

Highgate Wood Roman Kiln

Display plan V1

Ugly Studios
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Introduction

The following concepts are version one of the display plan for re-displaying the Roman Kiln in the Information Hut in Highgate Wood.

The concepts are based on the agreed interpretation plan and show the display in the expanded Information Hut, with the addition of a door to the hut to enable visitor flow.

Plan view

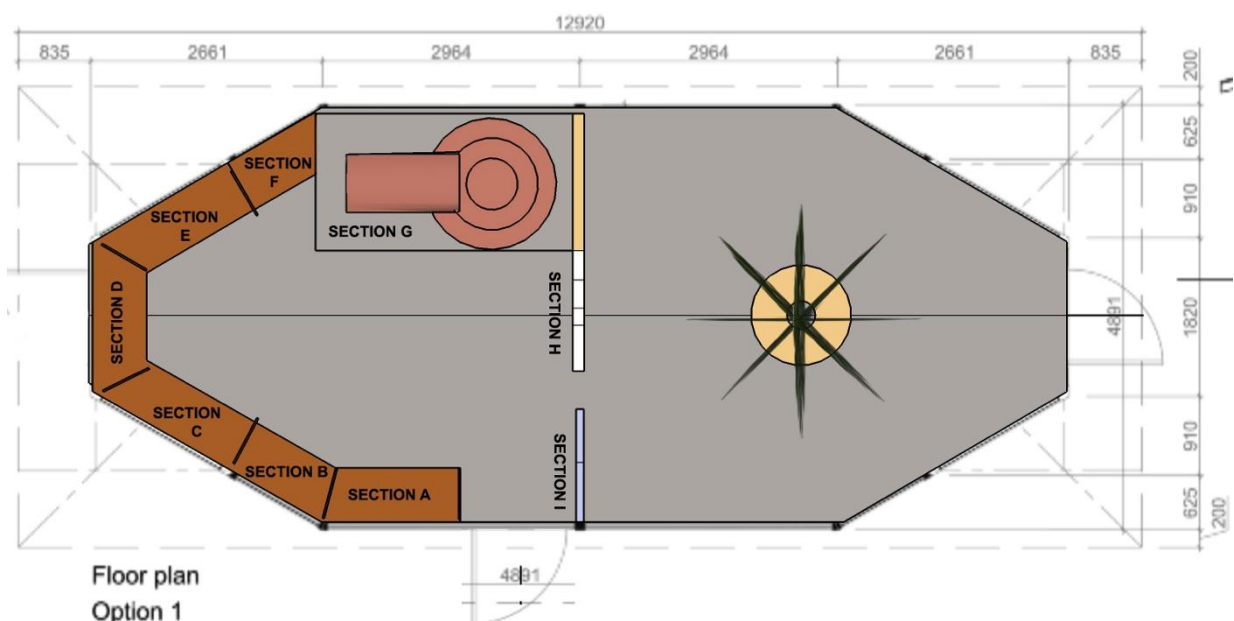


Fig 1. A plan view of the new Information Hut

On this plan view you can see the two areas of the hut; the wildlife display on the right and the kiln display on the left. The kiln display has been divided into labeled sections to enable easy discussion of the details.

