

Design for the excavation of a former outbuilding of Carew Manor Beddington by the Carshalton and District History and Archaeology Society.

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| Site | Beddington Park |
| Grid reference | TQ 2950 6543 |
| Site code | |
| Borough | Sutton |
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1. INTRODUCTION

This is the design for an excavation by the Carshalton and District History and Archaeology Society to investigate the site of an outbuilding in the former service court of Carew Manor, Beddington.

The excavation is part of the Society's contribution to a Heritage Lottery Fund bid for Beddington Park which has been submitted by Sutton Council and has successfully passed stage 1.

The excavation is proposed for the summer of 2015.

2. THE SERVICE COURT FOR CAREW MANOR

Carew Manor was a former country house which dates back to at least the late medieval period. The house was at its highest point in the 16th century when it was owned by Sir Nicholas Carew who was Master of The Horse, a Knight of the Garter and one of Henry VIII's inner circle of courtiers. A man of Nicholas Carew's social standing would have probably owned a large multi-courtyard house which would have extended beyond the surviving compact single court structure.¹

There is documentary evidence for an outer court and a great court in the later 16th century when the house was owned by Sir Nicholas's son Sir Francis. It is not clear whether these were separate spaces or alternative names for same place. Both needed to have nettles cut and even if they were different the overall impression is of fairly informal areas surrounded by ancillary buildings such as the stables. The presence of rails suggest that it or they adjoined the park pale.² The most likely location for an outer court is the site of the present lawn on the west side of Carew Manor.

In the early 18th century Nicholas Carew, 1st baronet modernised the house and re-landscaped the gardens and park. This involved the creation of a long canal-like west lake running out across the park on the axis of the house front. This was clearly intended to be seen from the house necessitating the removal of any outer court west of the house.

The enclosure award map of 1820 (Figure 1) shows a service court to the northeast of the house. This centred on the Dovecote which is still standing. There was a long range of building on the

¹ Howard and Wilson 2003 p. 99-101.

² Phillips and Burnett forthcoming.

east side of the area which are still standing and are known as Beddington Park Cottages. There was a further range along the north side which was demolished in the 19th century.

The Dovecote, in the centre of the court, is a scheduled ancient monument. It is very much in the style of the early 18th century and was almost certainly constructed by the 1st Baronet.

A long range of buildings on the east side of the court are now known as Beddington Park Cottages. They were surveyed by the author and others in the 1980s before and during their conversion into houses. Most of the range was fairly recent but the north end contained a substantial part of a timber framed building. This had a crown post roof which went out of fashion in the mid-16th century. However, the carpenter's marks on the roof timbers were jumbled suggesting that the building had been taken apart and reconstructed. This suggests that it could have been moved. The lower part of the timber work has mostly rotted and very little of the footings could be seen so they did not provide any useful dating evidence.³ If the building was moved the obvious context would be the first baronet's early 18th century remodelling of the landscape.



Figure 1. The outbuildings to the northwest of the house from the enclosure award map of 1820 (above left) and the tithe map of 1840 (above right) and the first 25 inch Ordnance Survey map of 1868 (left). Beddington Park Cottages are the long north-south aligned range. The suspected stable is shown on the 1820 map top centre. It had been partially demolished by 1840.

³ Phillips forthcoming.

We know very little about the range on the north side of the court. The maps suggest that in 1820 it had a length of about 64m and that the main part was about 12m wide. The cross-wing at the western end had an approximate length of 24m and a width of 6m. The western end of the building was demolished between 1820 and 1840 leaving the northern end of the cross wing.

The Carew estate was sold in 1859. The auctioneer's catalogue mentions:

... the Offices, which include a long brick and tile built range of Stabling, Coach-houses, and Three neat Cottages for Servants adjacent; Timber Yard at back, in which is a Carpenter's Shop and Deal Shed; also a Farm Yard with Barn, Cow Sheds, Granaries, Dog Kennels and Dove Cote.⁴

The stabling, coach-houses and cottages were in the east side range which became Beddington Park Cottages. The carpenters shop and deal shed lay east of Beddington Park Cottages while the dovecote can be equated with the surviving structure. The 1868 Ordnance survey map shows a small range directly north of the Cottages which was probably the dog kennels. This leaves the farmyard with the barn, cow sheds and granaries unaccounted for and presumably in the north range.

The house and outbuildings were acquired by the Lambeth Female Orphanage Asylum in 1864. The remaining part of the northern range survived to be shown on the 1868 Ordnance Survey map. In 1874 the Orphanage carried out a series of repairs to the outbuildings. At that time 'the Committee directed that the old paling round the stable yard be cleared and that the roof of shed near the river at the northwest corner should be repaired'.⁵ In 1876 the outbuildings were sold to Canon Bridges and were incorporated in the park and subsequently let as a dairy farm.⁶ Bridges must have demolished the remaining part of the northern range as it is not shown on the 1896 Ordnance Survey map.

