

Archaeological Watching Brief Report

BRAMBLETYE KESTON

For Heritage Collective LLP

Cornelius Barton BA AIfA

L~P:ARCHÆOLOGY

Archaeological Watching Brief Report

BRAMBLETYE KESTON

Client: Heritage Collective LLP

Local Authority: London Borough of Bromley

NGR: 541497, 163291

Planning App: 08/02046/F

Author(s): C. Barton

Doc Ref: LPI333L-WBR-v1.3

Date: February 13

Site Code: BMB12

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A trading name of L – P :Heritage LLP

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Abstract

An archaeological watching brief was carried out during groundworks at Brambletye, Keston, in the London Borough of Bromley. The work was carried out by Cornelius Barton of L - P : Archaeology. This report has been prepared by Cornelius Barton of L – P : Archaeology on behalf of Heritage Collective LLP.

The works carried out were of minor impact, but a watching brief was required due to the proximity of the site to the Scheduled Monument of Keston Roman Villa and Mausoleum (SAM UID 407834).

The objectives of the watching brief were to record any archaeological remains exposed during works, specifically any Roman remains associated with the Villa complex.

No archaeological deposits or artefacts were exposed during the watching brief.

1. Introduction

- 1.1. This report details the results of an archaeological Watching Brief carried out at Brambletye, Keston for Heritage Collective LLP. The local authority is the London Borough of Bromley.
- 1.2. The fieldwork was carried out by Cornelius Barton of L – P : Archaeology between 27th and 29th of July 2012. This report was written by Cornelius Barton of L - P : Archaeology.
- 1.3. The site is located in at Brambletye, Keston, within the London Borough of Bromley (FIGURE 1). The NGR is 541497, 163291.
- 1.4. The site code allocated by London Archaeological Archive and Resource Centre is BMB12.
- 1.5. The work was carried out in accordance with the Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) prepared by Karl Hulka of Heritage Collective LLP (HULKA 2012).

2. Site Background

2.1. PLANNING

- 2.1.1. Planning consent has been granted for demolition of the garage and extension of the first floor of the house. The application reference is 08/02046/F.
- 2.1.2. The site is within an Area of Archaeological Significance as defined in the Unitary Development Plan. The site is not itself a Scheduled Ancient Monument, but lies adjacent to the Scheduled Monument of Keston Roman Villa (SAM UID 407834) (FIGURE 2).
- 2.1.3. The Local Planning Authority is the London Borough of Bromley (LBB). When considering planning applications LBB take impartial advice from the English Heritage Greater London Archaeological Advisory Service (GLAAS).
- 2.1.4. When considering an application, LBB is bound by local policy BE15 regarding archaeology and planning. As such, the following condition was attached to the development:

4: No development shall take place within the site until the applicant has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority.
- 2.1.5. Heritage Collective LLP and LBB have agreed the methodology for these works in the WSI. The WSI was based on an instruction from GLAAS.
- 2.1.6. This document seeks to satisfy the condition by describing the results of the watching brief and clarifying the status and location of the project archive.

2.2. GEOLOGY

- 2.2.1. The British Geological Survey GeoIndex for the site records the solid deposits as chalk. This data is at relatively low resolution and does not give site specific data ([HTTP://WWW.BGS.AC.UK/GEOINDEX](http://www.bgs.ac.uk/geoindex)).
- 2.2.2. An archaeological watching brief carried out nearby by Albion Archaeology in 2011 determined that the overlying (drift) deposits consist of sandy clays (MECKSEPER 2011). The chalk lies between 0.3m and 0.5m below ground level.

2.3.TOPOGRAPHY

- 2.3.1. The site is located to the southwest of Westerham Road, Bromley (FIGURE 1).
- 2.3.2. The site consists of a sub-rectangular parcel of land measuring approximately 1 hectare (FIGURES 2 AND 3).
- 2.3.3. The site is flat, lying at a height of approximately 135m AOD.
- 2.3.4. The site is currently occupied by a two-storey house of 20th century origin.

