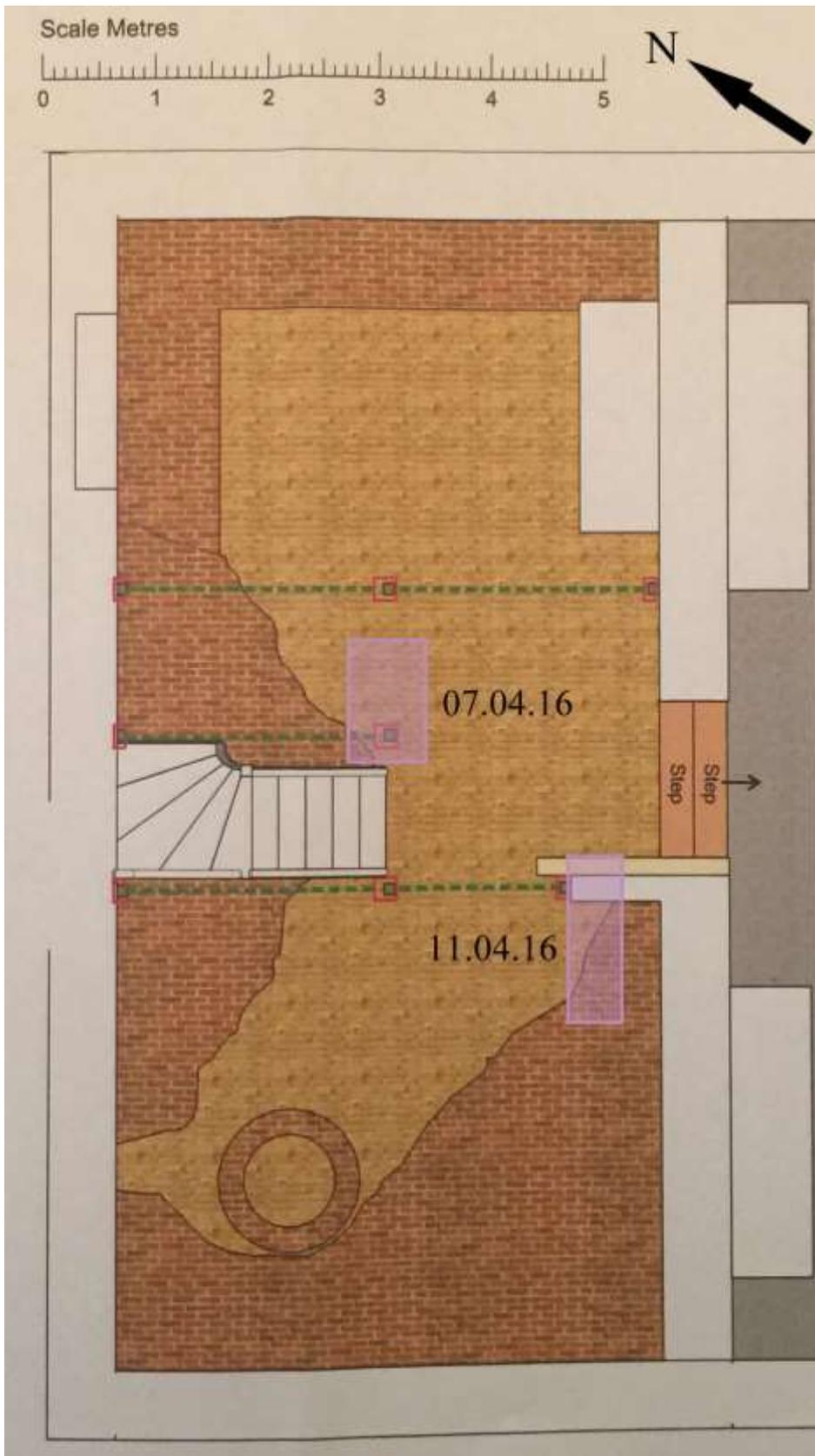


Fig.2: Site plan showing the location of observations made in the cellar



Fig.3: Pit on NE side of cellar, 7th April 2016, facing SW 1m scale



Fig.4: *SW corner of cellar facing SW, 1m scale*



Fig.5: *NW corner of cellar facing W, 1m scale*



Fig.6: *Flooring in NW corner of cellar, 0.20m scale*



Fig.7: *Flooring in the NE corner of the cellar, facing NE, 1m scale*



Fig.8: Pit observed on 11th April 2016, facing SW, 0.50m scale



Fig.9: Main cellar dividing wall and later addition projecting and overlying / truncating cellar floor, facing E, 0.50m scale

