

EHB07

**AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL
EVALUATION OF LAND AT
ENDEVA HOUSE, CRAY AVENUE,
ST MARY CRAY, LONDON
BOROUGH OF BROMLEY**



May 2007

**An Archaeological Evaluation of Land at Endeve House, Cray Avenue, St
Mary Cray, London Borough of Bromley**

Site Code: EHB 07

Central National Grid Reference: TQ 4695 6815

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Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited, May 2007**

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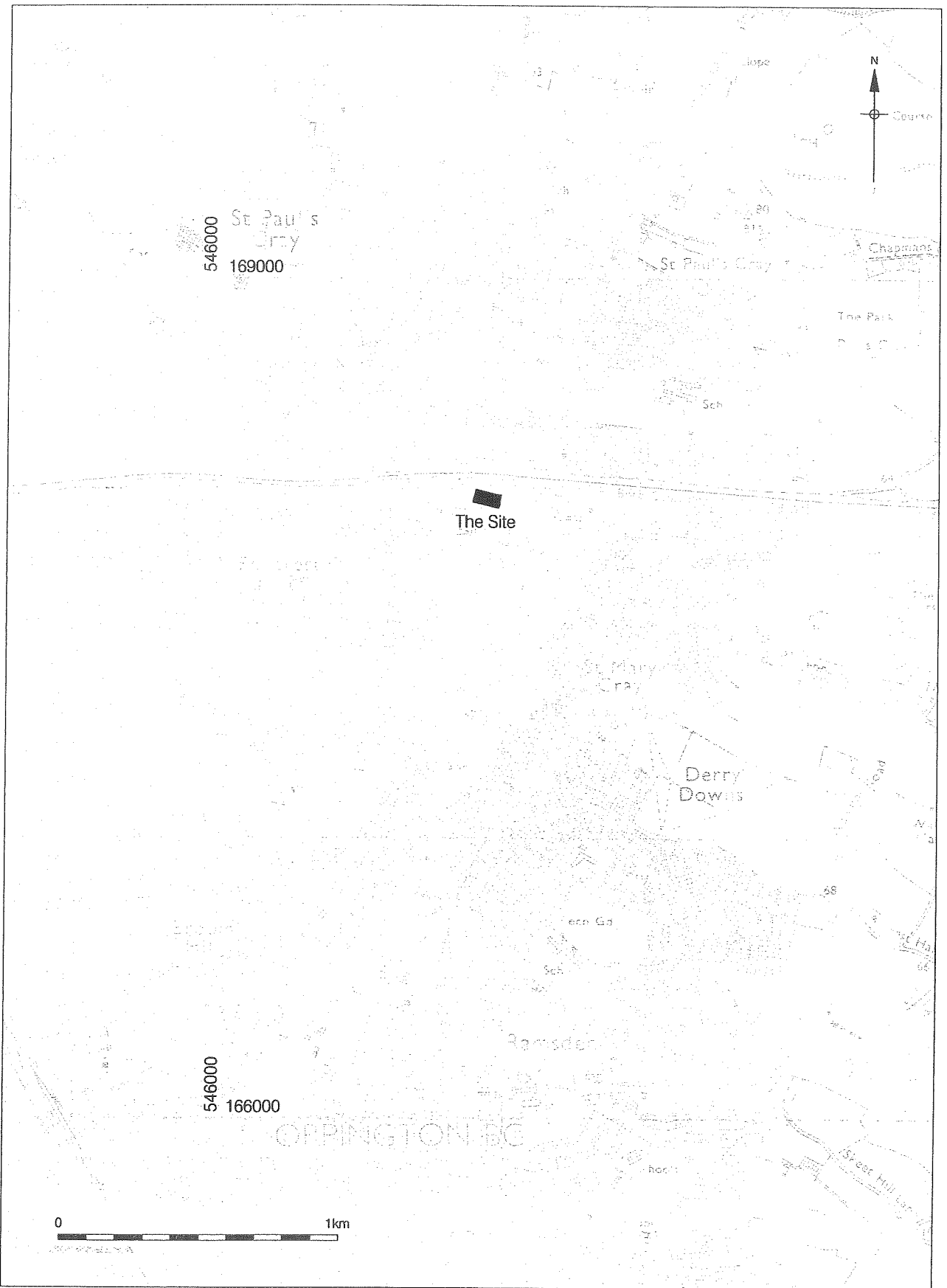
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ABSTRACT

