

# Water Inlet Home Park Hampton Court Palace



**Historic Structure Recording  
and Investigation**



March 2014

**Client: Historic Royal Palaces**

Issue No: 1

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# Water Inlet, Home Park, Hampton Court Palace

*Written by Deirdre Forde*

## Table of Contents

|   |          |
|---|----------|
| <b>1 Introduction.....</b>                    | <b>5</b> |
| 1.1 Background.....                           | 5        |
| <b>2 History.....</b>                         | <b>5</b> |
| <b>3 Description of Inlet.....</b>            | <b>5</b> |
| 3.1 Introduction and general description..... | 5        |
| 3.2 Description of inlet structure.....       | 6        |
| <b>4 Conclusion.....</b>                      | <b>6</b> |

## **Figures**

- Figure 1 Site location
- Figure 2 Plan of Home Park showing location of water inlet
- Figure 3 Plan of Home Park showing boundary wall and water inlet
- Figure 4 Plan of Hampton Court Palace and Gardens by William Talman c 1698
- Figure 5 Charles Bridgeman's survey c 1709
- Figure 6 John Sayer's plan of the Royal Park at Hampton Court 1841
- Figure 7 Photo of Hampton Court Palace Plan of watercourse 1859
- Figure 8 Photo of map of Hampton Court Palace park and gardens 1865
- Figure 9 Photo of OS MAP 1898
- Figure 10 Photo of revised 1920 OS map, surveyed in 1912-13
- Figure 11 Plan of water inlet
- Figure 12 Section and profile of water inlet

## **Plates**

- Plate 1 Water Inlet, looking east
- Plate 2 Detail of water inlet, looking east
- Plate 3 Water inlet, looking south
- Plate 4 Detail of water inlet, looking south
- Plate 5 Historic boundary wall above water inlet, looking south

## 1 INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Background

1.1.1 Oxford Archaeology (OA) have been commissioned by Historic Royal Palaces to investigate and record the brick embankments of a small water channel on the north east boundary of Home Park, Hampton Court Palace, at National Grid Reference TQ 17543 69290 (Figures 1,2 & 3).

### 1.1.2 Methodology

1.1.3 The *photographic record* was undertaken using 35 mm film (black and white prints) and digital photography. It included both general views of structures and specific details. Digital images were used to provide illustrations to the final report.

1.1.4 The *drawn record* was undertaken to provide a measured plan, section and profile of the structures under investigation.

1.1.5 The *written record* (the final report) complements the photographic and drawn record and includes a description of the fabric, features and construction as well as their function and development in relationship to other features in the immediate area.

## 2 HISTORY

2.1.1 Hampton Wick Ponds, are a group of two linear and two rectangular/square bodies of water represented on early maps dating to 1698 and 1709 (Figures 4 and 5). An open channel, leading from the easternmost rectangular/square pond in the group to the site of the structure under investigation and then into a north-south drainage channel, is visible on historic maps and plans of the area from at least 1841 (Figures 5 - 9). A Plan dating to 1851 (Figure 7), shows this arrangement in detail, with a narrow channel running eastwards from this group, under a roadway to the boundary wall, and beyond to the location of the structure under study. These ponds and channel appear again in a map of Hampton Court Park and gardens dating to 1865 (Figure 8). The 1898 OS map (Figure 9), however, does not show the smaller ponds, suggesting these have been in-filled, but part of the channel is still shown, apparently narrowed, going upto and beyond the boundary wall into the area of the structure. On the 1912-1913 OS survey (Figure 10), the channel is no longer visible and presumably has been covered over. It probably exists today as an underground pipe, its eastern end appearing on the east side of the boundary wall, draining into the structure.

2.1.2 The historic boundary wall appears on all historic maps and plans of the site, from 1698 onwards and appears as a solid line.

## 3 DESCRIPTION OF INLET

### 3.1 Introduction and general description

3.1.1 The structure under investigation is located on the eastern side of the boundary wall just south of the north eastern most corner of the park. The structure comprises two short opposing stretches of yellow brick embankments, which abut the eastern face of the wall to their west, and flank a terracotta pipe protruding from the walls base. These brick embankments act as revetments to the higher ground on either side of the channel (Plate 1). At the time of survey the pipe and the inlet appeared active, with water present.

