

# **THAMES WATER VICTORIAN WATER MAINS REPLACEMENT WORKS**

**NOTTING HILL AND NOTTING HILL GATE  
(DMA BARROW HILL 28)**

**ROYAL BOROUGH OF KENSINGTON AND CHELSEA**

**AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF**



December 2009



COMPASS



ARCHAEOLOGY



# THAMES WATER VICTORIAN WATER MAINS REPLACEMENT WORKS

NOTTING HILL AND NOTTING HILL GATE,  
ROYAL BOROUGH OF KENSINGTON AND CHELSEA  
(DMA BARROW HILL 28)

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

Site Code: TZM 09  
NGR: TQ 2471 8088 (North)  
TQ 2517 8052 (Southeast extent)  
TQ 2471 8049 (West)

COMPASS ARCHAEOLOGY LIMITED

5-7 SOUTHWARK STREET

LONDON SE1 1RQ

Telephone: 020 7403 9660

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

December 2009

©Compass Archaeology Limited

### ***Abstract***

*An archaeological watching brief was undertaken during Thames Water Victorian Mains Replacement works in the Notting Hill and Notting Hill Gate areas of the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea between May and September 2009. These groundworks were all located within existing roads or pavements, and at their maximum extent covered some 500m east-west and north-south.*

*This general area has the potential to reveal archaeological remains dating from the earliest times, with particular emphasis on Roman deposits. Previous archaeological investigations and discoveries in the vicinity have also shown that archaeological deposits can survive at relatively high levels across the study area.*

*Archaeological monitoring was undertaken during contractors' groundworks and consisted of the inspection and recording of pits and open-cut trenches accessible during these visits. The excavations typically exposed sequences of modern road make-up overlying made ground and service related deposits, whilst natural deposits – London Clay and much more recent Lynch Hill Gravels – were observed in some areas. The clay in particular was generally truncated by overlying road construction but survived very high in the stratigraphic sequence, lying at a depth of between 0.38m and 0.75m below the modern surface and recorded at its highest point at +26.2m OD.*

*No archaeological finds or features were observed during the monitoring works.*

<b>Contents</b>	<b>page</b>
1 Introduction	1
2 Site Location and Geology	1
3 Archaeological and Historical Background	3
4 Archaeological Research Questions	9
5 The Archaeological Programme	9
5.1 Standards	9
5.2 Fieldwork	9
5.3 Methodology	9
6 Post-Excavation Work	10
7 The Archaeological Watching Brief	11
7.1 Streets within the Monitored Study Area	12
8 Conclusions	24
8.1 Summary	24
8.2 Archaeological Research Questions	24
9 Select Bibliography	25
Appendix I: OASIS Data Collection Form	27
Appendix II: London Archaeologist Summary	29

## List of Figures

Front cover: *St Peter's Church, Notting Hill viewed from Stanley Gardens, with the VMR trenches to the left of the image.* **page**

1	OS based location plan of the Barrow Hill 28 DMA & the two Sites of Archaeological Importance.	2
2	Extract from Rocque's Map of c. 1746	6
3	The artist J Linnell's ' <i>Kensington Gravel Pits, 1811-12</i> ', oil on canvas, London, Tate Gallery Inv. NO NO5776.	7
4	Extract from <i>Stanford's Library Map of London and its Suburbs</i> of 1862	8
5	Victorian Mains Replacement works trenches in DMA Barrow Hill 28.	11
6	VMR works trench adjacent to the east kerb outside no 100 Kensington Park Road.	12
7	The east facing section within the open cut trench on Kensington Park Road.	13
8	VMR trenching on Ladbroke Road.	15
9	A north facing section of the mains replacement on Ladbroke Road.	15
10	View looking north east of a feeder trench through which the new water main was inserted. Located in Ladbroke Square.	16
11	Overview of the VMR works on Ladbroke Square.	16
12	West facing section of a feeder trench on Ladbroke Square.	17
13	North westerly overview of the water mains renewal works on Stanley Crescent.	18
14	VMR works at the eastern end of Stanley Gardens, showing St Peter's Church	19
15	The south facing section of trenching on Stanley Gardens.	20
16	A westerly view of VMR trenching on Stanley Gardens with Stanley Crescent in the background.	21
17	Shallow VMR trenching on Victoria Gardens outside no 55, showing a large concrete obstruction.	22
18	Trenching on Wilby Mews running from no 10 Wilby Mews southwards.	23
19	Trenching on Wilby Mews, running southwards towards Ladbroke Road where it joined the trunk main.	23

## **1. Introduction**

- 1.1** This report describes the results of a programme of archaeological monitoring undertaken during Thames Water Victorian water mains replacement works in the Notting Hill and Notting Hill Gate areas of the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea. The watching brief was focussed upon VMR works within or close to the Local Authority defined archaeological priority area, as designated by the Unitary Development Plan. VMR works were undertaken on Kensington Park Road, Ladbroke Road, Ladbroke Square, Stanley Crescent, Stanley Gardens, Victoria Gardens and Wilby Mews. All works monitored in this report were actually within the geographic boundary of the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea; some reference is made to Westminster as the eastern part of the DMA (District Metering Area) area also crosses into the borough of Westminster.
- 1.2** The Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea has located Sites of Archaeological Importance (SAIs) protected by STAT 15 and policies CD85-88 (Kensington and Chelsea UDP). The City of Westminster has also located Areas of Archaeological Priority (APAs) and Sites of Archaeological Significance and Potential (SASPs) protected by policies DES11 (Westminster UDP). For this DMA area there are two Sites of Archaeological Importance (SAIs) affected by these works in Kensington and Chelsea, but no APAs or SASPs are affected by this phase of VMR works for the Westminster area (*cf.* Fig 1). There were no Scheduled Ancient Monuments affected by these works.
- 1.3** Archaeological observations were carried out during contractor's groundworks within the highlighted areas as shown on Fig 1, coverage was determined by the nature and extent of deposits that were exposed and also by the location. The level of archaeological coverage varied according to location, as follows:
- Most comprehensive within Sites of Archaeological Importance.
  - A good level of observation in areas immediately adjacent to SAIs.
- 1.4** Compass Archaeology would like to thank Thames Water Utilities for commissioning the project and Laing O'Rourke Infrastructure for their assistance on site, and the following specialists for their advice with the project:

Diane Abrams, English Heritage (GLAAS)

Claire Hallybone and Claudia Innes, Thames Water Utilities.

