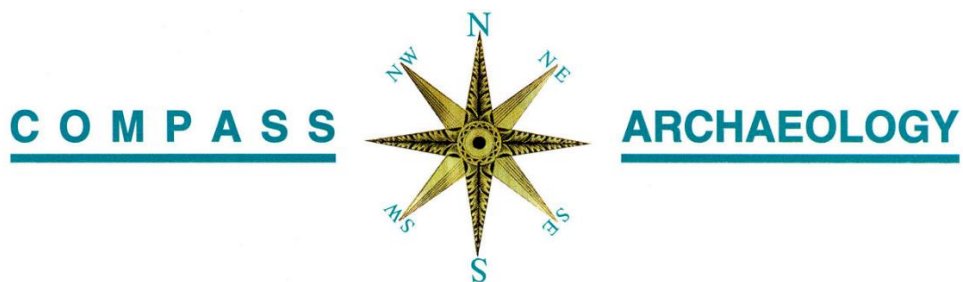


**NEW LEARNING CENTRE,
ROYAL BOTANIC GARDENS KEW,
LONDON BOROUGH OF RICHMOND UPON
THAMES, TW9 3AQ**

**A WRITTEN SCHEME OF INVESTIGATION FOR AN
ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION**



September 2024

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ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

NGR (approx. centre): TQ 18470 77330

Planning Ref: 23/0410/FUL

September 2024

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1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The following document forms a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for an archaeological evaluation to take place ahead of proposed development on the site of a New Learning Centre, Royal Botanic Gardens Kew, London Borough of Richmond upon Thames TW9 3AQ (Figure 1).

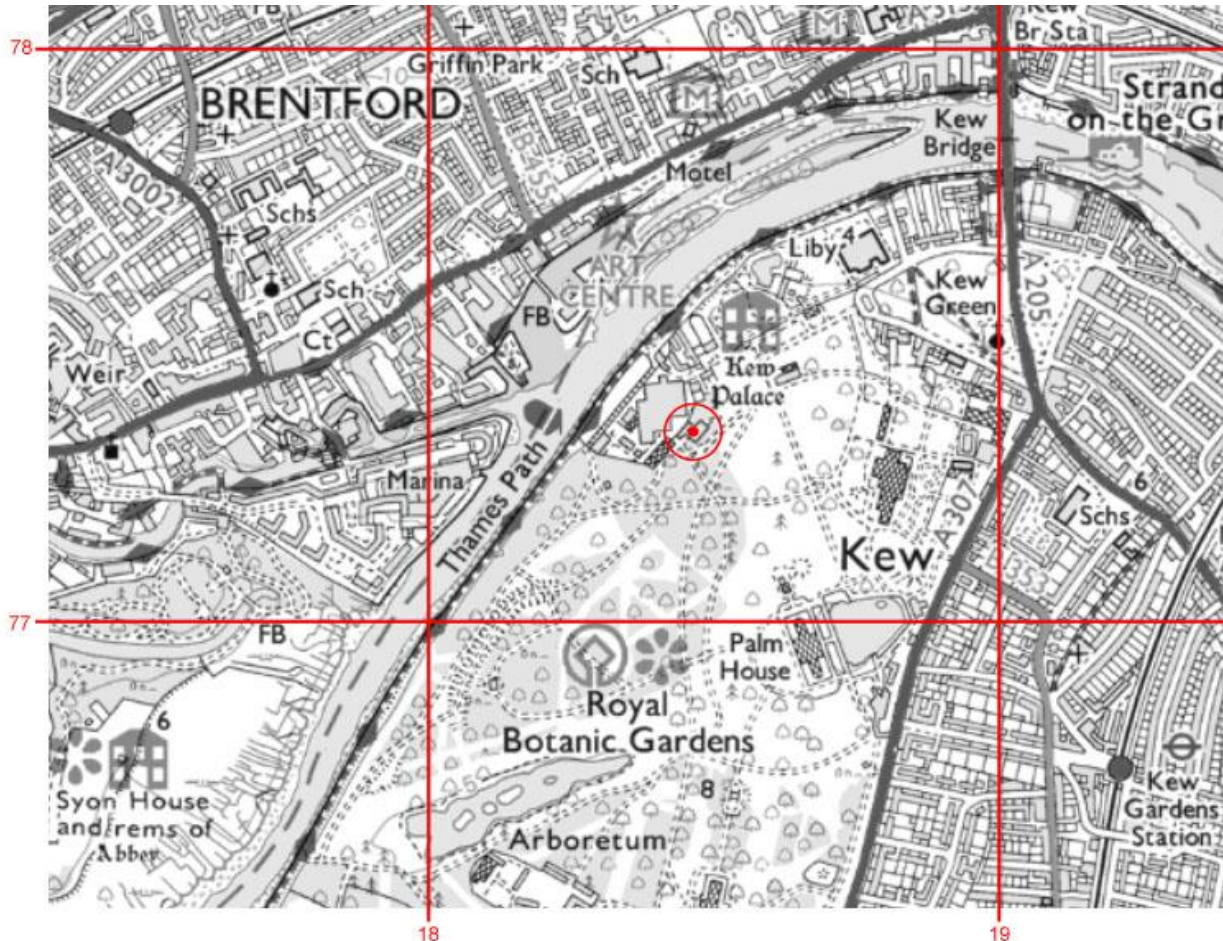


Figure 1: Site location marked in red. Reproduced from OS data with the permission of the Ordnance Survey on behalf of the Controller of HMSO ©Crown Copyright 2014. All rights reserved. Compass Archaeology Ltd, licence no. AL100031317.

- 1.2 This WSI was commissioned by the Royal Botanic Gardens Kew in response to pre-commencement requirements for archaeological investigation prior to demolition of the existing White Peaks Café (Planning Reference: 23/0410/FUL). These requirements have been implemented to safeguard the archaeological interest of the site prior to the construction of a new two-storey learning centre.
- 1.3 The development site lies within the Royal Botanic Gardens Kew, which is a World Heritage Site (UID 1000102) and a Grade I Registered Historic Park & Garden (UID 1000830). The Royal Botanic Gardens contains a Scheduled Monument (Kew Palace, remains of) and forty-four Listed Buildings. This study also lies within the Kew Gardens and Old Deer Park Archaeological Priority Area (APA) as designated by Historic England and within the locally designated Conservation Area of Royal Botanic Gardens (Figure 2, Overleaf).

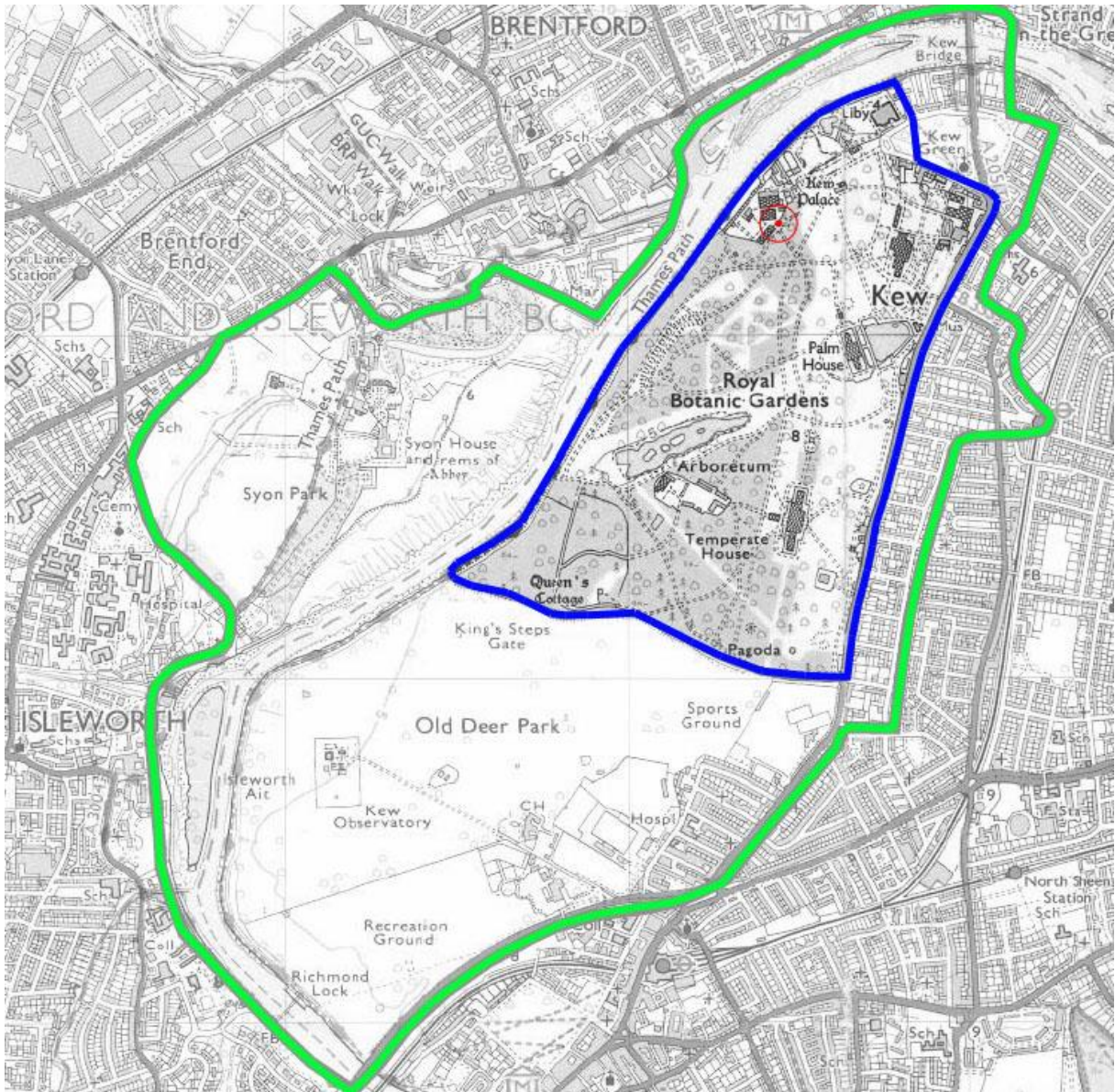


Figure 2: Site location (red) in relation to the World Heritage Site (in blue), Buffer Zone (in green), and the Royal Botanic Gardens Conservation Area (in blue).

1.4 The pre-commencement conditions as stated in the Decision Notice (April 2024) are as follows:

No demolition or development shall take place until a Stage 1 Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) has been submitted to and approved by the local planning authority in writing. For land that is included within the WSI, no demolition or development shall take place other than in accordance with the agreed WSI, and the programme and methodology of site evaluation and the nomination of a competent person(s) or organisation to undertake the agreed works.

