KEAT'S HOUSE

HAMPSTEAD, LONDON

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

FEBRUARY 2001

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SUMMARY

An archaeological investigation was undertaken in the grounds of Keat's House, Hampstead between 16th January and 14th February 2001. The work was commissioned by the owners, the Corporation of London. A total of ten trenches were hand dug, eight of these were located principally to investigate the existence and character of former paths. Additionally one trench was dug in the north-west corner of the garden to examine a semi-circular masonry structure (Trench 9), and one further trench (Trench 10) at the south-east corner of the house in the area of a former conservatory. The fieldwork followed a preliminary geophysical survey in December 2000. The surveyors used both resistivity and magnetometer surveys, the former producing a more positive response.

Significant areas of gravel path were exposed in trenches 1, 2 and 5. These represented, respectively, an east-west path leading to the an earlier entrance on the east side of the house, the junction of this path and a north-south path on the eastern side of the garden, and finally an east-west path just inside the street frontage. A further indication of the north-south path was also found at the eastern end of Trench 3.

Probing of the lawn with a pointed steel rod in the vicinity of trenches 1 and 2 indicated the overall width (2.5m) of the east-west path to the house, and produced some evidence for the western edge of the adjoining path to the north of Trench 2.

Evidence for former east-west paths immediately to the south and north of the house was recovered from trenches 7 and 8. These differed in composition from the above examples: in Trench 7 a spread of loose mortar and sandy gravel may have formed the base for stone paving, whilst in Trench 8 a possible surface was made up of gravel/sand with fragments of brick and mortar. Trench 4 also contained deposits, which have been tentatively identified as a path, although this feature does not accord with the historical evidence. In addition there was evidence for earlier paths in trenches 4, 5, and 7, in the first two areas a red-brown sandy/crushed brick deposit which probably formed parts of a single feature. A clay deposit with building rubble in Trench 2 may also have formed the base for a previous path.

A frequent feature of path construction was the existence of a basal deposit with rubble inclusion, variously overlain by mixtures of finer gravel, mortar and/or crushed brick. This was most clearly seen in Trench I, but also apparent in trenches 2, 3, 7 and 8. However, the brick borders found in Trench 5 represented the only example of edging to a path.

The final trenches 9 and 10 produced evidence for other structural features, respectively the masonry retaining wall for a circular feature in the northwest of the garden and the remains of a small stove to the south-east of the house. The stove would appear to have been used to heat a former conservatory. Several areas, 2,3 and 8 revealed brick-built drains or similar related features.

1. Summary of Historic Interest¹

Charles Dilke and Charles Brown originally occupied Keat's House, then known as Wentworth Place, as two houses. The earliest reference to the garden is contained in the letters of Keat's himself when he was living there with Charles Brown in the years 1819 and 1820. Earlier plans of building plots give no indication of any existing garden features.

The building remained as two residences until 1838 when information from rate books shows that Miss Chester and her father took up residence and transformed it into one building as well as constructing a new single- storey drawing room on the east. Subsequent evidence about the garden is sparse until the later C19. The most detailed document is the Ordnance Survey plan of 1866 (fig.1), which shows the house. It also shows the position of paths, drives and the extensive out buildings around a yard in the south-west corner as they probably existed in Miss Chester's day.

It is not known whether this arrangement existed when the house was divided into two but the map does show two entrances off the street, each with its own path leading to what were then two separate front doors. The common plot, which served both houses, was divided by the main path into sections of roughly two-thirds and one third. On the east side may have been pleasure gardens consisting mainly of grass with trees around the perimeter and to the west a vegetable garden and perhaps a small orchard since this fits with what little is known of the earlier arrangements.

Modifications were made for Miss Chester with a coaching house and stable yard, with access to the fields at the back (south) of the house and a drive from the road on the extreme west of the plot. The drive still exists in part as the entrance to the public library (built 1931). This drive and the outbuildings were screened by trees and by either walls or fences from the house itself as shown on the 1866 map. The approach for pedestrians was by a gate from the road with a path leading up to and around the house and to the outbuildings. The main gate and path are still (2001) in the same position. There was also another access from the road at the north-eastern corner of the plot with

This information was extracted from a description of the property provided by the client.

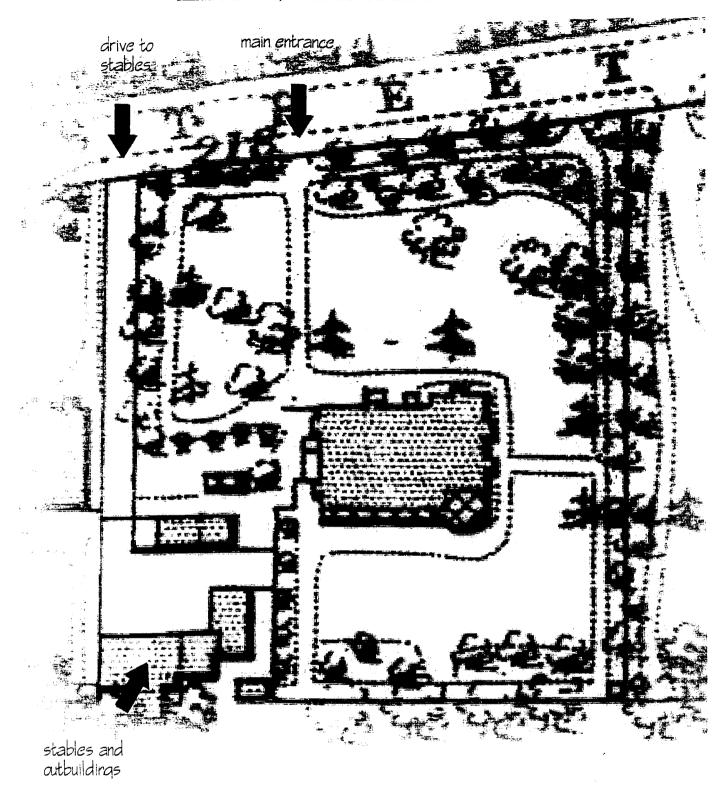
a path running around all three sides of the eastern part of the garden and with an approach path to the eastern side of the house. The 1894 Ordnance Survey map is less detailed and shows no obvious changes.

The earliest known painted view of Keat's' House (1889) is taken from the road and shows what is probably a boarded fence. The garden was screened by the fence, but it seems to have retained the division with fruit trees to the west and a more open area to the east with some mature trees near the road. A photograph from 1894 shows a simple grass plot in front of the house and an earthen or gravel path leading up to the north west corner and then around the front and to the east side where another path is seen leading to that side of the house. In 1912 a drawing of the house from the north-east corner shows several flower beds on the lawn and thicker trees to the north-west.

The new Branch Library was constructed in 1913 in the area that was once occupied by the outbuildings (to the west of the house). It appears that the trees to the west were cleared at this time and the area laid to grass with a border. However the old division of the garden into two sections was preserved.

In 1976 a survey of the garden was carried out, this showed the existing trees, borders and two kidney shaped flower beds at the north-east and south-east corners of the path around the house. The Garden History Society were consulted and a plan for the garden was produced, however this plan was based on a knowledge of gardens contemporary with that of Keat's House and did not pick up the old pattern of path revealed in the earlier maps. It was around this time that a conservatory to the rear of the house was demolished and replaced by a smaller version.

Changes continued to be introduced after this but on an ad hoc basis with borders of lavender along the main path from the gate to the house, the path being paved with randomly shaped York stones. These introductions altered the very simple appearance of the lawn and created a mid-C20 suburban atmosphere, very much at odds with the style of house. It was as part of an attempt to redress this balance that the client intended to reinstate some of the C19 paths and saw archaeology as the first step in this direction.