## **2. Site Location and Geology**

- 2.1** Figure 1 shows the location of the DMA in the City of Westminster and Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea, in relation to the Sites of Archaeological Importance. The area of the archaeological watching brief was located in the Notting Hill and Notting Hill Gate areas of this DMA and covered an area which stretched from the northernmost point at the corner of Kensington Park Road and Ladbroke Grove (NGR TQ 24708 80877) south to the corner of Holland Park

Avenue and Ladbroke Grove (TQ 24817 80307) and then extends east to the junction of the Bayswater Road and Orme Court (TQ 255760 80586). This formed an approximate L-shaped area with the final corner at the junction of Ladbroke Road and Ladbroke Terrace (TQ 24931 80479, *cf.* Fig 1).

- 2.2 The land surface in this area rises to +29.7m OD in the west along Ladbroke Grove dipping along Notting Hill Gate in the south to +19.6m OD. Generally the land surface in the north and east lay between +25 to +27m OD
- 2.3 The British Geological Survey (*Sheet 270*, 1998) indicates that much of this area is covered by the Lynch Hill Gravels, with London Clay in places. During the course of the watching brief disturbed and possibly reworked London Clay deposits were observed on Ladbroke Road, Ladbroke Square, Wilby Mews and Kensington Park Road and Lynch Hill Gravels were observed on Stanley Crescent and Stanley Gardens.

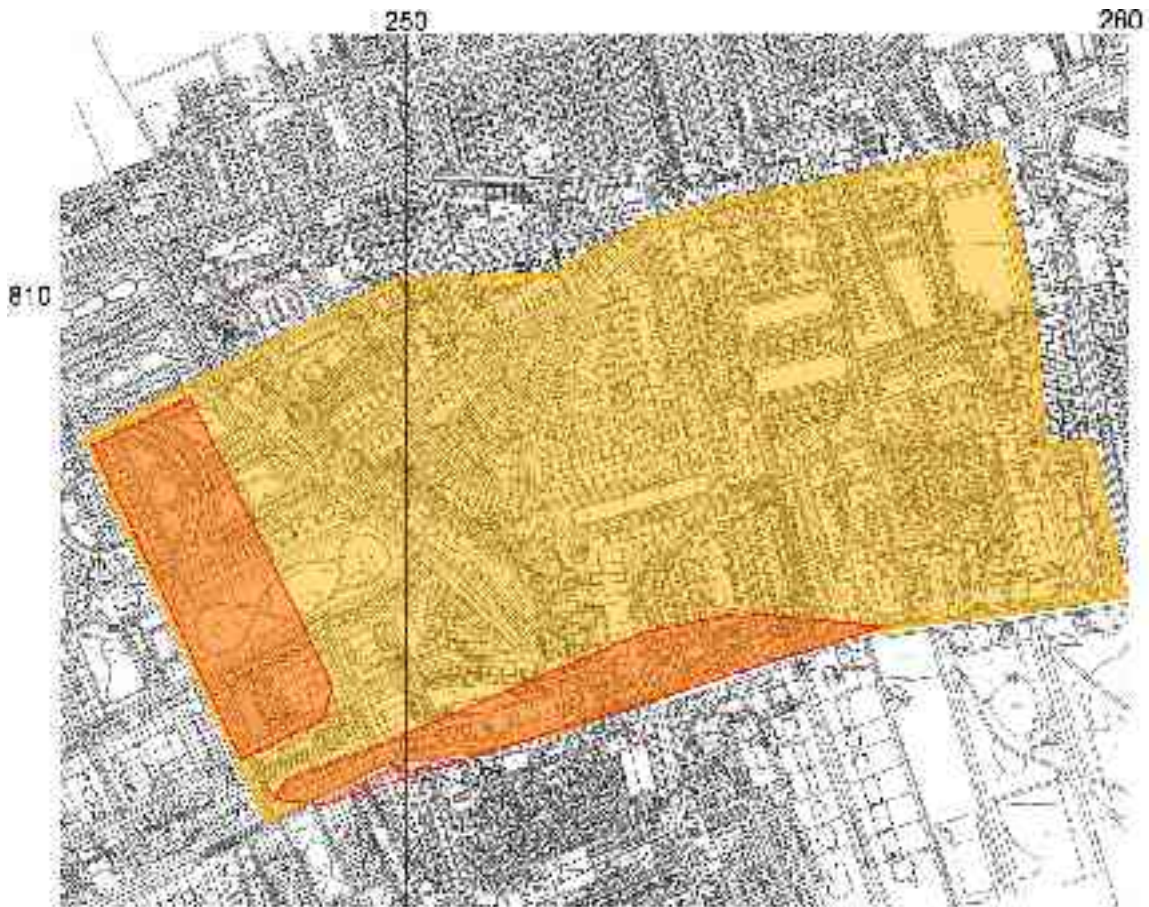


Fig 1: OS-based location plan of the area covered by the Barrow Hill District Metering Area 28 (highlighted in yellow). The area in orange denotes the two Sites of Archaeological Importance. See Fig 5 for the location of the archaeological monitoring works within this DMA.

