



**KIDBROOKE VILLAGE
(Phase 2a),
Kidbrooke Park Road
London SE3**

London Borough of Greenwich

A report on the archaeological
watching brief



December 2011

**KIDBROOKE VILLAGE (Phase 2a),
Kidbrooke Park Road
London SE3**

Site Code: KBV10

A report on the archaeological watching brief

Sign-off History:

Issue No.	Date:	Prepared by:	Checked/ Approved by:	Reason for Issue:
1	12.12.11	Portia Askew	Craig Halsey	Draft
2	27.01.12		Robin Nielsen	Final issue

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Company number 7751831; Charity number 1143574

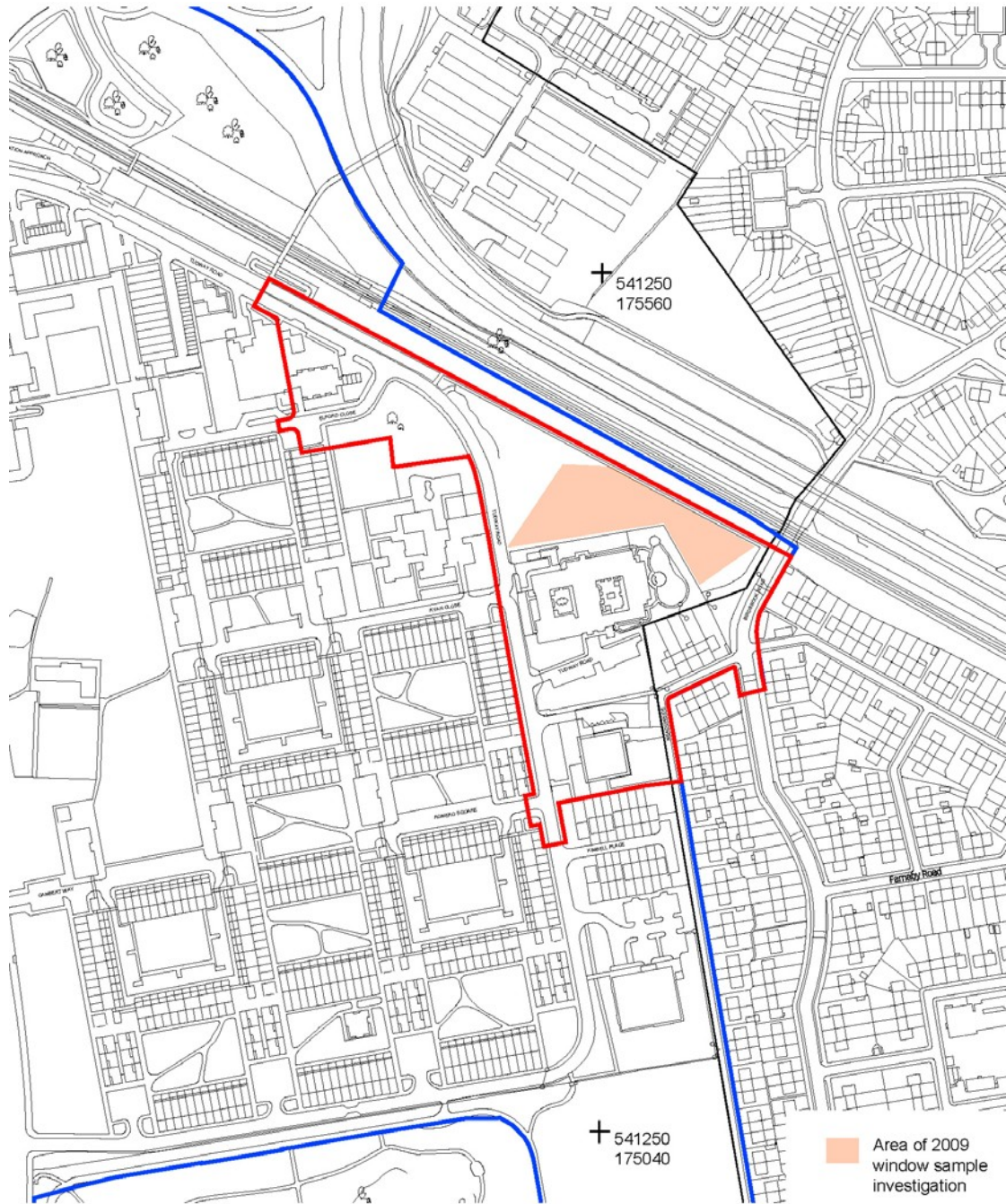
Table of Contents

1	Introduction	2
1.1	Site background	2
1.2	Planning background	2
1.3	Origin and scope of the report	2
1.4	Aims and objectives	3
2	Topographical and historical background	3
3	The watching brief	5
3.1	Methodology	5
3.2	Results of the watching brief	5
4	Publication and archiving	6
5	Conclusions	6
6	Acknowledgements	7
7	Bibliography	7
8	NMR OASIS archaeological report form	8

