

THE BRANDRIES

WALLINGTON

LONDON BOROUGH OF SUTTON

WATCHING BRIEF

AUGUST 2004

GYB 03

PRE-CONSTRUCT ARCHAEOLOGY

DOCUMENT VERIFICATION

The Brandries, Wallington, London Borough of Sutton

Watching Brief

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The Brandries, Wallington, London Borough of Sutton

Watching Brief

Site Code: GYB 03

Central National Grid Reference: TQ 2998 6511

**Written and Researched by Aidan Turner and Kathelen Sayer
Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited, July 2004**

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1 ABSTRACT

- 1.1 This report details the results of an archaeological watching brief undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited at the Brandries, Wallington, London Borough of Sutton.
- 1.2 Three features of Saxon and medieval date were found cut into underlying natural sands. The presence of a possible reworked layer of agricultural or agricultural soil was identified. Truncating these earlier features and deposit was a NS wall and NW-SE brick and tile drain, both dating to the late 18th and 19th centuries.

2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 An archaeological watching brief was conducted by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd. on the site of the Brandries, Wallington, London Borough of Sutton..
- 2.2 The watching brief was conducted on the 19th and 22nd September 2003 and on the 2nd July 2004 and was commissioned by Jeremy Taylor and Guy Haynes. The work was undertaken following the Method Statement prepared by David Divers¹.
- 2.3 The site was bounded to the north and east by the Brandries and by residential houses to the west and south (figure 1). It measured 16m NS by 1.4m EW and was centred on TQ 2998 6511.
- 2.4 Prior to the evaluation, the site had been used for parking.,
- 2.5 The site archive will be deposited at the London Archaeological Archive Research Centre under the site code GYB 03
- 2.6 The watching brief was undertaken by Aidan Turner and Kathelen Sayer and the project managers were David Divers and Jim Leary.

¹ Divers 2003

3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

- 3.1 Mesolithic artefacts have been frequently recovered from the Wallington area, including a lithic assemblage from the Westcroft Sports and Leisure Centre² and a Thames Pick from 25 Mint Road ³.
- 3.2 Late Neolithic pottery was recovered from isolated pits at Valley Park, Beddington and from two ditches at Beddington sewage farm ⁴.
- 3.3 A Late Bronze Age enclosure has been identified at Orchard Hill, Queen Mary's Hospital, Carshalton.
- 3.4 A possible Roman site is suggested from the number of residual finds found from the area. A Roman villa has been excavated south of Beddington Sewage Works.
- 3.5 Saxon pottery has been recovered from several sites and a possible kiln has been found at 32 Burleigh Avenue.
- 3.6 Although evidence for medieval occupation and buildings are known in the area, the landscape at this time was essentially agricultural.
- 3.7 Westcroft Farm and Westcroft Cottage, located to the west of the site were in existence by the 17th century.

