

STRAWBERRY HILL HOUSE
TWICKENHAM, LONDON BOROUGH OF RICHMOND

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATION

SITE CODE: SWU07
SITE CENTRE NGR: TQ 1588 7230

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Abstract

An archaeological investigation took place in the grounds of Strawberry Hill House, London Borough of Richmond, between the 12th to the 30th November 2007. The project focused on a series of 14 trenches located in various parts of the grounds, in an attempt to expose evidence of 18th century features contemporary with Horace Walpole's occupation and development of the property between 1747-1797.

Targeted features included the earlier position of Waldegrave Road prior to its removal north in the later 19th century; evidence for an 18th century eastern boundary path; paths in closer proximity to the house; 18th century garden features and ground levels; a room depicted on 18th century plans, demolished by the later 19th century; and a screen wall belonging to the Priors Garden on the north side of the property. Elsewhere evidence was sought for the later 19th century construction of the carriage drive in front of Strawberry Hill House.

Overall, very little evidence of 18th century occupation was encountered during the course of the project. In many trenches the presence of modern services and obvious evidence of recent groundworks may well have destroyed any surviving archaeological evidence. Elsewhere, post-18th century additions and alterations to the grounds (most notably in the paths to the east and around the existing property) suggest a successive reuse of materials within more recent contexts and consequently the likely destruction of earlier phases. Activity from the later 19th century was well accounted for – with evidence of path levels and brick drains in a number of trenches. On the north side of the property the 18th century foundation of a demolished room was exposed, with a probable second phase of construction.

A very small cut-pit feature was exposed in Trench 1, the fill of which produced two small pieces of worked flint identified as prehistoric.

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1. Introduction

- 1.1 This report details the results of an archaeological investigation undertaken in the grounds of Strawberry Hill House, Twickenham, London Borough of Richmond. The work formed part of a wider conservation project at Strawberry Hill House, aimed at “...*the recovery of the cultural significance of the site.*” (Inskip + Jenkins: Brief, August 2007).
- 1.2 The site was approximately centred at NGR TQ 1588 7230. Strawberry Hill House is a Grade I listed building and the surrounding grounds are Grade II* listed historical landscape.
- 1.3 The archaeological work involved the excavation of 14 trenches at various locations across the site, located in relation to suspected 18th century features belonging to Horace Walpole’s occupation and development of Strawberry Hill House and its grounds.

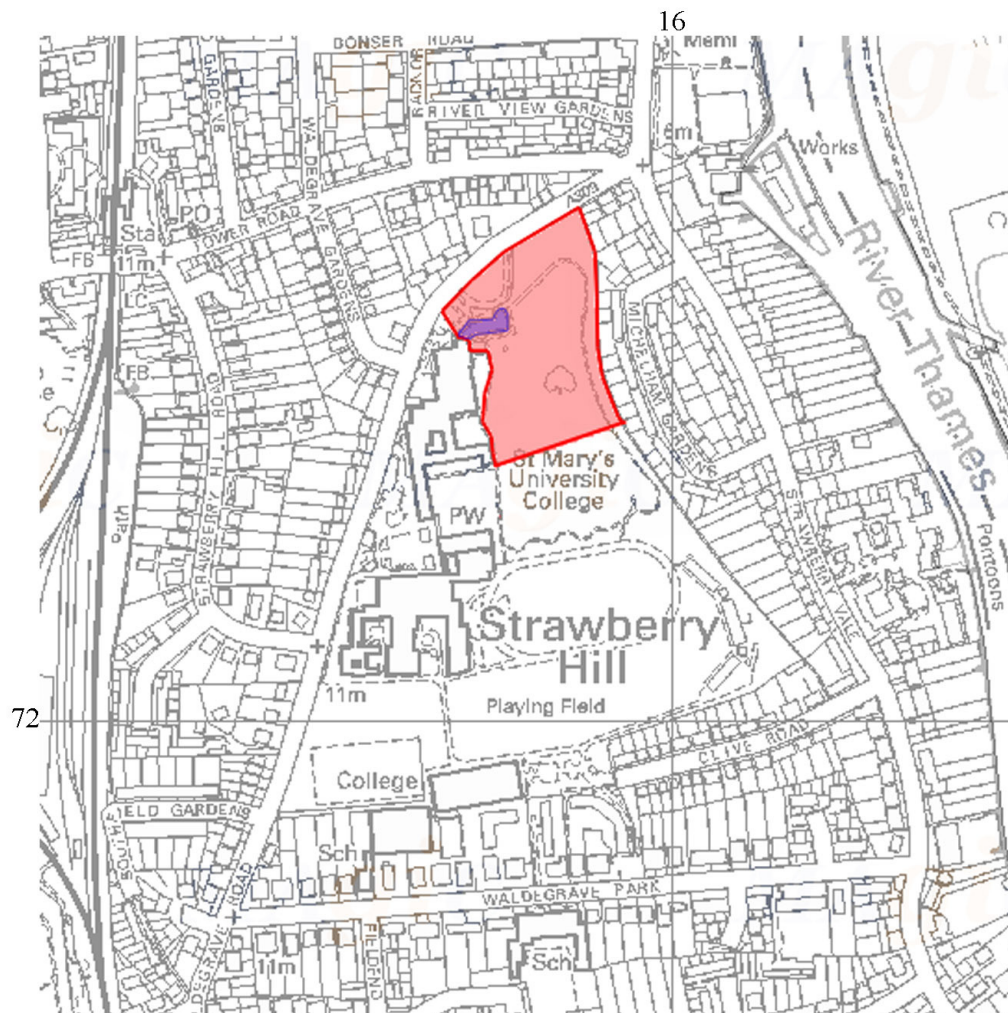


Figure 1: Site location, based on Ordnance Survey 1:10 000 map. © Crown Copyright.

2. Acknowledgements

- 2.1 The archaeological work was commissioned by the Strawberry Hill Trust, supported by Heritage Lottery Funding.
- 2.2 On-site supervision was undertaken by Rosie Cummings and Mick Miles with field staff Mary Shepperson and Katie Johnson. Overall management of the project was carried out by Geoff Potter.

3. Background

3.1 Location and Geology

Strawberry Hill House and grounds stand on relatively flat land close to the River Thames in the southern part of Twickenham Parish. A slight rise in ground levels is noticeable from the River towards the house, now somewhat obscured by the suburban residential development in the surrounding area.

The British Geological Survey (1:50,000 Series, Sheet 270) indicates that the site lies on Kempton Park Gravel, a type of natural River Terrace deposit composed of gravel, sand and clay in part. A thin strip of alluvium is indicated running along the river to the west of the study site, composed mainly of sand, silt and clay.

3.2 Historical Background

The historical development of Strawberry Hill House and grounds has been extensively discussed within the Conservation Management Plan for Strawberry Hill House (Peter Inskip + Peter Jenkins Architects: 2007), and consequently does not need to be repeated in detail here. However, a brief summary of the major phases of development will be presented in order to better place the archaeological objectives and results within an appropriate historical context. Further detail will be presented in the individual trench results below as required.

Strawberry Hill House is commonly revered as one of England's finest examples of Georgian Gothic Revival Architecture, a process of development undertaken largely by Horace Walpole, youngest son of Britain's first Prime Minister. The house began life in 1698, built by the coachmen of the Earl of Bradford and known as 'Chopp'd Straw Hall'. Walpole's acquisition of the property in 1747 saw the beginning of an extensive development project, and the transformation of the modest dwelling into Walpole's Gothic Castle. Major building occurred between 1750 and 1790, in which time the estate grew extensively with Walpole's acquisition of further land in the development of his informal gardens.

On Walpole's death in 1797, the house was bequeathed to Mrs Anne Damer, who later passed ownership to the Dowager Duchess of Waldegrave. In 1846, Frances, Lady Waldegrave inherited the property and by 1856 a further phase of restoration and development began. In 1879, following her death, the house

was auctioned and passed into the possession of the de Stern family until 1923, when it became part of the extensive campus of St Mary's University College, as it remained to the recent lease transfer.

4. The Proposed Scheme

Again the proposed restoration and conservation project is discussed in depth within the Conservation Management Plan (Peter Inskip + Peter Jenkins Architects: 2007) and thus does not require extensive further discussion here. In brief, however, the recent lease of Strawberry Hill House and grounds from St Mary's College, along with several successful funding appeals has allowed the Strawberry Hill Trust to embark on an ambitious programme of work aimed at restoring the property and reinstating some of the original 18th century features. The overall objective of the project is defined as '*the recovery of the cultural significance the site*' (Inskip and Jenkins: Brief, August 2007).

5. Methods and Objectives of the Archaeological Investigation

5.1 Standards

5.1.1 The field and post-excavation work was carried out in accordance with English Heritage guidelines (in particular, *Standards and Practices in Archaeological Fieldwork, Guidance Paper 3*). Works also conformed to the Institute of Field Archaeologists standards and guidance. Overall management of the project was undertaken by a full member of the Institute.

5.2 Fieldwork

5.2.1 A preliminary visit was made to site prior to the commencement of the archaeological work, in conjunction with Inskip and Jenkins Architects. The intended location of trenches and their potential results were discussed during a site walkover.

5.2.2 An approximate trench location plan was agreed, with the understanding that trench location, size and working arrangements were flexible to a degree in reflection of working conditions and archaeological results.

5.2.3 As both the house and grounds are Listed, English Heritage were notified at the commencement of works, and kept informed of the results of the archaeological investigation.

5.2.4 The archaeological fieldwork basically involved two or more archaeologists on site – excavating by hand, monitoring machine excavations or recording as necessary. Within particular trenches decisions regarding the extent of excavation and levels of recording were made by supervisors, based on the nature of archaeological finds and features exposed.

5.3 Methodology

Trenches were excavated either by hand or using a small 360° mechanical excavator, determined by trench location (accessibility) and potential archaeological remains.

Archaeological deposits and features were investigated and recorded in stratigraphic sequence, and where appropriate finds dating and environmental evidence recovered.

Archaeological contexts and features were recorded as appropriate on *pro-forma* sheets and/or drawn in plan or section, generally at scales of 1:10 (in section) and 1:20 (in plan). The investigations were recorded on a general site plan and related to the Ordnance Survey Grid. The fieldwork was supplemented as appropriate by digital photography and a limited amount of black and white 35mm photography.

For the duration of the project all adjacent lawn and garden areas were protected; no spoil from excavations was laid directly on existing surfaces, but placed on tarpaulins or plastic sheeting. All excavations were fenced off using orange barrier fencing mesh and road irons, with hazard tape where necessary. The recording system followed 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.

Following completion of the excavations and recording, all trenches were backfilled and compacted as far as possible – with adjacent areas swept of excess mud and all detritus cleared. Those trenches located on the north side of the house, and within areas accessed by vehicles were left boarded over following backfilling to protect vehicles within the area.

5.4 Objectives

5.4.1 General

- To identify historic ground levels, position and dimensions of paths and materials used and location of garden features and structural remains relating to the 18th century period of occupation.
- To protect the buried archaeology during the intrusive investigation.
- To record all findings in a systematic way which complements the structure of the established site recording.

5.4.2 Specific Trench Objectives

The following objectives are based on the original trench layout as provided by the Trust and their project architects. Alterations were made to the

dimensions and layout of trenches during the course of the fieldwork and thus objectives were occasionally redefined. Figure 2 shows the original planned trench layout – changes to the layout and further objectives are discussed in more detail below.

Trench	Objective
1	Position of 18 th C path indicated on 1780's plan; any indication of historic position of trellis, road bed and flower garden.
2 a-f	Location, progress and width of perimeter path. Sample historic surface material for geological identification.
3	Determine location/boundary of path relating to the door and house, its 18 th century position and sample its material for identification.
4	Location of free-standing building shown in some 18 th C views. Record foundation (if found) in preparation for construction of new ticket hut.
5	Location, progress and width of 18 th century perimeter path. Sample historic surface material for geological identification.
6	Position of 18 th century screen, position of paths and beds in Priors Garden.
7	18 th century treatment of area before cloister openings. If found, sample material of made-up surface for identification.
8	Position of 18 th century screen, position of paths and beds in Priors Garden.
9	Position of garden features: western path leading to tower door, western screen, indication of the 18 th century Prior's Garden layout at its western end.

Figure 2:

Original trench layout, based on survey plan provided by Inskip and Jenkins Architects.



6. Post Excavation Work

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

6.1 Finds and Samples

Finds and samples have been treated in accordance with the appropriate guidelines, including the Museum of London's '*Standards for the Preparation of Finds...*'. Finds and artifacts have been retained and bagged with unique numbers related to the context record, although most building material samples were discarded once an assessment has been made.

The majority of recovered finds constituted brick, tile and re-used ceramic building material – where possible an appropriately sized sample was retained for post-excavation analysis. Other finds included pottery, glass and struck flint.

6.2 The Site Archive

The records from the archaeological investigation will be ordered in line with standard procedure and deposited with the Strawberry Hill Trust following the completion of the project. As agreed, the archive will include:

- Annotated plans, site plan, sections and elevations.
- All drawn and photographic records relating directly to the investigation.
- All finds excavated from the site.

As agreed, the archive will be deposited with the Trust within one month of the completion of work and submitting of this report.

7. The Archaeological Investigation

A series of trenches were excavated within the grounds of Strawberry Hill House, designed at targeting the potential remains of 18th century features relating to Horace Walpole's occupation of the property. A number of changes were made to the original trench design, influenced by circumstances and by the level of archaeology encountered elsewhere. A detailed discussion of the aims and objectives of each trench is provided within the individual trench summaries, however, for the purposes of introduction a broad summary is presented in the table below, showing the alterations to the original project design where necessary and basic trench information – the following table should be viewed in conjunction with Figure 3: Trench Locations.

All machine excavated trenches were cut to a standard bucket width of 0.6m, hand excavated trenches were cut between 0.5m – 0.7m. Trenches 2 a-f were renumbered for ease of recording as shown below.

