

THE ORANGERY YARD AND LAWN PROJECT AND ASSOCIATED WORKS



BRIEF FOR AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF AND EXCAVATION

JANUARY 2017

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1 Introduction

1.1 This Brief has been prepared by the Curatorial department of Historic Royal Palaces to outline the archaeological requirements associated with the forthcoming development of the Orangery site at Kensington Palace.

1.2 This project will involve the development of the area to the rear of the Orangery where a new building is to be constructed providing accommodation within a basement and ground level edifice. As a consequence any archaeological remains in the area will be destroyed. This brief also covers the works associated with the re-landscaping of the Orangery Garden to the front of the building.

1.3 The site code assigned to this project is KEN 31 and will encompass all phases of work related to the Orangery Yard and Lawn projects.

1.4 An accession code, 3910047 has been assigned to this project to encompass all the potential physical, digital and paper archives associated with this forthcoming project.

1.5 The site is located on National Grid Reference TQ 25865 80197.

1.6 This document sets out the methodology that will be followed during the project. All work will follow the Standards and Code of Practice laid down by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, The Scheduled Ancient Monument Clearance, HRP's Archive Deposition Guidelines and the Historic England Guidelines for Archaeological Projects in Greater London.

2 Historical Background

Historical background of the site

2.1 A statement of significance has been produced for the site that summarises our current understanding of the history and development of the Orangery building. This document will form an appendix to this brief.

Previous Archaeological investigations

2.2 A number of archaeological investigations have been carried out to the rear and the front of the Orangery building at Kensington Palace, many of which were undertaken recently prior to the proposed development works to the north of the Orangery building as well as in anticipation of re-presenting the lawn to the south of the Orangery.

2.3 A geophysical survey was undertaken in 2008 (Bunn, c.f. Dix 2012) that most significantly identified a linear anomaly to the east and was eventually targeted for evaluation. Two evaluation

trenches were excavated in 2011 (Dix, 2012) to the south-east of the Orangery building, both of which revealed a similar sequence of deposits: directly below the topsoil was a layer of clay containing a dump of ceramic building material, Victorian pottery, oyster shells and butchered animal bones forming a levelling layer 0.15 -0.17 m thick. This in turn overlay the stiff yellow-brown natural clay of the garden's original formation seen at approximately 26.5 m OD. Despite extensive disturbance caused by the demolition of the 19th century glasshouses and garden redevelopment in the early 20th century, a number of truncated features were cut into this layer indicating the survival of an historical garden layout preserved beneath the make-up of the current Orangery Garden. The remains of a narrow bed or border were observed, initially perceived as a resistant anomaly in the geophysical survey of 2008.

2.4 In 2012 Oxford archaeology carried out a watching brief (KEN17) monitoring the excavation of a service trench within the gardens immediately to the north of the structural complex of Kensington Palace. Part of the trench was located to the north of the Orangery where levelling deposits similar to those found during the 2011 excavation were exposed. Further to the north a brick structure was also unveiled, which was interpreted as likely being a section of wall that enclosed the southern side of the sunken garden.

2.5 In 2013 and 2014 Pre-Construct Archaeology carried out two phases of archaeological evaluation in association with the Orangery Yard Project (KEN22), which included the excavation of five trial trenches located immediately to the rear of the Orangery; three on the north-western corner, one in the central area and one on the north-eastern corner of the building. The earliest deposits identified were early 18th century ground deposits seen at 26.92 m OD. A brick-built wall foundation was observed on the western side of the Orangery building considered to be the remains of an external wall illustrated in the 1754 plan (see Fig.xx). Another brick wall foundation was exposed in the eastern-most trench and was interpreted as part of the public lavatories that were constructed in the late 19th century; these appeared at 27.43 m OD. The western and central trenches revealed the extensive impact of landscaping episodes on earlier archaeological deposits; despite this, it is nonetheless more than possible that archaeological vestiges remain beneath these episodes, particularly as the natural strata was not observed during this particular evaluation.