2.4.ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORY

- 2.4.1. For the compilation of the WSI a search of the Greater London Historical Environment Record (GLHER) was commissioned of the area in a 500m radius around the site; the results are summarised below.
- 2.4.2. The GLHER records no remains of early prehistoric or Bronze Age periods within the study area.
- 2.4.3. The GLHER records no remains of this Iron Age period within the study area.
- 2.4.4. In the grounds of the Holwood Estate, approximately 500m to the northeast of the site, the Iron Age hillfort known as Caesar's Camp was excavated by the West Kent Group in 1972, and again by Cambridge Archaeological Unit in 1999. Significant remains of banks and ditches of the hillfort survive within the estate grounds (MLO74277). Iron Age pits were also found below the Keston Roman villa site described in 2.4.5. below.
- 2.4.5. Approximately 25m to the southwest of the site is Keston Roman villa. The villa was first excavated in the 19th century and has subsequently been investigated between 1968-1998. The site is one of the most complete Roman villa sites in southern England, and is of national importance forming part of the Scheduled Monument (UID 407834).
- 2.4.6. Immediately adjacent to the site (and within the property boundary of the study site) is a Roman mausoleum complex, consisting of one large round tomb and two smaller rectangular structures. The tombs are also part of the SAM.

- 2.4.7. A watching brief was undertaken at The Rangers in Jackass Lane in 2011 by Albion Archaeology. The watching brief recorded a series of linear features approximately 200m to the northwest of the site. The features were tentatively dated to the Roman period based on their alignment (MECKSEPER 2011).
- 2.4.8. The excavation of the villa site in 1978 also revealed a saxon sunken-floored building or grubenhaus (MLO18023). Saxon graves have also been found beneath the foundations of Keston Church, approximately 250m to the southeast of the site (MLO17324).
- 2.4.9. Keston Church is first recorded during the reign of Edward the Confessor (1048 – 1066 AD), but it appears likely that a church had been standing on the ground for some time before this. The church was probably rebuilt between 1216 and 1272, and again in the 18th century (LONDONGARDENSONLINE.ORG).
- 2.4.10. A 15th century tile kiln is recorded at the Holwood Estate, approximately 500m to the northeast of the site (MOL74277).
- 2.4.11. The GLHER records no post-medieval remains of interest within the study area.

2.5. SITE CONDITIONS

- 2.5.1. The site is currently occupied by a two-storey house with an attached garage of 20th century construction.

3. Aims and Objectives

- 3.1. The general aims of the archaeological watching brief were to record the character, date, type, state of preservation, and extent of any archaeological remains on site exposed or disturbed during groundworks.
- 3.2. The specific aims of the archaeological watching brief was to determine whether any remains associated with the villa or mausoleum were present beneath the footings of the present building.

4. Methodology

- 4.1. For a full description of the archaeological methodology please refer to section 4 of the WSI (HULKA 2012).
- 4.2. The works covered by the watching brief comprised the partial demolition of the existing garage, including the removal of the garage footings. Following this an extension was built onto the first floor of the house, entailing the excavation of an area measuring 4.5m by 3.2 and 0.35m deep (see FIGURE 3)
- 4.3. The excavation of the footings was undertaken by a mechanical excavator under the supervision of a qualified archaeologist.

5. Results

5.1.1. No remains of archaeological interest were present in either of the two small areas observed. Immediately below the concrete hard standing were mixed make-up deposits of twentieth century, associated with the construction of the house in the early 20th century (Plate 1).



Plate 1: Excavation of wall footing at west of house. Facing north, 1m scale

5.1.2. The only artefactual material recovered was a sherd of glazed pottery of 20th century manufacture and some small fragments of modern glass. These were not retained.

6. Discussion and Conclusions

6.1.No archaeological deposits or artefacts were exposed during the watching brief. Following discussion with Mark Stevenson of GLAAS the watching brief was concluded on 29th July 2012.

7. Archive

7.1.1. The archive is to be deposited at LAARC.

7.1.2. The paper archive consists of:

- ◆ 1 x Drawing Register
- ◆ 2 x Drawing Film
- ◆ 3 x Photographic Register
- ◆ 6 x Black and white photographs and negatives
- ◆ 1 x Context Register
- ◆ 2 x Trench Sheets