### 3.2 Description of inlet structure

- 3.2.1 The embankments are 1.9m in length west to east along the orientation of the inlet and the coping course of bricks on the top of the structures is 0.34m wide (Plates 2 - 5, Figures 11 & 12). Under the coping course, the embankments slope steeply towards the water. The bottom courses of the structures are obscured by the silt on the stream bed. The inner faces of the embankments are 1.14m apart at coping level and approximately 0.5m apart where they meet the silt. It is probable that the brick work on each side forms a single structure, joining under the water and silt.
- 3.2.2 The embankments are constructed with a yellow Gault brick and a hard grey cementitious mortar in an English bond (Plate 4). This is a similar brick used elsewhere in the locality e.g. at Southwark & Vauxhall Water Company buildings on Thames Street, Hampton. The embankments are in good condition with little sign of weathering and appear fit for purpose as revetments to the channel banks.
- 3.2.3 The embankments abut the boundary wall of Home Park wall, which is earlier in date (Plate 5). The bricks are rough in texture and a rich orange colour, with irregular coursing that appears to be English bond in some courses. The mortar is a yellowish white friable lime mortar. Above the channel is a much weathered wooden lintel (partly missing at its northern end), this is surrounded by crumbling white lime mortar, the coursing of the wall above the lintel sags somewhat. Straight joints appear in the wall below the lintel (Figure 12), which may represent repair of infill of the area surrounding the modern terracotta pipe. The section of wall immediately surrounding the pipe is plastered with cement. Above this, there is a rough straight joint or a repaired crack.

## 4 CONCLUSION

- 4.1.1 The bricks of the boundary wall are in poor condition, many having lost their faces due to weathering and clear signs of patching repair work, making it difficult to date them. However, they do not appear to be later than 18th century and may in fact belong to the start of this century, such as a Wren stock brick dating to the turn of the 18th century. This is probably therefore the wall shown in Talman's Plan dating to 1698. These bricks are similar in colour and dimensions to those found in the William and Mary compartment walls from the Kitchen Gardens in the former Tiltyard dating which date to the turn of the 18th century (OA, 2013; Trenches 12 & 17).
- 4.1.2 The lintel, which is likely to be contemporary with the brickwork, and the later brick blocking below, may indicate that there was once an opening in the wall through which the open channel originally passed, and before the channel to the west was covered over. The embankments under investigation may have been built at the time that the easternmost ponds of the Hampton Wick Pond group were filled in, and the stream was narrowed i.e. some time between 1865 and 1898. As stated above, they appear to be built from the same Gault brick as the nearby Southwark & Vauxhall Water Company buildings, which were built between 1867 and 1886. It is likely that they date to this period of construction and were built from surplus bricks or were a part of a programme to update the drainage in the area. The terracotta pipe and the cement work around it are likely to be later in date than the embankments.
- 4.1.3 The historic opening and the more recent Gault brick revetment structure relate to the drainage of water away from the Hampton Wick Pond group and therefore act as an outlet which probably is still functioning in this way today.



Deirdre Forde

March 2014

## **Bibliography**

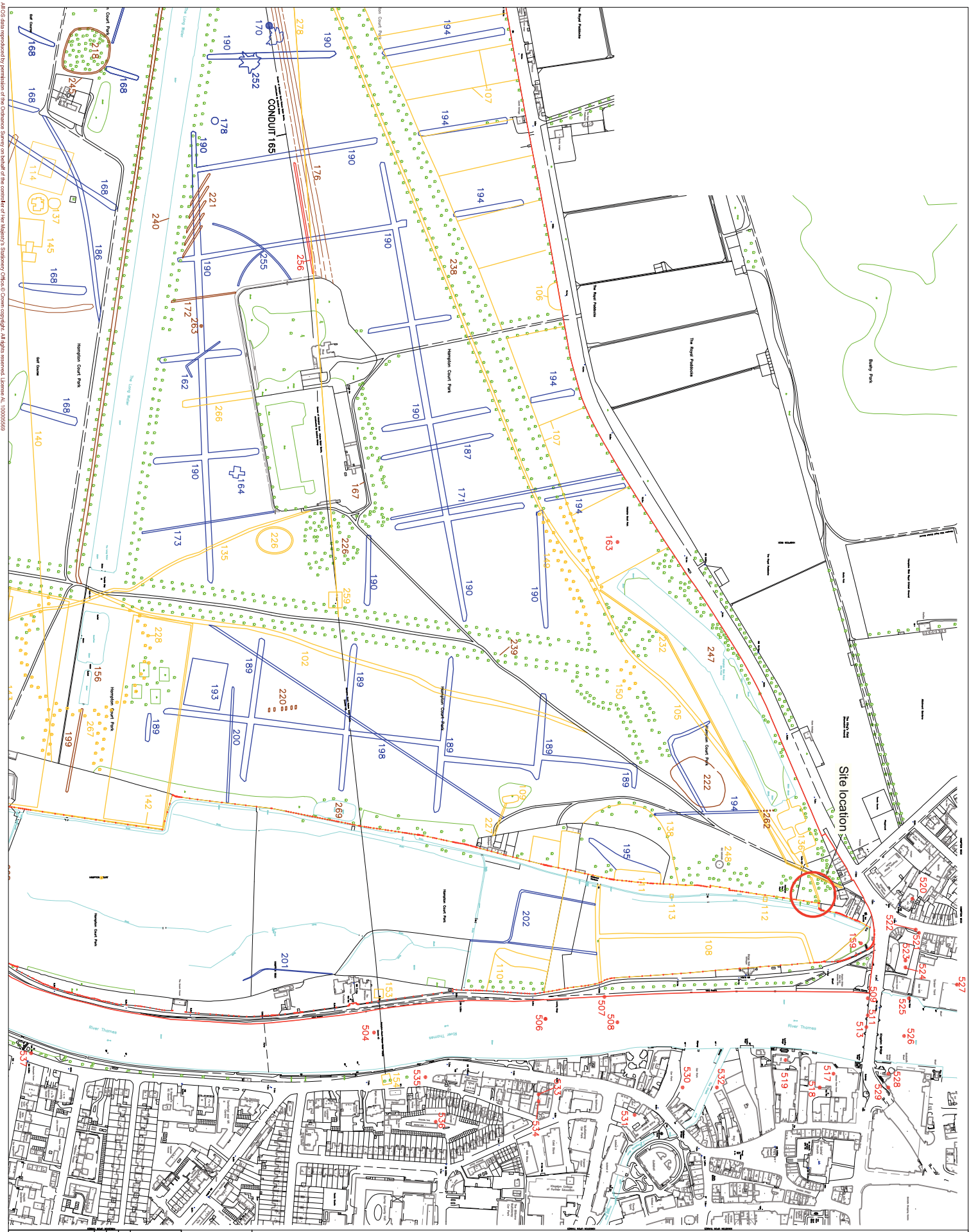
OA, 2013, *The Magic and Kitchen Garden Projects: Hampton Court Palace, Archaeological Evaluation Report* (Client Report)



