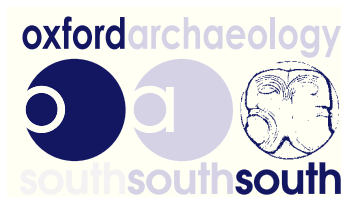




Fingerpost Signage Hampton Court Palace

Archaeological Watching Brief Report



May 2012

Client: Historic Royal Palaces

Issue No: 1
OA Job No: 5324
NGR: TQ 15736 168702



Client Name: Historic Royal Palaces
Client Ref No: N/A
Document Title: Fingerpost Signage Hampton Court Palace
Document Type: Archaeological Watching Brief Report
Issue/Version Number: 1
Grid Reference: [TQ 515736 168702](#)
Planning Reference: N/A
Invoice Code: HCP90WB
OA Job Number: TBC
Site Code: HCP90
Receiving Museum: Historic Royal Palaces
Museum Accession No.: HCP90
Event No.: N/A

Issue	Prepared by	Checked by	Approved by	Signature
1	Paul Leader Assistant Supervisor	Ben Ford MIFA Senior Project Manager	(name) (position)	

Document File Location:

Graphics File Location: Server 10:/oaupubs1_AtoH*HCP89*Trophy Gate Trench Hampton Court Palace*jc* and GS

Illustrated by: Georgina Slater and Paul Leader

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 2012

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



Fingerpost Signage Hampton Court Palace

Archaeological Watching Brief Report

Written by Paul Leader

Illustrated by Georgina Slater and Paul Leader

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.....	2
2.1 Aims.....	2
2.2 Methodology.....	2
3 Results.....	3
3.1 Description of deposits.....	3
3.2 Finds.....	3
4 Discussion and conclusions.....	3
Appendix A. Bibliography and references.....	5
Appendix B. Summary of Site Details.....	6

List of Figures

Fig. 1 Site location

Fig. 2 Fingerpost Locations



Summary

On the 29th and 30st March 2012, Oxford Archaeology (OA) carried out an Archaeological Watching Brief at Hampton Court Palace during the installation of new signposts in and around The Wilderness. Nine foundation holes were excavated, seven within The Wilderness to the north of the main Palace complex, one on the Broad Walk to the north of the East Front, and one on the eastern side of the former Tiltyard. The work which was commissioned by Historic Royal Palaces (HRP) only revealed modern topsoil and subsoil deposits.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Scope of work

- 1.1.1 Oxford Archaeology (OA) were commissioned by Sharon Kerrigan of Historic Royal Palaces to undertake an Archaeological Watching Brief during the installation of external signage at Hampton Court Palace, near Hampton, Surrey. The Site is centred on National Grid Reference TQ 515736 168702 (Fig. 1).
- 1.1.2 The works, which took place on the 29th and 30th March 2012, consisted of the excavation of eight foundation holes for 'fingerpost signs' and one foundation hole for a normal sign-post (henceforth all locations will be referred to, and labelled on the figures as, 'signposts'). Nine foundation holes were excavated, seven within The Wilderness to the north of the main Palace complex, one on the Broad Walk to the north of the East Front adjacent to the entrance to The Wilderness, and one on the eastern side of the former Tiltyard, to the south of the Tiltyard Cafe. The foundation holes measured between 0.3 and 0.5 m square and 0.7 m deep, and in two locations these replaced existing signs (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.
- 1.2.2 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 foundation holes were hand excavated with the attending archaeologist present. Signposts 2 and 7 (Fig 2) involved the removal of an existing sign followed by



deepening the existing foundation hole. The other foundation holes were hand excavated through lawned areas, flanked by pathways.

- 2.2.2 All of the foundation holes were located on a plan at a scale of 1:1250. 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 off Fingerpost numbers, size and positions

Signpost number	Size (Square)	Depth	Location
1	0.3 m	0.7 m	North-west of the palace, south of the Tiltyard Cafe, at pathway junction
2	0.5 m	0.7 m	North-west of the Palace, north-east of Moat Lane, at pathway junction, replaced existing sign
3	0.3 m	0.7 m	North of the Palace, south-west of the toilet block, at entrance to male toilet
4	0.3m	0.4m	North of the palace, immediately west of the Works Yard entrance, single sign post rather than finger post
5	0.3m	0.7m	North of the Palace, south-east of the toilet block, at entrance to female toilet
6	0.3m	0.7m	North of the East Front, at entrance to gardens from the Wilderness
7	0.3m	0.7m	North of the Palace, east of the toilet block, at pathway junction, replaced existing sign
8	0.3m	0.7m	North of the Palace, south-east of Lion Gate, at pathway junction
9	0.3m	0.7m	North of the Palace, north-east of the Tiltyard Cafe, at pathway junction

3 RESULTS

3.1 Description of deposits

- 3.1.1 Signpost foundation holes 1 and 2 only showed evidence of the existing, silty topsoil.
- 3.1.2 Signpost foundation holes 3, 5, 6, 7, 8 and 9 all contained the current topsoil to a depth of between 0.3 and 0.5m. This overlay a clayey, silty sandy buried soil or subsoil which continued beyond the bottom of the excavations.
- 3.1.3 Signpost 4 consisted of 0.4m of modern, silty topsoil overlying the foundations to a twentieth century garden wall which the sign abutted to the east.

