

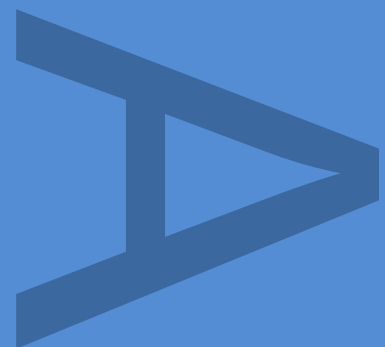
**19 EAST HEATH ROAD, HAMPSTEAD  
NW3 1AJ  
LONDON BOROUGH OF CAMDEN**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF**

**PCA REPORT NO: R11371**

**SITE CODE: HTE12**

**JANUARY 2013**



DOCUMENT VERIFICATION

19 EAST HEATH ROAD, LONDON BOROUGH OF  
CAMDEN, NW3 1AJ

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

Quality Control

Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited			K2780
	Name & Title	Signature	Date
Text Prepared by:	Paw Jorgensen		January 2013
Graphics Prepared by:	Jennifer Simonson		January 2013
Graphics Checked by:	Josephine Brown	<i>Josephine Brown</i>	January 2013
Project Manager Sign-off:	Tim Bradley	<i>Tim Bradley</i>	January 2013

Revision No.	Date	Checked	Approved

Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd  
Unit 54  
Brockley Cross Business Centre  
96 Endwell Road  
London  
SE4 2PD

## **LAND TO THE REAR OF 19 EAST HEATH ROAD, LONDON BOROUGH OF CAMDEN, NW3 1AJ: AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF**

**Site Code:** HTE12

**Central NGR:** TQ 2653 8622

**Local Planning Authority:** London Borough of Camden

**Planning Reference:** 2006/0036/P

**Commissioning Client:** CgMs Consulting  
On behalf of Asphaltic Land Limited

**Written/Researched by:** Paw Jorgensen  
Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited

**Project Manager:** Tim Bradley (MIfA)

**Contractor:** Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited  
Unit 54 Brockley Cross Business Centre  
96 Endwell Road  
Brockley  
London SE4 2PD

**Tel:** 020 7732 3925  
**Fax:** 020 7732 7896

**E-mail:** [tbradley@pre-construct.com](mailto:tbradley@pre-construct.com)  
**Web:** [www.pre-construct.com](http://www.pre-construct.com)

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January 2013**

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## **1 ABSTRACT**

- 1.1 This report details the results and working methods of an archaeological watching brief carried out at the rear of 19 East Heath Road in the London Borough of Camden, NW3 1AJ, centred at TQ 2653 8622.
- 1.2 Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited (PCA) was commissioned by CgMs Consulting, acting on behalf of Asphaltic Land Limited, to carry out the watching brief during groundwork associated with the construction of a single dwelling (including basement) to the rear of the existing property. The work was undertaken in three phases during initial ground reduction and during the excavation of the proposed basement in the southern part of the site. During the ground reduction phases the archaeological work was supervised by Amelia Fairman and Deborah Koussiounelos, and Paw Jorgensen monitored the excavation of the basement.
- 1.3 The archaeological watching brief recorded layers of natural sand interspersed with lenses of clay and silt consistent with the Bagshot Sand Formation. Overlying the natural sand were layers interpreted as relating to landscaping of the back garden of 19 East Heath Road followed by the construction of garages (as seen by the north-south aligned foundation trench) along the southern boundary of the site. No archaeological finds or features of any period were recorded during the fieldwork.

## **2 INTRODUCTION**

- 2.1 This report details the results and working methods of an archaeological watching brief undertaken by PCA at 19 East Heath Road, Hampstead in the London Borough of Camden, NW3 1AJ. (Figure 1). The fieldwork was carried out intermittently between April 2012 and January 2013 during periods when ground reduction was scheduled to take place. Richard Meager of CgMs Consulting commissioned the work on behalf of Asphaltic Land Limited.
- 2.2 The site is bounded to the north by East Heath Road and to the east, west and south by residential properties. The central National Grid Reference for this site is TQ 2653 8622.
- 2.3 The archaeological programme consisted of the monitoring and recording of groundwork necessitated by the proposed redevelopment of land to the south of the existing property (Figure 2). The works were undertaken in accordance with the approved Written Scheme of Investigation (Meager & Bradley, 2012).
- 2.4 The site archive will eventually be deposited with the London Archaeological Archive and Research Centre (LAARC) under the unique site code EHT12.

