

5 KIMBER ROAD, EARLSFIELD,

LONDON BOROUGH OF

WANDSWORTH

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

MAY 2008

DOCUMENT VERIFICATION

**5 KIMBER ROAD, EARLSFIELD,
LONDON BOROUGH OF WANDSWORTH**

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

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**An Archaeological Evaluation at 5 Kimber Road, Earlsfield,
London SW18 4NR, London Borough of Wandsworth**

Central National Grid Reference: TQ 2586 7379

Site Code: KIM 08

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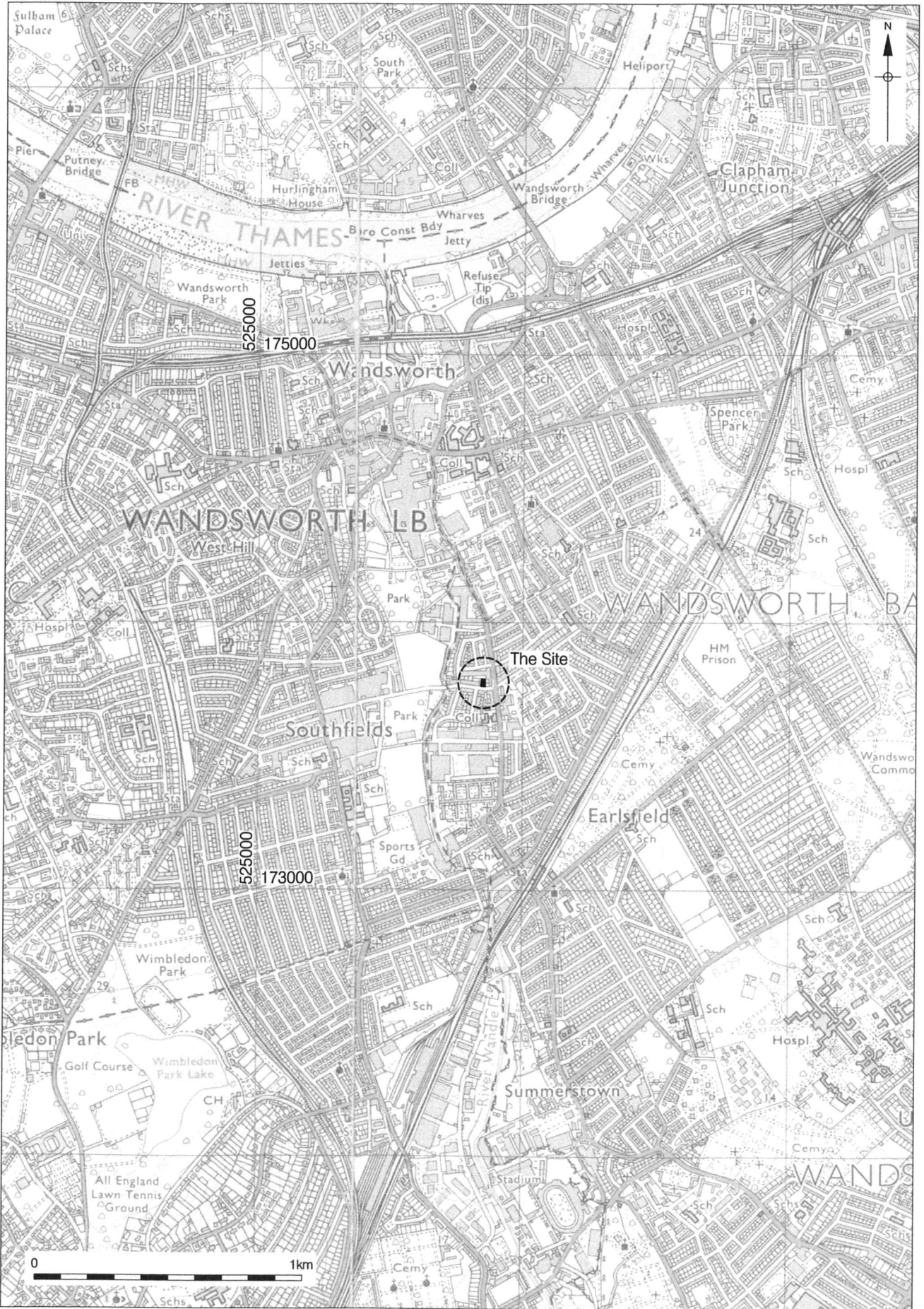
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1 ABSTRACT

