

18 – 24 WRAY PARK ROAD
REIGATE, SURREY

WATCHING BRIEF

Quality Control

Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited			K1182
	Name & Title	Signature	Date
Text Prepared by:	Chris Mayo		September 2006
Graphics Prepared by:	Hayley Baxter		September 2006
Graphics Checked by:	Josephine Brown	<i>PP Mayo</i>	September 2006
Project Manager Sign-off:	Tim Bradley	<i>T Bradley</i>	September 2006

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

**An Archaeological Watching Brief at 18 – 24 Wray Park Road, Reigate,
Surrey**

Site Code: SWPR 06

Central National Grid Reference: TQ 2572 5094

Written and Researched by Chris Mayo

Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited, September 2006

Project Manager: Chris Mayo

Commissioning Client: CgMs Consulting

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

**Telephone: Projects: 020 7732 3925
Post Excavation/Administration: 020 7639 9091
Fax: 020 732 7896
Email: c.mayo@pre-construct.com
Website: www.pre-construct.com**

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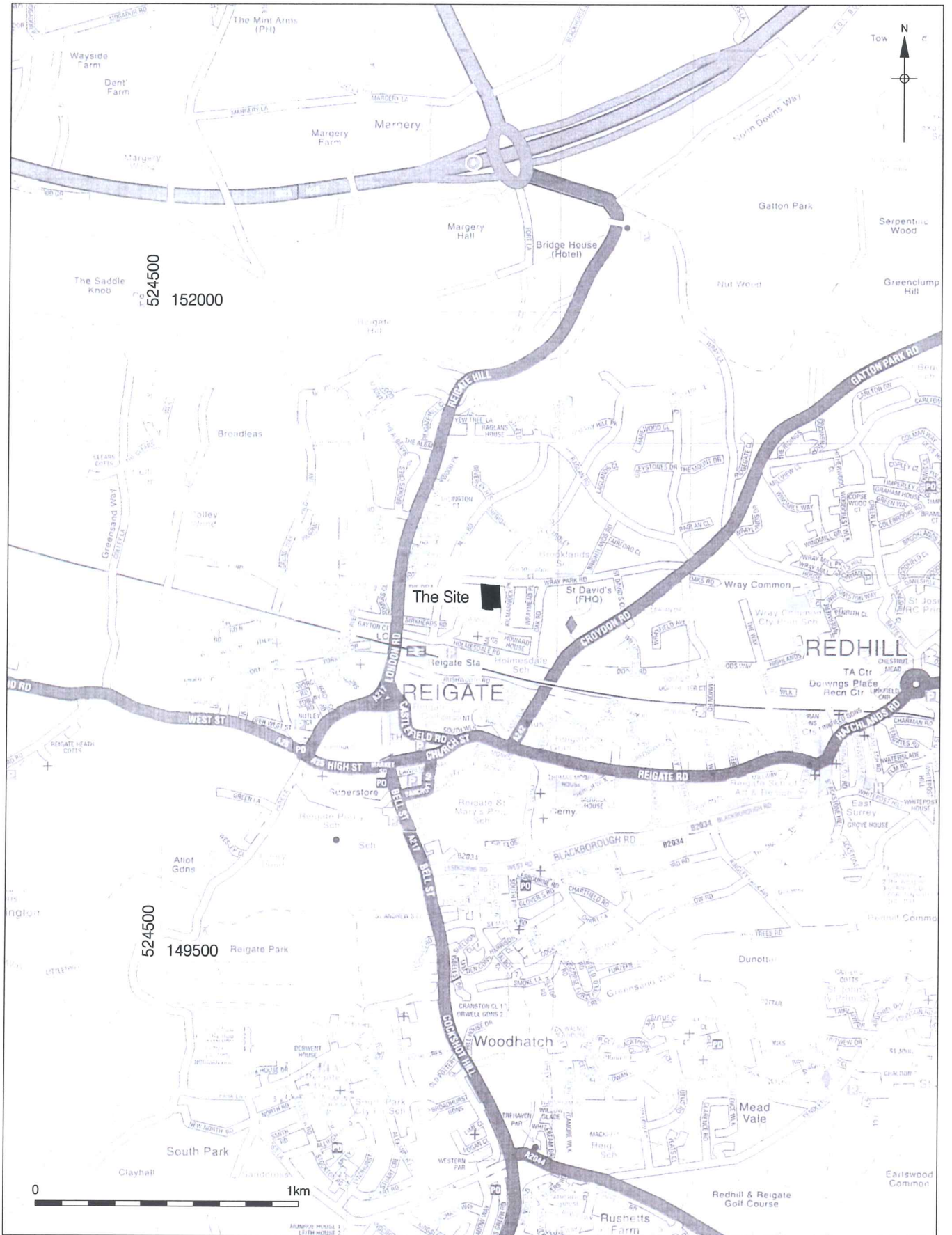
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1 ABSTRACT

