

Clarence House 2 The Vineyard

Richmond

London

Archaeological Watching Brief Report

November 2023

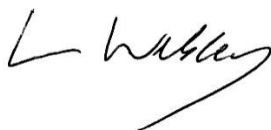
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Prepared by: Jim Mumford and Steve Teague
Checked by: Andrew Simmonds (Senior Project Manager)
Edited by: Andrew Simmonds (Senior Project Manager)
Approved for Issue by: Leo Webley (Head of Post-Excavation)
Signature:

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Oxford office

Janus House
Osney Mead
Oxford
OX2 0ES

t. +44 (0)1865 236 800

Cambridge office

15 Trafalgar Way
Bar Hill
Cambridge
CB23 8SQ

t. +44 (0)1223 850 500

Lancaster office

Mill 3
Moor Lane Mills
Moor Lane
Lancaster
LA1 1QD

t. +44 (0)1524 880 250

E: info@oxfordarchaeology.com
W: oxfordarchaeology.com
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Clarence House, 2 The Vineyard, Richmond, London

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Written by Jim Mumford and Steve Teague

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SUMMARY

Between June 2007 and October 2008 Oxford Archaeology carried out an archaeological watching brief at Clarence House, 2 The Vineyard, Richmond, London (NGR TQ 180 745). The work was commissioned by Martin Ashley Architects in respect of the excavation of a basemented extension and the construction of new extensions. The truncated base of an 18th century wall, probably of an orangery that was formerly attached to the house, and a brick-lined well or soakaway were observed, as was a 20th century brick base for a patio. No earlier archaeology was encountered.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Oxford Archaeology would like to thank Martin Ashley Architects for commissioning this project.

The project was managed for Oxford Archaeology by Dan Dodds. The fieldwork was undertaken by Jim Mumford and Dan Sykes. Thanks are extended to the team that prepared the archive under the supervision of Nicky Scott.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project details

1.1.1 Between June 2007 and October 2008 Oxford Archaeology (OA) carried out an archaeological watching brief at Clarence House, 2 the Vineyard, Richmond, London (NGR TQ 180 745), in respect of the excavation of a basemented extension and the construction of new extensions. The work was commissioned by Martin Ashley Architects.

1.1.2 Due to the impact on potential archaeological remains, an archaeological condition to monitor the works was attached to the planning consent. This is in line with the then PPG 16 and local planning policy. A written scheme of investigation was produced by OA detailing the local authority's requirements for work necessary to discharge the planning condition (OA 2007). This document outlines how OA implemented the specified requirements.

1.2 Location, topography and geology

1.2.1 Clarence House is located within the centre of the Borough of Richmond-on-Thames, on the top of a rise overlooking the River Thames (Fig. 1). The development area fronts onto the Vineyard and is bounded to the south-west, north-west and north-east by residential dwellings.

1.2.2 The building and grounds lie on level ground at approximately 17m OD. The underlying geology is alluvium over London Clay (Geological Survey of Great Britain, sheet no. 270).

1.3 Archaeological and historical background

1.3.1 The site lies about 0.5km south-east of the site of the former Richmond Palace, built around 1501 by Henry VII on the site of earlier palaces.

1.3.2 Clarence House, a Grade II Listed Building, was built c 1696 for Nathaniel Rawlins, a London haberdasher merchant, who lived there until his death in 1718. The Duke of Clarence, later to become King William IV, lived in Richmond in the late 1780s and gave his name to the property. The building became a Catholic school in 1792 and was subsequently used as a warehouse by Fortnum & Mason from 1941 to 1947. A private dwelling since 1947, it was owned by the actor Brian Blessed from 1967 to 1976 (The Steeple Times 2022).

2 PROJECT AIMS

2.1 Aims

2.1.1 The project aims and objectives were as follows:

- i. To identify and record the presence or absence, extent, condition, quality and date of archaeological remains of any period that may be affected or destroyed by the works to the basements, service trenching and during the landscaping of the site.
- ii. To establish the ecofactual and environmental potential of any archaeological deposits and features.
- iii. To make available the results of the archaeological investigation.

