

**LONDON 2012 OLYMPIC GAMES MOUNTAIN BIKE VENUE
HADLEIGH COUNTRY PARK
ESSEX**

ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING AND RECORDING



Essex County Council

FIELD ARCHAEOLOGY UNIT

AUGUST 2011

LONDON 2012 OLYMPIC GAMES MOUNTAIN BIKE VENUE

HADLEIGH COUNTRY PARK

ESSEX

ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING AND RECORDING

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Doc. Ref.	2238 Report
Report Issue Date	August 2011
Circulation	ECC 2012 Legacy Team
	ECC Historic Environment Management team
	Essex Historic Environment Record
	Southend Museum

As part of our desire to provide a quality service, we would welcome any comments you may have on the content or the presentation of this report.

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LONDON 2012 OLYMPIC GAMES MOUNTAIN BIKE VENUE HADLEIGH COUNTRY PARK, ESSEX

ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING AND RECORDING

Client: Essex County Council 2012 Legacy Team

Planning application no: CPT/228/10/FUL

Date of fieldwork: July 2010 to July 2011

Grid reference: TQ 80160 86270

ECC FAU project no: 2238

Site code: CPHO 10

Oasis reference no: essexcou1-108563

SUMMARY

Groundworks associated with the construction of a new mountain bike track and associated infrastructure at Hadleigh Country Park, Essex, for the London 2012 Olympic Games were the subject of a programme of archaeological monitoring between July 2010 and July 2011. The works was undertaken by the Essex County Council Field Archaeology Unit (ECC FAU) on behalf of the Essex County Council 2012 Legacy Team.

Part of the event site lies in an area that was initially developed by the Salvation Army as a Home Farm Colony in the 19th century, including brickworks, a poultry unit and residential accommodation. The Colony fell into disuse prior to the outbreak of World War I, following which it was used as a training camp during WWI and again in the Second World War as the site for a heavy anti-aircraft gun battery, searchlight position and troop camp, surviving elements of which have been designated as a Scheduled Monument.

Archaeological remains exposed during the monitoring works included part of a track or Holloway, a possible former pond or infilled clay pit, a lynchet and a series of 19th century field boundary ditches, and areas of made ground to depths in excess of 2m that are likely to be further evidence for clay extraction to supply the 19th century brickworks. No remains predating the 19th century were encountered, with the majority of the features investigated relating to the more recent history of the site as a Salvation Army colony and the subsequent military uses.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This report presents the results of a programme of archaeological monitoring of groundworks for a new mountain bike track at Hadleigh Country Park, Essex, for the London 2012 Olympic Games. The archaeological work was commissioned by the ECC 2012 Legacy Team and was carried out by the Essex County Council Field Archaeology Unit (ECC FAU) in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation prepared by Wessex Archaeology (2010b) in response to a Design Brief issued by ECC Historic Environment Management (2010). The groundworks comprised the excavation of a series of test pits and window samples, and the construction of access roads and the mountain bike track itself. Monitoring of cable ducting works associated with the installation of outside broadcasting facilities for the venue were commissioned and have been reported on separately (ECC FAU 2011).
- 1.2 Copies of this report will be supplied to the client, ECC HEM and the Essex County Council Historic Environment Record. A digital version of the report will form part of the Oasis on-line database of archaeological investigations at www.oasis.ac.uk. The site archive will be stored at Southend Museum.

2.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

2.1 Location and geology

- 2.1.1 Hadleigh Country Park overlooks the River Thames and Benfleet Creek and comprises an extensive hilly area covered by grass, gorse and trees, sloping down towards the Thames. The new track has a convoluted course and lies within an area of c. 52ha, located primarily on/ around the plateau and south facing slopes of Sand Pit Hill and Adders Hill (Fig. 1). The surface geology comprises Bagshot Sands and London Clay Formation clays, silts and sands beneath topsoil.

2.2 Archaeology

- 2.2.1 The following information derives from the Written Scheme of Investigation (Wessex Archaeology 2010b) for the archaeological works and an Historic Landscape Assessment, also prepared by Wessex Archaeology (2010a) in support of the planning application for the development. Only a brief summary of the more-pertinent background information contained in these reports is presented here.
- 2.2.2 Archaeological remains from the wider locality comprise stray finds including a flint arrowhead, sherds of Iron Age pottery and Roman building debris, while the area to

the north of Home Farm, outside the venue boundary, contains the remains of a Roman fort (Scheduled Monument EX108).

2.2.3 As has been previously noted, The Salvation Army used part of the area as a Home Farm Colony during the 19th and early 20th century, although the colony had effectively gone out of use by the outbreak of the First World War and was used as a training camp for teenage boys.

2.2.4 The Colony site was used to construct a heavy anti-aircraft battery, searchlight position and troop camp during the Second World War, the elevated position afforded by Sand Pit Hill offer a good field of fire for the guns when engaging enemy aircraft raiding along the Thames or using it as a navigation aid. The site continued in use at the end of the war, being incorporated into a Cold War defensive scheme known as the Nucleus Force, and elements of the remaining structures are now designated as a Scheduled Monument (23429). These remains are divided into eight areas of protection, including:

- Four 5.25 inch gun emplacements in a square formation with Nissen huts. The emplacements survive, but have been infilled with soil. The Nissen huts are no longer present.
- A combined operations room/generator block to the west of the gun emplacements, constructed during the post-war period as part of an upgrading of the gun emplacement site. The operations room/generator block replaced an earlier wartime building.
- An area enclosing 4.5 inch gun emplacements and associated structures, including a command post. Most of these remains probably survive as buried features. Parts of the concrete enclosures for two of guns extend above ground.
- A flat-roofed structure representing one of the magazines.
- A gun store, a water tower and two one-roomed structures situated within the area between the two sets of gun emplacements.

2.2.5 Other World War II and Cold War remains are present, including an accommodation area for gun crews. These other remains are of high archaeological and historical

value and English Heritage has requested that Essex County Council treat those features related to the Scheduled Monument that are not currently within the Scheduled area as of schedulable quality.