### **3 PLANNING BACKGROUND**

3.1 Full planning permission has been granted by the London Borough of Camden for the residential redevelopment of the site (Planning Ref: 2006/0036/P), including the following condition attached for a programme of archaeological work:

***3. No development can take place until the applicant has implemented a programme of archaeological investigation which has been submitted by the applicant and approved by the Council. The development shall only take place in accordance with the detailed scheme pursuant to this condition. The archaeological works shall be carried out by a suitably qualified investigating body acceptable to the Council.***

***Reason: important archaeological remains may exist at the site. Accordingly the Council wishes to secure the provision of archaeological site investigation and the subsequent recording of the remains prior to development in accordance with the requirements of Policy B8 of the London Borough of Camden Replacement Unitary Development Plan 2006.***

3.2 This report details the results of the archaeological fieldwork undertaken in response to the above condition.

## **4 MEDHODOLOGY**

### **4.1 Monitoring**

4.1.1 The archaeological monitoring was carried out during three phases of groundwork. The initial ground reduction saw the removal of between 0.60m to 1.00m of concrete, topsoil and subsoil across much of the southern portion of the site. Following this the watching brief entered a hiatus while the walls along the perimeter of the site were underpinned.

4.1.2 Following the underpinning a second phase of ground reduction was monitored. This concerned primarily the removal of up to 0.70m of subsoil along the eastern property boundary. The archaeological monitoring was then discontinued while the ground-slab for the new building was cast along with the vertical supports along the east and west sides of the property. Once this had been completed the watching brief resumed during the excavation for the proposed basement. The excavation for the basement was carried out by tunnelling in underneath the recently cast ground-slab, so only the southern extent of this process was monitored during the initial excavation.

4.1.3 During all stages of the monitored groundwork excavation was carried out using a 5 tonne 360° type mechanical excavator.

### **4.2 Recording Systems**

4.2.1 The recording systems were fully compatible with those used elsewhere in the London Borough of Camden. Individual descriptions of all archaeological strata and features excavated and exposed were entered onto pro-forma recording sheets. All plans and sections of archaeological deposits were recorded on polyester based drawing film, the plans being drawn at a scale of 1:20 and the sections at 1:10. A photographic record was made of the investigations as they progressed.



## **5 GEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND**

### **5.1 Bedrock Geology**

- 5.1.1 The British Geological Survey records the site situated over an area of Bagshot Sand Formation. This deposit comprises fine sand ranging in colour from white to buff and crimson while the unweathered sand appears grey. Occasional beds of flint pebble gravel and pale clay occur sporadically throughout the extent of the deposit. The Bagshot Sand Formations formed during the Eocene Epoch (55.8 to 33.9 million years ago) during the Palaeogene (British Geological Survey, 2013a).
- 5.1.2 Geotechnical investigations carried out on site by Site Analytical Services Ltd in August of 2011 recorded the stratigraphic sequence in three boreholes as loose to dense/medium dense fine to medium sand deposits ranging in colour from light yellow brown to orange brown to light grey (Bagshot Sand). These contained occasional inclusions of fine to medium gravel. The boreholes recorded the sand deposits at a maximum height of circa 1m BGL in the northern part of the site and at approximately 0.6m BGL in the southern part. At between 6.5m and 7.1m BGL a band of stiff mottled yellow brown, orange brown and light grey very sandy silty clay with bands of medium dense silty fine sand was encountered. This band of clay ranged in thickness from 3.4m in the north to 2.0m in the south. It was underlain by a deposit of medium dense mottled yellow brown, orange brown and light grey silty fine to medium sand with bands of stiff very sandy silty clay which extended to at least 15.22m BGL to the north and 15.14m BGL to the south (Site Analytical Services Ltd., 2011).
- 5.1.3 Underlying the Bagshot Sand is an on average 16m thick deposit of the Claygate member of the London Clay Formation parent unit. Typically this comprises interbedded fine-grained sand, silt and clay (British Geological Survey, 2013b).

