



**Louisa Lodge East, Park Lane,  
Hawkhurst,  
Cranbrook,  
Kent  
TN18 5HA**

**Archaeological Watching Brief Report**

Site Code: 33210

NGR Site Centre: 573990 133464

Planning Application Number: TW/21/04082/FULL

Prepared on behalf of:

Ms Jane Wallace

June 2022

Compiled by:

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**Ravelin Archaeological Services**

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Report Reference: 33210.01

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## Quality Assurance

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## **Summary**

*In June 2022 Ravelin Archaeological Services carried out a programme of archaeological monitoring and recording of the site at Louisa Lodge East, Park Lane, Hawkhurst, Cranbrook, Kent TN18 5HA.*

*The works were commissioned by Ms J Wallace and carried out during the excavation of ground works associated with the construction of a new workshop/garage/woodstove. The Watching Brief was conducted in accordance with an archaeological Watching Brief Specification prepared by Kent County Council Heritage & Conservation.*

*No Archaeological finds or features were encountered.*

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**Archaeological Watching Brief Report**

NGR Site Centre: 573990 133464  
Site Code: 33210

**1 INTRODUCTION**

**1.1 Project Background**

1.1.1 Ravelin Archaeological Services (RAS) has been commissioned by Ms Jane Wallace (the Client), to undertake a programme of archaeological works during the proposed development at Louisa Lodge East, Park Lane, Hawkhurst, Cranbrook, Kent (Figure 1).

1.1.2 Development proposals include the erection of a workshop/garage/woodstove. In acknowledgement of the archaeological potential of the Site, archaeological issues have been addressed during a consultation between Tunbridge Wells Borough Council and the Kent County Council (KCC) Senior Archaeological Officer (under planning application number: TW/21/04082/FULL) whereby the following advice was offered;

*'No development shall take place until the applicant, or their agents or successors in title, has secured the implementation of a watching brief to be undertaken by an archaeologist approved by the Local Planning Authority so that the excavation is observed and items of interest and finds are recorded. The watching brief shall be in accordance with a written programme and specification which has been submitted to and approved by the Local Planning Authority'*

*Reason: To ensure that features of archaeological interest are properly examined and recorded.*

(TW/21/04082/FULL, Condition 8, dated 18/03/2022)

1.1.3 The fieldwork, which comprised a programme of archaeological monitoring (Watching Brief), was carried out in June 2022 (Table 3, Section 4.4 below) in accordance with a generic archaeological specification prepared by KCC (2018) and in discussion with Wendy Rogers, the Senior Archaeological Officer at KCC.

## 1.2 Site Description and Topography

1.2.1 The site is centred on NGR 573990 133464, on the southern side of park Lane, within Hedgingford Wood, part of the Bedgebury Forest located approximately 2km northwest of Hawkhurst in south Kent (Figure 1). The development area was located to the west of the existing house within gardens in an area previously terraced and used as a parking bay (Plate 1). The site sloped gently from north to south at levels between approximately 96.5m and 95.9m aOD (above Ordnance Datum).



*Plate 1 View of the site with Louisa lodge East to the rear, viewed from the southwest*

1.2.2 According to the British Geological Society, the underlying geology consists of Tunbridge Wells Sand Formation – Mudstone, Sedimentary Bedrock formed approximately 134 to 139 million years ago in the Cretaceous Period. There are no superficial deposits recorded (British Geological Society).

## 2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

### 2.1 Introduction

2.1.1 The archaeological potential of the site has been based on the location of remains presently recorded with the Historic Environment Record held and maintained by Kent County Council (see 2.2 below). In a consultation letter associated with a previous application for the site dated 24/01/2022, the Principal Archaeological Officer at KCC stated that;

*The site of proposed works is within an area of potential for archaeological remains associated with the construction and use of Louisa Lodge in the 19<sup>th</sup> century or earlier.*

(Reference: TW/21/04082/FULL, email dated 21 February 2022)

### 2.2 Historic Environment Record (Accessed 21/06/2022)

2.2.1 The HER records the following sites, within a 500m radius of the site;

<i>HER Number</i>	<i>Name</i>
TQ 73 SW 26	WHITELIMES BARN
TQ 73 SW 34	WHITELIME COTTAGES
TQ 73 SW 2	Site of Frith furnace, near Starvegoose Bank, Hawkhurst
TQ 73 SW 43	BRICK KILN COTTAGE
MKE81078	Little Trenley
MKE81074	Frith Farm
MKE81081	Whitelimes Farm
TQ 73 SW 26	WHITELIMES BARN

*Table 1 Historic Environmental Record (1,000m radius)*

## 3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

### 3.1 Specific Aims

3.1.1 The aims and objectives of the archaeological watching brief was to identify, excavate, record, and analyse archaeological remains that may be disturbed by the proposed development and to contribute to the historical and archaeological knowledge of the Site through the recording of archaeological remains exposed as a result of excavations in connection with the proposed development.



