

**T H A M E S      V A L L E Y**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL**

**S E R V I C E S**

**Richmond Royal Hospital, Kew Foot Road, Richmond,  
London Borough of Richmond**

**Archaeological Watching Brief**

**by Will Attard**

**Site Code: RRH18/128  
(TQ 1817 7557)**

**Richmond Royal Hospital, Kew Foot Road, Richmond,  
London Borough of Richmond**

**An Archaeological Watching Brief  
for RER London Limited**

by Will Attard

Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code RRH18/128

**November 2022**

## Summary

**Site name:** Richmond Royal Hospital, Kew Foot Road, Richmond, London Borough of Richmond

**Grid reference:** TQ 1817 7557

**Site activity:** Watching Brief

**Date and duration of project:** 9<sup>th</sup> February 2021 and 28<sup>th</sup> April 2021

**Project coordinator:** Tim Dawson

**Site supervisor:** Will Attard

**TVAS Site code:** RRH18/128

**Museum of London Site code:** KFR21

**Summary of results:** A watching brief was conducted which monitored test pit digging and ground reduction for a new basement car park and other redevelopment work at the Richmond Hospital site. No archaeological features nor finds of interest were found.

**Location and reference of archive:** The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited with Museum of London or Archaeology Data Service in due course, with accession code KFR21.

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Report edited/checked by: Steve Ford ✓ 15.11.22 Steve Preston ✓ 15.11.22
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# **Richmond Royal Hospital, Kew Foot Road, Richmond, London Borough of Richmond An Archaeological Watching Brief**

by Will Attard

**Report 18/128b**

## **Introduction**

This report documents the results of an archaeological watching brief carried out at the Richmond Royal Hospital, Kew Foot Road, Richmond in the London Borough of Richmond TW9 2TE (SU 6998 4819) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Mr Martin Simms of RER London Ltd, James house (3<sup>rd</sup> floor), One Babmaes Street, St James, London SW1Y 6HF

Planning permission (18/3950/FUL and 18/3951/LBC) was granted by London Borough of Richmond for the conversion and extension of the former Richmond Royal Hospital, including the construction of new apartments and underground car park. This consent was accompanied with conditions (NS06 and NS03) that relates to archaeology and require the implementation of a programme of archaeological work. This is in accordance with the Department for Communities and Local Government's *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF 2019), Historic England and the Borough's policies on archaeology. The field investigation was carried out to a specification approved by Ms Louise Davies, planning archaeologist at the Greater London Archaeological Advisory Service (GLAAS) and advisor for the Borough. The listed building aspects were dealt with by a separate contractor. The fieldwork was undertaken by Will Attard, on 28<sup>th</sup> April and 8<sup>th</sup> June 2021 and the site code is RRH18-128. Access was restricted during the fieldwork due to health and safety and Covid restrictions.

The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited with Museum of London or Archaeology Data Service in due course, with accession code KFR21.

## **Location, topography and geology**

The site is located in the northern part of Richmond-upon-Thames. It lies only 1km away from River Thames (Fig.1), directly south of Kew Gardens. The site is occupied by the former Richmond Royal Hospital, a Grade II listed building in the process of conversion. It is enclosed by Kew Foot Road, Shaftesbury Road and Evelyn Road, and is surrounded in the other directions by residential properties (Fig. 2). The site lies at a height about 10m above Ordnance Datum (aOD). The underlying geology (BGS 1998) is recorded as Kempton Park terrace gravel deposits.

## **Archaeological background**

The archaeological potential of the site has been highlighted in a desk-based assessment (Baljkas, 2018). In summary, the site lies within the Kew Foot Conservation Area, the Kew Garden and the Old Deer Park Archaeological Priority Area and the Royal Botanic Gardens at Kew World Heritage Site buffer zone. The site itself is known for its Grade II listed building, the Royal Hospital (list entry 1193875), which originated in the mid-18th century, though not much of its original design remains and is now surrounded by later additions. Other than an evaluation 350m to the south-west at Parkshot House that had revealed a collection of struck flint, a Roman potsherd and some Medieval assets, there were no other significant positive archaeological intervention in the vicinity.

## **Objectives and methodology**

The purpose of the watching brief was to excavate and record any archaeological deposits that could be affected by the new development. Any intrusive groundworks, for example overburden stripping, digging of foundations and service trenches will be under constant archaeological monitoring. Archaeological work will follow the recommendation of the Cifa (Cifa 2020).