## **6 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND**

### **6.1 Prehistoric**

6.1.1 Topographically the site occupies a prominent position considered to have been attractive to prehistoric peoples in part because of the elevated position and partly because of the proximity to various water sources. This theory is supported by the recovery of various stone implements including a number of Neolithic and Mesolithic flint axes in the vicinity of the present site (Meager & Bradley, 2012). In addition to chance finds of individual stone tools, flakes and debitage, excavations carried out in the 1970s and early 1980s by the Hendon and District Archaeological Society (HADAS) recorded the remains of a substantial Mesolithic campsite by the artificial lake Leg of Mutton Pond approximately 1000m to the west-northwest of the current site. It is uncertain if the use of the campsite was repetitive or whether the finds recovered were representative of a single occupation episode (Collins & Lorimer, 1989). However, the recovery of Mesolithic and Neolithic material from the area show that at least transient use of the area occurred throughout these periods.

6.1.2 Bronze Age activity has been recorded in the area to the east of the present site in the vicinity of East Heath. Evidence for Bronze Age use of the area comes in form of a round barrow which was excavated in 1894. However, the excavation of the round barrow failed to produce any temporally diagnostic material (Weinreb & Hibbert, 1983).

### **6.2 Roman**

6.2.1 Isolated Roman finds have been recorded in the vicinity of the site despite its distance from the known Roman road network (Meager & Bradley, 2012). These finds include two coins; one of Marcus Aurelius (AD 151-180) and one of Victorinus (AD 268-560) found near Well Walk to the south of the study site. Finds made near Well Walk in 1774 included several cinery urns, pottery and lamps (Robertson, 1975).

### **6.3 Saxon**

6.3.1 The place name Hampstead first appears in a charter dated AD 972 wherein King Edgar grants five hides of land at Hampstead to his faithful minister Mangoda (S 805). This later appears to be confirmed along with other holdings and privileges in a charter of King Æthelred dated AD 998 to Westminster Abbey (S 894). Although the latter charter does incorporate earlier information, such as the five hides of land at Hampstead, its authenticity is spurious. Another spurious charter (S 1039) allegedly of King Edward the Confessor and dated AD 1065 again confirms the abbey's holdings at Hampstead (amongst others) (King's College London, 2013).

## **6.4 Medieval**

- 6.4.1 Domesday Book records Ranulf Peverel as lord of roughly a fifth of the manor of Hampstead in 1086 while Westminster Abbey is registered as lord of the rest of the manor. From the entries in Domesday it can be gathered that the manor was sparsely populated with only seven registered households. These comprised one villager, five smallholders and one slave.
- 6.4.2 Hampstead Heath remained largely rough moorland throughout the medieval period. It was utilised by the residents of the hamlet of Hampstead for grazing livestock and gathering herbs and brushwood as well as for gravel and brickearth quarrying. The heart of the hamlet was probably centred on the parish pond located in the vicinity of the present day junction of Flask Walk, Well Walk and New End Square by Burgh House to the south of the site. Customary tenements also existed along Pond Street to the southeast of the hamlet from at least 1484 (Baker, 1989).
- 6.4.3 The manor of Hampstead largely remained under the control of Westminster Abbey until the dissolution of the monastery in 1540 at which point it was granted to Thomas Thirlby, the newly appointed Bishop of Westminster. Following his departure to Norwich ten years later the manor was transferred to Sir Thomas Wroth (Weinreb & Hibbert, 1983).
- 6.4.4 Relatively little material relating to the medieval period has been recovered archaeologically from the vicinity of the present site. However, a lead bulla (seal to the papal bull) was found at the corner of Fitzjohns Avenue and Perrins Lane to the southwest of the site and a medieval drinking vessel was recovered at Holly Hill also to the southwest. An excavation on Froggnal Rise to the west-southwest reported the recovery of several sherds of medieval pottery (Lythe & Pullen, 2011).

## **6.5 Post-Medieval**

- 6.5.1 During the reign of Elizabeth I the sub-manor of Belsize, which had been established by the 14<sup>th</sup> century, was leased to Armagil Waad, an explorer and friend of William Cecil. Belsize remained in the Waad family until 1660 when it passed to Royalist soldier Daniel O'Neil, husband of Catherine, Countess of Chesterfield; it remained in the possession of the Chesterfield family until 1807. Hampstead, which had been granted to Sir Thomas Wroth after Bishop Thirlby's departure to Norwich, remained in the Wroth family until 1620 when it was sold to Sir Baptist Hicks, who sold it on to Lord Noel Riddlington in 1629 (Weinreb & Hibbert, 1983).
- 6.5.2 When the Black Death spread through London in 1349 the abbot of Westminster Abbey had retreated to Hampstead with his monks in order to avoid infection. He and 26 of his monks did nevertheless succumb to the disease. Hampstead once more became a refuge to Londoners fleeing the Great Plague of 1665. During that year there were 250 reported deaths in 100 houses in Hampstead town (Baker, 1989).

