

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING

BRIEF AT

NEW CROSS NDC,

NEW CROSS GATE,

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

JULY 2007

DOCUMENT VERIFICATION

NEW CROSS NDC, NEW CROSS GATE,
LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

Quality Control

Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited			K1383
	Name & Title	Signature	Date
Text Prepared by:	Andrew Sargent		July 2007
Graphics Prepared by:	Hayley Baxter		July 2007
Graphics Checked by:	Josephine Brown		July 2007
Project Manager Sign-off:	Chris Mayo		July 2007

Revision No.	Date	Checked	Approved

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

An Archaeological Watching Brief at New Cross NDC, New Cross Gate, London Borough of Lewisham

Site Code: NWX 07

Central National Grid Reference: TQ 3555 7700

Written and Researched by Andrew Sargent,

Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited, July 2007

Project Manager: Chris Mayo

Commissioning Client: CgMs Consulting on behalf of New Cross Gate NDC

**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: cmayo@pre-construct.com

Website: www.pre-construct.com

**© Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited
July 2007**

© The material contained herein is and remains the sole property of Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited and is not for publication to third parties without prior consent. Whilst every effort has been made to provide detailed and accurate information, Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd cannot be held responsible for errors or inaccuracies herein contained.

CONTENTS

ABSTRACT	3
1 INTRODUCTION	4
2 GEOLOGICAL, ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND	7
3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY	9
4 SUMMARY OF THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SEQUENCE	10
5 CONCLUSIONS	19
6 BIBLIOGRAPHY	20
7 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	21

APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT INDEX	22
APPENDIX 2: SITE MATRIX	25
APPENDIX 3: OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM	26

ILLUSTRATIONS

FIGURE 1: SITE LOCATION	5
FIGURE 2: TRENCH LOCATIONS	6
FIGURE 3: SECTIONS	18

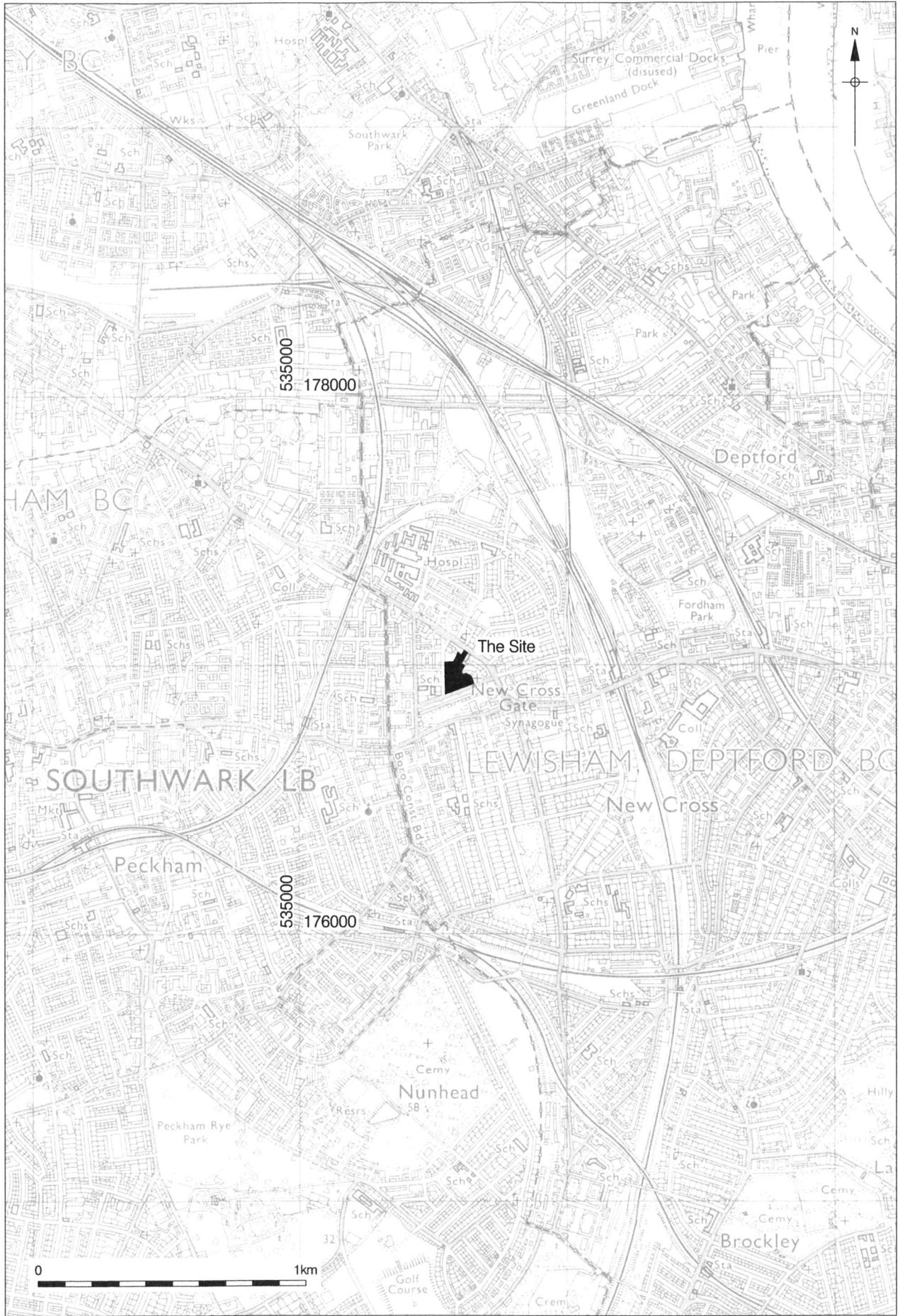
ABSTRACT

This report details the results and working methods of an archaeological watching brief of geotechnical trial pits carried out at New Cross Gate, London Borough of Lewisham. Natural sand was recorded across the site, overlain by intact brickearth deposits in the majority of trial pits. A relict horticultural horizon was recorded overlying the brickearth in many of these. Truncations from 19th century housing and industry were shown to be fairly localised, and only two possible basement areas were discovered despite the positioning of several trial pits across former street frontages. Furthermore, wartime bombing, although immensely destructive above ground, appeared to have had very little effect on the deposits beneath. The site is currently occupied by three housing blocks dating to the second half of the 20th century, separated by open areas comprising lawns and flower beds.