## **Results (Fig. 3; Pls. 1-4)**

### *Test pits*

A total of five test pits were excavated, ranging in depth from 4.30 to 9.0m approximately 3.0 to 5.0m wide (Pls 3 and 4). The test pits were located within the east face of the building, as shown in Figure 3. They exposed a large degree of truncation caused by the construction of the hospital building. The stratigraphy consisted of concrete slabs (0 – 0.50m), followed by further concrete made ground (0.50 – 1.50m), and then the natural sandy gravel (1.50m+) in all test pits. No archaeological features were evident, with the only dating evidence consisting of a ceramic ginger beer bottle of broadly the Victorian period or later.

### *Ground reduction*

The ground was reduced both inside the main hospital building and outside in the previous car parking area, as shown in Figure 3. Inside, the ground was reduced by approximately 0.30m following the removal of the concrete floor (Pl. 2). Yellow sand and gravel was exposed, with no archaeological features evident. Outside, the ground was reduced by approximately 1.2m, with a concrete road (0 – 0.30m), light compact gravel made ground (0.30-0.60m) and darker compact gravel made ground (0.60 – 1.10m) overlaying further yellow sand and gravel (1.1m+) (Pl. 1). Again, no archaeological features were evident.

## **Finds**

No artefactual evidence were considered for retention.

## **Conclusion**

The test pits and area of ground reduction inspected only showed recent made ground variously overlying the natural gravel geology. No archaeological deposits were observed.

