

Hampton Court Palace Georgian House



Archaeological Watching Brief Report



October 2008

Client: Historic Royal Palaces

Issue No: Draft
NGR: TQ 158 685

Client Name: Historic Royal Palaces

Client Ref No:

Document Title: Hampton Court Palace, Georgian House

Document Type: Watching Brief

Issue Number: Final Report (1)

National Grid Reference: TQ 156 685

Planning Reference:

OA Job Number:

Site Code: HCP59

Invoice Code: HCP59WB

Receiving Museum: HRP

Museum Accession No: HCP59

Prepared by: Ian Cook
Position: Supervisor
Date: 16th October 2008

Checked by: David Wilkinson
Position: Senior Project Manager
Date: 21st October 2008

Approved by: David Wilkinson Signed.....
Position: Senior Project Manager
Date: 21st October 2008

Document File Location Restricted
Graphics File Location Restricted
Illustrated by Sarah Lucas and Marcus Dylewski

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 Archaeology

© Oxford Archaeological Unit Ltd 2008

Janus House

Osney Mead

Oxford OX2 0ES

t: (0044) 01865 263800

f: (0044) 01865 793496

e: info@oxfordarch.co.uk

w: www.oxfordarch.co.uk

Oxford Archaeological Unit Limited is a Registered Charity No: 285627

Hampton Court Palace Georgian House

NGR TQ 156 685

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF REPORT

CONTENTS

Summary	1
1 Introduction	1
1.1 Location and scope of work	1
1.2 Geology and topography	1
1.3 Archaeological and historical background	1
2 Project Aims and Methodology	2
2.1 Aims	2
2.2 Methodology	2
3 Results	2
3.1 Description of deposits	2
3.2 Finds	3
3.3 Palaeo-environmental remains	4
4 Discussion and Conclusions	4
Appendix 1 Archaeological Context Inventory	5
Appendix 2 Finds Assessments	6
Appendix 3 Bibliography and references	6
Appendix 4 Summary of Site Details	7

LIST OF FIGURES

- Fig. 1 Site location
Fig. 2 Site plan of area of watching brief and sections 100, 101 and 102

SUMMARY

Between the 14th January 2008 and 5th February 2008 Oxford Archaeology (OA) carried out an archaeological watching brief at Hampton Court Palace. A single trench 50 m in length and 0.58 m wide was excavated along part of Tennis Court Lane. The work was commissioned by Historic Royal Palaces in advance of the installation of a new electrical supply cable to the Georgian House. The watching brief revealed demolition layers of brick fragments and tile. No archaeological features were encountered. The demolition layers were probably a bedding/levelling layer for an old road surface along Tennis Court Lane.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Location and scope of work

1.1.1 Between the 14th January 2008 and 5th February 2008 Oxford Archaeology (OA) carried out an archaeological watching brief at Hampton Court Palace (Fig. 1). The watching brief covered the excavation by hand of a single trench approximately 50 m long and 0.58 m wide along part of Tennis Court Lane (Fig. 2). The trench was dug in advance of the installation of a new electrical supply cable to the Georgian House. The Historic Royal Palaces maintenance contractors (FWA) excavated the trench.

1.1.2 The Watching Brief was carried out at the request of William Page and Kent Rawlinson of Historic Royal Palaces.

1.2 Geology and topography

1.2.1 The site lies at a height of c.9m above OD. The site is situated on the First Terrace drift geology 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 an archaeological and historical site of national importance. The information given below is taken from Thurley (2003) unless otherwise stated.

1.3.2 A walled orchard existed at Hampton Court in the time of Cardinal Wolsey and was probably on the same site, north of the Palace, as the later Privy Orchard laid out under Henry VIII in 1535 and situated within the northern circuit of the moat. It was planted with mainly apple and pear trees as well as oaks, elms and hollies.

1.3.3 Talman's plan of 1699 shows a garden divided into six compartments, probably a kitchen garden. This is also what seems to appear on the early 18th-century Knyff views. In 1703, Henry Wise planted, for Queen Anne, 770 more fruit trees, some of which were planted in the old Privy Orchard, by then known as the Melon Ground, and shown as such on Bridgeman's survey of 1711.

