

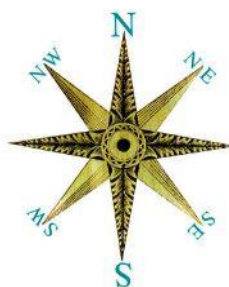
**OAK BALUSTRADE AND ROCKERY BANK STEPS  
REPLACEMENT WORKS  
ELTHAM PALACE, LONDON BOROUGH OF GREENWICH  
SE9 5QE**

**AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF REPORT**



**October 2016**

**COMPASS**



**ARCHAEOLOGY**

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NGR: TQ 42465 73940  
Scheduled Monument Consent refs.: S00142016; Tier 2 Standing Consent  
Site code: EHP16

October 2016

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## ***Abstract***

*On the 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> October 2016 Compass Archaeology conducted an archaeological watching brief on the south lawn and Rockery Bank steps at Eltham Palace, London Borough of Greenwich.*

*The watching brief was commissioned due to the proposed groundworks being located within the Scheduled Ancient Monument of Eltham Palace (SAM 1014833). The work was undertaken in accordance with Scheduled Monument Consent obtained by English Heritage (refs: S00142016; Tier 2 Standing Consent).*

*The watching brief monitored two separate groundworks on the south side of the site, the first being the removal of five damaged wooden boards on the Rockery Bank steps which were replaced with new like-for-like boards, and the second, located opposite on the south lawn, monitored the removal of a wooden balustrade. Removal of the concrete footings of the balustrade created 14 small trenches, measuring approximately 600mm x 350mm x 350mm in depth.*

*Removal of the boards on the Rockery Bank steps revealed a layer of compacted soil forming the stepping surface above MOT Type 1. This was taken to be material laid down during previous improvement works in 1999. No sign of the original 1930s stratigraphy was encountered.*

*In the balustrade trenches, evidence of the foundation for the 1930s Rampart Steps wall adjacent to the wooden balustrade was revealed, in the form of a sloping concrete revetment and stone/mortar/concrete base, at an average depth of 340mm (c60.37mOD). The lowest level was recorded at 59.04mOD. The stratigraphy comprised a thin layer of topsoil above very well compacted light brown soil, containing frequent rounded pebbles. A small quantity of ceramic building material was recovered, in addition to several fragments of glass, pottery and clay tobacco pipe.*

*At this stage, as no further groundworks are proposed on the south lawn or Rockery Bank steps further archaeological mitigation is not required. If this changes, an updated/new proposal, produced in consultation with the relevant parties shall be produced.*

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# 1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The following document forms a summary of the results of an archaeological watching brief carried out on the south lawn and Rockery Bank steps at Eltham Palace, London Borough of Greenwich, SE9 6QE (fig.1).

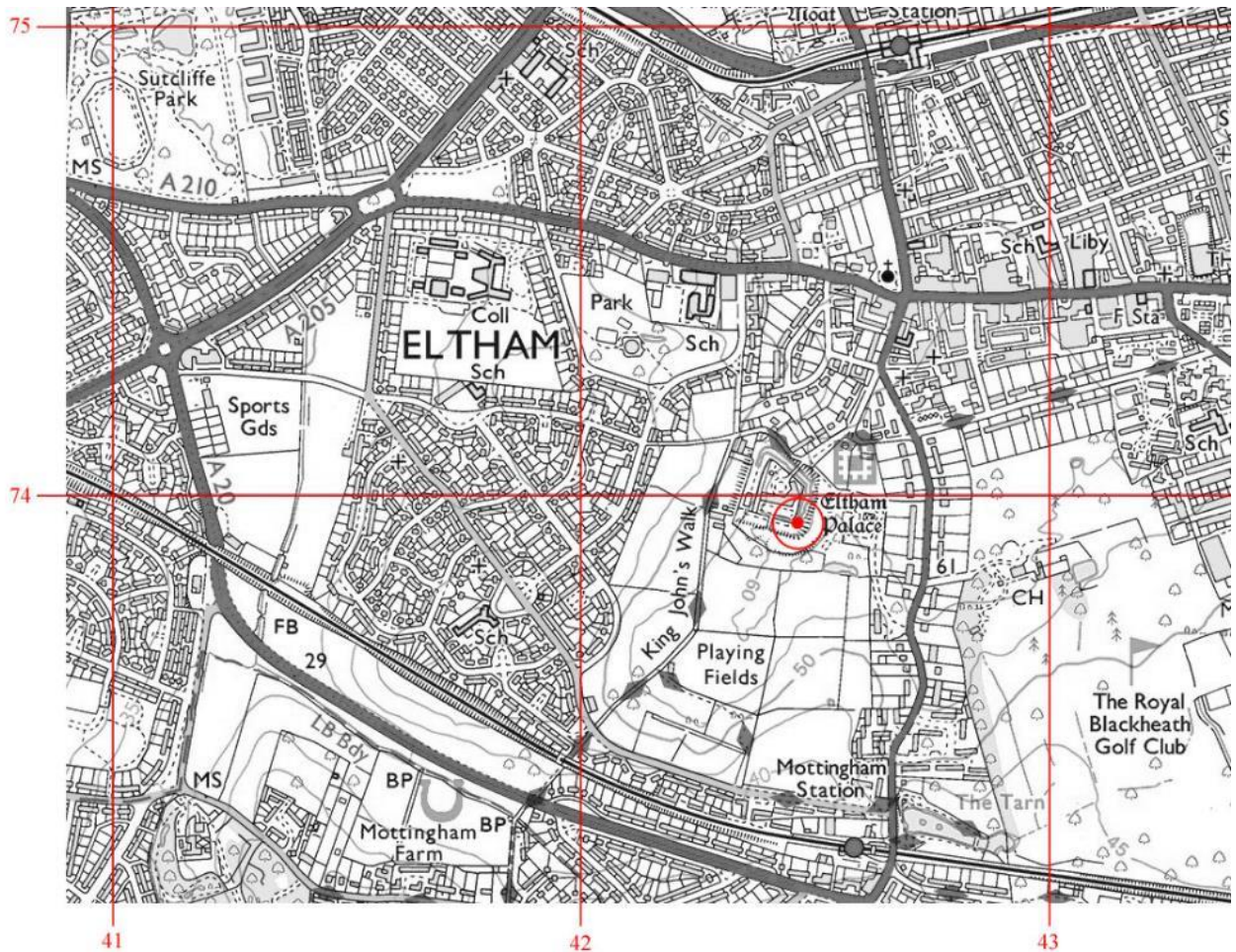


Figure 1: Site location, with approximate site centre marked in red.

