

# Estate Manager's Wall Hampton Court Palace



## Statement of Significance



**Client: Historic Royal Palaces**

Issue No: 1  
OA Job No: 5430  
NGR: TQ 1581 6861



**Client Name:** Historic Royal Palaces  
**Document Title:** Estate Manager's Office Wall, Hampton Court Palace  
**Document Type:** Statement of Significance  
**Issue Number:** 1  
**National Grid Reference:** TQ 1581 6861  
**OA Job Number:** 5430  
**Site code:** HCP96  
**Invoice code:** HCP96BS  
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**Date:** September 2012

**Document file location:**

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## Estate Manager's Office Wall, Hampton Court Palace

### *STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE*

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## 1 INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Project Background

1.1.1 Oxford Archaeology South (OAS) was commissioned by Historic Royal Palaces to prepare a Statement of Significance document relating to the Estate Manager's Office Wall at Hampton Court Palace.

1.1.2 The wall was significantly leaning and has recently been dismantled on safety grounds, however the bricks have been stored to allow for rebuilding with some alteration to accommodate drainage for the wilderness garden and the roots of adjacent trees and planting which are of special interest and are encroaching on the walls footprint. As part of the scheduled monument consent for the work English Heritage require a Statement of Significance.

1.1.3 The statement of significance is necessary to consider the age of the wall, its historical development and its heritage significance. This statement of significance also includes an archaeological statement and an assessment of potential buried archaeology.

### 1.2 Location

1.2.1 The Estate Manager's Office wall is situated adjacent to the Estate Manager's office on the northern side of the glasshouse nursery, to the north of the palace main buildings (Figure 1). The adjacent space is used for car parking for the office and nearby buildings provide storage facilities for the gardening and estate staff. The wall is situated within the works yard and is currently not accessible by members of the public.

## 2 DESCRIPTION

### 2.1 Pre Demolition

2.1.1 The description of the wall as it stood is taken from observations by Emma Simpson of SBC Ltd who examined the brickwork prior to the demolition of the wall (Plate 1).

2.1.2 The wall formed a short section of retaining wall backing onto the Wilderness. To the east end the wall abuts another wall at right angles and to the west end the wall adjoins a section of dry stone walling which forms the retaining wall for a garden area outside the Estate Managers office.

2.1.3 The wall was 177cm high and 570cm long and is constructed with 23 courses of mixed bricks laid in a Flemish bond. The bricks measure 222-229 x 100-108 x 64-70mm and are regular in shape with creasing on the faces but defined arrises. The bricks are a mix of colours very similar to those seen elsewhere within the Palace. The colours vary and include red, pale pink, yellow, gold, purple and wine shades.

Within the Hampton Court Brick Typology, these appear to bricks correspond with **Type Q** bricks which date to the late 18th century to 19th century. This brick type consists of a mix of different bricks which results in the variation in colours seen on the elevation. The mortar used was an off white coloured lime mortar with joints measuring between 6-12mm. On top of the wall there was Portland stone coping with drip. The coping measures 460mm wide x 40mm deep and projected approximately 40mm from the face of the wall.

- 2.1.4 A redundant pipe ran across the length of the wall. Two later blocks of brickwork five courses high abutting the wall probably formed a base for a now removed piece of equipment (possibly water tank?).

## 2.2 Post Demolition

- 2.2.1 Following demolition it can be seen that the wall brickwork was bonded into the adjoining east wall (Plates 4 & 5). The coursing of both brick walls were unevenly matched, the brick type also varied slightly suggesting the walls were constructed at different times. The footprint of the removed wall was revealed as well as infill patches of brickwork to the rear of the retaining wall (Plates 2 & 3).

- 2.2.2 The removed bricks were examined and it can be seen that the wall was constructed of different brick types - some of which were examined closely. An iron spotted gold coloured brick measuring 222 x 108 x 67mm had a golden patina over a pink coloured brick, the faces were spotted with dark flecks. This brick had a frog with a rudimentary shape and what appeared to be a makers stamp within, however this was indecipherable. A yellow coloured brick measuring 232 x 120 x 62mm had a rectangular frog but no indication of a makers stamp. The visible coping stones appear in good condition with no obvious masons marks.

## 3 BACKGROUND HISTORY

### 3.1 The Early Palace

- 3.1.1 The wall is located adjacent to the dry moat constructed by Wolsey in 1515. There appears to be no direct reference to this wall, although there are references within the Henrician Exchequer rolls to the construction of walling and digging of ditches in this area of the palace grounds.

- 3.1.2 *'Workmen working on the wall round a bought the Herber in the great orchard'* PRO/E/36/239

- 3.1.3 *'Diggyng & casting of dyches – Lyonell Bronell; dyggyng and casting the foundacyon of the brykkwall a bought the Cooks new garden with the orchard belonging'* PRO/E/36/245

- 3.1.4 *'Thomas Clement for laying 211,000 Brykke in the brykk wall upon the lowng Course in the Nether Parke; 258,000 of old Brykks in leyngyng the tylte walls and sundry walls in the great orchard and to forsayd Thomas for taking down and*



*making clene 410,000 brykke upon sundry old walls in the great orcherd.'*  
PRO/E/36/239

- 3.1.5 The open tennis play located to the east of the site may date to the Wolsey phase of construction, if not slightly earlier. The close bowling alley situated to the south of the site was constructed in 1530-32.
- 3.1.6 An early view of Hampton Court from the North by Wyngaerde (1558-62) shows the orchard separated from the grounds of the Tiltyard by a long brick wall (Figure 2). A later view produced for Cosimo de Medici in 1669 shows the orchard still in situ. The area we are concerned with is not depicted within these views however.
- 3.1.7 An early plan by Hawksmoor from c. 1689 (Figure 3) clearly shows the moat, bowling alley and tennis court (a replacement for the Tudor one was constructed in 1660/61) but there is no detail in the area where the wall is located (Figure 4). By 1686 the orchard to the north of the dry moat had been changed into a garden which eventually becomes the 'Wilderness', a large woodland garden where the planting and layout was less structured than other formal planted gardens. The former privy orchard located within the dry moat by this time was used as a kitchen garden.

