

CHISWICK HOUSE AND GARDENS REGENERATION PROJECT – ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATION

Update 1: progress for 25 March – 11 April 2008

Site Preparation – 25 – 29 March

Safety fencing was erected around the two proposed trenches and work began on removing the topsoil on the 26 March. This was done using a JCB under constant archaeological supervision. As expected from the results of the earlier evaluation trenches in this area, the significant archaeological remains were encountered very close to the existing ground surface, in some places at a depth of less than 0.15m.

Site Excavation – Weeks 1 and 2 (31 March - 11 April)

The first two weeks of the excavation have concentrated on cleaning the site exposing the upper levels of the surviving archaeology.

The main excavation trench covers the proposed café footprint (measuring 29x25m), and is located over the eastern range of the 17th-century Service Building that was formerly connected to the Jacobean House to the west. Even at such an early stage in the project this trench has proved to be extremely interesting, with a large number of walls and drainage features exposed, as can be seen on the photograph below. Several distinct phases of development of the Service Building can already be established although more excavation work is required over the next 3 weeks to record the sequence of construction and later modifications to the building.

The second excavation trench is located to the south-east of the Summer Parlour (formerly the Garden Room at the eastern end of the Villa buildings). Work on this trench is progressing well and already one of the walls of the linking corridor between the Summer Parlour and the Jacobean House has been exposed.



View of the northern half of the main trench showing the walls of the 17th century Service Building (top left of photo) with walls of adjacent buildings, garden walls and drainage features evident in the rest of the trench.