If heritage assets of archaeological interest are identified by stage 1 then for those part of the site which have archaeological interest a stage 2 WSI shall be submitted to and approved by the local planning authority in writing. For land that is included within the stage 2 WSI, no demolition/development shall take place other than in accordance with the agreed stage 2 WSI which shall include:

A. The statement of significance and research objectives, the programme and methodology of site investigation and recording and the nomination of a competent person(s) or organisation to undertake the agreed works

B. Where appropriate, details of a programme for delivering related positive public benefits

C. The programme for post-investigation assessment and subsequent analysis, publication & dissemination and deposition of resulting material. This part of the condition shall not be discharged until these elements have been fulfilled in accordance with the programme set out in the Stage 2 WSI.

- 1.5 The proposed groundworks will entail the demolition of the existing White Peaks Café and the construction of a new two-storey Learning Centre. The centre will include teaching spaces, seminar rooms, office, toilet block, and associated landscaping. A new drainage strategy is also required for this project, requiring the installation of pipes and soakaways.

2 SITE LOCATION, GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

2.1 Location

The site is located in the northern section of the Royal Botanic Gardens Kew (Figure 3). This site is centred on the White Peaks Café, a single-storey irregularly shaped structure, which is not currently operational. To the south-west of the site, is the Family Kitchen & Shop and the Children's Garden. To the north-west of the site is the Tropical Nursery. Directly to the north of the site, there are several Grade I and II Listed Buildings including Kew Cottages, Sundial and Kew Palace Flats.

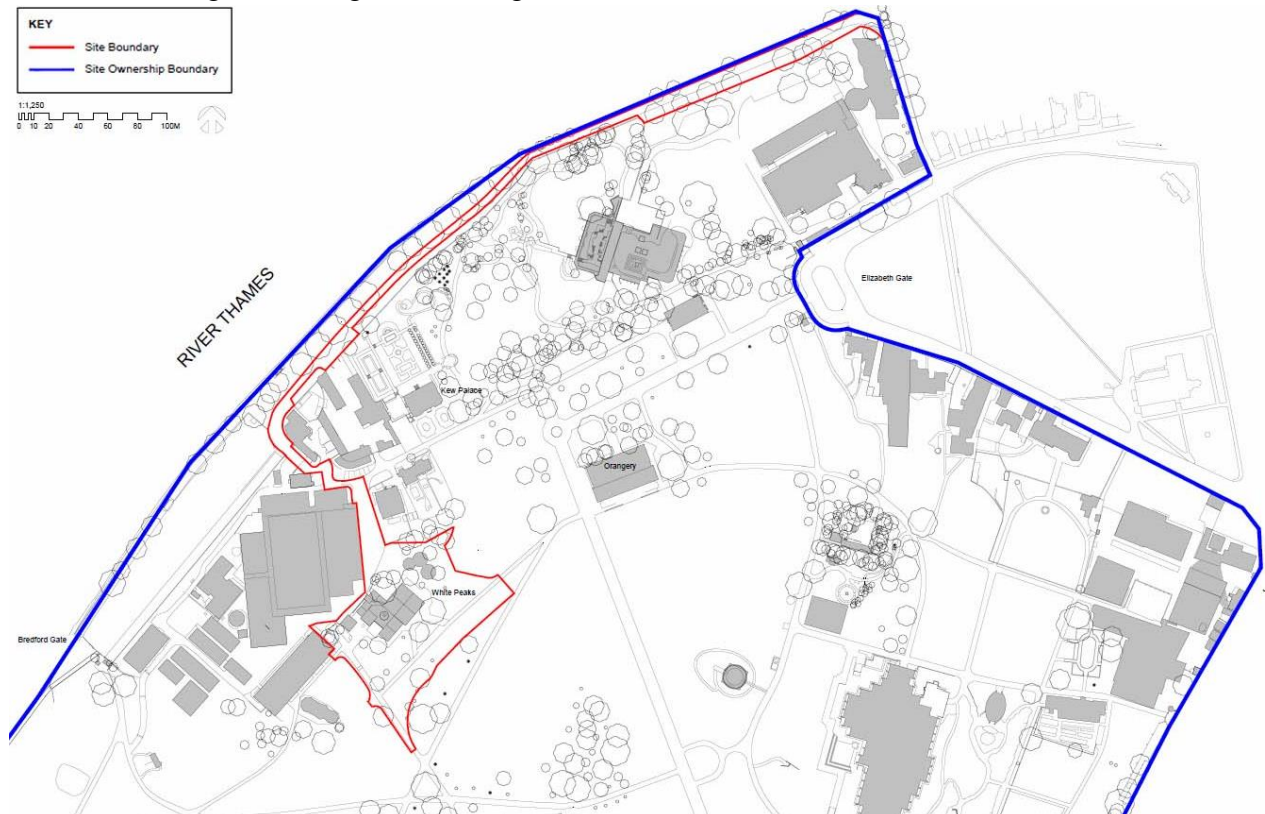


Figure 3: The site boundary (in red) and the site ownership boundary (in blue).

2.2 Geology and Topography

According to the British Geological Survey (*South London: Sheet 270*) the site lies within the north-western part of a large expanse of River Terrace deposits, Kempton Park Gravels (Figure 4). A ground investigation was undertaken in February 2019 by GEA Ltd. to provide information for the drainage design of a previous scheme on the site. The boreholes made encountered made ground at a depth of 0.70-1.10m, which overlays Kempton Park Gravel from a depth of 1.20-2.00m. The site itself is relatively level around 6.50m OD.

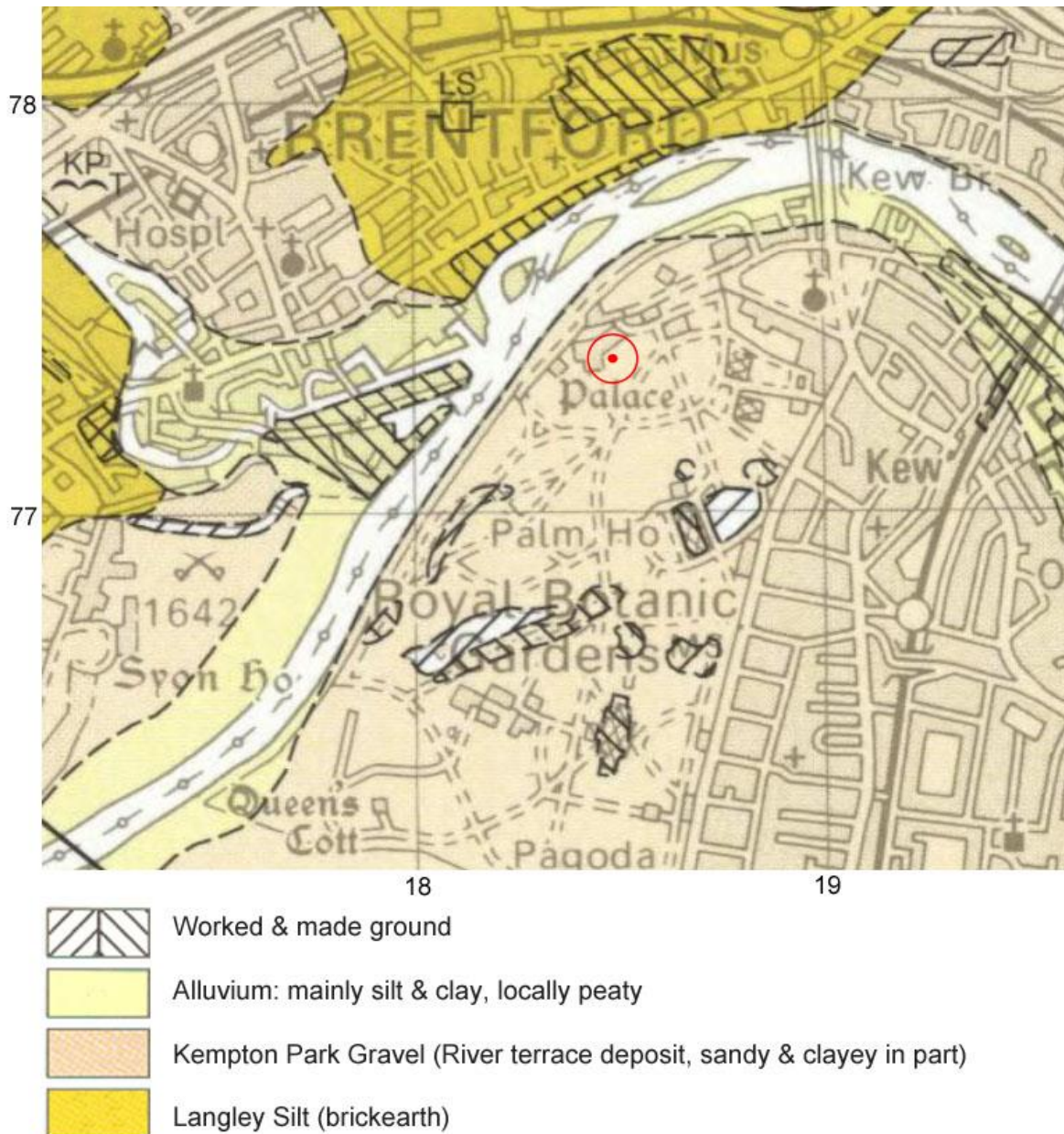


Figure 4: Extract from the BGS (Sheet 270: South London), with the site location marked in red.

3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

3.1 The historical background of the site has been thoroughly covered in a Desk-Based Assessment (Compass Archaeology, 2022) and a Heritage Statement (PCA, 2022). Therefore, only a general discussion and summary will be presented chronologically below. Cartographic sources have been included where appropriate to demonstrate the development of the site, and the surrounding area.

3.2 *Prehistoric*

3.2.1 There is limited evidence for prehistoric activity within close proximity of the site, with a GLHER search providing a singular record. This pertained to organic clay with possible wood pieces observed during a foreshore survey undertaken by LARF in 1996 (HER Ref: MLO697). The evidence returned from the GLHER is considered ‘background noise’ rather than evidence of occupation due to the minimal quantity of archaeological evidence identified within the area. The southern side of the Thames is a depositional bank, meaning the prehistoric find spots and antiquarian discoveries recorded in this area have likely been washed down the river from other areas of London.

3.2.2 The majority of the prehistoric material identified within the wider area of Richmond is also residual. During an evaluation for a new Quarantine House in the Lower Nursery area, worked flints and some burnt flint were recovered of possible prehistoric dating. Only three of these fragments were diagnostic, and consisted of a convex scraper, end/side scraper, and a core fragment (Compass Archaeology 2009). Some flints were also found during an evaluation on land adjacent to the Climbers and Creepers building (Compass Archaeology 2010). Further afield, Bronze Age metalwork hoards and isolated finds have been observed within the Borough of Richmond. However, this only indicates this area was utilized during the prehistoric period, there is no evidence for a prolonged settlement.