3.1.2 The objectives of the monitoring were:

- To observe, excavate, and record archaeological remains revealed by alterations to buildings or groundworks, to contribute to heritage knowledge of the area, and ensure suitable specialist observation close to a sensitive archaeological site (KCC 2017).

3.1.3 The specific archaeological requirements of the project are summarised below;

- Monitoring of all ground works;
- Mitigation by a programme of archaeological excavation and recording, in the event that archaeological remains are encountered;
- Post-excavation and publication, where required.

## 4 METHODOLOGY

### 4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 All fieldwork was conducted in accordance with the methodology set out in the Specification (KCC 2017) and carried out in compliance with the standards outlined in the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' Standards Guidance for Archaeological Watching Brief (CIfA 2014).



*Plate 2 Aerial photograph of the development site following excavation of foundation trenches (4m scale)*

## 4.2 Fieldwork

4.2.1 The excavation of the topsoil and foundation trenches was carried out using a 1.5T 360° mechanical excavator. All spoil was removed using a 1T dumper truck and stockpiled, temporarily, within the site. Plate 2 provides an aerial view of the foundation trenches, taken using a mobile drone.

## 4.3 Recording

4.3.1 A complete drawn record comprising both plans and sections, to appropriate scales (1:50 for plans, 1:10 for sections) was undertaken. Photographs were taken, as appropriate, providing a record of excavated features and deposits. The record also includes Drone images of the site overall. The photographic record comprises digital photography. A photographic register of all photographs taken is contained within the project archive.

4.3.2 Levels were recorded above Ordnance Datum (aOD) and were calculated using a standard dumpy level and existing datum, or Bench Mark, located adjacent to the front of the house (96.5m aOD).

4.3.3 A single context recording system was used to record the deposits. A full list is presented in the Results section below. Layers and fills are identified in this report thus (101), whilst the cut of the feature is shown [104]. Context numbers were assigned to all deposits for recording purposes.

## 4.4 Timetable

4.4.1 Archaeological monitoring was carried out on the following days;

<i>Task</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Staff</i>
Archaeological monitoring during the construction of foundations	21 <sup>st</sup> June 2022	David Britchfield BA MCIfA

*Table 2 Attendance Schedule*

## 4.5 Monitoring

4.5.1 No curatorial monitoring was requested by Kent County Council. An update was emailed to the KCC Senior Archaeological Officer following completion of the works.

## 5 RESULTS

### 5.1 Archaeological Watching Brief

5.1.1 Archaeological monitoring was carried out following the excavation of foundation trenches associated with the proposed development. The foundation layout was rectangular in plan measuring approximately 6m by 6m and formed by trenches measuring 0.5m in width excavated to a depth of approximately 0.6m (Figure 2). A spur towards the east was also excavated for

services. The ground surface at the northern boundary of the site was at a level of approximately 96.5m aOD.

5.1.2 The stratigraphic sequence within this plot consisted of topsoil (101) overlaying natural buff yellow sandy silt (102). Four representative sections were recorded, as detailed on Figure 2. Sections were located across the foundation footprint in order to provide an overall stratigraphic sequence for the plot. Representative Section 1 (RS1) was located on the southern extent of the proposed development (Plate 3) and recorded topsoil (101) overlaying the natural geology (103) (Table 3).

<i>Context Number</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Interpretation</i>	<i>Depths (m)</i>
(101)	Dark grey brown silty clay	Topsoil	0.00-0.21
(103)	Mid orange silty sand	Natural geology	0.21-0.82+

*Table 3 Stratigraphic Sequence representative Section RS1 (0.00m = 95.6m aOD)*



*Plate 3 Representative Section RS1, viewed from the north*

5.1.3 Representative Section 2 (RS2) was located on the northern extent of the proposed development (Plate 4) and recorded topsoil (101) overlaying the natural geology (102) (Table 4), while Representative Section 3 (RS3) recorded the same deposits (Plate 5) at slightly varying depths (Table 5).