## 3.2 The 18th Century Onwards

- 3.2.1 A view of Hampton Court from the West by Knyff (1707) is more detailed indicating a wall connecting the tennis court and the bowling alley (Figure 4). The dry moat is surrounded by trees which extend to the tennis court. The area within the moat is shown divided into kitchen gardens and forcing grounds. The Charles Bridgeman plan of 1711 (Figure 5) makes reference to this area as the 'Melon Ground'. The moat can still be clearly seen to the north and west sides of this area and an L shaped building is depicted to the north end of the area between the bowling alley and tennis court although this appears to correspond with the cranked section of wall separating the tennis court garden from the glasshouse garden.
- 3.2.2 A slightly later plan by Clerk of Works in c. 1714 makes no reference to the moat or the L shaped building (Figure 6) but shows the bowling alley and tennis court in some detail as well as the wilderness gardens to the north of the site. Another detailed 18th century plan by John Rocque (1736) again depicts the moat, which clearly terminates before the extent of the bowling alley with what appears to be brick walling (Figure 7).
- 3.2.3 A plan of the gardens from c.1805 shows the buildings within the melon ground and details of the Palace gardens (Figure 8). The bowling alley is no longer in situ but the L shaped building to the north of the tennis court is shown. A further small square building to the north of the former bowling alley location is also shown. This plan shows the moat partly infilled and the Estate Managers wall now appears to be in situ having been constructed using **Type Q** bricks (late 18thC/19thC).

- 3.2.4 The moat was eventually fully infilled in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century, a plan by Phillip Hardwicke dated 1813 shows the moat partially still in situ but by 1841 the moat had been infilled and partly replaced by planting as shown on the plan of that date by Henry Sayer (1841).
- 3.2.5 The Estate Managers office is a later 19<sup>th</sup> century addition to the area and is constructed on the raised area adjacent to the retaining wall. There appear to have been few changes to the office and the adjoining wall in the 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> centuries.

## 4 DISCUSSION

### 4.1 Significance

- 4.1.1 As a scheduled monument Hampton Court Palace is of outstanding national significance. Hampton Court Palace is grade I listed and the walls and railings to the palace are also separately listed at Grade I. The parks and gardens of Hampton Court also have Grade I status on the English Heritage 'Register of Historic Parks and Gardens of special historic interest in England', meaning they are considered to be 'of exceptional interest'.
- 4.1.2 The Estate Manager's Office wall was constructed in the late 18<sup>th</sup>/early 19<sup>th</sup> century and is located within the gardeners works yard and the functional part of the Palace which is little seen by visitors. The wall itself is of a lower significance than other nearby walls that contain earlier brickwork and are remnants of earlier structures no removed (eg, Wall 22).
- 4.1.3 The wall is a retaining wall and will need to be rebuilt to provide support for the planting in the higher ground behind it. During these works there is potential for buried archaeology due to the nearby location of the former dry moat and the possible presence of former structures on this site as seen on early plans of the palace. Footings of an earlier wall may also be present.

Alison de Turberville  
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September 2012

## APPENDIX I      BIBLIOGRAPHY

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APPENDIX II ESTATE MANAGER'S OFFICE WALL CHRONOLOGY

Date	Event	Reference
1515	Construction of Wolsey park walls (in palling) and dry moat, the area within the dry moat was turned over to a Privy Orchard.	Laws
1520s	The privy orchard was enclosed by brick walls.	Longstaffe Gowan (2005) p.146
1532	A close bowling alley is constructed near to site of wall. (The 'Kyns new bowling alley' is referred to in accounts for August-September 1532).	Heath Records no. 23
1536 21 Oct-18 Nov	References to construction work within the orchard - <i>'Workmen working on the wall round a bought the Herber in the great orcherd'</i>	PRO/E/36/239
1537 8 Sept – 6 Oct	<i>'Diggyng &amp; casting of dyches – Lyonell Bronell; dyggyng and casting the foundacyon of the brykkwall a bought the Cooks new garden with the orcherd belonging'</i>	PRO/36/E/245
1538 2 Mar-30 Mar	<i>'Thomas Clement for laying 211,000 Brykke in the brykk wall upon the lowng Course in the Nether Parke; 258,000 of old Brykks in leyngyng the tylte walls and sundry walls in the great orcherd and to forsayd Thomas for taking down and making clene 410,000 brykke upon sundry old walls in the great orcherd.'</i>	PRO/E/36/239
1558-62	Privy orchard beyond Tiltyard as shown on Wyngaerde surrounded by moat to north east and west, to the south was kitchens. A long brick wall separates the main orchard from Tiltyard.	Wyngaerde, Bodleian Oxford
1689 and later	Hawksmoor plan of palace shows tennis court but not bowling alley and no detail for melon ground.	
1703/1707	Knyff view from east depicts a clear view of the walling to north end of bowling alley and tennis court, there appears to be a double wall with small courtyard between. The dry moat can clearly be seen adjacent to this with brick walls to each side. The former privy orchard is shown divided into gardens with glazed green houses. A similar view is presented by Kipp in 1707.	
c.1710-14	Soane plan of the palace and gardens shows the layout of the wilderness gardens complete with mazes. There are no details within the area of the Estate Managers office and the moat is not depicted. The bowling alley remains in situ.	Soane Museum Folio II no. 40