*Figures reproduced from Ordnance Survey map and digital data with permission of the HMSO. © Crown Copyright. All rights reserved. Compass Archaeology Ltd., London SE1 1RQ, licence no. AL 100031317.*



### 3. Archaeological and Historical Background

#### 3.1 Prehistoric

In later prehistory the better drained gravel terraces and fertile Thames valley would have been quite densely occupied with settlement evidence most probable from the Bronze Age (2,000 to 600 BC), particularly the later Bronze Age. Climatic factors and soil exhaustion led to the abandonment of certain marginal zones from about the turn of the millennium (c.1000 BC), perhaps causing Bronze Age communities to intensify their exploitation of the more productive lands – such as forest clearance on the Terrace geology and the laying out of new field systems<sup>1</sup>. The south facing well-drained nature of the study area suggests that this would have been suitable for settlement. Previous sites also show that prehistoric deposits can survive quite high up in the stratigraphic sequence – cutting into and lying on the top of the natural, which can survive within the first metre below current ground surface in this area.

In 2003, an archaeological evaluation and excavation at Vicarage Gate House, Kensington, W8 (TQ 2565 8010, Site Code VGH 03) uncovered a series of field boundary ditches containing prehistoric pottery, struck and burnt flints and, from the latest ditch, a large quantity of daub and finds<sup>2</sup>. One wide, shallow, north-south feature may possibly represent a hollow way and contained finds dating to the Bronze Age. Most of the field boundary ditches dated to the middle-late Bronze Age to early-late Iron Age (c. 1000 BC to 600 BC) and suggested land use over a considerable part of the prehistoric period. The ditches were sealed by 18<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> century made ground, before being cut by field boundary ditches, and other cut features of 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century date, which would appear to have been linked with later agriculture.

Archaeological evidence does suggest therefore that this area was favoured for farming and settlement in prehistory and its location close to the Thames, on a south facing slope, on well drained land, near navigable rivers and possibly on an established track-ways (i.e. Kensington High Street) supports this. However, established settlement in the prehistoric periods is perhaps more likely on the surrounding higher gravel terraces as opposed to the more clayey and possibly marshy areas of the DMA.

The area is drained naturally by two ancient tributaries of the Thames, to the west by Counter's Creek and to the east by the Westbourne. The stream later known as Counter's Creek appears to have risen in the area of Kensal Green cemetery and followed a fairly straight course to the southeast, following the route of the railway line in the Russell Road area. The Westbourne watercourse rises in the Kilburn area and flows into the Serpentine. The floodplains of such tributaries tend to form their own local geological conditions, involving reworking of the

---

<sup>1</sup> Needham, S *The Bronze Age* p135 in Bird J & Bird DG (eds)

<sup>2</sup> Wragg, E. 2003 'Archaeological evaluation at Vicarage House, Vicarage Gate, W8'; Wragg, E. 2004 'Assessment of an archaeological excavation at Vicarage Gate House, Vicarage Gate, W8'.

terrace gravels and the deposition of alluvial silts both in the beds of the streams but also as over-bank deposits. These processes can also generate significant deposits of colluvial silts or hillwash, which can be artefact bearing.

### 3.2 Roman

The main Roman settlement of Londinium, concentrated within the square mile now known as the City of London, was established soon after the Roman occupation in AD 43 and was a thriving city by AD 60. Londinium was linked to the Roman road network and ribbon development (and cemeteries) developed along the roads out of the city.

Londinium would have need a considerable agricultural hinterland to provide essential supplies and evidence from elsewhere in the region suggests this took the form of small satellite farming communities, farmsteads and villa estates often in proximity of the roads which served Londinium<sup>3</sup>.

Two Roman roads heading westwards from the City ran through Kensington and Chelsea. The main one lies beneath the line of Bayswater Road, Holland Park Avenue and Notting Hill Gate and led to the important town of Silchester (*Callewa Atrebatum*). Another Roman Road, referred to as Akeman Street, probably lies under Kensington High Street eventually joining up with the Silchester Road. In hilly areas the roads were constructed in short straight lengths being realigned where necessary at high points along the route from which the next suitable sighting point could be chosen. A change of alignment occurs at Notting Hill Gate and as the ground rises considerably at this point, it is possible that Notting Hill was used as a sighting point<sup>4</sup>.

Relatively few finds of the Roman period have been found in the Royal Borough, though a potential cemetery, in proximity to the main Silchester Road, was found piecemeal in the Notting Hill, Ladbroke Grove area during the last century. This area is now protected as an Archaeological Priority Area in Kensington (*cf.* Fig 1). In 1841 a stone coffin was found on the Ladbroke Estate and a further similar stone coffin was found in Ladbroke Square in 1850. The burials are too far from the Londinium to be associated with the city and are likely instead to relate to a comparatively high status settlement in the general area, possibly a villa<sup>5</sup>.

The discovery in 1994 of the settlement site of St Mary Abbots Hospital (to the south of Kensington village) has shown evidence for Iron Age settlement continuing into the Roman period until at least the 2<sup>nd</sup> century AD, with some pottery dating to as late as AD 350. It is possible that other outlying agricultural developments may be encountered in the area.

---

<sup>3</sup> Nielsen, R 1996 'Russell Road, Kensington, London W14. An Archaeological Assessment'

<sup>4</sup> This paragraph is extracted from Whipp, D (undated)

<sup>5</sup> Nielsen, R 1996 after Whipp, D (undated)

### 3.3 Saxon and Medieval

The first established settlement of the area appears to be in Saxon times when early references record that *the sons of Cynesige founded Cheniston* (which became Kensington), while *the sons of Cnotta* settled on the hill rising above. This is probably the origin of the name Notting Hill and references to *Knottynghull* are found in Patent Rolls of 1356. The *ing* part of the name suggests a small Saxon settlement. By medieval times several small villages are recorded in this part of the borough.

Notting Hill refers to the north-south incline in the Ladbroke Grove area, which has its summit near the point where St John's Church now stands. Alternatively, some writers suggest that Notting Hill can refer to nearby Campden Hill, but some local place name and map evidence is against this.