Despite the fact that intact brickearth deposits and a horticultural horizon were revealed at the site, no archaeological activity pre-dating the 19th century was seen within any trial pit, and as such no further mitigation is recommended.

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 An archaeological watching brief of geotechnical trial pits was undertaken between 26th February and 1st March 2007 by Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited at a site in New Cross Gate, London Borough of Lewisham. The site lies in an Archaeological Priority Zone as defined in the borough's Unitary Development Plan Proposals Map. The work took place in conjunction with geotechnical investigation works.
- 1.2 The site has an irregular shape, and is bounded by Briant Street to the west, Besson Street to the south, and the rear boundary of properties fronting New Cross Road to the north and east (Figure 1). The site has a central National Grid Reference of TQ 3555 7700.
- 1.3 Nineteen geotechnical trial pits were excavated across the site to depths between 1.1m and 3.7m, and were recorded as a watching brief (Figure 2).
- 1.4 CgMs Consulting commissioned the work on behalf of New Cross Gate NDC. The project was project managed for Pre-Construct Archaeology by Chris Mayo and supervised by the author. Mark Stevenson of English Heritage monitored the site on behalf of Lewisham Borough Council. The Museum of London Site Code assigned to the project was NWX 07.



Reproduced from Ordnance Survey 1:25,000. Crown Copyright 1988.

© Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd

Figure 1
Site Location
1:20,000 at A4



© Crown copyright 2006. All rights reserved. License number PMP36110309

© Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd

Figure 2
 Test Pit Location
 1:1,000 at A4

2 GEOLOGICAL, ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1 An archaeological desk based assessment was prepared by Richard Meager of CgMs Consulting prior to the archaeological fieldwork (Meager 2006). The following represents a summary of the geological, archaeological and historical background to the site, as represented within this document.
- 2.2 According to the British Geological Survey the geology immediately underlying the site comprises Langley Silts (defined as sandy clay and silt, or 'brickearth'). The site is located within the London Basin, and therefore overlies bedrock comprising London Clay overlying Upper Chalk. The site is roughly level with a spotheight in the centre of New Cross Road, northeast of the study site, of 3.8m OD.
- 2.3 No material dating to the Palaeolithic, Mesolithic or Neolithic periods has been found in the vicinity of the site, although traditionally the Langley Silts complex has proved to be a source of Palaeolithic flint artefacts. A single Bronze Age socketed axe was found 'near Hatcham' to the southeast of the site. Otherwise, no material of Bronze Age or Iron Age date has been discovered.
- 2.4 Watling Street, the Roman road from Dover to London, may be represented by the line of the Old Kent Road and its extension New Cross Road, which passes just northeast of the site. However, no Roman features have been found in the vicinity of the site, and artefacts are limited to small amounts of residual pottery found to the southeast of the site and a stone Janus head found at St Thomas' Watering Place north of the site.
- 2.5 No finds or features of early or late medieval date have been found within the vicinity of the site. The area may have comprised open farmland during these periods.
- 2.6 The site continued as open land, perhaps in use as market gardens, into the beginning of the 19th century. By 1844 Mason Street (later Besson Street) and Henry Street (later Briant Street) had been created, and houses occupied the Mason Street and New Cross Road frontages of the site. During the second half of the 19th century the Henry Street frontage was also developed, and by the end of the century the streets had assumed their current names. A printing works had also been constructed in the northern central part of the site, with a furnace to the north of it.

2.7 Many of the buildings on the site, including the printing works, were expanded and reworked during the first half of the 20th century. However, during the war the site suffered significant bomb damage. The New Cross Road frontage was completely cleared, whilst the Besson and Briant Street frontages were partially destroyed, although the printing works appears to have escaped unscathed. In the 1950s the site was cleared and the two easternmost of the extant housing blocks, Wynne House and Bower House, were erected. The third block, fronting Briant Street, had been erected by the early 1980s.

3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

- 3.1 Nineteen geotechnical trial pits were excavated across the site to investigate ground conditions, and were observed and recorded as an archaeological watching brief. Trial Pit 6 was aborted at a depth of 1.10m due to obstruction from concrete foundations, and was eventually excavated slightly to the west of its intended position. Both the original and secondary pits were recorded, and are reported here as TP6a and TP6b respectively.
- 3.2 Each trial pit measured approximately 2m by 0.60m, except for TP1 and TP19, which were extended to 4m and 2.7m long respectively to mitigate the presence of masonry structures within them. All trial pits other than TP6a were excavated to depths between 3m and 4m to insure a respectable sample of the natural deposits.
- 3.3 The trial pits were excavated with a JCB under the engineers' and archaeologist's supervision. Schematic sample sections were produced at a scale of 1:10 or 1:20 as appropriate, and each trial pit was planned at a scale of 1:50. The nature and depth of the trial pits precluded any examination of features or deposits by hand below a depth of 1.20m, deeper deposits and features being recorded from the top of the trial pit. The locations of all trial pits were surveyed by the engineers whilst the Ordnance Datum levels referred to in this report have been calculated using estimated heights for the top of each trial pit taken from drawings provided by the client (WhitbyBird 2007, Drawings 4260/G/003, 4260/G/004, 4260/G/006).
- 3.4 Trial Pits 17 and 18, which were not included in this phase of fieldwork, are due to be undertaken on an adjoining piece of development land at a later date.