Scale 1:50,000

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Figure 1: Site location



**Hampton Court Home Park**

Drawing No. HCHPFG2b  
Date printed 18th August 2006  
Drawing title

**Figure 2b:**  
Archaeological features mapping (North East)

Survey Data supplied by:  
HRP & OA

Scale at A3 1:5000

0 100m

Legend:

- Study area
- OA157 - access unavailable during walkover survey
- Hampton Court Scheduled Monument
- Features seen on walkover survey
- Features visible on aerial photographs
- Features shown on historic maps and in documentary evidence
- Features recorded by the GL SMR/NMR and archaeological interventions.
- OA reference number
- Water
- Trees
- Area of rough ground
- OS basemap

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Figure 2: Plan of Home Park showing location of water inlet



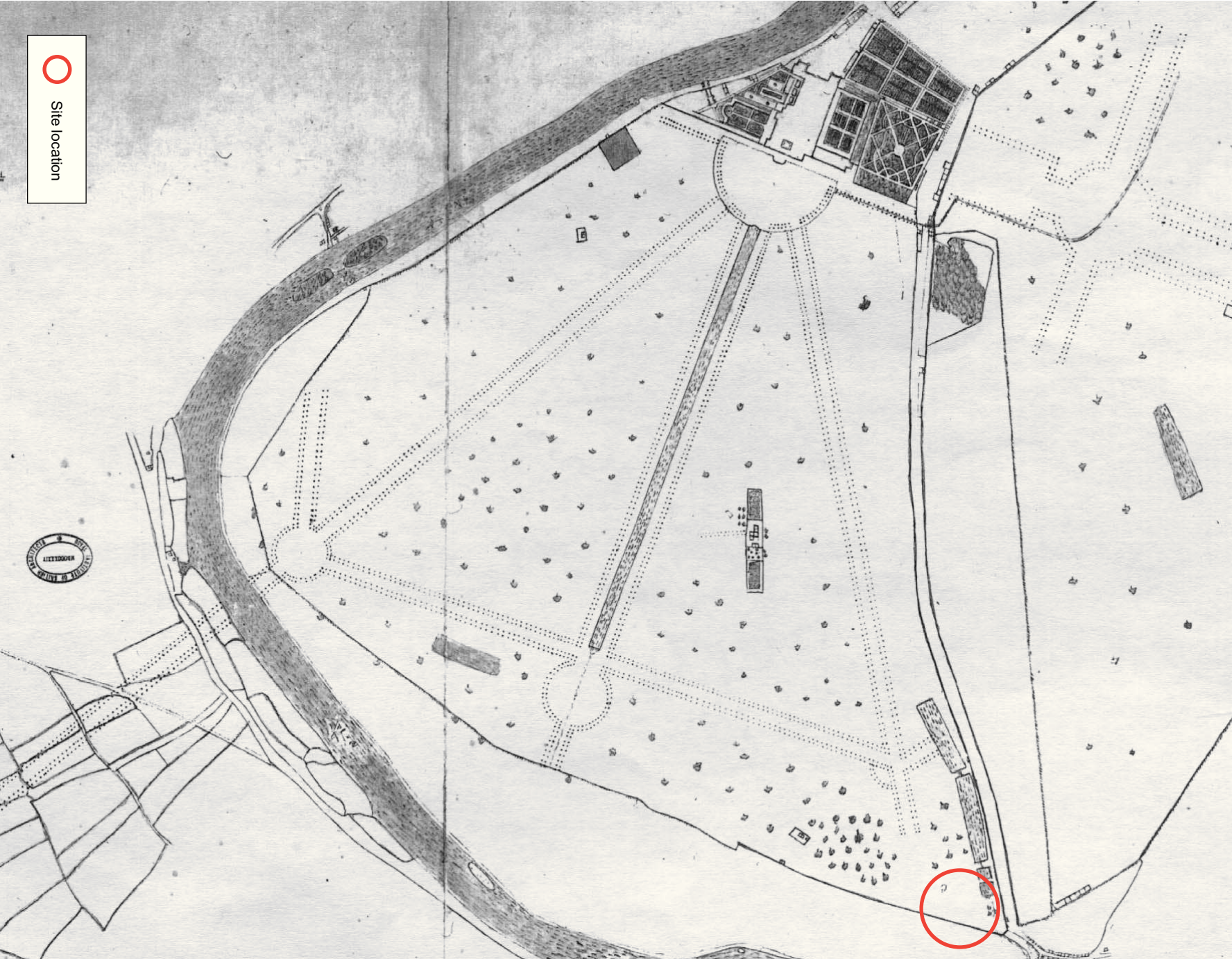
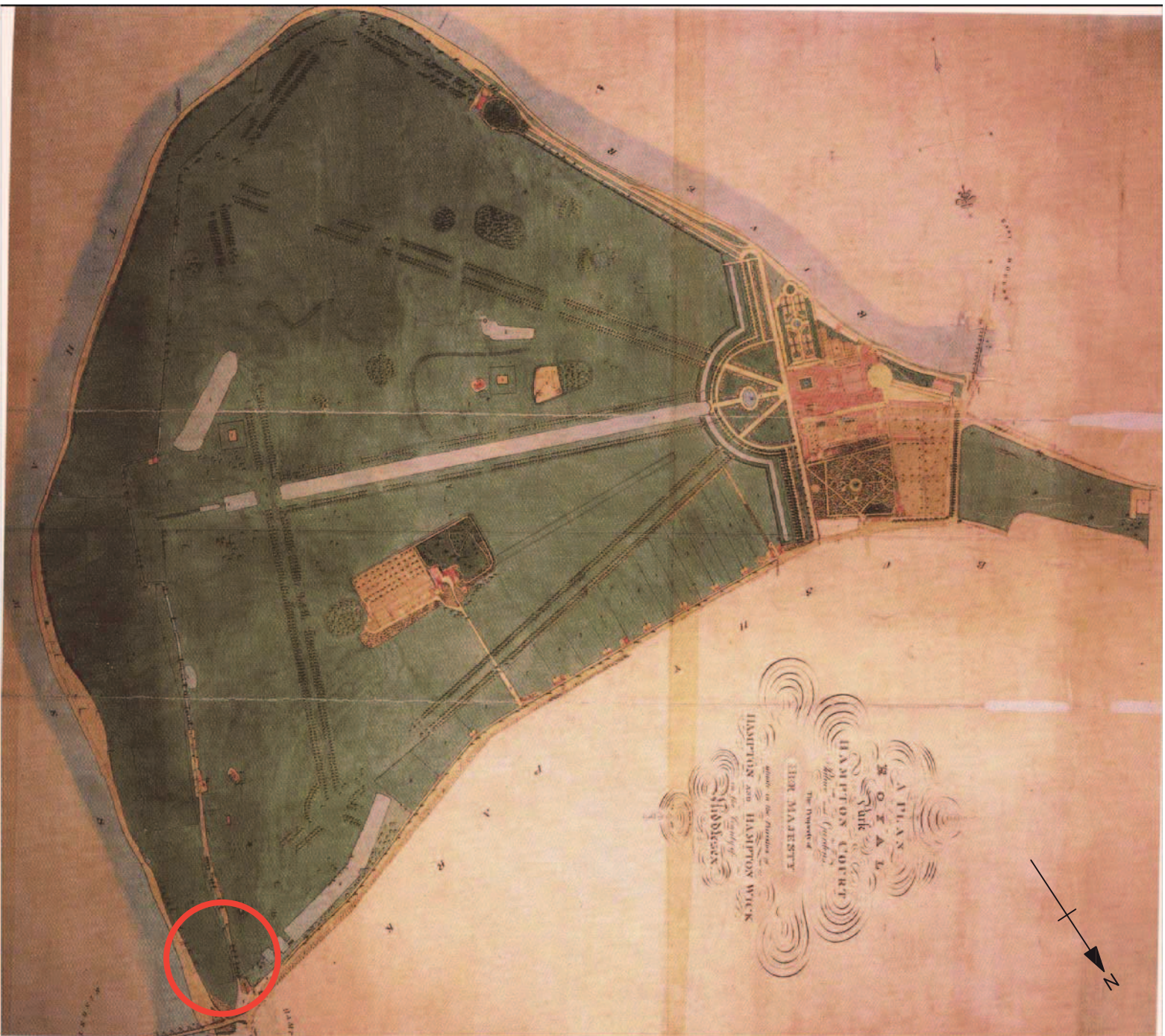