3.2 Finds

- 3.2.1 No finds were recovered

4 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

- 4.1.1 Although the watching brief provided limited access or visibility of the deposits within The Wilderness, there was consistency within the deposits seen, with c. 0.4 m of



current topsoil overlying 0.3 m of buried soil or subsoil suggests there has been little disturbance throughout the area.

- 4.1.2 The origins of the buried soil or subsoil are difficult to ascertain due to the conditions in which it was seen. It is possible that it is either an undisturbed subsoil overlying the natural gravel deposits, or it is a consistent levelling deposit spread throughout the area, possibly dating from a period of significant redevelopment of the Palace, both have been excavated within the Palace Gardens previously.



APPENDIX A. BIBLIOGRAPHY AND REFERENCES

OAU, 1992. *Fieldwork Manual* (ed. D Wilkinson).



APPENDIX B. SUMMARY OF SITE DETAILS

Site name:	Fingerpost Signage Hampton Court Palace
Site code:	HCP90
Grid reference:	Centred at NGR TQ 515736 168702
Type of watching brief:	Fingerpost foundation hole excavation
Date and duration of project:	29-30 th March 2012
Area of site:	9 holes, c. 0.3 x 0.3m X 0.7m deep
Summary of results:	Only the current topsoil and sub-soil/buried soil 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.

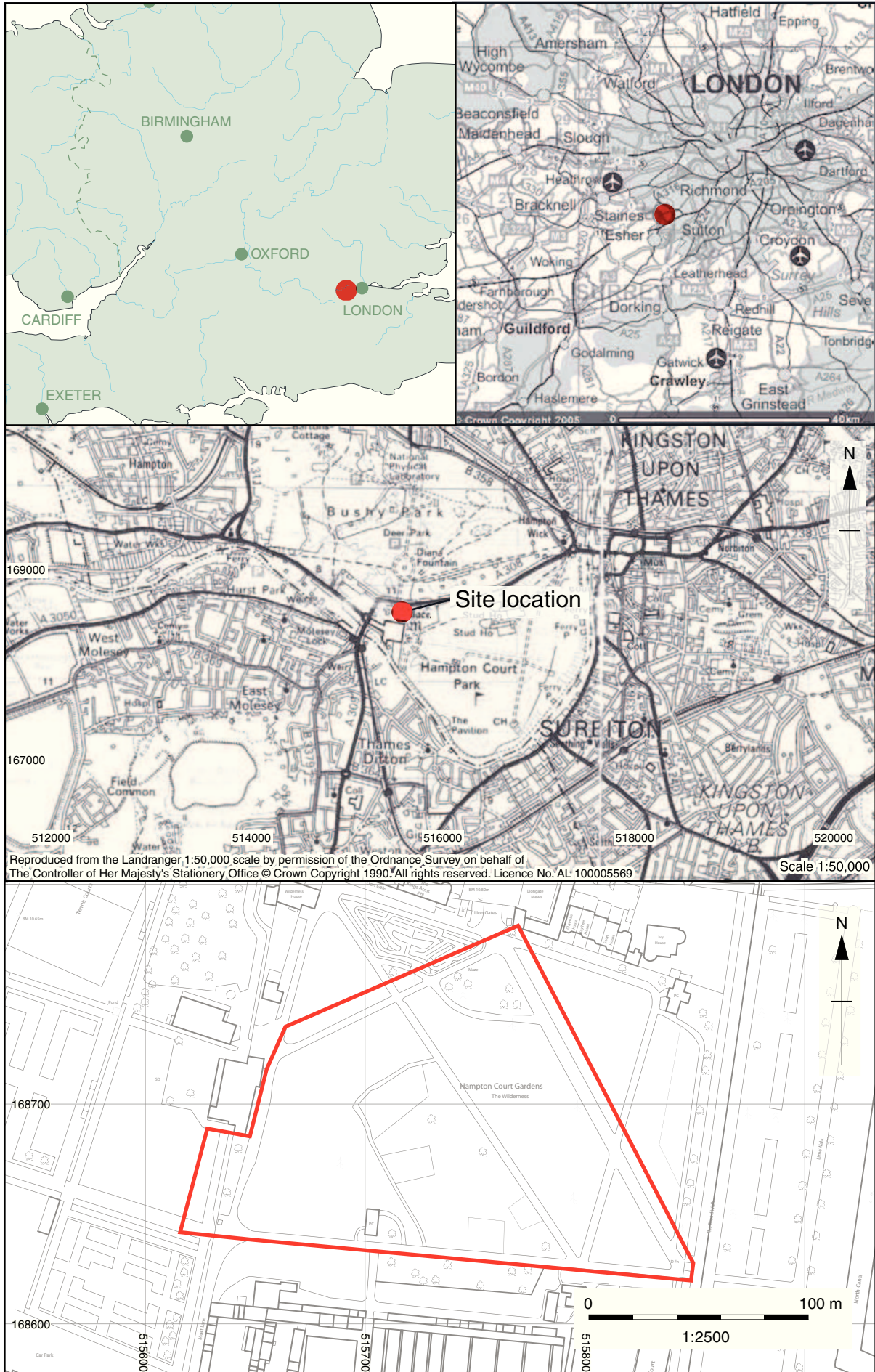


Figure 1: Site location



All OS data reproduced by permission of the Ordnance Survey on behalf of the controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown copyright. All rights reserved. License AL100005569

0 50 m
Scale at A4 1:1250

Figure 2
Fingerpost Locations

CHECKED BY: Draft



**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*