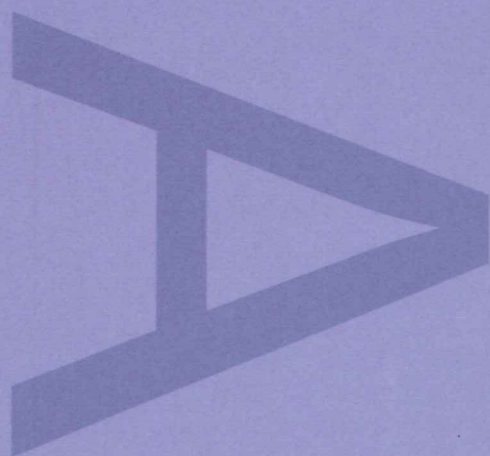
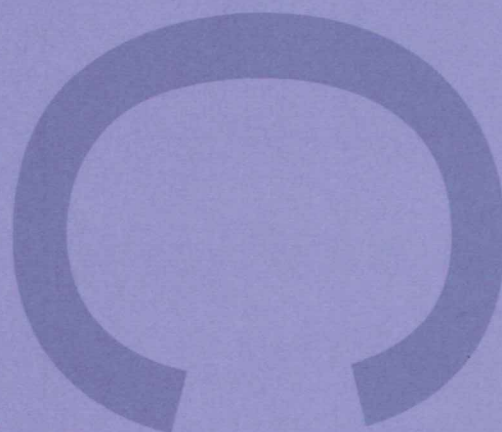
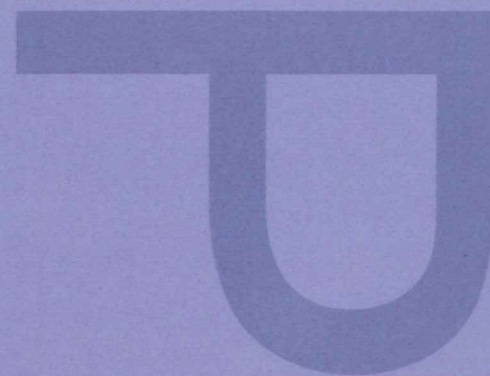


**AN ASSESSMENT OF AN  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING  
EXERCISE ON LAND AT  
72-78 CONINGTON ROAD, LONDON  
BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM**



**AUGUST 2007**

**PRE-CONSTRUCT ARCHAEOLOGY**

## DOCUMENT VERIFICATION

LAND AT 72-78 CONINGTON ROAD, LEWISHAM

## ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING EXERCISE

### Quality Control

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**An Assessment of an Archaeological Monitoring Exercise on Land at 72-78 Conington Road, Lewisham, London SE13**

**Site Code: CGI 07**

**Central National Grid Reference: TQ 3805 7610**

**Written and Researched by Alexis Haslam**

**Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited, August 2007**

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## **1 ABSTRACT**

- 1.1 This report details the results of an archaeological monitoring exercise undertaken on land at 72-78 Conington Road, Lewisham, London SE13. The monitoring exercise was commissioned by CgMs Consulting on behalf of St. James Group Limited in advance of a proposed redevelopment of the site and took place between the 11<sup>th</sup> of June and the 18<sup>th</sup> of July 2007. The site was located to the south-east and south-west of Conington Road, to the north-west of a Tesco supermarket car park and to the north-east of the Docklands Light Railway Track situated between the Lewisham and Elverson Road stations, centred upon grid reference TQ 3805 7610.
- 1.2 The monitoring exercise was required by the representative of the Local Planning Authority following the findings of the Desk Based Assessment<sup>1</sup>. This exercise involved the monitoring of all invasive groundworks likely to impact upon archaeological deposits and features.
- 1.3 At the time of the monitoring exercise the site had undergone demolition and all previously existing buildings had been removed. The area of the ground reduction was sealed by hard standing modern concrete, which had to be lifted by machine before excavation could begin. Once the hard standing had been removed, archaeology was discovered in the form of the Royal Armoury Mill constructed in 1807. Opportunity was afforded to record this building during the various stages of ground reduction. Once the walls and structures had been mapped, ground reduction continued until either further archaeology or clean natural deposits were reached, or until all obstructions had been removed.
- 1.4 One further brick structure believed to have dated to the 18<sup>th</sup> century was discovered beneath one of the Armoury Mill walls. The natural on the site was discovered to be Upper Chalk overlain by Ravensbourne Gravels. A layer of alluvium in turn sealed the gravels.

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<sup>1</sup> Meager 2007a

## **2 INTRODUCTION**

- 2.1 This report details the results and working methods of an archaeological monitoring exercise undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited on land at 72-78 Conington Road, Lewisham, London SE13. The monitoring exercise took place between the 11<sup>th</sup> of June and the 18<sup>th</sup> of July 2007.
- 2.2 The site was located on land within Archaeological Priority Area No. 6, 'Lewisham and Catford / Rushey Green', as defined in the Borough's Unitary Development Plan Proposals Map. At the time of the monitoring exercise, all previously existing buildings and structures on the site had undergone demolition. The site was bounded to the north-west and north-east by Conington Road, to the south-east by a Tesco supermarket car park and to the south-west by the Docklands Light Railway line running between the Elverson Road and Lewisham stations.
- 2.3 A detailed specification for the monitoring exercise had been prepared prior to the fieldwork<sup>2</sup>.
- 2.4 The National Grid Reference of the site is TQ 3805 7610, and the site was given the code CGI 07
- 2.5 The project was commissioned and monitored by the archaeological consultant Richard Meager, of CgMs Consulting, on behalf of St. James Group Limited. The monitoring exercise was undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited under the supervision of Alexis Haslam and the Project Management of Chris Mayo. The work was monitored by for the local planning authority by Mark Stevenson of the Greater London Archaeology Advisory Service (GLAAS).

---

<sup>2</sup> Meager 2007b



Figure 1  
Site Location  
1:25,000 at A4

### **3 PLANNING BACKGROUND**

- 3.1 The proposed redevelopment of the site consists of the construction of two blocks of residential housing at the north-western and south-eastern ends of the study site.
- 3.2 In November 1990 the Department of the Environment issued Planning Policy Guidance Note 16 (PPG16) "Archaeology and Planning", providing guidance for planning authorities, property owners, developers and others on the preservation and investigation of archaeological remains.
- 3.3 In short, government guidance provides a framework which:
- Protects Scheduled Ancient Monuments
  - Protects the settings of these sites
  - Protects nationally important un-scheduled ancient monuments
  - In appropriate circumstances seeks adequate information (from field evaluation) to enable informed decisions
  - Provides for the excavation and investigation of sites not important enough to merit in-situ preservation.
- 3.4 In considering any planning application for development, the local planning authority is bound by the policy framework set by government guidance, in this instance PPG16, by current Development Plan Policy and by other material considerations.
- 3.5 The relevant Strategic Development Plan framework is provided by the London Plan, published on 10 February 2004. It includes the following policy relating to archaeology in London:

#### **POLICY 4B.14 ARCHAEOLOGY**

THE MAYOR, IN PARTNERSHIP WITH ENGLISH HERITAGE, THE MUSEUM OF LONDON AND BOROUGHs, WILL SUPPORT THE IDENTIFICATION, PROTECTION, INTERPRETATION AND PRESENTATION OF LONDON'S ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCES. BOROUGHs IN CONSULTATION WITH ENGLISH HERITAGE AND OTHER RELEVANT STATUTORY ORGANISATIONS SHOULD INCLUDE APPROPRIATE POLICIES IN THEIR UDPS FOR PROTECTING SCHEDULED ANCIENT MONUMENTS AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSETS WITHIN THEIR AREA.

- 3.6 The relevant Development Plan framework is provided by the Lewisham Unitary Development Plan adopted in July 2004. The Plan contains the following policies which provide a framework for the consideration of development proposals affecting archaeological and heritage features:

#### **STR.URB 3**

To preserve and enhance the archaeological heritage and the valuable elements, strategic and local, of the Borough's environment.



