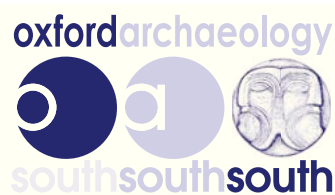


Lion Gate Approach Hampton Court Palace



Archaeological Watching Brief Report



July 2009

Client: Historic Royal Palaces

Issue No:1

OA Job No: 4566

NGR: TQ 1560 6870



Client Name: Historic Royal Palaces
Client Ref No: AMB_261009
Document Title: Lion Gate Approach, Hampton Court Palace
Document Type: Watching Brief Report
Issue/Version Number: 1
Grid Reference: TQ 1560 6870
Planning Reference:
OA Job Number: 4566
Site Code: HCP71
Invoice Code: HCP71WB
Receiving Museum: Historic Royal Palaces (Hampton Court)
Museum Accession No: TBC
Event No:

| Issue | Prepared by | Checked by | Approved by | Signature |
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Hampton Court Palace, Lion Gate Approach

Archaeological Watching Brief Report

by Rebecca Griffin

Table of Contents

| | |
|---|----------|
| Summary..... | 3 |
| 1 Introduction..... | 4 |
| 1.1 Location and scope of work..... | 4 |
| 1.2 Geology and topography..... | 4 |
| 1.3 Archaeological and historical background..... | 4 |
| 1.4 Acknowledgements..... | 4 |
| 2 Watching Brief Aims and Methodology..... | 5 |
| 2.1 Aims..... | 5 |
| 2.2 Methodology..... | 5 |
| 3 Results..... | 6 |
| 3.1 Description of deposits..... | 6 |
| 3.2 Finds summary..... | 6 |
| 4 Discussion And Conclusions..... | 7 |
| Appendix A. Bibliography and References..... | 8 |
| Appendix B. Summary of Site Details..... | 9 |



List of Figures

- Fig. 1 Site Location plan
Fig. 2 Location of excavated slots, with recorded sections



Summary

In November 2009, Oxford Archaeology (OA) carried out an archaeological watching brief at Hampton Court Palace, Surrey (NGR TQ 1560 6870). The work was commissioned by Historic Royal Palaces in advance of the removal and re-installation of the stone bollards between the Lion Gate and Hampton Court Road. The watching brief revealed modern overburden related to the current road surface. No archaeological features were observed within the excavated slots.



1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Location and scope of work

- 1.1.1 In November 2009, Oxford Archaeology (OA) carried out an archaeological watching brief to Hampton Court Palace, Surrey (NGR TQ 1560 6870). The work was commissioned by Cathedral Works Organisation on behalf of Historic Royal Palaces.
- 1.1.2 In total 14 slots were excavated for the removal and re-installation of the stone bollards.

1.2 Geology and topography

- 1.2.1 The site of the bollards is along the northern front of the Lion Gate, along the edge of 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.9 m 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 a archaeological and historical site of national importance.
- 1.3.2 The historical background to Hampton Court is well documented and is not repeated here.

1.4 Acknowledgements

- 1.4.1 OA extends its thanks to Rob Umney, Building Surveyor, Hampton Court Palace and Neil Bates of CWO for providing help throughout the project.



2 WATCHING BRIEF AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

2.1 Aims

- 2.1.1 To identify and record the presence or absence, extent, condition, quality and date of archaeological remains in the impacted area.
- 2.1.2 To preserve by record any archaeological remains (if present) that the works may remove or damage within the impacted area.
- 2.1.3 To make available the results of archaeological investigation.

2.2 Methodology

- 2.2.1 An archaeological supervisor was in attendance to monitor the excavation of the slots for the stone bollards. These were excavated by hand with the aid of hand-held power tools.
- 2.2.2 14 slots were excavated (Fig. 2). They measured approximately 0.7 x 0.55m to 0.8x0.6m. The slots were excavated to an average depth of 0.38m below the ground surface level.
- 2.2.3 A hand-drawn plan of the slot locations was drawn at a scale of 1:100, based on the Hampton Court Palace basemap. Sections were recorded for 50% of the excavated slots at a scale of 1:20. A detailed digital photographic record was made. Recording procedures detailed in the *OAU Fieldwork Manual* (ed. Dave Wilkinson, 1992)



3 RESULTS

3.1 Description of deposits

- 3.1.1 The stratigraphy observed differed only slightly within all the recorded slots (for numbering see Fig. 2) and therefore a generalised description will be applied throughout.
- 3.1.2 Slots 1, 3 and 5 to 14 were excavated through the tarmac surface to an average depth of 0.38m. These revealed the tarmac surface to be an average of 0.12m thick, overlying 0.16m of compacted dark-grey gravel 101 which acted as hardcore for the overlying surface. Beneath the hardcore layer, levelling deposit 100 was recorded. Consisting of mid-orange gravelly-sand, and of greater than 0.2m thickness, this was the earliest deposit encountered.
- 3.1.3 Slots 7 and 9 were excavated to a depth of 0.2m into the tarmac surface which directly overlay dark grey gravel hardcore layer 101 (Fig. 2).
- 3.1.4 No archaeological features were observed in any of the slots excavated.

3.2 Finds summary

- 3.2.1 No dating evidence or artefacts were recovered during the course of the watching brief.
- 3.2.2 No deposits suitable for palaeo-environmental sampling were observed during the course of the watching brief.