2.6 In 2015 Pre-Construct Archaeology undertook further archaeological investigation (KEN27), following on from the investigations of (KEN22) in August 2015 and February 2016. It comprised of the excavation of one evaluation trench, three test pits excavated against the northern wall of the Orangery and two started pits for a borehole survey at the rear of the Orangery building. Natural stratum was observed between 26.49 m OD and 26.83 m OD. The earliest archaeological vestige

observed came in the form of redeposited brick earth containing sherds of Iron Age pottery towards the north of the Yard area. The later phase of activity was represented by three possible plant beds overlain by later horticultural horizons interpreted as pre-dating the Orangery and possibly related to Nottingham house, which were seen in BH1 on north-west corner of the area to the rear of the Orangery. The most significant feature within the 18th-19th century phase was of course the foundation cut for the rear wall of the Orangery containing the brick footing, the base of which was observed at 25.62 m OD in Trench 4. In trench I, which extended north-south across the Orangery Yard, a segment of an east-west aligned wall was exposed 3.1 m north of the Orangery building, and was tentatively interpreted as an external wall of a building associated with and contemporary to the Orangery, possibly part of a boiler/store room. It was considered to be too far south of the likely position of the yard wall to be an inaccuracy of the John Smith Plan, 1754. To the south of this is wall a sequence of layers were record; the earliest of these was a surface consisting of compact silty clay rising up to 26.67 m OD towards the Orangery building, this was overlain by a number of 18th and 19th century deposits. A foundation pad composed of compacted sand and gravel was uncovered c. 3 m north of the east-wall, but displayed no evidence of an upper structure in the evaluation trench. Its function is as yet unknown though it is possible that it relates to the shed which occupied this area in the later 19th century. In any case it appears to be a later feature as it was cut into a layer dated to the late 18th century, and is therefore not contemporary with the Orangery. A brick culvert was observed in trench 1 and test pit 2 possibly associated with a phase of renovation undertaken in the Orangery building in 1781 and probably used to remove rainwater from the roof of the Orangery. A well shaft was observed under and to the southeast of the culvert extending beneath the main Orangery building in the area where a blind arch exists in the brickwork of the rear Orangery wall; it seems likely that it acted as a water source for the plants in the building or possibly for the boilers that once occupied the yard. The blind arch built into the rear Orangery wall is believed to form the above-ground superstructure to this well; however, the relative phasing in relation to the Orangery is as yet unknown.

2.7 A possible mortar footpath was exposed in trench 2 and was truncated by a brick inspection chamber to the northeast, which extended north beyond the confines of trenches 2 and 4. An east-west aligned cut in the middle of trench I was interpreted as being the possible remains of a drain illustrated on the 1754 plan. 2.8 In 2016 further evaluation was carried out by Pre-Construct Archaeology comprising of four test pits and the re-evaluation of one test pit that was carried out in 2012 by Northampton Archaeology. Natural stratum was observed between 25.88 m and 26.50 m OD sloping upwards from south to north; most likely an artificial slope created during the landscaping works of the early 18th century. The earliest phase of archaeology observed included a

series of linear features, seem in each of the test pits, which probably relate to the configuration of the garden in the early 18th century associated with Henry Wise. There were also later 19th century features including linear cut features and a land drain possibly related to the assemblage of greenhouses that occupied the area to the south of the Orangery in the late 19th century. 2.9 It remains difficult to assess the extent and nature of the archaeological remains that lie below the surface of the Orangery Yard; however the archaeological evaluations undertaken over the last few years have provided us with a window through which to view the archaeological potential of the Orangery Yard and Lawn areas.

3 Archaeological Potential

3.1 There is a medium potential for the recovery of archaeological remains relating to the underground heating system associated with the Orangery building in the yard to the rear of the building, with the possibility of uncovering structures such as furnaces or out-houses.

3.2 There is high potential for uncovering structural elements associated with Yard boundary wall.

3.3 There is a high potential for uncovering several phases of horticultural features both to the north and the south of the Orangery building.

3.4 There is medium potential for uncovering archaeological remains pre-dating both the Orangery building and Kensington Palace.

4 Scope

4.1 As part of the commitment to HRP's Conservation Principles, and due to the archaeological importance of the area, HRP Curators have asked that archaeological investigations are undertaken prior to and during the works associated with both the Orangery Yard and the Orangery Lawn Projects.

4.2 Provision of permanent accommodation to support HRP's functions in relation to the management, maintenance, conservation and operation of the palace is required. The area to the rear of the Orangery will be developed for the construction of a new building providing accommodation at basement and ground level. As a consequence any archaeological remains in the area will be destroyed. The Orangery Lawn Project will entail the re-landscaping of the Orangery Garden to the front of the building.

4.3 The excavation is currently programmed to take following the grant of consent. This timing is subject to change dependent on earlier stages of the project. HRP will endeavour to give at least seven days' notice of any changes to the programme.