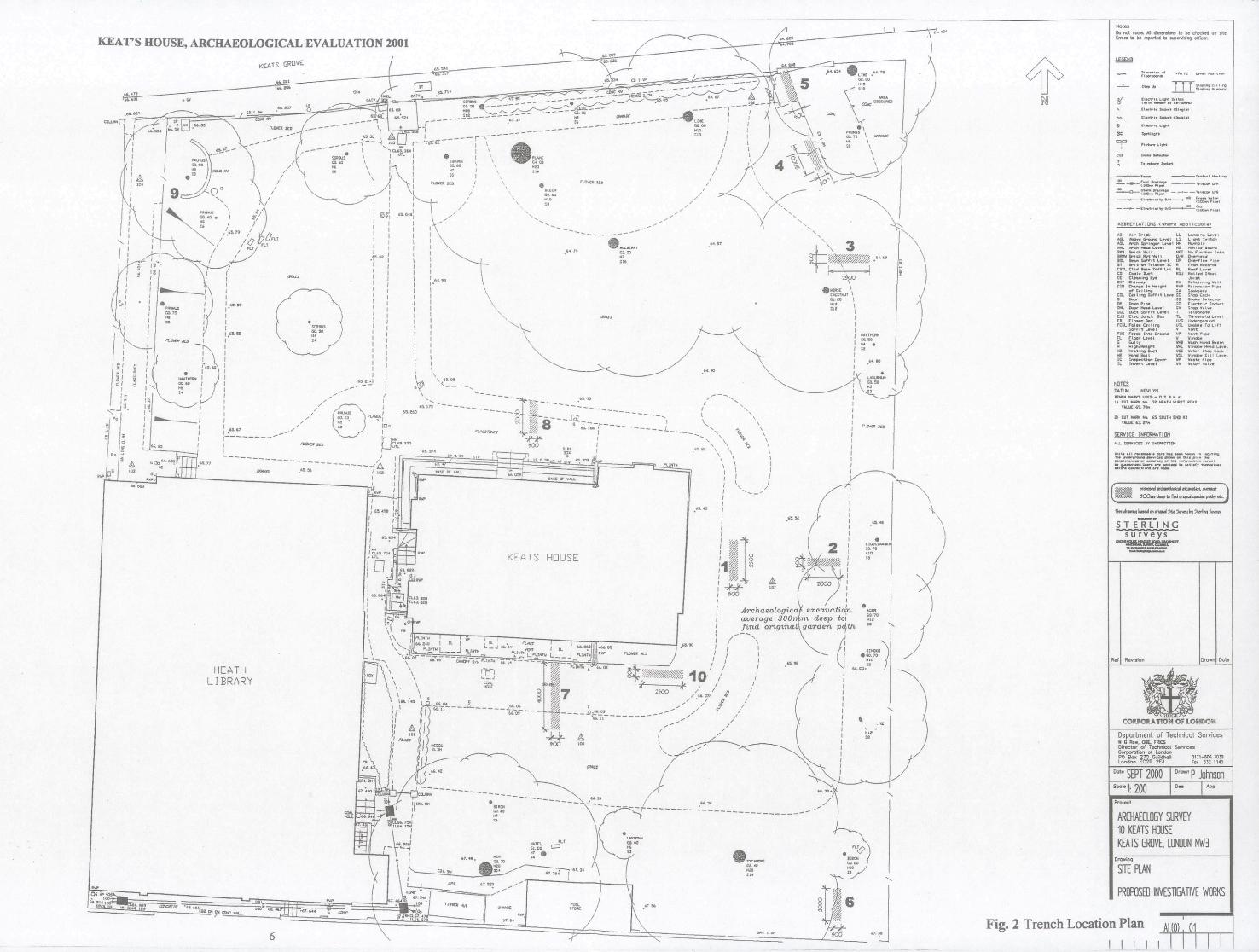


KEATS HOUSE PATHS & ACCESS AS SHOWN ON 1866 MAP

Fig.1 Ordnance Survey plan of 1866 redrawn by the client for the purpose of this report

2.0 Methodology

- 2.1 This report presents a summary of archaeological investigation at Keats' House, Keats Grove, Hampstead (site approximately located at National Grid Reference TQ2710 8565).
- 2.2 The evaluation was undertaken on behalf of The Corporation of London (the client) by Lesley Howes Archaeological Services. The fieldwork being carried out by Compass Archaeology between the 16th January and 14th February 2001. All records from the investigation were allocated the site code: KEA 01 by the Museum of London Archaeological Archive. The fieldwork followed a preliminary geophysical survey in December 2000 by Stratascan (Job Ref. No.1510).
- 2.3 The site itself is approximately rectangular in plan, with overall dimensions of some 48m east/west by 53m north/south. At the time of the archaeological investigation the house and grounds were closed to the public.
- 2.4 A total of ten trenches were hand dug within the garden (Fig 2). Eight of these (Trenches 1 to 8 below) were detailed within the original specification, and were principally located to investigate the existence and character of former paths. Additionally one trench was dug in the north-west corner of the garden to examine a semi-circular masonry structure (Trench 9), and one further trench (Trench10) at the south-east corner of the house in the area of a former conservatory.
- 2.5 Generally the trenches were excavated to a depth of between 0.15m and 0.35m to expose any evidence for garden paths. Deeper slots were then dug at either end to the level of the natural clay. This latter produced some evidence for earlier activity, including possible paths.
- 2.6 The deposits and features found during the investigation are represented by discrete context numbers [1] to [73]. Levels taken during the evaluation were derived from the existing site survey; itself leveled to two OSBMs (32 Heath Hurst Road, value 69.70m; and 65 South End Road, value 63.27m).



2.7 In detail the trenches comprised the following:

Trench no.	Overall dimensions (m)	Average depth to natural (m)
1	2.55 x 0.50	0.55
2	2.03 x 0.50	0.50
3	2.45 x 0.50	0.46
4	2.00 x 0.50	0.85
5	2.15 x 0.55	0.85
6	2.10 x 0.54	0.60
7	3.85 x 0.52	0.75
8	2.00 x 0.60	0.60
9	0.80 x 0.50	_
10	2.30 x 1.30	_

3 The Geophysical Survey

3.1 Prior to the excavation, Stratoscan, a company specializing in geophysical surveys for archaeologists, undertook a geophysical survey of the garden at Keat's House. The fieldwork was carried out on Tuesday 19th December 2001 when the weather was overcast. The object of the survey was to locate any features, which might be associated with the original location of the garden paths and other structures. The combined techniques of magnetometry and resistivity were used² and, of the two, the resistivity survey appeared to be more successful in locating possible past garden features. The combined results from both surveys are shown in figure 3. It is obvious from the plot that there is little corroboration between the two surveys. The cluttered urban environment of the site, especially the presence of a known pipeline has meant that little information was gained from the magnetometer survey. However the resistivity survey located a number of features that may be related to past garden features. Areas of high resistance were abstracted which might have related to walls and paths and possibly even the remains of structures, areas of low resistance might indicate flowerbeds and borders.

Full details regarding these techniques are to be found in the Geophysical Survey Report, Stratoscan, December 2000

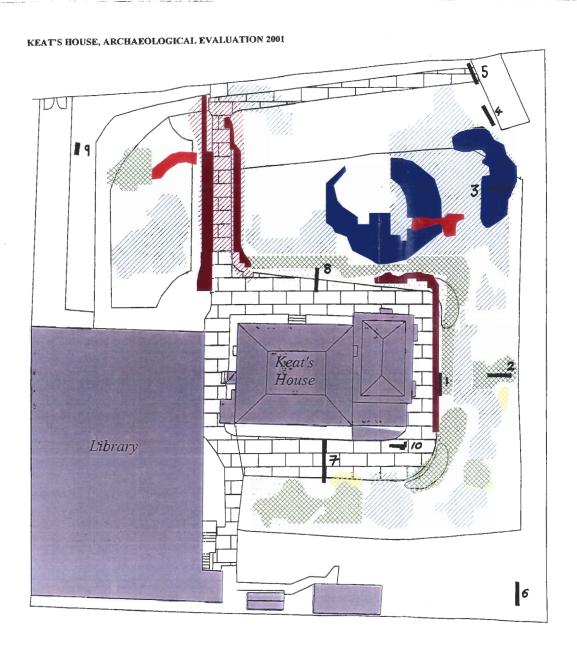


Fig.3. The combined results of the magnetometer and resistivity surveys with trenches



MAGNETOMETER ANOMALIES

Discrete positive anomaly possible cut feature Discrete positive anomaly with negative return - ferrous object Area of positive response

Area of magnetic disturbance

RESISTIVITY ANOMALIES

Area of low resistance - possible remains of garden features
General area of high resistance possible remains of garden features
Area of very high resistance possible structural remains High resistance linear anomaly associated with the paths

Figure No.	Job no. 1510	Dec.	Drawn EJFM
13	1310		Checked PPB

Client

LESLEY HOWES ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES

Project Title

Geophysical Survey, Keat's House, London

COMPARISON OF ANOMALIES ABSTRACTED FROM THE MAGNETOMETER AND RESISTIVITY DATA

Scale 1:250



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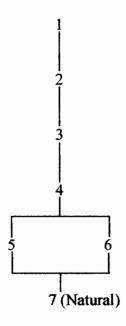
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4 The archaeological investigation