The wildlife display

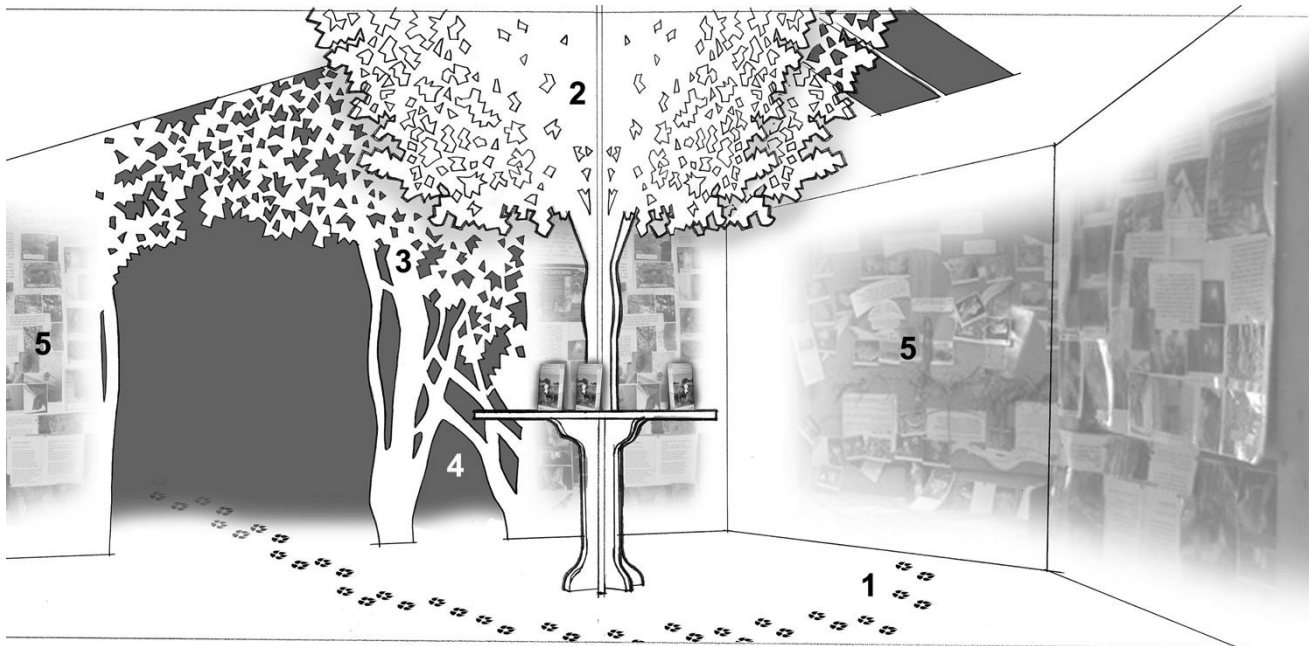


Fig 2. The wildlife display

Although the material in the wildlife display will stay much as it is - a collaboration between the Park Rangers and visitors - we feel it is important to create links between the two displays.

1. Footprints on the floor lead from the wildlife display to wildlife hiding in the other room
2. A fretwork tree with a bare wood finish brings the feeling of the wood inside the hut and gives a focus for the useful table surface
3. More wooden tree silhouettes create a partition between the two halves of the hut
4. A low opening for small children to crawl through
5. The wildlife displays