1711	Charles Bridgeman plan of 1711 shows the former privy orchard now as the 'melon ground', a garden area for the cultivation of melons, cucumbers etc under glass. The dry moat ditch is clearly still in situ as are the tennis court and bowling alley. A small L shaped building is depicted centrally to the north of this.	Bridgeman plan 1711
c.18thC	A plan of Hampton court at ground floor shows no detail of the melon ground but does show the tennis court and bowling alley and a brick wall which presumably is the inner wall for the dry moat.	PRO 34/43
1736	A detailed plan of the gardens by John Rocque for Frederick, Prince of Wales clearly shows the moat in detail. The dry moat terminates before the bowling alley which is still in situ. The melon ground is divided into different beds with a wall surrounding this running adjacent to the moat. There are openings within the wall at the east and west end of the east-west wall. The L shaped building previously shown is not depicted and there is no other detail within the area of the Estate Manager's office.	
c. 1805	This plan shows the buildings within the melon ground and details of the Palace gardens. The bowling alley is no longer in situ but the L shaped building to the north of the tennis court is shown. A further small square building to the north of the former bowling alley location is also shown. This plan shows the moat partly infilled and the Estate Managers wall now appears to be in situ having been constructed using <b>Type Q</b> bricks (late 18thC/19thC).	PRO LRRO/1/2030
1813	Phillip Hardwicke plan of 1813. No other detail for this area although a small building is depicted to the west of the tennis court.	SD85/5 (RIBA)
1841	The Sayers plan of 1841 shows the moat is now fully infilled and replaced by planting. The Estate Manager's Wall is in situ. A series of small buildings are depicted to the north of the tennis court and also within the melon grounds.	PRO WORK 34/1349
Late 19th Century	The Estate Managers office is constructed on raised ground adjacent to the wall.	
Early to mid 20th C	The brick base for a fixture (possible tank?) is built adjacent to the wall.	
April 2011	The wall is surveyed by Emma Simpson at SBC Ltd. Large cracks are seen within the structure and the wall is leaning. The wall is dismantled on safety grounds but the bricks and coping are retained for rebuild.	