List of illustrations

Cover: Kidbrooke from Greenwich Cemetery, 1937

<i>Fig 1</i>	<i>Site location</i>	<i>1</i>
<i>Fig 2</i>	<i>Plan showing sections subject to archaeological investigation</i>	<i>4</i>



= Area of investigation

Fig 1 Site location

1 Introduction

1.1 Site background

The watching brief took place on Sections 1-5 at Kidbrooke Village Phase 2a, Kidbrooke Park Road, London SE3 (Fig 1), hereafter called 'the site'. The centre of the site is at OS National Grid Reference 541265 175410. Modern ground level on Tudway Road is 26m OD. The site code is KBV10

The site was assessed in the 'Archaeology and Cultural Heritage' chapter (Chapter 8) in the Environmental Statement submitted as part of a planning application, which covers the whole area of the site (Berkeley Homes, 2008). This document should be referred to for information on the natural geology, archaeological and historical background of the site, and the initial assessment of its archaeological potential.

Geotechnical test pit investigations in 2009 were archaeologically monitored (MOLA 2009), suggested potential modern truncation of the site.

1.2 Planning background

The planning and legislative background to the site has been summarised in the previous Environmental Statement chapter (Berkeley Homes, 2008, Chapter 8, section 8.2).

Outline planning consent for the development was granted by the London Borough of Greenwich in June 2009 (Application no. 08/2782/O). An archaeological condition (Condition 42) was applied to the planning consent. The condition states that:

No development shall take place until the applicant has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work for the relevant part of the development in accordance with a written scheme for investigation which has been submitted by the applicant and approved by the Local Planning Authority (or such other date or stage in development as may be agreed in writing with the Local Planning Authority). The development shall only take place in accordance with the detailed scheme pursuant to this condition. The archaeological works shall be carried out by a suitably qualified investigating body acceptable to the Local Planning Authority.

1.3 Origin and scope of the report

This report was commissioned by Berkeley Homes (Urban Renaissance) Limited and produced by Museum of London Archaeology (MOLA). The report has been prepared within the terms of the relevant Standard specified by the Institute for Archaeologists (IFA, 2001).

The purpose of the watching brief was to determine whether archaeological remains or features were present on the site and, if so, to record the nature and extent of such remains. A number of more site-specific research aims and objectives were established in the preceding *Method Statement* (MoLA 2010) and are outlined in the following section.

The purpose of the present report is to analyse the results of the excavation against the original research aims, and to suggest what further work, including analysis or publication (if any), should now take place.

1.4 Aims and objectives

The following research aims and objectives were established in the *Method Statement* for the watching brief (Section 2.2):

What was the level of natural topography?

What are the earliest deposits identified?

What evidence is there for the RFC/RAF depot?

What are the latest deposits identified?

All research is undertaken within the priorities established in the Museum of London's *A research framework for London Archaeology, 2002*

2 Topographical and historical background

A description of the archaeology and history of the site was provided in the previous Environmental Statement chapter (Berkeley Homes, 2008, Chapter 8, section 8.3). In brief, the environmental impact assessment described in the chapter found that there have been no finds of archaeological material made within the Site boundary. It stated that, records within the study area (the whole Kidbrooke Regeneration area) indicate that the Site lay in an area of arable and pasture land until the construction of buildings for RFC/RAF stores in the early/mid part of the 20th century. These buildings were cleared in the 1960s and the Ferrier Estate constructed. The assessment concluded that the highest archaeological potential related to the survival of medieval and Post-Medieval agricultural features such as field boundaries and drainage ditches but that the survival of archaeological features within the footprint of the Site was likely to be limited because of subsequent phases of site clearance, demolition and, finally, the construction of the housing estate. Areas of open space, however, such as the recreation ground and Harrow Meadow, or areas which had not been subject to intensive ground disturbance e.g. areas of hard standing, were likely to have the highest potential for the survival of archaeological remains as they have been the least disturbed. Overall, the baseline data indicated that the Site had limited archaeological potential.



