

An Archaeological Evaluation of Land at Barlings House, Friendsbury Road, Honor Oak Park, London Borough of Lewisham

Site Code: FRB 06

Central National Grid Reference: TQ 3592 7535

**Written and Researched by Richard Humphrey
Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited, July 2006**

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1 ABSTRACT

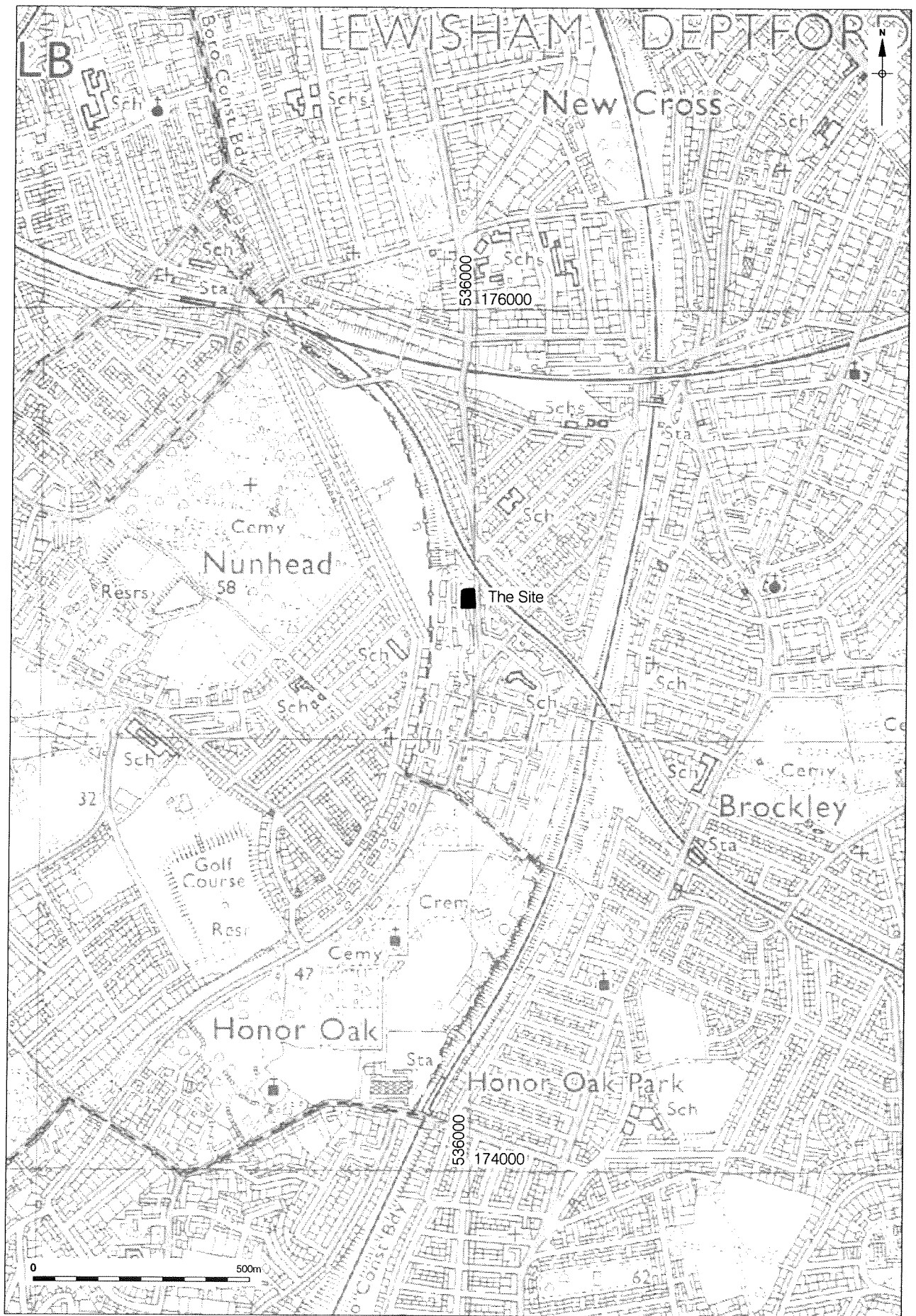
- 1.1 This report details the results of an archaeological evaluation undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited at the location of the former Barlings House, Friendsbury Road, Honor Oak Park, London Borough of Lewisham.

