

**Archaeological Evaluation Report
The Hurlingham Club
Ranelagh Gardens, Fulham
London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham**

**NGR: 525174 175814
(TQ 25174 75814)**

Planning Ref: 2013/04441/FUL

**ASE Project No: 6743
Site Code: HRL14**

**ASE Report No: 2014280
OASIS id: archaeol6-187199**

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Abstract

Archaeology South-East was commissioned to undertake archaeological evaluation on at Land at The Hurlingham Club, Ranelagh Gardens, Fulham, London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham, in advance of the redevelopment of the site.

Three archaeological evaluation trenches, 20m by 1.8m were excavated and revealed post-medieval features including a yellow stock brick drain and brick footings cut into a probable post-medieval garden soil. These overlay a light brown subsoil, beneath which were natural Kempton Park Gravels.

No archaeological features were observed.

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Site Background

1.1.1 Archaeology South-East (ASE), the contracting division of the Centre for Applied Archaeology (CAA), Institute of Archaeology (IoA), University College London (UCL) was commissioned by CgMs to undertake an archaeological evaluation at The Hurlingham Club, Ranelagh Gardens, Fulham, London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham, in advance of the redevelopment of the site.

1.1.2 The site is centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) 525174 175814 (Figure 1)

1.2 Geology and Topography

1.2.1 According to the British Geological Survey 1:50,000 scale geological mapping (available online) the natural geology of the site comprises London Clay overlain by Kempton Park Gravels.

1.2.2 The site's existing topography comprises of indoor tennis courts with a tarmac car park and grassed area to the south-east. Existing ground level to the south of the tennis courts slopes from 4.37m OD to the east to 4.20m OD in the west.

1.3 Planning Background

1.3.1 Planning permission has been granted by the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham for the redevelopment of the site involving the replacement of the existing indoor courts with an indoor racquet centre, including 4 indoor tennis courts, 5 squash courts and associated changing areas, as well as landscaping and service trenches (Ref: 2013/04441/FUL). A condition of planning consent is that archaeological investigations should take place in accordance with English Heritage Guidelines.

1.4 Scope of Report

1.4.1 This report details the results of the archaeological evaluation carried out on the site between the 4th and 7th August 2014, and has been prepared in accordance with the approved Written Scheme of Investigation (CgMs 2014). The work was carried out by Sarah Ritchie (Project Supervisor) and Ginny Walton. The fieldwork was managed by Andy Leonard and the post-excavation work by Jim Stevenson and Dan Swift.

2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1 From before 1066 Hurlingham and the surrounding area belonged to the Bishops of London, who had their summer residence at Fulham Palace.
- 2.2 Hurlingham Field is frequently mentioned in old documents; and it has been considered as most probable that the name arose from the field having been used for the ancient sport of hurling.
- 2.3 The area gained an unenviable notoriety as the site of a pest-house and burial-pit during the Great Plague of London. The pest-house was pulled down in 1681.
- 2.4 An act of King William and Queen Mary in 1693 allowed the Bishops, for the first time, to grant leases. Thereafter 'people of quality' built villas at Hurlingham to enjoy rural and riverside peace a few miles from the City and Westminster. In 1760 Dr William Cadogan, leased nine acres from the then Bishop on which he built a 'cottage' – now the core of the present Hurlingham House. In 1797 the lease was re-granted to John Ellis, who later acquired the freehold and an additional 11 acres in 1800 for £3,150.
- 2.5 Mr Ellis employed the architect George Byfield, with landscape advice from Humphrey Repton, to enlarge the 'cottage' into a neoclassic mansion. The house and estate passed through various hands, including those of the 3rd Earl of Egremont; John Horsley Palmer (later the Governor of the Bank of England); and Richard, Marquess Wellesley, elder brother of the Duke of Wellington.
- 2.6 In 1867 Mr. Frank Heathcote formed the Hurlingham Club, which purchased the property for £20,000. It achieved such success that for several years prior to 1891 it had 1,500 members and was presided over by King Edward, then Prince of Wales (VCH, 1911).
- 2.7 The site itself sits on land once owned by Broom House. Broom House was for some time the residence of Sir John Shelley, and afterwards of the Right Hon. L. Sullivan, the brother-in-law of Lord Palmerston. The name of the property appears to be of some antiquity, purportedly originating from the quantity of broom that used to grow in the area (Walford, E. 1878). Broom House was sold by auction in 1911, with two of the lots, including the house, being bought by the Hurlingham Club, which subsequently demolished the house and assimilated the land into that of the Hurlingham Club (Wheeldon, A, 2008).
- 2.8 Map regression of the site shows it as orchards belonging to Broom House during the 1860's – 80's. By the 1890's the Ordnance Survey Map does not show the orchards and six east-west orientated rectangular buildings have been erected within the vicinity of the site.
- 2.9 By 1916 Broom House has been demolished and the tennis courts have been established within the site, the layout does not change again.

