



**SCHEME OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL WORK
PROJECT CONWAY: PHASE 2
PARK PLACE
REMENHAM
BERKSHIRE**

**Planning Application Nos.:
251666 and 252489
National Grid Reference: SU 777 821**

**PREPARED FOR
SIZE GROUP**

JANUARY 2026

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The Old School,
Cameron St, Heckington,
Sleaford, Lincs
NG34 9RW

T: 01529 461618

E: info@apsarchaeology.co.uk

W: www.apsarchaeology.co.uk



A Worksafe Contractor (SSIP)



Chartered Institute for Archaeologists
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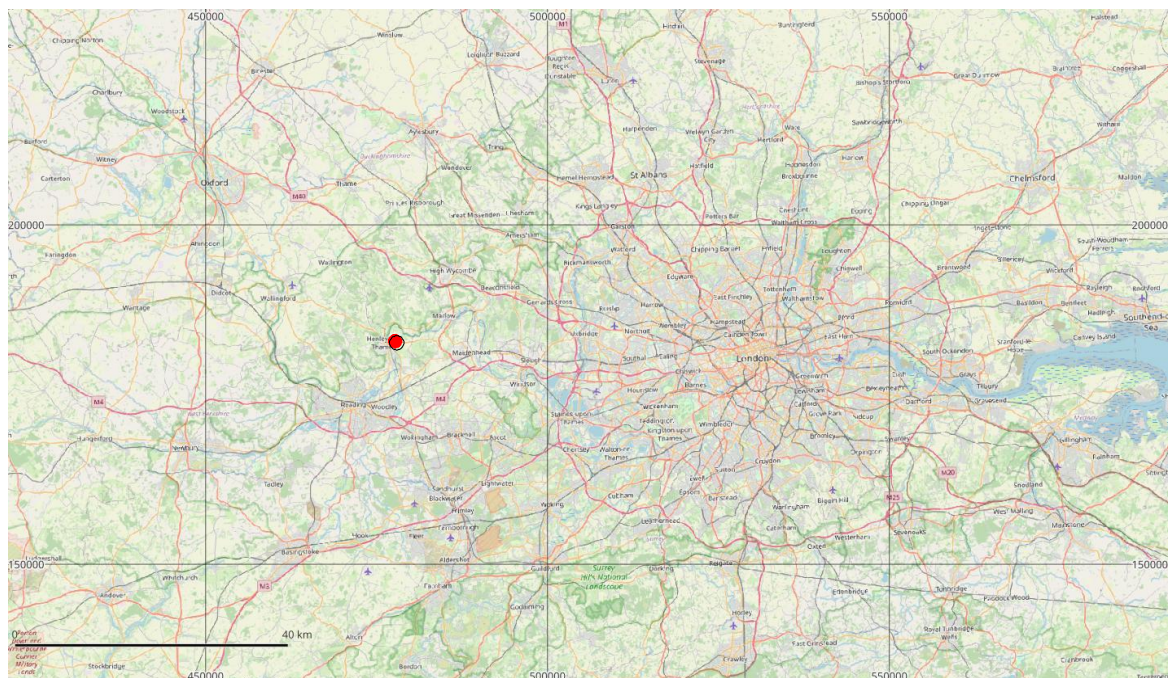
1 SUMMARY

- 1.1 *This document comprises a methodology for archaeological investigation and recording prior to construction on Project Conway at Park Place, Remenham, Berkshire.*
- 1.2 *Park Place is a late 18th century Grade II* Registered Park and Garden that contains a number of Listed Buildings, including the Grade II Listed mansion (also referred to as Park Place). Previous investigations in the proposed development areas identified evidence of Iron Age and Roman occupation, though the extents of these remains are unknown.*
- 1.3 *A programme of archaeological investigation is required. Evaluation by trial trenching had identified evidence of Iron Age to Roman settlement in close proximity to the proposed works. Any archaeological remains revealed will be planned and investigated.*
- 1.4 *On completion of the fieldwork a report will be prepared detailing the results of the investigation. The report will consist of a narrative supported by illustrations and photographs.*

2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 This document comprises a written scheme of investigation for archaeological investigation in the form of a Strip, Map and Record during groundworks associated with the proposed development of Project Conway, Park Place, Remenham, Berkshire.
- 2.2 The document contains the following parts:
 - 2.2.1 Overview
 - 2.2.2 The archaeological and natural setting
 - 2.2.3 Stages of work and methodologies to be used
 - 2.2.4 Programme of works and staffing structure of the project

3 SITE LOCATION



● - Site Location

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- 3.1 Remenham is located 12km northeast of Reading and 12km west of Maidenhead in the administrative district of Wokingham, Berkshire.
- 3.2 The proposed development site lies in Remenham parish, within the Park Place estate, situated c. 2km southeast of Remenham village, a little south of Remenham Hill and c. 200m south of the A4130, White Hill, at National Grid Reference SU 7833 8245.