3.2.3 *Based on the limited prehistoric evidence uncovered in the site boundary and limited evidence in the surrounding areas, there is considered to be a negligible potential for prehistoric finds or features at this site. Any prehistoric artefacts recovered at this site are likely to be residual in nature.*

3.3 *Roman*

3.3.1 Documentary evidence has identified a Roman Road between Silchester and London, which ran on the northern side of the Thames, crossing the River Bent at Brentford before continuing into Staines. Due to this, most of the archaeological evidence of Roman occupation in this general area is concentrated on the north side of the River Thames in closer proximity to *Londinium*. A GLHER search produced no records associated with Roman activity within a 250m radius of the site, with very few finds identified in the surrounding area. As previously mentioned, the southern shore of the Thames acts as a depositional bank for items washed down the river, and although two 4th Century coins (HER Refs: MLO100291 and MLO100292) have been found within the Richmond area; these finds are unlikely to extend beyond the boundaries of the river bed.

3.3.2 *Based on the limited evidence uncovered in the vicinity of the site, there is considered negligible potential for Roman finds or features at this site. Any Roman artefacts encountered are likely to be residual.*

3.4 Saxon

3.4.1 Following the Norman Conquest, the centre of *Londinium* was moved west; with the Saxon settlement of *Lundenwic* concentrated in the area that is now occupied by Covent Garden. More specifically, in the location of the Royal Opera House and Bow Street Magistrates Court (Compass Archaeology, 2017).

3.4.2 The name ‘Kew’ is thought to have Saxon origins, deriving from the word ‘quay’ to reflect the fact that Kew is situated at the lowest point of the Thames, which was often fordable by foot. However, very little documentary or archaeological evidence of Saxon activity within the area exists. This was reflected in the GLHER search which recovered no entries of Saxon evidence recovered in proximity to the site.

3.4.3 *Based on the limited evidence uncovered in the vicinity of the site, there is considered to be negligible potential for Saxon finds or features at the site.*

3.5 Medieval

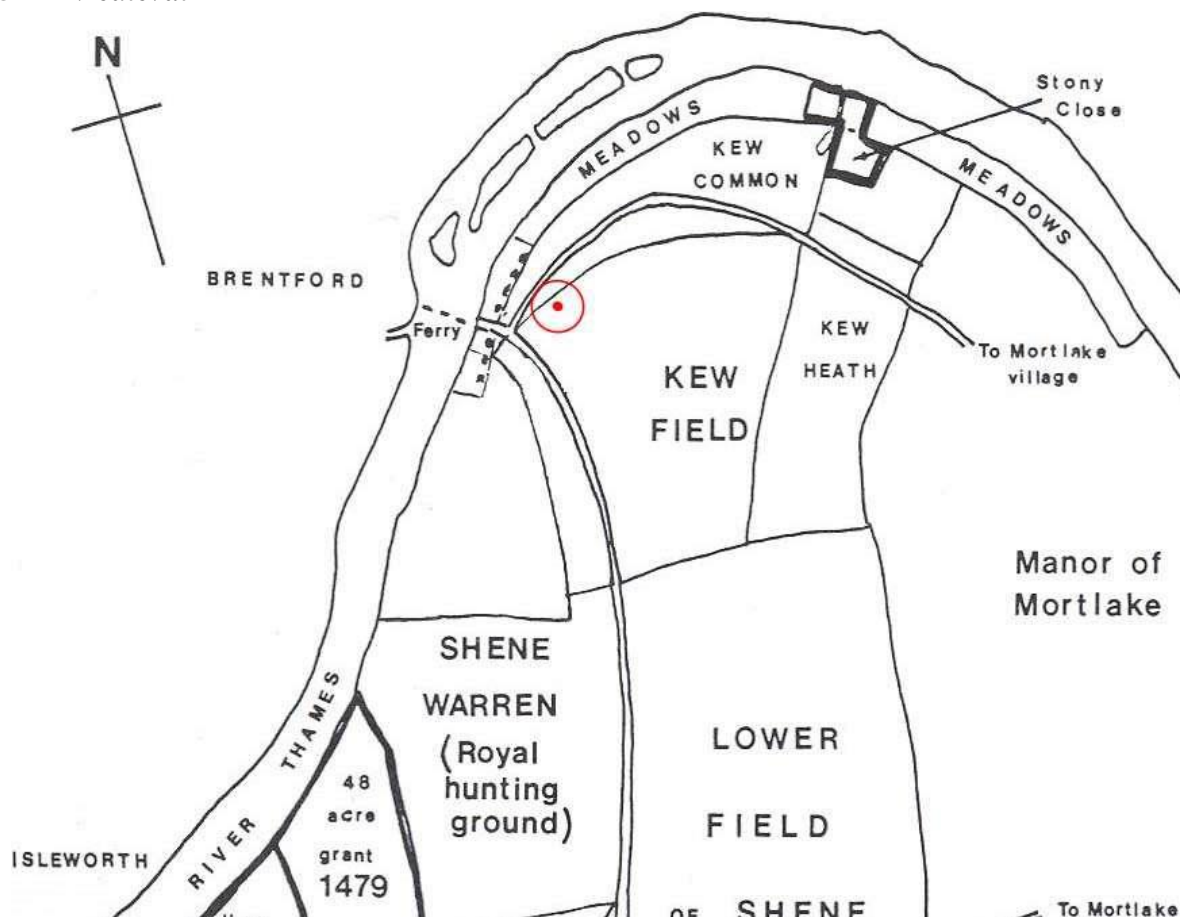


Figure 5: Reconstructed plan of the area in the 15th century, showing the approximate line of Love Lane running northwards between Shene Warren and the Lower Field of Shene to the Brentford ferry, and the approximate study site location (red) (Cloake, 1995: 42).

- 3.5.1** There are documentary references to Kew from 1314, and it is mentioned several times in the Survey of the Manor of Shene (Blomfield, 2004). In 1358, Edward III converted the Manor Shene into a palace, acting as the first Royal residence in the area. A new Royal Park was also created in c.1414-1454 surrounding the newly established palace (HER Ref: MLO101340).
- 3.5.2** By the 15th century, a ferry service across the Thames to Brentford was installed, and the hamlet at Kew was well established. Henry VII also favoured Shene as a royal residence and had the palace rebuilt and named *Richmond*. This led other important figures to establish estates nearby to maintain their roles in the royal court, and therefore Kew became a popular residential location. In closest proximity to the site, were estates established by the Earl of Davon to the south (Cloake, 1995: 152). The areas to the north were owned by Thomas Byrkes, including the study site itself, with his personal residence located nearby (*Ibid* 151-155).
- 3.5.3** A singular GLHER entry appeared within the area surrounding the site, which pertains to a possible medieval fish trap (HER Ref: MLO697) recorded during a Thames Foreshore Survey (See Section 3.2.1). This indicates that the area might have been utilised for the exploitation of the Thames' resources in the medieval period, with fishing practices taking place.
- 3.5.4** *Despite documentary evidence indicating an increase in activity within Richmond, there is very limited archaeological evidence within close proximity of the site. Due to this, there is considered to be low potential for medieval finds or features at the site.*

3.6 *Post-Medieval*

- 3.6.1** The post-medieval history of the site is best illustrated by analysis of cartographic evidence, with key sources referenced through the following section. GLHER entries from this period refer to formal buildings and structures found within the RBGK or Kew Green during archaeological investigative groundworks, with examples including the White House, the Gothic Palace, and several glasshouses.
- 3.6.2** The present eastern section of the site formed the original Kew Gardens, a 'Chinoiserie' style 18th century landscape, designed by Sir William Chambers. The western area was more naturalistic and was under extensive landscaping under Charles Bridgeman, William Ken and 'Capability' Brown who were all leading exponents of the English Landscape Garden. The northern part was not included in either royal garden and had a more varied character which included spaces like residences, greenhouses, and public/private gardens with various owners.
- 3.6.3** The site is located within the route of a road which originally separated the Royal Gardens and Kew Gardens, called 'Love Lane,' as seen in Figure 6. The road was closed to public access in 1802, and the two parcels of land were physically merged to create one large, unified site held by George III. The Royal Botanic Gardens were then formed in the mid-19th century. Sir William Hooker, William Andrews Nesfield and Decimus Burton incorporated the existing scheme and new ideas into one landscape, with additional plots of land added over time.

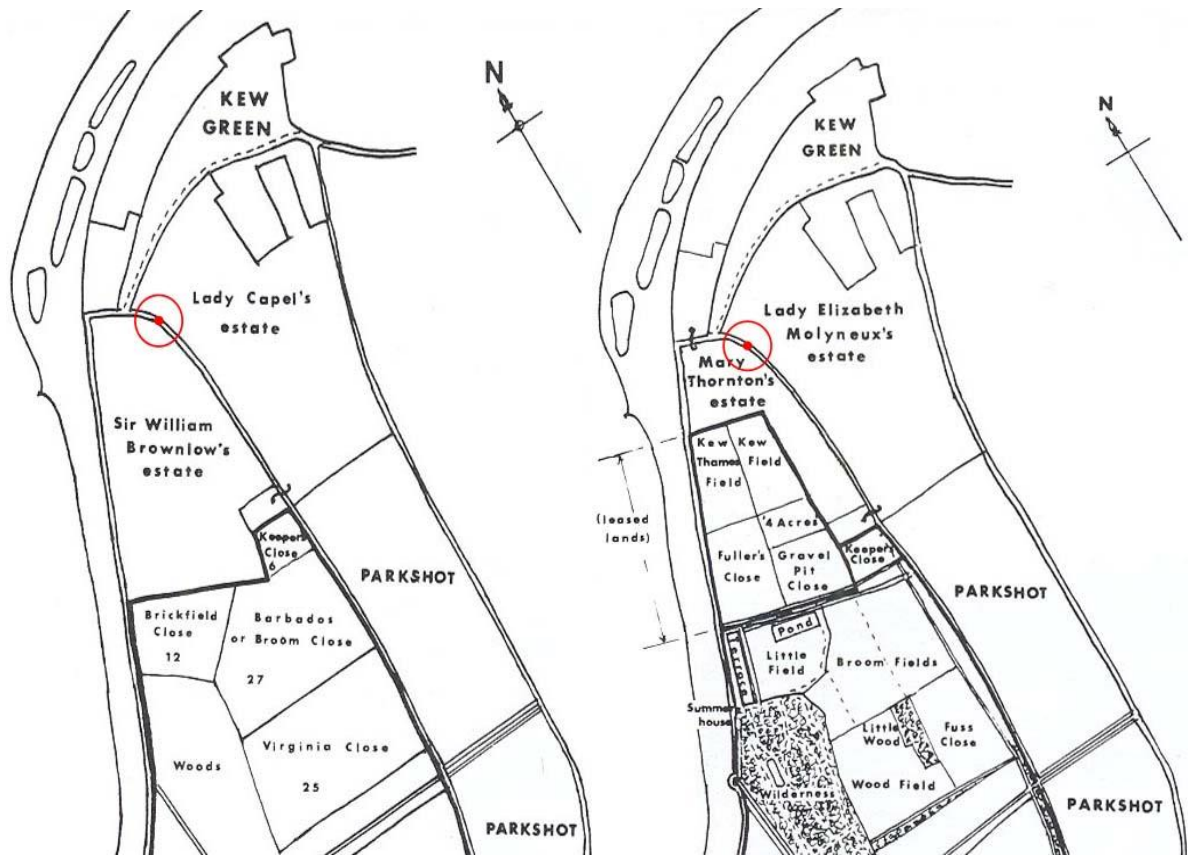


Figure 6: Plan of the area c.1700, showing the development of the Capel and Brownlow estates (left) and a general plan of the area and contemporary landholdings c.1726 (right) with the approximate study site location (red) (Cloake, 1996: 28 & 36).