2.10 Project Aims and Objectives

- 2.11 The evaluation should aim to determine, as far as is reasonably possible, the location, form, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any surviving archaeological remains, irrespective of period, liable to be threatened by the proposed development. An adequate representative sample of all areas where archaeological remains are potentially threatened should be studied.
- 2.12 The evaluation should also seek to clarify the nature and extent of existing disturbance and intrusions and hence assess the degree of archaeological survival of buried deposits and any surviving structures of archaeological significance.
- 2.13 Within these parameters, the evaluation of this site presents an opportunity to address the following objectives:
- To establish the presence or absence of archaeological deposits
 - Evaluate the likely impact of past land use and development.
 - Provide sufficient information to construct an archaeological mitigation strategy.
- 2.14 Where physical preservation is likely to be considered as a mitigation option, the primary factors affecting the present state of preservation and the direct and indirect effect of the proposed development should also be considered.

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

3.1 Fieldwork Methodology

- 3.1.1 The evaluation was undertaken in line with the English Heritage, Greater London Archaeology Advisory Service: Standards for Archaeological Work; London Region (GLAAS 2014).
- 3.1.2 Three trenches measuring 20m x 1.8m were mechanically excavated on the site, as shown in Figure 2. Originally four evaluation trenches measuring 20m x 1.8m, 15m x 1.8m (x2) and 10m x 1.80m respectively were to be investigated, however, due to the impracticality of placing Trench 4 the contingency plan detailed within the WSI was enacted (CgMs, 2014, Section 2.0).
- 3.1.3 All trenches were scanned using a cable avoidance tool prior to excavation. Excavation was undertaken by mechanical excavator fitted with a flat bladed bucket under the supervision of an archaeologist in spits of no more than 0.10m to the top of the underlying natural substrate or first archaeological level.
- 3.1.4 The trench and sections were hand-cleaned, and features and deposits were recorded using ASE standard context sheets, with colours recorded by visual inspection only. Sample sections were recorded and a comprehensive photographic record taken.
- 3.1.5 Spoil heaps and trench bases were scanned by eye for unstratified finds.
- 3.1.6 Trenches were backfilled and compacted upon completion. In Trench 1 the framed grass was re-laid (but not formally reinstated) upon completion.

3.3 Archive

- 3.3.1 ASE informed the LAARC prior to the commencement of fieldwork that a site archive would be generated. The site archive is currently held at the offices of ASE and will be deposited at the LAARC in due course. The contents of the archive are tabulated below (Table 1).

Number of Contexts	20
No. of files/paper record	3
Plan and sections sheets	11
Photographs	30

Table 1: Quantification of site archive

4.0 RESULTS

4.1 Trench 1

(Figure 3)

Context	Type	Description	Max. Length m	Max. Width m	Deposit Thickness m	Height m AOD
1/001	Layer	Topsoil/framed grass	20m	1.8m	0.10m	4.20
1/002	Layer	Brick rubble & made ground	20m	1.8m	0.30m	4.13
1/003	Layer	Black silt	20m	1.8m	0.37m	3.83
1/004	Subsoil	Orange clayish-silt	20m	1.8m	0.65m	3.46
1/005	Natural	Orange sand & gravel	20m	1.8m	0.10m (NFE)	2.98

Table 2: Trench 1 list of recorded contexts

4.1.1 Summary of results

Natural orange Kempton Park Gravels [1/005] were observed within three sondages at c.2.98m OD. Overlying this was an orange clayish-silt subsoil [1/004] which was observed at c.3.46m OD and measured c.0.65m thick.

Overlying [1/004] was a layer of black silt with occasional clay tobacco pipe stems and brick fragments [1/003] which measured c.0.37m thick. Above [1/003] was a layer of loose brick rubble and made ground [1/002], cut into [1/002] were two north-west – south-east orientated drain cuts filled with pea gravel.

The trench was sealed by 0.10m of light brown topsoil and turf [1/001] laid within plastic pavers.

No archaeological features were observed.