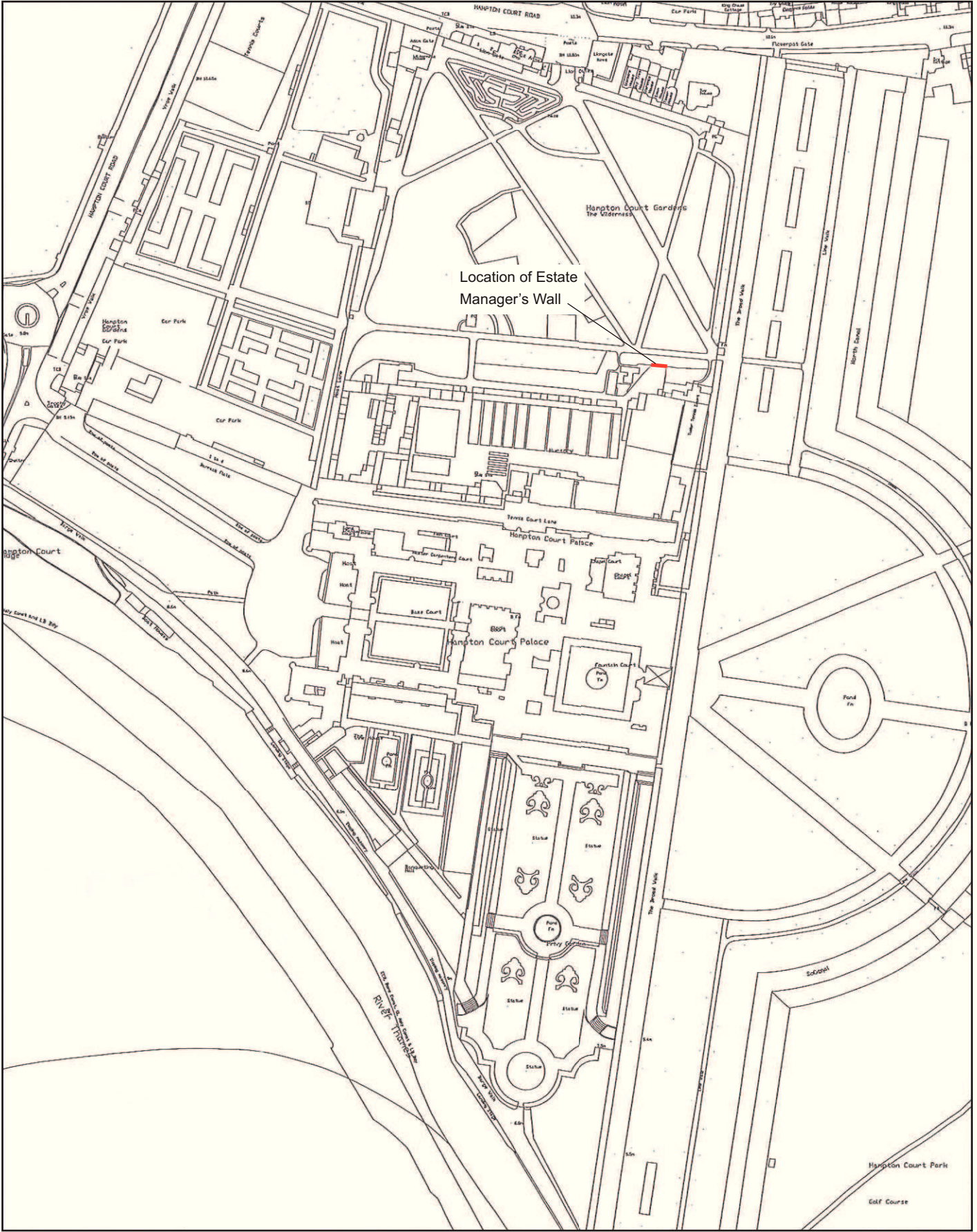


Figure 1: Figure 1 Location plan for wall



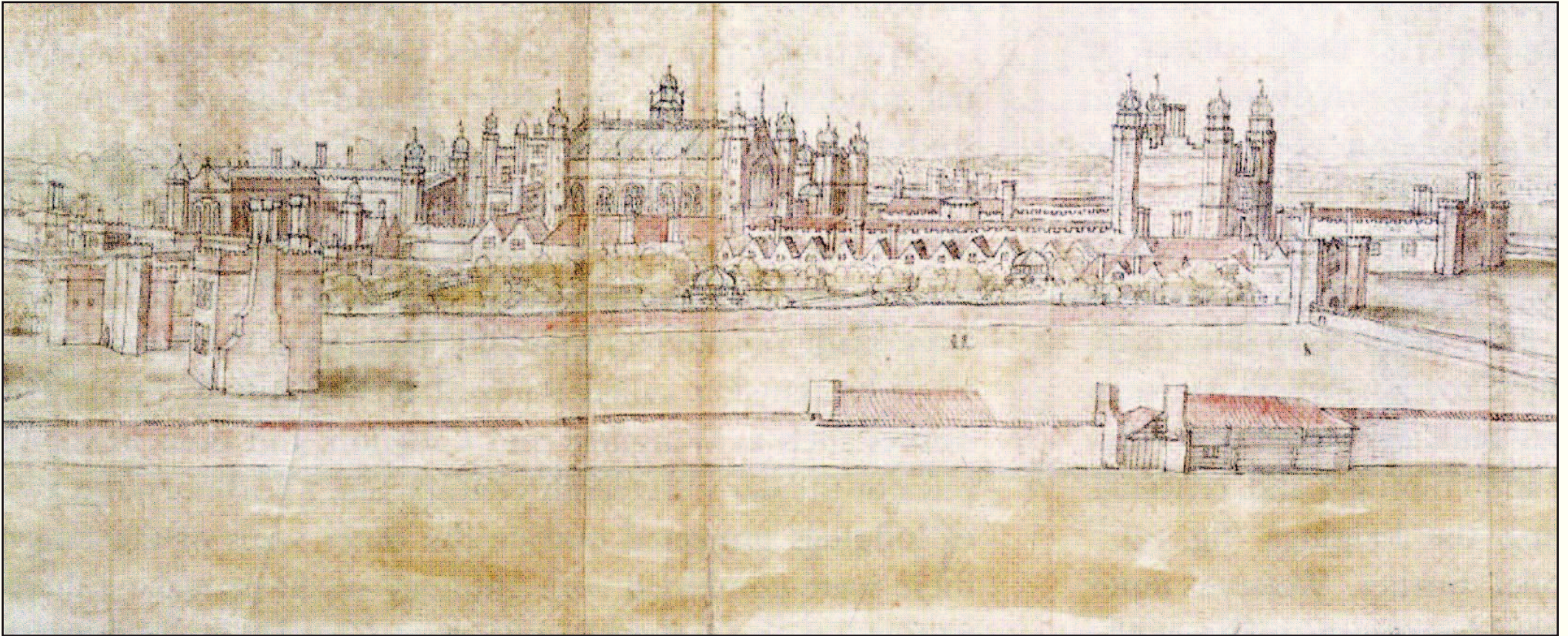


Figure 2: Extract from 'Hampton Court from the North' by Antonis van Wyngaerde (1558-62)