- 1.1 This report details the results of an archaeological watching brief commissioned by CgMs Consulting at 18 – 24 Wray Park Road, Reigate, Surrey (Figure 1). The site is centred on National Grid Reference TQ 2572 5094.
- 1.2 The watching brief monitored the excavation of drainage runs and a soakaway in the northeast and southwest areas of the site (Figure 2). The site is being redeveloped for new residential accommodation, having previously comprised 4 separate house plots. It had been agreed with Tony Howe of Surrey County Council that the new structural development of the site would only impact upon areas of previous structural impact. As such these elements of the development were not monitored. The watching brief took place discontinuously between the 15th May and 31st August 2006 and was monitored variously by Neil Hawkins, Dave Atkin, William Johnston and Stuart Watson, all of Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd.
- 1.3 A Desk-Based Assessment of the site had previously been undertaken (Meager 2005a). This concluded that the site had a low potential for all archaeological periods.
- 1.4 Natural deposits were seen across the site, sealed in the southwest corner by a layer of probably post-medieval subsoil. This had been cut by an undated posthole, the only feature seen during the watching brief. Layers of 20th century demolition rubble and topsoil completed the sequence, including a garden surface.

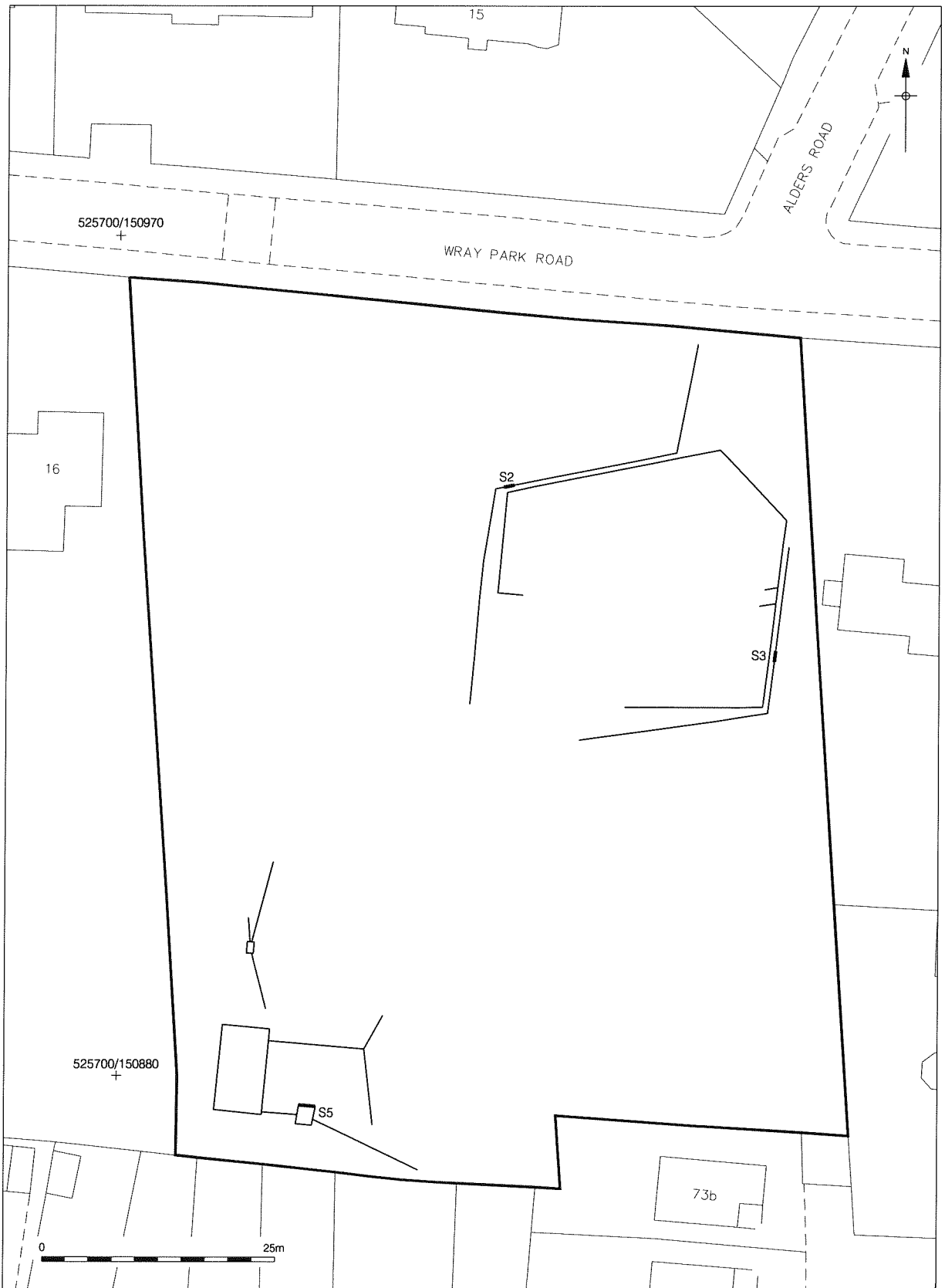
2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 An archaeological watching brief was conducted by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd. at 18 – 24 Wray Park Road, Reigate, Surrey (Figure 1). The work took place discontinuously between the 15th May and 31st August 2006. The work was commissioned by CgMs Consulting prior to the redevelopment of the site and was supervised variously by Neil Hawkins, Dave Atkin, William Johnston and Stuart Watson. The project was managed by Chris Mayo and monitored by Tony Howe of Surrey County Council.
- 2.2 The site is centred at TQ 2572 5094 and is bounded by Wray Park Road to the north, the rear of properties fronting Warren Road to the south, the rear of properties fronting Kilmarnock Park to the east and properties fronting Wray Park Road to the west.