6.5.3 By the early 18<sup>th</sup> century the town was growing into a fashionable spa town following the discovery of several springs in the vicinity of Well Walk. Daniel Defoe in 1725 noted that Hampstead had grown from “a little village into almost a city” (Weinreb & Hibbert, 1983). This growth is reflected in the archaeological record both by the density of post-medieval remains and by the number of extant 18<sup>th</sup> century buildings (Lythe & Pullen, 2011).

## **7 ARCHAEOLOGICAL SEQUENCE AND INTERPRETATION**

### **7.1 Natural**

7.1.1 The earliest deposit encountered was a horizon of naturally deposited loose light grey to light yellowish grey fine to medium sand [11] with occasional lenses of pebble sized gravel. It was only observed in the trench excavated for the proposed basement though it did extend beyond the confines of this trench. There was little variance seen at the top of deposit, which remained relatively level at 2.00m BGL. This deposit is interpreted as forming part of the unweathered Bagshot Sand Formation.

7.1.2 Overlying this was a deposit of loose iron rich reddish brown to reddish yellow fine to medium sand with moderately frequent fine to medium gravel lenses. This deposit was seen both during the initial ground reduction when it was recorded as [8] and during the basement excavation when it was recorded as [10]. Unlike the underlying horizon, the top of this deposit was recorded at varying heights. This was presumably due to truncation caused by the construction and/or demolition of the garage buildings occupying this area of the site. In places the deposit survived to a height of 1.28m BGL while in areas it occurred at a maximum height of 1.40m BGL. It is likely that the deposit represents the uppermost, weathered sands of the Bagshot Formation as described by the British Geological Survey (2013a).

### **7.2 Post-Medieval/Modern**

7.2.1 Close to the eastern boundary of the site the earliest deposit exposed was a layer of demolition rubble [5]. Only a small portion of this deposit was exposed in plan during the initial ground reduction and due to the changing site conditions was not observed during the excavation for the proposed basement. This could indicate that the deposit was very ephemeral in nature. As recorded it measured approximately 1.00m north-south by 1.50m east-west and was first observed at a height of 1.00m BGL. It consisted of a mixture of loose chalk rich mortar and coarse sandy silt with frequent inclusions of ceramic building material fragments and unfroged red bricks.

7.2.2 The demolition deposit was sealed by a layer of mixed subsoil, [9], which also extended across the top of the natural sand, [8], seen in the western part of the site. This subsoil deposit comprised mottled greyish brown and greyish yellow sandy clay containing moderately frequent thin gravel lenses as well as frequent charcoal and ceramic building material flecks and small chalk fragments.

- 7.2.3 In the southwest corner of the site the subsoil was cut by a roughly north-south aligned foundation trench [7], measuring 0.35m east-west by approximately 5.00m north-south. Filling the foundation trench was a deposit of compacted light yellowish grey silty sand with moderately frequent inclusions of ceramic building material fragments. This trench is likely to be associated with the series of garages located at the southern end of the site prior to redevelopment.
- 7.2.4 East of the foundation trench the subsoil, [9] was sealed by another (0.45m thick) subsoil horizon [4], comprising firm mid greyish brown sandy silt containing frequent inclusions of ceramic building material fragments and gravel lenses. Frequent root disturbance was also noted throughout the deposit. This was in turn overlain by a 0.35m thick deposit of garden type soil [3]. The garden soil horizon was loosely compacted and consisted of mid to dark greyish brown sandy silt with horizontal lenses of natural clay occurring throughout.
- 7.2.5 To the northeast the lower subsoil horizon [9] was overlain by an episode of ground levelling [2], comprising a 0.10m thick layer of loosely compacted crushed red ceramic building material. To the north and south the deposit became thinner before eventually lensing out.
- 7.2.6 Sealing both the garden soil horizon and the crushed levelling deposit was a 0.20-0.30m thick topsoil deposit [1] of loosely compacted dark blackish brown coarse silty sand with frequent ceramic building material fragments. Above this, and extending across much of the southern portion of the site was a 0.20-0.40m thick slab of concrete.