4.4 The archaeological component of the project encompasses several phases and will include the following:

Orangery Yard Project

- Open area excavation to the rear of the Orangery;
- Various watching briefs during associated works – service installation etc.;
- Building recording and watching brief during the installation of access doorways to the rear of the Orangery building .

4.5 The open area excavation to the rear of the Orangery covers the area of the future new build which will be constructed over two levels including a basement and a ground floor level. A number of watching briefs will also be required during the installation of services associated with the new build. A number of openings will be inserted into the rear of the Orangery building, which will require both external and internal building recording prior to destructive works as well as a watching brief during the works.

Orangery Lawn Project

- Watching brief during the stripping-phase of the garden re-landscaping
- Small-scale excavation for the installation of a tank on the Orangery Lawn
- Watching brief during the installation of 4 footings for the installation of a temporary pavilion
- Watching brief during the excavation of a concrete base for temporary sheds to the south east of the Orangery Lawn

4.6 The Orangery Lawn will undergo a phase of re-landscaping as part of the proposals, which will require a watching brief during the removal of existing vegetation. A new tank will also be installed on the western side of the garden which will require small-scale excavation. A temporary pavilion structure is to be erected on the south-western corner of the Orangery lawn and will require a watching brief during the excavation of four footings.

4.7 A garden store structure is to be constructed immediately to the south-east of the Orangery lawn and will also require a watching brief. The area affected by the work will be to a maximum depth of 300 m.

5 Research Aims and Objectives

General Aims

5.1 To record the presence or absence, date, nature and extent of any archaeological material within the excavation area.

5.2 To establish a phased plan of any archaeological remains revealed during the works.

5.3 To prepare a fully illustrated report on the results of the archaeological watching brief that is proportionate to the findings and compliant with all relevant regulations, policy, guidance and good practice.

5.4 To archive all documents, material and digital records created as a result of any archaeological investigations (associated with the watching brief) with Historic Royal Palaces.

Specific Objectives

5.5 Define the extent, purpose and development of the Orangery Yard.

5.6 Understand and phase the landscaping of the areas to the north and the south of the Orangery building.

5.7 Clarify the nature and extent of any structures related to the underground heating supply in the Orangery building and confirm/define the function of the brick culvert and the well located to the southeast of the culvert.

5.8 Define the function of the foundation pad (23) and the east-west wall (25) uncovered to the north of the Orangery building during KEN 27.

5.9 Record and define any evidence for the existence of activity pre-dating the Orangery.

6 General Methodology

6.1 An application for Scheduled Monument Clearance at Kensington Palace was granted from Historic England for the proposed scheme of works. It is a condition of the consent that a qualified and suitably experienced archaeologist be present during the excavation of the trenches.

6.2 Any significant finds should be reported immediately to the HRP Curator and Project Manager.

6.3 The archaeological excavation and recording will be undertaken by persons with relevant expertise, working to the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' Code of Conduct and all relevant Standard and Guidance documents.

7 Excavation of Archaeological Features and Deposits

7.1 Where present, a sample of all archaeological and geoarchaeological features and deposits will be investigated by hand and recorded in order to sufficiently determine their date, form, extent, level of preservation and function, with emphasis on stratigraphic relationships between features and recovery of dating evidence.

8 Archaeological Recording

8.1 The HRP unique site code and accession code have been provided to the archaeological contractor. The project code will be written on all records, drawings, artefact bags and sample containers, whilst the accession number must be written on all finds labels and boxes and on the top-most sheet of each bundle of context sheets and drawings in the archive.

8.2 All archaeological deposits and features will be recorded on the Archaeological Contractor's pro forma record sheets and given a unique identifying number (context). A context register, with brief details of each context, will also be kept during the archaeological monitoring work. Daily records will be kept, giving a précis of the work undertaken and the conditions on site.

8.3 The existing plinth stones show great variation and must be examined for evidence of reuse and repair. A drawn record of the stones will be produced. A photographic record of the stones will also be produced; this will include both general shots and details of any identified features.

8.4 Hand drawn plans and sections will be produced at an appropriate scale (normally 1:20 for plans and 1:10 for sections) with Ordnance Datum (OD) heights recorded in metres, correct to two decimal

places. Each drawing will be given a unique drawing number. A drawing register, with brief details, will be maintained throughout the archaeological monitoring works.