Fig 2 Areas of archaeological investigation

3 The watching brief

3.1 Methodology

All archaeological excavation and recording during the watching brief was carried out in accordance with the *Method Statement* (MOLA, June 2010) and the *Archaeological Site Manual* (MoLAS, 1994).

The watching brief took place intermittently between November 2010 and April 2011. The ground was cleared by contractors under MOLA supervision. Trenches were excavated by machine by the contractors, and monitored by a member of staff from MOLA.

The locations of the areas observed were recorded by MOLA staff and plotted on a survey plan, Kidbrooke Village Phase 2A, Drawing. No.SKBM053 (see Fig 2). The heights of observations and/or archaeological remains were recorded relative to Ordnance Datum supplied by the contractors.

The site has produced: a trench location plan and a site diary. The site records can be found under the site code KBV10 in the MoL archive.

3.2 Results of the watching brief

Observations carried out during topsoil stripping, ground reduction, and the excavation of foundation and drainage trenches revealed natural clay which was recorded at heights of between 26.75 - 27.10m OD across the site. Above the clay, demolition rubble was present in the service trenches and layers of sand, gravel, clinker and fine rubble was present. The fragments of ceramics observed indicated a date of no earlier than the 19th century for their deposition. No evidence for the RFC/RAF depot was recorded.

4 Publication and archiving

Information on the results of the excavation will be made publicly available by means of a database in digital form, to permit inclusion of the site data in any future academic researches into the development of London.

The site archive containing original records and finds will be stored in accordance with the terms of the *Method Statement* (MOLA, 2010) with the Museum of London within 12 months of the end of the excavation.

In view of the very limited potential of the material and it is suggested that a short note on the results of the watching brief should appear in the annual round up of the *London Archaeologist*.

5 Conclusions

No archaeological remains were identified on the site. The earliest deposits identified dated to the 20th century, consisting of re-deposited post-2nd World War demolition material.

6 Acknowledgements

The author would like to thank Berkeley Homes (Urban Renaissance) Limited for funding the investigations; and Barry Martin, Technical Co-ordinator; Tahir Abdullah, Construction Manager, and Jason Denby, Site Manager, of that organisation for their contributions and help in producing this report:

7 Bibliography

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8 NMR OASIS archaeological report form

OASIS ID: molas1-111932	
Project details	
Project name	Kidbrooke Village, Phase 2A
Short description of the project	An archaeological watching brief carried out at Kidbrooke Village, Phase 2A, monitored the groundworks in preparation for the construction of new residential buildings. Natural London Clay was found to be overlain by redeposited post-2nd World War demolition material. As a result no finds or features of archaeological significance have been recorded.
Project dates	Start: 23-11-2010 End: 21-04-2011
Previous/future work	Yes / Yes
Any associated project reference codes	KBV10 - Sitecode
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	None
Current Land use	Residential 1 - Community Buildings 1
Investigation type	'Watching Brief'
Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPG16
Project location	
Country	England
Site location	GREATER LONDON GREENWICH KIDBROOK Kidbrooke Park Road London SE3
Postcode	SE9
Study area	1.00 Hectare
Site coordinates	TQ 541265 175410 51.4532568786 0.07704768519280 51 27 11 N 000 04 37 E Point
Height OD	Min:26.75m Max: 27.10m
Project creators	
Name of Organisation	MOL Archaeology
Project brief originator	Greater London Archaeology Advisory Service
Project design originator	MOL Archaeology
Project manager	Robin Nielsen
Project supervisor	Portia Askew
Type of funding body	Client

Name of funding body	Berkeley Homes (Urban Renaissance) Limited
Project archives	
Physical Archive Exists?	YES
Physical Archive recipient	LAARC
Physical Archive ID	KBV10
Digital Archive recipient	LAARC
Digital Archive ID	KBV10
Digital Media available	'Images raster / digital photography','Text'
Paper Archive recipient	LAARC
Paper Archive ID	RIF09
Paper Media available	'Diary','Plan','Report'
Project bibliography	
Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Kidbrooke Village (Phase 2a), Kidbrooke Park Road, London SE3
Author	Askew, P
Date	2011
Issuer	MOL Archaeology
Place of issue	London
Description	unpublished client report