² Cotton and Hayes, 1980, p 15

³ Barber and Birley, 1996 p 25

⁴ Tucker, 1996 p 15

4 METHODOLOGY

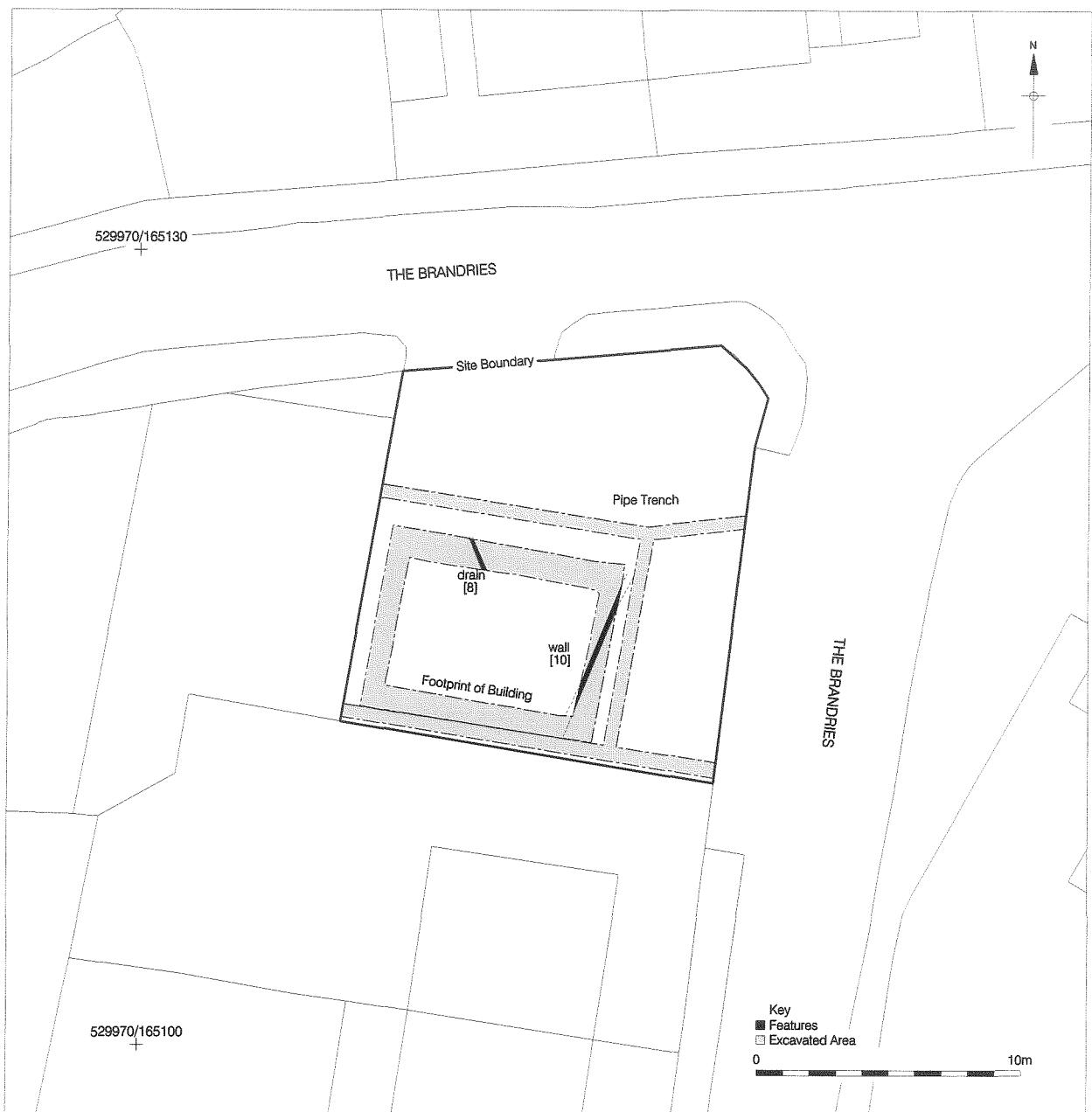
- 4.1 The site was recorded as a watching brief.
- 4.2 An archaeologist was present to record archaeological remains revealed during the excavation of the foundations for a new development and a trench for a drainage pipe (figure 2).
- 4.3 All archaeological deposits were recorded to recognised standards outlined in the Method Statement⁵.

⁵ Divers, 2003 p 3



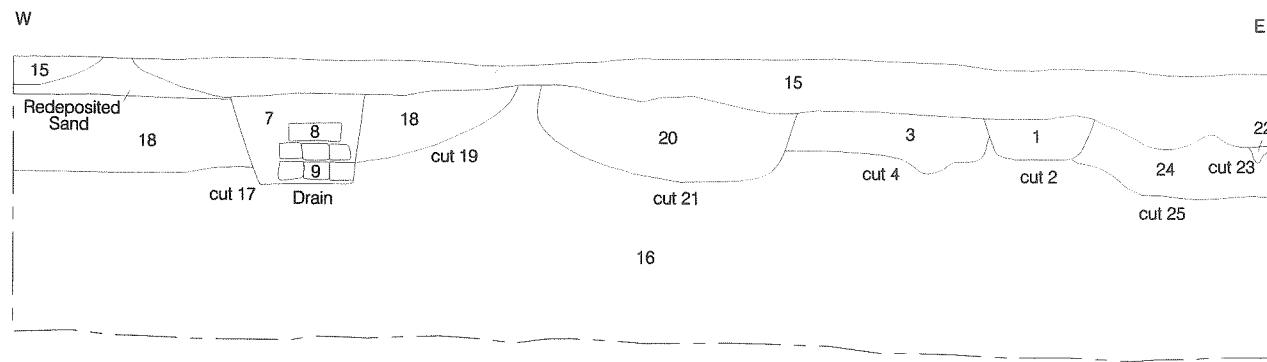
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Figure 1
Site Location
1:10,000

