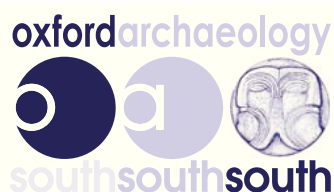


Upper Car Park Service Trench Hampton Court Palace



Archaeological Watching Brief Report



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Hampton Court Palace - Upper Car Park Service Trench

Archaeological Watching Brief Report

Written by Ian Cook

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Fig. 3 Section 100, representative section at southern end of the service trench

Fig. 4 Section 101, representative section at northern end of the service trench



Summary

During February 2012, Oxford Archaeology carried out a watching brief for the excavation of a service trench in the Upper Car Park, Hampton Court Palace. The earliest deposit within the southern part of the trench was a garden soil that contained 19th century material and probably formed part of the kitchen gardens. To the north, sand and rubble was revealed that contained modern roofing fragments and pieces of chamfered stonework, and probably represented levelling for the existing car park.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Scope of work

- 1.1.1 Between the 22nd and 24th February 2012 Oxford Archaeology (OA) carried out an archaeological watching brief at Hampton Court Palace, Surrey (NGR TQ 15506 68671). The work was commissioned by Andrew Goldsmith, Building Surveyor, Historic Royal Palaces (HRP) in advance of the installation of cables.
- 1.1.2 The watching brief covered the excavation of a service trench 43m long and 0.40m wide and excavated to a depth of 0.40m.

1.2 Location, geology and topography

- 1.2.1 The site is located in the north-west corner of the Upper Car Park on the extreme west side of the Palace complex c 3m inside the boundary wall to the Palace that runs next to Hampton Court Road.
- 1.2.2 The site lies on the First Terrace drift geology of the River Thames, which overlies London Clay at c 9m OD.

1.3 Archaeological and historical background

- 1.3.1 Hampton Court Palace is a Scheduled Ancient Monument (Surrey No. 83). The Palace, gardens and grounds form an archaeological and historical site of national importance
- 1.3.2 The Upper Car Park walls forms part of the outer boundary wall to the north and west of Hampton Court Palace that runs alongside Hampton Court Road. Documentary evidence tells us this boundary wall was originally constructed by Wolsey in 1515 and then utilised by Henry VIII as part of the boundary for the Tiltyard for which he began construction in 1538. Evidence suggests that the Tiltyard was little used for the purpose it was intended. However, the Tiltyard retained its form until the early 18th century when the space was divided into six sections and used as the palace's kitchen gardens, (OA, 2010).



2 PROJECT AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

2.1 Aims

- 2.1.1 To identify and record the presence/absence, extent, condition, quality and date of any archaeological remains in the area affected by the works.
- 2.1.2 To signal, before the destruction of the material in question, the discovery of a significant archaeological find, for which the resources allocated are not sufficient to support a treatment to a satisfactory and proper standard.
- 2.1.3 To make available the results of the archaeological investigation.

2.2 Methodology (Fig. 2)

- 2.2.1 An archaeologist was in attendance to monitor the excavation of the service trench. The deposits were removed in spits of no greater than 0.10m in depth using a mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless bucket.
- 2.2.2 A single trench (Fig. 2) measuring 43m in length and 0.40m wide was excavated along the western side of the Upper Car Park to a depth of 0.40m below the ground surface.
- 2.2.3 A plan showing the extent and location of the service trench was prepared to a scale of 1:200 (Fig. 2). Two representative sections of the deposits within the trench were drawn at a scale of 1:20 (Fig. 3). A detailed digital photographic record was also made.
- 2.2.4 Recording followed the procedures detailed in the OAU Fieldwork Manual (OA 1992).

3 RESULTS

3.1 Description of deposits (Figs 2 and 3)

- 3.1.1 The service trench was located between 2.0m and 2.5m from the western wall of the Upper Car Park. It was excavated southwards from a new BT junction box that was located 5.3m from the north wall of the Upper Car Park. The descriptions below refer to two represented sections (100 and 101) that were recorded (Fig. 3).
- 3.1.2 The southern end of the trench exposed a layer of silty dark brown-grey deposit (103) at a depth of 0.28m which continued below the base of the trench at a depth of c 0.40m (Fig 3, Section 100). It was seen to extend along the bottom of the trench northwards for a distance of approximately 20m. The deposit was clean and contained rare inclusions of small sub-angular stones and brick fragments and probably represented a buried garden soil. Fragments of abraded clay tobacco pipe stems dated to the early 18th-19th centuries and 19th century pottery sherds were recovered from this layer. This layer was overlain by a 0.14m thick, orange/yellow sandy ballast layer (102), which



was probably laid down as a solid base for subsequent car park layers. The existing tarmac car park surface (100) was supported by a black cinder/stone deposit (101), c 0.10m thick and was either laid down as a foundation for the current car park or could have represent an earlier car park surface.