3.6.4

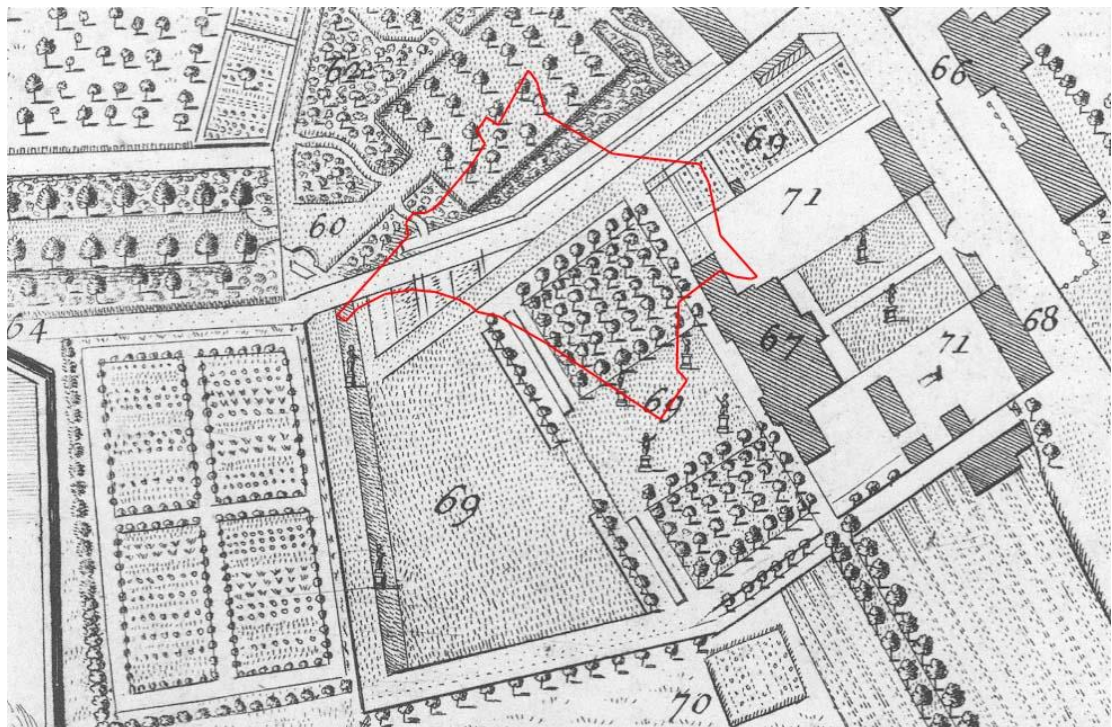


Figure 7: Detailed extract from John Rocque's 1748 plan, approximately oriented to west at the top, with site location (red).

The first detailed surveys representing Kew were completed by John Rocque in 1734 and 1748, the latter survey providing a clear indication of how the land was utilised. The corresponding appended key describes the plots represented as follows:

60 – Gardens belonging to the Queen
 62 – The Wilderness
 64 – Love Lane (foot road from Richmond to Kew)
 66 – The Princess Royal House
 67 – The Prince of Wales's House at Kew

68 – The Stables
 69 – The Garden
 70 – Mellon Ground
 71 – Court Yards

The study site can be seen to overly areas of Love Lane (64), The Garden (69), The Prince of Wales' House at Kew (67), and the Court Yards (71). While the majority of these spaces were occupied by landscaped gardens, the site corresponds with the south-west wing of the Prince of Wales' residence, also known as the White House.



Figure 8: 'View of the Palace from the Lawn' - the south-east front of the White House following Chambers' works c.1757-63. Original ink & wash drawing by Joshua Kirby (Metropolitan Museum of Art - Accession no: 25.19.36; reproduced in Chambers 1763).

3.6.5

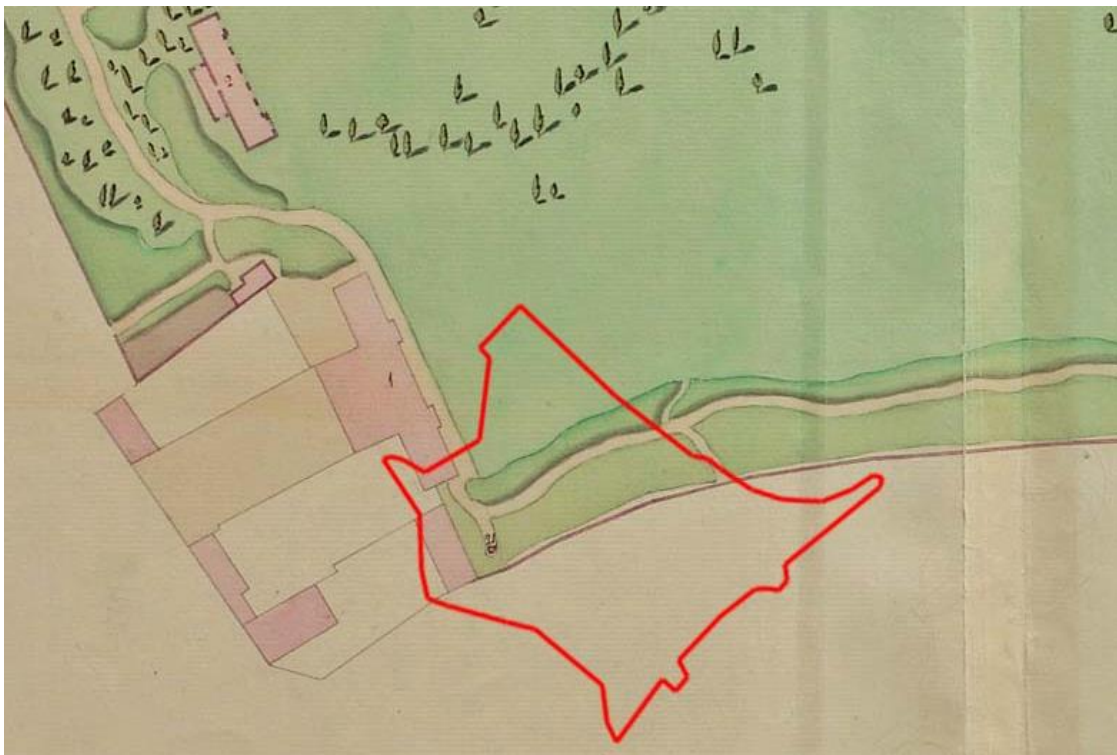


Figure 9: Extract from Chambers 1763 plan, oriented east at top, with the site outline in red.

Chambers' 1763 plan is only representative of the area east of Love Lane. However, it depicts two buildings within the boundaries of the site, which have been labelled as:

1. The Palace (or White House) plus detached & presumably ancillary building to the west.
2. The Temple of Solitude, small circular feature to the south of the Palace.

The Temple of Solitude (Figure 10), was a circular structure with a domed roof and detailed walls. The structure is visible in maps until 1799, and is thought to have been demolished at the same time as the White House (1802).

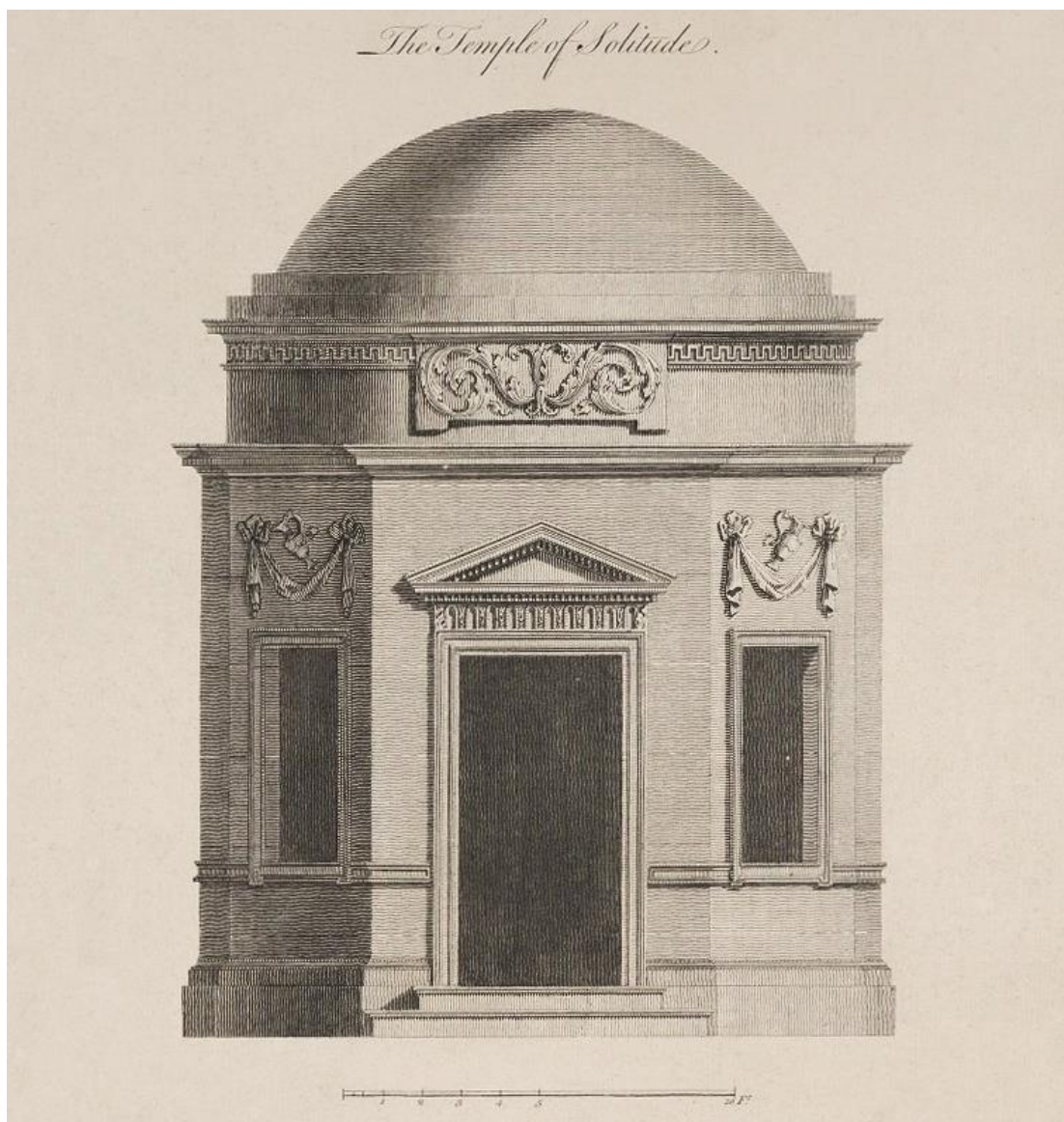


Figure 10: Elevation of the Temple of Solitude (Chambers 1763, Plate 14).