## 8 CONCLUSIONS

### 8.1 The Archaeological Sequence

8.1.1 The archaeological sequence observed on site showed layers of natural sand interspersed with lenses of clay and silt consistent with the Bagshot Sand Formation.

8.1.2 Overlying the natural sand were layers presumably related to later post-medieval and modern landscaping of the back garden of 19 East Heath Road followed by the construction of garages (as seen by the north-south aligned foundation trench) along the southern boundary of the site.

8.1.3 No evidence of any archaeological finds or features pre-dating the modern period were recorded during the archaeological investigation.

### 8.2 Original Research Questions

- **What evidence can be revealed of the natural strata and its' topography at the site?**

The natural strata comprise sandy deposits consistent with the underlying geology as described by the British Geological Survey. This was confirmed both by the current watching brief and by geotechnical boreholes previously carried out on site. In the southern area of the site the natural sand was directly overlain by a deposit of brick rubble up to 1m thick, suggesting that truncation occurred either during the construction or the demolition of the garages that occupied this area. Elsewhere on site the natural strata were sealed by a layer of subsoil indicating that truncation here had not affected the natural sand. Where untruncated natural deposits were encountered these suggested that the natural topography of the site was relatively flat.

- **Is there any evidence of prehistoric remains in the area of development?**

No evidence for prehistoric activity was observed during the watching brief.

- **Is there any further evidence of Roman activity in the area of the site?**

The watching brief found no evidence for Roman activity in the area of the site.

- **Is there any evidence for medieval activity in the area of development?**

The archaeological investigation did not reveal evidence for medieval activity on the site.

- **Is there any evidence for post-medieval activity in the area of the site?**

Post-medieval activity was observed in the form of layers of subsoil and levelling deposits. These are suggestive of landscaping of the rear garden of 19 East Heath Road in the later post-medieval and modern periods.



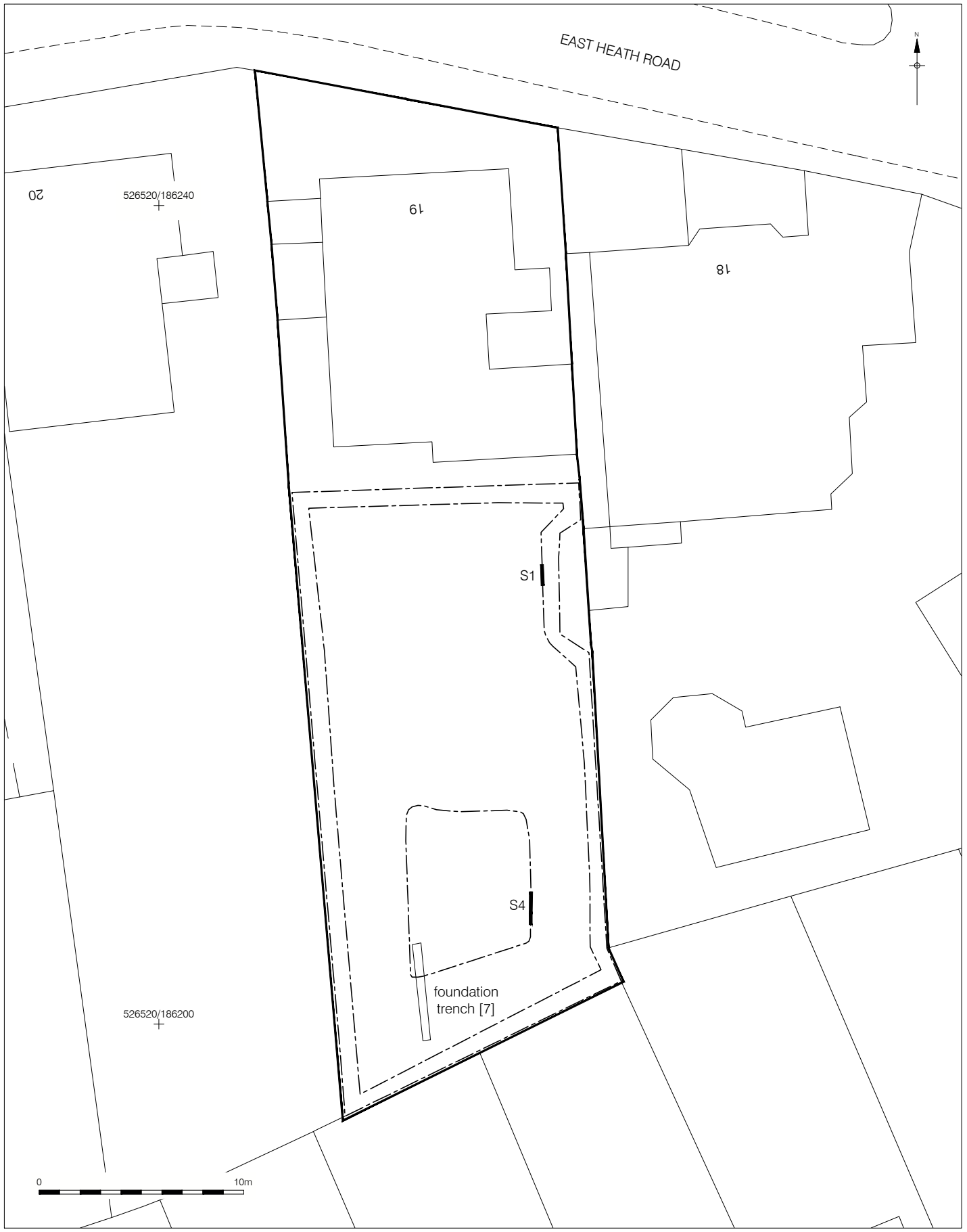
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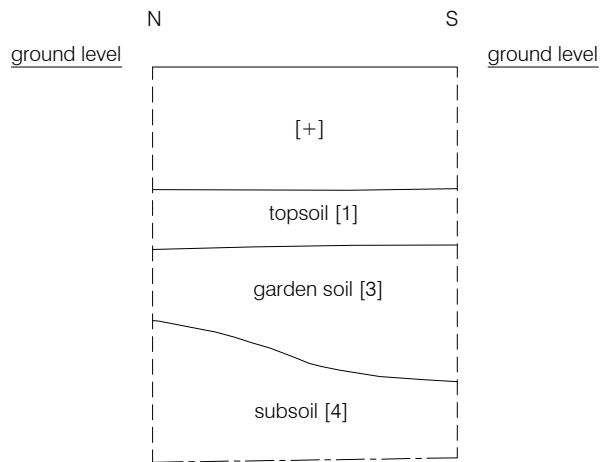
Figure 1  
Site Location  
1:20,000 at A4