- 1.2 This evaluation was conducted in accordance with two grants of Scheduled Monument Consent to undertake a like-for-like replacement of a defective balustrade on the south lawn and repair of several damaged steps in the Rockery Bank at Eltham Palace (National Monument No. 26336, and SMC refs.S00142016; Tier 2 Standing Consent).
- 1.3 The watching brief was commissioned by Brian Clarke and Gary Rawlings, English Heritage, to discharge the conditions attached to the above Consents, imposed by Historic England.

## 2 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Compass Archaeology would like to thank Brian Clarke and Gary Rawlings for commissioning archaeological works. Thanks also to the staff at Eltham Palace for their



support during the watching brief.

### **3 SITE LOCATION, GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY**

- 3.1** The watching brief monitored works located in the south-east corner of the site, situated wholly within the Scheduled Area. The oak balustrade is located on higher ground inside the moat, above the rampart steps on the south lawn, whilst the Rockery Bank steps are located on the east side of the moat, leading down from the Eastern Ridge to the White Wood.
- 3.2** According to the British Geological Survey, (Sheet 271, Dartford) the site lies over an island of Lambeth Beds, predominantly sand and clay with some pebble strata, surrounded to the north, south and east by Harwich formation, (also sand and clays), and underlying London Clay.
- 3.3** The site is situated at approximately 60m to 61m OD, with the ground sloping down to the south and west into the moat; which lies at roughly 55m OD.

### **4 HISTORIC AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND**

The site history has been discussed in the accompanying Written Scheme of Investigation, (WSIs), for previous different works programmes and will not be repeated at length here. What follows is therefore a brief summary.

#### **4.1 *Prehistoric***

Little evidence for prehistoric activity has been uncovered in the surrounding area; although the location of the site on a prominent hilltop seems likely to have been favoured by early settlers. An evaluation undertaken in 1996, by the Oxford Archaeological Unit, to the east of the Visitor Centre (site code EBE), uncovered an east-west aligned ditch; possible part of a rectilinear boundary or enclosure, running along the northern boundary of the site. This feature was dated to the Late Bronze Age, supporting the possibility that there was some prehistoric activity in this area.

#### **4.2 *Roman***

A single Roman coin has been found on Eltham High Street (MLO2945), and a small Roman farmstead was uncovered in the 1920s some 800m north-east of the High Street, but these two events represent the sum of Roman evidence for this area. The line of the major Roman road from London to the Kent coast – Watling Street (what is now the A207 Shooters Hill) passes some 2.8km to the north.

#### **4.3 *Saxon***

No archaeological evidence for Saxon activity or settlement has been found in the vicinity of the site. However the Domesday Book records that this area was held by

Alwold from Edward the Confessor, suggesting that there may have been some human presence – if only agricultural – at this date.

#### **4.4 *Medieval and Tudor***

A settlement existed on the site from the at least the late-11<sup>th</sup> century, very soon after the Conquest; being held by Haimo, Sherriff of Kent, on behalf of Bishop Odo, later passing on to the Earl of Gloucester in 1088. Excavations at Eltham Palace in the 1970s uncovered a timber building of late-11<sup>th</sup> century date, with two further phases of building dated to the late 12<sup>th</sup> and early 13<sup>th</sup> centuries, all sealed by a mid to late-13<sup>th</sup> century cultivation soil (Woods 1982, 215). After being held by the Earl of Gloucester, the site belonged to the De Clare family from 1216, then John De Vesci from 1278 and Bishop Bek (Bishop of Durham) in 1295.

Bishop Bek constructed the first stone buildings on site of Eltham Palace, in the late 12<sup>th</sup> and early 13<sup>th</sup> centuries. Parts of this phase, including the western perimeter wall, two towers, chapel and hall have been found in previous archaeological excavations (see Woods 1982).

In 1305 the land was passed to Edward II and Eltham was used as a royal palace for the next 200 years. During this time much rebuilding and several modifications took place – in the later 15<sup>th</sup> century the Great Hall, the stone bridge over the moat and lodgings were built; and later still Henry VIII (Eltham Palace being his childhood home) rebuilt the chapel in the 16<sup>th</sup> century.

The land to the south of the royal palace was part of the royal park in this period, and was presumable wooded and used for hunting. Land to the east may have been used for orchards and a tilt-yard, with the brick wall which still stands of the northeast side of the moat and further to the east possibly being part of a boundary wall separating these areas.

#### **4.5 *Post-medieval***

From the mid-16<sup>th</sup> century the palace fell into decline, such that by the early 17<sup>th</sup> century it was said to be in a state ‘farre in decay’ (by James I). Significantly for this site, a ground floor survey completed by John Thorpe c1603 shows a substantial range of buildings and a tower immediately north of the southern moat wall. Whilst the groundworks for the new balustrade will be relatively non-invasive, the potential for uncovering masonry (or indeed the bases of the fence resting directly on masonry) should be taken into consideration.

During the Commonwealth it passes to Colonel Nathaniel Rich, who demolished most of the buildings. In 1666, following the restoration of the monarchy, it reverted back to the King who leased in to Sir John Shaw, who rebuilt the Old Lodge and laid out ornate gardens to the south.



Cartographic evidence provides a more detailed insight into the history of the site in the post-medieval period. Rocque's mid-18<sup>th</sup> century map shows the palace buildings in decline, but with some of the avenues and gardens of Shaw's house. Further, the range of buildings overlying the site of the present oak balustrade, seen on Thorpe's plan are not included on Rocque's map, however the moat appears to still be bounding the raised ground on all sides, with two bridges providing access.

From the 17<sup>th</sup> to the 19<sup>th</sup> century the site was occupied as a farm and many of the buildings tenanted, with only the Great Hall remaining from the earlier complex. In the early 19<sup>th</sup> century a substantial villa was built beside the north bridge, and landscape and kitchen gardens laid out on the site of the west and south moats. A second residence, Eltham Court, was built alongside the great hall in 1859 and more gardens and glasshouses were laid out.

In 1933 Stephen Courtauld obtained the lease for Eltham Palace. He restored the Great Hall, constructed the modern Art Deco Eltham Hall, extended the moat and laid out new buildings, glasshouses and gardens, to form the layout which can be seen in the present day. The rockery, where the second part of the groundworks are due to be undertaken was completed during this period as part of the Japanese Gardens and cascade. The 1957 1:1250 OS Map shows the site following this development.

## **5 PLANNING AND OBJECTIVES**

- 5.1** The proposed programme of works proposes two separate areas to be monitored, both located in the south-east of the Eltham Palace site, on the east and west sides of the moat.