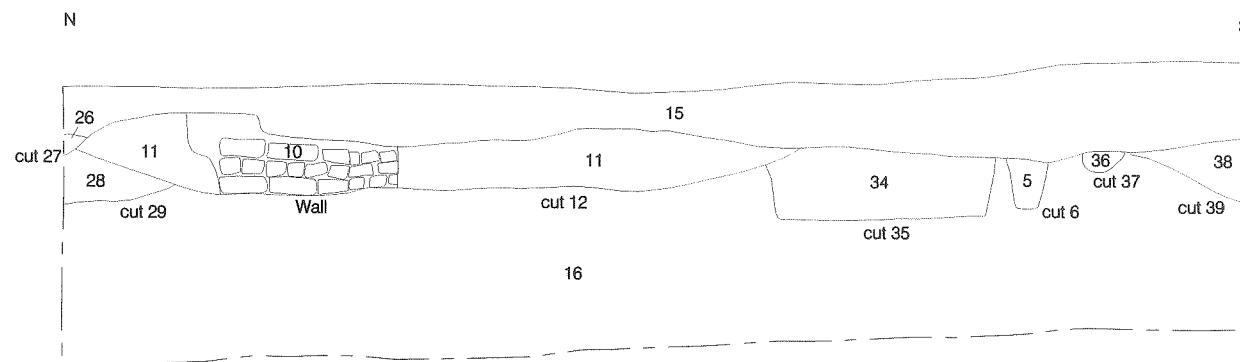


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Figure 2
Trench Location
1:250



Section 1
South Facing
Sample taken from 2.5m to 7.5m



Section 2
West Facing
Sample taken from 0m to 5m



Figure 3
Sections 1 & 2
1:30

5 ARCHAEOLOGICAL SEQUENCE

5.1 Phase 1: Natural

- 5.1.1 The underlying natural deposits consisted of uniform fine yellowish white sand, typically recorded at a depth of c. 0.4m below ground level. These natural sands were at least 1.0m thick. This was observed in both the foundation and pipe trenches.
- 5.1.2 Several features were recorded within the foundation trench cutting into the natural sands all filled by a 'clean' pale-mid grey silty sand with charcoal flecks. Some of these features are poorly defined and may represent the remnants of a single reworked layer of agricultural or horticultural soil. A similar layer [51] c 0.20m thick was observed above the sand within the pipe trench.

5.2 Phase 2: Saxon

- 5.2.1 Two possible Early Saxon features [4] and [6] were recorded within the foundation trench. The first [4] a small pit recorded to be 0.2m deep by over 0.8m wide/long (Fig 3, section 1) produced one sherd of Early Saxon pottery. The second [6] (Fig 3. Section 2), also 0.2m deep by 0.08m wide, produced a sherd of pottery probably dated to Early Saxon period, although a prehistoric date can not be ruled out. These features were seen in section only.

5.3 Phase 3: Medieval

- 5.3.1 A single sherd of Medieval pottery (1150-1350) was recovered from the fill [1] of a 0.2m deep feature [2] which appeared to cut [4] (figure 3, Section 1). These features were seen in section only.

5.4 Phase 4: Post-Medieval

- 5.4.1 Cutting into the earlier features and/or soil horizon were late 18th and 19th century features, seemingly contemporary with a brick wall bounding the western perimeter of the site. These features consist of a N-S brick wall [10] and an NW-SE brick and tile drain [8] (Fig 2 & 3, Sections 1 and 2 respectively). Construction cuts for both features were filled with pale to mid grey silty sand with moderately frequent quantities of chalk and crushed red brick fragments.