- 1.2 Three trenches were excavated across the site, in advance of development of the land as residential property. In each of the trenches, topsoil comprising modern demolition material combined with silty clay was removed to reveal natural, undisturbed orange-brown clay deposits. No archaeological deposits were observed.

2 INTRODUCTION

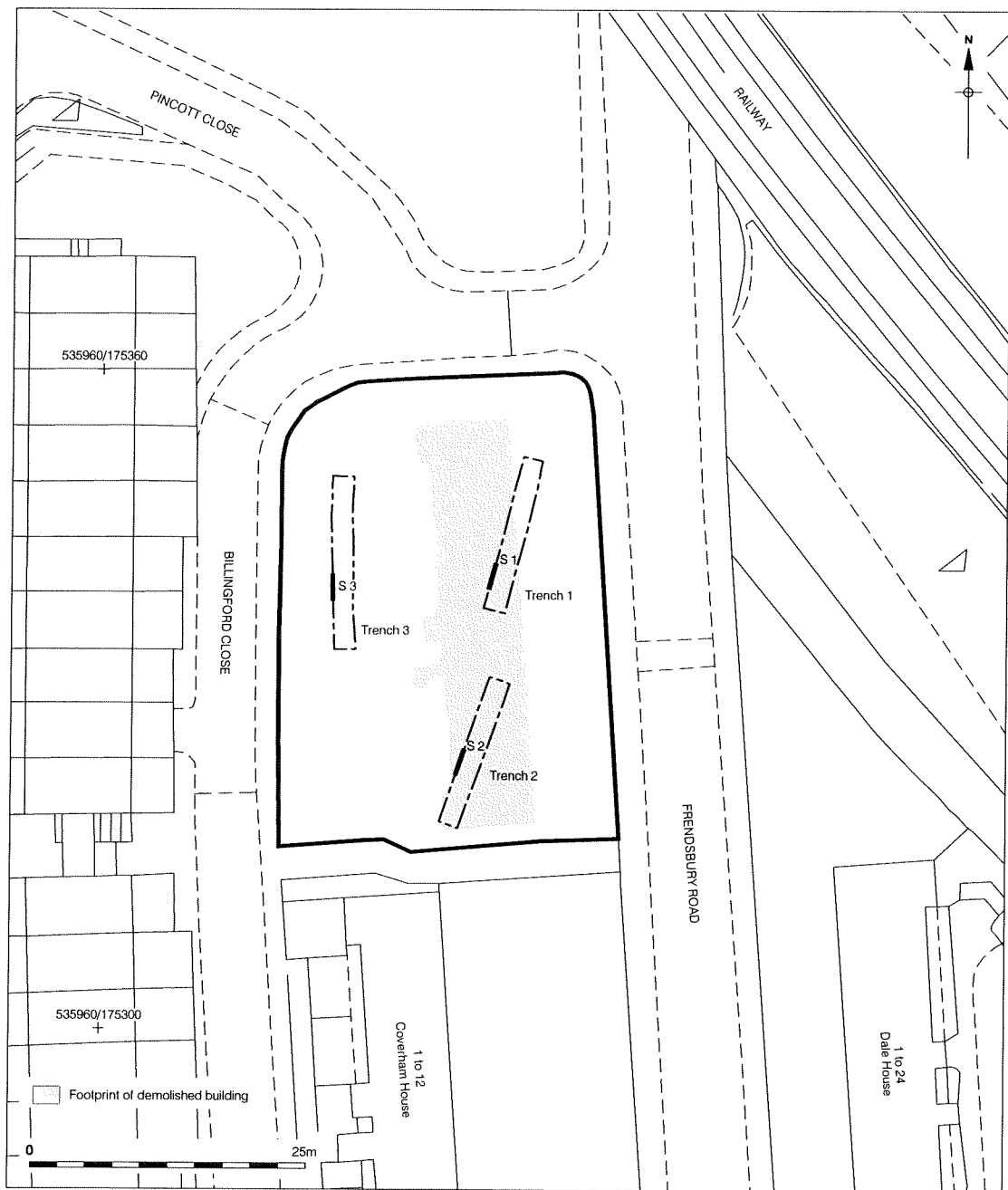
- 2.1 An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited of land at the former Barlings House, Friendsbury Road, Honor Oak Park, London Borough of Lewisham in advance of construction of new residential property.
- 2.2 The evaluation was conducted between the 29th and 30th June 2006 and was commissioned by Mansell Construction Services Ltd. The work was undertaken following English Heritage (GLAAS) guidelines.¹
- 2.3 The Barlings House development area is approximately 0.52 hectares in extent. Friendsbury Road borders it to the east, to the north by Billingford Close that is an access road, to the south by Coverham house and to the west by undercroft housing fronting onto Billingford Close. It is centred at national grid reference TQ 3592 7535 (figure 1).
- 2.4 The site was assigned the code FRB 06
- 2.5 The evaluation was supervised by Richard Humphrey and assisted by John Crisp with the surveying undertaken by Jeremy Rogers. The project was managed by Gary Brown for Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited.