4 PLANNING BACKGROUND

- 4.1 Planning consent had previously been sought from Wokingham Borough Council for the construction of Strowdes House (application number 213587), a gatehouse and ancillary parking (application number 213588) and estate management buildings including gardeners accommodation and underground tunnel linking the estate buildings and ancillary to the main house on Strowdes estate (application number 213610). Additional applications for the final basement design (251666) and a sunken garden (252489). Previous trench evaluation had identified Iron Age and Roman remains may extend into the basement area. As such, a programme of strip, map and record type investigation was proposed by Berkshire Archaeology to be undertaken according to an approved Written Scheme of Investigation. This document constitutes such a written scheme.

5 SOILS AND TOPOGRAPHY

- 5.1 The Park Place estate lies towards the southern end of the Chiltern Hills within a loop of the River Thames. The highest part of the estate lies adjacent to Park Place at a height

of c. 105m OD. The site itself is on a slight plateau with the land declining to the northwest from c. 100m to c. 96m AOD.

- 5.2 Local soils at the site are of the Frilsham Association, typically argillic brown earths. These soils overlie a solid geology of Cretaceous Upper Chalk although outcrops of Older River Gravels above clay with flints occur to the north.

6 ARCHAEOLOGICAL OVERVIEW

- 6.1 The Park Place estate has been subject of a number of archaeological investigations and assessment reports, including archaeological desk-based assessment (APS 2004), geophysical survey (Stratascan 2005), archaeological evaluation (APS 2005, 2011, 2016), strip, map and sample excavation (APS 2012, and archaeological monitoring and recording (APS 2012, 2016 and 2017).
- 6.2 Park Place is a late 18th century Grade II* Registered Park and Garden. A number of Listed Buildings lie within the Park, including the Grade II Listed Mansion and gardens.
- 6.3 Previous archaeological investigations in the area of the current Project Conway identified evidence of Iron Age and Roman occupation. Pits and post holes of Iron Age date were revealed to the immediate southeast of the former Strowdes House. Evidence of grain storage and malting was also discovered in this area. Further evidence of the continuation north of the Iron Age/Romano-British settlement was uncovered during the strip for the haul road over the footprint of the main building (Failes 2012). Prehistoric flint was recovered from within the proposed building footprint (Wood 2005). As yet, the extent of the settlement area is unclear and may lie within the footprint of the proposed service tunnel and estate management buildings.
- 6.4 Along the line of the new road at the south end of the estate, previous trial trenching revealed significant archaeological deposits including a pit containing worked flints of Neolithic date (Failes 2012).
- 6.5 Undated post holes and a ditched enclosure were recorded during trial trench evaluation of Mansion Avenue leading between the main Strowdes house and the proposed gatehouse. A late medieval or early post medieval trackway was also identified (Trimble 2012).
- 6.6 A further stage of archaeological investigation was undertaken between December 2024 and February 2025 which revealed Iron Age and Roman occupation in close proximity to the proposed basement and sunken garden (Smith 2025).

7 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 7.1 The aim of the work will be to supervise the stripping of the site and plan and archaeologically excavate and record features revealed.
- 7.2 The objectives of the work will be to:

- 7.2.1 Establish the type of archaeological activity that may be present within the site.
- 7.2.2 Determine the likely extent of archaeological activity present within the site.
- 7.2.3 Determine the date and function of the archaeological features present on the site.
- 7.2.4 Determine the state of preservation of the archaeological features present on the site.
- 7.2.5 Determine the spatial arrangement of the archaeological features present within the site.
- 7.2.6 Determine the extent to which the surrounding archaeological features extend into the application area.
- 7.2.7 Establish the way in which the archaeological features identified fit into the pattern of occupation and land-use in the surrounding landscape.
- 7.2.8 Understanding of the geomorphological evidence at the site in order to situate the development area into its landscape context and to determine areas that may have not provided areas for occupation, as opposed to those that did.