Figure 4: Plan of Hampton Court Palace and Gardens by William Talman c1698



Figure 5: Charles Bridgeman's survey c1709



○ Site location

Figure 6: John Sayer's Plan of the Royal Park at Hampton Court 1841



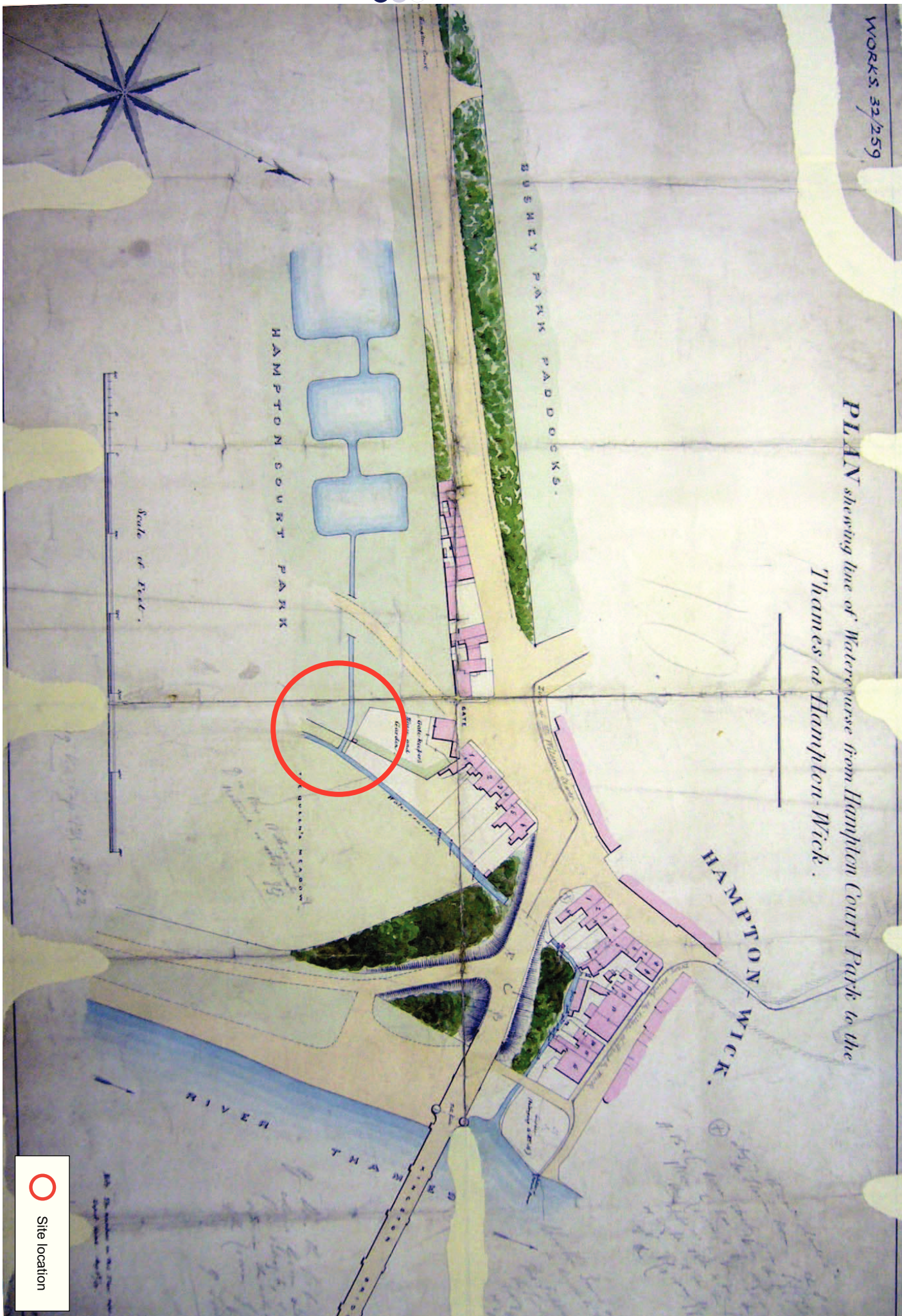
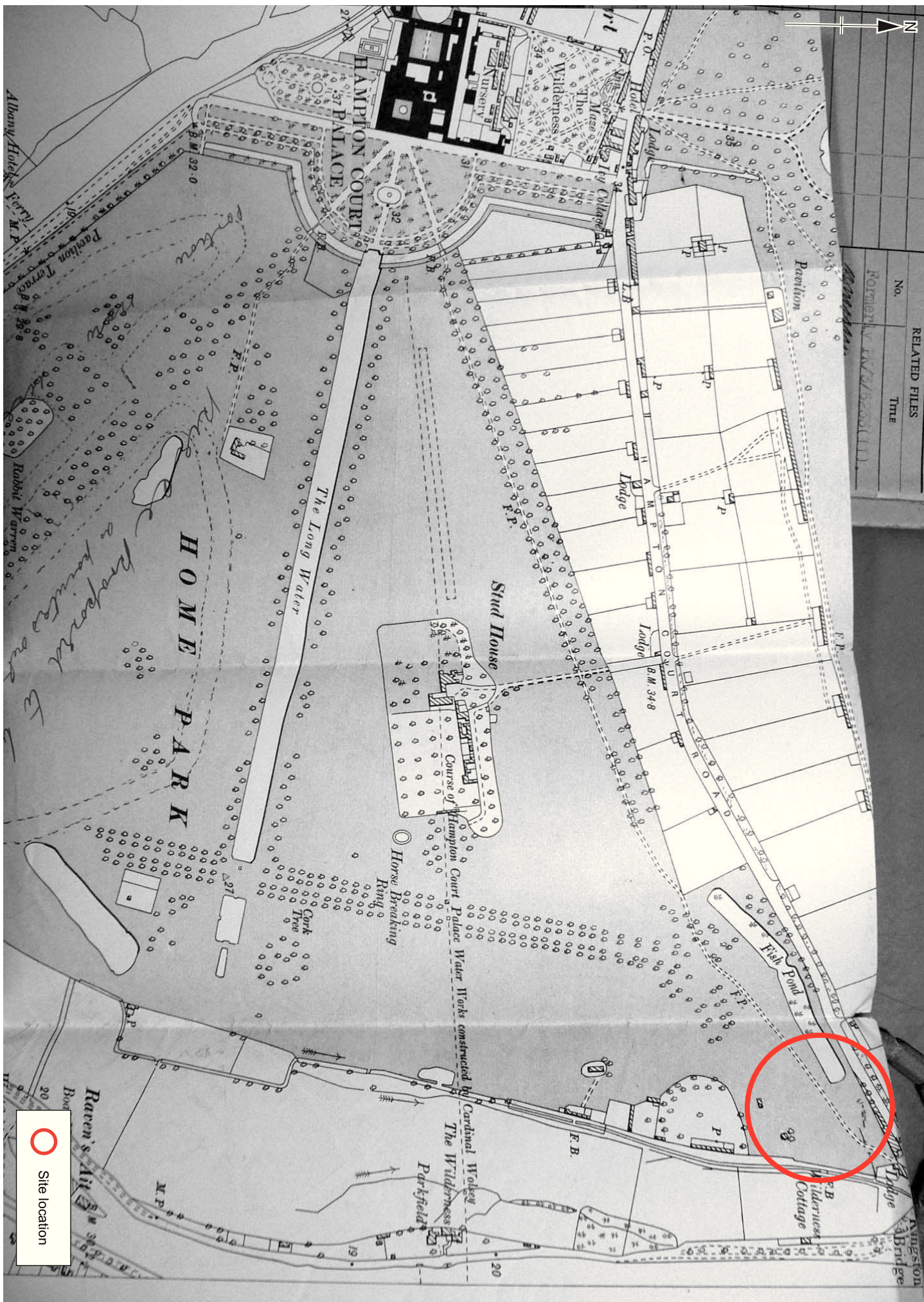