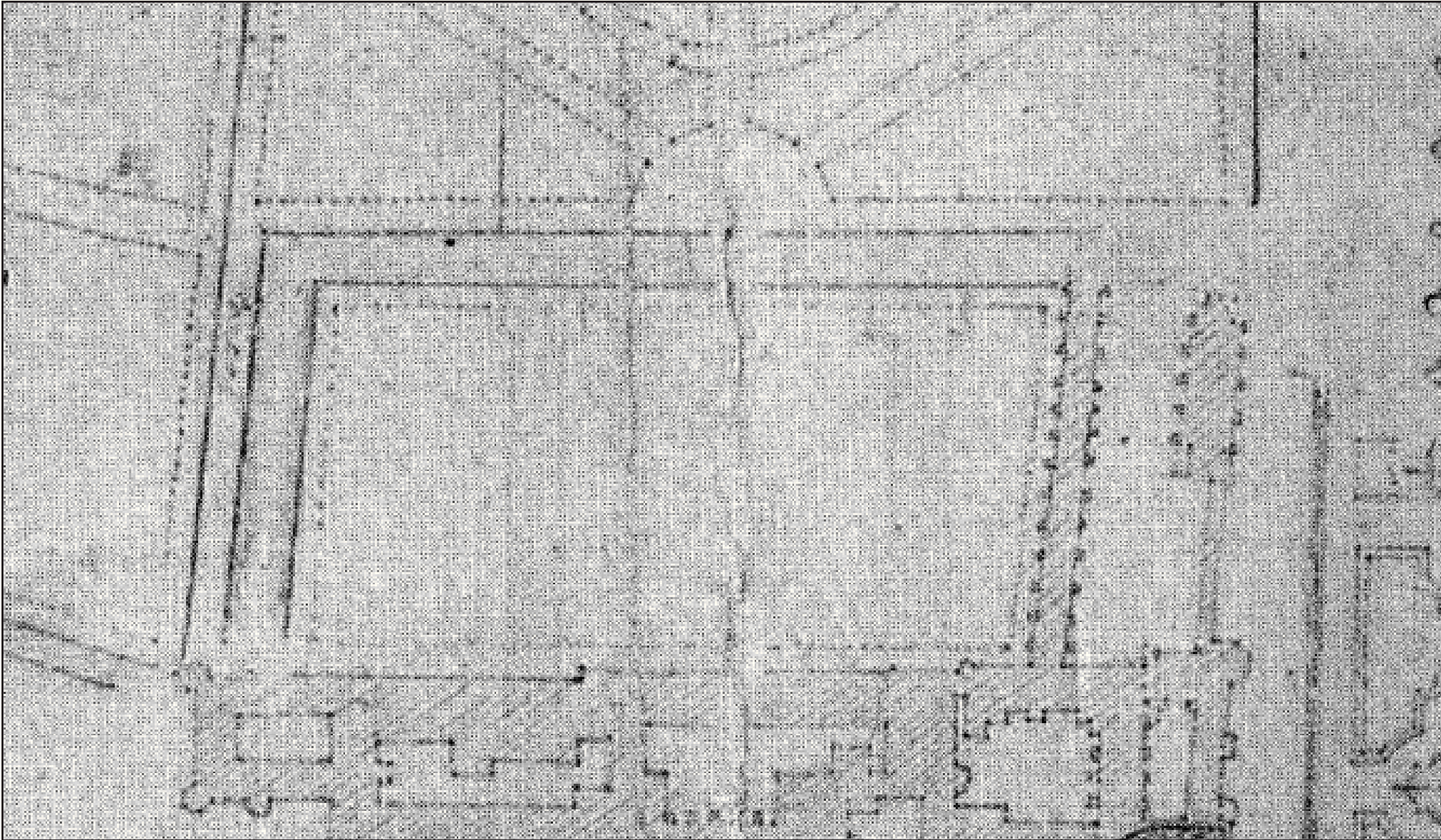


Figure 3: Extract from plan by Hawksmoor (c. 1689)



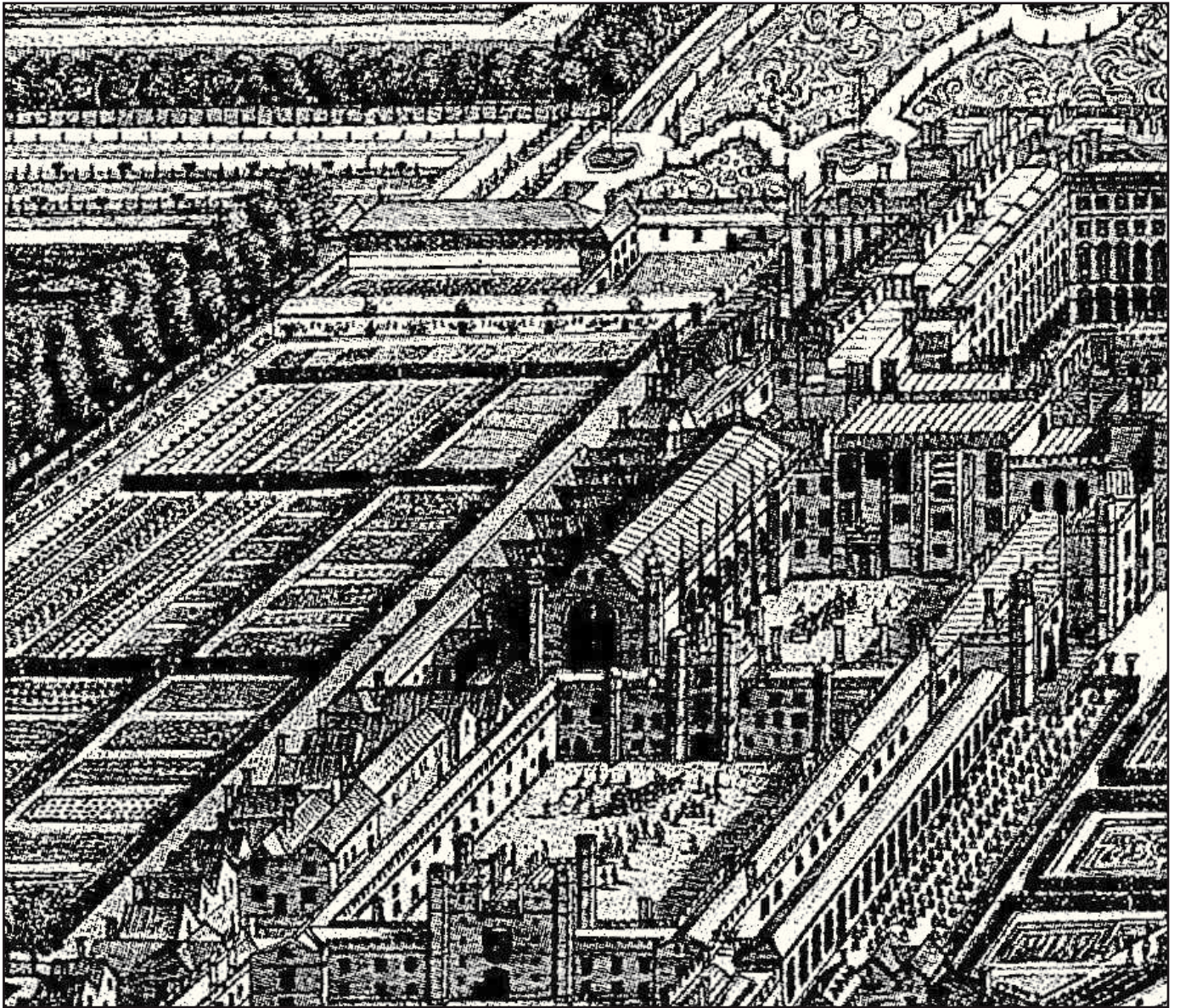


Figure 4: Extract from 'Hampton Court from the West' by Knyff (1707)