Trench	Length	Method	Alteration to original project design	Objective	Summary
1	20m	Machine	Extended at southern end.	Position of 18 th C path indicated on 1780's plan; any indication of historic position of trellis, road bed and flower garden	No evidence for earlier road bed or 18 th century garden features. Small prehistoric pit with worked flint and modern rubbish pit.
2	9.7m	Machine	Formerly trench 2a. Rotated to give better x-section through path.	Location, progress and width of perimeter path.	No archaeological finds or features.
3	7.8m	Machine	Moved approx. 0.6m south (to south side of entrance) to avoid blocking access and concrete slab.	Determine location/boundary of path relating to the door and house, its 18 th C position and sample its material for identification.	Later 19 th century or later path and 19 th century brick drain – numerous services and truncation from existing ground levels.
4	1.47m	Machine	Orientation switched to north-south (and length reduced) to avoid heavy rooting, services and concrete capped drain.	Location of free-standing building shown in some 18 th C views. Record foundation (if found) in preparation for construction of new ticket hut.	Mains electricity cable exposed 0.38m below existing ground surface – no further excavation possible due to proximity of other services.
5	6.4	Machine	Moved approx. 1m west to prevent blocking access to backdoor.	Location, progress and width of perimeter path. Sample historic surface material for geological identification.	Modern service truncation – no archaeological finds or features.
6	N/A	N/A	Not excavated due to boarding of existing screen wall and deep drain chamber.	N/A	N/A
7	7.4m	Machine	Moved slightly to east to sample blocked entrance and adjacent masonry.	18 th century treatment of area before cloister openings. If found, sample material of made-up surface for identification.	Foundations of existing building exposed and probable 19 th century brick drain. No evidence of definitive 18 th century activity.

8	5.9m	Machine	N/A	Position of 18 th century boundary wall, position of paths and beds in Prior's Garden.	Robber trench exposed containing brick rubble of originally 18 th century origin – presumably represents demolition of northern boundary wall.
9	2.36m (by 1.8m)	Machine	Original linear trench across centre of carpark entrance scrapped in favour of approximately square pit on south side, and test-pit in flower bed to north (T14).	Location and construction of additional room marked on 1781 ground plan, and position of western screen of Prior's Garden. .	Corner wall with north-south and east-west stretches, butting further brick wall continuing east – possible multi-phase mid 18 th – early 19 th C. No evidence of screen wall, probably removed by second phase build.
10	5.9m	Hand	Formerly trench 2f	Location, progress and width of perimeter path.	Evidence for earlier path phases probably dating to the later 19 th century.
11	8.3m	Hand	Formerly trench 2e. Slightly to north of original position, dug in previously prepared area.	Location, progress and width of perimeter path.	Evidence for earlier path phases probably dating to the later 19 th century
12	6.14	Hand	Formerly Trench 2c, slightly to south of original, dug as above.	Location, progress and width of perimeter path.	19 th century + brick structure and recent ditch, no evidence for 18 th century boundary path.
13	10.6m	Machine	Formerly trench 2b.	Location, progress and width of perimeter path.	Probably 19 th C Brick land drain in west end of trench – heavy service truncation and modern ground working.
14	1.6m	Machine	Small slot in flower bed on north side entrance to College carpark – addition to altered Trench 9.	Position of 18 th screen wall of Prior's Garden, and junction with northern boundary wall.	No evidence for screen or boundary walls – modern rubbish pit in east side of trench.
15	3.6m	Machine	Additional trench, not mentioned in original project design – across carriage drive on north side of house.	Presence and nature of earlier ground levels and surfacing of carriage drive c. 1860..	Makeup levels for existing tarmac driveway – no 19 th or 18 th century evidence.
97.47m					

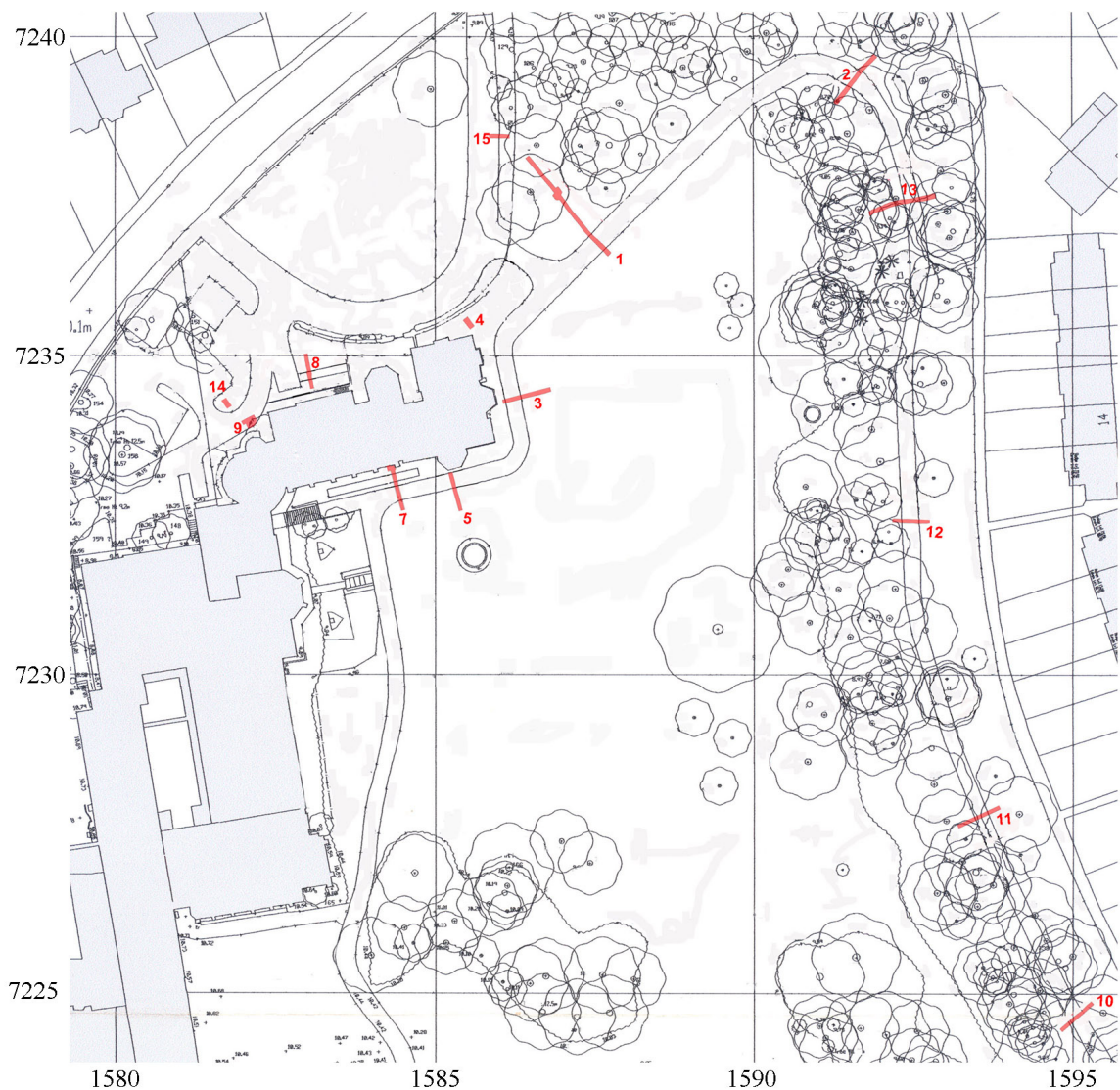


Figure 3: Trench locations based on survey plan provided by Inskip + Jenkins Architects.

NB: Trench 2d was not excavated – the area was excessively overgrown, it was agreed the Landscape Agency that this would not be excavated, but offset by additions to Trench 1 and elsewhere. Trench 6 was not excavated due to concrete slab paving within the designated area, the boarding over the existing screen wall and the location of a large drain chamber.

The results of the archaeological investigation will be presented as a summary of each individual trench, recorded contexts and where necessary a discussion of the contemporary source material relating to the exposed archaeology. Trenches 2 and 10-13 will be discussed as a group as they were all aimed at the same overall feature.

7.1 Trench 1

7.1.1 Objectives

Waldegrave Road, bounding the property on its northern side, was relocated to its present position in the latter part of the 19th century (as shown on the Ordnance Survey map of 1863). Prior to this the road, marked on a plan from the 1780's as 'Road to Teddington' was positioned much closer to the property, running parallel with the northern face. Figure 4 shows the approximate location of Trench 1 in relation to this earlier road plan, the trench in part located to identify any evidence of this earlier carriageway.

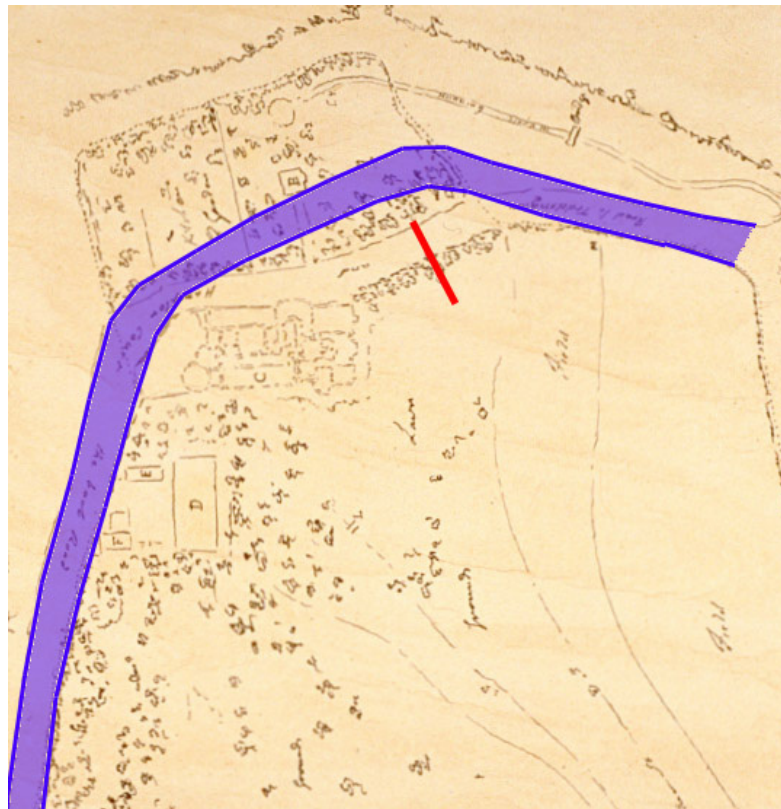


Figure 4: Unknown plan of Strawberry Hill from c. 1780's, showing approximate location of Trench 1 (in red) and existing course of Waldegrave Road (in blue) following relocation in the 19th century. (Reproduced from Inskip and Jenkins 2006, Vol 1, part A, pp5)

Further to surviving evidence of the earlier route of the road to Teddington, Trench 1 was located with the intention of targeting surviving evidence of a footpath running within the boundaries of the property parallel to the road (as shown on the right hand side of Fig 16). Contemporary plans and illustration appear to show the boundary between the road and property as lightly wooded and marked on the southern side by a low trellis wall of some unclear design (see Figure 5 below). In extending trench 1 to the south, across the existing footpath it was hoped that any surviving remains of these two 18th century features would be captured within the trench extent.



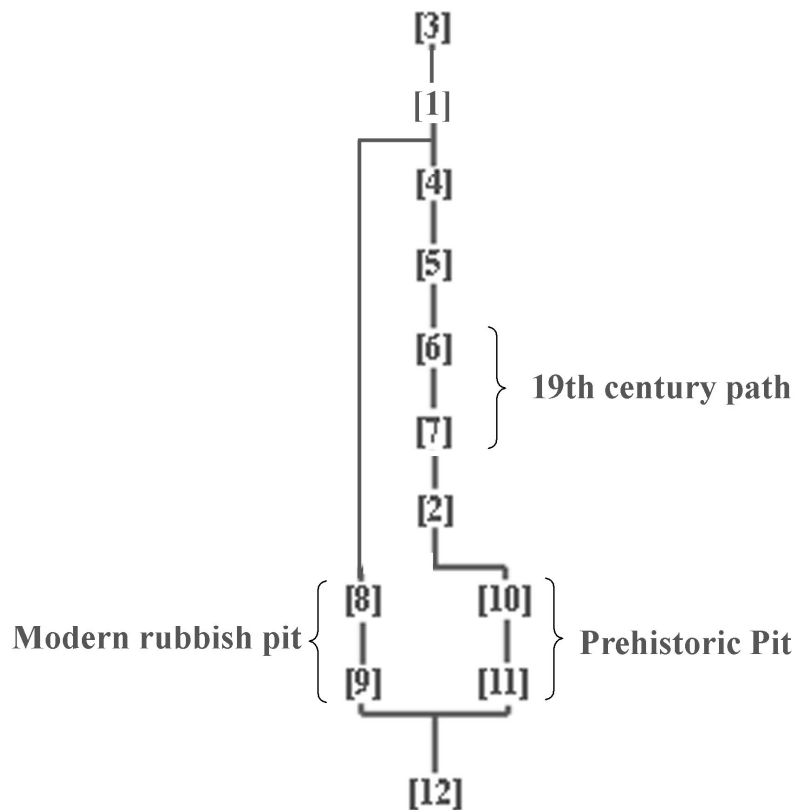
Figure 5: Illustration c.1780's, view north showing (on the right) forested area in front of road and trellis boundary wall. (Reproduced from Inskip and Jenkins 2006, Vol 2, part B, pp141)

7.1.2 List of Recorded Contexts

Context	Description	Interpretation
1	Mid-grey brown/black sandy silty soil and humic material, gravel inclusions, occasional red brick and glass, heavy rooting to north.	Modern top-soil in turfed area on north side of the existing path.
2	Mid yellowish-brown silty sand, friable with heavy rooting to north, occasional gravel and red-brick inclusions. Truncated by existing path [3] and earlier path [106] [107].	Existing sub-soil, truncated at south end of trench by path phases, but visible to north.
3	Grey/black tarmac and shallow tarmac/rubble base.	Existing tarmac path.
4	Brick and tarmac rubble in a silty sand matrix.	Rubble makeup relating to tarmac path and wood revetment boards, north side of path only.
5	Mid-orange brown sand and gravels, occasional flint inclusions and red CBM flecking, friable to loose.	Gravel path makeup below existing tarmac surface.
6	Rubble including chalky mortar, unfrogged red brick, yellow stock brick and fragmented red CBM in a sandy matrix.	Rubble path base material within cut [7], probably 19 th /early 20 th century phase of path, truncated by existing path and makeup.
7	Linear cut of earlier path, 1.53m in width (north-south) and exposed for width of trench (0.7m), 0.18m in depth but truncated by existing path and makeup above.	Cut of 19 th /early 20 th century path, exposed in section across width of trench and apparently running in the same alignment as the existing tarmac path, filled by rubble material [6].