- 4.1 Trench 1 (fig.4a; 4b; 5.)
- 4.1.1 Summary of deposits and features by context

Context no.	Description	Interpretation
1	Fairly dark grey-brown slightly sandy clay-silt with occasional gravel	Modern topsoil.
2	Compact rounded/angular gravel (≤30mm) in mid to light grey-brown silty sand. (Sampled)	Upper layer of E-W path; fill within [4] (c0.2m in depth) Sampled
3	Brick, tile, slate & stone rubble + occasional mortar in grey sandy clay-silt	Base for [2]; lower fill within [4]. Finds largely dated to C19
4	Steep-sided cut onto fairly flat base	Cut for E-W path
5	Mid grey-brown slightly sandy clay- silt with v.occasional gravel	Buried soil horizon to north of path [2/4]. Finds largely dated to C19
6	Similar to above	Buried soil horizon below path cut [4] Finds largely dated to C19.
7	Compact buff-brown silt-clay	Top of natural London Clay

4.1.2 Matrix to show stratigraphic relationship of contexts



4.1.3 Description of results

The lowest deposit within Trench 1 was the natural clay [7], which was also encountered in trenches 2 to 8. The surface of natural dropped to the north by some 0.2m, in line with the overlying ground surface. It was overlaid by a buried soil horizon [5] and [6] which was up 0.35m thick.

Layer [6] was truncated by the cut for an east west path [4], some 80mm to 150mm deep. The cut contained a primary rubble fill forming the path base [3], overlaid by a slightly shallower gravel surfacing deposit [2].

Some 1.3m of the width of the path was exposed in the southern part of the trench. Probing of the lawn just to the south with a pointed steel rod indicated that the actual width of the path was approximately 2.5m.

Within Trench 1 the gravel path and adjacent soil horizon to the north were sealed by a modern topsoil [1] and thence by turf.

4.1.4 Discussion of results

Trench 1 was excavated in an area of lawn on the west side of the house. The resistivity survey (fig.3) identified this as an area of low resistance, more likely to be related to plant beds than paths. No anomalies were abstracted from the magnetometer survey.

The excavation and probing identified what was probably a path running east/west path c2.5m wide and c0.16m in depth, the southern edge of the path being c1.2m to the south of the southern edge of trench 1. A base for the path, (c0.2m in depth), had been made by filling a cut with rubble. Remains of a similar nature recorded in trench 2 indicated that, c 8.5m to the east of the house, the east/west path joined up with a path running north/south. There was no evidence to suggest that the path had been resurfaced, redressed or that it gradually went out of use. It would appear that it was still in use immediately before being covered over with topsoil and turf.

Artifacts recorded from trench 1 were largely dated to the C19.

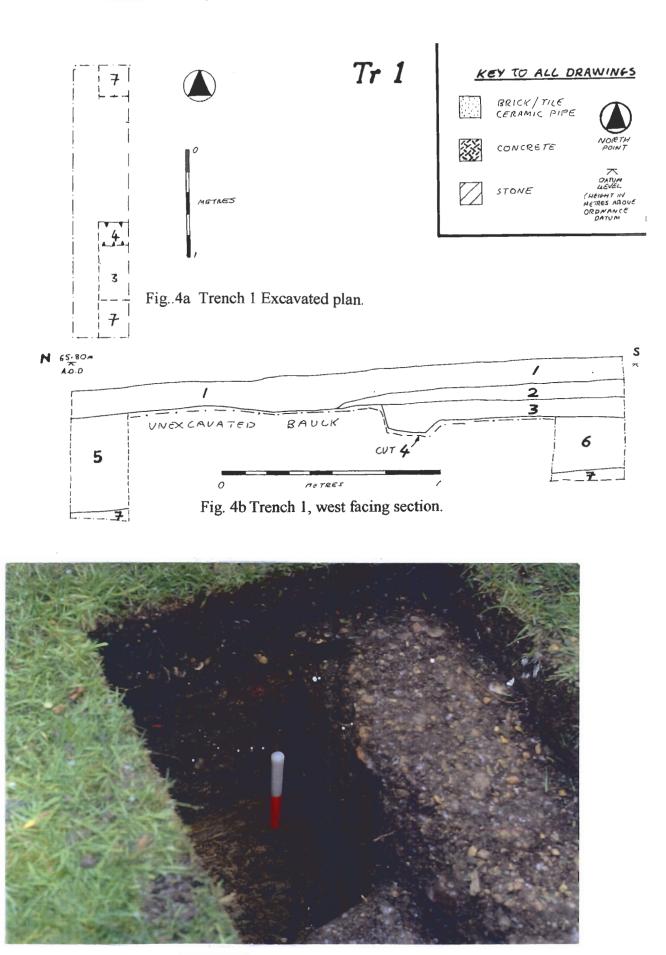


Fig. 5 Trench1. View of slot dug at south end of trench, looking to the south-west.

4.2 Trench 2 (Fig 6a; 6b.)

4.2.1 Summary of deposits and features by context

Context no.	Description	Interpretation
8	Mid to dark grey-brown slightly sandy clay-silt with occasional gravel	Modern topsoil (c0.22m in depth)
10	Rounded & angular gravel (≤30mm) in mid grey-brown clay/silt. (Sampled)	Upper layer/surface at junction of E-W and N-S paths. (c0.26m in depth) Sampled
11	Mid grey sandy silt with occ. brick &, tile & stone frags.	Intermediate band within construction of [10]
12	Gravel & building material frags. in orange-brown sandy clay	Base for path [10] Finds largely dated to C19
13	Dark brown-grey sandy loam with occasional gravel	?Buried soil horizon Finds dated to late C18-early C19
14	Orange-brown sandy clay with some gravel & building material frags.	Made ground, possibly base for a predecessor to path [10]. Finds largely dated to C19
18	Single course of brick on tile base	Possibly one side of a drain or soakaway

4.2.2 Matrix to show stratigraphic relationship of contexts



4.2.3 Description of results

The natural clay within Trench 2 was fairly level, but overlaid by a disturbed or possibly made ground deposit [14] some 0.2m thick.

At the eastern end of the trench [14] was sealed by thin soil layer [13]. This latter in turn appeared to be cut to the east by a brick feature, possibly one side of a drain, [18]. Both these contexts were overlaid by elements of a path construction [12], [11] and [10].

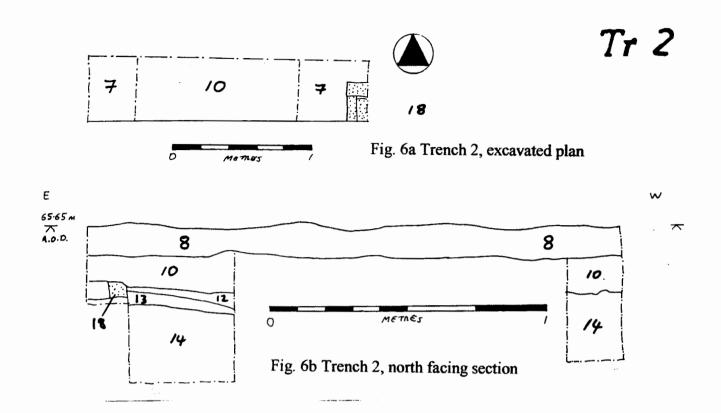
The gravel path surface [10] clearly formed a continuation of that in Trench 1 [2], although it also turned a corner to the north (fig.6a). This corner evidently represents the junction of east-west and north-south paths which is shown on historic plans.

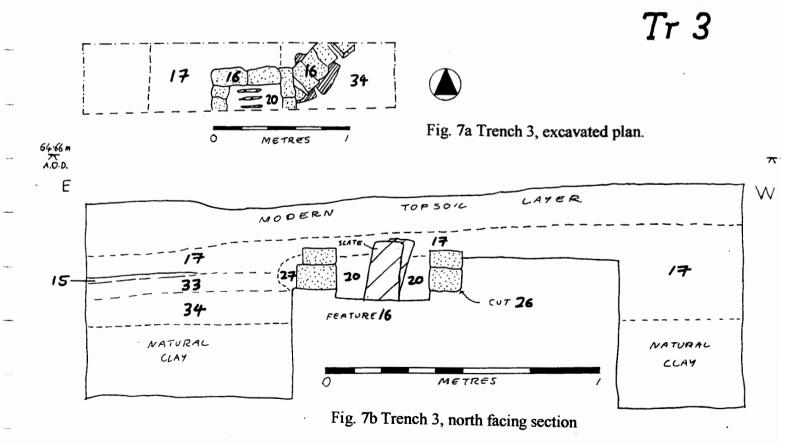
4.2.4 Discussion of results

Trench 2 was excavated in an area of lawn on the west side of the house 4.2m to the west of trench1. The resistivity survey (fig.3) identified this as an area of low resistance, more likely to be related to plant beds than paths. No anomalies were abstracted from the magnetometer survey.