4 SUMMARY OF THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SEQUENCE

4.1 Below is a summary of the deposits encountered in each of the testpits that were archaeologically monitored. The Ordnance Datum heights given are calculated from the level at the top of each trench which have been estimated from the drawings provided by the client (WhitbyBird, 2007)

4.2 TP1

4.2.1 Trial Pit 1 was located at the northern end of the western half of the site, and measured approximately 4m northeast-southwest by 0.60m northwest-southeast by 3.70m deep. The earliest deposit recorded was gritty pale orange sand [26] at 0.40m OD, overlain by medium orange sand [25] at a maximum height of 1.7m OD. This underlay 0.70m of pale orangey brown sandy clay or brickearth [24], at a maximum of 2.8m OD, itself overlain by mid brownish grey sandy silt [22] at 3.2m OD, which may represent a horticultural horizon. This was cut by a concrete foundation [53] at a maximum height of 3.2m OD, aligned east-west and continuing down beyond the vertical limit of excavation at 1.20m. This supported the remains of a brick wall [52] at a maximum height of 3.6m OD, abutting a concrete slab [51] at the same height, which extended across the remainder of the trial pit to the north. These masonry features may relate to a yard and lean-to range abutting a printing works to the south, as shown on the 1951-52 Ordnance Survey map. The foundation was overlain by a layer of demolition rubble [21] at a height of 3.5m OD, and the trial pit was sealed by modern topsoil [20].

4.3 TP2

4.3.1 Trial Pit 2 was located in the northeast area of the site and measured approximately 2m north-south by 0.60m east-west by 3.60m deep. The earliest deposit recorded was medium orange sand [66] at a maximum height of 1.5m OD, overlain by 1.75m of brickearth [65] at a maximum height of 3.25m OD. This underlay a layer of mid brownish grey sandy silt [64] at 3.55m OD, which may represent a horticultural horizon. This was overlain by pale to mid greyish brown sandy clayey silt [63], containing moderate amounts of modern CBM, at a height of 3.90m OD. The trial pit was sealed by modern topsoil [62].

4.4 TP3

4.4.1 Trial Pit 3 was located in the northeast area of the site, west of Trial Pit 2, and measured approximately 2m east-west by 0.60m north-south by 3.40m deep. The earliest deposit recorded was medium orange sand [72] at a height of 1.4m OD, overlain by 1.50m of brickearth [71] at a maximum height of 3.1m OD. This was overlain by mid greyish brown clayey sandy silt [70] at 3.7m OD, which may represent a horticultural horizon. An east-west construction cut [76] truncated this deposit along the southern boundary of the trial pit and continued downward beyond the limit of excavation at 3.0m OD. It was filled by a concrete foundation [74] at a height of 0.90m, supporting the remains of a brick wall [73] at a height of 4.0m OD, and was backfilled by deposit [75] at a height of 3.7m OD. These features probably relate to the printing works that occupied the site from the late 19th century to the mid 20th century. They were overlain by pale greyish brown clayey sandy silt and gravel [69] at 3.9m OD, underlying a layer of demolition rubble [68] at 4.05m OD. The trial pit was sealed by modern topsoil [67].

4.5 TP4

4.5.1 Trial Pit 4 was located in the northeast area of the site, south of Trial Pit 2, and measured approximately 2m north-south by 0.60m east-west by 3.70m deep. The earliest deposit recorded was medium orange sand [86] at a height of 1.1m OD, overlain by 2.30m of brickearth [85] at a maximum height of 3.4m OD. This underlay a layer of mid greyish brown sandy clayey silt [84] at a height of 3.8m OD, which may represent a horticultural horizon. This was truncated by an irregular cut [88] in the southern half of the trial pit, with a minimum height of 1m below the surface and backfilled by modern rubble and corrugated iron sheeting [87], which may represent a robber cut along the rear boundary wall of the housing plots that once fronted Besson Street. This was overlain by a layer of sandy silt mixed with modern CBM [83] at a height of 4.00m OD, sealed by modern topsoil [82].

4.6 TP5

4.6.1 Trial Pit 5 was located in the eastern half of the site, south of Trial Pit 4, and measured approximately 2m north-south by 0.60m east-west by 3.40m deep. The earliest deposit recorded was medium orange sand [81] at a height of 1.5m OD, overlain by brickearth [80] with sandy and chalky inclusions [80] at a height of 2.0m

OD, in turn overlain by 1.65m of brickearth [79] at a maximum height of 3.65m OD. This underlay a layer of mid brownish grey sandy silt [78] at a height of 4.4m OD, which probably represents garden soil relating to the garden of a house previously fronting Besson Street. The trial pit was sealed by modern topsoil [77].

4.7 TP6a

4.7.1 Trial Pit 6a was located in the northwest area of the site, south of Trial Pit 1, and measured approximately 2m north-south by 0.60m east-west by 1.10m deep. It was aborted at this depth due to masonry obstruction and the impossibility of southward extension. The earliest deposit recorded was 0.28m of brickearth [13] at a maximum height of 3.38m OD. This was overlain by mid greyish brown sandy silt [12] at a height of 3.8m OD, which may represent a horticultural horizon. This deposit was cut by an east-west construction cut in the northern half of the trial pit that continued downward beyond the limit of excavation at 3.1m OD. The cut was filled by a concrete foundation [9] at a height of 3.4m OD, supporting the remains of a brick wall [8] at 3.8m OD, and backfilled by deposit [10], also at 3.8m OD. These features probably relate to the southern wall of the printing works that once occupied the site. They were overlain by a layer of modern demolition rubble at a height of 4.0m OD. The trial pit was sealed by modern topsoil [6].

