

Trophy Gate Trench Hampton Court Palace



Archaeological Watching Brief Report



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Written by Paul Leader.

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Summary

On the 12th and 13th March 2012, Oxford Archaeology (OA) carried out an Archaeological Watching Brief at Trophy Gate, Hampton Court Palace. A single trench measuring 20m NE-SW, 12.5m NW-SE, 0.45m wide and 0.4m deep was excavated across the main access road to the south-east of the Trophy Gate Entrance. The work was commissioned by Historic Royal Palaces (HRP), in advance of the installation of new services. The Watching Brief only revealed modern tarmac and associated levelling.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Scope of work

- 1.1.1 Oxford Archaeology (OA) were commissioned by Historic Royal Palaces to undertake an Archaeological Watching Brief during the excavation of a service trench at the Trophy Gate, Hampton Court Palace, near Hampton, Surrey. The Site is centred on National Grid Reference TQ 1547 6859 (Fig. 1).
- 1.1.2 The works which took place on 12th and 13th March 2012, consisted of the excavation of single trench measuring 20m NE-SW, 12.5m NW-SE, 0.45m wide and 0.4m deep c. 6m across the main access road to the south-east of the Trophy Gate Entrance (Fig. 2).

1.2 Geology and topography

- 1.2.1 The Site is situated on the First Terrace Drift Geology in the flood plain of the River Thames, which overlies London Clay.
- 1.2.2 The Site is relatively level and lies at a height of c 9.49 m above OD.

1.3 Archaeological and historical background

- 1.3.1 Hampton Court Palace is a Scheduled Ancient Monument (Surrey No. 83) of outstanding national importance. The wider historical background to the Palace has been well documented and is not repeated here.

2 PROJECT AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

2.1 Aims

- 2.1.1 To identify and record the presence/absence, extent, condition, quality and date of archaeological remains in the areas affected by the groundworks.
- 2.1.2 To make available the results of the archaeological investigation.

2.2 Methodology

- 2.2.1 The works involved the mechanical excavation of a trench through the existing tarmac surface and the associated make-up, immediately to the south-east of the Trophy Gate (Fig 2). The works were overseen by an attending archaeologist.
- 2.2.2 The trenches were planned at a scale of 1:250. A general photographic record of the work was made. Recording followed procedures detailed in the *OAU Fieldwork Manual* (ed. D Wilkinson, 1992).



3 RESULTS

3.1 Description of deposits

3.1.1 The only deposits encountered were the modern tarmac driveway surface and the sandy, gravel associated make-up beneath. This showed evidence of previous disturbance from other services.

3.2 Finds

3.2.1 No finds were encountered.

4 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

4.1.1 Due to the low impact of the works limited archaeological conclusions can be drawn. What has been demonstrated is that at least part of the tarmac driveway has been excavated previously with the laying of modern make up and tarmac deposits.



APPENDIX A. BIBLIOGRAPHY AND REFERENCES

OAU, 1992. *Fieldwork Manual* (ed. D Wilkinson).

