

Archaeological Advice Note

Kingston Bridge House, Hampton Wick, KT1 4AE

Introduction

1. This Archaeological Appraisal has been prepared by HCUK Group on behalf of Westcombe Developments Ltd. It draws upon the results of a search of the Greater London Historic Environment Record (GLHER) data and a review of historic mapping available online. This appraisal provides a synthesis of the GLHER data derived from a search area extending up to 500m from its boundary, hereafter known as the 'study area' (shown on Figure 1 below) and considers only designated and non-designated heritage assets of archaeological interest.
2. The Site is located on the northeastern corner formed by Hampton Court Road to the south and Church Grove to the east (centred on NGR TQ 17492 69391). It is located on the southern side of Hampton Wick and on the western side of the River Thames from Kinston Upon Thames.
3. This document does not represent a full archaeological desk based assessment of the Site, but an initial appraisal of the likely archaeological risks associated with the Site.
4. The Site is located within the Bushy Park Archaeological Priority Area (DLO33452). The APA is designated as such for associated remains related to the Royal deer park with late fifteenth Century origins enlarged by Cardinal Wolsey and subsequent monarchs.
5. The GLHER contains a total of 108 records within the 250m study area, none of which are within the Site itself. Prehistoric sites are shown on Figure 1 and Roman to modern sites on Figure 2.

Period based review of potential

Early Prehistoric

6. Assets of early prehistoric date (to 1800 BC) recorded within the study area include: a Palaeolithic axe (MLO22915); an Upper Palaeolithic implement (MLO11695); Early Mesolithic human remains (MLO23037); Mesolithic axes (MLO11697 & MLO11694); Mesolithic peat (MLO75653 & MLO74305); early Neolithic lithic implement (MLO65927); Early Neolithic axe (MLO23269); an unclassified Neolithic find (MLO11707); several Neolithic axes (MLO11688, MLO115, MLO116, MLO111, MLO110, MLO112, MLO109, MLO10, MLO24394, MLO23043, MLO23041 & MLO142).
7. The site lies within an area where the superficial geology comprises Kempton Park Gravels (river gravels) associated with the River Thames valley and where early prehistoric remains quite often survive. The records above note that such material has been found in the vicinity of the site.
8. It should be noted that there are a substantial amount of records on the GLHER recorded from a few points within the Thames from previous investigations. These are not all referenced above, but the locations and numbers are shown on Figure 1.

Later Prehistoric

9. Assets of later prehistoric date (to AD 43) recorded within the study area include: Bronze Age swords (MLO3017, MLO13, MLO3110); Bronze Age spearheads (MLO27040, MLO23039; MLO132); Bronze Age palstaves (MLO127); Early Bronze Age ring (MLO3112); a Middle Bronze Age sword (MLO121); Middle Bronze Age axes (MLO103 & MLO1013); Middle Bronze Age palstaves (MLO11698, MLO128 & MLO107); Middle Bronze Age spearheads (MLO129); Late Bronze Age axes (MLO11699 & MLO1020); Late Bronze Age sword (MLO102); Early Iron Age sword (MLO113); early Iron Age spearhead (MLO136). Finds generally dated to the prehistoric periods also include lithic implements (MLO114).
10. Archaeological investigations within Hampton Wick have revealed evidence of later pre-historic settlement. During the prehistoric period, the Site was located in close proximity to the Thames which would have been favourable for occupation during this period.

11. It should be noted that there are a substantial amount of records on the GLHER recorded from a few points within the Thames from previous investigations. These are not all referenced above, but the locations and numbers are shown on Figure 1.

Roman

12. Evidence of Roman activity (AD 43 – AD 410) within the study area consists of findspots of a key (MLO85); a military standard (MLO11692); spearheads (MLO3111, MLO22054 & MLO22052); dagger and sword (MLO25084); as well as possible features and a pot dating to this period (MLO3940).
13. Archaeological investigations within Hampton Wick have revealed evidence of Roman occupation. The Hampton Wick APA (DLO33456) northeast and east of the Site, is designated as such for its potential for remains of Roman date, and the assets recorded within the study area are located within this APA.