- 1.1 This report details the results of an archaeological evaluation undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd at 5 Kimber Road, Earlsfield, London Borough of Wandsworth. The central National Grid Reference for this site is TQ 2586 7379. The field evaluation was undertaken between 3-4th March 2008, and the commissioning client was Ben Williams.
- 1.2 The evaluation consisted of one trench measuring 10m x 2m designed to investigate the sites' archaeological potential in advance of construction work. An evaluation was deemed necessary for the site by Diane Walls of English Heritage, who advises the London Borough of Wandsworth on archaeological matters. The work was carried out as part of a planning condition.
- 1.3 The earliest deposit encountered comprised natural sands and gravels, overlain by a series of cuts, deposits and dump layers relating to modern service works. None of the deposits encountered dated any earlier than the late 19th – early 20th century. Garden soils observed below the initial bedding layer of brick rubble indicate that the site possibly formed part of a garden at one stage.
- 1.4 It has been concluded that all deposits recorded to the depth of the natural ground were modern in nature and that if any earlier activity took place on this site it has been erased by later activity.

2 INTRODUCTION

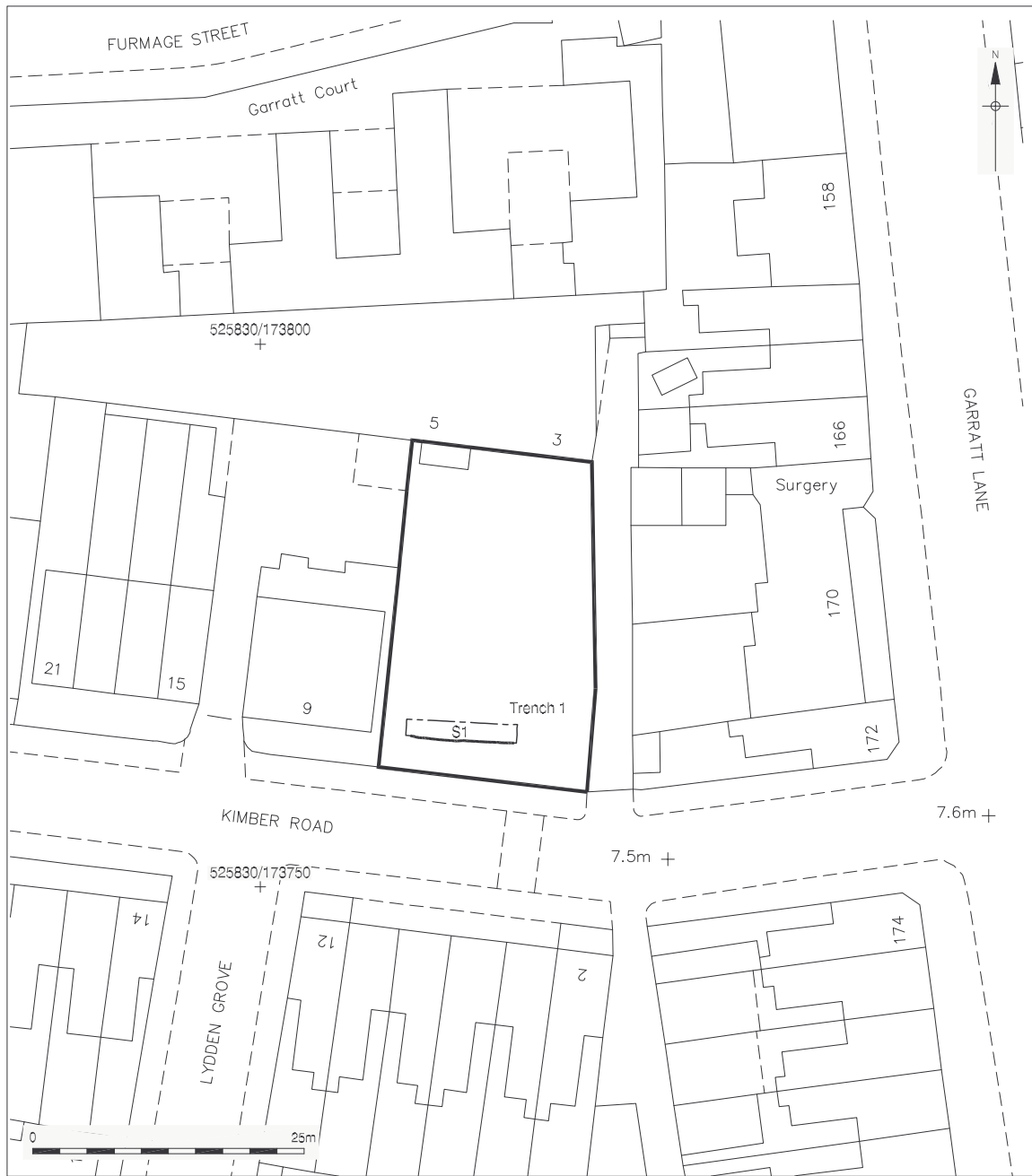
- 2.1 An archaeological site investigation was undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd at 5 Kimber Road, Earlsfield, London Borough of Wandsworth in advance of proposed construction works taking place on site (Fig.1).
- 2.2 The commissioning client was Ben Williams. The archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd on 3rd-4th March 2008 under the supervision of Stuart Watson and the project management of Chris Mayo.
- 2.3 The evaluation followed an approved method statement (Mayo 2008) following a recommendation by Diane Walls of English Heritage that the site be subject to an archaeological evaluation on the basis of the site lying within an Archaeological Priority Area as defined in the London Borough of Wandsworth Unitary Development Plan.
- 2.4 The site lies 130m to the east of the current course of the River Wandle. The Archaeological Priority Area has been assigned due to the possible presence of on the site of alluvial silts deposited within the Wandle Valley. Evidence for both prehistoric human activity, and the contemporary natural environment can be preserved within or beneath the alluvial deposits.
- 2.5 The completed archive comprising written, drawn and photographic records will be deposited with the London Archaeology Archive Resource Centre (LAARC) under the site code KIM 08.
- 2.6 The National Grid Reference of the site is TQ 2586 7379.