## URB 21 ARCHAEOLOGY

THE COUNCIL WILL PROMOTE THE CONSERVATION, PROTECTION AND ENHANCEMENT OF THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL HERITAGE OF THE BOROUGH AND ITS INTERPRETATION AND PRESENTATION TO THE PUBLIC BY:

- (a) REQUIRING APPLICANTS TO HAVE PROPERLY ASSESSED AND PLANNED FOR THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL IMPLICATIONS WHERE DEVELOPMENT PROPOSALS MAY AFFECT THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL HERITAGE OF A SITE. THIS MAY INVOLVE PRELIMINARY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE EVALUATIONS BEFORE PROPOSALS ARE DETERMINED;
- (b) ADVISING WHERE PLANNING APPLICATIONS SHOULD BE ACCOMPANIED BY AN EVALUATION WITHIN ARCHAEOLOGICAL PRIORITY AREAS AS SHOWN ON THE PROPOSALS MAP. THIS SHOULD BE COMMISSIONED BY THE APPLICANTS FROM A PROFESSIONALLY QUALIFIED ARCHAEOLOGICAL ORGANISATION OR ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONSULTANT;
- (c) ENCOURAGING EARLY CO-OPERATION BETWEEN LANDOWNERS, DEVELOPERS AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL ORGANISATIONS, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PRINCIPLES OF THE BRITISH ARCHAEOLOGISTS AND DEVELOPERS LIAISON GROUP CODE OF PRACTICE, AND BY ATTACHING APPROPRIATE CONDITIONS TO PLANNING CONSENTS, AND/OR NEGOTIATING APPROPRIATE AGREEMENTS UNDER S106;
- (d) ENCOURAGING SUITABLE DEVELOPMENT DESIGN, LAND USE AND MANAGEMENT TO SAFEGUARD ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES AND SEEKING TO ENSURE THAT THE MOST IMPORTANT ARCHAEOLOGICAL REMAINS AND THEIR SETTINGS ARE PERMANENTLY PRESERVED IN SITU WITH PUBLIC ACCESS AND DISPLAY WHERE POSSIBLE AND THAT WHERE APPROPRIATE THEY ARE GIVEN STATUTORY PROTECTION;
- (e) IN THE CASE OF SITES OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL SIGNIFICANCE OR POTENTIAL WHERE PERMANENT PRESERVATION IN SITU IS NOT JUSTIFIED, PROVISION SHALL BE MADE FOR AN APPROPRIATE LEVEL OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATION AND RECORDING WHICH SHOULD BE UNDERTAKEN BY A RECOGNISED ARCHAEOLOGICAL ORGANISATION BEFORE DEVELOPMENT BEGINS. SUCH PROVISION SHALL ALSO INCLUDE THE SUBSEQUENT PUBLICATION OF THE RESULTS OF THE EXCAVATION;
- (f) SEEKING TO ENSURE THEIR PRESERVATION OR RECORD IN CONSULTATION WITH THE DEVELOPER IN THE EVENT OF SIGNIFICANT REMAINS UNEXPECTEDLY COMING TO LIGHT DURING CONSTRUCTION; AND
- (g) IN THE EVENT OF THE SCHEDULING OF ANY ANCIENT MONUMENTS AND SITES OF NATIONAL IMPORTANCE, ENSURING THEIR PROTECTION AND PRESERVATION IN ACCORDANCE WITH GOVERNMENT REGULATION, AND TO REFUSE PLANNING PERMISSION WHICH ADVERSELY AFFECTS THEIR SITES OR SETTINGS

## **4 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY**

- 4.1 London occupies part of the Thames basin, a broad syncline of chalk filled in the centre with Tertiary sands and clays. In Lewisham, as in most of London, this Tertiary series of bedrock comprises of London clay, as shown on British Geological Survey map 270 (1:50,000 series 1981 – South London, solid and drift edition). This map displays the site at Conington Road as being situated directly above an interface of London Clay, Upper Chalk and alluvium.
- 4.2 The study site is situated on the east bank of the River Ravensbourne which rises at Caesar's Well, Keston, and flows north through the London boroughs of both Bromley and Lewisham before joining the River Thames at Greenwich Reach. The topography of the site was caricatured by a gradual slope downwards from the north-west to the south-east. A spot-height of 8.0m AOD was recorded to the north of the site in the centre of Conington Road, while a survey point at the southern end of the site had a value of 7.10m AOD.

## **5 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND**

### **5.1 Introduction**

The archaeological information presented below has been collected and reviewed from the Greater London Sites and Monuments Record (GLSMR) and concerns an area defined by a c. 750m radius of the study site. The archaeological potential for this site has been outlined previously in the Desk Based Assessment<sup>3</sup>, from which this summary is drawn.

### **5.2 Palaeolithic, Mesolithic and Neolithic**

5.2.1 Two struck flint flakes, found in topsoil during excavations on the site of a pub on Blackheath Hill, north-east of the study site, have been dated to the Palaeolithic/Mesolithic/Neolithic periods (MLO2058, TQ 3845 7670).

5.2.2 Mesolithic finds including a Thames Pick, five associated flints and a reindeer horn have previously been discovered to the immediate north-west of the study site, adjacent to Thurston Road (MLO11368, TQ3790 7610).

5.2.3 Residual worked flint dated to the Neolithic/Bronze Age was found at Molesworth Street to the south of the study site (MLO58998, TQ3814 7586).

### **5.3 Bronze Age and Iron Age**

5.3.1 Bronze Age finds recovered from within the area of study include a palstave and a bronze flanged axe found to the immediate north-west of the study site (MLO1856, TQ3790 7610; MLO22955, TQ3790 7620), and three bronze axeheads from the Ravensbourne flood plain discovered in 1939 (MLO2012, TQ3791 7610).

5.3.2 Four redeposited flint flakes were recovered during a watching brief at 9-10 Blackheath Road, north of the site (MLO73849, TQ 3760 7695) while worked and burnt flint was recovered from Broadway Fields (LO74217, TQ 3746 7680). A single struck flint, within a deposit of charcoal and burnt flint, interpreted as a burnt prehistoric mound, was identified at the former Deptford Pumping Station (MLO76308, TQ3750 7680).

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<sup>3</sup> Meager 2007a

#### **5.4 Roman**

5.4.1 Three cinerary urns (including one containing burnt bone) together with a vase, saucer and flagon were found at Dartmouth Row, to the north-east of the study site in 1802 (MLO1773, TQ3845 7655). The remains of a mound (referred to as either an earthwork, or a natural feature) has been identified at Wat Tyler Road to the north-east of the study site (MLO25980, TQ3857 7655, TQ3858 7653). Romano-British pottery and tile were recovered from the bank, ditch and interior of this feature during excavations in 1906. A further urn containing human bones was also found within the vicinity of the study site at the Kent Waterworks, Brookmill Road in 1853 (MLO69632, TQ3760 7660).

5.4.2 First and Second Century AD material was found during the construction of the Tesco superstore, close to the south-east boundary of the study site in 1992 (MLO69633, TQ3815 7605). An evaluation at Conington Road immediately northwest of the study site in 1997 found two residual Roman potsherds (MLO73133, TQ3793 7618). An evaluation in advance of the DLR Lewisham Extension found residual Roman pottery to the immediate west of the study site (MLO76133, TQ37931 76184). This material has been interpreted as redeposited material washed downstream in the River Ravensbourne.

#### **5.5 Anglo Saxon**

5.5.1 No finds of Anglo Saxon date have been identified from within a 750m radius of the study site. During this period the general area of the study site is believed to have been heavily wooded, with a small number of dispersed settlements in woodland clearings.

#### **5.6 Medieval**

5.6.1 The study site is the documented location of a Medieval armoury mill situated close to the River Ravensbourne. This mill was known to be grinding metal for armour in 1371, and later became a Royal property used for arms, armour and corn (MLO20072, TQ380 27614).

#### **5.7 Post-Medieval and Modern**

5.7.1 The Armoury Mill continued production of arms and armour throughout the post-medieval period. A phase of expansion and/or rebuilding has been identified during

the reign of Henry VIII c.1511-14<sup>4</sup> with subsequent alterations to the complex over the next 50 years reflecting armour requirements, technological advances of warfare, and, in particular, the advent of firearms.

- 5.7.2 Cartographic evidence from the late 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> centuries depicts a variety of buildings at the site. Latter maps of this period show the study site partly lying on an island in the River Ravensbourne. Between 1807 and 1818 the mill was redeveloped into the 'Royal Armory', producing parts for firearms, due to the demands of the French Napoleonic and Revolutionary Wars (1793-1815). Power was derived from both a watermill and a 32hp steam engine. A map of the
- 5.7.3 Following the end of production at the 'Armoury Mill' in 1819 the complex was used for spinning silk, gold and silver thread. The 1868 First Edition Ordnance Survey map displays the study site lying within the millpond, adjacent to the Silk Mill and immediately north-east of a sluice positioned on a diversion of the River Ravensbourne. The Second Edition Ordnance Survey map dated 1894 shows that the millpond had become much smaller, probably as a result of silting, so that the study site lies only partly within the pond itself; by the Third Edition OS map of 1914 the water channel to the Silk Mill and the millpond to the southeast had been filled in.
- 5.7.4 Subsequent Ordnance Surveys dated 1936-9, 1949 and 1950-51 show the study site within open land south-west of the printing and engineering works. Ordnance Surveys of the study site dated 1970/1972 show the study site remaining within open land with the northwest corner occupied by the edge of a rectangular structure.