- 2.2.6 The military infrastructure of the site fell in to disuse following the disbandment of the Nucleus Force in 1955. Part of the park was used as a motocross track during the 1960s and 70s and part of the track continues to survive as shallow earthworks.

3.0 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

3.1 The aims of the monitoring and recording exercise were to:

- provide further information concerning the presence/absence, date, nature and extent of any buried archaeological remains and to investigate and record all archaeological features revealed during excavations and groundwork for the construction of the Mountain Bike Course and the associated enabling works;
- Monitor compliance with the condition set out in the Scheduled Monument Consent. It is anticipated that a 'no dig' solution will be approved.

3.2 The monitoring and recording were carried out according to four levels of recording as set out in the brief provided by Essex County Council Historic Environment Management (see Fig. 2).

- Level 1 - Detailed monitoring and recording: topsoil removal and groundworks/ construction on those areas of the development requiring detailed monitoring and recording will be carried out under the supervision and control of the archaeological contractor at all times. Should archaeological deposits be exposed, construction will cease in that area to allow the archaeologist to investigate the exposed deposits. Level 1 areas comprised the length of track across the scheduled 4.5 inch gun battery (SM 32429), an abandoned historic routeway (WA 119) and an area of earthwork boundaries at the southern end of the site (WA 129-130).
- *Level 2 - Intensive monitoring and recording:* topsoil removal and groundworks on those areas of the construction requiring intensive monitoring and recording will be carried out under the observation of the archaeological contractor. Should archaeological deposits be exposed, construction will cease in that area to allow the archaeologist to investigate the exposed deposits. Level 2 areas comprised the area

immediately east of the scheduled 4.5 inch gun battery where concrete remains and former perimeter fence posts are present (WA100-104), a possible WWII military feature near the SW corner of the scheduled 4.5 inch gun battery detected from aerial photographs, two separate areas on the plateau of Round Hill, a possible boundary earthwork near the south east corner of the course (WA133), an area near to the 19th century Salvation Army Hospital (WA63) and the plateau of Adders Hill.

- *Level 3 - Intermittent monitoring and recording:* the archaeological contractor will view areas of topsoil removal / ground works after specified phases of work. Should archaeological deposits be exposed, construction will cease in that area to allow the archaeologist to investigate the exposed deposits. Level 3 areas comprised those parts of the mountain bike track, associated access tracks and haul roads where removal of topsoil was part of the construction.
- *Level 4 -* A defined protocol between the archaeological contractor and developer shall be agreed for archaeological recording in those areas not specified for monitoring where unexpected archaeological deposits are identified. Level 4 areas comprise the remaining lengths of the course and allowed for the recording of unexpected discoveries.

3.3 Compliance Monitoring

- 3.3.1 The scheme has been specifically designed to avoid any ground disturbance to the Scheduled Monuments. The compliance monitoring within scheduled areas relates to the construction, operation of the Test and Olympic events and the decommissioning phases of the scheme and comprises the construction of the track over the Sandpit Hill scheduled gun battery area, the location of the Olympic Family Lounge on the northwest corner of the Sandpit Hill scheduled gun battery area during the Olympic event, and spectator viewing areas and fencing during the Test and Olympic events on Sandpit Hill and Adders Hill. The compliance monitoring strategy comprises the archaeological contractor liaising before and during the construction and operation phases with the appointed build contractors and other relevant parties to ensure compliance with the granted consent. All elements of the course construction, operational phase and decommissioning within the scheduled area will be monitored by the archaeological contractor and, should it be required/ relevant, a supplementary section to this report will be produced following the decommissioning of the course, outlining the results of the compliance monitoring process.

3.4 Research Objectives

- 3.4.1 In the event of significant discoveries appropriate research objectives in line with those contained in *Research and Archaeology: a Framework for the Eastern Counties 2. Research Agenda and Strategy* (Brown and Glazebrook 2000), would have been identified for any further works required, post-excavation assessment or publication; however, due to the small number and low significance of the remains identified the project has little scope to contribute to any of the research objectives.

4.0 METHOD

- 4.1 The footprint of the new access roads and mountain bike track were constructed by maintaining or changing existing ground levels and by laying down a running surface of crushed limestone. The required depth of ground reduction, where it took place, was often very shallow, at an average of 15cm, and underlying 'natural' deposits were not always exposed. The Scheduled World War II / Cold War remains were protected by ensuring that no ground reduction took place within the Scheduled area, including the section of course running across the top of the 4.5" gun battery, which had previously been identified as a Level 1 monitoring area. Course construction works including topsoil stripping were undertaken using a mechanical excavator equipped with broad toothless buckets.
- 4.2 Geotechnical works comprising hand-dug test pits (TP 1 to TP6), measuring c. 0.4m long by 0.3m wide and 1.1m deep (Fig. 3), and rig-bored window samples (WS1 to WS6) were also undertaken.
- 4.3 The archaeological work was carried out in accordance with the Institute of Field Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Brief* and the Association of Local Government Officers' *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England* (IfA 2008; Gurney 2003). The ECC FAU is a registered archaeological organisation with the Institute of Field Archaeologists. The ECC FAU uses its own recording system to record all archaeological deposits and features. Further details of the monitoring and recording methods can be found in the Written Scheme of Investigation (Wessex Archaeology 2010b).

5.0 FIELDWORK RESULTS

5.1 The groundworks revealed comparatively few archaeological remains, as much of the stripping of the new access roads and mountain bike track was less than the depth of the topsoil.

5.2 Mountain bike track

5.2.1 The groundworks for the mountain bike track and access roads uncovered a small number of features including a brick path presumably associated with the WWII military remains, part of a pond, a large cut feature – potentially a former clay pit, four parallel ditches and a lynchet. Each of these is summarised below and further can also be found in Appendix 1. Due to design changes in the course layout a number of areas that had previously been proposed for topsoil stripping, and therefore archaeological monitoring, were left as-existing, with the course constructed on top of the existing ground surface, thereby negating the need for monitoring (See Fig. 3). These areas included the Level 1 area across the Scheduled 4.5” gun battery on Sand Pit Hill and the adjacent Level 2 areas to either side (WA 100 – 104); a section of Level 1 area at the southern end of the course containing a series of earthwork boundaries (129 – 130); two separate Level 2 areas on the plateau of Round Hill; a Level 2 possible boundary earthwork (WA 133), and a Level 2 area near the site of the Home Farm Salvation Army hospital (WA63). In addition, no archaeological remains were noted during topsoil stripping on the plateau of Adders Hill.