2.2 Methodology

2.2.1 The watching brief was maintained during the full period of groundworks affecting potential archaeological deposits and included monitoring the excavation of the new basements, underpinning of the existing walls, excavation of services and the landscaping of the grounds.

2.2.2 Some hand excavation was undertaken to fulfil the basic objective of retrieval of potential archaeological data affected by the works.

2.2.3 The work was carried out using a mechanical excavator fitted with a 1.5m wide toothless grading bucket during the ground reduction and a 0.6m wide bucket during the excavation of the service trenches.

2.2.4 A plan of all excavations was maintained at scales of 1:20 and 1:50 and recorded sections were drawn at a scale of 1:20. The sections and the excavations were photographed using colour transparency and black and white print film. A general photographic record of the work was also made. Recording followed procedures detailed in the OA Field Manual (Wilkinson 1992).

3 RESULTS

3.1 Introduction and presentation of results

3.1.1 The deposits and structures observed during the various phases of work will be described separately followed by a brief discussion.

3.2 Underpinning of the northern wall of Clarence House (Figs 2–4)

3.2.1 Two pits were excavated against the northern wall of Clarence House, either side of the rear door (Figs 2 and 3). The pit to the east of the doorway measured 1.7 x 1.2m and the second to the west of the doorway measured 1.7 x 0.8m. Both pits were excavated to a depth of 4m below the original ground level.

3.2.2 The stratigraphic sequence exposed was similar in both pits (Fig. 4). A layer of undisturbed natural orange clay sand (13) was encountered at a depth of 3.1m below ground level. Overlying this was a 2.2m deep layer of orange-brown clay (14), likely natural. This deposit exhibited banding within its structure suggestive of waterborne deposition. This deposit was sealed by a 0.8m deep layer of reddish grey sandy silt (15). This layer contained numerous fragments of brick and concrete together with mortar flecking throughout its depth, which may indicate a layer of made ground. Overlying this made ground was a 0.1m deep layer of dark-brown silt loam (16), a landscaping layer of topsoil and turf.

3.3 Excavation of the basement extension (Fig. 2; Plate 1)

3.3.1 An area measuring approximately 12 x 32m was excavated to a maximum depth of 4m. This area was excavated within a box of previously inserted concrete piles (Fig. 2).

3.3.2 A continuation of the orange clay sand (13) was encountered at a level of 3m below the original garden level. This was overlaid by a 2.15m deep layer of banded orange-brown silt clay (14). This banded is indicative of waterborne deposition and this layer is therefore a probable continuation of layer 14.

3.3.3 Sealing this was a 0.78m deep layer of reddish grey silty sand. This deposit contained numerous fragments of brick and occasional fragments of concrete and was a continuation of layer 15. The landscaping layer of topsoil (16) overlay made ground layer 15.

3.4 Ground reduction (Figs 5 and 6; Plate 2)

3.4.1 An area measuring approximately 10 x 7m was reduced by roughly 0.5m to level the area prior to deposition of the piling mat (Fig. 5). This work included the removal of a modern patio.

3.4.2 A layer of dark grey-brown silt loam (8) was encountered at a depth of 0.4m below the original garden level. This layer contained charcoal flecking and abraded brick fragments suggesting that it may be a worked garden soil horizon. Cutting this layer at the northern corner of the reduced area was a circular feature measuring 0.8m in diameter (7). Built within this cut was a circular brick-built well shaft constructed of red brick with no mortar bonding

(6). Filling the shaft and sealing the brickwork was a 0.4m deep layer of red-brown silty sand (9). This deposit also contained charcoal flecking and brick fragments together with fragments of mortar suggesting that it may be a construction layer associated with the building of Clarence House. Cut into layer 9 were two foundation trenches (4 and 5). Trench 5 butted up to the northern side of Clarence House and ran to the north-west for 4.5m before turning to the north-east and forming a bow shape running parallel to the north side of Clarence House (Fig. 2). The trench measured 0.6m deep and 0.45m wide. Built within the trench was a brick wall (2) constructed of hand-moulded red bricks bonded with lime mortar. This wall was bonded into the wall of Clarence House at its southern end. The trench was backfilled with a red-brown sand silt (12), probably redeposited material.