SOURCES CONSULTED

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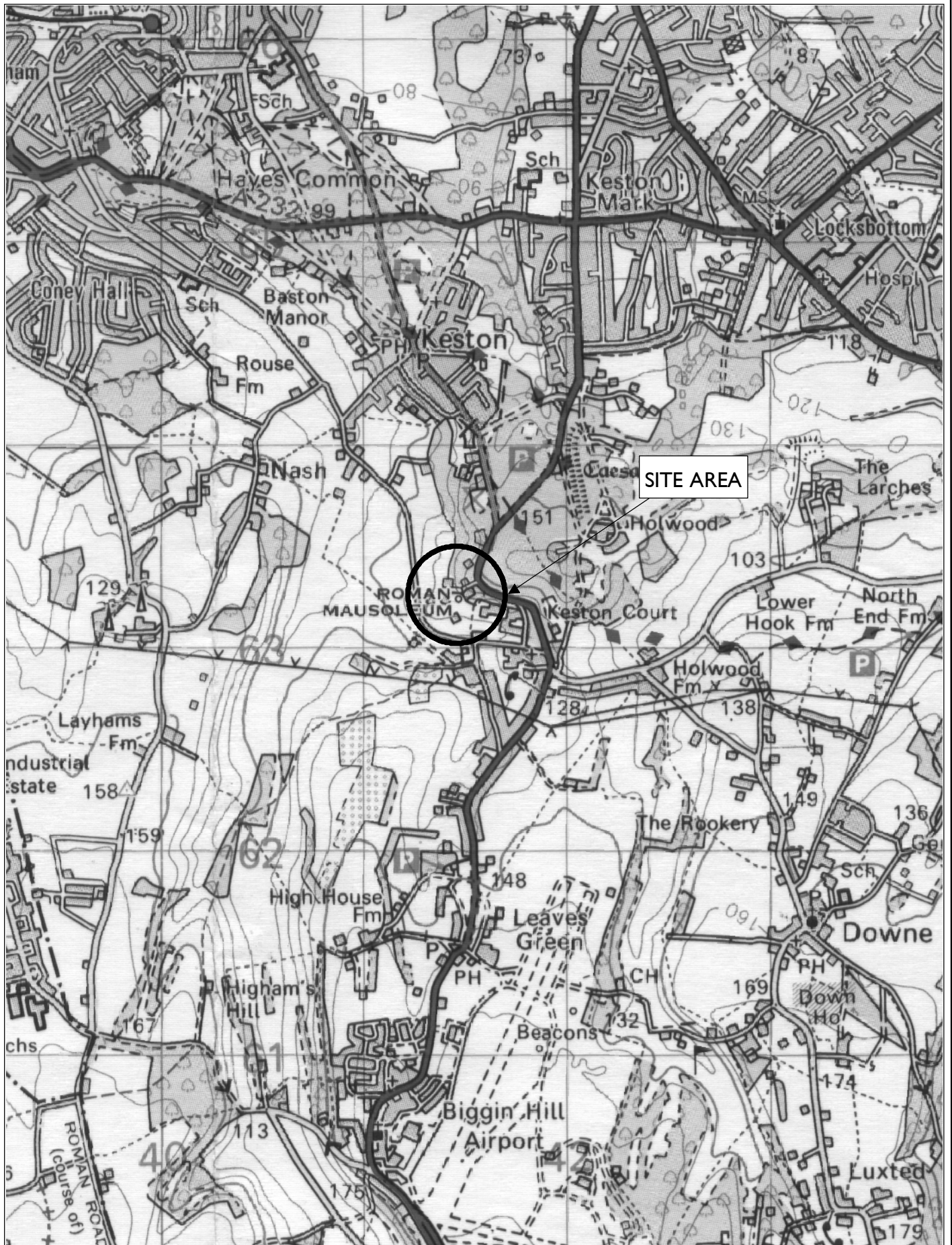
UNITED KINGDOM INSTITUTE FOR CONSERVATION 1983 *Packaging and Storage of Freshly Excavated Artifacts from Archaeological Sites*. Conservation Guidelines No. 2.

ELECTRONIC

[HTTP://WWW.BGS.AC.UK/GEOINDEX](http://www.bgs.ac.uk/geoindex)

