

Archaeological Watching Brief

at

**BRANDON HILL PARK,
CLIFTON, BRISTOL.**

for

Parks and Neighbourhoods, Bristol City Council



Report No. 2225/2010
BHER No. 24841



Bristol and Region Archaeological Services

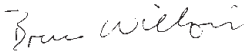

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at
**BRANDON HILL PARK,
CLIFTON, BRISTOL.**

Centred on
N.G.R. ST 57975 72750

Client: Parks and Neighbourhoods, Bristol City Council

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<i>Date Issued:</i>	19 April 2010 

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Abbreviations

AD	Anno Domini	c.	Circa
aOD	Above Ordnance Datum	Km	Kilometre
BaRAS	Bristol & Region Archaeological Services	m	Metre
BC	Before Christ	MoB	Museum of Bristol
BCC	Bristol City Council	NGR	National Grid Reference
BCL	Bristol Central Library	NMR	National Monuments Record
BCMAG	Bristol City Museum & Art Gallery	OS	Ordnance Survey
BHER	Bristol Historic Environment Record		
BRO	Bristol Record Office		
BSMR	Bristol Sites & Monuments Record		

NOTE

Notwithstanding that Bristol and Region Archaeological Services have taken reasonable care to produce a comprehensive summary of the known and recorded archaeological evidence, no responsibility can be accepted for any omissions of fact or opinion, however caused.

April, 2010.

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SUMMARY

An archaeological watching brief was carried out during groundworks associated with an extension to an existing play area, including new items of play equipment, in Brandon Hill Park, Clifton, Bristol.

No features or deposits of archaeological significance were observed during the intrusive groundworks.

LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

Figures

- Figure 1 Site location plan, scale 1:1500
- Figure 2 Plan showing study area in detail and plate locations, scale 1:200

Plates

- Cover General view of the site, looking south-west
- Plate 1 View of the north edge of the circular area during relandscaping, looking west
- Plate 2 South-facing section of the circular area, before the north side was relandscaped showing the stratigraphy, looking north
- Plate 3 The foundation pit for the climbing frame with the modern intrusion [105] visible in the section, looking east

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Bristol and Region Archaeological Services (BaRAS) were commissioned by Parks and Neighbourhoods, Bristol City Council to undertake an archaeological watching brief during groundworks associated with the extension to an existing play area, including new items of play equipment, in Brandon Hill Park, Clifton, Bristol.
- 1.2 The watching brief was commissioned to comply with the conditions of planning consent (09/03443/FB and 09/04800/X) and in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation prepared by Bristol and Region Archaeological Services (Hirons 2010). Bob Jones monitored the work.
- 1.3 The fieldwork was undertaken between the 4th and 9th of February 2010 under the supervision of Heather Hirons who also compiled this report.
- 1.4 The project archive will be deposited with Bristol City Museum & Art Gallery under the Accession Number 2010/12 and a copy of the report will be made available to the National Monuments Record maintained by English Heritage. The project has been entered in the Bristol Historic Environment Record as: BHER 24841 and in the OASIS Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations as: bristola1-71502.

2. THE SITE

- 2.1 The site (centred on NGR ST 57975 72750) is located in the centre of Brandon Hill Park situated to the north of Queens Parade and east of Jacob Wells Road (**Figure 1**).
- 2.2 Brandon Hill Park is a steeply sloping grassy hill interlaced with tarmac paths and trees. The site itself is situated on the south face of the hill with the existing play area on a slight terrace and the extension cutting into the side of the slope above it to the north. The area excavated for the extension to the play area sits at 41m aOD at its north end, sloping down to 39.1m aOD at its southern end (**Figure 2**).
- 2.3 The site lies within the Park Street and Brandon Hill Conservation Area. There are Scheduled Civil War Defences (AV 118) in the form of the Water Fort to the west of the site and although there are listed buildings within Brandon Hill Park, none encroach onto the area of the site.
- 2.4 According to the 1:63360 geology map the site lies largely on Quartzitic Sandstone of the Carboniferous Period (Brandon Hill Grit).

3. ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

- 3.1 Prior to this project the area of Brandon Hill has been the subject of numerous archaeological works including fieldwork and desk-based assessments.
- 3.2 The site lies in the centre of the park area, on the southern slope of Brandon Hill in an area of undeveloped open parkland. The remains of the Water Fort, a Scheduled Ancient Monument, lies to the west of the site and the remains of defensive walls lie to the north.
- 3.3 St Georges Road, formally Lime Kiln Lane, lies just over 100m to the south of the site and was the site of the Lime Kiln Potteries which operated between about 1706 and 1746. Various deposits of kiln wasters have been found in the area south of the site.

4. AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

- 4.1 The fieldwork complied with the methodology contained within the Written Scheme of Investigation (Hirons 2010). The fieldwork also followed the *Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief* issued by the Institute for Archaeologists (1999). The aim of the watching brief was to record any archaeological features or deposits revealed during the course of intrusive groundworks.
- 4.2 The watching brief involved the monitoring of the mechanical excavation of the foundations for a climbing frame, the surrounding surface and the relandscaping of the slope going down to the surface.

5. RESULTS

- 5.1 All groundworks were carried out using a 360° mechanical excavator using a toothless grading bucket. The groundworks consisted of the excavation of a circular area, 11m in diameter, dug into the side of Brandon Hill, excavating up to 0.82m into the slope at the north and raising the ground 0.45m above the surface in the south, approximately 39.40m aOD (**Cover**). As well as the relandscaping of the slope to the north of the circular area (**Plate 1**), up to 3m wide, and the excavation of a foundation trench in the centre of the area, 1.2m square by 0.9m deep.
- 5.2 The groundworks revealed topsoil (101) 0.18m thick, subsoil (102) 0.26m thick, a layer of disturbed stony material (103), probably redeposited natural from further up the hill, up to 0.18m thick, and natural pink clay (104) (**Plate 2**). The excavation of the foundation trench also revealed a modern intrusion [105] filled with sand (106) (**Plate 3**).

6. CONCLUSION

- 6.1 The watching brief identified no significant archaeological remains within the area of the intrusive groundworks.

7. PROJECT TEAM

- 7.1 The fieldwork was undertaken by Heather Hirons who also produced this report. The illustrations were prepared and the report compiled by Ann Linge. The archive was compiled and prepared for deposition by Heather Hirons. The project was managed by Bruce Williams.

8. BIBLIOGRAPHY AND SOURCES CONSULTED

Published Works

DoE, 1990 *Archaeology and Planning* (Planning Policy Guidance Note 16)

English Heritage, 1991 *Management of Archaeological Projects*

IFA 1994 *Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief* (revised 2001)

Watkinson, D E, & Neale, V, 1998 *First Aid for Finds* (London: Rescue/UKIC)

Unpublished Material

Hirons, H., 2010 *Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Watching Brief at Brandon Hill Park, Clifton, Bristol* (BaRAS privately circulated document)

Potter, K., 2006 *Archaeological Watching Brief at Brandon Hill, Clifton, Bristol* (BaRAS report: 1599/2006)

9. ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

BaRAS would like to thank Parks and Neighbourhoods for their assistance and co-operation and Bob Jones for his advice.

APPENDIX 1: Policy Statement

This report is the result of work carried out in the light of national and local authority policies.

NATIONAL POLICIES

Statutory protection for archaeology is enshrined in the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act (1979), amended by the National Heritage Act, 1983. Nationally important sites are listed in the Schedule of Ancient Monuments (SAM). Scheduled Monument consent is required for any work which would affect a SAM.

ODPM PLANNING POLICY GUIDANCE

The Planning Policy Guidance of Archaeology and Planning (PPG 16) consolidates advice to planning authorities. The Guidance stresses the non-renewable nature of the archaeological resource, details the role of the County Sites and Monuments Record (SMR), encourages early consultation with county and district archaeological officers and sets out the requirement for developers to provide sufficient information on the archaeological impact of development to enable a reasonable planning decision to be made.

PPG 16 also indicates the circumstances where further work would be necessary and outlines the use of agreements and conditions to protect the archaeological resource.