Figure 7: Photo of Hampton Court Palace Plan of watercourse 1859



Figure 8: Photo of map of Hampton Court Palace park and gardens 1865



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| Norman's L.V. 2/25/2003(11) |       |


 Site location

Figure 9: Photo of OS MAP 1898



Figure 10: Photo of revised 1920 OS map, surveyed in 1912-13

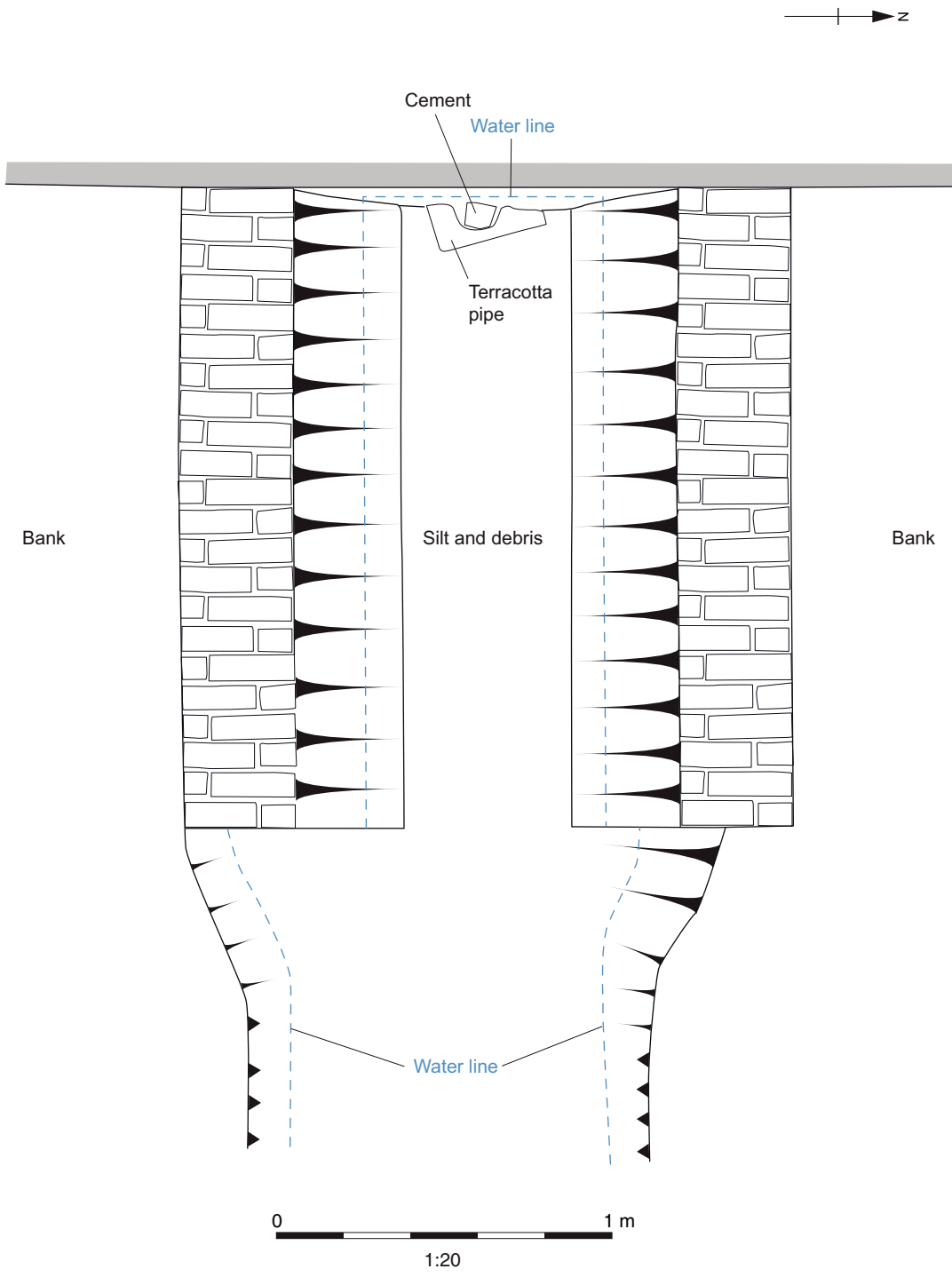
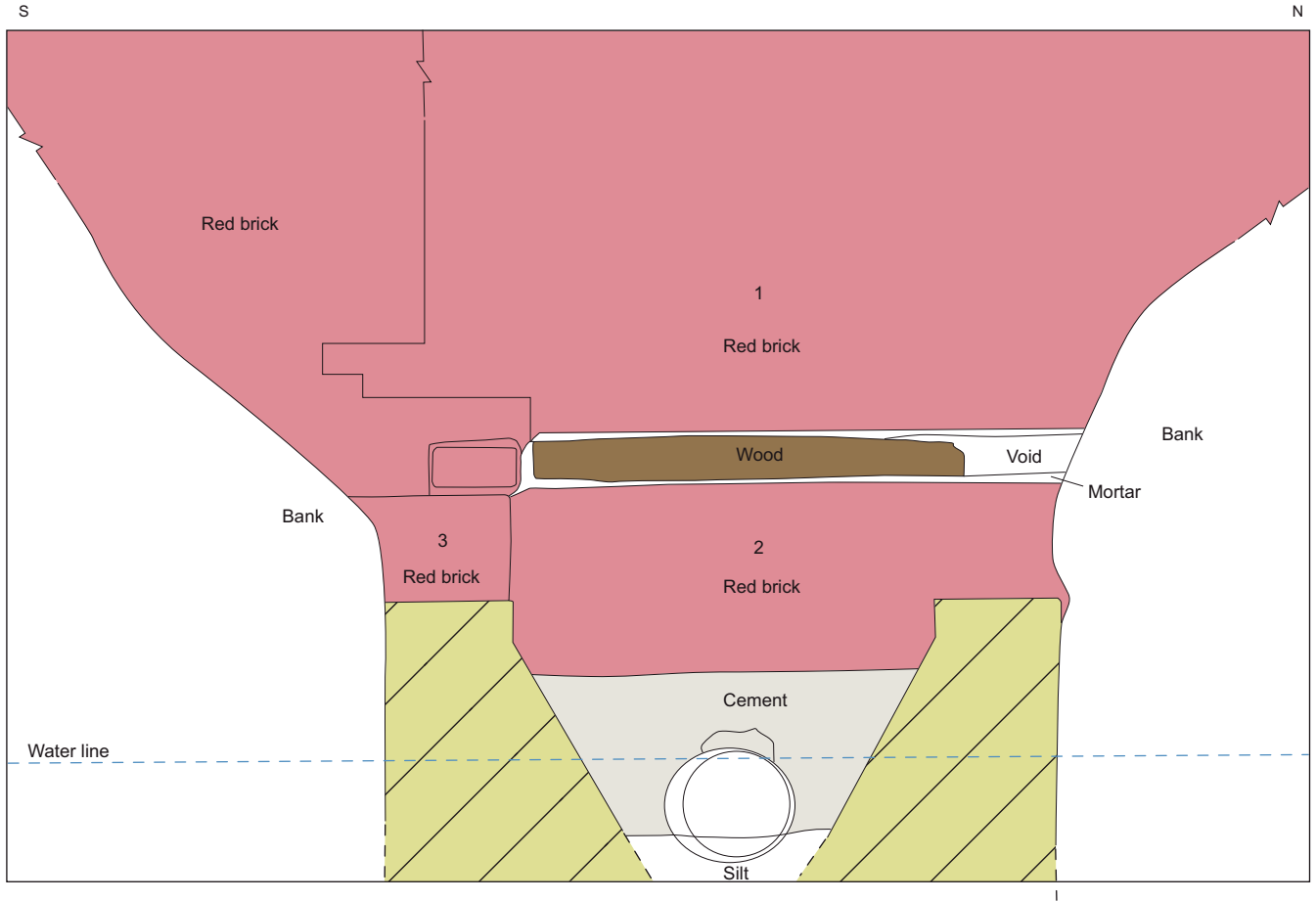