The excavation identified a continuation of the path recorded in trench 1 and the junction of it with a path running north/south on the western side of the lawn. The sequence below the north/south path was not directly comparable with that in Trench 1, in particular the lack of a relatively shallow construction cut and integral rubble base. Layers [12] [13] [14] probably relate to an earlier phase of the north/south path. The drain was put in after the earlier path was laid but was covered by the later layers of gravel.

The artefacts recovered from trench 2 largely date from C19. However those from context [13] appeared to be slightly older than those found in the underlying layer [14] and are probably redeposited.



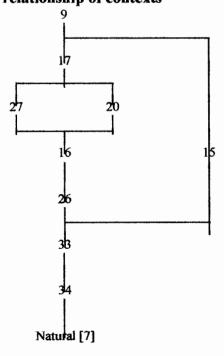


4.3 Trench 3 (Fig 7a; 7b;8;9;)

4.3.1 Summary of deposits by context

Context no.	Description	Interpretation
9	Mid to dark grey-brown slightly sandy clay-silt with occasional gravel	Modern topsoil
15	Orange-brown sandy clay + pebbles	?Edge of N-S path (0.05m in depth) Finds date late C18-C19
16	Brickwork lining three sides of a pit & running off to northeast. Contains three upright slates.	Soakaway / drain
17	Light brown/mottled yellow loamy clay with scattered pebbles + chalk, building material & charcoal flecks	Made ground over truncated top of [16] Finds largely C20
20	Gravel in grey-brown loamy clay	Fill within [16]. 1 piece pottery dated C18
26	Sharply cut feature into [33]	Cut for [16]
27	Grey-brown silty clay	Construction backfill around [16] 1 piece pottery dated C20
33	Red-brown silty sand with frequent pebbles & brick/stone frags.	?Base for path [15] 1 piece pottery dated C19
34	Mid brown silty sand with pebbles + brick & tile frags.	?As above

4.3.2 Matrix to show stratigraphic relationship of contexts



4.3.3 Description of results

The natural clay in Trench 3 was overlaid to the west by disturbed or made ground [17] and to the east by a probable path construction [34], [33] and [15]. The latter possibly represent the western edge of the north-south path shown on historic plans.

The assumed path make-up was cut, to the west, by a brick drain feature [26], [16] and [27], although this had not impinged on the upper path level [15]. The main part of the drain ran into the south section and was infilled with a gravelly clay [20], but is assumed to form a feature about 0.6m square. Within the fill [20] were three slates measuring 0.2m wide and set at c0.05m apart. The upright slates were not fully excavated consequently other details were not recorded. A brick channel lead northwards from the north-east corner of the drain.

Both the drain and path surface were overlaid by an apparent continuation of the made ground [17, and thence by modern topsoil [9].

4.3.4 Discussion of the results

Trench 3 was located 19m to the north of trench 2, on the border between the lawn on the west side of the house and a shrub border set against the western boundary fence. The resistivity survey (fig.3) identified this as an area of very high resistance, likely to be related to structural remains. No anomalies were abstracted from the magnetometer survey.

The excavation identified the buried remains of a path running north/south, slightly to the east of a path identified on the historic plans. The sequence of layers was not directly comparable with that in Trench 2.

Although the drain or soak away was of a similar construction to the drain recorded in trench 2 the slate detail was unique to trench 3. It is possible that the upright slates acted as a trap for debris, which would have otherwise blocked the outflow.

Dates of artefacts recovered from trench 3 range from late C18—early C19. The earlier material having been re-deposited during the lifetime of the drain.



Fig .8 Trench 3 showing the drain prior to full excavation . Looking to the south



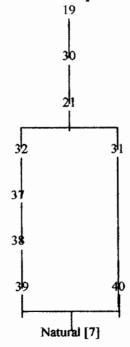
Fig. 9 Trench 3. The drain partially excavated showing slate detail. Looking to the south

4.4 Trench 4 (Fig 10a;10b)

4.4.1 Summary of deposits and features by context

Context no.	Description	Interpretation
19	Dark brown loamy clay with occasional pebbles	Modern topsoil (c0.13m in depth)
21	Yellow-brown sandy clay with frequent gravel (c0.25m in depth)	Possible path make-up Finds date from C19-C20
30	Very dark brown silty loam with occasional pebbles	Possible buried soil horizon to south of [21]
31	Dark brown sandy loam with frequent gravel and some building rubble	?Made ground base for [21], probably contiguous with [32]
32	Reddish brown silty sand with clay patches, frequent building rubble & some gravel	?Base for [21], contiguous with [31] Finds include C19 pipe stem
37	Dark reddish brown sandy clay with frequent brick frags.	Possible remnant of an earlier path surface – see also Trench 5 [36]
38	Yellow-orange sandy clay with frequent brick/tile & mortar frags.	?Base for [37]
39	Dark brown sandy loam with frequent building rubble + chalk/charcoal flecks	Made ground, possibly primary base for [37]
40	As above	Part of same deposit as [39]

4.4.2 Matrix to show stratigraphic relationship of contexts



4.4.3 Description of results

The surface of the natural clay fell just over 0.2m to the north, and was overlaid by layer of made ground [39] and [40]. These layers were c0.3m thick with [39] dropping down to the north. To the north [39] was further overlaid by elements of a possible path construction [38] and [37]. This putative feature may also be represented by contexts [36] and [49] in Trench 5.

The deposits discussed above were sealed by contexts [31] and [32], which probably represent parts of a contiguous layer covering the whole trench. These may also be associated with the overlying layer [21], as parts of a subsequent path make-up. The surface of [21] dropped away toward the southern end of the trench below a possible buried topsoil horizon [30].

The upper level of Trench 4 consisted of a modern topsoil [19], some 0.10 to 0.14m thick.

4.4.4 Discussion of the results

Trench 4 was excavated to the west of the concrete standing to the north east of the site. Because of the position of a large shrub and the associated root system, trench 4 was moved to c2m to the north-west from the location suggested by the client. Neither the resistivity nor the magnetometer survey showed any anomalies (fig.3)

The excavation identified two possible phases of made ground. The earliest deposits, [39 [40] may have been laid as a base for the overlying layer of clay and brick fragments [37] [38], possibly the surface of a path but only recorded to the north of the trench. The later deposits [31] [32] were overlain with sandy clay and gravel [21], similar to material used to surface the path in trench 1. However the orientation of both these features is difficult to perceive. In order to shed water paths frequently have a camber. The earlier deposits, [39] [38] slope to the north (following the line of the natural clay), the later feature [21] slopes to the south (fig. 10b). This would appear to indicate a path running east/west, the earlier path being set further to the north.

The only datable material, C19 pipe stems was recorded in [32]

Fig. 10a Trench 4, excavated plan

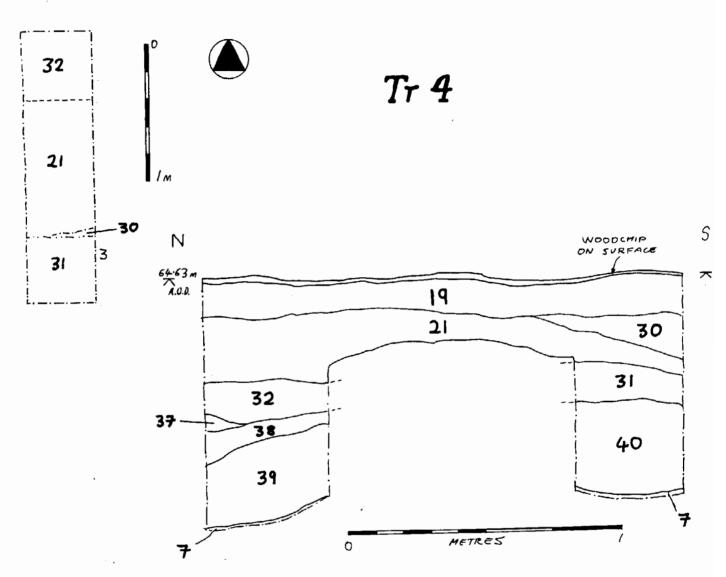


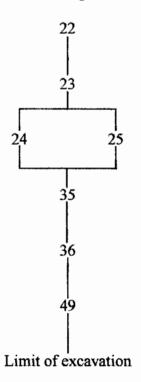
Fig. 10b Trench 4 west facing section

4.5 Trench 5 (Fig 11a;11b)

4.5.1 Summary of deposits and features by context

Context no.	Description	Interpretation
22	Yellow to brown sandy gravel	Make-up for present E-W path
23	Two lines of unmortared brick c1.5m apart	Borders to path preceding [22]
24	Yellow-brown silty sand with frequent gravel	Disturbed area immediately to north of [25]
25	Compact yellow to orange-brown gravel with some sand. 0.4m thick.	Path surface/make-up between borders [23] (c0.2m in depth)
35	Light brown sandy loam with frequent gravel	Made ground Finds largely C19
36	Red-brown sand/crushed brick with frequent brick frags. & some gravel	?Part of an earlier path make up – see also Trench 4 [37]. Finds largely C19
49	Two courses of brick aligned E-W	Possibly part of a drain system.