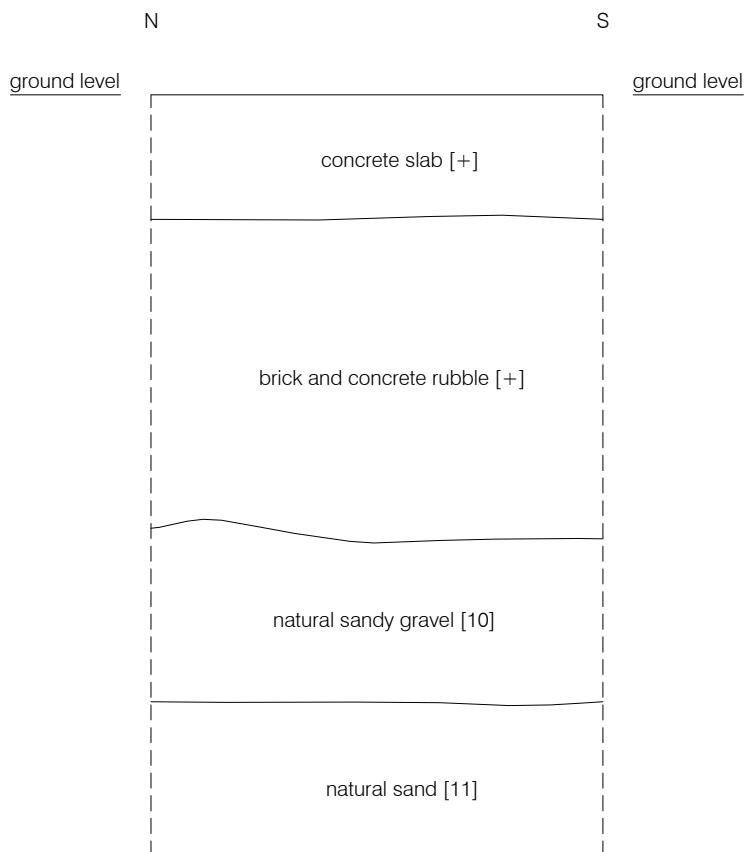


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Figure 2  
 Trench Location  
 1:250 at A4