8	Light grey sandy silt matrix with rubble including concrete, fragmented brick and tile, plastic and glass.	Fill of modern (20 th century) rubbish pit [9].
9	Large slope sided pit cut, shape in plan not ascertained as exposed in section and for width of trench only (0.7m), approximately 2.3m in width exposed below topsoil for a depth of 0.7m, although truncated by ground makeup above.	Cut of modern (20 th century) rubbish pit, overlain by topsoil.
10	Very similar to natural [12] but slightly lighter in colour, greyish-yellow silty clay with occasional flecks of charcoal.	Fill of small possible prehistoric pit feature [11], contained two worked flint flakes identified as prehistoric in origin.
11	Small shallow pit cut, 0.64m in width, exposed for 0.14m in length and continuing beyond L.O.E to west. Truncated by ground makeup above, survives to a depth of 0.22m.	Cut of small prehistoric pit feature, filled by [10].
12	Mid yellow brown silty clay with occasional gravel inclusions.	Natural clay and gravels.

7.1.3 Stratigraphic Matrix



7.1.4 Summary and Discussion

The existing top-soil [1] and subsoil [2] within the area were truncated to the south by the existing tarmac pathway [3] and associated make-up layers [4] [5]. Beneath the modern path makeup an earlier phase of path was observed (see Figures 6 and 7 below), constituting rubble within a linear, straight sided cut running on the same course as the existing pathway but substantially narrower (1.5m). The rubble fill layer [6] within the path cut [7] consisted of broken red and yellow brick, occasional slate fragments, frequent pieces of a coarse pale yellow mortar and white/grey concrete material. The material was clearly reused as path makeup – but the rubble condition with no apparent finished surface or compaction suggests the exposed contexts do not represent an *in-situ* path. The bricks within the fill [6] suggest an early 19th century date, but as the majority of pieces showed adhering mortar (suggesting reuse) a later date seems more applicable, combined with the presence of concrete materials the path was probably originally laid in the late 19th century. However, the final context as exposed in Trench 1 is later still, representing a dismantling or destruction of the path, probably in the 20th century prior to the laying of the existing tarmac surfaces. It may also be possible that contexts [5] [6] [7] represent deposits belonging to the same feature, an earlier wider gravel path dating to the later 19th century [5] with hardcore makeup beneath [6] [7]. Both conclusions are equally supported by the exposed stratigraphy.



Figure 6: West facing section of Trench 1 showing existing tarmac path overlying remains of earlier late-19th century rubble path.

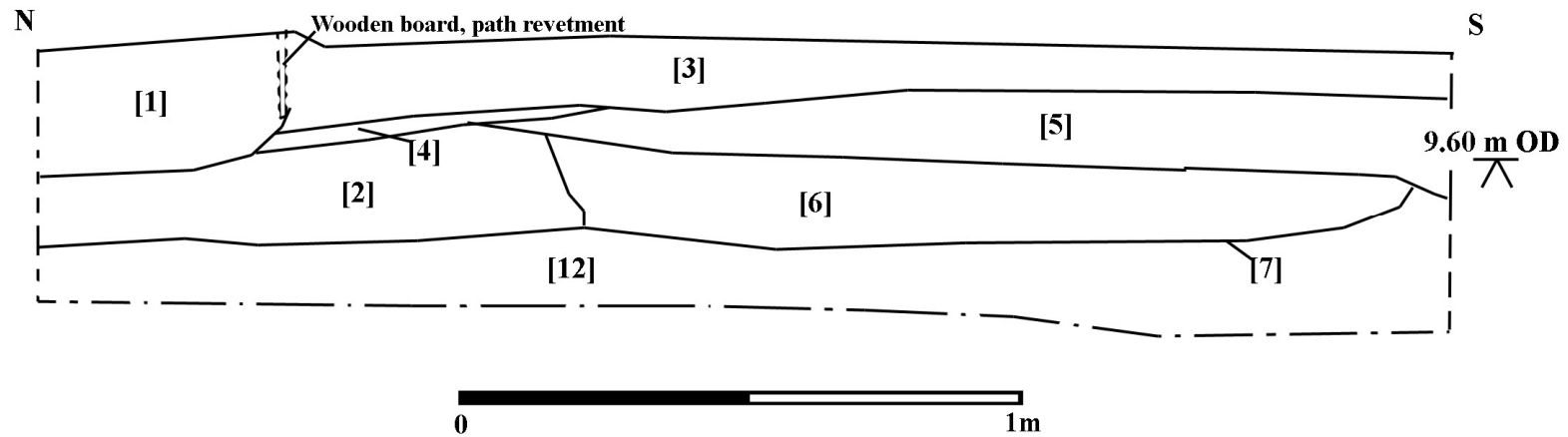


Figure 7: West facing section of Trench 1, showing existing and earlier phases of footpath – 1.35m to south end of trench.

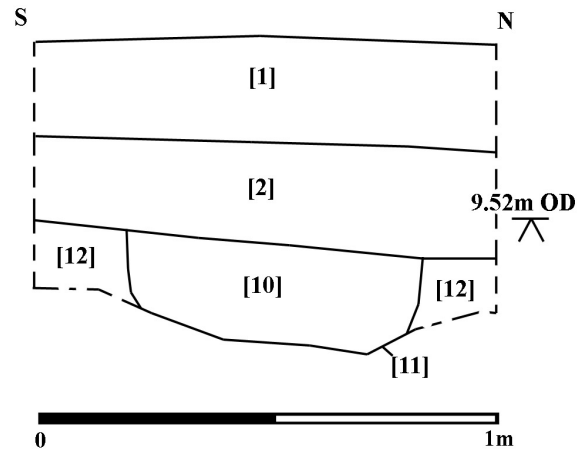


Figure 8: East facing section of Trench 1, showing possible prehistoric cut pit feature [10/11] – 8.9m to south end of trench.

No evidence of the earlier phase of Waldegrave Road was observed within the full length of the trench. It seems likely that any material used within the 18th century road makeup was robbed and reused, possibly in the construction of the new road, and possibly elsewhere. It may also have been deliberately removed as the gardens were extended into this area. Further truncation of any surviving remnants of the road is likely, and characterised by the presence of a modern water pipe and modern cut rubbish pit [9] in the north end of the trench. The rubbish pit fill contained large blocks of modern concrete, plastic, glass and electrical wire within a wide cut some 2.5m in section. Combined with the presence of heavy rooting from surrounding tree growth, it seems probable that any evidence of the earlier road was destroyed by contemporary activity in the form of materials robbing, and more recent activity including natural site formation processes.

A small, shallow cut feature [11] was exposed in the base of the trench some 9m north of the south end of the trench. The fill [10] of this feature was very similar in colour and consistency to the surrounding natural clay and gravels, although slightly greyer in colour, softer and with occasional charcoal flecks. Two pieces of potentially worked prehistoric flint were retrieved from the base of this feature, and identified as a hollow ended scraper and cortical chip respectively (see Figure 9 below and Appendix II: Worked Flint Assemblage).

No evidence of 18th century activity contemporary with Walpole's occupation of Strawberry Hill was observed within Trench 1. The lack of evidence for the earlier roadway is not entirely surprising as the materials were likely reused in the new route, and any surviving remnants have since been destroyed by more recent activity. Similarly, the 18th century pathway may well have suffered a similar fate – destroyed or removed during the re-routing of the main road, or robbed for new pathways in the immediate vicinity, again the presence of later phases of pathway may explain the lack of evidence for earlier features. No evidence for a trellis wall of any kind was recovered –the source material for such a feature is largely based on contemporary illustration and there is nothing to suggest that such a feature would have left a significant archaeological footprint. The evidence of supporting posts, for example, may well have been removed by subsequent path construction.

7.2 Trenches 2, 10, 11, 12 and 13.

7.2.1 Objectives

The five trenches listed above were all located with the intention of targeting earlier phases of the perimeter path, currently running at the base of the wooded escarpment on the eastern edge of the study area. There is no specific depiction of this path on contemporary 18th century plans, the first definitive appearance being the Ordnance Survey map of 1863 (see below). The existing path, which appears to run on the same course as that depicted in 1863, has no obvious predecessor in terms of location or alignment on earlier plans.



Figure 9: Extract from Ordnance Survey Map of 1863, showing location of pathway and trenches 2, 10, 11, 12 and 13.

Trenches 2 and 10-13 were designed to establish the presence and nature of this perimeter path in Walpole's period. A plan from 1791 indicates that the path lay within 'fields' to the east of the house. The same feature appears on a view in the 1780's of the approach to Strawberry Hill (Inskip and Jenkins, Vol 1, part B, pp31).

7.2.2 List of Recorded Contexts

Context	Description	Interpretation
1	Very soft, dark brownish-black humic silty sand. Inclusions of plastic, string, rope, wire, recently chopped wood (last 10-15 years), modern red brick fragments and gravel. Heavy rooting throughout.	Recently dumped topsoil and rubbish admixture.
2	Loose sand and gravels, bright orange through to mid brown with patches of dark grey. Frequent lenses of redeposited clay throughout.	Extensive dumped layer consisting of an admixture of sand and gravels with extensive lenses of redeposited clay.
Trench 2		

Context	Description	Interpretation
1	Very soft, dark brownish-black humic silty sand. Inclusions of plastic, string, rope, wire, modern red brick fragments and gravel. Heavy rooting throughout.	Modern topsoil
2	Firm yellowish grey/brown silty sand with occasional gravel inclusions.	Subsoil
3	Mid yellow/brown sand and gravels with occasional pebble inclusions.	Sandy gravels, possibly redeposited natural immediately below topsoil [1] within existing path levels.
4	Shingle	Thin shingle layer overlying pink gravel path [5]
5	Crushed pink stone, very compact (indurated), MOT type 1.	Compact pink gravel path, earlier phase of existing path.
6	Concrete turf block revetment.	Path revetment.
7	Broken brick and tile rubble within a mid grey-brown silty sandy matrix, occasional pebble inclusions, heavy rooting.	Rubble makeup below revetment [6], supporting path.
8	Dark brown/black sandy silty soil with frequent concrete brick inclusions, occasional pot (broken flower pot), heavy rooting, loose.	Fill of 20 th century pit cut [9]
9	Pit cut exposed in section only, probably subcircular in plan. Break of slope top sharp, sharply sloping sides, break of slope bottom sharp-gradual, curved base.	Cut of 20 th century rubbish pit.

10	Dark brown/black silty sand, very heavy rooting – frequent brick, plastic, glass, electrical wire – modern rubbish within a soil matrix.	Modern rubbish within a soil matrix.
11	Dark brown black silty soil, occasional pebble inclusions, loose, CBM flecking.	Darker makeup layer below revetment [7]
12	Yellow/orange sand and gravels, fairly compact – no inclusions.	Fill of probable early path layer [13]
13	Truncated shallow cut, exposed in section only – gradual sloping sides but heavily truncated from above and below.	Partially surviving probable cut of earlier path phase.
14	Grey silty sand with frequent lenses of blue clay – very occasional coal inclusions, compact.	Probable dump layer.
15	Natural sand and gravels – very discoloured appearing as lenses of green, yellow, brown and orange gravels.	Natural sand and gravels.
Trench 10		

Context	Description	Interpretation
1	Soft darkish-brown grey silty sand and humic material. Frequent gravel, modern red and yellow CBM fragments, heavy rooting.	Modern topsoil
2	Loose, light-yellow sand and gravel.	Dumped gravel makeup layer laid up against upper level of revetment [5].
3	Firm darkish brown-grey silty sand with frequent yellow CBM and occasional glass and red CBM fragments.	Dumped layer, possibly redeposited topsoil below gravel [2] and laid up against lower tier of revetment [12].
4	Indurated pink crushed stone gravel, MOT type 1.	Compact pink gravel path, earlier phase of existing path.
5	Upper course of concrete turf bricks.	Concrete brick revetment.
6	Firm darkish brown-grey clay and sand with occasional red CBM fragments.	Dump makeup layer below path level [4]
7	Compact mid grey-brown sand and gravel.	Upper fill of cut [9]
8	Very compact mid-yellowish/brown sand and gravel.	Basal fill of cut [9]