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<sup>4</sup> Macartney & West 1998

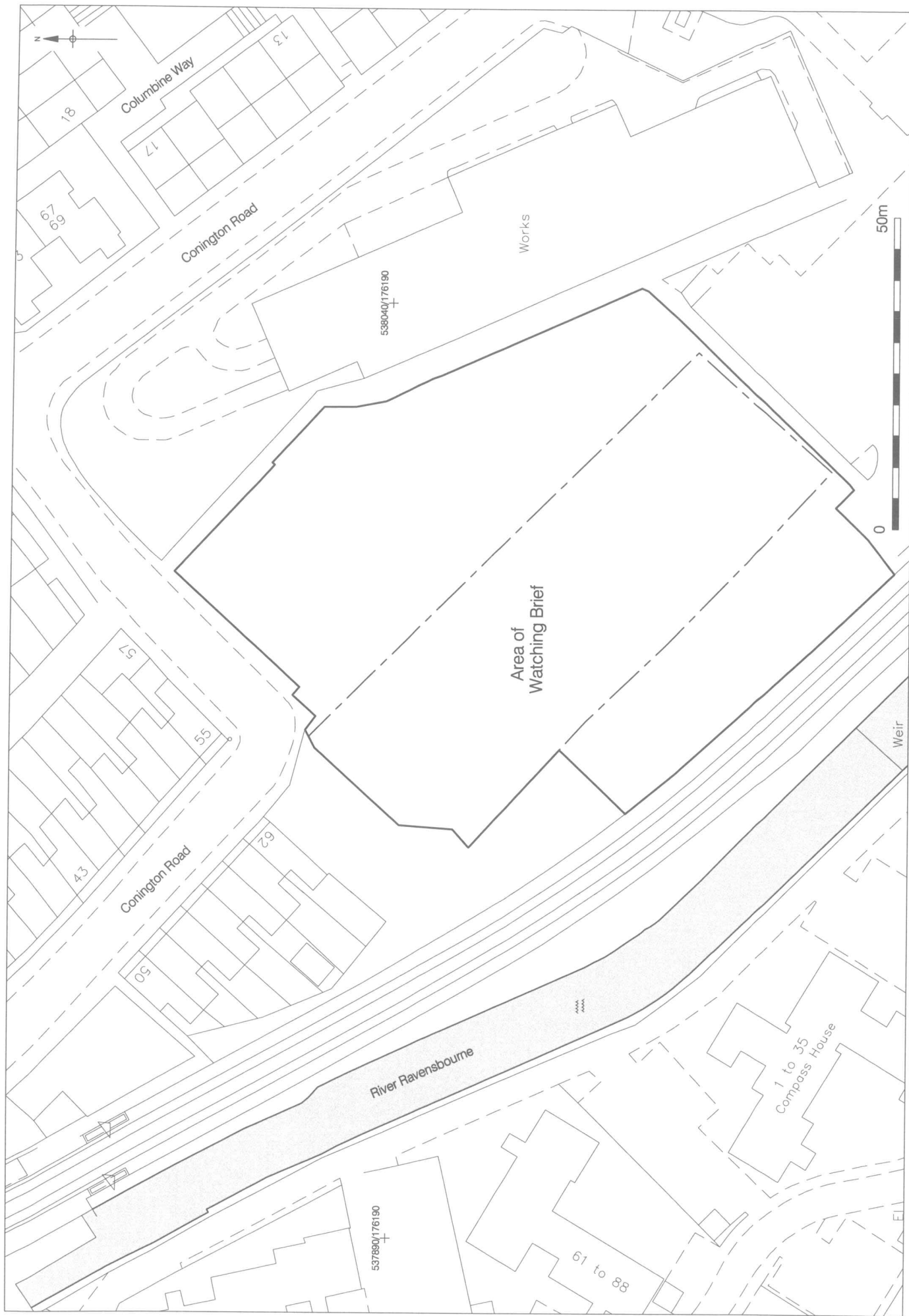
## **6 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY**

- 6.1 In accordance with the specification<sup>5</sup> the various areas of the groundworks were broken out and excavated by the contractors under archaeological supervision. The objective of the watching brief was to allow an archaeologist to identify, record and retrieve (as far as possible) any archaeological remains that were uncovered in the course of the development programme. The watching brief monitored these groundworks over an area of approximately 2,464m<sup>2</sup> (Figure 2).
- 6.2 Where archaeological features, structures and deposits did occur, they were pointed out to the contractor by the archaeologist present in order to allow sufficient time for their investigation and recording. Observation of all ground disturbance works continued under archaeological supervision until natural horizons or formation levels had been reached. Due to the fact that the area of excavation was to undergo a programme of piling, all pre-existing structures had to be fully removed so that no obstructions remained present beneath the piling mat.
- 6.3 The areas of ground reduction were opened up with the use of a 20 tonne 360° mechanical excavator equipped with both a grading bucket and a toothed bucket. A further 14 tonne 360° machine and a 30 tonne 360° machine were present on site at various stages of the groundworks and assisted with both breaking out and overburden removal. All live services present on the site had been taken out of commission during the demolition of the previously standing buildings.
- 6.3 The single context system was used for recording, developed out of the Department of Urban Archaeology Site Manual, now published by the Museum of London Archaeology Service (MoLAS 1994). Both plans and sections were recorded at a scale of 1:20.
- 6.4 Levels were taken during the watching brief, calculated from an established survey point on the site with a value of 7.10m OD. A total station was used to plot in areas of excavation, structure outlines and baselines at various points in time throughout the watching brief.
- 6.5 Photographs were taken of the archaeological deposits, features and structures where relevant.

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<sup>5</sup> Meager 2007b

- 6.6 No unusual health and safety issues were encountered during the watching brief. At times, due to the significant depth of areas of excavation, accurate recording was not a possibility. In such instances, only sketches and notes could be taken of any archaeological structures or deposits encountered.





## **7 PHASED ARCHAEOLOGICAL SEQUENCE**

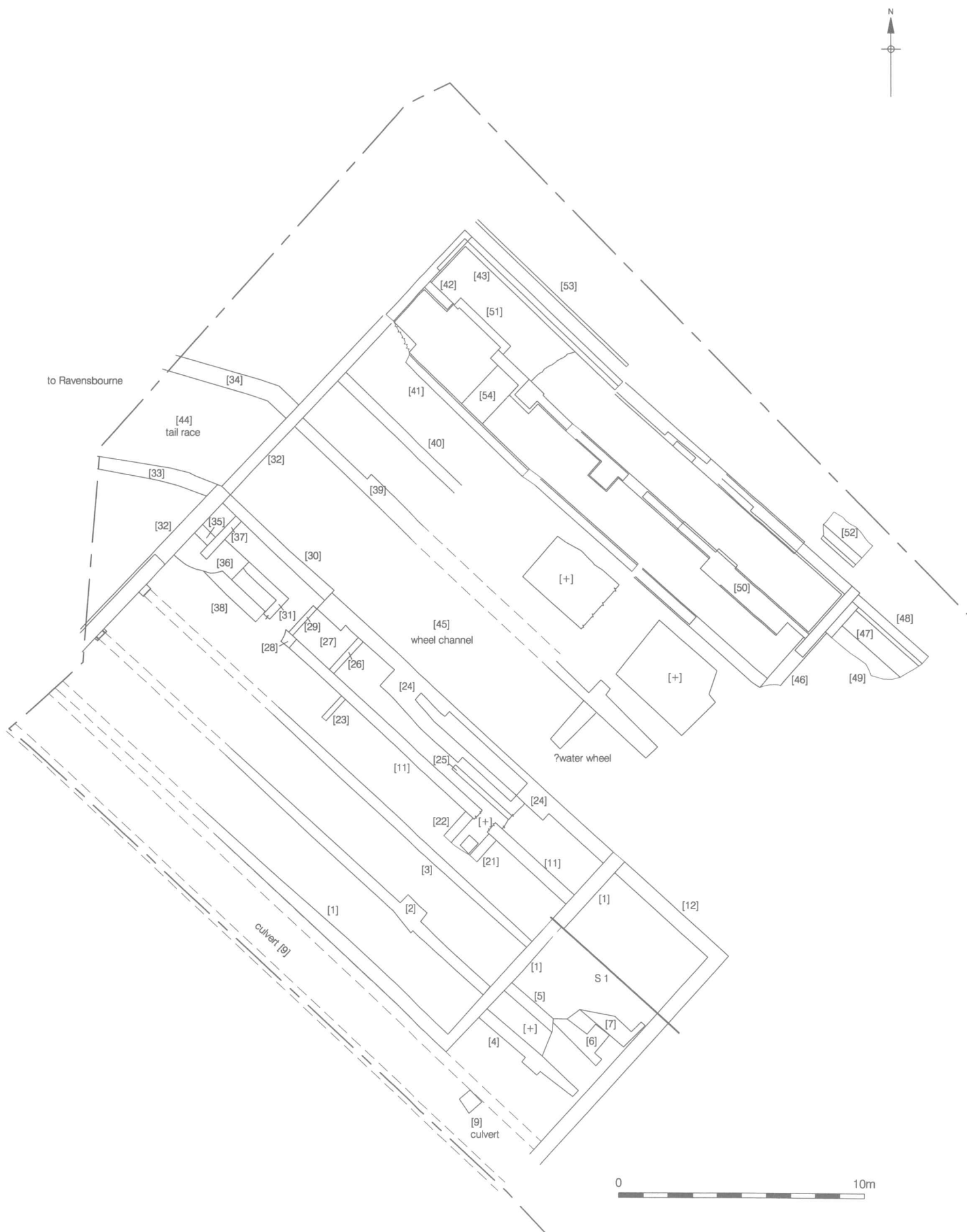
### **7.1 Phase 1: Natural**

- 7.1.1 The earliest deposit encountered during the watching brief consisted of the natural Upper Chalk [20]. This was observed during the removal of the Phase 3 wall foundations and was recorded at a highest level of c. 3.40m OD. Directly overlying the chalk was [19], a layer of coarse, dark yellow sand and gravel with occasional patches of orange mottling. The clean and sterile nature of this deposit suggested that it was natural in origin and it was recorded at up to 0.80m in thickness at a highest level of c. 4.20m OD.
- 7.1.2 Sealing [19] was [17], a layer of stiff to soft dark grey blue silty clay recorded at a highest level of c. 5.38m OD. This deposit was interpreted as alluvial in origin and was likely to have been laid down during various episodes of marine transgression associated with the River Ravensbourne. As with both [20] and [19], [17] was only observed during the removal of the Phase 3 wall foundations. This meant that it could not be closely analysed or recorded due to health and safety considerations.