The kiln display

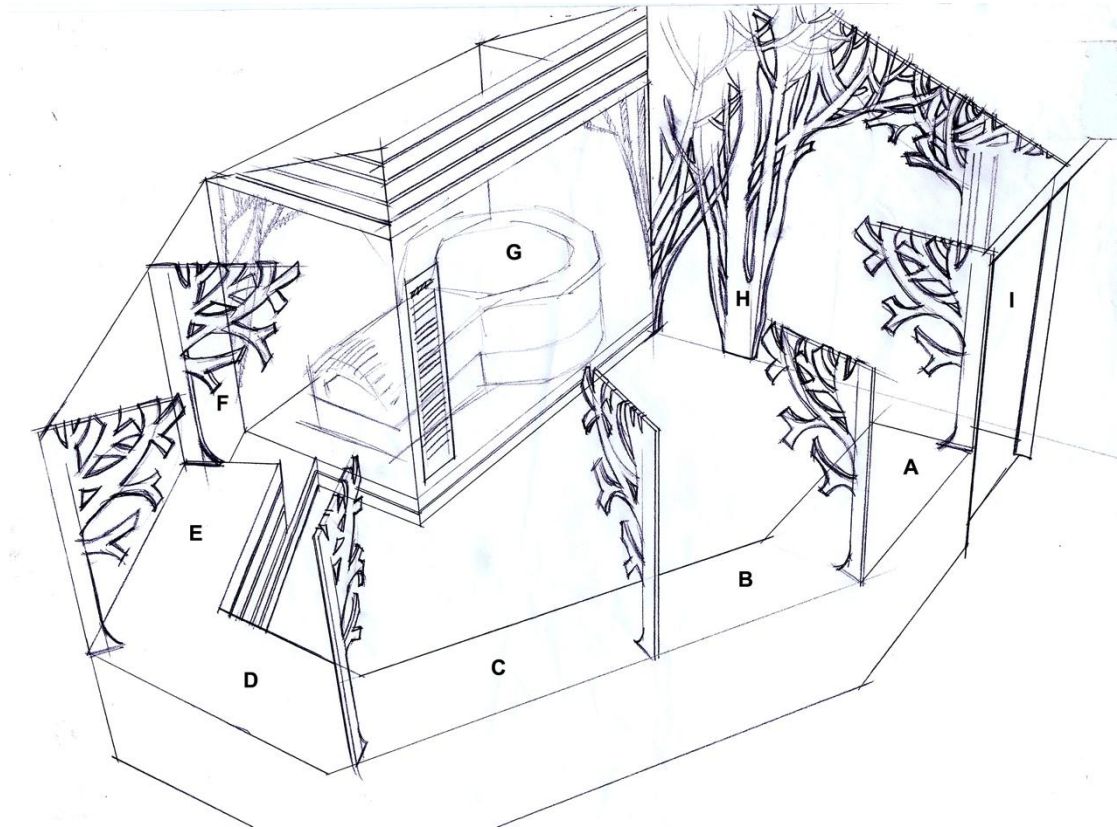


Fig 3. The kiln display – layout overview

The kiln display continues the motif of bringing the wood inside the hut by using plywood tree silhouettes as decorative dividers.

The focus of the space is the kiln, protected behind a transparent wall. The remaining displays distribute supporting material around the walls of the building.

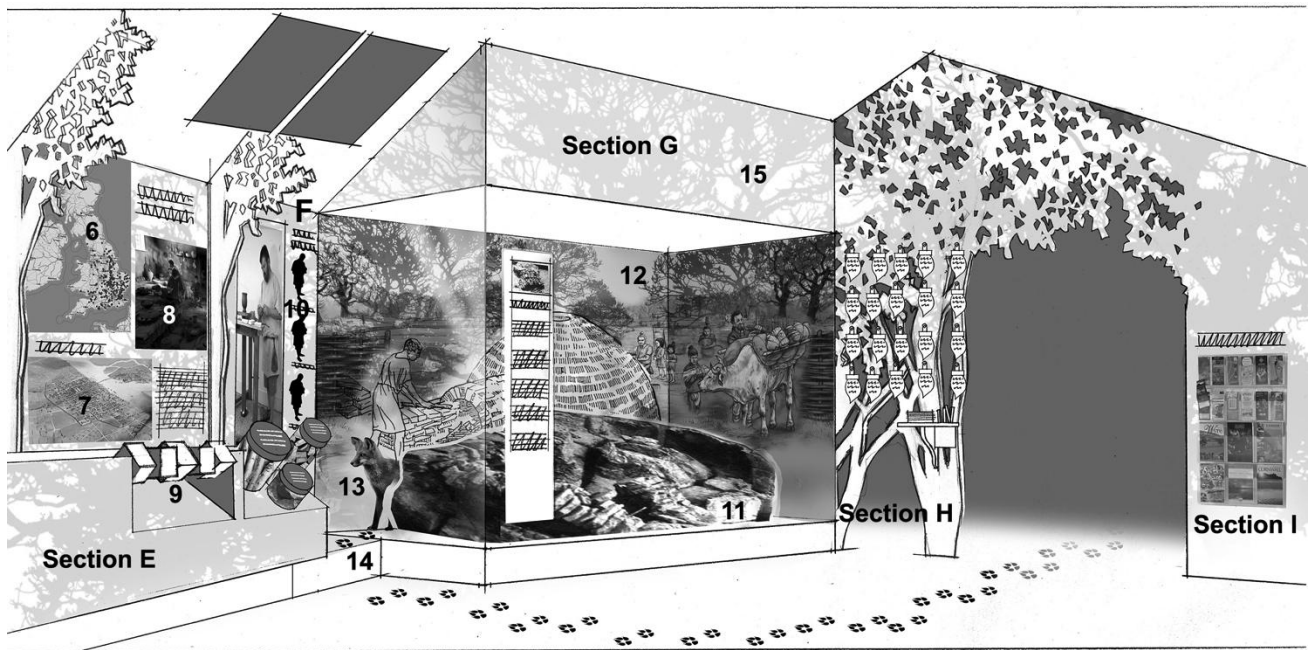


Fig 3. The kiln display - sections E, F, G, H and I

Section E – covers messages from sub-themes 2 and 5

6. A map of Roman Britain showing known pottery sites
7. An illustrative map of the local area showing: Londinium, Waltling Street, Ermine Street, and so on.
8. “Who Bought these Pots?” An illustration of Highgateware at use in a Londinium house with text about the London market, why Londinium residents might have desired these pots, and where archaeologists have found them in modern London.
9. An interactive about the pot making processes. Line up the blocks to see one of four sets of things: raw materials, preparing clay, molding a pot out of clay, and building a kiln.

Section F – covers messages from sub-theme 5

10. A diagram/timeline describing how five generations of potters must have visited the site for only a few weeks each in their lifetimes.