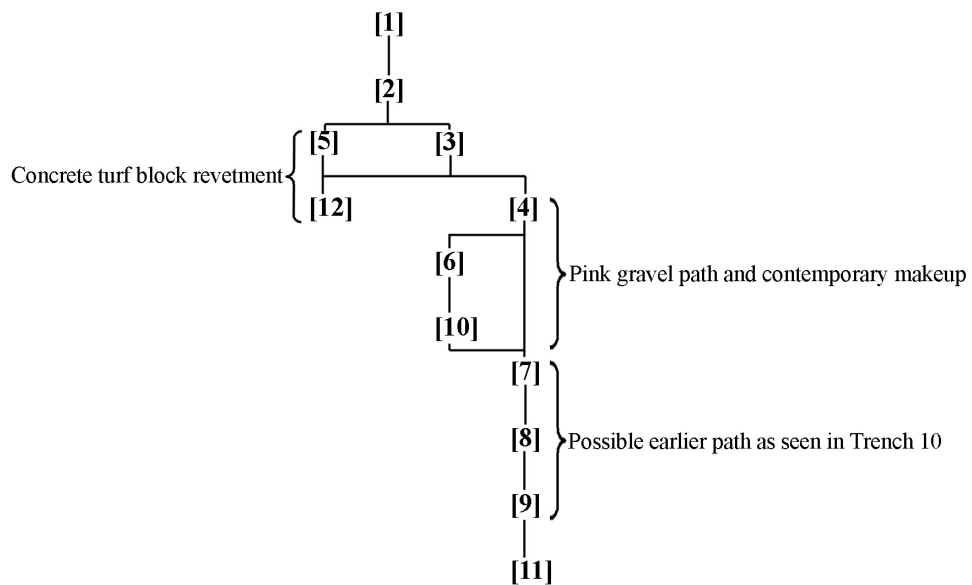
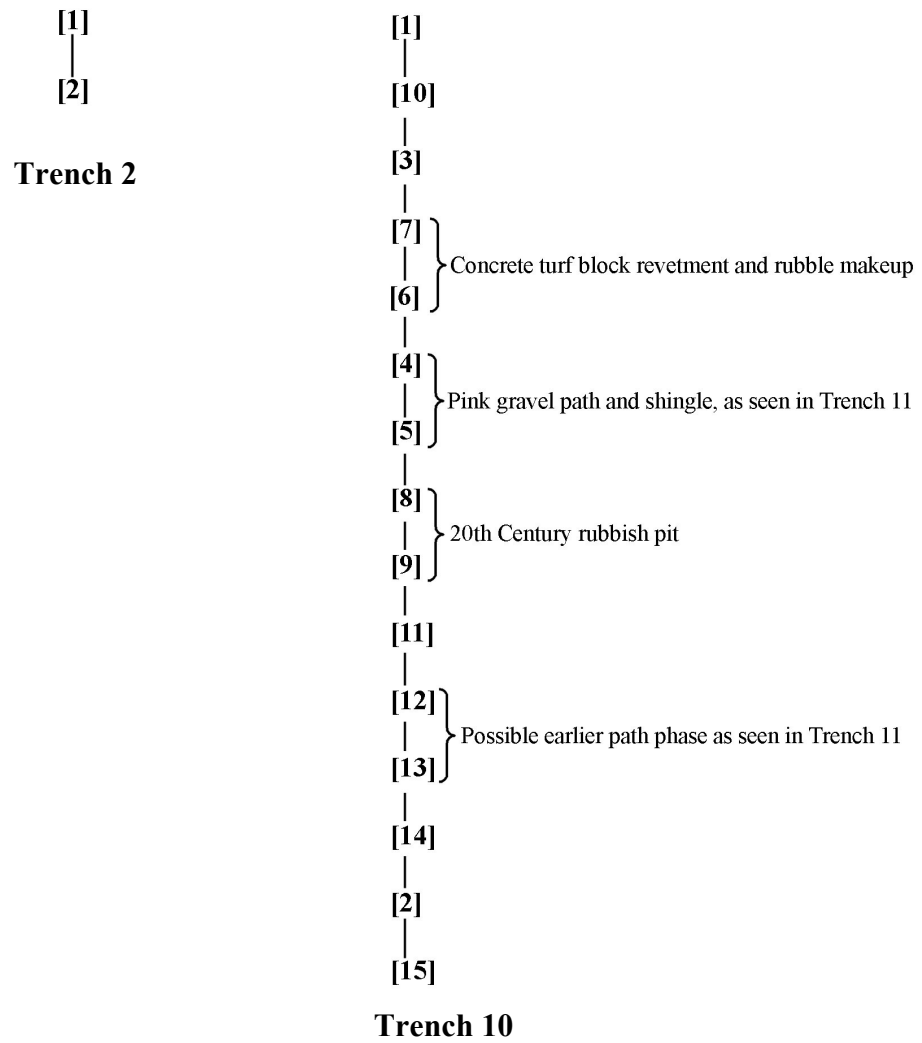
9	Linear cut <i>c.</i> 2.05m wide, BOST gradual and BOSB sharply rounded, flat base but sloping up to west, orientated north-south.	Possible earlier phase of path – no datable material recovered from fills [7] or [8].
10	Compact mid yellowish-grey sandy clay with occasional glass and red CBM fragments, frequent mixed gravels.	Probably makeup layer, directly below revetment but overlying cut [9] and fills [7] [8] – possibly indicating boundary between 1 st and 2 nd phases of path.
11	Mid brownish yellow sand and clay with occasional gravel.	Top of natural sequence.
12	Lower course of concrete turf bricks.	Lower course of concrete brick revetment.
Trench 11		

Context	Description	Interpretation
1	Single course of moulded unfrosted bed bricks, set into topsoil and exposed on surface of path, reused probable original context within decorative garden feature.	Latest modification to path – unclear whether only partial survival or whether isolated area constitutes original extent, bricks late 19 th / 20 th century, final context later.
2	3 courses of mid-19 th century yellow stock bricks – reused, possibly seconds.	Bricks within cut [3].
3	Linear cut running north-south containing brickwork [2], sharp sided and runs in parallel with cut [4].	Foundation trench for brick feature [2] – post 19 th century.
4	Almost identical to [2], yellow stock bricks within linear cut [5].	Bricks within cut [5].
5	Linear cut running north-south containing brickwork [2], sharp sided and runs in parallel with cut [3].	Foundation trench for brick feature [4] – post 19 th century.
6	Loose grey gravel in yellow sandy matrix, occasional red CBM.	Layer, appears to be sealing brick features [2] and [4].
7	Loose dark-brown sandy silt with frequent large red bricks.	Fill of [3] about brickwork [2].
8	Loose dark-brown sandy silt with frequent large red brick fragments and occasional gravel.	Fill of [5] about brickwork [4]
9	Loose dark brown sandy silt and humic material with occasional clay lenses, moderate pebble inclusions.	Existing topsoil.
10	Compact orange/yellow sand, clay and gravels.	Natural deposit.

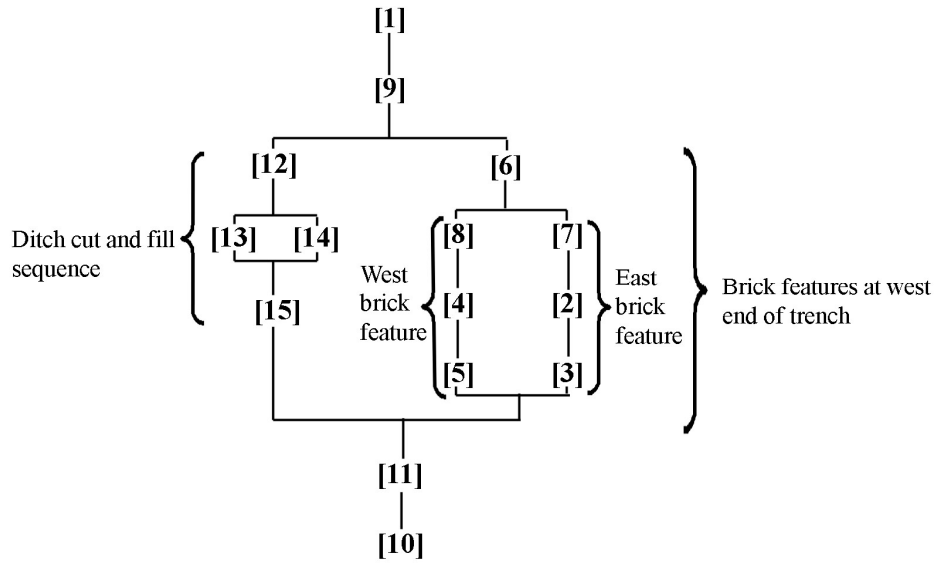
11	Compact mid-brown/yellow sandy silt with occasional gravel inclusions.	Existing subsoil.
12	Compact mid yellow/brown sandy clay with occasional gravel inclusions.	Uppermost fill of ditch feature [15].
13	Compact mid grey-brown silty clay with frequent small pebble inclusions.	Lower fill of ditch feature [15]
14	Dark brownish black carbonised wood and leaves with occasional gravel inclusions.	Lense of burnt material within ditch feature [13]
15	Linear ditch cut running north-south, sharp sided.	Cut of probable modern ditch feature.
Trench 12		

Context	Description	Interpretation
1	Loose mid greyish-brown/black sandy silty soil and humic material with occasional gravels, CBM, glass and plastic inclusions.	Topsoil
2	Friable mid-yellowish/brown silty sand with heavy rooting and occasional gravel and pot inclusions.	Secondary fill of drain cut [5].
3	Firm mid-grey silty sand with orange mottling, frequent mixed gravel inclusions and occasion red CBM flecks.	Primary fill of drain cut [5]
4	Possible land drain made of mainly unfrogged red brick but with occasional harder, coarser purple bricks – 3 rows of bricks laid on edge forming top surface, with 4 courses of bricks laid on edge at an angle forming arched sides.	Brick drain within cut [5], bricks may be of 18 th century date originally but probably reused, placing drain at a later date (possibly 19 th century).
5	Linear cut orientated north-south, extending beyond LOE to north, south and west. Sharp BOST with concave sides.	Cut of brick drain [4]
6	Soft mid-yellowish brown silty sand, moderate mixed gravel inclusions, heavy rooting.	Subsoil
7	Loose sand and gravels, bright orange through to mid brown with patches of dark grey. Frequent lenses of redeposited clay throughout.	Made-ground sand and gravels
8	Firm mid-yellowish/brown sandy silt.	Internal fill of drain [4]
Trench 13		

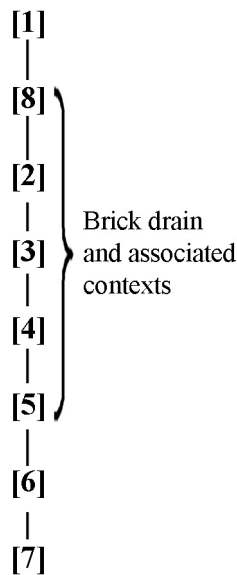
7.2.3 Stratigraphic Matrices



Trench 11



Trench 12



Trench 13

7.2.4 Summary and Discussion

Trenches 2, 10, 11, 12 and 13 were all targeted at exposing the same feature – namely potential evidence for an early 18th century pathway bounding the garden at its eastern limits – and have thus been grouped together within this section. Although evidence for earlier phases of the existing path were identified within some of these trenches, none of them provided evidence for a pathway as early as the 18th century. Other features not related to the path sequence were identified and will be dealt with separately at the end of this section.

Trenches 2 and 13 produced no evidence for early path phases at all, in both cases more recent activity seems to have removed any evidence. In trench 2 extensive

layers of dumped sand and gravels [2] were exposed immediately below the existing topsoil [1], and extending beyond the limit of excavation at 1.2m below the existing ground surface (8.06m OD), suggest the occurrence of major groundwork and subsequent makeup within the area. No archaeological features were exposed for the full length of the trench, and the dump layers are clearly of relatively recent origin. Trench 13 (next trench south of Trench 2), exposed a very similar sequence of deposits with made-ground layers consisting of sand and gravels [7] continuing beyond the limit of excavation (7.51m OD). In both cases an armoured electrical cable was observed running north-south in approximate alignment with the path – it seems fairly obvious that recent groundworks and services have truncated any earlier evidence for the pathway.

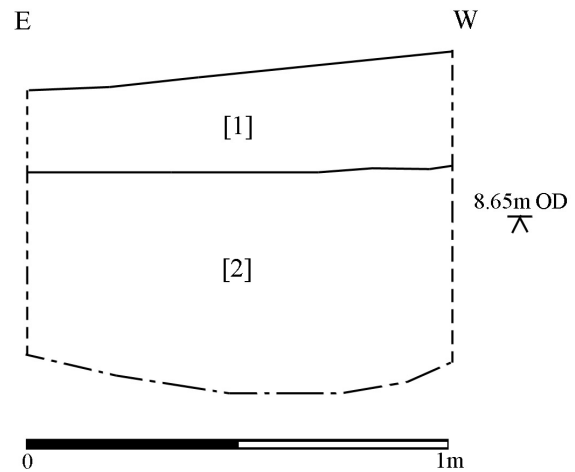


Figure 10: Trench 2, view east (0.5m scale) and 1m sample section.

Trenches 10 and 11 exposed a broadly similar sequence of deposits, much of which appears to represent phases of pathways, although of relatively recent date. In both cases, a revetment consisting of reused concrete turf blocks [10/6] [11/5] [11/12] was exposed on the eastern edge of the existing path, slumping slightly down the slope and exposed on the surface. This type of lattice design blocks, constructed to enable grass to grow through the voids are of relatively recent manufacture and are likely to represent post-war path support in their most recent context here. In both trenches, this revetment was supported by dumped makeup material (although differing in composition), which is likely to be contemporary

with, or immediately post-dating the revetment itself. In Trench 10 these deposits [7] consisted of large quantities of brick and tile rubble, including reused ceramic floor tiles bearing the manufacturers mark 'Platt's' – these may relate to the Platt factory established in 1822, but their obvious reuse in this context places their presence in this deposit considerably later. In trench 11 the deposit [3] included less quantities of rubble and was more soily in composition, but nevertheless contained fragments of 19th century stock brick – again reused and found in association with 20th century material, and thus again considerably later than the bricks date of manufacture.



Figure 11: Concrete revetment and rubble makeup [7] in Trench 10 (0.2m scale).

Both trenches 10 and 11 exposed a path phase consisting of heavily indurated crushed pink MOT type 1 stone [10/5] [11/4]. Unfortunately, no dating evidence was retrieved from either example of this context but in Trench 10 this path was shown to overly a rubbish pit [9/8] containing 20th century moulded and previously used concrete bricks. While no secure date can be given, neither the rubbish pit nor the pink gravel path can be of any great age, and both probably represent post-war if not more recent activity. Again, both trenches exposed another phase of activity in the form of sandy yellow gravel within apparent linear cuts. In trench 10 this deposit [12] and cut [13] were truncated by the rubbish pit [9], but in trench 11 the sequence was better preserved exposing a cut [9] with two fill layers [7] and [8]. No datable material was recovered from either of these exposed sequences, nor did either example overly or truncate an earlier datable feature. Consequently, while it is likely that both examples represent phases of an earlier path, no definitive date can be given.



Figure 12: Compact pink gravel path in Trench 10 (0.5m scale).

Trench 12 exposed a very different sequence to the other trenches, with a linear ditch feature [15] exposed running north-south and truncating the existing subsoil and natural. There was no evidence to suggest that this feature was historically significant, and the absence of formed subsoil overlying it suggests that it is of relatively recent date. To the west end of the trench two parallel cut foundation trenches [3] [5] were exposed, filled by similar sand and rubble deposits [8] [7] and containing courses of un-mortared yellow stock-brick. The bricks were fairly uniform in both cases, showing deeply pronounced frogs but one example appeared warped and two others showed evidence of cracking on firing - this may suggest that the bricks were seconds. Both parallel foundation cuts truncated the natural and were excavated in a manner so as to leave a baulk of natural gravels between them, they are clearly part of the same event but the nature of said event is by no means clear. No further datable evidence was retrieved from the features, but it can be noted that they post-date the mid 19th century, and may well represent some form of garden feature.

Just to the east of the brick bases and the highest level of excavation was a single un-mortared course of reused moulded bricks [1]. This is evidently quite a recent feature – the bricks themselves date to c.1900 – and may represent a localised area of paving in front of the structure that stood over the brick bases [2] and [4].



Figure 13: Trench 12 showing course of reused moulded red brick [1] in front of brick bases [2] [4], and two unexcavated construction cuts [3] [5] (left), and looking east fully excavated trench showing construction cuts [3] [5] and ditch feature [15] (right).

While Trench 13 produced no evidence for earlier phases of the pathway, a brick-built arched drain [4] was exposed at the western end. Some of the bricks appear to be of 18th century date, but many of them were fragmented and heavily worn suggesting reuse, probably in the 19th century.