- 2.3 The watching brief monitored the excavation of drainage runs and a soakaway in the northeast and southwest areas of the site (Figure 2). This followed agreement from Tony Howe that the area of impact from the new structures was within the footprint of the previous buildings on site. The work followed the methodology specified in the Specification for the site (Meager 2005b).
- 2.4 The completed archive comprising written and drawn records will be deposited at the local recipient museum under the site code SWPR 06.



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Figure 1
 Site Location
 1:20,000 at A4



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Figure 2
Areas of Watching Brief
1:625 at A4

3 GEOLOGICAL, ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

3.1 The underlying geology of the site is predominantly Gault Clay, but with the southeast corner within the Folkestone Beds of Lower Greensand (Meager 2005a).

3.2 The current ground surface is relatively flat at a height of approximately 95.0m OD.

3.3 Prehistoric Background

3.3.1 Flint artefacts have been recovered in the area but have been found as findspots rather than being associated with prehistoric features, They range in date from the Mesolithic to the Neolithic are concentrated around the centre of Reigate to the southwest. The same applies to the Bronze Age and Iron Age periods (Meager 2005a).

3.4 Roman Background

3.4.1 Roman activity in the area has been found to the east in the form of findspots and a kiln, while a road surface was found to the west (Meager 2005a).

3.5 Saxon and Medieval Background

3.5.1 Saxon and medieval activity has been found concentrated to the south around Reigate centre itself. By the late medieval period the site is thought to have been open land (Meager 2005a).

3.6 Post-Medieval Background

3.6.1 Until the middle of the 19th century the site was within open land. A map of 1845 shows it within parkland associated with a large house to the south. Structural development in the area occurred in the second half of the late 19th century (Meager 2005a).