3.6.6 By the time of Driver's 1840 Plan of Kew Gardens, several significant changes had been made to the area surrounding the site. In 1802, the White House was demolished and work began on the new Castellated Palace (or the Gothic Palace). The palace was never fully completed due to the declining health of George III and was demolished by George IV in 1827. Love Lane was also officially closed in 1802, with a new road plotted to the east of the site. The first official director of Kew, William Hooker was appointed by parliament in the late 1830s leading to several development schemes within the

grounds including both landscaping projects and the construction of additional buildings.

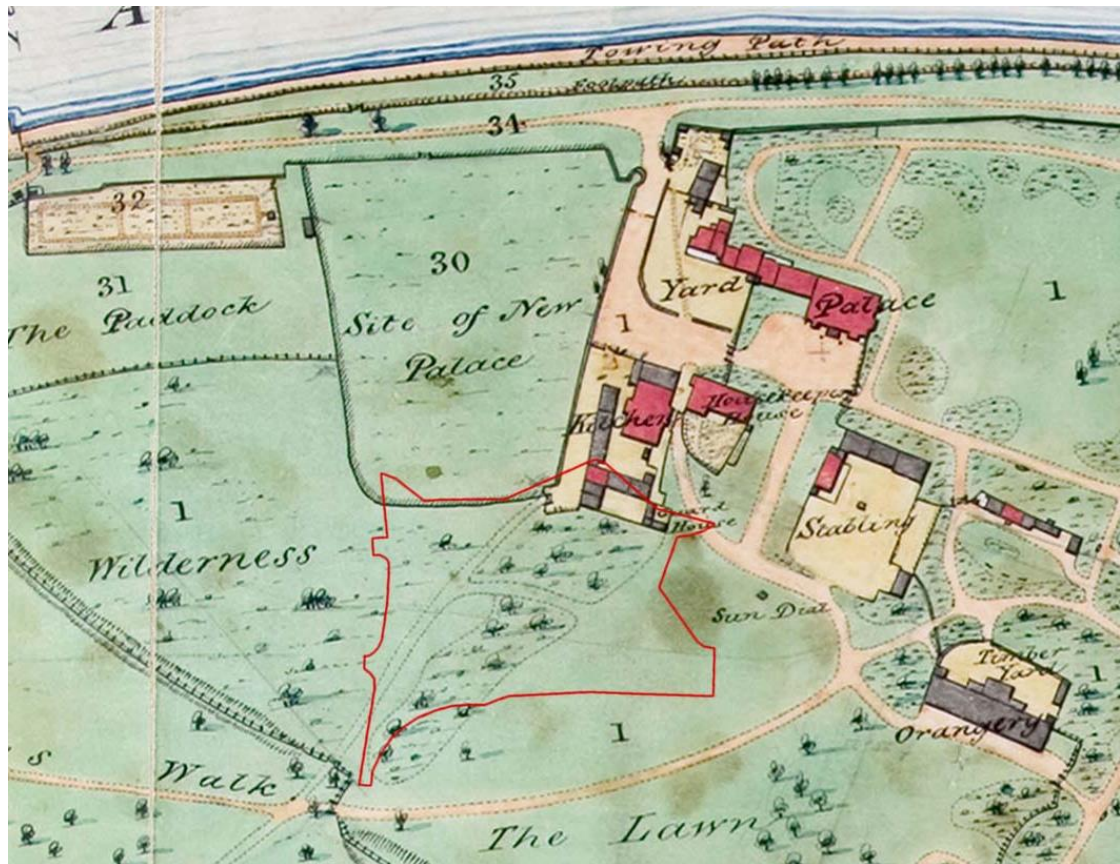


Figure 11: Extract from Driver's 1840 plan, with the study site outline in red

The 1840 plan also has an associated key describing the usage of land, with the plots overlying the site and in closest proximity to it as follows:

<i>No.</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>State</i>
1	The Palace, Offices, Yards, Buildings, Stables & Pleasure Grounds attached, The King of Hanover's Residence... The Palace Lawn & Wilderness, the Grand Entrance & the Shrubberies &c around the Arboretum	Pleasure Garden, Walks, Shrubbery &c
30	Site of The New Palace	Pasture &c
31	Paddock adjoining & Shed	Pasture
33	Small Piece. Garden adjoining	Pasture &c
39	Piece between Terrace Walk & Ha Ha Ditch to Extent of Kew Parish	Meadow
40	The Warren & Part between Terrace & Princesses Walks	Meadow, &c
41	Piece between Princesses Walk & Queen's Ride	Pasture, Wood, &c

The site overlies the south west corner of a small, L-shaped building which is identified as the Guard House. It also overlies part of the Lawn and the Wilderness. The former route of Love Lane had been replaced by footpaths by the time of this survey.

3.6.7

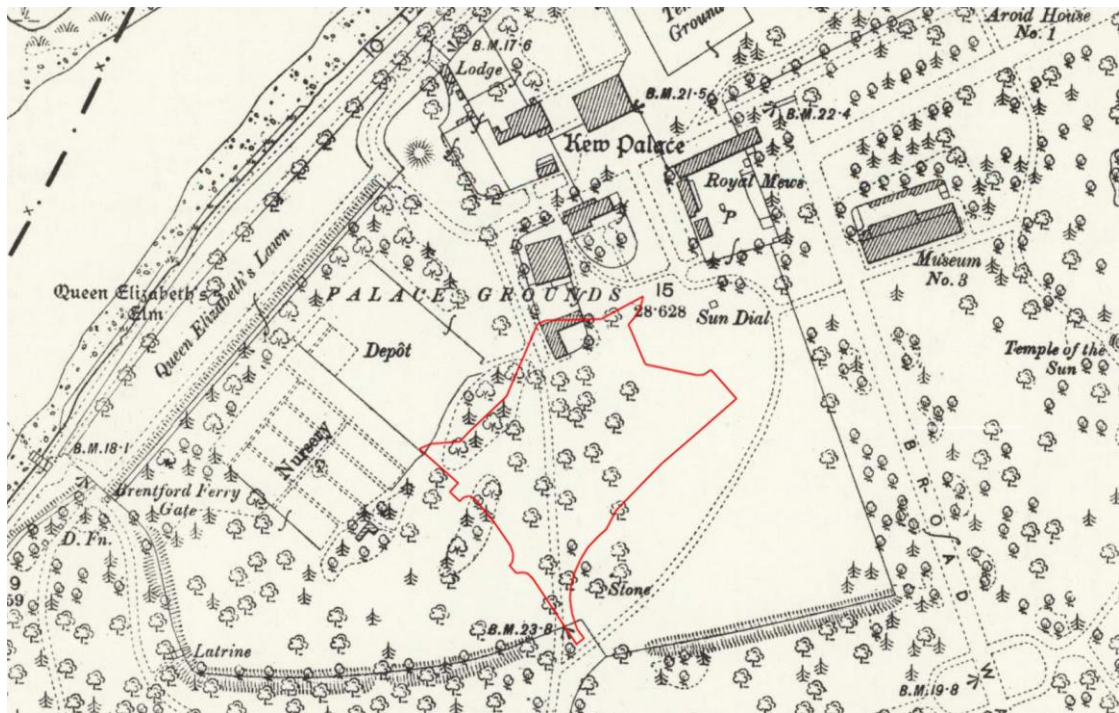


Figure 12: Extract from the Ordnance Survey five feet to a mile map, Edition of 1894-6 (revised 1893 & published 1895; Sheets X.11 & X.21) with the site outline in red.

Minimal changes occurred in the five decades following the 1840 plan, with the first Ordnance Survey of the area depicting the layout as vastly the same. The footpath following the approximate route of Love Lane has been better defined, and the L-shaped structure is still standing in the north-west section of the site. The main changes can be seen to the west of the site, outside of its boundaries, with a depot and nursery plotted into the previously open land.

3.6.8



Figure 13: Extract from Ordnance Survey Edition of 1915. Surrey Sheet I.12.16; revised 1910 with the study site outline in red.

By the time of the 1915 OS Revision (Figure 13), the footpaths have been re-plotted and no longer follow the route of Love Lane. The L-shaped structure has also been demolished during the two decades between the surveys. Due to this, the site became vastly open land occupied by trees which can be seen clearly in 1921 aerial photographs of the site (Figure 14).

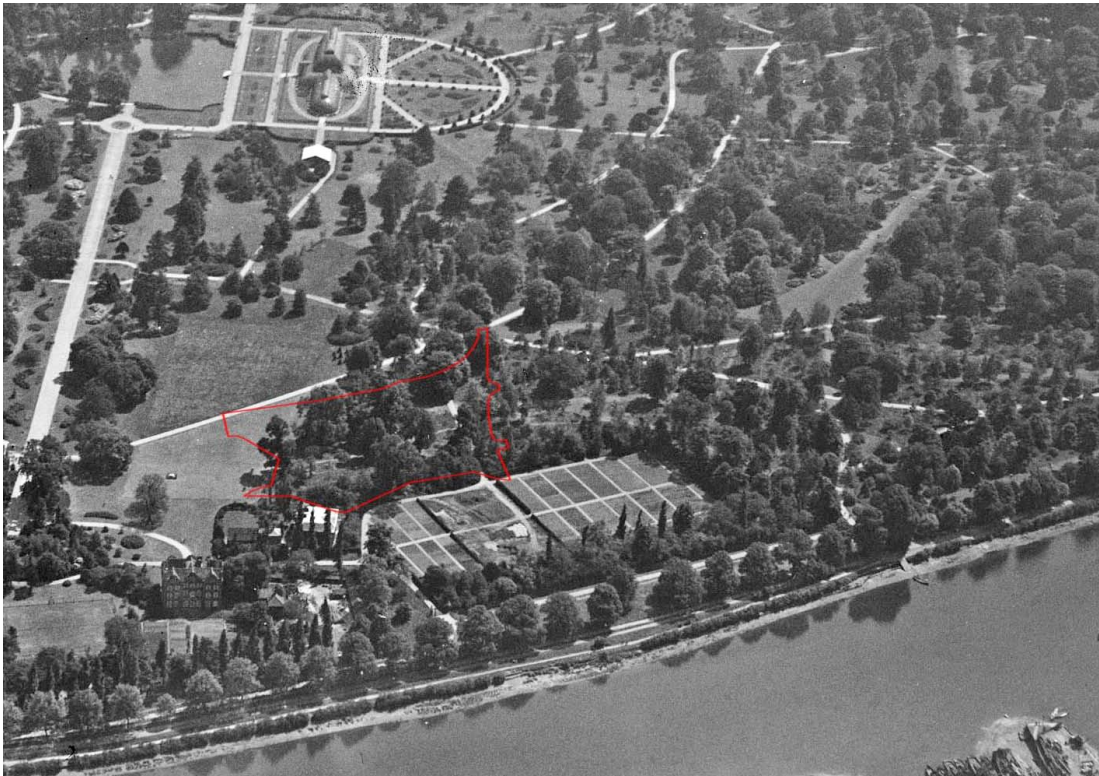


Figure 14: Aerial photograph from the study area in the north-west, May 1921, with the site outline in red.