Figure 14: Brick built drain in Trench 13 (0.5m scale), view looking south-east.

7.3 Trench 3

7.3.1 Objectives

Trench 3 was orientated east-west, projecting out on the south side of the door on the eastern face of the house. Due to the presence of concrete slabs sealing service drains, the trench was shifted south and excavation began approximately 1m from the existing property wall. This trench was located with the hope of identifying the location and nature of an earlier 18th century footpath relating to the east door and the rest of the house. Some contemporary illustrations present a depiction of this footpath, but while its existence is thus supported, very little useful detail can be discerned.



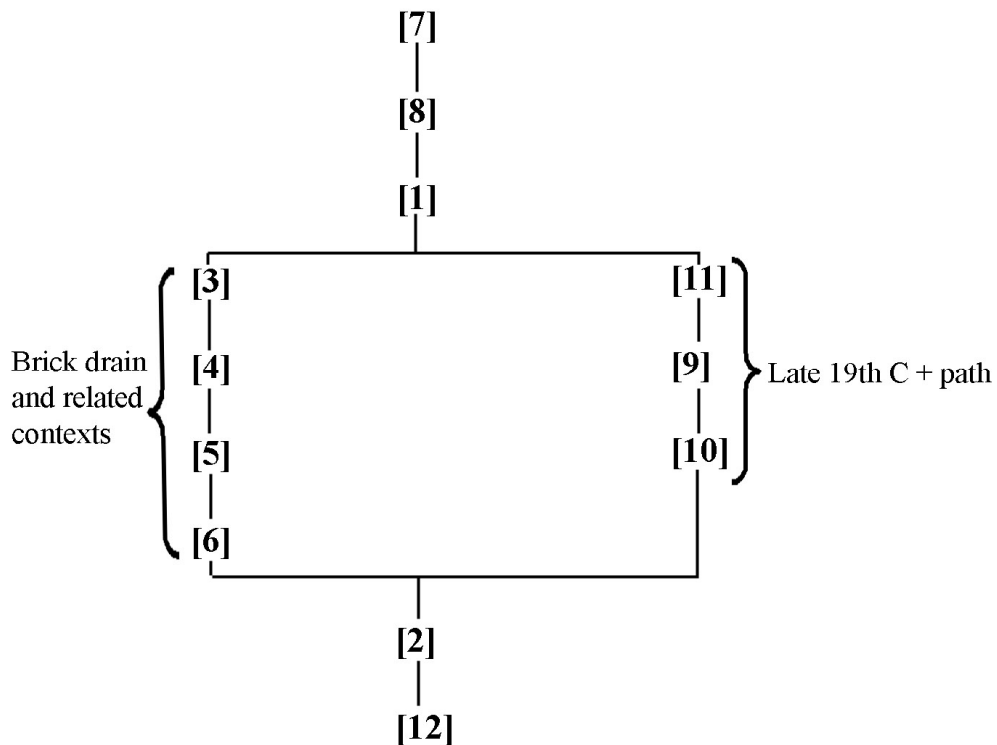
Figure 15: Unknown artist, c.1800. (Reproduced from Inskip and Jenkins 2006, Vol 1, Part C, p80)

7.3.2 List of Recorded Contexts

Context	Description	Interpretation
1	Soft mid-grey/brown sandy silty soil with occasional gravel inclusions, red CBM flecking and moderate rooting.	Existing topsoil below turfed lawn area on east side of existing path.
2	Firm yellowish grey/brown silty sand with occasional gravel inclusions.	Sub-soil below topsoil, truncated by existing path [7], concrete [8] and brick drain [5], as well as modern services.
3	Mid-greyish brown/yellow silty sandy soil with frequent gravel inclusions, red brick fragments and flecking, occasional mortar fragments, heavy rooting.	Secondary (upper) fill of drain cut [6].

4	Mid orange brown compact gravels and sand, possibly re-deposited natural with occasional brick inclusions – indurated.	Primary (lower) fill of drain cut [6].
5	Large brick-built drain, approximately 1m in width running north south across trench. Flat-topped (four rows) with curved sides made up of 5 courses. Bricks are clearly reused, originally 18 th century thus placing the structure itself later.	Brick built drain post-18 th century, but employing reused material.
6	Linear cut for brick-drain [5], orientated north-south running across trench at the east end. BOST shallow and gradual with a sharp change of gradient, vertical sided. Not fully excavated, truncated on west side by modern service cuts, cuts subsoil and natural.	Linear cut for brick drain [5]
7	Tarmac and shallow rubble and concrete base.	Existing tarmac pathway.
8	Concrete	Concrete slab at west end of trench below shingle.
9	Rubble in a sand and shingle matrix – dark red to purple brick with shallow frog, slate, tile and mortar. Re-used, judging by smooth mortar finish on some bricks material represents second phase of path makeup.	Rubble path material, probably late 19 th or 20 th century, within cut [10].
10	Linear cut for earlier phase of path, filled by rubble material [9], exposed in length for width of trench 0.7m, 1.7m + in width (truncated by modern services on east side), continues beyond LOE to north and south.	Cut for earlier path, late 19 th to 20 th century.
11	Dark grey/black gravel and soil, loose and gritty.	Secondary fill of path [10], runs along edge of [9] on west side (truncated to east).
12	Mid brown/orange sand and gravel natural.	Natural sand and gravels.

7.3.3 Stratigraphic Matrix



7.3.4 Summary and Discussion

An earlier phase of path makeup [9] was exposed beneath the existing tarmac surface at the west end of Trench 3, but unfortunately this feature appears to date the late 19th century if not more recently – no evidence of an 18th century pathway was exposed. This earlier phase of path was exposed as a cut feature *c* 1.7m + in width (truncated to the east by modern service cuts) and exposed in the base of the trench at level of 9.84m OD, some 0.25m below the existing ground surface. The fill or primary path material consisted of broken brick, slate and ceramic tile rubble. The majority of the brick was of a hard dark red/purple fabric with rough frogs, much of which showed areas of adhering coarse yellow mortar. Some of the brick material showed evidence of secondary layer of hard light grey concrete. The material exposed has clearly been reused as path hardcore, but the presence of the second concrete layer suggests that the material may well have come from an earlier concrete base path and have been reused for a second time as seen in its final context. While the bricks themselves may date to the early 19th century, the concrete suggests a date closer to the late-19th century – and considering the phases of reuse, the path base itself may be significantly later than this.

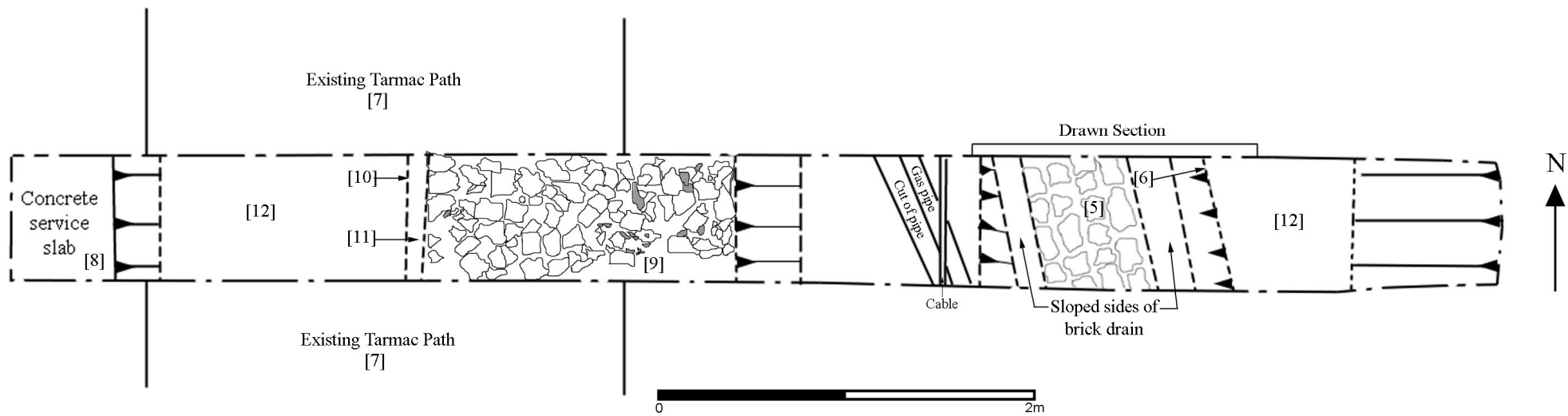


Figure 16: Plan of Trench 3 showing historic path material [9] and probable 19th C brick built drain [5].



Figure 17: Trench 3, view north-east showing rubble path material [9] (0.5m scale)

To the eastern end of Trench 3 a brick-built arched drain [5] was exposed at *c* 9.35m OD, cutting the natural gravels [12] within a wider sloped sided cut. As exposed, the drain was *c* 1.05m in with, with the cut extending some 0.4m either side. To the west the cut and subsequent fill sequence were truncated by modern services, while to the east the cut appeared to follow an initial gradual curve followed a near vertical drop and filled by two deposits, cutting the natural and subsoil. The bricks used within the drain itself were very abraded and frequently broken or fragmented, mostly made of a soft red fabric and unfrosted, and are probably 18th century in origin. However, the heavy abrasion on all surfaces, patches of exposed mortar, and use of broken bricks within the structure suggest they are reused, and thus that the drain itself post-dates the materials used in its construction. No further dating evidence was recovered from the fill layers, and thus a definitive date cannot be given. This type of arched top, steep sided drain is relatively common from the 18th century onwards, but in this case may well be of 19th century date.



Figure 18: Brick built drain in Trench 3, view looking west (0.5m scale)



Figure 19: Brick built drain in Trench 3, showing cut and fill layers.

7.4 Trench 4

7.4.1 Objectives

The location of Trench 4 was designed to target any potential remains of a small freestanding building of the 18th century, shown in some contemporary illustrations.

7.4.2 List of Recorded Contexts

Context	Description	Interpretation
1	Mid-grey/brown loose silty sandy soil, heavy rooting – moderate gravel inclusions, occasional brick fragments.	Modern topsoil.
2	Mid-brown friable silty clay soil with occasional small pebbles and rooting.	Subsoil.
3	Yellow/brown clay and gravels.	Natural clay and gravels.

7.4.3 Stratigraphic Matrix

[1]
|
[2]
|
[3]

7.4.4 Summary and Discussion

A live mains electricity cable was encountered just 0.38m below the existing ground surface (9.84m OD), running down the centre of, and in alignment with the intended trench. Natural gravels were exposed either side of the service cut at c 9.8m OD, and existing topsoil and subsoil layers were removed in exposing the service. Due to proximity of other services, including water supply encountered in Trench 1 and a large concrete covered drain, there was no other feasible location of the trench within the designated area. Consequently, the trench was recorded and immediately backfilled without any further excavation.



Figure 20: Trench 4, showing mains electricity cable within service cut through natural (0.5m scale).

7.5 Trench 5

7.5.1 Objective

As with Trench 3, Trench 5 was targeted to locate and establish the nature of the perimeter path. The trench was moved to the west to avoid blocking access to the south porch door, and again due to the presence of concrete slab and services, excavation began *c.* 1.3m from the existing wall. Contemporary 18th and early 19th century illustrations in fact indicate that this was originally a window, although the earliest sketch suggests that a door was intended (Inskip and Jenkins 2006 Vol 2, Part B).

7.5.2 List of Recorded Contexts

Context	Description	Interpretation
1	Loose, mid-grey brown sandy silt with humic material. Rooting and occasional fragments of red CBM. Turf netting exposed 0.1m below ground surface.	Topsoil
2	Soft mid-yellowish brown silty sand, moderate mixed gravel inclusions.	Subsoil
3	Compact sand and gravel.	Natural gravels
4	Mid orange/brown silty sand with occasional gravel inclusions.	Natural brickearth

5	Loose redeposited sand and gravels with occasional tarmac pieces.	Fill of [6]
6	Large cut, greater than 1.8m in width and deeper than 1.1m, linear continuing beyond limits of excavation.	Cut of modern service drain.

7.5.3 Stratigraphic Matrix



7.5.4 Summary and Discussion

No evidence for the historic path was observed in Trench 5. Excavation exposed a relatively simple sequence, including a large cut presumed to represent the existing drain located by manholes within the tarmac path. The cut [7] of this drain extended beyond the limits of excavation to the east and west on its linear axis, and in width to the south. A slot was dug into the fill [6] of this feature to establish depth, but the deposit continued beyond the 1.2m maximum excavation depth. The fill consisted of redeposited natural sand and gravel backfills with occasional lumps of tarmac suggesting a very recent date. A modern gas pipe was exposed very near the surface to the north of the trench, 1.7m south of the existing walls. The natural sequence consisted of a thin layer of silty sand brickearth [4] overlying compact sand and gravels [3].



Figure 21: View north-west of Trench 5, showing slot into service backfill (0.5m scale).

7.6 Trench 7

7.6.1 Objective

Trench 7 was located projecting from the existing wall at what was originally the eastern most cloister opening on the south side of the house. Its location targeted any potential earlier remains and in particular the 18th century treatment of the area following the construction of the cloister between 1760-2, and before the subsequent alterations and blocking in after 1797. Earlier buildings stood on the site of the cloisters prior to their construction, which demolished following the final plans for this grander structure. During the phase *c.* 1760-1797, 18th century illustrations show the open cloisters with a perimeter path and opening onto lawns with occasional trees. No substantial structure seems to have existed outside the area of the cloisters, but it was hoped that 18th century ground levels, garden features or paths may be identified.



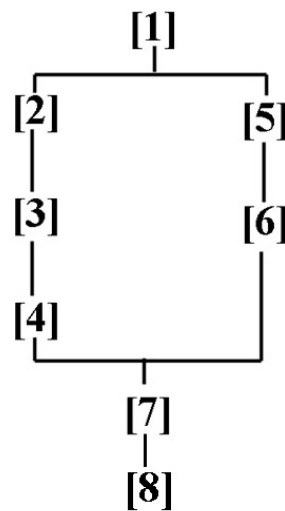
Figure 22: Illustration by John Carter *c* 1780's showing open cloisters, perimeter path and lightly wooden lawns (reproduced from Inskip and Jenkins 2006, Vol 2 Part B, p142).