In early times, the area was entirely rural, and it fell within the northern part of the parish of Kensington although an early manor of *Notting Barns* is also recorded. The name Notting Hill came to prominence when a turnpike gate was constructed at the bottom of the hill on the main road from London to Uxbridge, which is now Oxford Street, Bayswater Road and Holland Park Avenue along this part of its route. The point at which the turnpike gate stood (until the 19<sup>th</sup> century) was known as Notting Hill Gate<sup>6</sup>.

### 3.4 Post-medieval

Until the mid nineteenth century Notting Hill was a largely rural neighbourhood at the edge of the western suburbs of London. When the westward expansion of London reached Bayswater in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century the main landowner in Notting Hill was the Ladbroke family: from the 1820s they began to lay out streets and houses with a view to turning the area into a fashionable suburb of the capital (although the development did not get seriously under way until the 1840s). Many of these streets bear the Ladbroke name, including Ladbroke Grove (the main north south axis of the area) and Ladbroke Square (which is the largest private garden square in London). The original idea was to call the district Kensington Park, and other roads (notably Kensington Park Road and Kensington Park Gardens) are a survival of this. Large-scale development in the area took place in the 1840s on the Ladbroke Estate where the church of St John's Notting Hill was completed in 1845. It soon became clear that another church was needed, and the site for St Peter's (*cf.* cover illustration and Fig 15) was donated by the property developer Charles Henry Blake (1794-1872). Blake had made his fortune in India trading in indigo, and went on to make an even greater fortune as landowner, financier, builder and speculator in Notting Hill.

---

<sup>6</sup> Some of the information in sections 3.3 and 3.4 is extracted from the Wikipedia article "History of Notting Hill" <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki>





Historic map evidence shows the development of the general area, centred upon the historic road system. In northern Kensington and Notting Hill Gate this general area is also characterised by post-medieval gravel extraction industries, which have had a significant impact on the buried archaeological resource (*cf.* Figs 2 and 3). Compass Archaeology carried out a detailed study of relevant historic map data for this project at the project design stage (*cf.* Figs 2 to 5)<sup>7</sup>.



Fig 3 The artist J Linnell's '*Kensington Gravel Pits, 1811-12*', oil on canvas, London, Tate Gallery Inv. NO NO5776, showing the destructive nature of the gravel working industry. Linnell shared lodgings at Kensington Gravel Pits from 1808 to 1811, when the area was then a village on the site of what is now Notting Hill Gate.

---

<sup>7</sup> King, G. January 2009. 'Thames Water Utilities Ltd. Victorian Water mains replacement works in the area of Notting Hill and Notting Hill Gate, City of Westminster and Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea (Barrow Hill DMA 28) Specification for an Archaeological Watching Brief' *Compass Archaeology in-house document*



Fig 4 Extract from *Stanford's Library Map of London and its Suburbs* of 1862 shows a very similar layout to the Ordnance Survey First Edition 2 inch map of 1862-72, with the area fully developed with mainly residential development extending to Bayswater. Several of the street names are different to the present day names, although the alignment of the roads is very similar.



#### **4. Archaeological Research Questions**

The fieldwork presented an opportunity to address several research questions as laid out in the Written Scheme of Investigation for the project, and these questions are answered in Section 8.2 of this report<sup>8</sup>.

#### **5. The Archaeological Programme**

##### **5.1 Standards**

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 standards of the Institute for Archaeologists (*Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief*). Overall management of the project was undertaken by a full Member of the Institute.

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.

##### **5.2 Fieldwork**

The archaeological watching brief concentrated on the areas of open-cut trenching, so that any surviving evidence could be investigated, identified and recorded. More limited observation was made during the excavation of localised pits forming part of the pipeburst and insertion works.

The watching brief required one archaeologist on site to monitor works and to investigate and record any archaeological remains. Had archaeological remains been exposed adequate time was allowed for in the programme to fully investigate and record these deposits.

English Heritage were advised beforehand of the on-site start date. The Client and English Heritage were also kept advised of the progress of the fieldwork.

##### **5.3 Methodology**

Potential archaeological deposits and features were investigated and recorded in stratigraphic sequence, and where appropriate finds dating evidence examined. However, no finds were retained and no other samples taken from this watching brief. All trench locations and any notable deposits or features were recorded as appropriate on *pro-forma* trench record sheets, and/or sketched or drawn in plan or section. The investigations were recorded on a general site plan and related to

---

<sup>8</sup> King, G. January 2009. 'Thames Water Utilities Ltd. Victorian Water mains replacement works in the area of Notting Hill and Notting Hill Gate, City of Westminster and Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea (Barrow Hill DMA 28). Specification for an Archaeological Watching Brief' *Compass Archaeology in-house document*.

the Ordnance Survey grid. The fieldwork record was supplemented as appropriate by a range of general and detailed photography. At a minimum the observed works with or without archaeology were recorded on standardised forms, noting the location and size of excavations and the sequence of deposits observed therein.

## **6. Post-excavation work, reporting and the site archive**

The fieldwork was followed by off-site assessment and compilation of this report, and by ordering of the site archive. As noted above, there were no retained finds or samples from the watching brief.

Copies of this report will be supplied to the Client, English Heritage, the London Archaeological Archive and Research Centre (LAARC) and the local studies library.

A short summary of the fieldwork is appended using the OASIS Data Collection Form, and in paragraph form suitable for publication within the 'excavation round-up' of the *London Archaeologist*.

The records from the archaeological project will be ordered in line with MoL *Guidelines for the Preparation of Archaeological Archives* and will be placed in the Museum of London Archaeological Archive as part of the ongoing programme of archive deposition.



