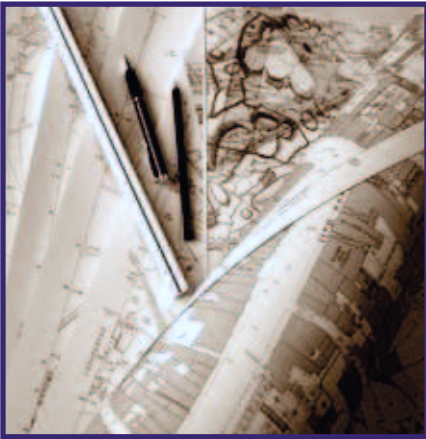
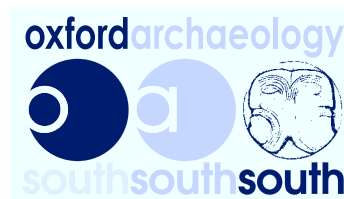


Hampton Court Palace

Tennis Court Lane - Sewage Ejectors



Archaeological Watching Brief Report



December 2010



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Hampton Court Palace, Tennis Court Lane – Sewage Ejectors

Archaeological Watching Brief Report

Written by Ian Cook

Illustrated by G Slater

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Summary

In March 2010, Oxford Archaeology (OA) carried out an archaeological watching brief at Hampton Court Palace. The work was commissioned by Historic Royal Palaces in advance of the installation of new sewage ejectors below Tennis Court Lane. A trench from the sewage ejector chamber to the Salvage Room was excavated across Tennis Court Lane to the south-west of the Georgian House.

A levelling deposit revealed under the tarmac could not be securely dated but is unlikely to be earlier than the construction of the Georgian House (or German Kitchen) in 1718, and has been disturbed since. No other archaeological features/deposits were observed.



1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background and scope of work

- 1.1.1 In March 2010, Oxford Archaeology (OA) carried out an archaeological watching brief at Hampton Court Palace, Surrey, for Historic Royal Palaces. The work was commissioned for HRP by Arthur Edmondson, and the watching brief was a condition of Scheduled Monument Clearance for installation of new sewage ejectors along Tennis Court Lane.
- 1.1.2 A single trench was excavated from the sewage ejector chamber to the Salvage Room to accommodate new pipe work. The area of the work was just to the south-west of the Georgian House.

1.2 Geology and topography

- 1.2.1 The site lies at c. 9 m OD on the first Terrace drift geology (gravel and sand) of the river Thames, which overlies London Clay.

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 An access route between the palace complex to the south and the gardens or orchards to the north is always likely to have existed. It became a more organised space after the works in the early Georgian era which included construction of the side kitchen, known as the German Kitchen and later as the Georgian House. The lane became known as Tennis Court Lane
- 1.3.3 A survey of 1732-42, possibly by Fort, shows a carpenter's yard in the south-east corner of the Melon Ground. New offices were also added in the 1730s, further enclosing the lane.

1.4 Acknowledgements

- 1.4.1 OA extends its thanks to Arthur Edmondson, Maintenance Engineer, Hampton Court Palace 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 trench for the new sewage ejector pipework. The trench was excavated by hand by the contractors.
- 2.2.2 One rectangular trench was excavated from the existing sewage ejector chamber along Tennis Court Lane to the Salvage Room on the north side of the lane (Figs. 2, 3). The trench measured 9 m x 0.4 m, and was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.35 m below the current tarmac surface.
- 2.2.3 A digital CAD plan showing the extent and location of the trench was prepared (Fig. 2), based on a hand-drawn plan at a scale of 1:200. A plan, at a scale of 1:20, was prepared, showing the extent of existing service pipes found in the trench and the location of sections. All recorded sections were drawn at a scale of 1:20. A detailed digital photographic record was made. Recording procedures are as detailed in the *OAU Fieldwork Manual* (ed. Dave Wilkinson, 1992)



3 RESULTS

3.1 Description of deposits

- 3.1.1 The trench (Figs 2, 3) was excavated through a 0.15 m thick layer of tarmac (100) which made up the current road surface of Tennis Court Lane. A silty brown layer containing building rubble (brick, tile and stone) lay under the tarmac (101; Fig. 3).
- 3.1.2 The trench was only excavated to a depth of 0.35 m before service pipes were encountered running along the length of the trench. These pipes appear to serve the existing sewage ejectors and therefore the excavation of the trench finished at this level. Two service pipes were observed running across the width of the trench and are probably service pipes that run the length of part of the length of Tennis Court Lane (Fig. 3).
- 3.1.3 Towards the southern end of the trench a concrete and brick structure was observed in the west facing section (Fig. 3). It is made up of .0.1 m thick concrete sitting on top of recent red brick with a cement bond. The bricks were regularly-coursed with no discernable bond. This would appear to be a recent service access point, now disused and buried under the current road surface.
- 3.1.4 No other archaeological features or deposits were observed within this trench.