- 3.1.3 The northern 23m of the trench exposed an orange/brown sandy demolition layer (107) at a depth of c 0.22m, which continued below the base of the trench at a depth of c 0.40m (Section 101). It comprised sand with large stone fragments with brick and tile, some of the stone of which was dressed. Two pieces of roofing tile that were retained are modern and are dated to the 20th century. The relationship between this deposit and the garden soil (103) to its south was not established though the two deposits were probably broadly contemporary. This was overlaid by two layers of compact reddish-brown/black cinder and stone deposits (105 and 106) measuring a total of 0.14m thick that either represented older car park surfaces or provided a solid foundation for 0.06m thick black tarmac and stone deposit (104), an earlier car park surface that lay directly below the existing car park surface (100).
- 3.1.4 A modern soak-away (108) was observed 18.2m from the northern end of the service trench (Fig. 2) that effectively de-marked the boundary between deposits (102) and (103). It was overlain by the current car park surface (100) but truncated the earlier car park surfaces (104-106) and demolition deposit (107).

3.2 Finds

- 3.2.1 Samples of pottery brick, tile, dressed stone, clay pipe and glass were recovered during the course of the watching brief. Full reports are given in Appendices B-D.

3.3 Environmental Remains

- 3.3.1 No deposits suitable for palaeo-environmental sampling were identified during the course of the watching brief.

4 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

- 4.1.1 The service trench was excavated through the existing car park surface of the north-west corner of the Upper Car Park at Hampton Court Palace. Evidence was found for earlier tarmac surfaces or make-up for the existing car park that overlay two deposits worthy of further discussion.
- 4.1.2 Buried soil (103), was observed at the base of the trench and was observed for a distance 20m from its southern end. This contained pottery dated to c 1830-1900 together with a shard of modern windows glass and worn clay tobacco pipe stems of late 18th or 19th century date. It is clear that this deposit represents the pre-existing ground level prior to the construction of the car park. It probably represented the upper level of an old garden soil associated with the palace's kitchen gardens that were



extant from the early 18th century and prior to the construction during the car park during the 20th century.

- 4.1.3 The demolition layer (107) was the earliest deposit found within northern half of the trench and made up the remaining 23m of the trench. It was found to lay directly below the tarmac surfaces of the car park. The lack of garden soils within this part of the trench is rather problematic given that the whole of the trench would have lay within the bounds of the former Palace Kitchen Garden. Unfortunately its relationship with garden soil (103) was not established and therefore the chronology between the two deposits is unknown. One possibility is that rubble layer (107) was utilised from outside the site in order to level off/ landscape this area of the former kitchen garden prior for the construction of the car park. Furthermore the upper level of garden soil (103) occurs at c 9.63m aOD, a level c 0.17m below the base of rubble (107) as observed in Sections 100 and 101 (Fig. 4), implying that the rubble had been dumped upon soil (103). Modern roofing tile dated to the 20th century found within (107) would therefore support this argument. Perhaps a rainwater run-off was required for the car park. The rubble also contained large blocks of dressed stonework which included chamfered examples that presumably once adorned nearby structures. It is possible is that the stone (and bricks) originated from from stone copings for nearby blocked openings in the western garden wall or perhaps from the 19th/20th century rebuilding of Trophy gate located to the south of the site (OA 2010).



5 BIBLIOGRAPHY

IFA, 2008 *Standards and guidelines for Archaeological Watching Briefs*

OA, 1992 Fieldwork Manual, (Ed. D Wilkinson), first edition, August 1992

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APPENDIX A. ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONTEXT INVENTORY

Context	Type	Depth (m)	Width (m)	Length (m)	Comments	Finds	Date
100	Layer	0.06	>0.40	>43	Car Park Surface		Modern
101	Layer	0.1	>0.40	>43	Car Park base layer		Modern
102	Layer	0.14	>0.40	>43	Ballast		Modern
103	Layer	>0.12	>0.40	20	Buried subsoil	Pottery/clay pipe/glass/ animal bone	19th Century
104	Layer	0.06	>0.40	>43	Car Park base layer		Modern
105	Layer	0.04	>0.40	>43	Old Car Park layer		Modern
106	Layer	0.1	>0.40	>43	Old Car Park layer		Modern
107	Layer	>0.18	>0.40	23	Demolition deposit	Brick, tile and dressed stone	Modern?
108	Cut	-	0.55	-	Soak away		Modern
109	Fill	-	0.55	-	Fill		Modern



APPENDIX B. ASSESSMENT OF THE ARCHITECTURAL STONEMWORK

Alison de Turberville

Introduction and methodology

A total of three pieces of stone fragments were recovered, all from context (107) - a demolition deposit layer.