## 7. The Archaeological Watching Brief

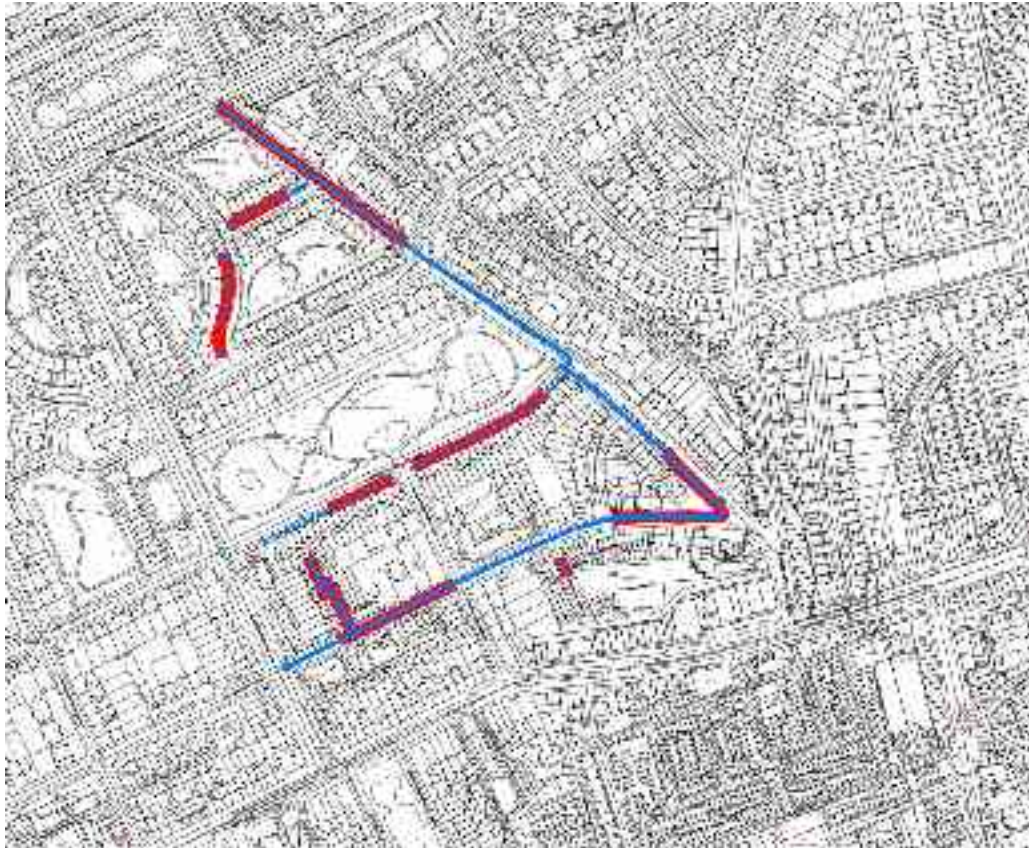


Fig 5: Victorian Mains Replacement works trenches in DMA Barrow Hill 28: the trenches that were monitored during this period are highlighted in red.

Archaeological monitoring in the Notting Hill and Notting Hill Gate area of the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea consisted of regular visits by an archaeologist to observe and record areas of open groundworks. The level of recording was determined by the nature of the exposed ground, and as the trenches and pits were negative for archaeological material a simplified recording method was employed. Each separate excavation was recorded under a set of required elements on Trench Record Sheets and supplemented with location plans and photography. The standard recorded elements constituted length, width and depth of excavations (in metres), location, orientation, brief description and dimensions of exposed deposits, and methods/conditions. Where appropriate photographs were taken, and in general covered a scaled section shot and overall trench shot, and where possible a wider location shot.

A single site code TZM 09 was used to cover all archaeological monitoring within the designated area (as defined by Fig 5 above).

## 7.1 Streets within the Monitored Study Area

The recorded groundworks produced no significant archaeological finds or features during the course of the archaeological watching brief. Owing to the nature of archaeological monitoring and recording, the results will be presented as a brief summary of the roads that concern this report. The specific streets/roads to be discussed are as follows, Kensington Park Road, Ladbroke Road, Ladbroke Square, Stanley Crescent, Stanley Gardens, Victoria Gardens and Wilby Mews. The linear distance of trenching refers to the total distance of *open cut* trenching recorded as opposed to the full length of construction undertaken on a single street and is recorded in areas where open cut trenches ran along the length of the road. In areas where feeder trenches were excavated by pipe insertion, the range of the dimensions of the individual trenches are detailed.

### 7.1.1 Kensington Park Road

Open cut trenching took place along Kensington Park Road from the junction with Ladbroke Gardens in the north down to Pembridge Road in the south. The VMR trench lay adjacent to the northeast kerb in the northwest area of Kensington Park Road before moving adjacent to the southwest kerb in the area south of no 82 Kensington Park Road. Approximately 147m of open cut trenching was observed along the length of Kensington Park Road.



Fig 6: The VMR works trench adjacent to the east kerb outside no 100 Kensington Park Road, looking approximately southeast.



Fig 7: The east facing section outside 100 Kensington Park Road (north end) within the open cut trench showing modern made ground deposits beneath the tarmac road surface (*1m scale*)

Towards the north western end of Kensington Park Road open cut trenching exposed the existing tarmac road surface, generally overlying a concrete hardcore to an average depth of *c.* 0.4m. However, south of no 100 Kensington Park Road the road surface was *c.* 0.3m deep, below which no concrete hardcore was visible. Between 0.3m and 0.9m the natural London Clay was exposed, but the surface had been truncated and the deposit reworked and cut numerous times by service trenches and other intrusive works.