<b>Context Number</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Interpretation</b>	<b>Depths (m)</b>
(101)	Dark grey brown silty clay	Topsoil	0.00-0.11
(102)	Mid orange silty sand	Natural geology	0.11-0.78+

*Table 4 Stratigraphic Sequence representative Section RS2 (0.00 = 94.9m aOD)*

<b>Context Number</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Interpretation</b>	<b>Depths (m)</b>
(101)	Dark grey brown silty clay	Topsoil	0.00-0.19
(102)	Mid orange silty sand	Natural geology	0.19-0.52+

*Table 5 Stratigraphic Sequence representative Section RS3 (0.00 = 94.9m aOD)*



*Plate 4 Representative Section RS2, viewed from the north*



*Plate 5 Representative Section RS3, viewed from the north*

5.1.4 Representative Section 4 (RS4) was located on the western extent of the proposed development within a spur off the foundation towards the main house (Plate 6) where an existing brick terrace wall (103) overlay former topsoil (101) and natural geology (102) (Table 6).

<b>Context Number</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Interpretation</b>	<b>Depths (m)</b>
(103)	Brick wall, five courses deep	Terrace wall	0.00-0.41
(104)	Dark grey brown silty clay with occasional rounded stone	Former topsoil	0.41-0.52
(102)	Mid orange silty sand	Natural geology	0.52-1.01+

*Table 6 Stratigraphic Sequence representative Section RS4 (0.00 = 96.5m aOD)*



*Plate 6 Representative Section RS4, viewed from the north*

5.1.5 No archaeological finds features were present within the excavated trenches.

## **6 DISCUSSION**

### **6.1 Archaeological Narrative**

6.1.1 Despite the potential for the presence and survival of archaeological remains, no archaeological features or finds of significance were present during the archaeological monitoring works.

6.1.2 With regards to the archaeological potential of the site it would appear evident that archaeological remains may survive within the Bedgebury Forest. However, the lack of systemic archaeological investigation makes it difficult to place the site within its historical context. A rapid cartographic assessment shows that Louisa Lodge is present on early 1st edition Ordnance Survey mapping (1871-1890) but no external garden features are shown within the development area and no eastern extent of the site is included.

6.1.3 Bedgebury is first mentioned in Anglo-Saxon Charter (AD841) (the name coming from old English *bycgan* 'buy' and the Kentish "*vecge*", meaning 'to bend or turn') and Bedgebury Forest is classified as an ancient woodland, although the term 'Forest' is a modern addition and does not refer to a medieval hunting forest. Recent archaeological studies carried out by Bannister and Bartlett (2009)

suggest that the road/trackway providing access to Louisa Lodge (now Park Lane) form an ancient trackway dating from at least the medieval period, possibly earlier in that it aligns with other Roman and pre-Roman routes through the Weald (2009:307). The lack of development within the surrounding area would provide reasonably good preservation conditions for deeper archaeological features, taking into account root damage caused by trees, and so the potential for archaeological remains in the area would appear to be relatively good.

- 6.1.4 It is therefore suggested that the proposed development had no impact on any archaeological remains and that remains, should they be present, will be preserved elsewhere on site and within the surrounding area.

## **6.2 Conclusions**

- 6.2.1 Archaeological monitoring and recording has been successful in fulfilling the aims and objectives of the watching brief Specification. No significant buried archaeological remains were recorded during the works.

## **7 ARCHIVE**

### **7.1 General**

- 7.1.1 The Site archive, which will include paper records, photographic records, graphics and digital data, will be prepared following nationally recommended guidelines (SMA 1995; ClfA 2009; Brown 2011; ADS 2013).
- 7.1.2 All archive elements will be marked with the Site/accession code, and a full index will be prepared. The physical archive comprises 1 file/document case of paper records & A4 graphics.

## **8 ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

- 8.1.1 Ravelin Archaeological Services would like to thank Ms Jane Wallace for commissioning the project. Thanks are also extended to Wendy Rogers, Senior Archaeological Officer, Kent County Council, for her advice and assistance.
- 8.1.2 David Britchfield BA MCIfA carried out the archaeological fieldwork and produced the draft text for this report; Illustrations for this report were produced by Ravelin Archaeological Services.