8.5 A photographic record will be taken of all significant archaeological observations, supplemented by general record shots. A digital SLR camera will be used in all instances, supplemented with black and white archive prints for the more significant elements. A photographic register will be kept with brief details of all photography undertaken.

8.6 All photography will be undertaken according to the standards set out in the HRP Specialist Photography Standard (provided as an appendix).

9 Artefact Recovery

9.1 The collection, documentation and conservation of all artefactual and ecofactual material will conform to the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials (CIfA, 2014b) and Historic England's Investigative Conservation: Guidance on how the detailed examination of artefacts from archaeological sites can shed light on their manufacture and use (English Heritage, 2008).

9.2 In general, all artefacts will be retained from excavated contexts, except features or deposits of undoubtedly modern date. In these circumstances sufficient artefacts will only be retained to elucidate the date and function of the feature or deposit.

9.3 All non-modern artefacts will be labelled with the unique site code and context number of the deposit in which it was recovered. The artefacts will be stored and processed in a manner appropriate to the material to minimise further deterioration.

10 Environmental Sampling

10.1 Due care will be taken to identify deposits which may have environmental potential, and where appropriate, a programme of environmental sampling may be initiated in collaboration with a geoarchaeological specialist. Where appropriate, samples will be taken, processed and assessed for potential in accordance with Environmental Archaeology: A Guide to the Theory and Practice of Methods, from Sampling and Recovery to Post-excavation (English Heritage, 2011).

10.2 Bulk environmental samples (up to 40 litres) will be collected from any peat or organic deposits present, in order to determine their archaeological potential. Where appropriate, column and/or spot samples for analysis of molluscan, pollen and other microflora/faunal remains will be taken.

10.3 Samples will be taken from individual contexts, from a clean, uncontaminated surface, collected with clean tools and placed in clean containers. All samples will be appropriately recorded and labelled, and a register will be kept of all samples, in accordance with the standard procedure of the archaeological sub-contractor.

11 Human Remains

11.1 In the unlikely event of human remains being encountered, the HRP Curator and Project Manager, Historic England Inspector and the local coroner will be informed immediately. Removal of these remains will be carried out in accordance with all appropriate Environmental Health regulations and will only occur after a Ministry of Justice licence has been obtained.

11.2 Where practicable, any inhumation burials will be fully excavated by hand within 24 hours of exposure. Cremations should be lifted en-bloc and excavated in the laboratory.

11.3 HRP and the archaeological sub-contractor will put in place arrangements to ensure the security, protection from deterioration, damage and criminal activity, and the respectful treatment of human remains and burial goods.

11.4 All excavation and post-excavation analysis of human remains will be in accordance with the standards set out in the English Heritage reporting guidelines: Human Bones from Archaeological Sites: Guidelines for Producing Assessment Documents and Analytical Reports, 2004. Appropriate specialist guidance/site visits will be undertaken by suitably qualified specialists. The final deposition of human remains following analysis will be subject to the requirements of the Ministry of Justice Licence.

12 Treasure

12.1 Any recovered artefacts that are designated Treasure as defined by the Treasure Act 1996 will be treated in accordance with said Act. All Treasure will be reported to H. M. Coroner and the Client will be informed.

12.2 Any Treasure will be removed to a secure store. Where removal cannot be achieved on the same working day as the discovery, suitable security measures must be taken to protect the finds from theft.

12.3 All finds and archaeological records should be removed from the site at the end of each working day.

13 Reporting and Archiving

13.1 A report will be produced by the Archaeological Contractor within three months of the completion of fieldwork, containing (as a minimum):

- A non-technical summary; ☒ A brief overview of the history of the site; ☒ A brief background to the project;
- An outline description of the aims of the investigation and the methodology used in order to achieve these aims;
- A descriptive text concerning the results of the investigation (monitoring works), including the results of any specialist assessments;
- Supporting figures at appropriate scales showing the location of any recorded finds and deposits;
- Summary tables showing soil descriptions and depths for all deposits, artefacts and significant ecofacts recovered;
- A full stratigraphic deposit model for the recorded deposits, if relevant; and,
- An interpretation and discussion of the results.

13.2 If nothing of significance is noted during the works, a standard, short report making this point will be submitted for the completeness of the record, and to ensure best practice.

13.3 A bound paper copy of the completed report will be produced by the Archaeological Contractor and submitted to the Curatorial department at HRP. A digital PDF will also be submitted for archiving, along with the boxed finds and paper archive.