7.6.2 List of Recorded Contexts

Context	Description	Interpretation
1	Loose, mid-grey brown sandy silt with humic material. Rooting and occasional fragments of red CBM. Turf netting exposed 0.1m below ground surface.	Topsoil
2	Mid brown/grey silty sand with moderate gravels inclusions. Occasion brick fragments, loose and friable.	Fill of drain cut [4]
3	Arched brick built drain <i>c</i> 0.67m in width. Hard red and yellow unfroged bricks, some warped or broken, probably reused.	Late 19 th Century + brick drain within cut [4]
4	Linear cut <i>c</i> 1.8m in width, extending beyond limits of excavation to east and west, BOST gradual becoming sharp, BOSB sharp, sloping sides.	Cut of brick drain [3]
5	Redeposited sand and gravels	Fill of service cut [6]

	with occasional clay lenses.	
6	Vertical sided linear cut extending beyond limits of excavation to east, west and south.	Service cut as seen in Trench 5.
7	Redeposited natural sand and gravels with occasional CBM inclusions.	Construction backfill.
8	Mid orange/brown sand and gravels.	Natural

7.6.3 Stratigraphic Matrix



7.6.4 Summary and Discussion

No evidence of 18th century activity was exposed in Trench 7 apart from a large construction cut and backfill [7] presumably associated with the 1760's construction of the cloisters themselves. This likely truncated any earlier features although it is possible that on the eastern side of the trench there were elements from the earlier *c.*1748 build. Backfill [7] was in turn cut by a brick built arched drain [3] running east-west within a wider linear cut [4]. The bricks used in the construction of this feature were very abraded and fragmentary, and some appeared to show warping during firing. Moreover, examination revealed two layers of mortar – a thin buff deposit overlain by the bonding material used in the drain. This all suggests that the bricks have been reused in this context, and while they may be 18th century originally the date of the drain itself is considerably later. This tallies with the assumption that the construction backfill (largely consisting of redeposited sands and gravels, with no datable recovered material) belongs to the mid 18th century construction of the cloisters and as the drain cuts this deposit it must therefore post-date it.



Figure 23: Trench 7 looking west. Arched brick drain [3] within linear cut, truncating redeposited gravel backfill (1m scale).



Figure 24: Brick drain in Trench 7 (0.5m scale)

At the north end of the trench the existing foundations of the house were exposed. The south face of the cloister wall showed brickwork continuing a further 0.52m below the initial ground level exposure, with the concrete render visible above ground level terminating 0.07m below ground level. A further 6 courses of bricks were observed, laid on-bed and bonded with grey/yellow chalky mortar with pebble inclusions. Below the final course of bricks (9.22m OD), natural [8] was observed consisting of relatively loose sand and gravels. The west face of the cloister pier on the east side of the trench showed a similar continuation of unfinished brickwork with no render. The foundation for the protruding column above ground consisted of a further 8 courses of brick, stepped towards the bottom to provide a wider plinth base (9.13m OD). It is possible that this outermost section, some 200-300mm wide relates to the earlier build of the eastern part of the house, *c.* 1748.

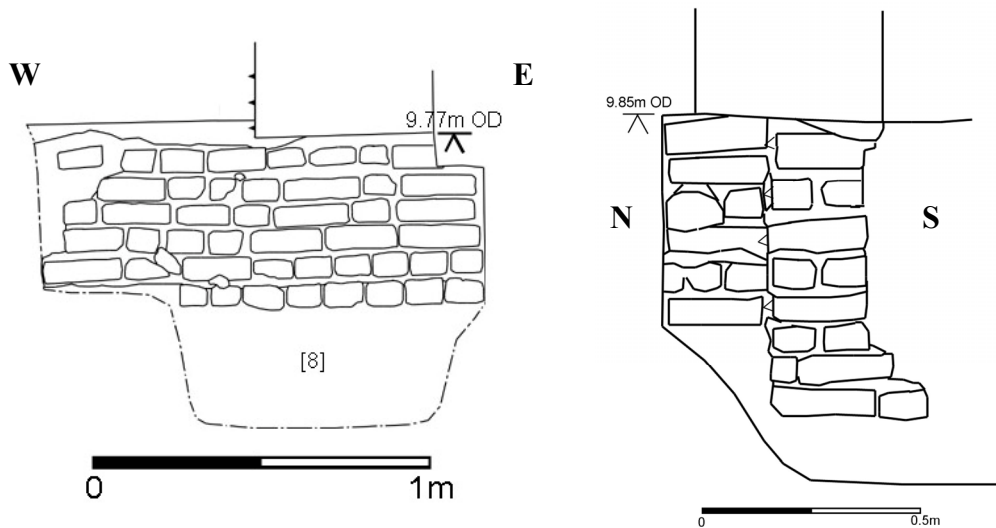


Figure 25: Photographed and drawn elevations of foundations exposed at the northern end of Trench 7.

7.7 Trench 8

7.7.1 Objective

Trench 8 was located on the north side of the house in the small lawn area in front of the existing kitchen. The trench was targeted at potential features relating to the 18th century Prior's Garden, including the paths and beds, as well as the northern boundary wall separating the garden from the contemporary road. Figure 27 below show a contemporary plan (1781) with the Prior's Garden wall highlighted in red, while Figure 28 shows a recent survey with the location of Trench 8 and the former position of the boundary wall highlighted.

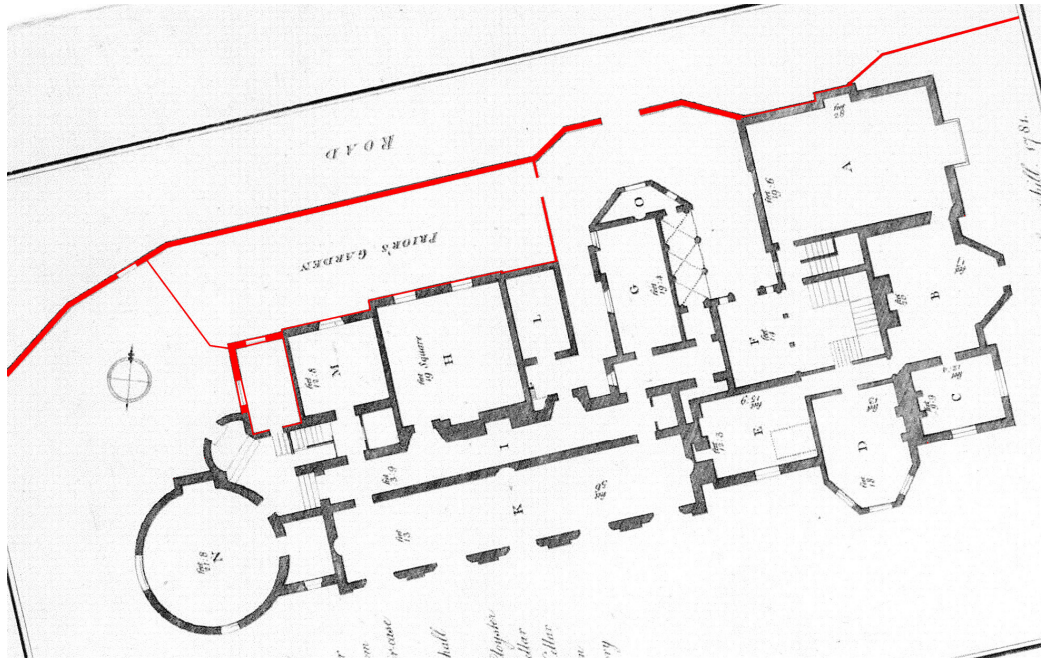


Figure 26: Plan of 1781 showing Priors Garden screen wall and other contemporary structural features (reproduced from Inskip and Jenkins 2006, Vol 2, Part D, p218).

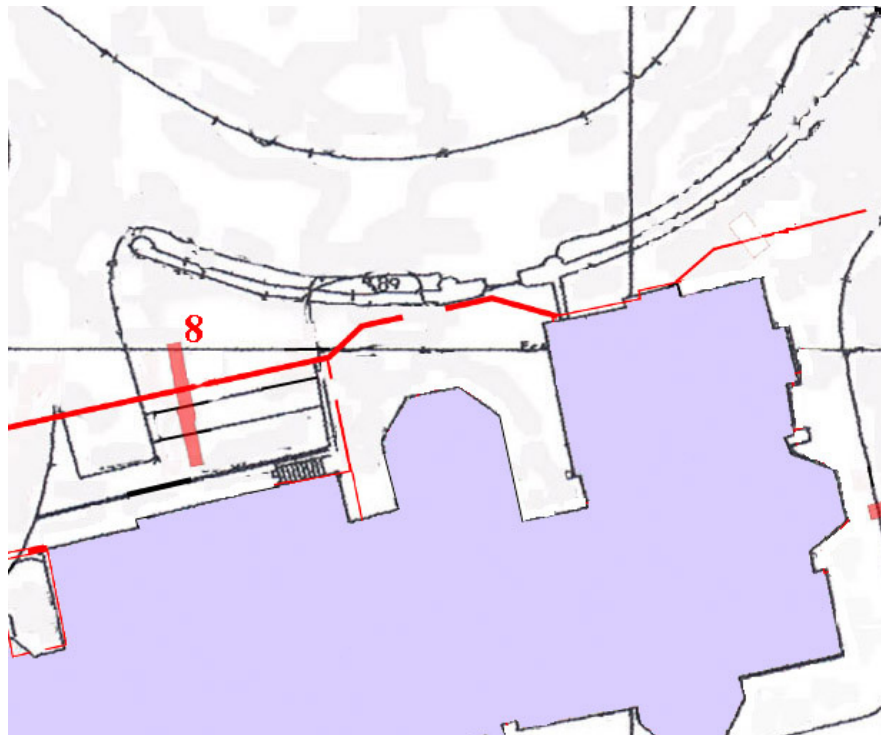


Figure 27: Extract from Strawberry Hill Survey showing Trench 8 in relation to existing structure and the former position of the Prior's Garden boundary wall (Based on survey plan by Inskip and Jenkins Architects, 2007).



Figure 28: Illustration by Edwards from 1783 showing the north face of Strawberry Hill House and the wall of the Priors Garden (reproduced from Inskip and Jenkins 2006, Vol 1, Part B, p35).

7.7.2 List of Recorded Contexts

Context	Description	Interpretation
1	Soft darkish-brown grey silty sand and humic material. Frequent gravel, modern red and yellow CBM fragments, heavy rooting.	Modern topsoil.
2	Firm yellowish grey/brown silty sand with occasional gravel inclusions.	Subsoil
3	18 th century unfrosted red-purple brick rubble in sand matrix.	Fill of robber cut [4]
4	Linear cut c. 1.68m wide at top, deeper than 0.8m (not fully excavated), extending beyond LOE to east and west., steep sided and slightly concave to north.	Robber trench cut, filled by [3] – remnants of boundary wall between the Prior’s Garden and contemporary road.

5	Compact mid-orange sand and gravels with occasional clay.	Natural clay and gravels.
6	Mid brown/grey silt and sand with brick rubble, mortar and occasional yellow sand, gravel inclusions.	Dump layer overlying robber trench cut and fill [3] and [4].

7.7.3 Stratigraphic Matrix



7.7.4 Summary and Discussion

No *in-situ* evidence of the 18th century features was exposed in Trench 8, but evidence for the wall bounding the Prior's Garden to the north was recorded in the form of a robber trench [4] backfilled with 18th century bricks, which presumably represents the demolition of this feature *c.* 1860, when the adjacent road was realigned and moved away from the House. Modern services were exposed in the south end of the trench, which well have truncated any surviving 18th century garden features. Natural gravels were exposed for the remaining area between 9.62m and 9.69m OD.



Figure 29: West facing section of Trench 8 showing partially excavated robber trench [4] backfilled with brick rubble. (1m scale).



Figure 30: View north of Trench 8 showing services in foreground and robber trench to the north. (0.5m scale).

7.8 Trench 9

7.8.1 Objectives

Trench 9 was relocated from its original position and outline across the centre of the College carpark entrance, to the south side of the driveway butting the cobbled kerb. In a move from the originally specified objectives this trench targeted any structural remains of an additional room as shown on the 1781 plan below (Figure 31). According to this plan the walls of the room butted the curved wall of the round tower with its north-south length, and the northwest corner of the existing building on its east-west axis. Furthermore, the plan shows the continuation of the western screen wall of the Prior's Garden (as discussed above) projecting out from the northwest corner of the room and continuing on a north-west axis to adjoin the boundary wall. Both these features appear to have been demolished by 1863 (see Figure 10). It is not known when the screen disappeared, although the room is apparently shown the small-scale Parish Plan of 1846 and the road survey plan of *c.*1859. The room was probably demolished during the changes that followed the realignment of the Waldegrave Road *c.* 1860.

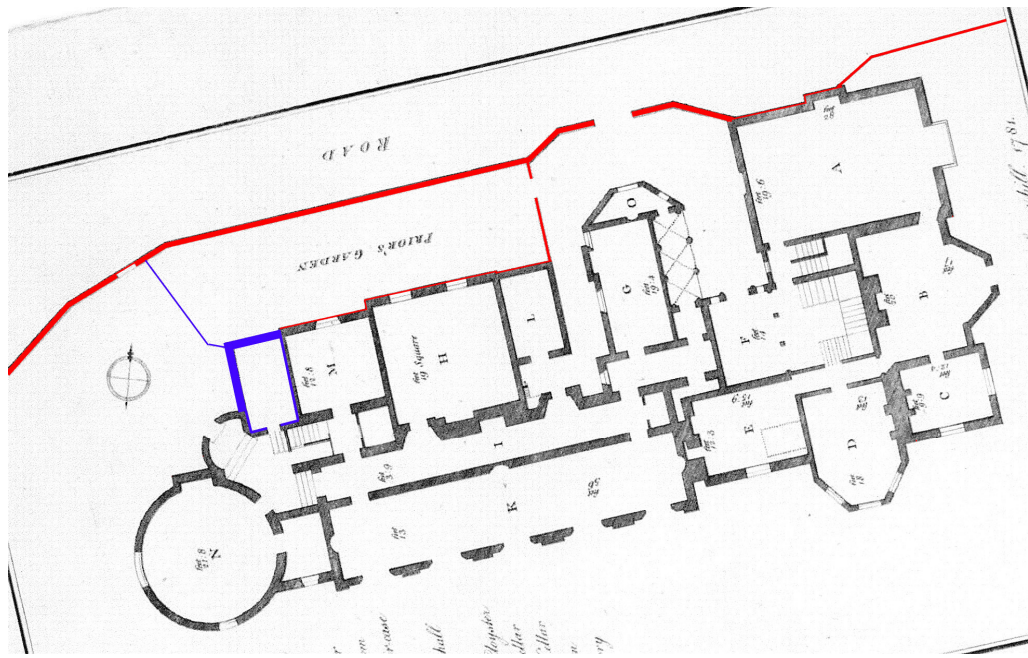
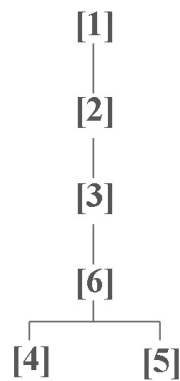


Figure 31: Ground plan c 1781 showing 18th century features, specifically the western screen wall and additional room in blue.