5.2.2 Brick path 1 lay embedded in topsoil, towards the north end of one of the access roads (Plate 1). It headed towards a World War II / Cold War building, was c. 1.5m wide, and comprised frogged, un-bonded bricks laid in a semi-regular pattern. Some of the bricks bore the stamp of a crown (Plate 2). A slab of concrete (2) lay to the south-west and was possibly part of the path or associated with a demolished structure/ building (Plate 3).

5.2.3 Pond 3 extended into the southern end of the north-south access road (Plate 4). The fill of the feature, a dark brown clay silt (4), contained modern bricks, car tyres, a metal handle or wheel (Plate 5), a metal bar and pieces of plastic.

5.2.4 Cut feature 5 was partly exposed in a section of bike track near the east-west access road (Plate 6). It continued westwards as an earth work, and was c. 17m long. It held a dark silty fill (6) that produced a lump of wood, and pieces of modern brick. Two mole drains (7 and 9) containing pieces of baked clay and brick lay to the north of it.

- 5.2.5 A layer of brick dust (11) occurred in a section of bike track near the south-western access road. Seen in plan only it was c. 4m wide and of unknown depth.
- 5.2.6 Ditches 12, 14, 16 and 18 extended across an east-west access/ haul road and were represented by regularly-spaced parallel lines of slight banks and dips (Plate 7). They had similar fills, although only one them (16) contained any finds, comprising tiles, frogged bricks and modern pottery (see Fig. 4).
- 5.2.7 Lynchet 20 was situated in the south-western part of the mountain bike course, on the western edge of the Level 1 monitoring area WA 129 – 130, which comprised an area of earthwork boundaries. The feature ran north-south, aligned on an existing ditch to the north, stood c. 0.3m above existing ground level and was c. 3m to 4m wide. There were no finds in the two deposits (21 and 22) that formed it (Plate 8).

5.3 Window samples and test pits

- 5.3.1 The window samples and test pits revealed deposits of silt clay and clay silt beneath topsoil and turf (Fig. 5). Areas of modern infilling and dumping up to 2m+ in depth/height were implied by ash, charcoal and modern tile, aluminium, iron, asbestos and plastic in test pits 4 and 6 and window samples 2, 3 and 6. The deposits in the other test pits and window samples contained no man-made inclusions, and were possibly undisturbed parts of the Bagshot Sands and London Clay Formation. Further details of the test pits and window samples can be found in Appendix 2.

6.0 CONCLUSIONS

- 6.1 The archaeological remains revealed by the groundworks range in date from the 19th century to the Post-War period and are related to either the use of the site by the Salvation Army Home Farm Colony, in the form of evidence for field boundaries/ agricultural activity and clay extraction to supply the colony's brickworks, or to the use of the area by the army during the First and Second World Wars, and the early Cold War period. In particular Ditch 14 and Pond 3 are recorded on early editions of the Ordnance Survey for the area (Fig. 6), as are the locations of several brickworks and associated clay pits.
- 6.2 Previous groundworks, primarily for clay extraction but also possibly for the military buildings, appears to have left large parts of the northern part of the event area

heavily disturbed, as five of the twelve test pits and window samples revealed modern deposits up to 2m+ deep. The full extent of these areas remains unknown.

- 6.3 Collectively, it appears that construction works associated with the mountain bike track and associated infrastructure have had virtually no archaeological impact, principally due to the more-marginal nature of much of the area and the steeply sloping topography, which would have rendered much of the area unsuitable for anything other than agricultural activities, coupled with the relatively shallow construction depth required for the track, which means that ground disturbance/ excavation to below the base of the topsoil has been fairly minimal.
- 6.4 Other areas that were originally targeted for monitoring and would perhaps have been more archaeologically productive, including areas immediately adjacent to the Scheduled gun battery site on Sand Pit Hill and the plateau of Adders Hill were, following changes to the course construction methodology, constructed at-grade, with the track laid on the existing ground surface, thereby negating the need for archaeological monitoring and effectively preserving any remains present in-situ.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The archaeological monitoring was commissioned by the ECC 2012 Legacy Team and carried out by the Essex County Council Field Archaeology Unit in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation produced by Wessex Archaeology. Monitoring was undertaken by Trevor Ennis, Phillippa Sparrow, Adrian Scruby and Mark Germany with survey support by Andrew Lewsey. This report was written by Mark Germany and Adrian Scruby with figures by Andrew Lewsey. Alan Jacobs undertook the finds assessment and reporting. The project was managed by Adrian Scruby and monitored by Adrian Gascoyne of ECC HEM on behalf of the local planning authority, Castle Point Borough Council. ECC FAU would particularly like to thank Barbara Mills of the ECC 2012 Legacy Team, Dean Cadby of Mouchel and Martin Seddon of M&L Seddon for their help and assistance during the project.

