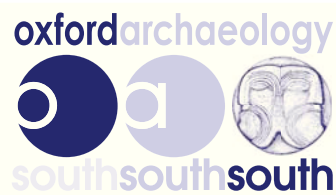




Hampton Court Palace, Signage

Archaeological Watching Brief Report



March 2012

Client: Historic Royal Palaces

Issue No: 1
OA Job No: 5299
NGR: TQ 15710 68465



Client Name: Historic Royal Palaces
Client Ref No: 291/7474
Document Title: Hampton Court Signage
Document Type: Archaeological Watching Brief Report
Issue/Version Number: 1
Grid Reference: TQ 15710 68465
Planning Reference: N/A
Invoice Code: HCP88WB
OA Job Number: 5299
Site Code: HCP088
Receiving Museum: HRP
Museum Accession No.: HCP088
Event No.: N/A

| Issue | Prepared by | Checked by | Approved by | Signature |
|-------|---|------------------------------------|-------------|-----------|
| 1 | Paul Leader, Assistant Supervisor | Ben Ford Senior Project Manager | | |

Document File Location: X:\HCP88 Signage
Graphics File Location: Server10:/oapubs1_AtoH*HCP88WB*HCP Signage
Illustrated by: Georgina Slater and Paul Leader

Disclaimer:

This document has been prepared for the titled project or named part thereof and should not be relied upon or used for any other project without an independent check being carried out as to its suitability and prior written authority of Oxford Archaeology being obtained. Oxford Archaeology accepts no responsibility or liability for the consequences of this document being used for a purpose other than the purposes for which it was commissioned. Any person/party using or relying on the document for such other purposes agrees, and will by such use or reliance be taken to confirm their agreement to indemnify Oxford Archaeology for all loss or damage resulting therefrom. Oxford Archaeology accepts no responsibility or liability for this document to any party other than the person/party by whom it was commissioned.

© Oxford Archaeological Unit Ltd 2012

Janus House

Osney Mead

Oxford OX2 0ES

t: +44 (0) 1865 263800

e: oasouth@thehumanjourney.net

f: +44 (0) 1865 793496

w: oasouth.thehumanjourney.net

Oxford Archaeological Unit Limited is a Registered Charity No: 285627



Hampton Court Palace,

Signage

Archaeological Watching Brief Report

Written by Paul Leader

Illustrated by Paul Leader and Georgina Slater

Table of Contents

| | |
|---|----------|
| Summary..... | 2 |
| 1 Introduction..... | 2 |
| 1.1 Scope of work..... | 2 |
| 1.2 Location, geology and topography..... | 2 |
| 1.3 Archaeological and historical background..... | 2 |
| 2 Project Aims and Methodology..... | 3 |
| 2.1 Aims..... | 3 |
| 2.2 Methodology..... | 3 |
| 3 Results..... | 3 |
| 3.1 Description of deposits..... | 3 |
| 4 Discussion and conclusions..... | 4 |
| Appendix A. Bibliography and references..... | 5 |
| Appendix B. Summary of Site Details..... | 6 |

List of Figures

Fig. 1 Site location

Fig. 2 Sign locations



Summary

On the 1st March 2012, Oxford Archaeology (OA) carried out an Archaeological Watching Brief at Hampton Court Palace. Five sign post foundation holes were excavated, one to the north-west, and four to the East of the main Palace complex. The work was commissioned by Historic Royal Palaces in advance of the installation of new sign posts. The Watching Brief only revealed modern topsoil deposits.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Location and scope of work

1.1.1 Oxford Archaeology (OA) were commissioned by Sharon Kerrigan, Historic Royal Palaces to undertake an Archaeological Watching Brief during the installation of external signage at Hampton Court Palace, Hampton Court Palace SE of Hampton, Surrey. The Site is centred on National Grid Reference TQ 156 687 (Fig. 1).

1.1.2 The works, which took place on 1st March 2012, and consisted of the excavation of five sign-post foundation holes were excavated, one (Sign 1) to the north-west and four (Signs 2 and 3) to the East of the main Palace complex. The sign-post foundation holes to the north-west measured 0.5 m square and 0.7 m deep and replaced an existing sign, the sign post foundation holes to the East measured 0.2 m square and 0.3 m deep and were located in grass verges (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. The Site is relatively level and lies at a height of c 9 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 necessary to repeat 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 All of the sign post foundation holes were hand excavated with the attending archaeologist present. Sign 1 (to the north-west) involved the removal of an existing sign and deepening the existing foundation hole. The other sign post foundation holes for Signs 2 and 3, were hand excavated through a grass verge as 'double' sign post foundation holes set at 0.8 m centres.

2.2.2 All of the trenches were planned at a scale of 1:200. All excavated features were photographed using a digital camera. A general photographic record of the work was



made. Recording followed procedures detailed in the *OAU Fieldwork Manual* (ed. D Wilkinson, 1992).