The first phase of the watching brief will monitor the removal of the current 24.63m of oak safety balustrade located on the South Lawn, which forms part of the visitors' walk around the gardens. This shall be replaced with a like-for-like structure, comprising 13 1800mm long bays, supported by 14 94 x 94 x 1800mm posts, 4 way weathered tops, plus router line set in concrete, with an above ground height of approximately 1.067m, plus additional rails and attachments. The depth of excavation is currently unknown, but will reach a sufficient depth to allow removal of the concrete footings. This shall be completed by removing the surrounding soil by hand excavation and the footings if necessary being broken by a mechanical breaker (kango).

The second phase of the watching brief is located on the east side of the existing moat, on the site of the bank. The groundworks will entail the repair of oak-sided and faced steps leading down from the Eastern Ridge, through the East Moat and Rockery Bank, terminating at the bottom of the White Wood. This work will comprise the breaking out of rotted existing steps (approximately 5) and removing the associated pegs, with the depth of excavation for the latter being proposed at c450mm. The rotted steps will then be replaced with new timber boards, pegged and resurfaced with pine bark chippings. Works are anticipated to be hand excavated.

Whilst both sets of groundworks are mostly superficial and significant depths should not be reached, the potential for encountering archaeological deposits, particularly on the South Lawn, should be taken into consideration during the works.

- 5.2 This report represents one element in the process whereby early consideration of potential archaeological remains can be achieved, and if necessary appropriate further mitigation measures put in place. It is a requirement of Scheduled Monument Consent (both full & Tier 2 standing consent) and also conforms to the requirements of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), adopted in March 2012, which replaces PPS 5 'Planning for the Historic Environment' and policies HE6 and HE7.
- 5.3 The Government adopted the National Planning Policy Framework in March 2012. The NPPF integrates planning strategy on 'heritage assets; - bringing together all aspects of the historic environment, below and above ground, including historic buildings and structures, landscapes, archaeological sites, and wrecks. The significance of heritage assets needs to be considered in the planning process, whether designated or not, and the settings of assets taking into account. The NPPF requires using an integrated approach to establishing the overall significance of the heritage asset using evidential, historical, aesthetic and communal values, to ensure that planning decisions are based on the nature, extent and level of significance.
- 5.4 The Royal Borough of Greenwich has its own, additional policies concerning archaeological remains and other heritage assets, contained within its Local Development Framework (adopted 2014), with *Policy DH(m) Archaeology* being most relevant:

***Policy DH(m) Archaeology***

*The Royal Borough will expect applicants to properly assess and plan for the impact of proposed developments on archaeological remains where they fall within 'Areas of High Archaeological Potential (AHAPs); [as shown on figure 5]. In certain instances preliminary archaeological site investigations may be required before proposals are considered. The Royal Borough will seek to the secure the co-operation of developers in the excavation, recording and publication of archaeological finds before development takes place by use of planning conditions/legal agreements as appropriate.*

*At identified sites of known archaeological remains of national importance, including scheduled monuments, there will be a presumption in favour of the physical preservation of the remains in site and to allow for public access and display and to preserve their settings. For sites of lesser importance the Royal Borough will seek to preserve the remains in situ, but where this is not feasible the remains should either be investigated, excavated and removed from the site, or investigated, excavated and recorded before destruction. Appropriate conditions/legal agreements may be used to ensure this is satisfied.*

- 5.5** As the site is situated within the *Eltham Palace* Conservation Area the following policy is also applicable (taken from the *Royal Greenwich Local Plan: Core Strategy with Detailed Policies*):

***Policy DH(h) Conservation Areas***

***i) Character and Setting***

*Planning permission will only be granted for proposals which pay special attention to preserving or enhancing the character or appearance of the Conservation Area. The local scale, the established pattern of development and landscape, building form and materials will all be taken into account. Development on sites in the vicinity of a Conservation Area and which would have a visual effect on its character or appearance, should respect the setting of that area.*

***ii) Article 4 Directions***

*Where the character of appearance of a Conservation Area is threatened by inappropriate development, the Royal Borough will seek to control these through the use of Article 4 Directions.*

***iii) Protection of Buildings***

*Demolition of buildings and structures that positively contribute to the character or appearance of a Conservation Area will be restricted. Conservation Area consent for the demolition of buildings will be given only when planning permission has been granted for development that complies with the character and setting requirements of this policy. When demolition is permitted, it will be subject to the building remaining until a contract for redevelopment is awarded and the timescale for implementation is agreed.*

**5.7 Archaeological research questions**

The watching brief presents the opportunity to answer the following general and more specific questions:

- Is there any evidence for Saxon/early medieval activity, predating the main Eltham Palace development?
- Is there any evidence of the initial construction of the main palace period, particularly in the vicinity of the balustrade? If so what form does this take?
- Are there any surviving elements of masonry which can be related to Thorpe's Ground Floor Survey c1603? At what level do these survive?
- Are there any finds or features associated with the 1930s landscaping of the Rockery and moat?

- If encountered, what is the natural geology and at what level does it exist across the site?

## **6 METHODOLOGY**

### **6.1 Standards**

**6.1.1** The field and post-excavation work was carried out in accordance with Historic England guidelines (*Greater London Archaeology Advisory Service: Standards for Archaeological Work, 2015*). Works also conformed to the standards of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (*Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation, 2014*). Overall management of the project was undertaken by a full member of the Chartered Institute. As the site was situated within a Scheduled Ancient Monument the fieldwork also complied with the conditions attached to two successful applications for Scheduled Monument Consent, refs.S00142016; Tier 2 Standing Consent. The fieldwork and consent followed the methodology outlined below as set out in an accompanying Written Scheme of Investigation produced by Compass Archaeology in September 2016<sup>1</sup>.

**6.1.2** Fieldwork was carried out in accordance with the Construction (Health, Safety & Welfare) Regulations. All members of the fieldwork team held CSCS (Construction Skills Certificate Scheme) cards, and wore hi-vis jackets, hard-hats, steel-toe-capped boots, etc., as required.

**6.1.3** The Client, Historic England and the Ancient Monuments case worker were kept informed of the progress of fieldwork and any finds.

### **6.2 Fieldwork**

**6.2.1** The archaeological watching brief took place across the south-eastern part of the site, monitoring two separate groundworks. The first set of groundworks was located to the east of the moat, on the Rockery Bank steps. The second was located on a defective balustrade, situated on the south lawn, overlooking the moat (fig.2)

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<sup>1</sup> Archer, H. 2016.