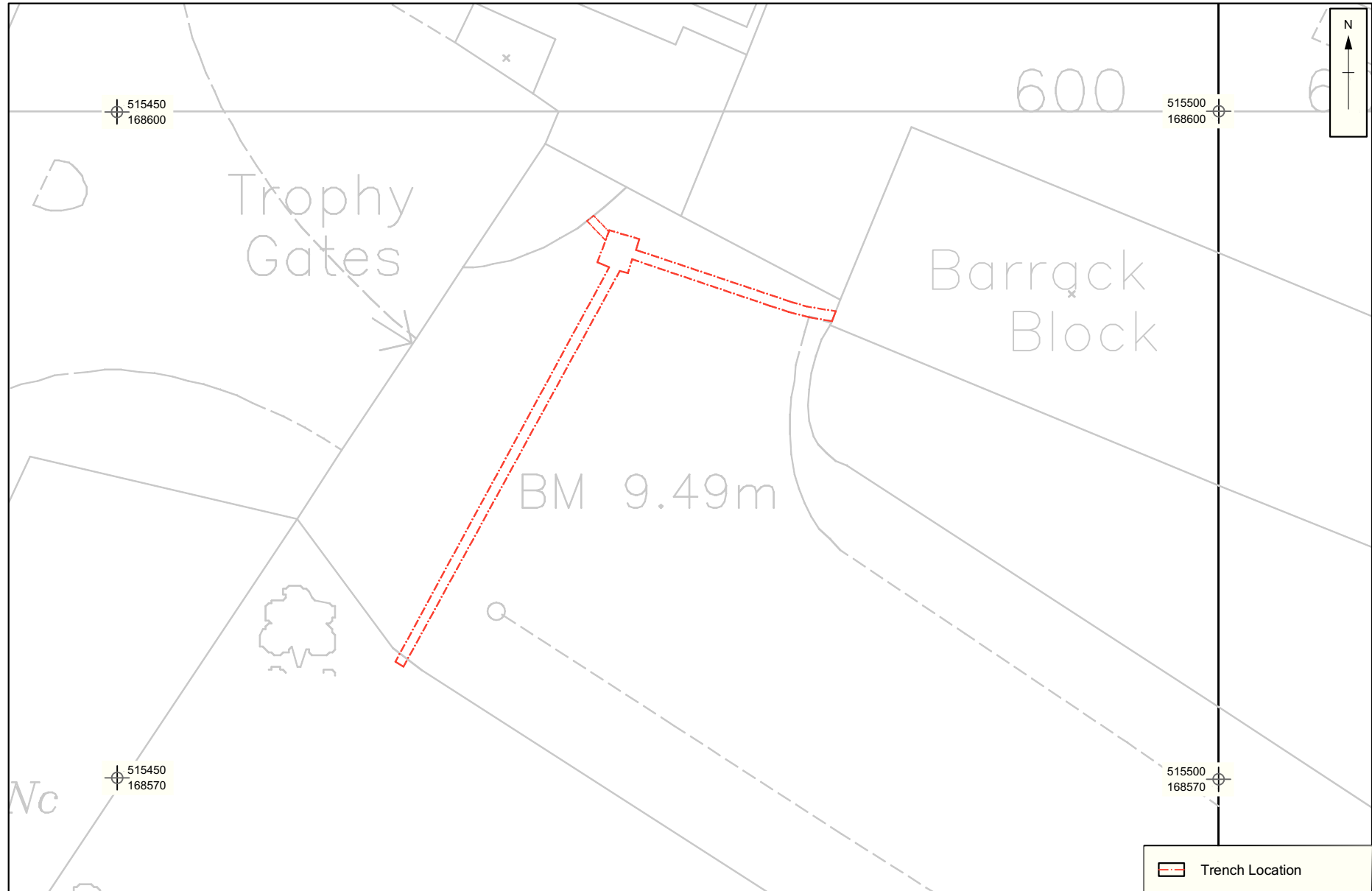


APPENDIX B. SUMMARY OF SITE DETAILS

Site name:	Trophy Gate Trench, Hampton Court Palace
Site code:	HCP89
Grid reference:	Centred at NGR TQ 1547 6859
Type of watching brief:	Service trench
Date and duration of project:	12 th and 13 th March 2012
Area of site:	Service trench measured 20m NE-SW, 12.5m NW-SE, 0.45m wide and 0.4m deep c. 6m to the south east of the Trophy Gate Entrance
Summary of results:	Only the modern tarmac and associated make-up was encountered
Location of archive:	The archive is currently held at OA, Janus House, Osney Mead, Oxford, OX2 0ES, and will be deposited with Historic Royal Palaces at Hampton Court Palace, Surrey, KT8 9AU in due course.



Figure 1: Site location



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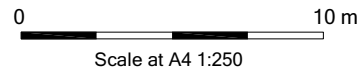


Figure 2, Trophy Gate Trench Location
Hampton Court Palace

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