Table 1: Details of sign numbers, size and positions

| Sign number | Number of sign post foundation holes | Size (Square) | Depth | Location |
|-------------|--------------------------------------|---------------|-------|--|
| 1 | 1 | 0.5 m | 0.7 m | North-west, to the east of moat lane, opposite the current car park exit |
| 2 | 2 | 0.2 m | 0.3 m | East of the Palace, to the North of the East Facade |
| 3 | 2 | 0.2 m | 0.3 m | East of the Palace, to the South of the East Facade |

3 RESULTS

3.1 Description of deposits

3.1.1 In location Sign1 a silty topsoil was revealed to a depth of 0.5 m, beneath this was a deposit of sandy subsoil measuring greater than 0.2m thick. No other deposits were encountered.

3.1.2 At the locations of Signs 2 and 3 only the existing silty topsoil was encountered.

4 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

4.1.1 No significant archaeological deposits were encountered and therefore little can be concluded.



APPENDIX A. BIBLIOGRAPHY AND REFERENCES

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

Thurley S, 2003. *Hampton Court: A Social and Architectural History*.



APPENDIX B. SUMMARY OF SITE DETAILS

| | |
|-------------------------------|--|
| Site name: | Hampton Court Signage |
| Site code: | HCP88 |
| Grid reference: | Centred at NGR TQ 15710 68465 |
| Type of watching brief: | Signage installation |
| Date and duration of project: | 1 st March 2012 |
| Area of site: | 7 Post holes |
| Summary of results: | Only the current topsoil and subsoil 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. |