Reproduced from Ordnance Survey 1:25,000. Crown Copyright 1993.

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Figure 1
 Site Location
 1:20,000 at A4



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Figure 2
Trench Location
1:625 at A4

3 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

- 3.1 The site is currently used as a car park.
- 3.2 The British Geological Survey 1:50,000 Series Sheet 270 (South London) indicates the site lies on alluvium deposited across the flood plain of the river Wandle. These layers are known to comprise mainly of clays and peat that have accumulated through the Holocene, corresponding to the archaeological periods of the Mesolithic onwards. Archaeological investigations at Strathville Road, c600m to the south of the site, revealed Mesolithic peat filling a previous channel of the braided Wandle (Humphrey 2006).
- 3.3 The site covers 450m², lying 130m to the east of the River Wandle. It is located on the broadly level floodplain that carries this river north to the Thames. The site lies between 7.48m and 7.58m OD.

4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

- 4.1 The Archaeological and Historical Background on the site was sourced from information gathered for a previous report for a site located approximately 50m to the south of Kimber Road, at 190-194 Garratt Lane (Humphrey 2006).
- 4.2 Evidence exists for Palaeolithic activity in the area with isolated finds comprising of handaxes and other larger lithic assemblages. A small number of Neolithic finds were also discovered in the vicinity of the site.
- 4.3 The Roman period is represented by an isolated findspot located 350m north of the site and was probably a chance find relating to the nearest Roman occupation site of Putney.
- 4.4 Documentary sources suggest that during Saxon times the River Wandle provided power for mills located within its vicinity, but there is currently no archaeological evidence to support this. An absence of finds relating to the medieval settlement that appears to mark the origin of Garratt Lane suggests the potential for archaeology relating to either of these periods is low.
- 4.5 Cartographic evidence suggests that the site location remained largely undeveloped from the late 18th century until the end of the 19th century when the area developed as a suburb of London, when Earlsfield Station opened. Prior to this the site lay in open ground, possibly forming part of a garden. The historical maps suggest that little development has previously taken place on the site.