7.8.2 List of Recorded Contexts

Context	Description	Interpretation
1	Tarmac and concrete.	Tarmac and shallow concrete base.
2	Loose silty sand with frequent brick rubble inclusions.	Subsoil.
3	Brick rubble.	Rubble makeup/demolition waste.
4	Regular coursed, on-bed brick wall constructed of light brown, yellow and purple regularly shaped bricks with very shallow depressions.	North-south and east-west corner wall.
5	Regular coursed, on-bed brick wall constructed of light brown, yellow and purple regularly shaped. Internal face cut by service.	East-west stretch of wall butting [4].
6	Mortar render.	Mortar render on interior and exterior faces.

7.8.3 Stratigraphic Matrix



7.8.4 Summary and Discussion

The initial location of Trench 9 was based on the presumed location of the targeted wall foundations as shown on the 1781 plan (Figure 32 above). However, the early stages of excavation exposed no *in-situ* brickwork in the area indicated by the contemporary plan – allowing for inaccuracy of both the historical plan and trench location, the limits of excavation were extended to the north and west. After full excavation, two separate sections of brickwork were exposed – a north-south and east-west corner stretch [4] butting up against a truncated section of wall [5] continuing beneath the baulk east towards the existing western face of the standing building (see Figure 33 below).

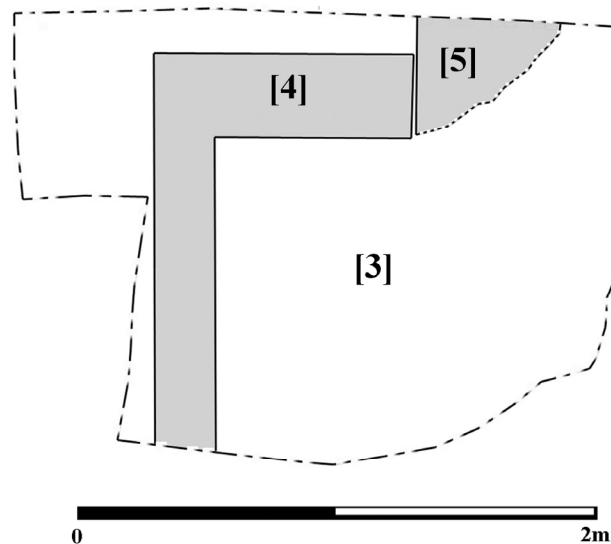


Figure 32: Plan of Trench 9 showing two sections of brick wall [4] and [5].

It was initially assumed that these sections of wall represented the room as depicted on the plan of 1781, and that the cut internal face of [5] was the result of truncation from modern servicing (a live service was picked up during CAT scanning on the west side of the trench). However, when the trench plan was located on recent survey plans, and overlain with the 1781 location of the room – a significant discrepancy in location is observed (see Figure 34 below).

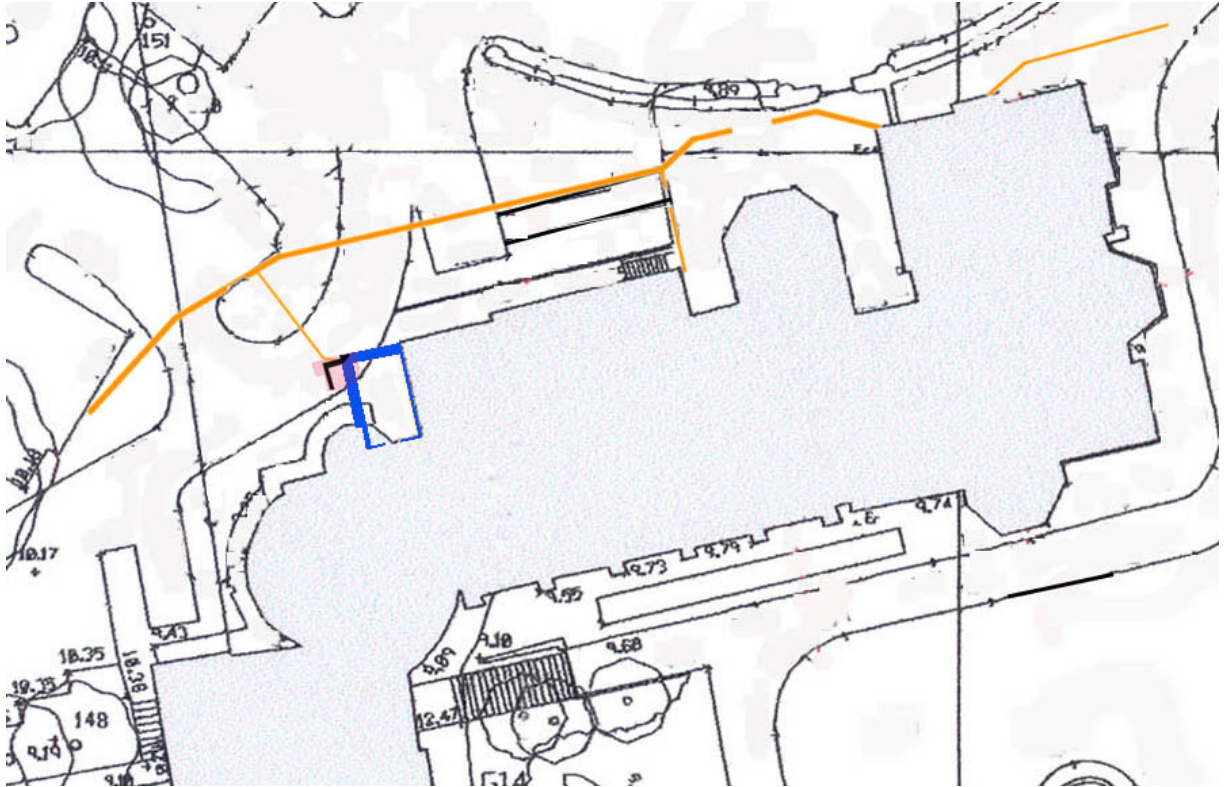


Figure 33: Overview and close-up of Trench 9 – Prior's Garden boundary wall shown in orange, room depicted on 1781 plan shown in blue, Trench 9 shown in red with walls [4] and [5] overlain in black. (Based on survey plan provided by Inskip and Jenkins Architects 2007).

Corner wall section [4] is located significantly further west than depicted on the plan of 1781, while the truncated section [5] appears to match with the expected location.

As shown above, the location of wall [4] is at odds with the expected position based on the plan of 1781. As this wall was exposed butting section [5] (which relates neatly the 18th century plan), it is likely that [4] represents a later phase of construction – an extension to the original room at some point between 1781 and the rooms overall demolition at some point in the later 19th century. The exposed walls, therefore, seem to represent two phases of construction, an initial 18th century wall represented by [5], which is subsequently cut or reduced (explaining the rough appearance of the internal face) to make way for an extension represented by [4] – both phases are then destroyed leaving surviving remains at foundation level only. Figure 35 below shows these two phases of construction, projected on the basis of the archaeological results:

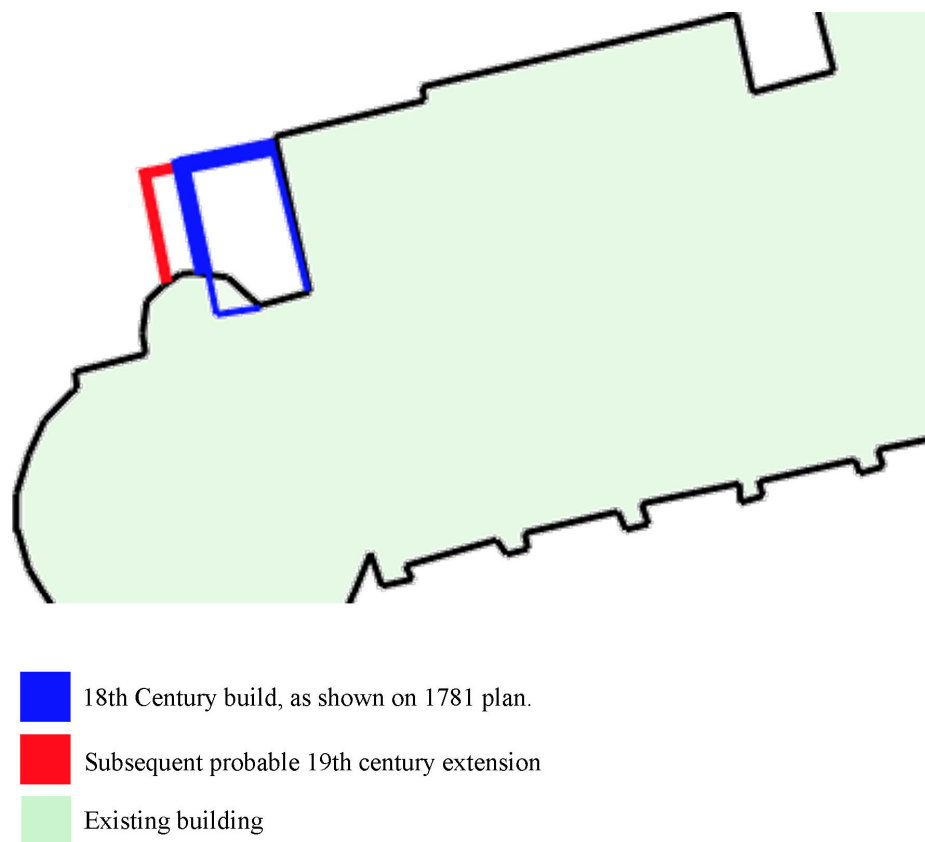


Figure 34: Phases of wall exposed in Trench 9.

No evidence for the western screen wall was exposed during the excavations, however, on the 1781 plan (Figure 32 above) this feature is shown as a single line, and may therefore have been a lightweight timber fence or trellis that would leave little archaeological evidence. Both the internal and external faces of wall [4] showed adhering mortar render similar to that exposed on the existing buildings external faces – this lends further support to the concept of later 19th century extension to the original 18th century room.



Figure 35: Trench 9 views north-west (top) and west (bottom) showing walls [4] and [5], backfill exposed in base of trench [3], and mortar render [6] on internal face.



Figure 36: Trench 9, view south-west – showing relationship of walls [4] and [5] with existing building.

Trench 14

7.8.5 Objective

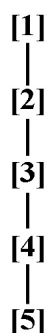
Trench 14 was excavated as an addition to Trench 9, intended to locate the continuation of the western screen wall of the Prior’s Garden and possibly its junction with the northern boundary wall, as shown on Figure 32 above. The trench was placed within the flower bed on the north side of the College carpark access road.

7.8.6 List of Recorded Contexts

Context	Description	Interpretation
1	Loose mid greyish-brown/black sandy silty soil and humic material with occasional gravels, CBM, glass	Topsoil

	and plastic inclusions.	
2	Mid orange/brown sandy silt with occasional CBM flecks and gravel inclusions.	Subsoil
3	Mid orange brown sandy silt with frequent lenses of dark grey/black ash and sand deposits with charcoal inclusions. Occasional pottery, glass and plastic.	Fill of pit [4]
4	Cut of rubbish pit, extended beyond LOE in all directions – dimensions, shape in plan and gradient unknown.	Cut of modern rubbish pit.
5	Mid orange/brown sand and gravel.	Natural.

7.8.7 Stratigraphic Matrix



7.8.8 Summary and Discussion

Trench 14 failed to expose any 18th century evidence for the continuation of the screen wall or indeed any for the boundary wall as found in Trench 8. A very modern rubbish pit was exposed on the east side of the trench, cutting the natural towards the base but continuing beyond the limits of excavation to the north, south and east. Part of a cream-glazed earthenware plate was recovered from the fill [3] which is likely to date from the late 19th/20th century. No further archaeological finds of features were exposed.

7.9 Trench 15

7.9.1 Objective

Trench 15 was located on the eastern stretch of the existing circular carriage drive on the north side of Strawberry Hill House. It was designed to establish the presence and nature of any earlier driveways, or previous features located on the north side of the property. The carriageway dates from the early 1860's, following the relocation of the now Waldegrave Road further to the north and away from the house and appears in much its present form on the OS map of 1863n (see Figure 10).

7.9.2 List of Recorded Contexts

Context	Description	Interpretation
1	Tarmac	Tarmac of current drive surface.
2	Concrete cobbles.	Concrete cobble kerb.
3	Indurated light grey gravel and mortar.	Concrete base for kerb stones [2]
4	Soft darkish brown-grey silty sand with occasional gravel and moderate rooting.	Topsoil in garden bed on east side of drive.
5	Loose dark greyish/yellow sand and gravel.	Fill of [7] – makeup for existing driveway.
6	Loose, mixed silty sand and brick rubble.	Basal fill of [7] – makeup for existing driveway.
7	Presumably curvilinear cut c.0.5m in depth, near vertical sided. Not seen to west but likely to match present surface extent.	Cut for existing driveway.
8	Firm dark yellow/brown sandy clay with gravel.	Natural.

7.9.3 Stratigraphic Matrix



7.9.4 Summary and Discussion

The sequence exposed in Trench 15 was of little archaeological interest – showing the existing tarmac drive [1] laid against a concrete based kerb [2] [3], over two layers of makeup [5] [6] within a linear cut [7] into the natural [8] and topsoil [4]. No archaeological finds or features were exposed.

8. Summary of Archaeological Results.

In general, very little evidence was recovered that can be reliably dated to the 18th century, much of which was probably destroyed or removed during later developments, including very recent activity in the form of service excavations. The secure *in-situ* 18th century evidence was exposed in Trench 9, an example which neatly clarifies this issue of intrusive later activity. The early phase of a room depicted on a 1781 plan was exposed at foundation level, but the original structure had been partially destroyed to make way for a later (probably early/mid 19th century) extension. In turn, the entire structure was then demolished in the later 19th century, presumably in line with more general alterations being made to the north side of the property on the removal of Waldegrave Road north, away from the house. The successive phases of activity exposed in Trench 9 illustrate the frequent problem encountered in archaeological investigations of this kind – when a property and its grounds have been extensively altered and redesigned over the course of several hundred years, it is not surprising that much of the material belonging to the earliest phase of activity is lost, or destroyed in the process.