### **7.2 Phase 2: 18<sup>th</sup> Century**

- 7.2.1 Only one archaeological feature was recorded as belonging to this period and took the form of a brick structure [10] observed underneath the SW-NE alignment of Phase 3 wall [1]. Unfortunately, [10] was revealed at a significant depth and could not be accurately recorded or located for health and safety reasons. As far as could be discerned, [10] was square in shape, with a N-S aligned wall forming the northern extent before returning on an E-W axis. The southern extent of the structure returned again on a N-S axis before disappearing into the temporary eastern limit of excavation. This structure was not seen again during the watching brief.
- 7.2.2 No measurements could be taken regarding the full size of [10]. It was constructed from orange fabric unfrogged bricks bonded with a light grey sandy shelly lime mortar. Directly beneath the walls were a series of supporting timber piles, which had been driven down through the alluvium and sandy gravel and into the natural chalk. Overlying the piles were timber planks, on top of which the wall foundations had been constructed. The piles themselves were generally square in cross section with a box-hearted conversion and square pointed tip. A typical example measured 1.60m in length and 0.16m in width with a tip length of 0.18m. Unfortunately, as [10] could not be recorded in close detail, very little could be stated about it. In being located beneath wall [1] it preceded a construction date of 1807 and is likely to have been

18<sup>th</sup> century in origin. Improvements and repairs relating to the armoury mill are known to have taken place in or around 1754, and it is quite possible that [10] was associated with such an episode.



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Figure 3  
Phase 3 (1807-1937) Royal Armoury Mill / Silk Mill  
1: 200 at A4

### **7.3 Phase 3: 1807 – 1937**

7.3.1 The most significant phase of archaeological activity discovered on the site related to the construction of the Royal Armoury Mill which was built in 1807. An armoury mill had been present on the site in one form or another from as early as the mid 15<sup>th</sup> century<sup>6</sup>, but other than in the case of [10], no earlier structures were discovered throughout the watching brief. During the various phases of ground reduction, almost the entire extent of the 1807 mill was revealed, encompassing a total area of 22.40m from NW-SE by 24.30m from NE-SW. The mill itself ceased manufacturing arms in 1818, as Enfield became the major centre for small arms production. In 1819 the Lewisham mill was sold to William Herne before being taken over by Robert Arnold in 1824 and converted into a silk mill. The mill remained in silk, gold and silver wire production until finally closing in 1932. It was eventually demolished between 1937 and 1938.

7.3.2 The confines of the mill were defined by wall [1], representing the southeastern and southwestern extent, wall [32], representing the northwestern extent, wall [43], representing the northeastern extent and wall [46], which also represented the southeastern extent. Due to the method of excavation, the mill was revealed in various stages. For this reason, the following phase discussion will concentrate on specific areas of the mill as they were exposed during the recording process. Levels were only taken on the walls representing the southwestern section of the mill, which were recorded at highest levels of between 6.92 and 5.85m OD. However, all of the walls associated with the mill were revealed immediately beneath the modern concrete slab and observed at similar level heights to those in the southwestern section.

#### The Western Section of the Mill

7.3.3 The southwestern section of the mill was defined by NW-SE aligned wall [1], which extended at least 20.30m from NE-SW and was up to 0.59m in width. This wall returned on an NE-SW aligned axis at the southeastern end and continued in this direction for approximately 10.55m. At the northwestern end, wall [1] extended beyond the limit of excavation. However, it is almost certain that [1] would have abutted wall [32], which formed the north-western extent of the mill and measured 0.68m in width and 23.30m in length from NE-SW. Constructed from red and purple fabric frogged and unfrogged bricks, [1] was substantial in terms of thickness, extending well over 3m in depth, cutting through the alluvium [17] and resting on top of the natural sand and gravel [19].

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<sup>6</sup> Macartney & West 1998

- 7.3.4 At 2.10m to the NE of the NW-SE aligned axis of [1] and running parallel with it was wall [2], which measured 21.40m in length, 0.45m in width and abutted both [32] and the NE-SW aligned axis of [1]. Located 2.10m to the NE of [2] was an identical NW-SE aligned wall [3], which also abutted both [1] and [32]. Between walls [1] and [2] and [2] and [3] were concrete bases which sloped downwards from SE-NW from a highest level of 6.07m OD to a lowest level of 5.57m OD. These bases appeared to represent the bottoms of industrial pits that extended for the entire length of the mill. The pits were backfilled with demolition material and in this way very little could be stated about them. However, the demolition material removed appeared to date to the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, suggesting that these pits would have been in use whilst the silk mill was in operation. Two riveted metal tanks were removed from these pits during the machining, further suggesting an industrial usage.
- 7.3.5 Abutting the southeastern side of the NE-SW aligned axis of [1] were a further two NW-SE aligned parallel walls [4] and [5]. Both were truncated at the southeastern end. They were constructed from red and yellow fabric unfrogged bricks, with [4] measuring 5.0m in length and [5] measuring 2.40m in length. The precise function of these two walls was unclear. They were both situated on a concrete raft and, although abutting the south-eastern edge of [1], were believed to be internal to the mill in that they were located to the NW of wall [12]. Abutting the northeastern edge of [5] was a brick floor surface [6], measuring 2.40m from NW-SE and 1.20m from NE to SW at 6.72m OD. As with [4] and [5], [6] had been badly truncated, most probably as a result of the demolition process. Along its northeastern edge, floor [6] abutted [7], the ephemeral remains of a NW-SE aligned brick wall with an NE-SW return and constructed from red and yellow fabric unfrogged bricks.
- 7.3.6 Located at a distance of 2.05m NE of [3] was NW-SE aligned wall [11], which measured 15.38m in length and 0.48m in width. Constructed from yellow and red fabric unfrogged bricks bonded with a grey white lime mortar, [11] abutted [1] to the SE and ragstone buttress [28] at its northwestern end. Towards the south-eastern end of [11] were a further two parallel NE-SW aligned walls abutting its south-western edge. Given the context numbers [21] and [22], these two walls measured 1.18m in length and 0.42m in width and were truncated at their southwestern ends. At a distance of approximately 0.80m apart, it seemed likely that these two walls would have originally abutted wall [3] to the SW. Situated between the two walls was a large stone plinth, possibly suggesting that some form of machinery had previously been associated with them. A further NE-SW aligned wall [23] abutted the southwestern side of [11] at its northwestern end and again was presumed to have originally

abutted [3]. However, no further walls could be associated with [23], making it somewhat ambiguous in nature.

- 7.3.7 At 1.72m to the NE of [11] was a further NW-SE aligned wall [24] which measured 15.60m in length and up to a maximum of 1.50m in width at its thickest point. Running parallel with [11], this wall abutted the northeastern end of [1]. Wall [24] varied in width along its length and included a sub rectangular shaped gap within its centre, measuring 0.70m in width and 5.65m in length. The precise purpose of this gap was unclear, although it may previously have housed some form of machinery associated with the armoury mill. Situated between both [11] and [24] was a further NW-SE aligned wall, [25], which measured 3.08m in length and 0.20m in width. Constructed from unfrogged red and yellow fabric bricks bonded with a light grey lime mortar, no precise function could be attributed to this wall. It was surrounded by demolition material and could not be directly linked to any further associated walls. However, the thin nature of [25] suggested that it was not designed for load bearing purposes and may again have related to the presence of machinery within this area of the mill.
- 7.3.8 Linking both [11] and [24] together at their northwestern ends were two NE-SW aligned walls [26] and [29] (although technically [29] abutted ragstone buttress [28]). Both of these walls were constructed from unfrogged purple fabric bricks bonded with a light grey lime mortar. Wall [26] represented the south easternmost of the two and was separated from [29] by a distance of 2.02m. Situated between them was [27], a ragstone floor surface which clearly represented the base of some form of industrial pit. The backfill discovered within this pit was of an early 20<sup>th</sup> century date, suggesting that it was in use right up until the demolition of the mill itself. The precise purpose of the pit was unclear, although it did appear to have formed part of the original building.
- 7.3.9 Abutting walls [24] and [32] and aligned in a NW-SE direction was wall [30], measuring 5.70m in length and 0.50m in width. Constructed from red and yellow fabric unfrogged bricks, wall [30] formed an offset continuation of [24]. To the SW of [30] was a further NW-SE aligned wall [35] which measured only 0.52m in length and 0.46m in width and also abutted wall [32] at its northern end. Both [30] and [35] were joined together by NE-SW aligned wall [37], which in turn abutted an irregular shaped brick structure [36]. The original function of [36] was unclear, although it would most certainly have formed part of the armoury mill erected in 1807. It was constructed from purple, red and yellow fabric unfrogged bricks and measured 2.40m in length and a maximum of 1.90m in width at its northwestern end at which point it abutted [32]. The northwestern end of [36] was sub semi-circular in shape, before becoming rectangular in plan to the SE. Two parallel NW-SE aligned walls abutted the

southeastern end of [36], with [38] measuring 2.88m in length and [31] measuring 2.30m in length before returning in a southwesterly direction to the SE.