¹ English Heritage, Greater London Archaeology Advisory Service, "Archaeological Guidance Papers: 1 Written Schemes of Investigation; 2 Desk-Based Assessments; 3 Standards and Practices in Archaeological Fieldwork in London; 4 Archaeological Reports; 5 Evaluations", Revised June 1998.



Reproduced from Ordnance Survey 1:25,000. Crown Copyright 1993.

Figure 1
Site Location
1:12,500



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Figure 2
Detailed Site Location
1:625

3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The Archaeological and Historical Background together with the potential for the survival of remains on the site are covered in detail within the Desk Based Assessment written by Gary Brown, March 2006²
- 3.2 Evidence from prehistoric settlement in the area is restricted to two Palaeolithic implements making the archaeological potential for this period to be considered low
- 3.3 A section of the London-Lewes road was recorded at Nash Road, close to the subject site. The road is projected to run northwestwards through the estate and therefore it is considered that the archaeological potential for this period is moderate. It is noted that the road was not located during recent investigations close to the junction of Nash and Turnham Roads³.
- 3.4 There is no evidence for Saxon activity in the area so the archaeological potential for this period is considered to be low
- 3.5 In 1182 there is a reference to *Brocole* (Brockley). No finds of Medieval date have been found in the designated area, though a short-lived Premonstratensian monastery was constructed in the 12th century on land given by Henry II before they moved to Bayham Abbey in Essex.
- 3.6 Several farms were located in the study area during the post-medieval period, notably one of 98 acres owned by the Earl of St. Germans whose farmhouse was demolished in 1870 (MLO 1966).
- 3.7 The advancement of the railways in the 19th century bought homes and businesses to rural Kent, although the study area remained undeveloped. In 1896 the area was known as London Playing Fields. This had changed by 1938 by the development of the Honor Oak Estate including Barlings House.

² Archaeological Desk Based Assessment for land at the former site of Barlings House, Friendsbury Road, Honor Oak Park, London Borough of Lewisham. Gary Brown, Pre-Construct Archaeology, March 2006.