- 1.3.4 In 1717 approval was given for the construction of an additional kitchen on the north side of the Palace facing the Tudor kitchens across the northern service road, now known as Tennis Court Lane. These new kitchens were staffed by kitchen staff brought over from Germany by George I and became known as the German Kitchen. The old Tudor kitchens were to be used by English staff to feed the Palace household and became known as the English Kitchens.
- 1.3.5 Approval was again given in 1737 for the construction of new offices on the north side of the Palace in the old Privy Orchard, which was by then known as the Melon Ground. Subsequently the north side of Tennis Court Lane became a village of store yards and workshops.
- 1.3.6 A new school serving the children of the Palace employees was built along Tennis Court Lane during the 1870s and remained in use until 1953 after which it was handed over to the Office of Works at the Palace and allocated to the Warden and security staff.

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 The watching brief was maintained during the period of groundworks that would have either affected or revealed archaeological deposits.
- 2.2.2 All archaeological features were planned at a scale of 1:100 and sections drawn at scales of 1:20. All excavated features were photographed using colour slide and black and white print film as well as on 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).

3 RESULTS

3.1 Description of deposits

- 3.1.1 A single trench was hand dug along Tennis Court Lane to accommodate a new electrical supply cable being run into the Georgian House. The trench was 50 m in length and 0.58 m wide, however it narrowed to 0.4 m for 20 m at the eastern end of the trench due to the presence of modern services either side. The entire trench was dug to a depth of 0.6 m.
- 3.1.2 This trench was originally started nearer the centre of Tennis Court Lane, however modern services were encountered and the position of the trench was moved closer to

the northern edge of the road. Layers encountered in this original section were very similar to, if not the same as deposits encountered when the repositioned trench was excavated. The tarmac road (100) was found to sit on top of a soft brick/tile/mortar deposit (101), which is more than likely the levelling/bedding deposit of an old road surface, as was the case with deposit 106.

- 3.1.3 The upper layer was the current tarmac surface of Tennis Court Lane (100, 104 and 108). This surface appeared to overlie a compact orange/brown layer, 105, that was probably a modern bedding/levelling layer for the modern road surface and could be seen running down the length of northern side of the trench.
- 3.1.4 Below the current road surface a deposit of brick fragments, tile, mortar and silt was encountered, 101 and 106 (section 100, 102, Fig. 2). This is probably the bedding/levelling deposit for an earlier road surface. Two cobblestones were also found in layer 106 that may have been part of the actual road surface. Within this surface, sherds of pot, a piece of clay pipe and some metal objects were recovered.
- 3.1.5 This deposit sits on top of another silty layer (107 - section 100, Fig. 2), which also contained some brick and tile fragments, although far less than the layer above. Brick, tile, pottery, animal bone, clay pipe and glass were found in this layer. It is entirely possible that this deposit was some form of sub base for an early road surface, although this is by no means clear. Pieces of carved stone were recovered from this deposit towards the centre of the trench and appear to be the remains of stone window frames used in the makeup of the old road bedding layer.
- 3.1.6 Running along most of the southern edge of the trench was the modern service trench containing the current electrical supply cables. Below the tarmac road surface 108 the backfill of this service trench was encountered (109 - sections 101 and 102, Fig. 3), which contained brick fragments and also broken tarmac from the current road that had been backfilled into the trench. The service trench sits on top of a silty layer, 110 (Section 101, Fig. 3), not dissimilar to 107 and may in fact be the same deposit.
- 3.1.7 At the eastern end the trench turns towards the Georgian House and finishes at the wall. This section of the trench was dug to a depth of 0.6 m at which point a ceramic pipe was uncovered, running along the length of the trench. This pipe contained the current electrical service cable that ran into the Georgian House. Therefore the deposit excavated was the backfill of the service trench, 111. No finds were recovered from this deposit.

3.2 Finds

- 3.2.1 Finds of clay pipe, pottery, tile and brick were recovered primarily from the demolition/leveling layers 106 and 107. The pottery was spot dated at Oxford Archaeology and was assigned dates as follows: *c* 1710-1760 (107); *c* 1770-1830 (106).
- 3.2.2 It is by no means certain when the road surfaces were laid because of the unknown provenance of the pottery recovered from the demolition/leveling layers seen in the

trench sections. The pottery seems to date from a period of demolition and construction at Hampton Court which included the demolition of part of the Tudor Palace and its subsequent rebuilding by William and Mary and the later construction of buildings along Tennis Court Lane which included the construction of the Georgian House by George I. Demolition rubble from building works may well have been deposited along Tennis Court Lane to provide a base for the construction of any road surface that would have been laid down.