Figure 11: Plan of water inlet

Section



Profile

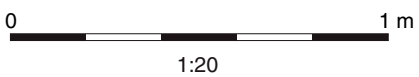
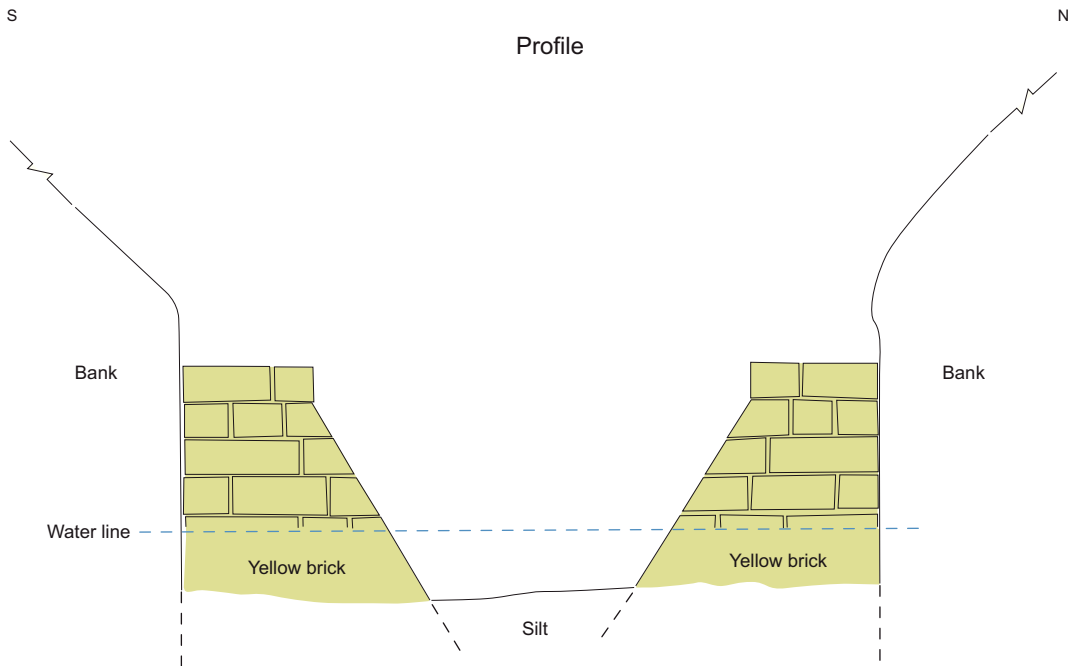


Figure 12: Section and profile of water inlet



Plate 1: Water inlet, looking north



Plate 2: Detail of water inlet, looking north



Plate 3: Water inlet, looking west



Plate 4: Detail of water inlet, looking west





Plate 5: Historic boundary wall above water inlet, looking north





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