³ Taylor, 2002

4 METHODOLOGY

- 4.1 The evaluation was conducted according to the method statement prepared by Pre-Construct Archaeology⁴. The fieldwork was designed to assess the presence or absence of significant archaeological remains, which may require further investigation.
- 4.2 A mechanical excavator fitted with a flat ditching bucket was used under archaeological supervision to remove unproductive soils down to the highest archaeological horizon. A total of three trenches were opened across the study site (figure 2).
- 4.3 The features identified within the trenches were then cleaned and investigated by hand. Investigation was limited to identifying the extent and nature of the deposits and to recover dating evidence. This was conducted by the excavation of slots through features and by half sectioning.
- 4.4 The features were assigned individual context numbers. Drawings were made in plan and a representative section of each trench was also made.
- 4.5 A temporary benchmark (values 30.00m OD) was traversed onto the site from an Ordnance Survey Bench mark on Forman House, Friendsbury Road (value 30.73m OD).
- 4.6 The trench locations were surveyed in using a Total Station Theodolite and located to OS data.

⁴ A Method Statement for an Archaeological Evaluation of land at the former site of Barlings House, Friendsbury Road, Honor Oak Park, London Borough of Lewisham. Prepared by Gary Brown, Pre-Construct Archaeology, March 2006

5 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

- 5.1 The British Geological Survey 1:50,000 series Sheet 270, 'South London' indicates that the site lies on London Clay

- 5.2 Site-specific geotechnical investigations have been undertaken and reported upon⁵. Five boreholes were investigated at the site outside the footprint of the former building. These demonstrated that the clay would be encountered at approximately 0.4m below the surface.

- 5.3 The site lies on ground that slopes gently from south to north and from west to east. There are no watercourses in the vicinity of the site.

⁵ Ian Farmer Associates, February 2005 Contract 50157AA

6 ARCHAEOLOGICAL SEQUENCE

6.1 The following section offers a brief description of each of the trenches excavated and the deposits recorded. Trenches were positioned outside the footprint of the former building.

6.2 Trench 1

6.2.1 This trench was aligned northeast-southwest and measured 15.00m in length. It was positioned in the south-eastern corner of the study area. A layer of heavily disturbed topsoil [1], consisting of silty-clay combined with modern demolition material, was removed. It had a maximum thickness of 0.92m.

6.2.2 Natural yellowish-brown clay [2] was revealed underneath this layer at a maximum height of 29.89m OD. Several modern service trenches were cut into this layer. No archaeological features were observed.

6.3 Trench 2

6.3.1 This trench was aligned northeast-southwest and measured 15.00m in length. It was positioned in the north-east corner of the study area, running parallel to trench 1. A layer of heavily disturbed topsoil [3], consisting of silty-clay combined with modern demolition material, was removed. It had a maximum thickness of 0.80m.

6.3.2 Natural yellowish-brown clay [4] was revealed underneath this layer at a maximum height of 29.80m OD. No archaeological features were observed.

6.4 Trench 3

6.4.1 This trench was aligned north-south and measured 16.00m in length. It was located on the western edge of the study area. A layer of heavily disturbed topsoil [5], consisting of silty-clay combined with modern demolition material, was removed. It had a maximum thickness of 0.60m.

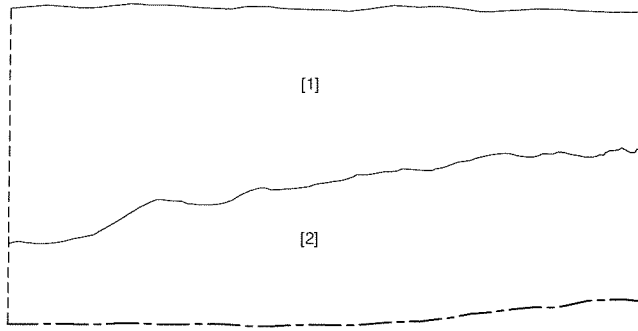
6.4.2 Natural yellowish-brown clay with blue-green mottling [6] was revealed underneath this layer at a maximum height of 29.09m OD. A circular modern intrusion could possibly have been the remains of a borehole. No archaeological features were observed.