## 9 REFERENCES

### 9.1 Bibliography

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### 9.2 Websites

British Geological Society <https://www.bgs.ac.uk/>



Exploring Kent's Past

<https://webapps.kent.gov.uk/KCC.ExploringKentsPast.Web.Sites.Public/SingleResult.aspx?uid=TK>  
[E1046](#)

Heritage Gateway <http://www.heritagegateway.org.uk/gateway/>

**10 APPENDIX 1 – KCCHC HER FORM**

**Site Name:** Archaeological Monitoring and Recording at Louisa Lodge East, Park Lane, Hawkhurst, Cranbrook, Kent

**RAS Site Code:** 33210

**Summary:**

*In June 2022 Ravelin Archaeological Services carried out a programme of archaeological monitoring and recording of the site at Louisa Lodge East, Park Lane, Hawkhurst, Cranbrook, Kent TN18 5HA.*

*The works were commissioned by Ms J Wallace and carried out during the excavation of ground works associated with the construction of a new workshop/garage/woodstove. The Watching Brief was conducted in accordance with an archaeological Watching Brief Specification prepared by Kent County Council Heritage & Conservation.*

*No Archaeological finds or features were encountered.*

**District/Unitary:** Tunbridge Wells Borough Council

**Period(s):** NA

**NGR (centre of site to eight figures)** NGR 573990 133464

**Type of Archaeological work:** Archaeological Watching Brief

**Date of recording:** 21<sup>st</sup> June 2022

**Unit undertaking recording:** Ravelin Archaeological Services

**Geology:** Tunbridge Wells Sand Formation

**Title and author of accompanying report:** Britchfield, D (2020) Archaeological Watching Brief at Louisa Lodge East, Park Lane, Hawkhurst, Cranbrook, Kent. Ravelin Archaeological Services Report Ref: 33210.01

**Location of archive/finds:** Ravelin Archaeological Services. Rochester, Kent

**Contact at Unit:** David Britchfield

**Date:** 27/06/2022

**11 APPENDIX 2 – OASIS FORM**

**OASIS ID (UID):** ravelina1-507648

**Project Name:** Watching Brief at Louisa Lodge East, Hawkhurst, Kent, England, United Kingdom

**Activity type:** Watching Brief

**Project Identifier(s):** 33210, Louisa Lodge East, Park Lane, Hawkhurst, Cranbrook, Kent TN18 5HA

**Planning Id:** TW/21/04082/FULL

**Reason for Investigation:** Planning: Between application and determination

**Organisation Responsible for work:** Ravelin Archaeological Services

**Project Dates:** 21-Jun-2022 - 21-Jun-2022

**HER:** Kent HER

**HER Identifiers:** [no data]

**Project Methodology:** Archaeological Watching Brief

**Project Results:** No archaeological features or finds of significance were present during the archaeological monitoring works.

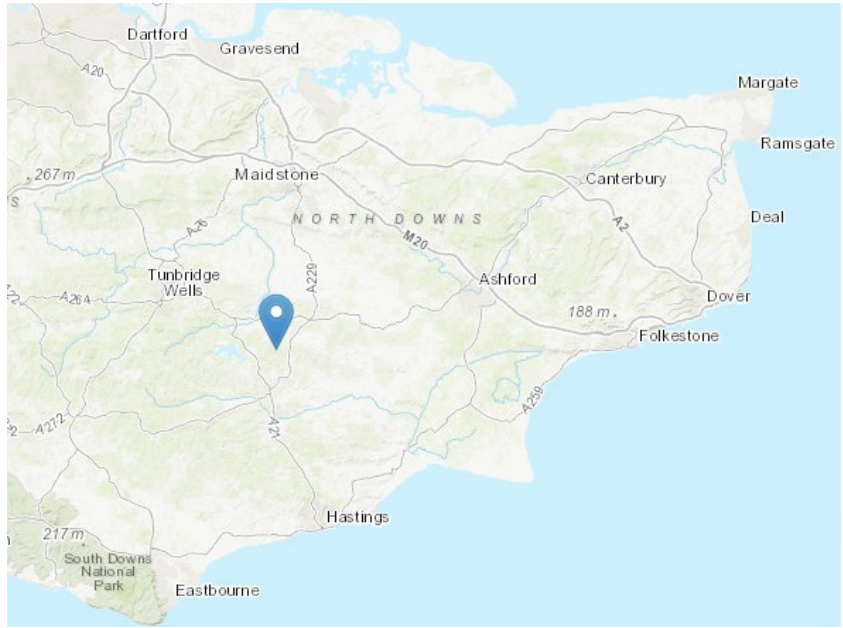
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**Archive:**