Early Medieval

14. There are three assets of early medieval date (AD 410 – AD 1066) recorded within the study area including: a spearhead (MLO11704); a sword (MLO24395); and a pot (MLO65928).
15. Place name evidence suggests that the term "wick" is a Saxon word meaning 'water' or 'wet': reinforcing the theory that a village existed in this location some time before the Norman period.

Medieval

16. Evidence of medieval (AD 1066 – AD 1485) activity within the study area comprises pottery (MLO77497, MLO73646, MLO73646, MLO68186); an unclassified boat (MLO70868); features relating to buildings (MLO65929); bridges (MLO5841); rivets (MLO99823); revetment (MLO70867); flood deposits (MLO70866). Monuments relating to the presence of the Royal Deer Park related to Bushy Park and Hampton Court Palace are recorded south and west of the Site (MLO102806 & MLO59318) respectively. An area of medieval levelling is also recorded within the study area (MLO109056).
17. During this period, late manor at Hampton Court was enlarged and the Deer Park was created during the fifteenth Century by Cardinal Wolsey, and

subsequent monarchs. While it is likely during this period that the Site lied in agricultural land between the settlement at Hampton Wick and Bushy Park, there is a potential for remains related to both the development of the park and the settlement.

Post Medieval

18. Evidence of post-medieval (AD 1486 – AD 1800) and modern (AD 1800 - Present) activity within the study area includes post-medieval buildings (MLO74307, MLO68187, MLO67735 & MLO64416); post-medieval watercourses (MLO73647 & MLO73647); post-medieval dumps (MLO74306, MLO73648, MLO64414 & MLO73648); a jetty (MLO70870); post-medieval bedding trenches (MLO74308); walls (MLO70871 & MLO77293); post-medieval ditches and pits (MLO3887 & MLO74883); unclassified post-medieval finds (MLO73649 & MLO73649); and modern pits (MLO97969 & MLO75666); and modern made ground (MLO78021).
19. The earliest map of the Site comprises 1635 Moses Glover Map of Hampton, which shows the Site between the settlement of Hampton Wick and the Palace of Hampton Court and its associated Royal Parks. The settlement at Hampton Wick developed during this period and there is a potential for remains related to the development of settlement.

Unknown

20. Assets of unknown date recorded within the study area comprise the find spots of unclassified finds (MLO116539 & MLO23038); alluvium of unknown date (MLO77292); and an undated ditch (MLO74882).

Events

21. There are 27 records for an archaeological event within the study area, none of which are recorded within the Site (Figure 3). These comprise: two excavations; eight trial trench evaluations, five watching brief, one building survey, seven desk-based assessments, one historic environment assessment, and three unspecified archaeological investigations.
22. The number of excavations within the area could suggest that further archaeological investigation may be needed at the site, which could also include the preparation of a full desk-based assessment.

Cartographic Sources

23. A search of the publicly available historic Ordnance Survey (OS) maps available online indicate that the Site was first developed with residential development on land east of Church Grove Road since at least the late 19th century.
24. The current building occupying the Site was constructed in the mid-1960's as office accommodation, and redeveloped in the mid -1990's to provide student accommodation. The building was again reconfigured at ground level in 2015 to provide an additional common room and bike storage.

Site Conditions

25. The Site comprises two blocks forming an L-shaped building arranged over four to seven storeys. Originally constructed in the mid-1960's, the building was redeveloped in the mid-1990's, and reconfigured at ground level in 2015. However, the degree of such disturbance from these past developments is presently unknown.
26. Despite this, it is considered likely that the Site may contain archaeological remains, which are likely to be associated with the agricultural and horticultural activity prior to the residential use in nineteenth and twentieth centuries, and therefore be of no more than low archaeological importance.
27. Remains of pre-medieval date may survive within the site area, but based on present evidence these would most likely be in the form of stray finds and be of local (low) archaeological importance.
28. It is considered unlikely that archaeology will be a constraint to future development of the Site. Further archaeological work may be required, the scope of which should be discussed and agreed with the Greater London Archaeological Advisory Service.

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References

London Borough of Richmond upon Thames, Planning and Transport Department (1997). Hampton Wick Conservation Area Study: Area 18





