

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

Author	John Phillips
Site	Beddington Park
Grid reference	TQ 2950 6543
Site code	BDD15 (to be continued into 2016)
Borough	Sutton
Revised	29 June 2016

1. INTRODUCTION

In 2015 the society carried out an excavation which sampled the foundations of a large former outbuilding to the north of a former country house now known as Carew Manor.

The excavation exposed the lower part of a foundation which most likely supported an exceptionally large time framed aisled barn about 69m long by 11m wide. Very limited dating evidence suggested that the foundation dated from the early 18th century and that it may have been constructed when an older barn was moved.

Details of the excavation, the documentary evidence and the interpretation appear in Phillips 2015.

The excavation is part of the Society's contribution to a Heritage Lottery Fund bid for Beddington Park.

2. FURTHER RESEARCH QUESTIONS

The 2015 work left two main areas needing further investigation. The first concerns the nature and construction of the barn which appears to be exceptionally large – bigger than the surviving one at Harmondsworth, Middlesex. The 2015 trenches exposed the foundations of the northwest corner of the barn and the foundations for a principle truss 18.25m to the east of it. Most of the area between the corner and the truss foundation was not excavated so it was not possible to establish the length of the bays or to know whether the last (western most bay) bay was full width or a narrower outshut. This prevents a fuller understanding of the structure of the building.

The second issue concerns the with the process by which a multi-courtyard Tudor house was adapted into the more compact house shown in early 18th century plans and prints. The household accounts surviving from the second half of the sixteenth century show that there was an outer or service court which contained various ancillary buildings. A 'great barn' is also mentioned. It seems likely that this outer court was originally in front of the house and that the buildings were moved northwards in the early 18th century to make space for an axial vista extending from the house to a long lake in the park. The dating evidence from the 2015 trenches was not inconsistent with this but there was too little of it to be certain. If this change took place in the early 18th century it was unusually late. Paula Henderson has shown that the service court was removed from the front of many large houses before the end of the

16th century.¹ At The Vyne in Hampshire the transition between a sprawling multi-courtyard house and a much more compact structure took place in the 17th century.²

There is therefore a need to expose more the foundation and to seek further dating evidence.

3. THE GAS MAINS

There is a pair of 21 inch high pressure gas mains which run to the south of the barn foundations and may impinge on its eastern end. Any excavation therefore needs to be on the north side of the building towards the western end.

The pipes are 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.

4. METHODOLOGY

The questions can be addressed by exposing a 12m section of the north wall of the building between the 2015 trenches A and B (figure **). The 2015 excavation showed that the foundations are covered with deposits which date from the 19th century and were heavily disturbed in the 20th century. This will allow any inward running walls to be located and there will also be excavated to the top of the foundation. This will establish the bay structure of the building. It is also proposed to excavate a few sample areas within the building if any likely pre-19th century contexts are found.

Care will be taken to avoid large scale excavation of any pre-19th century deposits to so that the trenches do not separate the foundation from any floor or sub-floor deposits or any early contexts outside the building. The intention is the keep the majority of the excavation within 19th and 20th century deposits which postdate demolition.

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.

4.1 Location and size of the trench

The trench will be about 12m long by 1m wide and will extend along the wall top between 2015 trenches A and B. Trenches will also be excavated to expose the tops of any inward running foundations.

¹ Henderson 2005 chapter 1 especially p. 31.

² Howard and Wilson Vyne 2003 p. 14.

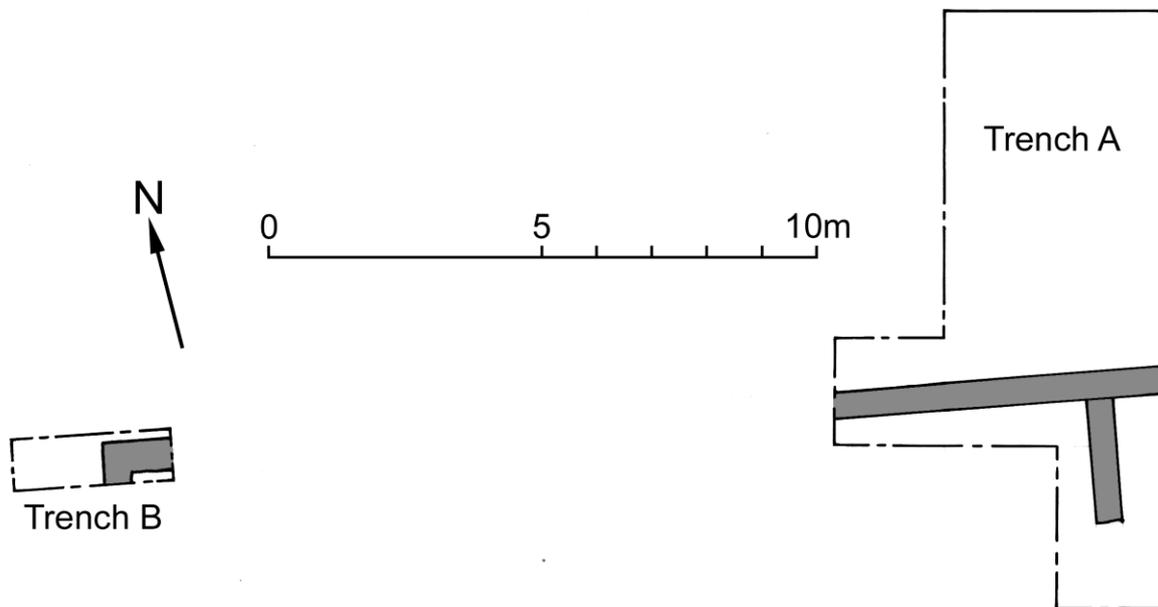


Figure 1. Trenches A and B excavated in 2015.

4.2 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 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.
- Any 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.

4.3 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 the sizes and other features have been recorded. Samples will be kept of any unusual brick. The rest will be discarded.

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

4.4 Sampling

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

4.5 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 which will be related to spot heights on a professionally made survey of Beddington Park.
- 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.

5. FINDS

- The 2015 excavation was in well drained oxidised soil which did not preserve organic material.
- 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.

6. HEALTH AND SAFETY

The risk assessment is a separate document.

7. 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.

8. INSURANCE

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

9. POST EXCAVATION STRUCTURE AND TIMESCALE

9.1 Closing down the excavation

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

9.2 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 18 months.

9.3 Treatment of finds by type and use of specialists

The 2015 excavation showed that the site is well drained and the soil oxidised. Most finds were of 19th and 20th century date.

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.

9.4 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.

9.5 Publication

- A summary of the main points and an initial OASIS entry will be produced.
- 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.

9.6 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.

10. BIBLIOGRAPHY

Henderson, Paula 2005

The Tudor house and garden. Yale University Press.

Howard, Maurice and Wilson, Edward 2003

The Vyne: a Tudor house revealed. The National Trust.

Phillips, John 2015 a

Beddington Park and the Grange: a historical and archaeological survey. Draft version 5 revised 27 February 2015.

Phillips, John 2015 b

Beddington Park Cottages: investigations before and during building work 1982-7.
Carshalton & District History & Archaeology Society Occasional Paper 6.

Phillips, John 2016

The excavation of a former barn or stable at Carew Manor, Beddington. Word processed report, 2016.

Phillips, John and Burnett, Nicholas 2016 a

Carew Manor Beddington. Volume 1: the house and its owners. Carshalton & District History & Archaeology Society Occasional paper 10.