8 SITE OPERATIONS

8.2 General Considerations

- 8.1.1 All work will be undertaken following statutory Health and Safety requirements in operation at the time of the investigation.
- 8.1.2 The work will be undertaken according to the relevant codes of practice issued by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA). *Archaeological Project Services* is CIfA Registered Archaeological Organisation, managed by a member (MCIfA) of the institute. All works will also be undertaken in consideration of the requirements of the *General Standards for Historic Environment Projects by Berkshire Archaeology*.
- 8.1.3 Any and all artefacts found during the investigation and thought to be 'treasure', as defined by the Treasure Act 1996, will be removed from site to a secure store and promptly reported to the appropriate coroner's office and the Portable Antiquities'/Finds Liaison Officer.

8.2 Methodology

- 8.2.1 The proposed archaeological mitigation **will** take place before development groundworks commence in order that archaeological remains identified can be examined and recorded. The mitigation area is defined as the extent of the basement and sunken garden.

- 8.2.2 Removal of the topsoil and any other overburden will be undertaken by mechanical excavator using a 2m wide toothless ditching bucket. To ensure that the correct amount of material is removed and that no archaeological deposits are damaged, this work will be supervised by Archaeological Project Services. On completion of the removal of the overburden, the nature of the underlying deposits will be assessed by hand excavation before any further mechanical excavation that may be required. Thereafter, features will be cleaned by hand to enable the identification and analysis of the archaeological features exposed. In addition, the site will be cleaned, if necessary, and a plan produced by survey grade GPS.
- 8.2.3 All exposed features revealed within the excavated area will be hand-excavated in accordance with the following strategy:
- Discrete negative features (less than 1m diameter): at least 50% by area in addition to all stratigraphic relationships;
 - Discrete negative features (more than 1m in diameter): at least 50% in area in addition to all stratigraphic relationships;
 - Discrete negative features containing good assemblages unless otherwise agreed with the Archaeological Curator: 100%
 - Non-structural linear negative features: at least 10% by area in addition to all stratigraphic relationships and termini;
 - Structural negative features: 100%, unless otherwise agreed with the Archaeological Curator;
 - Other features: 100% unless otherwise agreed with the Archaeological Curator.
- 8.2.4 The archaeological features encountered will be recorded on Archaeological Project Services pro-forma context record sheets. The system used is the single context method by which individual archaeological units of stratigraphy are assigned a unique record number and are individually described and drawn.
- 8.2.5 Plans of features will be drawn at a scale of 1:20 and sections at a scale of 1:10. Should individual features merit it, they will be drawn at a larger scale.
- 8.2.6 Throughout the duration of the mitigation works a photographic record comprising high resolution digital images (.raw and .tiff files) will be compiled. The photographic record will consist of:
- the site before the commencement of field operations.
 - the site during work to show specific stages of work, and the layout of the archaeology within stripped areas.

- individual features and, where appropriate, their sections.
- groups of features where their relationship is important.
- the site on completion of fieldwork

8.2.7 Should human remains be encountered, they will be left *in situ* until the appropriate Ministry of Justice licences are obtained and the local environmental health department, the coroner and the police informed. The archaeological curator will also be informed.

8.2.8 Finds collected during the fieldwork will be bagged and labelled according to the individual deposit from which they were recovered ready for later washing and analysis.

8.2.9 The collection of soil samples and other appropriate materials for scientific dating and the recovery of palaeo-environmental evidence shall be undertaken as necessary to fulfil the aims of the excavation. No sampling strategy was recommended from the evaluation stage and as such, samples will be taken from primary and secondary fills of ditches and other features. The level of sampling being appropriate to the content of the individual feature, but with a view to a minimum of 40l bulk sample or 100% of smaller contexts, such as half-sectioned postholes where they form parts of recognisable structures, in order to maximise the research potential. All sampling will follow the procedures in Centre for Archaeology Guidelines - Environmental Archaeology (English Heritage 2011).

8.2.10 The spoil generated during the investigation will be mounded along the edges of the stripped areas with the topsoil being kept separate from the other material excavated for subsequent backfilling.

8.3 Environmental Assessment

8.3.1 If necessary, during the investigation specialist advice will be obtained from an environmental archaeologist who will visit the site and advise on sampling procedure. In accordance with the specialist's advice and current best practice and guidance (eg, English Heritage 2001; 2011). Samples will be taken of deposits for the assessment of environmental and economic evidence and/or industrial residues for environmental and industrial evidence). In principal, samples will be taken from dated deposits, and other deposits containing organic, industrial, economic or other material with the potential for scientific dating. The specialist will prepare a report detailing the nature of the environmental material present on the site and its potential for additional analysis should further stages of archaeological work be required.