3.3 **Palaeo-environmental remains**

- 3.3.1 No deposits suitable for environmental sampling were encountered during the watching brief

4 **DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS**

- 4.1.1 Although no significant structures were encountered during the excavation of this trench the levelling/bedding layer for an old road surface was encountered and provided evidence of how such a road surface was made.
- 4.1.2 Pieces of carved stone from what appears to have been window/door frames were found in this road make up as well as brick and tile, which may provide a tentative date for the construction of the road. It is not inconceivable that this demolition rubble came from the period when parts of the Palace were being rebuilt during the latter part of the 17th century and the 18th century.
- 4.1.3 The lack of any structural remains may be because this area of Hampton Court Palace was for a long time given over to gardens, most notably the Privy Orchard and the subsequent Melon Ground. No construction was carried out there until the 18th century when workshops, offices and the Georgian House were constructed along the northern edge of Tennis Court Lane, most of which are still standing.

APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1 ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONTEXT INVENTORY

<i>Context</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Depth</i>	<i>Width</i>	<i>Height</i>	<i>Comments</i>	<i>Finds</i>
100	Layer	0.1m	-	-	Tarmac Road	-
101	Surface	-	-	-	Original Road Surface	Brick/Tile
102	Layer/Fill	-	-	-	Modern Backfill	-
103	Layer/Fill	-	-	-	Modern Backfill	-
104	Layer	0.08m	-	-	Tarmac Road Surface	-
105	Layer	0.08m	-	-	Bedding Layer	-
106	Layer	0.22m	-	-	Bedding Layer for old road surface	Pot, CBM
107	Layer	-	-	-	Sub Base for old road surface/ Back fill	Pot/Glass/ Clay pipe
108	Layer	0.06m	-	-	Tarmac Road Surface	-
109	Layer	0.35m	-	-	Backfill	-
110	Layer	-	-	-	Sub Base for old road surface	-
111	Layer	-	-	-	Backfill for modern service trench	-

APPENDIX 2 FINDS ASSESSMENTS**Assessment of the pottery from Hampton Court (HCP59 08)***by John Cotter (OA)****Introduction and methodology***

A total of 7 sherds of pottery weighing 31 g. were recovered from two contexts. All of this material is of post-medieval date. All the pottery was examined and spot-dated during the present assessment stage.

For each context the total pottery sherd count and weight were recorded on an Excel spreadsheet, followed by the context spot-date which is the date-bracket during which the latest pottery types in the context are estimated to have been produced or were in general circulation. Comments on the presence of datable types were also recorded, usually with mention of vessel form (jugs, bowls etc.) and any other attributes worthy of note (eg. decoration etc.).

Date and nature of the assemblage

The pottery is in a fresh though fragmentary condition. The pieces from context 106 however are very small and possibly crushed. Ordinary domestic types are represented. Apart from a tiny piece of Chinese porcelain in 106, the pottery comprises common post-medieval English types (see spreadsheet).

Sherds of Staffordshire-type Creamware date context 106 to c 1770-1830 and an iron-dipped Staffordshire white stoneware mug rim from 107 dates that context to c 1710-1760. The base of an 18th-century English tin-glazed earthenware drug jar in the same context is the only non-tableware form of note in the assemblage.

Summary and Recommendations

Given the small size and lateness of the assemblage no further work is therefore recommended.

Table A.2.1. Pottery by Context, weight and date

Ctx	Spot-date	No.	Wt	Comments
106	c1770-1830	5	7g	4 x small body sherds Creamware, prob from min 2 vessels incl dish/plate rim. 1x v small body sherd Chinese porcelain with traces blue painted dec - prob 18C
107	c1710-1760	2	24g	1x mug rim Staffs-type drab salt-glazed grey stoneware with all over white slip and iron-dipped rim c 1710-60. Fresh. 1x base English tin-glazed earthenware drug jar with watery blue painted band ext. slightly chipped, c 1680-1750/75

APPENDIX 3 BIBLIOGRAPHY AND REFERENCES

IFA, 1992. *Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs*.

OA, 2000. *Environmental Sampling Guidelines*.