- 7.3.10 It seemed most probable that the NE-SW aligned return of [31] would have originally joined [38], forming a rectangular shape with the southeastern end of [36]. This again suggested that some form of machinery would have once been present in this area of the mill, with [36] and the four walls associated with it forming a substantial structural base.

#### The Southern Section of the Mill

- 7.3.11 Wall [12] was observed in the southern section of the mill, aligned on a NW-SE axis and abutting the northeastern limit of wall [1]. In this way it followed precisely the same alignment as the southeastern end of wall [24]. As far as could be seen, [12] was up to 0.60m in width and continued for 5.10m in a southeasterly direction before returning south westwards for over 10.50m whereupon it extended into the southwestern limit of excavation. The building material employed during the construction of [12] was of particular interest. Although it was built for the most part from red and yellow fabric unfrogged bricks, the corner forming the NW-SE / NE-SW return was found to have been constructed from sandstone blocks. The southeastern and northeast faces of the walls were also discovered to have been rendered with a thin concrete facade.
- 7.3.12 The Lewisham Small Arms Factory ground plan of 1816 displays this southern portion of the mill as jutting out from the main mill building and backing directly onto the millpond. This fact would explain the rendering on the southeastern and northeastern faces of [12], as well as more solid materials in the form of the sandstone blocks being employed in the construction of the wall. During ground reduction, [12] was also found to have been constructed on top of a timber raft, which in turn was supported by underlying timber piles. This was in direct contrast to the other walls within the mill, which were generally found to have been constructed directly on top of the natural chalk or gravel with no support being provided by either piles or a raft.

#### The Central Section of the Mill

- 7.3.13 Running straight through the central section of the mill was the wheel channel, which would have been fed directly from the millpond to the immediate SE. A water supply map of 1809 displays the millpond as being located on a split in the River Ravensbourne, with one channel supplying the millpond to the NE and the other forking to the SW and then heading in a northwesterly direction. The two channels

then meet again to the NW of the mill, continuing towards the Ravensbourne Water Works and then onwards to Deptford and Greenwich.

- 7.3.14 Structure number [45] was allocated to the wheel channel and included walls [24] and [30] on the southwestern side and wall [39] on the northeastern side. Wall [39] was revealed in various stages during the ground reduction, but as far as could be gathered it measured at least 19.70m in length and at least 0.48m in width and was constructed from red, unfrogged bricks bonded with an off white lime mortar. The wheel channel itself measured 3.70m in width and continued for the length of the mill until reaching wall [32] at its northwestern end. In structural terms [45] was at least 1.93m deep, with the bottom course of [39] comprising of shaped sandstone blocks. The base of the channel was also constructed from shaped sandstone blocks resting on top of a thick brick raft up to 0.64m thick. This brick raft was in turn resting on top a well-laid raft of interlocking timber planks.
- 7.3.15 Towards the southeastern end of the channel, a curved sandstone block rose up from the base and then flattened out, elevating the floor of the channel to a slightly higher level immediately in front of the millpond. This curved sandstone block was interpreted as a fitting for the waterwheel, which would have been located within the wheel channel itself. If this was the case, then the sub rectangular shaped gap in wall [24] is most likely to have housed machinery or fittings directly associated with the waterwheel.
- 7.3.16 At the very northwestern end of [45], wall [32] had a purpose built arch incorporated into its construction, which would have enabled water to flow directly from the wheel channel into the tailrace. The arch had been blocked up at a later date with frogged yellow stock bricks and cement. This blocking up episode had presumably occurred whilst the building was still in use as a silk mill, but once the waterwheel had gone out of functional usage. The tailrace was assigned the structure number [44] and comprised of walls [33] (forming the western side) and [34] (forming the eastern side). These walls abutted the northwestern side of [32] and continued in a northwesterly direction before turning towards the W and into the limit of excavation. The tailrace itself was up to 3.90m in width and had a concrete base, whilst walls [33] and [34] were constructed from red and yellow fabric unfrogged bricks bonded with a dark grey mortar.
- 7.3.17 A wide, flat brick arch formed the roof of the tailrace and was recorded with a rise of 1.29m. This arch took the form of a basket-handle arch (*anse de panier*) and was constructed from unfrogged yellow bricks also bonded with a dark grey mortar. The wide span of the arch meant that it was not particularly solid and it collapsed when



first discovered during the ground reduction. The Lewisham Small Arms Factory ground plan map of 1816 displays this area to the NW of the mill as blank. However, to the immediate W is the continuation of the northeastern spur of the Ravensbourne, suggesting that the tailrace was roofed only for a short distance before the northeastern spur rejoined the southwestern spur to the W of the mill. The Ordnance Survey map of 1863 displays exactly the same layout, although a further channel with an associated sluice is shown to the immediate southwest of the mill, running from the millpond to the point at which both the southwestern and northeastern spurs meet. This third channel was presumably a spillway channel, allowing the water level in the pond to be controlled.

#### The Eastern Section of the Mill

- 7.3.18 To the northeast of [39] and running parallel with it was wall [40], which was constructed from red unfrogged bricks bonded with an off white lime mortar with chalk inclusions. This wall abutted [32] to the north and measured 6.50m in length and 0.46m in width as seen. Due to the method of excavation it was unclear whether [40] continued to the SE, or whether it had been truncated by modern intrusions at a later date. Two large concrete plinths were removed by machine to the immediate SE of [40], and it seemed likely that the introduction of these two foundations would have had a severe impact on any underlying archaeology. The precise date of the two plinths was unclear, although it seemed unlikely that they would have been associated with the original construction of the armoury mill.
- 7.3.19 In the eastern corner of the mill was NE-SW aligned wall [46], which extended 5.58m in length as seen and 0.58m in width. Constructed from red, unfrogged bricks, it seemed probable that [46] would have originally joined the southeastern end of [39] on the northeastern side of the mill channel. However, [46] had been badly truncated and unfortunately the relationship was lost. Forming a right angle with [46] at its northeastern end was wall [43], which extended approximately 21m in length from NW-SE and abutted the northeastern end of [32], constituting the northeastern limit of the mill.
- 7.3.20 Approximately 2.0m to the west of [43] and running parallel with it was wall [50], which abutted [46] at its southeastern end and extended 16.70m in length. Constructed from the same material as [46], [50] ceased to the NW before it reached [32]. However, 2.60m to the NW of [50] another wall, [42], followed exactly the same alignment for 1.32m whereupon it abutted [32]. The precise reason for this gap between the two walls was unclear. However, slightly offset to the NE of both [50] and [42] was [51], a brick wall constructed from unfrogged, yellow fabric bricks bonded

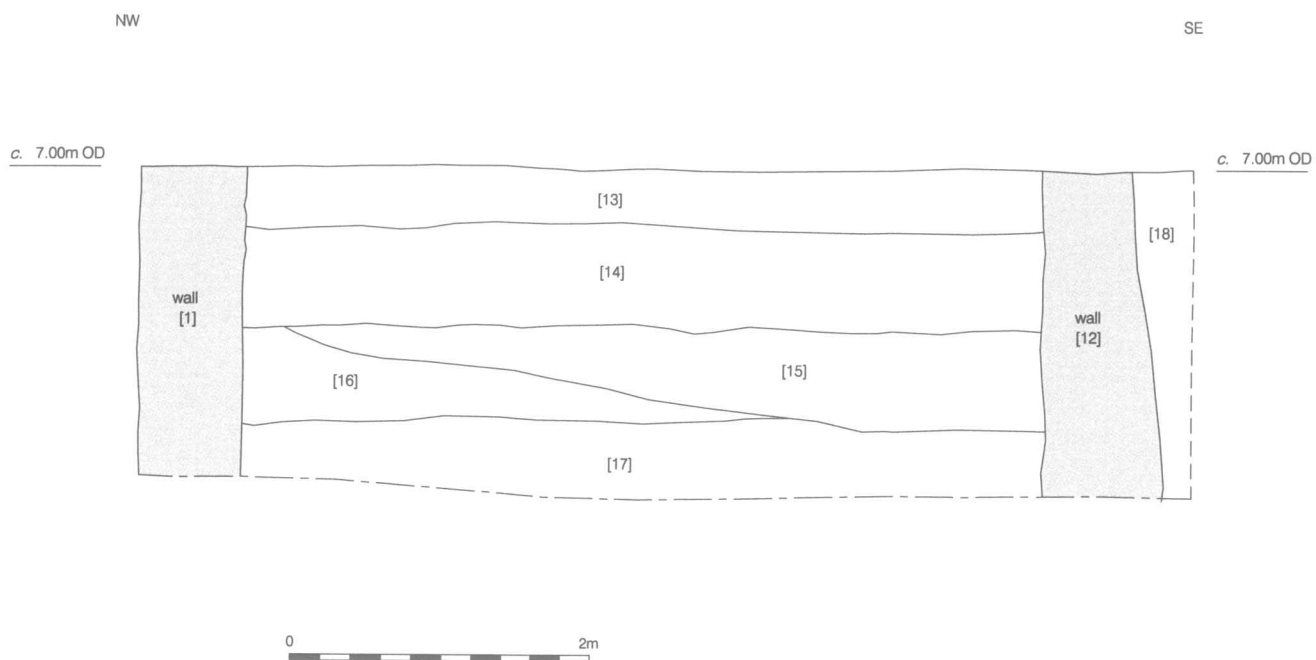
with a light yellow grey sandy mortar. Although [51] abutted [50], damage meant that any relationship with [42] had been lost. No clear explanation could be made for the purpose of [51]. However, it appeared to have been added at a later date and may well have been associated with a machine fitting.