4.5.2 Matrix to show stratigraphic relationship of contexts



4.5.3 Description of results

The lowest level of the trench contained a line of brickwork [49] and to the north a crushed brick and sand/gravel layer [36]. Context [36] was overlaid to the north by made ground [35], and thereafter by make-up for an east-west path [25]. This path was clearly demarcated by the brick kerbing [23], which had been inserted into the upper part of [25].

Both [25] and the adjacent layer [24] appear to have been deposited at the same time, given the unbroken interface with the underlying surface of [35] and [36].

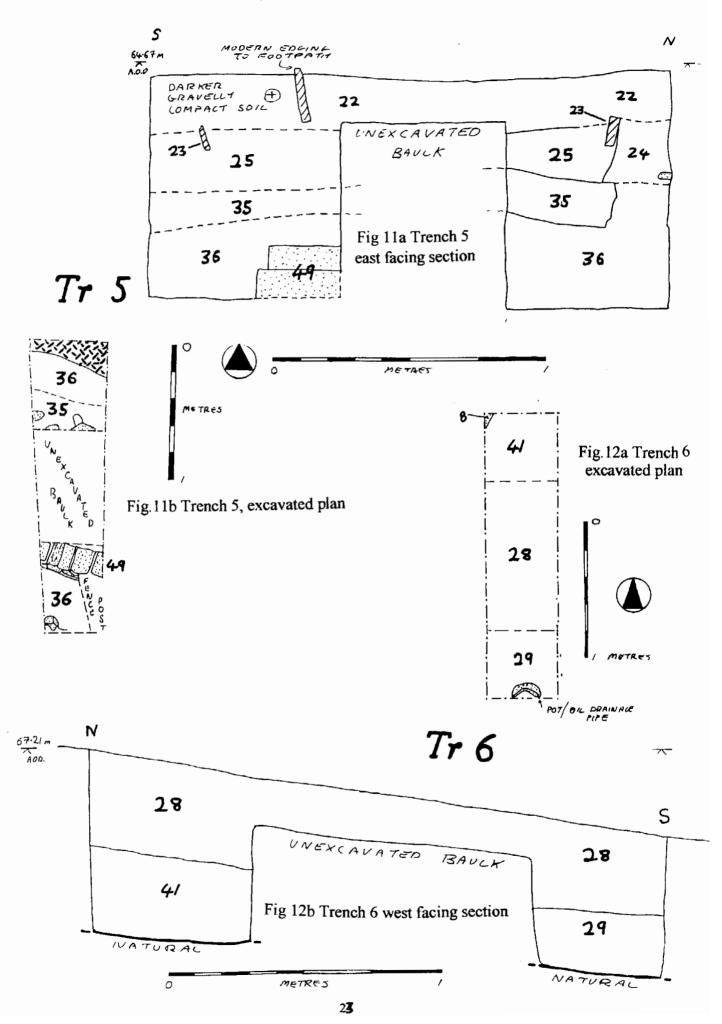
The path surface [25] was sealed by make-up for the present east-west path [22].

4.5.4 Discussion of the result

Trench 5 was excavated in the north-east corner of the site immediately to the west of the concrete base and 2metres to the north of trench 4. The trench cut across the existing gravel path that ran east/west, parallel to the northern boundary of the site. Neither the resistivity nor the magnetometer surveys (fig.3) identified anomalies.

Underlying the existing path, but set slightly to the south, the remains of an earlier path [25] was record. Although layer [25] extended outside the southern limits of the trench the width of the path was determined by a border of un-mortared brick c1.5m apart. A possible earlier path, made from crushed brick [36], was recorded above natural. [36] was separated from [25] by a layer of sandy loam and gravel [35] and similar to [25] extended outside the southern limits of the trench. It is possible that these features – or at least [36] – represent parts of an early path system, which may also be represented by [38] and [37] in Trench 4.

The artifacts recorded in trench 5 are largely dated to C19 with some residual C18 pottery recorded in {36}.

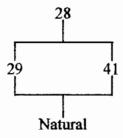


4.6 Trench 6 (Fig. 12a;12b)

4.6.1 Summary of deposits and features by context

Context no.	Description	Interpretation
28	Dark orange-brown sandy loam with frequent pebbles	Modern topsoil
29	Dark brown loamy gravel	?Made ground
41	Orange-brown sandy clay with frequent pebbles	Possible subsoil horizon

4.6.2 Matrix to show stratigraphic relationship of contexts



4.6.3 Description of results

The natural clay was overlaid in the southern part of the trench by a probable subsoil horizon [41]. However, to the north this deposit was replaced by an area of disturbed or made ground [29].

The full extent of [29] was obscured by subsequent activity, but there did not appear to be any evidence for a buried path in this trench.

Both [41] and [29] were sealed by a layer of modern topsoil [28] which was at least 0.30m thick.

4.6.4 Discussion of the results

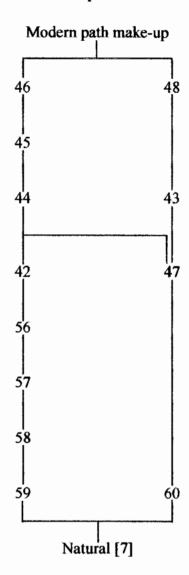
Trench 6 was excavated in the south-east corner of the site in an area of thick shrubs. Because of the vegetation it was not possible to include this area in the geophysical survey (fig.3). There was no evidence for the path system.

4.7 Trench 7 (Fig 13a;13b; 13c)

4.7.1 Summary of deposits and features by context

Context no.	Description	Interpretation
42	Grey sandy gravel/loose mortar with brick & some chalk frags.	Possible path base
43	Compact pink-grey clay	Modern fill over concrete pipe casing
44	E-W vertical-sided cut	Modern pipe trench to N of [43]
45	Fe pipe, dia.110mm	Service pipe within [44]
46	Dark brown sandy silt with gravel & brick inclusions	Construction backfill within [44]
47	Dark brown sandy loam with frequent brick frags. & occasional gravel	?Remnant of ground surface adjacent to [42]
48	Mixed pink clay & dark brown sandy loam	Recent made ground including redeposited natural below lawn
56	Dark red crushed/fragmentary brick with some sand	?Make-up/surfacing for path preceding [42]
57	Yellow-orange slightly silty sand	?Primary base for [56]
58	Predominantly grey clay with yellow sandy patches	Made ground
59	Compact grey/pink clay with occasional pebbles & mortar/brick flecks	Possibly construction deposit/surface for adjacent house
60	Compact yellow/orange clay with occasional pebbles & gravel	?As above

4.7.2 Matrix to show stratigraphic relationship of contexts



4.7.3 Description of results

The natural clay within Trench 7 was truncated, at least to the north, and was directly overlain by deposits [59] and [60]. These contexts appear to form parts of contiguous layer, quite possibly dating from the time of the house construction.

Towards the northern end of the trench [59] was sealed by deposits, which may represent make-up for an earlier east-west path: [58], [57] and [56].

Overlying [56] was a spread of compacted loose mortar and sandy gravel [42], which may have formed the base for a later (?flagstone) path. Layer [42] extended up to 1.5m

along the line of the trench, truncated to the south by a modern service trench [44]. However, on the other side of this cut it was replaced by a narrow strip of soil [47], thus the maximum width of [42] could not have exceeded 1.9m.