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

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

APPENDIX 4 SUMMARY OF SITE DETAILS

Site name: Hampton Court Palace, Georgian House

Site code: HCP5908

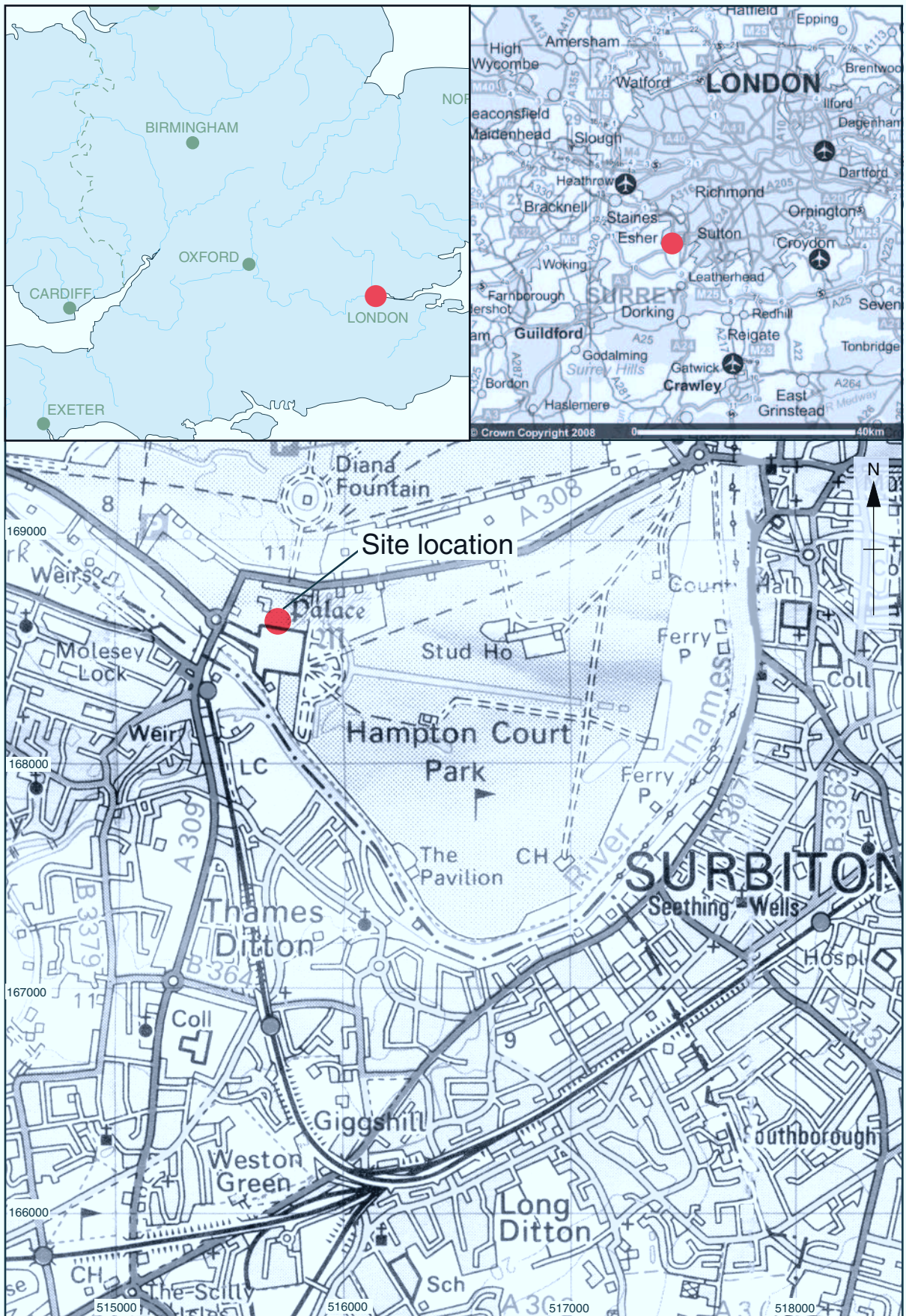
Grid reference: TQ 156 685

Type of watching brief: Monitoring of groundworks during the excavation of a new electrical supply cable trench.

Date and duration of project: 14th January 2008 to 5th February 2008

Summary of results: No structural remains were recorded. However, part of an old road surface bedding deposit 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 in due course.