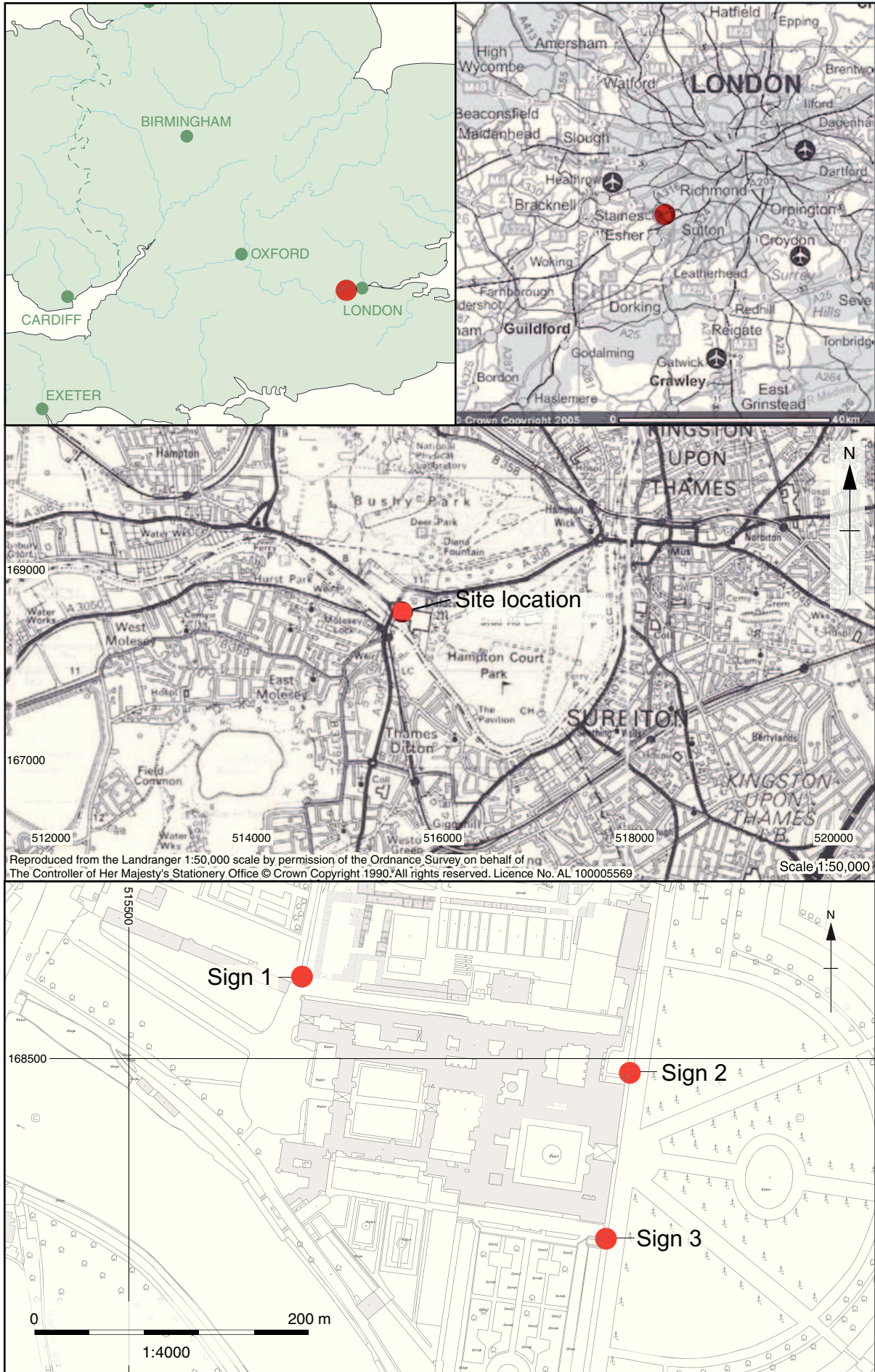


Figure 1: Site location

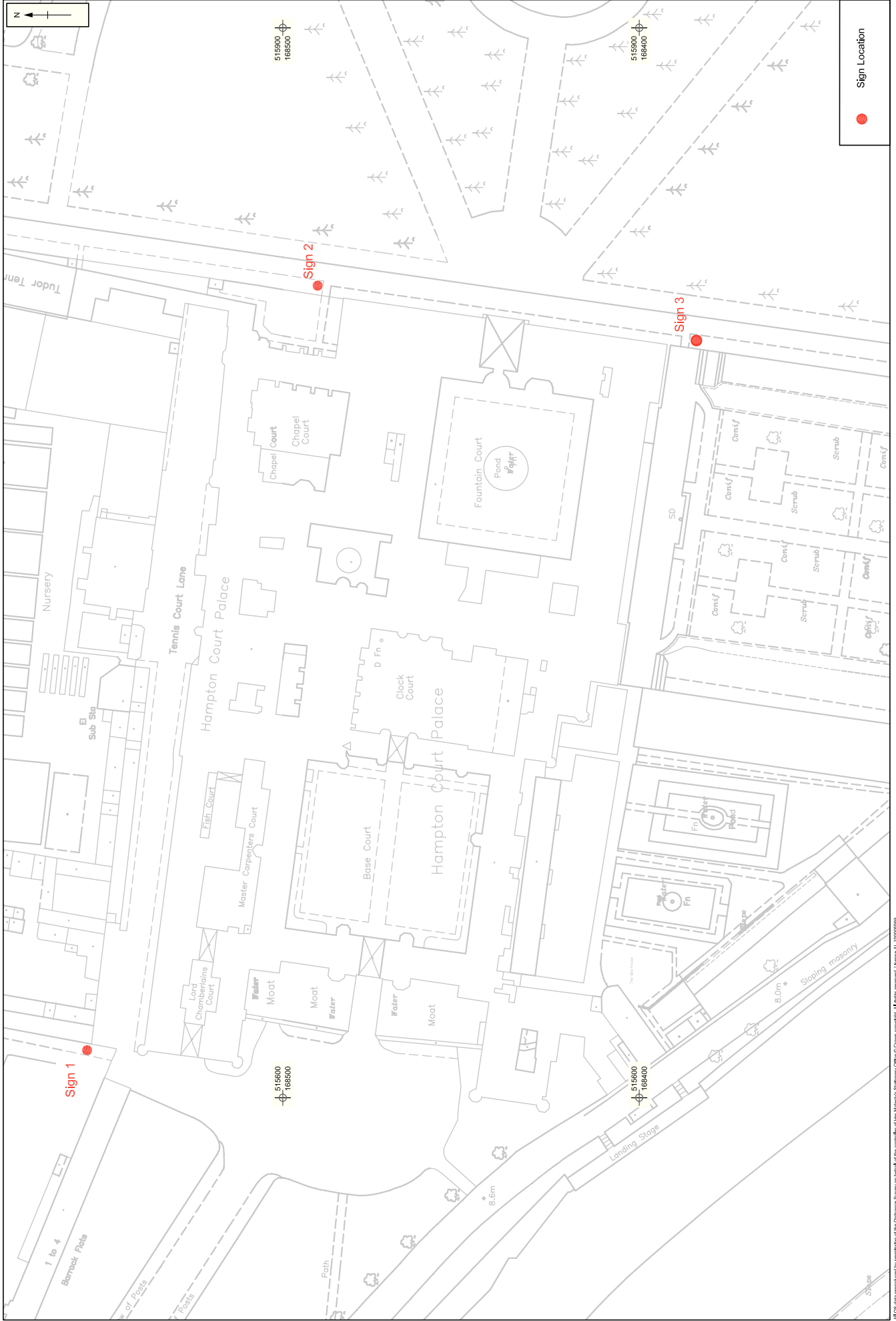


Figure 2: Hampton Court Signage, sign location



**Head Office/Registered Office/
OA South**

Janus House
Osney Mead
Oxford OX2 0ES

t: +44 (0) 1865 263 800
f: +44 (0) 1865 793 496
e: info@oxfordarch.co.uk
w: <http://thehumanjourney.net>

OA North

Mill 3
Moor Lane
Lancaster LA1 1GF

t: +44 (0) 1524 541 000
f: +44 (0) 1524 848 606
e: [oanorth@thehumanjourney.net](mailto: oanorth@thehumanjourney.net)
w: <http://thehumanjourney.net>

OA East

15 Trafalgar Way
Bar Hill
Cambridgeshire
CB23 8SQ

t: +44 (0) 1223 850 500
f: +44 (0) 1223 850 599
e: [oaeast@thehumanjourney.net](mailto: oaeast@thehumanjourney.net)
w: <http://thehumanjourney.net>



Director: David Jennings, BA MIFA FSA

*Oxford Archaeology Ltd is a
Private Limited Company, N^o: 1618597
and a Registered Charity, N^o: 285627*