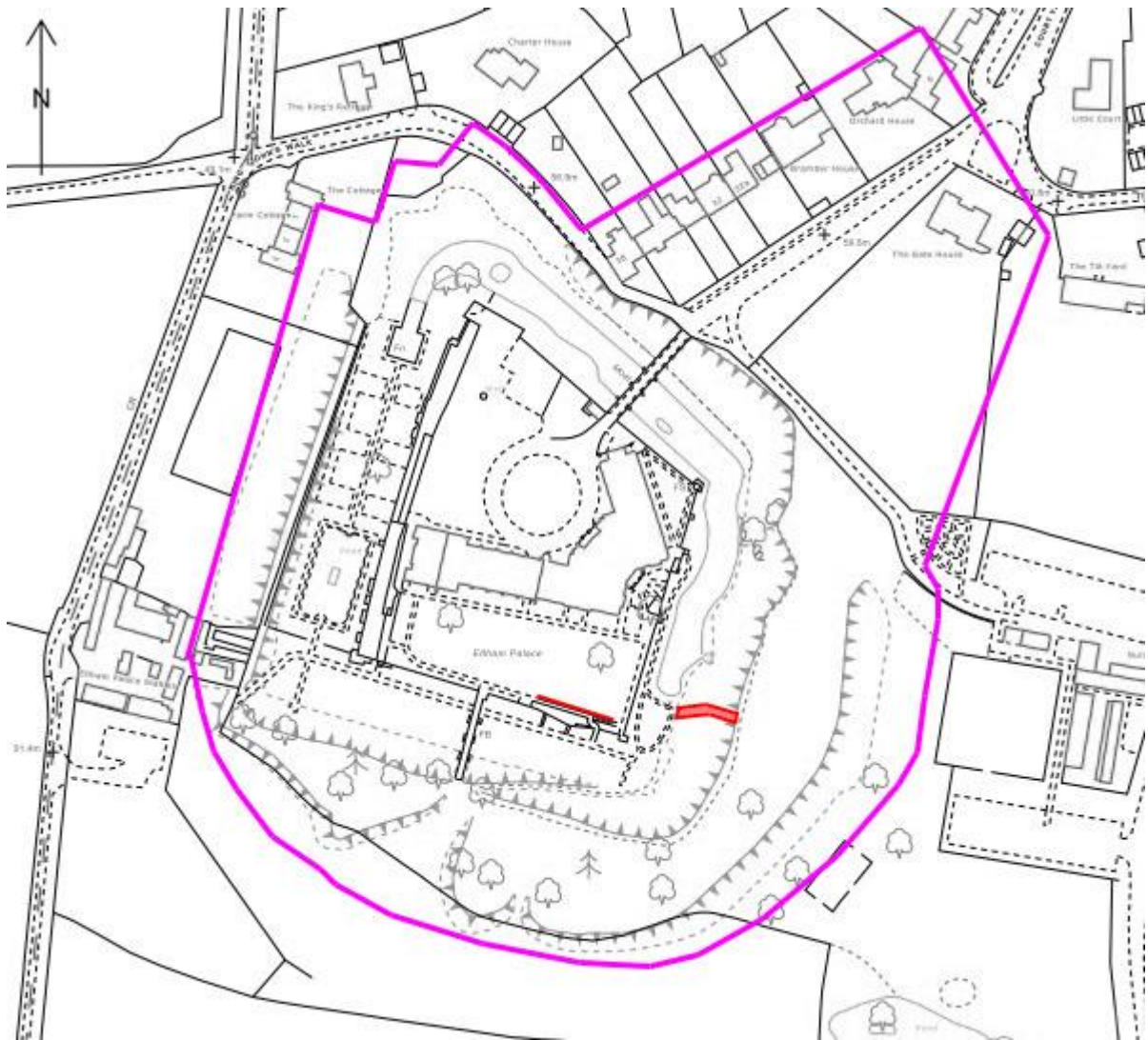


Figure 2: Location of proposed groundworks (red) in relation to the Scheduled Ancient Monument boundary (pink).

**6.2.2** The Rockery Bank wooden steps were removed by hand, by Eltham Palace's landscapers, Coblands, and the created space cleared to ensure the new step would fit. Only a small amount of material was removed, which was examined by the archaeologist as the works progressed.

The wooden balustrade on the south lawn, currently cordoned off for safety, was dismantled and removed by external contractors. Each vertical post, 14 in total, was supported by a concrete footing, removed by hand-held mechanical breaker. The removed spoil was left next to the newly created trench to assist with ease of backfilling if required.

**6.2.3** Archaeological contexts were recorded as appropriate on *pro-forma* sheets by written and measured description, and drawn in plan / section, generally at scales of 1:20 and

1:10 respectively. The investigations were recorded on a general site plan and related to the Ordnance Survey grid. Levels were taken on the top and bottom of archaeological deposits, transferred from the nearest Ordnance Datum Benchmark (in this instance a spot height from previous archaeological works, located adjacent to the visitors centre at 60.31mOD). The fieldwork record will be supplemented by digital photography, in .jpeg and RAW formats.

- 6.2.4** The recording system followed the procedures set out in the Museum of London recording manual. By agreement the recording and drawing sheets used are directly compatible with those developed by the Museum.

### **6.3 Post-excavation**

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

#### **6.3.1 Finds and samples**

Assessment of finds was undertaken by appropriately qualified staff (see Appendices II-III). 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'. All identified finds and artefacts have been retained and bagged with unique numbers related to the context record, although certain classes of material were discarded once an appropriate record had been made. Sensitive artefacts will be properly treated, in line with the appropriate Standards.

### **6.4 Report procedure**

- 6.4.1** This report contains a description of the fieldwork plus details of any archaeological remains or finds, and an interpretation of the associated deposits. Illustrations have been included as appropriate, including a site plan located to the OS grid. A short summary of the project has also been appended using the OASIS Data Collection Form.

- 6.4.2** Copies of the report will be supplied to the Client and Historic England.

- 6.4.3** There is no provision for further analysis or publication of significant findings. Should these be made the requirements would need to be discussed and agreed with the Client and with respective authorities.

### **6.5 The site archive**

Assuming that no further work is required, an ordered indexed and internally consistent archive of the evaluation will be compiled in line with MoL 'Guidelines for the Preparation of Archaeological Archives', and will be retained by English Heritage under site code EHP16. The integrity of the site archive should be maintained, and the landowner will be urged to donate any archaeological finds to English Heritage.



After analysis and an appropriate record was made, fragments of Ceramic Building Material and modern finds were discarded.

## 7 RESULTS

7.1 What follows is a written description of observations made during the watching brief. The Rockery Bank steps will be discussed first, followed by the removal of the balustrade. In the main text deposits are shown in round brackets thus (x), whilst walls and cuts are denoted [x]. The text is supplemented with illustrative photographs and an accompanying trench plan for the balustrade works.

### 7.2 Rockery Bank Steps

7.2.1 A total of 5 wooden boards were removed and replaced from the top, middle and bottom of the steps. The small trenches left were recorded as being 1.10m in length x 120-230mm in width x 100-250mm in depth (the depth varying according to the height of the next step).