Section 1  
West Facing



Section 3  
West Facing

## **9 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

- 9.1 Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited would like to thank Richard Meager of CgMs Consulting for commissioning the work and Kim Stabler of English Heritage GLAAS for monitoring the work on behalf of the London Borough of Camden.
- 9.2 The author would like to thank Amelia Fairman and Deborah Koussiounelos for monitoring phases of the fieldwork. Thanks also to Jennifer Simonson for the illustrations and Tim Bradley for project management and editing.

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**Plate 1: Section showing subsoil deposits, view to the southwest**



**Plate 2: Top of the natural sand, view to the southwest**

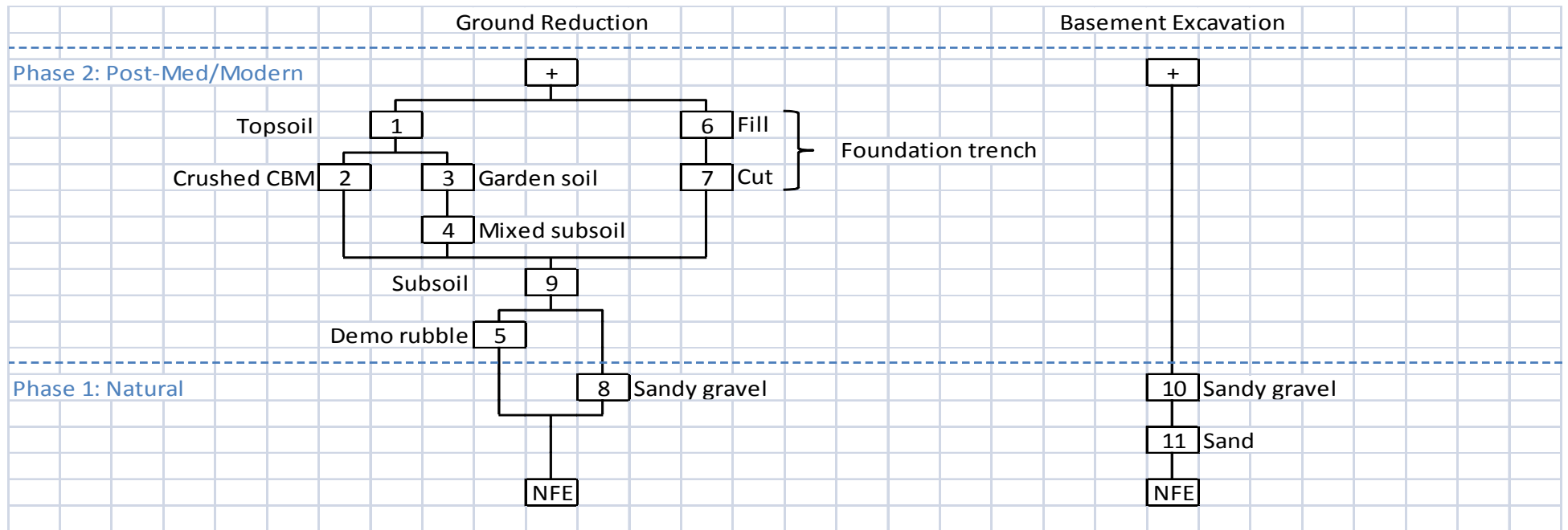


**Plate 3: Excavation for basement following casting of slab, view to northeast**





## Appendix 1: Site Matrix



## Appendix 2: Context Register

Site Code	Context	Grid Square/Trench	Plan	Section	Type	Description	Prov Date	Phase
EHT12	1	Ground reduction, stage 1		S. 1, 2	Layer	Topsoil	PM/Mod	2
EHT12	2	Ground reduction, stage 1		S. 2	Layer	CBM Crush	PM/Mod	2
EHT12	3	Ground reduction, stage 1		S. 1	Layer	Garden Soil	PM/Mod	2
EHT12	4	Ground reduction, stage 1		S. 1	Layer	Mixed Subsoil	PM/Mod	2
EHT12	5	Ground reduction, stage 1	1		Layer	Demolition Rubble	PM/Mod	2
EHT12	6	Ground reduction, stage 1			Deposit	Fill of [7]	PM/Mod	2
EHT12	7	Ground reduction, stage 1	1		Cut	Foundation Trench	PM/Mod	2
EHT12	8	Ground reduction, stage 1	1		Layer	Natural Sandy Gravel	Natural	1
EHT12	9	Ground reduction, stage 1 and 2	2	S. 2, 3	Layer	Subsoil	PM/Mod	2
EHT12	10	Basement excavation	3	S. 4	Layer	Natural Sandy Gravel	Natural	1
EHT12	11	Basement excavation	3	S. 4	Layer	Natural Sand	Natural	1



## Appendix 3: OASIS Form

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**OASIS ID: preconst1-141860**

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### Project details

Project name	19 East Heath Road, Hampstead, NW3 1AJ
Short description of the project	Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd was commissioned to carry out the watching brief during ground reduction on site ahead of the redevelopment of the southern portion of the property. The work was carried out in three stages during initial ground reduction and during the excavation of the proposed basement in the southern part of the site. During the watching brief subsoil and levelling deposits containing post-medieval material were recorded, as was a single foundation trench of a garage formerly occupying the southern portion of the site.
Project dates	Start: 25-04-2012 End: 22-01-2013
Previous/future work	Yes / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	EHT12 - Sitecode
Any associated project reference codes	2006/0036/P - Planning Application No.
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	Conservation Area