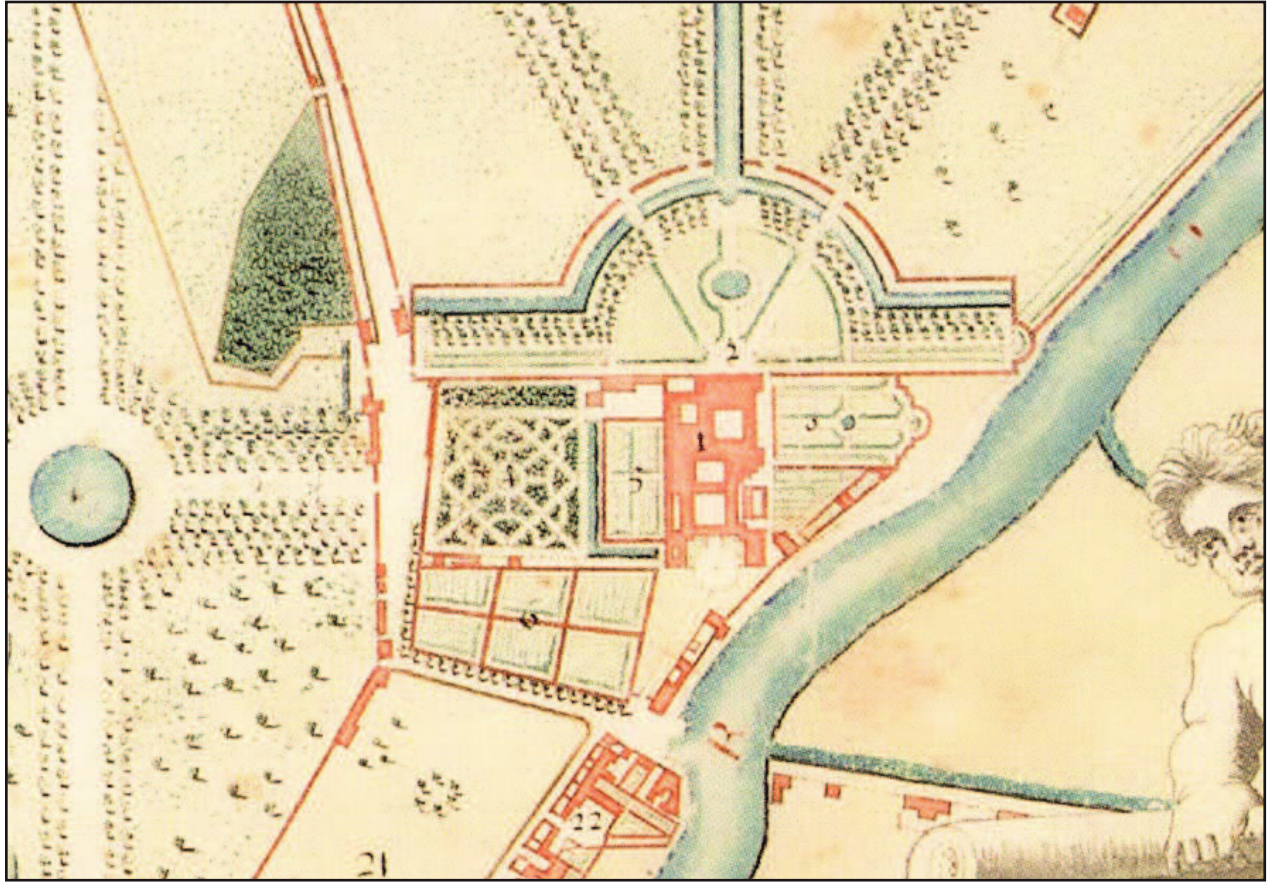


Figure 5: Charles Bridgeman's  
A General Plan of Hampton Court Palace Gardens and Parks, 1711