FIGURES

FIGURE 1 // Site General Location



SITE AREA



0 1 km

PROJECT // I333L - Brambletye

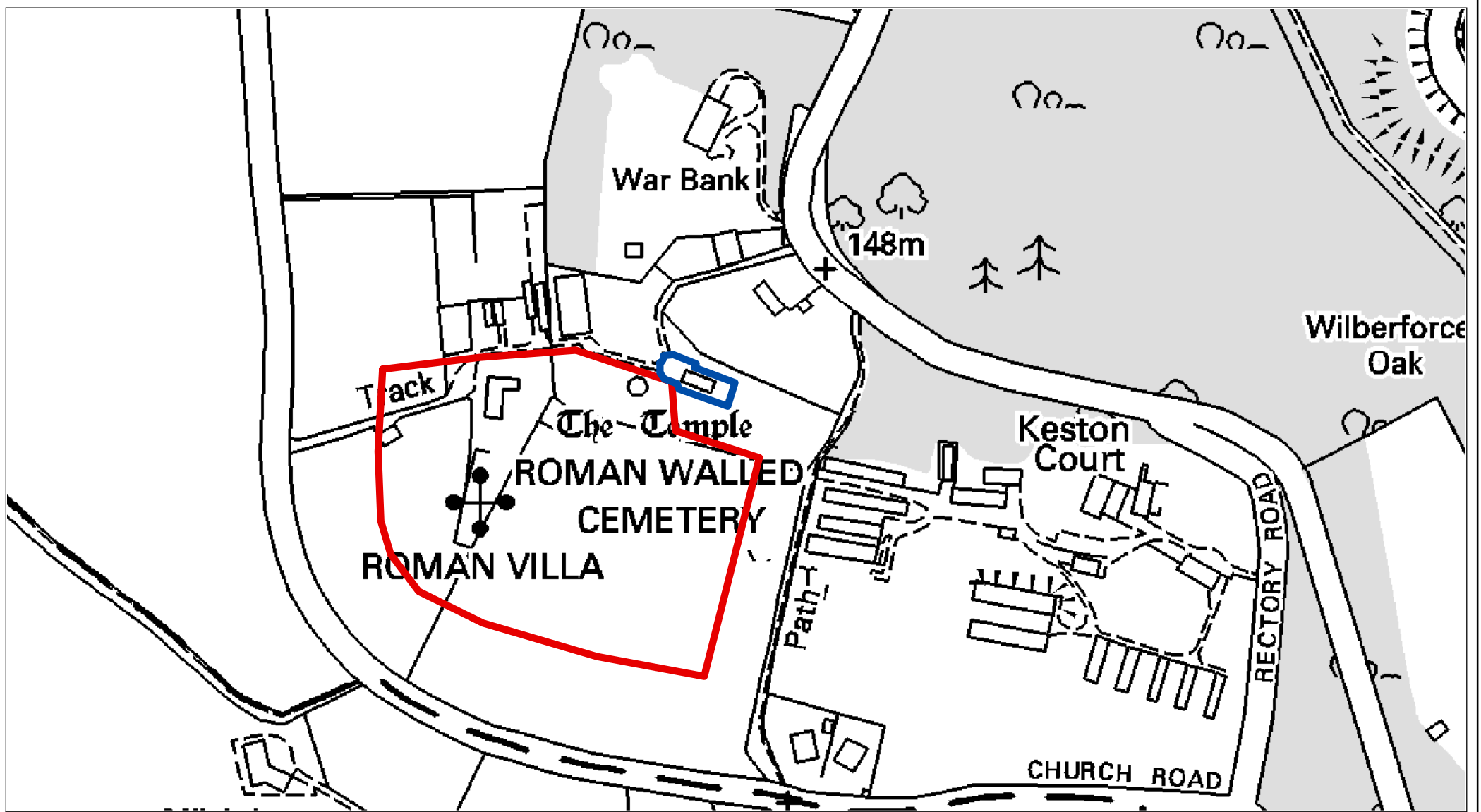
DESCRIPTION // General site location map



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FIGURE 2 // Site Location Detail