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APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT DATA

No.	Category	Description	Date
1	Path	Constructed from un-bonded, frogged bricks in a semi-regular pattern. 3.5m+ long, 1.5m wide. Lies embedded in topsoil, immediately below turf	Late 19th / 20th century
2	Concrete slabs	Two slabs of concrete, south-west of 1	Late 19th / 20th century
3	Pond	Rounded. 17m+ long, 5m+ wide. Filled by 4	Late 19th / 20th century
4	Fill	Dark grey brown clay silt. Contains frogged bricks, tyres, iron objects and plastic. Fill of 3. Not excavated	Second half of 20th century
5	Cut feature	Large ?rounded feature. 17m long. Continues as earthwork to west. Filled by 6	Late 19th / 20th century
6	Fill	Dark brownish grey clay silt. Contains piece of wood and fragments of frogged bricks. Fill of 5. Not excavated	Late 19th / 20th century
7	Mole drain	Linear. 0.25m wide. Filled by 8	Late 19th / 20th century
8	Fill	Baked clay and decomposed brick fragments. Fill of 7. Not excavated	Late 19th / 20th century
9	Mole drain	Linear. 0.25m wide. Filled by 10	Late 19th / 20th century
10	Fill	Grey silt. Contains pieces of brick. Fill of 9	Late 19th / 20th century
11	Layer	Brick dust. 4m wide. Not excavated	Late 19th / 20th century
12	Ditch	3m wide. Filled by 13	Undated
13	Fill	Greyish brown silt. Fill of 12. Not excavated	Undated
14	Ditch	2.5m wide. Filled by 15	Undated
15	Fill	Greyish brown silt. Fill of 14. Not excavated	Undated
16	Ditch	3m wide. Filled by 17	Late 19th / 20th century
17	Fill	Greyish brown silt. Contains pieces of tile, frogged, brick modern pottery and an iron nail. Fill of 16. Not excavated	Late 19th / 20th century
18	Ditch	2.5m wide. Filled by 19	Undated
19	Fill	Greyish brown silt. Fill of 18. Not excavated.	Undated
20	Lynchets	Linear. c. 3.5m wide, 0.3m high. Formed by 21 and 22	Undated
21	Layer	Grey silt clay. Below 22. Part of 20	Undated
22	Layer	Orange red silt clay. Above 21. Below topsoil. Part of 20	Undated

APPENDIX 2: TEST PIT AND WINDOW SAMPLE DATA

Dimensions record depth of base of deposit from existing ground level

WS1	Greyish brown clay silt topsoil (c. 0.3m) Greyish brown silt clay (0.9m+)
WS2	Dark greyish brown clay silt topsoil (c. 0.3m) Greyish brown clay silt with fragments of brick, asbestos iron and aluminium (c. 2m+)
WS3	Dark grey clay silt topsoil (c. 0.2m) Greyish brown clay with fragments of bricks (c. 0.85m) Brown silt clay (1.3m+)
WS4	Greyish brown clay silt topsoil (c. 0.2m) Brown clay (1.2m+)
WS5	Greyish brown clay silt topsoil (c. 0.2m) Brown clay (1.2m+)
WS6	Greyish brown clay silt topsoil / turf (c. 0.1m) Greyish brown silt clay with fragments of brick, plastic and clinker (1.10m+)
TP1	Dark greyish brown clay silt topsoil (c. 0.18m) Greyish brown silt clay (c. 0.4m) Brown clay (1.10m+)
TP2	Dark grey clay silt topsoil (c. 0.35m) Brown clay and gravel (c. 0.55m) Light brown clay (1.15m+)
TP3	Dark grey clay topsoil (c. 0.2m) Grey clay silt (c. 0.6m) Brown silt clay (1.10m+)
TP4	Turf and grey / black ash (c. 0.24m) Grey / brown clay with occasional fragments of brick and tile (c. 0.7m) Grey clay silt with occasional charcoal flecks (c. 0.92m) Buff / brown clay (1.10m+)
TP5	Dark grey clay silt topsoil with flecks of charcoal in lower half (c. 0.5m) Mottled grey / brown silt clay (1.10m+)
TP6	Dark grey clay silt topsoil with modern inclusions, including plastic (c. 0.4m) Brown clay (c. 0.9m) Reddish grey ash (1.10m+)

APPENDIX 3: CONTENTS OF SITE ARCHIVE

1. Client report
1. Archaeological brief
1. Written Scheme of Investigation
1. Watching brief site attendance record
1. Context register
22. Context sheets
1. Plan/section register
4. Pages of notes on the test pitting
6. Pages of notes on the mountain bike track
1. Photographic register
94. Photographs
1. Computer disk
5. Site drawings (2 large, 3 small)

All finds have been discarded.

APPENDIX 4: HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT RECORD

Site name/Address: London 2012 Olympic Mountain Bike Venue, Hadleigh Country Park, Essex	
Parish: Hadleigh	District: Castle Point
NGR: TQ 80160 86270	Site Code: CPHO 10
	Oasis reference no: essexcou1-108563
Type of Work: Archaeological monitoring	Site Director/Group: Mark Germany, Essex County Council Field Archaeology Unit
Date of Work: 9/5/11 to 13/5/11	Size of Area Investigated: 52 ha
Location of Finds/Curating Museum: Southend Museum	Client: ECC 2012 Legacy Team
Further Seasons Anticipated?:	Related HER Nos.: SM no. 32429
Final Report: Essex Archaeology and History (summary)	
Periods represented: Modern	
<p>SUMMARY OF FIELDWORK RESULTS:</p> <p>Groundworks associated with the construction of a new mountain bike track and associated infrastructure at Hadleigh Country Park, Essex, for the London 2012 Olympic Games were the subject of a programme of archaeological monitoring between July 2010 and July 2011. The works was undertaken by the Essex County Council Field Archaeology Unit (ECC FAU) on behalf of the Essex County Council 2012 Legacy Team.</p> <p>Part of the event site lies in an area that was initially developed by the Salvation Army as a Home Farm Colony in the 19th century, including brickworks, a poultry unit and residential accommodation. The Colony fell into disuse prior to the outbreak of World War I, following which it was used as a training camp during WWI and again in the Second World War as the site for a heavy anti-aircraft gun battery, searchlight position and troop camp, surviving elements of which have been designated as a Scheduled Monument.</p> <p>Archaeological remains exposed during the monitoring works included part of a track or Holloway, a possible former pond or infilled clay pit, a lynchet and a series of 19th century field boundary ditches, and areas of made ground to depths in excess of 2m that are likely to be further evidence for clay extraction to supply the 19th century brickworks. No remains predating the 19th century were encountered, with the majority of the features investigated relating to the more recent history of the site as a Salvation Army colony and the subsequent military uses.</p>	