9 POST-EXCAVATION

9.1 Stage 1

9.1.1 On completion of site operations, the records and schedules produced

during the investigation will be checked and ordered to ensure that they form a uniform sequence forming a level II archive. A stratigraphic matrix of the archaeological deposits and features present on the site will be prepared. All photographic material will be catalogued and labelled, the labelling referring to schedules identifying the subject/s photographed.

- 9.1.2 All finds recovered during the fieldwork will be washed, marked and packaged according to the deposit from which they were recovered. Finds will be treated in accordance with Standard and Guidance for the Collection, Documentation, Conservation and Research of Archaeological Materials (ClfA 2014 updated 2020). Any finds requiring specialist treatment and conservation will be sent to the York Archaeological Trust.

Provision will be made for appropriate scientific analysis where required and justified by the results of the fieldwork. This may include, but is not limited to, radiocarbon dating (C14), archaeobotanical, archaeozoological, geoarchaeological or other specialist analyses. All sampling strategies and scientific testing will be undertaken in accordance with the project Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI), relevant Historic England guidance (including Scientific Research and Analysis guidance series), and subject to agreement with the Archaeological Advisor for Wokingham Borough Council.

9.2 Stage 2

- 9.2.1 Detailed examination of the stratigraphic matrix to enable the determination of the various phases of activity on the site.
- 9.2.2 Finds and samples will be sent to specialists for processing, identification, assessment, and dating.

9.3 Stage 3

- 9.3.1 On completion of stage 2, a report detailing the findings of the investigation will be prepared.
- 9.3.2 This will consist of:
- A non-technical summary of the results of the investigation.
 - A description of the archaeological setting of the investigation.
 - Description of the topography of the site.
 - Description of the methodologies used during the investigation.
 - A text describing the findings of the investigation integrating the finds, economic, environmental and industrial evidence with the stratigraphic data.
 - A consideration of the local, regional and national context of the

investigation findings.

- Plans of the archaeological features exposed. If a sequence of archaeological deposits is encountered, separate plans for each phase will be produced.
- Sections of the trenches and archaeological features.
- Interpretation of the archaeological features exposed, and their chronology and setting within the surrounding landscape.
- Specialist reports on the finds from the site.
- Appropriate photographs of the site and specific archaeological features.
- The OASIS record form

10 REPORT DEPOSITION

- 10.1 Copies of the report and a shapefile of the stripped area, trenches and features will be sent to: the client, as well as to Berkshire Archaeology for Wokingham.

11 ARCHIVE

- 11.1 The documentation, finds, photographs and other records and materials generated during the investigation will be sorted and ordered in accordance with the procedures in ClfA 2020 *Standard and guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives* and any additional local requirements, for long-term storage and curation into the format acceptable to the appropriate local museum / Archaeology Data Service (ADS). This work will be undertaken by the Finds Supervisor, an Archaeological Assistant and the Conservator (if relevant). The archive will be deposited within an approved County store as soon as a store becomes available. Until then, the archive will be retained in the secure Archaeological Project Services store. The digital archive will be deposited with Archaeology Data Service (ADS). Upon completion and submission of the archaeological report, the landowner will be contacted to arrange legal transfer of title for the archaeological objects retained during the investigation from themselves to Archaeological Project Services. The transfer of title will be effected by a standard letter supplied to the landowner for signature.

12 PUBLICATION

- 12.1 Details of the investigation will be input to the Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations (OASIS).
- 12.2 If appropriate, notes on the findings will be submitted to the appropriate national journals: *Britannia* for discoveries of Roman date, and *Medieval Archaeology* for findings of medieval or later date.

13 CURATORIAL RESPONSIBILITY

- 13.1 Curatorial responsibility for the archaeological work undertaken on the site lies with the Archaeological Officer, Berkshire Archaeology for Wokingham. They will be given written notice of the commencement of the project.
- 13.2 Arrangements for archaeological monitoring are agreed in advance with the archaeological curator from Berkshire Archaeology as part of the excavation or site monitoring and recording strategy. The archaeological curator may visit the site during groundworks to inspect completed works, review any archaeological remains, and advise the site supervisor on any further interventions if necessary. However, if monitoring shows that no archaeology is present or no significant material is being recovered, the curator may agree that further visits are unnecessary and that updates can be provided remotely instead. This approach maintains oversight while avoiding unnecessary site attendance.