3.6.9

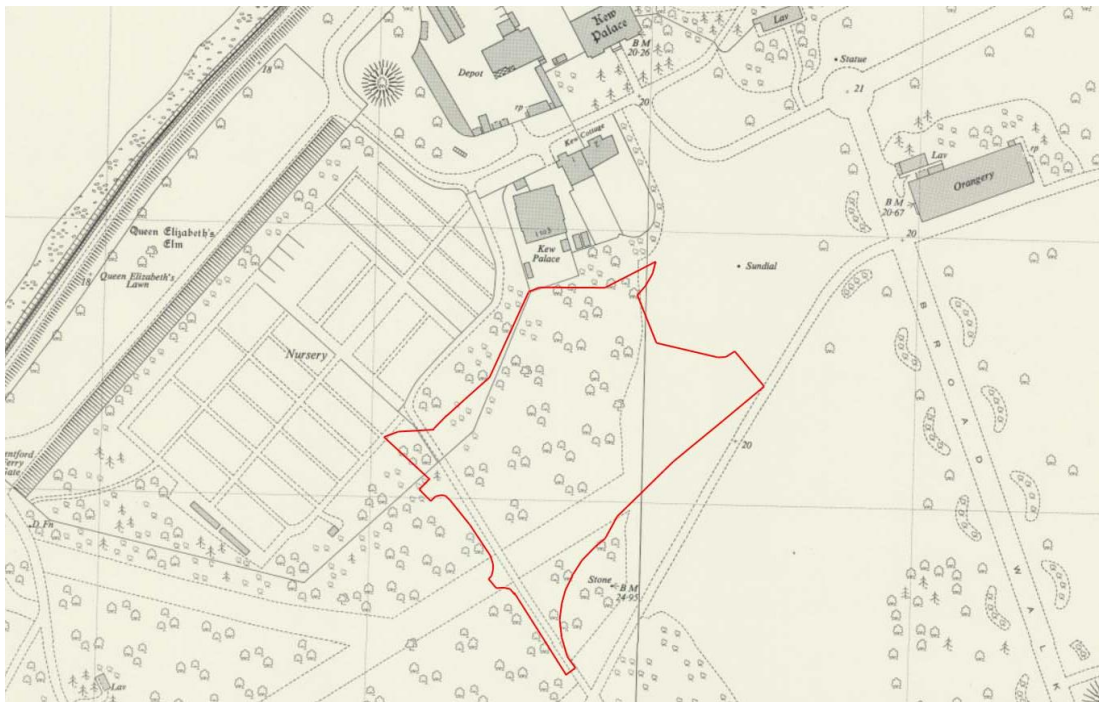


Figure 15: Extract from the Ordnance Survey 1:1250 map, surveyed 1959-60. Plans TQ 1877SW & 1877SE with study site outlined in red.

The site has remained broadly unchanged after the 1915 survey, the 1959-60 survey depicting the same layout of footpaths and a large open area of trees within the site.

3.6.10 Several GLHER entries refer to archaeological investigations that were undertaken in the area surrounding the study site, which included some in the vicinity of the site.

3.6.11 *The potential for post-medieval remains within the study site is high, with numerous features identified during map regression. These features are summarised in Figure 16:*



Figure 16: Plan showing the 18th and 19th century features in relation to the site boundary & proposed new Learning Centre

3.7 Previous Archaeological Investigations

There have been several archaeological investigations within the Royal Botanic Gardens Kew, with 8 sites located in close proximity of the study site.

3.7.1 The Royal Kitchen Block

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken in 2010 on the site of the Royal Kitchen Block garden. Four trenches were excavated which revealed the foundations for the garden's eastern and western walls, but it was concluded that no remains of a Georgian yard surface or path had survived. The deposits overlying the natural were all dated from the 17th century onwards, meaning any remains that pre-dated the late post-medieval period would have remained within the Kitchen Block garden or its immediate vicinity.

3.7.2 The White House

An archaeological investigation was carried out by the Time Team in 2002 on the site of the 18th century White House, and just to the north of the extended study area. The excavations took place on the lawns in front of the Dutch House. Elements of a Tudor house which preceded the White House were identified, comprising of the brick walls of a fireplace and two cellar walls. The earlier house was succeeded by the brick foundation walls of the White House, which consisted of red brick walls; a detached outbuilding with a cellar; and the remains of two brick drains of an internal courtyard. A brick reservoir for an ornamental fountain was found within the courtyard and part of its moulded stone borders was found in the backfill. Finds recovered from the courtyard included a Georgian wine glass stem, a c.1720 coin (thought to be a love token), and a c.1772 Maundy three pence. The walls of a small building were also found within the location of the privies. To the west of the house brickwork associated with a tunnel leading to the kitchen range was uncovered.



Figure 17: Ground floor plan of the White House and outbuildings from Chambers 1763 (reoriented with NW at the top), with the site boundary (red) and the 2002 Time Team trenches (blue).

3.7.3 Land adjacent to the Climbers and Creepers Building

A two-phase evaluation and subsequent watching brief was carried out in 2009-10, as part of the planning process prior to the installation of new outdoor play equipment (the present Treetop Towers children's play area). During the evaluation ten trenches were excavated: four of these exposed only simple stratigraphic sequences. However, the remaining trenches revealed sections of a wall base constructed of red brick dated to between 1620 and 1700 (Figure 18). The wall was identified as part of a garden feature or boundary that appears on a number of 18th century plans, and is thought to be contemporary with the rebuilding of Kew Farm.



Figure 18: View of the 17th century wall base found in front of the former Climbers and Creepers building, looking S, scale 0.5m (CLJ09 Trench A).

Between November 2020 and January 2021 a second watching brief was undertaken during the development of a new Family Restaurant, replacing the former Climbers and Creepers indoors children's play area. Sections of the 17th century garden wall feature were exposed across the site. The wall was encountered at a depth of c.0.65m and the majority of the structure had been severely truncated by previous development phases. A later, 19th century, brick surface associated with a structure visible on cartographic sources was also exposed in the far west of the site, and truncated any sign of the earlier wall.

3.7.4 The Children's Garden

Between December 2017 and January 2019 a watching brief was conducted on the new Children's Garden, to the east of the study site. Two significant 17th to 19th century features were exposed during this watching brief which had been observed during previous investigations. A brick wall base was encountered at a depth of c.0.3m, which was aligned east-west and measured over 24m in length was dated to c.1620-1700 and formed part of a garden boundary. The second archaeologically recorded feature was a sunken fence or ha-ha: this feature was dug in 1834 and backfilled in 1895 and is known to have crossed almost the entire length of the site from west to east. The estimated width is c.11m with a minimum depth of 1.5m, with a broad flat base. A possible buttress or gate was also exposed.

3.7.5 The New Propagation Glasshouse

During a watching brief in 2014 a brick wall of mid-17th century date was observed (Compass Archaeology 2014). The wall was observed within 0.3m of the ground surface and survived in relatively good condition. The fieldwork also illustrated that the majority of the site was devoid of archaeologically significant deposits. The presence of made ground is not exceptional given the level of modern development in the vicinity.

3.7.6 The New Quarantine House

An archaeological evaluation of the land adjacent to the Lower Nursery took place in two phases between December 2008 and June 2009, as part of the planning process prior to the development of a new Quarantine House. This was also followed by a watching brief during service trench construction. A simple stratigraphic sequence was observed in several of the trenches. Three trenches also provided evidence for post-medieval activity, in the form of a brick wall base and boundary ditches. However, the most significant find in relation to this study came from the southernmost evaluation trench. This comprised part of a very large backfilled ditch, identifiable from documents and historic maps as the remains of a 'sunken fence feature' or ha-ha, dug in the mid-1830s to delineate the pleasure gardens from the lawns of Kew Palace and backfilled towards the end of the 19th century (Figure 19).



Figure 19: Part of the 'sunken fence' feature or ha-ha during the Quarantine House evaluation, looking SE, 1m scale.

3.7.7 Kew Palace

A watching brief conducted by PCA in 2005 monitored the excavation of a lift shaft pit. Most of the archaeology uncovered related to the construction of an 18th Century extension to the palace and its subsequent demolition in the late 19th Century. Archaeological deposits survived primarily in the northern area of the trench, with areas to the south impacted by the construction of drains in the late 19th Century. A watching brief was also undertaken at 'The Great Lawn', Kew Palace in 2006 for the realignment of pathways. Early post-medieval features were encountered on the site, including a potential Tudor hearth and 16th-17th Century wall foundations, 18th Century wall foundations, and a cobbled path likely to represent the remains of the stable yard associated with the White House. The majority of the features encountered were from the post-medieval period, mostly relating to the development of the area from the 18th Century and subsequent demolition of the royal complex in the 19th and 20th centuries.

4. THE DEVELOPMENT, PLANNING AND OBJECTIVES

4.1 The proposed development comprised the demolition of the White Peaks Café and the construction of a new Learning Centre along with a new toilet block and landscaping. The new Learning Centre will be a two-storey, un-basemented structure which will include teaching spaces, a large seminar room, office space and public access W.Cs. The New Learning Centre will be constructed largely on the footprint of the existing White Peaks Café, with the foundation extended as required. The landscape design will include the existing footpaths as well as proposed footpaths leading to the new Learning Centre entrance. The space surrounding the new building will comprise planting, shade plants and external learning area. As part of the new Learning Centre development a drainage strategy will be deployed across the site which will include foul and surface water drainage, such as new pipes and soakaways.



Figure 20: Proposed site plan. Drawing No. 0004 by Hazle McCormack Young LLP.



Figure 21: Proposed 3D site plan. Produced by Hazle McCormack Young LLP.



Figure 22: Proposed Elevation of the Learning Centre, approaching from the south west. Produced by Hazle McCormack Young LLP.

