



Hampton Court Palace, Signage

Archaeological Watching Brief Report



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

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Illustrated by: Georgina Slater and Paul Leader

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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

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Signage

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Written by Paul Leader

Illustrated by Paul Leader and Georgina Slater

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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

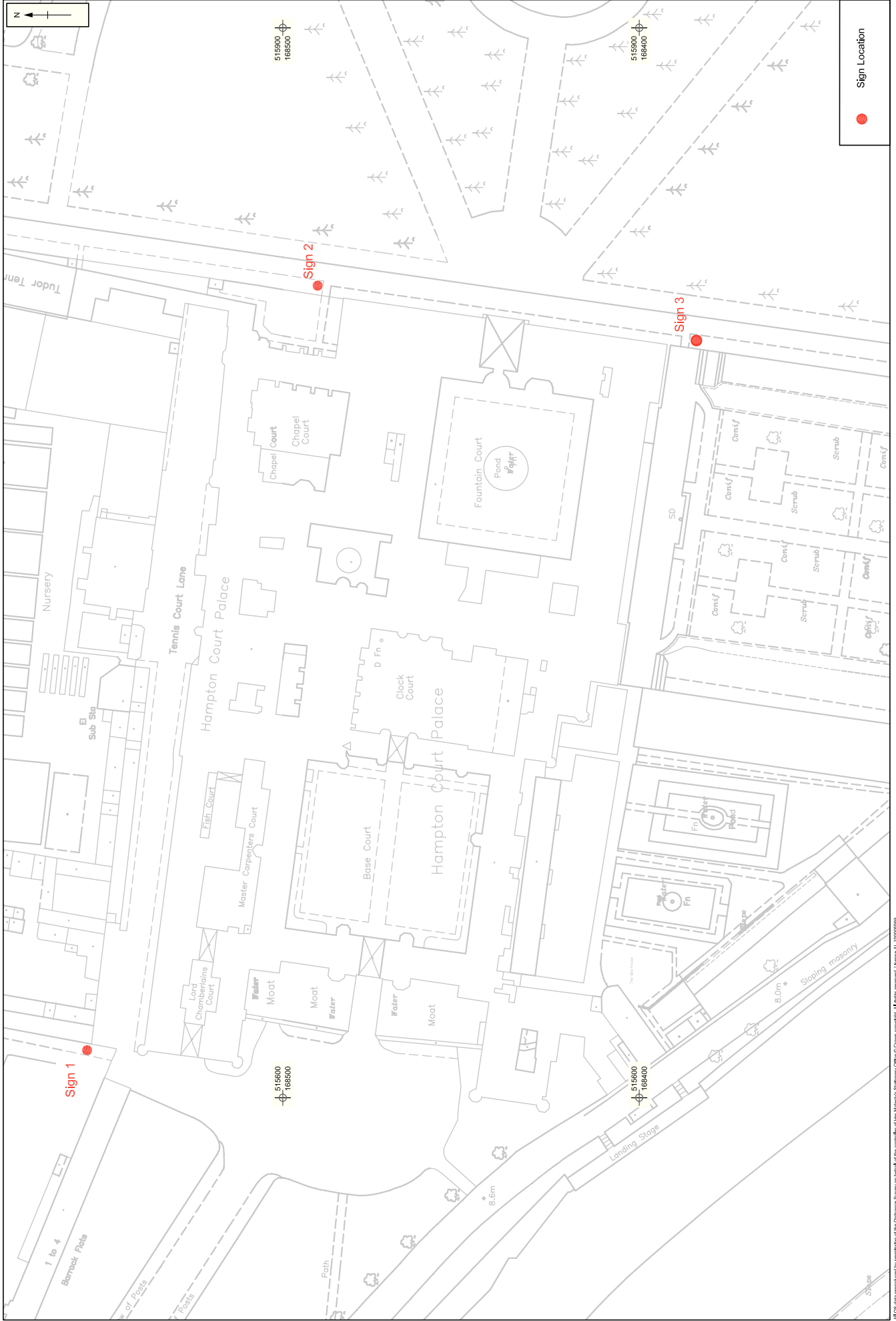


Figure 2: Hampton Court Signage, sign location



**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

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