14 VARIATIONS AND CONTINGENCIES

- 14.1 Variations to the proposed scheme of works will only be made following written confirmation of acceptance from the archaeological curator.
- 14.2 In the event of the discovery of any unexpected remains of archaeological importance, or of any changed circumstances, it is the responsibility of the archaeological contractor to inform the archaeological curator.
- 14.3 Where important archaeological remains are discovered and deemed to merit further investigation additional resources may be required to provide an appropriate level of investigation, recording and analysis.
- 14.4 Any contingency requirement for additional fieldwork or post-excavation analysis outside the scope of the proposed scheme of works will only be activated following full consultation with the archaeological curator and the client.

15 PROGRAMME OF WORKS AND STAFFING LEVELS

- 15.1 The evaluation is anticipated to take 10 days. The investigation of the stripped area is expected to take five days but is dependent on the quantity and complexity of archaeological remains encountered. It is therefore not possible to specify the person-hours for the archaeological site. Post-excavation work is likewise dependent on the quantity and complexity of archaeological remains encountered.
- 15.2 An archaeological supervisor and assistants with experience of investigations of this type will undertake the work.
- 15.3 Post-excavation analysis and report production will be undertaken by the archaeological supervisor, or a post-excavation analyst as appropriate, with assistance from a finds supervisor, illustrator and external specialists.

16 SPECIALISTS TO BE USED DURING THE PROJECT

16.1 The following organisations/persons will, in principle and if necessary, be used as subcontractors to provide the relevant specialist work and reports in respect of any objects or material recovered during the investigation that require their expert knowledge and input. Engagement of any particular specialist subcontractor is also dependent on their availability and ability to meet programming requirements.

<u>Task</u>		<u>Body undertaking the work</u>
<u>Conservation</u>		<u>York Archaeological Trust</u>
<u>Pottery Analysis</u>	<u>Bronze Age</u>	<u>Dr P Chowne, Independent specialist</u>
	<u>Iron Age</u>	<u>Dr CM Leal, Independent specialist</u>
	<u>Roman</u>	<u>I Rowlandson/R Perrin, Independent specialists</u>
	<u>Post-Roman</u>	<u>J Gray, Independent specialist</u>
<u>Non-ceramic artefacts</u>		<u>D Buckley APS</u>
<u>Lithics (Flints)</u>		<u>B Bishop, Independent specialist</u>
<u>Stonework</u>		<u>P Cope-Faulkner APS</u>
<u>Metalworking</u>		<u>Hawthorn Archaeo-Sciences</u>
<u>Faunal Remains</u>		<u>M Holmes, Independent specialist</u>
<u>Human Remains Analysis</u>	<u>Skeletal</u>	<u>R Kendall, Independent specialist</u>
	<u>Cremations</u>	<u>L Keal, Independent specialist</u>
<u>Environmental Analysis</u>		<u>Hawthorn Archaeo-Sciences</u>
<u>Waterlogged wood</u>		<u>M Bamforth, Independent specialist</u>
<u>Scientific Dating</u>	<u>C₁₄</u>	<u>SUERC</u>
	<u>Dendro</u>	<u>University of Sheffield Dendrochronology Lab</u>
<u>Artefact Illustration</u>		<u>Dave Watt</u>
<u>Metal Detection</u>		<u>Tom Hartley, APS</u>

17 INSURANCES

17.1 Archaeological Project Services, as part of the Heritage Trust of Lincolnshire, maintains Employers Liability Insurance of £10,000,000, together with Public and Products Liability insurances, each with indemnity of £5,000,000. Copies of insurance documentation can be supplied on request.

18 PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT AND BENEFIT

- 18.1 Archaeological Project Services are committed to provide public benefit from all projects undertaken.
- 18.2 The programme of archaeological evaluation will not afford opportunities for public engagement during the fieldwork element of the project. However, given the location of the site and the likelihood of public interest, the results of the project will be made publicly available through inclusion on the Archaeology Data Services website and the Berkshire Historic Environment record.
- 18.3 In addition, features revealed during the survey may feature on social media posts released by Archaeological Project Services, although will comply with current GDPR rules. Unless agreed to in writing, locational details will also be withheld from social media postings.