5 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

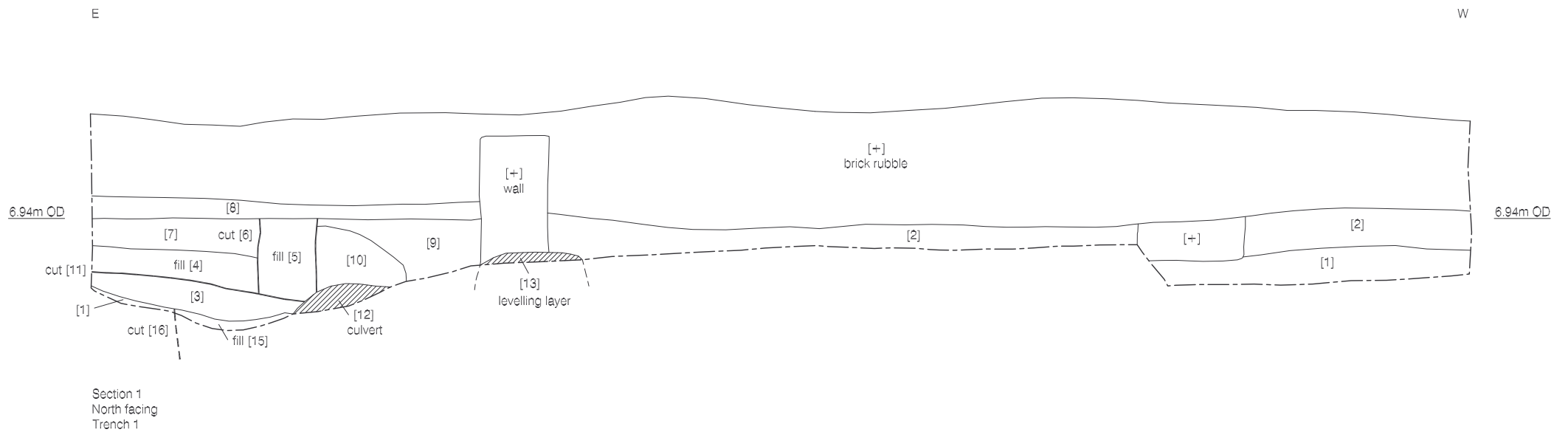
- 5.1 The archaeological evaluation was conducted according to the method statement prepared by Pre-Construct Archaeology (Mayo 2008). The fieldwork undertaken was designed to establish whether archaeological deposits existed on site and if so to establish and record their nature, depth and survival. A particular site specific objective was to ascertain whether there was any evidence for the survival of peat or alluvium or of any other deposits relating to the River Wandle on site.
- 5.2 All archaeological works were undertaken within the curtilage of the proposed development. The car park surface was broken out by the client. Subsequently a JCB was employed to excavate a trench under archaeological supervision, measuring approximately 10m x 2m, to an approximate depth of 1.20m BGL.
- 5.3 All deposits were recorded on pro forma context sheets. Trench plans and sections were drawn at a scale of 1:20. The trench was located by the Pre-Construct Archaeology surveyor. A photographic record was also kept of all the trenches in colour slide and digital formats.
- 5.4 A temporary benchmark was set up on the site at a height of 7.58m OD, which was transferred from an Ordnance Survey benchmark of 7.95 m OD located on the frontage of Earlsfield House, Garratt Lane.