- 1.1 This report details the results of an archaeological evaluation undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited of land at Endevea House, Cray Avenue, St Mary Cray in advance of a proposed redevelopment of the site by Bilsdale Properties Limited.
- 1.2 Two evaluation trenches were excavated but no archaeologically significant deposits were identified and no artefacts were recovered.

2 INTRODUCTION

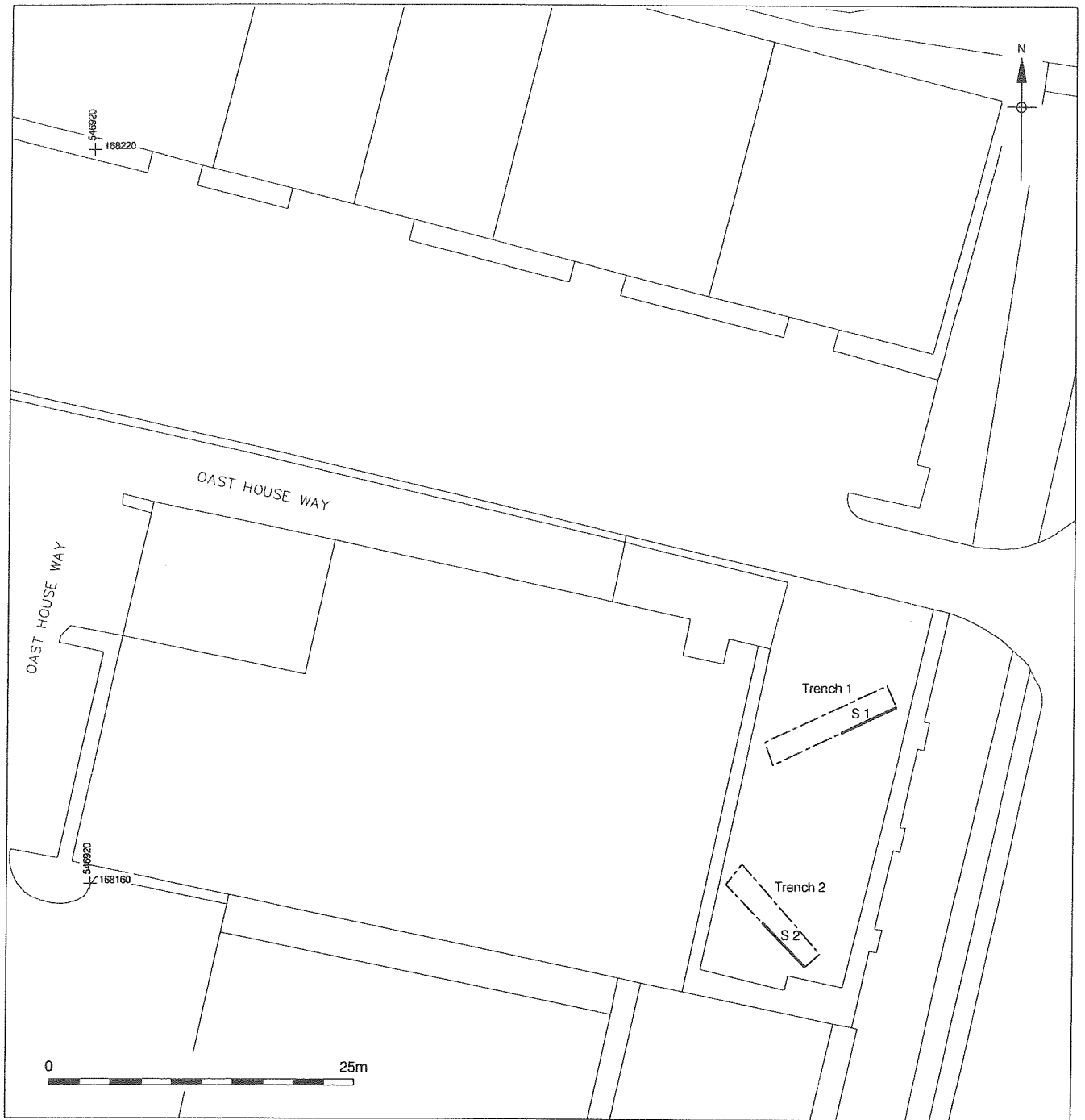
- 2.1 An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited of land at Endevea House, Cray Avenue (Figure 1) in advance of possible redevelopment.
- 2.2 The evaluation was conducted between the 30th April and 1st May 2007 and was commissioned by Bilsdale Properties Limited.
- 2.3 The evaluation consisted of two trenches measuring 10m in length, positioned across the site (Figure 2).
- 2.4 The National Grid Reference of the centre of the site is TQ 4695 6815
- 2.5 The site was assigned the unique code EHB 07.
- 2.6 The evaluation was supervised by Stuart Holden and project managed by Peter Moore.