Each piece was examined and any features recorded including the presence of tool marks and type of moulding. The different types of stone were recorded but without specialist lithological knowledge the majority of the finds can only be classed as unidentified limestone or sandstone. A catalogue of the samples is included below.

Recommendations

In view of the small size and nature of the assemblage, no further work is recommended.

Catalogue

Ctx.	Ref.	Notes	Lithology	Description	Date
107	ST 01	Irregular shaped fragment of stone with broken edges, deep chisel tool markings and a plain chamfered detail. Measurements: 230×165×65mm	Shelly Limestone	Unknown	-
107	ST 03	Fragment with hollow chamfer and plain chamfer on upper face and plain chamfered underside. Same moulding profile as string course detail seen throughout Tudor half of palace. Uncertain date.	Limestone	String Course	Post Medieval

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Colvin, H M, 1975 *The History of the Kings Works*, Vol. IV, London: HMSO.

Goulding, R, 2001 Hampton Court Palace Moulding Survey, Unpublished report

Knoop, D and Jones, G P, 1938 The English Medieval Quarry, *Economic History Review* 9

OA, 2010 Vrow Walk, Hampton Court Palace, Unpublished Historic Building Investigation Report

Salzman, L F, 1967 *Building in England Down to 1540*



APPENDIX C. ASSESSMENT OF THE CERAMIC BUILDING MATERIAL

Alison de Turberville

Introduction and methodology

A total of two whole bricks and five pieces of clay tile fragments were recovered, all from context (107) - a demolition deposit layer.

Each piece was examined and any features recorded including the presence of imprints or tool marks. Brick samples were compared to the Hampton Court Brick Typology for possible identification. A catalogue of the samples is included below.

Recommendations

In view of the small size and nature of the assemblage, no further work is recommended.

Catalogue

Ctx	Ref	Notes	Date
107	01	Orange/brown coloured brick with smooth upper face with striations and rough underside. Thick layer of hard gritty cream mortar with mixed inclusions. Brick not identifiable with any on Hampton Court Brick Typology. Measurements: 209x111x61mm	Post medieval
107	02	Deep red coloured brick with numerous stone and pale coloured clay inclusions. Rough frog to upper face with makers stamp indented however only letter L can be seen. Roughly made brick. Brick not identifiable with any on Hampton Court Brick Typology. Measurements: 222 x 101 x 60mm	1750 - 1900
107	CBM	Five fragments of clay roof tile ranging in date. Three pieces are handmade with rough underside, striations on upper face and raised lip detail. Two pieces modern/20th century with square indentations on upper face and hard grey cement mortar.	Post Medieval

Bibliography

Colvin, H M, 1975 *The History of the Kings Works*, Vol. IV, London: HMSO

Ford, D, 1991 *Hampton Court - Elevations and Brick Typology*, English Heritage

Oxford Archaeology, 2010 Vrow Walk, Hampton Court Palace, Unpublished Historic Building Investigation Report

Salzman, L F, 19 67 *Building in England Down to 1540*



APPENDIX D. OTHER FINDS

Animal bone (identified by Lena Strid)

Context	Description	Date
103	A single sheep femur fragment, <3.5 years old, 41g	

Clay tobacco pipes (identified by John Cotter)

Context	Description	Date
103	7 stem fragments, all abraded, 15g	early18th-19th C

Glass (identified by Ian Scott)

Context	Description	Date
103	Single sherd modern window glass, 6g	19th/20th C

Pottery (identified by John Cotter)

Context	Description	Date
103	8 sherds creamware, porcelain & Staffordshire white earthenware, 42g	1830-1900
103	1 sherd porcelain, stem terminal with decorative beetle grasping stem, could originate England, Europe or China, 4g	?19th C

Recommendations

The assemblages are of low potential and require no further work.



APPENDIX E. SUMMARY OF SITE DETAILS

Site name:	Hampton Court Palace, Upper Car Park Service Trench
Site code:	HCP87
Grid reference:	Centred at NGR TQ 15506 68671
Type of watching brief:	Excavation of a service trench in the Upper Car Park
Date and duration of project:	22nd to 24th February 2012
Summary of results:	During February 2012 Oxford Archaeology carried out a watching brief for the excavation of a service trench in the Upper Car Park, Hampton Court Palace. The earliest deposit within the southern part of the trench was a garden soil that contained 19th century material and probably formed part of the kitchen gardens. To the north, sand and rubble was revealed that contained modern roofing fragments and pieces of chamfered stonework, and probably represented levelling for the existing car park.
Location of archive:	The archive is currently held at Oxford Archaeology, Janus House, Osney Mead, Oxford, OX2 0ES, and will be deposited with Hampton Court Palace in due course.