Further to the south [47] was cut away by another modern service [43, etc]. This was in turn overlain by made ground [48] and make-up for the present gravel path.

4.7.4 Discussion of the results

Trench 7 was excavated immediately to the south of the house and extended across the existing gravel path into the southern lawn, c 13m to the south-west of trench 1. Neither the resistivity nor the magnetometer survey (fig.3) identified significant anomalies in this area.

An iron pipe, not recorded on the service plan, was found to run east/west across the southern end of the trench. The construction trench for the pipe probably removed evidence for the southern limits of [56], the line of an earlier east/west path. [56] may well have been part of the earlier path system recorded in trench 3, 4, 5, all four trenches having deposits of crushed/fragmentary dark red brick with some sand. Below [56] and its associated layers [57] [58] was concentrations of building material, [59] 60] indicative of building activity to the south of the house which pre-dated the introduction of an east-west path.

28

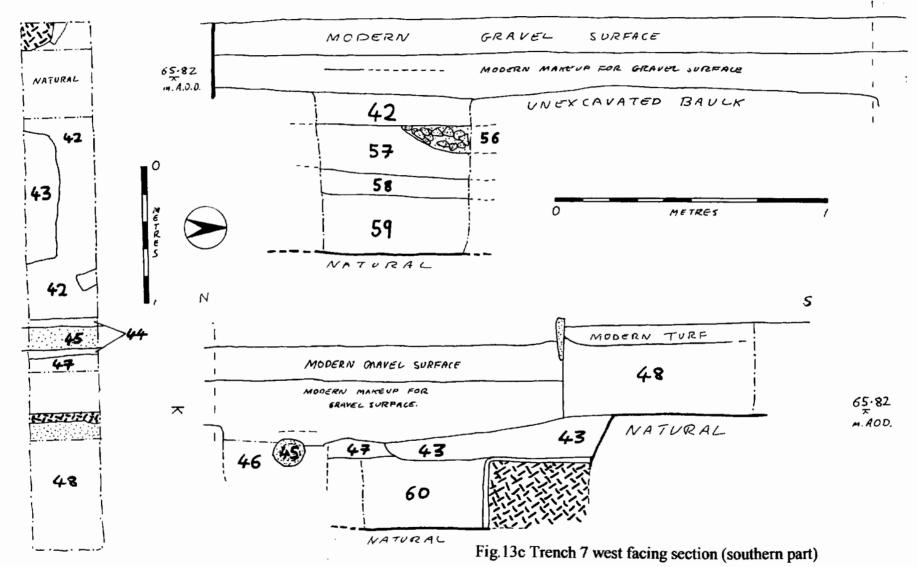


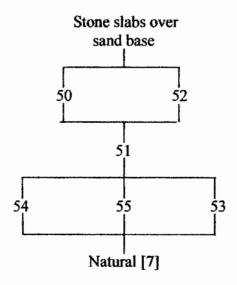
Fig. 13a Trench 7, excavated plan

4.8 Trench 8 (Fig. 14a 14b)

4.8.1 Summary of deposits and features by context

Context no.	Description	Interpretation
50	Compact red-brown gravel/sand with brick & mortar frags.	Path surfacing/make-up Finds include C18 pottery
51	Compact grey-brown/mottled yellow gravel & sand with small brick & mortar frags.	?Base for [50]
52	Thin layer of mid brown sand and gravel with some mortar frags.	Localised deposit, may be part of [50]
53	Dark brown silty clay with frequent pebbles & some building rubble	Buried soil horizon to north of path [50]
54	E-W line of brickwork	Drain channel
55	Mortar layer over natural	?Base for feature to south of trench

4.8.2 Matrix to show stratigraphic relationship of contexts



4.8.3 Description of results

At the northern end of the trench the natural clay was sealed by a buried soil horizon [53]. However, to the south natural was overlaid by an east/west brick drain [54] and a separate mortar spread [55].

All three contexts noted above were overlaid by [51], a mixed made ground deposit that appears to have formed a base for an overlying east-west path [50].

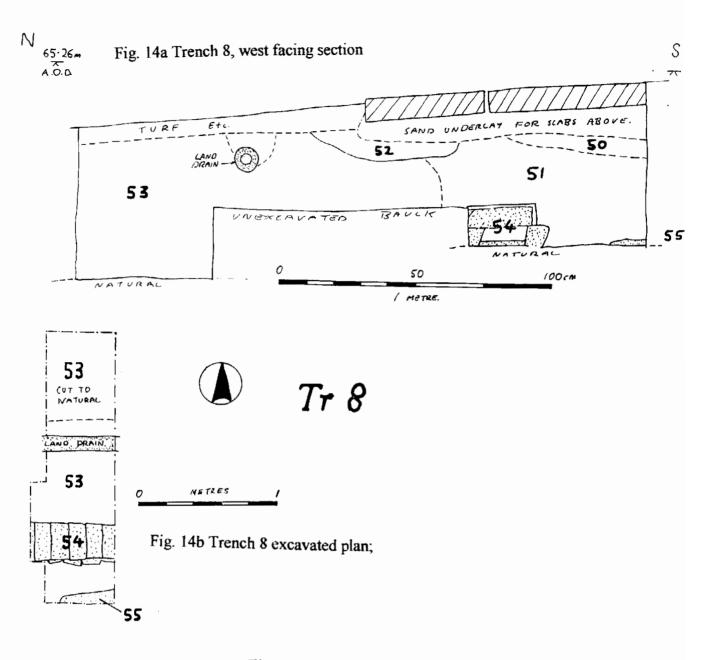
Adjacent to [50] was a shallow spread of sandy gravel [52], and both contexts were sealed by the base of the present flagstone path.

4.8.4 Discussion of the results

Trench 8 was excavated to the north of the house, c2m north-east of the entrance steps. It included part of the stone paving slabs to the north of the house and an area of the north lawn. The magnetometer survey (fig3), identified an area of positive response running east/west across the northern edge of the paving slabs and the resitivity survey (fig.3), identified an area of low resistance in the lawn to the north of the trench.

It would appear that the extant paving was laid onto a bedding layer of sand, which covered an existing gravel surface, recorded as [50] [52]. This only extended c0.1m deep but some disturbance probably occurred when the slabs were laid. The underlying material [51], probably a base for [50] [52], was more substantial, c0.6m deep. It is probable that [51] represents the earliest phase of the path system. A path that was periodically redressed with gravel and sand and ultimately covered over by paving stones. The paving largely reflecting the width of the early path.

A small earthenware land drain, running east/west within the buried soil [53] was recorded c0.15m below ground level towards the northern end of the trench. A brick drainage channel [54] was recorded at c0.4m below ground level near the centre of the trench. The channel, similar to that recorded in trench 3, ran east/west across the trench and appears to have been laid on the underlying natural clay before being buried by [51].



Tr 9

Fig. 15 Trench 9 west facing section

66:49 m.

A.O.D

69

70

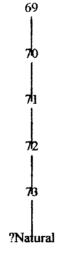
50 cm

4.9 Trench 9 (Fig 15)

4.9.1 Summary of deposits and features by context

Context no.	Description	Interpretation
69	Dark brown sandy loam with frequent pebbles	Modern topsoil
70	Mid brown sandy silt with some gravel & brick/mortar frags.	Deposit within [71]
71	Mortared & rendered brickwork	Southern end of semi-circular retaining wall
72	Vertical-sided, flat-bottomed cut	Construction cut for [71]
73	Mid brown sandy clay/silt with occasional pebbles	Subsoil horizon at base of [71]

4.9.2 Matrix to show stratigraphic relationship of contexts



4.9.3 Description and discussion of results

Trench 9 was dug to investigate the construction of a large semi-circular masonry structure [71] which was located in the northwest corner of the garden. Basically this formed a retaining wall for a raised garden area.

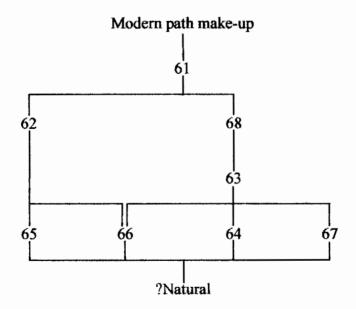
A trench dug against the southern end of the structure did not reveal any continuation of the existing wall line to the south. The total height of the masonry wall at this point was approximately 0.80m, of which the bottom 0.22m (three courses of brickwork) were unrendered and clearly within a construction trench [72]. This latter had been cut into an earlier soil horizon [73], which within the structure was sealed by fill [70].

