

**An Archaeological Watching Brief at the rear of 17 and 17A Montpelier Row, Blackheath SE3, London Borough of Lewisham.**

**Site Code: MPW 04**

**Central National Grid Reference: TQ 3967 7650**

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August 2004**

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August 2004**

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## **ABSTRACT**

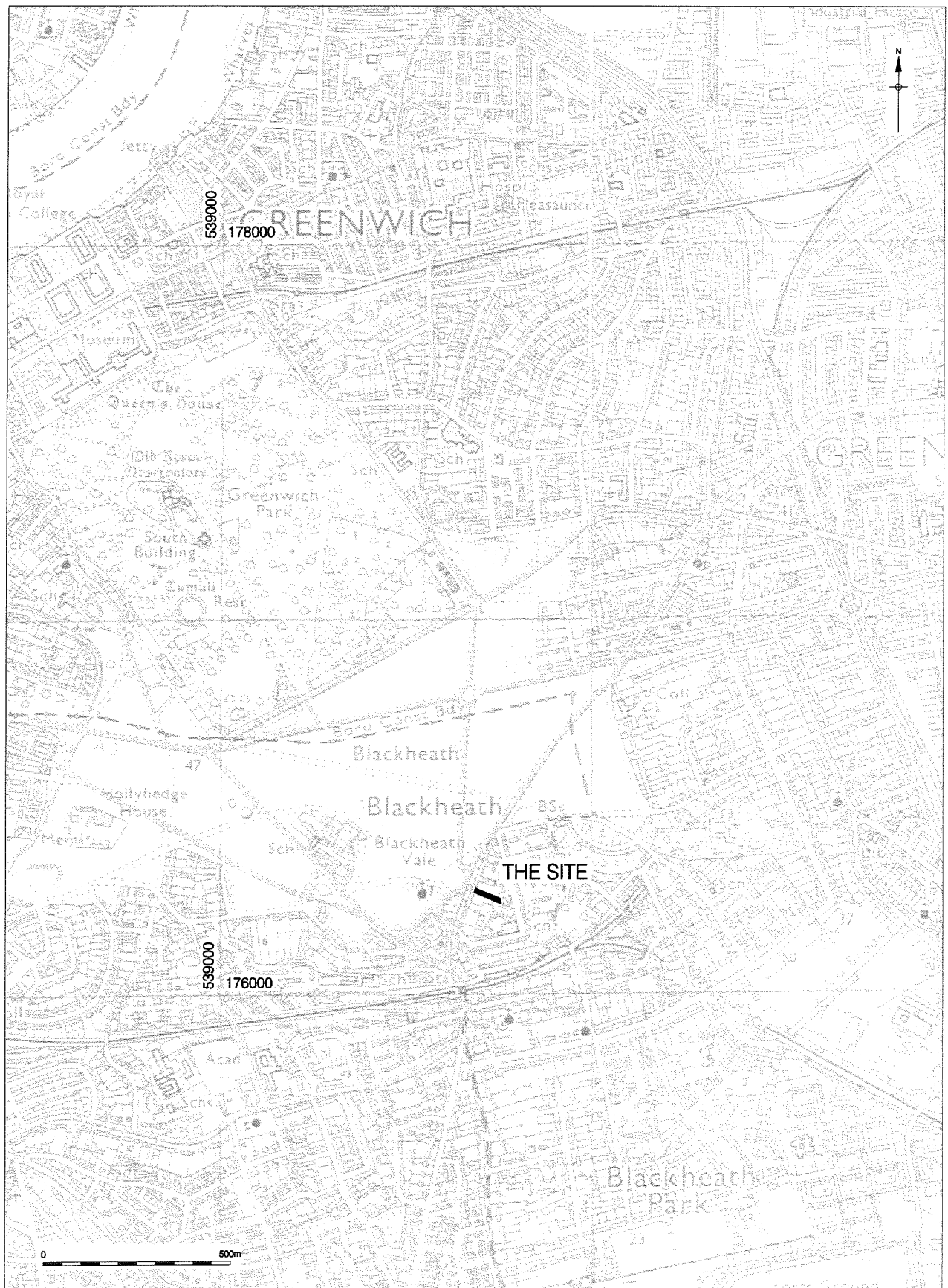
- 1.1 This report details the results and working methods of an archaeological watching brief undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd on land at the rear of 17 and 17A Montpelier Row, Blackheath, London Borough of Lewisham, SE3.
- 1.2 A north-south late post-medieval ditch was observed and recorded in the west area of the site. A late post-medieval east-west property wall was also recorded because of its proximity to the Clarendon, Hotel which is a listed building. The foundation walls and concrete floor of a garage truncated the western side of the site.