3.4.3 Butting up to the north-western corner of wall 2 was the second foundation trench (4). This ran to the north-west for 4m before turning to the north-east and also running parallel to the north wall of Clarence House. This trench measured 0.8m deep and 0.8m wide and ran across well 6, exposing it in the base of the trench.

3.4.4 Cast in the base of the trench was a 0.3m deep concrete footing (3). Built upon this was a brick wall (1) using machine-moulded frogged bricks bonded with a cement mortar. Backfilling the trench was a dark brown silt sand (11). Butting up to the inside faces of both walls was a 0.2m deep layer of yellow-brown sandy silt containing gravel and brick fragments (10). This was a layer of made ground supporting the modern patio.

3.5 Finds summary

3.5.1 The dating evidence recovered all dated to the 18th, 19th and 20th centuries and comprised transfer printed, creamware and earthenware pottery, bottle glass and fragments of brick. The material was examined on site but was not retained.

4 DISCUSSION

- 4.1.1 The watching brief encountered no evidence for activity predating the construction of Clarence House around 1696. A cultivated soil (8) predating the foundations of the excavated foundations (1 and 2) represents the pre-existing ground prior to its construction and probably also predates the house as well. It is likely that the soil formed part of arable fields prior to the construction of the house. The foundations themselves are likely to be part of the orangery, a large greenhouse or conservatory that formerly adjoined the rear of the house and appears on historic maps. Such structures were fashionable in wealthier residences during the 17th to the 19th centuries, and the structure at Clarence House was original to the house. The orangery was later extended, probably during the 20th century, given that its concrete foundations (structure 3) overlay a brick-lined well or soakaway (structure 6).

APPENDIX A CONTEXT INVENTORY

Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
1	Structure			Red and yellow brick wall	-	Modern
2	Structure			Handmade brick wall	-	Post-1696
3	Structure	0.80	0.30	Concrete base of structure 1	-	Modern
4	Cut	0.80	0.75	Foundation trench for structures 1 and 3	-	Modern
5	Cut	0.40	0.60	Foundation trench for wall 2	-	Post-1696
6	Structure	0.80		Brick lining for circular well or soakaway	-	Modern
7	Cut	0.80		Construction cut for structure 6	-	Modern
8	Layer		0.20+	Cultivated soil predating 7 and 9	-	Pre-1696+
9	Layer		0.40	Disturbed soil above layer 8, predating 4 and 5	-	Post-1696?
10	Layer		0.20	Modern levelling below patio	-	Modern
11	Fill			Backfill of foundation trench 4	-	Modern
12	Fill			Backfill of foundation trench 5	-	Post-1696
13	Natural		-	Orange clay sand	-	-
14	Natural		2.20	Orange-brown clay	-	-
15	Layer		0.80	Modern made ground	-	Modern
16	Layer		0.10	Topsoil and turf	-	Modern