- 7.3.21 At 2.0m to the SW of [50] was NW-SE aligned wall [41] which extended for the length of the mill, abutting [32] to the NW and [46] to the SE. Clear similarities could be drawn between walls [41], [50] and [43] and walls [1], [2] and [3] which were recorded in the southwestern section of the mill. However, unlike the southwestern section walls, no concrete bases were observed between walls [41], [50] and [43]. The ephemeral remains of a brick floor [54] was seen between [41] and [50], but it seemed unlikely that these foundations had been utilised as industrial pits. Furthermore, neither walls [50] nor [41] were of substantial thickness, measuring only 0.67m in depth. Whereas the southwestern section wall foundations had continued down onto the natural sand and gravels, [41] and [50] were constructed on top of a thin, compacted chalk raft which in turn overlay a deposit of orange clay material. The reasons for this difference in construction technique were unclear, although it may have been the case that the southwestern section walls had been specifically designed for load bearing purposes.

#### External Features

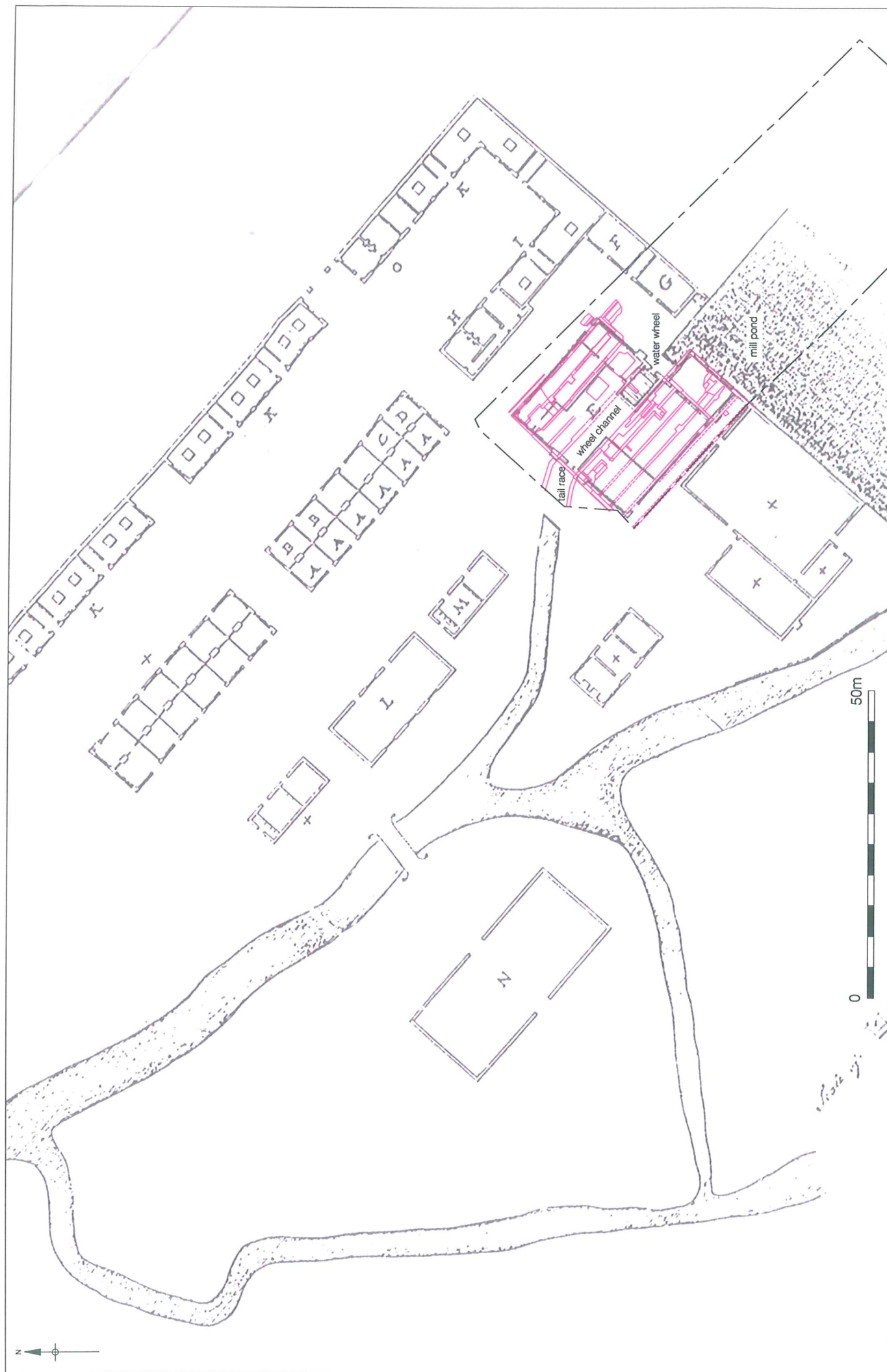
- 7.3.22 A number of features associated with the mill but situated outside the confines of the actual building itself were also recorded during the watching brief. Of particular significance was a NW-SE aligned brick culvert [9], which abutted and ran parallel with the southwestern edge of [1] and continued for the length of the mill as seen. Unfortunately this culvert lay beyond the limit of excavation. For health and safety reasons it had to be removed, but the process of this removal meant that the culvert could not be recorded in any great detail. As seen, [9] was constructed from red, yellow and purple unfrogged bricks strongly bonded together with an off white mortar. Internally, the rise of the culvert measured 1.25m and it was up to 1.82m in width with a concentric order of three bricks arranged in a stretcher – header – stretcher pattern. The precise date of this culvert was unclear and it is not visible on any maps. However, due to its position it must have been associated with both the millpond to the SE and the River Ravensbourne to the NW. If it had been extant in 1816 it would have been located immediately between the mill and further buildings to the SW and in this way may have functioned as a spillway channel from the millpond. If this was the case then the spillway channel present on the 1863 Ordnance Survey would have rendered it obsolete and it may have gone out of use.

- 7.3.23 In the eastern corner of the mill, a NW-SE aligned wall [48] was recorded as abutting the southeastern side of [47]. Constructed from frogged, yellow bricks, [48] was truncated to the SE, measuring 3.78m in length, 0.36m in width and 0.21m in depth. Abutting [48] on its southwestern side was truncated cobbled surface [49], which was in turn overlain to the north by the ephemeral remains of NE-SW aligned wall [47]. The precise function of these two walls and cobbled surface was unclear. However, they were external to the mill and may well have been associated with structures present in this area of the site on the Ordnance Survey map of 1894.
- 7.3.24 To the NE of wall [43] was a further cobbled surface [52], which was recorded with an associated gutter running along its southwestern edge. Further evidence for this surface was found to the NW where the context number [53] was assigned. Unfortunately this surface was in a fairly poor condition and not a great deal of it was actually revealed during the ground reduction process. However, both [52] and [53] were interpreted as part of a road surface which would have once run alongside the northeastern portion of the mill.
- 7.3.25 The final evidence of archaeological activity relating to Phase 3 concerned the backfilling of the millpond. Abutting the southeastern edge of wall [12] was [18], a mixed deposit of loose, dark grey blue sand, silt and rubble containing large quantities of dumped material including pottery, glass and brick fragments. Map regression shows that whilst the millpond was still in existence in 1894, by 1914 it had completely disappeared. Pottery recovered from [18] has suggested a deposition date of between 1895 and 1931, which would certainly seem to fit in with the cartographic evidence.



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Figure 4  
Section 1  
1:50 at A4



## **7.4 Phase 4: Modern**

- 7.4.1 Only one deposit was recorded as belonging to Phase 4. Assigned the context number [8], this took the form of a loose deposit of mixed rubble situated between walls [1], [2] and [3]. This deposit was interpreted as demolition material associated with the destruction of the mill between 1937 and 1938. Similar deposits were also observed in the wheel channel and between walls [41], [50] and [43], but in these instances context numbers were not designated.

## **8 ARCHAEOLOGICAL PHASE DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS**

### **8.1 Archaeological Phase Discussion**

#### **8.1.1 Phase 1: Natural**

8.1.1.1 The underlying geology of the site comprised of the natural Upper Chalk overlain by sands and gravels, interpreted during post-excavation as the Ravensbourne Gravels. Environmental sampling of an organic lens within these gravels on the nearby Lewisham Hospital site produced a radiocarbon date of 31,000 years BP. This date is of interest due to the fact that it predates the Last Glacial Maximum within the Ravensbourne Valley. Such gravel deposits were generally eroded away during the large scale remoulding of the landscape that took place during the last glacial cold stage. Overlying the Ravensbourne Gravels was an alluvial deposit believed to have related to episodes of marine transgression associated with the River Ravensbourne.

#### **8.1.2 Phase 2: 18<sup>th</sup> Century**

8.1.2.1 The only archaeological evidence discovered during the watching brief relating to this period concerned a sub square brick structure [10] revealed beneath the NE-SW alignment of Phase 3 wall [1]. The fact that [10] was located beneath [1] suggested that it predated the 1807 construction of the Royal Armoury Mill and was therefore likely to have been 18<sup>th</sup> century in origin. Although an armoury had been present on the site in one form or another from as early as the mid 15<sup>th</sup> century, the bricks used in the construction of [10] were certainly late post-medieval in date.