## 2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 An archaeological watching brief was conducted by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd. on land at the rear of 17 and 17A Montpelier Row, Blackheath, London Borough of Lewisham, SE3.
- 2.2 The watching brief was conducted intermittently between the 16<sup>th</sup> of June 2004 and the 3<sup>rd</sup> of August 2004 during the excavation of the foundation trenches for two separate buildings at the rear of 17 and 17A Montpelier Row. The work was commissioned by Suzanne Brewer and Terry Wickenden and was undertaken following the methodology set out in the Specification<sup>1</sup>, which was in accordance with English Heritage (GLAAS) Guidance Paper for standards and practices in archaeological fieldwork watching brief and assessment and evaluation reports.
- 2.3 The archaeological investigation was required since the site falls within the London Borough of Lewisham Unitary Development Plan area of archaeological interest for Blackheath and because the northern property wall, between no.17 and the neighbouring Clarendon Hotel is listed. This wall requires rebuilding as part of the development.
- 2.4 The site is bordered to the north by the Clarendon Hotel, to the south by no.18 Montpelier Row and Lynch Gate House, and to the west by Paragon Place.
- 2.5 The National Grid Reference of the site is TQ 3967 7650.
- 2.6 The site was given the code MPW 04.
- 2.7 The watching brief was supervised by the author and project managed by Jon Butler and Tim Bradley.

