

## **Isleworth Porcelain Factory: London Borough of Hounslow**

**Site type: Suburban**

**Fieldwork: PCA (2014)**

**GLHER Records: [Hounslow APA 1.2 Isleworth Pottery](#)**

[Evaluation at Isleworth House](#)

[Excavation at Isleworth House](#)

[Desk Based Assessment at Former Isleworth Pottery](#)

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### **Proposed scheme**

Conversion of a former nunnery and erection of two, three, four and five storey blocks in its grounds to provide 36 residential apartments, 15 residential flats and 47 residential dwellings with new access and landscaping.

### **Archaeological response**

The Isleworth Porcelain Factory operated at Railshead Creek beside the Thames from 1756 until its demolition in 1831. Its site became divided between the grounds of a large house that became a nunnery and a neighbouring Sea Scout clubhouse. Although well known to ceramicists the site's significance had not been recognised by archaeologists until the nunnery came forward for redevelopment.

After GLAAS was contacted by the English Ceramic Circle, the developer contracted PCA to undertake pre-determination evaluation trenching targeted on buildings shown on the local tithe map. These proved to be part of the factory and quite well-preserved.

### **Outcomes**

Foundations were redesigned to preserve the remains under a new house and landscaped area whilst the factory remains were scheduled as probably the best-preserved example of an 18th-century London porcelain factory. The English Ceramic Circle assisted with interpretation, including a board installed on-site.

The case illustrates the value of local and specialist knowledge. It shows that nationally important archaeological remains can survive in London suburbs and be incorporated into new development provided evaluation trenches are dug early enough to inform scheme design. The pottery from this type of site would be of particular interest, some items being of display quality others informing on production range and processes but the assemblage could also be bulky and repetitive so early consultation with the Museum of London would be recommended.

The site is now identified as a Tier 1 Archaeological Priority Area in the Hounslow Local Plan.



Ceramics from the Isleworth Porcelain Factory

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