The 1859 sales catalogue suggests that the northern range was used for cow sheds and granaries. The cows probably grazed in the park in the summer. The inner part of the park was a substantial size so cattle could graze amongst the deer. It is possible that the building was constructed for this purpose but adaption of an earlier structure seems more likely. In the sixteenth century the Carews would have needed a large stable partly for their own horses and partly to accommodate those of visitors. Both Henry VIII and Elizabeth I visited Beddington, the latter on numerous occasions. They would have been accompanied by a large retinue with numerous animals. The 1st Baronet would have need less accommodation although he would still have had to house his own carriage, hunting and work horses as well as those of visitors.

3. THE GAS MAINS

There is a pair of 21 inch high pressure gas mains which run to the south of the site and may impinge on its eastern end. The pipe is owned and operated by Southern Gas Networks and the proposed excavation will be within the protection zone around it. We will obtain Southern Gas Networks permission and follow their guidance.

The gas main was laid in 1968. The construction trench was observed by Lilian Thornhill under difficult conditions. She noted that 'the trench to the north of the Tudor outhouses [Beddington Park Cottages] near the bridge' showed much disturbance and the foundations of demolished

⁴ Carew Sale catalogue, 1859. Photocopy in Sutton Local Studies Collection.

⁵ Sutton Archives D 2/2/1 p. 127.

⁶ Phillips 2015

buildings.⁷ This was probably the foundations of the eastern end of the north range. It will therefore be better to examine the centre or western end of the range.

4. OBJECTIVES

The excavation will seek to answer two key questions:

- What was the original purpose of the building?
- When was it erected?

This will give as a better understanding of the development of the service court and the changing relationship between the house and the park.

5. METHODOLOGY

The questions can be addressed by removing the 19th century demolition deposits from a section of the building to expose the foundations of the structure and any surviving flooring. The building is likely to have either been brick or a timber frame resting on dwarf walls and post pads. It is very unlikely that the structure was old enough to have used earth-fast posts. The remains are therefore likely to consist of either foundations or robber trenches and possibly floor surfaces.

Most of the excavation will be in demolition deposits dating between 1820 and 1840. These are likely to be well drained and therefore thoroughly oxidised.

The exposed foundations and features will then be planned and recorded.

The finds from the demolition layers will be examined for evidence of the structure and use of the building.

The work will be carried out in accordance with the guidance papers of the Greater London Archaeology Advisory Service and the Molas Site Manual. Some additional data will be collected on the sizes of bricks and other ceramic building materials for comparison with other structures on the wider site.

5.1 Location and size of the trenches

The trench will be about 10m north-south by 4m east-west and will be placed across the centre of the building or off set to the west. The precise size and position will depend on the outcome of negotiations with Southern Gas Networks as we will need to avoid their gas main and leave whatever clearance around it they want.

5.2 Excavation methods

All the excavation will be carried out with hand tools. The following procedure will be followed:

- Mark out the trenches as defined above and place grid pins.
- Remove turf.
- Trowel up the resulting surface examine and divide into contexts if appropriate.
- Remove contexts one at a time in as near reverse order of deposition as far as can be determined. Contexts will be tested by trowelling. If they are found to be modern and of sufficient thickness the majority of the deposit will be removed with a mattock taking

⁷ Thornhill 1970 p. 89.

care to watch for any sign of change of context. The lower part of any context will be cleaned off the underlying deposit with a trowel.

- Any structure found will be cleaned with trowels brushes and other small tools. Mortar samples will be taken but otherwise the structure will be left in situ.
- Floor surfaces will generally be cleaned with small tools and left in situ. A few small cuts may be made to examine the underlying deposits and wall footings.

5.3 Finds retention policy

The following material will be discarded:

- Unworked chalk and flint
- Brick without a complete length, height or width.
- Peg tile without a surviving complete length or width.
- Broken featureless mortar not in situ

Brick will be sorted by type and reduced to a sample after the sizes and other features have been recorded.

Peg tile will be discarded after any full lengths or widths have been recorded.

5.4 Sampling

- We will retain small mortar samples from any non-modern structure.
- A specimen of any unusual bricks will be retained.