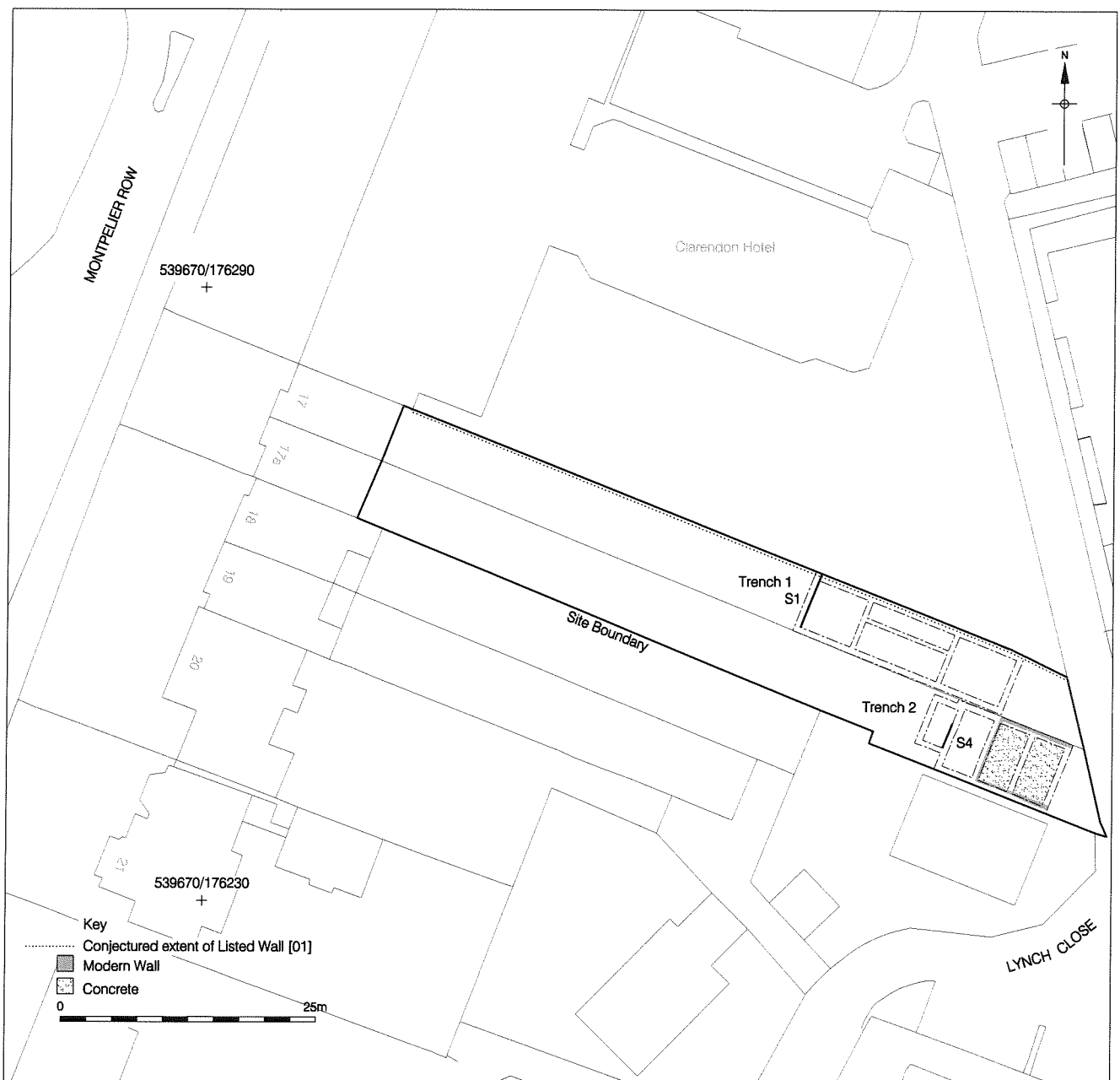
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<sup>1</sup> Bradley, 2004. Specification for an Archaeological Watching Brief at the Rear of 17 Montpelier Row, Blackheath SE3, London Borough of Lewisham



Reproduced from Ordnance Survey 1:25,000. Crown Copyright 1987.

Figure 1  
Site Location  
1:15,000



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Figure 2  
Trench Location  
1:625

### **3 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY**

- 3.1 The underlying geology of the site is natural terrace gravel, which was recorded at heights of between 35.94 and 35.27m OD.
- 3.2 The site is situated on level ground.

### **4 METHODOLOGY**

- 4.1 A mini-digger, fitted with a 600mm flat bladed ditching bucket, was employed to excavate the foundation trenches to depths of between approximately 0.70m and 1.10m. Some ground reduction also took place in the south east area of the site to expose the modern foundation walls and concrete floor of a garage. This ground work was subject to archaeological monitoring.
- 4.2 Following machine excavation, all faces of the trenches that required examination were cleaned using appropriate hand tools. All investigation of archaeological levels was by hand, with cleaning, examination and recording in both plan and representative section. Contexts were numbered sequentially and recorded on *pro-forma* context sheets.

## **5      ARCHAEOLOGICAL SEQUENCE**

### **5.1      Phase 1: Natural**

- 5.1.1    A very compacted natural silty gravel [8] was observed to the west of the site at a height of 35.53m OD, and a maximum exposed thickness of 0.40m. This was overlain by medium to light grey silty gravel [7] at 35.94m OD which had a maximum thickness of 0.24m. Natural gravel [7] was recorded as [10] towards the east of the site at 35.27m OD and was excavated to a depth of 34.70m OD.