Appendix I OASIS data collection form

OASIS ID: compassa1-250567

Project details

Project name	Watching brief at Red Lion House Chiswick
Short description of the project	Between the 7th and 11th of April 2016 Compass Archaeology undertook a watching brief within the northwestern half of the cellar of Red Lion House in Chiswick which was undergoing renovation following flooding the previous year. The aim of the watching brief was to make observations below an earlier cellar floor that had been exposed during clearance works and to ascertain the date / nature of the floor construction. The watching brief entailed monitoring of two pits dug to accommodate acro-props for supporting the ceiling during renovation. Brick samples taken from the floor were shown to represent two types of brick and could be dated to two distinct periods; one to the 17th century and conforming to fabric type 3033, and a second, shallow-frogged brick to c1750-1800. The two phases both tie in with the known history of the property and probably represent an original or near contemporary floor surface with minor repairs. No archaeological deposits were observed below the exposed floor bar a thin levelling / bedding deposit for the original construction, and this directly sealed the natural foreshore deposits of the Thames.
Project dates	Start: 07-04-2016 End: 11-04-2016
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	houn 007 - Contracting Unit No.
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	Listed Building
Current Land use	Residential 1 - General Residential
Monument type	CELLAR Post Medieval
Monument type	BRICK FLOOR Post Medieval
Significant Finds	NONE None
Investigation type	"Watching Brief"
Prompt	Listed Building Consent

Project location

Country	England
Site location	GREATER LONDON HOUNSLOW CHISWICK Red Lion House
Postcode	W4 2PP
Study area	2 Square metres
Site coordinates	TQ 21700 77895 51.48639703547 -0.247011014986 51 29 11 N 000 14 49 W Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 0.18m Max: 0.72m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Compass Archaeology
Project brief originator	Historic England
Project design originator	Compass Archaeology
Project director/manager	Compass Archaeology
Project supervisor	James Aaronson
Type of sponsor/funding body	Insurance Claim
Name of sponsor/funding body	Crawford & Co.

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	Museum of London Archaeological Archive
Digital Contents	"other"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography", "Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Museum of London Archaeological Archive
Paper Contents	"other"
Paper Media available	"Photograph", "Unpublished Text"

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	A WATCHING BRIEF DURING THE INSTALLATION OF ACRO-PROPS AT RED LION HOUSE, CHISWICK MALL, CHISWICK, W4 2PP
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Aaronson, J
Date	2016
Issuer or publisher	Compass Archaeology
Place of issue or publication	250 York Road, Battersea, SW11 3SJ
Description	A brief summary of the findings of the watching brief outlining the aims and scope of the fieldwork, observations made, and conclusions. Supported by digital images of the pits, a site location plan and location plan of the pits observed

Appendix II London Archaeologist summary

Red Lion House, Chiswick Mall, Chiswick, W4 2PP TQ21700 77895 CA James Aaronson
Watching Brief ,7th – 11th April Crawford & Co.

Between the 7th and 11th of April 2016 Compass Archaeology undertook a watching brief within the northwestern half of the cellar of Red Lion House in Chiswick which was undergoing renovation following flooding the previous year. The aim of the watching brief was to make observations below an earlier cellar floor that had been exposed during clearance works and to ascertain the date / nature of the floor construction. The watching brief entailed monitoring of two pits dug to accommodate acro-props for supporting the ceiling during renovation.

Brick samples taken from the floor were shown to represent two types of brick and could be dated to two distinct periods; one to the 17th century and conforming to fabric type 3033, and a second, shallow-frogged brick to c1750-1800. The two phases both tie in with the known history of the property and probably represent an original or near contemporary floor surface with minor repairs. No archaeological deposits were observed below the exposed floor bar a thin levelling / bedding deposit for the original construction, and this directly sealed the natural foreshore deposits of the Thames.