Date	Location	L (m)	W (m)	D (m)
06.08.09	Open cut trenching was observed between no 100 Kensington Park Road and the junction with Ladbroke Gardens lying adjacent to the northeast kerb.	70m	0.68m	0.90m
19.08.09	Lying along the northeast carriageway was an open cut trench, between no 74 and no 80 Kensington Park Road.	53m	0.39m	1.04m
19.09.09	A section of continuous open cut trenching lay parallel to the south western kerb, between Ladbroke Road and no 1 Kensington Park Road.	24m	0.44m	1.00m



Trenching in this area was excavated to a depth of between 0.90m to 1.04m below the existing ground surface and exposed deposits relating to modern services and intrusions. Along the rest of the road the underlying deposits consisted of a thin (*c* 0.21m thick) made ground deposit: this comprised a dark reddish brown sandy clay and contained frequent CBM (ceramic building material) and gravel inclusions, overlying a redeposited dark grey and brownish yellow natural clay. Below this made ground deposit, at a depth of about 0.58m, lay a band of reworked dark brownish yellow natural clay which continued to the base of the trench. This deposit was sterile and directly relates to the London Clay that is found in the area. Frequent gravels were recorded in the upper deposit which may be related to road building activity, and occasional CBM and frequent gravel inclusions were observed throughout the lower deposit at the base of the trench. The CBM within this layer may have derived from earlier building and subsequent demolition in the area, however archaeological evidence is too scarce to be certain of this. No finds or features of archaeological significance were observed along Kensington Park Road.

### 7.1.2 Ladbroke Road

Victorian Mains Replacement works were located along the northern carriageway of Ladbroke Road from Kensington Park Road in the east to Ladbroke Grove in the west. These works took the form of sections of open cut trenching with feeder trenches into the smaller roads to the north and south. Approximately 110m of trenching was observed during the watching brief.

Date	Location	L (m)	W (m)	D (m)
25.06.09	Trenching was sited between no 40 and no 56 Ladbroke Road adjacent to the north kerb.	35m	0.48m	1.03m
06.08.09	Between no 10 and no 20 Ladbroke Road, a single continuous open cut trench was observed along the north kerb.	36m	0.48m	0.91m
11.09.09	Running along the north carriageway between no 20 Ladbroke Road and Kensington Park Road was an open cut VMR trench.	37m	0.7m	0.98m

The existing tarmac road surface was removed exposing the underlying concrete hardcore and made ground deposits to a depth of *c.* 0.45m. West of Ladbroke Terrace a *c.* 130mm thick band of pink MOT type 1 crushed stone was recorded below the road make up layers. This deposit was evidently associated with modern services that lie to the south of the VMR trench. Further east, past Ladbroke Terrace, a very thin, *c.* 40mm layer of made ground was observed: this was a firmly compacted, very dark brown sandy deposit with frequent gravels. These two deposits overlay a redeposited very dark brownish yellow natural clay. As on Kensington Park Road, this last represents the natural London Clay.



Fig 8: VMR trenching on Ladbrooke Road, looking southwest opposite numbers 71 to 85 Ladbrooke Road.



Fig 9: A north facing section of the mains replacement works showing a thick red made ground deposit below the road surface in Ladbrooke Grove (*1m scale*). The truncated surface of the London Clay can be seen at a depth of 0.6m below the ground surface at *circa* +22.1mOD (current ground surface at +22.7mOD).

### 7.1.3 Ladbroke Square



Fig 10: View looking north east of a feeder trench through which the new water main was inserted outside 16 Ladbroke Square (*1m scale*). The dark red deposits are road make up materials, overlying the truncated surface of the natural clay (which is here at a height of +21.4m OD).



Fig 11: Overview of the VMR works on Ladbroke Square looking westwards towards Ladbroke Grove. The properties on the left are numbers 14 to 20 Ladbroke Square.



Approximately 22m of open cut trenching was observed along the full length of Ladbroke Square, between no 14 and no 43 Ladbroke Square. The excavations consisted of a series of small open-cut trenches and pits excavated to a maximum depth of 1.18m below the existing road surface through which water main pipes were inserted east to west along the road. Exposed deposits consisted of the existing tarmac road surface overlying concrete hardcore to an average thickness of 0.35m, with a red brick earth made-ground deposit beneath. Natural London Clay was observed at an average depth of 0.7m. It was at its most shallow depth of 0.38m outside no 33 Ladbroke Square and its deepest of 0.75m outside no 37 Ladbroke Square. No archaeological finds or features were observed during the course of the watching brief on Ladbroke Square.

Date	Location	L (m)	W (m)	D (m)
05/06/09	From no 14 to no 20 Ladbroke Square lay six open cut feeder trenches adjacent to the southern kerb.	4m – 5.1m	0.48m – 2.92m	0.89m – 1.09m
17/06/09	VMR works trenches were observed between no 37 and no 31 Ladbroke square lying along the southern kerb.	3.33m – 4.3m	0.44m – 3.4m	0.96m – 1.01m
25/06/09	Trenching ran adjacent to the southern kerb between no 38 and no 43 Ladbroke Square.	3.5m – 4.98m	0.48m – 1.52m	1m – 1.18m



Fig 12: The west facing section of a feeder trench at the eastern end of Ladbroke Square with clearly defined stratigraphy (*1m scale*). A series of road make up deposits overlie the truncated surface of natural London Clay, which is at its highest only 380mm below the current road surface, therefore visible at a height of *circa* +26.2m OD.

#### 7.1.4 Stanley Crescent

VMR works trenching was observed lying between the junction with Stanley Gardens to the north and no 8 Stanley Crescent in the south. The open cut trenches were excavated adjacent to the western kerb and were between 3m and 4.5m in length, 0.6m and 1.4m wide and 0.81m to 1.12m deep. Below the tarmac road surface a reddish made ground consisting of crushed brick and gravel was observed. This relates to the modern services that were also observed in the trenches. Throughout the monitoring and observation period of the watching brief no finds or features were recorded on Stanley Crescent.

Date	Location	L (m)	W (m)	D (m)
15/07/09	Trenching was sited between Stanley Gardens and no 8 Stanley Crescent.	3m – 4.5m	0.6m – 1.42m	0.81m – 1.12m



Fig 13: North westerly looking view of the water mains renewal works on Stanley Crescent, outside no 8 Stanley Crescent.