4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

- 4.1 The watching brief followed a specification (Meager 2005b) designed to monitor all groundworks and ensure that any archaeological remains were recorded and interpreted. The attending archaeologist monitored the excavation of drainage trenches. These were undertaken using a mechanical digger fitted with a flat-bladed ditching bucket.
- 4.2 The watching brief was targeted at the drainage works in the northeast and southwest corners of the site (Figure 2). The drainage works largely comprised narrow trenches for new pipes to a maximum depth of 1.2m, but also in the southwest corner included a new manhole and soakaway formation which enabled the recording of larger areas to depths of at least 1.5m.
- 4.3 All material excavated was observed and stratigraphic changes and features were recorded.
- 4.4 Site levels were calculated from spot heights indicated on an architectural plan of the site.

5 ARCHAEOLOGICAL SEQUENCE

5.1 Phase 1: Natural (Figure 3)

5.1.1 Natural ground was observed in all areas of the watching brief. It was present as a layer of light green to yellowish grey silt-clay [4]. Occasional inclusions of greensand were also seen, concentrated towards the south of the site. It was recorded at heights between 94.22m OD in the northeast of the site and 92.45m OD in the southwest of the site.

5.2 Phase 2: Reworked Subsoil

5.2.1 A layer of subsoil found in the southwest area of the site showed evidence of having been reworked, from small fragments of ceramic building material within its matrix. The layer [3] was formed of brownish yellow clay-silt, had a maximum thickness of 0.4m and was recorded at an upper height of 92.81m OD. It is likely to have been a post-medieval ploughsoil layer.

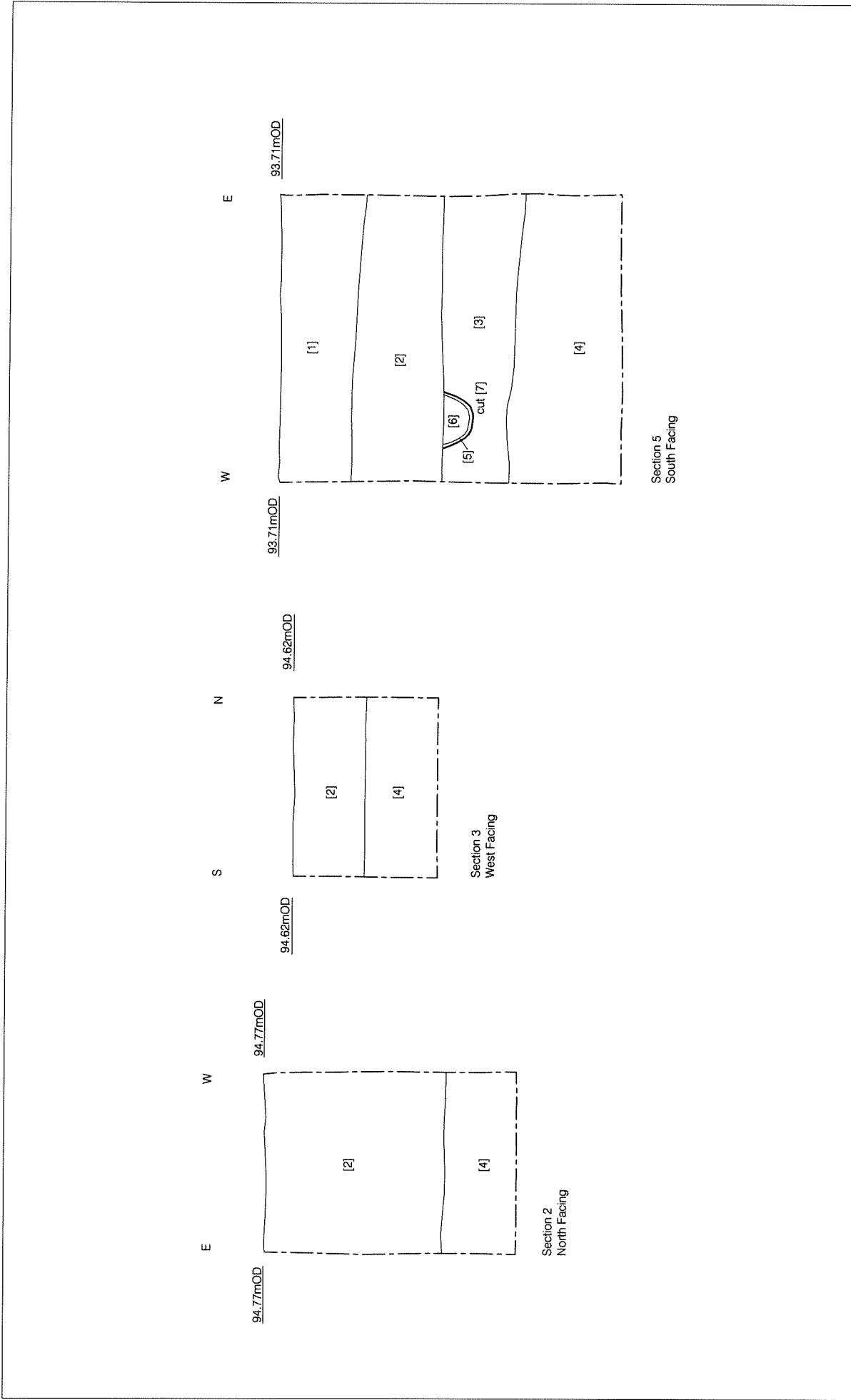
5.3 Phase 3: Undated Feature (Figure 3)