3.2 Finds summary

- 3.2.1 A single sherd of 19th-20th century tendril patterned blue and white glazed pottery was recovered from layer 101.
- 3.2.2 Six fragments of ceramic building material were retained as a sample. Three are fragments of peg tile and three are partial bricks of probable late 17th to 18th century date.
- 3.2.3 No deposits suitable for palaeo-environmental sampling were observed during the course of the watching brief.



4 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

- 4.1.1 The excavation of the trench revealed a silty brown levelling deposit . This deposit was most likely a levelling deposit laid down to form the foundation for a road surface. This may have been around the time of the construction of the German Kitchen (now the Georgian House) in the early Georgian period. The brick fragments found in layer 101 could date to this period but the sherd of later pottery shows that there was also later activity.



APPENDIX A. BIBLIOGRAPHY AND REFERENCES

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: Hampton Court Palace, Tennis Court Lane – Sewage Ejectors

Site code: HCP77

Grid reference: NGR: TQ 156 685

Type: Watching Brief

Date and duration: 15 to 16 March 2010, 22 March 2010

Summary of results: A levelling deposit of brown silt and rubble fragments were revealed in the trench. No archaeological features or deposits were 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.



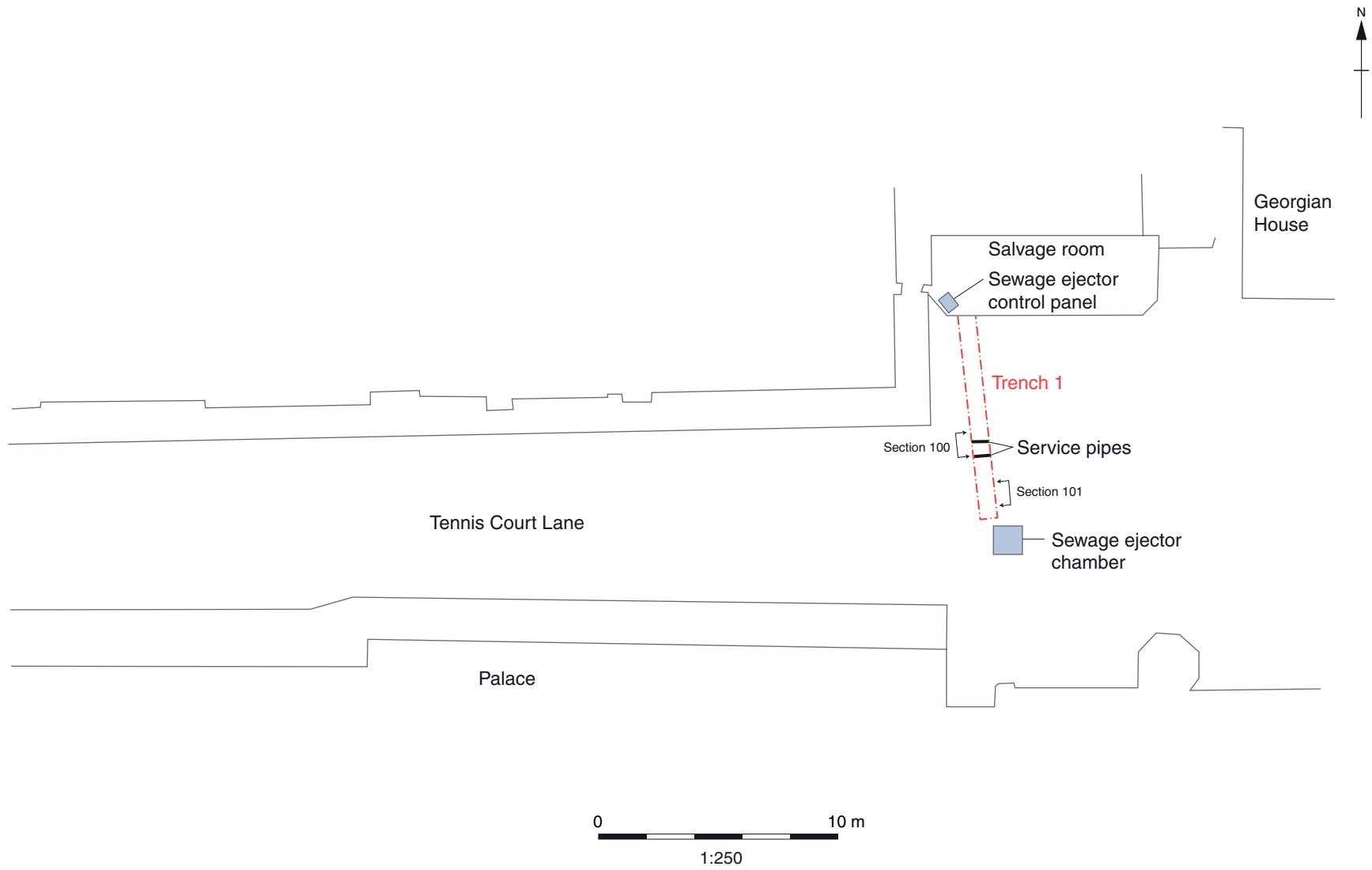


Figure 2: Trench location plan

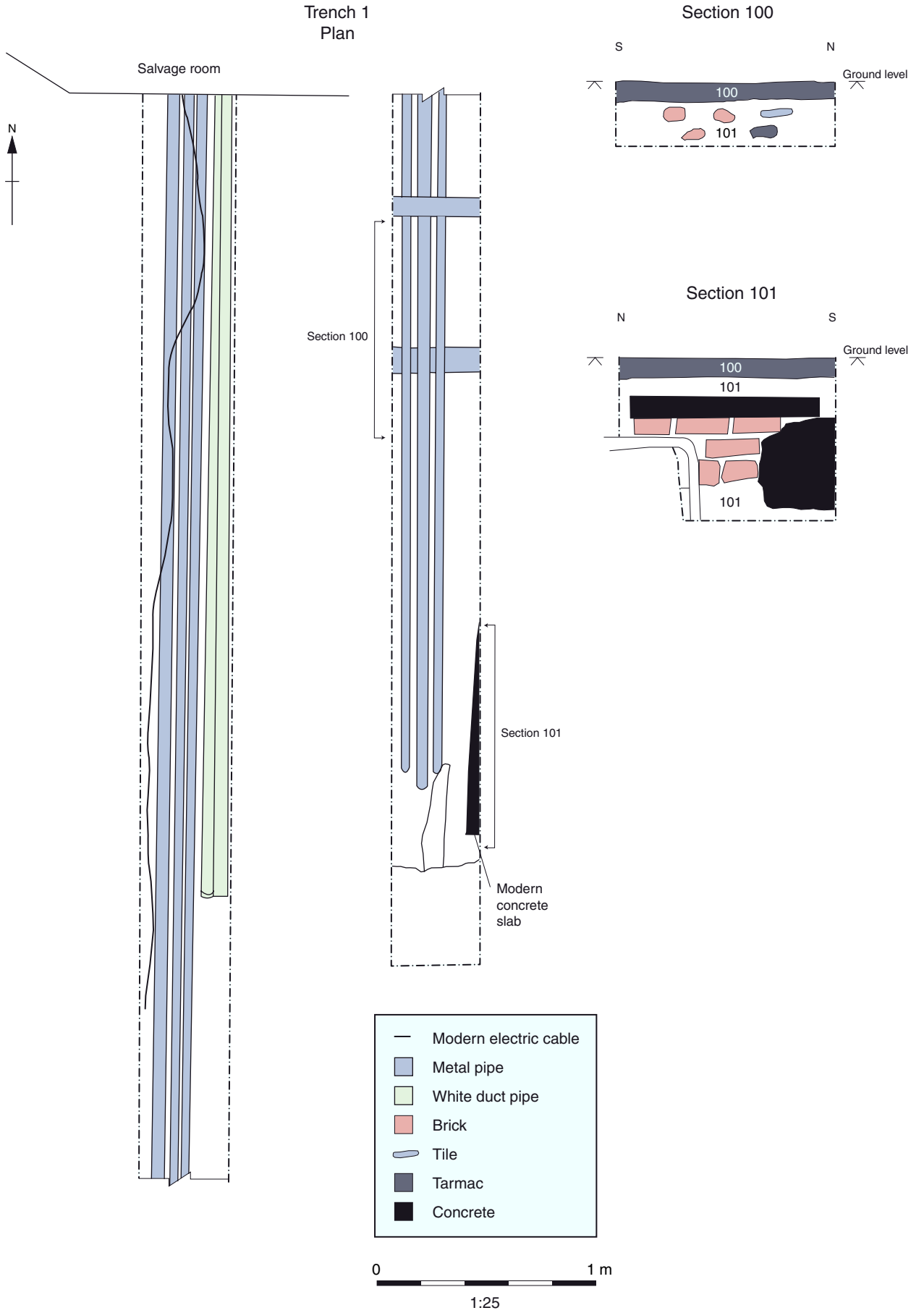


Figure 3: Plan of trench and sample sections



Plate 1: Trench 1 looking north



Plate 2: Section 100



Plate 3: Section 101



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