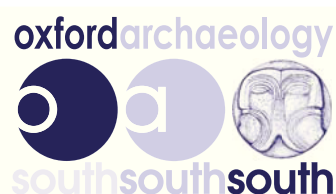


Upper Car Park Service Trench Hampton Court Palace



Archaeological Watching Brief Report



July 2013



Client: Historic Royal Palaces

Issue No: 1

OA Job No: 5292

NGR: TQ 155 686



Client Name: Historic Royal Palaces
Client Ref No:
Document Title: Hampton Court Palace - Upper Car Park Service Trench
Document Type: Archaeological Watching Brief Report
Issue/Version Number: 1
Grid Reference: TQ 15506 68671
Planning Reference: N/A
Invoice Code: HCP87WB
OA Job Number: 5292
Site Code: HCP87
Receiving Museum: Historic Royal Palaces (Hampton Court)
Museum Accession No.: TBC
Event No.: N/A

| Issue | Prepared by | Checked by | Approved by | Signature |
|-------|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------|-----------|
| 1 | Ian Cook Assistant Supervisor | Steve Teague Project Officer | (name) (position) | |

Document File Location: Restricted
Graphics File Location: Restricted
Illustrated by: Julia Collins

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 2013

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 - Upper Car Park Service Trench

Archaeological Watching Brief Report

Written by Ian Cook

Illustrated by Julia Collins

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 (Fig. 2)..... | 3 |
| 3 Results..... | 3 |
| 3.1 Description of deposits (Figs 2 and 3)..... | 3 |
| 3.2 Finds..... | 4 |
| 3.3 Environmental Remains..... | 4 |
| 4 Discussion and Conclusions..... | 4 |
| 5 Bibliography..... | 6 |
| Appendix A. Archaeological Context Inventory..... | 7 |
| Appendix B. Assessment of the Architectural Stonework..... | 8 |
| Appendix C. Assessment of the Ceramic Building Material..... | 9 |
| Appendix D. Other Finds..... | 10 |
| Appendix E. Summary of Site Details..... | 11 |

List of Figures

Fig. 1 Site location

Fig. 2 Plan of Upper Car Park showing location of the service trench

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

OA, 2010 Vrow Walk Wall, Hampton Court Palace, Historic Building Recording and Investigation (unpub. report)

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



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 STONWORK

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 |

Bibliography

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

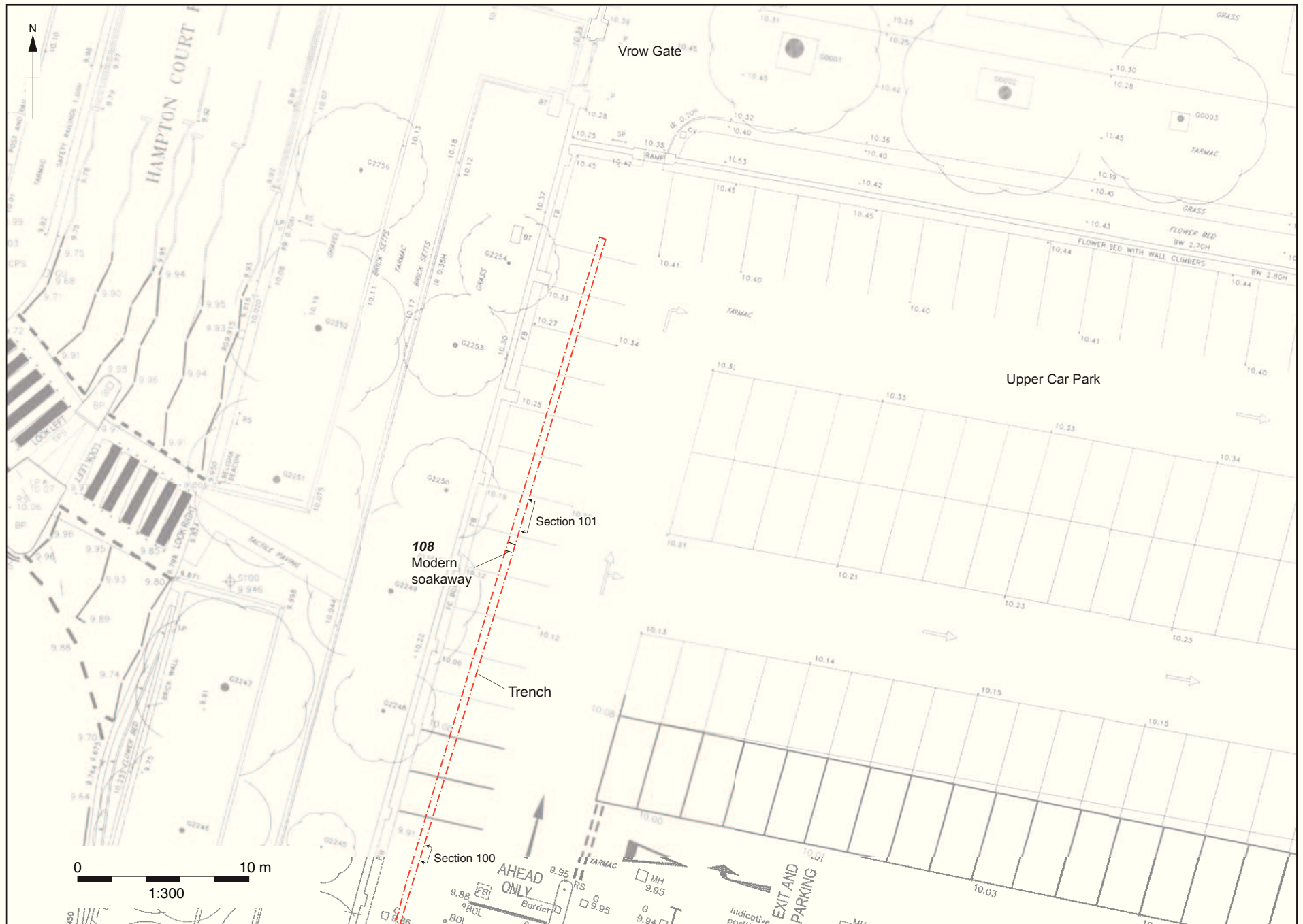


Figure 2: Trench plan

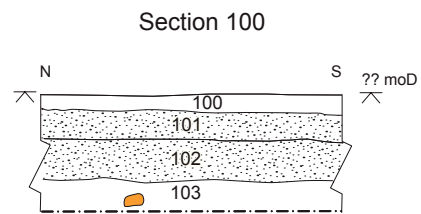


Figure 3: Section 100

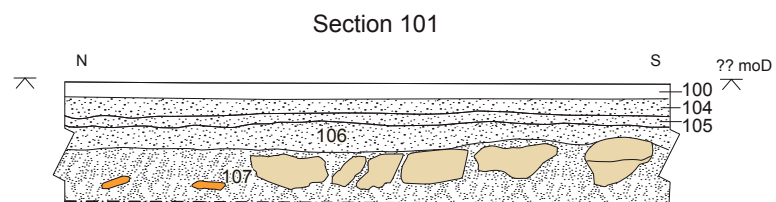
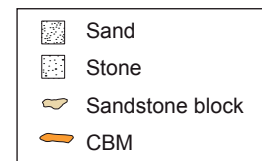


Figure 4: Section 101



**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*