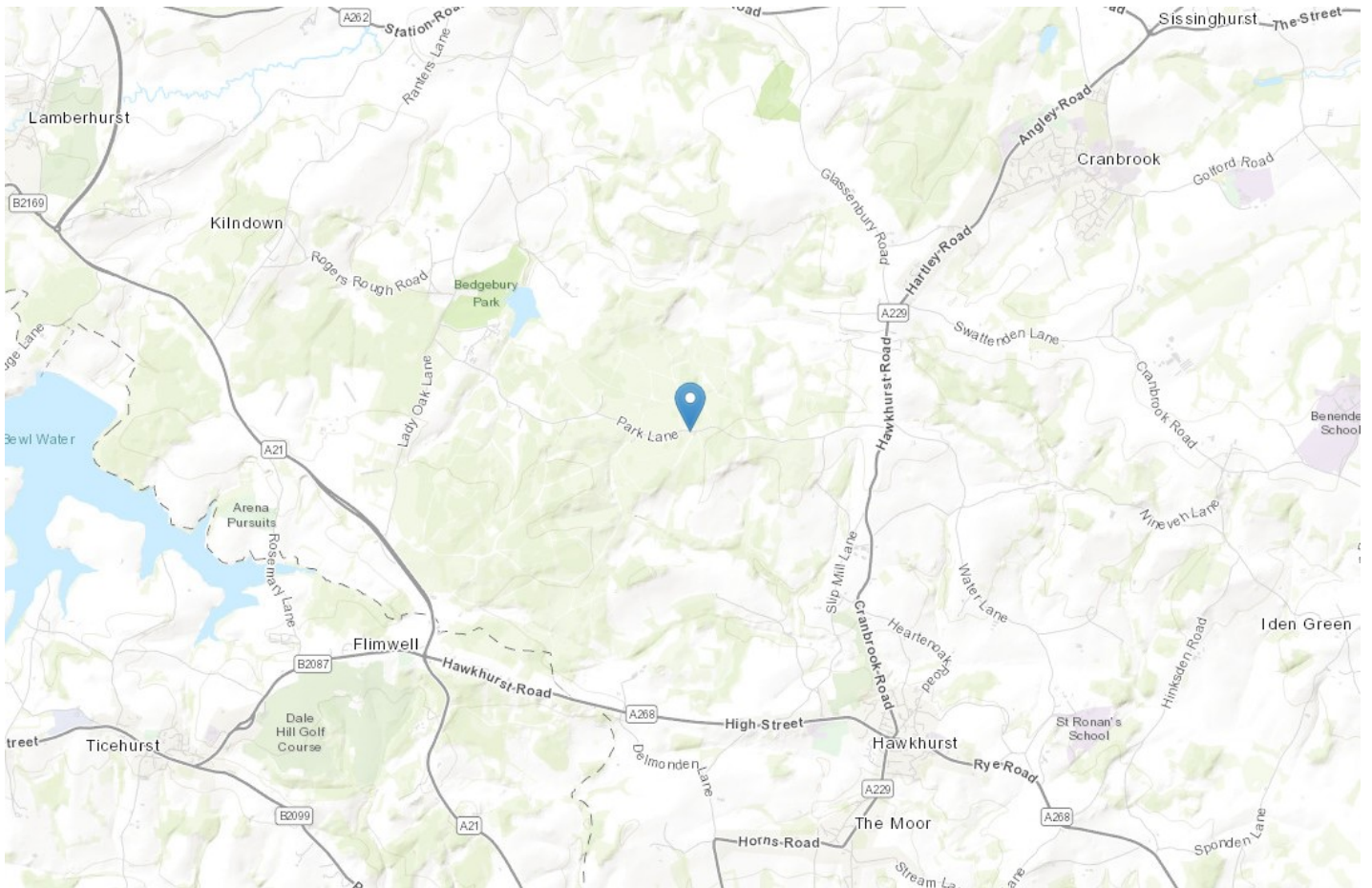
**Report:** Britchfield, D., (2022) *Louisa Lodge East, Park Lane, Hawkhurst, Cranbrook, Kent TN18 5HA - Archaeological Watching Brief Report*. Ravelin Archaeological Services