*Figure 3: Post-removal of boards 1 and 2 at the top of the flight of steps. The indentations at both ends of the trench mark the location of the securing wooden pegs, which held the board in place. Facing E. Scale 0.5m.*





*Figure 4: Post-removal of boards from the 10th and 11th steps (from the bottom of the flight). Facing NE. Scale 1m.*



*Figure 5: Post-removal of the bottom step. Facing ENE. Scale 1m.*



**7.2.2** The exposed stratigraphy for each step was relatively similar, comprising 50-200mm of mid-brown topsoil (1), which was noticeably thicker in steps 1 and 2, above 30-200mm of pinkish angular stones, taken to be MOT Type 1 (2).



*Figure 6: A sample of exposed stratigraphy from the 10th step. Facing ENE. Scale 0.2m.*

**7.2.3** No finds or features of archaeological interest were encountered during this phase of the watching brief. The stratigraphy exposed was interpreted as modern soil, laid down to create a stepping surface which was subsequently compacted by foot traffic, above a base of MOT Type 1, created during a similar set of groundworks completed in 1999<sup>2</sup>.

**7.2.4** The top of the Rockery Bank steps was recorded at 59.98mOD, with the base of the trench for the second step being an approximately 59.60mOD. The middle of the flight of steps was recorded at 57.85mOD, which was situated below steps 10 and 11 (shown above in fig.6).

**7.2.5** Once each defective wooden board had been removed, it was replaced by a like-for-like version, measuring 1.10m in length x 0.2m in width x 0.3m in height. These were secured by two 0.5m long wooden pegs and the works completed by securing with wire mesh and wood chippings.

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<sup>2</sup> Pers. Comm. Coblands, 2016.



Figure 7: Working shot showing the installation of the new steps in the trench created by the removal of the old. Facing S. No scale.

### 7.3 Balustrade

7.3.1 The second part of monitored works was focused on the south-east corner of the south lawn, bounded by the lawn and house to the north, and moat to the east and south. The existing balustrade, which was to be dismantled, measured 24.63m in length, aligned east-west, situated immediately north of a stone wall and steps leading to the moat. The balustrade was supported in the ground by 14 wooden posts, each of which had a concrete footing, measuring c300mm<sup>3</sup>.

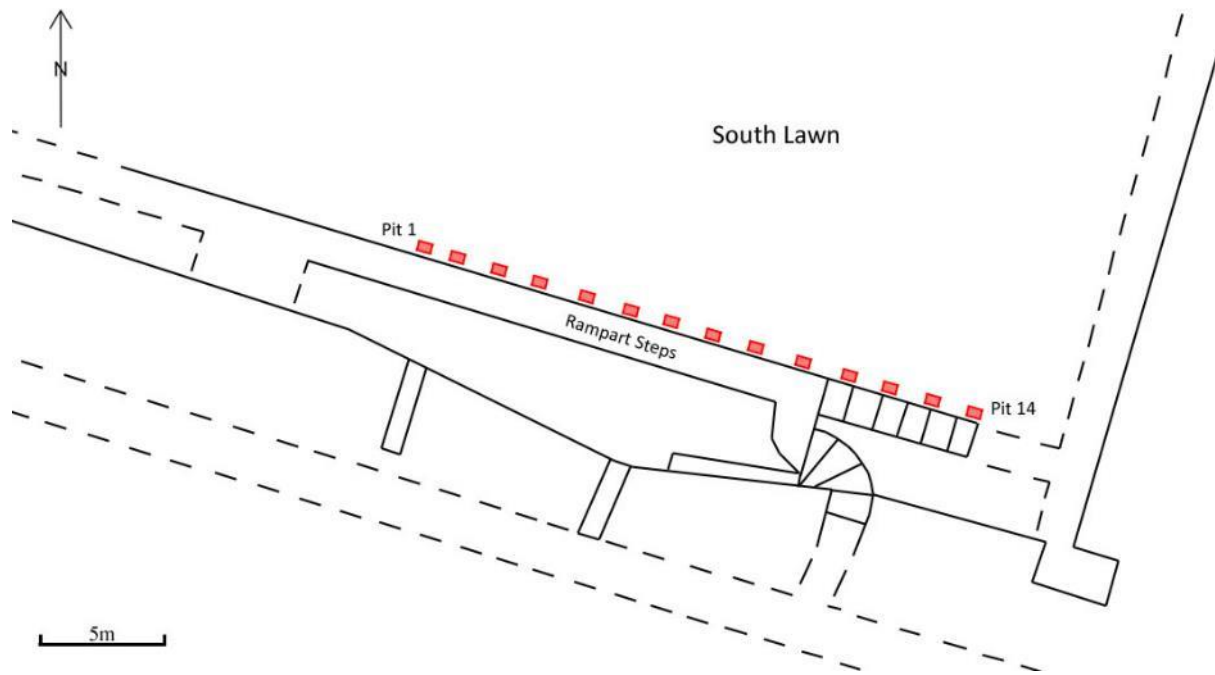


Figure 8: Location of completed pits on south lawn, starting with Pit 1 at the west end to Pit 14 in the east.

**7.3.2** Removal of the concrete footings created 14 similarly sized pits, rectangular in plan, reaching a maximum depth of 470mm (c59.04mOD). The level of excavation reached varied between 260 and 470mm, depending upon the area needed to remove the concrete pads. Each pit was located an average of 1.3m apart (fig.8). Below is a selection of the stratigraphy exposed across all 14 pits.





*Figure 9: Completed trenches following the removal of the balustrade. Photograph taken from the west end, facing E. Scale 1m.*





Figure 10: South facing section of pit 1, showing the compact brick and mortar flecked backfill (4) below topsoil (3). Facing N. Scale 0.5m.



Figure 11: Pit 3, towards the western end of the balustrade. The stone seen below the scale is taken to be part of the 1930s wall foundation, seen above and to the left of the scale bar. Facing SW. Scale 0.5m.





Figure 12: Pit 5, east of Pit 3 above. Concrete foundations for the wall seen at the top of the frame can be seen at the trench base. Facing S. Scale 0.5m.



Figure 13: Pit 12, east end of balustrade. North facing section, showing the sloping rear-side of the wall, coming down on to a wider concrete footing. Facing S. Scale 0.5m.