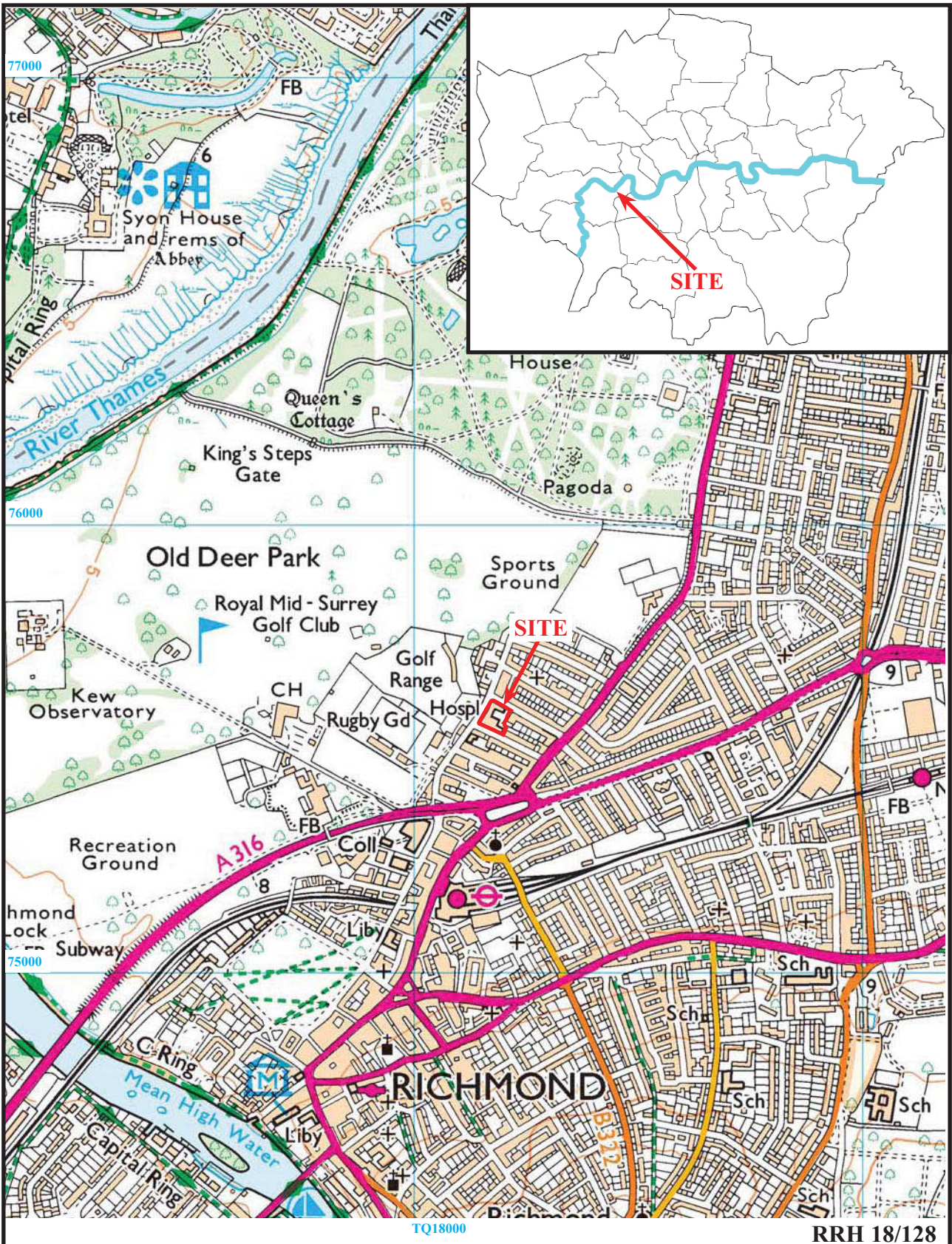
## **References**

- Baljkas, G, 2018, 'Former Richmond Royal Hospital, Kew Foot Road, Richmond, London Borough of Richmond', Thames Valley Archaeological Services, unpubl rep **18-128**, Reading
- BGS, 1998, *British Geological Survey*, 1:50000, Sheet 270, Solid and Drift Edition, Keyworth
- CIFA, 2020, Standard and guidance for an archaeological watching brief, Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, Reading
- NPPF, 2019, *National Planning Policy Framework* (revised), Dept Communities and Local Government, London

## Summary for thamesva1-510747

OASIS ID (UID)	thamesva1-510747
Project Name	Watching Brief at Richmond Royal Hospital, Kew Foot Road, Richmond, London Borough of Richmond
Sitename	Richmond Royal Hospital, Kew Foot Road, Richmond, London Borough of Richmond
Activity type	Watching Brief
Project Identifier(s)	RRH18/128
Planning Id	18/3950/FUL
Reason For Investigation	Planning: Post determination
Organisation Responsible for work	Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd
Project Dates	09-Feb-2021 - 08-Jun-2021
Location	Richmond Royal Hospital, Kew Foot Road, Richmond, London Borough of Richmond NGR : TQ 18170 75570 LL : 51.4667710434365, -0.300196839379874 12 Fig : 518170,175570
Administrative Areas	Country : England County : Greater London District : Richmond upon Thames Parish : Richmond upon Thames, unparished area
Project Methodology	Removal of a concrete floor was monitored.
Project Results	Nothing earlier than Victorian made ground was observed. The areas affected by the development had clearly already been truncated by construction of the hospital.
Keywords	
Funder	
HER	Greater London HER - unRev - STANDARD
Person Responsible for work	P-D, Manisse
HER Identifiers	
Archives	Digital Archive - to be deposited with Museum of London;