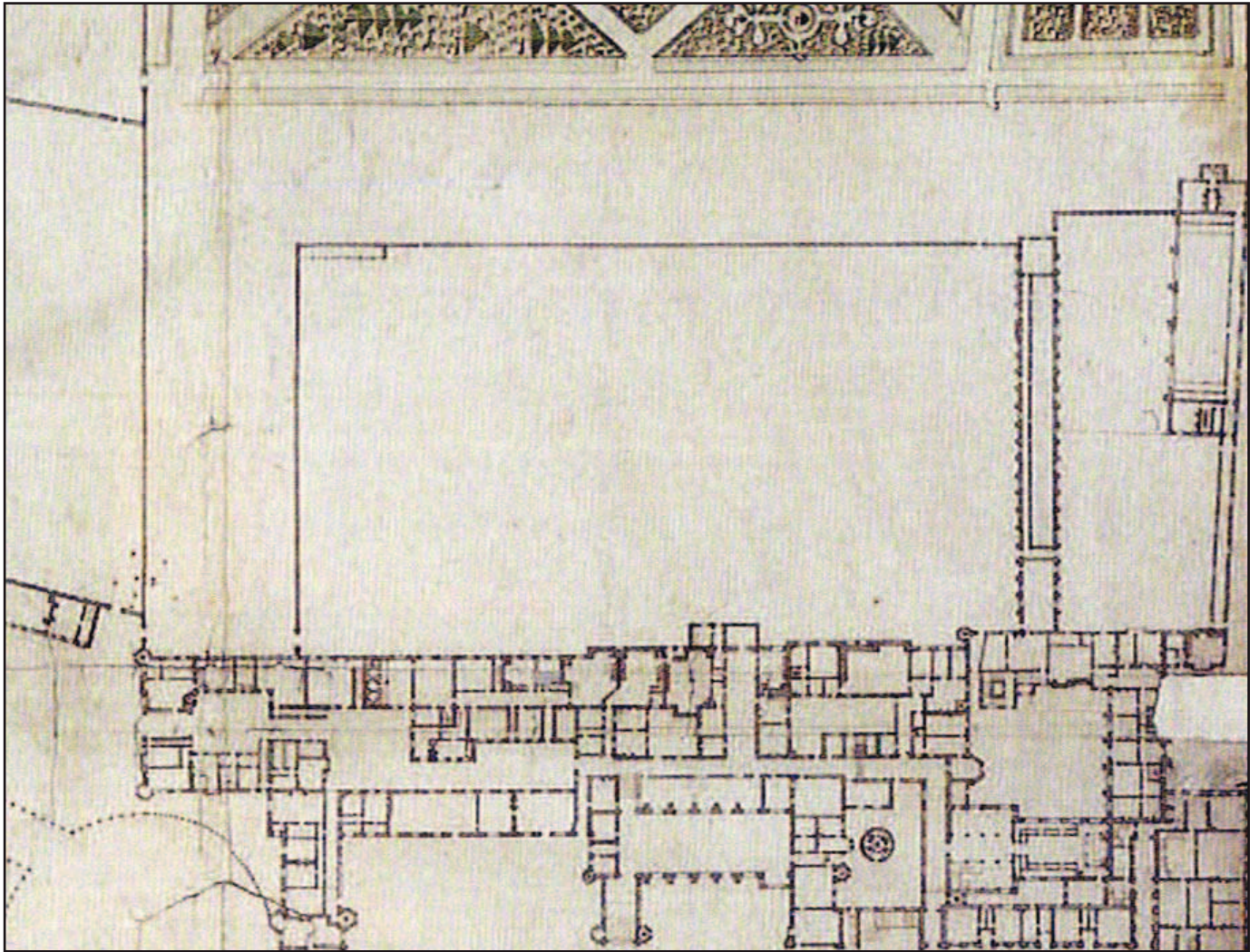


Figure 6: Extract from plan by Clerk of Works (c. 1714)



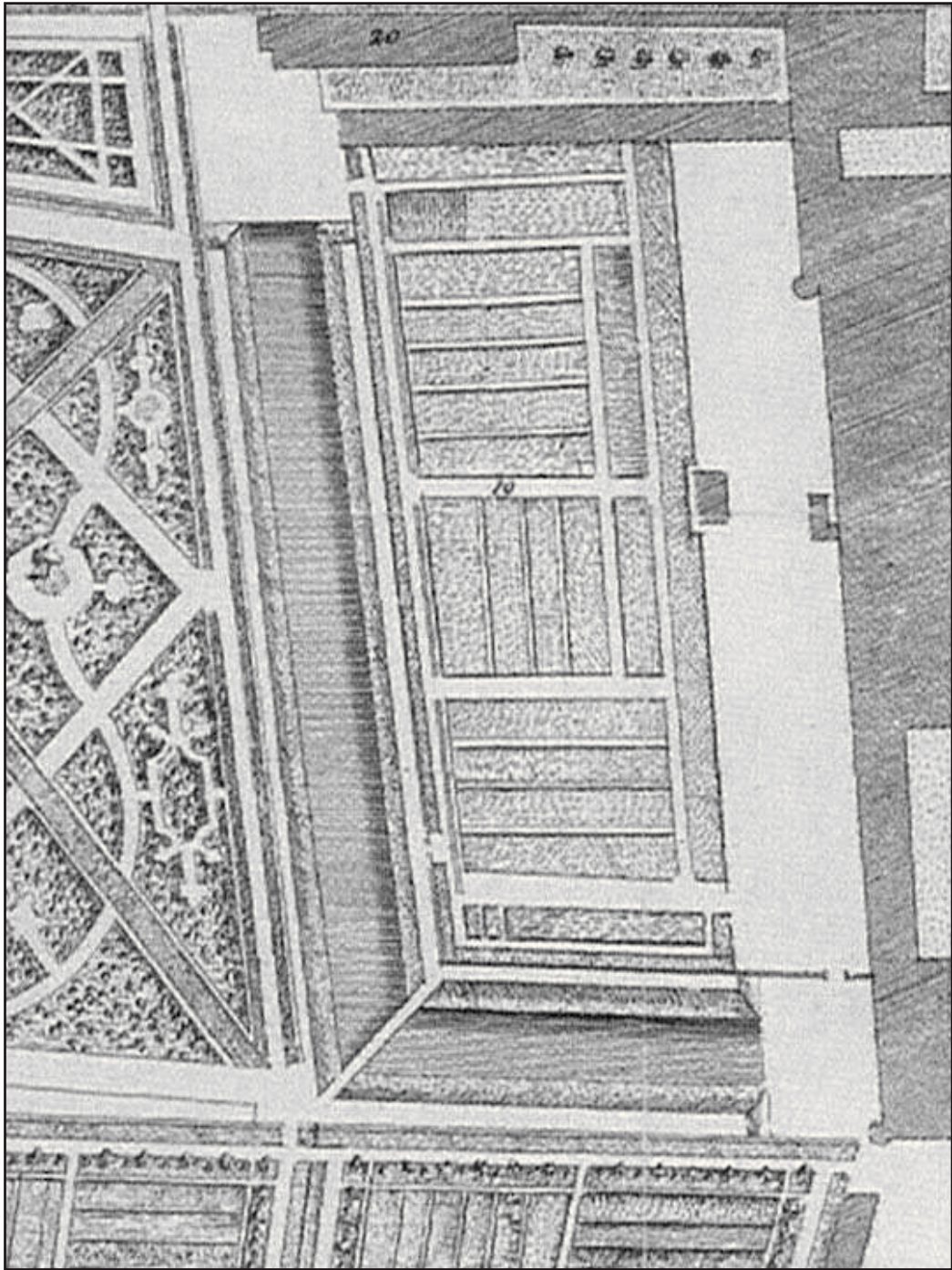


Figure 7: Extract from plan by John Rocque (1736)