APPENDIX B BIBLIOGRAPHY

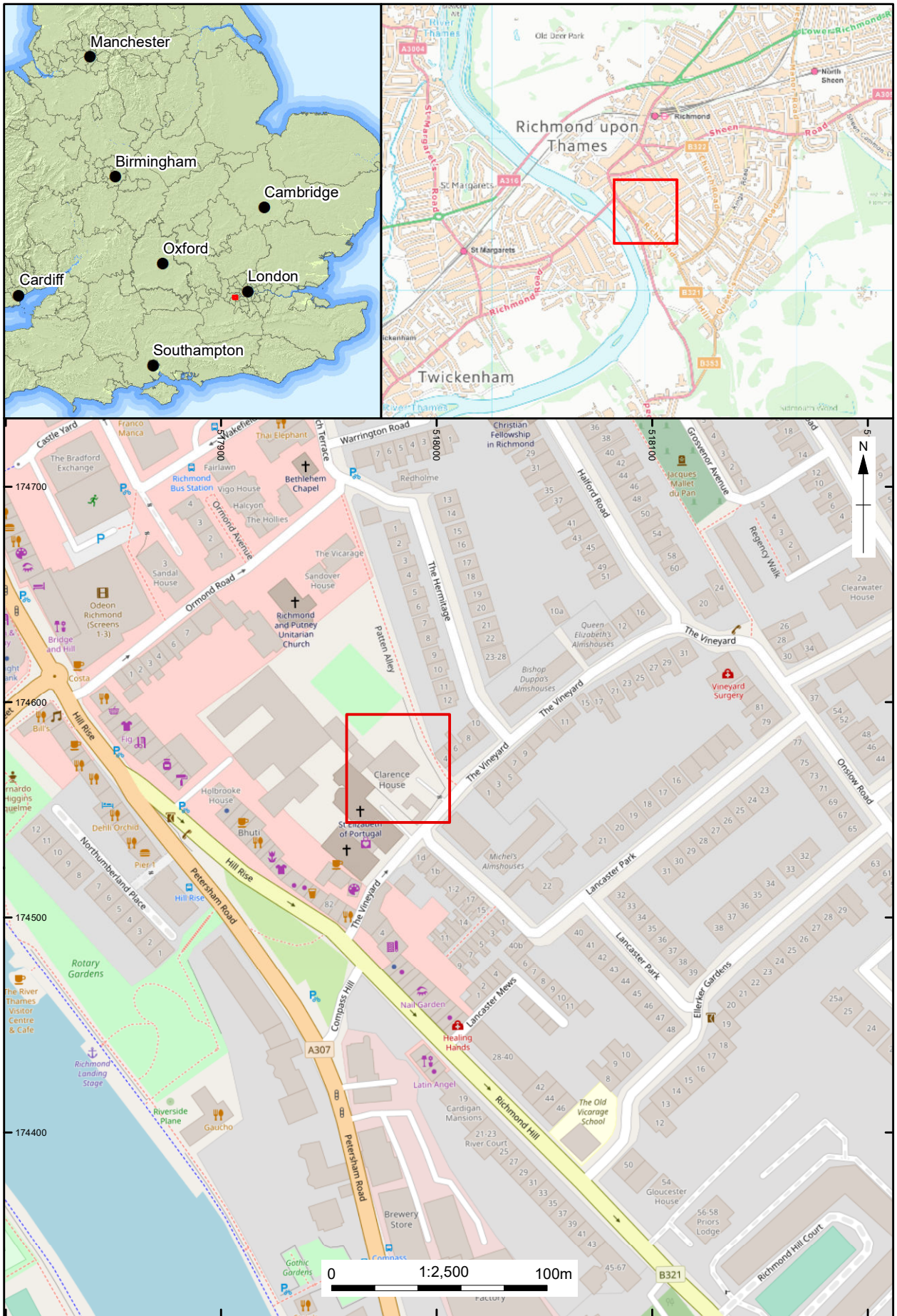
OA, 2007 Clarence House, 2 The Vineyard, Richmond, Surrey: written scheme of investigation for archaeological monitoring of works, Oxford Archaeology unpubl.

Wilkinson, D (ed.), 1992 *Fieldwork Manual*, Oxford Archaeology unpubl.

The Steeple Times, 2023 *Blessed Clarence* (18 September 2023),
<https://www.thesteepletimes.com/opulence-splendour/blessed-clarence/> (accessed 11 October 2023)

APPENDIX C SITE SUMMARY DETAILS

Site name:	Clarence House, 2 The Vineyard, Richmond, London
Site code:	VNY07
Grid Reference:	NGR TQ 180 745
Type:	Watching Brief
Date and duration:	June 2007 and October 2008
Area of Site:	300m ²
Location of archive:	The archive is currently held at OA, Janus House, Osney Mead, Oxford OX2 0ES and will be deposited with the Museum of London in due course, under the following accession number: VNY07.
Summary of Results:	Between June 2007 and October 2008 Oxford Archaeology carried out an archaeological watching brief at Clarence House, 2 The Vineyard, Richmond, London (NGR TQ 180 745). The work was commissioned by Martin Ashley Architects in respect of the excavation of a basemented extension and the construction of new extensions. The truncated base of an 18th century wall, probably of an orangery that was formerly attached to the house, and a brick-lined well or soakaway were observed, as was a 20th century brick base for a patio. No earlier archaeology was encountered.