19 COPYRIGHT

- 19.1 Archaeological Project Services shall retain full copyright of any commissioned reports under the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 with all rights reserved; excepting that it hereby provides an exclusive licence to the client for the use of such documents by the client in all matters directly relating to the project as described in the Project Specification.
- 19.2 Licence will also be given to the archaeological curators to use the documentary archive for educational, public and research purposes.
- 19.3 In the case of non-satisfactory settlement of account then copyright will remain fully and exclusively with Archaeological Project Services. In these circumstances it will be an infringement under the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 for the client to pass any report, partial report, or copy of same, to any third party. The Planning Authority and/or archaeological curator will be notified by Archaeological Project Services that the use of any such information previously supplied constitutes an infringement under the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 and may result in legal action.
- 19.4 The author of any report or specialist contribution to a report shall retain intellectual copyright of their work and may make use of their work for educational or research purposes or for further publication.

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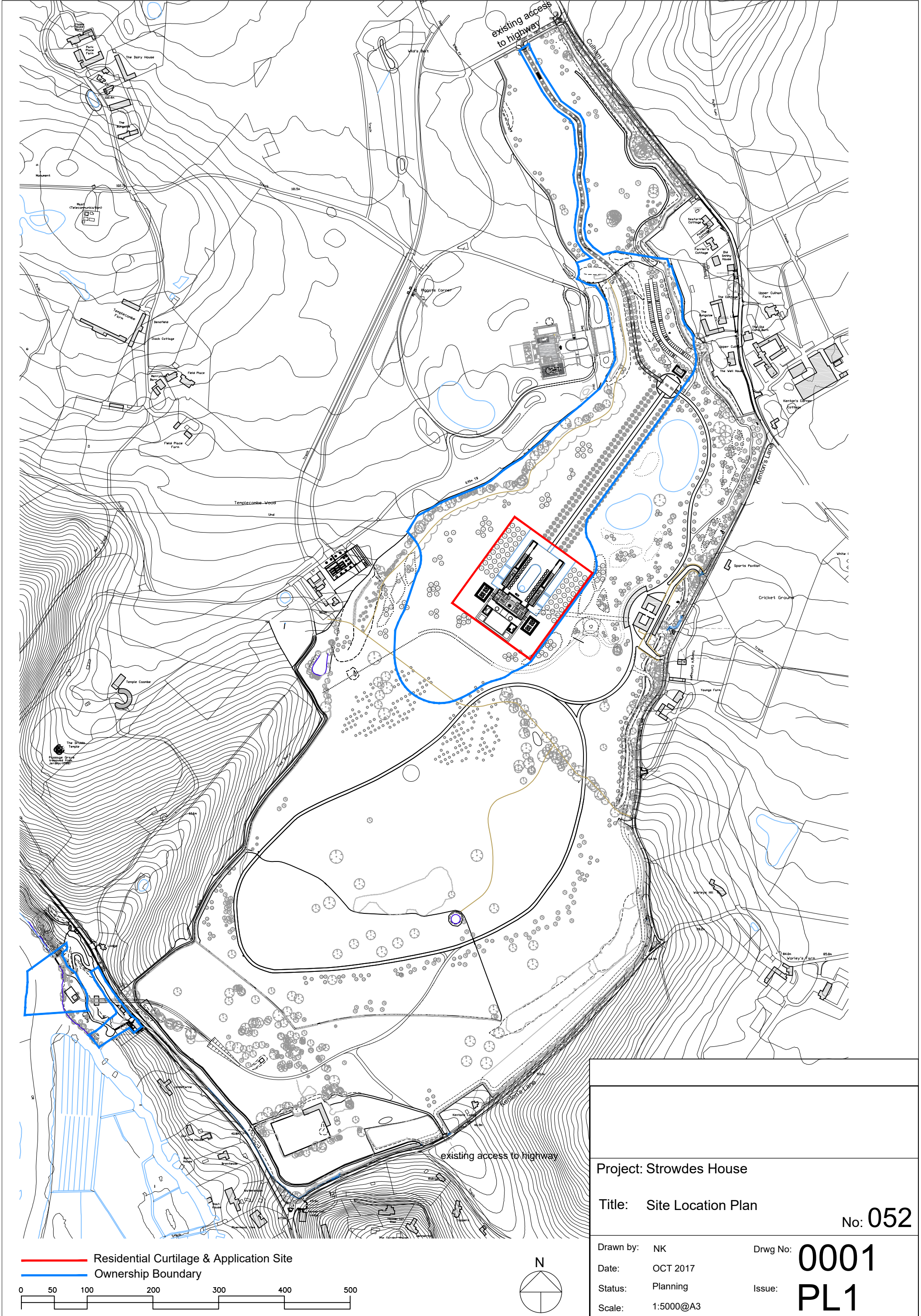
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Specification: Version 2, 13th February 2026