Figure 1: Site location

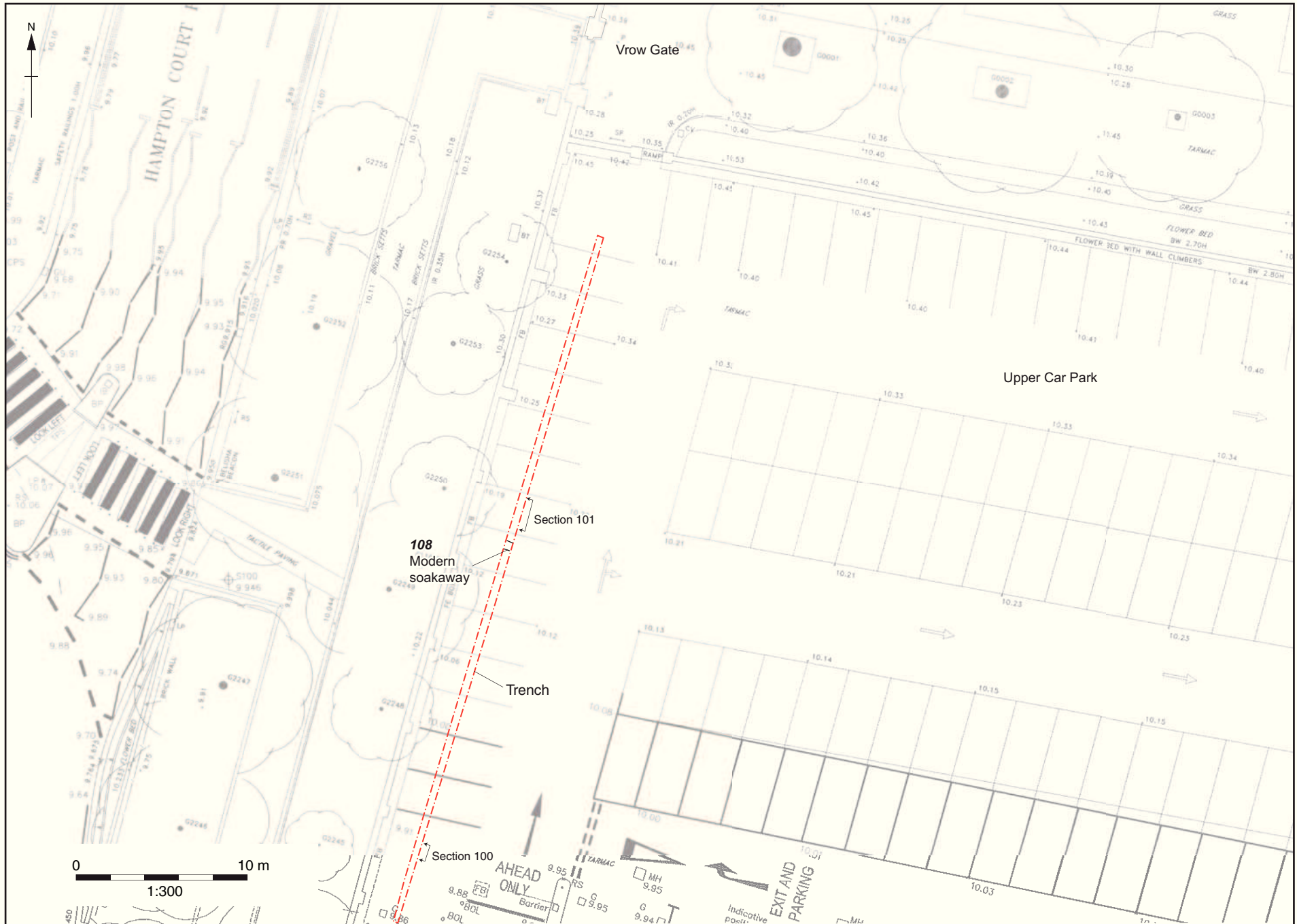


Figure 2: Trench plan

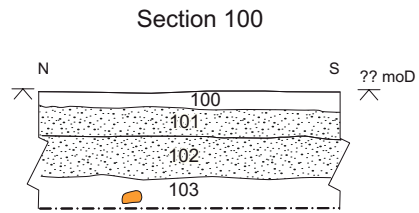


Figure 3: Section 100

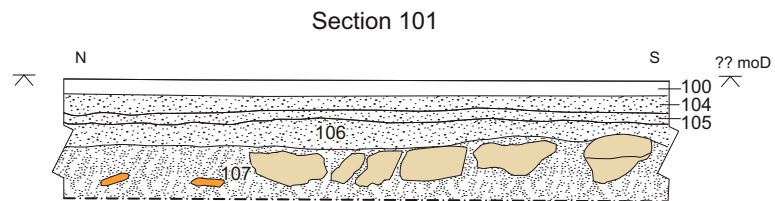
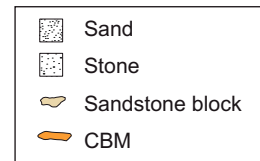


Figure 4: Section 101



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