- 7.3.3** The stratigraphy observed across the 14 pits was broadly similar, comprising a thin layer of loose dark brown topsoil (3), often no more than 50mm in thickness, above an extremely well compacted deposit of light-mid brown fine soil, abundant with white mortar flecks, rounded pebbles and less frequently, fragments of ceramic building material (4). The layer measured up to 420mm in thickness, overlying the concrete foundations for the existing east-west wall [5]. This deposit was seen in 13 of the 14 pits, with the stratigraphy in pit 14 comprising a darker brown, less compacted, yet equally as mortar flecked soil (6) observed across the pit entirety.
- 7.3.4** With the exception of the standing stone wall, no features of archaeological interest were observed in any of the completed pits. A small quantity of finds were recovered from the majority of the pits, exclusively from context (4), and included predominantly fragments of post-medieval ceramic building material, however a single fragment of pottery, and clay tobacco pipe were also recovered.

## **7.4 Discussion**

- 7.4.1** The features and stratigraphy observed during the removal of the damaged wooden balustrade relate entirely to the construction of the east-wall 1930s rampart steps and subsequent creation of the south lawn. Both features are shown on Seely & Paget's architectural plans of the Courtauld's house and landscaped gardens. In places the wall stands at over 2m in height and as such would require substantial foundations to counterbalance the structure and prevent collapse. As a result, it is likely that this substantial terracing and revetting has truncated any earlier features – particularly, the southern ground floor wall shown on Thorpe's Survey (see the Written Scheme of Investigation, fig.5).

In the modern period, much of the complex of Eltham Palace was removed to make way for the 1930s extension which presently occupies the site. It is therefore probable that much of the material recovered from the pits opened during removal of the balustrade were deposited as part of these alterations. In addition, the presence of worked stone in the rampart steps wall, taken to be elements from the demolished range, suggests the area has been extensively reworked and disturbed, in the last century in particular.

## **8 CONCLUSIONS**

- 8.1** We can now look back at the original research questions set down in the WSI and compare them with the results of the watching brief.
- 8.2** **Is there any evidence for Saxon/early medieval activity, predating the main Eltham Palace development?**

*No Saxon/early medieval finds or features were recorded during the watching brief, regarding both the monitoring of the Rockery Bank steps and balustrade.*

**8.3 Is there any evidence of the initial construction of the main palace period, particularly in the vicinity of the balustrade? If so what form does this take?**

*No evidence of earlier construction phases were recorded during the watching brief.*

**8.4 Are there any surviving elements of masonry which can be related to Thorpe's Ground Floor Survey c1603? At what level do these survive?**

*No surviving elements of masonry were observed during the watching brief. It is likely that any elements in the vicinity of the rampart steps have been at least partially truncated by the foundations of the 1930s wall. Whilst it is possible, at a lower level, that earlier phases of masonry were incorporated into the wall foundations, this cannot be confirmed.*

**8.5 Are there any finds or features associated with the 1930s landscaping of the Rockery and moat?**

*The general layout and route of the Rockery Bank steps, providing access from the bottom of the south end of the moat, running beside the south end of the Rock Garden, to the lawns follows the original 1930s path, and is similar to that shown on the 1950s OS Map. However, many of the steps themselves are modern, having been replaced when necessary, in a piecemeal fashion, since as recently as 1999. No finds were recovered from any of the small trenches created by the removal of the wooden boards forming the front of each step.*

**8.6 If encountered, what is the natural geology and at what level does it exist across the site?**

*No natural deposits were encountered during the watching brief. Although on opposite sides of the moat, both sets of groundworks were situated at similar levels, with the top of the Rockery Steps being recorded at 59.98mOD and the balustrade being recorded at 59.51mOD (east end) to 60.71mOD (west end). The deepest archaeological deposit was recorded in pit 10, at the base of a stakehole impression, at c59.04mOD.*

**8.7 At this stage, as no further groundworks are proposed further archaeological mitigation is not required. If this changes, an updated/new proposal, produced in consultation with the relevant parties shall be produced.**

## 9 SOURCES

### 9.1 Bibliography

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Weinreb, C. & Hibbert, B. (1983). *The London Encyclopaedia.*

Woods, H. (1982). Excavations at Eltham Palace 1975-9. *London and Middlesex Archaeological Transactions*, vol. 33, 213-65.

## APPENDIX I SCHEDULED ANCIENT MONUMENT CONSENT APPLICATION FORMS



LONDON OFFICE

Dr Agnieszka Sadraei  
English Heritage  
1 Waterhouse Square  
138-142 Holborn  
London  
EC1N 2ST

Direct Dial: 020 7973 3739

Our ref: S00142016

9 August 2016

Dear Dr Sadraei

**Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979 (as amended); Section 2  
control of works  
Application for Scheduled Monument Consent**

**ELTHAM PALACE, COURT YARD, LONDON, SE9 5QE  
Scheduled Monument No: SM 26336, HA 1014833  
Our ref: S00142016  
Application on behalf of the English Heritage Trust**

1. I am directed by the Secretary of State for Culture, Media & Sport to advise you of the decision regarding your application for Scheduled Monument Consent received 6 July 2016 in respect of proposed works at the above scheduled monument concerning the excavation of the existing concrete encased wooden posts to the south of the site, adjacent to the moat, in order to undertake a like-for-like replacement of the defective balustrade. The works were detailed in the following documentation submitted by you:

Site and work location plan  
Specification  
Photographs

2. In accordance with paragraph 3(2) of Schedule 1 to the 1979 Act, the Secretary of State is obliged to afford you, and any other person to whom it appears to the Secretary of State expedient to afford it, an opportunity of appearing before and being heard by a person appointed for that purpose. This opportunity was offered to you by Historic England and you have declined it.

3. The Secretary of State is also required by the Act to consult with the Historic Buildings and Monuments Commission for England (Historic England) before deciding whether or not to grant Scheduled Monument Consent. Historic England considers the effect of the proposed works upon the monument to be beneficial for the preservation and presentation of the monument, with arrangements for necessary archaeological



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Telephone 020 7973 3700  
HistoricEngland.org.uk



*Historic England is subject to the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) and Environmental Information Regulations 2004 (EIR). All information held by the organisation will be accessible in response to an information request, unless one of the exemptions in the FOIA or EIR applies.*

*Historic England will use the information provided by you to evaluate your application for Scheduled Monument Consent. Information contained in this application and any information obtained from other sources will be retained in all cases in hard copy form and/or on computer for administration purposes and future consideration where applicable.*



LONDON OFFICE

recording included within the application.