### **5.2      Phase 2: Late Post Medieval activity**

- 5.2.1    A soft and medium brown greyish silty gravel [6] sealed natural gravel [7] to ground level (36.18m OD) to the west of the site. This layer produced a fragment of 19<sup>th</sup> century pottery. The same layer was recorded as [9] to the east of the site at 35.70m OD. Truncating [6] was a small east-west ditch [5] which was filled with a dark brown greyish sandy gravelly silt [4] which produced very occasional ceramic building material and was interpreted as a late post-medieval boundary / drainage feature. Truncating [4] was construction cut [3] for the east-west late post-medieval property wall [1].



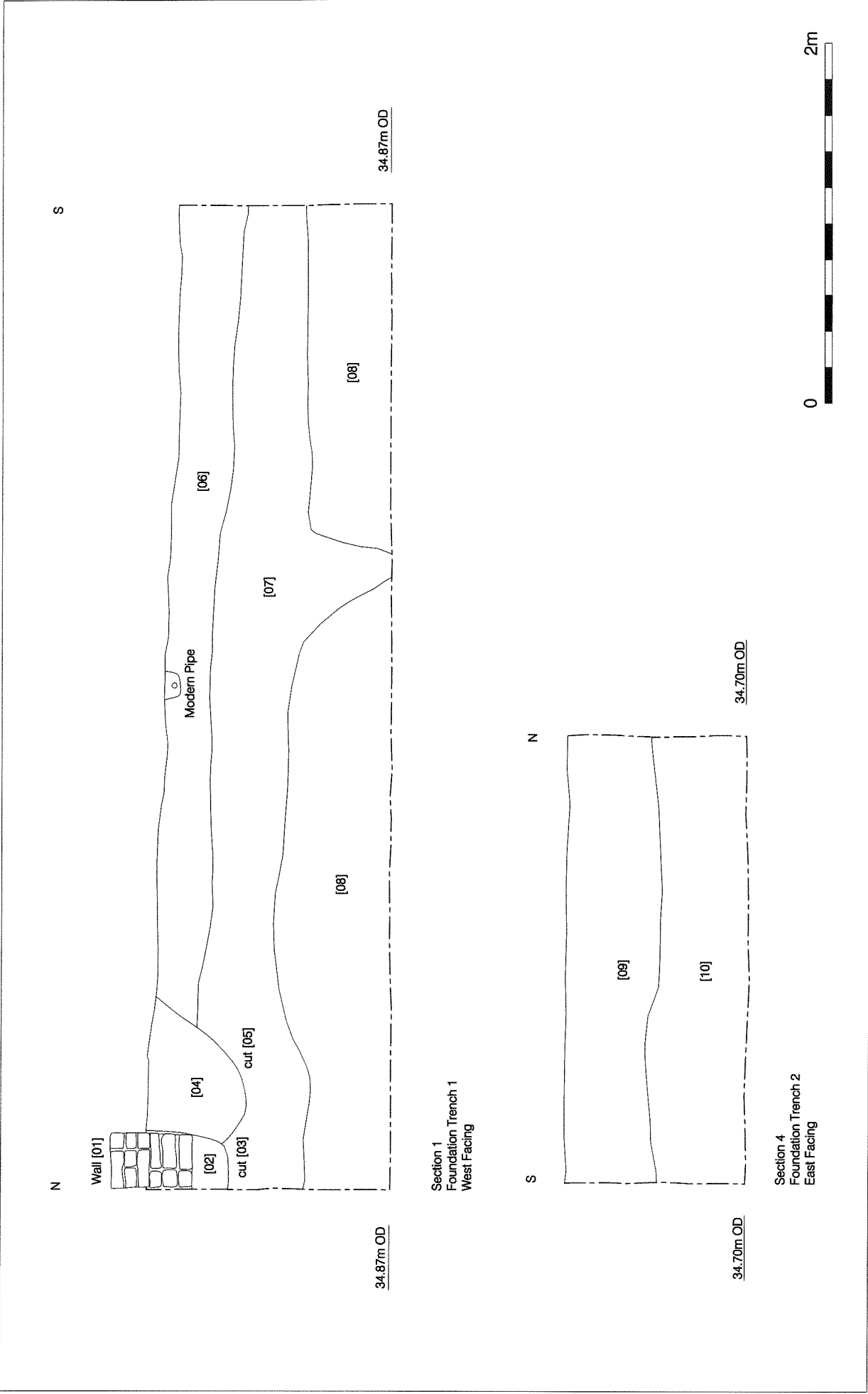


Figure 3  
Sections 1 & 4  
1:30

## **6 CONCLUSIONS**

- 6.1 The watching brief conducted at the rear of 17 and 17A Montpelier Row, Blackheath, revealed natural gravel across the area of the site which was overlain by garden soil. A small post-medieval east-west ditch [5] running parallel to the late post-medieval garden wall [1] was also observed, which presumably represented an earlier boundary.
- 6.2 The southeast area of the site was heavily truncated by the foundation walls and the concrete floor of a garage, which had been demolished.

## **7 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

- 7.1 Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited would like to thank Suzanne Brewer and Terry Wickenden for commissioning the work. Thanks also to Mark Stevenson, English Heritage, for monitoring the fieldwork.
- 7.2 The author would like to thank Josephine Brown for the drawings, Chris Jarret for dating the artefacts and Tim Bradley for his project management and editing.

## APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT INDEX

| Context | Type    | Description   | Phase |
|---------|---------|---|-------|
| 1       | Masonry | Late post medieval east west garden wall                    | 2     |
| 2       | Fill    | Backfill of construction cut [3] for masonry [1]            | 2     |
| 3       | Cut     | Construction cut filled by masonry [1] and by backfill [02] | 2     |
| 4       | Fill    | Fill of late post medieval ditch [05]                       | 2     |
| 5       | Cut     | Late post medieval ditch filled by [4]                      | 2     |