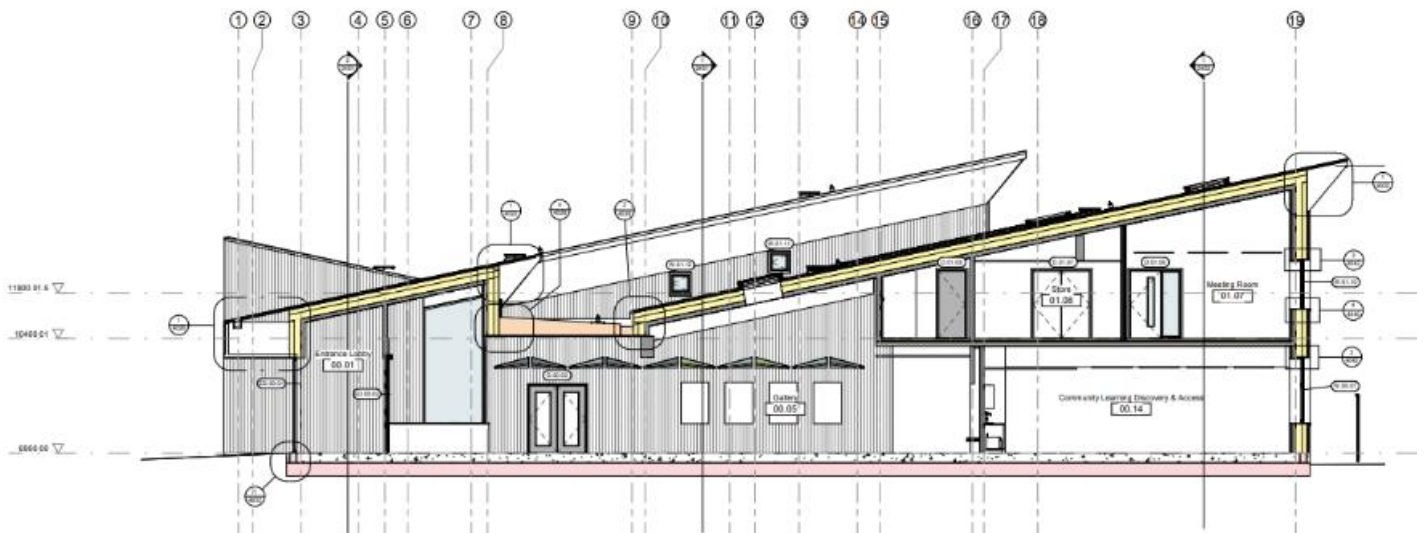


Figure 23: Proposed South Elevation. Produced by Hazle McCormack Young LLP.

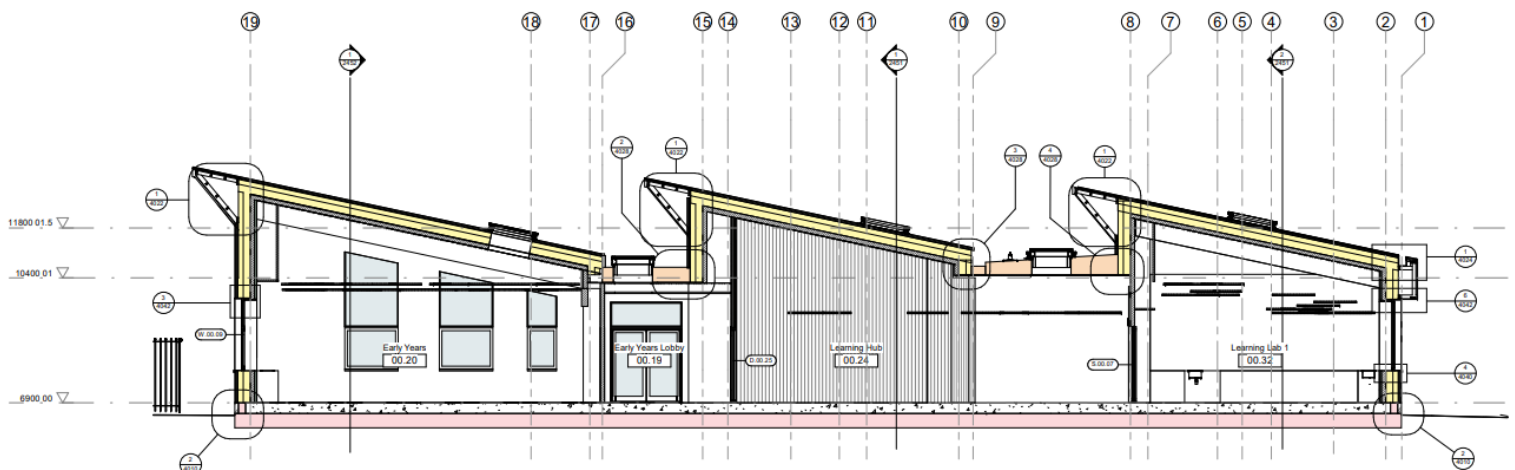


Figure 24: Proposed North Elevation. Produced by Hazle McCormack Young LLP.

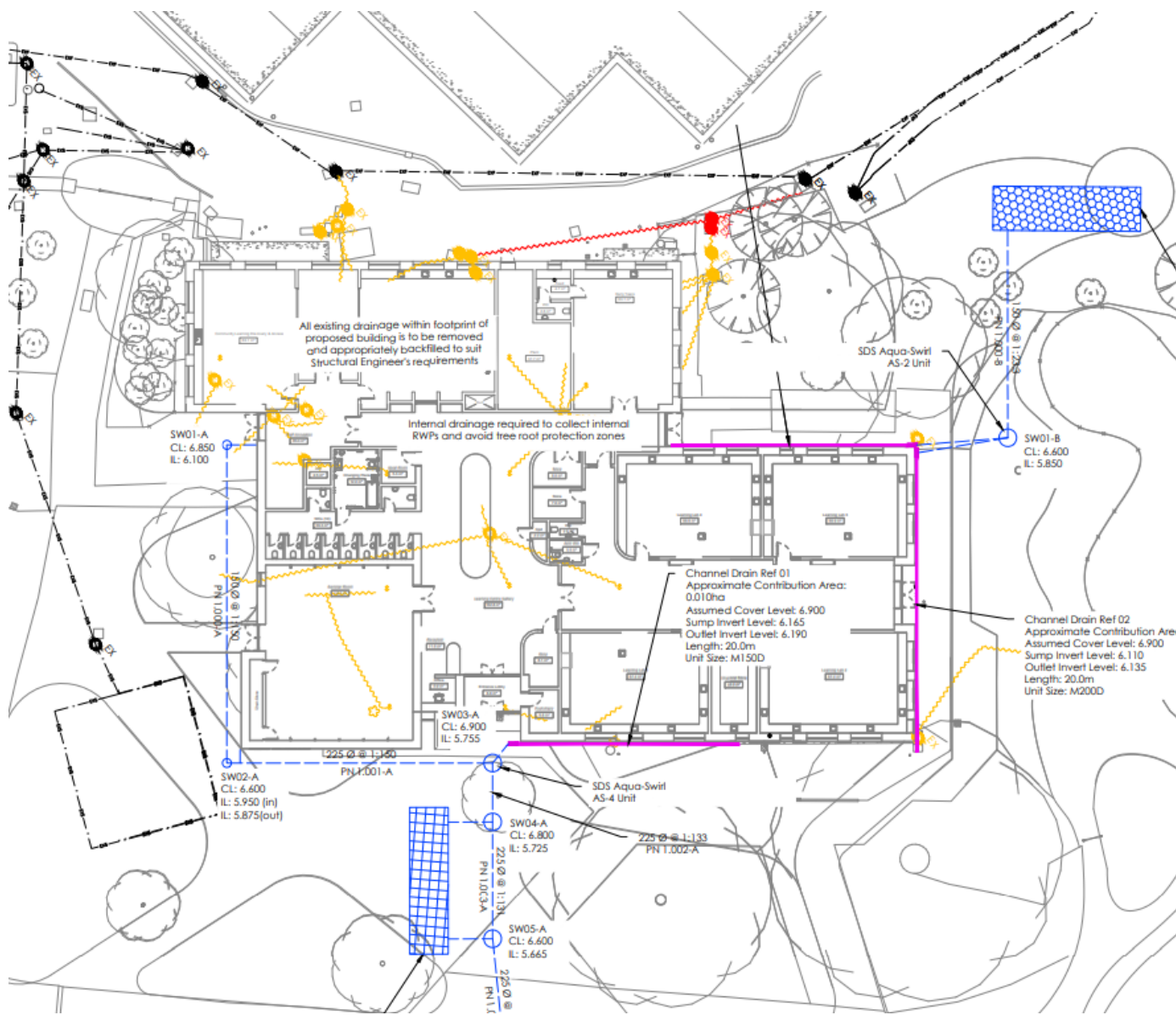


Figure 25: Ground floor plans of the site, with drainage indicated in blue. Produced by Hazle McCormack Young LLP.

- 4.2 This WSI represents one element in the archaeological planning process whereby early consideration of potential archaeological remains can be achieved, and if necessary, further appropriate further mitigation measures put in place. The report conforms to the requirements of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF).
- 4.3 The Government adopted the National Planning Policy Framework in March 2012, with policy updates implemented as recently as December 2023. The NPPF integrates planning strategy on ‘heritage assets’ – bringing together all aspects of the historic environment, below and above ground, including historic buildings and structures, landscapes, archaeological sites, and wrecks. The significance of heritage assets needs to be considered in the planning process, whether designated or not, and the settings of assets taken into account. The NPPF requires using an integrated approach to establishing the overall significance of the heritage asset using evidential, historical, aesthetic and communal values, to ensure that planning decisions are based on the nature, extent and level of significance.

- 4.4 Due to the site's location within an archaeological and historic landscape the following policy, taken from the current London Plan (March 2021) is deemed relevant:

Policy HC1: HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND GROWTH

A) Boroughs should, in consultation with Historic England, local communities and other statutory and relevant organisations, develop evidence that demonstrates a clear understanding of London's historic environment. This evidence should be used for identifying, understanding, conserving, and enhancing the historic environment and heritage assets, and improving access to, and interpretation of, the heritage assets, landscapes and archaeology within their area.

B) Development plans and strategies should demonstrate a clear understanding of the historic environment and the heritage values of sites or areas and their relationship with their surroundings. This knowledge should be used to inform the effective integration of London's heritage in regenerative change by: 1) setting out a clear vision that recognises and embeds the role of heritage in place-making 2) utilising the heritage significance of a site or area in the planning and design process 3) integrating the conservation and enhancement of heritage assets and their settings with innovative and creative contextual architectural responses that contribute to their significance and sense of place 4) delivering positive benefits that conserve and enhance the historic environment, as well as contributing to the economic viability, accessibility and environmental quality of a place, and to social wellbeing.

C) Development proposals affecting heritage assets, and their settings, should conserve their significance, by being sympathetic to the assets' significance and appreciation within their surroundings. The cumulative impacts of incremental change from development on heritage assets and their settings should also be actively managed. Development proposals should avoid harm and identify enhancement opportunities by integrating heritage considerations early on in the design process.

D) Development proposals should identify assets of archaeological significance and use this information to avoid harm or minimise it through design and appropriate mitigation. Where applicable, development should make provision for the protection of significant archaeological assets and landscapes. The protection of undesignated heritage assets of archaeological interest equivalent to a scheduled monument should be given equivalent weight to designated heritage assets.