I can confirm that the Secretary of State is agreeable for the works to proceed providing the conditions set out below are adhered to, and that accordingly Scheduled Monument Consent is hereby granted under section 2 of the 1979 Act for the works described in paragraph 1 above, subject to the following conditions:

- (a) The works to which this consent relates shall be carried out to the satisfaction of the Secretary of State, who will be advised by Historic England. At least 2 weeks' notice (or such shorter period as may be mutually agreed) in writing of the commencement of work shall be given to Iain Bright (Assistant Inspector of Ancient Monuments), Historic England, 1 Waterhouse Square, 138-142 Holborn, London, EC1N 2ST; iain.bright@HistoricEngland.org.uk, in order that an Historic England representative can inspect and advise on the works and their effect in compliance with this consent.
- (b) The archaeological monitoring will be undertaken in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) which is to be provided to Historic England in advance, for approval.
- (c) A method statement for the removal of the existing posts, the excavation of any new/enlarged post holes and the erection of the new fence is to be provided to Historic England prior to the commencement of works.
- (d) In the event of significant archaeological remains being observed during the works, Historic England are to be contacted to discuss an appropriate way forward. Presumption will be that any masonry remains encountered will be preserved *in situ*.
- (e) All those involved in the implementation of the works granted by this consent must be informed by the owner, occupier and/or developer that the land is designated as a scheduled monument under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979 (as amended); the extent of the scheduled monument as set out in both the scheduled monument description and map; and that the implications of this designation include the requirement to obtain Scheduled Monument Consent for any works to a scheduled monument from the Secretary of State prior to them being undertaken.
- (f) Equipment and machinery shall not be used or operated in the scheduled area in conditions or in a manner likely to result in damage to the monument/ ground disturbance other than that which is expressly authorised in this consent.



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Historic England will use the information provided by you to evaluate your application for Scheduled Monument Consent. Information contained in this application and any information obtained from other sources will be retained in all cases in hard copy form and/or on computer for administration purposes and future consideration where applicable.



Historic England

LONDON OFFICE

- (g) A short report on the archaeological recording shall be sent to the Greater London Historic Environment Record and to Iain Bright at Historic England within 3 months of the completion of the works (or such other period as may be mutually agreed).
- (h) The contractor shall complete and submit an entry on OASIS (On-line Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations - <http://oasis.ac.uk/england/>) prior to project completion, and shall deposit any digital project report with the Archaeology Data Service, via the OASIS form, upon completion.

4. By virtue of section 4 of the 1979 Act, if no works to which this consent relates are executed or started within the period of five years beginning with the date on which this consent was granted (being the date of this letter), this consent shall cease to have effect at the end of that period (unless a shorter time period is set by a specific condition above).

5. This letter does not convey any approval or consent required under any enactment, bye law, order or regulation other than section 2 of the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979.

6. Your attention is drawn to the provisions of section 55 of the 1979 Act under which any person who is aggrieved by the decision given in this letter may challenge its validity by an application made to the High Court within six weeks from the date when the decision is given. The grounds upon which an application may be made to the Court are (1) that the decision is not within the powers of the Act (that is, the Secretary of State has exceeded the relevant powers) or (2) that any of the relevant requirements have not been complied with and the applicant's interests have been substantially prejudiced by the failure to comply. The "relevant requirements" are defined in section 55 of the 1979 Act: they are the requirements of that Act and the Tribunals and Inquiries Act 1971 and the requirements of any regulations or rules made under those Acts.

Yours sincerely

**Iain Bright**

Assistant Inspector of Ancient Monuments

E-mail: [iain.bright@HistoricEngland.org.uk](mailto:iain.bright@HistoricEngland.org.uk)

For and on behalf of the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport



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*Historic England will use the information provided by you to evaluate your application for Scheduled Monument Consent. Information contained in this application and any information obtained from other sources will be retained in all cases in hard copy form and/or on computer for administration purposes and future consideration where applicable.*



## ENGLISH HERITAGE

### Notification to Historic England of works to be carried out under Tier 2 Standing Consent

Monument	1014833
Region	London
NHLE no.	26336
Date of Notification	
If monument is in a SSSI date Natural England consulted.	N/A

Element of monument on which proposed works are to be carried out	The Rockery Steps Repair: Rock Garden? White wood Eltham Palace
Brief description and outline of significance of affected area of monument	<p>The rock Garden is a 1930's feature introduced by the Courtaulds. There is some evidence that they were influenced by Reginald Farrer the rock garden pioneer and author. Despite it being extensive reworked in the 1920's the area is within the scheduled monument. The steps themselves were created in the 1990's as part of the project to restore Eltham.</p> <p>This part of the garden has high historic and evidential values due to its association with the Courtaulds and Reginal Farrer. The potential for surviving archaeological evidence of the medieval palace gardens is low because of subsequent horticultural works especially in the 1930s and 1990s. The impact of the proposed repairs and replacement on the heritage significance of the scheduled monument should therefore be negligible. Archaeological watching brief will be undertaken to mitigate any potential negative effects of the scheme.</p>

Brief description of defect	The Rockery steps have been in place since 1990 and some 10 treads (steps) have rotted and the fill (hogging topped with bark needs reconstitution) The chicken wire that overlays this and keeps this in place has torn in some places and needs renewal.
Brief description of the proposed works	This is a repair of oak treads and support stakes to enable the path to be used safely. Some movement of the fill between the treads will be required, and the replacement of supporting stakes and side boarding as required. This is held in place by chicken wire which also needs replacement in places.

Relevant sub-section of Standing Consent	<b>under Tier 2</b>
Attached documentation	Photographs of the area; location map; quote and description of works, archaeological watching brief



Projected start and completion dates for works	20 <sup>th</sup> June – 24 <sup>th</sup> June 2016
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**Issued on behalf of English Heritage by**

.....  
 Properties Curator                      Conservation Maintenance Manager

Date.....

**Endorsed on behalf of Historic England by**

 ASSISTANT INSPECTOR OF ANCIENT MONUMENTS

.....  
 Name    Job Title

Date...08/07/2016.....

**APPENDIX II** Ceramic Building Material *by Susan Pringle*

**Key:** A = Abraded; H = Heated; M = Mortar; M = medieval, PM = Post-medieval

All measurements given in millimetres, (L = Length; B = Breadth; T = Thickness). Weight in grams.