Scale 1:25,000

Reproduced from the Landranger 1:50,000 scale by permission of the Ordnance Survey on behalf of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office
 © Crown Copyright 1996. All rights reserved. Licence No. AL 10005569

Figure 1: Site location

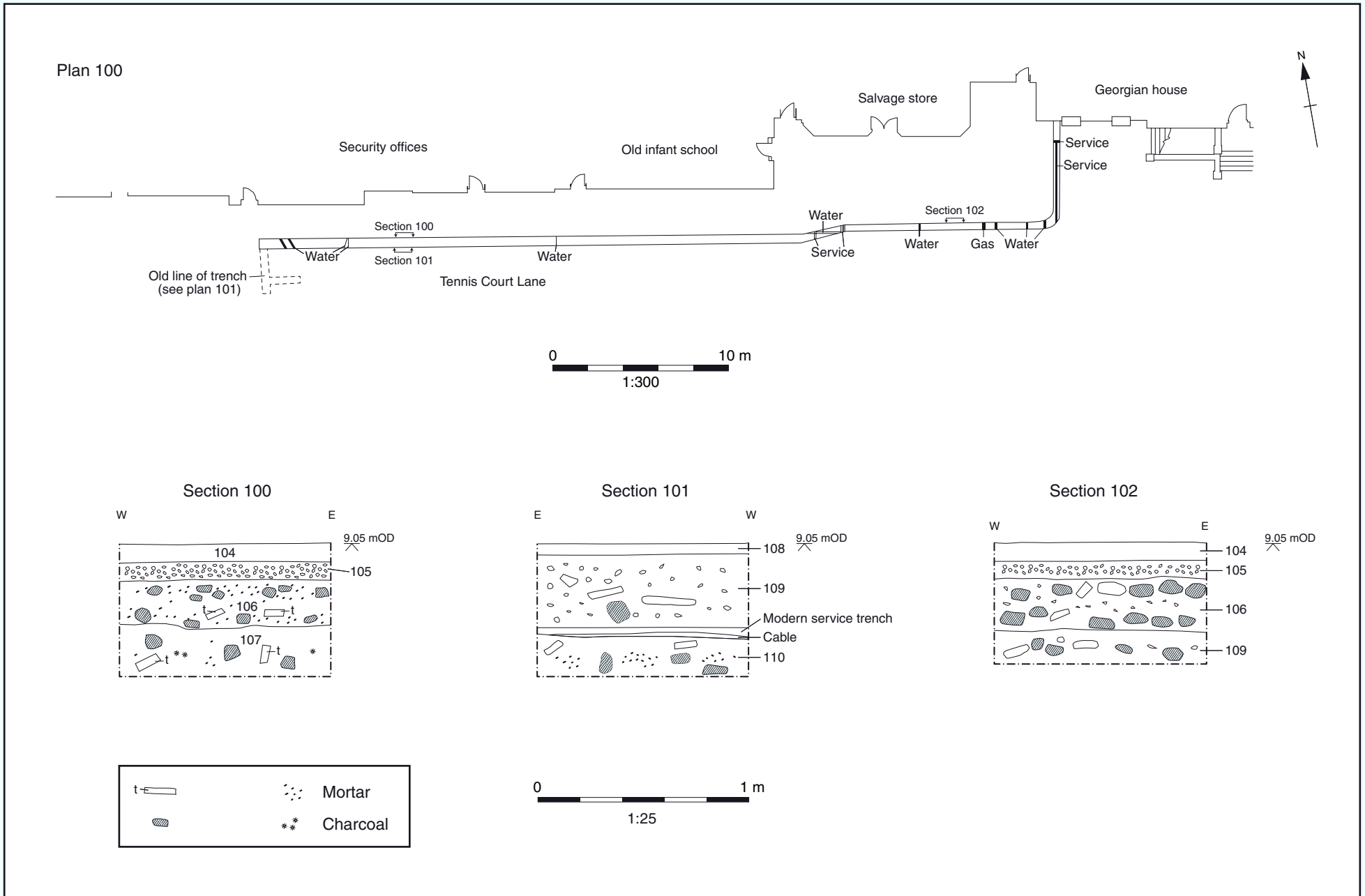


Figure 2: Site Plan 100 and Sections 100-102