13.4 The project will be logged on the OASIS website and a brief summary will be submitted to the annual round-up of excavations in the London Archaeologist by the Archaeological Contractor.

13.5 Following completion of the monitoring and reporting works, a project archive will be prepared and deposited in accordance with the HRP deposition standards (provided as an appendix). The

archive will consist of the documentary and digital records and any physical archaeological material generated during the archaeological watching brief.

14 Monitoring, Progress Reporting, Site Visits

14.1 Weekly written progress reports (via e-mail each Monday by 11am) will be provided to the HRP Curator and Project Manager by the archaeological sub-contractor during the on-site works and any associated post-excavation phase.

14.2 The HRP Curator and Project Manager will periodically visit the site to inspect the works. A formal inspection of the archaeological site may be undertaken by the Historic England Inspector. HRP will arrange these visits and will inform the archaeological sub-contractor in advance, when possible.

15 Confidentiality and Publicity

15.1 Although certain information regarding the development is in the public domain, the installation works, including any archaeological works, may attract further interest.

15.2 In the event of any enquiries by the public, the archaeological sub-contractor will refer all enquiries to the HRP Curator and Project Manager without making any unauthorised statements or comments.

15.3 The archaeological sub-contractor will not disseminate information or images associated with the project for publicity or information purposes, without the permission of HRP.

16 Copyright and Intellectual Property Rights

16.1 The Archaeological Contractor will assign to HRP all copyright, design rights (whether registered or unregistered) and any proprietary rights (“Intellectual Property Rights”) for the full term thereof throughout the world in respect of all Intellectual Property and unconditionally waives in favour of HRP any and all moral rights in such property. The Archaeological Contractor shall at the request and expense of HRP undertake all necessary requirements to substantiate the Intellectual Property Rights and vest these in HRP absolutely.

17 Resources and Timetable

17.1 All archaeological personnel involved in the project should be suitably qualified and experienced professionals. The archaeologist on site will have experience working with historic buildings. The archaeological sub-contractor shall provide HRP with staff CVs of the Project Manager, Project Officer and/or Site Supervisor (i.e. the watching brief archaeologist on site), and any proposed specialists.

17.2 The programme of groundwork is planned to commence following the grant of consent. The start date and timeframe for the works is currently unknown. Reasonable prior notice (at least seven days) of the commencement of the works is to be given to the archaeological sub-contractor

17.3 All equipment and tools required by the archaeological sub-contractor will be supplied by the archaeological sub-contractor. Welfare facilities will be provided by the Main Contractor.

18 Health and Safety

18.1 The site will be managed by the Main Contractor. All site staff must follow the Risk Assessment and Safety Plan provided by the Main Contractor. A Risk Assessment and Method Statement covering the Archaeological Watching brief must be provided by the Archaeological Contractor and agreed with the Palace Safety Officer prior to work starting onsite.

18.2 The Archaeological Contractor may be required to amend the Risk Assessment if this is deemed to be necessary by HRP's Safety Officer. Personal Protective Equipment must be stipulated where required.

18.3 All HRP regulations and precautions on fire prevention must be adhered to in full at all times. The Archaeological Contractor must also be fully aware of and comply with all regulations and procedures for the Control of Substances Hazardous to Health (CoSHH).

19 General Provisions

19.1 No variation from, or changes to, this WSI will occur except by prior agreement with the HRP Curator. Historic England will be consulted with regard to any required archaeological changes of a 'significant' nature.

19.2 The archaeological sub-contractor shall leave work sites in a tidy and workmanlike condition and remove all their materials brought onto the site.

19.3 The archaeological sub-contractor is to allow the site records to be inspected and examined at any reasonable time, during or after the archaeological watching brief, if required, by the HRP or Historic England.

19.4 Access for vehicles and parking shall be agreed between HRP and the archaeological sub-contractor prior to entering the site.

20 Monitoring

Monitoring of the works will be undertaken on behalf of Historic Royal Palaces. A Project Manager will be identified. The Historic England Inspector will be Jane Sidell.

21 Contact Details of Key Personnel

- Alex Attelsey, Conservation Building Surveyor, alex.attelsey@hrp.org.uk, T: 02031666390, M: 07827 896303
- Lee Prosser, Curator (Historic Buildings), Lee.Prosser@hrp.org.uk, T: 020 3166 6409
- Alexandra Stevenson, Assistant Curator (Archaeology), Alexandra.Stevenson@hrp.org.uk, T: 020 3166 6204, M: 07795114750

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