Previous Summaries/Reports:-

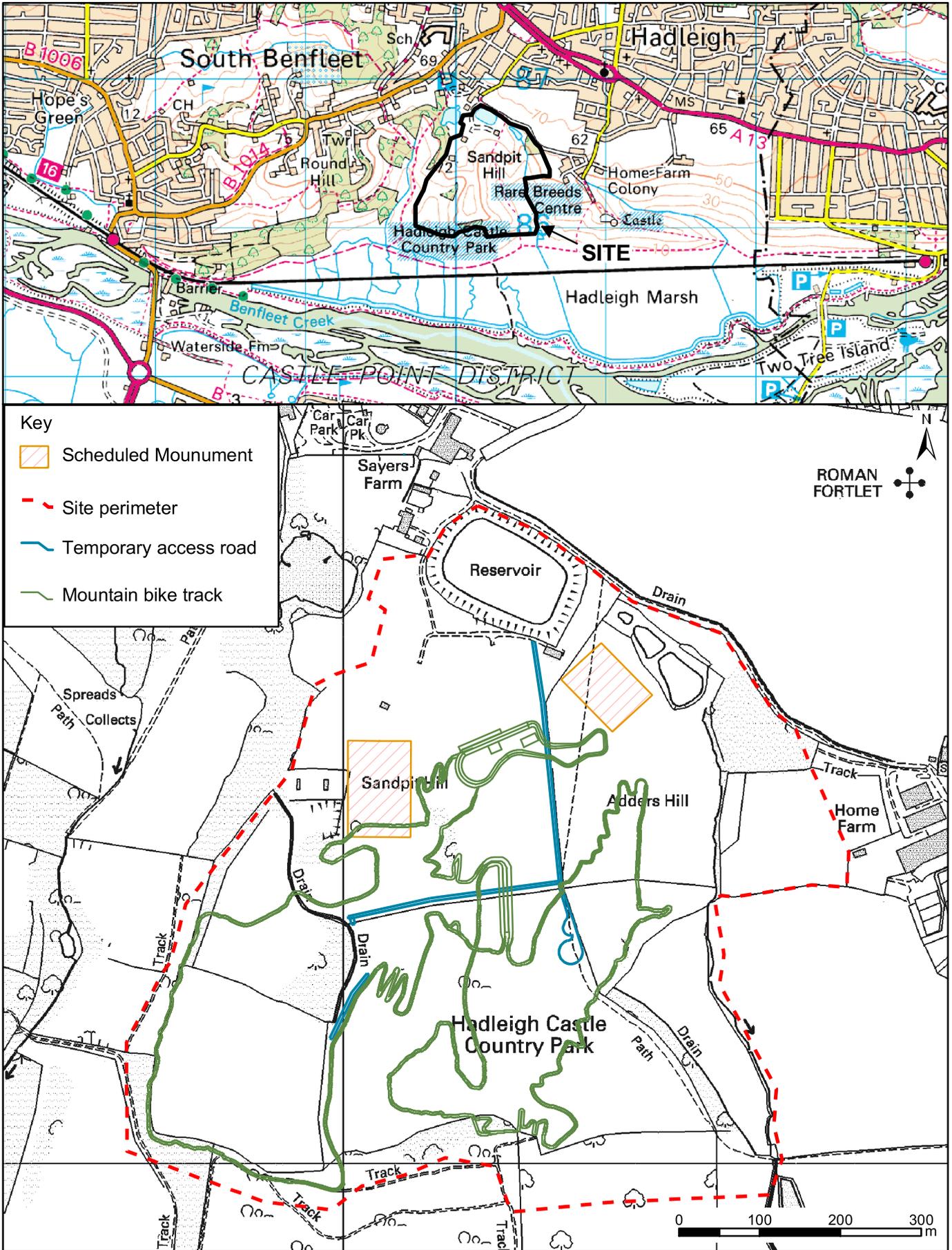
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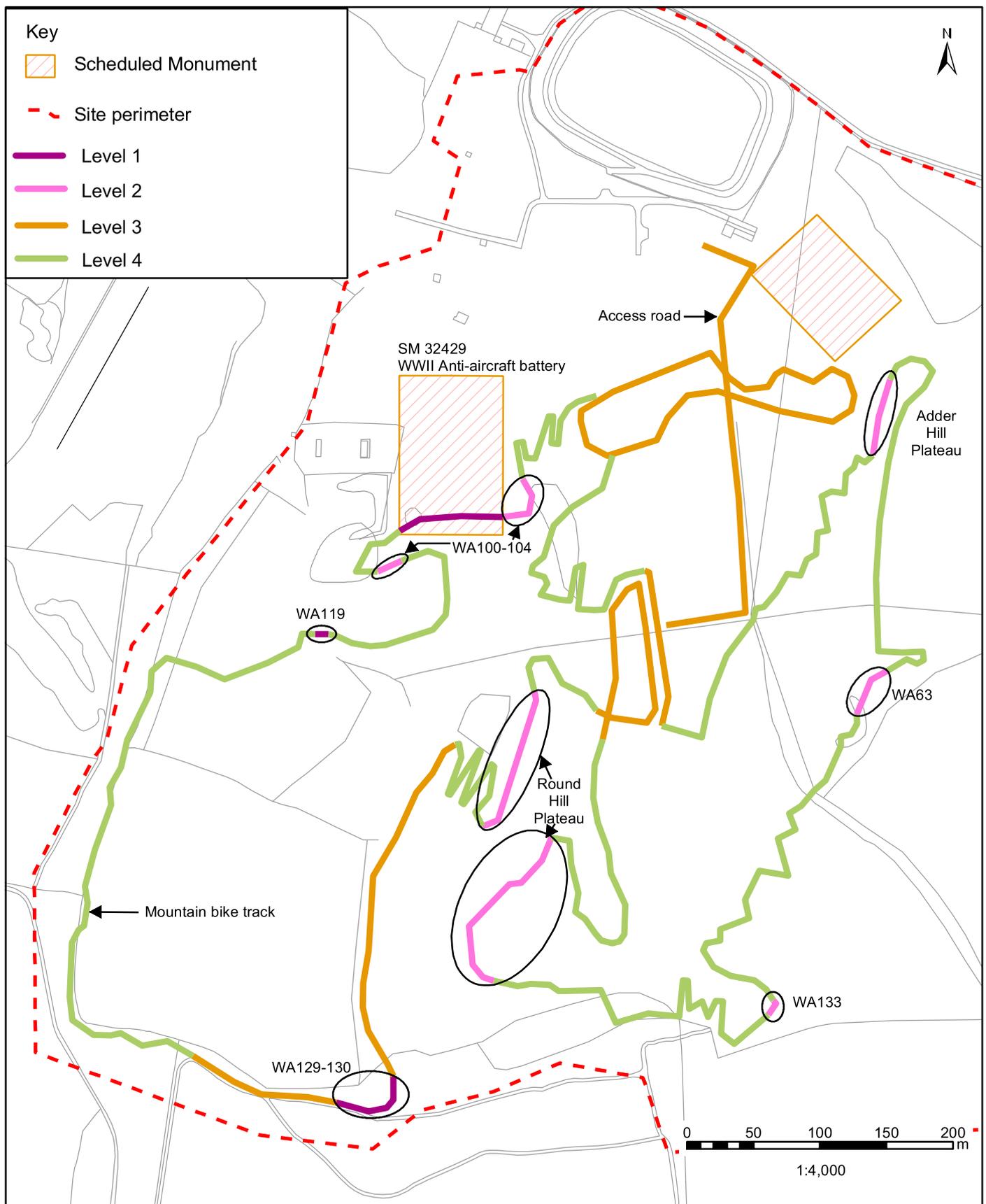
Author of Summary: Mark Germany