4.10 Trench 10 (Fig. 16a; 16b; 17; 18)

4.10.1 Summary of deposits and features by context

Context no.	Description	Interpretation
61	Dark brown sandy silt with scattered pebbles and brick frags.	?Redeposited garden soil: levelling for modern path over
62	Mid-dark brown sandy clay and building rubble	Deposit inside former conservatory – ?demolition backfill
63	Dark grey-brown clay	Deposit outside conservatory – ?construction backfill
64	Fe bar running SW-NE	Iron lintel (removed)
65	Fe frame on line of conservatory wall	Top of iron frame of firebox for small stove.
66	Mortared brickwork	Foundation at SE corner of former conservatory
67	Mortared brickwork running NW-SE	Drain, bonded to north into conservatory wall & [64]
68	Mortar layer	Localised deposit over [63]

4.10.2 Matrix to show stratigraphic relationship of contexts



4.10.3 Description of results

Trench 10 was dug close to the conservatory at south-east corner of the house, to investigate the potential remains of an earlier and larger structure demolished c1970

A brick wall foundation [66] crossed the trench roughly south-east to north-west; A line of parallel brickwork [67] was set c1.3m to the west. An iron bar [64] was laid between [66] and [67]. Situated c0.4m to the northwest of [64] was an iron frame [65] within which were five fire bars. Near the north-eastern end of [66] there appeared to be a northward return on the line of the present east-facing conservatory wall. Brick rubble and other demolition debris covered fragmentary foundations to the south. Features [66] and [67] were abutted by a clay deposit [63], which may represent construction backfill.

To the north of the wall line [67] was a mixed rubble/clay layer [62], which appeared to represent demolition backfill within the former structure. Both these contexts and deposits to the south were overlaid by a dark soil [61], and thence by make-up for the present gravel path.

4.10.4 Discussion of the results

Trench 10 was excavated on the south east corner of the house below a modern gravel path on the west side of the house 8m to the west of trench1. No features were recorded during the geophysical survey.

Rather than recording the corner foundations of the demolished conservatory the excavation appeared to have exposed the stock hole for a small stove which had been made in the south-east corner. A c9" wall (c22ms), [67], ran for an indeterminate length to the south-west of the firebox, and possibly supported steps leading down from ground level. The iron lintel [64] provided support for brickwork above the firebox. Fragmentary evidence for the foundations of the conservatory were recorded; the southern wall to the west of [67], and the eastern wall to the north of [66].

The site of the conservatory had been levelled much of the brick rubble from the demolished building probably being used to level the site.

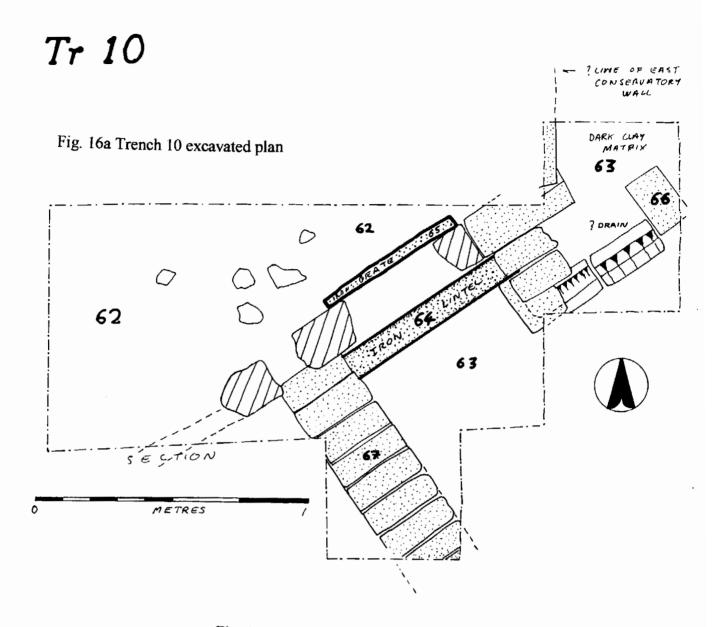


Fig .16b Trench 10, south facing section.

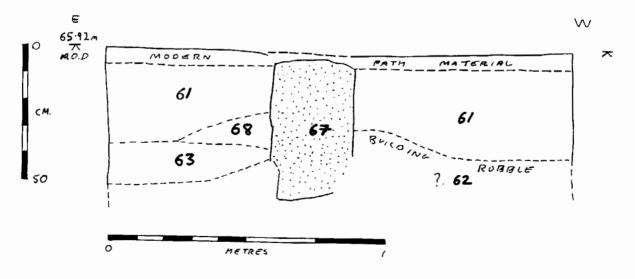




Fig.17 Trench 8, brick drain. Looking to then west.



Fig18 Trench 10 showing detail of the fireplace. Looking to the north.

5 Assessment of the results of the investigation

The archaeological investigation at Keats' House produced evidence for a number of earlier garden and structural features.

Significant areas of gravel path were exposed in trenches 1, 2 and 5. These represented, respectively, an east-west path leading to an earlier entrance on the east side of the house, the junction of this path and a north-south path on the eastern side of the garden, and finally an east-west path just inside the street frontage. A further indication of the north-south path was also found at the eastern end of Trench 3.

Evidence for former east-west paths immediately to the south and north of the house was recovered from trenches 7 and 8. These differed in composition from the above examples: in Trench 7 a spread of loose mortar and sandy gravel may have formed the base for stone paving, whilst in Trench 8 a possible surface was made up of gravel/sand with fragments of brick and mortar. Trench 4 also contained deposits which have been tentatively identified as a path, although this feature does not accord with the historical evidence.

In addition there was evidence for earlier paths in trenches 4, 5, and 7, in the first two areas a red-brown sandy/crushed brick deposit which probably formed parts of a single feature. A clay deposit with building rubble in Trench 2 may also have formed the base for a previous path.

A frequent feature of path construction was the existence of a basal deposit with rubble inclusion, variously overlain by mixtures of finer gravel, mortar and/or crushed brick. This was most clearly seen in Trench 1, but also apparent in trenches 2, 3, 7 and 8. However, the only example of kerbing to a path was represented by the brick borders found in Trench 5.

The final trenches 9 and 10 produced evidence for other structural features, respectively the masonry retaining wall in the northwest of the garden and a small stove which related to the former conservatory at the southeast corner of the house. Several areas, including Trench, 2, 3, 8 and 10 revealed brick-built drains or drainage channels.

The artifacts recovered during the excavations were small and largely un-diagnostic. Residual C18 pottery was recorded in a number of areas as were pieces of clay pipe stem attributed to C19 (the date being based on the size of the borehole through the stem). Samples of building material, used as part of the base underlying paths, were kept, as were samples of the gravel. The source of the gravel was not located.

6 Conclusions

The client intends to reinstate paths around the garden and the excavations were designed to establish evidence for the line of the C19 paths.

Whereas the excavations uncovered evidence for paths, some on the C19 alignment, it was clear that paths had been refurbished during the lifetime of the garden. Scarcity of securely datable artifacts precluded accurate phasing for this activity. The best-preserved evidence came from the remains of the path running east/west on the eastern side of the house. Here the gravel layer was clearly defined and survived up to 0.2m in depth. It was also possible to establish a width, c 2.5m wide, for the path. The gravel surface being c0.2m thick

It is probable that the curved masonry feature to the north-west of the site was made to retain either a raised bed or a tree. There was no evidence to suggest that it had originally extended any further to the east.

Evaluation of the remains of the conservatory exposed the external stock hole for the heating system and fragmentary evidence for foundation walls indicating that although the earlier conservatory had been demolished the foundation probably survived under debris from the demolished structure.