Context	Fill of	Context/CBM date	Period	Fabric	Form	Count	Weight	L	B	T	Condition	Comments	Fabric notes
4	Pit 5	1480-1900	M	2271	Peg	2	33	0	0	0	A	Part 1 large round nail-hole, c16mm diam.	
4	Pit 5	1480-1900	PM	2276	Peg	1	4	0	0	0	A	Flake	
4	Pit 5	1480-1900	PM	3033	Brick	1	6	0	0	0	A	Flake	
4	Pit 5	1480-1900	PM	3121	Flag?	1	89	0	0	39	M	Flake, mortar/concrete adhering	
4	Pit 3	1480-1900	M	2271	Peg	4	65	0	0	0	A	Part of 1 polygonal nail-hole	
4	Pit 3	1480-1900	PM	2276	Peg	1	40	0	0	0			
4	Pit 3	1480-1900	PM	3033	Brick?	1	6	0	0	0	A	Crumb	
4	Pit 6	1480-1900	M	2271	Peg	1	5	0	0	0	A	Flake	
4	Pit 6	1480-1900	PM	2276	Peg	1	14	0	0	0	A		
4	Pit 9	1910-1974	PM	3038	Brick	1	36	0	0	0	A	Flake	
4	Pit 9	1910-1974	PM	3033	Brick	1	38	0	0	0	A	Flake	
4	Pit 9	1910-1974	PM	3039?	Brick	1	24	0	0	0	A	Flake	
4	Pit 9	1910-1974	PM	2276	Peg	2	28	0	0	0	A, M x 1	Flake, worn	
4	Pit 1	1200-1800	M/PM	2271	Ridge?	1	22	0	0	0	A		
4	Pit 4	1480-1800	PM	2276	Peg?	2	24	0	0	0	A	Flake, sanded surface missing	
4	Pit 2	1480-1800	PM	2276	Peg	2	43	0	0	0	A		
4	Pit 2	1480-1800	PM?	?	Brick?	1	9	0	0	0	A	Crumb	Orange fabric with orange and light yellow silty inclusions and marbling

Context	Fill of	Context/CBM date	Period	Fabric	Form	Count	Weight	L	B	T	Condition	Comments	Fabric notes
4	Pits 11/12	1480-1800	PM	2276	Peg	5	129	0	0	0	A, M x 1		Some have poorly mixed fabric
4	Pits 11/12	1480-1800	M/PM	2271?	Peg	1	3	0	0	0	A	Flake, no moulding sand survives	
4	Pits 11/12	1480-1800	PM	3046	Brick	1	12	0	0	0	A	Flake	
6	Pit 14	1480-1800	PM	2276	Peg	6	123	0	0	0	A, M x 2		
6	Pit 14	1480-1800	PM	3033	Brick?	1	4	0	0	0	A	Tiny crumb	

### APPENDIX III The finds by Heidi Archer

#### Pottery by Paul Blinkhorn

A single sherd of pottery weighing 4g occurred in context (4). It is Post-medieval Redware, fabric PMR of the Museum of London Type-Series (eg. Vince 1985), and dateable to the period AD1580-1900. Such pottery is a common find in the area.

An additional 4 fragments of modern flower pot (fabric code FWP) were recovered from context (4), pits 11 and 12, taken to be a relatively recent deposition.

#### Bibliography

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

#### Clay Tobacco Pipe

A single sherd of clay tobacco pipe was recovered from context (4), pit 4, comprising a short length of stem. It was most likely deposited in the post-medieval period as a result of accidental loss. The degree of wear would suggest it has been in the soil for a considerable period of time.

The find is categorised as follows (compiled using the guidelines set out in the *DAACS Cataloguing Manual: Tobacco Pipes*, by Kate Grillo, Jennifer Aultman and Nick Bon-Harper, (updated February 2012)):

#### Key:

#### Abbreviations across head of table

**BH** = Bowl height  
**BW** = Bowl width  
**SL** = Stem length  
**SW** = Stem width  
**BS** = Borehole size

Context	Form	Type	Date	Count	BH	BW	SL	SW	BS	Comments
(4)	Partial stem	-	-	1	-	-	47	9-10	2.5	Partial fragment. Some blackening. * indicates fragment dimensions Moulded dot design BA, decreasing in size from base to top

All measurements are given in millimetres.

## Bibliography

Atkinson, D and Oswald, A, (1969), '*London Clay Tobacco Pipes*' *Journal of the Archaeological Association. Third Series Vol.XXXII*

### Glass

A total of 3 sherds of glass were recovered from the archaeological investigation, comprising two fragments from context (4) pits 11 and 12, and a fragment from context (6) pit 14. The fragments are categorised as follows:

**Context (4):** 1 x 2mm thick fragment of transparent window glass.  
1 x 3mm thick fragment of transparent window glass.

**Context (6):** 1 x 4mm thick fragment of transparent window glass.

All three fragments are taken to be from panes of glass, and are uniform in thickness, strongly indicating they were machine made. It is likely they originally came from separate panes. There is limited wear on the fragments, and no patina. This would suggest they have been recently deposited and are therefore Post-medieval, or Modern in date.

## APPENDIX IV OASIS data collection form

**OASIS ID: compassa1-265711**

### Project details

Project name	Archaeological watching brief at Eltham Palace, SE9 5QE
Short description of the project	On the 10th and 11th October 2016 Compass Archaeology conducted an archaeological watching brief on the south lawn and Rockery Bank steps at Eltham Palace, London Borough of Greenwich. The watching brief was commissioned due to the proposed groundworks being located within the Scheduled Ancient Monument of Eltham Palace (SAM 1014833). The work monitored the replacement of 5 wooden boards on the Rockery Bank steps and the removal of a balustrade on the south lawn. No archaeological finds or features were recovered from the two sets of groundworks monitored. All stratigraphy was taken to relate to improvement works in 1999 (for the steps) and the 1930s (for the balustrade). The deepest context was recorded at 59.04mOD.
Project dates	Start: 10-10-2016 End: 11-10-2016
Previous/future work	Yes / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	EHP16 - Sitecode
Any associated project reference codes	1014833 - SM No.
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	Scheduled Monument (SM)
Current Land use	Community Service 2 - Leisure and recreational buildings
Monument type	MADE GROUND Modern
Significant Finds	CERAMIC BUILDING MATERIAL Post Medieval
Investigation type	"Watching Brief"
Prompt	Scheduled Monument Consent

### Project location

Country	England
Site location	GREATER LONDON GREENWICH ELTHAM Eltham Palace
Postcode	SE9 5QE
Study area	15 Square metres
Site coordinates	TQ 542468 173933 50.934755250528 0.195445347685 50 56 05 N 000 11 43 E Point

### Project creators

Name of Organisation	Compass Archaeology
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Project brief originator	English Heritage
Project design originator	Compass Archaeology
Project director/manager	Geoff Potter
Project supervisor	Heidi Archer
Type of sponsor/funding body	English Heritage

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### Project archives

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

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### Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Oak Balustrade and Rockery Bank Steps Replacement Works. Eltham Palace, London Borough of Greenwich, SE9 5QE. An Archaeological Watching Brief Report.
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Archer, H.
Date	2016
Issuer or publisher	Compass Archaeology
Place of issue or publication	250 York Road, London SW11 3SJ
Description	A summary report of the findings of the watching brief. Includes background to the site including; site location and geology, historic and archaeological background, planning background, historic and methodology. Separate results and conclusions. Text accompanied by a number of illustrative photographs. Scheduled monument consent forms appended.
Entered by	Heidi Archer (heidi@compassarchaeology.co.uk)
Entered on	17 October 2016