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Figure 1
 Site Location
 1:20,000 at A4



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Figure 2
Trench Location
1:500 at A4

3 PLANNING BACKGROUND

3.1 Planning background

3.1.1 The evaluation aimed to satisfy the objectives of the London Borough of Bromley, which fully recognises the importance of the buried heritage for which they are the custodians. The Borough's deposited draft 'Unitary Development Plan' 2002 contains policy statements in respect of protecting the buried archaeological resource.

3.1.2 The proposed development of the site is subject to the Council's Archaeology Policy:

POLICY BE12

(i) within Areas of Archaeological Significance, as defined on the proposals Map... a written statement of the likely impact is submitted in the form of an archaeological statement (which can be desk based); where necessary information cannot be obtained by other means, an archaeological field evaluation should be carried out prior to determination;

(ii) at sites of potential archaeological importance..., where the permanent preservation in situ is not justified, provision shall be made for an appropriate level of investigation and recording to be undertaken by a recognised archaeological organisation before any development commences.

Reason

Ancient monuments and archaeological remains constitute the principal surviving evidence of the Borough's past. However they are vulnerable to modern development and changes in land use and are easily lost or damaged. The council considers that preservation of archaeological sites and ancient monuments is a legitimate objective against which the demands of development must be balanced and fully assessed. The destruction of such remains should be avoided and should never take place without prior archaeological excavation and record.

3.1.3 The Bromley UDP mirrors advice contained in the Department of Environment document 'Planning Policy Guidance: Archaeology and Planning (PPG 16)'. This document identifies the need for early consultation in the planning process to determine the impact of the construction schemes upon buried archaeological strata.

3.1.4 Planning permission was granted for the development of the site, conditional on the recommendation of Mark Stevenson, English Heritage, GLAAS to Bromley Council, that provision be made for a series of appropriate archaeological works as outlined above.

3.1.5 There are no Scheduled Ancient Monuments on the site. However, c.650m to the south lies the scheduled site of a Roman bathhouse and Saxon cemetery, between Poverest and Bellefield Roads.

3.2 **Research Objectives**

3.2.1 The method statement highlights possible research topics:

- Is there any evidence of prehistoric activity on the site?

- Is there any evidence of Roman settlement on the site, which can be associated with the Roman bathhouse and road to the south at Poverest Road?

- Is there any evidence of Saxon settlement on the site associated with the cemetery at Poverest Road?

- Is there any evidence of medieval deposits or structures associated with the medieval settlement known in the area from the Domesday Survey of 1086?

- Are there any post-medieval remains on the site?

- Is there any evidence of deneholes on the site?

4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

4.1 There is evidence of some prehistoric activity in the area, dominated by the recovery of flint artefacts. 650m to the south of the site lay a Roman bathhouse and Saxon cemetery. The parish Church of St Mary is positioned 330m to the northeast of the site.