5.3.1 In the southwest corner of the site, the excavation for a new manhole required the enlargement of a previous one. During this work, a posthole [7] was observed in the section of the trench. The feature was undated but was cut into the subsoil [3]. The posthole was 0.3m in diameter and was 0.2m deep, cut from an upper height of 92.81m OD. It had a burnt charcoal lining [5] and a clay-silt fill [6].

5.4 Phase 4: 20th Century Activity (Figure 3)

5.4.1 Made ground layers and demolition sequences were seen across the site which relate to 20th century activity. In the southwest corner a crude brick surface [9] was recorded at an upper height of 93.56m OD. It comprised different brick types but mainly yellow and pink stock. It was interpreted as a garden surface, and was sealed by topsoil and turf [1] at an upper height of 93.89m OD.

5.4.2 Also in the southwest corner was a layer of demolition rubble [8] at 93.65m OD. This was similar to a widespread layer of demolition rubble [2] that was present across the site. Layer [2] was recorded at heights ranging from 94.63m OD to 93.70m OD.



6 INTERPRETATION AND CONCLUSIONS

- 6.1 The watching brief revealed natural ground across the site to be sealed in the southwest corner by a layer of subsoil, most likely resulting from post-medieval agricultural use.
- 6.2 An isolated and undated posthole was cut into the subsoil in the southwest corner. It, and the entire site, was sealed by 20th century dumps of demolition material but with small areas of recent garden activity.
- 6.3 No datable archaeological activity was revealed in the areas of the site subjected to the watching brief.

7 BIBLIOGRAPHY

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2005b 'Specification for an Archaeological Monitoring Exercise: 18-24 Wray Park Road,
Reigate, Surrey', unpub rep for CgMs Consulting

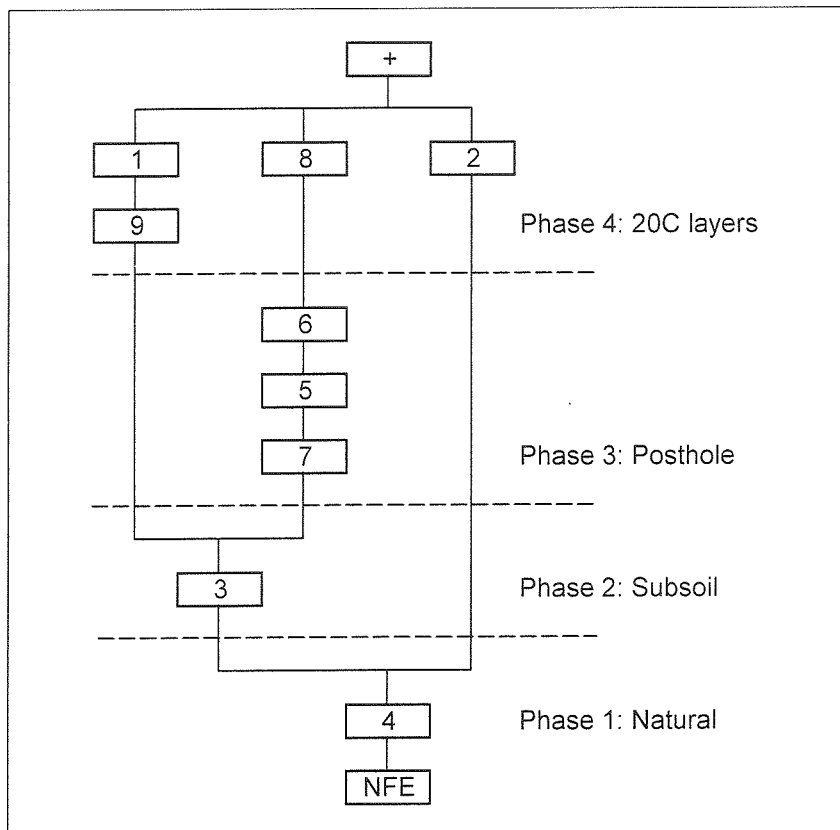
8 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- 8.1 Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited would like to thank Richard Meager of CgMs Consulting for commissioning the work. Thanks also to Tony Howe of Surrey County Council for monitoring the project.
- 8.2 The author would like to thank Hayley Baxter for the illustrations and the various members of staff who undertook the work: Neil Hawkins, Dave Atkin, Will Johnston and Stuart Watson. Thanks also to Tim Bradley for setting the project up.

APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT INDEX

Context Number	Area	Description	Type	Max OD height
1	SW	Layer	Topsoil and turf	93.83m
2	ALL	Layer	Made ground comprising demolition rubble	94.94m
3	SW	Layer	Reworked subsoil	92.81m
4	ALL	Layer	Natural silty clay with occ. Greensand	94.22m
5	SW	Fill	Lining to [7]	92.81
6	SW	Fill	Fill of [7]	92.81
7	SW	Cut	Possible posthole	92.81
8	SW	Layer	Demolition rubble	93.65
9	SW	Surface	20C garden surface	93.56

APPENDIX 2: SITE MATRIX



APPENDIX 3: OASIS REPORT FORM

OASIS ID: preconst1-18574

Project details

Project name	An Archaeological Watching Brief at 18 to 24 Wray Park Road, Reigate, Surrey
Short description of the project	An archaeological watching brief by Pre-Construct Archaeology was commissioned by CgMs Consulting at 18 to 24 Wray Park Road, Reigate, Surrey . The site is centred on National Grid Reference TQ 2572 5094. The watching brief monitored the excavation of drainage runs and a soakaway in the northeast and southwest areas of the site. The site is being redeveloped for new residential accommodation, having previously comprised 4 separate house plots. It had been agreed with Tony Howe of Surrey County Council that the new structural development of the site would only impact upon areas of previous structural impact. As such these elements of the development were not monitored. A Desk Based Assessment of the site had previously been undertaken. This concluded that the site had a low potential for all archaeological periods. Natural deposits were seen across the site, sealed in the southwest corner by a layer of probably post-medieval subsoil. This had been cut by an undated posthole, the only feature seen during the watching brief. Layers of 20th century demolition rubble and topsoil completed the sequence, including a garden surface.
Project dates	Start: 15-05-2006 End: 31-08-2006
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	SWPR06 - Sitecode
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Residential 1 - General Residential
Methods & techniques	'Sample Trenches'
Development type	Urban residential (e.g. flats, houses, etc.)
Prompt	Planning condition
Position in the planning process	After full determination (eg. As a condition)
Project location	
Country	England
Site location	SURREY REIGATE AND BANSTEAD BANSTEAD 18 – 24 Wray Park Road, Reigate, Surrey
Postcode	RH2
Study area	6300.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	TQ 2572 5094 51.2432381367 -0.198669748828 51 14 35 N 000 11 55 W Point

Height OD	Min: 92.45m Max: 94.22m
Project creators	
Name of Organisation	Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd
Project brief originator	CgMs Consulting
Project design originator	Richard Meager
Project director/manager	Chris Mayo
Project supervisor	Neil Hawkins/Dave Atkin/William Johnston/Stuart Watson
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer
Name of sponsor/funding body	Charles Church Developments Limited (South East)
Project archives	
Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	Local museum
Digital Contents	'Stratigraphic'
Digital Media available	'Images vector','Spreadsheets'
Paper Archive recipient	Local Museum
Paper Contents	'Stratigraphic'
Paper Media available	'Context sheet','Notebook - Excavation',' Research',' General Notes','Plan','Section'
Project bibliography 1	
Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
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