4.8 TP6b

4.8.1 Trial Pit 6b was positioned a short distance to the west of Trial Pit 6a, and measured approximately 2m north-south by 0.60m east-west by 3.60m deep. The earliest deposit recorded was medium orange sand [19] at a height of 1.4m OD, overlain by very sandy pale yellow brickearth [18] at a height of 1.9m OD, in turn overlain by 1.20m of more clayey brickearth [17] at a maximum height of 3.1m OD. This underlay a layer of mid brownish grey sandy silt [16] at a height of 3.7m OD, which may represent a horticultural horizon, in turn underlying a layer of demolition rubble [15] at a height of 4.0m OD. The trial pit was sealed by modern topsoil [14].

4.9 TP7

4.9.1 Trial Pit 7 was positioned in the western half of the site, south of Trial Pit 6a, and measured approximately 2m east-west by 0.60m north-south by 2.80m deep. The

earliest feature recorded was a truncated brick wall [5] aligned east-west along the northern edge of the trial pit, at a height of 1.55m OD and continuing beyond the vertical limit of excavation. This may represent part of a basement belonging to a property once fronting Briant Street and later demolished. The wall was overlain by 2.50m of mid brownish grey sandy silt [4] at a maximum height of 3.95m OD, and containing large quantities of modern CBM fragments and other demolition products. A second brick wall, aligned north-south, was cut into this deposit at the western end of the trench, from a height of 3.95m OD down to a minimum of 3.65m OD. The trial pit was sealed by modern topsoil [1].

4.10 TP8

4.10.1 Trial Pit 8 was located in the western half of the site, south of Trial Pit 7, and measured approximately 2m east-west by 0.60m north-south by 3.10m deep. The earliest deposit recorded was medium orange sand [121] at a height of 2.05m OD, overlain by 1.60m of brickearth [120] at a maximum height of 3.65m OD. This underlay a layer of mid brownish grey sandy silt [119] at a height of 4.1m OD, which may represent a horticultural horizon. The trial pit was sealed by a layer of modern make-up [118] at 4.3m OD supporting a layer of modern tarmac [117].

4.11 TP9 (Figure 3)

4.11.1 Trial Pit 9 was located in the southwest area of the site, south of Trial Pit 8, and measured approximately 2m east-west by 0.60m north-south by 3.20m deep. The earliest deposit recorded was medium orange sand [113] at a height of 1.9m OD, overlain by 1.80m of brickearth [112] at a maximum height of 3.7m OD. This underlay a layer of mid brownish grey clayey sandy silt [111] at a height of 4.1m OD, which may represent a horticultural horizon. This deposit was truncated at the western end of the trench by a construction cut [116] aligned north-northwest to south-southeast, and extending downward from a height of 4.1m OD to the limit of excavation at 1.8m OD, beyond which it continued. The cut was filled by a brick wall [114] at a maximum height of 4.25m OD, and backfilled by deposit [115] at a height of 4.1m OD. This latter deposit was sealed by a layer of small concrete paving slabs [110] that abutted the brick wall to the west and extended to the limit of excavation in the east. These features represent parts of a structure orientated with Besson Street to the south, and were sealed by 0.05m of modern tarmac [108] supported on 0.30m of make-up [109].

4.12 TP10

4.12.1 Trial Pit 10 was relocated to the southern end of the site, south of Trial Pit 9, and measured approximately 2m northwest-southeast by 0.60m northeast-southwest by 3m deep. The earliest deposit recorded was medium orange sand [128] at height of 1.95m OD, overlain by 0.60m of sandy brickearth [127] at a height of 2.65m OD. This underlay 1.82m of mid greyish brown sandy silt [126] at a height of 4.47m OD containing large quantities of modern CBM fragments and other demolition products. These inclusions also included a large concrete object with a truncated cone shape that may represent the base of a furnace shown in this location on pre-war Ordnance Survey maps. This deposit was sealed by a layer of mortar [125] at a 4.5m OD, underlying a dark grey layer of silty sand and clinker [124] at 4.55m OD, in turn underlying a layer of pale yellow sand [123] at a height of 4.62m OD. The trial pit was sealed by modern topsoil [122].

4.13 TP11

4.13.1 Trial Pit 11 was located towards the eastern corner of the site, close to Besson Street, and measured approximately 2m north-south by 0.60m east-west by 2.85m deep. The earliest deposit recorded was medium orange sand [101] at a height of 1.8m OD, underlying 2m of brickearth [100] at a maximum height of 3.8m OD. This underlay a layer of mid brownish grey clayey sandy silt [99] at a height of 4.2m OD, which may represent a horticultural horizon. The trial pit was sealed by 0.10m of modern tarmac [97] supported by 0.30m of rubble hardcore [98].

4.14 TP12

4.14.1 Trial Pit 12 was located towards the eastern corner of the site, north of Trial Pit 11, and measured approximately 2m north-south by 0.60m east-west by 3.70m deep. The earliest deposit recorded was gritty orange sand [61] at a height of 0.75m OD, overlain by medium orange sand [60] at a height of 1.65m OD, in turn overlain by 1.50m of brickearth [59] at a maximum height of 3.15m OD. This underlay a layer of weathered brickearth [58] at a height of 3.65m OD, possibly a subsoil, in turn underlying a layer of mid brownish grey clayey sandy silt [57] at a height of 3.65m OD, which may represent a horticultural horizon. The trial pit was sealed by 0.10m of modern tarmac [55] supported by 0.40m of rubble hardcore [56].