-  Site Boundary
-  Scheduled Monument Boundary

0 200m

PROJECT // I333L - Brambletye

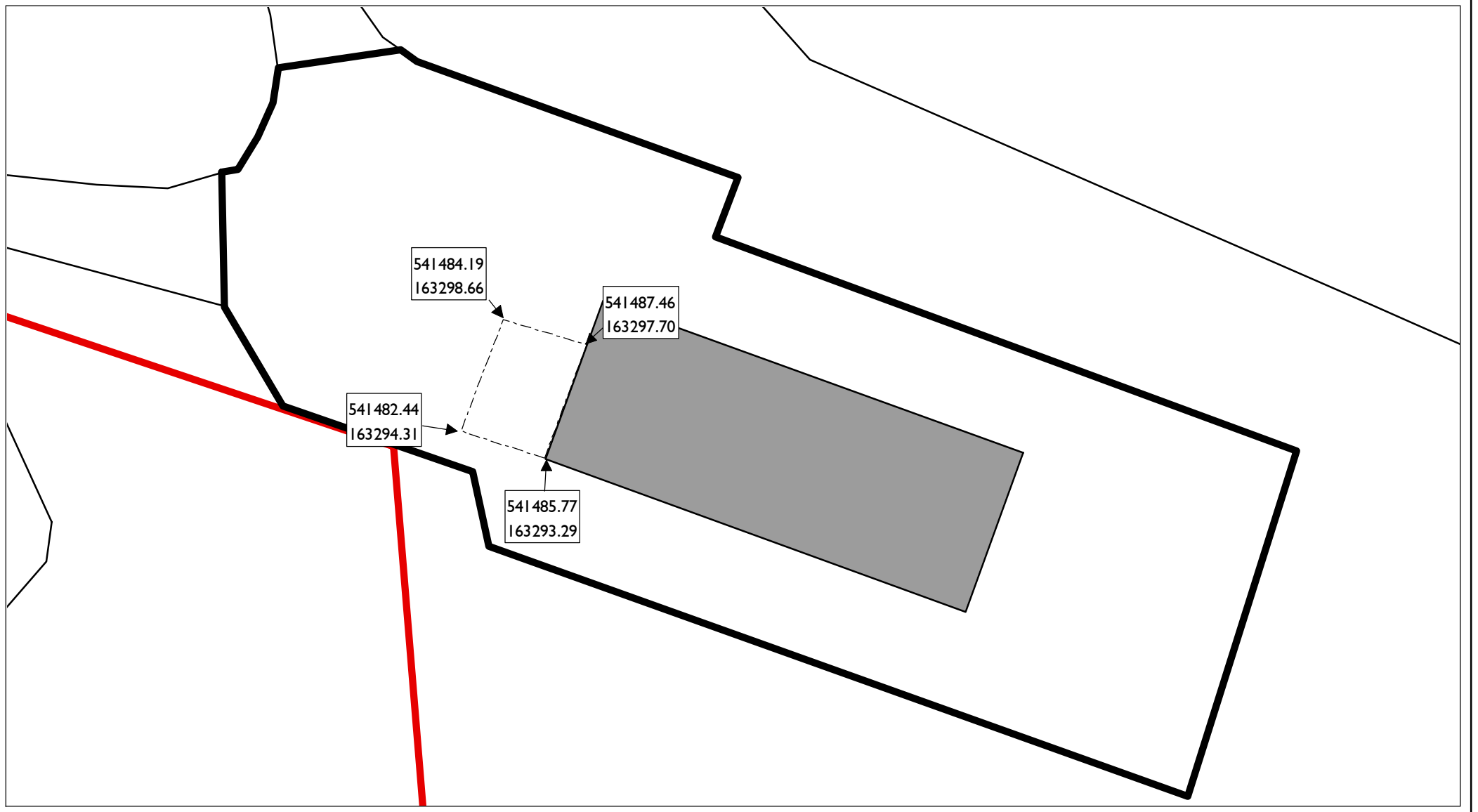
DESCRIPTION // Site Location Detail Showing Scheduled Monument Area



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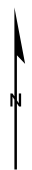
FIGURE 3 // Excavated Area



 Excavated Area  Scheduled Monument Boundary

 Site Boundary  Modern Building

0 10m



PROJECT // I333L - Brambletye

DESCRIPTION // Excavated Area with National Grid References

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OASIS FORM

APPENDIX I

OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: England

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OASIS ID: Iparchae1-139994

Project details

Project name	Brambletye
Short description of the project	Watching brief on small-scale works
Project dates	Start: 27-07-2012 End: 29-07-2012
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	BMB12 - Sitecode
Any associated project reference codes	1333L - Sitecode
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Residential 1 - General Residential
Monument type	SAM Roman
Significant Finds	N/A None
Methods & techniques	"Visual Inspection"
Development type	Rural residential
Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPS
Position in the planning process	After full determination (eg. As a condition)

Project location

Country	England
Site location	GREATER LONDON BROMLEY BIGGIN HILL Brambletye
Postcode	BR2 6AG
Study area	1.00 Hectares

Site coordinates	TQ 541497 163291 50 0 50 55 30 N 000 11 37 E Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 134.00m Max: 135.00m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	L - P : Archaeology
Project brief originator	Local Authority Archaeologist and/or Planning Authority/advisory body
Project design originator	HERITAGE COLLECTIVE LLP
Project director/manager	Cornelius Barton
Project supervisor	Cornelius Barton
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer
Name of sponsor/funding body	Heritage Collective LLP

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	Museum of London
Digital Archive ID	BMB12
Digital Contents	"none"
Digital Media available	"Text","Survey","GIS","Images raster / digital photography"
Paper Archive recipient	Museum of London
Paper Archive ID	BMB12
Paper Contents	"none"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet","Drawing","Report","Survey "

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
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