5.5 Recording the excavation

In general this will follow the Molas site manual. Specifically we will:

- Make a plan relating the trenches to the site grid to the adjacent features. The site grid will be related to the OS national grid.
- Assign a context number to each deposit of cut and fill in a context sheet.
- Plan the tops of any pre-20th century contexts and cuts at 1:20 or exceptionally at a larger scale if there is too much detail for that scale to be adequate.
- All plans will be related to the site grid.
- Draw the excavated sections at 1:20 if there is any worthwhile detail in them (they are likely to be cut through 19th century made ground).
- Draw all the exposed parts of any structure at a scale of 1:20 or 1:10 if there is a large amount of detail.
- Plans and contexts will be levelled to a temporary site bench mark. This will be levelled to the OS bench mark on Beddington Church.
- Record any structure on masonry record sheets.
- Take two sets of photos one in black and white onto 35 mm film and one digitally in colour using a 5 megapixel Cannon SLR.

6. FINDS

- The excavation will be shallow and is likely to be in well oxidised soil.
- All retained finds will be labelled by context.
- Robust items will be placed in 500 gauge plastic bags into which nylon labels will be stapled. The labels will be marked with Staedtler permanent Lumocolour black felt tip pens.

- A stock of plastic boxes of various sizes will be provided for delicate items. Bubble wrap will also be to hand.
- The following material will be allocated special finds numbers:
 - Any unusual item.
 - All moulded stone or unusually shaped CBM.
 - Any item likely to be crucial for dating.
 - Any material to be used as a reference specimen.
- Anything needed to be kept wet will be placed in a plastic box or if large covered with polyethylene.
- Delicate items will also be boxed.
- If anything needs urgent conservation we will use MoL or other conservation services.
- As far as possible all finds will be washed on site. They will then be placed in plastic seed trays to dry.

7. HEALTH AND SAFETY

The risk assessment is a separate document.

8. STAFF

The excavation will be led by John Phillips, Field Officer of CADHAS. He will be supported by a group of about 8 experienced volunteers who have worked together as a team for many years. There will be about 12 less experienced or new volunteers drawn from the local area.

9. INSURANCE

This will be covered by CADHAS's policy with Towergate.

10. POST EXCAVATION STRUCTURE AND TIMESCALE

10.1 Closing down the excavation

- The trenches will be backfilled and reseeded.
- The grass will be cleaned up to remove dirt and loose stones.

10.2 Post excavation assessment

An assessment of the finds and records will be made within 2 months of the excavation being completed. A writing up and publishing time scale will then be prepared. Unless the site turns out to be unexpectedly complex it is anticipated that a full word processed report will be prepared within a 18 months.

10.3 Treatment of finds by type and use of specialists

The site is well drained and the trenches will largely be shallow so they are unlikely to be waterlogged and will almost certainly be oxidised.

Pottery. The excavators are familiar with the main types of early modern and recent pottery. If the material is problematic advice will be sought from Clive Orton.

Tobacco pipes. These will be catalogued by the excavators based on the type series in Atkinson and Oswald 1969 and Oswald 1975.

Bottle glass. Will be catalogued by the excavators using the type series in Dumbrell 1983.

Architectural mouldings will be drawn and compared with the mouldings already known from the Carew Manor site and the major published sources on classical and late gothic architecture.

Bricks will initially be compared with the bricks around the site and data from the local area.

Mortar will be analysed by an outside specialist if it seems likely that this will produce any useful information not obtainable by examination at low magnification.

10.4 Report writing process

- Finds needing conservation will be treated. (Most likely by Museum of London conservation).
- The finds catalogue will be completed
- Drawings and digital photos will be made of finds where this is worth doing
- The site drawings will be traced and scanned
- The photos will be sorted, labelled and listed
- A backup of the digital photos will be made.
- The drawings and the relationships on the context sheets will be checked against the matrix made on site.
- The records of bricks – either in situ or in rubble – will be compared to the brick data from the local area and any dating evidence noted
- The building materials, construction method and sequence of any structure will be considered from context sheets, drawings and photos.
- Mortar will be considered in the light of data from the rest of the site. It will be analysed if this seems likely to produce useful results.
- The research questions will then be reviewed in the light of the accumulated evidence.
- A report will be drawn up containing at least the information required by the GLAAS guidelines.

10.5 Publication

- A summary of the main points and an initial OASIS entry will be produced within four weeks.
- A detailed word processed report will be produced. This will be done within about 18 months unless the site is unexpectedly complex. Copies of this will be supplied to at least English Heritage and Sutton Local Studies.
- An entry will be supplied for *London Archaeologist* excavation roundup when requested.
- If the results are sufficiently interesting an article will be offered to *London Archaeologist*.
- The results of the excavation will be incorporated into a revised version of *Beddington Park and the Grange: a historical and archaeological survey* which will be supplied to at least English Heritage, Sutton Local Studies at the end of the Beddington Park project.

10.6 The archive

- The finds will belong to the London Borough of Sutton as landowner and will go to their museum collection.
- The site archive will go to London Borough of Sutton Archives.

11. BIBLIOGRAPHY

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