4.15 TP13

4.15.1 Trial Pit 13 was located in the northeast area of the site, east of Trial Pit 4, and measured approximately 2m east-west by 0.60m north-south by 3.60m deep. The earliest deposit recorded was medium orange sand [92] at a height of 1.4m OD, overlain by 1.90m of brickearth [91] at a height of 3.3m OD. This underlay a layer of mid to dark greyish brown sandy silt [90] at a height of 0.10m, which may represent a garden soil associated with the garden of a property that once fronted Besson Street to the south. This deposit was truncated by a construction cut [96] aligned north-south, extending from a maximum height of 4.2m OD to a minimum of 2.6m OD. The cut was filled by a concrete foundation [95] at a height of 3.8m OD, supporting the western wall [94] of the extant housing block. The cut was backfilled with deposit [93] at 4.2m OD, and the trial pit was sealed by modern topsoil [89].

4.16 TP14

4.16.1 Trial Pit 14 was located towards the eastern corner of the site, southwest of Trial Pit 11, and measured approximately 2m east-west by 0.60m north-south by 3m deep. The earliest deposit recorded was medium orange sand [45] at a height of 1.95m OD, overlain by 1.80m of brickearth [44] at a maximum height of 3.75m OD. This underlay a layer of mid brownish grey sandy silt [43] at a height of 4.35m OD, which may represent a horticultural horizon. This deposit was truncated across much of the trial pit by service pipe cut [47] aligned approximately east-west, backfilled with deposit [46], and cut from a maximum height of 4.35m OD to a minimum of 3.25m OD. The trial pit was sealed by modern topsoil [42].

4.17 TP15

4.17.1 Trial Pit 15 was located in the southern area of the site, east of Trial Pit 10, and measured approximately 2m east-west by 0.60m north-south by 3.50m deep. The earliest deposit recorded was medium orange sand [41] at a height of 2.05m OD, overlain by 1.40m of brickearth [40] at a maximum height of 3.45m OD. This underlay a layer of very loose demolition rubble [39] at a height of 4.35m OD. The trial pit was sealed by modern topsoil [38].

4.18 TP16 (Figure 3)

4.18.1 Trial Pit 16 was located in the central area of the site, west of Trial Pit 4, and measured approximately 2m north-south by 0.60m east-west by 3.60m deep. The earliest deposit recorded was medium orange sand [37] at a height of 1.6m OD, overlain by pale greyish orange sandy brickearth [36] at a height of 2.40m OD, in turn overlain by 0.90m of more clayey brickearth [35] at a maximum height of 3.3m OD. This underlay a layer of mid brownish grey sandy silt [34] at a height of 3.8m OD, which may represent a horticultural horizon, in turn underlying a layer of mid greyish brown sandy silt [33] with frequent inclusions of ash or clinker, at a height of 4.1m OD. The trial pit was sealed by modern topsoil [32].

4.19 TP19 (Figure 3)

4.19.1 Trial Pit 19 was located towards the northwest corner of the site, southwest of Trial Pit 1, and measured approximately 2.60m north-south by 0.60m east-west by 2.90m deep. The earliest deposit recorded was medium orange sand [31] at a height of 1.65m OD, overlain by pale greyish orange sandy brickearth [30] at a height of 1.85m OD, in turn overlain by 0.90m of more clayey brickearth [29] at a maximum height of 2.75m OD. This was truncated by a construction cut [50] aligned east-west in the northern half of the trench, cut from a maximum height of 2.75m OD to a minimum of 1.75m OD, and filled to its maximum height by a concrete foundation [48]. This may represent the northern wall of the printing works that once occupied the site. In the southeast corner of the trial pit a brick pillar [49] was recorded extending from a maximum height of 3.75m OD down to the limit of excavation at 2.85m OD. This and the foundation were overlain by a layer of mid brownish grey sandy clayey silt [28] at a height of 3.85m OD, containing many fragments of modern CBM and other demolition products. The trial pit was sealed by modern topsoil [27].

4.20 TP20

4.20.1 Trial Pit 20 was located in the western half of the site, northwest of Trial Pit 9, and measured approximately 2m north-south by 0.60m east-west by 3.70m deep. The earliest deposit recorded was brickearth [105] at a height of 1.1m OD. It is possible, given the mixed nature of this deposit and its unusual depth, that it was redeposited and not in situ. It was overlain by 2.60m of mid to dark greyish brown sandy silt [104] at a maximum height of 3.7m OD, containing frequent fragments of pottery and CBM and other demolition and domestic waste products. This underlay a layer of pale to

mid greyish brown sandy silt [103] at a height of 4.05m OD. This deposit was truncated across much of the trial pit by a service pipe cut [107], backfilled with deposit [106], aligned northwest-southeast, and cut from a maximum height of 4.05m OD to a minimum of 3.3m OD. The trial pit was sealed by modern topsoil [102].