4 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

- 4.1.1 The slots excavated into the tarmac surface revealed crushed stone and sand levelling deposit, the result of extensive construction of new road surfaces around the Lion Gate area.
- 4.1.2 No archaeological features were revealed during the course of the watching brief.



APPENDIX A. BIBLIOGRAPHY AND REFERENCES

Hampton Court Palace, 2009, *Brief for Archaeological Observation and Recording*.

IFA, 2008 *Standards and Guidelines for Archaeological Watching Briefs*.

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



APPENDIX B. SUMMARY OF SITE DETAILS

Site name: Lion Gate Approach, Hampton Court Palace

Site code: HCP71

Grid reference: NGR TQ 1560 6870

Type: Watching Brief

Date and duration: 9th November 2009

Area of site:

Summary of results: 14 slots were excavated into modern levelling surfaces. No archaeological features were observed during the course of the watching brief.

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.



Scale 1: 25,000

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Figure 1: Site location

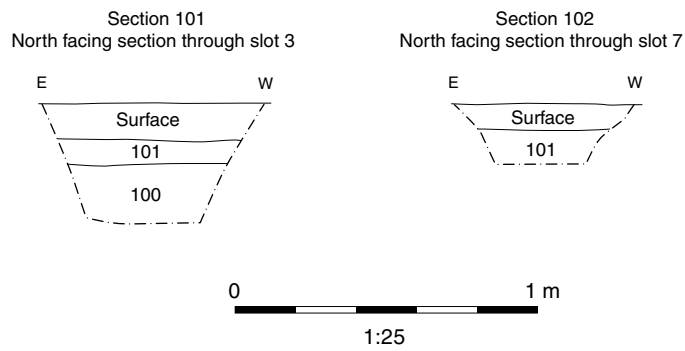
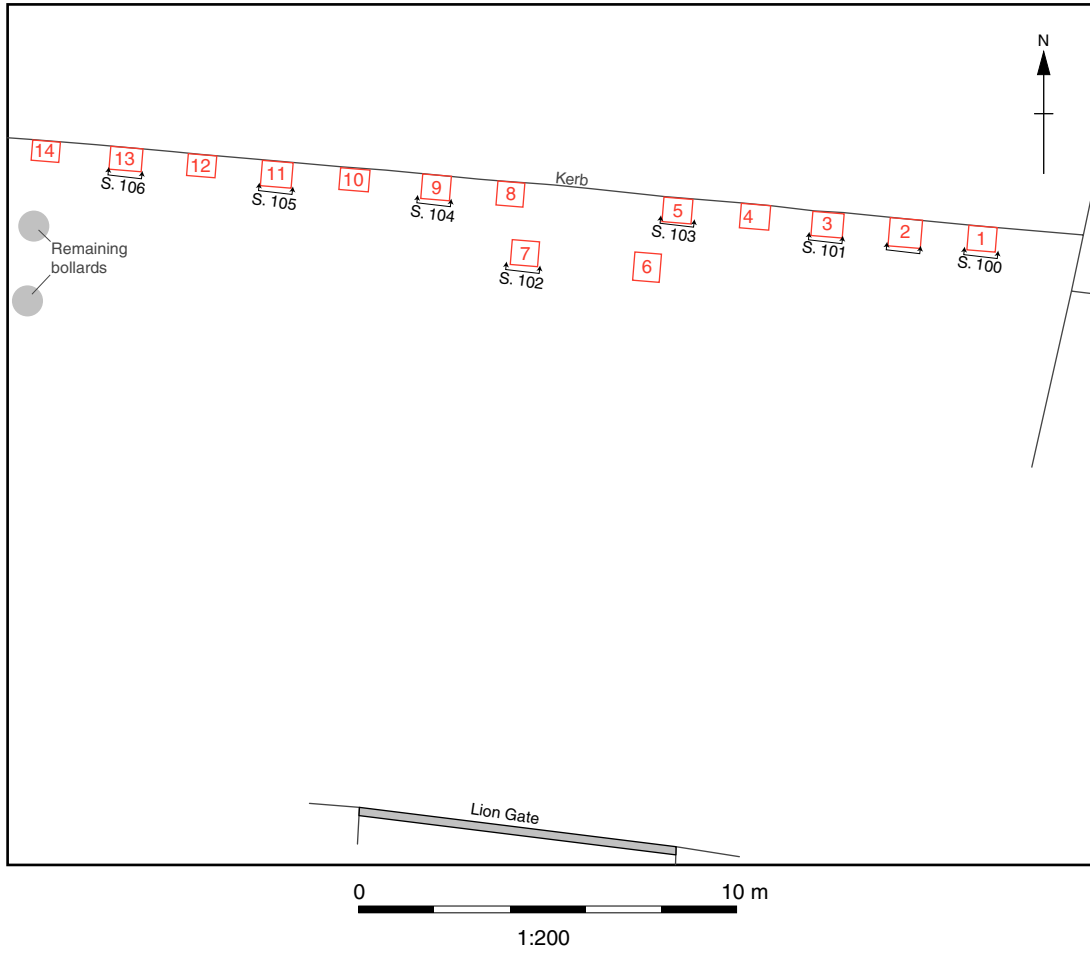


Figure 2: Plan showing location of slots, with sections 101 and 102



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