### 7.1.5 Stanley Gardens

Located running from the junction with Stanley Crescent and up to no 9 Stanley Gardens were six irregularly shaped open cut trenches. They measured between 1.75m and 7.6m in length, 0.87m and 1.72m wide and up to 1.06m deep, with the natural London Clay lying at a depth of between 0.43m and 0.66m, with a maximum OD height of +25.9m OD. Below the road surface and concrete hardcore, which was approximately 0.25m deep, lay a 0.1m thick band of red crushed CBM overlying a greyish yellow clay and gravel made ground deposit. No finds or features of archaeological significance were observed on Stanley Gardens during the watching brief.



Fig 14 VMR trenching at the eastern end of Stanley Gardens, adjacent to the northern kerb at the junction with Kensington Park Road. The Victorian church is St Peter's, Notting Hill, designed in the classical style by architect Thomas Allom (1855, completed in 1857). Allom's design was part of his overall plan for Kensington Park Gardens and the neighbouring streets of Stanley Crescent and Stanley Gardens, which were developed by Charles Blake. It is thought to be the last 19<sup>th</sup> century Anglican church to be built in London in the classical style. St Peter's is a building of notable architectural quality, and is listed Grade II\*. The interior is very elaborate, with many of the pillars boasting gilded capitals.



Fig 15 The south facing section of trenching on Stanley Gardens, showing natural clay surviving at a depth of *circa* 0.5m below the current ground surface (*0.5m scale*).

Date	Location	L (m)	W (m)	D (m)
22/07/09	VMR trenching was sited adjacent to the north kerb: five trenches were excavated between the junction with Stanley Crescent and no 3 Stanley Gardens.	1.75m – 7.6m	0.87m – 1.72m	0.92m – 1.06m



Fig 16 A westerly view of VMR trenching on Stanley Gardens with nos 10 and 11 Stanley Crescent in the background.

#### 7.1.6 Victoria Gardens

A single 3.2m trench was monitored on Victoria Gardens, lying on a southwest to northeast alignment and measuring 0.55m wide. The trench was excavated to a depth of 0.52m and revealed a light yellow sand and gravel made ground below the road surface and concrete hardcore layers. In turn this yellow made ground overlay a mid brown sandy deposit with moderate gravel inclusions. There were no finds or features of archaeological significance observed within this trench during the watching brief.

Date	Location	L (m)	W (m)	D (m)
03/09/09	A single open cut trench was excavated outside the south west corner of no 55 Victoria Gardens adjacent to the east kerb.	3.2m	0.55m	0.52m



Fig 17: Shallow VMR trenching on Victoria Gardens outside no 55, looking south and showing a large concrete obstruction in the trench.

#### 7.1.7 Wilby Mews

Approximately 50m of open cut trenching was observed on Wilby Mews during the watching brief running south from no 10 Wilby Mews to the northwest southwards to Ladbroke Road in the southeast. It was 0.44m wide, approximately 0.75m deep and revealed a made ground deposit of dark reddish brown sandy clay with gravel inclusions. This was sealed by paving brick and sand and concrete bedding for the road surface. No finds or features were observed on Wilby Mews during the watching brief.

Date	Location	L (m)	W (m)	D (m)
15/07/09	A single continuous open cut trench was observed running between no 10 Wilby Mews and the junction with Ladbroke Road.	50m	0.44m	0.75m





Fig 18: Trenching on Wilby Mews ran southwards from no 10 Wilby Mews, which is the white house in the background of this photograph, looking north.



Fig 19: Trenching ran southwards up Wilby Mews to Ladbroke Road where it joined the trunk main.

## **8. Conclusions**

### **8.1 Summary**

Archaeological monitoring of water mains replacement and renewal works in the Notting Hill and Notting Hill Gate areas exposed no significant archaeological finds or features. The majority of excavations exposed typical sequences of modern road layers overlying made-ground and service related deposits. No archaeological finds were retained.

Natural London Clay and Lynch Hill Gravels were observed in some areas, the former evidently truncated by the overlying modern road construction but still at a relatively high level, in places within c 0.4m of the present surface. Mid-later 19<sup>th</sup> century building rubble was observed in made-ground layers in various trenches and probably derives from the development of the area during this period, reused as a road base.

### **8.2 Archaeological Research Questions**

The fieldwork presented an opportunity to address several research questions:

- *Is there any evidence for prehistoric to medieval activity, and what is the nature of this?*

No evidence for any activity from the prehistoric to the medieval period was observed during the course of the archaeological watching brief.

- *Is there any evidence for the line of the Roman road or for Roman funerary or settlement patterns?*

No evidence for Roman activity was observed during the course of the archaeological watching brief, nor any residual finds.

- *What evidence is there for post-medieval activity in the area? Can further evidence be gained of the extent of mineral extraction works in the area?*

No evidence for earlier post-medieval activity was observed, nor was any further evidence of mineral extraction found during the watching brief.

- *What evidence is there for post-medieval activity, and what is the significance of this?*

There was no evidence of archaeologically significant material relating to the post-medieval period. The only finds related to 19<sup>th</sup> century and later activity.

- *At what level do archaeological deposits survive in the highways across the area?*

No archaeological deposits were observed throughout the watching brief.

- *Can the watching brief works inform on the site-specific research questions of local archaeological sites and archaeological priority areas?*

No evidence for activity between the prehistoric period and the medieval period was observed. However evidence for mid 19<sup>th</sup> century activity was observed in the form of rubble made-ground layers containing contemporary building material. It is likely that this material represents the general development and expansion of the area in this period.

## 9. Select Bibliography

Barker, F & Jackson, P. 1990 *The History of London in Maps*.