6 THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SEQUENCE

- 6.1 The following section describes the features and deposits recorded in the excavated trench in terms of its archaeological sequence. The trench was aligned east-west and measured approximately 10m by 2m. It was excavated with a mechanical digger. The trench location is shown on Figure 2 and the north facing section of the trench is shown on Figure 3.
- 6.2 The earliest deposit identified in the trench was a natural layer of sandy gravel [1]. The deposit was firm with a mid yellowish brown colouring and contained frequent small to medium sub-angular pebbles. The layer was located at a depth of 6.44m to 6.64m OD and was observed mostly in the western portion of the trench, and partially towards the eastern end.
- 6.3 Observed in section above the natural ground was a series of cuts and fills. The first cut [11] had circular sides with a rounded base and measured 1.50m E-W with a thickness of 0.24m. This cut may relate to a possible drain located in the eastern corner of the trench just outside of the limit of excavation. Below this cut appears another probable construction cut [16] with associated fill [15]. This cut was located at 6.20m OD and measured 1.70m N-S. It appeared linear in plan and was probably a primary construction cut for the drain culvert [12]. It was filled with a clean firm yellow sand that had a maximum thickness of 0.10m.
- 6.4 A modern encased drain culvert [12] filled construction cut [16] and contained concrete and brick fragments. The coursing and bond was irregular and the feature measured 1.70m N-S and 0.60m E-W. The feature was not fully exposed during the course of the evaluation. The top of the culvert was located at 6.52m OD.
- 6.5 Culvert [12] was overlain to the east by Layer [3], a friable mid reddish brown coarse gravel with a sandy matrix, containing very frequent medium well sorted sub-angular pebbles and occasional glass. The layer measured 0.20-0.30m in thickness and was encountered at a height of 6.44m OD. Layer [3] was cut by cut [11], a 19th/20th century drain cut filled by fill [4], which consisted of a firm dark greyish brown silty sand with small to medium rounded pebble inclusions. The fill was approximately 0.20-0.30m thick and was located at a level of 6.64m OD.
- 6.6 A sandy gravel dump layer [10] overlay the culvert [12] to the west. This layer was overlain by layer [9], a firm dark greyish brown silt with yellow sandy lenses [9]. The layer had a maximum thickness of 0.40m, and contained small rounded pebbles and occasional fragments of brick and tile.
- 6.7 Layers [9] and [10] were cut by cut [6], which also cut fill [4]. This cut was vertical and rounded at the base and measured 0.42m E-W with a depth of 0.59m. It was filled with a firm dark greyish brown silty sandy deposit [5], which contained occasional small sub-angular pebbles and very occasional flecks of charcoal, and pottery. It is possible that the cut and subsequent backfill relate to the modern concrete encased drain culvert [12], possibly in the form of a later re-cut.
- 6.8 Towards the eastern end of the trench, running west for 1.00m was a layer of friable mid orange brown sandy gravel [7] with frequent medium sub-angular pebbles. The layer measured 0.20-0.25m in thickness and was located at a height of 6.84m OD. This layer was cut by cut [6].
- 6.9 To the eastern end of the trench, a layer of firm dark reddish brown clayey sandy silt [8] was observed. This deposit measured 2.90m E-W, with a thickness of 0.10-0.15m and was located at a level of 6.95m OD. The deposit contained very occasional small well rounded pebbles and very occasional fragments of CBM. This layer was interpreted as a modern dump layer.
- 6.10 Across most of the western half of the trench was a layer of firm darkish greyish brown silty sand [2], containing moderate small sub-angular pebbles, occasional fragments of CBM and very occasional fragments of pot, clay tobacco pipe stems and glass, all of which was modern in nature. This layer was located at 6.93m OD at the highest point with a thickness of around 0.20-30m. It is likely that this deposit

represents late 19th to early 20th century garden soil. At the western end of the trench, it sealed natural layer [1].

- 6.11 Approximately 2.50m from the eastern limit of excavation was a wall, only visible in section after the trench had been dug. This wall was 19th to 20th century in date (no number). Beneath the wall lay the remains of a cinder/clinker block [13], present as a foundation support for the wall. The wall itself, as recorded in section, stood approximately 0.80m high with width of 0.50m. The cinder/clinker foundation was recorded at a height of 6.68m OD.
- 6.12 A layer of modern brick rubble [+], deposited as ground bedding/levelling for the overlying car park surface was identified throughout the trench, sealing layers [2] and [8]. The deposit was present along the whole length of the trench with a relative thickness of up to 1.00m. The brick rubble layer was sealed by tarmac.



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Figure 3
Section 1
1:40 at A4

FIGURE 4: Photograph of Trench 1



Figure 4: Photograph of Trench 1, view West (scale = 2.0m)

7 CONCLUSIONS

- 7.1 The evaluation trench revealed natural deposits that were fairly consistent with the underlying geology of this area.
- 7.2 Surviving above this natural deposit a number of features were identified that were clearly modern in nature, dating to no earlier than the 19th century. These features included a modern wall structure with underlying cinder/clinker base and a concrete encased drain culvert with associated cuts and re-cuts.
- 7.3 Garden soils observed below the initial bedding layer of brick rubble indicate that this land possibly formed part of a garden at one stage.
- 7.4 Due to the heavy nature of modern activity on the site of this evaluation it is likely that any earlier historic or prehistoric features or deposits, if indeed they even existed here, have been subsequently removed from the archaeological sequence.