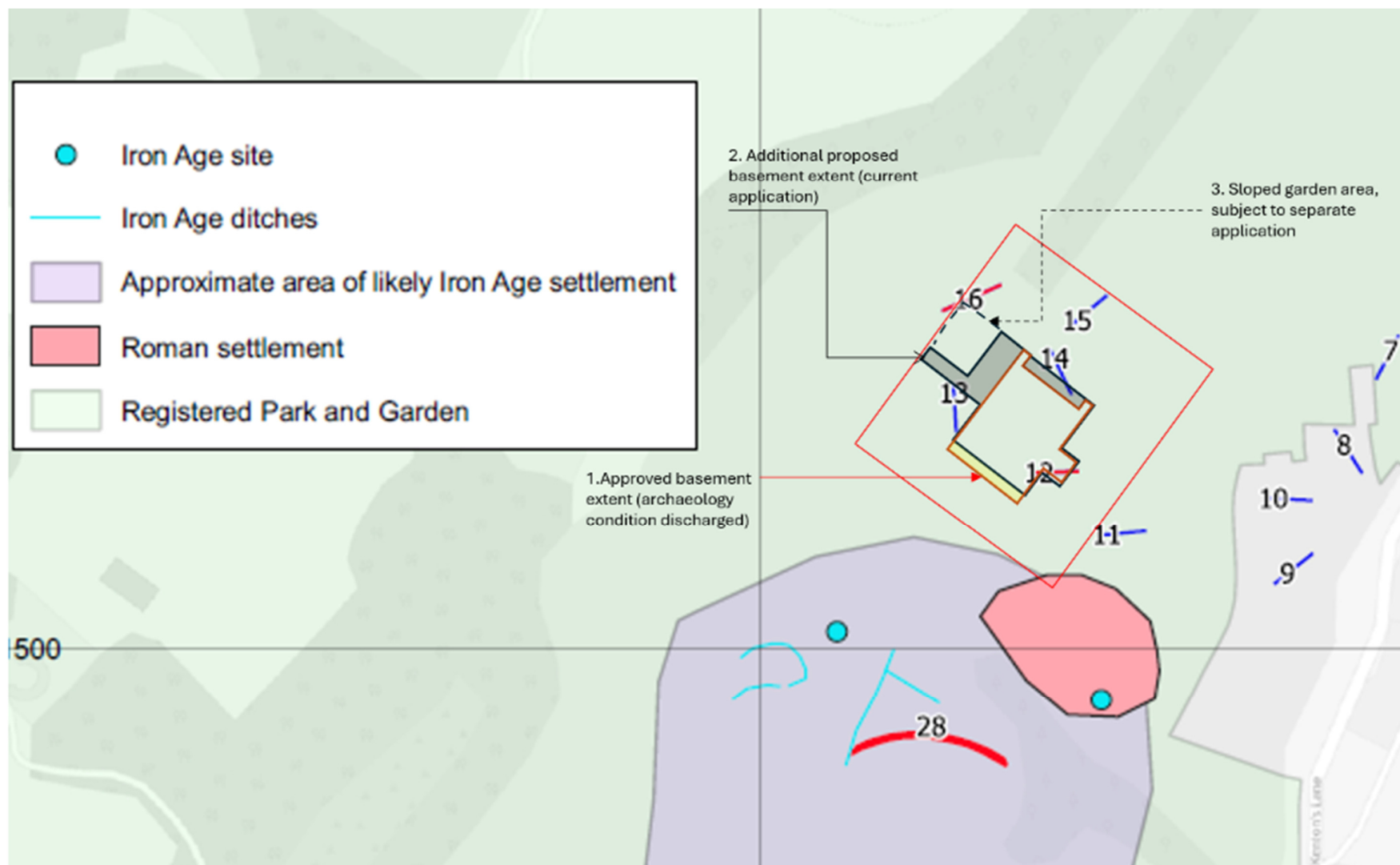


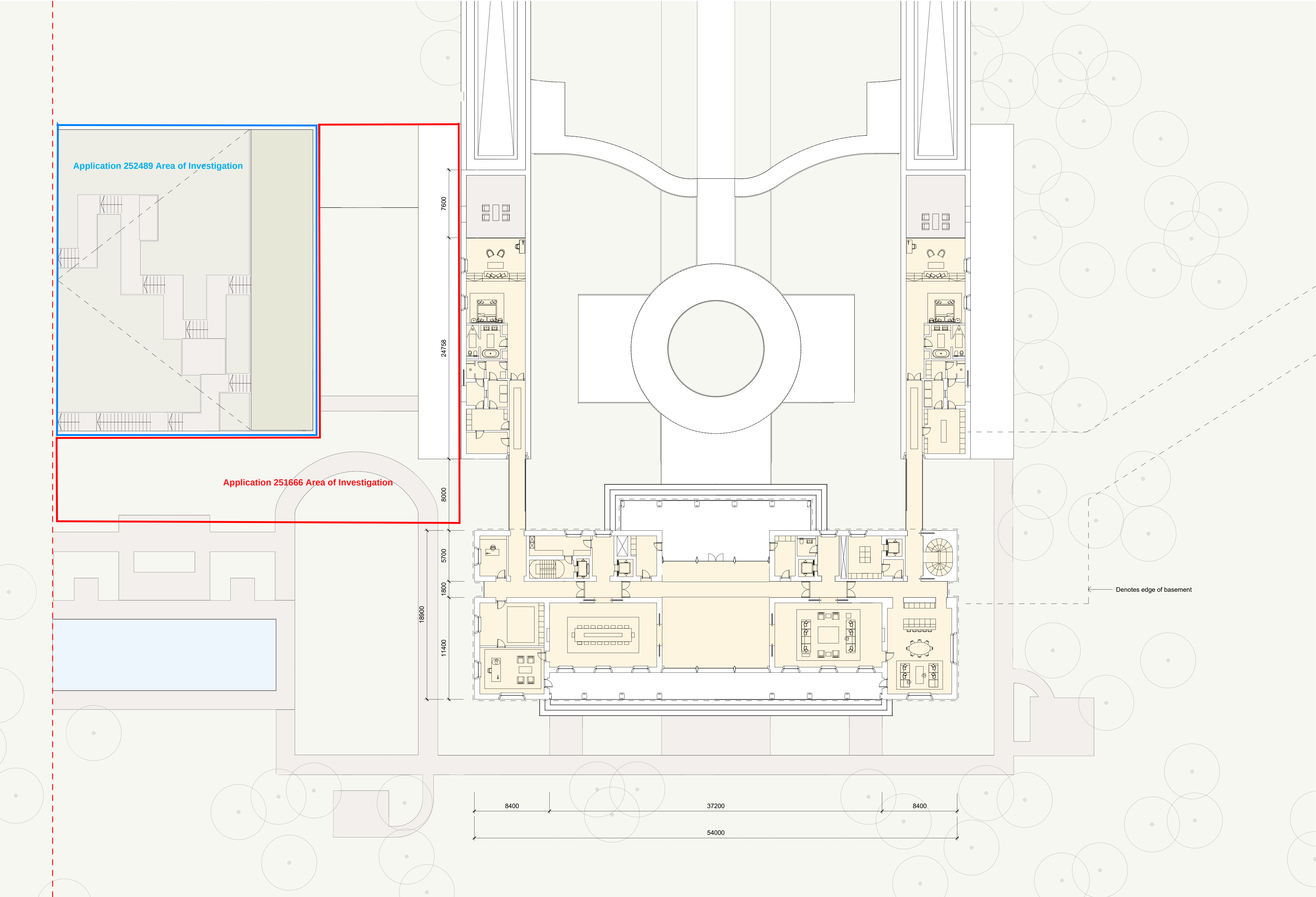
Project: Stowdes House	
Title: Site Location Plan	No: 052
Drawn by: NK	Drwg No: 0001
Date: OCT 2017	Issue: PL1
Status: Planning	
Scale: 1:5000@A3	



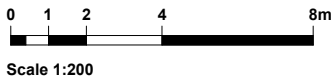
1. Location and Estate Plan







Mark-up for information - To be read in conjunction with APS WSI January 2026



Source Information:			

13.10.2025	P01	M01 - Sunken Garden Planning Submission	DB
Date	Rev	Description	App. by

pb+co. Pexton Bradbury + Co Architects			
Project Title: Project Conway			
Drawing Title: Main House L00 Plan			
Scale	1 : 200 @A1		
Code	PCY		
Drawing No:	PCY-PBC-MH-00-DR-A-1010		P01

Drawing Notes

Indicative landscape scheme shown, subject to separate details

General Notes:

- All dimensions are to be checked on site prior to construction.
- Use figured dimensions only. Do not scale from drawings.
- Discrepancies between drawings are to be reported to the Site Agent / Contract Administrator immediately.
- All Levels unless stated otherwise are above ordnance datum (AOD)