4.2 Prehistory

4.2.1 A single flint blade was recovered from EHC 05 an evaluation immediately to the north of the subject site (Holden, 2005) whilst seven pieces of struck flint were recovered from CYM 03 an evaluation to the south of the site (Holden, 2003)

4.3 Roman

4.3.1 The bathhouse to the south of the site is a part of the Poverest Road Scheduled Ancient Monument. It is believed that the bathhouse may have been associated with either a villa or mansio. It is likely that the bathhouse was occupied into the fourth century AD.

4.3.2 The results of the recent work undertaken on the complex by Pre-Construct Archaeology during 2006 and 2007 are yet to be published but these investigations revealed further evidence of the bathhouse and of the Saxon cemetery.

4.3.3 Some finds of Roman date were recovered from the limited archaeological investigations during the development of the Ravensquay Business Centre. Three Roman cremation burials were found at 34 May Avenue, to the south of the site.

4.4 Saxon

4.4.1 To the east and north of the Roman bathhouse, an early Saxon inhumation and cremation cemetery has been excavated. This dates to the fifth and sixth centuries AD and the arrangement of the burials suggests the bathhouse was still standing at the time. The burials were of men, women and children on a variety of alignments and with a range of grave goods including; iron knives, spear heads, shield bosses, a sword, bronze brooches, pierced Roman coins, tweezers and other finds.

4.4.2 To the southeast of the site, on the eastern side of the River Cray, a grubenhaus (sunken featured building) was excavated. This was found to cut a Roman ditch and contained within its fill bone/antler comb fragments, bone pins, a copper pin or brooch, and seven coins.

4.4.3 The Domesday Survey of 1086 records two settlements at St Mary Cray, although neither has been located by archaeological excavation. 'Sentlinge' is thought to be to the south-east of the site, and 'Sudcrai' to the north-east near the latter parish church.

4.5 **Medieval**

4.5.1 The parish church dates from the early thirteenth century and the medieval settlement is thought to have been concentrated along the High Street. The development site itself is likely to have been open farmland during this period.

4.6 **Post-medieval**

4.6.1 The village of St Mary Cray appears on small-scale maps from the late 16th century onwards and the site itself is shown as open land from 1769. The 1841 Tithe Map shows the site as two fields with the easternmost being used as a meadow, where topographically the site is lower and more susceptible to flooding, and the westernmost in arable use.

5 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

- 5.1 The site lies along the western side of the River Cray valley, approximately 200m from the river, which flows north into the River Darent, a tributary of the River Thames.
- 5.2 According to the British Geological Survey (1998) the site lies on a River Terrace Deposit of Taplow Gravel, close to the western edge of alluvium within the Cray Valley.
- 5.3 Natural gravels were present on the site at levels between 41.89m and 42.67m OD.

6 METHODOLOGY

- 6.1 The fieldwork was designed to assess the presence or absence of significant archaeological remains, which may require further investigation. The excavation of two trenches was agreed with Mark Stevenson GLAAS monitor on behalf of Bromley Borough Council.
- 6.2 All works were undertaken in accordance with the guidelines set out by English Heritage and the Institute of Field Archaeology.
- 6.3 The presence of underground services was taken into consideration and the relevant service plans were consulted prior to excavation. Due to the presence of existing soakaways, the orientations of the trenches as indicated in the Method Statement (Moore, 2006) were rotated 90°.
- 6.4 Under archaeological supervision, a mechanical excavator fitted with a flat ditching - bucket was used to remove unproductive soils down to the highest archaeological horizon. 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.
- 6.5 All archaeological features (stratigraphical layers, cuts, fills, structures) were recorded in plan and where necessary in section using standard recording methods. A photographic record was also made as appropriate.
- 6.6 A temporary benchmark (value 43.67m OD) was traversed onto the site from the Ordnance Survey Benchmark, located on the boundary wall on the south side of Station Road, located to the north of the site (value 41.01m OD).

7 ARCHAEOLOGICAL SEQUENCE

7.1 Summary

7.1.1 The same sequence was seen in both trenches of natural gravel overlain by ploughsoil, made ground and capped with bitumen. This was virtually identical to that seen at Electron House (Site Code: EHC 05) to the north of the site (Holden, 2005) and in Trench 4 at the former AEI Re-Diffusion site (Site Code: CYM 03) to the south of the site (Holden, 2003).