Current Land use	Residential 1 - General Residential
Monument type	CONSTRUCTION CUT Modern
Investigation type	"Watching Brief"
Prompt	Planning condition

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### Project location

Country	England
Site location	GREATER LONDON CAMDEN HAMPSTEAD 19 East Heath Road
Postcode	NW3 1AJ

Site coordinates TQ 2653 8622 51 0 51 33 36 N 000 10 28 W Point

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### Project creators

Name of Organisation	Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd
Project brief originator	Local Authority Archaeologist and/or Planning Authority/advisory body
Project design originator	CgMS Consulting and Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd
Project director/manager	Tim Bradley
Project supervisor	Paw Jorgensen
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer
Name of sponsor/funding body	Aspheltic Land Limited

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### Project archives

Digital Archive recipient	LAARC
Digital Media available	"Text", "Images vector", "Spreadsheets"
Paper Archive recipient	LAARC
Paper Media available	"Context sheet", "Drawing", "Matrices", "Plan", "Report", "Section"

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### Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
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Author(s)/Editor(s)	Jorgensen, P.

Date 2013

Issuer or publisher Pre-Construct Ltd

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publication London

Description Unpublished report

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Entered by Paw Jorgensen (pjorgensen@pre-construct.com)

Entered on 25 January 2013

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# PCA

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## **PCA SOUTH**

UNIT 54  
BROCKLEY CROSS BUSINESS CENTRE  
96 ENDWELL ROAD  
BROCKLEY  
LONDON SE4 2PD  
TEL: 020 7732 3925 / 020 7639 9091  
FAX: 020 7639 9588  
EMAIL: [info@pre-construct.com](mailto:info@pre-construct.com)

---

## **PCA NORTH**

UNIT 19A  
TURSDALE BUSINESS PARK  
DURHAM DH6 5PG  
TEL: 0191 377 1111  
FAX: 0191 377 0101  
EMAIL: [info.north@pre-construct.com](mailto:info.north@pre-construct.com)

---

## **PCA CENTRAL**

7 GRANTA TERRACE  
STAPLEFORD  
CAMBRIDGESHIRE CB22 5DL  
TEL: 01223 845 522  
FAX: 01223 845 522  
EMAIL: [info.central@pre-construct.com](mailto:info.central@pre-construct.com)

---

## **PCA WEST**

BLOCK 4  
CHILCOMB HOUSE  
CHILCOMB LANE  
WINCHESTER  
HAMPSHIRE SO23 8RB  
TEL: 01962 849 549  
EMAIL: [info.west@pre-construct.com](mailto:info.west@pre-construct.com)

---

## **PCA MIDLANDS**

17-19 KETTERING RD  
LITTLE BOWDEN  
MARKET HARBOROUGH  
LEICESTERSHIRE LE16 8AN  
TEL: 01858 468 333  
EMAIL: [info.midlands@pre-construct.com](mailto:info.midlands@pre-construct.com)

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