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Figure 1: Site location

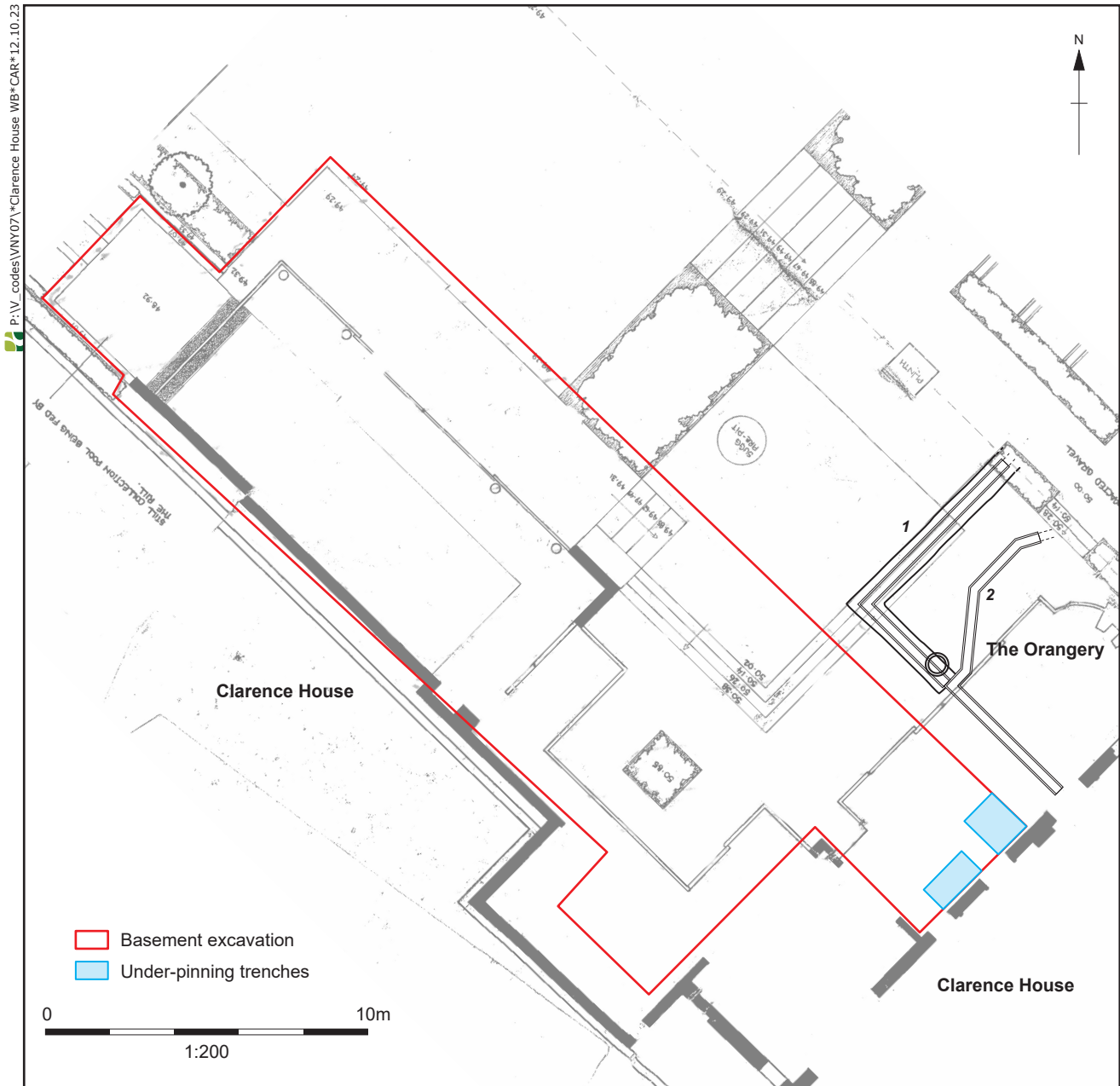


Figure 2: Plan showing location of basement excavations, underpinning trenches and the site of the orangery