Section G – is made up of the kiln itself with a large illustration behind it and focuses on sub-themes 1 and 5

11. The kiln, on its existing base, within a case with a slightly raised floor and two transparent sides of Perspex or similar material.
12. The illustration would show the range of activity in the Wood in Roman times: puddling clay, making pots, building kilns, chopping wood, firing posts and packing up to leave for market.
13. The fox from the existing hut, taken out of its case and hidden behind the kiln.
14. The step enables children to step up and look behind the kiln at the fox.

15. Translucent material would be used to defuse the light from the roof-lights across the case.

Section H – is a feedback wall with ‘leaves’ of paper that people can write comments on and clip onto the tree with bulldog clips.

Section I – is made up of information and leaflet holders. It will prompt visitors to: take a leaflet and walk to the excavation site, download the Londinium app, visit Bruce Castle Museum, visit the Museum of London, take a leaflet and visit the sites of Londinium and so on. It also has information about the local potting industry.

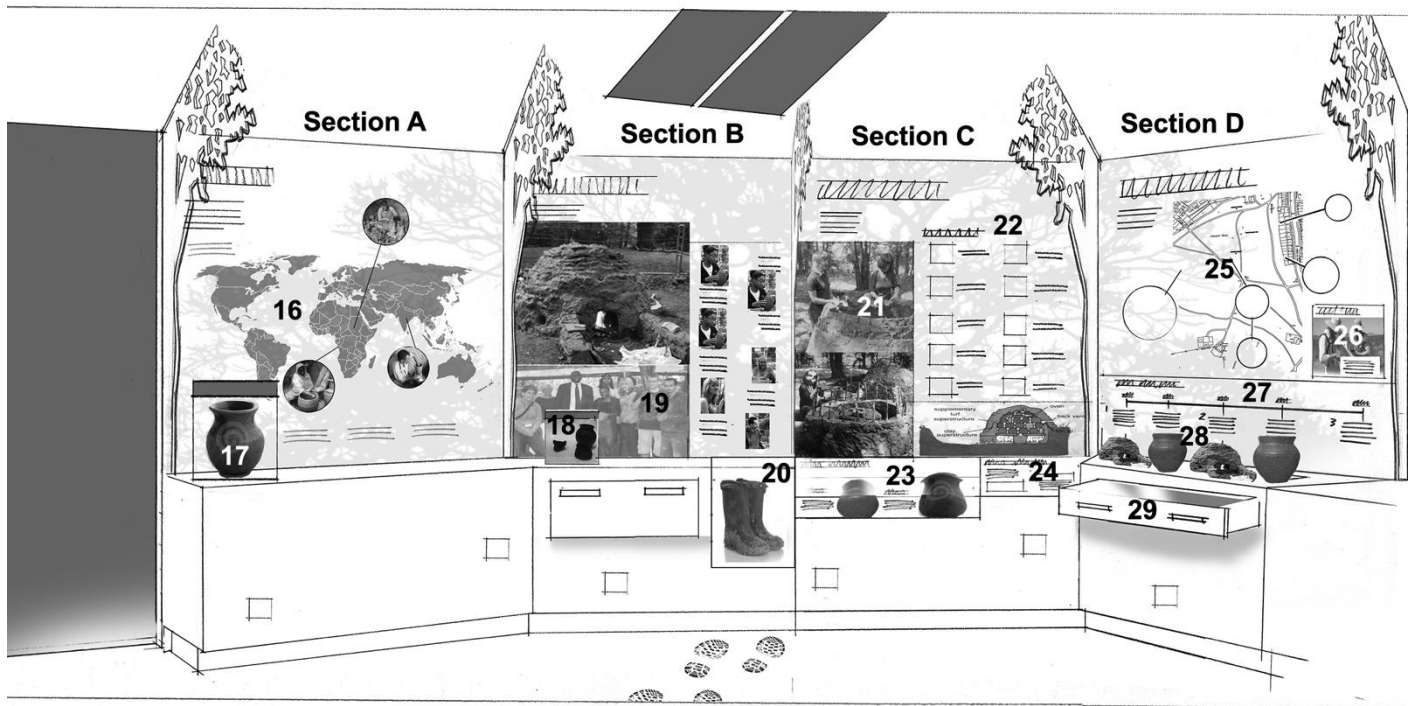


Fig 4. The kiln display - sections A, B, C and D

Section A – covers sub-theme 4

- 16. The map shows similar pottery and similar kilns from around the world.
- 17. A pot similar to Highgateware, but from somewhere else in the world.