- 5.4.2 Within the pipe trench a layer of made ground [52] c. 0.50m thick was recorded overlying the silty sand layer [51].

6 CONCLUSION

- 6.1 The watching brief conducted at the Brandries, Wallington, Surrey revealed the presence of Prehistoric, Early Saxon and medieval pottery. The Prehistoric material was also unstratified, presumably representing residual finds while the later material, may have been recovered from stratified features, although the similarity of fill and consistency of depth may suggest that these 'features' represent a reworked agricultural or horticultural soil.
- 6.2 Late post-medieval structural remains and made ground also survived.
- 6.3 The Early Saxon and Medieval finds recovered during the watching brief are of local significance, probably representing early settlement of the area. Although no further archaeological work is recommended on this site, these finds indicate Early Saxon and Medieval activity in the vicinity and therefore further archaeological investigation should be undertaken on other nearby sites.

7 BIBLIOGRAPHY

Adkins, I. and Needham, S. 1985 New Research on a Late Bronze Age Enclosure at Queen Mary's Hospital, Carshalton, *Surrey Archaeological Collections* 76 11-50

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Cotton, J. and Hayes, K. 1980 Finds from Westcroft road, Carshalton, 1971 and 1978, *The past-our future* (ed C. Orton) 13 –17

Divers, D. *Method statement for an archaeological watching brief at the Brandries, 4 Guy Road, Wallington, London Borough of Sutton*. Unpublished PCA report.

8 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- 8.1 Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited would like to thank Gage Ltd for funding this project. Thanks also to Mark Stevenson at English Heritage for his assistance. The authors would like to thank Hayley Baxter for the drawings and David Divers and Jim Leary for project management and editing.

APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Context	Type	Description	Phase
1	Fill	Fill of [2]	2
2	Cut	Cut of shallow pit	2
3	Fill	Fill of [4]	2
4	Cut	Cut of shallow pit	2
5	Fill	Fill of [6]	2
6	Cut	Cut of post hole	2
7	Fill	Fill of [17]	3
8	Masonry	18/19 th century drain	3
9	Fill	Silting up of drain [8]	3
10	Masonry	18/19 th century wall foundation	3
11	Fill	Fill of [12]	3
12	Cut	Construction cut for wall [10]?	3
13	Void		
14	Void		
15	Layer	Top soil	3
16	Layer	Natural sands	1
17	Cut	Construction cut for drain [8]	3
18	Layer	Fill of [19]	3
19	Cut	Large cut, possibly associated with demolition of 18 th century structure	3
20	Fill	Fill of [21]	3
21	Cut	Cut of pit	3
22	Fill	Fill of [23]	3
23	Cut	Cut of possible 'v' shaped gully	3
24	Fill	Fill of [25] with possible evidence of fire debris	3
25	Cut	Cut of pit	3
26	Fill	Fill of [27]	3
27	Cut	Construction cut for 18 th ? Century structure	3
28	Fill	Fill of [29]	2?
29	Cut	Cut of pit	2?
30	Fill	Fill of [31]	2
31	Cut	Cut of stakehole	2
32	Fill	Fill of [33]	2
33	Cut	Cut of stakehole	2
34	Fill	Fill of [35]	2

35	Cut	Cut of pit	2
36	Fill	Fill of [37]	2?
37	Cut	Possible animal burrow	2?
38	Fill	Fill of [39]	2?
39	Cut	Cut	2?
40	Fill	Fill of [41]	3
41	Cut	Cut of possible beam slot	3
42	Fill	Fill of [43]	3
43	Cut	Cut of possible beam slot	3
44	Void		
45	Fill	Fill of [46]	2
46	Cut	Cut of shallow feature	2
47	Fill	Fill of [48]	3
48	Cut	Cut of post hole	3
49	Fill	Fill of [50]	2
50	Cut	Cut of post hole	2
51	Layer	Natural sands, Same as [16]	1
52	Layer	post-medieval made ground	3

APPENDIX 2: POTTERY ASSESSMENT

By Chris Jarret

INTRODUCTION

A small-sized assemblage of pottery was recovered from the site (1) box. Most sherds are in a good condition, small in size, but indicating that they had not been subject to much redeposition, or were discarded soon after being broken. All individual contexts produced small (under 30 sherds) groups of pottery.