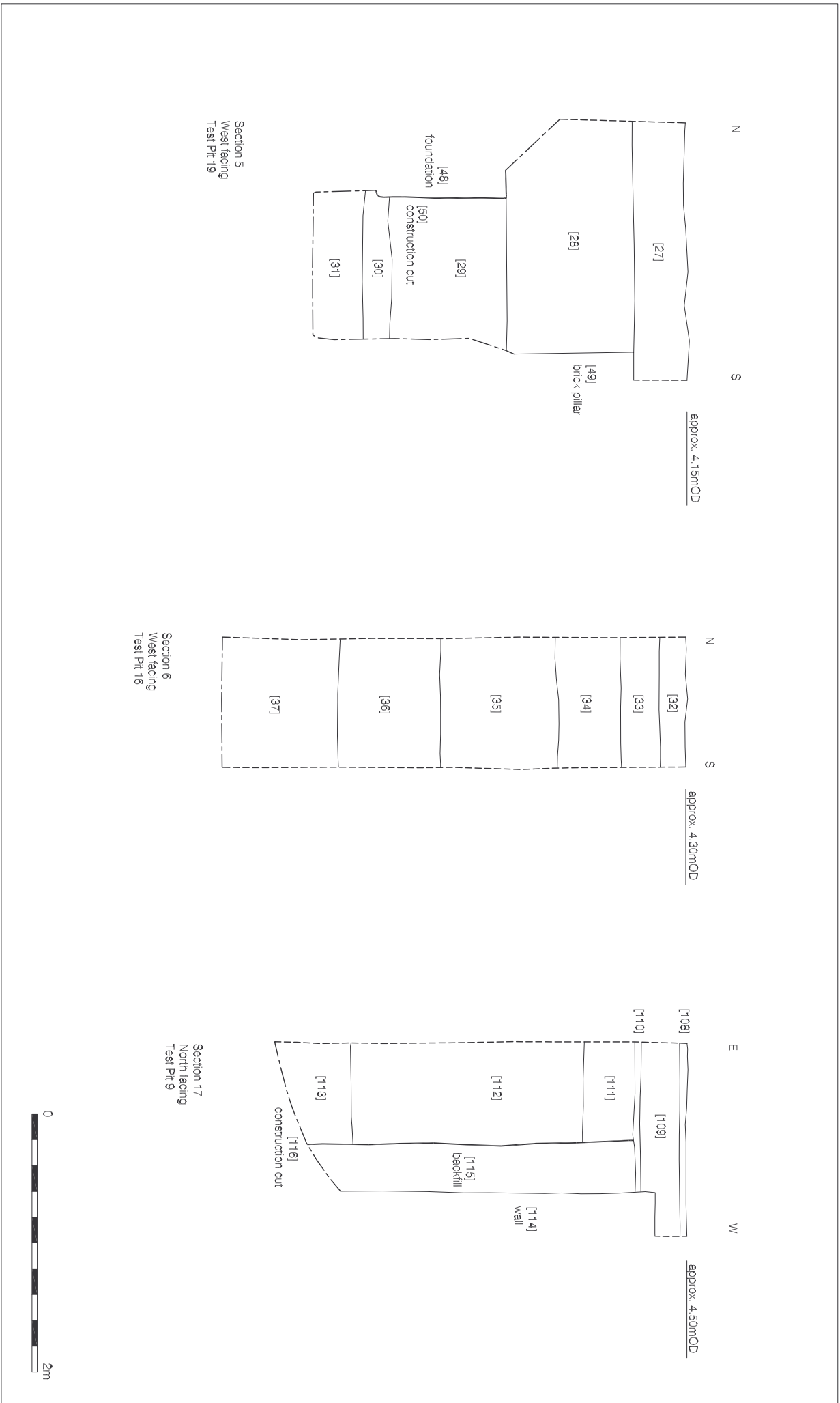


Figure 3
Sections 5, 6 & 17
1:40 at A4

5 CONCLUSIONS

- 5.1 Naturally deposited sand was recorded across the site, and in most trial pits was overlain by brickearth deposits in many places overlain in turn by a relict horticultural horizon. The printing works and furnace in the northern part of the site appear to have inflicted only localised truncations within the footprints of their foundations, and the brickearth deposits survive between these features without obvious contamination from industrial processes. Impacts from the 19th century housing fronting Besson Street also appear to be minor; indeed no foundations were exposed. This is no doubt due to the fortunate placement of the trial pits, but it does suggest that truncation might again be confined within localised foundation footprints. The southwest quarter of the site was the only area where significant truncation was recorded, probably due to demolished basements associated with buildings fronting Briant Street. The disturbance does not continue further north, and thus also appears fairly localised. The Briant Street frontage currently lies beneath modern housing, and thus could not be evaluated.
- 5.2 Despite the fact that intact brickearth deposits and a horticultural horizon were revealed at the site, no archaeological activity pre-dating the 19th century was seen within any trial pit, and as such no further mitigation is recommended.

6 BIBLIOGRAPHY

Meager, R. 2006. *Archaeological Desk Based Assessment. New Cross NDC. New Cross Gate. London SE14.* CgMs Consulting. Unpublished Report

WhitbyBird, 2007 *NEW CROSS GATE, Geotechnical & Geoenvironmental Interpretative Report For New Cross Gate NDC.* Unpublished Report

7 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- 7.1 Pre-Construct Archaeology would like to thank CgMs Consulting for commissioning the watching brief. Additionally, the author would like to thank the geotechnical crew for their on-site co-operation, Chris Mayo for his project management, and Hayley Baxter for the Illustrations.

APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT INDEX

Site Code	Context No.	Plan	Section / Elevation	Type	Description	Date	Phase
NWX 07	1	None	1	Layer	Topsoil	20th century	4
NWX 07	2	None	1	Masonry	Wall	20th century	4
NWX 07	3	None	1	Cut	Construction cut for [2]	20th century	4
NWX 07	4	None	1	Layer	Made ground	20th century	4
NWX 07	5	None	1	Masonry	Wall	19th century	3
NWX 07	6	None	2	Layer	Topsoil	20th century	4
NWX 07	7	None	2	Layer	Demolition layer	20th century	4
NWX 07	8	None	2	Masonry	Wall	19th century	3
NWX 07	9	None	2	Masonry	Foundation for [8]	19th century	3
NWX 07	10	None	2	Fill	Backfill of [11]	19th century	3
NWX 07	11	None	2	Cut	Construction cut for [8] and [9]	19th century	3
NWX 07	12	None	2	Layer	Horticultural horizon	<19th century	2
NWX 07	13	None	2	Layer	Brickearth	Late Pleistocene	1
NWX 07	14	None	3	Layer	Topsoil	20th century	4
NWX 07	15	None	3	Layer	Demolition layer	20th century	4
NWX 07	16	None	3	Layer	Horticultural horizon	<19th century	2
NWX 07	17	None	3	Layer	Brickearth	Late Pleistocene	1
NWX 07	18	None	3	Layer	Natural clayey sand	Pleistocene	1
NWX 07	19	None	3	Layer	Natural sand	Pleistocene	1
NWX 07	20	None	4	Layer	Topsoil	20th century	4
NWX 07	21	None	4	Layer	Demolition layer	20th century	4
NWX 07	22	None	4	Layer	Horticultural horizon	<19th century	2
NWX 07	23	None	4	Layer	Brickearth	Late Pleistocene	1
NWX 07	24	None	4	Layer	Natural clayey sand	Pleistocene	1
NWX 07	25	None	4	Layer	Natural sand	Pleistocene	1
NWX 07	26	None	4	Layer	Natural gravelly sand	Pleistocene	1
NWX 07	27	None	5	Layer	Topsoil	20th century	4
NWX 07	28	None	5	Layer	Made ground	20th century	4
NWX 07	29	None	5	Layer	Brickearth	Late Pleistocene	1
NWX 07	30	None	5	Layer	Natural clayey sand	Pleistocene	1
NWX 07	31	None	5	Layer	Natural sand	Pleistocene	1
NWX 07	32	None	6	Layer	Topsoil	20th century	4
NWX 07	33	None	6	Layer	Made ground	20th century	4
NWX 07	34	None	6	Layer	Horticultural horizon	<19th century	2
NWX 07	35	None	6	Layer	Brickearth	Late Pleistocene	1
NWX 07	36	None	6	Layer	Natural clayey sand	Pleistocene	1
NWX 07	37	None	6	Layer	Natural sand	Pleistocene	1
NWX 07	38	None	7	Layer	Topsoil	20th century	4
NWX 07	39	None	7	Layer	Demolition layer	20th century	4
NWX 07	40	None	7	Layer	Brickearth	Late Pleistocene	1
NWX 07	41	None	7	Layer	Natural sand	Pleistocene	1
NWX 07	42	None	8	Layer	Topsoil	20th century	4
NWX 07	43	None	8	Layer	Horticultural horizon	<19th century	2
NWX 07	44	None	8	Layer	Brickearth	Late Pleistocene	1
NWX 07	45	None	8	Layer	Natural sand	Pleistocene	1
NWX 07	46	None	8	Fill	Fill of [47]	20th century	4
NWX 07	47	None	8	Cut	Pipe cut	20th century	4

NWX 07	48	None	5	Masonry	Foundation	19th century	3
NWX 07	49	None	5	Masonry	Brick Pillar	19th century	3
NWX 07	50	None	5	Cut	Construction cut for [48]	19th century	3
NWX 07	51	None	4	Masonry	Concrete slab	20th century	4
NWX 07	52	None	4	Masonry	Wall	20th century	4
NWX 07	53	None	4	Masonry	Foundation	20th century	4
NWX 07	54	None	4	Cut	Construction cut for [53]	20th century	4
NWX 07	55	None	9	Layer	Tarmac	20th century	4
NWX 07	56	None	9	Layer	Hardcore for [55]	20th century	4
NWX 07	57	None	9	Layer	Horticultural horizon	<19th century	2
NWX 07	58	None	9	Layer	Weathered brickearth - subsoil?	Late Pleistocene	1
NWX 07	59	None	9	Layer	Brickearth	Late Pleistocene	1
NWX 07	60	None	9	Layer	Natural sand	Pleistocene	1
NWX 07	61	None	9	Layer	Natural gravelly sand	Pleistocene	1
NWX 07	62	None	10	Layer	Topsoil	20th century	4
NWX 07	63	None	10	Layer	Made ground	20th century	4
NWX 07	64	None	10	Layer	Horticultural horizon	<19th century	2
NWX 07	65	None	10	Layer	Brickearth	Late Pleistocene	1
NWX 07	66	None	10	Layer	Natural sand	Pleistocene	1
NWX 07	67	None	11	Layer	Topsoil	20th century	4
NWX 07	68	None	11	Layer	Demolition layer	20th century	4
NWX 07	69	None	11	Layer	Made ground	20th century	4
NWX 07	70	None	11	Layer	Horticultural horizon	<19th century	2
NWX 07	71	None	11	Layer	Brickearth	Late Pleistocene	1
NWX 07	72	None	11	Layer	Natural sand	Pleistocene	1
NWX 07	73	None	11	Masonry	Wall	19th century	3
NWX 07	74	None	11	Masonry	Foundation	19th century	3
NWX 07	75	None	11	Fill	Backfill of [76]	19th century	3
NWX 07	76	None	11	Cut	Construction cut for [73] and [74]	19th century	3
NWX 07	77	None	12	Layer	Topsoil	20th century	4
NWX 07	78	None	12	Layer	Garden soil	19th century	3
NWX 07	79	None	12	Layer	Brickearth	Late Pleistocene	1
NWX 07	80	None	12	Layer	Transition from brickearth to sand	Pleistocene	1
NWX 07	81	None	12	Layer	Natural sand	Pleistocene	1
NWX 07	82	None	13	Layer	Topsoil	20th century	4
NWX 07	83	None	13	Layer	Made ground	20th century	4
NWX 07	84	None	13	Layer	Horticultural horizon	<19th century	2
NWX 07	85	None	13	Layer	Brickearth	Late Pleistocene	1
NWX 07	86	None	13	Layer	Natural sand	Pleistocene	1
NWX 07	87	None	13	Fill	Backfill of [88]	20th century	4
NWX 07	88	None	13	Cut	Robber cut of garden wall?	20th century	4
NWX 07	89	None	14	Layer	Topsoil	20th century	4
NWX 07	90	None	14	Layer	Garden soil	19th century	3
NWX 07	91	None	14	Layer	Brickearth	Late Pleistocene	1
NWX 07	92	None	14	Layer	Natural sand	Pleistocene	1
NWX 07	93	None	14	Fill	Backfill of [96]	20th century	4
NWX 07	94	None	14	Masonry	Extant house wall	20th century	4
NWX 07	95	None	14	Masonry	Foundation for [94]	20th century	4
NWX 07	96	None	14	Cut	Construction cut for [95]	20th century	4
NWX 07	97	None	15	Layer	Tarmac	20th century	4
NWX 07	98	None	15	Layer	Hardcore for [97]	20th century	4