4.2 Trench 2

(Figure 4)

Context	Type	Description	Max. Length m	Max. Width m	Deposit Thickness m	Height m AOD
2/001	Layer	Tarmac & made ground	20m	1.8m	0.64m	4.33
2/002	Layer	Brick rubble & made ground	20m	1.8m	0.14m	3.69
2/003	Layer	Black silt	20m	1.8m	0.25m	3.55
2/004	Subsoil	Orange clayish-silt	20m	1.8m	0.29m	3.30
2/005	Natural	Orange sand & gravel	20m	1.8m	0.10m (NFE)	3.10

Table 3: Trench 2 list of recorded contexts

4.2.1 Summary of results

Natural orange Kempton Park Gravels [2/005] were observed within three sondages at c.3.10m OD. Overlying this was an orange clayish-silt subsoil [2/004] which was observed at c.3.30m OD and measured c.0.29m deep.

Overlying [2/004] was a layer of black silt with occasional clay tobacco pipe stems, pot and brick fragments [2/003] which measured c.0.25m thick. Above [2/003] was a layer of loose brick rubble and crushed mortar [2/002] c.0.14m thick.

The trench was sealed by 0.64m of layered bands of modern made ground, including 0.20m of crushed tarmac, 0.10m of orange gravel and 0.24m of mid brown gravel and silt beneath 0.06m of tarmac [2/001].

No archaeological features were observed.

4.3 Trench 3

(Figure 5)

Context	Type	Description	Max. Length m	Max. Width m	Deposit Thickness m	Height m AOD
3/001	Layer	Tarmac & made ground	20m	1.8m	0.45m-0.95m	4.34
3/002	Fill	Fill of 3/003	10.30m	0.30m	0.27m	3.50
3/003	Masonry	Drain	11.70m	0.90m	0.27m	3.50
3/004	Cut	Cut of 3/003	11.70m	0.90m	0.27m	3.50
3/005	Fill	Fill of 3/006	2.60m	0.50m	0.65m (NFE)	3.94
3/006	Cut	Linear cut	2.60m	0.50m	0.65m (NFE)	3.94
3/007	Masonry		1.60m	0.10m (within LOE)	0.31m	3.74
3/008	Subsoil	Orange clayish-silt	20m	1.8m	0.26m	3.44
3/009	Natural	Orange sand & gravel	20m	1.8m	0.30m (NFE)	3.27
3/010	Layer	Black silt	13.60m	1.8m	0.40m	3.94

Table 4: Trench 3 list of recorded contexts

4.3.1 Summary of results

Natural orange Kempton Park Gravels [3/009] were observed within a sondage at c.3.27m OD. Overlying this was an orange clayish-silt subsoil [3/008] which was observed at c.3.44m OD and measured c.0.26m thick. Overlying [3/008] was a layer of black silt with occasional clay tobacco pipe stems, pot and brick fragments [3/010] which measured c.0.40m thick.

Cut into [3/010] was north-east - south-west orientated linear feature [3/006], which was filled with a dark-brown sandy-silt fill with frequent modern brick inclusions [3/005]. This modern cut was not fully excavated; however it is likely to be a drain.

The eastern most 6.40m of layer [3/010] was completely truncated away by modern made ground, including a lump of concrete slab, and masonry footings [3/007] which were observed in the north-facing section.

To the south-west and within the central area of the trench, layer [3/010] was truncated by an east-west cut [3/004], a yellow stock brick drain [3/003] built on a cement bedding layer [3/003] and a black silty-sand fill [3/002] with frequent glass inclusions. [3/003] was truncated by a modern, north-south orientated, drain cut filled with pea grit.

The trench was sealed by 0.45m of layered bands of modern made ground, made up of mid-brown gravel and silts with frequent brick inclusions beneath 0.06m of tarmac [3/001].

No archaeological features were observed.

5.0 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

5.1 Overview of stratigraphic sequence, deposit survival and existing impacts

- 5.1.1 The evaluation revealed Kempton Park Gravels at c. 3.94m OD in the south, sloping down to 2.98m OD in the west of the site. These were overlain by an orange clayish-silt subsoil, seen at its highest at 3.46m OD. Overlying the subsoil in all three trenches was a black post-medieval silt layer, which probably represents a garden soil associated with the Broom House orchards.
- 5.1.2 Post-dating the post-medieval black silt layer were, within Trench 3, some post-medieval features, including a drain and some masonry footings which might be associated with the series of structures visible on the 1890 Ordnance Survey Map. Evidence of truncation within the eastern end of Trench 3, and the crushed brick layer observed within Trenches 1 and 2, are likely to be evidence of the demolition of buildings associated with this phase of site use.
- 5.1.3 Modern vertical and horizontal truncation of the sequence was represented by four drain runs filled with pea grit and the modern levelling and tarmac sealing Trenches 2 & 3.
- 5.1.4 The trenches were placed within the only areas of the site not currently built upon, thus it is with a high level of confidence that it can be said that the potential for archaeological survival on the site is low.