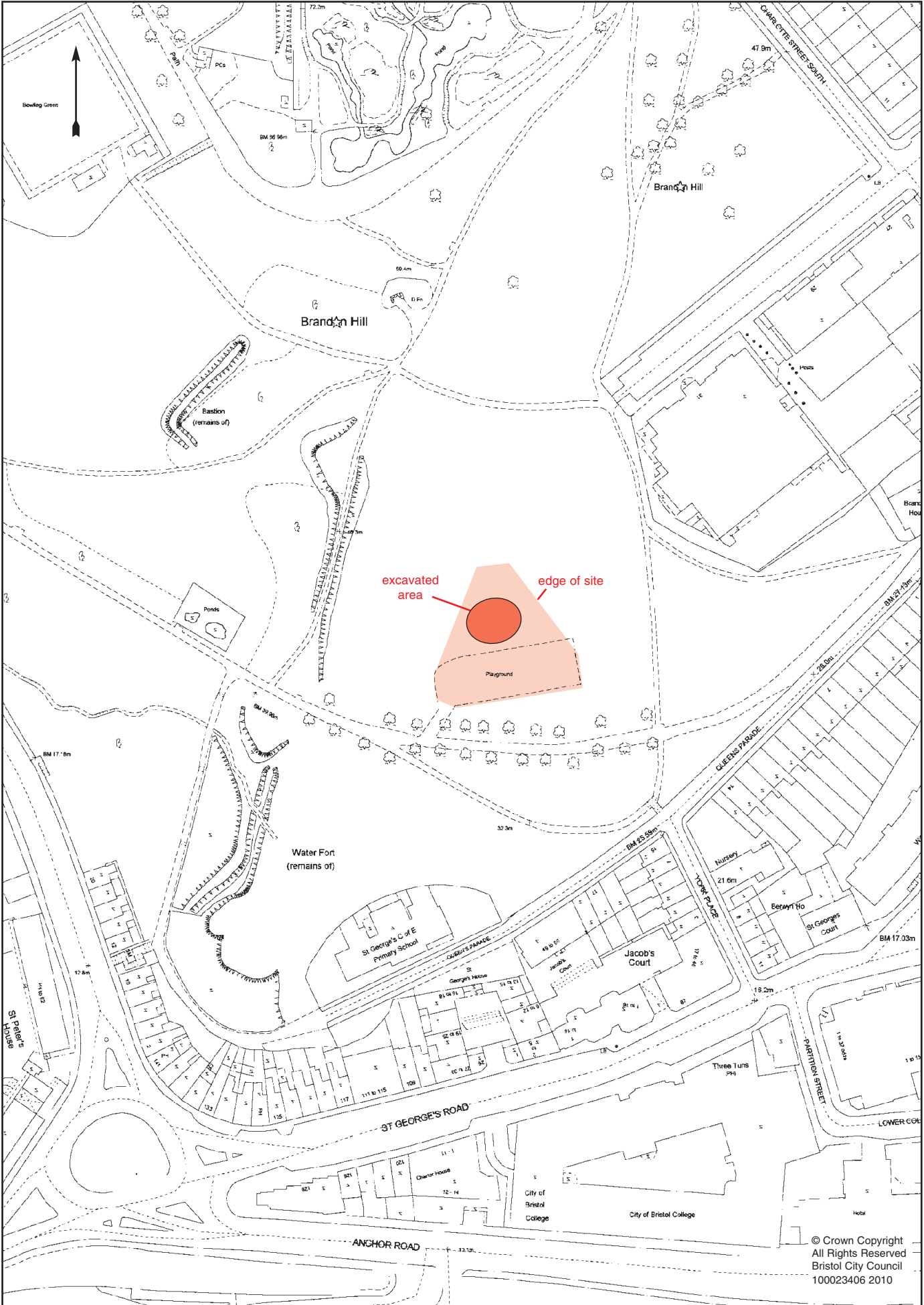
DISTRICT POLICY

Bristol City Council Supplementary Planning Document (2006) states (policy SPD No.7, p4):

- (i) There will be a presumption in favour of preserving any archaeological features or sites of national importance, whether scheduled or not.
- (ii) Development which could adversely affect sites, structures, landscapes or buildings of archaeological interest and their settings will require an assessment of the archaeological resource through a desktop study, and where appropriate a field evaluation. Where there is evidence of archaeological remains, development will not be permitted except where it can be demonstrated that the archaeological features of the site will be satisfactorily preserved in situ, or a suitable strategy has been put forward to mitigate the impact of development proposals upon important archaeological remains and their settings; or, if this is not possible and the sites are not scheduled or of national importance, provision for adequately recording the site prior to destruction is made, preferably by negotiating a planning agreement to ensure that access, time and financial resources are available to allow essential recording and publication to take place.

APPENDIX 2: Context Descriptions

Context No.	Description
101	Topsoil; dark brown, clayey, silt with frequent roots and occasional stones, approximately 0.18m thick.
102	Subsoil; dark brown, silty, clay with moderate mortar fragments, occasional roots, rubble fragments and charcoal fragments, 0.26m thick.
103	Stony layer; dark chocolate brown, stoney, silty, clay, including stones up to 0.3m in diameter, the deposit was up to 0.18m thick.
104	Natural clay; orangey pink clay with moderate stones, excavated to a depth of 0.28m in the north edge of the circular area.
105	Modern cut; straight sided, flat bottomed modern cut, approximately 0.40m wide by 0.40m deep, cut into natural clay (104).
106	Fill of cut [105]; yellow sand fills the extent of [105] .