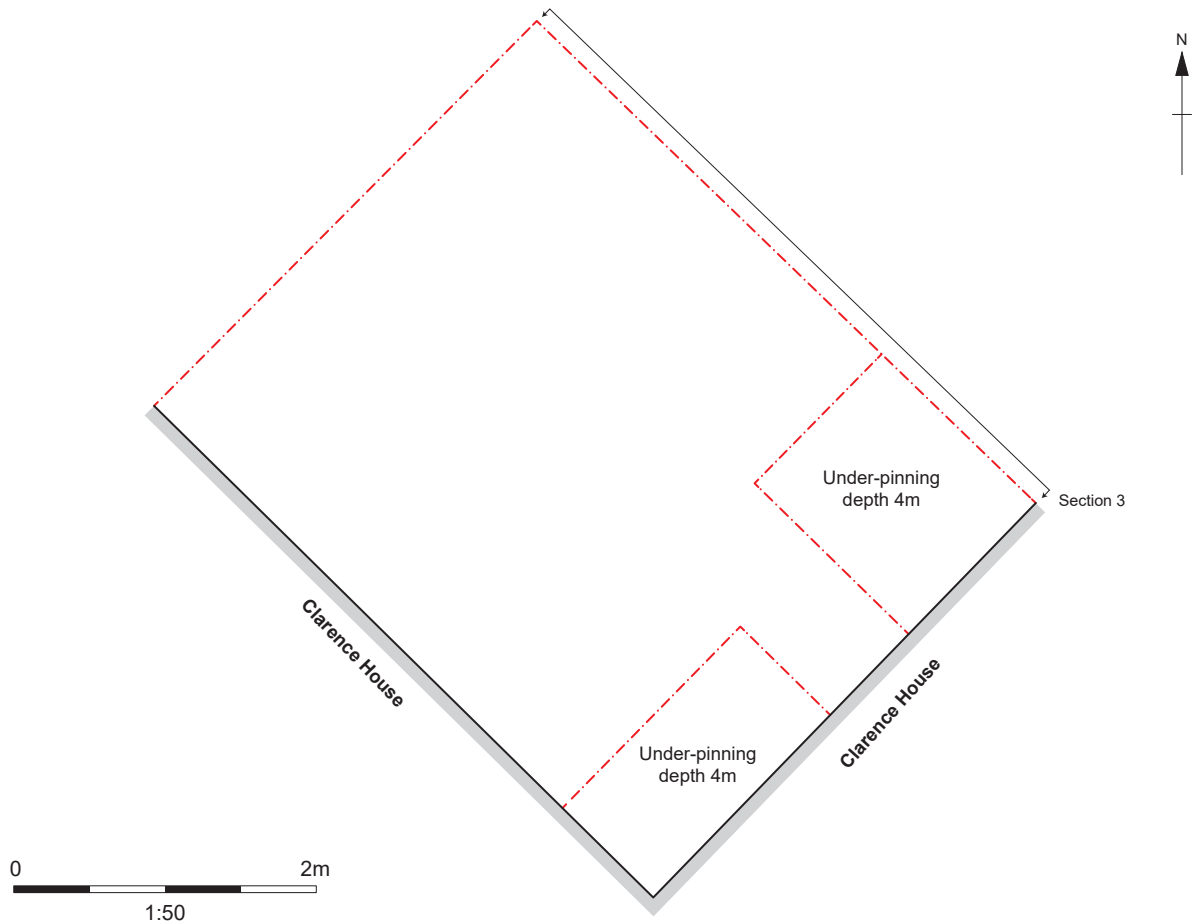


Figure 3: Plan of trench showing the under-pinning works

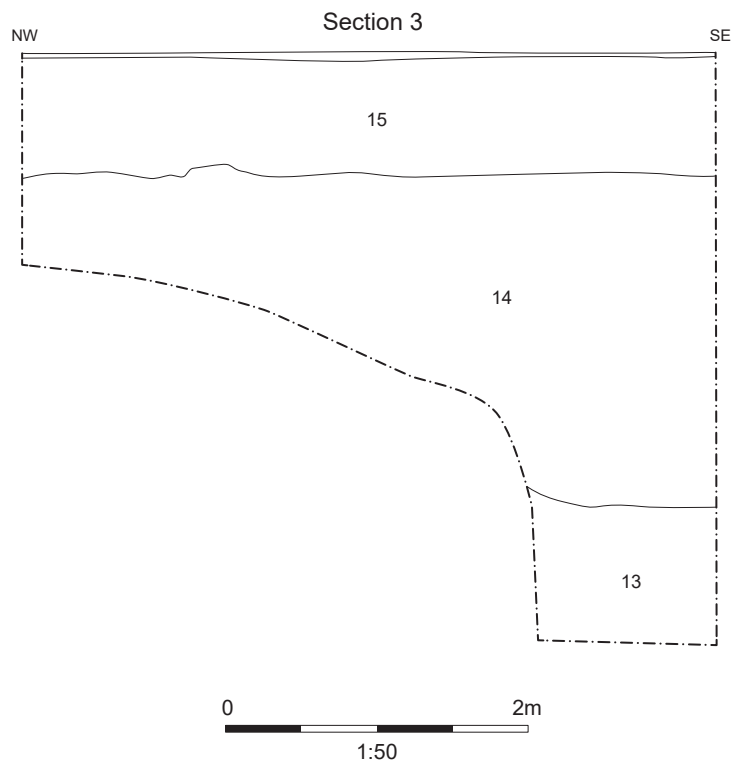


Figure 4: Section 3

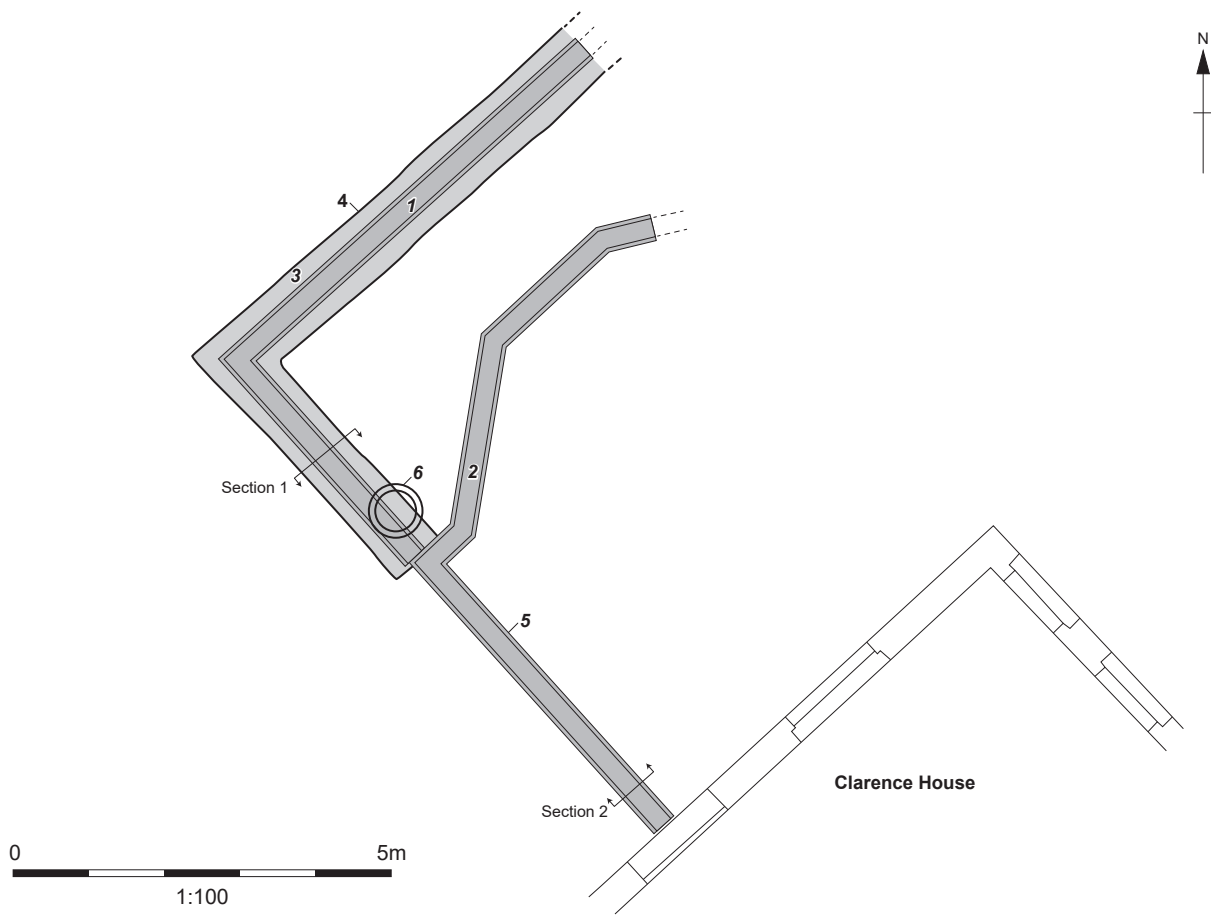


Figure 5: Plan of orangery foundations at the rear of Clarence House

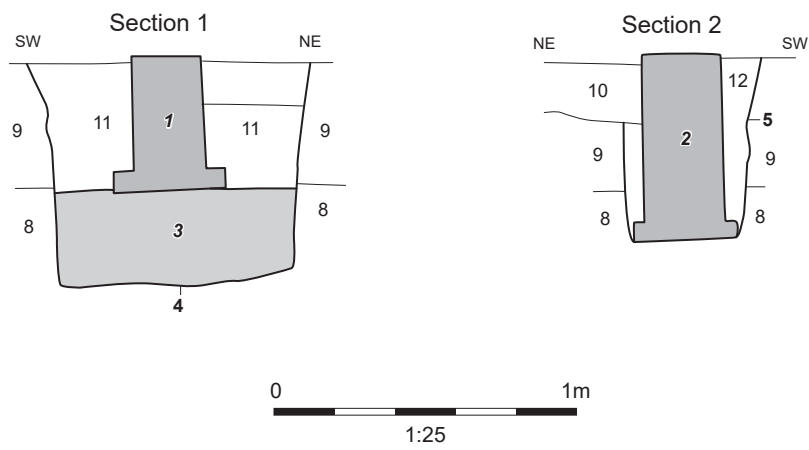


Figure 6: Sections 1 and 2



Plate 1: Basement construction to the rear of Clarence House, view to the south



Plate 2: Ground reduction showing the foundations of the orangery, view to the south

Cambridge office

15 Trafalgar Way,
Bar Hill,
Cambridgeshire, CB23 8SQ

T: +44(0)1223 850500

E: info@oxfordarchaeology.com

Lancaster office

Mill 3,
Moor Lane,
Lancaster, LA11 1QD

T: +44(0)1524 541000

E: info@oxfordarchaeology.com

Oxford office

Janus House,
Osney Mead,
Oxford OX2 0ES

T: +44(0)1865 980700

E: info@oxfordarchaeology.com

W: <http://oxfordarchaeology.com>



Chief Executive Officer

Ken Welsh, BSc, MCIfA, FSA

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