No evidence for 18th century boundary paths was recovered in any of the trenches along the eastern escarpment, nor indeed in those located closer to the property. In both cases evidence for earlier pathways was exposed, but these are likely later 19th century examples. Similarly, the brick built drains exposed in Trenches 13, 3 and 7 probably originate in the 19th century despite much of the materials used suggesting an earlier 18th century date. This reuse of materials was common across the site, within both path bases and structures.

Bibliography

Inskip + Jenkins. October 2006: *Strawberry Hill House: Restoration of Walpole's Villa*. Historic Illustrations (5 volumes).

Inskip + Jenkins with the Landscape Agency. Rev. March 2007. *Conservation Management Plan*.

APPENDIX I: Post Medieval Finds and Samples

1. The Finds

1.1 Introduction

The finds assemblage included 10 sherds of pottery with a total weight of 398gm. It was entirely post-medieval, the earliest example being two sherds in plain white tin-glazed ware (or delftware; MoL fabric code TGW C); in the context of the site this is most likely to be of 18th century date. The remaining pottery comprised fairly recent white glazed and unglazed red earthenware, of later 19th or 20th century date.

The only other finds were pieces of recent glass from [703], and a few fragments of concrete rendering and clinker from Trenches 10 & 11.

1.2 Potential & significance

The pottery and other finds have no further potential and is only of significance within the context of the site, in providing potential dating evidence for the associated deposits and features.

1.3 Description of the finds

1.3.1 Detail and quantification of pottery finds (*SC = sherd count; ENV = estimated number of vessels*)

Trench/ Context	Edate	Ldate	Fabric	Form	Decor	SC	ENV	Wt (gm)	Comment
14/3	1850	1950	White earthen ware	Plate	–	4	1	360	Plain cream glazed earthenware. Estimated diameter of plate 270mm; thickness 6-7mm
10/8	1850	–	Red earthen ware	Pot	–	3	1	20	Unglazed red earthenware. Rim sherds of small flowerpot
13/2	1630	1800	TGW C	?Dish	–	2	2	18	English tin-glazed ware (Orton C type; plain white glazed)

1.3.2 Other finds

Trench 7/Context 3]:

Base of clear glass jar, 84mm dia. (86 gm). Moulded; 20th century.

Three other small & modern fragments: two of clear ?window glass (2gm) & one of green bottle glass (4gm).

Trench 10/ Context 7:

1 piece of clinker; c 20mm x 40mm (19 gm)

2 small fragments of concrete render, *c* 20mm to 35mm (25gm / 9gm). Both with one smooth face; one cream-coloured, the other dark, possibly burnt. Date probably later 19th century+

Trench 11/ Context 3:

Fragment of gritty/sandy mortar (*c* 60mm x 90mm; 368gms). Has one flat surface which has been laid against something, but not an original exposed face!

2. The building material samples

2.1 Introduction

A series of eleven building material samples plus one other item were taken during the fieldwork, from *in situ* features and from some dumped deposits/ fills. The general characteristics and dimensions of the assemblage are noted in the table under 2.3 below.

The samples were generally of 18th to 19th century brick, with a later concrete example and one group of 19th/20th century ceramic floor tile. The bricks varied quite widely in form, the most obvious differences being in coloration and presence/absence of frogging. Variations within sample groups may reflect a reuse of building material (from demolition, *etc.*). Certainly there were a number of cases where reuse had clearly occurred.

2.2 Potential and significance

The samples provide some dating and other evidence for the associated deposits and structures, although the nature of the material and its frequent reuse rules out precise dates.

Apart from this role within the general context of the site the samples have no further potential, and no other work is required.

2.3 Detail and quantification of building material samples

Context	Sample no.	No. & source of item	Dimensions (mm)	Description	Approximate date & other comments
Trench 10 [7]	1	16 part or whole floor tiles (sample of rubble dump)	153 x 155 (nominally 6" square) x 21.5 thick	Red & buff-yellow 6" tiles. Smooth faces; identical embossed design on rear including the legend PLATTS O. P	Reused material – all have cement on sides &/or base, and at least one has been cut to fit an edge or corner. The varying condition of the originally-exposed faces indicates at least two different sources, one internal & the other external Later 19 th century+. Apparently includes some advertised as 'Platts Red Ferrolite Floor Tiles'
			153 x 154 x 23.5 thick	Buff-yellow tile. Face slightly coarser than above; embossed design on rear includes an inverted horseshoe above the letters J C	
			151 x 153 x 23 thick	Red & buff-yellow tiles. Rough & abraded faces, presumably weathered (?frost damage). Rear embossed with either two or three rectangles	
Trench 3 [9]	2	5 part bricks (sample of rubble path base)	–	Broken brick, typically a fairly hard purple/dark red fabric with rough frogs c 10mm deep. All the fragments have areas of yellow coarse mortar, and in two cases a secondary layer (12-15mm) of hard light grey concrete on one or other face. This latter is finished to a flat gritty surface.	Brick is reused in this context, but also the concrete layer seals a bit of the yellow mortar – so presumably already reused before being broken up, perhaps as the base for a concrete path. Brick may be earlier 19 th century, but concrete render indicates late 19 th C+ reuse, and the final context is later still.
Trench 7 (TP 1)	–	Brick (single find)	? x 111 x 65 (incomplete)	Unmortared fragment. Fairly hard, sandy pinkish-yellow fabric with a frog c 10mm deep, at base of which two incomplete letters (? J O) are more deeply embossed.	Probably later 19 th century
Trench 7 [3]	3	4 bricks (sample of arched drain)	218 x 102 x 65	Fairly hard mottled reddish-yellow fabric. Unfrogged, brick slightly warped & irregular	All bricks have a thin layer of fine buff mortar overlain by thicker deposits of a much lighter & coarser mix – so presumably have been cleaned off & reused. 18 th century+; associated finds 20 th century
			l: 225 to 230 w: 102 to 105 t: 62 to 68	Similar to above but darker red fabric; some yellowish mottling on surfaces.	
Trench 8 [3]		4 bricks (sample of ??)	l: 214 to 225 w: 96 to 101 t: 63 to 68	Unfrogged but fairly uniform. Fabric varies from a fairly hard mottled purple-red to a softer & lighter red. Bricks retain mortar on some surfaces	18 th century

Context	Sample no.	No. & source of item	Dimensions (mm)	Description	Approximate date & other comments
Trench 9 [4]	5	2 bricks (sample of wall base)	214 x 102 x 63	Yellow stock, fairly hard & regularly shaped. Streaked yellow/purple fabric with shallow (<4mm) indentation or frog	Superficially similar bricks, but slightly different size & fabric. ?Early 19 th century
			223 x 105 x 66	Similar to above but fabric light brownish with lighter & some darker speckles. V. shallow depression/ frog (<3mm)	
Trench 10 [8]	6	4 bricks from pit fill	220 x 105 x 65	Moulded concrete bricks, very regular form & size with c 12mm deep frog. One stretcher face is painted white & there are traces of mortar on the other faces.	Mid 20 th century and also reused in this context – so likely to be very recent
Trench 12 [1]	7	4 part bricks from paved area on line of path.	–	Decorative moulded bricks of different types, all incomplete. Hard orange-red fabric with no frogs. Three of the samples would form parts of a continuous decorative course, thickness 68mm (double half-round moulding, chamfered plinth). The other is a corner piece, a half-round moulding with a step on one side, thickness 72mm.	Later 19 th or early 20 th century All the bricks are broken but no sign of mortar. However, the surfaces that would be exposed in construction are darkened by weathering/ air pollution. Therefore the brick appears to have been reused from a dry-built structure (perh. a garden feature?).
Trench 12 [2]	8	4 bricks from base of garden feature	l: 228 to 234 w: 105 to 107 t: 65 to 68	Yellow stock; hard sandy fabric with irregularly shaped but pronounced frog up to 15mm deep. Overall fairly uniform although two bricks cracked in firing & one other slightly warped.	Unmortared & no obvious evidence for reuse; however, from appearance may be seconds. Approx. mid 19 th century
Trench 12 [4]	9	4 bricks, as above.	l: 231 to 235 w: 103 to 107 t: 64 to 69	Very similar to above, although two bricks softer & more sandy (?underfired)	Appears to be part of same event as above – once again may include seconds.
Trench 13 [4]	10	3 bricks (1 incomplete) from drain	c 222 x 100 x 63	Two bricks in fairly fine & hard red fabric; quite uniform but unfrogged	Probably 18 th century although the single brick may be later, so others may be reused. All retain mortar
			220 x 95 x 66	Single brick in much coarser purple-red fabric, also unfrogged	
Trench 3 [5]	11	4 bricks from NS drain	l: 220 to 226 w: 100 to 102 t: 60 to 64	Relatively soft red fabric, unfrogged. Weathered or abraded on all faces	Probably 18 th century. Unmortared but condition of several of the bricks + variation in fabric & size suggests that these may be reused.
			c 228 x 102 x 68	Fairly hard & darker red fabric with some yellow mottling on surface; unfrogged. Similar to the darker fabric type in [703]	

APPENDIX II: Worked Flint Assemblage

By Diana Coles.

1. Two potential worked flints were recovered from the fill [10] of a small pit in Trench 1, they are described as follows:



Fig 37: The flint finds from fill [10]. Shown at a scale of 2:1

2. This is an implement measuring 18 x 29.2 x 6.9 mm & weighing 3.1g. It appears to be made from a broad flint flake which retains some cortex along one edge. The other edge appears weathered and has begun to patinate. The difference in weathering on different parts of the flake and the absence of a bulb of percussion indicate that the flake may have occurred naturally rather than being struck.

Directly beneath the cortex the flint is dark brown shading to a yellowish brown. The nature of the cortex indicates that the flint was derived from glacial gravel deposits. The cortex is very thin and it is not fresh in appearance ruling out the possibility that it was made from nodular flint while the absence of chattermarking indicates that it is not beach pebble.

The flake has been thinned by several transverse removals and the wider of the two sides has been retouched to create a concave edge. The less corticated of the edges abutting the retouched end appears bruised as though by use. The removals have exposed flint fresher than the rest of the surface.

The implement appears to be a hollow ended scraper it could possibly have been used as a spoke shave for preparing slender pieces of wood or bone.

3. This is a cortical chip of the same material. It measures 8.6 x 10.4 x 3 mm & weighs 0.2g. It has a well defined bulb of percussion. It cannot be refitted with 1) but may have originally come from the same piece given the close proximity of the two artefacts.

Conclusion.

Whilst the assemblage is potentially prehistoric in origin, there is nothing diagnostic that would suggest a particular period. Given the tiny quantity recovered, no further work is required on this material.

Diana Coles – December 2007.

APPENDIX III: OASIS Data Collection Form

OASIS ID: compassa1-36063

Project details

Project name	Strawberry Hill House
Short description of the project	Archaeological Evaluation in the grounds of Strawberry Hill House, Twickenham, London Borough of Richmond. Series of 14 trenches targeting 18th century garden features relating to Horace Walpole's occupation and development of the property and its landscape.
Project dates	Start: 12-11-2007 End: 30-11-2007
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	SWU07 - Sitecode
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	Listed Building
Current Land use	Other 5 - Garden
Monument type	DRAIN Post Medieval
Monument type	PATH Post Medieval
Monument type	PIT Late Prehistoric
Significant Finds	FLINT Late Prehistoric
Methods & techniques	'Targeted Trenches'
Development type	Building refurbishment/repairs/restoration
Development type	Conservation of Heritage
Prompt	Conservation/ restoration
Position in the planning process	Not known / Not recorded

Project location

Country	England
Site location	GREATER LONDON RICHMOND UPON THAMES TWICKENHAM Strawberry Hill House
Postcode	TW11
Study area	3.10 Hectares
Site coordinates	TQ 158 723 51.4373462294 -0.333788957927 51 26 14 N 000 20 01 W Point
Height OD	Min: 6.87m Max: 9.72m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Compass Archaeology
Project brief originator	Strawberry Hill Trust

Project design originator	Compass Archaeology
Project director/manager	Geoff Potter
Project supervisor	Rosie Cummings
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer
Name of sponsor/funding body	Strawberry Hill Trust

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient	Strawberry Hill Trust
Physical Contents	'Ceramics'
Digital Archive recipient	Strawberry Hill Trust
Digital Contents	'none'
Digital Media available	'Images raster / digital photography'
Paper Archive recipient	Strawberry Hill Trust
Paper Contents	'none'
Paper Media available	'Context sheet','Drawing','Map','Miscellaneous Material','Photograph','Plan','Report','Section','Unpublished Text'

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Strawberry Hill House
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Cummings, R
Date	2008
Issuer or publisher	Compass Archaeology
Place of issue or publication	Compass Archaeology, 5-7 Southwark St
Description	Overview of archaeological investigation at Strawberry Hill House, includes detailed descriptions and discussion of archaeological results, brief history of the property, methodology, objectives and conclusions.

Entered by	Rosie Cummings (mail@compassarchaeology.co.uk)
Entered on	6 January 2008

APPENDIX IV: London Archaeologist Summary

Site Address: Strawberry Hill House, Waldegrave Road, Twickenham, London Borough of Richmond.

Project type: Evaluation.

Dates of Fieldwork: 12th –30th November 2007.

Site Code: SWU07

Supervisor: Rosie Cummings

NGR: TQ 1588 7230

Funding Body: Strawberry Hill Trust.

An archaeological investigation was undertaken in the grounds of Strawberry Hill House, as part of a wider project currently supported by Heritage Lottery Funding and aimed at the regeneration of Horace Walpole's 18th century gothic villa. A series of 14 trenches were located around the grounds of the Richmond property, targeting the potential remains of 18th garden features.

Overall, little 18th century evidence was observed, with the majority of archaeological finds and features representing later 19th and 20th century activity. On the north side of the existing building the foundations of an earlier 18th century room (presumably demolished in the later 19th century) were exposed, revealing a further section of wall foundation representing a previously unknown extension to the probably in the earlier half of the 19th century. Elsewhere, 19th and 20th century phases of boundary paths and rubble remains of masonry screen walls were exposed. A small pit was exposed in the base of a trench to the north of the house from which two small pieces of possible prehistoric worked flint were recovered.