All the pottery (18 sherds, of which 15 are unstratified) was examined macroscopically and microscopically using a binocular microscope (x20), and recorded in an ACCESS 2000 database, by fabric, form, decoration, sherd count and estimated number of vessels, using standard Museum of London codes for fabric, form and decoration, but have been supplemented with Surrey fabric codes (Jones 1998) where an appropriate London code is missing. The pottery is discussed by fabric and forms, period and by distribution.

THE POTTERY TYPES

Prehistoric

There are eight sherds of a prehistoric flint-tempered ware (FL), of a Late Bronze Age to Early Iron Age date. The forms represented are uncertain, but a base sherd is present. All this material was unstratified.

Early Saxon

There are eight sherds of a fine sandy ware with occasional flint tempering (ESFL) and the sherds are burnished. These sherds could be prehistoric in date, but are more likely to be Early Saxon. Seven of these sherds are unstratified. A single sherd of sandstone and flint-tempered ware (ESST + FL) is present, this may be prehistoric but an Early Saxon date is more likely.

Medieval

A single sherd of medieval pottery is present in the Surrey grey-brown tradition (Surrey code: Q2) and is dated c.1150-1350. The sherd is wheel thrown with glaze drips.

DISTRIBUTION

Context [1]: one sherd of Medieval Surrey grey-brown ware, dated 1150-1350 AD and is a wheel thrown vessel with glaze drips.

Context [3]: one sherd of ?Early Saxon flint-tempered ware, c.400-650 AD with an externally burnished surface.

Context [5]: one sherd of ?Early Saxon sandstone and flint-tempered ware c.400-650, but possibly prehistoric.

SIGNIFICANCE OF THE COLLECTION

The pottery assemblage from the site is only of local importance for showing the presence of Prehistoric, Early Saxon and limited medieval activity on the site.

POTENTIAL

The pottery has the potential to date the contexts in which they were found.

RESEARCH AIMS

As the pottery was fragmentary and largely unstratified, no new research aims can be suggested.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FURTHER WORK

No further work is recommended on the pottery.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Jones, P. 1998. Towards a type series of medieval pottery in Surrey. *Surrey Archaeological Collections*, 85, 211-38.

APPENDIX 3: OASIS REPORT FORM

OASIS ID: preconst1-3625

Project details

Project name	Brandries, Sutton
Short description of the project	Watching brief conducted prior to redevelopment of the site produced sherds of unstratified Prehistoric pottery, Early Saxon, and Medieval pottery was also recovered, from possibly stratified features although these may represent reworked 'ploughsoil.'
Project dates	Start: 19-09-2003 End: 02-07-2004
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	GYB 03 - Sitecode
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	Local Authority Designated Archaeological Area
Current Land use	Vacant Land 1 - Vacant land previously developed
Significant Finds	POT Late Prehistoric
Significant Finds	POT Middle Bronze Age
Significant Finds	POT Medieval
Investigation type	'Watching Brief'

Project location

Country	England
Site location	GREATER LONDON SUTTON SUTTON AND CHEAM Brandries
Postcode	SM7
Study area	200 Square metres
National grid reference	TQ 2998 6511 Point

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd
Project brief originator	Greater London Archaeological Advisory Service
Project design originator	David Divers
Project director/manager	David Divers
Project supervisor	Alden Turner / Kathelen Sayer
Sponsor or funding body	Developer

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	An unpublished document/manuscript
Title	The Brandries, Wallington, London Borough of Sutton

Author(s)/Editor(s) Turner, A / Sayer, K
Date 2004
Issuer or publisher Pre-Construct Archaeology
Place of issue or publication London
Description Watching Brief Report

Entered by Paul Steele (psfee@pre-construct.com)
Entered on 16 August 2004

6 CONCLUSION

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