England (NTS)



Kent (NTS)



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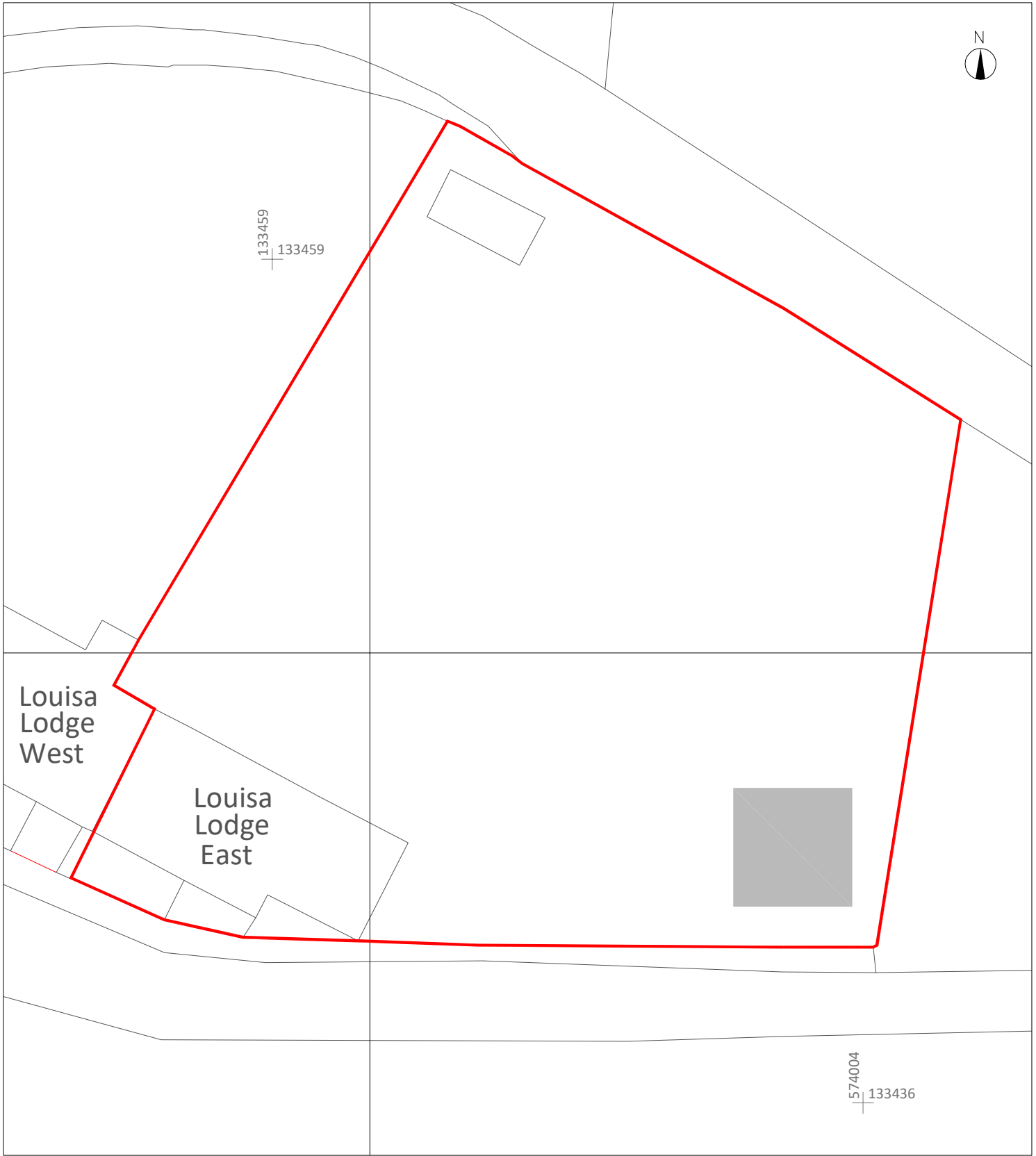
Jane Wallace  
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Additional information

Project No. 33210	Date 21/06/2022	Drawn by PDW	Checked by DB
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Figure 1 Site Location Plan