29.36m OD

SW

NE

29.36m OD



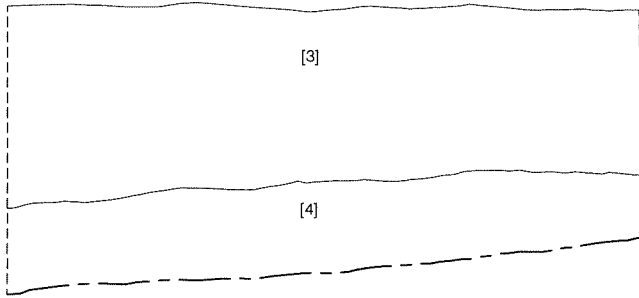
Section 1
South-east Facing
Trench 1

29.44m OD

SW

NE

29.44m OD



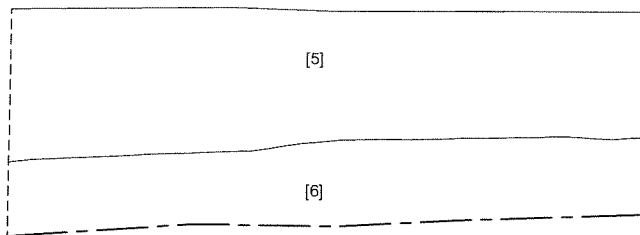
Section 2
South-east Facing
Trench 2

29.68m OD

S

N

29.68m OD



Section 3
East Facing
Trench 3

0 1m

Figure 3
Sections 1, 2 & 3
1:30

7 CONCLUSIONS

- 7.1 The evaluation conducted at Barlings House shows that the site is likely to be devoid of archaeological deposits from the late prehistoric through to the post-medieval period
- 7.2 Modern made ground, consisting of clay combined with red bricks, yellow bricks, metal and plastic, was found to directly overlie natural, undisturbed clay deposits.
- 7.3 No archaeological material was observed that suggested that the path of the London-Lewes Roman road crossed the site.

8 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- 8.1 Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited would like to thank Mansell Construction Services for generously funding this project on behalf of the Family Housing Association. Particular thanks are extended to Warren Terry of MCSL for his continued interest and support. The author would like to thank the field staff, Hayley Baxter for the illustrations, and Gary Brown for his project management and editing.

APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

No.	Type	Trench	Comments
1	Layer	1	Topsoil
2	Natural	1	Natural
3	Layer	2	Topsoil
4	Natural	2	Natural
5	Layer	3	Topsoil
6	Natural	3	Natural

APPENDIX 2: OASIS ARCHAEOLOGICAL REPORT FORM

OASIS ID: preconst1-16611

Project details

Project name	An Archaeological Evaluation of Land at Barlings House, Frensbury Road, Honor Oak Park, London Borough of Lewisham
Short description of the project	This report details the results of an archaeological evaluation undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited of land at the former location of Barlings House, Frensbury Road, Honor Oak Park, London Borough of Lewisham. Three trenches were excavated across the site, in advance of development of the land into residential property. In all of the trenches, topsoil consisting of modern demolition material combined with silty clay was removed to reveal natural, undisturbed orange-brown clay deposits. No archaeological deposits were observed.
Project dates	Start: 29-06-2006 End: 30-06-2006
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	FRB 06 - Sitecode
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	Local Authority Designated Archaeological Area

Current Land use Vacant Land 1 - Vacant land previously developed

Methods & techniques 'Test Pits'

Development type Urban residential (e.g. flats, houses, etc.)

Prompt Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPG16

Position in the planning process Not known / Not recorded

Project location

Country England

Site location GREATER LONDON LEWISHAM LEWISHAM AND BLACKHEATH
Barlings House

Postcode SE4 2JX

Study area 0.52 Hectares

National grid reference TQ 3592 7535 Point

Height OD Min: 28.65m Max: 29.89m

Project creators

Name of Organisation Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd

Project brief originator Pre-Construct Archaeology

Project design originator Gary Brown

Project director/manager Gary Brown

Project supervisor Richard Humphrey

Sponsor or funding body Mansell Construction Services Ltd.

Entered by Richard Humphrey (richardhumphrey1980@hotmail.com)

Entered on 17 July 2006

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