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Fig.1 Site location plan, 1:1500

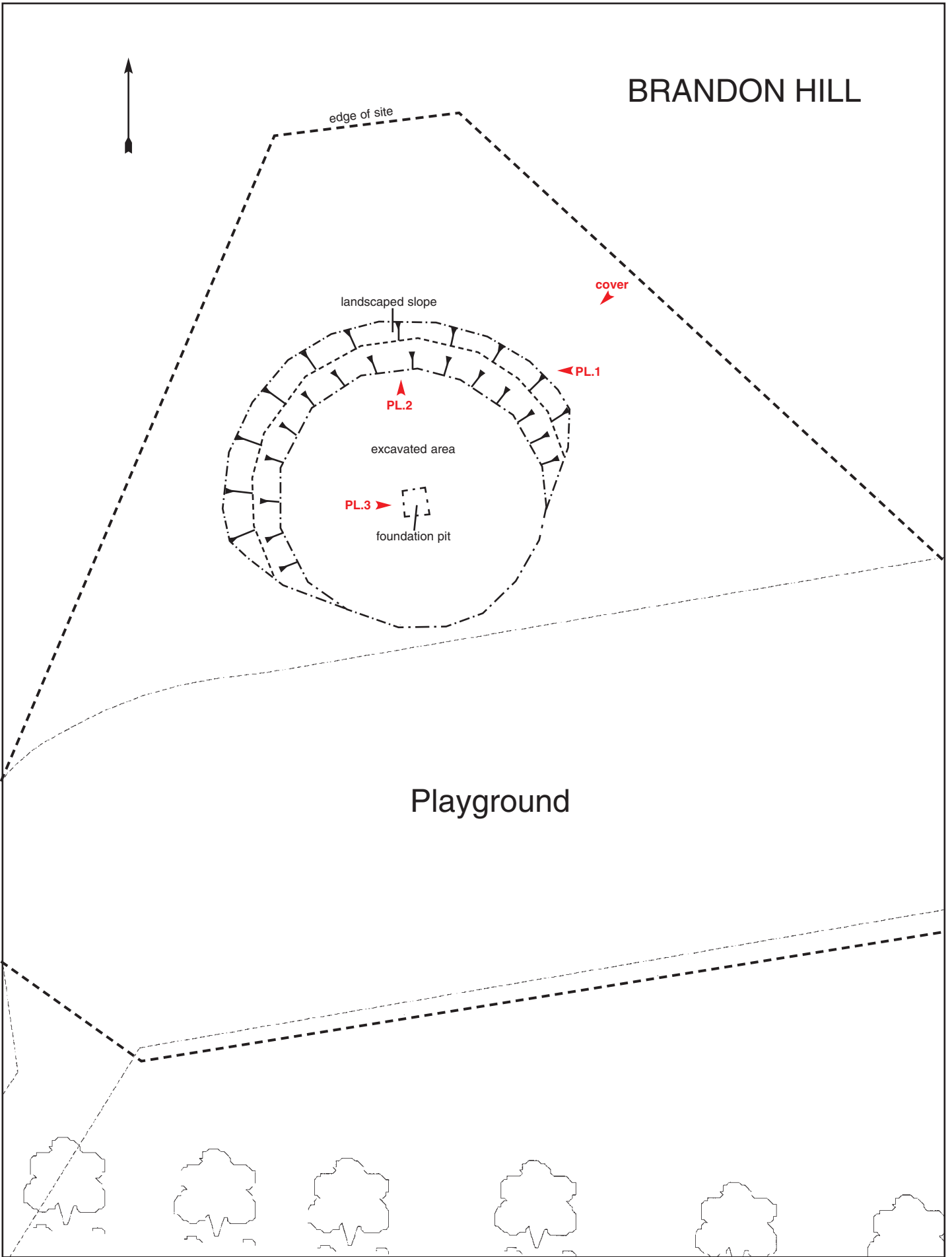


Fig.2 Plan showing study area in detail and plate locations, scale 1:200



Plate 1
View of the north edge of
the circular area during
relandscaping, looking
west



Plate 2
South-facing section of the
circular area, before the north
side was relandscaped
showing the stratigraphy,
looking north



Plate 3
The foundation pit for the
climbing frame with the
modern intrusion [105]
visible in the section,
looking east