8.1.2.2 In May 1754 a Richard Hornbuckle proposed to the Board of Ordnance that if he could rent the Armoury Mill at £20 a year for 31 years he would rebuild part of the old mill in order to make it a:

*‘complete corn mill and add such features as would carry out the armoury work in a more profitable manner’<sup>7</sup>*

He offered to spend £400 on repairs and improvements and an agreement was drawn up for the grinding, polishing and lacquering of rammers, bayonets and sword blades etc. Hornbuckle received the lease on December the 10<sup>th</sup> 1754 and it seems that the construction of [10] most probably related to the repairs and improvements he intended to carry out.

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<sup>7</sup> Macartney & West 1998

### **8.1.3 Phase 3 – 1807 – 1937**

8.1.3.1 The most significant phase of archaeological activity discovered during the watching brief related to the Royal Armoury Mill, the vast majority of which was revealed and recorded during the ground reduction. In 1802, Lord Chatham declared that due to a loss of skilled craftsmen, the art of manufacturing fire arms in England had almost completely dried up<sup>8</sup>. For this reason, the manufacture of small arms began at the Tower of London in 1804. By 1807 demand was outstripping supply at the Tower, and it was suggested that the old Armoury Mill at Lewisham should become the first purpose built small arms factory, producing both gun-locks and barrels. However, the site required redevelopment, and for this reason building work began on the 17<sup>th</sup> of May 1807. New structures were to include workshops, storehouses, grinding mills, roads, a proof-house, a bridge, two large houses and six cottages.

8.1.3.2 The structure discovered at the Conington Road site clearly related to the mill, which is present on the Lewisham Small Arms Factory ground plan of 1816. Production began at the mill in 1808, but an accident occurred on the 20<sup>th</sup> of February resulting in the two gun barrel grinding stones breaking due to turning at too high a velocity<sup>9</sup>. Due to this incident, the grinding of gun barrels within the mill was confined to the Brown Bess India Pattern Musket, the new Land Pattern Musket and the Sea Service Pistol. An original annual target of 100,000 sets of components for firearms was quickly reduced to 50,000 along with an equivalent number of gun-locks, rammers and bayonets.

8.1.3.3 Power to the mill was supplied by a 14 foot diameter and 12 foot wide waterwheel which was fed from a millpond to the south, controlled by both sluice gates and weirs. The wheel would have been located within the wheel channel discovered in the central section of the mill and may well have been associated with the sub-rectangular gap in wall [24]. Once the water had passed through the wheel it ran through the wheel channel [45] and into the tailrace [44] before rejoining the Ravensbourne where the northeastern and southwestern spurs met. The culvert discovered running along the southwestern side of the mill may once have existed as a spillway channel running directly from the millpond and into the Ravensbourne to the NW of the mill.

8.1.3.4 Further power to the Armoury Mill was supplied by a 32 hp steam engine, which was installed by Lloyd and Ostell of Blackfriars at a cost of £2,400. The precise location of

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<sup>8</sup> Macartney & West 1998

<sup>9</sup> Macartney & West 1998



this engine within the mill is still somewhat ambiguous, although the foundation layout would suggest a possible location within the southwestern section. As a result of the French Napoleonic and Revolutionary Wars (1793-1815), work within the mill increased and the Tower workshop for small arms was moved to the Lewisham mill. Due to the requirement of the waterwheel to run for longer periods, the millpond was also enlarged, but by 1815 (post Waterloo) production within the mill had reduced to just 25,000 muskets and barrels a year. In 1816 the barrel branch was moved to the new plant at Enfield along with most of the plant and machinery. The final order was delivered on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of October 1818, with the lock and finishing sections being the last to leave.

- 8.1.3.5 When the mill came to be sold, a full description was supplied of the water course, the water wheel and the associated machinery<sup>10</sup>:

*Foundation and Cross Walls, a complete mass of brickwork, which form the Head and Tail of (the) Water Course, with Arch, Brick Wall, and Stone Coping.*

*Flood Gate and Brick Drain to take off the Waste Water;*

*A Water Wheel about 14 feet (diameter) by 12 feet (wide), Cast-iron Shaft, Iron Cog and Pit Wheels, with nut Beval Spur and Horizontal Wheels and Shifting Gear.*

*A Drum Wheel, Cast-iron Shaft with Fly Wheel 14 Feet Diameter, and two others, with extra movable Gear.'*

Although the water wheel and associated machinery and floodgates had been removed from the mill, the arch may well relate to the arch in wall [42] which had been blocked up at a later date, whilst the brick drain to take off the waste water is most probably a reference to the tailrace. The stone coping may also relate to the wheel channel base and the northeastern corner of wall [12]. The mill itself was described as a two storied timber building, weatherboarded, 81 x 71 feet, with a capital trussed roof, five tie beams and two tiers of well bolted counter ties. Photographs of the structure prior to demolition still exist<sup>11</sup>.

- 8.1.3.6 The mill, buildings and land were bought by William Herne for £3,900 in 1819. In 1824 Robert Arnold, a silk throwster by trade, took over the lease of the mill and in 1826 it was first referred to as a silk mill. By 1825 44 girls aged between 9 and 14 were apprenticed to the mill, which began to specialise in producing gold and silver

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<sup>10</sup> Macartney & West 1998

<sup>11</sup> Macartney & West 1998

thread used on the decoration for naval and military uniforms. During the watching brief it was very difficult to identify areas specifically associated with either the Armoury Mill or the Silk Works. The foundations were clearly original, and the walls located in the northeastern area of the southwestern section appeared to have been specifically designed in association with the water wheel and further machinery. However, the pits between walls [1], [2], and [3] were of interest, with the concrete bases possibly suggesting later alteration to the mill for the purposes of silk and thread production.

8.1.3.7 In 1860 Robert Arnold died and the mill passed on to his nephews Frederic and Edwin Stanton. In 1890 the products from the mill were displayed at the Chelsea Royal Military Exhibition, emphasising the high quality of the materials being produced. Frederic died in 1888, followed by Edwin in 1890 and the mill passed on to Frederic's sons Horace and Edwin. From the cartographic evidence, changes appear to have taken place to the mill during the late 19<sup>th</sup> to early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. Although the millpond was still extant (although slightly reduced in size) in 1894, there is no evidence for it on the Ordnance Survey map of 1914. The finds recovered from the backfill of the pond certainly appear to fit in between these two dates, and this may also indicate the point at which the blocking up of the arch in [32] occurred. Although the silk mill was still in use, it had clearly ceased to use any form of waterpower. The brick walls and cobbled surface external to the eastern corner of the mill appear to have been constructed between 1863 and 1894.

8.1.3.8 In 1909 Edwin Stanton became the sole proprietor of the Silk Mill following the death of his brother. After the great expense of the First World War, more stringent economics had to be applied to the military. As a result of this there was less demand for gold braid and the mill began to suffer financially. In 1922 it was formed into a limited company, but this had gone into liquidation by 1926 and the company was finally dissolved in 1932.

8.1.3.9 Worthy of mention in the history of the mill was a certain William Henry Harris who was born in Deptford in 1837. He began working in the silk mill in 1862-3 and was in charge of the maintenance of the mill along with its plant and machinery. He also produced fine metal surgical instruments (products not advertised by the mill) and is believed to have invented a throat tube used to assist the breathing of diphtheria sufferers. One of his throat tubes was supposedly used for the treatment of German Emperor Frederick III whilst he was dying of throat cancer. Harris also invented a purling machine which made embroidered and puckered borders in ribbon and lace. This machine was kept a secret by the Stanton family until the 1920's when it was acquired by the firm of John Sharp, presumably via an informer from the Lewisham

Silk Mill. However, perhaps Harris's greatest invention of all was tinsel, which he discovered one day whilst cleaning up. Upon finding a thread of silk with shiny metal shavings attached to it he began to purposely start producing these objects. The mill owners were particularly impressed with this discovery and soon had 300 operatives making tinsel and selling hundreds of pounds worth each year. Harris retired in 1914, but lived to see his 102<sup>nd</sup> year, passing away at his home in 1939.

#### **8.1.4 Phase 4 – Modern**

- 8.1.4.1 The only deposit recorded as belonging to this phase concerned a demolition deposit between walls [1], [2] and [3]. Similar deposits were observed throughout the mill, although context numbers were not applied. These demolition horizons related to the final destruction of the building, which took place between 1937 and 1938.

### **8.2 Conclusions**

- 8.2.1 One of the principal aims of the watching brief was to determine the presence or absence of archaeological activity of any period. The archaeology encountered on the site related to four specific phases of activity including natural, 18<sup>th</sup> century, 1807 – 1937 and modern.
- 8.2.2 The earliest phase of archaeological activity recorded on the site concerned a square brick structure observed beneath Phase 3 wall [1]. This wall could not be recorded in great detail, but in underlying [1] it was most likely to have been constructed before 1807. Known repairs and improvements took place on the site in 1754 and this structure is believed to have related to this episode. The most significant phase of archaeological activity on the site concerned the period 1807 – 1937. Almost the full extent of the Royal Armoury Mill building constructed in 1807 was revealed during the watching brief, along with associated features and evidence of the millpond. In 1824 the mill building was converted into a silk mill which remained on the site until it was demolished between 1937 and 1928. The final phase of activity related to this demolition episode.
- 8.2.3 The natural on the site was discovered to be Upper Chalk. This was in turn sealed by the Ravensbourne Gravels. Overlying the gravels was an alluvial deposit presumed to have been associated with episodes of marine transgression relating to the River Ravensbourne.