7.2 Trench 1 (Section 1, Figure 3)

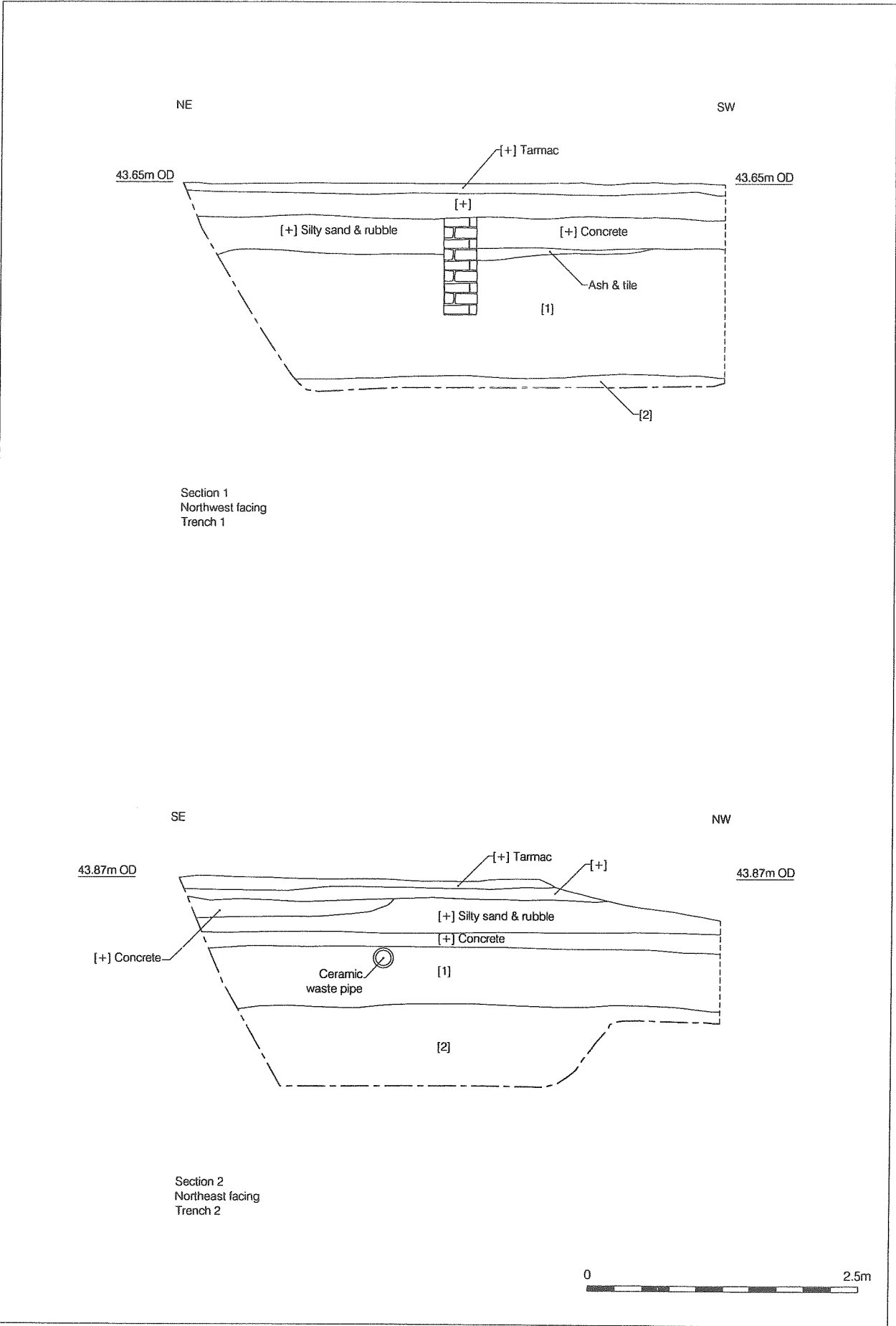
7.2.1 This trench measured 9.80m in length and was orientated northeast-southwest.