NWX 07	99	None	15	Layer	Horticultural horizon	<19th century	2
NWX 07	100	None	15	Layer	Brickearth	Late Pleistocene	1
NWX 07	101	None	15	Layer	Natural sand	Pleistocene	1
NWX 07	102	None	16	Layer	Topsoil	20th century	4
NWX 07	103	None	16	Layer	Made ground	20th century	4
NWX 07	104	None	16	Fill	Basement backfill?	20th century	4
NWX 07	105	None	16	Layer	Brickearth	Late Pleistocene	1
NWX 07	106	None	16	Fill	Backfill of [107]	20th century	4
NWX 07	107	None	16	Cut	Pipecut	20th century	4
NWX 07	108	None	17	Layer	Tarmac	20th century	4
NWX 07	109	None	17	Layer	Hardcore for [108]	20th century	4
NWX 07	110	None	17	Layer	Paved surface	20th century	4
NWX 07	111	None	17	Layer	Horticultural horizon	<19th century	2
NWX 07	112	None	17	Layer	Brickearth	Late Pleistocene	1
NWX 07	113	None	17	Layer	Natural sand	Pleistocene	1
NWX 07	114	None	17	Masonry	Basement wall	19th century	3
NWX 07	115	None	17	Fill	Backfill of [115]	19th century	3
NWX 07	116	None	17	Cut	Construction cut for [114]	19th century	3
NWX 07	117	None	18	Layer	Tarmac	20th century	4
NWX 07	118	None	18	Layer	Hardcore for [117]	20th century	4
NWX 07	119	None	18	Layer	Horticultural horizon	<19th century	2
NWX 07	120	None	18	Layer	Brickearth	Late Pleistocene	1
NWX 07	121	None	18	Layer	Natural sand	Pleistocene	1
NWX 07	122	None	19	Layer	Topsoil	20th century	4
NWX 07	123	None	19	Layer	Made ground	20th century	4
NWX 07	124	None	19	Layer	Made ground	20th century	4
NWX 07	125	None	19	Layer	Made ground	20th century	4
NWX 07	126	None	19	Fill	Backfill?	20th century	4
NWX 07	127	None	19	Layer	Brickearth	Late Pleistocene	1
NWX 07	128	None	19	Layer	Natural sand	Pleistocene	1

APPENDIX 3: OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM

OASIS ID: preconst1-25452

Project details

Project name	New Cross NDC
Short description of the project	This report details the results and working methods of an archaeological watching brief of geotechnical trial pits carried out at New Cross Gate, London Borough of Lewisham. Natural sand was recorded across the site, overlain by intact brickearth deposits in the majority of trial pits. A relict horticultural horizon was recorded overlying the brickearth in a minority of cases. Truncations from 19th century housing and industry were shown to be fairly localised, and only two possible basement areas were discovered despite the positioning of several trial pits across former street frontages. Furthermore, wartime bombing, although immensely destructive above ground, appeared to have had very little effect on the deposits beneath. The site is currently occupied by three housing blocks dating to the second half of the 20th century, separated by open areas comprising lawns and flower beds.
Project dates	Start: 26-02-2007 End: 01-03-2007
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	NWX 07 - Sitecode
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	Local Authority Designated Archaeological Area
Current Land use	Residential 1 - General Residential
Methods & techniques	'Test Pits'
Development type	Urban residential (e.g. flats, houses, etc.)
Development type	Urban commercial (e.g. offices, shops, banks, 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 DEPTFORD AND NEWCROSS New Cross NDC, New Cross Gate
Postcode	SE14 5AT
Study area	5500.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	TQ 3555 7700 51.4751967832 -0.04797469949450 51 28 30 N 000 02 52 W Point

Project creators

Name of	Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd
---------	-------------------------------

Organisation	
Project brief originator	CgMs Consulting
Project design originator	CgMs Consulting
Project director/manager	Chris Mayo
Project supervisor	Andrew Sargent
Type of sponsor/funding body	New Cross NDC
Name of sponsor/funding body	New Cross NDC

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive Exists?	No
Digital Contents	'none'
Paper Archive recipient	LAARC
Paper Archive ID	NWX 07
Paper Contents	'none'
Paper Media available	'Context sheet','Matrices','Section','Unpublished Text'

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	An Archaeological Watching Brief at New Cross NDC, New Cross Gate, London Borough of Lewisham
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Sargent, A
Date	2007
Issuer or publisher	Pre-Construct Archaeology
Place of issue or publication	Brockley, London
Description	A4 pamphlet

Entered by	Andrew Sargent (asargent@pre-construct.com)
Entered on	21 March 2007