## 9 CONTENTS OF THE ARCHIVE

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Plans	1:20	5	30
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The photographic archive:

Colour slide	36 Frames
Black & White	36 Frames
Digital Shots	121 Frames

The finds archive:

Pottery	2 Boxes
Glass	1 Box
Clay Tobacco Pipe	1 Bag
CBM	1 Box

(Box – standard archive box 0.46m x 0.19m x 0.13m)

## **10 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

- 10.1 Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited would like to thank Richard Meager of CgMs Consulting for commissioning the work on behalf of St. James Group Limited and both Richard Morris and Boucher Bache of St. James Group Limited for their assistance during the project. Thanks should also go to the Greater London Demolition team for their help throughout the watching brief. A final thanks to Mark Stevenson of the Greater London Archaeology Advisory Service (GLAAS) for monitoring the site on behalf of the local planning authority.

The author would like to thank Josephine Brown, Angelo Indelicato and Hayley Baxter for the illustrations; Jem Rogers for the surveying; Chris Mayo for the project management and editing and Lisa Lonsdale for technical and logistical support.

- 10.3 The author thanks the field staff for all of their hard work and effort throughout the watching brief; Alex Bartholomew and Tom Mazurkiewicz.

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## APPENDIX 1 – OASIS FORM

**OASIS ID: preconst1-29840**

### Project details

Project name	72 - 78 Conington Road
Short description of the project	An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd on land at 72 - 78 Conington Road between the 11th of June and the 18th of July 2007. The earliest deposit encountered on the site took the form of the natural Upper Chalk. This chalk was overlain by the Ravensbourne Gravels which in turn were sealed with alluvial deposits associated with the River Ravensbourne. A sub square brick structure was also discovered and is believed to have related to repairs and improvements that took place to the armoury mill in 1754. The main phase of archaeological activity related to the discovery of the Royal Armoury Mill building, which was constructed in 1807. This was converted into a silk mill in 1824 and finally demolished between 1937 and 1938.
Project dates	Start: 11-06-2007 End: 18-07-2007
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	CGI 07 - Sitecode
Type of project	Recording project
Site status (other)	Archaeological Priority Area
Current Land use	Other 15 - Other
Monument type	MILL Post Medieval
Significant Finds	POTTERY Post Medieval
Significant Finds	GLASS Post Medieval
Significant Finds	CLAY PIPE Post Medieval
Significant Finds	CBM Post Medieval
Investigation type	'Watching Brief'
Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPG16

### Project location

Country	England
Site location	GREATER LONDON LEWISHAM LEWISHAM AND BLACKHEATH 72 - 78 Conington Road
Postcode	SE13
Study area	3006.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	TQ 3805 7610 51.4665024527 -0.01234746959780 51 27 59 N 000 00 44 W Point
Height OD	Min: 3.40m Max: 5.38m

### Project creators

Name of Organisation	Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd
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Project brief originator	CgMs Consulting
Project design originator	Richard Meager
Project director/manager	Chris Mayo
Project supervisor	Alexis Haslam
Name of sponsor/funding body	St James Group Ltd

#### Project archives

Physical Archive recipient	LAARC
Physical Contents	'Ceramics','Glass','other'
Digital Archive recipient	LAARC
Digital Contents	'Ceramics','Glass','other'
Digital Media available	'Spreadsheets','Survey','Text'
Paper Archive recipient	LAARC
Paper Contents	'Stratigraphic'
Paper Media available	'Context sheet','Drawing','Matrices','Photograph','Plan','Report','Section','Survey '

#### Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	An Assessment of an Archaeological Monitoring Exercise on Land at 72-78 Conington Road, Lewisham, London SE13
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Haslam, A.
Date	2007
Issuer or publisher	Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd.
Place of issue or publication	Brockley

Entered by	A. Haslam (ahaslam@pre-construct.com)
Entered on	7 August 2007



## APPENDIX 2 – CONTEXT INDEX

Site Code	Context No.	Plan	Section	Type	Description	Date	Phase
CGI 07	1	Sketch, 11	1	Masonry	N-S aligned wall with E-W return	Post-Medieval	3
CGI 07	2	Sketch	-	Masonry	N-S aligned wall	Post-Medieval	3
CGI 07	3	Sketch	-	Masonry	N-S aligned wall	Post-Medieval	3
CGI 07	4	Sketch	-	Masonry	N-S aligned wall	Post-Medieval	3
CGI 07	5	Sketch	-	Masonry	N-S aligned wall	Post-Medieval	3
CGI 07	6	Sketch	-	Masonry	Brick floor	Post-Medieval	3
CGI 07	7	Sketch	-	Masonry	N-S aligned wall with E-W return	Post-Medieval	3
CGI 07	8	-	-	Fill	Demolition backfill	Modern	4
CGI 07	9	Sketch	-	Masonry	Large Brick Culvert	Post-Medieval	3
CGI 07	10	Sketch	-	Masonry	Brick structure	Post-Medieval	2
CGI 07	11	11	-	Masonry	N-S aligned wall	Post-Medieval	3
CGI 07	12	Sketch	1	Masonry	N-S aligned wall with E-W return	Post-Medieval	3
CGI 07	13	-	1	Deposit	Layer of redeposited chalk	Post-Medieval	3
CGI 07	14	-	1	Deposit	Layer of mid grey silty clay	Post-Medieval	3
CGI 07	15	-	1	Deposit	Layer of mixed chalk and sand	Post-Medieval	3
CGI 07	16	-	1	Deposit	Layer of sandy clay	Post-Medieval	3
CGI 07	17	-	1	Deposit	Alluvium	Natural	1
CGI 07	18	-	1	Deposit	Backfill of the millpond	Post-Medieval	3
CGI 07	19	-	-	Deposit	Natural sand and gravel	Natural	1
CGI 07	20	-	-	Deposit	Natural chalk	Natural	1
CGI 07	21	11	-	Masonry	E-W aligned wall	Post-Medieval	3
CGI 07	22	11	-	Masonry	E-W aligned wall	Post-Medieval	3
CGI 07	23	11	-	Masonry	E-W aligned wall	Post-Medieval	3
CGI 07	24	11	-	Masonry	N-S aligned wall. Part of [45]	Post-Medieval	3
CGI 07	25	11	-	Masonry	N-S aligned wall	Post-Medieval	3
CGI 07	26	11	-	Masonry	E-W aligned wall	Post-Medieval	3

Site Code	Context No.	Plan	Section	Type	Description	Date	Phase
CGI 07	27	11	-	Masonry	Ragstone floor	Post-Medieval	3
CGI 07	28	11	-	Masonry	Ragstone buttress	Post-Medieval	3
CGI 07	29	11	-	Masonry	E-W aligned wall	Post-Medieval	3
CGI 07	30	11, 32	-	Masonry	N-S aligned wall. Part of [45]	Post-Medieval	3
CGI 07	31	11, 32	-	Masonry	N-S aligned wall with E-W return	Post-Medieval	3
CGI 07	32	32, 43	-	Masonry	E-W aligned wall	Post-Medieval	3
CGI 07	33	32	-	Masonry	West wall of culvert [44]	Post-Medieval	3
CGI 07	34	32	-	Masonry	East wall of culvert [44]	Post-Medieval	3
CGI 07	35	32	-	Masonry	N-S aligned wall	Post-Medieval	3
CGI 07	36	32	-	Masonry	Brick structure	Post-Medieval	3
CGI 07	37	32	-	Masonry	E-W aligned wall	Post-Medieval	3
CGI 07	38	32	-	Masonry	N-S aligned wall	Post-Medieval	3
CGI 07	39	32	-	Masonry	East wall of [45]	Post-Medieval	3
CGI 07	40	32	-	Masonry	N-S aligned wall	Post-Medieval	3
CGI 07	41	41, 43, 50	-	Masonry	N-S aligned wall	Post-Medieval	3
CGI 07	42	43	-	Masonry	N-S aligned wall	Post-Medieval	3
CGI 07	43	41, 43, 50	-	Masonry	N-S aligned wall	Post-Medieval	3
CGI 07	44	32	-	Structure	Brick culvert	Post-Medieval	3
CGI 07	45	-	-	Structure	Mill race	Post-Medieval	3
CGI 07	46	50	-	Masonry	E-W aligned wall	Post-Medieval	3
CGI 07	47	50	-	Masonry	Ephemeral E-W aligned wall	Post-Medieval	3
CGI 07	48	50	-	Masonry	N-S aligned wall	Post-Medieval	3
CGI 07	49	50	-	Masonry	Cobbled surface	Post-Medieval	3
CGI 07	50	41, 43, 50	-	Masonry	N-S aligned wall	Post-Medieval	3
CGI 07	51	43	-	Masonry	N-S aligned wall	Post-Medieval	3
CGI 07	52	50	-	Masonry	Cobbled road surface and gutter	Post-Medieval	3
CGI 07	53	43	-	Masonry	Cobbled road surface	Post-Medieval	3
CGI 07	54	43	-	Masonry	Ephemeral brick floor remains	Post-Medieval	3