8 ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

- 8.1 Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd would like to thank Ben Williams for commissioning the evaluation.
- 8.2 The author would like to thank Chris Mayo for project managing the site, Stuart Watson for supervision, Helen Clough for post-excavation assistance and for the editing of this report and Lisa Lonsdale for logistical support

9 BIBLIOGRAPHY

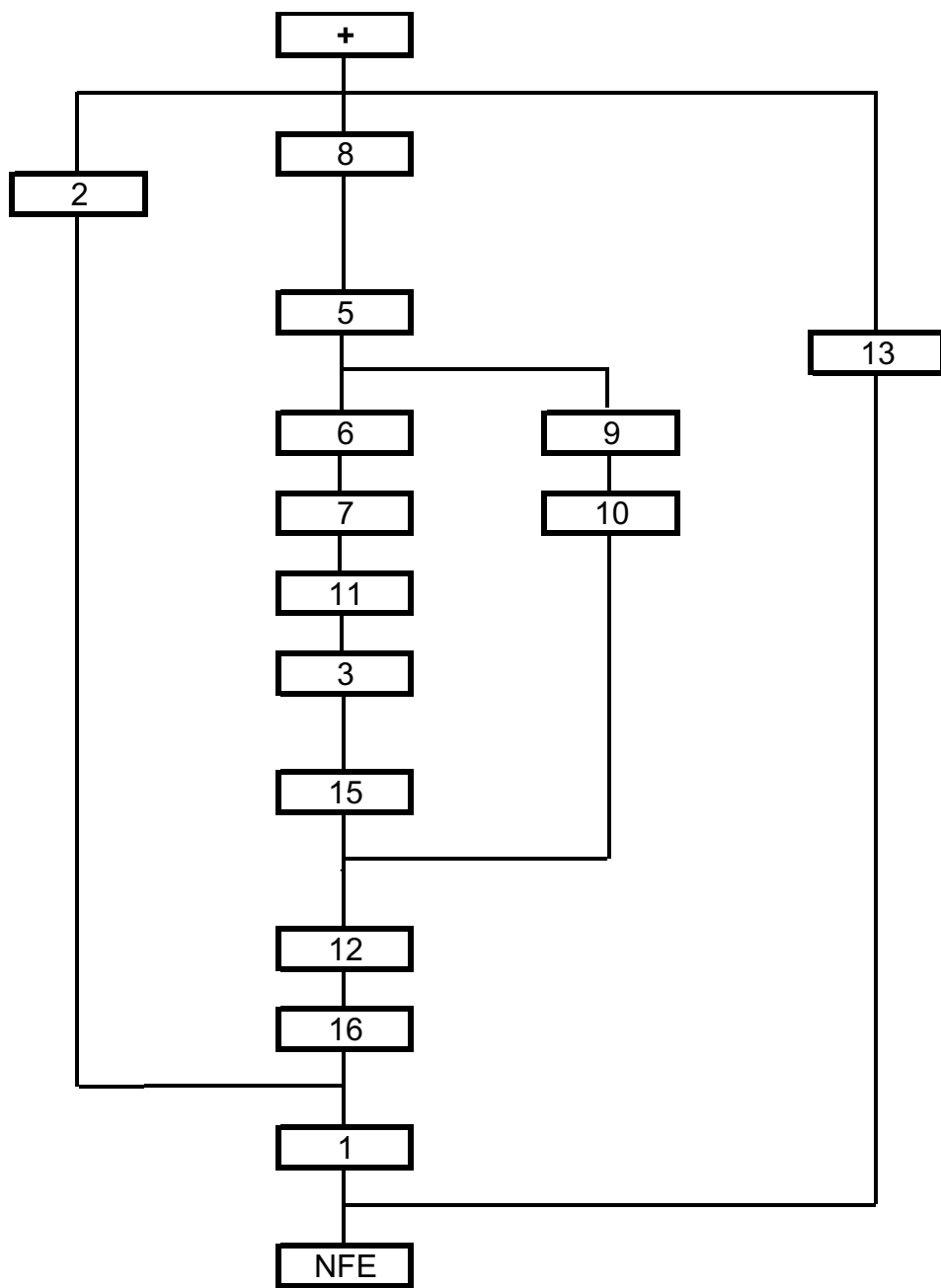
Humphrey, R. 2006. An Archaeological Evaluation of Land at 190-194 Garratt Lane, Earlsfield, London Borough of Wandsworth. PCA Unpublished report.