Date of Summary: July 2011



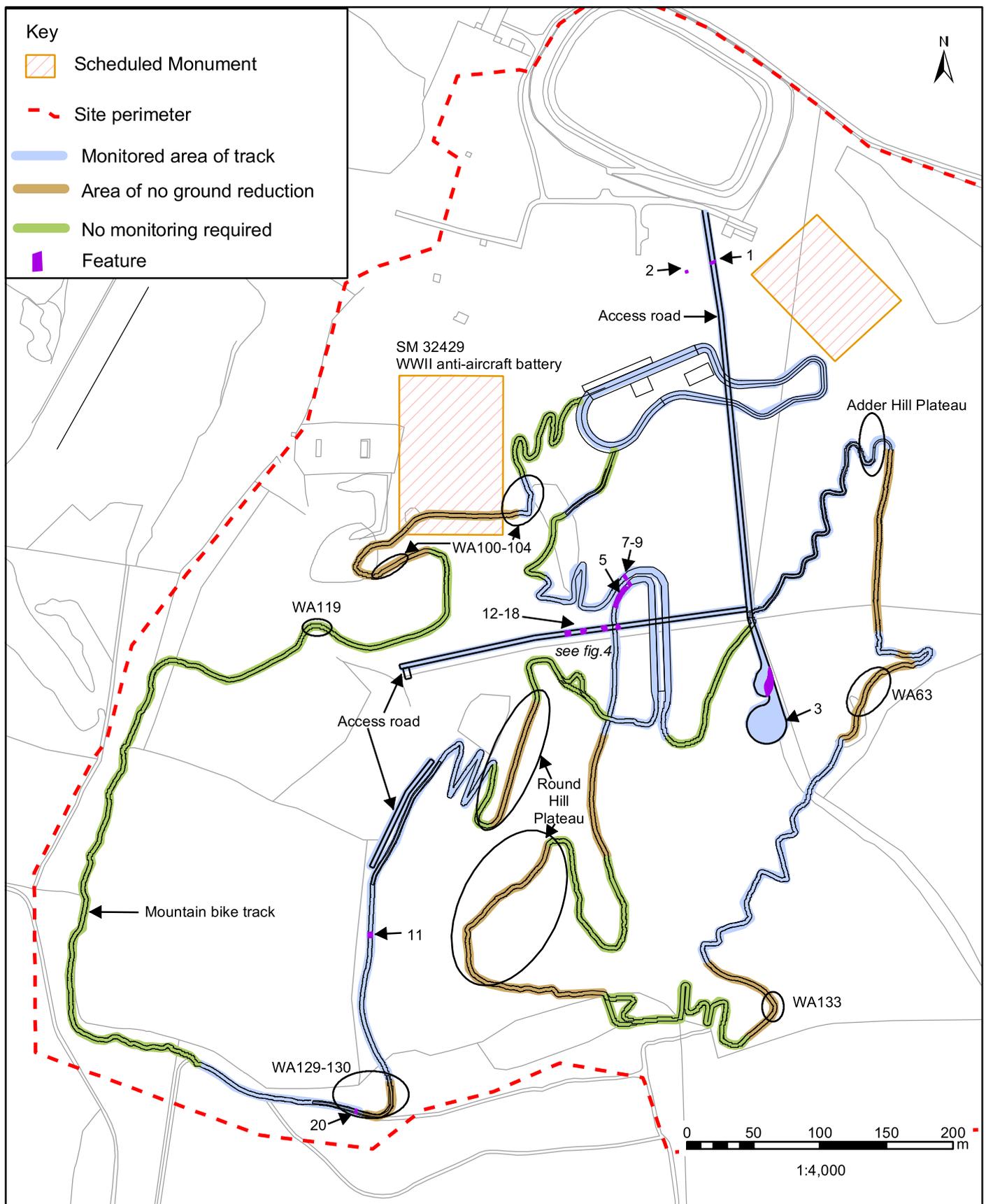
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Fig.1. Location of London 2012 Olympic Mountain Bike Venue



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Fig.2. Proposed archaeological monitoring areas



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Fig.3. Location of monitored areas