Jane Wallace  
 Louisa Lodge East  
 Park Lane  
 Hawkhurst  
 TN18 5HA

Additional information

Key

— Site Boundary

■ Proposed Building

0m 10m

Project No.  
33210

Date  
21/06/2022

Drawn by  
PDW

Checked by  
DB

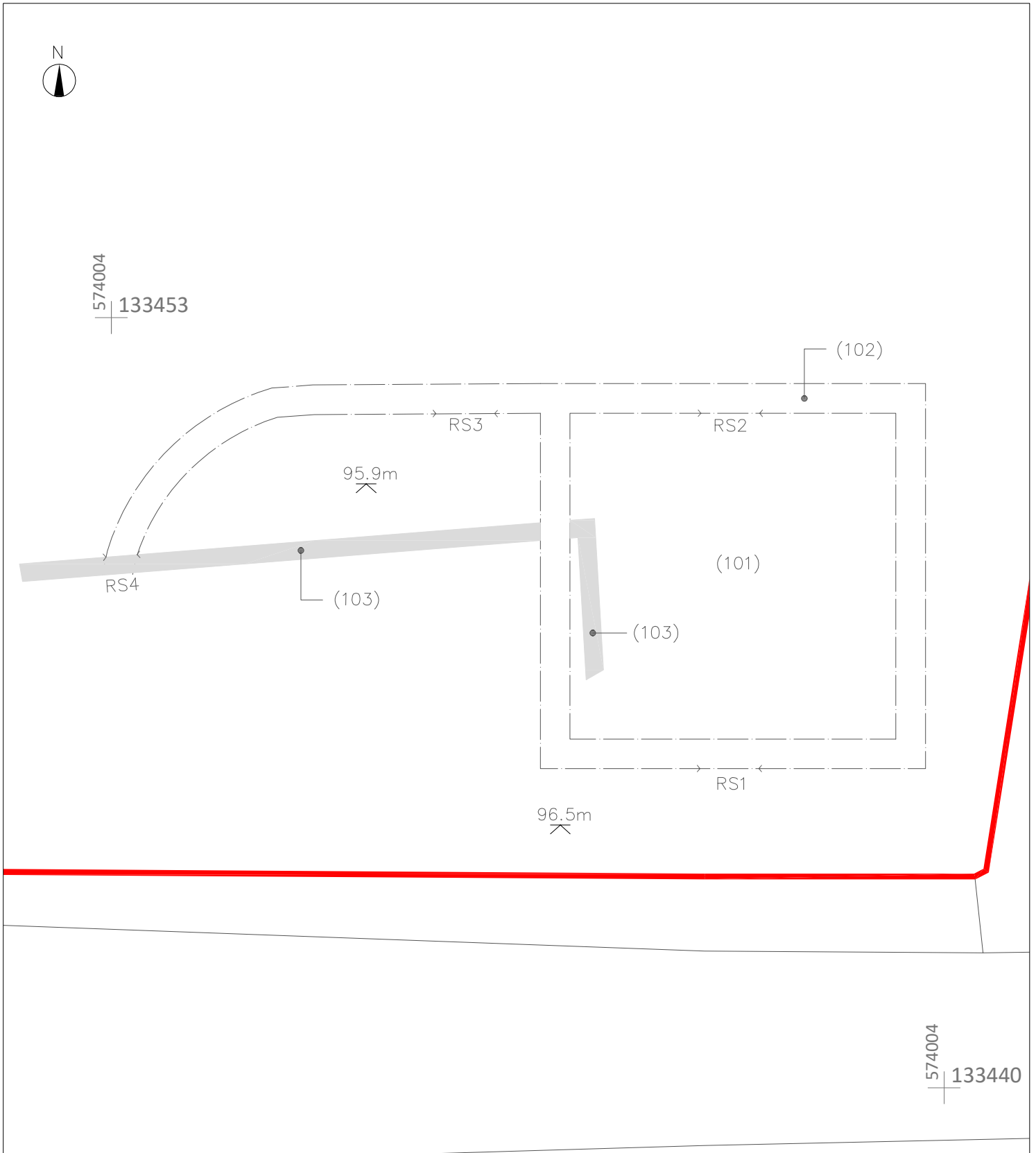


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Figure 2 Site Plan



Jane Wallace  
 Louisa Lodge East  
 Park Lane  
 Hawkhurst  
 TN18 5HA

Additional information

Key  
 ——— Extent of Excavation  
 0m ——— 2m

Project No.  
33210

Date  
21/06/2022

Drawn by  
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Checked by  
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Figure 3 Excavation Plan