| 6       | Deposit | Late post medieval deposit (garden soil) same as [9]        | 2     |
| 7       | Deposit | Natural gravel same as [10]                                 | 1     |
| 8       | Deposit | Very compacted natural gravel                               | 1     |
| 9       | Deposit | Late post medieval deposit (garden soil) same as [6]        | 2     |
| 10      | Deposit | Natural gravel same as [7]                                  | 1     |

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OASIS ID: preconst1-3493

## Project details

|  |  |
|--|--|
| Project name                           | 17 Montpelier Row  |
| Short description of the project       | The watching brief conducted intermittently between the 16 of June and the 3 of August 2004 revealed natural gravel across the area of the site which was overlain by garden soil. A small post-medieval east-west ditch running parallel to the late post-medieval garden wall was also observed, which presumably represent an earlier boundary. |
| Project dates                          | Start: 16-06-2004 End: 03-08-2004  |
| Previous/future work                   | No / Not known   |
| Any associated project reference codes | MPW 04 - Sitecode  |
| Type of project                        | Recording project  |
| Site status                            | None   |
| Site status (other)                    | Area of archaeological interest  |
| Current Land use                       | Other 5 - Garden   |
| Monument type                          | BOUNDARY WALL Post Medieval  |
| Monument type                          | BOUNDARY DITCH Post Medieval   |
| Significant Finds                      | POT Post Medieval  |
| Investigation type                     | 'Watching Brief'   |
| Prompt                                 | Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPG16  |

## Project location

|                         |  |
|-------------------------|--|
| Country                 | England  |
| Site location           | GREATER LONDON GREENWICH GREENWICH 17 Montpelier Row, Blackheath |
| Postcode                | SE3  |
| Study area              | 250 Square metres  |
| National grid reference | TQ 3967 7650 Point   |
| Height OD               | Min: 35.27m Max: 35.94m  |
| Entered by              | Tim Bradley (tbradley@pre-construct.com)                         |
| Entered on              | 18 August 2004   |