Section B – Covers message 3.2. The 2010 Haringey Potter project

- 18. Blackened pots and text about how the 2010 project achieved the reduction process.
- 19. A photo which should include Nick, with text to explain that Nick's return to make a kiln on the site would have been after a similar time interval to that of the potters of Roman Britain.
- 20. Nick's boots

Section C – covers message 3.1 – 1970s experimental archaeology

- 21. A photo of the project including Nick so people can see him in the 70s and 2010 to put the gaps between the Roman potters' visits into context.

22. "What they did" broken into two sections – making pots, building and firing kilns with box outs about straight or curved sided kilns and the reduction technique.
23. The results, explained using real pots from the firings in a case
24. Conclusions about the experiments.

Section D – covers sub-theme 1

25. An annotated map of the excavation site
26. A photo and text about Sheldon and Brown
27. A timeline showing the changes in types of clay, and so on, over the course of the Roman era activity
28. Physical models that show the change in kiln construction and pot shaping along the timeline.
29. A pullout draw – see below

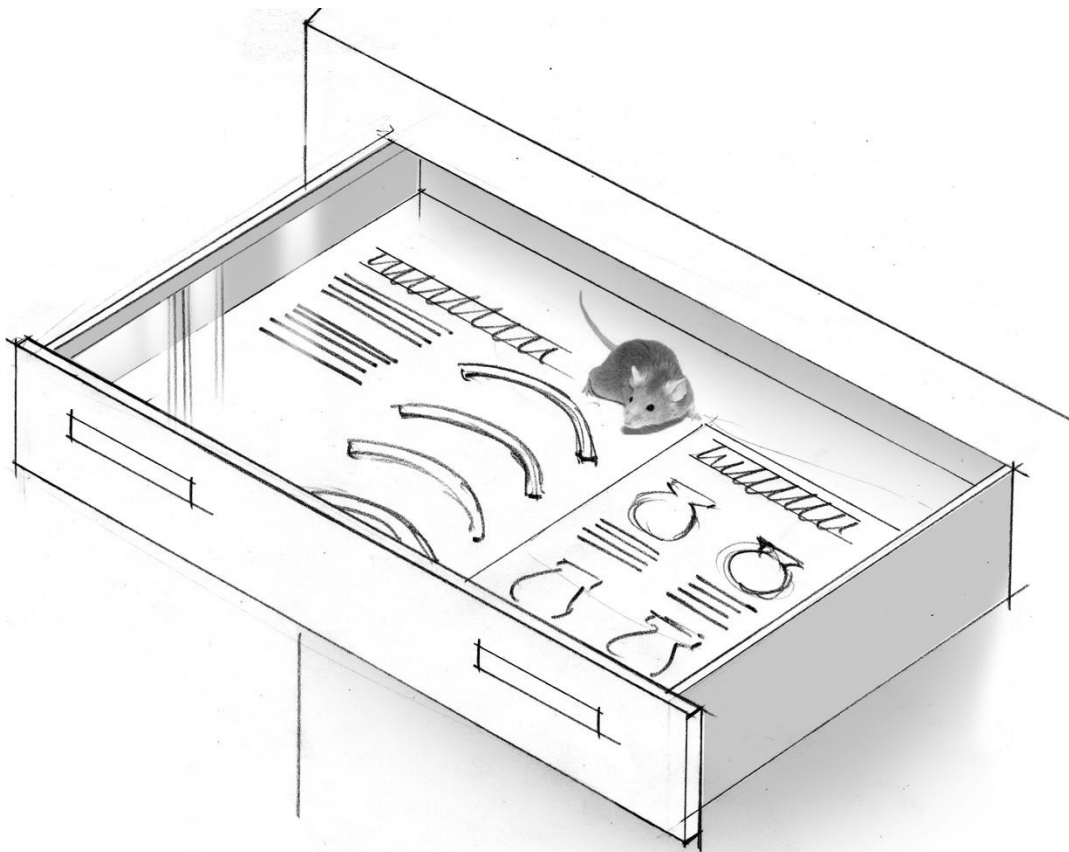


Fig 5. Section D - draw detail

This draw would have:

- A few of the original rim shards from the Roman pots found in Highgate Wood protected under Perspex or similar.
- Text to describe what you can discover about a pot from just a rim shard.
- A Romano British mouse' hiding in the draw.