E) Where heritage assets have been identified as being At Risk, boroughs should identify specific opportunities for them to contribute to regeneration and place-making, and they should set out strategies for their repair and reuse.

- 4.5 The site lies within the London Borough of Richmond upon Thames which has its own policies regarding heritage assets and development within its Local Plan (adopted 2018), with the following extract from Policy LP 3 deemed most relevant:

Policy LP 3 - Designated Heritage Asset

- A Council will require development to conserve and, where possible, take opportunities to make a positive contribution to, the historic environment of the borough. Development proposals likely to adversely affect the significance of*

heritage assets will be assessed against the requirement to seek to avoid harm and the justification for the proposal. The significance (including the settings) of the borough's designated heritage assets, encompassing Conservation Areas, listed buildings, Scheduled Monuments as well as the Registered Historic Parks and Gardens, will be conserved and enhanced by the following means:

...

- 8) *Protect and enhance the borough's registered Historic Parks and Gardens by ensuring that proposals do not have an adverse effect on their significance, including their setting and/or views to and from the registered landscape.*

...

- C *All proposals in Conservation Areas are required to preserve and, where possible, enhance the character or the appearance of the Conservation Area.*

- 4.6 The site is also located within the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew World Heritage Site, which has its own policy included within the Local Plan:

Policy LP 6: Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew World Heritage Site

The Council will protect, conserve, promote and where appropriate enhance the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew World Heritage Site, its buffer zone and its wider setting. In doing this, the Council will take into consideration that:

- *The World Heritage Site inscription denotes the highest significance to the site as an internationally important heritage asset*
- *The appreciation of the Outstanding Universal Value of the site, its integrity, authenticity and significance, including its setting (and the setting of individual heritage assets within it) should be protected from any harm.*
- *Appropriate weight should be given to the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew World Heritage Site Management Plan and the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew Landscape Master Plan.*

- 4.7 The London Borough of Richmond upon Thames also has a policy concerning archaeological remains and development within the Local Plan:

Policy LP 7: Archaeology

The Council will seek to protect, enhance and promote its archaeological heritage (both above and below ground), and will encourage its interpretation and presentation to the public. It will take the necessary measures required to safeguard the archaeological remains found, and refuse planning permission where proposals would adversely affect archaeological remains or their setting. Desk based assessments and, where necessary, archaeological field evaluation will be required before development proposals are determined, where development is proposed on sites of archaeological significance or potential significance.

4.8 Archaeological Research Questions

- Is there any archaeological evidence associated with human activity prior to recorded settlement in the area? Specifically associated with the Prehistoric, Roman or Saxon periods?
- Are there any features or finds of archaeological significance on site relating to the medieval &/or early post-medieval periods? What form do they take and function do they serve?
- Is there any archaeological evidence associated with the original route of Love Lane or its boundary walls (demolished c 1802)?
- Is there any archaeological evidence for the buildings shown in the northernmost part of the site on Chambers 1763 plan (Fig. 9 – possibly part of the service wing for the White House), and with possible alterations/rebuild on later surveys from Richardson (1771) through to the OS Revision of 1893 (Fig. 12).
- Is there any archaeological evidence for the gardens of the Prince of Wales' residence, the White House – or of those to the further (western) side of Love Lane. Both as illustrated on Rocque's plan of 1748 (Fig. 7).
- Is there any archaeological evidence for the Temple of Solitude, located approximately as shown on Fig. 16
- Is there any archaeological evidence associated with the demolition of the White House c 1802 – or of the Temple of Solitude, possibly around the same time?
- Is there any evidence of later development in the area and what form does this take? For example, the N-S path which crossed the site subsequent to the alterations of 1802 & is shown from Driver's plan of 1840 through to the 1893 OS Revision.
- At what level does archaeology survive across the site as a whole and in what condition?
- If encountered, what is the natural geology and at what level does it exist across the site?

5 METHODOLOGY

5.1 Standards

5.1.1 The field and post-excavation work will be carried out in accordance with Historic England guidelines (in particular, *GLAAS: Guidelines for Archaeological Projects in Greater London* 2015). Works will also conform to the standards of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (*Standard for archaeological field evaluation* and *Universal guidance for archaeological field evaluation*, both December 2023). Overall management of the project will be undertaken by a full Member of the Institute.

5.1.2 Fieldwork will be carried out in accordance with the Construction (Health, Safety & Welfare) Regulations. All members of the fieldwork team will hold valid CSCS Cards (Construction Skills Certificate Scheme), and will wear hi-visibility jackets, hard-hats,

and steel-toe-capped boots as required during the evaluation. All members of the fieldwork team will follow on-site health and safety guidelines.

5.1.3 The Client and the representative of Historic England GLAAS will be kept advised of the progress of the fieldwork, and in particular of any significant findings. If significant remains are exposed further measures will be agreed upon and implemented as appropriate. These may include additional archaeological work or specialist consultation/ work off-site, as well as preservation of remains *in situ*.



Figure 26: Site Plan with the proposed trial trenches for excavation marked in blue, (1) to (5)

5.2 Evaluation fieldwork

5.2.1 The fieldwork will involve the excavation of five trial trenches of varying size, which have been placed in order to provide representative cover of the site (Fig. 26). The proposed development groundworks will mainly cover the current White Peaks restaurant complex, with an extension to the southwest and other works outside this footprint for additional utilities and drainage (See Fig. 25). Trenches 1 and 3 below

correspond areas of new utility installation, while trenches 4 and 5 are located within the boundary of the New Learning Centre and trench 2 is positioned immediately to the east.

- 5.2.2** The development is located within a large plot, although the actual footprint of the new building and associated works will only cover some 1500m². For the archaeological investigations only the development area has been considered, meaning that the five trenches will cover a total of 61.2m², or just over 4% of the 1500m² new build site.
- 5.2.3** Initial bulk excavation of the trenches will be undertaken by a machine excavator fitted with a toothless grading bucket and operated under archaeological supervision. Deposits will generally be removed in this way in shallow spits to the latest significant archaeological horizon, or in the absence of remains to a clean natural / subsoil layer. Provision will be made for the excavation of deeper sondages within the trenches to expose any variations or features of interest in the natural. Sondages will be recorded, but depending on their depth may not be entered due to the inherent risk involved.
- 5.2.4** Following machine clearance an on-site decision will be made as to the likely significance of archaeological deposits and features within the trenches and will dictate the extent of hand excavation required. Sufficient work will be undertaken to establish the character, extent and significance of archaeological deposits and features, including recovery of finds dating and other evidence. Deposits and features will be investigated and recorded in stratigraphic sequence
- 5.2.5** Archaeological contexts will be recorded as appropriate on *pro-forma* sheets by written and measured description, and/or drawn in plan or section generally at scales of 1:10 or 1:20. The investigations will be recorded on a general site plan and related to the Ordnance Survey grid. Levels will be taken on the top and bottom of any archaeological features or deposits, transferred from the existing topographical survey or nearest Ordnance Datum Benchmark.
- 5.2.6** The recording system will follow the procedures set out in the Museum of London recording manual. By agreement the recording and drawing sheets used will be directly compatible with those developed by the Museum. The fieldwork record will be supplemented by digital photography in .jpeg and RAW formats.
- 5.2.7** Additional techniques will be applied as appropriate, for example metal detecting and environmental sampling. Should significant environmental deposits be found the advice of a specialist at QUEST (University of Reading) and of the Regional Science Adviser at Historic England will be sought will be sought to inform the sampling strategy.
- 5.2.8** Should human remains be encountered during the course of the fieldwork they will, if at all possible, be preserved *in situ*. If necessary, the Ministry of Justice will be contacted and an AASI licence obtained. The procedures will all be in accordance with the Ministry of Justice's 2008 statement: 'Burial Law and Archaeology'. This document sets out the requirements for licence applications to be made under the Burial Act of 1857 wherever human remains are buried in sites to which the Disused Burial Grounds (Amendment) Act 1981 or other burial ground legislation does not apply. Any human remains will be treated with proper respect and attention.

- 5.2.9** Any finds identified as treasure under the Treasure Act (1996) and the Treasure (Designation) Order (2002) will be recorded, protected as necessary and removed to a safe place as soon as possible – ideally on the same day.

5.3 Post-excavation

The fieldwork will be followed by off-site assessment and compilation of an evaluation report, and (assuming no further work is required) by ordering and deposition of the site archive.

5.3.1 Finds and samples

Assessment of finds will be undertaken by appropriately qualified staff (see Appendix I). Finds and samples will be treated in accordance with the appropriate guidelines, including the Museum of London's '*Standards for the Preparation of Finds to be permanently retained by the Museum of London*'. All identified finds and artefacts will be retained and bagged with unique numbers related to the context record, although certain classes of material may be discarded if an appropriate record has been made. Sensitive artefacts will be properly treated, in line with the appropriate Standards.

5.4 Report procedure

- 5.4.1** The report will contain a description of the fieldwork plus details of any archaeological remains or finds, and an interpretation of the associated deposits. Illustrations will be included as appropriate, including at a minimum a site plan located to the OS grid and provided in both .pdf and .dwg shapefile formats. A short summary of the project will be appended using the OASIS Data Collection Form, and will be prepared in paragraph form suitable for publication within the 'excavation round-up' of the *London Archaeologist*.

- 5.4.2** Copies of the evaluation report will be supplied to the Client and Historic England.

5.5 The site archive

Assuming that no further work is required, an ordered indexed and internally consistent archive of the evaluation will be compiled in line with MoL *Guidelines for the Preparation of Archaeological Archives*, and will be deposited in the Museum of London Archaeological Archive, with any archaeological finds also accessioned to the archive. A digital archive will also be submitted to ADS or comparable repository in line with CIfA guidance (DigVentures 2019).

6 REFERENCES

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Ordnance Survey. 1959-1960. *TQ 1877SW & 1877SE*

Appendix I: Specialist Staff

The following external specialists have previously worked with Compass Archaeology and may be consulted on this project, depending on the artefacts/other material recovered during the fieldwork:

Katie Anderson (ABCeramic Specialists)	Prehistoric ceramics
Gaynor Western (Independent Consultant)	Human Bone
Paul Blinkhorn (Independent Consultant)	Saxon to post-medieval ceramics
Rose Broadley (Independent Consultant)	Roman to post-medieval Glass
Jon Cotton (Independent Consultant)	Prehistoric lithics, pottery and metalwork
Mike Hammerson (Independent Consultant)	Roman and later coins & tokens
Matilda Holmes (Independent Consultant)	Animal Bone
Lynne Keys (Independent Consultant)	Industrial Waste
Susan Pringle (Independent Consultant)	Ceramic Building Material
Quaternary Scientific (QUEST)	Environmental Archaeology
Dr Mark Samuel (Independent Consultant)	Worked Stone
Dr Ruth Schaffrey (Independent Consultant)	Loomweights, quern stones
Dr Jörn Schuster (Independent Consultant)	Small finds
Anthony Yendall (Independent Consultant)	Metal Detectorist