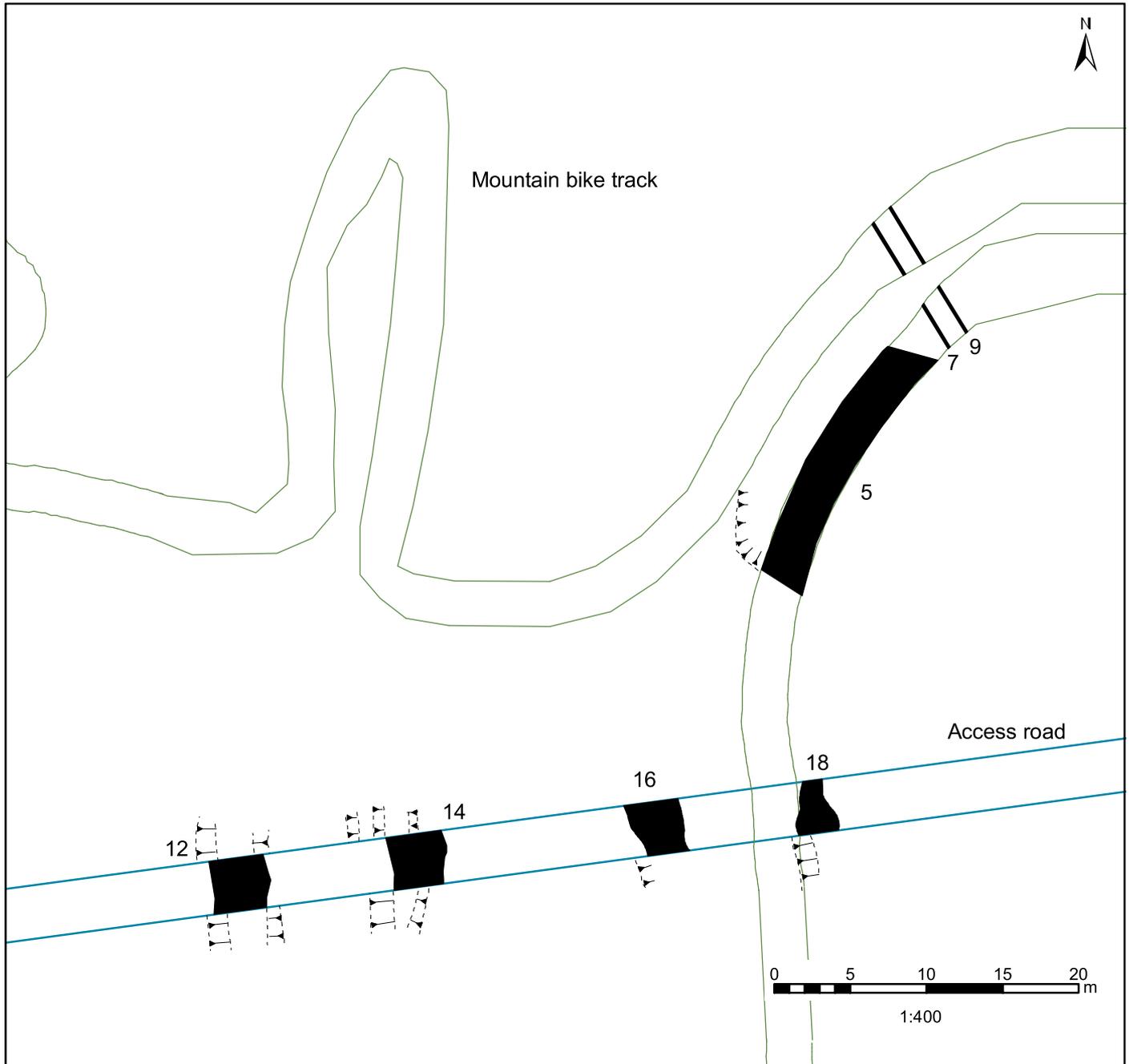
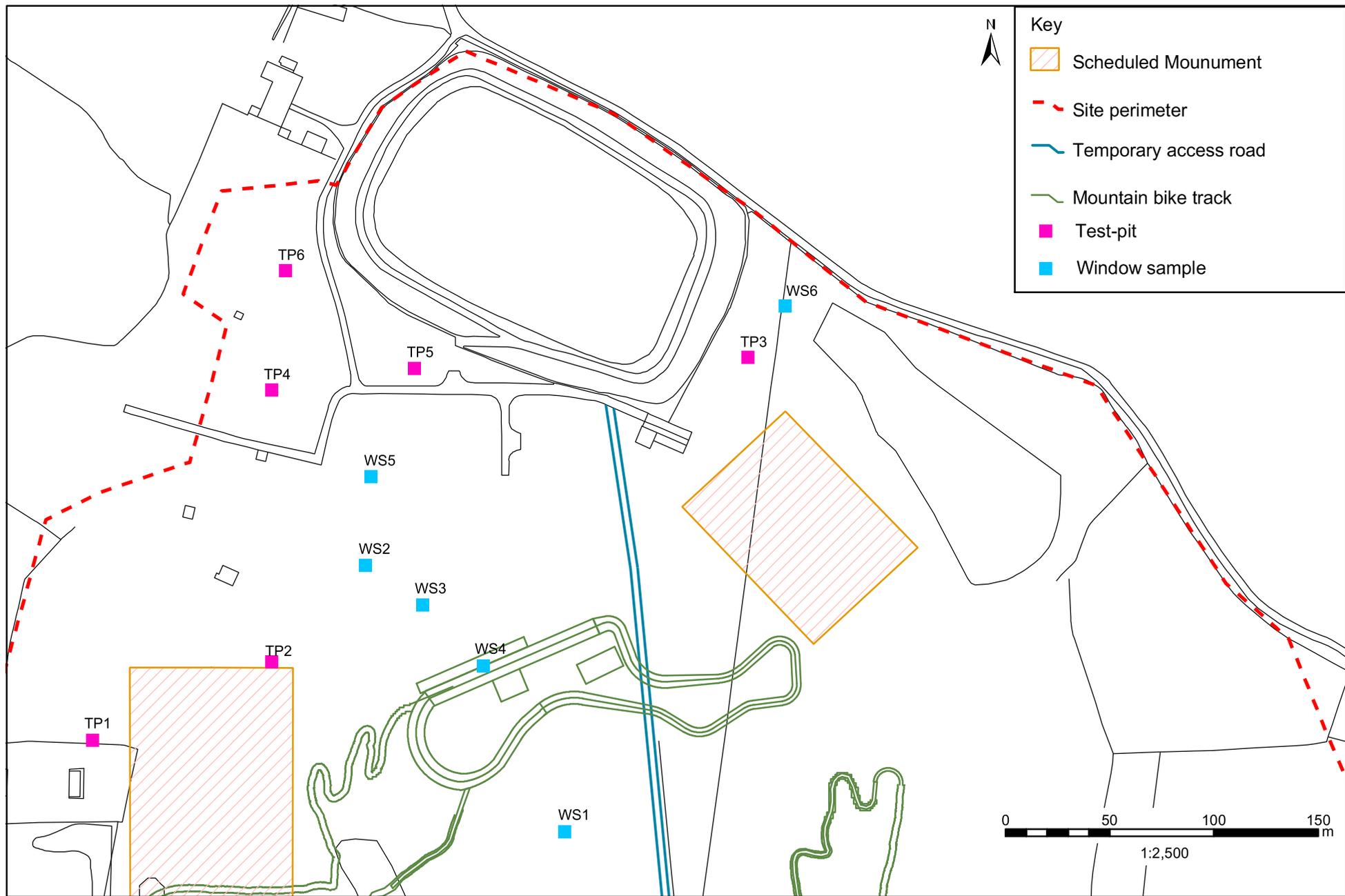
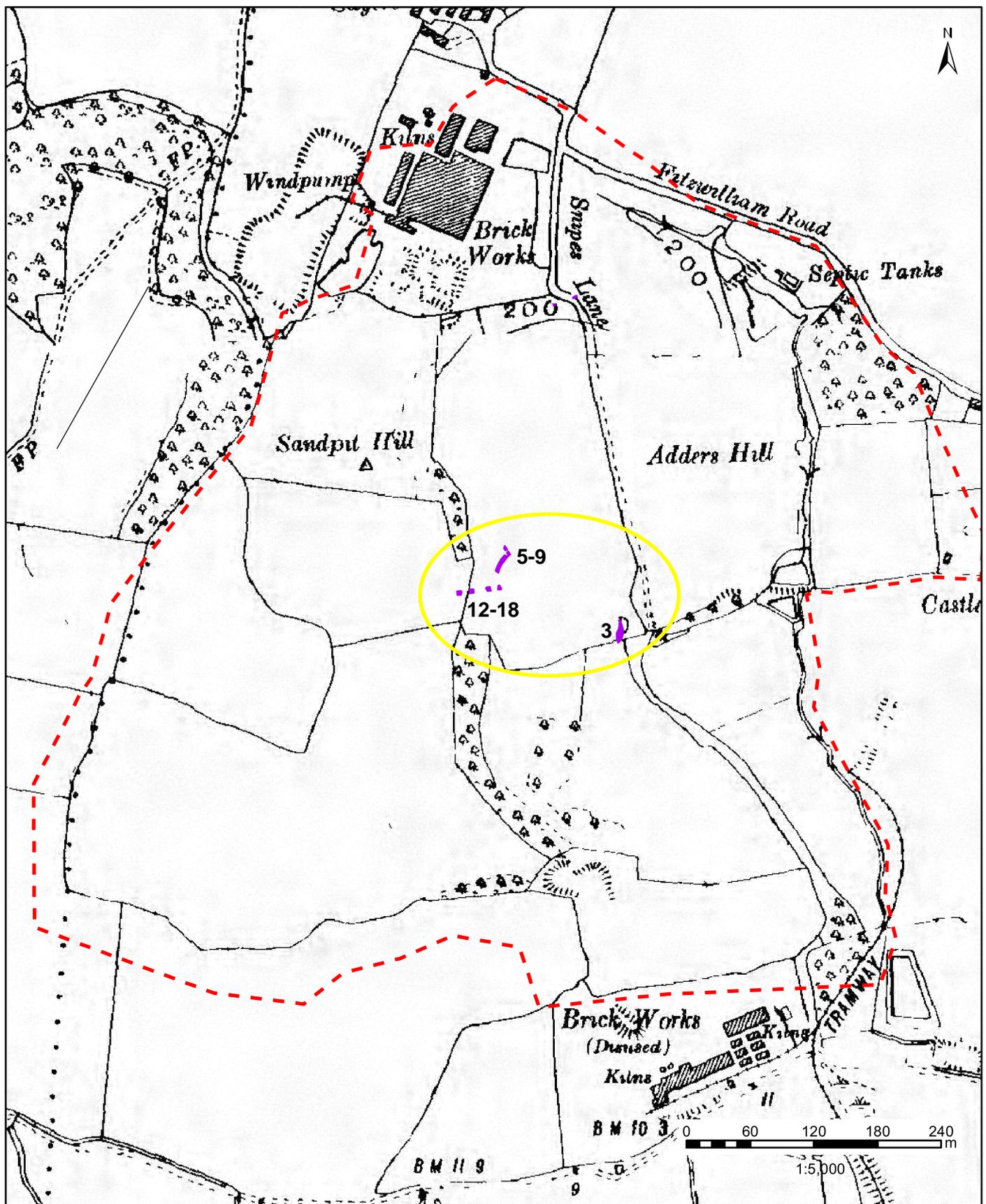


Fig.4. Detail of central features



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Fig.5. Location of geotechnical works



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Fig.6. The site with 3rd edition Ordnance Survey and features 3, 5-9 & 12-18



Plate 1. Brick path 1 looking northeast



Plate 2. Brick stamped with crown



Plate 3. Brick path 1 and adjacent concrete slabs (2)



Plate 4. Pond 3



Plate 5. Turning handle or wheel from pond 3



Plate 6. Cut-feature 5



Plate 7. Ditches 12, 14, 16 and 18



Plate 8. Lynchett 19