5.2 Consideration of research aims

- 5.2.1 To establish the presence or absence of archaeological deposits.

No archaeological remains were present within the trenches. Trench 3 included some footings and drainage of c. 19th century date.

- 5.2.2 To evaluate the likely impact of past land use and development.

The past land uses within the site look to be those of a post-medieval layer probably associated with the gardens of Broom House, followed by building works associated with the Broom House estate, and their subsequent demolition.

- 5.2.3 Provide sufficient information to construct an archaeological mitigation strategy.

The evaluation has revealed that the area of the site that does not contain existing tennis court buildings has been heavily impacted upon by post-medieval deposits and features. The evaluation trenches represented 5% of the area of the site not already impacted by the existing tennis courts.

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Maps sourced from <http://digimap.edina.ac.uk/digimap>
Date accessed: 11 August 2014

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HER Summary

Site Code	HRL					
Identification Name and Address	The Hurlingham Club, Ranelagh Gardens, Fulham					
County, District &/or Borough	Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham					
OS Grid Refs.	TQ 25174 75814					
Geology	Kempton Park Gravels					
Arch. South-East Project Number	6743					
Type of Fieldwork	Eval.					
Type of Site		Shallow Urban				
Dates of Fieldwork	Eval. 4 th -7th August 2014					
Sponsor/Client	CgMs Consultants					
Project Manager	Andy Leonard					
Project Supervisor	Sarah Ritchie					
Period Summary						
			PM	Modern		
Summary	<p><i>Archaeology South-East was commissioned to undertake archaeological evaluation on at Land at The Hurlingham Club, Ranelagh Gardens, Fulham, London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham, in advance of the redevelopment of the site.</i></p> <p><i>Three archaeological evaluation trenches, 20m by 1.8m were excavated and revealed post-medieval features including a yellow stock brick drain and brick footings cut into a probable post-medieval garden soil. These overlay a light brown subsoil, beneath which were natural Kempton Park Gravels.</i></p> <p><i>No archaeological features were observed.</i></p>					

OASIS Form

OASIS ID: archaeol6-187199

Project details

Project name	The Hurlingham Club, Ranelagh Gardens, Fulham, London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham
Short description of the project	Archaeology South-East was commissioned to undertake archaeological evaluation on at Land at The Hurlingham Club, Ranelagh Gardens, Fulham, London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham, in advance of the redevelopment of the site. Three archaeological evaluation trenches, 20m by 1.8m were excavated and revealed post-medieval features including a yellow stock brick drain and brick footings cut into a probable post-medieval garden soil. These overlay a light brown subsoil, beneath which were natural Kempton Park Gravels. No archaeological features were observed.
Project dates	Start: 04-08-2014 End: 07-08-2014
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	HRL14 - Sitecode
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	Local Authority Designated Archaeological Area
Current Land use	Other 14 - Recreational usage
Monument type	DRAIN Post Medieval
Monument type	WALL Post Medieval
Significant Finds	CLAY TOBACCO PIPE Post Medieval
Methods & techniques	"Targeted Trenches"
Development type	Urban commercial (e.g. offices, shops, banks, etc.)
Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - Direction 4
Position in the planning process	After full determination (eg. As a condition)

Project location

Country	England
Site location	GREATER LONDON HAMMERSMITH AND FULHAM FULHAM The Hurlingham Club, Ranelagh Gardens, Fulham
Postcode	SW6 3RT
Study area	2200.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	TQ 25174 75814 51.466933086 -0.197734639628 51 28 00 N 000 11 51 W Point

Height OD / Depth Min: 2.98m Max: 3.94m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Archaeology South East
Project brief originator	CgMs Consulting
Project design originator	CgMs Consulting
Project director/manager	Andrew Leonard
Project supervisor	Sarah Ritchie
Type of sponsor/funding body	Client

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Physical Archive recipient	LAARC
Physical Archive ID	HRL14
Digital Archive recipient	LAARC
Digital Archive ID	HRL14
Paper Archive recipient	LAARC
Paper Archive ID	HRL14

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
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