Mayo, C. 2008. Method Statement For An Archaeological Evaluation at 5 Kimber Road, Earlsfield, London SW18 4NR, London Borough of Wandsworth, PCA Unpublished report.

APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT INDEX

Site Code	Context No.	Plan	Section/Elevation	Type	Description
KIM08	(+)	Multi-Context Plan Tr 1	1	Layer	Tarmac and underlying layer of modern brick rubble backfill
KIM08	1	Multi-Context Plan Tr 1	1	Layer	Natural layer of brickearth
KIM08	2	Multi-Context Plan Tr 1	1	Layer	19th Century garden soil
KIM08	3	Multi-Context Plan Tr 1	1	Fill	Fill of [11]
KIM08	4	N/A	1	Layer	19th Century dump layer
KIM08	5	N/A	1	Fill	Fill of [6]
KIM08	6	N/A	1	Cut	Construction cut for modern drain culvert
KIM08	7	N/A	1	Layer	Gravel dump layer
KIM08	8	N/A	1	Layer	Clay dump layer
KIM08	9	Multi-Context Plan Tr 1	1	Layer	Backfill of [14]
KIM08	10	N/A	1	Layer	Gravel dump layer
KIM08	11	Multi-Context Plan Tr 1	1	Cut	19th/20th Century drain cut
KIM08	12	Multi-Context Plan Tr 1	1	Masonry	Modern concrete drain culvert
KIM08	13	Multi-Context Plan Tr 1	1	Layer	Cinder base layer for [12]
KIM08	14	N/A			VOID
KIM08	15	Multi-Context Plan Tr 1	1	Fill	Sandy backfill of [16]
KIM08	16	Multi-Context Plan Tr 1	1	Cut	Construction cut for [12]

APPENDIX 2: SITE MATRIX



APPENDIX 3: OASIS FORM

OASIS ID: preconst1-39571

Project details

Project name	5 Kimber Road
Short description of the project	An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd at 5 Kimber Road, Earlsfield, London Borough of Wandsworth. The central National Grid Reference for this site is TQ 2586 7379. The field evaluation was undertaken between 3-4th March 2008, and the commissioning client was Ben Williams. The evaluation consisted of one trench measuring 10m x 2m. The earliest deposit encountered comprised terrace gravel beneath the flood plain of the River Wandle. Overlying this were a series of cuts, deposits and dump layers relating to modern service works. None of the deposits encountered dated any earlier than the late 19th - early 20th century. Garden soils observed below the initial bedding layer of brick rubble indicate that the site possibly formed part of a garden at one stage.
Project dates	Start: 03-03-2008 End: 04-03-2008
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	KIM08 - Sitecode
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	Local Authority Designated Archaeological Area
Current Land use	Vacant Land 1 - Vacant land previously developed
Monument type	WALL Post Medieval
Methods & techniques	'Sample Trenches'
Development type	Urban residential (e.g. flats, houses, 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 WANDSWORTH WANDSWORTH 5 Kimber Road
Postcode	SW18 4NR
Study area	450.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	TQ 525860 173790 50.9350697706 0.171818885008 50 56 06 N 000 10 18 E Point
Height OD	Min: 6.44m Max: 6.64m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd
Project brief originator	Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd

Project design originator	Chris Mayo
Project director/manager	Chris Mayo
Project supervisor	Stuart Watson
Type of sponsor/funding body	Private company
Name of sponsor/funding body	Ben Williams

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	LAARC
Digital Archive ID	KIM08
Digital Contents	'none'
Digital Media available	'Spreadsheets','Survey','Text'
Paper Archive recipient	LAARC
Paper Archive ID	KIM08
Paper Contents	'none'
Paper Media available	'Context sheet','Correspondence','Map','Matrices','Photograph','Plan','Report','Section','Survey'

Project bibliography

1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
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