Lesley Howes and Geoff Potter May 2001

KEATS HOUSE

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATIONS 2001

CATALOGUE OF FINDS

CONTEXT	DESCRIPTION	DATE
1	1 rim sherd unglazed flower pot	post-medieval
1	3 fragments of glass	post-medieval
1	Body sherd glazed Cream ware	C18
3	1 piece pantile	post-medieval
3	1 piece York stone	not datable
3	1 piece of identifiable material	not datable
3	1 base sherd flower pot	post-medieval
3	1 body sherd stone ware	C19
3	1 body sherd flower pot	not datable
3	1 body sherd cream ware	early C19
5	1 piece brown brick	post-medieval
5	Green bottle glass	post-medieval
5	2 short pieces of clay pipe stem	C19
5	1 rim sherd flower pot	post-medieval
5	1 rim sherd china	C20
6	2 rim sherds cream ware	C19
6	1 body sherd cream ware	C19
8	1 short piece of clay pipe stem	C19
8	1 piece grey slate	not datable
8	1 piece mortar (sample)	post-medieval
8	2 rim sherds flower pot	post-medieval
8	4 body sherd flower pot	post-medieval
9	1 piece green glass, burnt	not datable
9	1 body sherd cream ware	C19
9	1 short piece clay pipe stem	C19
12	1 piece salt glazed stoneware drain pipe	C20
12	1 piece sandy red brick	post-medieval
13	Body sherd glazed red ware	C18/19
13	3 body sherds undecorated cream ware	C19
13	1 body sherd decorated tin glazed	
	earthenware	C18
14	2 small body sherds cream ware	C19
14	1 base sherd, green bottle glass	C19/C20
15	1 short length of decorated clay pipe stem	C19
15	1 rim sherd salt glazed stone ware	C18/19
15	2 body sherds bone china (burnt)	C19
17	1 piece floor tile	not datable
17	2 body sherds earthenware	C20
19	1 body shard blue transfer on earthen ware	C18
19	3 body sherds post medieval redware	C18/19
19	1 body sherd undecorated cream ware	C19
20	1 body sherd transfer decorated earthenward	e C18

21	1 body sherd undecorated earthenware	post-medieval
21	1 body sherd earthenware	C19/20
22	1 piece red floor (Quarry) tile	not datable
22	1 piece concrete render	C19/20
27	2 body sherds cream ware	C20
28	1 body sherd blue transfer ware	C18
28	1 body sherd blue transfer ware	C18
28	2 half flower pots (lengthways)	post-medieval
28	I body sherd salt glazed stone ware, impre	essed
29	decoration (possibly ginger beer bottle.	C19
29	2 body sherds flower pot	post-medieval
31	1 rim sherd flower pot	post-medieval
31	1 body sherd flower pot	post-medieval
32	1 body sherd post-medieval red ware	post-medieval
32	1 piece of orange sandy brick	post-medieval
32	2 short pieces of clay pipe	C19
33	1 body sherd undecorated cream ware	C19
35	1 piece clay pipe stem	C19
35	I rim sherd green decorated cream ware	C20
36	1 rim sherd post-med, red ware	C18
36	1 rim sherd blue transfer ware	C19
36	1 small body sherd stone ware	C19
39	1 body sherd porcelain	C19
39	1 body sherd burnt china	C20
40	1 half oyster shell	not datable
40	1 piece mammal bone	not datable
50	1 piece ornamental brick	post-medieval
50	1 body sherd blue transfer ware	C18
50	1 body sherd green bone china	post-medieval
50	2 body sherds tin glazed earthern ware	C18

KEA 01 Colour transparencies

Frame	Trench	Description	Orientation
1-2	1	Path surface [2], etc	Е
3-4	1	cc cc cc	N
5	1	Looking towards house: path [2], etc	W
6-7	1	After half-sectioning of path [2] & [3] and excavation of deeper slots at each end of trench	Е
8-11	1	As above, looking towards house	W
12-13	2	Path surface [10], etc	N
14-15	2	Oblique view of path surface [10], etc	NE
16-17	1	View of slot through path and make-up [2] & [3] at south end of trench	SW
18	1	As above	SE
19	3	Working shot	NE
20-21	2/3	Working shots, Trench 2 in foreground, 3 behind	N
22	2/3	As above	NE
23-25	3	Brick drain feature [16], possible path make-up [15] to left of frame	S
26-27	3	As above, oblique view	SE
28-29	5	Path surface [24] plus northern tile border [23]	W
30-31	5	As above	W
32-33	4	Surface [21] and darker soil [30] to S	Е
34-35	2	E end: slot dug through path surface [10] and exposed brick feature [18] to E	S
36-37	2	As above	SE
38-39	2	General view showing excavated slots at each end	S
40-41	5	After extension of southern end of trench to expose limit of path [24] plus ceramic border [23]	Е
42	3	Working shot	SE
43-44	4	Working shots	SE
45-46	3	Excavated slot at eastern end, top of brickwork running NE from drain [16]	Е
47-48	3	Detail of brick drain [16] after excavation	S
49-50	7	Southern end: Layers [43] & [47] and overlying path make-up in section	W
51-52	7	Looking immediately to N of frames 49/50: pipe [45] plus associated trench, southern edge of layer [42] to right of frame	W
53-54	7	Immediately to N of frames 51/52: surface [42] and overlying path make-up in section	W
55-56	7	Northern end: surface of [42], modern concrete to right of frame, etc	W
57-58	6	Excavated slot at southern end of trench	Е
59	6	Central area of trench	Е
60-61	6	Excavated slot at northern end of trench	Е

Frame	Trench	Description	Orientation
62	8	Centre/southern end of trench: layers [50] & [51] in section	S
63-64	8	Centre/northern end of trench: layer [53], land drain, etc., in section	N
65	8	Southern end of trench to approximate base of [51]	W
66-67	4	Excavated slot at northern end of trench: layers [32 to 39] in section	Е
68-69	5	Excavated slot at northern end of trench: path make- up [24] and kerb [23] in section, plus underlying layers [35] and [36]	W
70-71	5	Excavated slot at southern end of trench: scale resting across brickwork [49]	Е
72-73	7	Slot at northern end of trench: layers [56] to [59] in section	Е
74-75	7	Slot at southern end of trench: layers [43] & [60] in section, modern concrete-cased ceramic pipe to right of frame	E
76-77	8	Slot at northern end of trench: layer [53] in section, land drain in foreground	N
78-79	8	Slot at southern end of trench: drain [54] with brick cover removed, mortar layer [55] below scale	S
80-81	8	General view of excavated trench	S
82-83	3	Drain [16] and brickwork leading off to northeast corner of trench	N
84	-	House and gardens from 1866 OS map	-
REPR	ODUCED	FROM GEOPHYSICAL SURVEY:	
85	-	Plot of processed resistivity data	-
86	-	Abstract of magnetometer anomalies	-
87	-	Abstract of resistivity anomalies	-
88	-	Comparison of anomalies abstracted from the magnetometer and resistivity data	-

KEA 01 Black & white negatives and prints

Frame	Trench	Description	Orientation
0-2	3	Brick drain feature [16], possible path make-up [15] to left of frame	S
3-5	3	As above, oblique view	SE
6-8	5	Path surface [24] plus northern tile border [23]	W
9-11	5	As above	W
12-14	4	Surface [21] and darker soil [30] to S	E
15-17	2	E end: slot dug through path surface [10] and exposed brick feature [18] to E	S
18-20	2	As above	SE
21-23	2	General view showing excavated slots at each end	S
24-27	5	After extension of southern end of trench to expose limit of path [24] plus ceramic border [23]	Е
28-30	3	Excavated slot at eastern end, top of brickwork running NE from drain [16]	E
31	3	Detail of brick drain [16] after excavation	S
32-33	7	Northern half of trench, general view	E
34-35	7	View immediately S of frames 36/37: surface [42] and overlying path make-up in section	W
36-37	7	Northern end of trench: surface of [42], modern concrete to right of frame, etc.	W
38-39	7	S of frames 34/35: pipe [45] plus associated trench, southern edge of layer [42] to right of frame	W
40-41	7	Southern end of trench: layers [43/47] and overlying path make-up in section	W
42-43	6	Excavated slot at northern end of trench	E
44-45	6	Central area of trench	Е
46-47	6	Excavated slot at southern end of trench	Е
48	-	BLANK	_
49	8	Centre/south end of trench: layers [50], [51] in section	S
50-51	8	Centre/northern end of trench: layer [53], land drain, etc., in section	N
52-53	8	Southern end of trench to approximate base of [51]	W
54-55	4	Excavated slot at northern end of trench: layers [32 to 39] in section	E
56-57	4	Central section of trench	Е
58-59	4	Excavated slot at northern end of trench: layers [31], [40] in section	Е
60-61	5	Excavated slot at northern end of trench: path make- up [24] and kerb [23] in section, plus underlying layers [35] and [36]	W
62-63	5	Excavated slot at southern end of trench: scale resting across brickwork [49]	E
64-65	7	Slot at northern end of trench: layers [56] to [59] in section	E
66	7	Slot at south end of trench: layers [43], [60] in section, modern concrete-cased ceramic pipe to right of frame	E