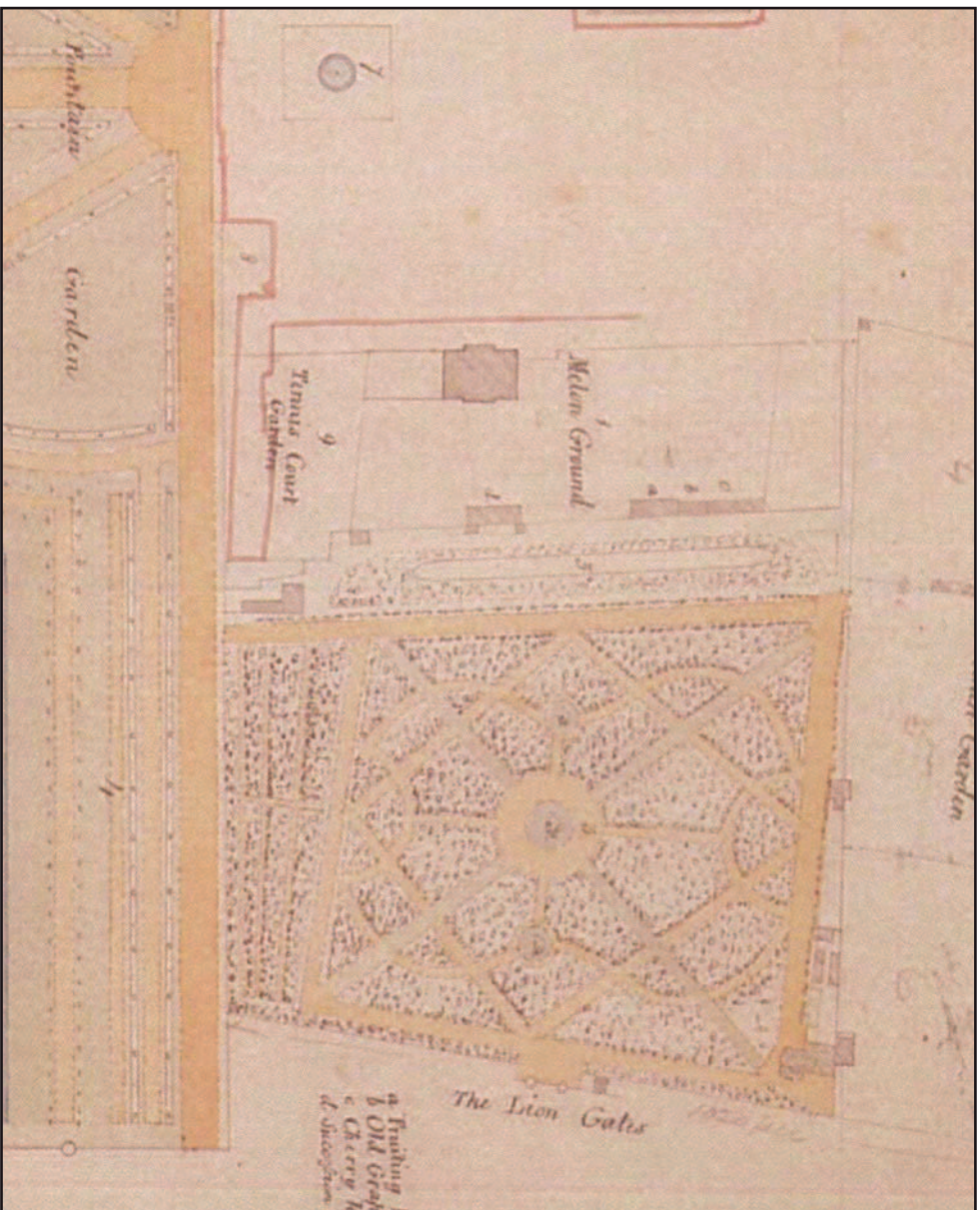


Figure 8: Plan of Hampton Court Gardens c.1805



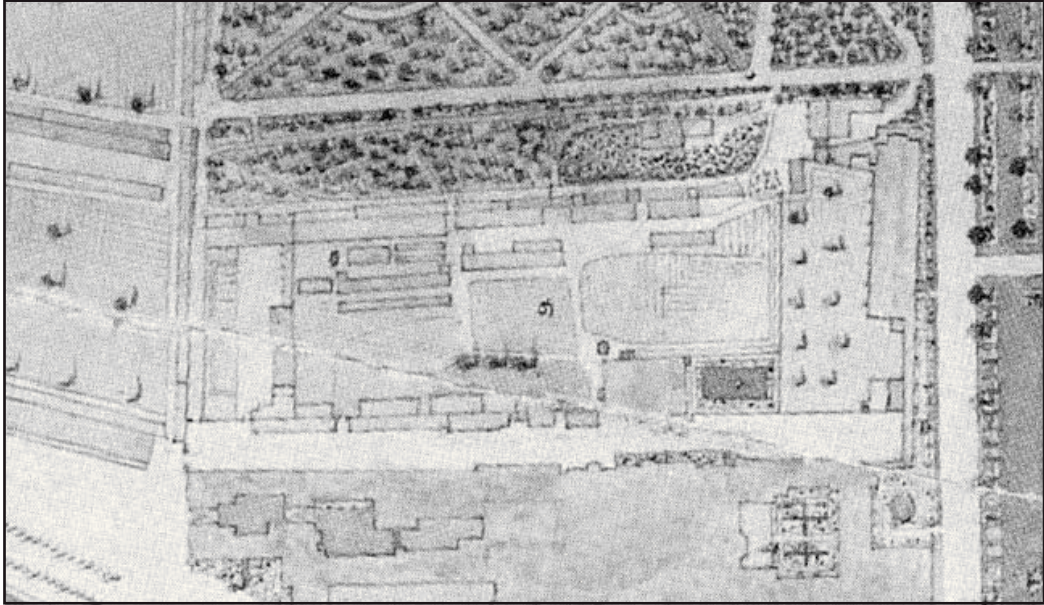


Figure 9: Extract from plan of the Hampton Court Estate by Henry Sayer (1841)



Figure 10:  
Wartime aerial photograph taken by RAF (1941)





Plate 1: Wall before dismantling (Photo: Emma Simpson, SBC Ltd)



Plate 2: View of wall footings following dismantling





Plate 3: Detail of wall footings following dismantling



Plate 4: View of wall (east) following dismantling



Plate 5: Detail of wall eastern brickwork following dismantling







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