7.2.2 The lowest deposit exposed was a mid reddish brown sand and gravel with occasional patches of sand [2]. This was interpreted as natural and was present at a level of 41.89m OD. Above this, a 1.20m thick layer of mid brown sandy silt with occasional gravel inclusions [1] was recorded. This was interpreted as a ploughsoil. A yellow stock brick wall cut into the ploughsoil whilst the associated concrete floor comprised part of the made ground that totalled up to 0.60m thick. A 0.10m thick layer of bitumen completed the sequence.

7.3 Trench 2 (Section 2, Figure 3)

7.3.1 This trench measured 7.50m in length and was orientated northwest-southeast. The northwestern end of the trench was curtailed by truncation caused by the previous structures on the site.

7.3.2 The sand and gravel deposit [2] was recorded at a level of 42.67m OD and overlain by [1] to a maximum thickness of 0.56m. Made ground up to 0.56m thick and 0.10m of bitumen completed the sequence.



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Figure 3
Sections
1:50 at A4

8 CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- 8.1 No archaeologically sensitive deposits were observed during the course of the investigation and no artefacts were recovered.
- 8.2 It is recommended that no further archaeological work is necessary to satisfy the archaeological planning condition.

9 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- 9.1 Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited would like to thank Bilsdale Properties Limited for commissioning the work. The author would like to thank the following Jem Rogers for surveying the trenches, Syd Bishop Demolition for providing the plant and Peter Moore for his project management and editing.

10 BIBLIOGRAPHY

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- Holden, S 2005, *An Archaeological Evaluation of Land at Electron House, Cray Avenue, St Mary's Cray, London Borough of Bromley*, Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited unpublished report
- Moore, P 2006, *A Method Statement for an Archaeological Evaluation at Endeva House, Cray Avenue, St Mary Cray, London Borough of Bromley*, Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited unpublished report

APPENDIX 1: SITE MATRIX

Tr1

+

|

1

|

2

|

NFE

Tr2

+

|

1

|

2

|

NFE

APPENDIX 2: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Context	Type	Trench	Description	Finds
1	Layer	1 and 2	Ploughsoil	None
2	Layer	1 and 2	Natural gravel	None

APPENDIX 3: OASIS FORM

OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: ENGLAND

[List of Projects](#) | [Search Projects](#) | [New project](#) | [Change your details](#) | [HER coverage](#) | [Change country](#) | [Log out](#)

10.1.1 Printable version

10.2 OASIS ID: preconst1-26665

Project details

Project name Endeava House, St Mary Cray

Short description of the project An evaluation of 2 trenches was undertaken at Endeava House, Cray Avenue. No archaeological deposits or artefacts were observed.

Project dates Start: 30-04-2007 End: 01-05-2007

Previous/future work No / No

Any associated project reference codes EHB 07 - Sitecode

Type of project Field evaluation

Site status Local Authority Designated Archaeological Area

Current Land use Industry and Commerce 2 - Offices

Methods & techniques 'Sample Trenches'

Development type Urban commercial (e.g. offices, shops, banks, etc.)

Prompt Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPG16

Position in the planning process After full determination (eg. As a condition)

Project location

Country England

Site location GREATER LONDON BROMLEY ORPINGTON Endeava House,
Cray Avenue, St Mary Cray

Postcode BR5

Study area 2275.00 Square metres

Site coordinates TQ 4695 6815 51.3928134411 0.112405911431 51 23 34 N 000
06 44 E Point

Height OD Min: 41.89m Max: 42.67m

Project creators

Name of Organisation Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd

Project brief originator Greater London Archaeological Advisory Service

Project design originator Peter Moore

Project director/manager Peter Moore

Project supervisor Stuart Holden

Type of sponsor/funding body Developer

Name of sponsor/funding body Bilsdale Properties Limited

Project archives

Digital Archive recipient LAARC

Digital Contents 'Stratigraphic','Survey'

Digital Media available 'Images raster / digital photography','Survey','Text'

Paper Archive recipient LAARC

Paper Contents 'Stratigraphic','Survey'

Paper Media available 'Context sheet','Plan','Report','Section','Unpublished Text'

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