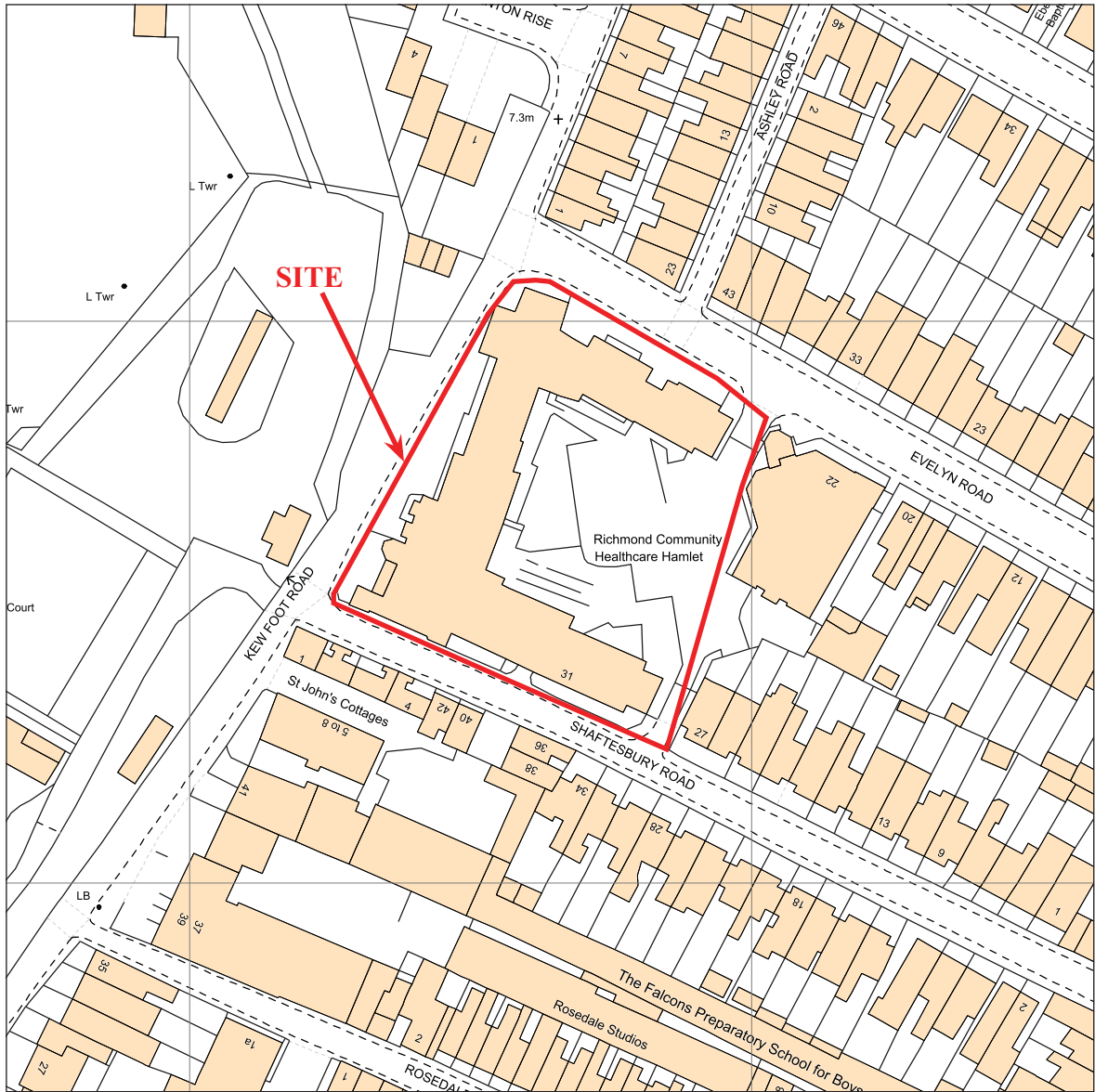


**Former Richmond Royal Hospital, Kew Foot Road,  
Richmond, London Borough of Richmond, 2018  
Archaeological Desk-based Assessment**

Figure 1. Location of site within Richmond and London,  
showing locations of GLHER entries.

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**Former Richmod Royal Hospital, Kew Foot Road,  
London Borough of Richmond, 2021  
Archaeological Watching Brief  
Figure 2. Detailed location of site.**

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Figure 3. Current site layout showing areas monitored

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Plate 1. Ground reduction- exterior looking west



Plate 2. Ground reduction- interior, south end, looking north



Plate 3. Test Pit 5 looking south



Plate 3. Test Pit 1. looking north

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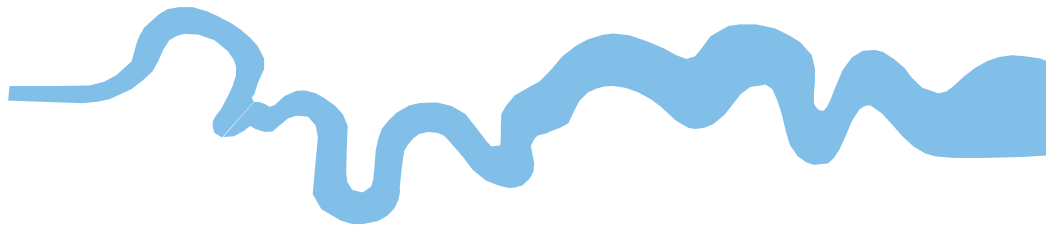
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Plates 1-4**

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## TIME CHART

	Calendar Years
Modern _____	AD 1901
Victorian _____	AD 1837
Post Medieval _____	AD 1500
Medieval _____	AD 1066
Saxon _____	AD 410
Roman _____	AD 43 AD 0 BC
Iron Age _____	750 BC
Bronze Age: Late _____	1300 BC
Bronze Age: Middle _____	1700 BC
Bronze Age: Early _____	2100 BC
Neolithic: Late .....	3300 BC
Neolithic: Early .....	4300 BC
Mesolithic: Late .....	6000 BC
Mesolithic: Early .....	10000 BC
Palaeolithic: Upper .....	30000 BC
Palaeolithic: Middle .....	70000 BC
Palaeolithic: Lower .....	2,000,000 BC





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