Barton, N J. 1982 *The Lost Rivers of London*

Bird, J & Bird, D G. 1987 *The Archaeology of Surrey to 1540*

Bradley, T & Moore, P. 2003 'A Late Bronze Age burnt mound site at The Phillimore's, Campden Hill Road, Kensington. *London Archaeologist* Vol 10 Part 7, 179-186

Buckley, V (ed). 1990 *Burnt Offerings, International Contributions to Burnt Mound Archaeology*. Dublin

Curle, B R. (undated) *Historic Kensington in Maps 1741-1894*

Denny, B. 1974 *Kensington in Old Photographs*

Densem, R. 2003 'Report on Archaeological Evaluation at the Former Tennis Court, York House Place, Kensington Church Street, London W8'. Compass Archaeology

DoE 1989 *Planning Policy Guidance No. 16: Archaeology and Planning*

IfA 1999 *Standard and Guidance for an archaeological watching brief*

Loftie, W J. 1888 *Kensington Picturesque and Historical*

Margary, I D. 1973 *Roman Roads in Britain*

Merrifield, R. 1983 *London: City of the Romans*

Needham, S. *The Bronze Age* p135 in Bird, J & Bird, DG. 1987

Nielsen, R. 1996 'Russell Road, Kensington, London W14. An Archaeological Assessment' MoLAS

- Richardson, R. 2000, *The Annals of London* p31
- Roberts, H. 1951 *London County Council Survey of London* Vol XXIII, Part 1
- Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea *Replacement Unitary Development Plan* (UDP), Deposit Draft June 2004.
- Sainders, A (ed) 2005 'The LCC Bomb Damage Maps 1939-1945' *The London Topographical Society*
- Thompson, A., Westman, A. & Dyson, T. (eds) 1998 Archaeology in Greater London 1965-1990. *The Archaeological Gazetteer Series*, Volume 2
- Thorne, J. 1876 *Environs of London*
- VCH 1989 *A History of the County of Middlesex* Vol IX. Elrington, C R (ed)
- Wragg, E. 2004 'Assessment of an archaeological excavation at Vicarage Gate House, Vicarage Gate, W8'.
- Weinreb, B & Hibbert, C. 1993 *The London Encyclopaedia*
- Whipp, D. (n.d) *The Archaeology of Kensington & Chelsea*



## Appendix I: OASIS Data Collection Form

**OASIS ID: compassa1-67662**

### Project details

Project name	Thames Water Victorian Mains Replacement Works, Notting Hill and Notting Hill Gate (DMA Barrow Hill 28), Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea
Short description of the project	Archaeological monitoring of Thames Water mains replacement works in the Notting Hill area of Kensington, covering an overall area some 500m square. Monitoring included the observation and basic recording of all open contractors trenches and pits. No remains or material of archaeological significance were observed: the excavations generally exposed sequences of modern road make-up overlying made ground and service related deposits. Natural London Clay and more recent Lynch Hill Gravels were observed in some areas, the clay in particular generally truncated by road construction.
Project dates	Start: 28-05-2009 End: 23-09-2009
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	TZM 09 – Sitecode
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	Local Authority Designated Archaeological Area
Site status (other)	Archaeological Priority Area
Current Land use	Transport and Utilities 1 – Highways and road transport

### Project location

Country	England
Site location	Notting Hill and Notting Hill Gate (DMA Barrow Hill 28), Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea
Postcode	W11
Study area	1885 Square metres
Site coordinates	TQ 24608 80309 51.5074597484 -0.204292826611 51 30 26 N 000 12 15 W Line
Site coordinates	TQ 25152 80546 51.5094694498 -0.196373355509 51 30 34 N 000 11 46 W Line
Lat/Long Datum	Unknown
Height OD / Depth	Min: 21.4m Max: 26.20m

### Project creators

Name of Organisation	Compass Archaeology
Project brief originator	English Heritage/Department of Environment
Project design originator	Compass Archaeology
Project director/ manager	Geoff Potter

Project supervisor	Jonathan Henckert
Type of sponsor / funding body	Thames Water Utilities

### Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	Museum of London archive
Digital Archive ID	TZM 09
Digital Media available	'Images raster / digital photography','Text'
Paper Archive recipient	Museum of London Archive
Paper Archive ID	TZM 09
Paper Contents	'Stratigraphic','other'
Paper Media available	'Miscellaneous Material','Research','General Notes','Map','Plan','Report','Unpublished Text'

### Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Thames Water Victorian Mains Renewal Works, Notting Hill & Notting Hill Gate (Barrow Hill DMA 28), Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Henckert, J
Date	2009
Issuer or publisher	Compass Archaeology
Place of issue or publication	5-7 Southwark St, London SE1 1RQ
Description	A4 33-page comb bound in-house developer report
Entered by	Jonathan Henckert ( <a href="mailto:mail@compassarchaeology.co.uk">mail@compassarchaeology.co.uk</a> )
Entered on	19 November 2009

## **Appendix II: London Archaeologist Summary**

Site Address: Thames Water Victorian Mains Replacement Works, Barrow Hill DMA 28, Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea W11

Project type: Watching brief

Dates of Fieldwork: 28<sup>th</sup> May 2009 - 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2009

Site Code: TZM 09

Supervisor: Jonathan Henckert

NGR: TQ 2470 8049 (W) – TQ 2517 8052 (E)

Funding Body: Thames Water Utilities Ltd

Archaeological monitoring was undertaken during contractors groundworks and consisted of the inspection and recording of all works accessible during site visits. There were no significant remains or finds: the majority of pits and trenches exposed typical sequences of modern road make-up overlying made ground and service related deposits.

Natural London Clay and Lynch Hill Gravels were observed in some areas, generally truncated by modern road construction. A band of crushed CBM rubble was observed below the tarmac road surface and concrete in several locations and represents a relatively recent hardcore road bedding, possibly of mid-later 19<sup>th</sup> century date.